Separation brings analysts and their graphs together

Matthew Barnes
Office for National Statistics, UK
Overview

• Stata in the ONS
• Economic Trends
• The solution: use Stata’s graphics
• Wishlist
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stata in the ONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increasingly wide use in development</td>
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<td>• Not a “production” tool</td>
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<td>• Key part of the analytical toolkit</td>
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<td>• Intensively used in our new virtual Research Lab</td>
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Economic Trends

• Revamp for 600th issue in November 2003
• Higher quality graphing required
• Done by designers for long articles
• Problem for short-term analytical articles
Short-term articles

• Solution involving design unit
  – Process slow
  – Prone to errors as designers don’t understand analysts intentions
  – Very inefficient

• Need to find an alternative solution
  – Could Stata provide what we needed?
Using Stata: problems in Summer 2003

• Need for colour separable EPS files
  – But Stata only supported the RGB colour model when printing needs CMYK

• No documentation of graph styles
  – Styles are critical so non-expert users can produce correctly formatted graphs
Response: contact Stata Corp!

- Very helpful
- CMYK added in January 2004 update
- Set up a style for us
- Support to customise styles
Not yet being used in production…

… but soon

• Proof of concept done
• Still tweaking the style with design
  – e.g. wanted lines 0.4pt rather than 0.33pt!
• Some training of staff who produce graphs needed

• Also plan to use Stata in place of Eviews for internal analytical chart packs – adaptation of ET style with more pleasant colours
Wishlist

- Speed – currently it is frustratingly slow at times
- Documentation – more would allow additional refinements and applications
  - Diagram showing what elements of scheme files refer to
- Direct use of PostScript fonts for correct previews
- Units other than inches
- Relationship between line widths and chart size makes design work more difficult
Conclusion

- Stata can do it and will save time
- Could be a possible corporate solution
- Still some things that could be better…