## Preserving the quality of your original graphs, maps and line diagrams

If you have worked hard to achieve a great piece of research with superb figures which have been constructed in a graphics software package, why not have these reproduced in the best possible quality? Figures that contain original line-work and fonts are degraded by 'Saving as' picture files (resolution dependent), e.g. jpegs and TIFFs etc. To make things worse, dropping these picture files into Word degrades them even further.

Most origination programs in which line-work is created, allow the files to be saved in formats that preserve the line work as vector information (resolution independent), which means the figures can be reproduced at any size and lose no quality at all. Professional graphics and statistics software such as Adobe Illustrator and STATA allows these types of files to be saved as **EPS** format which preserves linework, fonts and tones in the same file, which is ideal. Many of you will be using other types of software which don't have this option but you should be able to 'save as' a **PDF** which also preserves all elements as originated without loss of quality. The below show examples of graphs which have been originated and saved from Microsoft Excel as both image file and a file preserving the the vector linework.



The above was saved as a jpeg. Right; a portion of the image magnified to enable you to see the effect of 'Saving as' a picture file (raster)



The above was saved as a pdf, preserving original line work and fonts (vector information). You may think you can see pixels but this is due to screen resolution. Print this page on an office printer or magnify on screen as large as you can and you will see that the quality of this image does not degrade.