

Terms explained

Administrative Data

Data collected in the day to day operations of government departments, local authorities, businesses, voluntary organisations, etc.

Census

Census refers to a complete count of the population of interest (as opposed to a sample). In the United Kingdom a census of the entire population is taken every ten years – the last was in 2001 and the next is in 2011.

Community

The Welsh equivalent of **Parish**.

Employed, unemployed and inactive

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for “employed”, “unemployed” and “inactive” are quite detailed and are explained more fully in the [LABORSTA International definitions](#).

Regions

Apply to England only. The country is divided up into 9 regions.

These are shown in the [Office for National Statistics: map collection](#) (see administrative geography map number 1).

Inactive

See [Employed, unemployed and inactive](#).

Local Authority Areas

There are five types of local authorities in England and Wales.

See [Understand how your council works: types of council](#)

NEETS

An acronym for 16–18 year olds who are “Not in Education, Employment or Training”.

Output area

The smallest units for which data are available. Output Areas are subdivisions of 2003 wards and each contains approximately 125 households (300 residents). Very little data is available at this level.

Parish

Parishes are the most local administrative areas in England and Wales (where they are referred to as communities), and often have a parish council with a range of duties. Approximately 40% of the population of England and Wales live in parishes or communities.

Super output area

Super output areas (SOAs) are aggregations of [output areas](#).

Survey

Balanced samples of the population are asked questions on a variety of topics. The results are scaled up to represent the whole population.

Unemployed

See [Employed, unemployed and inactive](#).

Ward

Electoral wards (electoral divisions in Wales and the Isle of Wight) are the base unit of UK administrative geography, being the areas from which local authority councillors are elected.

Working Age

Until August 2010 “Working Age” was defined as 16–64 for males and 16–59 for females.

In August 2010 the definition was changed to take account of the change in the State Pension age (SPA) for females. Although the female SPA is increasing on a sliding scale, from August 2010 the definition of “Working Age” became 16–64 for males and females for statistical purposes.