



CENSUS 2022

DISSEMINATION STRATEGY



CENSUS
3 APRIL 2022

Contents

Census 2022	3
Public consultation on content and outputs	3
1. Preliminary Population Publication	3
2. Census 2022 Thematic Publications & Web Tables	4
3. Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS).....	4
4. Special Tabulations	5
5. Research Micro Data Files (RMFs).....	5
5.1: Place of Work, School, College Census of Anonymised Records (POWSCAR).....	5
5.2: 10% Random Micro Data File	5
5.3: Longitudinal Research Microdata File	5
6. EU Requirements	6
7. Ireland and Northern Ireland Joint Publication	6
8. New developments for Census 2022	7
8.1 Increased use of Administrative Data.....	7
8.2 Statistical Disclosure Control	7
8.3 Boundaries & Settlements	7
9. Additional user requirements	8
10. Timetable.....	8

Census 2022

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) will conduct Ireland's next Census of Population on April 3rd, 2022. The census had been scheduled to take place in 2021 but following a government decision, it was postponed for one year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic¹.

The census is a major statistical and logistical undertaking which provides high quality and reliable demographic and socio-economic information about Ireland's population for a broad range of stakeholders ranging from policy makers, researchers, and international organisations to voluntary & community groups and members of the public. The conducting of a census is also required under EU regulation².

Public consultation on content and outputs

The CSO invited submissions from all interested parties on the content of the Census 2022 questionnaire as part of a public consultation which launched in October 2017. Following the receipt of over 400 submissions from a range of organisations and individuals, the CSO convened a Census Advisory Group (CAG) of expert data users to assist with deciding which new and revised questions to test in the Census Pilot Survey which was held in September 2018. Following the Pilot, the CAG was reconvened to consider the results of the Pilot and assist the CSO in making recommendations to government on the content of the questionnaire. Government approved the content in July 2019. Further details on the content consultation process can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2021consultationonformcontent-closed/>

To assess user needs for data outputs arising from Census 2022, the CSO launched a further public consultation in February 2020³. The user needs expressed as part of this consultation have facilitated the production of this publication which documents at a high level the outputs the CSO are planning to produce from Census 2022. The strategy is subject to the exigencies of the pandemic, which remains uncertain in its impact and evolution at this stage.

1. Preliminary Population Publication

CSO will produce a preliminary population count based upon enumerator tallies no later than the end of June 2022. This count will include the de facto population at national, county and electoral division level for males and females. The count will also include information on housing, including vacancy levels. The information contained in this publication will be provisional and will be superseded by the official census results to be released in 2023.

¹ <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2021postponementfaq/>

² Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/712 of 20 April 2017

³ <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2021consultationonoutputs/>

2. Census 2022 Thematic Publications & Web Tables

The main focus of the dissemination programme will be the Census 2022 thematic publications. Each release will feature interpretation and analysis of the theme in question. A combination of comparisons with earlier censuses, analysis incorporating associated census variables, graphs and thematic maps will be provided. The list of themes to be covered by these releases will be published by the CSO in 2022.

The Census 2022 thematic releases will be based on the fully processed census forms and will represent the official census results. They are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2023 and they will be produced as e-releases on www.cso.ie.

In tandem with each release, the CSO will make a wide range of supporting data available via its multivariate table builder, Px-Stat, on <https://data.cso.ie/> which will allow users to recreate tables in the releases as well as create their own tabulations. Px-Stat supports PX, CSV and JSON-stat formats for data download. Px-Stat will feature a modern interface and API as well as new search and filtering abilities.

3. Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Detailed thematic statistics for a range of geographies will be made available both through a visual mapping interface and in multiple open data formats (JSON-Stat, PX, XLSX, CSV). The smallest unit of geography which will be made available will be the Small Areas. Thematic statistics will also be produced for key geographies including electoral divisions, local electoral areas, counties and provinces. The themes covered in the SAPS will largely follow what was produced from Census 2016⁴ but consideration will also be given to producing information relating to new questions added to the census form for 2022.

As in 2016, the CSO is planning to produce detailed Census 2022 statistics relating to housing on a small area basis. It is expected that additional detail will be available to users on reasons for vacancy following improvements in the field operation.

⁴ <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/census2016smallareapopulationstatistics/>

4. Special Tabulations

Special tabulations will continue to be available on an ad hoc basis for users whose needs are not met by the published tabular data. All special tabulation requests will continue to be subject to statistical disclosure control methods and suppression of unsafe values will be applied to all outputs.

5. Research Micro Data Files (RMFs)

Under the provisions of the Statistics Act, 1993, the CSO may provide access to microdata files under strict conditions to ensure that the integrity and confidentiality of data collected under the Act is maintained. Access is granted to microdata for scientific and statistical purposes only. The availability of high quality RMFs to the research community has long been a feature of the programme of census outputs. For Census 2022, the CSO is planning to reproduce the key microdata outputs users are familiar with while introducing innovative new outputs following requests received from users in the public consultation.

5.1: Place of Work, School, College Census of Anonymised Records (POWSCAR)

The POWSCAR⁵ dataset will be produced again and will be available to approved researchers and research organisations. Details of pre-school children attending childcare which were unavailable in Census 2016 will be included in the file for Census 2022.

5.2: 10% Random Micro Data File

A 10% anonymised random household sample will be made publicly available again. In 2016 this sample was released via the IPUMS website⁶.

5.3: Longitudinal Research Microdata File

Longitudinal microdata files linking a sample of persons on census files over time have been produced and widely used among the research communities in several countries including Australia, Scotland and New Zealand. Following submissions received during the public consultation, the CSO is planning to produce the first longitudinal

⁵ <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/powscar/>

⁶ <https://international.ipums.org/international/>

census microdata file for Ireland, initially containing a sample of persons from the 2022 and 2016 censuses. The potential for further linking to the Census 2011 file will be examined.

6. EU Requirements

For each decennial census period there are mandatory EU data requirements which must be met by each member state. For this census cycle these requirements include (1) Data hypercubes, (2) 1km grid square data and (3) Quality Hypercubes. The CSO expects to provide the data required to meet these requirements to Eurostat by Q1 2024. Owing to the postponement of the census in 2021, it will be necessary for the CSO to apply statistical methods to ensure the data transmitted to Eurostat meets the EU requirements which stipulate that the reference period of the data should be in 2021. These methods will be agreed in advance with Eurostat prior to transmission.

Eurostat will disseminate the data received from the CSO along with data from other EU member states via its Census Hub⁷.

See [here](#) for more detail on the EU census requirements and regulations, including information on hypercubes and the 1km grid square requirements.

7. Ireland and Northern Ireland Joint Publication

The CSO and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) will produce a joint Ireland-Northern Ireland report based on NISRA census data from 2021 and the CSO census data from 2022. As was done for Census 2011⁸, the report will draw together results from both censuses and will explore the similarities and differences that exist between the two populations, as well as looking at how these populations have changed since 2011. It is envisaged this publication will be made available in 2024.

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/CensusHub2/query.do?step=selectHyperCube&qhc=false>

⁸ <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011irelandandnorthernireland/>

8. New developments for Census 2022

The CSO wishes to advise census data users of several new developments which will impact upon the dissemination programme.

8.1 Increased use of Administrative Data

In line with the CSO's Strategic Goals⁹, there will be increased integration of administrative data in Census 2022. Administrative data will be used to improve imputation techniques, to create additional variables such as Field of Study and to ensure full population coverage. The use of administrative data in Census 2022 will be subject to stringent privacy controls and extensive data governance measures.

8.2 Statistical Disclosure Control

To adhere to Irish¹⁰ and European¹¹ Statistical Codes of Practice, the CSO will introduce statistical methods to enhance the protection of confidentiality of respondents in Census 2022. These methods will be based on data perturbation and will affect all statistical releases made in the Census 2022 dissemination programme, except the Preliminary Publication.

8.3 Boundaries & Settlements

In conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), the CSO is reviewing the creation of settlement boundaries with a view to creating a uniform set of rules to define urban areas and their extent that will ensure consistency and comparability over time. This work is still in progress, but it is anticipated that the CSO will provide users with an update prior to the commencement of the dissemination programme in 2023 which will detail the rationale for and the impact of any changes in how settlement boundaries are defined.

⁹ https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/corporatepublications/CSO_Statement_Of_Strategy_2020_-_2023.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.isscop.ie/media/isscopie/documents/ISSCOP_leaflet_single_pages.pdf

¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>

9. Additional user requirements

The CSO has completed its official consultation on Census 2022 outputs with users but is aware that new data requirements may have arisen since the consultation or may arise over the course of the next three years. Should users wish to discuss any such additional requirements, they can contact census@csso.ie or daonaireamh@csso.ie to discuss their proposal. The CSO will evaluate all requests in the context of resource availability and existing product commitments. The CSO may produce additional documentation on the Dissemination Strategy should there be further updates.

10. Timetable

It is planned to publish the Preliminary Population Publication in June 2022 and the detailed Census 2022 product list and timetable in the second half of 2022. The dissemination phase of the detailed Census 2022 results is expected to begin in 2023 and run for at least one year in order to produce the outputs detailed in this strategy document.