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Coverage
Great Britain

ONS launches DVD on commuting patterns

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has launched CommuterView, an innovative product available on DVD which allows the user to create interactive maps showing the flow of commuters within areas.

It is the first time a major ONS data set has been presented in this way and the software is intended to help with the investigation of local commuting patterns between residence and workplace for those involved in town planning, transport policy and for people working with disadvantaged sectors of the population.

The highly interactive nature of the product means it also can be used easily by anyone who has an interest in local commuting.

CommuterView takes previously released 2001 UK Census of Population data showing where people live and where they work and formats it so the key patterns can be readily viewed via the user's web browser.

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Notes to editors

Development was carried out by the ONS Data Visualisation Centre and the Neighbourhood Statistics Service in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the General Register Office for Scotland. Funding for the project was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government. CommuterView is a free product.

There are different versions of CommuterView, showing the patterns for various sections of the commuting population, available on one DVD. The full list is contained in the accompanying user guide, including flows for:

- males and females
- full and part-time workers
- age groups
- occupations
- sectors of industry.

Confidentiality has been maintained by ensuring that flows of fewer than six people are excluded.

The data are shown for Super Output Areas for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Data Zones or Intermediate Zones for Scotland. These geographies are designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics within the United Kingdom and more details are available from the ONS website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp>

For more information on CommuterView please email better.info@ons.gov.uk.