

# 2001 Census News

The Newsletter of Current Census Topics

No 47 December 2001

## Census 2001

### Processing in full swing

Six months after Census Day, and with an estimated response rate of 98%, the field operations aspects of the Census are now in their 'wash up' stages.

The processing of the Census forms is in full swing, with seven million forms coded so far. Data for the first Estimation Area – a part of the country containing around 500,000 people used for the estimation and adjustment of coverage - was delivered on 20 September, and ran well through 'downstream' processing, the imputation process being faster than anticipated. The One Number Census systems have run in the first Estimation Area and have estimated undercoverage, and the imputation of missing persons and households is underway.

The main steps in processing the Census forms and data are explained in more detail on page 2.

### Important developments on output

Consultation with users on the form and content of Census output has continued with a series of roadshow meetings held during September and October.

More information on the roadshow and the consultations on the standard area statistics is on page 4. This includes an important announcement about how the Census organisations will meet the strongly expressed requirement in England and Wales for output for up-to-date areas, and for more flexibility in output in general, and about the disclosure control measures which will be used to protect confidentiality.

### Evaluation

An important part of this stage of the Census operation is the collection of material to help evaluation of the whole exercise, and this is also feeding into the preparation of metadata for the 2001 Census. Evaluation will remain broadly consistent between the Census organisations in the UK, though in areas such as publicity where different approaches were taken separate assessments will be carried out. The evaluation process of the Census is described in more detail on page 10.

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## 2001 Census Processing

The processing of the Census is advancing, and this note explains the main procedures in capturing information from the 2001 Census forms and preparing it for output. There are a number of innovations in the way the 2001 Census forms are processed in comparison with previous censuses. Data from the forms is being captured using automated methods whenever possible



to ensure quality and value for money. It also means that 100% of responses are coded. Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) of ticks and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) of written responses is being used by our contractors, then, once the data is captured and coded, it is delivered back to the Census organisations for 'downstream processing'.

### Capture, coding and delivery of the data

For the first time, the capturing and coding of the data from the Census forms has been contracted to an outside company, Lockheed Martin, who provided a similar service in the recent US Census. They in turn have subcontracted the manpower element to ICL, and a special processing centre has been built in Widnes, Cheshire.



When forms arrive at the processing centre they are manually checked to remove any non-Census material and are then sorted into batches and assigned a barcode so they can always be traced back to their box and 'cluster'.



The forms are acclimatised to the conditions in the processing centre for 24 hours, and are then guillotined and put through the scanner. The scanned images are then viewed on screen for initial checks. Once scanned, the forms are put back in their boxes and the images go through a production control process using the barcodes and special software to ensure they have all been scanned correctly. A two per cent sample is also quality assured.

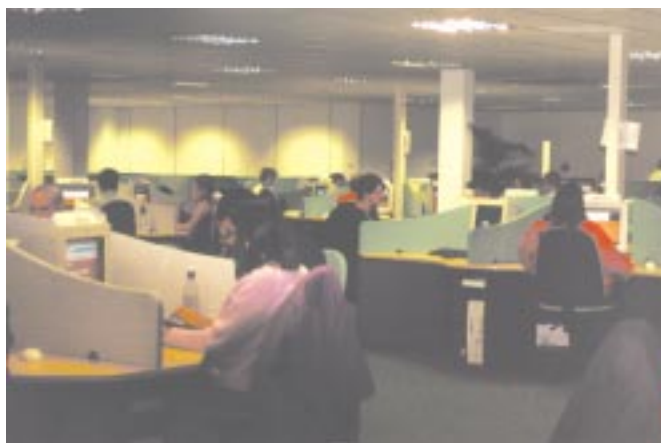


Once these stages are complete, the write-in answers (including addresses, occupation and industry) are passed to coding. Any write-ins that are not automatically coded using the OCR software are sent to 'front-line' coders and then to supervisors, and, failing all else, are referred to the Census organisations for resolution. Once all coding stages are complete, the data for a Census District (CD) is checked for invalidities.

Once all the CDs for an Estimation Area (the subdivisions of the country used for One Number Census (ONC) estimations) have completed this process, the data and images are delivered to the Census organisations ready for downstream processing.

## Downstream Processing

Downstream processing comprises a complex set of computing and manual activities which ultimately create a full and final database of Census records from which all Census output can be generated. These activities are run in series, Estimation Area by Estimation Area, and cover loading and checking, edit and imputation, and the ONC process.



### Load

The files are loaded onto a database during which they are checked at two levels. First, to ensure that all files are present and readable, and to ensure that the structure of files and records meets the specification agreed with the contractors. Secondly, checks are made to ensure that the data content and data values are within the specification, for example, nobody aged 150. Problems are reported to Lockheed Martin who re-supply if necessary.

### Edit and Imputation

If a question has not been answered or the response is inconsistent with other responses, for example, a four-year-old with a job, the imputation system establishes a valid entry by drawing on valid responses from demographically similar households.

### Adjustment for undercoverage

The Census Coverage Survey (CCS) was conducted a few weeks after the Census and covered some 350,000 households. Data from the CCS is captured and coded in a similar way to the main Census data. It then passes

through load and edit and imputation to the ONC process, where the CCS records are matched against Census records and estimates are made of under-enumeration. The Census database is then augmented with additional records to represent those individuals and households estimated to have been missed. Further details are available in 'A Guide to the One Number Census', available from Census Customer Services.

## Data Quality Management

For each area, a range of quality checks and comparisons between the Census counts and other sources are carried out. The data is checked for any systematic error that may have been introduced in capture and coding (for example, all garden centre employees coded as childcare nursery employees). This supplements an array of quality control checks carried out by the contractors, who may be required under contract to correct and re-supply data.

## Creation of output database

The final stage is to structure the data for output. A range of new variables are derived, for example, family relationships, and some of the disclosure control measures are applied.

A database is then available for output production. Some testing of output systems and preparation of output will take place as Estimation Area databases become available in series, but no output will be released until all adjustments for undercoverage have been made and the database for the whole country is signed off – the basis for the *concurrent* release of output described on page 4.

## Consultation in Wales

The Census has always produced special output for Wales which have reflected its political and cultural distinctness from England. Similar outputs will be produced in 2001 and the Office is consulting with various

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organisations in Wales, including the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Language Board to ensure that Census products and services meet, as far as possible, the needs of users.

## Output Consultation

*A successful roadshow was held across the UK in September and October to launch consultation on the final proposals for standard area statistics. Foremost among points raised at the meetings was a need for more information on the coverage and quality of the Census and a need for output for areas changed after Census day. This note covers subsequent action, including an important statement about flexible output and disclosure control.*

### Meetings

Fourteen output roadshow meetings were held across the UK in September and October. There were nine meetings at various locations in England, one in Wales, one in Northern Ireland, and three in Scotland. The meetings were attended by around 600 people in total across the UK, representing organisations from central and local government, and from the health, academic, business and voluntary sectors. The Census organisations would like to thank all those who helped in organising the events, particularly those who hosted meetings.

Participants and others who have received the consultation documents were invited to comment by 16 November 2001. The Census organisations have begun to analyse submissions, but would be pleased to consider any final comments made immediately after receipt of this issue of *Census News*.

### Roadshow content

The meetings introduced documentation covering the revised proposals for the 2001 Census standard area statistics, and explained the decision process behind the latest versions of the tables. This included a description of major changes since the last round of consultation and presentations on output geography and on the metadata that will support the statistics. Software for viewing and manipulating tables was also demonstrated.

The presentations also included an update on the 2001 Census operation, and on plans for topic reports and commissioned tables. The Census Access project and its relationship with Neighbourhood Statistics, and the SCROL project in Scotland, was also covered.

A full set of the slides shown at the England and Wales roadshow meetings is available for downloading from the National Statistics Website at [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/outputroadshows.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/outputroadshows.asp). Corresponding slides from the roadshow meetings in Scotland and Northern Ireland are available for downloading from the GROS Website at [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk) and the NISRA Website at [www.NISRA.gov.uk/census](http://www.NISRA.gov.uk/census)

## Main issues raised at the meetings

The meetings provided opportunities for questions and feedback, all recorded by the Census organisations. Questions were answered as fully as possible, particularly by the provision of more information on the scope and phasing of output, but there were a number of significant points for further action by the Census organisations.

### Scope and phasing of output

#### *England and Wales, and Northern Ireland*

Results of the 2001 Census for England and Wales, and Northern Ireland will be issued concurrently so that figures for all local areas and for the country as a whole become available at the same time. But the volume of output will require release of the main results in a series of tranches through a variety of media over a six month period scheduled to start around the end of 2002.

#### *Reports*

There will be reports to Parliament for England and Wales to give results respectively for local authorities, health areas, urban and rural areas, and regions, with an additional bi-lingual report for Wales. Equivalent reports will be laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly. These will present results in a succinct printed form, also available and supplemented by more detailed results on CD ROMS included in the printed volumes, with some software for viewing and manipulation of the data. The electronic versions will be placed simultaneously on the National Statistics/NISRA websites, accessible to all without charge.

#### *Local statistics*

The remaining results, which will be the bulk of output, will be in the form of standard local statistics issued under the arrangements of the Census Access project as an integrated set of statistics, geography and metadata free in effect to end users.

#### *Access options*

Delivery under these arrangements will be in two basic forms. First, scheduled from early 2003, tranches, which will build to the complete local statistics, will be available in free-standing electronic media in 'bulk' directly from ONS/NISRA. Some software to view and manipulate the data will be included. In addition, licensed intermediaries may package the statistics, without charge for the statistics but with software as

an added value service. Second, scheduled for the second quarter of 2003, Census local statistics down to Output Area level will become accessible to all users through the Neighbourhood Statistics service on the National Statistics Website, with a fuller range of functionality. This part of the Census Access project, now integrated with Neighbourhood Statistics, will be developed during 2002, with prototypes demonstrated later in the year. A similar Census Access/Neighbourhood Statistics web service will also be produced through the NISRA website.

With these arrangements, there will be complementary channels for access by the second half of 2003. Organisations will be able to put material delivered in bulk at an early stage on intranets, but the material will also be available, generally for selective use, to any user with access to the Internet, ONS will also provide a well publicised print on demand service at cost for simple 'profiles' of single areas or sets of areas, which could also be built into the Neighbourhood Statistics service.

## *Scotland*

The provisional timetable for release of the results of the 2001 Census in Scotland is as reported in Census News 46. The first results of population by age and sex for Scotland as a whole and for council and health board areas are planned to be made available in August 2002. More detailed standard output for smaller geographical areas, that is the standard area statistics, are planned for release by March 2003.

At the moment, there is no plan for the release of Scottish output in concurrent tranches. GROS plan to release all of the standard area statistics concurrently, including the Reports to the Scottish Parliament, by March 2003.

Output will be made available via a stand-alone electronic media and a website. Both methods of delivery will provide additional software to assist the user with analysing, interpreting and presenting the results. More information on a pilot website and CD which has been developed by GROS and is available for testing is in the article on page 11.

## Clarifications provided

Some of the other frequently raised points which were clarified at the meetings included charges, licences, availability of workplace and migration statistics, and output for new health areas.

## Charges for standard output

There will be no charge for output on Census organisation Websites. Material costs of supply on other media, including printed reports to Parliament, will be recovered through charges. The additional marginal costs of producing specially commissioned output will be recovered through further charges.

## Workplace and migration statistics

The concurrent release of output means that total counts of migrants and workers into and out of an area are included within the standard area statistics, available 'free in effect' to users. The migration and travel to workplace area to area flow matrices will also be included on the same terms as part of the Census Access project, but access to them may be through a separate means of entry given their complexity.



## 'Click-use' licences

Census output is supplied to users under the terms and conditions of the Census organisations. However, re-use and publication of the material now requires a licence from HMSO as controller of the Crown copyright.

The new 'click-use' licensing scheme for Government information means, for example, that standard output can now be re-used and published without further payment. The scheme reflects Government policy to encourage use of Government funded information in the knowledge economy.

In practical terms the new scheme means that any organisation which holds information such as the 1991 LBS or SAS may apply for a 'click-use' licence for re-use and publication, for example on a Website, without further payment. This updates the conditions of supply for the 1991 output, although all clauses in the agreement still apply. An organisation that does not already hold the information and wishes to re-use and publish it may apply to HMSO for a free 'click-use' licence before obtaining supply of the information from the Census organisations, for which the material costs of supply will be charged. More information on the scheme is available from the HMSO Website ([www.hmso.gov.uk](http://www.hmso.gov.uk)) and also in *Census News 45*.

## Health areas in England

Current Health Authorities are to be replaced by a revised geography of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). Census output will reflect this change.

## Action by Census organisations

Key areas where action has followed from issues raised at roadshow meetings have included taking steps to provide flexible output whilst ensuring confidentiality, and to provide information on Census coverage and quality.

## Post Census ward boundary changes

Users in England and Wales stated a strong requirement for the standard output to be available for revised wards, introduced between Census day and the release date (early 2003) or subsequently. ONS is reviewing the feasibility of creating Output Areas to fit post Census ward boundaries where changes are known. This process would be reliant on the availability of digitised ward boundaries of good provenance.

## Flexible output and disclosure control

The 2001 Census will provide a uniquely rich source of information which it is intended to make widely, freely and flexibly available in a range of formats. This will include detailed counts, inter-relationships of variables and information for a large number of geographies including neighbourhoods. The protection of the confidentiality of personal census information to meet assurances given when it was collected, however, remains paramount.

## England and Wales

On the basis of the extensive evidence about users needs and after a thorough review of the measures necessary to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of information about identifiable individuals through statistical output from the Census in England and Wales, the National Statistician has decided to introduce an additional measure of disclosure protection for all tables. This will allow ONS to offer greater flexibility in output especially to provide information for overlapping areas, for example where this results from change in administrative boundaries. It will also protect against perceptions of disclosure that may arise if cells contain counts of one.

All counts in all tables issued for England and Wales will be rounded either to zero or to numbers divisible by three. This measure will be in addition to the swapping of records in the output database, and in addition to the broad limitations on details in tables to be produced for small populations. There will also continue to be minimum thresholds of numbers of person and households for the release of output. These will be raised to 100 resident persons and 40 resident households for the release of Census Area Statistics.

Work is continuing to ensure that confidentiality is protected in all cases of overlapping geographies, but the assumption is that Standard Tables will be issued for new wards and health areas introduced at any time after Census Day as well as for the wards and health areas existing at Census day, and for Parliamentary Constituencies, National Parks and postal sectors as at Census day which may overlap other areas for which results are issued.

The full scope for flexible output, including the possibility of an interactive service for customised output, will be covered in a further paper. There will also be more information on the implementation of the disclosure control measures.

The announcement of the decision by the National Statistician was made in a paper issued to the Census Advisory Groups on 12 November. The National Statistician, Len Cook, will be meeting representatives from the Groups to discuss concerns raised on behalf of users.

## Scotland

The arrangements for Scotland remain as set out in paragraphs 27 to 30 in the discussion paper on 'Final Proposals' issued by GROS. In preference to fully flexible geography and any concomitant loss of numerical precision, users in Scotland will retain Output Areas (OAs) with an average of some 50 Households (minimum 50 people, 20 households) based on OAs for the 1991 Census. Areas that cannot be built precisely from an aggregate of Output Areas are approximated by best fit. Output for areas aggregated from OAs will be generally limited to that produced for OAs, principally the Census Area Statistics. Since there is no disclosure risk from overlapping geographies, the rounding of each cell to zero or a figure divisible by three, as in England and Wales, is not necessary for Scotland.

## Request for further information on coverage and quality

Users at all meetings requested more information than has already been given on indications of coverage and quality, and on the plans for the release of such information. There was a requirement for sub-national response rates and also rates for particular areas (such as those affected by foot and mouth) or for sub groups of the population (such as students, babies or young adult males). A note on a Review and Evaluation of the 2001 Census has been placed on the National Statistics Website: [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/reviewevaluation.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/reviewevaluation.asp) and a separate article on page 10 gives some information on plans for release of this type of information.

## Other points for action by the Census organisations:

- to investigate opportunities for those directly and indirectly involved with the Census field operations to feed into the evaluation process;
- to consider providing more detailed information on edit and imputation rates at lower geographical levels;
- to provide an evaluation of the differences between AddressPoint and enumerated addresses, highlighting any apparent deficiencies in AddressPoint and the effect on the quality of enumeration and geographical referencing in the Census;

- to provide more information on what the Census Access/Neighbourhood Statistics Service will provide in terms of content and functionality; and
- to provide more information on how the software demonstrated for viewing and manipulating the tables (SuperTABLE) will work on networks and link to GIS systems.

These issues, together with others raised at the meetings, are being taken forward by the Census organisations. Progress and decisions made will be reported through the Census Advisory groups, Websites and *Census News*.

## Further issues for comment

The main focus of the current round of consultation is the Census Area Statistics. The Census organisations invited comment on any issues covered in the documentation, but have emphasised that requests for changes or for additional output should be supported by cases justifying the requirement.

There were also a number of issues raised in the England, Wales and Northern Ireland 'Standard Area Statistics discussion paper' where ONS and NISRA particularly requested comment. These include:

## Phasing of output

The section above on the scope and phasing of output provides a high level picture of plans, but user preferences can be accommodated. Trials of the fast tabulation package used in the output production system have indicated that it will be most cost effective to produce a table for all areas, rather than all tables for an area, so tables will be prioritised into a series of tranches. There was a widespread preference expressed at the roadshow for a priority release of Key Statistics for all geographical levels to provide an overview of Census results. Beyond this, a tranche of Standard Tables or Census Area Statistics might consist of the tables, for example, on demographic, cultural and labour market subjects, and these could be released shortly in advance of a second tranche containing other tables, for example, on household accommodation, health and communal establishments.

Alternatively, the Standard Tables could be released in tranches by table number order accompanied by corresponding Census Area Statistics tables, or, assuming the overall time period of release is relatively short, users might be content to wait until the full set can be released together.

Users have been asked to express any preferences for the release of tranches, or for any other suggestions on the plans for the release of output. Taking account of user feedback, ONS will issue an Output Prospectus including a pre-announced timetable for release.

## Alternative types of output

The inclusion of indicators for comparability has been made possible by concurrent release of data. They could be simple measures, for example, Output Areas in the top decile of an indicator. Others could include multi-variate classifications of households or areas, or other typologies such as urban/rural. Users have been asked for views on the inclusion of such indicators and for suggestions of specific indicators.

## Information about edit and imputation

Consideration is being given to the scope of information to be provided on missing or inconsistent data and on imputation, and to the plans for its release. Current proposals are that:

- data on imputation should form part of the Census metadata rather than part of the standard area statistics;
- imputation levels should be quoted as percentages, not as actual numbers of people or households;
- data to be available for Local Authority districts and above;
- the extent of imputation should be shown for each Census variable; and
- data on the application of edit rules should be published for each part of the UK.

ONS and NISRA would be interested in any views or comments on these proposals. In Scotland there were three specific points for user comment listed in the Scottish Final Proposals Discussion Paper relating to:

- age groupings
- full-time students and
- household classifications.

## Deadline for comments

As previously stated and reiterated at the roadshow meetings, the specifications for the Key Statistics, Standard Tables and Origin-Destination Statistics, are now considered to be near final. The Census organisations are prepared to consider cases for

substantive requirements that have not yet been met. All specifications, including the Census Area Statistics, have to be signed off by the end of January 2002 for output production to commence on time.

All users were invited to make comments on this important set of statistics by 16 November 2001, and, as this issue of *Census News* went to press, around a hundred submissions had been received, including a number sent on behalf of groups of users. Comments are being organised on a database for rapid analysis. Responses will be made where requested, and a report on submissions and the Census organisations responses will be made available to all those who made submissions and through *Census News*. Final specifications of the standard area statistics will be made available as soon as possible after they have been signed off.

The Census organisations would be pleased to consider any comments made immediately after receipt of this issue of *Census News*, preferably by e-mail. This will be the final opportunity to provide comments on this dataset.

## Output Geography Roadshow Meetings

ONS recognises the significant academic and technical developments that have taken place in geography since the 1991 Census, and three meetings were arranged for November and December 2001 to address how these



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developments impact on the geography of the 2001 Census for England and Wales. The series of Census Roadshow meetings held in September addressed a wide range of Census matters, but only touched on the geography issues. The Geography meetings were intended to enable

a more detailed consideration of these developments, their impact on the Census, and the products and services that are to be delivered.

Previous censuses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have used the enumeration district as the geographical base for output. In response to feedback from customers of 1991 Census data, a major initiative has been undertaken by the 2001 Census teams at ONS to create areas for output which are useful for statistical purposes - Census Output Areas. Academic research involving automated zoning methods has enabled ONS to develop an automated system which generates Output Areas for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Although originally conceived as the geographical framework for the Census Area Statistics, Output Areas will now also form the basic building block for Neighbourhood Statistics.

The meetings allow the opportunity to learn more and contribute to discussion about the methodologies and issues involved in creating Output Areas, the supply of products and services, and our plans for the future.

The roadshow venues were arranged for Southampton (30 November), London (11 December) and Leeds (18 December). The roadshow covers:

- The new output geography
- Application to Neighbourhood Statistics
- The quality of postcode and co-ordinate references
- Output Areas
- Output for changed and overlapping geographies
- Census geography products and applications
- Extending the use of automatic zoning

A paper specially written for the roadshow and the set of slides used for presentations is available at [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/georoadshowpaper.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/georoadshowpaper.asp) or from Census Customer Services.

A report on the roadshow will be included in the next issue of *Census News*, particularly points for action by ONS.

## News from NISRA

Northern Ireland forms are currently being scanned and coded. When complete, emphasis will shift to the quality checks and validation. NISRA is also examining ways in which the delivery of Census results over the web can be satisfactorily integrated with its existing Neighbourhood Statistics site, while benefiting from the functionality associated with Census Access.

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Enquiries about Census statistics, products and services should be directed to:

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A MINICOM telephone number - 01329 813669 - is available for the hard of hearing or partially deaf.

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## Review and Evaluation of the Census

Systematic and continuous review forms a fundamental part of the Census programme. Each stage of the process of planning and implementation has been subject to rigorous analysis and evaluation, and the post-Census Day phase of this evaluation is already under way.

The Census organisations are committed to providing users with comprehensive integrated meta-data in order to help them understand and make effective use of all Census results. Details from the programme of review and evaluation will form an essential part of this meta-data. More specifically, we shall record information on key decisions, consultation and operational processes, methodological developments, data definitions and classifications, processing arrangements and quality assurance procedures.

Four key types of meta-data have been identified.

- Geographical meta-data – details on all aspects of Census geography, including those relating to the planning and implementation of systems for data collection and distribution.
- Operational meta-data – will deal with key activities such as data collection, field procedures and processing arrangements as well as complementary information on legislative matters, publicity and training. It will be particularly important to provide information on new initiatives such as the community liaison programme, new methods of working, new management and administrative systems.
- Statistical meta-data – will cover a range of issues, including methodological developments, data definitions and classifications, question testing and evaluation, guidance on the quality of outputs, and the impact of edit, imputation and disclosure control procedures.
- Technical meta-data – will include advice on hardware and software specifications as well as instructions on how to load and run the different Census products.

The review and evaluation will also help the Census organisations assess how well the Census achieved its four strategic aims:

- to ensure that the question content of the Census is appropriate to meet the demonstrated requirements of customers, taking into account value for money;

- to deliver Census products and services to meet legal obligations and customers' needs within stated quality standards and to a pre-defined timetable;
- to ensure that all aspects of the Census collection operation and the dissemination of results are acceptable to the public and comply with data protection law; and
- to demonstrate that the Census represents value for money.

The Census organisations plan to publish their General Reports on the planning and carrying out of the 2001 Census in 2003, although individual sections will be made available through the Census organisation websites as they are completed. Further information on the review and evaluation of the 2001 Census, General Reports and integrated user meta-data will appear in future issues of *Census News*.

## Sample of Anonymised Records

One of the innovations of the 1991 Census output was the Sample of Anonymised Records (SARs). This allowed researchers to carry out detailed analyses on microdata, exploring relationships amongst variables free from the constraints of pre-tabulated data, without infringing on the confidentiality of Census results.

The ESRC wish to commission the production of SARs from the 2001 Census following an extensive programme of research on needs and disclosure risks by a team headed by Professor Angela Dale of Manchester University. Work is now under way in ONS to assess whether SARs can be produced using the 2001 Census results. The availability of microdata means that a greater level of detail than that used in tables in the Standard Area Statistics can be accommodated, and we are investigating how additional occupational and industry codings can be added to the data for this purpose.

It is a fundamental tenet that no Census output should be disclosive, and we are checking that the proposed SARs cannot be used in conjunction with other external data sources to identify individuals or households. Work on assessing disclosure risk will also inform the decision on the thresholds which will apply to the SARs – that is, the size of the population from which they will be taken. We are also investigating how best to indicate imputation within records in the SARs.

## News from GROS

### SCROL – Pilot website and CD ready for user evaluation

As reported in Census News 46, GROS has been working with GeoWise and Space Time Research (STR), to develop a pilot as part of the SCROL (Scottish Census Results Output Library) Project. The aim of the pilot has been to test and demonstrate proposals of how results from the 2001 Census may be electronically delivered, using modified data from the 1991 Census, and to seek user feedback on the proposed method of delivery.

The highly innovative pilot has produced a proof-of-concept website and CD, prototypes of which were demonstrated at the recent output roadshows across Scotland. These products seek to improve the use of, and access to, Census output by delivering Census results in an integrated way with geography, associated metadata and analysis tools which aide the user in analysing and interpreting results from the 2001 Census in Scotland.

Both of these products are now available and users are encouraged to evaluate the pilot products. Any comments and suggestions on possible improvements to the applications and the service of delivering 2001 Census results would be appreciated.

#### Pilot website

The pilot web site ([www.scrolpilot.org.uk](http://www.scrolpilot.org.uk)) offers a wide variety of facilities that enable users to use, explore and understand the full potential of Census output. The website delivers two services with differing levels of functionality and complexity to meet the requirements of a wide range of users

**QuickSCROL**, on the home page, offers users the ability to:

- compare summary Census data for an area of interest with the Scottish results; and
- view thematic maps for predefined topics of interest down to postcode sector level, such as percentage of households with no car.

**SCROLAnalyser**, accessed from the Home Page, offers users a much wider range of functionality and is aimed at users who require more detailed statistics about a topic. Users have the ability to:

- select a pre-defined table of interest from a topic list;
- select a geographical area of interest for the table from an interactive map or list;
- view and manipulate the selected table dynamically;
- create charts or thematic maps for components of the table;
- download the table for use locally; and
- view commentary or text which defines the tables and geography.

#### Pilot CD

The pilot CD includes access to a wider range of data and more functionality for analysing the data than the pilot website. The data included on the CD is in the form of statistical tables bundled with a suite of software from STR, which gives users the tools to analyse large amounts of data simply. Working on pre-defined tables, this software gives users the ability to:

- rearrange the tables using simple drag and drop methods;
- easily construct calculations and derivations;
- present the results as charts or thematic maps;
- create customised tables from an empty Census database and submit to GROS for populating (disclosure control limits permitting); and
- export the tables for use in other software.

Users who would like to receive a copy of the CD should register their interest with Simon Hazlewood of GROS Customer Services on 0131 314 4254 or email him at [simon.hazlewood@gro-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:simon.hazlewood@gro-scotland.gov.uk).

#### Feedback

This is an excellent opportunity to help GROS deliver the best service by giving us comments and suggestions on the content, functionality and design of the website and CD. Feedback can be provided by completing a questionnaire, one for each product, or by contributing to one of our discussion forums on the feedback tab of the website.

## Neighbourhood Focus

The Neighbourhood Statistics Service, a new information service aimed at providing detailed local information to tackle social exclusion issues, has received £28.2 million of additional funding from the Capital Modernisation fund.

*“Combating social exclusion is a major priority for the Government,” said Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Ruth Kelly, announcing the new funding. “To be effective in this we must have the most accurate and detailed information possible. Comprehensive local information is essential for pinpointing employment, drug and housing blackspots. This will enable us to identify disadvantaged neighbourhoods within relatively small areas, allowing us to target our efforts where they are most needed. With improved data, national and local government and other service providers will be better able to design and to target policies, and to identify potential problems early.”*

The announcement was welcomed by Len Cook, National Statistician and Director of the Office for National Statistics, who said:

*“This resource will enable me to put into action plans to improve significantly the provision and availability of information for small areas in a way that has not been possible up to now. Working with many partners across the public and private sector, we will put in place a range of developments which will transform the information infrastructure of this country.”*

The money from the CMF fund will be used to:

- develop the hardware infrastructure to support the dissemination of the statistics through the internet;
- develop tools and data so that data owning organisations can geographically reference their data and aggregate it to small areas;
- produce tools and methods to ensure that information about individuals cannot be disclosed from the statistics that will be published; and
- develop methods and systems to provide small area estimates.

Now that the funding picture is complete for Neighbourhood Statistics, ONS is putting all its efforts to prepare the plans and structures that will be needed to initiate the



ambitious programme. The success of the programme will not only depend on the degree to which a number of statistical issues are resolved but also the extent to which a large number of data owning organisations are able to use the tools ONS will provide and supply data into the programme. This will require the building of strong partnerships between ONS and data owners. ONS recognise that the views of data owners and potential users of the system will be very important to the programme's successes, and the need to build on existing links and develop new ones to ensure that these views are listened to.

If you would like more information about the Neighbourhood Statistics Service visit the website at [www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood) or email [neighbourhood@ons.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood@ons.gov.uk)

