

# Social, industrial & occupational classification systems: useful sources of information.

Statisticians in the UK classify people, occupations and industries according to three main classifications, often known by their abbreviations, SIC, SEC and SOC.

Useful starting points for a comprehensive overview of classifications are available from the Office for National Statistics, a government agency and from the Question Bank, an academic site for social researchers :

## Office for National Statistics.

Information about classifications, including the 3 main classifications used in the UK, and also harmonization and geographies:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/index.html>

## Survey Question Bank

<http://survey.net.essex.ac.uk/sqb/qb/> Go to Resources > Survey measurement > Classifications

## INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATIONS.

Office for National Statistics. *UK Standard Industrial Classification of economic activities (SIC)*, 2003.

LIC Study Hall Reference Collection, Level 3. HF1041 NAT  
[SIC describes UK economic activities and products.]

There was a major revision of UK SIC in 2007 to bring it in line with the European Union's industrial classification system, NACE:

Office for National Statistics. *UK Standard Industrial Classification of economic activities 2007 (SIC 2007)*

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/sic/downloads/SIC2007explanatorynotes.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/SIC2007explanatorynotes.pdf)

## Other Industrial classifications used in the USA are:

US Census Bureau. *U.S. Standard Industrial Classification* [the 1987 version can be searched online on the website of the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) at <http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/sicser.html> ]

US Census Bureau. *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)*

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>

[NAICS has now replaced US-SIC in the USA. NAICS is used in the USA, Canada and Mexico]

Standard & Poor and Morgan Stanley Capital International. *Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)* available online at <http://www.msccibarra.com/products/gics/index.jsp>

Fama-French Industry Classification Codes, described in:

Fama, E.F. and French, K. R. 'Industry costs of equity'. *Journal of financial economics*, 1997, 43 (2): 153-93. [shelved at HG1.J573 and also online].

## Further reading

Bhojraj, S., Lee, C. M. C., and Oler, D. K., 'What's My Line? A comparison of Industry Classification Schemes for Capital Market Research'. *Journal of Accounting Research*, 2003, 41 (5): 745-775. [available on *Business Source Premier*]

Jones, G. 'Economic statistics and the Standard Industrial Classification 2003' *Economic Trends*, 593, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2003. [shelved at HA1.E15]

## OCCUPATIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

SOC and SEC describe the UK workforce and socio-economic positions in society. An individual's position in society may be determined by their income, housing, occupation or status in employment.

Office for National Statistics. *Standard Occupational Classification 2000*. (SOC2000). 2 volumes.

LIC Study Hall Reference Collection, Level 3. HT675 STA

Electronic versions available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/current/SOC2000/about-soc2000/index.html>

Office for National Statistics. *Socio-economic classification 2001 (NS-SEC)*.

[Replaces *Social Class based on Occupation* (SC, formerly Registrar General's Social Class) and Socio-economic Groups (SEG).]

Full text is available online at: [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/ns\\_sec/](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/)

### Other occupational classifications:

#### The Hope-Goldthorpe Scale

Goldthorpe, J. H. & Hope, K. *Social grading of occupations: a new approach and scale*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974. [shelved at HT675 GOL]

#### The Hall-Jones Scale

Hall, J. & Caradog Jones, D. (1950) 'Social grading of occupations', *British Journal of Sociology*, 1 (1), 31-55. [shelved at HM1.B47 and online through JSTOR]

#### The Cambridge Scale

Stewart, A., Prandy, K., and Blackburn, R.M. (1980) *Social stratification and occupations*. Macmillan, 1980. [shelved at HT675 STE]

### Further reading:

Institute for Social & Economic Research, including the European Socio-Economic Classification project.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/> and <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/esec/>

Rose, D. & Pevalin, D. J. *Researchers' guide to the National Statistics' Socio-economic classification*. Sage, 2003. [shelved at HT675 RES]

Rose, D & O'Reilly, K. *Constructing classes: towards a new social classification for the UK*. ESRC & ONS, 1997. [Shelved at HT675 CON, Folios, includes floppy disc]

Rose, D. & O'Reilly, K. *The ESRC review of government social classifications*. ONS & ESRC, 1998.

Folios HT675 ROS

Rose, D. and Pevalin, D.J.. *The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification: Unifying Official and Sociological Approaches to the Conceptualisation and Measurement of Social Class* (Working Paper 2001-04). ISER, 2001

31 page paper available as a .pdf document.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/iser/2001-04>