



## **The Value of Census Statistics in England and Wales**

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### **Abstract**

Quantifying the benefits of official statistics is complex and difficult. However, it is important in justifying for sufficient funding for official statistics, especially at a time of Austerity. This paper outlines the approach taken by the Office for National Statistics to valuing the benefits from the 2011 Census statistics in Census in England and Wales. It describes criticism of the 2001 Census business case, and the benefits calculation carried out in 2007 to help secure funding for the 2011 Census. It goes on to describe the approach to benefits management, and the actions taken to maximise the benefits from the 2011 Census. The post census revaluation of the value of the 2011 Census benefits is explained, and a range of methods and approaches used for different user sectors are illustrated. The paper concludes by outlining some of the challenges in valuing some uses of census data, especially for policy development by government.

**Keywords: Census, Quantified, Benefits**