

CENSUS 2011 COMBINED GRID SQUARE PRODUCT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

October 2015

Guidance Note

Purpose of the grid square product

The vast majority of Census outputs are presented as statistical aggregates for given geographic areas, which are based upon the local government boundaries for Northern Ireland, for example electoral wards. This can lead to difficulties when considering trends over time as local government boundaries are reviewed regularly. The same geographic base was used for reporting the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census, namely the 1992 local government boundaries, but this was unusual; the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses were each reported on a separate set of local government boundaries.

In order to permit the examination of trends over time for consistent spatial units, NISRA has made available grid square statistics for every Census since 1971. The geographic base for these outputs is the Irish Grid, and Census statistics are produced for 100m and 1km grids.

Range of variables available

The range of outputs in the grid square product is more restricted than that in standard outputs. This is because of the guarantees that Census Office provides regarding the confidentiality of individual Census returns. With a wide range of Census outputs published down to Small Area level, the publication of further outputs on a second geographic base (grid squares) could introduce the risk of statistical disclosure through the differencing of outputs. In order to protect confidentiality, grid square outputs are mostly restricted to univariate outputs that, in broad terms, reflect the content of Census Key Statistics. The full list of variables within the grid square product is detailed in the Grid Square Code book:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/results/grid-square/codebook.xlsx>

Constraints on grid square outputs

There are 1.4m 100m x 100m grid squares when a 100m grid is placed over Northern Ireland. Only 134k (10%) of these 100m squares contain any usual residents, and even within these populated grid squares the majority contain only small numbers of households and residents. In order to protect confidentiality, grid square statistics have been provided only for grid squares that contain at least 30 usual residents in 10 households. This leads to the availability of grid square statistics for 19,333 100m grid squares and 6,139 1km grid squares.

For any grid square that falls below these publication thresholds (30 usual residents in 10 households), Census Office has provided the number of households in the grid square in order that users can map the broad spatial distribution of households in sparsely populated areas.

Accessing the grid square outputs

For users requiring statistics for a small number of specific grid squares, Census Customer Services will provide the relevant outputs upon demand through Census Office's commissioned output procedures. More information, including costs, is available on our Commissioned Output page: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011/results/commissioned-output.html>

The grid square outputs have been developed through a SQL database. Users requiring the full range of grid square outputs can obtain the product as a bulk download from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website:

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=136&themeName=Census%202011> or by contacting Census Customer Services for details.

Contact us

Further information, if required, can be obtained through Census Customer Services.

Census Customer Services
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
Belfast
BT1 1SA

Email: census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161