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\* SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN NCDS4 \*  
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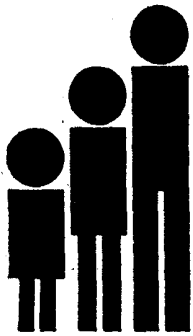
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NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY

WORKING PAPER NO.10

Self-Employment in NCDS IV

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### Summary.

'Self-employed' refer here to all those currently in employment who so described themselves. There were 530 self-employed in the NCDS 1V sample, forming 6.1 per cent of all currently in employment - around two-thirds of the Census of Population estimate for all age groups. Men outnumbered women by nearly four to one.

Most businesses were very small, having no employees and no or relatively small assets.

The majority of the self-employed worked in the service industries, with important numbers also in construction and agriculture, forestry and fishing. Although for women the distribution by industry closely resembled the distribution obtained in Census of Population estimates, the male sample in NCDS 1V had rather larger numbers employed in construction.

Breakdowns by the OPCS 1980 classifications of condensed KOS heading, SEG and Social Class are given.

Self-employed women were more likely than female employees to have borne a child, and there is evidence that the flexibility of self-employment in terms of both hours and place of work was important to them. Self-employed men tended to work very long hours and both men and women often worked unsocial hours.

Information on earnings is both partial and unreliable, but suggests that the net earnings of the self-employed were greater than of employees. For women, however, this was because deductions from gross earnings were lower, as is evidenced by the fact that over a third did not pay National Insurance contributions.

More of the self-employed of both sexes than of the employees had completed apprenticeships. Slightly more of the self-employed left school at 16 but there were otherwise no large differences in terminal education age. However, more of the employees held qualifications above 'A' level standard.

The self-employed were more likely than employees to have received an inheritance, and their inheritances were of greater value.

Before their present job both men and women among the self-employed had changed jobs more often than employees, but they were only a little more likely than employees to have had a spell of unemployment.

On all dimensions which could be compared the self-employed were more satisfied with their jobs than were employees. Although they rated their job security lower, they gave this less importance than did employees.

In the 1979 General Election, the self-employed were both more likely to vote Conservative than employees and less likely to vote at all.

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Definitions.

1. In this paper 'self-employed' refer to those who described themselves as self-employed in their current job. There is no clear statutory definition of self-employment, and whether an individual so describes himself may bear little relationship to the decision a tribunal might reach about his employment status (Leighton, 1983). However, in the absence of other variables in NCDS 1V which would enable us to assess employment status more carefully, such as the method by which earnings were calculated, the degree of capital investment by the respondent or the nature of supervision and discipline at work, we must rely on self-description alone.
2. We include here only those who were in employment at the time of the NCDS 1V interview, either part-time or full-time, including those who were concurrently in some form of education or training. Exact definitions in terms of variables in the survey are given in the Appendix. All regions of Great Britain are included.

Number and sex of the self-employed.

3. A total of 530 sample members, 6.1 per cent of those currently in employment, described themselves as self-employed. This compares with an estimate based on the Census of Population of almost 9 per cent of the employed labour force of all ages in Great Britain in 1981 (Department of Employment, 1983a). There appears therefore to be less self-employment among younger members of the labour force.
4. Men formed 77.7 per cent of the 530 self-employed in the sample and women 22.3 per cent. These proportions correspond reasonably closely to the proportions in the 1981 Census of Population estimates for Great Britain where 79.7 per cent of the self-employed were male and 20.3 per cent were female. In the NCDS 1V sample 8.0 per cent of all males currently in employment were self-employed compared with only 2.9 per cent of females. Because the predominance of men among the self-employed would bias any comparisons with employees, figures in this report are given separately for each sex.

Size of businesses.

5. The number of other people employed by the self-employed is shown in Table 1. The majority, 71.7 per cent, had no employees at all, while only five individuals (0.9 per cent) had 25 or more employees. A larger proportion of the women than of the men had at least one employee (32.2 per cent as against 24.3 per cent), although of course the actual number of women with employees was smaller.
6. 30.9 per cent of the self-employed said that their business had no assets such as property, machinery, vehicles, stocks or materials. Of the 343 who said that they had assets, half were unable or unwilling to give an estimate of the value of their business should it be sold as a going concern. Table 2 reports the valuations given by the remainder, but the large amount of missing information and the subjectivity of the estimates mean that the figures should be treated with caution. The majority valued their business at less than £10,000, and very few had substantial assets of £50,000 or more. Despite the fact that the women among the self-employed were a little more likely to have employees than men, more of them said that they had no business assets, and those that did have assets tended to give estimated values below those given by the men.

Industry.

7. Table 3 gives the industries in which the self-employed were working as classified by the 1980 revision of the Standard Industrial Classification. The major divisions in which they were engaged were Construction (25.7 per cent) and Distribution, Hotels and Catering, and Repairs (25.5 per cent), followed by Other Services (20.8 per cent) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (11.1 per cent).
8. Figures based on the 1981 Census of Population for the industries of the self-employed in Great Britain using the 1980 revision of SIC are not yet available, but some comparisons can be made with published figures based on the 1968 SIC (Department of Employment 1983 b). These are shown in Table 4. For women, bearing in mind that there are only 118 self-employed women in the NCDS 1V sample,

it can be said that the NCDS 1V and the Census estimates agree quite closely. For men there is an important difference in that rather more of the 23 year olds are engaged in the construction industry - 32.8 per cent of the self-employed men in NCDS 1V compared with a Census estimate of 23.4 per cent for self-employed of all ages. The deficit in the numbers in other industries in the NCDS 1V sample is spread fairly evenly across industrial groupings when compared with the Census estimates.

9. It is very difficult in the construction industry to distinguish between true self-employed and employment practices which are designed merely to take advantage of tax and National Insurance arrangements. It seems likely that many young men in this industry are 'self-employed' only for reasons of the latter kind. It follows that an estimate of the 'truly' self-employed among 23 year olds would be somewhat below the 6.1 per cent quoted in paragraph 3, and that the difference between the proportions of self-employed among the younger and older members of the workforce is rather greater than a simple comparison of NCDS 1V and Census estimates would suggest.
10. In Table 5 the industries in which the self-employed were engaged are compared with the industries of men and women in the NCDS 1V sample who were in employment as employees at the time of interview. Among the men, the proportion of employees engaged in the production industries excluding Construction (Divisions 1 to 4) was, at 36.4 per cent, some six times greater than the proportion of self-employed so engaged. A greater percentage of self-employed men than of employees were engaged in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Construction, and Distribution, Hotels and Catering and Repairs, but there was a smaller proportion of self-employed men than of employees in each of the remaining divisions of the service sector 7, 8 and 9.
11. Among self-employed women two industrial divisions contributed over three-quarters of employment, namely Distribution, Hotels and Catering, and Repairs (25.4 per cent) and Other Services (50.0 per cent). The only other division which accounted for a higher proportion of self-employed women than of employees was Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (5.1 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent of employees).



KOS.

12. Classification by KOS is based on what an individual actually does rather than the product of the industry in which he works. Table 6 gives the condensed KOS headings of the occupations of the self-employed compared with employees in NCDS 1V. A higher proportion of employees of both sexes than of the self-employed were in the professional categories 1,2 and 4, a fact probably related to the length of training required for entry to the self-employed professions, but a higher proportion of the self-employed than of employees came under the heading 'literary, artistic and sports'. There were also, as should be expected, relatively more of the self-employed in the categories which cover farming and fishing, construction and managerial occupations, (the condensed KOS heading 'managerial' includes proprietors in the service sector, even when they have no employees).

SEG.

13. It is not meaningful to compare the SEG of the self-employed with employees as employment status is itself an element in the classification, so Table 7 gives a breakdown by sex for the self-employed only. Like Table 1, it shows a higher proportion of women to be employers and a higher proportion of men working on their own account without employees. This difference could well result from a proportion of quasi self-employed men in the construction industry.

Social Class.

14. OPCS Social Class attempts to group occupations of similar skill level. Table 8 shows different patterns of self-employed men and women which reflects sex divisions in the labour market generally. The largest group for self-employed men, as for male employees, was the skills manual, which contains 45.9 per cent of all self-employed men. This includes many independent tradesmen such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers and motor mechanics, as well as a number employed in the building trade. This is followed by the intermediate group (24.0 per cent), which includes sales proprietors and farmers with and without employees along with occupations such as artists and designers.

There were marginally more self-employed men than employees in partly skilled and unskilled occupations which would include agricultural and related workers, street traders, some salesmen and collectors, window cleaners and odd-job men, while a higher proportion of employees were in professional and skilled non-manual jobs.

15. For self-employed women the two biggest social class groupings were the intermediate (36.4 per cent) and the skilled non-manual (35.6 per cent), by far the biggest single group among whom were proprietors of hairdressing establishments. As with the men, there were at least as many self-employed women as employees in partly skilled and unskilled occupations, most of these being engaged in domestic service work of one kind or another.

#### Family circumstances.

16. Table 9 shows that the self-employed were about as likely to be married as were employees. However, the self-employed women were more likely to have had at least one child born to them: this was the case for 22.0 per cent of self-employed women, but only 10.3 per cent of female employees.
17. It seems likely that some women with children opt for self-employment because it allows them to work from home or offers flexible hours which can be fitted in with family responsibilities. Indeed the feature which was chosen most frequently by self-employed women as the factor most important to them in choosing a job was 'convenient hours and conditions': a quarter chose this compared with only a seventh of female employees. 'The chance to be your own boss' took only second place for self-employed women, being chosen as most important by only 16 per cent, while for self-employed men it was the single most important factor, chosen by 30 per cent.

#### Hours of work.

18. The importance of convenient arrangements for self-employed women is shown in Table 10, which reports the weekly hours of work of the self-employed compared with employees. More self-employed women than employees worked less than 30 hours per week, and many more worked hours which varied from week to week. Among the men, the pattern was rather different: although there were a few more self-employed than employees who worked part-time, and a substantial number whose hours varied, many

more self-employed than employees had a very long working week of 50 hours or more.

19. Among the self-employed women whose hours varied from week to week, 79 per cent considered themselves to work full-time, while among the self-employed men with variable hours, 92 per cent considered themselves full-time. This brings the total figure for self-employed women working part-time or less than 30 hours per week to 24 per cent and for men to 5 per cent.
20. Table 11 describes the unsocial hours worked by the self-employed compared with employees. The self-employed were more likely than employees to work in the evening, night and early morning, and on Saturdays and Sundays. For the men this was an inevitable consequence of the long hours worked by many, but for women it seemed more commonly a product of the flexibility of their hours. For the men, the difference between the proportions of the self-employed and employees doing night work and early morning work was not so great as on the other measures; this was presumably because of shift working among employees.
21. Despite the very long and unsocial hours worked by the self-employed, they were as likely as employees to say that their hours suited them (Table 12), and the proportions saying that they would prefer more or fewer hours were very similar to the proportions among employees. Self-employed women were a little less likely than employees to find their hours suitable, but this is because slightly more would have preferred to work longer hours.

Earnings and National Insurance.

22. Information on earnings was given by only half of the self-employed compared with 95 per cent of the employees. There were probably several reasons for this: a number worked variable hours and consequently had earnings which varied from week to week; others would not have sufficiently accurate accounting procedures to enable them to give a figure; and others still who were 'self-employed' for tax reasons only might have been unwilling to disclose what they earned.

23. Even when information on earnings was given, it is unclear how this should be interpreted. For example, the questionnaire does not specify whether the figure should refer to total profits, to profits net of what was re-invested in the business, or to a sum which was drawn periodically from the business for the respondent's own use. For all these reasons, data on the earnings of the self-employed should not be taken too seriously.
24. Mean net and gross weekly earnings of those who gave information are reported in Table 13. The men had considerably higher earnings than the women; however it will be recalled that they also worked longer hours. The fact that many self-employed also worked variable hours means that it would not be satisfactory to recalculate earnings to an hourly basis for direct comparison between the sexes.
25. Self-employed men had both net and gross earnings which were higher than those of employees. For the women, however, it is interesting to note that although the net earnings of the self-employed were higher by about £2 per week than those of employees, their gross earnings were some £8.50 per week below those of employees. Part of the reason for this is suggested by Table 14, which shows that 35.6 per cent of self-employed women did not pay National Insurance contributions, compared with only 9.5 per cent of self-employed men. It would need rather better data than we have here to assess how much of this non-payment was legitimate and how much constituted an evasion of liabilities - in some cases possibly on the part of an employer of someone who was 'self-employed' in name only.
26. It seems reasonable to assume that those who were paying National Insurance contributions of which they did not know the class were probably paying the flat rate. Table 14 thus gives further evidence of the small size of most of the businesses of the young men and women in the sample, in that only one in ten were paying the profits related Class 4 contributions.

Education and training.

27. A little over half of the self-employed - 51 per cent of men and 52 per cent of women - said that they had had training of some kind in their job, though how precisely this should be interpreted is unclear.
28. Rather more of the self-employed than of employees had completed apprenticeships. For the men this was a difference of only 4 per cent (32.3 per cent of the self-employed compared with 28.2 per cent of employees), but for the women it was much more - 21.2 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent of employees. Although trade of apprenticeship has not been included in the present analysis, it is clear from the analysis of the OPCS 1980 occupation codes that the vast majority of these apprenticeships were in hairdressing.
29. Table 15 compares the dates at which the self-employed and employees left full-time education. In the past the availability of apprenticeships for boys has meant that they have been more likely than girls to leave school at 16; we find similarly in the NCDS 1V sample that slightly more of the self-employed men than of the employees had left full-time education by the end of the academic year in which they reached their sixteenth birthday. Among the women, having regard to the smallness of the sample of the self-employed, any differences between them and the employees were negligible.
30. In terms of qualifications held, there was more difference between the self-employed and employees. Table 16 uses a classification of qualifications based on that employed by the 1981 General Household Survey. It shows that among both men and women more of the employees than of the self-employed had qualifications above 'A' level standard, though roughly similar proportions of each had reached at least 'O' level standard. The difference between the two groups at the higher levels of qualification cannot be attributed entirely to a difference in the age of completing full-time education, and would bear further investigation.

Inherited wealth.

31. Completing an apprenticeship helps some young people set up as self-employed; a factor of importance for others is capital acquired by inheritance. Table 17 shows that more of the self-employed than of employees of either sex had an inheritance to the value of £500 or more, and that the mean value of the inheritances received by the self-employed was considerably greater than the value of those received by employees. There may be two mechanisms at work here: not only could an inheritance be of direct use in setting up a business, but it could also be the case that inheritances were more likely to be received by the children of self-employed parents. These may receive less tangible aid in the way of advice and encouragement as well as in some instances themselves taking over the family concern\*. The relationship between the employment status of parents and children can be investigated when data from earlier sweeps have been merged with NCDS 1V.

Previous work history.

32. Prior to their current employment the self-employed had changed jobs much more frequently than employees, and the difference was much greater than could be accounted for by the fact that slightly more of them had left school at 16. It can be seen in Table 18 that more than twice as many employees as self-employed of either sex were still in their first job at the time of interview, while over two-fifths of self-employed men and women had held four or more jobs. It is intriguing to speculate on the reasons for this: whether the self-employed are by nature more adventurous, whether work with different employers seeking the highest wages is needed to build up capital to start a business, or whether the industries in which the self-employed are most commonly found, in particular construction and certain service industries, give fewer opportunities for stable employment for employees.

33. A number of people go into self-employment as a way out of unemployment (Johnson and Rodger, 1983), and so Table 19 compares the previous experience of unemployment of the self-employed and employees. We would expect the self-employed to have had more spells of unemployment simply in virtue of the fact that they had changed jobs more frequently, but although self-employed men were a little more likely than employees to have experienced unemployment, the difference was not great. Self-employed women were no more likely than employees to have been unemployed in the past.

Job satisfaction.

34. On all dimensions which are comparable, the self-employed expressed themselves to be markedly more satisfied with their jobs than were employees. For men the biggest differences in satisfaction between the self-employed and employees occurred, in descending order, in respect of prospects, the job as a whole, the way the respondent's abilities were used and the interest and skill involved in the job. For women, the biggest differences were found with regard to the job as a whole, prospects, the way abilities were used and physical working conditions.
35. There were two dimensions of job satisfaction on which it was not possible to compare the self-employed with employees as too many of the self-employed felt they did not apply; these were 'the people you work with' and 'the way your firm or organisation is run'.
36. Not surprisingly, the self-employed had a somewhat lower estimation of the security of their current job; their answers on this question are given in Table 21. This did not appear to affect their overall job satisfaction, and indeed in their evaluation of the most important factors in choosing a job self-employed men placed it only third after 'the chance to be your own boss' and 'good pay', while male employees gave it first position. Security was also given first place in importance by women employees, but appeared only sixth in importance for the self-employed.

Political views.

37. It is not unexpected that the self-employed were considerably more likely than employees to vote Conservative in the 1979 General Election, and that the women should be more Conservative in their views than the men (Table 22). It is of interest, however, that they were somewhat less likely to vote at all than employees. This relative detachment from political life was also apparent in that they were less likely than employees to read a daily paper - 18.2 per cent of self-employed men and 19.5 per cent of self-employed women read no daily paper compared to 10.2 per cent of male and 15.8 per cent of female employees.

Future analyses.

38. It may be useful to explore in more detail the previous work histories of the self-employed once summary measures of past employment and unemployment have been developed and to look in more detail at the relationship between qualifications and the type of occupation entered. Merging of data from previous sweeps of NCDS will also permit us to look at the influence of parental occupation and of ethnic group, as well as to refine the data on qualifications.



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Appendix: Derived Variables

Self-employed and employees

The self-employed and employees are defined by means of the following SPSS code:

```
COMPUTE          SELFEMP=0
IF              (N4331 GT 0 AND
                ((N4144 GT 1 AND (N6143 GT 4 AND LT 11))
                 CR (N4144 EQ 1 AND N4238 EQ 1 AND
                    (N6126 GT 4 AND LT 11))
                 OR (N4144 EQ 1 AND N4238 EQ 2 AND
                    (N6143 GT 4 AND LT 11))))))
                SELFEMP=2
IF              (N4331 GT 0 AND
                ((N4144 GT 1 AND (N6143 GT 0 AND LT 5))
                 CR (N4144 EQ 1 AND N4238 EQ 1 AND
                    (N6126 GT 0 AND LT 5))
                 OR (N4144 EQ 1 AND N4238 EQ 2 AND
                    (N6143 GT 0 AND LT 5))))))
                SELFEMP=1
MISSING VALUES SELFEMP(0)
VAR LABELS      SELFEMP,CURRENTLY IN WORK-WHETHER SELF EMPLOYED
VALUE LABELS    SELFEMP (0)NOT IN WORK (1)SELF- EMPLOYED
                (2)EMPLOYEE
```

Date of Leaving Full-time Continuous Education

This is based on the derived variable CTAE computed by Dougal Hutchison which uses information on school leaving date and the dates and types of educational courses. For the purposes of the present paper age in months at completing full-time education has been regrouped into bands representing academic years, the academic year being defined as from September to the following August.

Highest qualification held

This is the derived variable GHSQ computed by Richard Ives which follows the order of precedence of qualifications used in analysing the 1981 General Household Survey. It combines the information on "O" and "A" levels at N4655 and N4656 with data on qualifications gained during apprenticeships and training and education courses. In the absence of information in NCDS 4 on CSE's it does not have as many categories at the lower end of the scale as the GHS variable; this will be rectified when the examination data are merged with NCDS 4.

Table 1.: Number of employees of the self-employed, by sex

	men %	women %	all %
no. of employees:			
25+	1.0	0.8	0.9
1-24	23.3	31.4	25.1
none	73.1	67.0	71.7
no information	2.7	0.8	2.3
<b>Total</b> (N)	<b>100.0</b> (412)	<b>100.0</b> (118)	<b>100.0</b> (530)

Table 2. Estimated value of the business of the self-employed if sold as a going concern, by sex

	male %	female %	all %
<b>Estimated value:</b>			
less than £1,000	3.9	5.1	4.2
£1,000 - £2,499	7.0	5.1	6.6
£2,500 - £4,999	3.6	3.4	3.6
£5,000 - £9,999	3.9	5.1	4.2
£10,000 - £24,999	5.3	3.4	4.9
£25,000 - £49,999	3.2	3.4	3.2
£50,000 or more	6.3	2.5	5.5
<b>Has business assets but gives no estimated value</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>32.6</b>
<b>No business assets</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>No information</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Total</b> (N)	<b>100.0</b> (412)	<b>100.0</b> (118)	<b>100.0</b> (530)

Table 3. : Industry of the self-employed (1980 SIC)

SIC Division:	%
0 Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	11.1
1 Energy & Water Supply	0.4
2 Extraction of Minerals etc., Manufacture of Metals etc.	0.4
3 Metal Goods, Engineering & Vehicles	1.5
4 Other Manufacturing	4.2
5 Construction	25.7
6 Distribution, Hotels & Catering, Repairs	25.5
7 Transport & Communication	4.2
8 Banking, Finance, Insurance, Business Services & Leasing	5.5
9 Other Services	20.8
no information	0.9

Total  
(N)

100.0  
(530)

Table 4. Industry of the self-employed: NCDS4 (1980 SIC) compared with Census of Population 1981 estimates (1968 SIC) \*  
by sex

Industry:	men		women		all	
	NCDS4 %	Census %	NCDS4 %	Census %	NCDS4 %	Census %
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (1980 Div. 0; 1968 Order I)	12.9	13.3	5.1	6.2	11.1	11.9
Construction (1980 Div. 5; 1968 Order XX)	32.8	23.4	0.8	1.2	25.7	18.9
Transport & Communication (1980 Div. 7; 1968 Order XXII)	5.1	7.0	0.8	2.4	4.2	6.1
Services excluding Transport & Communication (1980 Divs. 6,8,9; 1968 Orders XXIII - XXVII)	42.3	48.8	84.7	84.6	51.8	56.1
Manufacturing, Extraction, Energy & Water (1980 Divs. 1-4; 1968 Orders II - XIX and XXI)	6.2	7.4	6.7	5.5	6.5	7.0
no information	0.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.0
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (1,640,000)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (417,000)	100.0 (530)	100.0 (2,057,000)

\* Source for Census of Population 1981 estimates: Department of Employment 1983b.

Table 5. : Industry of the self-employed compared with employees, by sex (1980 SIC)

SIC Division:	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
0 Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	12.9	2.1	5.1	0.8
1 Energy & Water Supply	0.2	5.1	0.8	1.4
2 Extraction of Minerals etc., Manufacturing of Metals etc.	0.2	4.8	0.8	2.4
3 Metal Goods, Engineering & Vehicles	1.9	16.3	0.0	6.6
4 Other Manufacturing	3.9	10.2	5.1	10.2
5 Construction	32.8	9.9	0.8	0.8
6 Distribution, Hotels & Catering, Repairs	25.5	14.4	25.4	17.0
7 Transport & Communication	5.1	8.1	0.8	4.3
8 Banking, Finance, Insurance, Business Services & Leasing	4.4	8.6	9.3	14.6
9 Other Services	12.4	18.4	50.0	40.4
no information	0.7	2.1	1.7	1.3
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 6. Condensed KOS heading of occupation group of self-employed compared with employees, by sex (1980 classification)

Condensed KOS heading:	men		women	
	self-emp. %	employees %	self-emp. %	employees %
1 Professional & related supporting management; senior national & local government managers	1.2	5.9	2.5	3.9
2 Professional & related in education, welfare & health	2.2	3.4	7.6	17.3
3 Literary, artistic & sports	6.6	1.2	11.0	1.2
4 Professional & related in science, engineering, technology etc.	1.2	7.5	0.8	1.6
5 Managerial	19.7	5.8	48.3	2.7
6 Clerical and related	0.7	11.6	3.4	46.2
7 Selling	7.5	4.4	5.1	6.2
8 Security & protective services	0.5	5.2	0.0	0.8
9 Catering, cleaning, hairdressing & other personal service	2.2	3.0	12.7	9.7
10 Farming, fishing & related	6.8	2.5	3.4	0.6
11 Materials processing; making & repairing (exc. metal & electrical)	10.7	8.6	1.7	4.2
12 Processing, making, repairing & related (metal & electrical)	14.3	21.6	0.0	0.9
13 Painting, repetitive assembling, product inspecting, packaging etc.	3.6	3.7	0.8	3.6
14 Construction, mining etc. not identified elsewhere	17.0	5.0	0.8	0.05
15 Transport operating, materials moving & storing and related	5.6	9.0	1.7	0.7
16 Miscellaneous	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.05
17 Inadequately described & not stated	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 7. SEG of the self-employed, by sex (1980 classification)

	men %	women %	all %	
SEG:				
1	Employers & managers-large establishments	1.0	0.0	0.8
2	Employers & managers-small establishments	18.9	27.1	20.8
3	Professional workers-self employed	1.7	4.2	2.3
5	Intermediate non-manual workers	4.8	13.6	6.8
12	Own account workers	61.6	50.8	59.2
13	Farmers-employers & managers	3.2	0.8	2.6
14	Farmers-own account	2.9	0.0	2.3
15	Agricultural workers	3.9	3.4	3.8
17	Inadequately described & not stated	1.9	0.0	1.5
<hr/>				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	
(N)	(412)	(118)	(530)	

Table 8. Social class of the self-employed compared with employees, by sex (1980 classification)

Social class:	men		women	
	Self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
I Professional, etc.	1.7	6.3	4.2	2.6
II Intermediate	24.0	16.3	36.4	24.3
IIIN Skilled non-manual	10.7	18.1	35.6	51.7
IIIM Skilled manual	45.9	39.6	5.9	8.1
IV Partly skilled	13.8	13.0	17.0	11.7
V Unskilled	3.9	3.4	0.8	1.3
no information	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.5
<hr/>				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)



Table 9. Legal marital status of the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
marital status:				
single	61.2	60.8	48.3	50.7
married	35.2	37.2	48.3	45.5
separated/divorced/widowed	3.6	2.0	3.4	3.9
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 10. Hours worked per week by the self-employed (including overtime and excluding meal breaks) compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
Hours worked:				
less than 30	3.2	1.3	17.0	9.8
30-39	5.6	31.0	18.6	59.7
40-49	24.8	47.7	22.9	25.4
50 or more	41.0	15.9	7.6	2.6
hours vary	25.5	4.0	33.9	2.4
no information	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 11. Unsocial hours worked by the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	self-emp.	men employees	self-emp.	women employees
% doing evening work	54.1	33.9	55.1	26.6
% doing night work	21.1	19.8	21.2	10.2
% doing early morning work	29.4	24.6	16.9	8.5
% doing Saturday work	80.8	47.9	75.4	36.5
% doing Sunday work	53.2	27.4	40.7	19.0
(N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)

Table 12. Suitability of hours worked by the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	self-emp %	men employees %	self-emp %	women employees %
hours suit respondent	66.3	66.8	71.2	78.5
respondent prefers more hours	10.4	10.6	7.6	2.8
respondent prefers fewer hours	20.9	21.8	17.8	17.4
don't know or no information	2.4	0.7	3.4	1.3
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 13. Income from current employment: self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-employed	employees	self-employed	employees
(Total N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)
Net weekly earnings:				
mean	£100.27	£81.86	£61.53	£59.52
% giving information	55.8%	96.5%	56.8%	96.8%
Gross weekly earnings:				
mean	£133.77	£112.80	£73.74	£82.24
% giving information	45.4%	94.9%	50.0%	95.0%

Table 14. National Insurance contributions of the self-employed, by sex

	men	women	all
	%	%	%
Pays flat rate (Class 2) and profits related (Class 4)	11.9	5.9	10.6
Pays flat rate (Class 2) only	55.8	39.0	52.1
Pays contributions but doesn't know class	17.2	12.7	16.2
Does not pay contributions	9.5	35.6	15.3
No information	5.6	6.8	5.8
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>100.0 (412)</b>	<b>100.0 (118)</b>	<b>100.0 (530)</b>

Table 15. Date of leaving full-time continuous education\* : self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
Date left full-time education:				
up to end academic year 73-74	71.8	65.0	51.7	51.1
academic year 74-75	9.7	10.2	11.9	13.8
academic year 75-76	10.0	12.0	17.8	18.6
academic year 76-77 or later	8.5	12.6	18.6	16.3
no information	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>(N)</b>	<b>(412)</b>	<b>(4764)</b>	<b>(118)</b>	<b>(3909)</b>

\* See Appendix for definition

Table 16. Highest qualification held\* : self-employed compared with employees, by sex

Highest qualification:	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employees %
above A level standard	8.5	19.3	12.7	22.8
A level or equivalent; ONC/OND; C&G Final, etc.	26.7	22.4	11.9	13.6
5+ O levels or equivalent; C&G Craft or Ordinary	20.9	16.1	26.3	13.6
1-4 O levels etc. with clerical or commercial qualifications	3.2	4.5	16.9	10.2
1-4 O levels etc. without clerical or commercial qualifications	10.9	8.7	11.0	14.7
below O level standard or none	29.8	28.9	21.2	25.0
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

\* See Appendix for definition

Table 17. Inherited wealth: self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-emp.	employees	self-emp.	emps
(Total N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)
% with own or spouse's inheritance of £500+	16.7%	10.8%	19.5%	14.2%
Mean value of inheritance	£4,411	£2,745	£3,855	£2,549
(N giving value of inheritance)	(61)	(485)	(22)	(510)
(N with no information on value)	(8)	(27)	(1)	(47)

Table 18. Number of jobs held by the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-employed %	employees %	self-employed %	employee %
No. of jobs:				
one	12.6	32.7	14.4	30.8
two	24.5	25.4	22.0	25.1
three	19.7	17.0	22.0	18.0
four or more	43.2	24.9	41.5	26.0
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 19. Number of periods of unemployment experienced by the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-emp. %	employees %	self-emp. %	employees %
No. periods of unemployment:				
none	56.3	61.4	62.7	63.1
one	25.7	25.2	28.8	25.8
two or more	18.0	13.5	8.5	11.2
Total (N)	100.0 (412)	100.0 (4764)	100.0 (118)	100.0 (3909)

Table 20. Job satisfaction of the self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-emp.	employees	self-emp.	employees
% very satisfied with:				
usual take home pay	16.5	9.7	18.6	12.7
prospects	33.7	14.2	31.4	12.9
physical working conditions	22.6	18.6	34.8	23.4
way abilities are used	23.3	9.3	28.8	12.3
interest and skill involved	36.4	23.2	35.6	25.0
job as a whole	43.2	25.5	55.9	33.2
(N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)

Table 21. Respondent's views on security of current job: self-employed compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-emp. %	employees %	self-emp. %	emps %
Respondent's view of job security:				
very secure	33.2	45.3	39.8	55.2
fairly secure	43.4	40.2	43.2	35.2
not very secure	21.1	13.1	16.1	8.3
Don't know/no information	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)

Table 22. Voting behaviour of the self-employed in the 1979 General Election compared with employees, by sex

	men		women	
	self-emp. %	employees %	self-emp. %	employees %
Party voted for:				
Conservative	35.2	24.8	37.3	29.6
Labour	16.0	30.4	11.0	26.6
Liberal	7.8	8.3	5.9	9.8
other/refused/don't know	3.2	4.3	4.2	4.2
○ Didn't vote	37.9	32.2	41.5	29.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(N)	(412)	(4764)	(118)	(3909)