

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua



Statistics New Zealand / Department of Internal Affairs

Regional Stocktake

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Preface

Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs are pleased to present the Regional Stocktake. The stocktake delivers a comprehensive list of sub-nationally available central government datasets and supporting information. It should be used as a first port of call for any potential user of sub-national information, from local and central government to independent research. The Regional Stocktake has delivered in its vision to provide a clear guide to sub-national datasets held by Statistics New Zealand and central government and provides a strong base for future development of further research tools.

This project is one of the steps towards providing an all of government perspective to support community outcomes monitoring. It responds to concerns raised at the series of regional seminars on Local Government Monitoring and Reporting held by Local Government New Zealand, with the support of the Department of Internal Affairs and Statistics NZ in 2006.

The stocktake now provides an easy means of identifying information to monitor and research local government-orientated strategies. As a result of this project, future recommendations have been made in an internal document. These include:

- regular maintenance and updating the stocktake information
- using Statisphere¹ as a possible place for storing the stocktake information
- approaching all central government agencies to seek further information and to build on the datasets included within the spreadsheet
- reviewing sub-national information from the stocktake to the Quarterly Regional Review (a quarterly release of sub-national statistics published by Statistics NZ), with a view to expanding the information contained within
- a quality assessment of contained datasets.

Statistics NZ would like to encourage anyone that knows of any datasets that do *not* feature in the list but are output at a sub-national level to please contact: regional@stats.govt.nz.

Further information

People who are interested in this project may also be interested in keeping up to date with other Statistics NZ initiatives focused on community outcomes monitoring. A more detailed version of this Regional Stocktake report is available by request.

To obtain a copy or more information about community outcomes monitoring, please contact regional@stats.govt.nz

Dallas Welch
Acting Government Statistician
Statistics New Zealand

Christopher Blake
Chief Executive
Department of Internal Affairs

¹ Statisphere, New Zealand's Official Statistics portal
<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/default.htm>

Acknowledgement

The Geography, Regional and Environment (GRE) business unit at Statistics New Zealand would like to acknowledge the Department of Internal Affairs for their support throughout this project.

We would also like to thank the government agencies and Statistics New Zealand subject matter areas who have provided information for the Regional Stocktake.

Information

This summary was prepared by the GRE business unit of Statistics NZ and published by the Product Development and Publishing business unit. For further information on the statistics in the spreadsheet that accompanies this report, contact Statistics NZ's Information Centre.

Visit our website: www.stats.govt.nz
Or email us at info@stats.govt.nz
Or phone toll free 0508 525 525

Auckland
Private Bag 92003
Phone 09 920 9100
Fax 09 920 9198

Wellington
PO Box 2922
Phone 04 931 4600
Fax 04 931 4610

Christchurch
Private Bag 4741
Phone 03 964 8700
Fax 03 964 8964

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Contents

Preface

1. Summary of results.....	6
2. The Regional Stocktake spreadsheet	
What the spreadsheet contains.....	7
How to use the spreadsheet.....	7
Limitations of the information.....	8
3. The Regional Stocktake project	
Background.....	9
Project scope.....	10
Collection and research.....	10
4. Technical notes	
Terms and definitions.....	11
Geographic standards and classifications.....	15
Stocktake research sources – central government websites.....	16
References.....	17

1. Summary of results

There were just under 100 sets of data collected from which sub-national data was obtained. This included data from Statistics NZ and other central government agencies. The data covers a wide range of topics, for example: water use, motor vehicle crashes, building consents, accommodation, and education.

The most common sub-national level for data was Regional Council, followed by Territorial Authority. There were many datasets that were broken down by other geographic areas rather than by standard local council authority areas, eg District Health Board (DHB), and Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO). These breakdowns are noted in the spreadsheet where possible, and include lists of all towns, cities, and areas within them. Little information was found on data available at Area Unit or Meshblock level. However, Census of Population and Dwellings data from 2001 and some from 2006 are available at these levels. Census data from 2001 and 2006 is included in the stocktake within its own worksheet.

Statistics New Zealand stocktake

Information on over 30 already existing Statistics NZ datasets, that included sub-national figures, was collected. Most datasets were found to be produced on an ongoing, regular basis. There was one exception to this rule, which was the Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Feasibility Study conducted in 2006. This was included due to its high demand and potential importance to local government.

Central government stocktake

Sixty three ongoing, regular datasets were collected as a result of the stocktake. Thirty-one government agencies contributed to these datasets (excluding Statistics NZ). In cases where no sub-national information was found, the central government agency in question was not included, as national datasets were not within the scope of the project.

Thirty-eight additional datasets were also collected. These datasets were found while conducting website research and are additional to the original scope and intent of the project. Many of these datasets are not ongoing but are important sources of information for local councils as the research within them is relevant to community outcomes.

2. The Regional Stocktake spreadsheet

What the spreadsheet contains

The spreadsheet that accompanies this report contains all the information about sub-national datasets collected during the stocktake. The stocktake information is in Microsoft Excel format for ease of use.

Content within the spreadsheet includes information about:

- the purpose of specific sub-national datasets and / or reports (metadata)
- the source of the data
- the frequency of the dataset, eg whether the data is released quarterly or annually
- the sub-national level the data is produced at, eg Regional council
- which government agency produces the dataset
- the title of the dataset
- cited references from central government websites
- geographic standard, and non-standard classifications.

There are also direct links to the government websites (and specific data) in the spreadsheet.

Column headings within the worksheets are defined in the technical notes.

How to use the spreadsheet

There are seven worksheets within the spreadsheet. The first four pertain to the stocktake results. Two of these relate specifically to Statistics NZ data. The remaining two cover central government data.

Each row within the first four worksheets relates to one dataset or publication. Most datasets contain a website link (in the Output title column) relevant to the data. However, some of these links do not go directly to the related datasets because of data being within PDF documents. In such instances, follow the instructions or a further link on the initial webpage. This step will lead to the report that holds the data.

The remaining three worksheets in the spreadsheet include supporting information, eg cited government websites and geographic classifications.

For printing purposes, it is recommended that pages from the spreadsheet be printed in A3 Landscape.

Additional datasets

As previously stated, some datasets have been collected that are not within the scope of the stocktake. These datasets are to be found in the worksheet named Worksheet 4: Additional Datasets.

Blank cells

Some cells within the worksheets have been left blank because of a lack of information. A recommendation of this project is to update these cells when more information becomes available.

Citations within the spreadsheet

Information within the 'Purpose' column has been sourced from central government websites. Websites referenced are listed in the worksheet as *Cited government websites*.

Limitations of the information

Please consider these points about the limitations of the information collected.

- It is believed that the stocktake information is a comprehensive list of what is published by central government. However, neither the list nor the accompanying metadata is exhaustive. It is expected that the stocktake will be updated and maintained on a regular basis.
- Names of variables, output titles, terms, definitions, metadata or views from other government agencies may not reflect those of Statistics New Zealand or the Department of Internal Affairs.
- The majority of dataset information provided within the spreadsheet is available at no cost. However, some datasets within the spreadsheet are not freely available, and access to some information may involve extra costs. These are noted wherever possible.
- Website links within the spreadsheet may not always work due to central government agencies updating their web pages. However, it is the intention to update the spreadsheet and the links within them on a regular basis.
- Some statistics are not official, are estimates, or experimental series, eg Regional Economic Indicators produced by Statistics NZ and Regional Gross Domestic Product contained in Land Transport New Zealand's *Land transport at a glance*².

² Land Transport New Zealand (2006), *Land transport at a glance*
<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/performance/index.html>

3. The Regional Stocktake project

Background

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)³ has resulted in increased demands on city, district and regional councils to obtain sub-national information (data available below national level) relating to their local areas. The LGA encourages local authorities to work with their communities and other central government agencies to achieve the community outcomes identified and prioritized by communities that will enhance their social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

An all of government perspective is needed to develop strategies to support local authorities and their community monitoring. Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires councils to monitor and report on progress made by the community in achieving outcomes at least every three years.

Schedule 10, Part 1 of the LGA requires local authorities to state measures in their Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs) to assess progress towards the achievement of community outcomes. This requirement means that councils will need to obtain a reasonably wide range of data from many different sources for monitoring purposes.

The Regional Stocktake is a joint initiative by Statistics New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs. It is a new project designed to identify information which is available for local councils and it is hoped that it will help local government measure progress towards community outcomes. It responds to concerns raised at the series of regional seminars on Local Government Monitoring and Reporting held by Local Government New Zealand, with the support of the Department of Internal Affairs and Statistics NZ.

The vision of the Regional Stocktake is to build on existing knowledge and give a clear comprehensive guide to major or significant sub-national datasets held by Statistics NZ and central government nationally.

The desired outcome of the Regional Stocktake is that sub-national information will be more accessible to local government and other users of central government statistics. This in turn will assist in monitoring community outcomes.

The output for the stocktake is a metadata list of current Statistics NZ and central government sub-national datasets. This list is complimentary to this report and is available on the Statistics NZ⁴ and Department of Internal Affairs⁵ websites.

Further support

Further support around local government monitoring and reporting requirements under the LGA is available through the Department of Internal Affairs' relationship managers.

See www.localcentral.govt.nz for contact details for the team.

3 Local Government Act 2002

http://www.legislation.govt.nz/libraries/contents/om_isapi.dll?clientID=465580429&infobase=pal_statutes.nfo&jump=a2002-084&softpage=DOC

4 www.stats.govt.nz

5 www.dia.govt.nz

Project scope

The following inclusions and exclusions applied to the collection and research of metadata for the stocktake.

Inclusions

- The collection of metadata. The stocktake only collected information *about* sub-national datasets, not physical datasets.
- Ongoing datasets. This included datasets that are regularly updated, maintained and output (ie not obsolete).
- The names of output variables within sub-national datasets, eg Guest nights by region.
- Major (Tier 1⁶) statistical datasets.
- Significant datasets (not Tier 1 but statistics that are important to community outcomes indicators).
- Information that covers all or most of the country that is not just one area, eg Canterbury.
- Any information on sub-national data developments – where data may be available in future under national level (eg Regional GDP Feasibility Study).
- Administrative data collected from central government agencies (eg tax data from the Inland Revenue Department, injury statistics data from the Accident Compensation Corporation etc).

Exclusions

- Obsolete datasets (pre-2001).
- Datasets where only one or two geographic areas are involved, eg Northland, or Marlborough only.
- National datasets (ie data available for whole of New Zealand only).
- Physical datasets (ie actual figures).
- Non major / significant datasets.

Collection and research

The Regional Stocktake consisted of three stages:

1. an internal Statistics NZ stocktake
2. an external Tier 1 producing government agency stocktake
3. an external stocktake of the remaining government agencies through website research.

Tier 1 agencies (central government agencies that produce official statistics) and subject matter areas within Statistics NZ were approached directly and asked to provide information about the sub-national data they produce. Central government agencies that did not produce Tier 1 statistics were not directly approached due to time constraints and communication issues.

Fifty government websites were extensively researched to find sub-national datasets for the stocktake. All the information on sub-national data provided by central government agencies and gathered from the website research features in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that accompanies this report.

For the complete list of central government agencies researched see the technical notes.

⁶ See technical notes for definition of Tier 1 statistics

4. Technical notes

Terms and definitions

The following terms and definitions are used within the Regional Stocktake report and in the accompanying Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

The definitions are applied for the purpose of collecting and providing dataset information for the Regional Stocktake project.

Administrative data

Refers to a record or class of records, in any form, in whole or in part, created or received by a government or non government agency in conduct of its affairs, that is provided to Statistics New Zealand or other government agencies for the production of official statistics.

Examples of administrative data used within Statistics NZ:

- Births and Deaths data is collected by the Department of Internal Affairs and is then given to Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ aggregates and analyses this data. It is then used to produce quarterly vital statistics.
- The Annual Enterprise Survey (AES) uses IR10 information from the IRD to supplement postal collection of information. It also uses GST and Employee Count information in its sampling methodology.
- Migration data is gathered from New Zealand Customs Service arrival and departure cards that must be completed by all people arriving in or leaving New Zealand.
- The Linked Employer-Employee Data (LEED) project uses existing administrative data provided by the IRD, together with business data from Statistics NZ's Business Frame (BF).

Exclusions

Data that has been loaded into Statistics NZ's secure systems is deemed to have gained statistical value and is not covered by the term administrative data.

Dataset

A dataset is a group of data with a common theme. A dataset is a record containing a compilation of information about individual persons, households, businesses or other entities (ie a list of unit records or a list of combined unit records), usually collected via individual survey forms or through an administrative process. Normally, new datasets are created for each collection instance. A statistical dataset may be captured in an individual file (eg spreadsheet), or may be represented by a table within a database.

Examples of Statistics NZ datasets:

- Commercial Accommodation
- Building Consents Issued
- Births
- Deaths
- Student Loan Borrowers

Note: Sometimes the name of the dataset is also the name of the survey.

Data source

This refers to where the data for the dataset comes from. Data is most commonly sourced from surveys or administrative data.

Date available

The date from which the Census (2001 or 2006) data is available from.

GRE

Geography, Regional and Environment (Statistics New Zealand business unit).

Linked indicator domain

The linked indicators in the report below were selected by representatives of local government because they related to developing community outcomes. The regional stocktake has aligned linked indicator domains to the sub-national datasets in the Excel spreadsheet wherever possible.

For more information, refer to the Linked Indicator report:

(<http://www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/linked-indicators/default.htm>).

Major dataset

Major dataset refers to Tier 1 Statistics. See definition of Tier 1 Statistics.

Metadata / Purpose

Metadata are units of information about information. They are commonly used to provide descriptive information about the content, context and characteristics of data. Metadata can help to keep track of changes in data.

It is a specific form of documentation and refers to information that is made available to users in order to improve understanding of the data. Comprehensive and complete metadata helps users to make informed and full use of data holdings and minimises the likelihood of misuse.

General examples of metadata include information on:

- the frequency of the dataset or survey, eg whether it is quarterly, monthly, annual etc
- what the data is used for
- why the data is collected
- who collects the data
- how long the data or survey has existed, eg start and/or end date
- statistical methods used.

All information collected for the stocktake is considered metadata.

Official statistics

Official statistics are all of the statistics produced by government departments and are one of the cornerstones of good government, and public confidence in good government. They provide a window to the work and performance of government by showing the scale of government activity in areas of public policy. They also allow citizens to assess the impact of public policies and actions. It is a government responsibility to provide such statistics and to maintain their long-term sustainability.

Official statistics can be collected through surveys or compiled from administrative records collected by government agencies in their daily work. Although the majority of official statistics are produced by Statistics New Zealand, many other government agencies produce information that is highly valued.

For more information see the Statisphere website:

(<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/about-official-statistics/default.htm>).

Output topic

This term refers to the overall topic or subject of the dataset. Examples of Statistics NZ topics include:

- Tourism
- Population
- Economic indicators
- Business
- Manufacturing and production
- Education and training.

Output variable

For the purposes of the Regional Stocktake the term output variable relates to key attributes or dimensions of an output dataset.

Examples of key output variables include:

- age
- sex
- ethnicity
- industry.

Regional

This means data below the national level, ie sub-national. While the stocktake will concentrate on collecting information on data available at the Territorial Authority and Regional Council level, it will also include other major areas such as Police District and Urban Area. Regional does not refer to regional councils in this context. It refers to data available below national level.

For more information on geographic standard definitions refer to the New Zealand Standard Areas Classification 1992. Refer to TA05 Classification (below) for a breakdown of Territorial Authorities.

Sub-national

The term sub-national refers to publicly available data that are produced below the national level, thus providing intra-New Zealand comparison. National data refers a 'Total New Zealand' figure whereas sub-national data breaks down geographically into different levels.

Sub-national data includes the following geographic coverage:

- Regional Council
- Territorial Authority (sometimes referred to as District)
- Urban Area
- Meshblock
- Area Unit
- Ward
- Electoral district (General or Māori)
- Statistical Area
- Police District
- District Health Board.

See *6.2 Geographic standards and classifications* for more information about the geographic breakdowns above.

Statistically significant datasets

This term refers to datasets that are not Tier 1 statistics but are identified as important because the data is needed by local authorities for measuring community outcomes.

Survey

This term relates to the title of the survey the data comes from.

Note: In cases of administrative data the term *survey* does not always apply, as the data is collected by other means (as mentioned above).

Examples of Statistics NZ surveys include:

- Accommodation Survey
- Census of Population and Dwellings.

Note: Sometimes the name of the survey is also the name of the dataset.

Tier 1 Statistics

Tier 1 statistics are a portfolio of statistics across the state sector that are important in their own right and, consequently, need to be produced, analysed and released to high statistical standards.

Tier 1 statistics are a set of key official statistics that:

- are performance measures of New Zealand
- are essential to central government decision making
- are of high public interest
- meet public expectations of impartiality and high statistical quality
- require long-term continuity of data
- provide international comparability in a global environment.

Examples of Tier 1 Statistics include:

- Families and Households
- Gross Domestic Product
- Languages Spoken
- Fish Stocks.

For more examples of Tier 1 Statistics see the Statsphere website:

(<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/about-official-statistics/tier1-statistics/default.htm>).

Time series comparison

Time series comparison refers to the Census years included within the publication that the data is comparable to. If a column says, for example, *1996, 2001, 2006* it means that the data available compares across these three years.

Geographic standards and classifications

Geographic standards and classifications describe and classify the geographic areas of New Zealand. This enables a comprehensive range of statistical information to be collected and processed for areas ranging from major regions to small areas⁷. The standards below refer to some of the geographic levels at which data is produced by Statistics NZ and central government.

New Zealand Geographic standards

Geographic Hierarchy: this provides an overall definition of geographic standards and classifications.

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/geography-mapping/default.htm>

Territorial Authority (2005)

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/territorial-authority-2005.htm>

Regional Council (2005)

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/regional-council-2005.htm>

Area Unit (2005)

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/area-unit-2005.htm>

Meshblock (2005)

http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/ameshblock_2005.htm

Urban Area 2005 (includes rural centre definition)

http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/aaUrban_area_2005.htm

Ward (2005)

http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/aaWard_2005.htm

Māori Electoral District 2002

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications/maori-electoral-district-2002.htm>

Electoral districts

<http://www.elections.org.nz/electorates/index-2.html>

Note: There is no current statistical standard for Statistical Area.

Non-standard New Zealand Geographic standards

Police District

<http://www.police.govt.nz/district>

District Health Board

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/districthealthboards>

New Zealand: An Urban/Rural profile

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/A2FDF8E9-32AD-487D-AEE7-040F513EE777/0/NZUrbanRuralProfile2.pdf>

⁷ Statistics New Zealand (1992), *New Zealand Standard Areas Classification 1992*

Stocktake research sources – central government websites

Accident Compensation Corporation
Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand
Archives New Zealand
Department of Building and Housing
Department of Conservation
Department of Corrections
Department of Internal Affairs
Department of Labour
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority
Families Commission
Health Research Council of New Zealand
Housing New Zealand Corporation
Inland Revenue Department
Land Information New Zealand
Landcare Research
Ministry for Culture and Heritage
Ministry for the Environment
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Ministry of Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Fisheries
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
Ministry of Social Development
Ministry of Tourism
Ministry of Transport
Ministry of Women's Affairs
Ministry of Youth Development
Motu Economic and Public Policy Research
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
National Library of New Zealand
New Zealand Customs Service
New Zealand Fire Service
New Zealand Māori Tourism council
New Zealand Police
Office of Ethnic Affairs
Quotable Value New Zealand
Retirement Commission
Sports and Recreation New Zealand
State Services Commission
Statsphere
Statistics New Zealand
Te Puni Kōkiri / Ministry of Māori Development
The Office for Disability Issues
The Reserve Bank of New Zealand
The Treasury

References

Linked indicators project

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/linked-indicators/default.htm>

Local Government Act 2002

http://www.legislation.govt.nz/libraries/contents/om_isapi.dll?clientID=465580429&infobase=pal_statutes.nfo&jump=a2002-084&softpage=DOC

Local government website

<http://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lqip.nsf>

Local Government New Zealand, Department of Internal Affairs and Statistics New Zealand
Monitoring and Reporting Seminars

<http://www.lgnz.co.nz/projects/>

Local and central government collaboration

<http://www.localcentral.govt.nz>

Local Government Resource Kit

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistics-by-area/regional-statistics/local-govt-resource-kit.htm>

Quarterly Regional Review

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/statistics-by-area/regional-statistics/quarterly-reg-review.htm>

Statisphere (New Zealand's official statistics portal)

<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/default.htm>

Statistics New Zealand Statement of Intent 2006

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-reports/statement-of-intent-06/default.htm>

Choosing Futures Waikato: Indicators for Monitoring and Reporting Community Outcomes

<http://www.choosingfutures.co.nz/indicators/#indicator>