



Office for National Statistics

“The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to Parliament.” As the UK Government’s single largest statistical producer, the ONS site holds a vast amount of data, which can be downloaded free of charge.

Accessing the website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

Browse by theme

The website is divided into 11 themes for browsing listed below.

Agriculture & Environment
Business & Energy
Children, Education & Skills
Crime & Justice
Economy
Government

Health & Social Care
Labour market
People & Places
Population
Travel & Transport

Click on the “Browse by Theme” tab to see all sub-sections for a theme. For each topic you will see a list of resources under **some** of the following headings:

Summaries: these include brief overviews of a current topic similar to a press release, Regional Profiles and animated video podcasts.

Publications: books, scholarly articles (e.g. taken from the National Statistics periodicals *Economic Trends*, *Health Statistics Quarterly*, *Population Trends* and *Labour Market Trends*), reports, journals.

Data: these resources will enable you to view or download tables of data in spreadsheet format e.g. Excel or CSV (Comma Separated Values, a basic spreadsheet format that is readable in most current spreadsheet packages, including Microsoft Excel)

Guidance and Methodology: supporting information on how the data is collected.

Searching

The Search box on the top right of the home page can be used to search the National Statistics web site.

Results can be narrowed down using the Filters on the right for Themes, date and area.

Click on “Release Date” to sort results with the most recent first.

Neighbourhood statistics

Use this section to find and compare statistics on crime, health, housing, employment or population in UK wards/local authority areas. Click on the **Neighbourhood Statistics** heading in the **Related Links** at the bottom of the home page. You will see the screen below:

The screenshot shows the 'Neighbourhood Statistics' page from the Office for National Statistics. It features two main search options:

- FIND STATISTICS FOR AN AREA:** This section allows users to find detailed statistics for specific geographic areas. It includes a search box for names or postcodes (e.g., Clapham Park, N51JP) and radio button options to select the type of area: Local Authority, Middle Layer Super Output Area, Lower Layer Super Output Area, or Ward. A 'Search' button is located at the bottom of this section.
- NEIGHBOURHOOD SUMMARY:** This section allows users to find a summary report for their local neighbourhood. It includes a search box for a full postcode (e.g., N51JP) and a 'Search' button.

Neighbourhood Summary use the search box on the right to find a brief report and summary of a postcode area.

Find statistics for an area - to find more detailed statistics for a particular geographical area, e.g. postcode area, local authority or ward etc. use the search box on the left of the screen. The results display a list of topics such as 2011 Census Area Statistics, economic deprivation, crime and safety, and the number of datasets available for each heading. Select a topic and then a dataset to display a table of statistics for that area. You can then print or download/save these results.

A useful guide to the geographical divisions can be found under the **Guidance and Methodology** tab on the ONS Home Page under **Geography** > A Beginner's Guide to UK Geography:

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

For alternative formats please contact

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Browse/Search the site for data by topic, or create your own tables and charts to compare and display statistics. This feature allows you to choose content by geographical area and topic and create a chart or table to display these statistics, for example to compare unemployment statistics between wards in Swansea, or Swansea and York etc. The step by step “wizard” will guide you through creating a chart. You will need to “drill-down” through lists of topics and geographical areas until you reach the check-boxes where you can select your parameters. Your results will be displayed in a table, to change it to a chart format, click on the  button on the left hand side of the table.

This web site has a number of very useful guides from basic searching to detailed chart creation. It also gives guidance on statistical presentation and use of best practice. Click on the **User Guide** at the bottom of the Neighbourhood Statistics web page to view these guides.

Further sources of statistical information

The National Statistics website will only provide figures for the UK. Links to statistical sources for other countries are available on via the library support pages on Blackboard.

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