

Background Quality Report

Central and Local Rating Lists: Non Domestic Rating in England and Wales

Dimension	Assessment by the author
Introduction	<p><i>Context for the quality report.</i></p> <p>'Non-domestic rating in England and Wales' is a new annual Valuation Office Agency (VOA) release (this replacing a previous HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) publication).</p> <p>The publication contains data from 2010 central and local rating lists broken down by high-level and detailed-level categorisations of non-domestic properties based on VOA's primary description codes.</p> <p>This release present statistics on the number of and rateable value of non-domestic properties in England and Wales broken down by: Table 1 - detailed property type and country Table 2 - property type and value band Table 3 - region and property type Table 4 - changes in local and central lists, by property type</p> <p>The VOA statistics team would like to engage more closely with users of the statistics in order to arrive at outputs that are of greatest use to the user community as a whole. Therefore we would like to invite readers to comment on this quality report and new publication, which will help inform future releases. Comments may be sent to statistics@voa.gsi.gov.uk.</p>
Relevance	<p><i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p> <p>The publication is primarily used by analysts and other government departments to examine trends and the impact of policy decisions, economic conditions and the sustainability of non-domestic rates.</p> <p>The statistics are split into high-level and detailed-level categorisations of non-domestic properties based on VOA's primary description codes and by regions (previously know as "government office regions").</p>
Accuracy and Reliability	<p><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p> <p>The statistics are derived from the non-domestic rating lists for England and Wales, compiled and maintained by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).</p> <p>The data is based upon the rateable value of non-domestic properties listed on local and central rating lists, as prepared by the Valuation Office Agency.</p>

	<p>The rateable value broadly represents the annual rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date, on full repairing and insuring terms. For the current rating lists, this date was set as 1 April 2008.</p> <p>The Valuation Office Agency has a statutory duty to prepare local rating lists containing rateable values for all non domestic properties in England and Wales every five years. They then have a duty to maintain these lists until the next revaluation. The latest lists came into force on 1 April 2010.</p> <p>More information on non-domestic rates and rateable value can be found on VOA's website: http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/Publications/business.html#rating</p>
<p>Timeliness and Punctuality</p>	<p><i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p> <p>For future publications, these statistics will be published annually according to a pre-announced timetable at 9:30am with data as at the 31st of March that year.</p> <p>We aim to publish data as soon as possible after the reference period, which is the shortest production time that enables reliable estimates to be made.</p>
<p>Accessibility and Clarity</p>	<p><i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></p> <p>The statistics are published free of charge on the VOA website, which aims to be accessible to all its potential users. VOA provides advice and information about accessibility here: http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/accessibility.html</p> <p>The publication tables are available in Excel, comma separated value (csv) and portable document formats (PDF).</p> <p>The publication includes details of the responsible statistician for this release together with email contact details for sending queries and feedback to the production team.</p> <p>The statistics are taken directly from the source data that is collected for administrative purposes with little manipulation between source and publication. Our publications directly reflect the non-domestic rating system (of which users are aware) and therefore the administrative data are an accurate and relevant data source.</p>
<p>Coherence and</p>	<p><i>Coherence is the degrees to which data that is derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are</i></p>

Comparability	<p><i>similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></p> <p>The geographic breakdowns are done according to best practise presentation guidance set out by the Office for National Statistics. Further information on the regions used in this release please refer to the ONS's website at the following location: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/geographic-policy/best-practice-guidance/presentation-order-guidance/administrative-areas/index.html</p>
Trade-offs between Output Quality Components	<p><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></p> <p>The statistics are produced and released according to a pre-announced timetable http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/publications/ReleaseTimetable.html</p> <p>The timetable for publication is designed to provide users with the best balance of timeliness and accuracy.</p>
Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions	<p><i>The processes for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p> <p>The publication includes contact details for sending feedback to the production team.</p> <p>The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has set out its intention to develop existing statistics to better meet user needs. As part of that commitment the VOA has announced proposals for a systematic and comprehensive assessment of its current statistical publications. The intention is for new and existing statistics to be developed in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics with the aim of getting National Statistics status/accreditation. The development of official statistics will be supported through the creation of steering committees and advisory panels.</p> <p>The advisory panels will provide an expert view and will ensure that the construction and content of new statistical outputs is based upon sound methodology as well as meeting user needs. The purpose of the steering committees is to promote and safeguard the quality of VOA official statistics.</p>
Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden	<p><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p> <p>Data are collated from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) who is responsible for compiling and maintaining non-domestic rating lists for England and Wales.</p> <p>All tables use data Valuation Office Agency (VOA) administrative</p>

	<p>data on the central and local rating lists for England and Wales, so there are no explicit costs of production.</p> <p>The data would be collected regardless of publication for internal monitoring and policy development purposes.</p>
<p>Confidentiality, Transparency and Security</p>	<p><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p> <p>This publication follows VOA's policy in relation to confidentiality, details of which can be found here: http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/_downloads/pdf/VOA-Information-Charter.pdf</p> <p>When publishing statistics reasonable steps are taken to protect confidentiality. We use a combination of data manipulation and/or statistical disclosure techniques to meet the confidentiality guarantee.</p> <p>This is reviewed regularly to maintain awareness of current and best practice. Documentation for this is kept with the appropriate release and published where the data is publicly available.</p> <p>In this release, some/all of the tables have been given protection through the use of Statistical Disclosure Control techniques</p>