

Using Nesstar to explore consumer durables in the General Household Survey 2004-05

ESDS Government

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Version: 1.1
Date: December 2011



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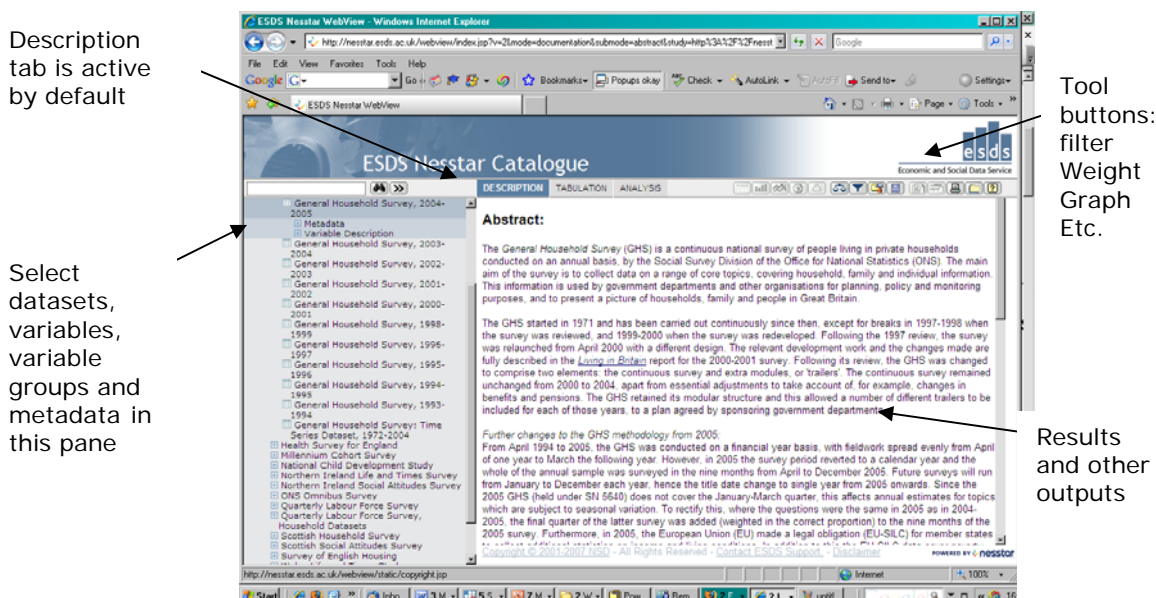
ESDS Government data is typically available for download in SPSS and Stata formats. Many datasets are also available in Nesstar. Nesstar is a data exploration and download tool that allows you to browse data and do basic analyses online.

This exercise will introduce you to the Nesstar system by carrying out a simple and typical research task: You will


- Explore metadata and variables in one of the 60 or so government data sets in Nesstar.
- Carry out some crosstabulations and graphically represent the data



1. Through the ESDS major studies pages < <http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/majorstudies.asp> > find the General Lifestyle Survey datasets (note this survey was previously known as the General Household Survey before changing its name to the General Lifestyle Survey in January 2008). Select the General Household Survey 1971-2006 then select the General Household Survey 2004-2005 (SN 5346) and click on the link

Explore Online/**Nesstar** icon  . To open the Nesstar window.




2. You are presented with an **Abstract** on the right hand panel. On the left side panel there is a **Metadata** folder and if you click on this using the **+** sign you can explore further information about the dataset and access online user guides. Browse the **Bibliographic Citation** folder under **Study Description** to find out the name of the Depositor (or Author Entity).
3. Another folder is the **Variable Description** folder. Opening this (click on **+**) will display a list of variable groups. Using the **+** sign, click on Individual Level Data File to open the folder to view a list of sub-folders containing variables/questions categorised under that topic. Again using the **+** sign click on the Household Information subfolder and then the Consumer Durables sub-folder. You will now see a list of variables for consumer durables, scroll down and click on the variable **Home Computer** and browse the associated information displayed (e.g. frequency and percentages and question text) on the right hand side. Now answer the following:
 - a. What was the wording of the actual survey question asked?
 - b. What were the possible responses to this question?

- c. What percentage have a home computer?
4. Repeat the above for (i) **Telephone** (in the Household Information - Consumer Durables sub-folder)
 - (ii) **Tenure** (in the Household Information – Tenure sub-folder)
 - a. What percentage of respondents just have a mobile telephone in the household?
 - b. What percentage of respondents own their accommodation outright?
 - c. In the tenure question, how are not applicable and/or no answer treated? Are they included in the valid percentage? How will this affect your result?
5. Conduct a simple tabulation. You need to first click on the **Tabulation** button on the top menu. Now left click on the variable **Home Computer** in the left panel. You will see a box appear that offers option for **add to row, add to column etc.** Click **Add to row**. You will be asked to login. Login using the **ATHENS username and password** that has been supplied for this workshop.
6. Now **add** the variable **Tenure** to the column of the table. A simple table is presented. Under **Type** in the third column you can choose whether to display raw numbers, column percentages or row percentages. Now answer the following question:
 - a. Of those who are 'buying their accommodation with a mortgage or loan,' what percentage have a home computer?
7. **Click on the** Subset tab  on the top menu. Subset on no. of children in house (**numchild >= 1**). The no. children in household variable is in the household information sub file. Subset by selecting this variable from the menu and clicking **Add to subset**. This will put numchild in the first field of the selection criteria. You need to **select the >= operator** from the drop down menu in the middle of the criterion fields. To complete the last part of the criterion **select 1 from the values list and hit the Add button**. You should now have a complete subset criterion as shown below. To use it **hit the OK button**.

Variable	Value
No. of children in hou	>= 1
8. This will produce the crosstab of Home Computer **by** Tenure **for those with children in the household**. **You can see this from the words Filter is on** that appears at the bottom of your table.
 - a. What has happened to the total number of cases?
 - b. Of those who have children in the household, and who own outright, what percentage have a home computer? How does this compare with the percentage for all respondents in the previous crosstab?
9. Click on the **Barchart tab**  on the top menu to display a graph of this table. Produce a vertical bar chart . This will produce a clustered bar chart.

Other things to try in Nesstar:

- You can create other two-way or three-way tabulations and graphs by selecting other variables, you may need to deselect your current ones first (by choosing 'Remove from Graph' from the Variable drop down menu within the output).
- Tables can be saved out for manipulation in Excel by hitting the save out to spreadsheet button 

Nesstar is used by other archives:

- Many European archives use Nesstar and those which are part of the Council of European Social Science Data Archives, allow their metadata to be browsed as part of the cessda catalogue. Try it at <http://www.cessda.org/accessing/catalogue/>