

Spatial Plan Data Newsletter

A Welsh Assembly Government project has been set up to collate and disseminate data for the areas identified in the Wales Spatial Plan. It is titled the Spatial Plan Data Project. This is the third of a series of occasional newsletters to inform users interested in these data of the progress made to date.

Dissemination of data

Since the last newsletter was published on 26 September 2007, the project has concentrated on the dissemination of data for the areas identified in the Wales Spatial Plan.

On 28 November 2007, a statistical bulletin pointing users to an on-line data resource and providing a selection of data was published.

The bulletin is available at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/compendia-2007/hdw20071128>, whilst the on-line data resource, which is made up of a series of spreadsheets organised into seven data themes, is at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/spatial-plan>.

For each data theme, the data resource provides a spreadsheet of tables and charts showing the latest data for the all the Spatial Plan areas. There is also a separate summary spreadsheet for each individual area, showing the latest data for that area compared to Wales, plus data for an earlier period where available.

The data themes are listed on the reverse of this document, and while the list of datasets is not entirely comprehensive, the data included are nevertheless wide-ranging and detailed.

How have the data been chosen?

The Spatial Plan area boundaries do not always follow local authority boundaries and so many standard datasets which are only readily available at the local authority level cannot be used directly.

We need data sources to be available at a sub-local authority level to derive data for the Spatial Plan areas, and this typically means aggregating small area level data. A key question has therefore been whether data are available at a small area level, specifically the lower super output area (LSOA) level defined as part of the 2001 Census.

In many cases, data are not routinely published at the LSOA level, and often this is because the data are not robust at that level. However, because the Spatial Plan areas are all reasonably large in population terms, aggregation of the LSOA data to this level does provide robustness.

The issue of data availability then depends on the presence of LSOA identifiers within background datasets, and whether such datasets can be accessed. If so, it is often the point locations (e.g. postcodes) attached to the individual data records or to the related summary units (e.g. schools) that have been used to determine LSOA identifiers.

Which data themes have been used to disseminate the data?

Theme	Datasets included
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population levels and change • Births, deaths and natural change
Economy and labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour market data, including employment and inactivity rates, qualifications and occupations • Earnings data • Benefit claimants • Business counts and employees by industry and size • Rateable value and floorspace of premises subject to non-domestic rates
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil and teacher numbers • Special educational need • Free school meals • School attainment • School absence • Further and higher education students • Use of the Welsh language
Health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Health Survey data, including data on selected conditions and lifestyle • Cancer incidence • Deaths by selected cause • GP, hospital and dentist services data • Child immunisation
Natural and built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land area • Areas / sites of environmental importance • Area subject to flood risk • Proximity to waste and other regulated sites
Housing, deprivation and access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwellings numbers • Average house prices • Population living in deprived areas • Average drive times and distances to selected services
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road accidents data • Vehicle use

Further information

For more information, please visit the Welsh Assembly Government internet site at:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/spatial-plan>

If you wish to speak to anyone regarding the Spatial Plan Data Project, please contact the project manager at the following address:

Adam Al-Nuaimi

Statistical Directorate

Room 2-002, CP2, Crown Buildings

Cathays Park

Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2080 1238

E-mail: adam.al-nuaimi@wales.gsi.gov.uk