



Catalogue no. 11-522-XIE

**Statistics Canada International Symposium
Series - Proceedings**

**Symposium 2003: Challenges
in Survey Taking for the Next
Decade**

2003



Proceedings of Statistics Canada Symposium 2003
Challenges in Survey Taking for the Next Decade

USING QUALITY AND RISK TO DETERMINE INVESTMENT IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Frank Nolan¹

ABSTRACT

Following recent world events, including terrorism attacks and BSE, the United Kingdom Government has put in place a strategy to increase emphasis on risk management across the civil service. This strategy has included work in the Office for National Statistics (ONS), where risk management is being embedded in the business of the office.

Risk can be viewed as an element of quality. The ONS has developed a quality framework as part of its objective to become a world class statistical office. Important elements of the framework are the National Statistics Code of Practice and the eleven associated Protocols, including the protocol on Quality Management.

Risk and Quality can be used to assist with investment decisions across the office. A table has been developed to provide measures of the strengths and weaknesses of statistical inputs and outputs. This paper discusses the construction of the table and improvements which are being explored, including developing some qualitative measures for the dimensions of quality, using the European Statistical System quality dimensions, and using the table to measure improvements in the value of statistics.

¹ Frank Nolan, Office of National Statistics