

NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY: BLANK DIARIES, SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES AND CODING NOTES

There is little background material held by Defra on the National Food Survey. Fortunately, a copy of the data, together with a copy of a blank food diary (known as the log-book), the household questionnaire (known as the schedule) and the coding notes used for transferring the raw data to computer was supplied each year to the United Kingdom Data Archive, now known as the UK Data Service. The data and background information continues to be available for academic or commercial research under licence, and we are grateful for this, as it has enabled us to interpret much of the gaps in our knowledge and records.

Here is a copy of the blank diary for 1975, questionnaire for 1977 and coding notes from 1975, taken from the UK Data Service holding for National Food Survey 1975. Not all elements were available for the specific year, so UKDS stored the closest available copies by year, hence the discrepancies in dates.

Please note that all of the questions on the household questionnaire will not necessarily be reflected in the content of the datasets we are making available. You'll see that there are references to "Housewife" throughout the diary and this (and other terms such as "Head of Household") reflects those in common usage at the time of the survey. In later years this was changed to "Main Diary Keeper".

Some of the original log-books are preserved in the National Archive at Kew, dating back as far as 1940. A record for the holdings is here:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C10495

Link to UKDS record for the 1975 National Food Survey database, available under an End User Licence:

https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=3264&type=Data%20catalogue

Further information: mailto:familyfood@defra.gsi.gov.uk

NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY 1977 TO BE COMPLETED AT FIRST INTERVIEW EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY BUT DO NOT MENTION KEEPING A RECORD BOOK UNTIL AFTER THE NTERVIEW A REGION A REGION A AREA	IF YES (Y) (a) Where? PROMPT EACH IN TURN Garden Allotment Farm (b) Have you a store of home-grown vegetables on	es No 1 2 3 4 5 8	Time of made at this call this call CHECKING CALLS AND FINAL CALL (if any)
2 PERIOD 2 AREA TYPE E SERIAL NO OF HOUSEHOLD	Potatoes Beans Tomatoes Apples Pears Bottled own fruit	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	Day Time or appt What took place?
Date of first interview (2 digits for day month and year)	Honey	3 4 5 6 7 8	
G Can you tell me how much you spent on food for your household last week? (Excluding cleaning materials, cigarettes and food for pets)	IF YES (Y) (a) Have you a store of preserved eggs from your own hens?	es Y No X Yes Y	RESULT Y Record book accepted and completed
Yes = 1 If No leave blank I Do you have a deep freezer (ADD IN CASE OF PEOPLE WITH REFRIGERATOR by which I mean a separate deep freezing 3	NOTE IF HOUSEWIFE HAS STOCKS OF HOM PRODUCED FOOD (QNS J AND K), REMEMBE THE QUANTITY OF FOOD TAKEN FROM STOR SHOULD BE ENTERED IN LOWER PANEL OF TRECORD BOOK ON THE DAY IT IS TAKEN OU OF STOCK FOR HOUSEHOLD USE	ER RE THE	IF ACCEPTED BUT NOT COMPLETED (2) or NOT ACCEPTED (3), why?
unit - not a refrigerator frozen food compartment)? Yes = 1	l		SOCIAL SURVEY DIVISION, OPCS,
if No leave blank			St Catherines House, 10, Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP

INTERVIEWER S NAME

TO BE OBTAINED AT FIRST INTERVIEW

COMPLETE AT After deductions = net Before deductions = gross

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	1	2	1		or, if 6 7	pregnant 5 8 9		digits)	Ne	t balance	(who	may	be an	absente	e)	(eg Ty			of incom sion, priv		ans)		· ,			Be	enefit	£	!		Net	Grs	Act E	st
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the dwelling and	14		15	İ	16		17		18										<u></u>										!		N	G	A E	
catered for by	19		20		21		22		23																				1		N	G	A E	-
the housewife	24		25		26		27		28																				1		N	G	A E	
(includes boarders	29		30		31		32		33							•											··-		+		N	G	A E	1
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staying the night)	39		40		41		42		43		1 -				十										┪			+-			N	G	A E	-
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dwelling codes									L			J		househol eezer (sed		is a deep.								perly compl	eted			1						
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		4	OFF	ICE	USI	E	-																									•		=
	75		76				77		78		Total no	. of p	ersons	s Numbe	r of	visitors		-					No of	earners in						Family	Incor	ne	<u> </u>	-
Visitors	79		80				81		82			visit			line		Cros	SS GV	er HOH	Income	e Grad	e HOH		rig. h/d	OCC.	нон (4 digits)	To	tal (ne			Тур	e	1
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THE NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY 1975

SN:3264

All the particulars you give on this form will be treated in STRICT CONFIDENCE

Please do not put your name or address on it

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

- 1 There are two pages for each day
- 2 On the first of the two pages please write down all the items of food coming into the house on that day
- 3 On the second page please show what was eaten at each meal and who ate the meal

The interviewer will call again on -

DAY	DATE	TIME

Balance owned?	Yes	
	No	
Balance loaned?	Yes	
	No	

HOUSEHOLD
COMPOSITION

SEX	AGE	
	1	
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		l
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		l
	}	

Total	
Persons	Į.

Interviewer	S	name
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Authority number

10-day period beginning

Constituency

Region

Area

Period

Area type

Serial No of household

SOCIAL SURVEY DIVISION, OPCS St Catherines House 10, Kingsway London, WC2B 6JP

on behalf of
NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food,
Government Buildings
Tolcarne Drive,
Pinner, Middx,
HA5 2DT

FOOD COMING INTO HOUSE

DAY _1

FOOD BOUGHT AT NORMAL PRICES

Oz Ibs	Grammes	DESCRIPTION OF FOOD	COST	PLEASE LEAVE BLANK			
pints r number	kilos or litres	Please use one line for each item	£	Food Q			
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	Grammes		SOURCE	FREE OR COST		PLEASE LEAVE BLANK			
pints or number	kilos or litres	DESCRIPTION OF FOOD	Garden farm, school clinic employer own business etc	£		Food	Q	Free	
					1				
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FOR OFFICE USE

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MEALS

	1			2		3		4				
	BREAKFAST		DINNER		TEA		SUPPER					
	or First meal		or Midday meal		or Afternoon meal		or Evening meal					
What did you serve [?]							A					
How many of the people on the front of this book ate the meal at home?	Number of peo			Number of peo			Number of peo			Numbe of peo	ple	
Did you have any visitors for this meal?		SEX	AGE	VIS	SEX	AGE AGE		SEX	AGE	VIS	SEX	AGE
Did anyone take a packed meal from home to eat out?	PA	SEX	AGE	F	SEX	DINNER		SEX	D TEA AGE	P	SEX	SUPPER AGE
Did anyone obtain a meal out? (for which you did not provide the food) Where was it eaten?		AGE	WHERE?	SEX	AGE	WHERE?	SEX	AGE	WHERE?	SEX	AGE	WHERE?

M male F female

HOUSE	WIFE'S COMMENTS	
		,
NOTES	Standard large loaf = 28oz	_
	Standard small loaf = 14oz	
	PLEASE LEAVE BLANK	

POTATOES

Bought

bulk

BREAD Separate

delivery charge

NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY

1975

Basıc data

The basic data are gathered from two documents:-

- (1) family and personal details taken from the N.F.S. Schedules;
- (11) details of purchased or free food taken from the N.F.S. log-books.

The question numbers and answers for each household are keyed to disc and then put on magnetic tape in the order as printed on the schedule (omitting both items if the question is unanswered), followed by the food code details from the log-book. All the information for all the households in one cycle is keyed on to one reel of magnetic tape.

2. Generated data

The computer program validates the punched data and indicates any inconsistencies (eg wrong question numbers, food codes which are not in current use, abnormally large quantities, etc.). For records which are totally acceptable, certain additional household and personal details are generated, and a permanent record is written to a magnetic disc file. (All records are eventually preserved on a special magnetic tape). The permanent record includes a fixed area containing details such as region, area, cycle number, total purchase value, etc., followed by two variable length areas. The first of these records, for each person and visitor, the age, sex, occupation code, whether working, nutrient code and net balance. The second contains all details from the left-hand pages of the logbooks, in the same sequence, including the day of survey/day of week marker and, for each food acquisition, the food code, purchase/free code, quantity and purchase value.

- 3. Appendix A gives the Classification of Occupations.
- 4. Appendix B lists the parliamentary constituencies being surveyed in 1975.
- 5. Appendix C lists the food codes in current use in 1975.
- 6. Appendix D is the timetable for 1975.

Statistics Division II, Branch A
PINNER

1975

A. HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL DETAILS TAKEN FROM SCHEDULE

'A'	to	E
on	sche	dule

Serial Number of the log-book completed by the housewife

- A. One digit code denoting the standard) These two codes together statistical region.) denote the area (constituency)-
- B. One digit code denoting the area (constituency) within the region.) see Appendix B (computer) codes are numbered from 1) consecutively).
- C. Two digit period code (the periods are successive 10 day sampling periods throughout the year).
- D. One digit "type-of-area" (sample class) code

9 = London conurbation (Greater London Council Area)

2 = Larger towns, defined as:

- (a) Towns with a population of 100,000 or more;
- (b) Urban areas contiguous to towns with a population of 100,000 or more, or to conurbations;
- (c) Groups of contiguous urban areas where the aggregate population is 100,000 or more.
- 3 = Smaller towns -

Urban areas not in 9, 1 and 2 above.

- 4 = Semi-rural areas, defined as:
 - (a) Rural districts, each of which is contiguous to an urban area which has a population of 25,000 or more.
 - (b) Rural districts with a population density exceeding 1 person per 4 acres.
- 5 = Rural areas -

Rural districts not in 4 above

E. Serial number of household in area (constituency)

A distinguishing number (from 1 upwards) allocated to each household for each period/area group.

'F' on schedule

Date of first interview

day, month and year (2 digits each day and month)

Computer Code

...1

...2

•••3

. . . 4

•••5

_

Question No on Schedule

2

3

74

Expenditure in previous week

Amount of money spent on food during preceding week, expressed in £'s to 2 decimal places. Don't know, etc, coded 999.

Refrigerator in the household

Yes = 1

If no, left blank.

Deep-freezer in the household

Yes = 1

If no, left blank.

			_				
Computer code							
	c			_			
UWNB	fridge	опта	=	T			
11	freezer	- 11	=	2			
			_	_			
†1	both	11	=	3			
_							
п	neither	11	=	4			

9

	Person No (a)	<u>Sex</u>	Age (b)	Whether (c) Working	Occupation (d)	Net ^(e) <u>Balance</u>
4-8	(1)	4	5	6	7	8
9-13	(2)	9	10	11	12	13
14-18	(3)	14	، 15	16	17	18
19-23	(4)	19	20	21	22	23
24-28	(5)	24	25	26	27	28
29-33	(6)	29	30	31	32	
34 - 38	(7)	34	35	36	37	33 38 43 48
39-43	(8)	39	40	41	42	43
44-48	(9)	44	45	46	47	48
49-53	(10)	49	50	51	52	53
54-58	(11)	54	55	56	57	58
54-58 59-63	(12)	59	60	61	62	53 58 63
64-68	(13)	64	65	66	67	68
69-73	(14)	69	70	71	72	73

Ownership of dwelling

l = Unfurnished, council

2 = Unfurnished, other, rented

3 = Furnished, rented

4 = Rent free

5 = Owns outright

6 = Owns with mortgage

	Visitor No (f)	Sex	Age(b)	Occupation (d)	Net(e)
75-78 79-82 83-86 87-90 91-94 95 - 98	(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)	75 79 83 87 91 95	76 80 84 88 92 96 100	77 81 85 89 93 97 101	78 82 86 90 94 98 102

- Notes: (a) A person is anyone who spends at least four nights in the household during the week of Survey and also has at least one meal a day from the household food supply on at least four days, except that if he/she is the head of the household, the "cross-over" head of household or the housewife, he or she is regarded as a person, in all cases.
 - (b) If the age is not given, coded as 99
 - (c) Whether working:
 - (F) Full-time worker = 1 or, if pregnant, 6
 - (P) Part-time worker = 2 " " 7
 - (N) Non-worker = 0 " " 5
 - (U) Unemployed temporarily = 3 " " 8
 - (SH) Sick temporarily = 4 " " 9
 - (d) Occupation. A four-digit NFS code derived from the Registrar-General's coding of occupation. An additional (5th) digit has been assigned to the occupation-code to indicate the degree of activity for males between the ages of 18 and 64 years. Details are given in Appendix A.
 - (e) Net balance. A net balance is a mathematical expression of the number of meals consumed from the household supplies. A person having all his meals at home during the week (including packed meals provided by the housewife) is said to have a total net balance of 1.00, when meals are obtained from elsewhere deductions are made from this total to give a "net balance" of meals eaten at home by that person. The scale of deductions used for this purpose is as follows:

(per day)

Breakfast .03.

Dinner .04

Tea .02) These weights are interchangeable,
Supper .05) whichever meal is the larger; if
only one evening meal is taken,
the two weights are combined

(f) Visitor. A visitor is anyone who does not qualify as a person (see note (a) above) but has at least one meal from the household food supply during the week of Survey.

Question No on Schedule

103

- Total persons. The total number of all persons (excluding visitors) in the household during the Survey week.
- Total visitor lines. The total number of lines (starting with question Nos. 75, 79, 83, 87, 91, 95 and 99) on which visitors (as defined in note (f) above) are recorded.
- 1 0 105 Cross over HOH = 1 (see 106)
 - 106 Income group of the head of the household (or principal extrer).

Income groups are based on the gross weekly income of the head of household, except that if the gross weekly income (earned or unearned) of the head of household is less than £28 and the household contains one or more earners, one at least of whom has a weekly income of £28 or more, the income group is then based on the gross weekly income of the principal earner. In the later case question 105 is punched "1". (See, however, the note below).

The income ranges are revised periodically and, in 1975, are:

BMRB Code		Computer code
6 (D3) 7 (D2)	2) = £82 but less than £110) more earners) = £49 " " £82) in the) = £28 " " £49) household 1) = Less than £28) 3) = £28 or more _) with no earners	1 2 3 4 5 7 6 13 OAP (1 person) 8 " (1 male & 9 1 female) " (all others) 10 A1 + A2 11 D2 + D3 12

Note: All adult male full-time agricultural workers, where they earn less than £28 as heads of households will be included in income group C (Code 4).

Question No on schedule

107

108

109

110

Number of earners in the household.

Occupation of the head of the household (or principal earner).

This is a four-digit NFS code derived from the Registrars-General's coding of occupations. Details are given in Appendix A.

Total weekly net family income in £'s to one decimal place. "Not known" is punched '999'.

Family income type, showing the exactness of the information regarding the composition of the family income.

- 1 = each person's income given to investigator as net, actual
- 2 = each person's income given to investigator as net, estimated
- 3 = each person's income given to investigator as gross, actual
- 4 = each person's income given to investigator as gross, estimated
- 5 = mixed (ie, any combination of above)
- 6 = mixed (ie, any combination of codes 1 to 4, plus one imputed)
- 7 = one income only in the household imputed
- 8 = one or more earners temporarily sick or unemployed
- 9 = don't know (le one or more incomes not given)

Question No on schedule

III Gross weekly income of the head of household (or principal earner)

Expressed in £'s to one decimal place when income has been shown on the schedule as gross, actual or estimated, or net, actual (converted to gross). Where income has been shown as net, estimated, or where it is not possible to impute an income, 999 is punched.

112 Head of household

Question number on schedule (4, 9, 14 etc) denoting sex of person who is "head of household" and therefore identifying personal details of that person.

113 Housewife

Question number of schedule (4, 9, 14 etc) denoting sex of person who is the housewife and therefore identifying personal details of the housewife.

114 Menu or non-menu data

For experimental purposes:-

- 1 = menu data included ("menu data")
- 2 = " " not included ("non-menu data")
- 115 Supplementary benefit
 - 1 = household in receipt of supplementary benefit.
- Family income supplement

 1 = household in receipt of FIS.

Computer code:

S.B. only = 1 F.I.S. " = 2 Both = 3 Neither = 4

B. HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL DETAILS GENERATED IN THE COMPUTER

1. Household composition code

- 1. 1 adult only
- 2. 1 adult, 1 or more children
- 3. 2 adults only
- 4. 2 adults, 1 child
- 5. 2 adults, 2 children
- 6. 2 adults, 3 children
- 7. 2 adults, 4 or more children
- 8. 3 adults only
- 9. 4 or more adults only
- 10. 3 or more adults, 1 or 2 children
- 11. 3 or more adults, 3 or more children
- 12. (8 + 9) 3 or more adults

Note: Young couples, where one or both are under 18 years, but not under 16 (against questions 112 and 113 on the schedule), will be treated as if they were both adults.

2. Registrars-General's social class

NFS Code

- 1 = Armed Forces, retired or not gainfully occupied, or no information
- 2 = I = Professional, etc, occupations
- 3 II Intermediate occupations
- 4 III Skilled occupations
- 5 IV Partly skilled occupations
- 6 = V = Unskilled occupations

The Registrars-General's social classes are defined in terms of occupation of the head of the household as shown in Appendix A.

Registrars-General's socio-economic group

This is based on the occupation of the head of the household or in certain cases (see question 106 above) that of the principal earner.

NFS Code

- 1 = Retired or not gainfully employed
- 2 = (1), (2), (12), Employers, managers and own-account workers (other than professional non-agricultural)
- (3) Professional workers, self-employed
- 4 (4) , employees
- = (5) Intermediate non-manual workers
- (6) Junior non-manual workers
- (7) Personal service workers
- (8) Foremen and supervisors, manual
- = (9) Skilled manual workers
- 10 = (10) Semi-skilled manual workers
- 11 = (11) Unskilled manual workers
- 12 = (13), (14) Farmers, whether or not employing non-family labour
- 13 = (15) Agricultural workers
- 14 = (16) Members of armed forces
- 15 = (17) Occupation inadequately described/no information

The relationship between the Registrars-General's socio-economic groups and the occupation of the head of the household (or principal earner) is shown in Appendix A

4. Age of housewife

- 1 aged under 25 years
- 2 25 to 34 years =
- 3 4 11 35 to 44 years
- = 11 45 to 54 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 11 65 to 74 years
- 11 75 years and over

Age of head of household

- aged under 25 years
- 25 to 34 years =
- 11 35 to 44 years =
- 11 45 to 54 years = 11 55 to 64 years
- 11 65 to 74 years
- 75 years and over
- 6. Socio-economic groupings ("Professional" or "non-professional" indicator)
 - 1 = Registrars-General's social classes I and II ("professional")
 - III, IV or V ("non-professional")

```
Grouping of households for income clasticity calculations
7.
           1 = 1 adult aged under 55 years
           2 = 1 adult aged 55 years and over
           3 = 2 adults, housewife aged under 55 years
           4 = 2 adults, housewife aged 55 years and over
           5 = 2 adults and 1 child
6 = 2 adults and 2 children
           7 = 2 adults and 5 children 8 = 2 adults and 4 children
           9 = 3 adults
          10 = 4 adults
          11 = 3 adults and 1 child
                                                                                    100
          12 = 4 adults and 1 child
      Persons in household with a declared family income
8.
9.
      Number of pregnant women
      Month (NFS)
10-
           numbered from 1 to 12
11.
      Cross-over head of household (see Section A, question 105)
12.
      Number of:
                                                                                   ant 11
          QA Ps
          adult males
          adult females
          children aged 16-17
              11
                         12-15
                          8-11
               **
               11
          infants
13. Household composition x income groups
                                           / I/G A1 = A2
          Adults only
          1 Adult + children
          2 Adults + 1 child
                                             I/G B
                                                                  28 groups
          2 Adults + 2 children
                                           / I/G C
          2 Adults + 3 children
           2 Adults + 4 or more children / I/G D1 + D2
           3 or more Adults + children
14. Household composition x income groups
           In full (including combinations of groups)
                                      (11 groups - see 1 above)
             Household composition
                                                                            110 groups
                                      (10 groups - see Section A, 106)
             Income groups
15. Sample class x income groups
           In full (including combinations of groups)
                                       (6 groups - see Section A, D on page 1)
             Sample class
                                       (12 groups - see Section A, 106)
             Income groups
                                                                                   15
```

8.

16. Sample class x household composition

In full (including combinations of groups)

```
Sample class (6 groups - see Section A, 'D' on page 1) ) 72
Household composition (12 groups - see 1 above) )groups
```

17. Sample class x region

(including combinations of groups)

```
Sample class (6 groups * - see Section A, 'D' on page 1) ) 57
Region (11 groups - see Section A, 3) ) group
```

- * London analysed only for 1) South East
 - 2) East Anglia
- 18. (a) Total expenditure for previous week
 - (b) " family income
 - (c) Occupation Head of Household
 - (d) Income of head of household
 - (e) Expenditure during week
 - (g) Total quantity free for week
 - (h) Total net balance (see section A, questions 8, 13, 18 etc)
 - (1) Nutrient codes for each person and visitor

(This nutrient code is based on the sex and/or age of the individual and, in the case of male adults (aged 18-64), the degree of activity entailed in their occupation (see note (d), page 3; used for classifying persons according to their nutrient requirements).

NFS code

```
Infant (age under 1 year)
                                     Note: On the tabulations,
       Children, l year
   =
               , 2 years
                                             nutrient codes 1 to 12
 3
           11
   =
               , 3-4 years
                                             are further sub-divided
4
           11
   =
 56
               , 5-6 years
                                             so that details are
           ••
   =
               , 7-8 years
                                             given for each year
           11
   =
       Males, 9, 10 and 11 years
 78
                                             of age/
   =
         " , 12, 13 and 14 years
   =
            , 15, 16 and 17 years
 9
       Females, 9, 10 and 11 years
10
   =
             , 12, 13 and 14 years
11
   =
               , 15, 16 and 17 years
          If.
12
   =
       Males, 18-34 years incl, sedentary
13
   =
                       **
14
                11
                             ", moderately active
   =
                       11
         Ħ
                н
                             " , very active
15
   =
                             " , sedentary
                       11
16
         "
              35-64
    =
                       11
                             " , moderately active
                11
17
   =
                 11
                       11
                               , very active
```

18. (1) NFS code (cont'd)

```
19 = Males, 65-74 incl.
20 = ", 75 years and over
21 = Females, 18-54 years incl (except pregnant)
22 = ", " " pregnant
23 = ", 55-59 " "
24 = ", 60-74 " "
25 = ", 75 years and over
```

17

C. PURCHASE DETAILS TAKEN FROM LOG-BOOKS

Day of Survey/day of week. A two digit code preceded by a minus sign, the first digit indicates the day of record keeping (eg first day of log will be 1) and the second digit indicates the day of the calendar week (eg Monday = 1, Sunday = 7).

Each item in the log-book is punched in the sequence

- (a) new pence, (b) food code number,
- (c) quantity and (d) purchase/free code

Food codes.

The food codes are listed in Appendix C to this note.

Quantity

Quantities are expressed in ounces, avoirdupois, with the following exceptions:-

- (1) Fluid ounces: coffee essences, vegetable juices, fruit juices, vegetable and salad oils.
- (11) Tenths of pints: Milk and cream (powdered and condensed as liquid equivalents). One-third pint of free school milk is coded as 0.3 pt, two-thirds of a pint as 0.6 pt, and so on, the coded amounts being increased by 10 per cent within the computer;
- (111) Units: Eggs.

Purchase/Free Code

This coding indicates whether the item was purchased or obtained free or at a reduced price:

- 2 = Free (eg from own garden, allotment; welfare foods).
- 3 = Free from employer.
- 4 = Free from own business, farm, market garden, etc.
- 5 = Reduced price food from employer.
- 6 = Free gifts (these must be home produced).
- 7 = Withdrawn from stock (must be home-produced and consumed during the survey week).
- 8 = Free gifts from shops or manufacturers as part of advertisement or sales promotion campaign.

Purchase/Free Code (cont'd)

- 9 = (a) Welfare milk where a recipient has a free entitlement (to ordinary grades, but elects to pay a quality premium (NFS 546).
 - (b) "Social" beef, where a voucher has been used (Dec 74) to April 1975 (NFS 886).

Note. Codes 1, 5 and 9 are purchases, except for free welfare milk where code 9 merely records the quantity for which a premium was paid together with the amount of premium.