

CENSUS HUB – ACCESS TO EUROPEAN CENSUS OF POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS DATA

The Census Hub, as a joint project of Eurostat, the umbrella statistical institution of the European Union, and national statistical offices of the EU Member States and the EFTA countries, provides users of statistical data with an easier and more flexible way of browsing and using census data.

Within the Census Hub, the data on persons, families, households and dwellings collected by national statistical offices in the Census 2011 and the Census 2021 are available in one place. All the collected data are comparable due to the application of definitions and standards that are harmonised with the European statistical legislation. The individual national statistical offices whose databases are the input element used by the Census Hub are responsible for the validity and reliability of the data as well as their quality.

The Census Hub enables users to access census data stored in databases of each country via a single entry point on the Eurostat website. The users are not limited to a few predefined tables, but are able to create individual tables according to their wishes and needs, by combining data from different countries and at different scales.

With the aim of harmonizing data at the European level, the Cell Key Method (CKM), a post-tabular method for protecting confidential statistical data, was used to ensure statistical confidentiality in hypercubes. By adding noise, the original data is modified so that each record in the microdata is assigned a randomly generated record key. These keys are then summed to create a cell key, which is used to add noise.

A drawback of this method is the loss of additivity. However, it ensures consistency of data across tables. The same records that appear together in different tables will have the same cell key, which ensures they are always modified in the same way.

The Census Hub also gives access to extensive metadata – explanatory information to help understand the data, including the definitions of variables, quality measures and details on the census methodology used in each country.

The Census Hub can be accessed on Eurostat's official website.

