



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# DWP Open Data: Case studies

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# DWP Open Data: Case studies

The following case studies illustrate a number of transparency and data sharing measures which the Department has recently implemented or is currently delivering. They showcase the range of activities the Department is engaged on in making more of its data publicly available or in sharing it for wider public benefit.

## The Demographics User Group (DUG)

DUG represents the interests of commercial users of government datasets in the UK. Its members include Barclays, Boots, Co-operative Group, EON, John Lewis, Tesco and Marks & Spencer. DUG highlights how Government data is important to companies in their decision-making and is a member of the Department's sector Transparency Board. DUG recently commended the DWP's neighbourhood-level statistics and future plans and recently presented its annual award for "Better information in Government" to the Department.

It said that "The Department for Work and Pensions has led the way, using the information that it collects from the UK's citizens to create anonymous counts of various populations for very small areas, and making these easily accessible. It is also encouraging the wider use of government surveys, with the Wealth and Assets Survey benefiting from the addition of a neighbourhood classification."

More information:

[DWP press release – DWP wins award for better data](#)

[The Demographics User Group](#)

## Stat-Xplore

The launch of new on-line software (Stat-Xplore) will allow the citizen to create their own statistical tabulations based on DWP's rich sources of customer data. Claimants' privacy will be protected by sophisticated disclosure control mechanisms. It will cover most existing benefits and pensions and over time will include statistics on Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments.

The Department's existing on-line DIY tabulation tool is being replaced with Stat-Xplore a new enhanced version which provides more data at a more granular level with enhanced visualisation. A beta version was made available in November using the latest update of housing benefit data – see <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

- In its first month since launch, over 3,000 visitors have accessed Stat-Xplore. Users spent an average of 13 minutes on Stat-Xplore and accessed, on average, ten interactive charts.
- Over 100 visitors have accessed Stat-Xplore via a mobile device (smart phone or tablet).
- Users from over 150 individual local authorities have accessed Stat-Xplore, as well as a number of housing benefit specific interest groups.

DWP has been working with external 'data users' such as Local Authorities, private sector and Academics to obtain input and feedback for the development of Stat Xplore.

A fully functional Stat-Xplore version will be launched in 2013 which, in time, will also include data on Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments.

For more information please email: [michael.payne@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:michael.payne@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Wealth and Assets survey

The Wealth and Assets Survey is jointly funded across government and is a longitudinal household survey, which aims to address gaps identified in data about the economic well-being of households. It gathers information on, among other things, level of savings and debt, saving for retirement, how wealth is distributed among households and factors that affect financial planning. The Wealth and Assets survey publications can be found here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/was/wealth-in-great-britain-wave-2/index.html>

Exposure of the DWP's involvement with this ONS-published datasource via its Welfare Sector Board led to discussion about its granularity and wider re-use. Wave 1 wealth distribution tables have now been repeated using Wave 2 data and were published in September 2012 – (see reference number 000497):

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/publication-scheme/published-ad-hoc-data/economy/september-2012/index.html>

As a direct result of consultation with key users the survey data will, for the first time, benefit from the addition of a neighbourhood classification. ONS make special user license datasets available to researchers via the UK Data Archive. End-user datasets are expected to be similarly available directly from the Archive by the end of February 2013

Initial feedback on Wave 2 neighbourhood level data from companies represented on the Demographics User Group (see above) is positive. Feedback includes:

**Sainsburys** – This data helps businesses understand their potential customer base and their propensity to spend. It is extremely useful for SME's and start ups who find procuring data a barrier

**EON** – This data has been used in analytics modelling allowing us to target most relevant customers for energy efficiency campaigns

**Tesco** – For retailers with stated ambitions to support areas for regeneration and additional employment this data could be used to add to their existing models thereby incorporating social and corporate responsibility, planning with locational intelligence

For more information please email: [valerie.christian@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:valerie.christian@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Population census – new DWP data sharing

The Department has been working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Beyond 2011 programme to look at making more effective use of administrative data (information held by the Department on its Customer Information System relating to benefit recipients and customers of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs).

This administrative data from DWP, along with data from other sources will be used to validate population statistics being produced from the 2011 census of population. This should increase the accuracy of the statistics and confidence in them. Data will also be used to assess the feasibility of alternative approaches to the census, including producing future population statistics from administrative data. This has the potential to increase their accuracy, timeliness and frequency as well as reducing costs. The 2011 population census cost over £450 million.

ONS is due to publish an initial feasibility report in April 2013.

For more information please email: [ruth.white@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.white@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Electoral Registration

The Electoral Registration Transformation Programme (ERTP) is working with DWP, Cabinet Office, Government Digital service, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services and Electoral Registration Officers in England, Scotland and Wales to share data to assist in validation of electors and identification of hard to reach persons who may be eligible to vote in the next General Election. This is scheduled for go-live in 2015, with operational readiness expected to be confirmed by July 2014.

DWP is providing a data matching service to the Programme that uses DWP data to support Electoral Registration Officers decisions to validate electors and who should move from the existing Household Register onto the new Individual Electoral Register (IER) automatically.

The first pilots in 2012 covered almost 3 million voters and are currently being completed. Cabinet Office evaluation of the pilots will be completed March 2013 and Electoral Commission evaluation completed by July 2013

The main pilot with all 46 million voters is scheduled for July and August 2013 with a full live exercise planned for July and August 2014. Estimated administrative savings from using data matching to support the programme are £30 million.

For more information please email: [chris.beetham@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.beetham@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Sharing Data with energy suppliers to support the DECC Warm Home Discount Scheme

DWP has also used its internal data matching services to provide data to other organisations to support wider welfare provision including:

Sharing data with Energy Suppliers to support the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) led Warm Home Discount Scheme which is giving circa 600K pensioners help with their fuel bills, and the Energy Company Obligation (SCO) which is providing free home insulation and boiler replacements for vulnerable customers.

This project required secure data-matching of 10 million accounts and 900,000 Pension Credit records across Government and the private sector to identify eligible people and strives to offer the rebate before bills are paid. Response rates for discounted tariffs and rebates from suppliers have historically been less than 5%

however under this scheme more than 85% of rebates have been given with no action required from recipients.

This four year project has already provided more than 700,000 discounts worth £84 million between 2011–2012. As a result of this work DWP has recently won a collaboration award in the Civil Service Awards 2012

<http://network.civilservicelive.com/pages/view/699734/the-collaboration-award-shortlist>

For more information please email: [linda.a.fiddler@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:linda.a.fiddler@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Data pilot to enhance evidence based policy making

DWP is supporting the work of the Administrative Data Taskforce which brings together Government, academia and research funders to look at how more data sharing can be done for research purposes within existing legislation or would require new legislation. DWP is exploring a 'proof of concept' pilot to link DWP and Department of Health data securely and safely. This data pilot will link NHS hospital episodes and primary care interventions with DWP data over a 6 year period. The data should be produced and merged over the next few months and analysis will begin later in 2013. This approach could open the door to doing more research with other departments and academia to support the development of public policy and potentially provide opportunities to consider on a wider scale, for example in industry.

For more information please email: [nicky.tarry@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.tarry@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## Work Programme Statistics

The Work Programme is an integrated package of work focused support for people who are long term unemployed or who are at risk of becoming so.

DWP is fully committed to offering a transparent view of performance and value for money across all Contracted Employment Provision and in November 2012 released official statistics on outcomes to supplement the already published referral and attachment official statistics.

The official statistics available on the Work Programme include numbers on:

- Number of referrals and attachments;
- Job outcomes paid to providers;
- Total sustainment payments paid to providers; and
- Number of individuals for whom a provider has been paid for one or more sustainment payments.

Supplementary analysis on the benefit status of Work Programme participants using DWP administrative data to track benefit status during and after participation in the programme is also available on the Work Programme landing page. Although these figures are not official statistics and do not, in isolation, provide direct evidence of movement into sustained employment they do provide evidence of movement off benefit and add to the overall body of evidence available about the Work Programme, whilst maintaining the professional integrity of the official statistics.

Statistics are published via numerous methods accompanied by supplementary information on definitions, methodology and processes involved in developing and releasing the statistics. All information is available via the Work Programme landing page which can be viewed at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

A statistical release document summarises the headline figures whilst the DWP tabulation tool allows users to produce their own bespoke tables and a data visualisation tool enables users to view the information graphically.

Figures in the DWP tabulation tool can be tabled by contract, contract package area, payment group, age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for ESA and IB claimants) and lone parent status (for JSA and IS claimants). Lower level geography information is available by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Jobcentre Plus district.

The Governments key data measure for the Work Programme provides cohort information on the proportion of claimants for whom providers were paid a job outcome payment at 12 months on the Work Programme.

Additional monthly cohort information is available via the data visualisation tool which tracks the proportion of each cohort achieving a job outcome in the months following referral to the Work Programme

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