



Administrative Data  
Research Centre  
England

An ESRC Data  
Investment

# **DATA PROSPECTUS OF ONS DATA FOR THE ADRC-E**



## Contents

Background .....	3
Purpose of Data Prospectus .....	3
What Data are available in the VML .....	4
Business Survey Data .....	5
Earnings Data .....	13
Census Sample Microdata .....	15
Longitudinal Study .....	16
Social Survey Data .....	17
Census Data .....	19
Birth Registrations.....	20
ADRN Catalogue.....	21
Appendix – Data Definitions .....	22



## Background

The Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) is an initiative funded by the Economic and Social Research Council with the aim of making linked, de-identified data from administrative sources available for research in a secure environment. It aims to help both government and academic researchers access and administrative data to do research that will benefit society.

ADRN services are delivered by the Administrative Data Service (ADS), based at the University of Essex and four research centres, one in each country of the UK, which are led by the University of Southampton, the University of Edinburgh, Swansea University and Queen's University in Belfast. .

The network is governed by the ADRN Board located in the UK Statistics Authority. To access the services provided by any centre, research projects are assessed by an independent approvals panel, and the researchers are required to pass the appropriate training course to ensure they are of 'accredited researcher' status.

The Administrative Data Research Centre for England (ADRC-E) is run collaboratively by the University of Southampton, University College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). ONS contribute to the ADRC-E through providing expertise in securely managing identifiable and sensitive data, linking together administrative data, and providing a secure environment where researchers can work with the de-identified data needed for their research.

In addition to ONS being the main secure data linkage provider for the ADRC-E and a provider of a secure environment (Virtual Microdata Laboratory) where ADRN researchers can access their data, ONS can act as Data Controller for a great deal of data that could potentially be utilised by researchers.

## Purpose of Data Prospectus

It is acknowledged that data access is vital to the success of the ADRC-E initiative and as ONS holds a vast amount of data, it is in a prime position to enable linkage projects to take place. The purpose of



this prospectus is to highlight the range of datasets held by ONS in its Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML) and in other ONS environments that could potentially be available to the ADRN.

## **What data are available in the VML?**

- Business survey data, such as Business Structure, Annual Business Survey, Innovation Survey, Foreign Investment and Employment and Skills, Employee Relations
- Earnings data, such as Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and Occupational Pension Scheme survey
- Census sample microdata and Longitudinal Study
- Social surveys, such as Labour Force Survey, General Lifestyle Survey and Living Costs and Food survey



## Business Survey Data

### Annual Business Survey

The Annual Business Survey (ABS), formerly known as the Annual Business Inquiry - part 2 (ABI/2), is an annual survey of businesses covering the production, construction, distribution and service industries, which represents about two-thirds of the UK economy in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). The ABS is the largest business survey conducted by the ONS in terms of the combined number of respondents and variables it covers (62,000 questionnaires despatched in Great Britain, with around 600 different questions asked). ABS provides high-level indicators of economic activity such as the total value of sales and work completed by businesses, the value of purchases of goods, materials and services, and total employment costs.

The years available are 2008 – 2014

More detail can be found here: [Annual Business Survey](#)

### Annual Inquiry into Foreign Direct Investment

Annual Inquiry into Foreign Direct Investment (AFDI) is a survey that collects data from businesses on Foreign Direct Investment flows to foreign countries, and from abroad to the UK. An AFDI panel dataset enables linking to other datasets.

More detail can be found here: [Foreign Direct Investment](#)

### Annual Respondents Database

The Annual Respondents Database (ARD) holds responses to the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). The ABI is the most comprehensive business survey covering: turnover, costs, employment, industry, and investment. It is a census of large businesses, and a sample of smaller ones.

More detail can be found here: [The Annual Respondents Database](#)



### **Business Enterprise Research and Development**

Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) is an annual survey designed to measure Research and Development (R&D) expenditure and employment in the UK. The survey also includes sources of funding and types of R&D.

More detail can be found here: [Research and development expenditure](#)

### **Business Register Employment Survey**

Business Register Employment Survey collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the UK economy for each site that they operate. This to produce employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry split by full-time/part-time workers and whether the business is public/private.

More detail can be found here: [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

### **Business Spending on Capital Items**

Business Spending on Capital Items is a small survey produces estimates of the proportion of acquisitions and disposals by industry.

More detail can be found here: [Survey into Business Spending on Capital Items](#)

### **Business Structure Database**

The Business Structure Database provides a version of the Inter Departmental Business Register for research use, taking full account of changes in ownership and restructuring of businesses.

More detail can be found here: [Inter-Departmental Business Register](#)

### **Capital Stock**

Capital Stock is a constructed dataset based on derived variables from the ARD and the Volume of Index of Capital Services.



More detail can be found here: [Estimating capital stock at the firm level](#)

### **Research into the Barriers to Take-Up and Use of Business Support**

Research into the Barriers to Take-Up and Use of Business Support Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research explores whether Chief Executives Officers exhibiting uncertainty derives the underutilisation of external business advice seeking behaviour for Small and Medium Enterprises.

More detail can be found here: [Research to understand Barriers to take up and use of business support.pdf](#)

### **Community Innovation Survey or UKIS: UK Innovation Survey**

The Community Innovation Survey covers product, process and wider innovation including expenditure on different kinds of innovative activity, effects of innovation, sources of information and cooperation, barriers to innovation, protection methods for innovation, and public support for innovation.

More detail can be found here: [UK Innovation Survey](#)

### **COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing in England**

COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing in England contains details of all social lettings recorded during the year for local authorities and private registered providers including details of the households taking up the tenancy Social Housing Sales aand details of social housing sales.

More detail can be found here: [COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing in England](#)

### **Consumer Price Index / Retail Price Index**

Everything that consumers buy has a price; the price may vary over time. Consumer price indices are designed to measure such changes. As the prices of individual items in a set basket of goods vary,



the total cost of the basket will also vary. The consumer price index reflects the change from month to month in this total cost.

More detail can be found here: [Consumer Price Inflation](#)

### **English Business Survey**

The English Business Survey (EBS) provides information about the current economic and business conditions across England. The EBS interviews 3,000 workplaces each month and provides timely intelligence on business conditions. The survey provides an assessment of past, current and future conditions.

More detail can be found here: [English business survey](#)

### **E-commerce Survey**

The E-Commerce Survey collects information on businesses and especially on the aspect of doing business online.

More detail can be found here: [E-Commerce Survey](#)

### **Investment in Intangible Assets**

Investment in Intangible Assets is a postal survey covering business expenditure on intangible assets (training, software, design, branding) and the life lengths of these assets ( the period over which the business expects to benefit from the asset).

More detail can be found here: [Results from the Second Survey of Investment in Intangible Assets, 2010](#)

### **Patents, Designs and Trade Marks from Intellectual Property Office**

The Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, 2010: Secure Access dataset includes details on applications to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) for patents, designs and trade marks by businesses or individuals.



More detail can be found here: [Intellectual property: an overview](#)

### **London Business Survey**

The 2014 London Business Survey is an innovation survey that collected information from a representative sample of private sector businesses in London in March-July 2014. It examined both objective and subjective aspects of issues affecting businesses in London, covering a wide variety of topics.

More detail can be found here: [The London Business Survey 2014](#)

### **Monthly Business Survey**

The Monthly Business Survey collects information which contributes to the Index of Production (IOP) and the Index of Services (IOS).

The IOP and IOS show changes in production and service sector outputs and are a key measure of these industries' contribution to the economy.

The results also contribute to the calculation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

More detail can be found here: [Monthly Business Survey \(Retail Sales Index\)](#)

### **Financial enquiries data**

Financial enquiries data reports quarterly net investment data arising from financial transactions (investments) made by insurance companies, self-administered pension funds, investment trusts, unit trusts and property unit trusts. Also included are quarterly balance sheet data for short-term assets and liabilities, along with quarterly income and expenditure data for insurance companies and self-administered pension funds. All data are reported at current prices (effects of price changes included). In addition, every quarter three release contains annual balance sheet data for all the institutional groups; providing information on the market value of assets and liabilities. Annual income and expenditure data for insurance companies are also reported at this time.

More detail can be found here: [investment by insurance companies, pensions funds and trusts](#)



### **National Employer Skills Survey**

The National Employer Skills Survey 2013 (NESS09) provides data trends on skills issues. It incorporates responses from 92,179 employers in the UK and thus represents by far the largest and most comprehensive source of information on current skills issues affecting employers. A large amount of the origin-destination data will be at UK level, providing flows for usual residents of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Any statistics that cannot easily be harmonised across the UK due to differences in the data collected will be provided for usual residents of England and Wales only. These statistics will still provide geographical detail of any flows between the other countries of the UK.

More detail can be found here: [2015 Employer Skills Survey](#)

### **Producer Price Index**

There are two sets of Indices produced and published for the domestic Producer Price Index (PPIs) – the price movements of goods bought by UK manufacturers, (known as input prices) and goods sold by UK manufacturers, (known as Output prices).

More detail can be found here: [Producer Price Indices](#)

### **Products of the European Community**

Products of the European Community (PRODCOM) is a European Union (EU) wide survey of production mainly for the manufacturing sector.

More detail can be found here: [UK Manufacturers' Sales by Product](#)

### **Quarterly Capital Expenditure Survey**

Quarterly Capital Expenditure Survey (CAPEX) is a quarterly survey to collect capital expenditure for various industry groups by asset type. It is a compulsory survey with a total sample size of 32 thousand.

More detail can be found here: [Quarterly Acquisitions and Disposals of Capital Assets Survey](#)



### **Quarterly Fuels Inquiry**

Quarterly Fuels Inquiry (QFI) collects data on the prices paid by small, medium and large industrial fuel consumers. The data by consumption band, available through QFI, are the only data of their kind available for the UK energy market. As such it allows cost comparisons to be made between various fuel types and between large and small users. These data are used for determining whether price movements for large and small users have been comparable and therefore providing data to examine any possible price discrimination in the fuel products. QFI data are widely used both within government and industry and are considered a vital source of data. The survey is used to monitor trends in industrial prices, particularly for gas and electricity, and by companies as price escalators in fuel purchasing contracts.

More detail can be found here: [Industrial Price Statistics – data sources and methodologies](#)

### **Consumer Price Index / Retail Price Index**

Everything that consumers buy has a price; the price may vary over time. Consumer price indices are designed to measure such changes. As the prices of individual items in a set basket of goods vary, the total cost of the basket will also vary. The consumer price index reflects the change from month to month in this total cost.

More detail can be found here: [Consumer Price Inflation](#)

### **Small Business Survey**

The Small Business Survey 2010 was commissioned by the Enterprise Directorate of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The survey was conducted by IFF Research Ltd. The purpose was primarily to monitor the characteristics and perceptions of small business owners and managers, and how these have changed in comparison to previous surveys.

More detail can be found here: [Small Business Survey reports](#)

### **Scottish Employer Skills Survey**

Scottish Employer Skills Survey is a survey of 6,000 employers across Scotland on current employment issues.



More detail can be found here: [Employer Skills Survey 2015](#)

### **Scottish Register of Employment**

The Scottish Register of Employment (SRE) contains data on manufacturing units with 11 or more employees (a unit being defined as a single site). The data runs from 1950 to 1993 and was collected from a disparate range of sources, including earlier databases, by the Scottish Executive (then the Scottish Office). Data collection was discontinued, but in order to 'wrap up' the SRE a final aggregated data set was produced that was non-disclosive and hence could be made available to the public.

More detail can be found here: [Scottish Register of Employment, 1950-1993](#)

### **Vacancy Survey**

The Vacancy Survey is a regular survey of businesses, which provides an accurate and comprehensive measure of the total number of vacancies across the economy and fills a gap.

More detail can be found here: [Vacancy Survey](#)

### **Workplace Employment Relations Survey**

Workplace Employment Relations Survey is a comprehensive and statistically reliable dataset on British workplace employment relations over time.

More detail can be found here: [Workplace Employment Relations Study \(WERS\)](#)



## Earnings data

### Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees by gender and full-time/part-time working. Estimates are available for various breakdowns including industries, occupations, geographies and age-groups within the UK. ASHE is used to produce hours and earnings statistics for a range of weekly, annual and hourly measures.

More detail can be found here: [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\)](#)

### Monthly Wage and Salary Survey (Average Weekly Earnings)

The Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey (MWSS) forms the basis of the Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) measure, which is a major economic indicator used by the Government and the Bank of England in monitoring the economy and preparing up to date National Accounts. It is also of interest to the wider economic and business community. The AWE is also used as a measure of the increase of wages over time. In this way, it is used to update some state benefits (such as the Basic State Pension) and also a wide range of contracts.

More detail can be found here: [Monthly Wages and Salaries Survey](#)

### New Earnings Survey

The New Earnings Survey (NES) was an annual sample survey of the earnings of employees in Great Britain from 1970 to 2004. The main purpose of the survey was to obtain information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings, and for the collective agreements which cover them. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment conducted a similar but separate survey in respect of employees in Northern Ireland. The Office for National Statistics conducted the New Earnings Survey based on a 1 per cent sample of employees who are members of Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) income tax schemes.



More detail can be found here: [New Earnings Survey](#)

### **Occupational Pension Scheme Survey**

The Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS) collects information from pension schemes about scheme membership, number of schemes, benefits, and contributions paid, and includes sections on very small schemes (schemes with 2 to 11 members) and those that are winding up. OPSS is a statutory annual survey and covers both private and public sector occupational pension schemes registered in the United Kingdom. Results from OPSS provide a detailed view of the nature of occupational pension provision in the UK.

More detail can be found here: [Occupational Pension Schemes Survey \(OPSS\)](#)

### **Student Income Expenditure Survey**

The Student Income Expenditure Survey data are a sample of 4,000 students from 96 locations in England and Wales and measures income and expenses on an individual basis.

More detail can be found here: [Student Income and Expenditure Study](#)

### **Wealth and Assets Survey**

The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is a longitudinal survey that interviewed across Great Britain; England, Wales and Scotland (excluding North of the Caledonian Canal and the Isles of Scilly). Respondents to wave one (July 2006 – June 2008) of the survey were invited to take part in a follow up interview two years later (July 2008 – June 2010) to identify whether their circumstances had changed. Wave one achieved approximately 30,000 household interviews; wave two achieved 20,000 household interviews.

More detail can be found here: [Household Assets Survey \(HAS\)](#)



## Census Sample Microdata

### Census 2011 Household and Individual

The secure microdata files consist of random samples of 10 per cent of people or households in the 2011 Census output database for England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland,

More detail can be found here: [2011 UK censuses](#)

### Secure Census 2011 Origin / Destination (Flow data) and Safeguarded Census 2011 Origin / Destination (Flow data)

Origin-destination data is also known as flow data and shows the flows of people from one place to another. Flow tables show basic flows between areas, univariate tables cross-tabulate flows with one other variable, and multivariate tables cross tabulate flows with more than one variable. There are four types of origin-destination data for the 2011 Census:

Special Migration Statistics – show the migration patterns (both internal and international) of individuals based on their location 1 year prior to Census Day (27 March 2011)

Special Workplace Statistics – show the commuting patterns of individuals

Special Residence Statistics – provide information on the location of second residences in relation to an individual's usual residence or workplace

Special Student Statistics – show the migration patterns of individuals living at student addresses one year prior to the Census

More detail can be found here: [2011 UK censuses](#)



Administrative Data  
Research Centre  
England

An ESRC Data  
Investment

## **Longitudinal Study**

The Longitudinal Study (LS) is a study containing linked census and vital events data on a one per cent sample of the population of England and Wales. The initial sample was drawn from the 1971 Census, with further samples taken at each subsequent census. Data relating to birth, death and cancer events are also incorporated for each study member.

More detail can be found here: [Longitudinal Study \(LS\)](#)



## **Social Survey Data**

### **Annual Population Survey**

The Annual Population Survey is a combined survey of households in the UK. Its purpose is to provide information on key social and socioeconomic variables between the 10-yearly censuses, with particular emphasis on providing information relating to sub-regional (local authority) areas.

More detail can be found here: [Annual population survey \(APS\)](#)

### **Annual Population Survey: Well-Being**

The Annual Population Survey is a combined survey of households in the UK. Its purpose is to provide information on key social and socioeconomic variables between the 10-yearly censuses, with particular emphasis on providing information relating to sub-regional (local authority) areas.

More detail can be found here: [Annual population survey \(APS\)](#)

### **Crime Survey for England and Wales**

The Crime Survey aims to measure the public's perception of and experience with crime, police and the criminal justice system in their living environment. Respondents live in households and are usually adults. A short survey questionnaire is used with 10-15 year olds.

More detail can be found here: [Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\)](#)

### **Opinions Survey (formerly General Lifestyle Survey, formerly General Household Survey)**

Opinions Survey is an inter-departmental multi-purpose survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics collecting information on people living in private households in Great Britain.

More detail can be found here: [General Lifestyle Survey: 2011](#)



### **Living Costs and Food Survey (Expenditure and Food Survey)**

The Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) collects information on spending patterns and the cost of living that reflects household budgets across the country. The primary uses of the survey are to provide information about spending patterns for the Consumer Price Indices, and about food consumption and nutrition. The survey is conducted throughout the year across the whole of the UK and is the most significant consumer survey undertaken in the UK.

More detail can be found here: [Living Costs and Food Survey \(LCF\)](#)

### **Labour Force Survey (Personal, Household and Longitudinal)**

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain. The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a major new survey series; it provides data that can produce reliable estimates at local authority level. Key topics covered in the survey include education, employment, health and ethnicity.

More detail can be found here: [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)



## Census Data

In England and Wales, the census is planned and carried out by the Office for National Statistics. Elsewhere in the UK, responsibility lies with the National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The Census is the most complete source of information about the population that is available. The data from the Census, which are used extensively across the public, private and voluntary sectors, are particularly valuable from an ADRC-E research perspective as they include a variety of demographic and socio-economic information for all individuals and households throughout England and Wales. The topics covered include: household accommodation, relationship, demographic characteristics (such as sex, age and marital status), migration, cultural characteristics, health and provision of care, qualifications, employment, workplace and journey to work. Households in Wales received both an English and Welsh questionnaire, each containing an extra question on the Welsh language. Aggregate tables on 1981-2011 Census are publicly available through [Nomis](#) and provide an indication of the information captured by the [census questionnaire](#).

In addition to these aggregate tables, micro-data samples and the Longitudinal Study described in the VML section of this prospectus, in line with ADRC processes datasets from the censuses may be linked to other administrative sources. There is agreement to supply census data to the ADRC on a project-by-project basis. This will be subject to legal gateways being confirmed, ethical issues being addressed and ensuring that all the Information Commissioners guidance on protecting the confidentiality of personal data is adhered to. ONS will be involved in the approval of each research project using census data and will require pre-release access to any final outputs from each project. Researchers will be required to justify all variables that are classified as restricted. This justification will be scrutinised by the Data Custodians.

More detail can be found here: [2011 Census](#)



Administrative Data  
Research Centre  
England

An ESRC Data  
Investment

## **Births registrations, England and Wales**

Birth registrations data, collected as part of civil registration, provide information on both live births and stillbirths that occur in and are then registered in England and Wales.

More detail can be found here: [Live births](#)



Administrative Data  
Research Centre  
England

---

An ESRC Data  
Investment

---

## **The ADRN Catalogue**

The ADRN maintain a [catalogue](#) containing information about some of the existing administrative data sources. The Network does not hold the datasets in this catalogue but work closely with government departments to make them available to researchers. Access to these is negotiated by the ADRN on a case-by-case basis.



## **Appendix - Data definitions**

### **Aggregated data**

Aggregate data describes data combined from several unit records (such as individuals, households, areas) to create a summary measure (such as count, average age). The personal identifiers of individuals (such as name, address) are not included in aggregated data thus mitigating the risk of disclosure.

### **Micro-data**

Administrative or statistical micro data are individual level data, for example data about individual people. The type of data can be unit records from administrative systems or individuals returns for a census or survey. Outputs are usually aggregated to produce aggregated data but in some instances there are real benefits in accessing the individual records.

### **Linked micro-data**

Linked micro-data is where 2 or more micro-data sets are linked together at a record level to expand the detail of what is available for each record.



Administrative Data  
Research Centre  
England

An ESRC Data  
Investment

## Contact Details

### Administrative Data Research Centre England

Faculty of Social and Human Sciences  
Building 39/Room 3013  
University of Southampton  
Highfield Campus  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ

- General enquiries: [adrce@soton.ac.uk](mailto:adrce@soton.ac.uk)
- You can also follow ADRC-E on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

### ADRN

#### Administrative Data Service

University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO4 3SQ