



Information for Bulk Users

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Contents

Introduction	2
File Specifications	2
Useful links	4

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Introduction

This information explains the format, naming and numbering of the data files that are produced from the bulk data. It also includes some useful links for further information from the census section of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website.

File types

The Output Files

All the output files are in a comma separated format (.CSV). The census bulk format contains 4 file types (N.B. an extract may produce more than 4 files as described in the CSV format section):

- Meta - Table description file. This file contains text that describes the table.
- Desc - Textual description file. This file contains the textual descriptions of the cells.
- Data - Data file. This file holds the data values in row major order.
- Code - Textual description file. This file includes code information.

The CSV Format

- Each new line in the CSV file uses the carriage return character (ASC11 code 13) followed by the line feed character (ASC11 code 10).
- Each line in a given CSV file contains the same number of fields separated by a comma.
- All text fields are delimited using double quotes.
- There is a maximum number of 250 fields per CSV file. When a census extract file requires more than 250 fields the naming convention for multiple files described in this document is adopted.

File Naming

All files produced as a result of the extract process carry the extension: .CSV to indicate its contents are in comma separated form as described in this document.

Table type

The first two characters indicate the table type:

QS	Quick Statistics
KS	Key Statistics
DC	Detailed Characteristics
LC	Local Characteristics
WD	Workday population tables
WP	Workplace population tables
CT	Commissioned Tables

Table number

The following four characters are digits; they indicate the table number.

Country

The following 2 characters indicate the country as follows:

EW	England & Wales
WA	Wales

Geography Level Identifier

Will be present when a table is only available at a higher geography than would normally be expected

r	Region
la	Merged Wards
ls	Lower Level Super Output Area

File type

The next four characters will indicate the type of file:

DESC	Table Description File
CODE	Table Desc File
META	Textual Description File
DATA	Data File

Useful links

Census landing page

For further information on the glossary, definitions, and census prospectus

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

ONS Geography

For further information about census geographies

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/ons-geography/index.html>

GIS boundaries for use with statistics

Download digital boundaries for 2011 output areas, super output areas (LSOAs and MSOAs) and workplace zones for England and Wales. These boundaries are for users to input into their own geographical information systems to carry out spatial analysis or visualisation.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/census/spatial/2011/index.html>

Census geography look-ups

ONS Geography provides a range of products to define names and codes and the relationships between geographies. These products give information on the relationship between 2011 output areas and other geographies and the changes between 2001 and 2011 output areas.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/census/lookup/index.html>