

GENDER STATISTICS AND KEY INDICATORS OF WOMEN'S POSITION IN BRITAIN



Structure of the presentation

- ONS and WEU
- Key indicators research
- Review of gender statistics
- Future developments



The Women and Equality Unit

Working across Government and with others

- to reduce and remove barriers to equal opportunities
- to bring about measurable improvements in the position of women
- to ensure that there is clarity across Government about its equality objectives and that these objectives are achieved



Four main elements of WEU Research and Statistics

- A wide range of statistical briefing on gender issues
 - “Key Indicators of Women’s Position in Britain”
 - Quarterly WEU Gender Briefing
- close collaboration on gender research
- WEU commissioned research projects
- The Gender Research Forum (GRF)



Key Indicators of Women's Position in Britain

Main Stages

- to identify the areas the indicators should cover
- to identify relevant sources
- to select a range of accurate and meaningful statistical indicators
- to provide a baseline census of the key indicators
- to outline recent trends in these indicators
- to outline a schedule for up-dating the information



Key Indicators cover the following areas:

- Economic activity and employment
- Work-life balance
- Education and training
- Financial resources
- Participation in public life
- Health
- Crime
- Transport



Economic activity and employment

Women's economic activity rates

rose from 71% in 1990 to 72% in 2001.

Proportion working full-time

56% of women in employment worked full-time in 2001, compared with 57% in 1990.

Industrial breakdown of employment

Women are more likely than men to work in public administration, education and health and in distribution, hotels and catering.

Occupational breakdown of employment

8% of women worked in managerial/professional occupations in 2001, compared with 18% of men.



Up-dating the Key Indicators

The programme will most likely consist of the following elements:

- quarterly "WEU Gender Briefing" up-dating women's position in the labour market;
- an annual up-date census which will look at all key indicators and collect the most up-to-date information;
- a fuller appraisal (in a few years' time) which would also explore whether key indicators should be revised and/or extended, in line with changes in women's lives and society in general.



Gaps in availability and coverage of gender statistics

- lack of time series or systematic statistics
- paucity of available information in certain areas
- lack of longitudinal comparability



NS Quality review of official gender statistics in the UK

- To evaluate official statistics' coverage of gender, and more specifically statistics disaggregated by gender:
 - identify any missing areas in respect of gender disaggregated statistics
 - recommend ways to meet user needs by filling these gaps
 - ensure producers have the capability to oblige these user needs



Defining quality

7 components to quality

- completeness
- relevance
- accuracy
- timeliness
- accessibility
- comparability
- coherence



User consultation key results (1)

- 70% experienced problems with gender statistics
- mostly used for research, policy and education
- social welfare, education and training, labour market, and health and care



User consultation key results (2)

Priority	% users	Main quality criterion
Further breakdown of data	35%	Completeness
More accessibility	13%	Accessibility
More time series	11%	Comparability
More analysis	10%	Coherence
Up to date	8%	Timeliness
Methodology details	8%	Accessibility
Regional / international data	6%	Comparability
More statistics per se	6%	Completeness
Meaningful and relevant	2%	Relevance

