Economic position of residents

Purpose:

To provide 2001 Census based information about the economic position of resident populations.

Definition of indicator and its variants:

Employment status of resident populations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Organisation (see glossary)</th>
<th>Current data</th>
<th>Trend data</th>
<th>File-worksheet name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and percent of persons</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>16-74</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, GOR, ONS area, SHA, LA, PCO, CTY</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>01K_011VS_01_V2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data for PCOs have been produced from “best fit” of Output Areas.

Numerator:

Numerator data - Numbers of residents by economic status (employed, unemployed, full-time students, economically inactive students, retired, looking after home/family, permanently sick/disabled, others).

Source of numerator data – Office for National Statistics (ONS): Key Statistics Table 9a (KS09a). Data processed by the Department of Health (DH).

Comments on numerator data - The ONS Area Classification values for Census indicators are computed from Local Authority (LA) data. Strategic Health Authority (SHA) values are computed from Primary Care Organisation (PCO) data rather than LA.

The definition of "economically active" was largely determined from answers to more than one question, including:

- "Last week, were you doing any work: as an employee, or on a Government sponsored training scheme or as self-employed/freelance, or in your own/family business?";
- "Last week, were you any of the following: retired, student, looking after home/family, permanently sick/disabled or none of the above?".

The number of persons employed includes those working for an employer full- or part-time and the self-employed. It excludes those on a government employment or training scheme or in full-time education. The unemployed comprise those looking for a job, waiting to start a job, on a government scheme, or in full-time education. People wanting a job but prevented from looking by temporary sickness or a holiday are included in the count of unemployed. The retired are those who have ceased paid work completely.

Denominator:

Denominator data - The total number of residents in the area.

Source of denominator data - ONS: Key Statistics Table 9a (KS09a). Data processed by DH.

Comments on denominator data - None.

Statistical methods:

Census data for PCOs were produced by ONS on the basis of best fit using two different methods. The 2001 Census Key Statistics tables were produced on the basis of best fit of Output Areas to PCOs, and Standard tables (which are generally the more detailed tables, showing cross-tabulations between different variables) for health areas were produced on the basis of best fit of wards. The “two-method approach” used by ONS is a problem, in that the same variables for health areas appear as different totals in the Key Statistics and Standard tables. Some of these differences are also “significant”. For a more detailed explanation see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/cn_96.asp
Disclosure protection measures applied by the ONS to 2001 Census output for England and Wales are in place in order to prevent the inadvertent release of information about identifiable individuals. As a result, totals may sometimes not add up. For more details about disclosure control methods see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/op5.asp

Percentages were obtained by dividing numbers of residents with the relevant economic position by the corresponding total number of residents in the area.

**Interpretation of indicators:**

*Quality of indicator* - Annex 12 describes the criteria that should be used to judge the quality of this indicator. The application of the criteria is dependent on the context (e.g. describing a single organisation, comparing several organisations) and the level (e.g. national / regional with large numbers of events, local with small numbers of events) at which the data are to be used.

**Further reading:**


**Updated:** December 2009