



Newsletter

September 2012

Keeping stakeholders informed

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Introduction

Welcome to the September edition of the census newsletter. We aim to keep you informed about progress to deliver the 2011 Census outputs and the communication activities to support these. The key points to note from this newsletter are:

- The protection of personal census information is of utmost importance to ONS. A number of controls have been put in place to prevent disclosure.
- Links to methodology papers about the 2011 Census first release and the 2011 Census based mid-year population estimates planned for late September.
- ONS will continue to engage with census users through attendance at conferences this autumn.
- ONS has appointed a new Director General. Current 2011 Census Director, Glen Watson, takes on the role from the beginning of October.

First 2011 Census outputs

The first 2011 Census results were published on 16 July and reaction to these has been very positive.



As part of the first release of 2011 Census data, two interactive visualisations were released to the BBC, Guardian and Telegraph for the first time. These two graphics received 128,000 hits in the first week. Added to this, the main census story on the BBC website attracted 371,000 page views and the census animations within this got 94,000 separate page views. There was extensive media coverage with over 360 pieces of coverage across broadcast, national and regional media.

ONS is continuing to respond to questions about the outputs and the most frequently asked of these are addressed in the article '*How do I find out more?*' later in this newsletter.

The second release is planned to start in November 2012, (see below).

The third release is planned to start in March 2013 and will contain local characteristics. The fourth release is planned to start in July 2013.

For further information see the 2011 Census prospectus at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/release-plans-for-2011-census-statistics/index.html>

Dissemination of the second and third releases

The second and subsequent releases of census data will include data at smaller statistical and administrative geographies such as output and super output areas, local authority wards, etc. The second release will contain over 100 tables and will take place between November and February.

The primary medium for these datasets will be through ONS's neighbourhood statistics site, (NeSS). The site will be signposted from the ONS landing page.

Data will also be made available on the NOMIS website (www.nomisweb.co.uk). Full guidelines for using the data on these sites will be made available on the main ONS website.

The third census release is currently planned for spring 2013, via an application programming interface (API) and enhanced data explorer through the ONS website. These tools, currently under development, will enable organisations and individuals to access, use and explore ONS statistics more effectively.

What is disclosure control?

Publishing either aggregate or individual data carries a risk that individuals or other entities (e.g. households, families, businesses) could be identified and confidential information about them could be released. The UK census offices need to protect the confidentiality of census respondents for a number of reasons. The production and use of official statistics depend on the cooperation and trust of citizens. Such trust cannot be maintained unless the privacy of individuals' information is protected. There are also legal and policy obligations that must be respected; the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 places a legal obligation on the UK Statistics Authority to protect the confidentiality of personal information, including that collected from census respondents. The National Statistics Code of Practice set out principles for protecting confidentiality. These include the principle that: 'The National Statistician will set standards for protecting confidentiality, including a guarantee that no statistics will be produced that are likely to identify an individual unless specifically agreed with them.'

The aim of statistical disclosure control (SDC) is to ensure that statistical outputs provide as much value as possible to the users while protecting the confidentiality of information concerning individuals or entities. For 2011 Census, ONS has tried to strike the right balance between disclosure risk and data utility. The primary method for protecting tabular outputs is record swapping, targeted toward individuals and households with unusual characteristics within their local areas, the level of swapping kept as low as possible while fulfilling the legal obligations to protect personal information. The choice of this method ensures that all tables will be additive, cell counts will be consistent between different tables and that statistics at the higher geographies will be largely unaffected. There will be some restrictions on the level of detail within tables, particularly at the lowest geographies,

but a similar level of detail will be available as in 2001 in most instances with the major change that there will be no cell perturbation method employed.

Further information on the methods used to protect confidentiality of individuals in 2011 Census can be found within the following link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/new-developments-for-2011-census-results/statistical-disclosure-control/index.html>

Continuing engagement

ONS will be presenting at a number of events over the next few weeks, including the following:

- | | | |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| • Royal Statistical Society International Conference | Telford | 3 – 6 September |
| • British Society for Population Studies | Nottingham | 10 – 12 September |
| • Market Research Society, Census Geodemographic group | London | 19 September |
| • South West regional observatory | Bristol | 21 September |
| • Government Economists and Social Researchers | London | 28 September |
| • TWRI Research & Policy conference | York | 5 October |

In addition to the above events, ONS will hold further meetings of its census advisory groups prior to the second release.

How do I find out more information about the 2011 Census outputs?

The answers to many of the frequently asked questions can be obtained from the methodology papers published alongside the first 2011 Census outputs:

- What is the difference between the census numbers and the mid-year estimates?
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-data/2011-first-release/first-release--quality-assurance-and-methodology-papers/differences-between-2011-census-est-and-rolled-forward-pop-est.pdf> (An update to this document will be published with mid-year estimates in September 2012)
- Why:
 - a. do census numbers not match the other administrative sources I use regularly?
 - b. does my patient register data show many more people in my LA than the census data?
 - c. do I not see armed forces base personnel in my census numbers?<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/processing-the-information/data-quality-assurance/overview-of-administrative-comparator-data-used-in-2011-census-quality-assurance.pdf>

- Where are the evaluation reports?
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/how-our-census-works/how-did-we-do-in-2011-/index.html>
- How do I find the census glossary and definitions?
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-data/2011-first-release/2011-census-definitions/index.html>

The Census Customer Services team is available to assist all users of census data and answer a wide range of questions from 8:00am till 5:30pm every working day. Telephone +44 (0)1329 444972, or email census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk

New Director General for ONS



Prime Minister, David Cameron, recently approved the appointment of Glen Watson as the new Director General for ONS. As many of you will know, Glen has spent the last five years as the Director of the 2011 Census for England and Wales. Glen will not be totally relinquishing his interests in the census as his new role will encompass all ONS business activities. He will be taking up his new role in September when Stephen Penneck retires.

Release of mid-year estimates

September sees the release of the mid-year population estimates for 2011. These will be based on the 2011 Census estimates rolled forward to take account of births, deaths and migration in the three months between Census Day (27 March) and 30 June 2011.

Unrounded 2011 Census estimates will be available from the ONS website at the end of September.

Workshop feedback

ONS held a series of census advisory group meetings and stakeholder road shows in April and June 2012 which were attended by over 350 delegates.

The events comprised a combined census advisory group meeting in London for central government, local authority, business, academia, health and diversity; a Welsh census advisory group in Newport; and seven regional road shows, held at venues in Birmingham, Manchester, London (x3), York and Newport.

Slides from these events are to be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/consultations--users-and-local-partners/events/events-archive/index.html>

We informed census stakeholders and users of progress to deliver the 2011 Census outputs and the planned dissemination tools and channels. We also gathered delegate views on the potential opportunities and challenges for them, and on how ONS might assist.

The most frequently made comments were about the far-reaching benefits of the census for the creation of local area profiles:

“The development of policies and plans to meet an identified customer needs. Allocation of appropriate levels of resource, services and the targeting of these. Analysis to support strategies, projects and submission of funding bids and the potential advantages of using the planned online tools”.

Delegates welcomed the planned dissemination tools to provide greater self-service to users with easier access and exploration of ONS data. They considered that opening up the data to a wider group of users would help realise the benefits and empower many local community organisations to gain a better understanding of the statistical outputs. They hoped it might provide community groups with improved access to information, greater influence and reduced the reliance on organisations such as local authorities for this information. They also thought that helping members of the public to explore census data would increase reliance on ONS for support and guidance.

ONS will consider all the feedback from these meetings throughout the development of dissemination strategy.

Next edition

If you have any suggestions for articles in future newsletters, please let us know. In the meantime, we will continue to upload relevant information onto the ONS and community of practice/knowledge hub websites. Please send your suggestions to SMC.team@ons.gov.uk

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Published by the Office for National Statistics,
Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham. Hampshire PO15 5RR

www.ons.gov.uk

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