

Training Courses

Training courses are run for users at varying levels of expertise. These include:

- free courses introducing the range of data available
- free courses on using large-scale government data for particular themes
- courses on SPSS and Stata

Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) also runs a range of short courses on quantitative methods that are relevant to secondary analysts. See www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses.

Learning and Teaching

The large-scale government surveys are of considerable use in teaching, allowing students hands-on experience with real data. ESDS Government provides:

- materials from training courses available online for independent learning and teacher use
- theme-based teaching datasets
- analysis guides to SPSS and Stata
- SPSS workbooks for dissertation students

User Support

Web-based FAQs are regularly updated.

The [esds-govsurveys JISCmail list](mailto:esds-govsurveys@jiscmail.ac.uk) is a forum for user discussion about issues arising in the use of large-scale government datasets. To join, email listserv@jiscmail.ac.uk with the following message:

`subscribe esds-govsurveys <name>`
where <name> is your full name.



ESDS Government
Economic and Social Data Service
CCSR, University of Manchester
Humanities Bridgeford Street
Manchester, M13 9PL

Tel: +44 (0)161 275 1980
Email: govsurveys@esds.ac.uk
JISCmail: [esds-govsurveys](mailto:esds-govsurveys@jiscmail.ac.uk)
www.esds.ac.uk/government



ESDS Government

ESDS Government is a specialist service of the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) that promotes and facilitates increased and more effective use of the UK large-scale government survey datasets in research, learning and teaching across a range of disciplines.

ESDS Government acquires, processes and disseminates key data series (such as the General Household Survey and Labour Force Survey) which are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Scottish Executive, the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency and other government departments. The service works closely with the ONS and other data producers to maximise the complementarity of interest between producers, commissioning government departments and academics.

supporting the use of large-scale government data



Government Data Portfolio

Data supported by ESDS Government include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Annual Population Survey | National Travel Survey |
| British Crime Survey | Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey |
| British Social Attitudes | Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey |
| Continuous Household Survey | Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey |
| Expenditure and Food Survey | ONS Omnibus Survey |
| Family Expenditure Survey | Scottish Crime and Justice Survey |
| Family Resources Survey | Scottish Health Survey |
| General Household Survey* | Scottish Social Attitudes |
| Health Survey for England | Survey of English Housing |
| Households Below Average Income | Time Use Survey |
| Integrated Household Survey | Vital Statistics |
| Labour Force Survey | Welsh Health Survey |
| Living in Wales Survey | Young People's Social Attitudes |
| National Food Survey | |

The General Household Survey, Survey of English Housing, Expenditure and Food Survey and Omnibus Survey will be changing name during 2010. Refer to the web site for more information.



Value-added Products

ESDS Government resources include:

- thematic guides to data on key topics, e.g. employment
- methodological guides, e.g. weighting
- detailed web pages for each survey
- variables search facility
- database of usage of government surveys
- a database of publications using government surveys
- a biannual newsletter
- variables that are consistent over time
- a visualisation tool for mapping vital statistics data



Information Exchange and Awareness Raising

ESDS Government facilitates the exchange of information between data creators, depositors and users, and raises awareness of the research potential of the government surveys by:

- running workshops across the country on specific topics and methods
- organising a biennial research conference to showcase research using the large-scale government surveys
- meeting on specific issues such as data confidentiality
- organising and running user meetings that focus on particular surveys (e.g. Health Survey for England, Labour Force Survey)

Online Access

Data are available via the web-based download system and via the Nesstar system for online browsing and visualisation. Simple registration with ESDS is required to download the government datasets.

