

BLOG

Social Grade A, B, C1, C2, D, E

23rd February 2014

Approximated Social Grade with its six categories A, B, C1, C2, D and E is a socio-economic classification produced by the ONS (UK Office for National Statistics) by applying an algorithm developed by members of the MRS Census & Geodemographics Group.

- It applies to every Household Reference Persons (HRP) aged 16 to 64. If they are not the HRP and were working in the week before the Census, they receive their own Social Grade. If not a HRP and not working in the week before the Census, they receive the Social Grade of the HRP (source: MRS MRS Census & Geodemographics Group).
- It is a discriminatory tool for media consumption and purchasing power in general. It has been used by National Readership Survey to discriminate readers of popular newspapers.
- The Social Grade model has been based on Occupational Code 2010 code, Employment status, Qualification, Tenure and whether respondents work Full time, Part time or not working.
- Social Grade based on the Census 2011 data is available for all four UK countries (England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland).

Social Grade	Description	% HRP population (UK)
AB	Higher & intermediate managerial, administrative, professional occupations	22.17
C1	Supervisory, clerical & junior managerial, administrative, professional occupations	30.84
C2	Skilled manual occupations	20.94
DE	Semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations, Unemployed and lowest grade occupations	26.05

Comparing 2001 and 2011 Social Grade !

"A broadly similar approach was applied to the 2001 Census, however it should be noted that the 2001 and 2011 Social Grade outputs were modelled using different algorithms, employing different variables. Therefore, **it would be misleading to use Census outputs to examine trends in approximated Social Grade profiles between 2001 and 2011**" (https://www.mrs.org.uk/cgg/social_grade).

Household Reference Person – DEFINITION (source: ONS)

The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/2) to replace the traditional concept of the 'head of the household'.

HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person.

For a person living alone, it follows that this person is the HRP. If a household contains only one family (with or without ungrouped individuals) then the HRP is the same as the Family Reference Person

Categories

[Geodemographics](#)[Postcodes](#)

(FRP).

For families in which there is generational divide between family members that cannot be determined (Other related family), there is no FRP. Members of these families are treated the same as ungrouped individuals.

If there is more than one family in a household the HRP is chosen from among the FRPs using the same criteria used to choose the FRP. This means the HRP will be selected from the FRPs on the basis of their economic activity, in the priority order:

Economically active, employed, full-time, non-student
Economically active, employed, full-time, student
Economically active, employed, part-time, non-student
Economically active, employed, part-time, student
Economically active, unemployed, non-student
Economically active, unemployed, student
Economically inactive, retired
Economically inactive, other

If some or all FRPs have the same economic activity, the HRP is the eldest of the FRPs. If some or all are the same age, the HRP is the first of the FRPs from the order in which they were listed on the questionnaire.

If a household is made up entirely of any combination of ungrouped individuals and other related families, the HRP is chosen from among all people in the household, using the same criteria used to chose between FRPs. Students at their non term-time address and short-term migrants cannot be the HRP.

Chief Income Earner – DEFINITION (ESOMAR)

The person in the household with the largest income, whether from employment, pensions, state benefits, investments or any other source.

 social-grade

Call

+44 7570 900 234

Email

info@ukgeographics.co.uk

Mailing List

UKG Newsletter

Twitter

#UKGeographics

Linkedin

#uk-geographics

Company registered in England and Wales, Reg. Number 8849913, Registered Office 20-22 Wenlock Road, London, N1 7GU