



Newsletter

June 2012

Keeping stakeholders informed

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Introduction

Welcome to the June edition of the census newsletter. We aim to keep you informed about progress to deliver the census outputs and the planned web dissemination tools that will help users access and exploit census data. The key points to note from this newsletter are:

- the first 2011 Census outputs (population estimates by age and sex at England and Wales and local authority level) will be released at 9.30am on 16 July 2012
- a 2011 Census geography prospectus is now available and sets out the plans for the 2011 Census geography reference data
- following a series of regional roadshows held in April, ONS will publish a report at the end of June to summarise findings and conclusions, and set out the activities that it is taking forward in response to customer feedback
- ONS is developing an online communications toolkit to help users inform their own customers about the 2011 Census outputs.
- development of the online census dissemination tools is ongoing and a beta version of the application programming interface (API) will be available for users to trial in the summer

Date for the first 2011 Census outputs

The 2011 Census will provide a detailed snapshot of the population of England and Wales as at 27 March 2011. The first results are planned for release at 09.30am on 16 July 2012. These results include:

- usually resident census population estimates for England and for Wales, and for England and Wales, at single year of age, and sex
- usually resident census population estimates by five year age bands for local authorities in England and Wales,
- household estimates
- estimates of short term migrants.

There will be a simultaneous media launch in both London and Cardiff and we anticipate that there will be significant regional and local interest too.

There are a number of planned census output releases and further information about these are set out in a 2011 Census prospectus. The prospectus will be regularly updated as the release programme unfolds. Over seven hundred people are now registered for the 2011 Census prospectus updates and notification of revisions. You can register for update notifications at the following link:

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

Census geography prospectus

2011 Census Geography prospectus is now published here :

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

It sets out the release plans for the 2011 Census geography reference data, and provides some background about how the reference data are produced and how they should be used. These reference data sets include boundaries for the output areas and super output areas, and the new workplace zones. There will also be a number of supporting lookup files to enable linkage between the 2001 and 2011 output areas, and from the 2011 output areas to the other 2011 Census output geographies.

Communications toolkit

ONS is aware that many census users may be asked questions by their own customers or may wish to communicate messages about the outputs. To assist users, ONS is producing an online communications toolkit and to be published for the first release. The toolkit will be updated as new content is made available and will include:

- frequently asked questions (FAQs) and key messages
- editorial content to assist in publicising and explaining each release
- guidance on branding and logos

Census spring roadshows a resounding success

Over 300 people attended the latest round of census roadshows in London, Manchester, Newport, Birmingham and York. Delegates heard presentations on: the progress being made to produce the census outputs; the details of the outputs being released; and the dissemination tools and channels being developed to help users access, use and exploit this very rich source of information.

The road show presentations are now available from the ONS website as well as StatsUserNet and the Knowledge Hub online communities at the addresses below:

ONS Website

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/census-consultations/planned-events/index.html>

Knowledge Hub (Local Government Association)

Groups: (i) 2011 Census; (ii) 2011 Census CLM/ACLM Community

<https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/groups>

StatsUserNet (Royal Statistical Society)
Community: 2011 Census

<http://www.statsusernet.org.uk/StatsUserNet/Home/>

A workshop session was held at each event to listen to user views on the opportunities and challenges facing them in using the outputs and dissemination channels. A report summarising the workshop conclusions and the actions that ONS will take forward in response to user feedback will be published in late June together with a list of questions and answers from the events.

Producing the population estimates tutorials

ONS will provide a series of tutorials in late June and early July 2012 to help users understand and have confidence in how the population estimates were produced. The sessions will provide clear and simple explanations with anonymised examples showing the coverage assessment and adjustment process, and an explanation of how the quality assurance process was carried out.

Nottingham	25 June	Park Plaza Hotel
Titchfield, Hampshire	27 June	ONS Titchfield
Manchester	29 June	St Thomas Conference Centre
Newport, Wales	02 July	ONS Newport
London	04 July	RSS, London (Now full)

For more information on these and to register your interest, please contact

2011.census.la.liaison@ons.gsi.gov.uk

In addition ONS has recently presented to users at a number of seminars and conferences. These include: the 2012 Local Area Research & Intelligence Association (LARIA) conference in Aston, Birmingham; ONS Census Advisory Groups in London and Wales; Royal Statistical Society's Statistical User Forum; the Market Research Society Census Geodemographic group and the Governmental Statistical Group conference.

Future presentations include the following September conferences: Royal Statistical Society International Conference; the British Society of Population Studies; and the combined Government Economic and Social Research Service.

Manchester processing site

With the processing of questionnaires now complete and all census data transferred to ONS, the Manchester processing site has been fully decommissioned and responsibility transferred back in full to UK Data Capture. Following a large scale and highly supervised process, all the census questionnaires have now been shredded. This was the largest shredding exercise undertaken in the UK.

Review of disclosure control practices

ONS has commissioned Professor Chris Skinner from the London School of Economics to review its disclosure control procedures. Statistical disclosure control (SDC) is essential to help safeguard the confidentiality of the information that ONS holds about people and businesses. This external review will provide assurance to both ONS and customers that personal census information is protected and confidential.

Web Data Access (WDA) update – dissemination of 2011 Census outputs

The ONS website is the main dissemination channel for all ONS outputs, including the 2011 Census. ONS is currently developing new tools and functionality to disseminate the census outputs, including an enhanced data explorer (a web tool), and an application programming interface (API). These will enable users to explore and use ONS statistics more effectively and will be available for the second and subsequent census output releases.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the web data user tests so far. There has been an excellent response and all future sessions are fully booked. There have been four rounds of user testing, over a period of four months, each of which has added value and provided a positive impact to the data explorer tool to enable the best user experience.

A beta version of the API is currently being developed. If you would like to register to trial the beta API once it is available in the summer, please email

onsapi@ons.gsi.gov.uk

ONS plans to run some tutorials between the first and second census output releases to help users understand more about the API and the enhanced data explorer and decide which are most appropriate for them. For details about how to register for these events, see future newsletters. Information will also be posted on our online 2011 Census Communities on the Royal Statistical Society's Statsusernet at

www.statsusernet.org.uk/StatsUserNet/Communities/ViewCommunities/ViewAllCommunities/

and the Local Government Association's knowledge hub at

<https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/groups>

Evaluation reports

A series of post census field operations evaluation reports will be made available to the general public via the ONS website. These will review the successes and challenges experienced by ONS in delivering the 2011 Census.

Publication of these reports will be phased, with the first reports due for release by the end of July. Full details will be available nearer the date on the ONS website and through newsletters and census alerts.

Next edition

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see included 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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