

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORTING FRAMEWORK 2008/09

Introduction

This is the fourth annual Economic Impact Reporting Framework published by the ESRC. These reports were implemented across all the Research Councils in 2005, and form part of the Economic Impact Framework managed by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. More information about the Economic Impact Framework can be found at: http://www.dius.gov.uk/science/science_funding/ten_year_framework

The ESRC's Framework should be read in conjunction with its 2008/09 Delivery Report <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/delivery-plan/> and its 2008/09 Annual Report <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/annual-report/> which provide a comprehensive summary of achievements over the period. The Framework contains data on selected aspects of ESRC's performance relevant to the Government's objectives for the UK science base: progress towards measuring the economic and societal impact of research, knowledge generation, investment in the research base and innovation, framework conditions and knowledge exchange. The Framework shows, where available, annual data for the period 2005/06 to 2008/09.

Highlights:

- *Overall economic impact* – the results reported this year demonstrate the very considerable economic impact of ESRC research, including central contributions to UK labour market policy, economic appraisal of environmental initiatives, the improved design of information and communication technologies, contributions to individual business performance through knowledge transfer activities and the development of new products and services. [metric 1]
- *Impact through high quality research* – the basis of ESRC's economic impact is its World-class research programme. Quality remains exceptionally high, with 32% of research projects rated 'outstanding' by independent reviewers this year (metric 2) and a continued increase in research output (metrics 4 and 5). The leading international position of UK social science is exemplified this year in Economics with a panel of eminent experts concluding that 'the research achievements of United Kingdom scholars are exceptional by World standards' (metric 3).
- *Impact through research infrastructure* – ESRC research resources are amongst the best in the World, and this year we report the successful introduction of the *Understanding Society* longitudinal study which will support economic impact through deeper analysis of important trends in UK society (metric 16).
- *Impact through research partnerships* – the Council achieves considerable impact through the co-production of research with users. This year's report shows the rapidly increasing number and value of research contracts with external partners (metric 28), the extended number of strategic partnerships (metric 37), and the growth in the number of co-funded research projects (metric 39) and the level of external co-funding (metric 40).
- *Impact through people exchange* – the Council's knowledge transfer activities continue to play a major role in generating economic impact. This year we report on the increased number of knowledge transfer partnership, collaborative studentships and awards (metric 43), and on some of the impacts of these investments (metrics 53, 54 55 & 56).

OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Economic impact in the social sciences applies to all sectors: public, private and voluntary. It embraces direct and often quantifiable economic benefits, wider impacts that benefit society more generally such as effects on the environment, public health or quality of life; and impacts on government policy, the third sector and professional practice. The Council creates and supports these impacts from: (i) the results of its collaborative research and knowledge exchange activities; (ii) people transfer between the research community and wider society; and (iii) the use of its data, information and methodologies by a wide-range of user communities.

The ESRC is committed to evaluating the economic and societal impact of its research. It has implemented a rigorous review programme to test and implement appropriate evaluation techniques through its impact study series. Results reported this year [metric 1] demonstrate the considerable and economically valuable impact of ESRC research on UK labour market policy, environmental initiatives and the improved design of information and communication technologies, as well as contributions to individual business performance through knowledge transfer activities and the development of new products and services.

Metric		Data	Comments
1	Economic Impact Evaluations	<p>2006/07</p> <p>In 2006 the “Warry” Economic Impact Group reported to OSI on how the Research Councils could deliver and demonstrate they are delivering a major increase in the economic impact of their investments. In response, the Councils have commissioned three studies, including case studies on the economic impact of selected RC investments, which will report later in 2007.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>The Council collaborated with RCUK partners on a commissioned project to analyse the economic impact of all the Research Councils. This included case studies of the ESRC’s Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and the Council’s Advanced Institute for Management Research (AIM). The project report concluded that::</p> <p>(i) “CASE research... enabled government to make better policy... and has been one of the key drivers supporting multi-million pound</p>	<p>The Council reports here on its work to evaluate the economic and societal impact of its research. This is a developing area of evaluation practice and the Council is working with RCUK partners and a range of specialist evaluators to test and implement appropriate techniques.</p> <p>The ESRC’s impact studies series is testing and implementing methods of identifying research impact which can help to nullify the well-known problems of attribution, time-lags and multiple influences on economic and other</p>

		<p>government policies to try and tackle social exclusion, such as the Sure Start programme, anti-social behaviour measures, health initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy and family tax credits.”</p> <p>(ii) AIM has had a direct impact on “the quality and accessibility of management research in the UK, providing government with an accessible body of expertise, developing extensive networks with business schools, and helping encourage innovative practices within industry, including 36% of the FTSE 100...”</p> <p>The ESRC has published the first results from its own impact studies series. The results of the impact study of the ESRC’s Centre for Business Research can be viewed at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_CBR_tcm8-4557.pdf</p> <p>The study revealed the Centre’s impact on UK labour policy, including the national minimum wage, and the widespread impact of its Small & Medium Enterprises Survey which has: informed Government policy on the provision of management training for small firms, been used by a commercial bank to shape credit policy and led to commissioned work for a range of private and public sector clients.</p> <p>The review of the Council’s Future of Work Programme can be downloaded from the Council’s website at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Case_Study_of_the_Future_of_Work_Programme_Volume_1_tcm8-4561.pdf</p> <p>The report shows how research supported by the Programme influenced Government policy on helping women return to the workplace after childbirth and employment relation, and informed the work of the Low Pay Commission.</p>	<p>decision-making. The series has supported the trial of different approaches by different evaluation teams, with each study being framed within robust conceptual frameworks that reflect the non-linear nature of research impact. Lessons from the completed studies are influencing the ways in which the ESRC commissions and manages its research portfolio, and the methodological approaches have been endorsed by leading experts in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>Further results from the impact study programme are published this year together with the Council’s ‘Taking Stock’ report that summarises all results to date.</p> <p>The Council has also piloted and introduced new approaches to the valuation of economic impact and has launched the first full-scale reviews as part of its 2009 evaluation programme. Results from this work will be included in next year’s Framework report.</p>
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		<p>The Council also completed the first-phase of work to develop a programme of economic impact case-studies which will form part of its wider portfolio of impact evaluations. This has produced an economic impact framework with associated analytical techniques, details of which can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/tools-and-resources/impact-evaluation/economic-impact-reporting.aspx</p> <p>The economic impact framework is currently being pilot tested on two major ESRC investments and the results of that work will be published in next year's EIRF.</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>The Council has continued to review the economic and societal impact of its research programme. As part of this work, further ESRC impact case studies have been completed. These have demonstrated considerable impact from two major ESRC investments:</p> <p>(i) the influence of the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) has been felt across UK government for the past ten years. The Centre pioneered the development of environmental economic evaluation in which it is an international leader and was commissioned in 2002 to write the (then) Department for Transport's official manual 'Economic Valuation with Stated Preference Techniques'. The manual is now the recognised guide for undertaking valuation research in Whitehall. CSERGE research has also had a direct economic impact on environmental policy. For example, CSERGE's valuation of the externalities from land-filling and incineration provided the basis for UK Landfill-Tax legislation, and it devised a cost-benefit approach to quantifying noise values that was used by the Department for Transport to help assess road-building schemes. More recently, CSERGE economic assessments have been used by the UK Government in its negotiations with the European Commission over the EU</p>	
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		<p>Bathing Water Directive, and by the UK's Environment Agency to provide cost-benefit analyses of Water Company investment plans.</p> <p>(ii) the People at the Centre of Information & Communication Technologies Programme (PACCIT) is an example of the co-production model of research that is an increasingly important part of the ESRC's portfolio. Teams from academia and industry combined under the Programme to investigate ways of designing more efficient ICT systems by matching the ways in which people use the technology. Impacts to date include a spin-out company, a commercialised software product used in 200 schools and a working prototype for an innovative educational tool.</p> <p>The Council also conducted a trial of economic valuation techniques with a view to incorporating these into its evaluation system where appropriate. This included an assessment of the impact of ESRC Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) on the UK Government's National Minimum Wage (NMW) policy. The results show that CEP research was critical in the development phase in countering the view that the NMW would have substantial employment effects. And after the policy was introduced CEP research was critical to informing the Low Pay Commission on the appropriate level of the NMW and to its recommendation that the Wage should be increased above the level of inflation over the four-year period 2003-06. Frontier Economics Ltd has calculated the total wage-bill impact of the NMW at about £1.2 billion, and that, on a conservative estimate of a 2% CEP contribution to this gross benefit, the Centre's contribution can be valued at about £24m. This level of contribution, on just one of the many policies to which the CEP has contributed, is well above the public investment in the Centre as a whole.</p> <p>The ESRC's people placement schemes have continued to generate economic impact in a range of host institutions. One example is the work of a placement fellow from Liverpool John Moores University working with</p>	
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		<p>Alternative Futures Group, a large charity that provides support, care and accommodation for people with complex learning disabilities and enduring mental health challenges. The project developed an improved ITC infrastructure, capable of providing more effective organisation-wide communication and a better customer relationship system. The project has saved AFG £40,000 per year on ICT contracts usually issued to a third-party supplier and, by improving its branding and providing new multimedia channels, has positioned it for future growth.</p> <p>The Council's increasing engagement with UK businesses is producing important economic impacts. An example is the project between Arriva Passenger Services Limited and Cranfield University, sponsored by the ESRC and TSB and covering three inter-related activities: a psychometric assessment of bus drivers, designing a simulator to train new bus drivers; and embedding a culture of safety at bus depots. The project made a significant economic impact. For example, over a £1 million reduction in insurance claims, a reduction in staff turnover from 24% to 20% and a decline in absenteeism from 6.1% to 4.5%. The work had a further impact beyond the project. Cranfield University has set up a new company, DriverMetrics, to exploit the commercial benefits of the project's Bus Driver Risk Index, a psychometric assessment of how bus drivers react in challenging situations.</p>	
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KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The results published this year show that the quality of ESRC research remains exceptionally high, with 32% of research projects rated ‘outstanding’ by independent reviewers (metric 2) and the number of outputs from ESRC research continues to rise (metrics 4 and 5). More generally, UK Social science is making a strong international impact, exemplified this year in Economics where an independent panel of international experts concluded that ‘the research achievements of United Kingdom scholars are exceptional by World standards’ (metric 3).

Metric	Data	Comments
2	<p>The quality of ESRC research</p> <p>2005/06 Outstanding: 27% Good: 68% Problematic: 5% Unacceptable: 0%</p> <p>2006/07 Outstanding: 29% Good: 68% Problematic 3% Unacceptable 0%</p> <p>2007/08 Outstanding: 30% Good: 67% Problematic 3% Unacceptable 0%</p> <p>2008/09 Outstanding: 32% Good: 65% Problematic 3% Unacceptable 0%</p>	<p>Expert analysis has shown that current bibliometric data are not a sufficiently robust measure of the impact of most social science disciplines. For this reason the Council is reporting evaluation grades for the work it funds. These grades reflect the results of independent peer review of end of award reports and are defined as follows:</p> <p>Outstanding: High quality work making an exceptional research contribution Good: Good quality work making a strong research contribution Problematic: Work of an acceptable quality but with weaknesses in some areas Unacceptable: Poorly conducted research with unreliable results</p>

3	The relative quality of UK social science research.	<p>2006/07 The Council has established a series of international benchmarking reviews to assess the standing of UK Social Science. A review of Social Anthropology research was completed this year and a panel of leading international scholars assessed the discipline in the UK as a World leader in 14 important areas, producing ‘excellent research: innovative, widely read and used, drawing very effectively on classical strengths of the field in addressing emergent questions of critical scholarly and applied significance (and, in so doing, transforming the ways in which the field works)’. The Panel’s full report is available on the Council’s web site at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Int_benchmarking_social_anthropology_tcm8-4555.pdf</p> <p>2007/08 A review of UK Political Science and International Studies was completed this year. The international panel concluded that there is ‘truly outstanding research in the UK profession...’ with key strengths in political theory, electoral studies, international studies, European Union studies, security studies, political economy, public policy and administration and some aspects of area studies. The Panel’s report is available on the Council’s website at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/International%20benchmarking%20review%20-%20Politics%20and%20International%20studies_tcm8-4554.pdf</p> <p>2008/09 This year the ESRC and the Royal Economic Society co-sponsored an international benchmarking review of UK Economics. The International Panel of leading experts concluded that ‘the research</p>	The Council reports here on work it is undertaking to benchmark the international quality of UK Social Science. Bibliometric data is used where appropriate as part of the evidence of international impact.
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		<p>achievements of United Kingdom scholars are exceptional by World standards; the UK economics profession is more prominent than any other country's except for the United States [and] has been very influential in a number of important fields, such as labour economics, public economics and economic development, and it has attained World leadership in microeconometrics. The Panel's report is available on the Council's website at:</p> <p>http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Int_benchmarking_economics_tcm8-4552.pdf</p>	
4	The number of publications arising each year from ESRC research.	<p>2005 = 4695 2006 = 4876 2007 = 5265 2008 = 6543</p>	The ESRC's Society Today database records all publications produced during the award period, and captures post-award publications on a voluntary submission basis. The numbers of outputs notified in 2006 are reported here
5	Publications per annum in relation to ESRC's priorities.	<p>2006 = 3024 2007 = 3527 2008 = 4449</p>	We report here the number of outputs in 2008 arising from ESRC's directive-mode investments.
6	The number of publications per £M of ESRC funding.	<p>2002 = 89 2003 = 72 2004 = 70 2005 = 108</p>	We report this year the total number of outputs recorded to date from ESRC awards that ended in 2005. This date allows for the inevitable time-gap between research and publication.

INVESTMENT IN THE RESEARCH BASE

The UK's social science research base is generally strong and the Council continues to make important strategic investments to maintain the strong academic performance reported above. This includes the continued targeted support for specific areas of social science research in which the need to bolster capacity has been identified (metric 11). This section also highlights the ESRC's excellent Ph.D. submission rates (metric 7) and the high and increasing number of these students obtaining academic appointments (metric 8).

Newly trained people			
7	The proportion of ESRC funded PhD theses submitted within four years.	<p>2005/06 ESRC Submission Rates Survey</p> <p>4 year submission = 82%</p> <p>5 year submission = 82%</p> <p>6 year submission = 87%</p> <p>2006/07 ESRC Submission Rates Survey</p> <p>4 year submission = 80%</p> <p>5 year submission = 84%</p> <p>6 year submission = 86%</p> <p>2007/08 ESRC Submission Rates Survey</p> <p>4 year submission = 79%</p> <p>5 year submission = 84%</p> <p>6 year submission = 88%</p> <p>2008/09 ESRC Submission Rates Survey</p> <p>4 year submission = 83%</p> <p>5 year submission = 85%</p> <p>6 year submission = 87%</p>	ESRC's annual survey provides data on 4, 5 and 6 year submission rates.
8	The proportion of	2005/06 Permanent UK appointments	In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to

	<p>ESRC funded students recorded to be in permanent and temporary academic posts by the Joint Council first destination survey.</p>	<p>2001 = 34% Temporary UK appointments 2001 = 27% Further training 2001 = 3%</p> <p>2006/07 Higher Education appointments 2005 = 47% Further training 2005 = 17%</p> <p>2007/08 Higher Education appointments 2005 = 51% Further training 2005 = 15%</p> <p>2008/09 Higher Education appointments 2007 = 63% Further training 2007 = 4%</p>	<p>collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used. However the HESA data classifications are different from those of the previous ESRC first destination survey so the categories do not map onto those used previously. For 2007/08 the classification structure is consistent with that used for the 2006/07 returns meaning the data is more reliable. For 2008/09, the Further Training category does not include in school teaching or teaching training.</p> <p>The Research Councils are also working together to obtain better information on the career paths followed by those who have completed research studies, to contribute to the evidence of outcomes from investments in research training and the impact of research graduates. An analysis of options for the collection of information relating to UK Doctoral Graduates reported in April 2008. Following the recommendation of the report, data will be gathered through an enhancement of HESA's survey of the destinations of leavers of higher education (DLHE), seeking responses from all the research graduates who responded to the 2005 DLHE survey, (shortly after their graduation). This will build a picture of their career path roughly 3 ½ years after graduation.</p>
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			<p>The detailed results of the study will be reported next year. The analysis will also inform future phases of the study as it follows doctoral graduates' career paths over a number of years.</p> <p>In addition to HESA reports, the Research Councils will commission analysis to inform the higher education sector, policy development and graduates' decisions about their career options and this will be available in Autumn 2009.</p>
9	ESRC studentship awards by gender and ethnic origin	<p>2005/06</p> <p>(i) Award offers by gender in 2005 = 56% female; 44% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2005 = 60% White UK/Irish 20% White European 2% White Other 3% Asian 1% Black 2% mixed race/other 11% Not provided</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>(i) Award offers by gender in 2006 = 54% female; 46% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2006 = 66% White UK/Irish</p>	

		<p>22% White European 2% White Other 3% Asian 1% Black 2% mixed race/other 4% Not provided</p> <p>2007/08 (i) Award offers by gender in 2007 = 55% female; 45% male</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2007 = 67% White UK/Irish 18% White European 1% White Other 2% Asian 1% Black 2% mixed race/other 9% Not provided</p> <p>2008/09 (i) Award offers by gender in 2008 = 55% female; 44% male, 1% undisclosed.</p> <p>(ii) Offers by ethnic origin in 2009 = 68.3% White UK/Irish 23.2% White Other (including European) 2.5% Asian 0.5% Chinese</p>	
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		0.9% Black 2.4% mixed race/other 2% Not provided	
10	The annual number of new ESRC studentship awards.	2005/06 New awards in 2005 = 740 2006/07 New awards in 2006 = 791 2007/08 New awards in 2007 = 743 2008/09 New awards in 2008 = 686	A total of 686 new studentships have been funded to start in October 2008. This represents a decrease of 57 studentships (8%) on 2007/08. This is due both to a reduction in the level of studentship quotas introduced in 2007, reflecting pressures on the ESRC's budget, and the back loading of the quota awards across the three year allocation from 2008 onwards.
11	The rate of change in the number of PhD awards in ESRC's priority areas.	2005/06 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 50 Statistics = 13 Socio-Legal Studies = 11 Economics = 58 2006/07 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 56 Statistics = 19	These figures show the quota and standard competition studentships awarded for the 2006/2007 academic year in the areas identified as priorities for the period 2005-2008 in ESRC's 2005 Delivery Plan.

		<p>Socio-Legal Studies = 18 Economics = 74 Social Work = 17 Advanced Quantitative Methods = 37</p> <p>2007/08 Standard studentship awards in: Management = 65 Statistics = 29 Socio-Legal Studies = 32 Economics = 81 Social Work = 15 Advanced Quantitative Methods = 44</p> <p>2008/09 Advanced Quantitative Methods = 39 Area Studies = 72 Economics = 73 Education = 55 Management and Business Studies = 68 Socio-Legal Studies = 21 Social Work = 15 Statistics = 20</p>	
12	The average cost of an ESRC studentship award.	<p>2005/06 = £14,000 2006/07 = £16,000 2007/08 = £16,400 2008/09 = £18,000</p>	The average cost of a studentship award has risen this year because of the introduction of enhanced stipends in economics and advanced quantitative methods and a larger number of awards made through collaborative schemes, CASE and Government Schemes, where the Council also pays a higher stipend.

Trained people		
13	The number of academic staff in UK social science departments.	<p>2004/05 = 28,365</p> <p>2005/06 The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council planes to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07 See above</p> <p>2008/09 See above</p>
14	Age profiles of academics in leading research departments by discipline.	<p>2004/05 The proportions of staff over the age of 45 in leading research departments are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychology (29%) Town & Country Planning (40%) Geography (32%) Law (43%) Anthropology (47%) Economics & Econometrics (37%) Politics & International Relations (38%) Social Policy & Administration (51%) Social Work (65%) Sociology (52%) Business and Management. (43%) Accountancy (47%)

		<p>Middle East and African (63%) Asian Studies (64%) Linguistics (52%) Communications, Culture & Media Studies (53%) Education (62%)</p> <p>2005/06 The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council plans to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07 See above.</p> <p>2008/09 See above.</p>	
15	The number of academic staff in HEI's in each social science discipline.	<p>2004/05 Psychology = 2884* Town & Country Planning = 658 Geography = 1678* Law = 2507* Anthropology = 309 Economics & Econometrics = 1439 Politics & International = 1364 Social Policy & Administration = 1663 Social Work = 742 Sociology = 1371</p>	

	<p>Business & Management St. = 5767 Accountancy = 768 Middle East and African = 149 Asian Studies = 161 Linguistics = 569* Communications, Culture & Media Studies = 1187 Education = 5202</p> <p>* NB. This figure includes all academic staff within the discipline, not only those classed as social scientists.</p> <p>2005/06 The Council reported last year on the number of trained academic staff in social science departments. This indicator is not sensitive to significant year-on year- changes so the Council planes to report the numbers at five-yearly intervals.</p> <p>2006/07 See above.</p> <p>2008/09 See above.</p>	
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FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

The ESRC's research resources provide UK social scientists with essential tools to analyse economic and social issues. These resources are amongst the best in the World and this year we report the successful introduction of *Understanding Society* which will open exciting new opportunities to analyse trends in the UK economy and society (metric 16). The Council is expanding the public engagement of its research programme through its engagement with schools and the wider public, including the publication and sales of its very successful *Britain in 2009* magazine (metric 21). The ESRC's Festival of Social Science continues to be an important vehicle for discussing the impact and contribution of the social sciences with a wide variety of people, and over 5000 attended this year's event (metric 21). The success of the Council's increased emphasis on research partnerships and co-production research is reflected in the increasing number and value of research contracts with external partners (metric 28).

Framework Conditions: research resources			
16	Qualitative assessments of ESRC research resource investments.	<p>2005/06 In 2003/04, international reviewers described our longitudinal studies as 'world class datasets that are increasingly being used throughout the world to answer key policy questions'. An international review in 2006 of the Council's E-Social Science Programme described it as 'transformational' and at the international leading edge.</p> <p>2006/07 The British Election Study has taken place at each general election since 1964. In 2006 an independent review commented that the Survey 'is widely regarded as the gold-standard survey within British political science' and that its 'data are used by a variety of stakeholders: British and international academics, journalists and government bodies'.</p> <p>The Workplace Employee Relations Survey is jointly sponsored by the DTI, ACAS, PSI and the ESRC. In January 2007 an independent review found that 'WERS data have been widely used, both by the</p>	It is difficult to capture the standing of the Council's strategic facilities in a single metric, and qualitative judgments provide a better guide to the UK's international position. The ESRC will continue to benchmark the quality of its research resources against international standards.

		<p>co-sponsors and by academics at all levels. Studies based on the series have deeply illuminated our understanding of changes in industrial relations in Britain over recent decades’.</p> <p>2007/08 Independent evaluations have underlined the quality and international impact of ESRC’s data resources:</p> <p>(i) A review of the ESRC Qualitative Data Archiving and Data Sharing Scheme (Quads) found that the scheme had supported major advances in ethical standards and procedures for longitudinal participatory research. Major achievements included: the creation of a set of exemplars, advances in using and applying metadata, and use of natural language processing technology to develop tools for semi-automating digital archiving of qualitative data.</p> <p>(ii) A review of ESRC’s Centre for Longitudinal Studies concluded that the Council’s Birth Cohort Studies are a national treasure held in the highest regard by the international research community</p> <p>(iii) A review of ESRC’s UK Longitudinal Studies Centre concluded that the British Household Panel Survey is a valuable national research resource recognised around the world.</p> <p>2008/09 This year the Council’s major new <i>Understanding Society</i> study underwent an Initial Review by an independent panel of assessors. The Panel noted that the establishment of Understanding Society ‘represents a considerable achievement’ and its successful</p>	
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		implementation at this early stage will ensure ‘a much better understanding of peoples’ lives and diversity of experiences over time and across generations.’	
17	The value of ESRC support for new research resources.	2005/06 = £5.2m 2006/07= £12.2m 2007/08 = £23.8m 2008/09 = £16.8m	<p>We report here the ESRC’s investment in the acquisition, collection and exploitation of major new datasets. In 2008/09, these included the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Resources Network • Secure Data Service • Administrative Data Liaison Service • National Centre for Research Methods Nodes • National Centre for e-Social Science Nodes • Welsh Institute for Social and Economic Research <p>The apparent fall in investment this year reflects the fact that the significant investment from the Large Facilities Capital Fund for <i>Understanding Society</i> (12.5m) was included in the 2007/08 figures.</p>
18	The change in the proportion of ESRC expenditure dedicated to research resources.	2005/06 = 10.3% 2006/07= 11% 2007/08 = 9.5% 2008/09 = 10.4%	This figure shows the proportion of ESRC’s expenditure that is dedicated to research resources and facilities.

19	The level of usage of ESRC research resources.	<p>2005/06 Registered users in 2004/05 = 20,279 Datasets Delivered in 2004/05 = 35,484</p> <p>2006/07 Total active registered users in 2005/06= 46,682 Datasets delivered in 2005/06 = 49,169</p> <p>2007/08 Total active registered users in 2006/07= 47,635 Datasets delivered in 2006/07 = 47,934</p> <p>2008/09 Total active registered users in 2007/08 = 46,304 Datasets delivered in 2007/08 = 48,580</p>	<p>We report here on the number of users registering to access the datasets available from the ESRC's principal data facility, the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), and the number of unique datasets delivered to users.</p> <p>The past year has seen a decline in the number of registered users for the first time since ESDS was established in 2003 – a drop of 7% from the previous year. Overall, however, the number of active registered users within the year remained broadly the same.</p> <p>The number of data collections disseminated during 07/08 is slightly up on the previous year – so despite a slight drop in registered users, data delivery has increased.</p> <p>It should be noted that the figures reported here do not include usage through the online data browsing and analysis systems via the Beyond 20/20 for international macro datasets and Nesstar. If these were included then the figures would be:</p> <p>2005/06 Datasets delivered = 140,381 2006/07 Datasets delivered = 163,102 2007/08 Datasets delivered = 171,162</p>
20	The level of co-funding by business and	<p>2005/2006 = £2.01m 2006/07 = £1.9m 2007/08 = £1.4m</p>	<p>We report here the co-funding received by ESRC from business and government agencies to support major data infrastructure and</p>

	government agencies of ESRC's research resources.	2008/09 = £1.5m	facilities. It should be noted that the level of co-funding can vary significantly between years. This is due to the timing of fieldwork for major surveys and the method of data collection used by each wave.
Framework Conditions: public engagement			
21	The number of ESRC interactions focused on public participation and engagement	<p>2005/06 Attendance at social science week events in 2006 was around 4,000. Attendance at the annual debates was 300; Attendance at the ESRC event at the BA festival (Dublin) was 150.</p> <p>2006/07 Attendance at festival of social science events in 2007 was around 4,800. Attendance at the annual debates was 405. Attendance at the ESRC event at the BA festival (Norwich) was 70.</p> <p>2007/08 The total number of attendees is estimated at around 9,400, including 4,600 people who participated in the great land use debate.</p> <p>The ESRC has also worked with other Councils through the RCUK</p>	

	<p>Science in Society Unit to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest significantly in supporting public engagement within HEIs through the development of the Beacons for Public Engagement scheme (£9.2M over four years, in collaboration with the funding councils and the Wellcome Trust). This initiative will pilot ways to improve reward, recognition and support for academics undertaking public engagement. 2. Fund a range of initiatives including public dialogue, national school enrichment schemes which support the DCSF STEM programme objectives such as Researchers in Residence, and joint activity at science and arts festivals to open up RC-funded work to a broader audience. <p>2008/09 Over 5000 people attended the ESRC's Festival of Social Science. The Festival featured 100 events held in 40 different locations in the UK. To communicate and share information about social science and the ways in which it impacts on UK economy and society.</p> <p>The Council continued to engage with schools and young people through the development of briefs for A-level teachers on thematic research areas. and facts and figures of the UK in At A Glance.</p> <p>The Council also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) continued its support for the RCUK Researchers in Residence Scheme, which places PhD and post doctoral researchers in secondary schools across the UK. (ii) ran its second Open Meeting at which attendees were invited to 	
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		<p>suggest priorities for the Council's new Strategic Plan (2009-14). Attendees came from a range of backgrounds including government, businesses and the media.</p> <p>(iii) published <i>Britain in 2009</i> to showcase the diversity and relevance of ESRC research. The magazine has a circulation of 32,000 of which 16,500 were sold through high street retailers.</p> <p>The ESRC has continued to work with other Research Councils through the RCUK Public Engagement with Research (PER) Team to fund £2.4 million of public engagement initiatives in 2008/09. Our joint vision is to enable society to value and have confidence in research processes and outputs and to lead a broad spectrum of public engagement activity that has research and researchers at its heart.</p> <p>During 2008/09 the PER Team has ensured public engagement adds benefit and impact to the cross-Council priority theme programme plans; information on what people think has contributed toward Research Council policy and research strategy development within these themes. Two cross-Council themes have received RCUK funding for public engagement in 2008/09.</p> <p>We fund a range of initiatives which support both the 5-19 Department for Children, Schools and Families STEM programme objectives and researchers who wish to carry out public engagement with young people and the schools sector. Our policy focus in this area has developed significantly in the last year, and is now changing from providing unique support and opportunity for teachers and young people to additionally ensuring support to our researchers in terms of their own skills development. A resource for the research community will be the first major output of this policy development</p>	
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		<p>in 2009.</p> <p>The Research Councils also continue to invest significantly in encouraging researchers to engage with the public through the Beacons for Public Engagement initiative (£9.2m over four years with the funding councils and the Wellcome Trust). The scheme has established six university-based collaborative centres and a National Coordinating Centre to support, recognise, reward and build capacity for public engagement within HEIs. RCUK along with other funders are now considering the legacy of this pilot programme and ways of further embedding public engagement in the HE sector.</p> <p>RCUK has also been compiling an evidence base which demonstrates the benefits that undertaking public engagement can have for researchers and their research. A publication aimed at the research community will be published in 2009.</p> <p>RCUK PER team has also led on joint activity at a science and art festivals in the UK (e.g. Cheltenham Science Festival). The RCUK PER funded Darwin Today exhibition, led by BBSRC, is currently touring the UK and will have been to over 30 venues (such as science festivals, cathedrals, schools and museums) by the end of Darwin Year 2009 (potentially reaching over 60,000 people). The PER has also contributed funding to the BIS Science: So What? So everything! Campaign.</p>	
22	Evaluate the quality of interaction focused on public participation	<p>2005/06</p> <p>An independent evaluation of ESRC's 2006 social science week concluded that it was '... a resounding success. The Week achieved all of its objectives, made a positive contribution to ESRC's science communication and science and society objectives, and delivered good value for money'. Feedback is also obtained from participants</p>	

	<p>and engagement</p>	<p>in the ESRC's annual debates that take place in November.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>An independent evaluation of the 2007 Festival concluded that it had fully achieved all of its key objectives and had delivered excellent value for money. A total of 76 events were held across the UK (an increase of 33% on last year) with the number of participants estimated as in excess of 4,600 (an increase of more than 20% on last year). The geographical spread of events was much improved, and for the first time events were staged in every one of the English regions, as well as in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over 90% of participants stated that they had learned something new at their event, with two-thirds gaining an increased understanding of the social sciences and the benefits research brings to society, and almost three-quarters gaining a better understanding of ESRC and its work.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>The independent evaluation report on the 2008 Festival of Social Science concluded that the Festival was 'a resounding success':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% of attendees stated that the event had raised their general awareness of the social sciences, slightly up on last year (63%) • 76% of attendees stated that the event had raised their awareness of the ESRC and its work, slightly up on last year (72%) • 66% of attendees stated that the event had raised their awareness of the benefits that social science brings to society, slightly up on last year (61%), • 63% of attendees planned to use information from the event. <p>In addition, the Research Councils worked collectively through the</p>	
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		<p>RCUK SIS unit to deliver the third UK Public Attitudes to Science Survey (funded by DIUS) which was published in January 2008 and provides valuable trend data about what the public thinks about science, scientists and science policy. For the first time, attitudes towards social science were also examined.</p> <p>2008/09 The independent evaluation of the 2009 ESRC Festival of Social Science is currently being conducted and will be released July 2009. It will be published at http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/about.aspx</p>	
23	The number of researchers trained in media and public engagement skills	<p>2005-06 = 225 2006/07 = 257 2007/08 = 246 2008/09 = 154</p>	
Framework Conditions: financial sustainability			
24	The amount spent on new initiatives and schemes	<p>2005/06 = £2.02m 2006/07 = £6.373m 2007/08 = £8.94m 2008/09 = £7.75m</p>	<p>The figures shown here reflect ESRC's re-prioritisation of programme spend to new research areas, and are also reported through the RCUK Efficiency Delivery Project.</p> <p>2008/09 The RCUK efficiency project targets have been revised and the figure reported here exceeds the ESRC's 2008/09 target</p>

25	Investment in grants involving researchers from more than one discipline	2006/07 = 632 Awards with expenditure of £34.7m 2007/08 = 1,025 Awards with expenditure of £53m 2008/09 = 1,004 Awards with expenditure of £59.4m	
26	Funding of programmes focused on a multi-disciplinary area or designed to promote multi-disciplinary research or training	2006/07 = £47.7m 2007/08 = £49.1m 2008/09 = £56.2m	
27	Funding of cross-Council programmes	2006/07 = £1.3m 2007/08 = £1.8m 2008/09 = £2.6m	
28	The number and value of research contracts	2005/06 = 270 awards and expenditure of £22m 2006/07 = 260 awards and expenditure of £29m 2007/08 = 295 awards and expenditure of £37m 2008/09 = 276 awards and expenditure of £45m	These data show the number and total value of ESRC's research contracts involving collaboration with other research councils and non social science co-funders.

	involving other research councils and other non-social science funders.		
29	ESRC's annual budget	2005/06 = £135.5m 2006/07 = £163.3m 2007/08 = £184.1m 2008/09 = £196.4m	The figure shown here is ESRC's total expenditure, including non science-budget funding. Science budget funding in 2008/09 was £ 166.1m.
30	Savings made in the proportion of expenditure attributable to administration costs.	2005/06 = £0.4m 2006/07 = £0.4m 2007/08 = £0.6m 2008/09 = £0.05m	The data presented here are also reported though the RCUK Efficiency Delivery Project. 2008/09 The RCUK efficiency project targets have been revised and the figure reported meets the ESRC's 2008/09 Target.
31	Survey assessment of academic user confidence in the Research	2005/06 RCUK conducted a survey of university researchers and administrators across the UK which showed that a very substantial majority believe that the Councils' grant application administration and peer review processes are excellent or good. The Joint Electronic Submission System is believed to have made the grant application process more efficient, particularly in reducing time and paperwork and enabling the	

	Councils	<p>development of collaborative proposals.</p> <p>2006/07 The Council surveyed Professors in 5* Departments in six major disciplines about its funding opportunities. The general response was positive and supportive while highlighting differences between disciplines. Further details are available on the Council's web site.</p> <p>2007/08 No new survey carried out in 2007-08. We will be consulting the social science community about future priorities during 2008-09</p> <p>2008/09 The Council carried out an extensive written consultation to inform its strategic priorities for 2009-2014. Of the 144 responses received: 74% were submitted by academic users in the form of Learned Societies, research institutions and individual academics. Responses to the consultation indicated high levels of satisfaction and confidence in ESRC's performance in delivering its strategic objectives. Most respondents were positive about ESRC's achievements and believed that the objectives were still relevant and should continue into the next period with an increased emphasis on maximising impact across the Council's portfolio.</p>	
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KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE EFFICIENCY

The following data illustrate some of the ESRC's work to promote and support knowledge exchange. The Council is increasing its engagement with the business sector and the progress being made in this area is exemplified by the increasing number of events targeted at that audience (metric 38) and the start of the new Business Placement Fellows Scheme (metrics 44 & 45). The continued success of the Council's strategy to establish co-production partnerships with research users is reflected in the increasing level of external co-funding for its research and training programmes (metrics 34 & 40) and its expanding number of concordats with strategic partners (metric 37). The Council's knowledge transfer activities continue to play a major role in generating economic impact in all sectors of the economy, and this year we report on the increased number of knowledge transfer partnerships, collaborative studentships and awards (metric 43) and on some of the impacts of this work (metrics 53, 54 55 & 56).

Knowledge Exchange: scale			
32	The proportion of ESRC funded students recorded to be employed in the business and public service sectors by the Joint Council first destination survey.	2005/06 Finishers in 2001 = 11% 2006/07 Finishers in 2005 = 18% 2007/08 Finishers in 2005 = 27% 2008/09 Finishers in 2006-07 = 21%	<p>In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used but are available only from 2005 onwards. For 2007/08 the classification structure is consistent with that used for the 2006/07 returns meaning the data is more reliable.</p> <p>The Research Councils are also working together to obtain better information on the career paths followed by those who have completed research studies, to contribute to the evidence of outcomes from investments in research training and the impact of research graduates. An analysis of options for the collection of information</p>

			<p>relating to UK Doctoral Graduates reported in April 2008. Following the recommendation of the report, data will be gathered through an enhancement of HESA's survey of the destinations of leavers of higher education (DLHE), seeking responses from all the research graduates who responded to the 2005 DLHE survey, (shortly after their graduation). This will build a picture of their career path roughly 3 ½ years after graduation. The first results of the study will become available in May 2009 and will be reported next year. The analysis will also inform future phases of the study as it follows doctoral graduates' career paths over a number of years.</p> <p>In addition to HESA reports, the Research Councils will commission analysis to inform the higher education sector, policy development and graduates' decisions about their career options and this will be available in Autumn 2009.</p>
33	The proportion of ESRC trained research students recorded as unemployed	<p>2001 finishers = 8%</p> <p>2005 finishers = 8%</p> <p>2006 finishers = 6%</p> <p>2007 finishers = 4%</p>	<p>In 2003 the Research Councils contracted the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collect data on the first destinations of their Ph.D. award-holders. Initial transitional difficulties with the reliability of the ESRC data have been overcome and the results of the HESA survey can now be used.</p>

	by the Joint Council first destination survey.		
34	The level of co-funding of ESRC research by external bodies.	<p>2005/06 = £10.6m 2006/07 = £16.4m 2007/08 = £22.7m 2008/09 = £28.0m</p>	This indicator shows the level of co-funding for ESRC research and training but it should be noted that additional co-funding directly to HEIs is not captured here.
35	New co-funding for research and training.	<p>2005/06 = £0.57m 2006/07 = £1.59m 2007/08 = £2.62m 2008/09 = £2.90m</p>	<p>This indicator shows new co-funding for ESRC research and was reported as part of the cross-Council Efficiency project. It should be noted that new co-funding directly to HEIs is not captured here.</p> <p>2008/09 RCUK VfM Efficiency Project targets revised for new three year period. Figure reported exceed 2008/09 Target.</p>
36	The proportion of non-academic members of ESRC's Council and Boards.	<p>2005/06 Council = 43% (6/14); Boards = 27% (24/89)</p> <p>2006/07 Council = 43% (6/14); Boards = 30% (28/92)</p> <p>2007/08 Council = 38% (5/13); Boards = 27% (24/88)</p> <p>2008/09</p>	

		Council = 33% (4/12); Boards = 25% (24/95)	
37	The number of ESRC concordat agreements with strategic partners.	2005/06 = 14 2006/07 = 16 2007/08 = 23 2008/09 = 28	<p>Formal strategic partnerships involve 11 Government Departments, all 3 Devolved Administrations, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Office for National Statistics. The latter along with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office represent new partnerships for ESRC.</p> <p>An additional 7 concordat agreements have been formed with strategic partners, including a ground breaking concordat with the Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI). New partnerships also include the Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The British Library.</p> <p>In 2008/09, strategic partnerships were extended to include organisations representing stakeholder interests' across all the sectors with which ESRC engages, including the Charity Commission and the Confederation of British Industry.</p>
38	The number of ESRC public policy and business-orientated	2005/06 = 16 2006/07 = 58 2007/08 = 78 2008/09 = 108	There has been a marked increase in the number of business seminars and workshops held this year. Events have included a number of Business Engagement Forums, bringing together members of the business community from priority sectors identified in the ESRC's Business

	seminars and workshops.		<p>Engagement Strategy. Forums have been held with the creative industries, financial services and the retail sector. Other business events have been held with a range of partners, including the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE). This year's Public Policy Seminars have focused on issues such as 'Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions' and 'Social Enterprise: Dynamics and the Economy'.</p> <p>The figure reported in 2008/09 includes 18 Public Policy Seminars, 39 business events and 15 third sector events. It also incorporates a series of regional engagement events designed to raise awareness of the ESRC's knowledge transfer mechanisms and engagement activities across business, public and third sectors. Following on from these seminars, delegates were invited to apply for funding to run their own engagement events designed to promote social science topics and stimulate further KT activity, which has helped to increase the number of business and third sector orientated seminars. Successful engagement events addressed topics such as: 'How can financial services companies get the best from their marketing' and 'Commissioning health services from the third sector'. Examples of Public Policy Seminars held in 08/09 include collaborations with the Technology Strategy Board addressing 'How</p>
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			people use and misuse buildings’ and a seminar held with the Food Standards Agency addressing ‘Public attitudes and behaviour in the UK in time of economic decline and rising food prices’.
39	The number of co-funded ESRC research projects (excluding joint Research Council projects).	2005/06 = 82 2006/07 = 99 2007/08 = 120 2008/09 = 155	
40	The amount of external funding for ESRC research (excluding joint Research Council funding)	2005/06 = £4.9M 2006/07 = £5.1M 2007/08 = £6.7M 2008/09 = £11.0M	This indicator reflects the degree to which the ESRC levers more money into the science base. We have reported data based on formal co-funding agreements with ESRC, but it should be noted that additional co-funding directly to HEIs is not captured here. The strong increase in co-funding this year reflects the success of the ESRC’s strategy to extend its co-production of research through partnerships with research users.
41	The number of ESRC workshops and seminars	2005/06 = 3 workshops and seminars 2006/07 = 6 workshops and seminars 2007/08 = 6 workshops and seminars 2008/09 = 6 workshops and seminars	The number of events aimed at encouraging entrepreneurial and commercial skills remains stable, although attendance at these events has increased this year

	<p>to help develop entrepreneurial and commercialisation skills.</p>		<p>Examples of this activity include:</p> <p>(i) the ESRC ‘Enterprisers’ event, a four day residential entrepreneurship programme designed to equip students with entrepreneurial skills and help them to develop innovative ideas and gain access to valuable networks.</p> <p>(ii) the ESRC’s first CASE conference, attended by 55 students, which incorporated a sessions on engaging with business as well as a Getting Research Into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) workshop.</p> <p>The 2008/09 figure includes the ESRC’s Knowledge Transfer Learning and Development Workshops, launched in 08/09, representing an amalgamation of the former Getting Research into Policy and Practice (GRIPP) and Engaging with Business workshops. Each L&D workshop is tailored towards a specific experience level (PhD students, early to mid-career researchers and experienced academics) and engagement with a specific audience (private, public and third sector). The interactive workshops aim to equip researchers with the necessary tools to effectively engage and apply their research to these non-academic audiences.</p>
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			<p>The figure also includes the annual ESRC sponsored ‘Enterprisers’ event, run by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at the University of Cambridge and designed to equip students with entrepreneurial and transferable skills. The event ran from 5th- 9th January 2009 and was attended by 48 students from 23 Universities.</p>
42	<p>The number of research projects on spinouts, commercialisation and innovation processes.</p>	<p>2005/06 = 25 2006/07 = 36 2007/08 = 67 2008/09 = 47</p>	<p>This year the Council introduced in partnership with Advantage West midlands to launch the INDEX (innovation delivers expansion) Scheme in the West Midlands region. This is a knowledge transfer voucher scheme designed to facilitate innovative work between SMEs and HEIs. ESRC contributed funding towards 50 vouchers in 2007–08. A range of companies were involved in the scheme, including Earthoil Plantations who advocate the benefits of having taken part in the project: “winning the £3000 voucher index scheme has meant that we can focus our combined efforts on a particular opportunity that if successful will definitely have a significant commercial spin-off to the mutual benefit of both parties”.</p> <p>The data reported here also include the first ESRC impact grants, now part of the Council’s ‘Follow-On Scheme’ which enables researchers to maximise the impact of social science research</p>

			<p>The 2008/09 figure includes a range of research projects on innovation issues that were live during the year. The end of the Advantage West Midlands Innovation Voucher Pilot scheme has meant that the figure is slightly lower than reported in 2007/08, but the number is expected to increase following the introduction of the ESRC's new Follow-On Scheme which provides funding for social scientists to extend the policy and practice impact of their research. The Council has also made several Capacity Building Cluster Awards this year, which include the provision for further business vouchers, and activities within these Clusters will be summarised in next year's Framework report.</p>
43	The Number of knowledge exchange activities by sector	<p>2007/08 = 192 Business – 67 Public - 92 Third - 33</p> <p>2008/09 = 227 Business - 59 Public - 110 Third – 58</p>	<p>We report here on our knowledge transfer activities by economic sector. The figures incorporate Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), CASE and government collaborative studentships, student placements and awards made through the Business Engagement Opportunities (BEO) scheme which provides funding for researchers and businesses to collaborate on a wider range of activities.</p> <p>This year there was a substantial increase in the number of ESRC funded KTPs in the public and third sectors. The Government Doctoral</p>

			placement scheme was expanded to form the Student Internship scheme, providing opportunities for ESRC funded postgraduate students to take part in 3 month projects within the public, third or private sectors.
44	The number of users placed in HEI's or ESRC research investments.	2005/06 = 21 2006/07 = 31 2007/08 = 62 2008/09 = 52	<p>The users placed within ESRC investments include colleagues from the John Lewis Partnership; Austin Reed; SENSE (National Deaf-Blind Organisation); Environment Agency; HM Treasury; Financial Times; Bank of England; and the World Bank.</p> <p>This year, and following the success of the Council's Public Sector Placement Fellows scheme, the ESRC implemented its Business Placement Fellows Scheme. This enables social science researchers to spend time in a business organisation to undertake practice-relevant research and work with businesses on specific projects. It also supports members of a business organisation to work on a project that is relevant to their business in a setting where they have access to academic resources. In 2008/09, 5 business representatives were placed in an academic unit through this scheme.</p>
45	The number of academics	2005/06 = 15 2006/07 = 37	The 2007-08 round of the Placement Fellowship Scheme resulted in a total of 13 placement

	<p>placed in user organisations .</p>	<p>2007/08 = 40 2008/09 = 65</p>	<p>fellowships. The organisations involved include, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Scottish Government, DEFRA, the National Audit Office, the Welsh Assembly Government and SEERAD (Scottish Environment). Feedback from a 2006-07 placement fellowship highlights the value of the scheme: 'Our placement fellow has been an exceptional asset and an exemplar of everything that the Placement Fellowship Scheme should be: informed analysis, stimulating debate, getting people to think differently, applying academic expertise across a number of policy areas'.</p> <p>The 2008/09 round of the Public Sector Placement Fellowship Scheme resulted in a total of 12 fellows being placed with partner organisations to work on projects of policy relevance and upgrade the research skills of the 'partner' employee. Partner organisations involved this year included the Department of Health and the Department for Employment and Learning. While the number of placements has remained stable, ESRC has made a greater financial contribution towards the scheme. In October 2008, the Council for Science and Technology launched their report on <i>How academia and Government can work together</i>. The report sets out three recommendations to</p>
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			<p>enhance the engagement between academics and policymakers and cites the ESRC's Placement Fellowship Scheme as an example of current good practice. The report says, "The breadth of the placements is impressive..."</p> <p>The 2008/09 figure includes 14 researchers placed in businesses supported under the Business Placement Fellowship scheme.</p>
Knowledge Exchange: quality			
46	Survey assessment of user confidence in the Research Councils	<p>2005/06</p> <p>The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee Report on Research Councils support for knowledge transfer identifies a need for the Councils to engage business users more effectively. Whilst Research Councils have striven to develop effective engagement with business over recent years, they take such feedback seriously and will be consulting with their stakeholders on strengthening this aspect of their operations</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>In 2006, the "Warry" Economic Impact Group reported to OSI on how the Research Councils could deliver and demonstrate they are delivering a major increase in the economic impact of their investments. In response, the Councils have commissioned three studies on i) the economic impact of their investments, ii) a user satisfaction survey, and iii) coordination of Research Councils' Knowledge Transfer Schemes and Initiatives. All three are due to report to OSI in September 2007.</p>	Survey assessment of user confidence in the Research Councils

		<p>2007/08</p> <p>In response to recommendations made in the Warry report, a survey of user satisfaction was commissioned by Research Councils UK. The survey identified that 67% of users strongly agreed that the ESRC is committed to maintaining the UK's excellence in research (a further 25% agreed with this statement) and that three quarters of users (75%) are either quite satisfied or very satisfied with ESRC's service delivery.</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>The Council carried out an extensive written consultation to inform its strategic priorities for 2009-2014. Of the 144 responses received: 26% were submitted by research users. Responses to the consultation indicated high levels of satisfaction and confidence in ESRC's performance in delivering its strategic objectives. Most respondents were positive about ESRC's achievements and believed that the objectives were still relevant and should continue into the next period with an increased emphasis on maximising impact across the Council's portfolio.</p>	
47	Surveys of concordat partner satisfaction.	<p>2005/06</p> <p>The 2005/06 survey showed a high level of satisfaction. All partners have a good understanding of ESRC research, training and collaborative activities; the concordat meetings are effective or very effective for the majority of partners; and the ESRC had been extremely efficient in dealing with actions agreed at the meetings.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>ESRC conducts a survey of concordat partners every other year. The next study is due in 2008.</p>	Surveys of concordat partner satisfaction.

		<p>Two examples of concordat partner satisfaction this year were: (i) the Treasury's reference to an AIM Programme research paper on UK investment in intangible assets in the Chancellor's pre-Budget Report; (ii) the Northern Ireland Office's recognition of the importance of ESRC research on 'Income Distribution and Poverty' for its Anti-Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>2007/08 The 2007 RCUK User Satisfaction Survey included a sample of Government users, and therefore concordat partners have not been surveyed separately this year. In total, 75% of ESRC users who responded to the RCUK survey were from the public sector, with the majority of users reporting satisfaction with their relationship with ESRC (19% stating that they were very satisfied and 56% stating they were quite satisfied)</p> <p>Examples of Government Department satisfaction with ESRC research this year included the range of ESRC funded work cited by BERR in its policy paper on productivity, and the Minister for Science and Innovation's endorsement of the ESRC's broad-based definition of economic impact (that includes wider societal impact) in his opening speech at the Social Research Association's Annual Conference.</p> <p>2008/09 Examples of concordat satisfaction this year include:</p> <p>(i) The Council for Science and Technology report, commissioned by John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, on 'How academia and Government can work together' highlighted the success of the ESRC's Placement Fellowship Scheme,</p>	
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		<p>identifying it as an excellent example of people flow.</p> <p>(ii) The work conducted by an ESRC placement fellow at DEFRA which was referenced in the Treasury Economic Working Paper “Developments in the economics of well-being”.</p> <p>The next RCUK User Satisfaction Survey will be conducted during 09/10 and will include a sample of public sector users.</p>	
48	<p>Evaluations of seminars and workshops to assess benefits and application of research findings.</p>	<p>2005/06</p> <p>The positive feedback from the 3 events held in 2005/06 has been used to inform the design of further events and collaborative activities.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>We received positive feedback from this year’s seminars. For example, 89 people were surveyed after attending a workshop on Autism and expressed satisfaction with the utility of the event. One attendee has consequently become the main advisor and support contact for ASD students within their institution, and is introducing improvements to course access and an evaluation of the college’s teaching methods.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>Positive feedback has been received from events held this year: For example, 54 students attending the ‘Enterprisers’ event gave the event an average rating of 4 out of 5. One attendee stated that Enterprisers had ‘inspired me with an idea for a business’, while another participant said ‘I developed presentation skills and confidence as well as an idea for my research progression or maybe a potential new product’.</p> <p>Feedback from the Council’s Getting Research Into Policy and</p>	<p>Evaluations of seminars and workshops to assess benefits and application of research findings.</p>

	<p>Practice workshops (GRIPP) showed that 72% of attendees rated the events ‘excellent’ or ‘good’. One attendee said: ‘I feel inspired to go back and run a lunchtime seminar with my fellow researchers to share the key messages and highlights...also to write it up as a report to circulate more widely in our department’.</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>Delegates at Public Policy Seminars are invited to provide feedback on the events. From questionnaires based on seminars held this year, 81% of delegates rated the relevance and usefulness of the seminar as either ‘excellent’ or ‘good’. Examples of comments from seminars included:</p> <p><i>‘The event was useful for me. It helped to provide an overview of some issues - and importantly hear from practitioners on the ground - I especially liked that it was well attended by practitioners - obviously an important opportunity for those engaged in the sector to come together and discuss key issues. A good balance between practice and academia-’</i></p> <p><i>“The seminar was enabling and invited participation. The focus of the seminar invited reflection and the quantitative research that was shared will enhance our existing knowledge-base”.</i></p> <p><i>“The seminar will influence the advice we give others and enable us to go to appropriate groups for extra research”</i></p> <p>The ESRC funded a programme of Knowledge Exchange Activities with the University of Edinburgh Child and Youth Studies Network. Following an event to address ‘Young People, Families and Crime’ delegates were asked what they planned to do with the information received at the event, with 66% indicating that they would share the research and knowledge with team members or management and 30%</p>	
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		of delegates indicating that they would apply the research and knowledge to their own practice.	
49	Feedback reports from user representatives on ESRC boards.	<p>2005/06 The 2005/06 survey of ESRC's Board and Committee User Members showed general agreement that the role and purpose of user members was clear, relevant and appropriate. Users felt fully involved in meetings and the training given was sufficient. The Members also felt that they/their organisations benefited from their membership.</p> <p>2006/07 ESRC conducts a survey of ESRC Board and Committee User Members every other year. The next study is due in 2008.</p> <p>2007/08 The next survey of user members will take place this summer to coincide with the survey of retiring members.</p> <p>2008/09 A survey of ESRC Board and Committee User Members showed that the vast majority believed that their workload was both reasonable and commensurate with what they expected. Likewise, user members reported that they were satisfied with the quantity and quality of meetings and meeting papers. Users also felt that their role and purpose was clear, appropriate and effective. Feedback showed that the preparation and training they received was useful, and members felt that their perspectives were considered in funding decisions. There was an indication that user members could play a fuller role in funding decisions and ESRC activities outside meetings, and this is being addressed.</p>	Feedback reports from user representatives on ESRC boards.

50	Evaluations of joint projects over £50,000 in value.	<p>2006/07 = 23 evaluations Outstanding = 3 Good = 20</p> <p>2007/08 = 36 evaluations Outstanding = 6 Good = 26 Problematic = 1</p> <p>2008/09 = 21 evaluations Outstanding = 4 Good = 15 Problematic = 2</p>	Evaluations of joint projects over £50,000 in value.
51	Systematic surveys obtaining feedback from seminar attendees on learning application	<p>2005/06 7 workshops were held for business sector audiences. Feedback from these events is informing the development of the ESRC's Business Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>2006/07 14 events were aimed at business sector audiences. These include co-sponsorship of a Financial Services Research Forum seminar on consumer behaviour. The Council is planning further events in partnership with the Forum which brings leading academics and financial services organisations together to discuss industry</p>	Systematic surveys obtaining feedback from seminar attendees on learning application

	<p>developments and has received a members' approval rating of 86%. In addition, the Council organised five 'Getting Research into Practice (GRIP) workshops to encourage knowledge transfer activities.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>A number of delegates attending an ESRC / ACCA seminar on Shareholder Activism and Pension Fund Governance reported that they were contemplating further actions as a result of what they had learnt from the event,</p> <p>A number of delegates to ESRC/Tomorrow Project seminars reported that the events had led to changes in their organisations policies or plans including, for example, new approaches to charity fund raising resulting from a seminar on the Future of Philanthropy and Civil Society.</p> <p>The Council funded a number of seminars in collaboration with the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) in order to promote understanding of the processes involved in the transfer of knowledge between SMEs and the HE sector. Results from a follow-up survey indicated that the seminars were highly valued and findings from the seminar series have been incorporated into a report to be presented at the next ISBE conference. The report will be used by the ESRC to inform its plans for further engagement with SME's.</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>Delegates attending ESRC Knowledge Transfer Learning and Development events were surveyed to evaluate the outcomes and to</p>	
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		<p>inform the design of future workshops. The majority of delegates (70%) who provided feedback after attending workshops for PhD researchers rated the purpose and scope of the workshop as being 'excellent'. A number of attendees identified actions they would take to apply the learning from the workshop:</p> <p><i>"I plan to produce a strategy and methodology to include KT in my PhD"</i></p> <p><i>"I'm going to contact companies in a different way. Present my work to practitioners at conferences and seminars"</i></p> <p><i>"Knowledge transfer is a new concept for me and I now feel comfortable enough to move my research into the private sector"</i></p> <p><i>"The workshop has increased my motivation to engage in knowledge transfer activities and increased my understanding of the importance of actively engaging with knowledge transfer"</i></p> <p>As in previous years the ESRC funded Enterprisers programme received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with an overall programme evaluation of 5 out of 5. Comments from students included:</p> <p><i>"The week has really provided an experience which I can take things away from and build on in terms of developing skills that I use in my current role"</i></p> <p><i>"The programme made entrepreneurship seem possible and realistic rather than an unreachable and almost alien ambition"</i></p> <p><i>"I never thought seriously about running a new business.... Until now"</i></p> <p><i>"Enterprisers was one of the most positive experiences of my life"</i></p>	
52	Follow up studies to track seminar impact.	<p>2005/06</p> <p>A sample of 40 people was surveyed 6 months after the ESRC's Getting Research Into Practice (GRIP) Workshops. The feedback was positive, with participants identifying insights into best practice and networking opportunities as key benefits.</p>	Follow up studies to track seminar impact.

		<p>2006-7</p> <p>26 students attended the four day residential ESRC Enterpriser Training Programme, and feedback was very positive. One participant said "I really feel that Enterprisiers was absolutely amazing and actually quite life changing! It encourages confidence and aspirations and a 'can-do' attitude". In addition 35 researchers attended the 'Getting Research into Practice' seminars and the positive feedback from these seminars is being used to shape future training.</p> <p>2007/08</p> <p>The ESRC provided funding for the Child and Youth Studies Network at the University of Edinburgh to host a series of 4 one-day events reaching out to policymakers and practitioners. A series of follow-up studies were conducted with the intention of mapping the range of impacts the events made. These revealed on-going collaborations arising from the seminars with several respondents mentioning changes to classroom practices, assessment practices and, changes to planned service provision.</p> <p>Following on from a Local Authority Research Council Initiative (LARCI) seminar on climate change at the University of East Anglia, co-funded by ESRC, a partnership has been formed between the Carbon Reduction Programme (CRed) based at the University of East Anglia, and the Birmingham Strategic Partnership to form a carbon cutting campaign, which is resulting in thousands of actions across Birmingham. The programme has proven an immediate success, with nearly 8,000 local residents using the CRed system to sign up to make their own personal pledge to cut their carbon footprint. CRed's Marcus Armes commented: "without the LARCI event the UEA</p>	
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		<p>would never have formed the successful relationship which has built up with the Birmingham Strategic Partnership”.</p> <p>2008/09 Hosts of ESRC Knowledge Transfer Engagement events (with business or third-sector stakeholders), were asked to track impact over time. One such event focused on ‘Management Research for the Third Sector’ and was hosted by the University of St Andrews. Two months after the event, delegates were invited to complete a follow-up evaluation to gauge impact. A number of delegates indicated that the themes and issues that arose out of the presentations and debate had led them to reflect on management practice in their organisations. Feedback also indicated that in some instances, the research and debate had led to changes in practice being considered and implemented within respondents’ organisations.</p>	
53	End of placement reports from students in receipt of collaborative funding.	<p>2005/06 5 reports were received from POST/OST students and from students with Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. A review of these activities is currently being undertaken.</p> <p>2006/07 16 reports were received from completed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. The reports show that over half of Associates were offered continued employment with the company partner. 81% of Associates have either completed an NVQ4 in Management or some units towards that qualification. About 50% of Associates are expecting to complete a PhD.</p>	End of placement reports from students in receipt of collaborative funding.

		<p>2007/08</p> <p>10 reports were received from completed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. These showed similar trends to last year, with 50% of Associates being offered continuing employment, following the completion of their KTP project. Half of Associates reported receiving a higher degree as a result of their KTP work (3 PhDs and 2 MBAs). The majority of Associates (70%) had registered for and completed units towards an NVQ level 4 in Management.</p> <p>16 students who participated in the scheme now known as the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (SSWEP), reported back on their placement experience, with 94% stating that the placement either met or exceeded their expectations. Comments received from students highlighted the value of the placement; one participant said: 'I feel I have improved my understanding of how a small business works. Being involved in an SME has given me a real insight into business operations at all levels.'</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>Reports received in 08/09 from Associates who had completed ESRC Knowledge Transfer Partnership awards revealed that around 75% of students registered for and completed units towards an NVQ level 4 in Management, and half of the Associates planned to stay with the host company after their KTP project (reflecting similar findings to previous years). This included the Associate who completed a KTP between the University of Reading and the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), winning the ESRC prize for 'Best Application of Management or Social Science' at the 2009 KTP awards. The project</p>	
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		<p>presented an entrepreneurial opportunity for the Associate to run his own consultancy business, providing professional IT input to similar charitable organisations, as well as being employed by RDA on a part-time basis to offer on-going support and IT development beyond the life of the project. The Associate commented: <i>"Winning the Award for Best Application of Management or Social Science is a true honour. KTP as a whole has given me a head-start in my career, and the opportunity to apply my knowledge in projects not normally available to graduates. The funding and support network has allowed me to further my professional development and gain valuable new skills"</i>.</p> <p>ESRC funded postgraduate students taking part in the Student Internship scheme were asked to report back on their experience. A student from the University of Oxford undertaking a PhD in Water Management and placed with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) commented: <i>"My work led to the production of a briefing note on 'European Directives and Water Supply' for the House of Lords Inquiry and a POST note on 'Balancing Water Supply and the Environment'.</i></p>	
54	Surveys of a sample of employers providing work experience for students	<p>2005/06 39 employers involved in ESRC Student Placement Schemes were surveyed. The results fed into the Council's review of Knowledge Transfer Schemes which is being considered by ESRC's Training & Development Board.</p> <p>2006/07 Knowledge Transfer Partnership reports show that 81% of employers reported either an increase in profits or significant savings, with a further 44% reporting an increase in sales revenue as a direct result of</p>	Surveys of a sample of employers providing work experience for students

the Partnership. Almost half reported an investment in new staff directly related to KTP interventions, with 69% reporting an increase in staff development and training. Half of the employers reported an increase in R&D spend directly attributable to the Partnership.

2007/08

Employers who participated in the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme were invited to respond to a survey which aimed to assess the impact of hosting a student placement. The respondents reported that students had produced a range of significant outcomes for the companies. A number of companies stated that as a result of the placements they had already achieved, or expected to achieve in the future, an increase their market share, a better awareness of their customer base and an increased market share. Over 40% of placement students were offered some work in the future by the host organisation.

Feedback from Knowledge Transfer Partnership employers showed that 50% of companies thought that the KTP results had improved their current performance. and 70% expected a benefit to their future performance.

2008/09

The majority of employers (86%) who hosted a student placement through the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (SSWEP) 2008 complete an evaluation survey. These identify a range of important impacts from the placements including: enabling organisations to gain a better awareness of their competition, improving existing processes and increasing the likelihood of collaboration with other universities. The evaluation show that:

		<p>- 73% of employers thought that there would be future changes in company operations and performance as a result of the placement.</p> <p>- 60% of organisations stated that they are now more likely to recruit a graduate.</p> <p>- 100% of organisations said they would take part in the scheme again.</p> <p>Examples of qualitative feedback included:</p> <p><i>“The database developed by the student makes us more efficient and has been instrumental in helping us to select cost suppliers which in turn saves us money”</i></p> <p><i>“We now know what we need to do for the 2011 census in this area – for each percentage increase of people we can get to fill in the census; it has an £80 million pound impact. The student’s work should increase the response rate by half a percent”</i></p> <p>A total of 14 reports from completed ESRC funded KTPs were received in 08/09. When asked about the significance of the KTP results to the company’s present performance, 64% of organisations rated the significance as being high. When asked about the significance of the KTP results to the company’s future performance, 93% of organisations rated this as being high.</p>	
55	Surveys of a sample of academic supervisors.	<p>2005/06</p> <p>A survey of Knowledge Transfer Partnership Supervisors showed that 81% of projects had led to further collaborative activities.</p> <p>2006/07</p> <p>This year three quarters of academic supervisors on KTPs had signed IP agreements resulting directly from the Partnerships. In 81% of cases joint papers were published, and the Associate published sole papers in 44% of projects; 56% of reports noted that the knowledge partner was undertaking further related research as a direct</p>	Surveys of a sample of academic supervisors.

	<p>consequence of the KT partnership.</p> <p>2007/08 The vast majority (90%) of KTP academic supervisors had established IPR agreements as a result of the KTP project; this represents a slight increase compared with last year, when three-quarters of academic supervisors had signed agreements. And 70% of supervisors thought that the KTP's had improved their institution's teaching programme.</p> <p>2008/09 Academic KTP supervisors are asked to state how the KTP contributed to the development of the institution's research and teaching capacity and to rate the importance of these effects. For both areas, 71% of supervisors rated the importance of the effects as being 'high' this year. Comments from supervisors included: <i>"The partnership has made a significant and long-term impact on the University's teaching in a number of ways. It has provided opportunities to restructure the curriculum to strengthen the link between lectures and 'real world'"</i>. <i>"Through the partnership the Knowledge Base partner has developed a new skill, evaluating websites, this was not envisaged at the outset"</i></p> <p>Four secondments were supported through ESRC's partnership with The Tomorrow Project. A supervisor on one of these projects ('Changing Lives') noted that: <i>"The fellow aided the dissemination of social science research by identifying relevant research for all the chapters in The Tomorrow Project book on the life course. She played a key role in the life course book by identifying appropriate literature"</i>. The book, 'Changing Lives, Changing Business' was subsequently published and the Sunday Times drew heavily on it to inform its article on the changing nature of British Society (22.03.09).</p>	
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56	End of placement reports from award-holders and their hosts.	<p>2005/06 We will report next year on the outcome of the ESRC's HM Treasury placement. Initial comments on this work have been very positive.</p> <p>2006/07 Simon Dietz, an environmental economist, was ESRC's sponsored placement to HM Treasury. Dietz made a substantial contribution to the 'Stern Review' and a letter of commendation recognising his contribution and thanking the ESRC, has been received from Sir Nicholas Stern.</p> <p>2007/08 Reports are produced at the end of Placement Fellowships. Dr Marion Frenz, of Birkbeck University of London, undertook a 9 month placement in the Science and Innovation Analysis Unit of the UK Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). During the placement Dr Frenz wrote a report with her DIUS line manager, on Indicators of non-technical innovation which formed part of the set of research papers supporting the DIUS White paper 'Innovation Nation'. Dr Frenz commented "I am now better able to direct my academic work so that it has a greater relevance to users. I have a better view of what policy makers and businesses see as relevant issues to do with innovation today"</p> <p>Other successful Placement Fellows included: Professor Fergus Lyon who was placed within the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit where he prepared briefings for the Number 10 Policy Unit and senior civil servants on a range of health-related issues concerning innovation, dentistry and public health. Professor Lyon reported that one of the benefits of the placement had been the opportunity to hone skills in presenting recommendations most effectively to policy makers and</p>	End of placement reports from award-holders and their hosts.
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	<p>other users of research</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>A number of successful Placement Fellowships were completed this year. These included work by Dr Andy Kerr from the University of Edinburgh who was placed with The Scottish Government to investigate climate change adaptation activity in Scotland. The results of Dr Kerr's work are being integrated into the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the public consultation on the strategy referenced his research directly. Dr Kerr commented: <i>"The fellowship allowed me to undertake new policy-relevant research into the institutional capacity for climate adaptation in Scotland, disseminating information both to the Government policy team and to academic colleagues. This topic is at the cutting edge both academically and for policy partners"</i>. A representative from the Scottish Government commented: <i>"The fellowship provided me with an opportunity to access and tailor valuable academic expertise to better inform the evidence base specific to my policy responsibilities"</i>.</p>	
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