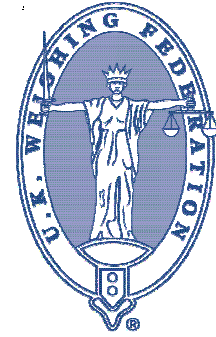


WEIGHLOG



The Newsletter of the UK Weighing Federation
June 2011

Editorial

This being the first issue of Weighlog since I took up the Presidency in October 2010 it's the first opportunity to go into writing and thank Jeremy on behalf of both the board and members for his commitment and hard work as President from 2008-2010.

As I'm sure you'll all agree those years proved difficult for us all on both the economic front in the UK and our industry in particular, hopefully better times are ahead for us all.

Of course the other significant change at the UKWF over the last year is the pending retirement of our technical officer, John Anthony, who leaves us at the AGM on October 13th after 18 years service to both the federation and the industry overall.

We shall be taking time out in wishing John a long a happy retirement whilst looking forward to a life without him.

However, life must go on and we have been very fortunate in securing the services of Ian Turner as John's replacement. Ian brings a

wealth of experience and background from his career as a Trading Standards Officer and has been 'shadowing' John since the turn of the year to take up the reins proper at the upcoming AGM in October.

The other undertaking we took into 2011 was to send out the 'voice of the members' questionnaire to help the board understand what the main issues are that stop the membership attending the regional meetings. There were some interesting returns, the highlights of which are included in this issue.

Suffice to say future meeting venues and content will, wherever possible, be based on the voice of you the members.

On behalf of myself and the board I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in October.

Jim Harper
President

Technical Updates

[The Proposed 'In-Service Inspection' Scheme](#)

The UKWF has progressed the proposal for an "In-service inspection document" and produced a draft for your consideration. Hopefully you will have received a copy via e-mail.

It is hoped that this scheme will help differentiate and demonstrate the high quality of the procedures and process followed by UKWF members in comparison to other operators in the market place.

To be accepted as members, businesses would need to apply to the scheme and

would need to comply with all of its requirements. This would mean undertaking both verifications and calibrations in a defined and transparent manner. These processes are outlined in the draft document. If a member business wished to follow a different procedure to the ones in the scheme they would have to have those procedures agreed under the scheme. All of the paperwork relating to the verification or calibration would bear the scheme logos. It is intended that a sticker bearing the UKWF logos and an advised next date of calibration could be applied to the instrument after the work has been completed.

The views of many other stakeholders have been sought and both the National Measurement Office (The NMO) and the Trading Standards Institute are broadly supportive of the idea. Subject to the exact wording and structure, the NMO are happy to approve the scheme and would be prepared to allow us to use their logo on the paperwork.

[Changes to the legislation relating to the prescribed quantities of non-prepacked bread](#)

Current laws restrict bakers to producing loaves of unpackaged bread in set sizes of multiples of 400g. It is felt that these requirements do not take account of changes to trade practice or consumer demand and it is intended that they will be removed. This will allow bakers to produce loaves in any quantities that they wish.

These changes will not affect the requirements relating to the weighing equipment that bakers must use. They will have to comply with the Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) Regulations 2006 and the Guidance notes that relate to these regulations. As a general rule, all new equipment used for making up or checking packages under these regulations must be first verified, although there are exemptions to this requirement. More information on these requirements can be found at www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/Regulation/weights-and%20measures-legislation/packaged-goods.

[The Section 70 returns](#)

Under section 70 of the Weights and Measures Act, all local weights and measures authorities must make an annual return to the Secretary of State on the work that has been completed the previous year. It must be remembered that this is a statutory requirement. It is good to note that the percentage of authorities making the returns has risen from 78% the previous year to 95% for this year and that the information is being used in line with the risk assessment criteria suggested by the European Union. It is disappointing to note however, that only 60% of the packing plants that were due to be inspected were in fact inspected and only 8% of automatic weighing instruments were checked. The overall inspection rate has dropped from 28% in 08/09 to 19% in 09/10.

The failure of the enforcement authorities to properly control the instruments in the market place is having a clear effect on businesses doing their utmost to comply with legislation. Insufficient enforcement is allowing often non-compliant instruments into the market place.

[Revision of the Non-automatic Weighing Instrument Directive \(2009/23/EC\) and the Measuring Instruments Directive \(2004/22/EC\)](#)

These are the European Directives that cover both non-automatic and automatic weighing instruments. They are in the process of being reviewed against the background of a process known as the New Legislative Framework. This is a set of changes that it is intended will modernise the CE marking requirements, introducing better requirements for market surveillance, improve confidence in accreditation processes and conformity assessment procedures, and clarifies many definitions so that they will be identical across all CE marking legislation. This is at an early stage and CECIP are actively involved in ensuring the views of all European manufacturers are being heard. More information on this can be found on the website of the European Union.

[Review of the R50 on beltweighers](#)

There has been a recent meeting of the technical committee on beltweighers to discuss possible changes to the OIML recommendation. It was agreed that the technical committee would look at developing durability requirements for beltweighers for the future.

[Possible changes to the powers of Inspectors of Weights and Measures](#)

The government is undertaking a full review of the powers available to Trading Standards Officers, with the intention of deciding if the officers have more legal power than is necessary. Within this full review there is a discussion of the powers available under the Weights and Measures Act, and the legal status of the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The UKWF is stating the view firmly that they believe that the present level of powers is suitable for enforcers to ensure the proper regulation of the market. We

would not wish to see any removal of those powers. It is the view of the UKWF that the problems faced do not relate to the powers available, but to the level of enforcement. A view that is confirmed by the statistics from the S70 returns above.

We have also expressed the view that we would not wish to see the removal of the statutory qualification for the Inspector of Weights and Measures. There is a concern that if the legal standard were removed there would be a decline in the competence of inspectors of weights and measures, and the last thing that we wish to see is a poorly trained inspector advising or enforcing the law.

[The "Civil Sanctions" Pilot](#)

The Regulatory and Enforcement of Sanctions Act allows for the implementation of what are known as civil sanctions for what was previously criminal legislation. It was intended that the legislation under the Weights and Measures Act would be included within a pilot to test the effectiveness of this method of enforcement. A good analogy of how the legislation may work for weights and measures requirements would be similar to a parking ticket. The inspector would be able to issue a relatively small penalty for an infringement of the legislation. The person receiving the penalty could either then pay the penalty or appeal to the issuing authority.

The UKWF support this process, as it will allow enforcement action to be taken against businesses that are presently flouting the law. It is seen as a new an innovative method of ensuring compliance and bringing pressure to bear on the illegitimate traders to the benefit of all other traders.

It is disappointing to note that this project has been put on hold at the moment, but is due to be revived in the near future.

[LGRegulation](#)

Due to the recent financial pressures on many government departments the LGRegulation metrology panel has come to an end. This means that the chance for co-ordination of policy and legislative interpretation amongst Trading Standards Departments will not be taking place in the

previously organized and coordinated manner. A replacement group has been set up to try and maintain some level of coordination and it is hoped that this will mitigate some of the loss of the previous group, but the new group, known as the Local Government Metrology will rely on the goodwill of the members to make it operate and is not separately funded. It is good to note that the UKWF has a standing invitation to this group and we are keen to play a part in making this forum a success. If you have any matters that you would like me to bring to the group please do not hesitate to contact Ian Turner.

The success of this scheme will be based on the participation of UKWF members and we are keen to seek your views on the merits of the scheme and whether you would be prepared to participate.

[The Weighbridge Report](#)

The first parts of the LGRegulation weighbridge survey looking at weighbridges used in landfill and recycling centres have published. It was disappointing to note that 25% of the weighbridges tested were found to be outside of the legal tolerance and of those 25% the average error was 210kg! It is also significant that Type Approval Document was only checked in 37% of inspections. The reason that the last figure is so important is that compliance with the type approval process is one of the major costs in getting a new instrument to market. It is the failure to ensure that all businesses are meeting the costs of international standards that is putting an unfair burden on the legitimate businesses that the UKWF represent.

The results of this survey are in line with other surveys carried out on weighbridges. We can only hope that Trading Standards Departments undertake the second part of this project and continue to add pressure to ensure that all traders, not just those involved in landfill and recycling, use fully compliant equipment

[CECIP General Assembly](#)

The General Assembly for CECIP took place on 3rd June, in Bratislava. This was a useful and interesting meeting that discussed a wide range of legislation that will eventually influence us all.

The main areas of discussion included looking at the possible changes to European Guidance on Notified Bodies (The Blue Guide). This will have a bearing on the processes that the bodies that issue the approval for self-verification operate to.

There was considerable discussion on producing a guide for carrying out market surveillance checks to be produced by CECIP. It is hoped that this would be used in conjunction with the market surveillance guides produced by WELMEC, but it was felt that it could equally be used by manufacturers and importers to assist in their obligations under market surveillance.

A further item of discussion related to the different laws in each member state with regard to re-verification. Manufacturers and other businesses cannot carry out re-verification in all member states; in some countries it is only the authorities that can

do this. All countries completed a questionnaire that it is intended would act as the basis of a database for different re-verification laws in each country. This would provide useful information for exporters to those countries, and would also enable the businesses in those countries to lobby their national governments to change the national legislation.

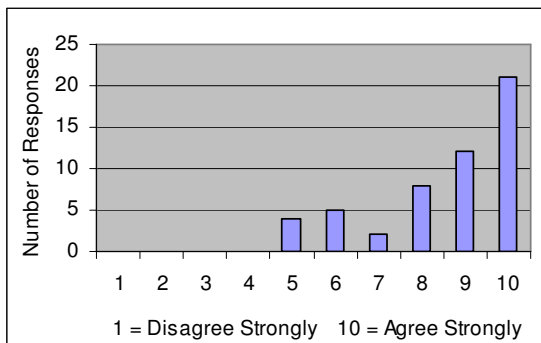
An interesting presentation from the new Director of the OIML showed a clear enthusiasm to pursue the scope of mutual acceptance arrangements (MAA's) with other countries. This would enable the results of type approval testing done in Europe to be accepted in other areas of the World without undergoing complete re-evaluation. It was felt that this would be particularly beneficial for businesses attempting to export to those markets, for example the USA.

If you would like to discuss any of these Technical Updates, please contact our Technical Officer, Ian Turner.

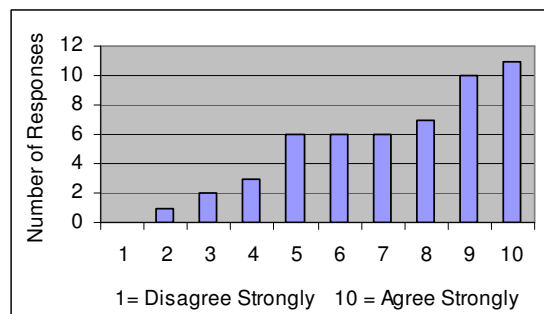
Membership Questionnaire

We asked all members to complete a questionnaire to ensure that we understand and deliver the most valued by our membership. A total of 48 questionnaires had been returned. The highlights and priorities are as follows:

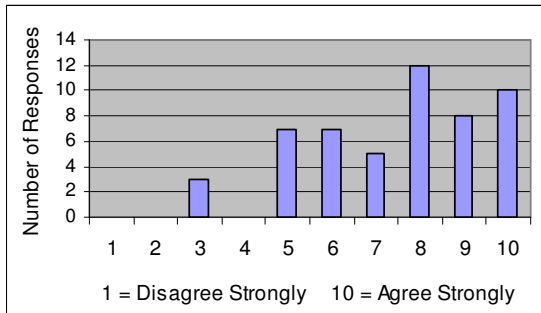
Q2. The UK weighing industry is significantly impacted by National and International legislation and Codes of practice. I would like the UKWF to be pro-actively involved on my behalf, and to provide concise and timely information on what the resulting changes mean to me and my business.



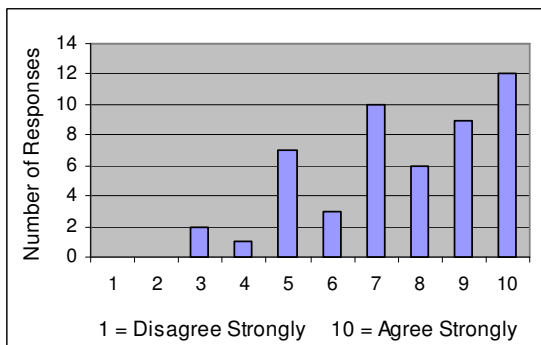
Q3. More and more Weighing legislation is being driven by European or International regulatory organisations. I would like the UKWF to lobby strongly for the UK's interests in these forums - even if it means a small increase in my annual fees.



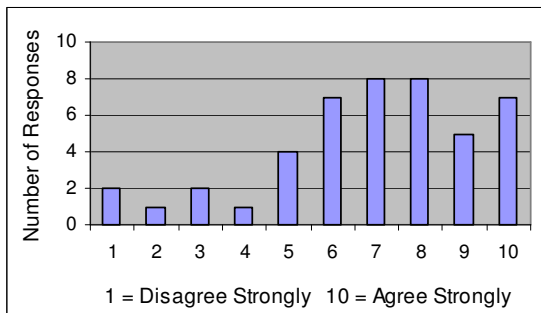
Q9. I would like the UKWF to run relevant training courses on subjects relevant to the weighing industry.



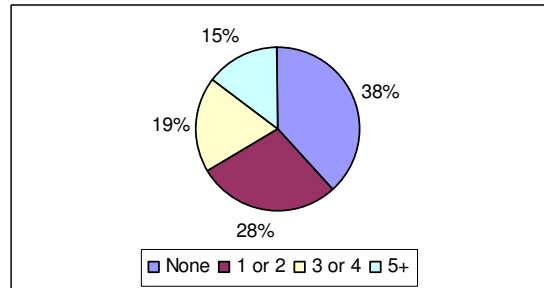
Q15. I would like the key feature at the meetings to be related to the weighing industry.



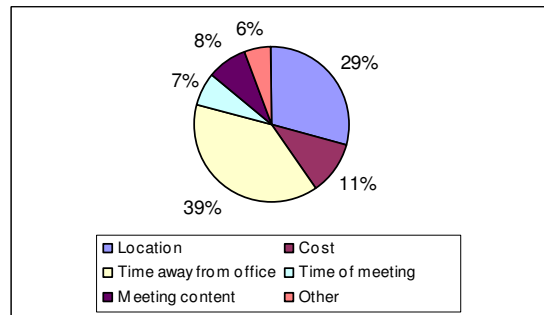
Q17. The main benefit I get from the regional meetings is the report from the Technical Officer.



Q12. During the last 3 years there have been a total of 6 regional meetings. Please indicate the number of meetings a representative of your company has attended.



Q13. If company attendance is less than 3, please indicate reason(s) for non-attendance.



Therefore, the emphasis of all future meetings will be based around what the 'Voice of the Member' is telling us.

Social Media Workshop

At our recent Regional Meeting in York, on 14 April, Susan Hallam presented on the powerful ways of communicating with customers, partners and the press. The businesses to business is using social networking, video, blogging, and a whole host of techniques as a way of building their market share, cutting costs, and engaging with customers.

This workshop provided an overview of social media technologies and demonstrated practical examples of how businesses are taking advantage of the opportunities they offer.

For notes from the meeting and a copy of the presentation, please refer to the [UKWF website](#).

Training

Internal Training

We organised an ATEX Training course for members which was held on Tuesday 21 June. We are also considering running a Serf-Verification training course for 2011.

If you are interested in attending any of our training courses or would like further information, please contact the Secretariat to register your interest.

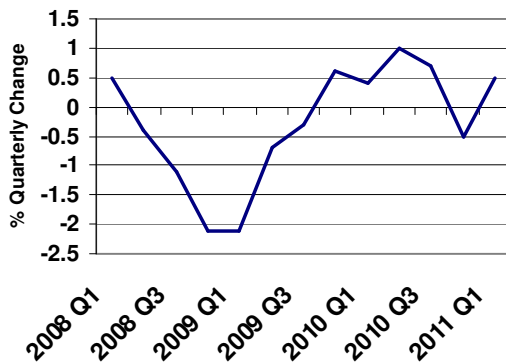
Sporting Events

The annual UKWF vs. NMO cricket match will be taking place on **Wednesday 27 July** from 5pm at the NMO site in Teddington. As always, we will be looking for players to make up a team and do our best to win back the trophy that has eluded us in recent years. Please let us know if you are able to play or if you can volunteer a colleague.

Economic Update

(Source: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>)

GDP



(GDPQ: ESA95 % change on previous quarter: Gross value added at basic prices)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 0.5 per cent in the latest quarter, unrevised from the growth previously published. GDP in the first quarter of 2011 is now 1.8 per cent higher than the first quarter of 2010.

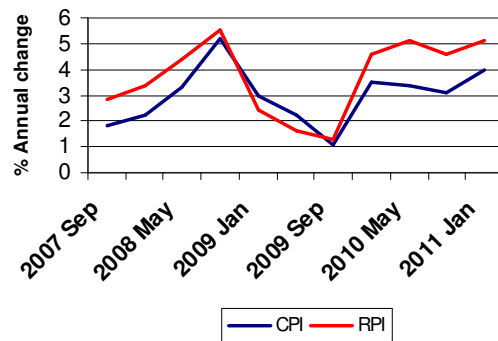
Output in the service industries rose by 0.9 per cent in the latest quarter. The rise this quarter was due to transport, storage & communication increasing by 3.0 per cent; business services & finance rising by 0.6 per cent; government & other services rising by 0.6 per cent; and distribution, hotels and catering rising by 0.8 per cent.

In the first quarter of 2011 the trade deficit in real terms decreased to £5.7 billion compared with £11.5 billion in the previous quarter.

Exports of goods and services rose by 3.7 per cent and imports of goods and services fell by 2.3 per cent.

The GDP implied deflator rose by 2.8 per cent compared with the first quarter of 2010.

Inflation



(DTG7: CPI Annual rate all items & CDKQ: RPI Annual rate exc. Mortgage interest)

CPI annual inflation - the Government's target measure - was 4.5 per cent in May, unchanged from April. Although unchanged overall, there were significant upward and downward pressures at the more detailed level between April and May.

By far the largest downward pressure to the change in CPI inflation came from transport services. The timing of Easter in 2011 had a significant impact on the April figures for air

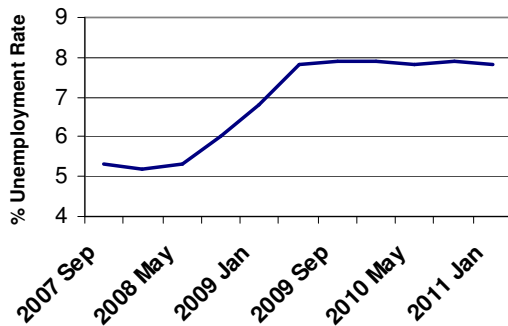
transport, sea transport and international rail travel since it fell in the collection period. By comparison, Easter in 2010 was much earlier and did not affect the April 2010 figures.

In the year to May, RPI annual inflation was 5.2 per cent, unchanged from April. The main factors affecting the CPI also affected the RPI.

RPIX annual inflation - the all items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments - was 5.3 per cent in May, also unchanged from April.

As an internationally comparable measure of inflation, the CPI shows that the UK inflation rate in April was above the provisional figure for the European Union. The UK rate was 4.5 per cent whereas the EU's as a whole was 3.2 per cent.

Unemployment



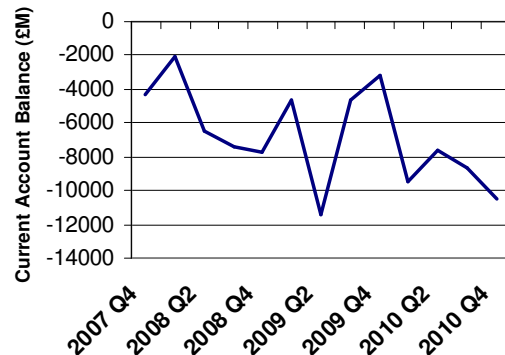
(MGSX: Unemployment rate: UK: All: Aged 16 and over)

The unemployment rate for the three months to April 2011 was 7.7 per cent of the economically active population, down 0.3 on the quarter. The total number of unemployed people fell by 88,000 over the quarter to reach 2.43 million. This is the largest quarterly fall in unemployment since the three months to August 2000. The number of people unemployed for up to 12 months fell by 72,000 over the quarter to reach 1.60 million. The number of people unemployed for over 12 months fell by 16,000 to reach 829,000, but the number of people unemployed for over

24 months increased by 39,000 to reach 385,000.

There were 1.49 million people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in May 2011, up 19,600 on April. The number of men claiming JSA increased by 11,100 to reach 1.01 million and the number of women claimants increased by 8,500 to reach 483,700, the highest figure since September 1996.

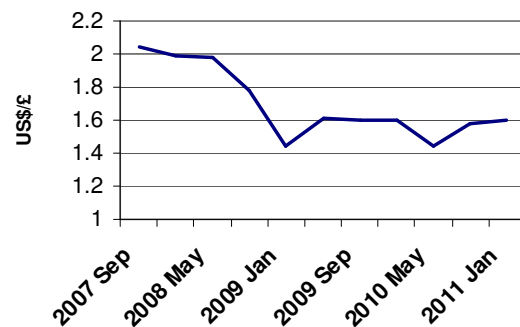
Balance of Payments



(HBOP: Current Account Balance)

The UK current account recorded a deficit of £10.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2010, increased from a revised deficit of £8.7 billion (originally published as a deficit of £9.6 billion) in the previous quarter. The fourth quarter balance is equivalent to -2.9 per cent of GDP, compared to -2.4 per cent in the previous quarter.

Exchange Rate



(LUSS: Middle closing spot rate US\$/£)

Forthcoming meetings

Please note the following dates for your diary:

AGM & Regional Meeting

13th October 2011 Venue to be confirmed

Board Meetings:

7th July 2011
13th October 2011
8th December 2011

Regional meetings for 2012

The venues for next year's regional meetings have yet to be arranged. If you have any suggestions for suitable venues, then please let us know.

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Your details

Do we have your correct details or is there anyone else within your organisation who should receive information from the Federation directly? To update your details or add anyone to our database, please advise the Secretariat.