Census data.

What is the UK Census of Population?

The Census has taken place every 10 years throughout the UK since 1801. It is a count of people and households. The Census is important because it aims to include every member of the population. The data gathered provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same core questions everywhere, making it easy to compare different parts of the country.

The Census gives the policy and decision makers in the UK the information they need to make informed decisions and target public money effectively.

The Census provides invaluable facts about:

Population	Transport
Health	Ethnic group
Housing	Households
Employment	Welsh language

The most recent 100 years of census data is "anonymised", but the Census data before 1911 can be used for tracing family histories.

Where do I go for the type of UK Census data I need ?

- Recent census data (2011) which is easy to access – go to **Section 1**
- In-depth quantitative research for the period between 1971-2011 (aggregate data, boundary data, microdata or flow data) – go to **Section 2**
- In-depth quantitative research for the period between 1971-2011 (longitudinal data) – go to **Section 3**
- Census data before 1971 – go to **Section 4**
- Researching family history – go to **Section 5**
- Resources for lecturers teaching about the Census – go to **Section 6**

Section 1 : The Office for National Statistics.

Key statistics for the 2011 Census are available on this website as they are published. http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html

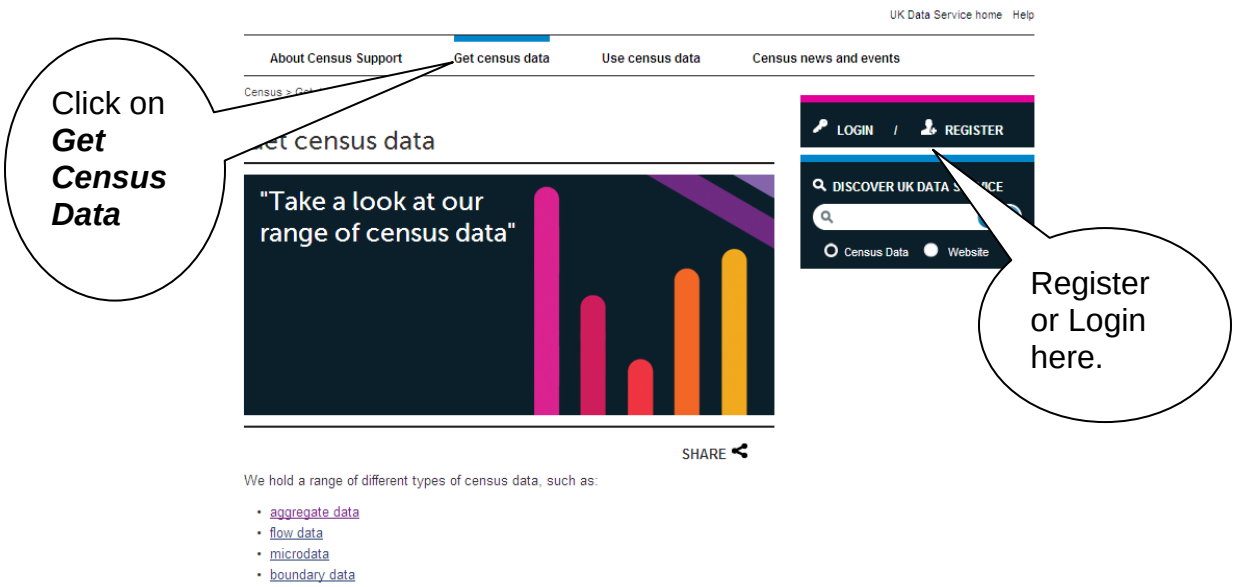
Section 2 : The UK Data Service : Census Support.

Researchers who need more in-depth Census information can access http://census.ukdataservice.ac.uk/ , sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council available to the UK Higher Education community, free of charge.

UK Data Service provides access to:

- 2011 Census - aggregate data, boundary data
- 2001 Census - aggregate data, boundary data, flow data and microdata
- 1991 Census - aggregate data, boundary data, flow data and microdata
- 1981 Census - aggregate data, boundary data, flow data and microdata
- 1971 Census - aggregate data, boundary data

The website is freely accessible for searching and browsing, however you must first complete a brief registration procedure before you can access the actual online data. Once registered you will be able to access any of the four types of Census data on UKDS .



Aggregate Data
Access to aggregate statistics for 1971-2011.
Aggregate data provide area counts, usually of individuals or households with particular characteristics. An example might be the number of males, aged 20-24, who are divorced and live in Wales.

Boundary Data
Access to digitised boundary datasets and geographic look-up tables corresponding to the census geography of the UK. Digital boundaries are provided in common Geographical Information System (GIS) formats.

Dowload tools include the following:

EasyDownload
This facility lets users quickly download the most regularly requested census boundaries available in popular formats.

Boundary Data Selector
This facility lets users select the boundaries they want, for the areas they want, in the format they want.

GeoConvert
This facility lets users obtain and manipulate complex geographical and postcode data in a straightforward way.

Metadata Viewer
This facility allows users to search for and view metadata records associated with the census geographic datasets.

Postcode Data Selector
This facility allows users to download the set of postcodes that you want from postcode directories released between 2001 and the present day.

PostcodeDirectoryDownload
This facility allows users to download complete versions of current and historical postcode directories (sometimes referred to as look-up tables).

ThematicMapper
This facility lest user create customized horopleth maps from their own statistical data.

WICID (Web-based Interface to Census Interaction Data)
This facility allows users to select and download migration and journey-to-work flow data collected by the Census of Population.

Casweb
This facility contains boundary data bundled with census aggregate data for the 2001 and 1991 Censuses.

Flow Data, also known as Interaction Data.
Available for 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. The data relates to flows of people between one location and another so is useful for studying migration or travel to work. Whereas most census data relate to counts of people at single locations, flow data describe interactions between two locations - origins and destinations.

Microdata: Samples of Anonymised Records
Available for 1991, 2001 and 2011. SARs are examples of individual person-level records which have been anonymised. SARs are very large multivariate datasets that contain a wealth of flexible information for social scientists and policy makers.

Section 3: Longitudinal data from CeLSIUS (Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support).

Longitudinal studies are data sources that contain observations of the same research units over a period of time.
LS data sets comprise linked census and event records for 1% of the population of England and Wales (about 500,000 people at any one census). It was set up in 1974 to address problems with the adequacy of occupational mortality data, and the lack of longitudinal fertility data, but since then it has been used to address a wide range of other research questions.
Further information at https://www.ucl.ac.uk/celsius

Section 4: Print copies

Print copies of the UK Census of Population are available in the Library & Information Centre from 1801 up to 1991, shelved at HA1121, Folios, on Level 2 of the West wing.

Section 5: National Archives

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
Census returns for 1841 up to 1911 for England and Wales can be searched online on the National Archives website by name, address or place. This is useful for historians and genealogists.
Guidance: Looking for Records of the Census.

Section 6: Census Learning & Teaching Materials for lecturers.

Available at http://cdu.mimas.ac.uk/materials/

Further reading

Dale, A. and C. Marsh (1993) *The 1991 Census user's guide*. HMSO.

Leventhal, B., C. Moy and J. Griffin (1993) *An introductory guide to the 1991 census*. NTC.

Rees, P., D. Martin and P. Williamson (2002) *The Census Data System.* Wiley.

Rhind, D., & Census Research Unit. (1975). *Geographical analysis and mapping of the 1971 U.K. census data*. Durham: University of Durham, Department of Geography.