



CENSUS ADVISORY GROUP

AG (14) 03 – 2011 Census output – UK outputs

(UK Outputs from the 2011 Census)

1. Introduction

This paper provides a summary of the UK outputs from the 2011 Census that have been produced to date, and those that are planned to be produced over the coming year. The benefits of producing a UK database, and the challenges in doing so, are also discussed.

Advisory group members are asked to:

- Note the UK outputs that have been released to date;
- Note the extent to which UK data currently exists and the outputs that can be produced from this data;
- Note the current priorities of the three UK Census offices;
- Comment on whether there are any significant gaps in the remaining planned UK products.

2. UK outputs already produced

There have been seven UK releases to date. Three of these releases consisted of population and household estimates, a total of 15 tables released between December 2012 and July 2013. The next three UK releases consisted of Key Statistics and Quick Statistics tables, a total of 72 tables released between October 2013 and January 2014. The lowest level of geography provided in these tables was Local Authority.

The final release was the Key Statistics and Quick Statistics tables published in June 2014, which covered the same topics as those in the previous three releases, but this time at a lower level of geography (Output Area or equivalent).

In addition, a large amount of information for the UK as a whole was made available in March 2014 through the datacubes provided to Eurostat as part of the obligations pertaining to the EU Census regulations. This data is available via the Eurostat Census Hub and provides a wealth of multivariate comparable information for the UK and its constituent countries.

3. Remaining UK outputs planned

The remaining UK outputs that are planned for production and release during 2014 are mostly more complex and specialised outputs:

- Tables for Database on Immigrants in OECD countries (June 2014)
 - A group of five tables requested by the OECD, these include the following variables, country of birth, country of citizenship and educational attainment
 - These are being produced at the UK level, with no more detailed geographical breakdown
- Origin-Destination (July 2014 to December 2014)
 - Will show migration and commuting flows
 - Flows at Local Authority level will be available publically via NOMIS at end of July
 - Flows at lower levels of geographies will be available from July to December, via a more secure platform
 - Specification are here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/release-plans-for-2011-census-statistics/subsequent-releases-of-specialist-products/flow-data/index.html>

- Migration (August 2014)
 - Will include counts of both inflows and outflows for each area to provide users with the level of net migration
 - Tables are planned for MSOA / Ward geographies, with potentially some OA tables, all this is dependent on disclosure control analysis

- United Nations Yearbook (September onwards 2014)
 - Will be compiled jointly by ONS, NISRA and NRS.
 - These tables contain basic demographic details, the main geographical breakdown is based on the urban / rural split

Microdata products will be produced separately for each country, from each country's own census database. However, common specifications will be used so that, as far as possible, comparable analysis can be undertaken.

It is not currently planned to produce additional standard outputs at the UK level or lower level geographies. In effect, multivariate data for the Detailed Characteristics and Local Characteristic products is only available for the constituent countries separately.

Commissioned Table service

For UK products, ONS will be the lead contact for information on UK tables. In the first instance, if the information is available from the UK information already compiled then ONS customer services will respond to the user enquiry.

If more detailed UK information is requested that requires bespoke analysis of the underlying dataset then the user will have to submit separate requests to ONS, NRS and NISRA to obtain the data required for England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland separately. It is worth noting that any commissioned output will be subject to SDC, but that the SDC considerations are the responsibility of individual census offices.

4. Fulfilling further UK requirements

The largest demand that we have received from users regarding UK outputs is for Key and Quick Statistics at Output Area level, with additional interest in UK origin-destination and migration data. All of these products have either been released or are currently being developed.

Any further work to meet UK requirements would follow after completion of these products, and after completion of the Scottish Detailed and Local Characteristics which NRS will be focussed on until the end of 2014. Substantial work on further UK products is therefore unlikely to be able to commence until at least late 2014. Additional work to further specify the details and costs of meeting additional UK products will not begin until at least autumn 2014, as the outputs that are already planned will be taking priority.

Creating further UK products would be a significant piece of work, and the cost of doing so, in terms of the resource, time, and money required, needs to be considered against the benefit that it would help realise. We are not currently aware of any strong user requirements for any other UK products in addition to those planned, however, advisory group members are invited to provide feedback on:

- Whether the current plans for UK outputs meet requirements
- If not, what are the additional requirements for UK outputs?
 - Content
 - Geographical level
 - Why the information is required
 - Priority

5. Conclusion

Whilst it is still feasible that more UK products could be produced, it is thought that there is little benefit in doing so at this stage given the current UK outputs that have already been released and those that are planned. However, advisory group members are invited to comment on the proposal that the UK outputs described in this paper will be the last produced for the 2011 Census, and to provide feedback on any additional requirements.

A raft of UK outputs have already been released from the 2011 Censuses across the UK as detailed earlier. The release of these outputs has had to take cognisance of, and be tailored to reflect, the individual and different release timetables throughout the UK. Given (a) the considerable volume of UK data that has already been released or is underway development and (b) the extant output priorities being advanced by the Census Offices and the implications that this will have on the timing of any future UK releases even if deemed feasible, Advisory Group Members are invited to:

- comment on the proposal that no further standard UK Outputs are required/produced from the 2011 Census; and
- provide feedback on any additional requirements and how they might best be met.