

Foreword

The Society for Co-operative Studies in Journals 63, 66, 69 and 71, of August 1988, September 1989, September 1990 and June 1991, published "Reflections and Projections" on the Co-operative Union's Review of Statistics for the previous year. Here now are the responses to the Review for 1991 and we are again publishing these earlier and separately to serve the Co-operative Union's intention of distributing them to retail societies.

We are indebted to the Information Services and particularly the Statistical Section at the Union for the following note on the Review - as well as for much else in the preparation of this feature in the Journal.

"The Review of Statistics is compiled from the Annual Returns and Financial Statements submitted by societies to the Co-operative Union. The prime aim of the document is to give to delegates to the Co-operative Congress, meeting late in May each year, (and to other interested parties) an appreciation of the Movement's performance during the last financial period. In view of the short time available to build up these aggregate figures the document should be regarded as a provisional statement and is refined in the more comprehensive analysis *Co-operative Statistics* produced later in the year.

In addition to the overall indicators for the British retail Movement (turnover, profitability, market share and finances) the statement also contains similar information for each of the largest fifty societies. These are listed according to turnover size and in addition to absolute amounts various ratios are given in order to facilitate comparison between societies.

Additional copies of the Review are available from the Statistical Section of Information Services of the Co-operative Union at a nominal price to cover printing and postage."

A copy of the Review was submitted to each contributor, for his "reflections - and projections" and the responses to a demanding timetable are greatly appreciated.

Correspondence on this Supplement or more generally on the Journal will be welcomed by the Joint Editor, Dr. R.L. Marshall, 15 Beacon Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 8RN, (0509) 890612.

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R.L.M.