

Austerity Statistics

**& what changes in government data might
mean for the analysis of social policy**

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Outline

- The history of the statistics as the history of the state
- Some cuts in official statistics since 2010
- Austerity statistics v1.0 – The Rayner Review
- Quite a lot or not much? Quantifying the cuts
- Conclusion: what this might mean for statistics & analysis

A Quick History of Statistics

The Table of CAS

UALTIES.

The Years of our Lord

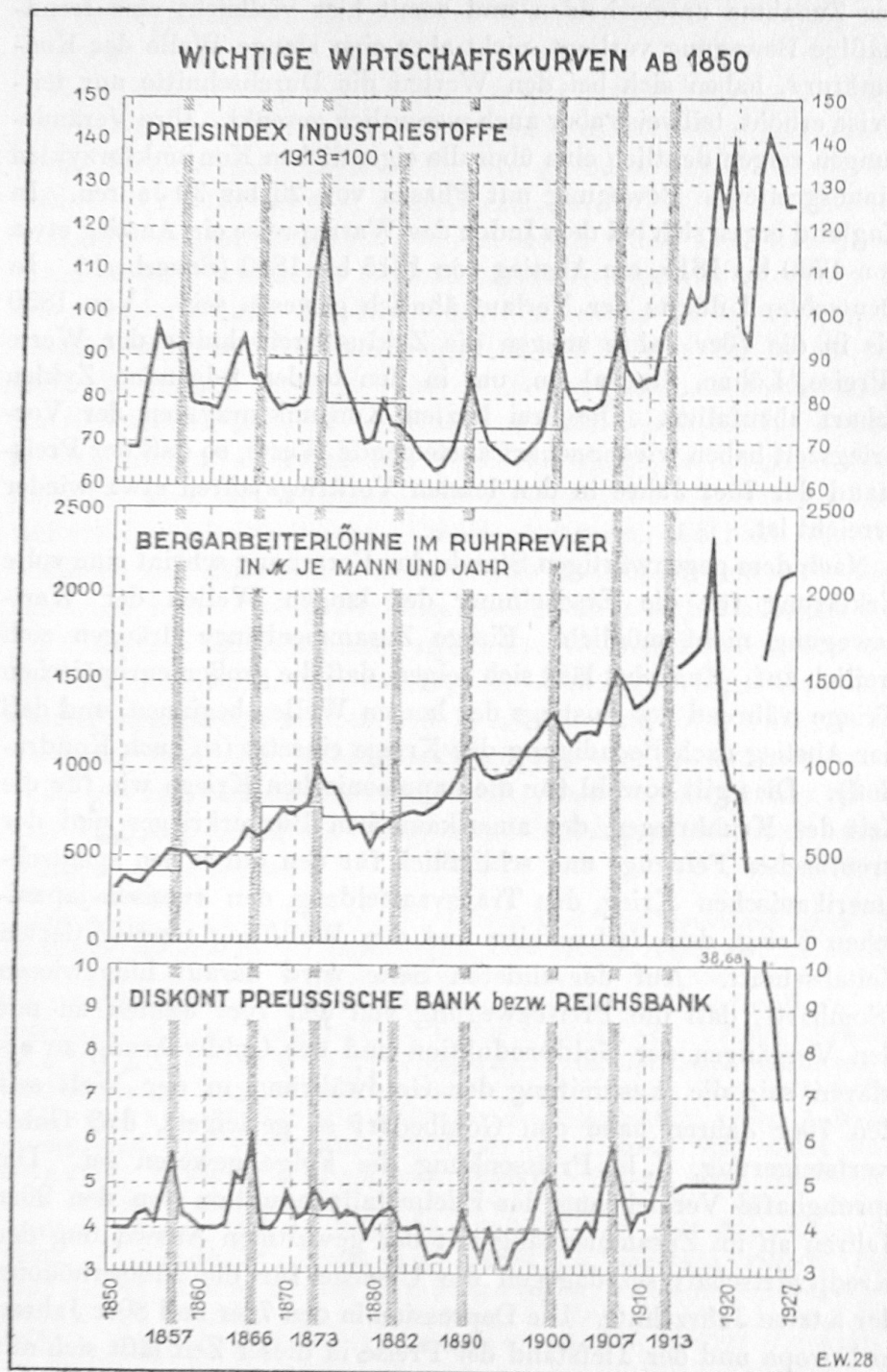
	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	1656	1657	1658
Abortive and Stil-born	335	329	327	351	389	381	384	433	483	419	463	467
Aged	916	835	889	696	780	834	864	974	743	892	869	1176
Ague and Fever	1260	884	751	970	1038	1212	282	1371	689	875	999	1800
Apoplex and Suddenly	68	74	64	74	106	111	118	86	92	102	113	138
Bleach			1	3	7	2				1		
Blasted	4	1			6	6			4		5	5
Bleeding	3	2	5	1	3	4	3	2	7	3	5	4
Bloody Flux, Scouring and Flux	155	176	802	289	833	762	200	386	168	368	362	233
Burnt and Scalded	3	6	10	5	11	8	5	7	10	5	7	4
Calenture	1			1		2	1	1			3	
Cancer, Gangrene and Fistula	26	29	31	19	31	53	36	37	73	31	24	35
Wolf				8								
Canker, Sore-mouth and Thrush	66	28	54	42	68	51	53	72	44	81	19	27
Child-bed	161	106	114	117	206	213	158	192	177	201	236	225
Chrisoms and Infants	1369	1254	1065	990	1237	1280	1050	1343	1089	1393	1162	1144
Colick and Wind	103	71	85	82	76	102	80	101	85	120	113	179
Cold and Cough							41	36	21	58	30	31
Consumption and Cough	2423	2200	2388	1988	2350	2410	2286	2868	2606	3184	2757	3610
Convulsion	684	491	530	493	569	653	606	828	702	1027	807	841
Cramp			1									
Cut of the Stone		2	1	3		1	1	2	4	1	3	5
Dropsie and Tympany	185	434	421	508	444	556	617	704	660	706	631	931
Drowned	47	40	30	27	49	50	53	30	43	49	63	60
Excessive drinking			2									
Executed	8	17	29	43	24	12	19	21	19	22	20	18
Fainted in a Bath					1							
Falling-Sickness	3	2	2	3		3	4	11	4	3	1	
Flox ¹ and small Pox	139	400	1190	184	525	1279	139	812	1294	823	835	409
Found dead in the Streets	6	6	9	8	7	9	14	4	3	4	9	11
French-Pox	18	29	15	18	21	20	20	20	29	23	25	53
Frighted	4	4	1		3		2		1	1		
Gout	9	5	12	9	7	7	5	6	8	7	8	13
Grief	12	13	16	7	17	14	11	17	10	13	10	12
Hanged, and made-away themselves	11	10	13	14	9	14	15	9	14	16	24	18
Head-Ach		1	11	2		2	6		5		4	5
Jaundice	57	35	39	49	41	43	57	71	61	41	46	77
Jaw-fain	1	1			3			2	2		3	1
Impostume	75	61	65	59	80	105	79	90	92	122	80	134
Itch		1										
Killed by several Accidents	27	57	39	94	47	45	57	58	52	43	52	47
King's Evil	27	26	22	19	22	20	26	26	27	24	23	28
Lethargy	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	10	9		6	2
Leprosie			1									1
Liver-grown, Spleen and Rickets	53	46	56	59	65	72	67	65	52	50	38	51
Lunarick	12	18	6	11	7	11	0	12	6	7	13	5

1659	1660	1629	1630	16
421	544	499	439	
909	1095	579	712	
2303	2148	956	1091	
91	67	22	36	
3	8	13	8	
7	2	5	2	
346	251	449	438	
6	6	3	10	
63	52	20	14	
73	68	6	4	
226	194	150	157	
858	1123	2596	2378	
116	167	48	57	
33	24	10	58	
2982	3414	1827	1910	
742	1031	52	87	
6	4			
646	872	235	252	
57	48	43	33	
7	18	19	13	
4	5	3	10	
1523	354	72	40	
2	6	18	33	
51	31	17	12	
	9	1		
14	2	2	5	
13	4	18	20	
11	36	8	8	
35	26			
102	76	47	59	
		10	16	
105	96	58	70	
55	47	54	5	
28	54	16	2	
6	4	1		
	2	2		
8	15	94	1	
14	14	6		
5	4			



FILLING UP THE CENSUS PAPER.

Wife of his Bosom. "UPON MY WORD, MR. PEEWITT! IS THIS THE WAY YOU FILL UP YOUR CENSUS?
SO YOU CALL YOURSELF THE 'HEAD OF THE FAMILY'—DO YOU—AND ME A 'FEMALE?'"



**Some statistical cuts
(and non-cuts)
under the coalition**

Cuts 1: Cancelling Data Collection

- Cease special-purpose data collection exercises
- Large savings (£ms) – especially for sample surveys
 - ◆ Less for administrative returns
 - ◆ Whose money and effort is saved?
- Examples: The Places Survey, The Citizenship Survey

Cuts 2: Reducing Data Collection

- Reduce sample sizes, rotating or removing questions, reduce use of observation experts
- Relatively large savings (£100ks - £ms)
- Family Resources Survey,
 - ◆ Sample size 25,000 → 20,000
- English Housing Survey
 - ◆ Sample size cut 20-25%
 - ◆ Drop market-value element
 - ◆ Reduce or rotate neighbourhood questions

Aside: does sample size matter?

- Depends on:
 - ◆ Prevalence of the feature of interest
 - ◆ Size of population subgroups
 - ◆ Expected scale and speed of change
- (Rough) example from EHS sample size cut (17.5k → 13.8k)

Population	Prevalence	95% CI before	95% CI after
Everyone	40%	± 0.7	± 0.8
10% subgroup	40%	± 2.3	± 2.6
Everyone	15%	± 0.5	± 0.6
10% subgroup	15%	± 1.7	± 1.9

Cuts 3: Reducing or discontinuing outputs

- Stop producing digests, summaries, publications, series
 - ◆ That are (argued to be) little-used, redundant, or superceded
- Usually quite minor savings (£10ks)
- Examples
 - ◆ DWP: New Deal statistics
 - ◆ DWP: take-up of income-related benefits [proposed & rejected]
 - ◆ ONS: small-area income estimates [proposed & rejected]
 - ◆ ONS: end NOMIS [proposed & rejected]
 - ◆ DCLG: regional statistical summaries
- Policy orientation of decisions is often clear...

Pickles on the Regional Classification

“The old regional classifications are also misleading—they fail to quantify both the pockets of deprivation that can exist within regions or the differences between rural and urban England, and there is an inconsistency of approach to the size and population of each government region. They are arbitrary lines on a map that have no resonance—in contrast to England’s long-standing cities, boroughs and counties which have a real sense of local identity and popular support, dating back centuries in many cases. England has no history of regional government, whereas it does have a great tradition of local governance that this Government wish to strengthen.”

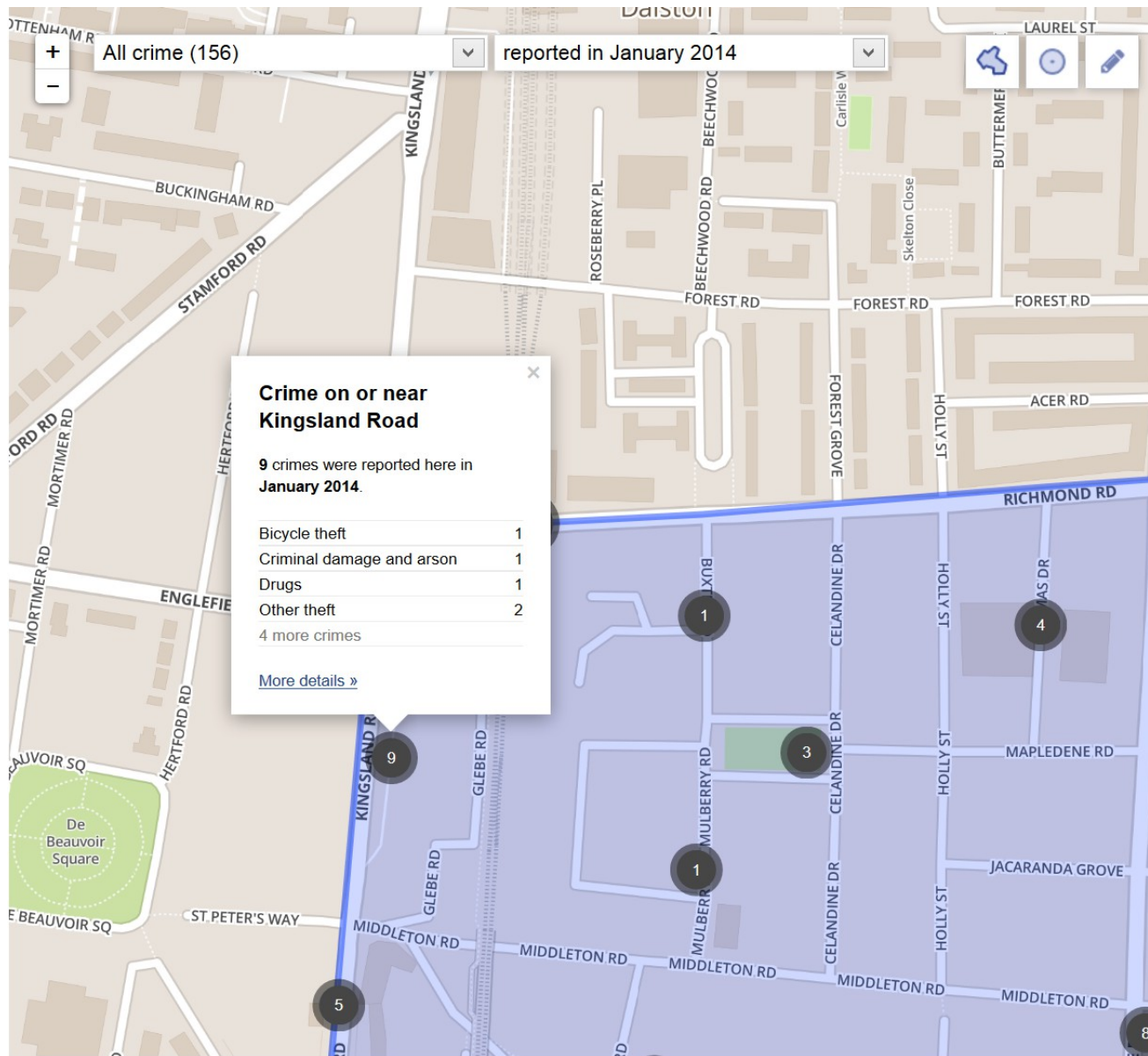
Pickles on Regions and Europe

“There is also a European dimension to the regions in the form of Eurostat’s nomenclature of units for territorial statistics standard (the appropriately named “NUTS regulations”). It is the view of Ministers that the NUTS1 hierarchy is no longer appropriate for structural funds in England moving forward from 2014. Ministers reject the notion of a “Europe of the Regions” where nation states and national Parliaments are sidelined, and replaced with distant regional governments answerable only to a federal European super-state. Dismantling such arbitrary, unelected regional administrative structures will assist in that goal.”

Transparency, Open Data, Big Data

- "Transparency"
 - ◆ Publish details of government expenditure items
- New applications / visualisations of administrative data,
 - ◆ The crime map
- Make existing administrative data free
 - ◆ e.g. Land Registry Price Paid data
- Widen access to existing material
 - ◆ More open publication of geo-data

The Crime Map



Austerity Statistics v1.0:

The Rayner Review

Cabinet 07/02/1979

IEW OF
ERNMENT
ISTICAL
VICES

8. THE PRIME MINISTER said that she had asked Sir Derek Rayner to carry out a review of Government statistical services. She hoped that Ministers would ensure that their Departments co-operated fully with Sir Derek Rayner in the carrying out of this review.

The Cabinet -

Took note.

Cabinet 01/05/1980

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, said that the decisions which the Government had taken so far had led to reductions in Civil Service numbers from 732,000 in 1979 to 705,000 now, with the prospect of reaching a total not much over 670,000 by the end of this Parliament. This was not sufficient. Sir Derek Rayner's findings, and the work already completed by Departments, illustrated the scope for further substantial savings. He recommended, therefore, that the Government should announce now that their aim was to reduce the Civil Service to no larger than 630,000 by the end of this Parliament. If achieved, this would be below the previous lowest post-war figure of 640,000 in 1961. To allow for some increase in staff in particular areas where it might prove unavoidable, the target should include a small contingency margin of about 10,000 which the Civil Service Department would administer. To meet the net target of 630,000 each Department should aim to save $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of staff numbers in each of the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 in addition to the savings that had

Rayner's Recommendations

- Official Statistics to focus on the needs of government
 - ◆ “statistical work which is wholly necessary for central government”
 - ◆ “Rigorous appraisal of value for money”
- White Paper 1981
 - ◆ CSO budget reduction of 33%
 - ◆ Manpower reduction of 25%
- For whole GSS
 - ◆ Reduce staff by $\frac{1}{4}$, save £25m
- Reductions in statistics
 - ◆ Less frequent income distribution, ending of wealth distribution analysis
 - ◆ Cutting back on methodological work
 - ◆ Fewer briefings

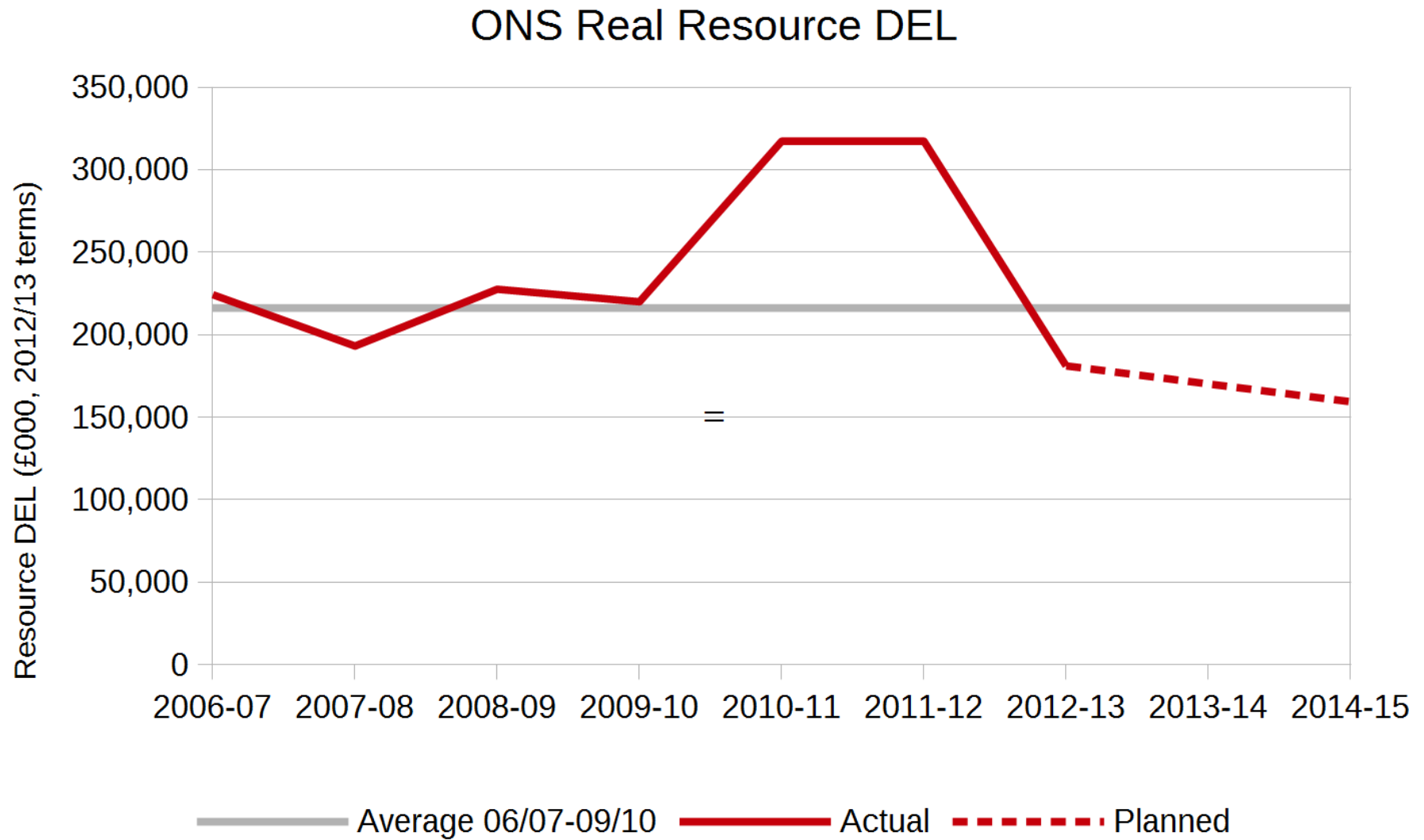
The 1981 White Paper

ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED EXPENDITURE AND MANPOWER¹ ALL STATISTICAL SERVICES

<i>Department</i>	<i>May 1979</i>		<i>April 1984</i>		<i>Reduction May 1979 to April 1984</i>	
	<i>Expenditure £ million pa</i>	<i>Manpower Nos.</i>	<i>Expenditure £ million pa</i>	<i>Manpower Nos.</i>	<i>Expenditure £ million pa</i>	<i>Manpower Nos.</i>
Central Statistical Office	4.10	263	2.80	196	1.30	67
Home Office	3.00	307	2.70	260	0.30	47
Lord Chancellor's Department	0.66	74	0.57	62	0.09	12
Overseas Development Administration	0.54	36	0.37	22	0.17	14
Inland Revenue	5.70	608	3.40	313	2.30	295
Customs and Excise	9.90	1,311	7.60	983	2.30 ^a	328 ^a
Defence	4.10	292	3.60	237	0.50	55
Civil Service Department and Government Actuary	1.24	114	0.79	61	0.45	53
Employment/Manpower Services Commission ...	15.40	1,430	10.00	960	5.40	470
Health and Safety Executive	0.77	54	0.63	43	0.14	11
MAFF including IBAP and Forestry Commission...	5.70	324	4.60	245	1.10	79
Environment and Transport	14.20	527	11.25	360	2.95	167
Scottish Office	2.00	158	1.75	140	0.25	18
General Register Office (Scotland)	1.30	184	1.10	159	0.20	25
Welsh Office	0.86	90	0.68	69	0.18	21
Health and Social Security	5.56	517	3.43	322	2.13	195
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys ^b ...	12.80	1,100	9.50	791	3.30	309
Education and Science	1.70	140	1.50	111	0.20	29
Industry and Trade	13.90	1,399	10.90	1,054	3.00	345
Energy	0.99	73	0.83	63	0.16	10
TOTAL	104.42	9,001	78.00	6,451	26.42	2,550

Quantifying the Cuts since 2010

By Budget?

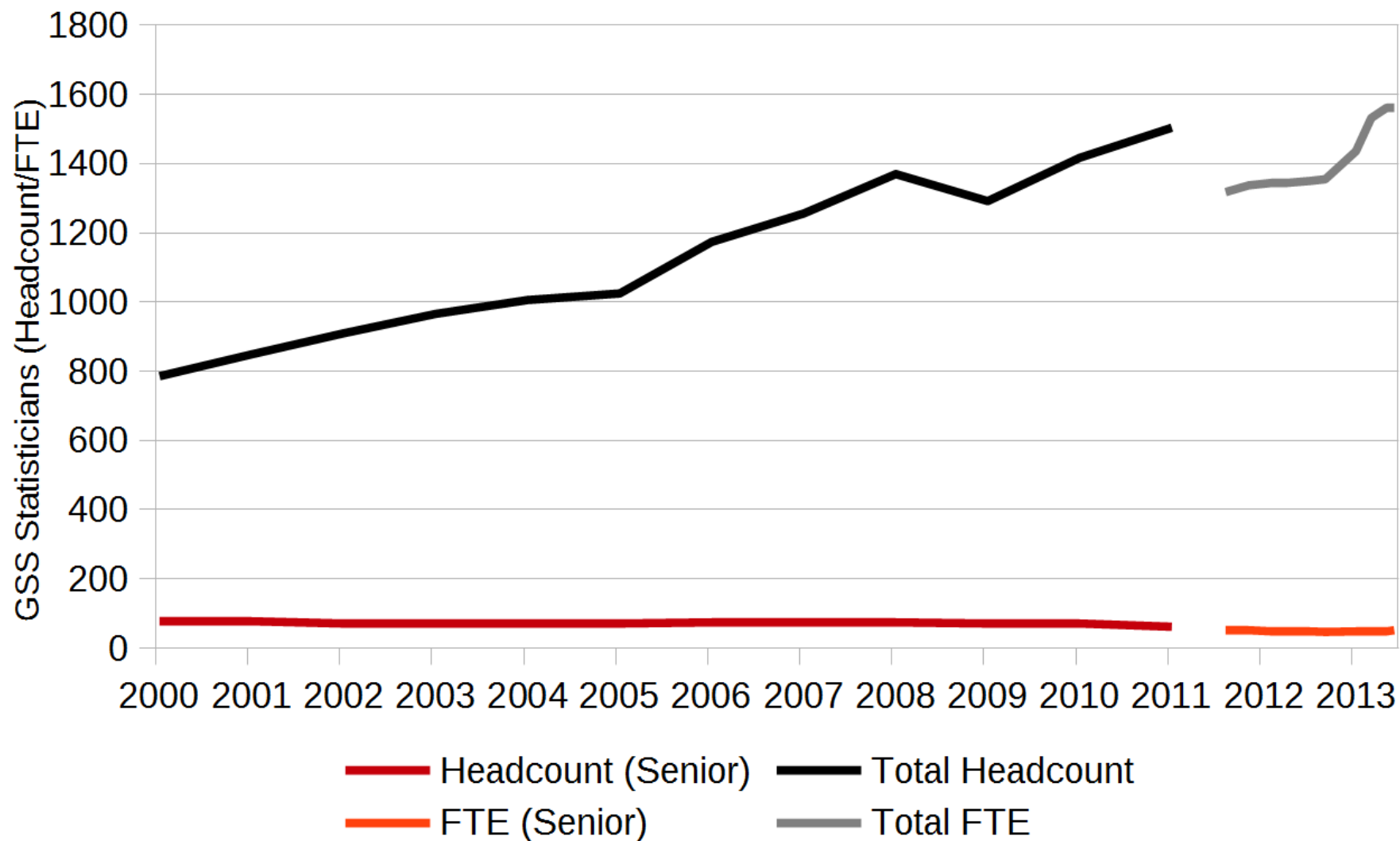


By (Statistical) Outputs?

Producer	2010	2011	2012	2013
ONS	217	230	179	185
HMRC	76	74	42	40
Communities	28	26	25	25
DWP	16	17	14	12
Welsh Govt	148	153	126	142
Scottish Govt	92	82	70	71
All others	508	554	476	498
<i>Total</i>	<i>1085</i>	<i>1136</i>	<i>932</i>	<i>973</i>

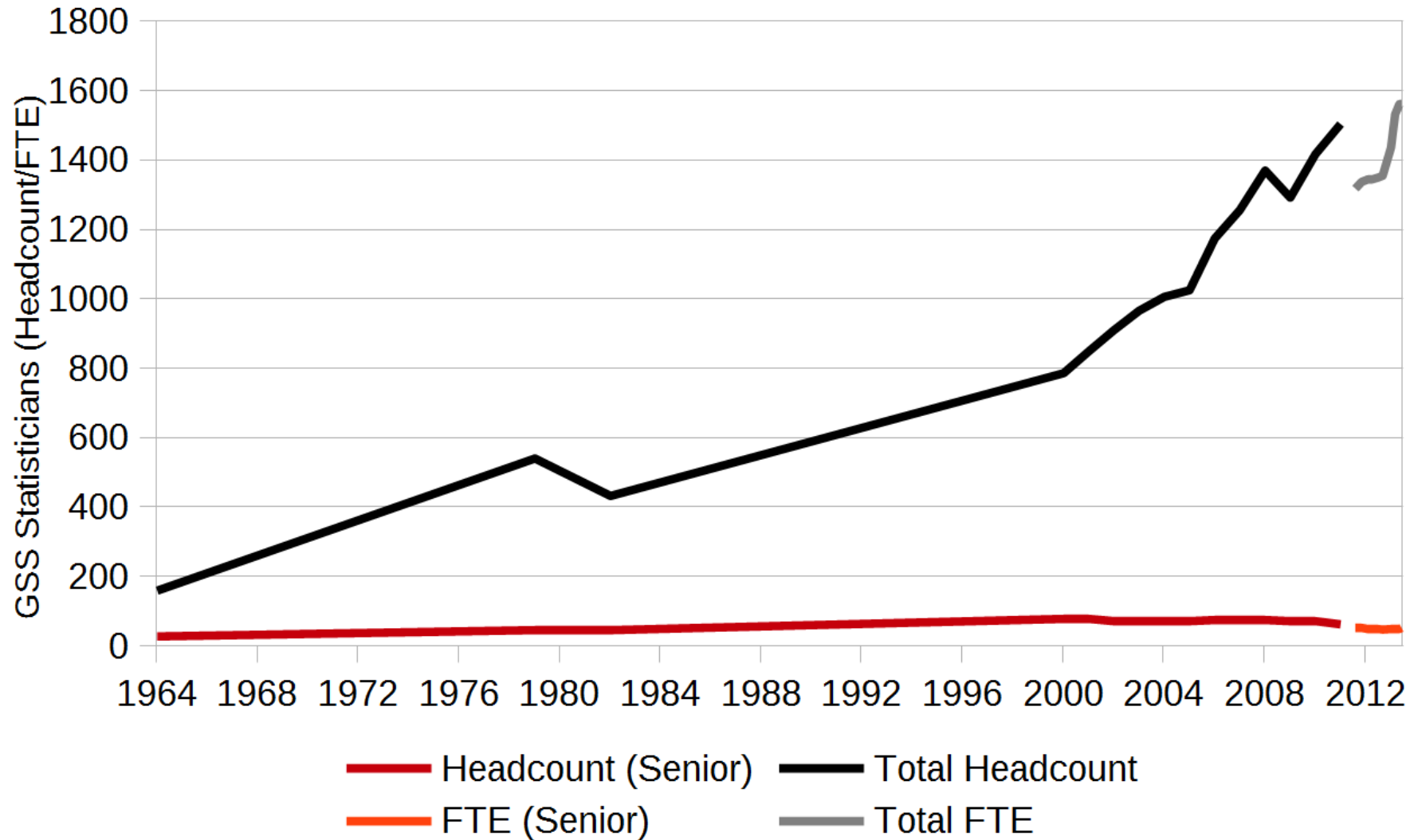
By Headcount?

Statisticians in the Govt Statistical Group



By Headcount – the long view...

Statisticians in the Govt Statistical Group



Interpretations, Explanations, Conclusions

Why the cuts to date might be moderate

- Legislative or treaty protection?
 - ◆ 80% of ONS outputs are required by UK or EU law
- General conversion to evidence-based policy?
- Better scrutiny and consultation mechanisms?
- NB – local government not considered here

Market-making with statistics

- Market organisation / decentralisation
 - ◆ Health, schools (Ozga)
- Private provision of public services
 - ◆ Labour market interventions, health, education
- Statistics indispensable
 - ◆ Market information
 - ◆ Pricing & valuation
 - ◆ Contract regulation

Implications for policy analysis

- Disappearance and discontinuity in data
- The de-legitimation of policy fields
 - ◆ E.g. neighbourhoods, regions
- The limits of transparency
 - ◆ What remains hidden? - commercial confidentiality
- Expertise and authority
 - ◆ Who will do transparency? - an “imagined public”
 - ◆ The role of expertise in measurement
- The future of large-scale enquiries
 - ◆ The future of the Census