Public Confidence in Official Statistics 2009

Report

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March 2010

Prepared for: UK Statistics Authority

Contents

Tables

Figures

Executive summary

This report examines people's confidence in official statistics. It is based on a module of questions run on the NatCen Omnibus on behalf of the *UK Statistics Authority*. The research was geared toward understanding the extent of public trust in official statistics and the reasons that underpin this. The research followed up previous surveys undertaken in 2004, 2005 and 2007 enabling comparisons with the earlier waves to be made.

Attitudes to official statistics

In terms of how much attention people pay to official statistics, respondents can be broadly spilt into three groups; those who say they pay either a great deal or quite a lot of attention (29 per cent in total), 42 per cent who pay some attention and 29 per cent who pay not much or no attention.

Respondents were also asked to rate their understanding of official statistics when they are presented by the government or in the media. Two-thirds (64 per cent) rated themselves as having a fairly good understanding of official statistics while a further eight per cent felt they had a very good understanding. A fifth (21 per cent) felt they had a fairly bad understanding and six per cent felt they had a very bad understanding of official statistics.

Respondents generally thought that official statistics were an important basis for decision making; 22 per cent said they were very important and almost half (48 per cent) said they were fairly important. Only 12 per cent thought official statistics were fairly or very unimportant. Responses to this question have shown little change since 2005.

Accuracy of official statistics

A key factor in people's confidence in official statistics is whether or not they think that the statistics presented are accurate or not and the survey found a weakening of public perceptions in this area. About a third (32 per cent) of people agreed that official statistics were accurate while 40 per cent disagreed. This level of disagreement is the highest since the question was first asked and a marked increase on the 33 per cent recorded when it was most recently asked in 2007. A quarter (26 per cent) neither agreed nor disagreed.

The survey found that three factors were independently associated with perceptions of the accuracy of official figures; age, levels of understanding of official statistics and levels of trust in the UK government. Those who were aged above 35, with a poorer understanding of official statistics and with lower levels of trust in the UK government were the most likely to disagree that official figures were generally accurate. For example, among those with high levels of trust in government, only 15 per cent disagreed that official statistics were accurate. However, among those with the lowest levels of trust, this rose to 60 per cent.

The association with trust in government is notable. The survey found that trust in government fell markedly between 2007 and 2009, no doubt at least partly reflecting the furore surrounding MPs' expenses. This change may well help explain some of the public's increased suspicion in the accuracy of official statistics, although our data cannot prove any causal link.

Although in general, younger people were less likely to disagree that official statistics were accurate, the increase between 2007 and 2009 in the proportion who disagreed was more marked among this age group.

Misrepresentation or manipulation of official figures

When asked whether they thought official figures are produced without political interference, the majority (59 per cent) disagreed; a similar proportion (60 per cent) disagreed that the government presents official figures honestly when they talk about their policies. It is interesting that views about the government and the media were very similar with the same proportion (61 per cent) disagreeing that newspapers present official figures honestly.

This belief that official figures are subject to manipulation or misrepresentation is particularly common among those who do not think official figures are accurate, the two main reasons for this mistrust being that the figures were manipulated or adjusted for political purposes (52 per cent) or that figures were misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media (41 per cent).

Pre-release of official statistics

A new question was included to gauge people's views in relation to early-release of official statistics to government ministers. Most people (59 per cent) felt that ministers should not be given early access to official statistics while 38 per cent felt that it was right they were given early access.

Trust in official statistics

Trust in institutions

The questionnaire included a series of questions regarding the levels of trust for a range of institutions. Of all the institutions asked about, trust was highest for the NHS with respondents giving a mean score of 7.14 (on a scale of 0 to ten where 0 was 'do not trust at all' and 10 was 'trust completely'). This represents an improvement from the 6.49 recorded when it was previously asked in 2007. The police (mean score 6.33) and courts (6.04) were the next most trusted institutions and showed little change since 2007. The mean score for trust in the civil service was 5.48 and also showed little change from 2007.

Trust was lowest for the UK government at a mean score of 4.04. Furthermore, this represented a significant decrease from the level found in 2007 (4.45) and it is now at a similar level to that found in 2004.

Trust in official statistics

Respondents were also asked the extent to which they trusted different statistical series. Levels of trust were highest for population figures with an average trust rating of 5.7 compared with 5.2 for domestic burglary and unemployment figures which received the lowest ratings. However, trust in population figures had fallen compared with 2007 when it was 6.05; this continued a downward trend from 2005 (when trust was as high as 6.91).

Compared with 2007, trust in statistics about the cost of living had significantly decreased (from 5.8 to 5.3). However, trust in hospital waiting figures showed a different picture having

significantly increased from 4.9 in 2007 to 5.5 in 2009 and are now the highest they have been since 2004.

Reasons for distrust

The survey asked people why they either trusted or mistrusted particular statistical series. Those with low levels of trust tended to base this partly on their own personal experience; as in 2007 this was the main reason given for distrusting cost of living figures (36 per cent) and hospital waiting figures (40 per cent). At 27 per cent, this reason had also overtaken figures being "difficult to count" to become the main reason given for distrusting domestic burglary figures. This suggests that people's individual experiences in relation to official statistics are a powerful factor in terms of their trust in figures at a national level, which therefore presents a particular challenge for efforts to improve the public's confidence in official statistics. It is also notable that the politically disinterested and those with a poor understanding of official statistics are the most likely to cite their own personal experience as underpinning their lack of trust in particular statistical series. It is therefore clear that there is a sub-group of people whose low levels of trust are driven by personal experiences and who tend to be less engaged with politics and official statistics. This group is likely to represent a particular challenge to reach and educate.

The belief that government has a vested interest in the results of statistics, and that politicians and the media misrepresent the findings, were also common reasons for distrusting official statistics, with the government having a vested interest being the most common reason given for distrusting unemployment figures (26 per cent). On the whole the proportion of respondents giving these reasons in 2009 was similar to 2007. However significantly more people thought that government had a vested interest in population figures in 2009 (16 per cent) than in 2007 (nine per cent). There were also significant increases in the proportion of people who thought that politicians or the media misrepresented domestic burglary figures (eight per cent in 2007, 17 per cent in 2009) and hospital waiting figures (seven per cent in 2007, 20 per cent in 2009). This echoes findings in the previous section about misrepresentation or manipulation of official figures.

Figures being difficult to count remained the main reason for distrusting population figures in 2009 at 27 per cent, although the proportion of respondents giving this reason had dropped significantly from 38 per cent in 2007.

The belief that the figures "do not tell the whole story" became a more common reason for distrusting official statistics in 2009 than it had been in 2007, increasing for cost of living figures (12 per cent in 2007, 19 per cent in 2009), hospital waiting figures (five per cent up to 12 per cent) and domestic burglary figures (ten per cent up to 18 per cent).

Having heard or read something bad about the statistics was seldom given as a reason for distrusting official statistics. However, the media is likely to play an important part in influencing people's attitudes towards different statistical series, as some of the changes we have seen over time no doubt reflect changing debates within the media about the accuracy of particular figures.

Reasons for trust

Personal experience also emerged as an important factor among those with higher levels of trust, with this being the main reason for trusting cost of living figures, hospital waiting figures and unemployment figures. Compared with 2007, the proportion of people basing their trust

on personal experience had significantly increased for cost of living figures (19 per cent in 2007, 37 per cent in 2009), hospital waiting figures (40 per cent in 2007, 50 per cent in 2009) and domestic burglary figures (14 per cent in 2007, 25 per cent in 2009).

Trust was also based on the belief that the figures are "easy to count"; as in 2007, this was the main reason for trusting domestic burglary figures (28 per cent) and population figures (33 per cent). However this had become a less common reason for trusting domestic burglary figures, decreasing significantly from 39 percent in 2007 to 28 per cent in 2009.

Having heard or read something good about the statistics remained a fairly common basis for trusting each of the statistical series, with little change from 2007 in the proportions giving this reason.

1   Introduction

Previous surveys have indicated that levels of trust in official statistics in the UK have been low, with many people believing that they are manipulated or misrepresented by both politicians and the media. Perceptions of the accuracy of official statistics have been varied.

The UK Statistics Authority commissioned NatCen to conduct a survey to update its understanding of public confidence in official statistics. A module of questions was therefore run on the NatCen Omnibus and this report details the findings from this survey.

1.1   Objectives

Surveys of public confidence in official statistics were conducted in 2004, 2005 and 2007 on the ONS Omnibus. The 2009 survey was conducted using the NatCen Omnibus. The survey was designed to address the following objectives.

- Establish whether people feel able to trust official statistics, and why they feel as they do;
- Measure the extent to which people use official statistics;
- The perception of Government institutions in general.

The questionnaire was based on that used in the 2007 survey. This was to ensure consistency with the previous measures to allow meaningful analysis of any change over time. A number of new measures were added to the questionnaire to further enhance understanding of confidence in official statistics. The questionnaire was structured as follows.

- Sources of information, interest in politics and general levels of trust
- Trust in institutions
- Trust in official statistical series
- Attitudes toward official statistics
- Pre-release of official figures

1.2   Methodology

A module of questions was run on the NatCen Omnibus Survey. The NatCen Omnibus is run at regular intervals and allows clients to buy their own questionnaire space. It is based on a stratified random probability sample design which is intended to deliver a nationally representative sample of adults in Great Britain. Addresses are selected from the Post Office Address File (PAF) and interviewers can interview *only* at these selected addresses, helping avoid the biases that can result from interviewers being given more freedom about where and when they interview. Interviews are conducted using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI).

The questions were designed by researchers at NatCen in collaboration with the UK Statistics Authority. Fieldwork took place from 12th October until 28th November 2009. A total of 1,333 interviews were undertaken with adults aged 16 or more. The response rate was 48 per cent. More information on the survey methodology can be found in Appendix C. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix D.

1.3   Changes since 2007

A significant step aimed at addressing the low levels of confidence was the implementation of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Two particular initiatives set out in the Act were the

establishment of the UK Statistics Authority in April 2008 and the publication of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics[1], which aims to improve the dialogue between statistics producers and users, and to enhance the quality and integrity of official statistics. The underlying objective of these changes was to bring about an improvement of public confidence and trust in official statistics. However, awareness of such events is likely to be low among the general public and any improvements which result might be expected to be observed over the longer-term.

Other factors might also be expected to influence the public's perceptions. The first is the economic downturn during 2008 and 2009. This has clearly had a large impact on many official statistics, such as cost of living, unemployment and house price statistics and has brought them into the spotlight.

There have also been several occasions where particular statistical series have been openly debated in the media. These include the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority publicly criticising the government's use of unchecked knife crime statistics, criticism of road casualties figures and ongoing discussion over the number of foreign workers in the UK.

Finally, the controversy over MPs' expenses has been a long-running and major media story and has evoked very strong feelings toward MPs and the political system in general.

1.4   Report structure

The report starts by looking at people's interest in and attitudes toward official statistics, including perceptions of their accuracy. The chapter also presents findings of people's opinions in relation to the early release of official statistics to government ministers. Chapter 2 looks in more detail at people's trust in a series of institutions and statistical series, including the reasons for trust and distrust.

The following conventions have been used in the tables.

*   to indicate a percentage of less than 0.5%
0   to indicate a percentage of 0
-   figure not shown because the unweighted sample size is too small

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[1] http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

2   Interest and Attitudes in Official Statistics

2.1   Engagement and interest in politics and official statistics

This chapter starts by describing where people get the information they use to inform their opinions and people's reported interest in and understanding of official statistics, which provides a useful context in which to view the results of the remaining report.

The sources of information that people use to form their opinions could influence the opinions people form about official statistics. Respondents were presented with a list and asked to pick which sources they used to form their opinions on current issues. The two most popular sources used to obtain information to inform opinions were both forms of media; 70 per cent reported gaining information from television and 56 per cent got information from newspapers (Table 2.1). Just under a half (47 per cent) of respondents said they got information that helped form their opinions from their friends and family. The growing importance on the internet is illustrated by the increase in the proportion mentioning it as a source of opinions from 15 per cent in 2005 to 30 per cent.

Table 2.1 Sources of information used to form opinions			
Base: All adults aged 16+			*ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	Year		
	2005	2007	2009
Sources of information	%	%	%
Television	71	74	70
Newspapers	59	60	56
Family or friends	43	44	47
The Internet	15	24	30
Radio	29	28	28
School / College / Work	11	13	16
Other	2	2	2
Bases	*1,703*	*1,112*	*1,333*

Note: percentages add to more than 100 as people could mention more than one reason

Younger people were more likely to mention friends or family, school, college or work and the internet, whereas older people were more likely to mention the television, newspapers and the radio.

The questionnaire also included a question on general interest in politics. Overall, six per cent claimed to have a great deal of interest and 18 per cent said quite a lot of interest. Eighteen per cent had no interest at all. These figures had changed little since 2005. Indeed, data from the *British Social Attitudes* Survey series shows that interest in politics has been relatively stable since the mid-1980s (Butt and Curtice, 2010).

Table 2.2   Level of interest in politics

Base: All adults aged 16+   *ONS Omnibus/*
                                                                              NatCen Omnibus
                                                                                    Survey

Year			
	2005	2007	2009
Interest in politics	%	%	%
A great deal	5	6	6
Quite a lot	17	18	18
Some	34	36	34
Not much	30	26	25
None at all	14	13	18
Bases	*1,703*	*1,112*	*1,333*

Men had slightly more interest in politics than women; 26 per cent said that they had either quite a lot or a great deal of interest compared with 20 per cent of women. Furthermore, interest in politics tended to increase with age; the proportion in the top two categories rising from 17 per cent of 16 to 24 year olds up to 31 per cent of those aged 75 or more. Again, this confirms evidence from the British Social Attitudes survey.

Two new questions were added to the 2009 survey to gauge people's engagement with official statistics, to see how these relate to levels of trust and confidence. The first question asked respondents to rate the amount of attention they paid to official statistics on a scale which ranged from 'a great deal' to 'none at all'. As is shown in Table 2.3, respondents can be broadly spilt into three groups; those who say they pay either a great deal or quite a lot of attention (29 per cent in total), 42 per cent who pay some attention and 29 per cent who paid not much or no attention.

Men were slightly more likely to say they either paid 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' of attention to official statistics (33 per cent compared with 25 per cent among women) and those in the youngest age group were more likely to say they paid no attention at all (16 per cent amongst those aged 16 to 24).

Table 2.3   Level of attention paid to official statistics, 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+   *NatCen Omnibus*
                                                             Survey

	%
A great deal	5
Quite a lot	23
Some	42
Not much	21
None at all	8
Don't know	*
Bases	*1,332*

The second new question was related to understanding of official statistics when they are presented by the government or in the media. Two-thirds of respondents (64 per cent) rated themselves as having a fairly good understanding of official statistics while a further eight per

cent felt they had a very good understanding. A fifth (21 per cent) felt they had a fairly bad understanding and six per cent felt they had a very bad understanding of official statistics.

Men were more likely to say that they had a good understanding of statistics with 80 per cent saying they had either a very good or fairly good understanding compared with 65 per cent of women.

Table 2.3	Level of understanding of official statistics when presented in the media, 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+	NatCen Omnibus Survey
	Total
	%
Very good	8
Fairly good	64
Fairly bad	21
Very bad	6
Don't know	1
Bases	*1332*

2.2　Attitudes to official statistics

Importance of official statistics

Respondents were asked to say how important they considered official statistics to be as a basis for decision making in society. Respondents generally thought that official statistics were an important basis for decision making; 22 per cent said they were very important and almost half (48 per cent) said they were fairly important (Table 2.4). Only 14 per cent thought official statistics were fairly or very unimportant. Responses to this question have shown little change since 2005.

Table 2.4	Importance of official statistics, 2005 to 2009		

Base: Adults aged 16+			ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey
			Year
	2005	2007	2009
	%	%	%
Very important	21	23	22
Fairly important	49	51	48
Neither important nor unimportant	18	17	16
Fairly unimportant	9	8	10
Very unimportant	3	2	3
Bases	*1703*	*1112*	*1309*

Men were slightly more likely to say that they felt official statistics were unimportant (16 per cent saying fairly or very unimportant compared with 11 per cent of women). There was little difference between those in different age groups.

Accuracy of official figures

A key factor in people's confidence in official statistics is whether or not they think that the statistics presented are accurate or not. Previous research indicates that the term 'official

statistics' was not commonly understood by people. The term 'official figures' was therefore used in the question wording. Previous qualitative development research (Simmons & Betts, 2006) identified that people perceived figures to come from statistics as opposed to being the same thing. They tended to define 'official figures' in terms of the subject areas about which the statistics refer, such as the Census, deaths, unemployment, waiting lists, population, immigration, house prices, household debt and economic performance.

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement:

Official figures are generally accurate.

The results are presented in table 2.5. In 2009 about a third (32 per cent) of people agreed that official statistics were accurate while 40 per cent disagreed with this view - the highest level since the question was first asked and a marked increase on the 33 per cent recorded when it was most recently asked in 2007. This increase was mainly accounted for by a rise in the proportion saying they "tend to disagree" (from 25 per cent to 32 per cent) with the proportion strongly disagreeing remaining unchanged at eight per cent. However, this suggests that perceptions of the accuracy of statistics are weakening. A quarter (26 per cent) neither agreed nor disagreed.

Table 2.5	Official figures are generally accurate, 2004 to 2009			
Base: Adults aged 16+				ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey
	Survey year			
	2004	2005	2007	2009
	%	%	%	%
Strongly agree	2	2	2	1
Tend to agree	32	35	34	31
Neither agree nor disagree	27	28	27	26
Tend to disagree	28	25	25	32
Strongly disagree	7	6	8	8
Don't know	3	4	4	1
Agree	34	37	36	32
Neither agree nor disagree (incl. don't know)	30	32	31	27
Disagree	36	31	33	40**
Base	*1703*	*1699*	*1112*	*1332*

** statistically significant difference compared with 2007

Older respondents tended to show lower levels of trust in the accuracy of official statistics than their younger counterparts. The proportion disagreeing with the statement increased from 34 per cent of those aged 16 to 34 to 47 per cent among those aged 55 or more. There was little difference between men and women. Those not educated to degree level and those who felt they had a bad understanding of official statistics were more likely to disagree that official figures were accurate.

In order to examine these interrelationships further, multivariate analysis techniques were used to identify whether perceptions of the accuracy of official figures tended to be more common among certain groups of people than others, even when the interaction between these different groups has been controlled for. It is likely that many of the different factors

associated with perceptions of accuracy are themselves inter-related – for example, those who have a higher income, who may think that figures are generally accurate, are more likely to be older and have a higher level of education. Multivariate analysis isolates the independent effect of each individual type of characteristics, controlling for its interaction with other relevant factors.

This analysis shows that certain groups of people are more likely than others to disagree with the view that official figures are generally accurate. Three factors were associated with lower perceptions of the accuracy of official figures; age, levels of understanding of official statistics and levels of trust in the UK government. Older respondents (those aged 35 years and over) were more likely to be less trusting of official statistics than younger respondents (aged 16 to 34 years). The poorer the level of understanding of official statistics people claimed to have, the worse their perceptions of accuracy were likely to be. Trust in the UK government was also associated with perceptions of accuracy; the lower the level of trust in the UK government, the more likely people were to disagree that official figures are accurate.

Table 2.6	Regression of whether official figures are generally accurate		
Base: Adults aged 16+			*NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	co-efficient	standard error	p value
Age group (16 to 34 yrs)			
35 to 54 yrs	0.16*	0.07	0.021
55 yrs or more	0.20*	0.08	0.015
Level of understanding of official statistics			
Decrease in level of understanding	0.12**	0.04	0.008
Level of trust in the UK government			
Increase in trust in UK government	-0.18**	0.01	0.000
R²=0.2078			
Unweighted base: 1,277			
Weighted base: 1,274			

*=significant at 95% level **=significant at 99% level

The strength of relationship between people's perceptions of the accuracy of official statistics and their trust of the UK government is illustrated further in Figure 2.1. Among those with high levels of trust in government, only 15 per cent disagreed that official statistics were accurate. However, among those with the lowest levels of trust, this rose to 60 per cent.

As shown in section 3.1, levels of trust in the UK government have decreased since 2007, making it possible that declining trust in the accuracy of official statistics reflects a wider issue of political mistrust. This might perhaps be related to the negative coverage surrounding MPs' expenses, although our data cannot prove any causal link. However, were this the case, it is worth noting that trust in government is sensitive to the political cycle, and consistently increases in the period immediately after a general election (Butt and Curtice, 2010).

Figure 2.1	Accuracy of official figures by trust in UK government
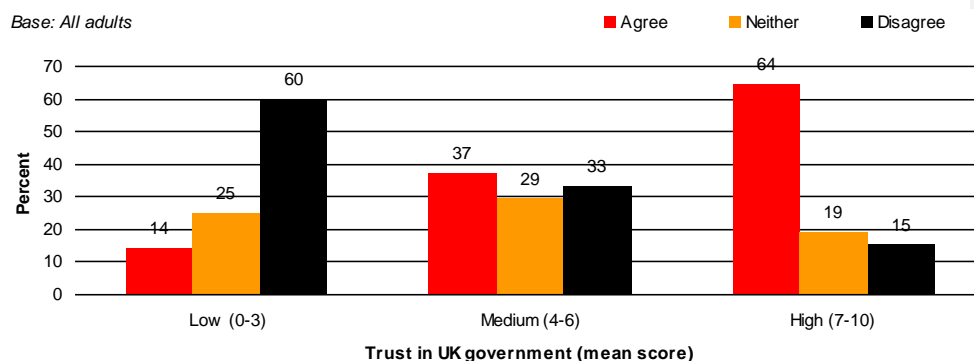
Figure 2.2 shows the proportion among different age groups who **disagreed** that official figures are accurate, for 2007 compared with 2009. In 2007, younger age groups were much less likely to disagree, with for example just 13 per cent of 16 to 24 year olds saying so. However, in 2009, while the general pattern of response across the age groups remained, it was less marked than was the case in 2007. Although the proportion who disagreed that official figures were accurate had increased for most groups, it had done so most steeply among younger respondents.

Figure 2.2   Proportion disagreeing that official figures are accurate by age (2007 & 2009)
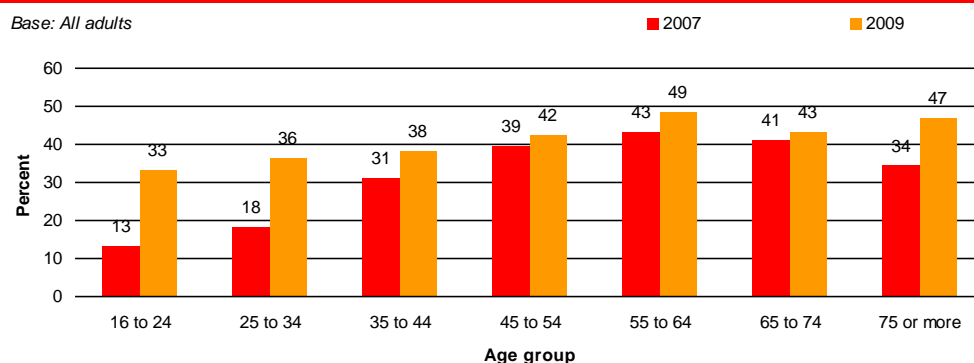
In order to understand the reasons behind the low levels of trust, all those who had disagreed with the statement 'Official figures are generally accurate' were asked why. The results are shown in Table 2.7. The two main reasons given both reflected a belief that official statistics were manipulated or misrepresented in their presentation to the public. Over half (52 per cent) of respondents who did not agree that official statistics were accurate thought that the figures were manipulated or adjusted for political purposes. Around two-fifths (41 per cent) thought that figures were misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media. These two reasons were mentioned slightly more frequently than when previously asked in 2007.

Table 2.7   Why disagree with statement official figures are generally accurate, 2007 to 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+ who disagreed with statement that official figures are generally accurate

ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey

	Survey year	
	2007	2009
	%	%
Figures are manipulated or adjusted for political purposes	47	52

Figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media	36	41
Figures are contradicted or disputed by politicians, the media or other sources	17	19
Figures alone do not tell the whole story/there is more to it than just the figures	11	17
Figures are difficult to count or measure/information is not always reported	17	16
Don t trust figures, from personal experience	17	15
Other answer	2	3
Don' t understand figures or statistics	0	1
Bases	*367*	*557*

Note: percentages add to more than 100 as people could mention more than one reason

Political and media interference

Official statistics are used, interpreted and communicated by both politicians and the media. Respondents were therefore asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements related to this process. The first related to whether there was any political interference in the production of statistics:

Official figures are produced without political interference.

Table 2.8 shows that most people believe that there is some political interference in the use of official statistics. The majority of people (59 per cent) disagree that official figures are produced without political interference. Only 17 per cent agreed that official figures were not influenced by political interference, a similar level to that seen in 2007 (when 20 per cent agreed). In general, there has been little change in this measure since 2004.

Table 2.8	Official figures are produced without political interference, 2004 to 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+

ONS Omnibus/
NatCen Omnibus
Survey y

	Survey year			
	2004	2005	2007	2009
	%	%	%	%
Strongly agree	2	2	3	1
Tend to agree	15	15	17	15
Neither agree nor disagree	19	21	18	22
Tend to disagree	40	39	40	39
Strongly disagree	18	15	17	19
Don't know	6	7	5	3
Agree	17	17	20	17
Neither agree nor disagree (incl. don't know)	25	29	23	23
Disagree	58	54	57	59
Base	1703	1699	1112	1332

The following two tables show the results of the following questions:

How much do you agree or disagree that...
...The Government presents official figures honestly when talking about its policies
...Newspapers present official figures honestly

The story is similar to the findings above; the majority of people (60 per cent) disagree that the government presents official figures honestly when they talk about their policies. Here, just 14 per cent agree that the government presents official figures honestly and 25 per cent

neither agree nor disagree. Again, the responses to this issue have been fairly consistent since 2004 and show no significant change since last asked in 2007.

| Table 2.9 | Government presents official figures honestly when talking about its policies, 2004 to 2009 |

Base: Adults aged 16+   *ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey*

	Survey year			
	2004	2005	2007	2009
	%	%	%	%
Strongly agree	2	1	2	1
Tend to agree	14	13	14	13
Neither agree nor disagree	21	22	23	25
Tend to disagree	42	43	38	41
Strongly disagree	18	17	20	19
Don't know	4	4	3	1
Agree	15	14	16	14
Neither agree nor disagree (incl. don't know)	25	26	26	26
Disagree	59	60	58	60
Base	1702	1699	1112	1332

The statement in relation to newspapers was added to the questionnaire in 2009. It is interesting that at an overall level, people's perceptions of the honesty of newspapers are almost the same as for the government. Table 2.10 shows almost identical figures to those above, the majority (61 per cent) disagree that the media presented official figures honestly while only 14 per cent agree and 25 per cent neither agree nor disagree.

| Table 2.10 | Newspapers present figures honestly, 2009 |

Base: Adults aged 16+   *NatCen Omnibus Survey*

	Total
	%
Strongly agree	1
Tend to agree	13
Neither agree nor disagree	25
Tend to disagree	43
Strongly disagree	17
Don't know	1
Agree	14
Neither agree nor disagree (incl. don't know)	26
Disagree	61
Bases	*1332*

2.3   Early release of official statistics

Government ministers can be given early access to official figures before they are released to the public. Some new questions were asked in 2009 to understand people's views about this.

The following question was asked:

Government ministers can be shown official statistics the day before (in England)/ five days before (in Scotland and Wales) they are made public. Some say this is right because it gives ministers time to provide considered comment on the statistics when they are published, or to respond quickly to any questions. Other people disagree because they think it gives ministers a chance to influence how the statistics are presented to the public, or any unfair advantage over everyone else.

Looking at this card, what do you think...
...Government ministers should be given early access to official statistics or,
...Government ministers should not be given early access to official statistics?

Most people (59 per cent) felt that ministers should not be given early access to official statistics while 38 per cent felt that it was right they were given early access (Table 2.11). There was little difference in terms of age or sex, however, there were differences in terms of respondents' social economic classification. Those who worked (or had most recently worked) as managers or in professional occupations were more evenly spread on this issue with 53 per cent favouring early access and 46 per cent not doing so.

Table 2.11	Whether government ministers should be given early access to official statistics, 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+	*NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	Total
	%
Government ministers should be given early access to official statistics	38
Government ministers should not be given early access to official statistics	59
Don't know	3
Bases	*1331*

All those respondents who thought that government ministers should be given early access to official figures were then asked whether the amount of time they currently see figures before they are published is about right, should be shorter or should be longer. The amount of time differs between England where it is one day and Scotland and Wales where it is five days. This was included in the introductory question above. Around two-thirds (65 per cent) of respondents asked this question thought that the current length of time ministers saw official figures before release was about right. Slightly more people thought that the length of time should be longer (20 per cent) than those who thought it should be shorter (11 per cent). It is not possible to compare respondents in England with those in Scotland and Wales where pre-release notice differs due to small sample sizes.

Table 2.12	Whether length of time ministers see official statistics for is the right amount of time, 2009

Base: Adults aged 16+ who think that ministers should be given early access to official statistics	*NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	Total
	%

About right	65
Shorter	11
Longer	20
Don't know	3
Bases	*519*

3   Trust

3.1   Trust in official institutions

The questionnaire included a series of questions to investigate levels of trust for a range of institutions. Respondents answered on a scale ranging from zero to ten where zero meant 'do not trust at all' and ten meant 'trust completely'. The mean scores for each of the institutions are shown in Table 3.1.

Of all the institutions asked about, trust was highest for the NHS. Respondents gave a mean score of 7.14. This represents an improvement from the 6.49 recorded when it was previously asked in 2007. The police (mean score 6.33) and courts (6.04) were the next most trusted institutions and showed little change since 2007. The mean score for trust in the civil service was 5.48 and also showed little change from 2007.

Trust was lowest for the UK government at a mean score of 4.04, a significant decrease from the level found in 2007 (4.45). As can be seen in Table 3.1, while trust in the UK government increased between 2004 and 2007, it is now at a similar level to that found in 2004. The decline in trust in the UK government is important because, as shown in section 2.2, there is a strong association between trust in the government and perceptions of the accuracy of official statistics (which has also declined since 2007).

Younger respondents displayed higher levels of trust in the UK government than older ones did. The mean trust score decreased from 4.43 among those aged 16 to 34 to 3.72 among those aged 55 or more. It also varied by educational attainment, ranging from 4.71 among those educated to degree level to 3.60 among those without qualifications.

Table 3.1	Average scores for trust in institutions, 2004 to 2009			
Base: Adults aged 16+				*ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	Survey year			
Institution	2004	2005	2007	2009
NHS				
mean	6.57	6.67	6.49	7.14*
standard deviation	2.29	2.31	2.32	2.04
Base	*1685*	*166*	*1093*	*1311*
Police				
mean	6.43	6.48	6.37	6.33
standard deviation	2.31	2.30	2.27	2.31
Base	*1669*	*1656*	*1092*	*1310*
Courts				
mean	5.88	6.24	6.11	6.04
standard deviation	2.35	2.37	2.28	2.30
Base	*1543*	*1498*	*1003*	*1214*
Civil Service				
mean	5.27	5.78	5.60	5.48
standard deviation	2.03	2.01	2.05	2.08
Base	*1499*	*1513*	*1036*	*1243*
UK Government				
mean	3.96	4.37	4.45	4.04*
standard deviation	2.39	2.41	2.36	2.37

Base		1654	1639	1076	1300

* statistically significant difference compared with 2007

3.2   Trust in official statistics

Cross-national comparisons

Trust in official statistics in the UK is low compared with other European countries. A survey[2] conducted in 2007 across the European Union included a general question regarding trust in official statistics:

> *Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (…), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?*

In the UK, just a third (33 per cent) said that they tended to trust official statistics. The average across the European countries was 46 per cent and the UK percentage was the lowest out of all 27 countries included.

One possible explanation for this low level of trust might be that people in the UK are generally less trusting than their European counterparts. However, evidence from elsewhere suggest that this is not the case. The European Social Survey (ESS) includes a standard measure of social trust which finds that people in the UK are actually slightly more trusting than the European average. Consequently a lack of trust in official statistics is not a consequence of low levels of social trust more generally.

Trust in statistical series

Earlier surveys included a measure of overall trust in official statistics, deigned to provide a single measure of people's general perceptions of the trustworthiness of official statistics. However, this question was dropped as it was felt that the public's views in relation to trust were too complex to incorporate into one question. Instead, respondents were asked about a series of specific statistical series. For each one, respondents were asked to rate how much they felt each statistical series gives a true picture of what is happening using the same zero to ten scale as was used in the questions on trust in institutions. The questions related to the following five statistical series.

- the cost of living, sometimes referred to as the rate of inflation
- official figures about hospital waiting lists
- official figures on domestic burglaries
- official figures on the size of the population
- official figures on the number of people unemployed

The results are summarised in Table 3.2. Comparing the five different types of official statistics, levels of trust were highest for population figures and lowest for domestic burglary and unemployment figures. Compared with 2007, trust in cost of living figures had significantly decreased (from 5.8 to 5.3), as had trust in population figures (from 6.91 in 2005 to 6.05 in 2007 to 5.68 in 2009).

However, trust in hospital waiting figures shows a different picture, having significantly increased from 4.9 in 2007 to 5.4 in 2009. Trust in these figures is now at the highest rate since the survey series began in 2004. This corresponds with the improvement in trust seen

in the NHS generally described in section 3.1. Trust in domestic burglary figures was little altered at 5.21 in 2009.

Table 3.2	Average scores for trust in statistical series, 2004 to 2009			
Base: Adults aged 16+				*ONS Omnibus/ NatCen Omnibus Survey*
	Survey year			
Official statistic	2004	2005	2007	2009
Cost of living				
Mean	-	5.93	5.78	5.32
standard deviation	-	2.33	2.38	2.26
Base	*-*	*1519*	*997*	*1219*
Hospital waiting figures				
Mean	4.61	4.63	4.89	5.44
standard deviation	2.51	2.54	2.45	2.36
Base	*1590*	*1608*	*1027*	*1218*
Domestic burglaries				
Mean	5.33	5.50	5.33	5.21
standard deviation	2.34	02.38	2.39	2.26
Base	*1534*	*1538*	*982*	*1197*
Population figures				
Mean	-	6.91	6.05	5.68
standard deviation	-	2.32	2.61	2.67
Base	*-*	*1559*	*1030*	*1212*
Unemployment figures				
Mean	-	-	-	5.19
standard deviation	-	-	-	2.53
Base	-	-	-	1247

There were no significant differences between men and women in levels of trust in official statistics with the exception of unemployment figures where, at 5.4, women's average rating was significantly higher than men at 5.0.

There were differences in trust ratings between different age groups for all statistical series except domestic burglary figures. On the whole, higher ratings were associated with younger age groups, with 16 to 24 year olds having the highest average rating score for all statistical series except hospital waiting figures. Ratings of trust in hospital waiting figures, which were the only statistical series where trust increased between 2007 and 2009 showed the opposite pattern, with high ratings being associated with older age groups, with those aged 60 years or more giving the highest ratings. It is possible this reflects a general tendency for older groups to express high levels of satisfaction with the NHS (Appleby and Phillips, 2009).

Education level was significantly related to trust in official statistics for all series except hospital waiting figures. Trust ratings tended to be higher among those qualified to degree level or above and lowest among those without qualifications.

Household income was significantly related to levels of trust in cost of living figures, population figures and unemployment figures. High income is associated with high trust in cost of living and population figures whereas low income is associated with high levels of trust in unemployment figures.

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[2] EuroBarometer 67 http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/51/39562127.pdf

Interest in politics was only related to trust in population figures where those with some interest in politics had the highest confidence and those with no interest at all had the lowest confidence.

There was a significant relationship for all statistical series between trust in official statistics and how important people thought statistics were as a basis for decision making. For all series, high trust ratings were associated with thinking official statistics were important in decision making, with the highest trust ratings being given by those who thought official statistics were very important or fairly important in decision making and the lowest trust ratings being given by those who thought official statistics were very unimportant in decision making.

Level of trust in official statistics was significantly related to understanding of official statistics for all statistical series except hospital waiting figures. For all series trust ratings were highest amongst those who reported having a fairly good understanding of statistics. Level of trust was also significantly related to how much attention respondents paid to official statistics for all statistical series. Higher levels of trust were associated with higher levels of attention being paid, with the highest trust ratings being given by those who paid a great deal or quite a lot of attention to official statistics, and the lowest trust ratings being given by those who paid no attention at all to official statistics.

3.3   Reasons for trusting/ distrusting official statistics

Reasons for distrust

Respondents were asked to give the reasons why they did or did not trust each of the five statistical series rated. Table 3.3 shows the main reasons why people distrusted each of the measures. These are shown only among respondents who had given low trust ratings (defined as a score of 0 to 3).

People often cited personal experience as the reason for their distrust of official statistics; as in 2007 this was the main reason given for distrusting cost of living figures (36 per cent) and hospital waiting figures (40 per cent). At 27 per cent, this reason had also overtaken figures being difficult to count to become the main reason given for distrusting domestic burglary figures. So individual experience, when this does not chime with official statistics, seems to be an important factor underpinning a lack of trust in official statistics. This is particularly true of those with low levels of political interest and who did not have a good understanding of official statistics, who were among the most likely to cite personal experience as a reason for not trusting a range of different statistical series[3]. This will no doubt partly reflect 'real' differences between national statistics and what is going on within local areas, but is also likely to reflect the cognitive difficulty many will face when thinking of their own individual experiences and circumstances in comparison with figures for the country as a whole. However, it is clear that there is a sub-group of people whose low levels of trust are driven by personal experiences and who tend to be less engaged with politics and official statistics. This group is likely to represent a particular challenge to reach and educate.

[3] It is worth noting that it might be assumed that a key factor influencing the views of this group might be lower levels of education. However, although there were some differences by education levels, these tended to be small and not statistically significant.

The belief that government has a vested interest in the results of statistics and that politicians and the media misrepresent the findings were common reasons for distrusting official statistics, with the government having a vested interest being the most common reason given for distrusting unemployment figures (26 per cent). On the whole the proportion of respondents giving these reasons in 2009 was similar to 2007. However significantly more people thought that government had a vested interest in population figures in 2009 (16 per cent) than in 2007 (nine per cent). There were also significant increases in the proportion of people who thought that politicians or media misrepresented domestic burglary figures (eight per cent in 2007, 17 per cent in 2009) and hospital waiting figures (seven per cent in 2007, 20 per cent in 2009). This echoes findings in the previous section about misrepresentation or manipulation of official figures.

Figures being difficult to count remained the main reason for distrusting population figures in 2009 at 27 percent, although the proportion of respondents giving this reason had dropped significantly from 38 per cent in 2007.

The belief that the figures do not tell the whole story became a more common reason for distrusting official statistics in 2009 than it had been in 2007. The proportion of people giving this reason significantly increased for cost of living figures (12 per cent in 2007, 19 per cent in 2009), hospital waiting figures (five per cent up to 12 per cent) and domestic burglary figures (10 per cent up to 18 per cent).

Having heard or read something bad about the statistics was seldom given as a reason for distrusting official statistics, and was the least common reason for distrusting hospital waiting figures. The proportion of people giving this reason decreased for all statistical series between 2007 and 2009, and significantly so for hospital waiting figures (eight per cent in 2007, two per cent in 2009) and domestic burglary figures (10 per cent in 2007, four per cent in 2009).

The fact that few directly attribute their mistrust to having read about the particular statistical series is noteworthy. Despite this, it is likely that people's perceptions of the accuracy of official statistics will often be indirectly or directly influenced by media reports. For example, the fact that mistrust in statistics relating to population figures has increased is likely to reflect recent debates about the inadequacies of the Census as regards local authority population figures, and the difficulties of measuring immigration. As we can see, however, few directly attribute their lack of trust to their having encountered specific stories. Moreover, as is clear elsewhere in this report, the media are not generally trusted to present official statistics honestly.

Few people based their distrust of official statistics on the belief that ONS has a vested interest in results; this was the least common reason for distrusting all statistical series except hospital waiting figures. Compared with 2007, the proportion giving this as the main reason in 2009 had significantly decreased for all statistical series except population figures where it had remained at zero per cent. These changes are likely to be due to the fact that ONS is no longer the data collection agency, this having inevitably affected the way interviewers interpreted and coded respondents' responses.

Table 3.3   Main reasons for low levels of trust, 2009

Base: Respondents giving a trust score of 7 to 10 at trust questions

ONS Omnibus/
NatCen Omnibus
Survey

	Cost of living	Hospital waiting figures	Domestic Burglaries	Population figures	Unemployment figures
Mean trust score	5.32	5.44	5.21	5.68	5.19
standard deviation	2.26	2.36	2.26	2.67	2.53
Base = those who gave an answer	*1219*	*1218*	*1197*	*1212*	*1247*
Main reason for low level of trust	%	%	%	%	%
Don't trust the figures, from personal experience	36	40	27	14	22
Heard/read something bad about the figures	3	2	4	7	3
The figures are difficult to count or measure	6	6	19	27	9
ONS has a vested interest in the results/ manipulates production or collection	1	3	*	*	2
Govt has a vested interest in the results/ interferes in production or collection	18	15	10	16	26
Figures are misrepresented/spun by politicians or the media	11	20	17	19	23
Figures alone do not tell the whole story	19	12	18	16	12
Other answer	4	2	5	2	2
Bases= Those with trust scores 0 to 3	*264*	*260*	*267*	*276*	*327*

Some significant relationships were found between reasons for distrusting official statistics and respondent sex, age, level of education and household income. However these relationships did not show any consistent patterns across the statistical series and may be unreliable as the base sizes were small in many cases.

Reasons for trust

Table 3.4 shows the main reasons, of those respondents with high levels of trust, for trusting each of the statistical series.

Earlier we saw that personal experience was often cited as a reason for not trusting in different statistical series. This same reason is also important as an explanation behind why some people **do** trust official statistics. This was the main reason for trusting cost of living figures and hospital waiting figures. Compared with 2007, the proportion of people basing their trust on personal experience had significantly increased for cost of living figures (19 per cent in 2007, 37 per cent in 2009), hospital waiting figures (40 per cent in 2007, 50 per cent in 2009) and domestic burglary figures (14 per cent in 2007, 25 per cent in 2009).

Trust was also based on the belief that the figures are easy to count, and, as in 2007, this was the main reason for trusting domestic burglary figures (28 per cent) and population figures (33 per cent). However this had become a less common reason for trusting domestic burglary figures, decreasing significantly from 39 percent in 2007 to 28 per cent in 2009.

Having heard or read something good about the statistics remained a fairly common basis for trusting each of the statistical series, with little change from 2007 in the proportions giving this reason.

Trust in official statistics was based on the belief that the government does not have a vested interest in the results in quite a small number of cases, with this being the least common reason for trusting all statistical series except domestic burglary figures. Although this remained an uncommon reason, compared with 2007 it had significantly increased for hospital waiting figures (zero per cent in 2007, two per cent in 2009), domestic burglary figures (two per cent in 2007, seven per cent in 2009) and population figures (one per cent in 2007, nine per cent in 2009).

The belief that ONS does not have a vested interest in the results was also an uncommon reason for trusting official statistics and the least common reason for trusting domestic burglary figures (three per cent). The proportion of people giving this reason significantly decreased in 2009 compared with 2007 for all statistical series, however this is likely due, in part, to ONS no longer being the data collection agency.

Some significant relationships were found between reasons for trusting official statistics and respondent sex, age, level of education and household income. However, as with reasons for distrust, these relationships did not show any consistent patterns across the statistical series and were again based on small base sizes in many cases.

There is a significant relationship between respondents' level of interest in politics and trusting population, domestic burglary and unemployment figures based on hearing or reading something good about the statistics. For each of these statistical series basing distrust on something heard or read was associated with low levels of interest in politics, with people with no interest at all being most likely to give this reason and people with a great deal of interest in politics being least likely to give this reason. While some significant relationships were found, there were no consistent patterns between reasons for trust and perceived importance of statistics in decision making, understanding of official statistics or interest in official statistics.

Table 3.4 Main reasons for high levels of trust, 2009

Base: Respondents giving a trust score of 7 to 10 at trust questions

	Cost of living	Hospital waiting figures	Domestic Burglaries	Population figures	Unemployment figures
Mean trust score	5.32	5.44	5.21	5.68	5.19
standard deviation	2.26	2.36	2.26	2.67	2.53
Base = those who gave an answer	*1219*	*1218*	*1197*	*1212*	*1247*
Main reason for high level of trust	%	%	%	%	%
Trust the figures, from personal experience	37	50	25	16	24
Heard/read something good about the figures	8	14	14	12	17
The figures are easy to count or measure	25	16	28	33	26
ONS does not have a vested interest in the results/ does not manipulate production or collection	11	4	3	13	10
Govt does not have a vested interest in the results/ does not interfere in production or collection	4	2	7	9	3
Other answer	15	14	22	16	20
Bases= Those with trust scores 7 to 10	*374*	*428*	*358*	*476*	*393*

Appendix A   References

Appleby, S. and Curtice, J. (2010), 'The NHS: satisfied now?' in Park, A *et al* (eds), *British Social Attitudes: the 25th Report*, London: Sage.

Butt, S. and Curtice, J. (2009), 'Duty in decline? Trends in attitudes to voting' in Park, A *et al* (eds), *British Social Attitudes: the 26th Report*, London: Sage.

Simmons, E. and Betts, P. (2006), *Developing a Quantitative Measure of Public Confidence in Official Statistics*, London: ONS

Appendix B   Detailed survey tables

Sources used to inform opinions on current issues		Friends/ Family	School/ College/ Work	Newspapers	Television	Radio	Internet	Other	None of these	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	42	12	59	71	31	34	2	*	652	652
	Female	51	20	53	70	26	26	1	1	681	681
Age	16 to 24	56	34	43	51	16	44	0	0	200	96
	25 to 34	60	18	43	62	20	46	3	1	200	225
	35 to 44	48	18	50	72	35	35	4	*	247	265
	45 to 54	43	19	58	68	33	30	2	1	220	242
	55 to 64	41	8	70	83	32	21	2	0	197	206
	65 or more	36	1	71	84	31	6	0	1	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	46	21	58	69	38	35	4	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	46	13	60	78	28	30	1	*	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	46	12	57	73	24	24	1	1	531	534
	Not classifiable	59	23	35	42	13	36	*	2	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	50	19	47	60	18	36	1	*	301	290
	£9621- £19500	46	13	52	70	25	27	2	2	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	54	16	66	74	26	25	2	*	272	268
	£38220 and over	40	20	57	73	40	38	3	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	51	20	55	67	37	45	3	0	235	235
	Below degree	49	19	55	71	28	32	2	*	784	749
	No qualifications	40	6	59	72	23	13	0	3	313	348
Total		47	16	56	70	28	30	2	1	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Interest in politics

		A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Not much	None at all	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	6	21	36	21	16	652	652
	Female	5	15	32	28	19	681	681
Age	16 to 24	2	15	26	27	29	200	96
	25 to 34	9	15	40	22	14	200	225
	35 to 44	4	15	36	27	18	247	265
	45 to 54	3	18	33	31	15	220	242
	55 to 64	7	20	39	20	13	197	206
	65 or more	7	23	32	21	18	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	10	25	39	19	7	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	6	20	35	26	13	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	3	11	33	29	25	531	534
	Not classifiable	2	18	21	21	38	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	4	14	25	26	31	301	290
	£9621- £19500	7	13	33	30	18	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	4	20	36	24	16	272	268
	£38220 and over	9	24	40	21	6	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	11	27	37	20	5	235	235
	Below degree	5	18	36	25	16	784	749
	No qualifications	3	10	28	28	31	313	348
Total		6	18	34	25	18	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Trust in People

		Most people can be trusted	Can't be too careful in dealing with people	It depends on people/ circumstances	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%
Sex	Male	34	53	14	652	652
	Female	30	59	11	681	681
Age	16 to 24	32	49	19	200	96
	25 to 34	28	58	15	200	225
	35 to 44	30	61	10	247	265
	45 to 54	34	56	10	220	242
	55 to 64	34	56	10	197	206
	65 or more	33	56	12	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	41	48	11	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	35	57	8	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	24	63	13	531	534
	Not classifiable	25	47	28	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	29	56	15	301	290
	£9621- £19500	27	64	9	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	27	61	12	272	268
	£38220 and over	42	49	9	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	46	39	15	235	235
	Below degree	31	58	11	784	749
	No qualifications	22	64	14	313	348
Total		32	56	12	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in the Civil Service

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Don't know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	5.46	4	1	2	6	8	27	12	19	11	2	1	1	5	652	591
	Female	5.50	3	1	3	7	7	28	13	15	11	2	2	1	8	681	742
Age	16 to 24	5.79	2	0	2	6	9	17	15	17	10	2	4	0	15	200	96
	25 to 34	5.53	3	1	2	7	8	28	15	16	11	2	1	*	4	213	225
	35 to 44	5.50	3	2	1	8	7	28	16	19	9	2	2	1	3	247	265
	45 to 54	5.52	3	1	5	6	5	29	9	21	13	2	*	1	5	220	242
	55 to 64	5.08	6	2	4	7	9	31	12	15	6	3	1	1	3	197	206
	65 or more	5.48	5	1	2	5	7	30	9	13	15	2	2	2	8	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.76	2	1	3	6	7	25	13	22	13	3	2	1	2	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.47	4	0	3	8	7	27	13	19	11	1	1	1	5	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	5.23	5	2	3	6	8	31	12	13	8	3	2	1	8	531	534
	Not classifiable	5.55	4	1	0	8	10	19	11	10	16	1	2	1	17	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	5.28	4	1	3	7	9	25	14	11	8	2	2	1	14	301	290
	£9621- £19500	5.40	6	0	2	6	7	32	13	15	9	2	3	1	4	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.32	5	2	1	7	10	28	12	21	9	1	1	2	1	272	268
	£38220 and over	5.82	0	1	4	7	6	24	14	24	13	4	1	0	1	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6.05	1	1	2	5	5	23	12	28	15	3	1	2	1	235	235
	Below degree	5.51	3	1	3	7	9	25	14	17	11	2	2	1	5	784	749
	No qualifications	4.92	7	2	2	6	7	35	8	8	9	1	2	1	12	313	348
Total		5.48	4	1	3	6	8	27	12	17	11	2	2	1	6	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Level of trust in the UK Government

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Don't know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	4.03	12	5	8	15	13	19	9	9	5	1	1	*	1	652	591
	Female	4.06	11	5	9	11	14	24	7	11	3	1	1	1	3	681	742
Age	16 to 24	4.50	4	6	7	16	11	26	7	13	4	1	1	0	3	200	96
	25 to 34	4.36	7	4	8	13	16	22	9	11	4	2	1	0	3	213	225
	35 to 44	4.14	10	4	8	15	14	22	12	10	3	1	1	*	1	247	265
	45 to 54	3.88	12	6	10	14	12	23	4	9	6	1	*	1	2	220	242
	55 to 64	3.73	15	7	8	11	17	20	7	9	4	1	1	1	0	197	206
	65 or more	3.71	20	4	10	10	12	17	8	9	5	1	1	1	3	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	4.42	7	4	9	10	15	23	12	14	4	*	1	1	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	3.70	12	8	8	16	15	22	4	11	2	1	*	*	2	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	3.87	16	4	9	13	12	22	6	8	5	2	2	*	2	531	534
	Not classifiable	4.26	5	7	5	19	13	16	13	7	6	1	1	1	6	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	4.11	11	5	9	13	14	19	7	10	5	2	2	*	3	301	290
	£9621- £19500	3.70	18	5	9	12	9	24	5	9	5	1	*	*	2	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	4.05	10	6	6	16	15	23	8	9	3	1	2	1	*	272	268
	£38220 and over	4.46	6	3	11	10	15	21	14	14	5	*	0	0	*	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	4.71	4	5	8	10	16	22	11	16	6	1	*	1	*	235	235
	Below degree	4.02	11	5	8	15	13	22	9	9	4	1	1	*	2	784	749
	No qualifications	3.60	19	6	9	10	13	21	4	8	4	1	2	*	3	313	348
Total		4.04	12	5	8	13	14	22	8	10	4	1	1	1	2	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Level of trust in the Police

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Don't know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	6.26	4	1	4	4	6	13	12	19	22	10	3	*	2	652	591
	Female	6.40	2	1	3	4	5	20	9	16	22	8	7	1	2	681	742
Age	16 to 24	6.19	3	1	7	2	9	14	8	18	12	16	4	0	5	200	96
	25 to 34	6.27	4	1	3	7	4	10	15	19	23	7	4	2	1	213	225
	35 to 44	6.46	4	1	3	3	5	13	11	21	23	10	4	*	1	247	265
	45 to 54	6.11	2	2	4	6	6	18	12	18	19	8	4	*	*	220	242
	55 to 64	6.37	1	2	3	2	6	22	8	20	28	6	2	*	0	197	206
	65 or more	6.55	3	1	2	3	3	21	10	12	24	7	10	0	2	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	6.56	2	1	1	3	5	15	14	20	23	11	3	1	2	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	6.38	3	2	2	5	5	17	11	19	21	9	5	1	0	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	6.10	4	1	6	4	6	17	9	15	22	7	7	*	1	531	534
	Not classifiable	6.51	1	3	2	6	4	15	7	17	17	14	7	0	7	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	6.24	4	1	5	3	8	15	9	13	20	11	6	1	4	301	290
	£9621- £19500	6.20	5	2	5	3	5	16	10	17	20	8	8	0	2	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	6.23	3	1	3	6	5	17	10	24	21	5	5	*	0	272	268
	£38220 and over	6.50	1		3	3	5	15	16	21	25	9	2	0	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6.56	*	*	2	5	5	15	15	25	20	12	1	1	*	235	235
	Below degree	6.28	3	1	4	4	6	15	11	18	21	10	4	*	2	784	749
	No qualifications	6.29	3	3	4	4	5	20	7	12	26	5	11	1	2	313	348
Total		6.33	3	1	3	4	5	16	11	18	22	9	5	1	2	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Level of trust in the courts

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Don't know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	6.07	3	2	4	6	5	16	12	17	19	7	4	1	6	652	591
	Female	6.00	2	2	3	5	6	16	13	17	16	6	3	1	10	681	741
Age	16 to 24	5.91	3	3	4	2	3	18	12	20	14	6	1	2	11	200	96
	25 to 34	6.24	3	1	2	6	4	12	14	20	16	8	5	1	8	213	225
	35 to 44	6.11	2	2	3	7	7	16	13	17	18	6	5	1	4	247	264
	45 to 54	6.10	3	3	3	7	6	15	10	18	20	9	2	1	4	220	242
	55 to 64	6.00	1	3	2	6	8	18	13	17	17	6	4	1	5	197	206
	65 or more	5.86	4	1	4	5	4	17	12	10	17	6	3	2	15	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	6.53	1	2	3	4	4	13	14	20	23	10	3	*	5	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.92	3	3	3	6	4	19	11	17	16	5	4	1	8	273	277
	Routine and manual occupations	5.64	4	2	5	7	7	16	12	15	13	5	3	2	10	531	534
	Not classifiable	6.28	2	3		3	3	23	8	12	19	7	5	4	13	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	5.73	4	3	5	4	5	18	10	14	14	6	3	2	13	300	289
	£9621- £19500	5.76	4	1	4	7	5	13	15	22	11	5	2	1	9	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	6.18	2	2	3	5	4	18	16	16	17	7	5	*	4	272	268
	£38220 and over	6.57	*	*	2	7	4	14	10	20	26	8	4	*	3	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6.93	0	*	2	2	3	15	11	24	24	11	4	*	4	235	235
	Below degree	6.00	3	2	3	6	6	16	13	17	18	7	3	1	6	784	748
	No qualifications	5.38	4	3	5	6	5	19	11	11	10	4	4	2	16	313	348
Total		6.04	3	2	3	6	5	16	12	17	17	7	3	1	8	1,333	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Level of trust in the NHS

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Don't know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	7.23	1	1	1	4	3	8	11	18	26	14	11	1	2	652	591
	Female	7.05	1	1	2	2	6	11	10	19	21	16	10	*	1	681	741
Age	16 to 24	6.79	0	1	3	5	8	7	9	21	16	14	8	0	9	200	96
	25 to 34	6.91	1	*	1	4	3	12	15	21	19	13	9	*	1	213	225
	35 to 44	6.94	2	1	1	2	6	9	11	21	29	13	6	*	*	247	265
	45 to 54	7.15	1	*	1	2	4	11	12	19	22	14	12	1	*	220	242
	55 to 64	7.06	1	1	2	3	4	11	13	18	24	13	11	0	0	197	206
	65 or more	7.83		*	*	2	2	8	4	14	30	21	16	1	1	255	298
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	7.04	1	1	1	2	3	11	14	21	23	16	6	*	*	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	7.08	*	*	1	4	7	10	8	19	27	12	10	1	1	272	277
	Routine and manual occupations	7.31	1	*	2	3	4	8	8	17	23	15	14	1	3	531	534
	Not classifiable	6.79	1	2	2	3	7	10	13	16	18	13	11	0	3	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	7.02	1	1	2	4	7	9	9	19	19	13	14	*	3	301	290
	£9621- £19500	7.16	2	0	2	4	2	11	8	17	24	15	12	1	2	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	7.26	1	*	*	3	3	10	10	20	27	14	10	0	2	272	268
	£38220 and over	6.96	0	1	1	3	6	10	13	21	29	11	6	0	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	7.20	0	1	1	2	3	9	13	25	22	15	8	0	2	235	235
	Below degree	6.93	1	1	2	4	6	10	10	19	24	14	8	1	2	784	749
	No qualifications	7.61	1	*	1	2	2	9	8	12	24	17	20	1	1	312	347
Total		7.14	1	1	1	3	4	10	10	19	24	15	10	*	2	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Importance of official statistics in decision making		A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Not much	None at all	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	24	48	12	12	5	646	585
	Female	21	48	20	8	2	667	724
Age	16 to 24	20	54	16	8	2	197	94
	25 to 34	18	52	15	11	4	208	220
	35 to 44	20	54	15	9	2	245	262
	45 to 54	24	43	15	12	5	218	239
	55 to 64	25	40	19	12	4	195	204
	65 or more	26	44	18	8	3	250	290
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	23	47	15	12	3	421	435
	Intermediate occupations	22	48	14	11	5	271	275
	Routine and manual occupations	23	48	16	9	4	523	523
	Not classifiable	20	49	25	5	2	98	76
Income	Up to £9620	22	47	18	11	2	291	280
	£9621- £19500	23	49	14	10	4	275	296
	£19500 - £37700	20	54	14	9	3	270	266
	£38220 and over	28	44	15	9	3	273	256
Education	Degree or higher	22	52	12	11	4	233	233
	Below degree	22	50	16	9	4	778	740
	No qualifications	24	41	20	12	3	300	335
Total		22	48	16	10	3	1,313	1,309

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in cost of living figures

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Not heard of	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	5.39	5	2	4	8	11	16	14	14	13	4	1	*	1	6	652	591
	Female	5.25	4	1	6	7	11	19	13	14	10	3	1	1	1	10	681	742
Age	16 to 24	6.05	*	1	5	5	6	11	16	19	11	8	*	*	1	18	200	96
	25 to 34	5.36	4	2	2	11	11	17	12	17	11	3	2	1	1	9	213	225
	35 to 44	5.48	3	1	5	7	12	18	11	16	16	3	1	*	1	5	247	265
	45 to 54	5.10	5	*	8	8	14	18	16	10	9	4	1	1	1	4	220	242
	55 to 64	5.00	6	2	5	7	13	22	12	12	11	2	1	2	*	3	197	206
	65 or more	5.08	5	1	6	7	12	20	13	12	10	3	1	*	*	9	256	299
Income	Up to £9620	5.22	3	1	8	7	11	14	12	10	10	4	2	*	1	17	301	290
	£9621- £19500	5.07	5	2	5	8	9	21	13	16	9	2	*	1	1	8	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.30	4	1	4	10	13	19	12	17	13	4	*	*	*	4	272	268
	£38220 and over	5.70	4	1	4	7	13	16	14	16	15	7	2	*	*	1	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6.27	1	1	2	4	8	13	16	20	18	8	2	1	*	6	235	235
	Below degree	5.20	4	1	6	9	12	17	13	14	10	4	1	1	1	8	784	749
	No qualifications	4.89	6	2	7	6	10	24	11	10	11	1	1	*	1	9	313	348
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.61	4	1	4	7	11	15	15	18	13	5	1	*	*	5	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.23	3	2	7	7	13	17	13	17	11	2	*	1	*	6	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	5.07	5	2	6	8	11	21	11	11	10	4	1	*	1	10	531	534
	Not classifiable	5.61	2	0	5	8	9	14	15	11	12	5	2	1	*	15	102	79
Interest in politics	A great deal	5.37	6	2	6	6	15	10	17	18	11	3	5	1	*	1	75	74
	Quite a lot	5.53	5	1	3	7	14	15	13	14	15	8	1	1	*	3	234	239
	Some	5.48	3	1	6	6	11	17	14	16	13	4	1	1	*	7	457	454
	Not much	5.20	2	1	5	10	10	20	16	14	8	2	*	*	1	10	330	340
	None at all	4.90	8	1	7	7	9	19	7	9	10	4	1	1	2	14	237	226
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	5.61	3	2	9	6	7	15	11	13	18	4	3	*	0	8	295	287
	Fairly important	5.67	2	1	3	8	12	17	14	18	12	5	1	*	1	6	629	624
	Neither important nor unimportant	4.87	5	1	5	8	12	26	15	11	4	2	0	2	0	10	211	225
	Very unimportant	4.51	7	3	7	9	18	13	18	9	6	2	0	0	*	6	132	126
	Fairly unimportant	3.28	29	5	9	5	5	15	1	1	12	3	1	0	3	9	46	47
Understanding of statistics	Very good	4.97	9	2	9	10	11	12	10	6	17	7	2	2	0	4	101	107
	Fairly good	5.64	2	1	4	6	12	17	15	18	13	4	1	*	*	6	858	847
	Fairly bad	4.63	8	1	6	12	10	21	10	10	6	2	1	*	*	12	274	282
	Very bad	4.53	7	2	5	7	10	27	9	3	4	3	1	1	3	17	80	79
Interest in statistics	A great deal	4.74	9	2	9	10	11	12	10	6	17	7	2	2	0	4	101	107
	Quite a lot	5.50	2	1	4	6	12	17	15	18	13	4	1	*	*	6	858	847
	Some	5.50	8	1	6	12	10	21	10	10	6	2	1	*	*	12	274	282
	Not much	5.14	7	2	5	7	10	27	9	3	4	3	1	1	3	17	80	79
	None at all	4.57	9	2	7	7	7	19	9	7	4	6		2	2	20	108	97
Total		5.32	4	1	5	7	11	18	13	14	11	4	1	1	1	8	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Main reason for distrusting cost of living figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something bad	figures difficult to count	ONS has vested interest	Gov't has vested interest	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	30	3	9	2	24	12	16	5	121	122
	Female	42	4	4	1	13	11	23	3	121	142
Age	16 to 24	26	0	0	0	23	0	31	21	22	12
	25 to 34	34	8	2	1	12	12	29	1	40	46
	35 to 44	38	0	16	4	24	10	9	0	42	46
	45 to 54	31	5	5	2	13	22	19	3	45	54
	55 to 64	44	3	4	0	23	8	17	1	43	46
	65 or more	39	3	8	1	18	11	18	3	51	60
Income	Up to £9620	43	1	5	0	22	9	14	7	59	65
	£9621- £19500	35	3	7	2	18	14	17	4	57	72
	£19500 - £37700	41	4	9	1	18	5	20	1	51	49
	£38220 and over	22	5	7	4	12	19	31	0	42	40
Education	Degree or higher	15	0	3	0	12	13	55	3	20	24
	Below degree	36	4	8	2	19	10	18	4	156	160
	No qualifications	43	3	5	1	19	15	13	3	66	80
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	29	2	10	2	15	13	27	2	66	70
	Intermediate occupations	43	3	4	2	12	15	18	2	52	63
	Routine and manual occupations	40	5	5	*	24	8	15	2	109	118
	Not classifiable	13	0	12	0	13	10	25	26	16	13
Interest in politics	A great deal	33	0	5	0	14	17	31	0	15	18
	Quite a lot	22	8	5	2	16	13	32	1	39	44
	Some	26	5	15	2	18	9	18	8	73	72
	Not much	48	0	3	1	19	8	18	4	60	70
	None at all	48	2	1	1	21	16	11	0	55	60
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	37	4	2	3	20	12	22	1	58	58
	Fairly important	38	4	7	0	15	12	17	8	84	91
	Neither important nor unimportant	37	3	5	1	17	9	27	1	39	46
	Very unimportant	30	5	17	1	26	5	15	1	36	39
	Fairly unimportant	41	0	3	3	23	21	10	0	22	25
Understanding of statistics	Very good	22	5	4	0	26	21	20	2	31	35
	Fairly good	33	5	9	2	15	9	21	5	117	129
	Fairly bad	41	2	1	1	23	11	17	3	73	80
	Very bad	61	0	0	3	8	12	17	0	17	16
Interest in statistics	A great deal	16	0	10	0	30	18	19	6	19	24
	Quite a lot	39	5	5	0	10	7	28	7	58	59
	Some	38	3	11	2	16	8	20	3	90	96
	Not much	30	5	3	1	29	19	10	2	49	58
	None at all	51	0	0	3	17	14	15	0	26	27
Total		36	3	6	1	18	11	19	4	242	264

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving low trust ratings (0-3) for cost of living figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Main reason for trusting cost of living figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something good	figures easy to count	ONS does not have vested interest	Gov't does not have vested interest	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	31	10	31	10	4	13	209	181
	Female	44	6	18	11	3	18	182	193
Age	16 to 24	45	4	31	14	0	7	74	32
	25 to 34	37	5	28	18	3	9	66	67
	35 to 44	36	10	26	8	4	16	82	86
	45 to 54	39	6	24	6	7	20	51	60
	55 to 64	32	8	25	11	0	24	52	52
	65 or more	30	17	18	6	8	20	66	77
Income	Up to £9620	52	5	22	15	1	5	74	62
	£9621- £19500	25	13	27	8	8	18	71	71
	£19500 - £37700	34	5	28	8	5	21	86	87
	£38220 and over	35	8	28	12	1	16	109	103
Education	Degree or higher	27	2	37	14	2	19	110	103
	Below degree	41	8	22	10	4	14	217	202
	No qualifications	39	20	18	7	3	13	64	69
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	34	5	30	12	1	19	156	155
	Intermediate occupations	33	12	26	9	6	14	80	80
	Routine and manual occupations	42	12	22	7	5	13	126	116
	Not classifiable	44	1	13	28	4	9	28	23
Interest in politics	A great deal	34	3	16	24	5	17	27	24
	Quite a lot	28	8	30	11	3	21	84	80
	Some	36	8	30	8	5	14	149	145
	Not much	38	14	19	8	3	18	74	75
	None at all	53	6	20	16	2	5	57	50
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	32	10	20	16	4	20	110	105
	Fairly important	37	8	30	8	3	15	216	203
	Neither important nor unimportant	52	9	11	14	5	8	33	38
	Very unimportant	58	5	17	3	7	10	22	20
	Fairly unimportant		0	70	26	4	0	8	7
Understanding of statistics	Very good	35	8	32	14	1	10	31	32
	Fairly good	35	8	26	11	4	17	299	279
	Fairly bad	38	12	26	10	2	11	49	49
	Very bad	95	5	0	0	0	0	8	10
Interest in statistics	A great deal	40	7	10	11	20	11	18	18
	Quite a lot	29	16	30	9	3	14	109	106
	Some	40	5	24	11	3	18	182	180
	Not much	42	8	18	18	2	13	62	56
	None at all	38	2	53	0	0	7	19	14
Total		37	8	25	11	4	15	391	374

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving high trust ratings (7-10) for cost of living figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in hospital waiting figures

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Not heard of	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	5.52	4	2	4	7	9	18	11	15	12	5	3	2	1	9	652	591
	Female	5.37	3	3	7	7	9	18	13	12	14	4	2	2	1	6	681	742
Age	16 to 24	5.54	1	2	6	4	7	21	11	15	9	3	2	0	3	17	200	96
	25 to 34	5.26	3	3	6	8	11	20	11	12	13	3	2	1	2	6	213	225
	35 to 44	5.17	3	2	9	6	12	18	13	12	8	4	2	2	*	8	247	265
	45 to 54	5.22	6	4	5	8	11	15	13	15	13	4	2	1	0	4	220	242
	55 to 64	5.50	4	3	4	9	8	18	14	12	16	3	4	1	0	3	197	206
	65 or more	5.95	3	2	4	8	6	15	12	14	17	8	3	4	0	6	256	299
Income	Up to £9620	5.63	3	3	5	4	9	17	12	15	13	3	3	1	1	10	301	290
	£9621- £19500	5.37	2	4	5	9	8	16	11	12	11	6	2	2	2	8	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.63	3	1	6	6	7	18	11	17	17	2	3	2	0	7	272	268
	£38220 and over	5.15	4	3	5	11	13	19	14	12	10	6	*	1	0	3	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	5.24	3	2	6	10	14	15	13	14	9	5	3	1	0	6	235	235
	Below degree	5.43	3	3	5	7	8	19	12	14	14	3	2	2	1	7	784	749
	No qualifications	5.65	3	3	7	5	7	15	12	11	14	7	4	2	1	8	313	348
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.27	3	3	5	9	12	17	13	14	13	4	1	1	0	5	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.55	4	2	6	6	7	20	14	14	11	5	3	2	1	5	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	5.49	3	2	6	6	9	17	11	12	14	4	3	2	1	9	531	534
	Not classifiable	5.70	1	5	4	6	5	17	10	14	13	2	5	1	1	14	102	79
Interest in politics	A great deal	5.67	5	3	3	7	10	18	7	16	15	8	3	1	0	2	75	74
	Quite a lot	5.45	3	3	6	8	13	14	10	16	15	5	2	*	1	4	234	239
	Some	5.51	2	2	5	7	8	19	15	14	13	3	2	3	*	7	457	454
	Not much	5.30	3	3	6	7	9	18	13	12	11	4	2	1	*	9	330	340
	None at all	5.43	5	3	7	6	6	17	11	10	13	3	6	2	2	9	237	226
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	5.99	3	1	5	5	6	17	14	15	17	6	4	1	*	6	295	287
	Fairly important	5.67	1	2	4	8	10	19	14	14	13	4	2	2	1	7	629	624
	Neither important nor unimportant	4.97	4	6	4	5	13	21	8	13	7	4	1	2	1	9	211	225
	Very unimportant	4.82	7	2	9	13	11	10	10	10	14	4	1	*	1	8	132	126
	Fairly unimportant	2.93	17	12	26	2	1	17	2	4	3		3	3	3	4	46	47
Understanding of statistics	Very good	5.52	3	4	5	5	13	16	11	11	14	7	3	2	0	5	101	107
	Fairly good	5.58	3	2	5	7	9	18	13	15	13	4	3	1	1	6	858	847
	Fairly bad	5.06	4	4	7	8	8	18	12	12	12	2	2	2	*	8	274	282
	Very bad	5.01	6	6	9	5	6	12	5	6	15	6	2	3	5	13	80	79
Interest in statistics	A great deal	5.23	2	10	4	7	8	15	14	7	11	7	3	1	3	8	69	74
	Quite a lot	5.62	3	2	7	10	9	13	11	15	17	6	2	1	0	6	312	315
	Some	5.59	2	2	4	6	10	20	14	16	12	3	2	2	*	5	565	564
	Not much	5.23	4	4	7	7	11	18	11	11	12	3	4	2	*	7	274	280
	None at all	4.70	8	3	11	5	1	19	6	8	10	4	1	3	4	19	108	97
Total		5.44	3	3	6	7	9	18	12	13	13	4	2	2	1	7	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Main reason for distrusting hospital waiting figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something bad	figures difficult to count	ONS has vested interest	Gov't has vested interest	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	40	*	5	4	16	25	6	3	111	106
	Female	41	3	6	2	15	17	17	1	135	154
Age	16 to 24	58	0	0	0	11	17	14	0	27	15
	25 to 34	39	0	4	3	19	20	14	0	42	46
	35 to 44	23	5	10	3	17	29	11	1	49	51
	45 to 54	47	1	7	0	12	20	8	5	49	60
	55 to 64	36	1	5	5	17	18	14	3	39	38
	65 or more	48	4	5	4	13	15	12	0	40	50
Income	Up to £9620	48	5	1	0	16	17	14	0	43	46
	£9621- £19500	42	1	7	6	14	21	8	1	58	66
	£19500 - £37700	41	0	2	3	19	16	13	6	46	47
	£38220 and over	43	2	3	2	13	28	9	0	60	54
Education	Degree or higher	26	0	6	6	24	23	12	3	51	51
	Below degree	42	2	4	2	15	22	13	1	138	143
	No qualifications	50	5	10	1	8	14	10	2	57	66
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	30	1	8	5	17	28	9	2	89	98
	Intermediate occupations	52	3	3	0	11	17	13	0	46	46
	Routine and manual occupations	45	3	5	2	14	17	13	2	95	103
	Not classifiable	40	0	7	0	24	9	18	3	16	13
Interest in politics	A great deal	19	0	0	16	15	42	8	0	14	13
	Quite a lot	34	1	8	2	14	26	10	5	46	49
	Some	36	3	6	2	17	21	14	1	74	81
	Not much	41	0	8	2	17	20	11	1	64	69
	None at all	58	5	2	1	12	9	14	0	48	48
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	50	2	3	0	14	19	9	3	42	42
	Fairly important	43	1	9	3	15	17	9	2	88	93
	Neither important nor unimportant	33	2	3	0	12	24	26	0	42	49
	Very unimportant	38	1	5	5	26	16	7	1	41	41
	Fairly unimportant	32	5	4	0	10	40	9	0	27	27
Understanding of statistics	Very good	42	0	6	0	17	22	8	6	18	22
	Fairly good	38	3	6	3	17	22	9	2	143	147
	Fairly bad	46	1	6	2	12	16	16	1	64	70
	Very bad	37	0	0	3	14	19	27	0	21	21
Interest in statistics	A great deal	54	8	0	0	5	23	7	4	15	18
	Quite a lot	39	1	8	5	17	21	10	0	65	63
	Some	32	3	5	3	17	20	16	3	79	87
	Not much	42	2	6	1	17	23	9	1	59	66
	None at all	56	0	4	2	11	14	13	0	28	26
Total		40	2	6	3	15	20	12	2	246	260

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving low trust ratings (0-3) for hospital waiting figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Main reason for trusting hospital waiting figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something good	figures easy to count	ONS does not have vested interest	Gov't does not have vested interest	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	46	16	19	4	2	13	216	201
	Female	53	12	14	3	2	15	212	227
Age	16 to 24	40	21	18	10	0	11	58	25
	25 to 34	48	17	24	2	3	6	60	68
	35 to 44	42	9	17	7	5	19	63	69
	45 to 54	47	10	20	1	1	20	73	75
	55 to 64	55	13	12	2	4	14	67	71
	65 or more	59	16	11	2	1	11	108	120
Income	Up to £9620	46	17	17	9	3	9	105	99
	£9621- £19500	57	11	18	1	3	11	82	92
	£19500 - £37700	56	11	10	4	3	16	102	98
	£38220 and over	40	15	22	1	3	19	74	70
Education	Degree or higher	32	11	23	4	3	27	67	70
	Below degree	50	14	18	5	2	11	250	238
	No qualifications	60	16	8	1	2	12	112	120
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	50	7	17	8	3	15	130	134
	Intermediate occupations	48	13	21	0	0	18	91	93
	Routine and manual occupations	52	21	11	2	3	11	172	173
	Not classifiable	44	9	25	4	2	15	36	28
Interest in politics	A great deal	40	7	23	13	5	12	31	29
	Quite a lot	56	12	13	5	0	15	82	80
	Some	44	20	16	2	2	17	145	147
	Not much	53	14	12	1	4	15	95	101
	None at all	53	11	23	5	2	5	76	71
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	53	10	15	3	3	15	120	116
	Fairly important	48	11	19	3	2	16	208	213
	Neither important nor unimportant	55	17	11	3	3	11	54	55
	Very unimportant	45	36	6	10	0	3	38	33
	Fairly unimportant	35	25	26	0	0	14	5	6
Understanding of statistics	Very good	39	18	18	3	3	18	33	33
	Fairly good	49	14	17	3	2	15	294	293
	Fairly bad	53	15	15	2	5	9	76	75
	Very bad	64	7	16	3	0	9	23	24
Interest in statistics	A great deal	59	11	28	3	0	0	19	20
	Quite a lot	52	18	13	3	2	13	122	124
	Some	50	11	17	3	3	16	183	181
	Not much	43	21	15	7	2	11	80	80
	None at all	52	3	21	3	6	15	24	23
Total		50	14	16	4	2	14	429	428

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving high trust ratings (7-10) for hospital waiting figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in domestic burglary figures

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Not heard of	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	5.09	5	1	6	10	12	18	8	14	12	4	1	1	1	7	652	591
	Female	5.33	3	2	5	7	11	19	12	13	11	4	1	1	1	11	680	741
Age	16 to 24	5.36	0	0	5	8	15	17	8	14	12	1	0	0	1	18	200	96
	25 to 34	5.37	4	1	5	9	9	21	10	14	11	5	1	1	2	7	213	225
	35 to 44	5.28	2	2	6	11	11	17	13	14	13	3	1	1	*	7	247	265
	45 to 54	5.00	7	2	5	7	12	17	14	15	10	3	*	1	0	6	220	242
	55 to 64	5.13	4	2	4	9	13	24	8	8	11	5	1	1	0	8	196	205
	65 or more	5.17	5	2	7	7	10	17	8	14	11	5	1	1	0	11	256	299
Income	Up to £9620	5.17	4	2	6	5	15	17	8	13	10	4	1	1	1	14	300	289
	£9621- £19500	5.07	5	1	6	12	10	20	8	10	12	3	1	1	1	10	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.27	3	1	5	11	9	22	11	13	11	5	1	0	*	7	272	268
	£38220 and over	5.48	3	1	6	7	11	18	15	18	14	3	*	*	0	3	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	5.69	1	1	3	6	11	18	14	19	13	3	1	2	0	9	235	235
	Below degree	5.21	3	1	6	9	13	18	11	13	11	4	1	1	1	8	783	748
	No qualifications	4.86	7	2	6	9	10	21	6	10	10	3	1	1	1	12	313	348
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.42	2	2	4	7	10	19	15	17	12	2	*	1	0	7	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.07	4	1	4	12	15	18	9	14	7	5	0	1	1	8	272	277
	Routine and manual occupations	4.99	6	2	8	8	12	19	8	9	12	4	2	1	1	10	531	534
	Not classifiable	5.87	2	0	5	4	7	16	11	19	15	4	1	0	*	15	102	79
Interest in politics	A great deal	5.27	4	3	5	6	11	19	15	8	11	5	2	0	0	11	75	74
	Quite a lot	5.35	4	1	5	7	14	17	13	13	12	6	*	2	*	6	233	238
	Some	5.35	2	2	6	9	11	17	12	15	12	3	1	1	*	10	457	454
	Not much	5.15	4	1	6	10	12	20	7	14	11	4	1	1	*	9	330	340
	None at all	4.87	7	1	4	8	11	21	9	10	9	3	1	*	2	12	237	226
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	5.54	4	1	5	9	8	20	10	14	16	6	1	*	0	6	295	287
	Fairly important	5.56	1	1	4	7	13	19	12	15	12	4	1	1	1	9	629	624
	Neither important nor unimportant	4.88	5	2	6	8	13	18	9	14	8	2	1	1	*	13	210	224
	Very unimportant	4.10	8	3	10	15	14	19	9	6	6	2	0	1	1	7	132	126
	Fairly unimportant	2.84	26	4	11	11	8	14	6	7	0	0	1	0	3	9	46	47
Understanding of statistics	Very good	4.80	3	3	9	14	16	19	8	8	12	2	2	1	0	4	101	107
	Fairly good	5.48	3	1	5	6	12	18	11	15	13	5	1	1	*	8	857	846
	Fairly bad	4.77	5	2	6	12	10	23	8	12	9	1	*	0	*	12	274	282
	Very bad	4.32	10	1	9	11	10	13	13	6	5	2	1	2	4	12	80	79
Interest in statistics	A great deal	4.85	4	4	5	11	20	14	8	14	8	5	0	0	0	9	69	74
	Quite a lot	5.52	3	1	5	8	10	19	14	13	13	6	1	1	0	7	311	314
	Some	5.41	2	1	5	7	14	21	10	16	12	3	1	1	*	8	565	564
	Not much	4.90	6	2	7	11	10	16	10	10	13	3	*	2	1	10	274	280
	None at all	4.13	10	*	8	11	7	18	9	10	3	0	0	2	3	18	108	97
Total		5.21	4	1	5	9	12	19	10	13	11	4	1	1	1	9	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Main reason for distrusting domestic burglary figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something bad	figures difficult to count	ONS has vested interest	Gov't has vested interest	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	25	5	17	*	9	15	22	6	143	134
	Female	29	3	21	*	11	19	14	3	110	133
Age	16 to 24	39	7	15	0	0	9	14	16	27	14
	25 to 34	18	9	24	0	4	20	25	0	40	42
	35 to 44	29	0	19	0	13	21	17	2	48	52
	45 to 54	38	5	30	1	10	12	3	1	48	56
	55 to 64	17	0	9	0	15	23	27	8	37	40
	65 or more	23	4	12	1	14	15	24	6	54	63
Income	Up to £9620	36	4	10	1	10	12	19	9	51	55
	£9621- £19500	22	3	15	1	11	23	18	7	63	72
	£19500 - £37700	29	3	21	0	5	18	19	4	53	53
	£38220 and over	23	6	35	0	8	13	15	0	46	42
Education	Degree or higher	19	4	17	1	12	37	7	2	27	30
	Below degree	26	3	22	0	9	13	22	4	154	151
	No qualifications	31	5	11	1	12	18	15	8	73	86
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	23	2	22	1	12	11	27	2	65	69
	Intermediate occupations	24	2	21	1	11	25	15	2	56	56
	Routine and manual occupations	30	6	17	0	9	16	17	5	121	132
	Not classifiable	31	0	7	0	6	17	7	32	11	10
Interest in politics	A great deal	25	0	21	0	15	32	6	0	13	16
	Quite a lot	13	6	19	0	10	20	27	4	40	45
	Some	18	3	21	*	9	19	21	8	82	84
	Not much	28	6	17	1	8	18	20	2	70	71
	None at all	51	0	17	0	13	6	8	6	48	51
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	20	3	21	0	8	23	21	4	55	59
	Fairly important	28	2	16	0	7	16	23	8	80	82
	Neither important nor unimportant	32	2	22	0	11	15	11	7	44	51
	Very unimportant	22	9	25	2	13	8	20	0	48	46
	Fairly unimportant	35	5	5	0	17	28	9	0	24	24
Understanding of statistics	Very good	22	5	16	0	23	22	7	6	28	34
	Fairly good	17	4	21	0	11	18	23	6	131	139
	Fairly bad	39	4	17	1	5	16	15	2	66	68
	Very bad	56	0	14	0	5	10	10	5	25	24
Interest in statistics	A great deal	22	0	4	0	22	33	3	17	16	21
	Quite a lot	20	5	21	0	8	12	26	7	53	49
	Some	24	3	28	1	9	11	23	2	83	95
	Not much	27	5	12	0	15	25	11	4	69	71
	None at all	49	4	12	0	0	15	14	6	32	31
Total		27	4	19	*	10	17	18	5	253	267

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving low trust ratings (0-3) for domestic burglary figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Main reason for trusting domestic burglary figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something good	figures easy to count	ONS does not have vested interest	Gov't does not have vested interest	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	27	10	34	2	9	19	183	165
	Female	24	18	22	4	6	26	170	193
Age	16 to 24	27	13	22	2	6	32	46	21
	25 to 34	31	12	26	2	8	21	63	67
	35 to 44	23	11	38	6	4	19	66	70
	45 to 54	18	17	27	2	9	27	60	70
	55 to 64	24	18	28	4	6	20	44	45
	65 or more	28	14	26	2	11	20	73	85
Income	Up to £9620	31	18	20	1	11	20	74	73
	£9621- £19500	29	12	27	3	9	20	67	73
	£19500 - £37700	31	8	25	4	9	23	79	81
	£38220 and over	20	10	39	4	4	24	88	83
Education	Degree or higher	17	9	31	5	5	33	75	78
	Below degree	27	14	30	3	7	19	210	203
	No qualifications	29	18	18	1	11	23	67	77
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	23	9	35	4	5	24	126	134
	Intermediate occupations	22	15	32	3	5	23	65	67
	Routine and manual occupations	27	20	23	3	8	18	126	129
	Not classifiable	32	7	14	0	17	30	37	28
Interest in politics	A great deal	49	3	25	0	11	11	19	21
	Quite a lot	18	4	31	2	14	31	67	63
	Some	28	11	32	6	6	17	133	128
	Not much	22	20	26	1	7	24	87	94
	None at all	26	27	19	1	1	26	48	52
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	28	16	26	3	7	22	101	96
	Fairly important	27	15	25	3	7	23	183	187
	Neither important nor unimportant	9	12	40	4	4	31	46	50
	Very unimportant	27	0	30	0	31	12	15	18
	Fairly unimportant	62	0	38	0	0	0	3	3
Understanding of statistics	Very good	34	10	28	0	3	25	20	22
	Fairly good	24	12	30	4	9	21	271	268
	Fairly bad	22	25	21	2	1	29	50	54
	Very bad	61	4	18	0	0	17	10	11
Interest in statistics	A great deal	13	26	20	0	19	21	18	17
	Quite a lot	28	17	30	2	6	18	99	106
	Some	26	11	27	5	9	23	166	164
	Not much	22	16	30	1	5	26	57	59
	None at all	32	0	30	0	0	38	13	12
Total		25	14	28	3	7	22	353	358

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving high trust ratings (7-10) for domestic burglary figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in population figures

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Not heard of	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	5.70	7	2	5	7	6	12	10	16	13	10	5	1	1	6	652	591
	Female	5.65	4	2	6	6	6	16	11	11	17	7	3	*	1	9	680	741
Age	16 to 24	6.29	5		*	5	5	17	9	13	18	9	5	0	2	11	200	96
	25 to 34	5.97	4	4	2	9	5	16	8	12	18	10	5	1	1	7	213	225
	35 to 44	5.76	5	2	8	5	5	10	11	17	12	12	3	*	1	8	247	265
	45 to 54	5.54	4	2	7	7	6	20	9	13	15	7	2	*	0	6	220	242
	55 to 64	5.34	8	4	7	7	6	10	13	12	15	7	4	1	*	5	196	205
	65 or more	5.27	8	1	7	7	8	13	12	12	13	5	4	*	1	7	256	299
Income	Up to £9620	5.85	7	2	3	5	7	14	9	13	15	10	4	*	2	10	300	289
	£9621- £19500	5.27	7	2	6	7	8	17	11	13	12	4	4	*	1	7	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.63	5	3	4	9	5	16	12	12	14	8	4	1	*	6	272	268
	£38220 and over	6.15	5	2	6	5	4	9	11	19	19	13	4	0	*	3	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6.71	3	1	2	3	5	12	12	14	23	15	6	1	*	3	235	235
	Below degree	5.50	6	3	5	9	6	14	10	14	15	8	2	*	1	7	783	748
	No qualifications	5.25	7	2	8	5	7	16	11	10	9	4	6	1	2	13	313	348
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.97	5	2	5	5	7	12	12	14	20	11	2	1	*	4	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.42	7	3	6	9	4	16	11	15	12	8	3	0	1	6	272	277
	Routine and manual occupations	5.40	6	2	6	8	7	14	10	12	11	6	6	1	1	10	531	534
	Not classifiable	6.51	2	1	2	4	5	18	4	13	22	9	5	0	3	13	102	79
Interest in politics	A great deal	5.61	10	3	7	7	6	10	5	19	14	17	2	0	0	1	75	74
	Quite a lot	5.77	8	2	5	5	6	13	14	10	18	10	6	*	*	2	233	238
	Some	6.02	3	2	4	7	6	13	10	16	18	9	4	*	1	6	457	454
	Not much	5.61	3	3	6	7	6	16	11	15	13	6	4	*	*	10	330	340
	None at all	4.92	10	2	7	6	6	16	8	9	9	5	3	2	3	14	237	226
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	6.21	6	1	5	5	4	15	9	13	16	15	6	0	1	4	295	287
	Fairly important	6.05	2	2	5	6	6	13	11	16	19	7	4	1	*	7	629	624
	Neither important nor unimportant	4.87	11	3	4	8	7	18	10	11	8	6	2	*	3	11	210	224
	Very unimportant	4.50	10	3	13	11	8	12	12	11	7	6	1	1	*	6	132	126
	Fairly unimportant	3.81	21	7	5	11	2	14	7	9	6		5	0	3	10	46	47
Understanding of statistics	Very good	5.05	11	7	8	6	7	9	5	18	15	7	3	0	0	5	101	107
	Fairly good	5.95	5	2	4	6	6	15	11	15	17	10	5	*	1	4	857	846
	Fairly bad	5.30	4	3	8	11	6	15	10	11	11	7	3	1	1	11	274	282
	Very bad	4.39	13	3	4	4	6	15	9	1	8	4	2	0	6	24	80	79
Interest in statistics	A great deal	4.91	11	6	6	7	11	13	7	12	11	8	4	0	0	4	69	74
	Quite a lot	5.84	6	2	5	8	5	12	8	16	21	10	3	0	*	5	311	314
	Some	6.01	3	2	4	5	6	16	14	15	15	8	5	1	*	6	565	564
	Not much	5.42	6	2	7	9	6	16	8	12	13	9	4	1	1	7	274	280
	None at all	4.27	13	3	7	7	5	10	8	3	5	4	5	1	4	23	108	97
Total		5.68	6	2	5	7	6	14	10	13	15	8	4	*	1	8	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Main reason for distrusting population figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something bad	figures difficult to count	ONS has vested interest	Gov't has vested interest	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	13	6	32	0	15	15	18	2	135	132
	Female	15	7	21	1	16	23	15	3	124	144
Age	16 to 24	0	18	22	0	25	7	13	14	20	11
	25 to 34	21	7	25	0	20	6	21	0	36	39
	35 to 44	14	3	24	0	13	30	13	3	50	56
	45 to 54	24	2	25	1	9	16	23	0	44	49
	55 to 64	9	7	29	0	20	17	16	3	48	49
	65 or more	10	8	32	0	13	23	13	0	61	72
Income	Up to £9620	9	11	21	0	16	16	21	6	49	57
	£9621- £19500	14	7	22	0	20	21	16	2	62	71
	£19500 - £37700	6	11	44	0	12	19	7	1	54	54
	£38220 and over	19	0	32	0	11	21	15	3	48	42
Education	Degree or higher	0	18	22	0	7	12	41		20	20
	Below degree	14	7	28	*	16	18	15	2	171	176
	No qualifications	17	3	26	0	18	22	12	2	67	80
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	10	0	44	1	9	14	20	2	68	73
	Intermediate occupations	14	14	14	0	20	21	12	4	62	64
	Routine and manual occupations	15	7	24	0	16	20	17	2	120	129
	Not classifiable	24	0	11	0	30	21	13	0	9	10
Interest in politics	A great deal	17	0	30	0	18	9	26	0	18	19
	Quite a lot	6	4	26	1	24	27	7	4	48	50
	Some	15	7	34	0	14	19	10	1	74	81
	Not much	10	7	18	0	11	18	33	2	62	66
	None at all	21	10	25	0	16	15	10	3	58	60
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	18	3	20	0	15	28	16	0	46	49
	Fairly important	16	10	30	0	13	13	13	5	93	97
	Neither important nor unimportant	6	10	33	0	15	16	20	0	53	60
	Very unimportant	13	1	24	0	23	19	19	0	45	44
	Fairly unimportant	18	0	18	3	12	29	19	0	20	23
Understanding of statistics	Very good	18	3	24	0	25	19	11	0	32	37
	Fairly good	10	7	26	0	18	19	17	3	138	147
	Fairly bad	17	7	32	1	10	15	17	1	67	71
	Very bad	14	7	18	0	3	34	20	4	19	18
Interest in statistics	A great deal	24	5	8	0	21	10	22	10	21	25
	Quite a lot	12	6	35	0	20	14	14	0	63	67
	Some	14	4	28	1	14	18	20	2	77	84
	Not much	10	12	27	0	12	22	14	2	64	69
	None at all	17	4	18	0	15	28	15	2	34	31
Total		14	7	27	*	16	19	16	2	259	276

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving low trust ratings (0-3) for population figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Main reason for trusting population figures		Personal experience	heard /read something good	figures easy to count	ONS does not have vested interest	Gov't does not have vested interest	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	17	12	29	14	10	18	267	230
	Female	15	12	39	12	8	15	229	246
Age	16 to 24	14	16	34	13	7	17	84	40
	25 to 34	24	9	41	12	10	4	91	90
	35 to 44	11	14	27	14	12	21	99	102
	45 to 54	17	8	31	19	11	14	77	84
	55 to 64	19	4	40	9	9	19	63	66
	65 or more	12	17	29	10	7	24	82	94
Income	Up to £9620	18	16	32	11	8	14	116	97
	£9621- £19500	13	14	25	11	10	27	76	84
	£19500 - £37700	12	13	39	15	4	17	100	96
	£38220 and over	16	5	38	13	13	14	144	136
Education	Degree or higher	14	6	37	17	13	13	130	127
	Below degree	18	12	32	11	9	18	286	266
	No qualifications	11	21	30	12	7	18	79	82
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	15	10	38	15	9	14	191	195
	Intermediate occupations	14	11	35	10	11	19	95	98
	Routine and manual occupations	16	12	33	11	10	18	166	153
	Not classifiable	22	22	13	20	6	16	44	30
Interest in politics	A great deal	14	8	35	10	13	21	38	36
	Quite a lot	11	15	31	22	7	14	94	93
	Some	18	11	34	9	12	16	199	187
	Not much	14	12	33	13	7	20	110	113
	None at all	22	15	34	15	5	10	56	47
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	18	16	31	8	11	17	134	121
	Fairly important	16	10	33	15	7	18	263	254
	Neither important nor unimportant	13	9	37	20	7	13	54	60
	Very unimportant	16	16	41	9	13	5	32	28
	Fairly unimportant	0	12	18	0	50	19	9	8
Understanding of statistics	Very good	18	13	24	11	13	21	40	43
	Fairly good	16	12	32	13	10	16	365	338
	Fairly bad	9	15	45	15	3	13	78	79
	Very bad	51	0	30	0	0	19	10	12
Interest in statistics	A great deal	14	18	23	15	11	20	23	24
	Quite a lot	14	19	27	10	8	21	139	134
	Some	15	11	34	15	9	16	228	218
	Not much	22	4	37	14	12	11	89	86
	None at all	15	0	64	7	10	5	18	14
Total		16	12	33	13	9	16	496	476

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving high trust ratings (7-10) for population figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Level of trust in unemployment figures

		mean	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	It depends	Not heard of	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		n	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	5.03	8	3	6	9	11	17	11	13	10	5	3	1	1	5	652	591
	Female	5.36	4	2	7	8	9	18	11	13	13	4	3	1	*	7	681	742
Age	16 to 24	6.35	1	2	3	3	6	15	17	12	17	6	6	0	1	12	200	96
	25 to 34	5.61	3	3	4	8	5	19	14	16	14	5	2	1	1	5	213	225
	35 to 44	5.04	8	2	7	9	12	13	8	19	11	4	2	0	*	3	247	265
	45 to 54	4.67	8	3	7	12	12	19	10	11	7	4	1	1	*	4	220	242
	55 to 64	4.50	7	4	11	11	15	17	12	6	9	3	2	2	0	2	197	206
	65 or more	5.14	6	3	7	7	10	19	8	11	11	4	4	3	0	8	256	299
Income	Up to £9620	5.67	4	2	5	7	7	15	14	11	11	5	7	*	1	9	301	290
	£9621- £19500	4.88	9	3	9	8	9	15	9	10	15	4	1	2	1	4	277	298
	£19500 - £37700	5.14	3	4	7	9	11	20	10	14	13	1	2	1	0	4	272	268
	£38220 and over	5.29	7	1	6	8	12	17	10	19	10	7	1	0	0	2	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	5.69	5	4	1	5	7	15	16	24	10	6	1	1	0	4	235	235
	Below degree	5.19	5	2	7	9	11	18	11	11	12	5	3	1	*	5	784	749
	No qualifications	4.80	9	2	9	10	10	17	8	7	10	3	5	2	1	8	313	348
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5.28	6	3	5	8	10	18	12	17	11	4	2	1	0	3	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5.05	6	3	7	8	13	16	13	9	14	5	1	1	0	3	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	5.04	6	2	8	9	10	18	9	10	11	4	4	1	1	7	531	534
	Not classifiable	6.05	2	1	7	4	3	14	12	18	10	8	5	0	*	16	102	79
Interest in politics	A great deal	5.10	12	8	3	6	7	11	13	15	9	4	9	0	0	2	75	74
	Quite a lot	5.00	7	3	6	10	10	16	11	12	11	5	1	2	*	4	234	239
	Some	5.17	3	2	6	10	13	19	11	14	10	4	1	1	0	4	457	454
	Not much	5.40	5	2	7	8	8	16	12	11	15	5	3	1	0	7	330	340
	None at all	5.17	8	2	8	5	7	19	9	12	9	4	5	*	2	9	237	226
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	5.62	4	3	8	8	6	18	13	9	15	9	5	1	0	2	295	287
	Fairly important	5.64	3	1	4	8	10	16	13	17	14	4	3	1	*	6	629	624
	Neither important nor unimportant	4.73	4	3	10	9	13	23	7	11	6	4	2	2	0	8	211	225
	Very unimportant	3.53	15	7	10	13	13	17	8	7	3	1	0	1	*	5	132	126
	Fairly unimportant	2.87	28	12	6	8	8	13	7	6	5	0	0	2	5		46	47
Understanding of statistics	Very good	4.38	15	6	3	18	5	9	13	7	12	4	3	2	0	2	101	107
	Fairly good	5.38	5	2	6	7	10	18	10	16	13	5	3	1	*	4	858	847
	Fairly bad	4.96	5	2	9	11	12	16	14	7	9	5	3	*	*	6	274	282
	Very bad	4.95	7	2	9	5	4	26	8	8	7	4	4	0	3	12	80	79
Interest in statistics	A great deal	4.54	15	9	4	4	10	20	7	4	16	5	3	1	0	3	69	74
	Quite a lot	5.17	6	2	7	11	9	18	12	11	12	6	2	1	0	4	312	315
	Some	5.58	4	2	5	6	11	16	11	18	13	5	3	1	0	4	565	564
	Not much	4.90	5	3	9	11	12	17	12	9	9	3	3	1	*	6	274	280
	None at all	4.23	11	3	14	8	2	16	7	6	3	4	4	2	3	17	108	97
Total		5.19	6	3	7	8	10	17	11	13	11	5	3	1	*	6	1,333	1,333

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009
Base sizes for means exclude those who said 'It depends' and 'Don't Know'

Main reason for distrusting unemployment figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something bad	figures difficult to count	ONS has vested interest	Gov't has vested interest	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	19	3	8	1	31	23	12	2	165	158
	Female	26	3	10	3	21	22	11	3	142	169
Age	16 to 24	37	0	6	0	33	5	15	5	16	9
	25 to 34	23	6	8	0	30	23	11	0	39	40
	35 to 44	21	2	15	3	22	23	13	2	65	72
	45 to 54	31	2	6	0	22	31	6	2	65	72
	55 to 64	17	5	8	5	34	18	12	0	65	66
	65 or more	16	2	9	2	24	24	17	5	57	68
Income	Up to £9620	29	0	9	2	36	12	12	1	57	68
	£9621- £19500	27	4	9	0	26	22	7	4	80	90
	£19500 - £37700	20	4	8	7	14	27	20	1	63	61
	£38220 and over	20	2	14	0	29	27	7	1	58	53
Education	Degree or higher	8	5	12	0	35	23	13	4	34	39
	Below degree	23	3	9	2	26	23	14	1	181	188
	No qualifications	27	3	9	3	25	23	8	3	92	100
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	14	3	14		32	21	13	3	92	100
	Intermediate occupations	26	2	7		23	28	14	0	65	69
	Routine and manual occupations	26	4	8	3	25	22	10	2	136	143
	Not classifiable	22	0	0	13	21	19	16	9	15	15
Interest in politics	A great deal	19	4	3	0	49	19	6	0	22	23
	Quite a lot	8	2	15	1	20	27	23	4	61	66
	Some	22	6	12	4	30	17	8	2	98	104
	Not much	24	1	7	2	23	27	15	2	72	76
	None at all	39	0	5	1	22	24	6	2	55	58
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	26	6	4	3	15	37	7	3	66	70
	Fairly important	24	3	12	1	28	18	14	1	100	109
	Neither important nor unimportant	12	1	10	2	32	16	22	4	54	63
	Very unimportant	22	2	9	4	35	17	9	2	60	56
	Fairly unimportant	31	0	13	0	16	36	4	0	25	25
Understanding of statistics	Very good	23	1	7	0	41	17	7	3	42	45
	Fairly good	17	3	10	2	29	25	13	1	172	183
	Fairly bad	34	3	8	4	17	20	13	1	73	78
	Very bad	23	2	14	3	9	30	7	11	19	19
Interest in statistics	A great deal	37	5	11	3	22	19	0	3	21	25
	Quite a lot	20	2	7	3	28	24	15	2	78	82
	Some	20	4	10	0	28	16	20	3	97	105
	Not much	16	0	11	4	32	28	8	1	73	79
	None at all	39	8	9	1	10	29	0	3	38	36
Total		22	3	9	2	26	23	12	2	307	327

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving low trust ratings (0-3) for unemployment figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Main reason for trusting unemployment figures

		Personal experience	heard /read something good	figures easy to count	ONS does not have vested interest	Gov't does not have vested interest	Other	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	24	14	29	8	4	21	191	173
	Female	24	21	23	11	3	19	214	220
Age	16 to 24	40	26	15	10	0	9	77	36
	25 to 34	21	9	36	8	4	22	75	81
	35 to 44	19	14	24	13	3	27	87	88
	45 to 54	23	12	28	9	10	18	52	60
	55 to 64	20	11	34	12	4	18	38	38
	65 or more	19	28	23	5	2	23	75	90
Income	Up to £9620	40	20	18	6	2	14	100	84
	£9621- £19500	16	28	32	7	4	13	81	85
	£19500 - £37700	18	14	21	17	3	27	80	86
	£38220 and over	18	9	31	8	5	29	102	94
Education	Degree or higher	17	8	26	17	4	29	96	94
	Below degree	25	19	28	8	2	17	237	218
	No qualifications	30	26	17	5	6	16	72	81
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	18	13	29	11	2	27	146	140
	Intermediate occupations	18	19	31	9	6	17	78	83
	Routine and manual occupations	29	23	22	7	3	17	141	143
	Not classifiable	39	10	19	16	4	11	40	27
Interest in politics	A great deal	26	4	41	10	0	19	28	23
	Quite a lot	17	6	24	14	8	30	67	66
	Some	23	16	28	9	4	20	132	137
	Not much	27	25	22	4	2	21	108	106
	None at all	27	25	23	15	1	9	70	61
Importance of statistics in decisions	Very important	26	15	27	7	4	21	107	103
	Fairly important	22	18	23	11	3	21	228	217
	Neither important nor unimportant	33	11	31	10	2	14	46	48
	Very unimportant	16	25	31	5	8	15	14	15
	Fairly unimportant	0	36	48	0	0	16	5	5
Understanding of statistics	Very good	22	4	34	16	0	24	26	28
	Fairly good	23	16	28	8	4	20	294	279
	Fairly bad	19	35	13	13	4	15	64	68
	Very bad	50	2	23	10	0	15	17	14
Interest in statistics	A great deal	36	20	24	3	4	11	19	17
	Quite a lot	26	15	31	7	2	18	96	102
	Some	24	18	23	12	3	20	210	199
	Not much	12	21	24	9	6	29	62	60
	None at all	38	10	35	10	0	7	18	15
Total		24	17	26	10	3	20	405	393

Base: Adults aged 16+ giving high trust ratings (7-10) for unemployment figures Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Agreement that official statistics are accurate

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	2	32	25	32	9	1	650	590
	Female	1	30	27	33	8	2	681	742
Age	16 to 24	1	44	19	30	3	3	200	96
	25 to 34	2	33	29	31	5	*	211	224
	35 to 44	*	30	31	31	7	1	247	265
	45 to 54	2	30	26	30	12	*	220	242
	55 to 64	2	22	27	36	13	1	197	206
	65 or more	2	27	25	36	9	2	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	1	37	24	29	8	*	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	2	23	33	33	10	1	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	1	28	25	35	9	2	530	533
	Not classifiable	2	38	26	28	2	4	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	1	37	22	29	8	2	301	290
	£9621- £19500	1	24	26	37	10	2	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	1	31	26	34	8	1	272	268
	£38220 and over	1	36	27	30	5	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	3	41	28	23	4	0	235	235
	Below degree	1	31	24	34	8	1	783	748
	No qualifications	1	22	30	34	11	3	313	348
Total		1	31	26	32	8	1	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Reason for disagreeing that official figures are generally accurate

		Figures manipulated for political purposes	Figures misrepresented by media/ politicians	Figures contradicted by media/ politicians	Don't trust from personal experience	Figures difficult to count	Figures don't tell whole story	Other	Don't understand figures	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	57	42	19	13	17	17	3	2	260	243
	Female	48	40	18	17	15	18	3	*	272	314
Age	16 to 24	38	29	11	17	19	4	6	2	63	32
	25 to 34	54	45	23	17	22	31		4	76	78
	35 to 44	54	45	18	19	16	22	2	0	92	104
	45 to 54	56	50	12	18	13	17	5	0	93	104
	55 to 64	60	37	26	8	14	14	1	1	94	101
	65 or more	48	38	20	12	13	14	3	1	114	138
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	55	51	21	11	15	22	3	0	160	173
	Intermediate occupations	55	39	22	15	21	17	1	1	113	122
	Routine and manual occupations	51	37	16	17	15	16	2	1	229	237
	Not classifiable	37	26	15	18	4		12	10	30	25
Income	Up to £9620	42	36	12	18	16	15	5	3	109	116
	£9621- £19500	52	38	22	12	14	14	3	0	128	145
	£19500 - £37700	61	40	21	17	21	14	1	2	112	110
	£38220 and over	62	48	22	12	15	29	2	0	96	91
Education	Degree or higher	55	45	13	7	24	26	1	0	64	69
	Below degree	54	42	21	16	16	19	3	1	330	324
	No qualifications	48	37	16	15	11	9	2	2	138	164
Total		52	41	19	15	16	17	3	1	532	557

Base: Adults aged 16+ who disagree that official figures are generally accurate Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Agreement that official figures are produced without political interference

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	1	17	18	40	21	2	650	590
	Female	1	14	25	39	17	4	681	742
Age	16 to 24	3	20	24	27	17	9	200	96
	25 to 34	2	14	24	36	24	*	211	224
	35 to 44	*	13	20	47	17	3	247	265
	45 to 54	2	16	21	38	20	1	220	242
	55 to 64	2	10	19	44	25	1	197	206
	65 or more	*	18	23	41	15	3	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	2	16	17	42	21	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	1	17	22	41	19	1	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	1	15	24	37	19	5	530	533
	Not classifiable	1	11	29	35	17	7	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	3	16	22	36	17	6	301	290
	£9621- £19500	*	15	22	37	22	4	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	*	17	24	37	22	*	272	268
	£38220 and over	1	17	18	45	18	1	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	3	17	17	42	20	1	235	235
	Below degree	1	15	23	39	19	2	783	748
	No qualifications	*	14	23	38	19	6	313	348
Total		1	15	22	39	19	3	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Agreement that the Government present official figures honestly

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	1	13	25	40	20	1	650	590
	Female	1	14	24	42	18	2	681	742
Age	16 to 24	2	20	31	31	9	7	200	96
	25 to 34	1	15	24	41	19	0	211	224
	35 to 44	0	13	22	45	18	1	247	265
	45 to 54	1	8	29	38	24	0	220	242
	55 to 64	*	11	21	42	25	0	197	206
	65 or more	1	13	20	47	19	*	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	0	14	23	43	19	*	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	1	12	23	42	23	0	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	2	14	24	39	20	2	530	533
	Not classifiable	1	12	38	39	8	4	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	2	13	29	35	17	4	301	290
	£9621- £19500	*	18	19	41	21	1	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	*	14	25	43	18	0	272	268
	£38220 and over	0	12	24	44	20	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	1	13	23	43	19	0	235	235
	Below degree	1	13	26	40	18	2	783	748
	No qualifications	1	13	22	42	21	1	313	348
Total		1	13	25	41	19	1	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Agreement that newspapers present official figures honestly

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	*	15	24	42	17	1	650	590
	Female	1	11	25	45	17	1	681	742
Age	16 to 24	3	9	28	44	13	2	200	96
	25 to 34	*	10	24	48	18	0	211	224
	35 to 44	*	12	24	46	17	1	247	265
	45 to 54	0	14	26	40	18	1	220	242
	55 to 64	0	14	20	45	20	1	197	206
	65 or more	1	17	26	38	17	1	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	1	15	22	42	20	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	*	12	22	47	18	1	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	1	13	26	43	16	1	530	533
	Not classifiable	1	4	39	42	12	2	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	3	11	26	41	18	1	301	290
	£9621- £19500	*	13	25	40	19	2	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	0	16	24	49	11	0	272	268
	£38220 and over	0	12	21	47	19	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	*	12	30	42	15	*	235	235
	Below degree	1	13	22	43	19	1	783	748
	No qualifications	*	14	26	44	14	1	313	348
Total		1	13	25	43	17	1	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Understanding of official statistics

		Very good	Fairly good	Fairly bad	Very Bad	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	11	69	15	5	1	650	590
	Female	5	60	26	7	2	681	742
Age	16 to 24	3	64	22	10	1	200	96
	25 to 34	7	68	20	5	*	211	224
	35 to 44	11	59	22	6	3	247	265
	45 to 54	12	65	17	5	1	220	242
	55 to 64	8	69	20	3	1	197	206
	65 or more	5	64	23	7	2	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	13	71	12	2	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	7	68	19	5	1	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	4	59	27	9	1	530	533
	Not classifiable	4	56	24	13	4	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	5	60	23	10	2	301	290
	£9621- £19500	7	61	24	8	*	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	5	68	23	4	0	272	268
	£38220 and over	14	73	10	2	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	15	75	7	1	1	235	235
	Below degree	6	66	21	5	1	783	748
	No qualifications	5	53	29	11	2	313	348
Total		8	64	21	6	1	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Attention paid to in official statistics

		A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Not much	None at all	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	5	28	40	20	8	0	650	590
	Female	5	19	45	21	8	1	681	742
Age	16 to 24	3	20	42	18	16	1	200	96
	25 to 34	4	23	46	22	4	0	211	224
	35 to 44	5	19	48	20	7	0	247	265
	45 to 54	5	22	45	20	8	0	220	242
	55 to 64	7	29	36	22	6	0	197	206
	65 or more	6	27	37	21	8	*	256	299
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	5	27	48	16	4	0	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	5	25	41	20	8	0	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	6	19	40	24	10	0	530	533
	Not classifiable	2	25	32	24	13	4	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	4	21	44	19	11	1	301	290
	£9621- £19500	9	23	35	24	10	0	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	4	20	46	22	7	0	272	268
	£38220 and over	4	29	48	16	3	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	6	21	50	19	4	0	235	235
	Below degree	4	25	43	19	8	*	783	748
	No qualifications	7	20	36	25	12	1	313	348
Total		5	23	42	21	8	*	1,332	1,332

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Whether Government ministers should be given early access to access to official statistics

		Gov't ministers should be given early access	Gov't ministers should not be given early access	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	*n*	*n*
Sex	Male	37	60	3	650	590
	Female	39	57	4	681	741
Age	16 to 24	33	57	10	200	96
	25 to 34	38	61	1	211	224
	35 to 44	42	56	2	247	265
	45 to 54	40	58	2	220	242
	55 to 64	37	61	1	197	206
	65 or more	37	59	4	255	298
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	53	46	1	427	442
	Intermediate occupations	34	64	2	273	278
	Routine and manual occupations	29	67	4	529	532
	Not classifiable	34	55	11	102	79
Income	Up to £9620	34	59	7	300	289
	£9621- £19500	25	72	3	276	297
	£19500 - £37700	44	55	1	272	268
	£38220 and over	49	51	0	274	257
Education	Degree or higher	61	39	*	235	235
	Below degree	36	61	3	783	748
	No qualifications	27	68	5	312	347
Total		38	59	3	1,331	1,331

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Whether length of time ministers see official figures for is the right amount of time

		About right	Shorter	Longer	Don't Know	Weighted base	Unweighted base
		%	%	%	%	n	n
Sex	Male	63	12	22	4	243	237
	Female	67	11	19	3	264	282
Age	16 to 24	53	30	17	0	66	31
	25 to 34	70	12	15	4	81	88
	35 to 44	69	10	19	1	103	110
	45 to 54	65	11	21	4	89	95
	55 to 64	62	4	30	3	73	76
	65 or more	68	4	21	7	95	119
NS-SEC	Managerial and professional occupations	69	7	20	4	225	227
	Intermediate occupations	67	12	18	4	93	97
	Routine and manual occupations	61	15	23	2	155	165
	Not classifiable	57	21	18	4	34	30
Income	Up to £9620	63	12	21	3	102	104
	£9621- £19500	64	14	16	6	70	86
	£19500 - £37700	64	13	21	2	119	120
	£38220 and over	70	6	20	3	135	124
Education	Degree or higher	61	17	18	4	143	137
	Below degree	69	9	19	3	280	276
	No qualifications	58	8	30	3	84	106
Total		65	11	20	3	507	519

Base: Adults aged 16+ Source: NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009

Appendix C   NatCen Omnibus Quarter 4 2009 Technical Summary

The NatCen Omnibus has been designed to carry questions for government, charities, academic institutions and other non-profit organisations interested in producing high-quality data on a range of social topics. It employs a stratified random probability sample and is conducted using computer assisted personal interviewing. This summary contains further details of the sample design and methods used to conduct the survey.

Sample

The sample was obtained using a multi-stage sampling design. First, 153 postcode sectors were selected from the small users Postcode Address File (PAF). All sectors in mainland Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), excluding the area of Scotland north of the Caledonian Canal were covered.

Prior to selection, the postcode sectors had been ordered by
- GOR;
- percentage of households where the household reference person was in NS-SEC categories 1-2 with variable banding used to create three equal-sized strata per GOR; and
- ranking by percentage of homes that were owner-occupied.

The sample of 153 postcode sectors was systematically selected from this list, with probability proportional to size.

Next, either 20 addresses were sampled from the PAF from each selected postcode sector. This gave a total of 3,060 issued addresses, each selected with equal probability. A single adult (defined as anyone aged 16 or over) was then selected at random out of all adults residing at that address to take part in the survey.

Questionnaire development

All questions were reviewed by the research team and then developed in collaboration with the sponsor before being programmed. The survey program was tested by the research and operations teams. Checks were made to ensure the accuracy and sense of questionnaire wording and response options, as well as the accuracy of showcard references. Scenarios were tested to ensure that routing was correct and that respondents would not be asked inappropriate questions dependent on the circumstances. There were also checks for screen layout, spelling and the clarity of instructions to interviewers.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork began on Thursday 12th October and ended Sunday 28th November.

Interviews were carried out by NatCen interviewers using computer assisted personal interviewing techniques. Computer assisted interviewing improves data quality by including accurate routing to the relevant questions for a particular respondent and consistency checks on responses. All interviewers at NatCen receive extensive training in administering face-to-face surveys including training in converting refusals at each address and, once an interview has been secured, asking questions in a non-biased way.

Interviewers were also briefed on the project to inform them of the particular survey procedures and content of the questionnaire. New interviewers attended a briefing in person. More experienced interviewers received a home-briefing pack and were asked to complete an assignment to ensure they had taken the time to read their instructions and practice the questionnaire.

A letter was sent to each address in advance of the interviewer calling. The letter briefly described the purpose of the survey, the coverage of the questionnaire and reassured potential respondents that their answers would be treated in strict confidence. A £5 high street voucher was sent with every letter as an unconditional incentive to encourage participation in the survey. In this wave, a trial was conducted whereby half the sample received a £5 promissory note, redeemable on participating.

To improve response interviewers call at each address at least six times and up to a maximum of nine times, at different times of the day and at different times during the week. The first three calls must be made after 6pm Monday to Thursday or at the weekend when research has found that these are the optimum times for securing an interview. Interviewers recorded the time, date and outcome of all calls and checks were made by field management. Non-contacts were not accepted unless the pattern, as well as the number of calls conformed to the basic requirements that normally at least one call must be made at a weekend, and one on a weekday evening.

The average interview length was 27 minutes.

Response

Interviewer progress was recorded and monitored using NatCen's booking-in system.

The overall response rate was 48 per cent as shown in Table A1. The response rate is calculated as the number of achieved interviews as a percentage of the eligible sample.

Table A1   Response rate for Omnibus P2962 (Quarter 4 2009)

Outcome	Number	%	%
Issued addresses	3,060	100	
Ineligible addresses	277	9	
Eligible addresses	2,783	91	100
Non-contacts	150		5
Refusals	1,057		38
Other non-interview	164		6
Unknown eligibility (no contact)	62		2
Unknown eligibility (contact)	13		0
Productive interviews	1337*		48

* 4 interviews were subsequently deleted due to errors in selection

The response rate above is the lowest possible response rate, calculated by treating all cases where eligibility is unknown as eligible. The maximum response rate, calculated by treating all such cases as ineligible, would be 49%.

Coding and editing

Interviewer checks in the CAPI program allow interviewers to clarify and query any data discrepancies directly with the respondent. The CAPI program applies range and consistency error

checks and both types of checks were used throughout the questionnaire. Where a check was triggered the interviewer often opened and recorded a note explaining the respondent's situation. These notes are recorded alongside the data and are reviewed by the project team in the operations department.

In-office coding and editing also took place on returned interviews. This involves a coder working through each interview in turn, using a modified version of the CAPI program. The coder reviewed all 'other' responses that had been entered to ensure that they couldn't be backcoded into any of the existing codes at that question.

In addition, there were open questions. The code frames used on this study were developed by the researchers from a listing of responses to the relevant questions from the first completed interviews.

In the course of the interview, where a respondent gave details of employment, this information was coded to the Standard Occupation classification – SOC (2000).

Weighting

The weighting for the Omnibus survey consisted of two components: selection weights to correct for individuals' differing probabilities of selection, and calibration weighting to adjust the weighted achieved sample to match population estimates.

Selection weights

Selection weights are calculated to correct for the unequal probability of selection. In England and Wales each address on the PAF was equally likely to be selected, so a selection weight for the addresses was not needed. However, we interviewed only one adult per address so individuals in multi-occupied and large households would be under-represented in the final sample if this was not taken into account. Individuals had been chosen by first choosing a dwelling unit out of all those in the address, and then choosing an adult at random from all those in the given dwelling unit. Thus, the correct selection weight is equal to the number of dwelling units at the chosen address multiplied by the number of adults identified at the dwelling unit.

A slightly different method was used for Scottish addresses, where the probability an address is chosen was proportional to the Multiple Occupancy Index (MOI). Here the correct selection weight is equal to the number of dwelling units at the chosen address multiplied by the number of adults identified at the dwelling unit divided by the MOI.

Calibration weights

The (weighted) achieved sample was then adjusted using calibration weighting so that the weighted distributions matched population totals. This reduces potential sample bias caused by any differential non-response between different groups and across regions. We calibrated to the marginal age/sex and GOR distribution, using the SAS macro CALMAR. In order to do this we needed to derive good estimates of the population size across region and age/sex group.

The study population

The study population used in the Omnibus survey consists of every adult resident in an address covered by the PAF. In order to calibrate to this we need to know the population totals broken down by age/sex and GOR. The population totals we used were taken from the mid-year 2006 population totals supplied by the ONS. The ONS totals refer to a slightly different population than the study population. For example, the study population excludes elderly people living in care

homes (care homes are not included in the PAF) whereas the ONS estimated resident population of an area includes all people who usually live there. In order to obtain a good estimate for the population totals we subtracted the estimated number people living in care homes (based on 2005 estimates) from the ONS mid-year population estimates.

Age bands

The achieved sample size was 1,375 responses. With this size of sample, bands of ten-year intervals were deemed appropriate. As the Omnibus survey defines an adult to be anyone aged 16 or over, we used the age bands 16-24, 25-34, 35-44, …, 65-74, 75+.

The estimated population size is given in the tables below.

Table A2   Estimated mid-year 2008 household population size by GOR

GOR	Estimated population size
North East	2,093,000
North West	5,521,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,202,000
East Midlands	3,582,000
West Midlands	4,316,000
East	4,595,000
London	6,104,000
South East	6,720,000
South West	4,237,000
Wales	2,414,000
Scotland	4,214,000
TOTAL	47,999,000

Table A3   Estimated mid-year 2008 household population size by age and sex

Age group	Estimated population size	
	Male	Female
16 – 24	3,703,000	3,515,000
25 – 34	3,867,000	3,798,000
35 – 44	4,406,000	4,488,000
45 – 54	3,913,000	4,016,000
55 – 64	3,474,000	3,610,000
65 – 74	2,359,000	2,608,000
75 +	1,737,000	2,504,000
TOTAL	23,461,000	24,538,000

Final weights

The calibration weights were then scaled to give the final weight. We scaled so that the sum of the final weights equalled the achieved sample size [4]. These weights were checked for extreme values before being issued. A small number of large selection weights were trimmed. Trimming ensures that no individual has a disproportionately high influence on the survey estimates.

The weighting variable is called WT and should be used to run all analyses.

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[4]. Other methods such as scaling so they sum to the population size are equally valid, but our method has the advantage that for any sub-group the size of the weighted base will be approximately equal to the size of the unweighted base.

Appendix ~~BAppendix~~ <u>Appendix D</u> Questionnaire

ASK ALL
Intro
We are interested in the sources of information you might use to form your opinions on current issues.
Press 1 and <Enter> to continue

ASK ALL
SRCOPN
SHOWCARD
Looking at this card, which of these sources do you mainly use to inform your opinions on current issues?
CODE UP TO THREE SOURCES.
SET [3] OF
Family or friends
School / College / Work
Newspapers
Television
Radio
The Internet
Other
None of these sources (Spontaneous only)

ASK ALL
POLINT
In general, how much interest do you have in politics. Would you say you have... READ OUT…
a great deal,
quite a lot,
some,
not much,
or none at all?

ASK ALL
Intro1
This next set of questions is about trust in society.
Press 1 and <Enter> to continue

ASK ALL
TRUST
In general, do you feel that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
CODE ONE ONLY.
PROMPT WHERE NECESSARY.
Most people can be trusted
Can't be too careful in dealing with people
It depends on people / circumstances

ASK ALL
TRSTCIV
In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...
…the Civil Service?
Code 95 for 'It depends' (spontaneous only).
Code 98 for 'Don't know / no opinion' (spontaneous only).
0..98

ASK IF IN WALES
TRSTWEL
 (In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…The Welsh Assembly Government?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK IF IN SCOTLAND
TRSTSCGV
 (In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…the Scottish Government?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK ALL
TRSTUKGV {M358_2E}
(In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…the UK Government?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK ALL
TRSTPOL
(In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…the Police?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK ALWAYS
TRSTCRT
(In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…the Courts?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK ALL
TRSTNHS
(In general, on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust...)
…the National Health Service?
Answers as at TRSTCIV

ASK ALL
Intro2
The rest of this set of questions is about official figures. By official figures I mean those produced by the government about the economy and the society we live in.
Press 1 and <Enter> to continue

ASK ALL
IMPDEC
SHOWCARD
Choosing your answer from this card, how important do you consider official statistics to be as a basis for decision making in society?
Very important
Fairly important
Neither important nor unimportant
Fairly unimportant
Very unimportant

THE FOLLOWING SET OF 4 QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED FOR EACH OF FIVE DIFFERENT OFFICIAL STATISTICS. THE ORDER IN WHICH EACH SET OF QUESTIONS (I.E. EACH SET OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS) IS TO BE RANDOMISED.

ASK ALL
TRSTRPI
The Office for National Statistics publishes official figures on changes in the cost of living, sometimes referred to as the rate of inflation.
On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust that these figures give a true picture of what is happening to the cost of living?
Answers as at TRSTCIV but add:
97 Never heard of inflation figures (spontaneous only)

ASK IF TRSTRPI = 0 TO 10 OR 95
RPIRES
What are your main reasons for saying that?
RECORD UP TO 3 MAIN REASONS. PROBE WHERE NECESSARY
SET [3] OF
DISTRUST:
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something bad about the figures
Figures are difficult to count or measure; not always recorded; unclear or complex definitions
ONS has vested interest in results / manipulates production or collection
The Government has vested interest in the results / interferes in production or collection
The figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures alone do not tell whole story / there is more to it than just the figures
TRUST:
Trust the figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something good about the figures
The figures are easy to count or measure; are always recorded; are based on clear definitions
ONS does not have vested interest in the results / does not manipulate production or collection
The Government does not have vested interest in the results / does not interfere in production
or collection
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 0 TO 2 CODED AT TRSTRPI AND TRUST REASON GIVEN AT RPIRES}
the respondent said they didn't trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they do trust the figures
{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 8 TO 10 CODED AT TRSTRPI AND DISTRUST REASON GIVEN AT RPIRES}
the respondent said they do trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they don't trust the figures

INSERT CHECK IF CONTRADICTORY ANSWERS
You've chosen contradictory answers, please check

ASK IF Other IN RPIRES
RPIResO
Record other reason. Please recode to 1 to 12 at previous question, where possible.
STRING[250]

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN AT RPIRES
RPIRESM
And which of those is the most important reason?
IF NECESSARY, INFORM RESPONDENT OF THE CATEGORIES YOU RECORDED FOR THEIR
PREVIOUS ANSWER, CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE (OR CHANGE ACCORDINGLY), THEN ASK THEM
TO CHOOSE WHICH REASON IS MOST IMPORTANT.
Answers as at RPIRES

ASK ALL
TRSTHOS
The ([England:]Department of Health/[Wales:]National Assembly for Wales/[Scotland:]NHS Scotland)
publishes official figures about hospital waiting lists.

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust that
these figures give a true picture of what is happening to hospital waiting lists?
Answers as at TRSTCIV but add:
97 Never heard of hospital waiting list figures (spontaneous only)

ASK IF TRSTHOS = 0 TO 10 OR 95
HOSRES
What are your main reasons for saying that?
RECORD UP TO 3 MAIN REASONS. PROBE WHERE NECESSARY
SET [3] OF
DISTRUST:
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something bad about the figures
Figures are difficult to count or measure; not always recorded; unclear or complex definitions
ONS has vested interest in results / manipulates production or collection
The Government has vested interest in the results / interferes in production or collection
The figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures alone do not tell whole story / there is more to it than just the figures
TRUST:
Trust the figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something good about the figures
The figures are easy to count or measure; are always recorded; are based on clear definitions
ONS does not have vested interest in the results / does not manipulate production or collection
The Government does not have vested interest in the results / does not interfere in production
or collection
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 0 TO 2 CODED AT TRSTHOS AND TRUST REASON GIVEN AT HOSRES}
the respondent said they didn't trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they do trust the figures
{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 8 TO 10 CODED AT TRSTHOS AND DISTRUST REASON GIVEN AT HOSRES}
the respondent said they do trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they don't trust the figures

INSERT CHECK IF CONTRADICTORY ANSWERS
You've chosen contradictory answers, please check

ASK IF Other IN HOSRES
HOSResO
Record other reason. Please recode to 1 to 12 at previous question, where possible.
STRING[250]

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN AT NHSRES
HOSRESM
And which of those is the most important reason?
IF NECESSARY, INFORM RESPONDENT OF THE CATEGORIES YOU RECORDED FOR THEIR
PREVIOUS ANSWER, CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE (OR CHANGE ACCORDINGLY), THEN ASK THEM
TO CHOOSE WHICH REASON IS MOST IMPORTANT.
Answers as at NHSRES

ASK ALL
TRSTBRG
The (Home Office/Scottish Government – dependent text substitution) publishes official figures on domestic
burglaries.
On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust that
these figures give a true picture of what is happening to the number of burglaries?
Answers as at TRSTCIV but add:
97 Never heard of domestic burglaries figures (spontaneous only)

ASK IF TRSTBRG = 0 TO 10 OR 95
BRGRES
What are your main reasons for saying that?
RECORD UP TO 3 MAIN REASONS. PROBE WHERE NECESSARY
SET [3] OF
DISTRUST:
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something bad about the figures
Figures are difficult to count or measure; not always recorded; unclear or complex definitions
ONS has vested interest in results / manipulates production or collection
The Government has vested interest in the results / interferes in production or collection
The figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures alone do not tell whole story / there is more to it than just the figures
TRUST:
Trust the figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something good about the figures
The figures are easy to count or measure; are always recorded; are based on clear definitions
ONS does not have vested interest in the results / does not manipulate production or collection
The Government does not have vested interest in the results / does not interfere in production
or collection
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 0 TO 2 CODED AT TRSTBRG AND TRUST REASON GIVEN AT BRGRES}
the respondent said they didn't trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they do trust the figures
{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 8 TO 10 CODED AT TRSTBRG AND DISTRUST REASON GIVEN AT BRGRES}
the respondent said they do trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they don't trust the figures

INSERT CHECK IF CONTRADICTORY ANSWERS
You've chosen contradictory answers, please check

ASK IF Other IN BRGRES
BRGResO
Record other reason. Please recode to 1 to 12 at previous question, where possible.
STRING[250]

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN AT BRGRES
BRGSRESM
And which of those is the most important reason?
IF NECESSARY, INFORM RESPONDENT OF THE CATEGORIES YOU RECORDED FOR THEIR
PREVIOUS ANSWER, CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE (OR CHANGE ACCORDINGLY), THEN ASK THEM
TO CHOOSE WHICH REASON IS MOST IMPORTANT.
Answers as at BRGRES

ASK ALL
TRSTPOP
The Office for National Statistics publishes official figures on the size of the population.
On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust that
these figures give a true picture of what is happening to the size of the population?
Answers as at TRSTCIV but add:
97 Never heard of population figures (spontaneous only)

ASK IF TRSTPOP = 0 TO 10 OR 95
POPRES
What are your main reasons for saying that?
RECORD UP TO 3 MAIN REASONS. PROBE WHERE NECESSARY
SET [3] OF
DISTRUST:
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something bad about the figures
Figures are difficult to count or measure; not always recorded; unclear or complex definitions
ONS has vested interest in results / manipulates production or collection
The Government has vested interest in the results / interferes in production or collection
The figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures alone do not tell whole story / there is more to it than just the figures
TRUST:
Trust the figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something good about the figures
The figures are easy to count or measure; are always recorded; are based on clear definitions
ONS does not have vested interest in the results / does not manipulate production or collection
The Government does not have vested interest in the results / does not interfere in production
or collection
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 0 TO 2 CODED AT TRSTPOP AND TRUST REASON GIVEN AT POPRES}
the respondent said they didn't trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they do trust the figures
{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 8 TO 10 CODED AT TRSTPOP AND DISTRUST REASON GIVEN AT POPRES}
the respondent said they do trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they don't trust the figures

INSERT CHECK IF CONTRADICTORY ANSWERS
You've chosen contradictory answers, please check

ASK IF Other IN POPRES
POPResO
Record other reason. Please recode to 1 to 12 at previous question, where possible.
STRING[250]

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN AT POPRES
POPSRESM
And which of those is the most important reason?
IF NECESSARY, INFORM RESPONDENT OF THE CATEGORIES YOU RECORDED FOR THEIR
PREVIOUS ANSWER, CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE (OR CHANGE ACCORDINGLY), THEN ASK THEM
TO CHOOSE WHICH REASON IS MOST IMPORTANT.
Answers as at POPRES

ASK ALL
TRSTUMP
The Office for National Statistics publishes official figures on the number of people unemployed.
On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'do not trust at all' and 10 is 'trust completely', how much do you trust that
these figures give a true picture of what is happening with unemployment and peoples' jobs?
Answers as at TRSTCIV but add:
97 Never heard of unemployment figures (spontaneous only)

ASK IF TRSTUMP = 0 TO 10 OR 95
UMPRES
What are your main reasons for saying that?
RECORD UP TO 3 MAIN REASONS. PROBE WHERE NECESSARY
SET [3] OF
DISTRUST:
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something bad about the figures
Figures are difficult to count or measure; not always recorded; unclear or complex definitions
ONS has vested interest in results / manipulates production or collection
The Government has vested interest in the results / interferes in production or collection
The figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures alone do not tell whole story / there is more to it than just the figures
TRUST:
Trust the figures, from personal experience
Heard / read something good about the figures
The figures are easy to count or measure; are always recorded; are based on clear definitions
ONS does not have vested interest in the results / does not manipulate production or collection
The Government does not have vested interest in the results / does not interfere in production
or collection
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 0 TO 2 CODED AT TRSTUMP AND TRUST REASON GIVEN AT UMPRES}
the respondent said they didn't trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they do trust the figures
{INSERT SOFT CHECK IF 8 TO 10 CODED AT TRSTUMP AND DISTRUST REASON GIVEN AT UMPRES}
the respondent said they do trust the figures but you've selected an answer here which
indicates that they don't trust the figures

INSERT CHECK IF CONTRADICTORY ANSWERS
You've chosen contradictory answers, please check

ASK IF Other IN UMPRES
UMPResO
Record other reason. Please recode to 1 to 12 at previous question, where possible.
STRING[250]

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE REASON GIVEN AT UMPRES
UMPRESM
And which of those is the most important reason?
IF NECESSARY, INFORM RESPONDENT OF THE CATEGORIES YOU RECORDED FOR THEIR
PREVIOUS ANSWER, CONFIRM THAT THEY AGREE (OR CHANGE ACCORDINGLY), THEN ASK THEM
TO CHOOSE WHICH REASON IS MOST IMPORTANT.
Answers as at UMPRES

ASK ALL
Intro3
Now I'm going to read out several statements. Taking your answer from this card, please tell me how strongly
you agree or disagree with each statement.

So, firstly, how strongly do you agree or disagree that…

Press 1 and <Enter> to continue

ORDER OF STATEMENTS (ACCURAT TO NEWSHON) TO BE RANDOMISED.

ACCURAT
SHOWCARD
(how strongly do you agree or disagree that…)

….Official figures are generally accurate.
Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree

ASK IF ACCURAT= TEND TO DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE
ACCRES
May I just check, why do you disagree that official figures are generally accurate?
CODE ALL THAT APPLY
SET [7] OF
Figures are manipulated or adjusted for political purposes
Figures are misrepresented or spun by politicians or the media
Figures are contradicted or disputed by politicians, the media or other sources
Don't trust figures, from personal experience
Figures are difficult to count or measure/information is not always reported
Figures alone do not tell the whole story/there is more to it than just the figures
Other (please specify)
Don't understand figures or statistics

IF ACCRES=OTHER
ACCRESO
Please specify other
STRING[255]

ASK ALL
POLINTF
SHOWCARD
(how strongly do you agree or disagree that…)
Official figures are produced without political interference.

Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree

GOVHON
SHOWCARD
(how strongly do you agree or disagree that…)
The Government presents official figures honestly when talking about its policies.
Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree

NEWSHON
SHOWCARD
(how strongly do you agree or disagree that…)
Newspapers present official figures honestly.
Strongly agree
Tend to agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Tend to disagree
Strongly disagree

UNDSTAT
SHOWCARD
In general, how would you describe your understanding of official statistics when they are presented by the government or in the media?
Very good
Fairly good
Fairly bad
Very bad

STATINT
How much attention do you pay to official statistics, such as unemployment, crime, when they are published, would you say...
Running prompt
a great deal,
quite a lot,
some,
not much,
or none at all?

PreRel
SHOWCARD
And finally, Government ministers can be shown official statistics (the day before[in England]/five days before[in Scotland or Wales]) they are made public. Some say this is right because it gives ministers time to provide considered comment on the statistics when they are published, or to respond quickly to any questions. Other people disagree because they think it gives ministers a chance to influence how the statistics are presented to the public, or an unfair advantage over everyone else.

Looking at this card, what do you think…

Government ministers should be given early access to official statistics or,
Government ministers should not be given early access to official statistics?

IF PREREL=SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS
ACCTIME
Do you think that the amount of time that ministers have to see the figures before they are published is about right, or do you think it should be shorter, or longer?

About right
Shorter
Longer