

Case Study 2 – Local Authority

You work for an East Mercia local authority.

One of your Councillors has been to a function the previous evening where she has been questioned by a local reporter as to why the local construction projects were not using the local workforce. This included local authority projects.

The next day you receive an email from the Chief Executive's office containing the following question.

“Does the construction industry in this region reflect the ethnic composition of the community?”

What information do you need?

- The proportion of the construction industry workforce in the East Mercia region that is from ethnic minorities.
- The proportion of the East Mercian population that is from ethnic minorities.

Where can you find this information?

- You have already taken the first step by accessing the Ethnic Minority Employment Data Portal.
- Look up the 'Information on datasets'. Browsing the top datasets for employment it appears that the Labour Force Survey could provide the information needed on the construction industry. It is available from a number of sources but as NOMIS is the easiest to use, that will be the first choice.
- Browsing further down the 'Information on Datasets', under 'Ethnic Minority Data', there is a dataset on 'Population Estimates'. That information is not available on NOMIS so will have to be accessed from elsewhere. ONS is a good second choice.

How do you access the data?

- Go to the 'Data Sources' page and select NOMIS. The information page for NOMIS will appear complete with the link to the NOMIS website homepage. This information page tells you that the 'Annual Population Survey' provides information on employment by industry and ethnic group – just what you are looking for!
- Use the 'Accessing the Data' guide on the NOMIS information page to help you find what you want – employment by industry and ethnic group.
- The link for information on the Population Estimates actually takes you to the appropriate webpage. Otherwise use the information page for ONS.
- You need to do a bit of searching to find the dataset you need. In this case Mid Year Estimates 2007 is the best available.
- After a few clicks you find a link to open a spreadsheet. You need to search through the sheets to find the one you want and then scroll down to 'East Mercia'

What information do you get?

From NOMIS you are supplied with the following data on ethnic minorities working in the construction industry.

Date	East Mercia			
	number	denominator	percent	confidence
Jan 2009-Dec 2009	11,300	178,900	6.3	2.6

From ONS you are supplied with the following data on the composition of the local population (in 000's).

Area	Code	All Groups	Ethnic Minorities
EAST MERCIA	F	5,381.8	747.8

How do you use the information?

The estimated percentage of ethnic minorities working in the East Mercian construction industry is already shown in the table but just do a quick check to show it is correct $\frac{11300}{178900} \times 100 = 6.3\%$

The estimated percentage of ethnic minorities in the East Mercian population is $\frac{747.8}{5381.8} \times 100 = 13.9\%$.

How do you interpret this information?

You can now reply to the Chief Executive's office with evidence that the ethnic composition of the local population is not represented in the East Mercian construction industry. Whereas ethnic minorities make up 14% of the population they only occupy 6% of the construction jobs.

It seems the reporter had made a valid point.