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| Information for  Bulk Users |
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| 2011 Census: Customer Support |

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Information for Bulk Users

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 |
| CT | Commissioned Tables |
| LC | Local Characteristics |

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 |

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 |

**Split file**

If an extract file contains more than 250 fields then the file will be split. The next character indicates if the file is split and if so gives its sequence position:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0 | No split |
| A | 1st file in split |
| B | 2nd file in split |
| C | 3rd file in split |
| D | … and so on |

Geography level (DATA files)

The next character applies to DATA files only and is used to indicate the geography level of the counts it contains. Areas contained within each level of geography are identified as follows:

**OA (where applicable)**

1. Highest geography level, England and Wales combined.
2. England, Wales.
3. Regions and Wales.
4. Unitary Authorities, Non Metropolitan Districts, Metropolitan Districts, London Boroughs, Welsh Unitary Authorities.
5. Super Output Areas Middle Layers, England and Wales.
6. Super Output Areas Lower Level, England and Wales.

**Please note: CSV files that end with \_A etc, contain Output Areas by Region**

**MSOA (where applicable)**

1. Highest geography level, England and Wales combined.
2. England, Wales.
3. Regions and Wales.
4. Unitary Authorities, Non Metropolitan Districts, Metropolitan Districts, London Boroughs, Welsh Unitary Authorities.
5. Super Output Areas Middle Layers, England and Wales.

**WARDS (where applicable)**

1. Highest geography level, England and Wales combined.
2. England, Wales.
3. Regions and Wales.
4. Unitary Authorities, Counties, Metropolitan Counties, Inner and Outer London, Welsh Unitary Authorities.
5. Unitary Authorities, Non Metropolitan District, Metropolitan Districts, London Boroughs, Welsh Unitary Authorities.
6. Electoral Wards /Divisions and Welsh Divisions

**DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS (where applicable)**

1. Highest geography level, England and Wales combined
2. England, Wales
3. Regions and Wales.
4. Unitary Authorities, Non Metropolitan Districts, Metropolitan Districts, London Boroughs, Welsh Unitary Authorities
5. Super Output Areas Middle Layers, England and Wales

**Local Characteristics (where applicable)**

1. Highest geography level, England and Wales combined
2. England, Wales
3. Regions and Wales.
4. Unitary Authorities, Non Metropolitan Districts, Metropolitan Districts, London Boroughs, Welsh Unitary Authorities
5. Super Output Areas Middle Layers, England and Wales.
6. Super Output Areas Lower Level, England and Wales.

Example file names

The example file name **DC6201EWData V3 CSV** would therefore hold all the values for Detailed Characteristics table 6201 for England and Wales at Region and Wales level.

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>