



Newsletter

May 2013

Keeping stakeholders informed

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Introduction

Welcome to the May edition of the census newsletter, keeping you informed about progress to deliver the 2011 Census outputs and the communication activities to support them. Key points to note from this newsletter are:

- ◆ Publishing the first set of multivariate statistical tables takes place on 16 May (Release 3.1)
- ◆ A Government review has given the census project Green status
- ◆ Commissioned tables can now be ordered from Census Customer Services
- ◆ ONS website data access improvements are moving ahead

Data release summary

Until now, all data releases (Key & Quick Statistics, Releases 1 and 2) have been univariate, that is, estimates based on the answers that people gave on their questionnaires, for example, revealing the number of people in a particular local authority of a specific age. May sees the beginning of the process of publishing the third release containing the first multivariate tables, enabling more complex information to be produced.

While ONS is beginning to publish multivariate Detailed Characteristics statistics, univariate Key and Quick Statistics will continue to be published for other geographies.

The best way to keep up to date is to refer to this page on the ONS website:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/release-plans-for-2011-census-statistics/index.html>

As the plans for each release are finalised the required month's notice will be given in the Release Calendar - <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/release-calendar/index.html>

Data releases since the last newsletter

30 January 2013

- Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for wards and output areas in England and Wales
- Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for electoral divisions and output areas in Wales

19 February 2013

- Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for health areas and post code sectors in England and Wales
- Key Statistics for national parks in England and Wales
- Key Statistics for national parks in Wales

26 March 2013

- Short-term residents for local authorities in England and Wales

- Quick statistics for England and Wales on national identity, passports held and country of birth

Census outputs and associated supporting information can be found via the ONS website (www.ons.gov.uk/census) the Neighbourhood Statistics website (www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk) and the Nomis website (www.nomisweb.co.uk). A spreadsheet (at <http://tinyurl.com/csuq43g>) will guide you through what is available at which level of geography and where the information can be found.

Release of Detailed Characteristics data

Detailed Characteristics (Release 3.1) will be published on 16 May and will include tables covering the following topics at local authority level:

- Migration
- Ethnicity
- National identity
- Country of birth
- Language
- Religion
- Health
- Welsh language skills

For more information on this release, go to <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/release-plans-for-2011-census-statistics/third-release-of-2011-census-statistics/index.html>

Specialist data products

Towards the end of 2013 ONS plans to publish two sets of specialist statistical products in the form of microdata and flow data.

Census microdata are samples of individual and household records that enable users to look at combinations of characteristics that are not available through standard published tables. A range of measures will be employed to protect confidentiality and consideration is currently being given to what sample sizes will be appropriate.

Flow data (formerly origin-destination statistics) will provide information on migration patterns and day-to-day travel to work patterns, cross-tabulated by variables of interest (for example occupation). Information will also be included on where people have second addresses and where students have a term-time address compared to their home/family address.

More information will be published in due course in the 2011 Census Prospectus (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/index.html>).

Gateway Review

The 2011 Census received a positive report when the Major Projects Authority (part of the Cabinet Office) carried out a Gateway Review in February and awarded an overall 'Green' (out of Red, Amber or Green) confidence level.

The review looked at the objectives and outcomes of the census project and assessed whether it made the necessary contribution to Government strategy. A total of eight recommendations (three essential and five recommended) were made, principally around the areas of quantifying the benefits and the transition to business as usual.

Census user satisfaction survey results

The Census Benefits Realisation Team conducted a user satisfaction survey at the beginning of 2013. This was the first time that such a survey had been carried out and questionnaires were sent out via the Census Customer Services census news alert list. A total of 146 people responded and the team is grateful for their time and opinions.

The majority of respondents were in local government, followed by education, health and charity/voluntary sectors. The main uses of data were research, regional/local comparisons, policy making and service planning. Other uses included transport planning and criminal justice service inspections.

A large majority agreed that the schedule of data releases was well communicated. When considering which products were used, 92 per cent reported that they accessed statistical tables, 76 per cent the geography information and 69 per cent the census prospectus.

Dissemination of data was thought to be satisfactory by 60 per cent of respondents. At the opposite end of the spectrum seven per cent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. While half of the respondents were satisfied with the ability to locate and access the data online a small percentage was dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Respondents who used the supporting information products were generally satisfied with them. However, a significant number indicated that they had not looked at or used the supporting products.

Overall the survey confirmed that users were happy with the quality of data released so far, however it did highlight a number of key areas for improvement including:

- Targeting a wider cross-section of users for future surveys
- Raising awareness of the supporting information products
- Easier navigation of the ONS website

While the survey clearly drew on a small sample of users it was seen as a useful first step and the results have been shared with the UKSA, National Records Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Registration Authority and the Welsh Government.

A further survey, aimed at a wider user base, is planned for Autumn.

For more information, please contact benefits.realisation@ons.gov.uk

Commissioned Tables

The commissioned table service for 2011 Census statistics for England and Wales began in April 2013, well ahead of the scheduled date of 2014.

Commissioned tables for univariate 2011 Census data can be ordered from [Census Customer Services](#). This service covers requests for more detail on any single variable for those published in the Key Statistics and Quick Statistics products.

For multivariate data, commissioned tables can be pre-ordered from June 2013. Fulfilment of all multivariate requests will begin in September 2013.

Availability of all requested commissioned tables is dependent on the data having been published; on the similarity to planned material in later releases; and on statistical disclosure control.

Customers will be advised of estimated delivery dates (please note that delivery times will vary depending on the level of detail requested), and any necessary changes to comply with disclosure control criteria. Costs will be agreed prior to work commencing, based on the published [price list](#).

All commissioned tables will be published on the ONS website (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-ad-hoc-tables/index.html>) and linked to the customer via email.

Improving access to data

The Web Data Access (WDA) project is delivering two new digital tools which allow you to access, explore and download census outputs as open datasets via the ONS website. These will be available this summer and include:

- a new Data Explorer which will let you interrogate datasets on the website - you can select and filter on different geographical areas, view your selection in a browser or request a download of the dataset in a variety of formats
- an Application Programming Interface (API), which allows external systems to access 2011 Census data directly and reuse it within their own applications. APIs are a great way of sharing data safely, easily and automatically

We are planning to enhance these tools later in the year to further assist in bringing statistics to life by introducing thematic maps and a tool that allows you to produce charts and graphs based on your own data selection.

These developments are part of ONS's ongoing work to improve our website and support the Government's Open Data & Transparency policy.

Census analysis papers

Analysis papers provide additional comment on census data by pulling out the key stories; adding context; comparing areas and regions; and explaining trends over time.

Three new papers are being published alongside the Detailed Characteristics data release on 16 May 2013. They are:

- Characteristics of migrants - country of birth and nationality by age, sex and year of arrival
- General health of carers by age, sex and economic activity
- Religion by age and social classification

Analysis papers already published:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 11 Dec 2012 | International Migrants Ethnicity & National Identity Religion Comparison of 2011 Census and the Labour Market Survey |
| 30 Jan 2013 | General Health Families & Households Disability |
| 13 Feb 2013 | Methods of Travel to Work |
| 15 Feb 2013 | Unpaid Care |
| 19 Feb 2013 | Characteristics of National Parks |
| 4 Mar 2013 | Language |
| 26 Mar 2013 | Non UK Born Short Term Residents |
| 19 Apr 2013 | A Century of Home Ownership and Renting |

Analysis papers can be accessed from the Census Analysis pages of the ONS website at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/analysis/index.html>

Census advisory group meetings

The latest round of census advisory group meetings took place in March. Further details about the groups, including membership, agendas, minutes and papers, are available on the ONS website at:

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

Useful census websites

2011 Census prospectus

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

ONS Interactive Content

- <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/interactive/index.html>

Publication Hub

- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS)

- <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

HM Treasury – using ONS Graphs and Charts

- http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_diagrams.htm

BBC Page – Displaying table of ONS data

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-14731757>

Government website with ONS info – all together in one searchable website

- <http://data.gov.uk/publisher/office-for-national-statistics>

Department of Health – reference to ONS

- <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm>

Tools/resources for people wanting to use data and infographics

- <http://dailytekk.com/2012/02/27/over-100-incredible-infographic-tools-and-resources/>

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 StatsUserNet websites. Please send your suggestions to census.communications.team@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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