

## Product Summary

[Major Towns and Cities](#) is an experimental geography launched by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2015. The geography contains boundaries for built-up areas of all settlements in England and Wales with a usual resident population or workday population of 75,000 or higher at the time of the last Census in 2011.

Major Towns and Cities – Population is a data pack that contains three types of Census 2011 population total for each town and city, as both a tabular file and as an attributed copy of the MTC boundaries. This data pack was compiled as a source of denominators for comparison of towns and cities in statistical work using the MTC geography.

Datadaptive has calculated population totals for the major towns and cities by aggregating population data from Output Areas (OAs), the lowest level of Census geography. Output Areas were matched to MTC areas in line with ONS guidance. No adjustment has been made for estimated changes in population since the last Census.

The three types of Census 2011 population total in the data pack are:

- the usual resident population,
- the workday population (where the usually resident population is re-distributed to their places of work, while those not in work are recorded at their usual residence), and
- the work place population (where the usually resident population is re-distributed to their main place of work, but those not working are excluded).

### Data quality statement

The data in this product has been compiled and/or calculated from data published by ONS for re-use under an open licence. Datadaptive has taken

reasonable care in preparing the data. However the accuracy and currency of the underlying data is dependent on the input sources.

## Data formats

Tabular data is normally supplied in CSV format. Spatial data is normally supplied in unstyled ESRI Shapefile format with the National Grid (OSGB36) projection. However we are happy to prepare the data in other suitable formats.

## Licensing

Data supply is subject to our standard [notice for supply of open data work products](#). Once supplied the data may be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). The OGL is an [open data](#) licence, which means it is perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, and allows almost unrestricted re-use of the data.

## Attribution

Following is an attribution statement that acknowledges the intellectual property rights of the third-party providers of open data used in the data collection. You must include this statement if you publish or redistribute the data.

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## Pricing

Free

## Contact details

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## File Specifications

## Major Towns and Cities – Population Totals

File name: MTC15\_POP11  
Record count: 112  
Geographic coverage: England and Wales  
File format: CSV

This file is a table of all town and cities in the Major Towns and Cities geography, each attributed with three types of Census 2011 population total, a code and name for the town or city, and additional information on geographic area and population density.

Following is a table of the fields provided for each town or city.

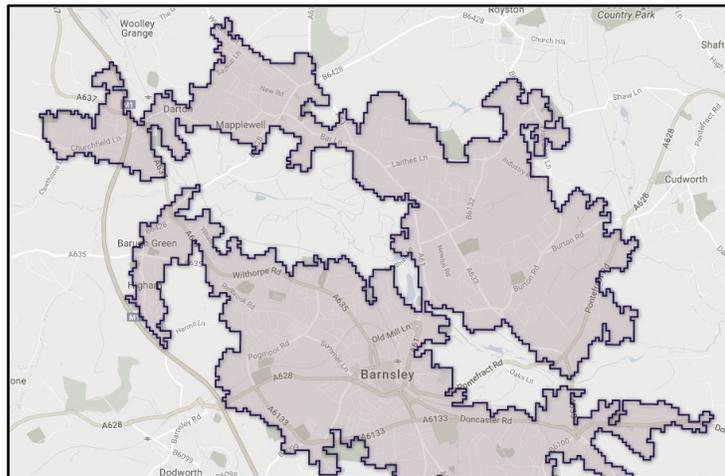
Field	Type	Description
TCITY15CD	Text	ONS code
TCITY15NM	Text	ONS name
HAOAS	Decimal	Area in hectares calculated from allocated Output Areas
HATC	Decimal	Area in hectares calculated from built-up area
POPCNTUR	Integer	Census 2011 usual resident population total
POPCNTWD	Integer	Census 2011 workday population total
POPCNTWP	Integer	Census 2011 workplace population total
PDENOASUR	Decimal	Population density: number of persons per hectare calculated from POPCNTUR and HAOAS
PDENTCUR	Decimal	Population density: number of persons per hectare calculated from POPCNTUR and HATC

Please see Appendix A for additional information on the calculation of population density.

## Major Towns and Cities – Boundaries with Population Totals

File name: MTC15\_POP11  
 Record count: 112  
 Geographic coverage: England and Wales  
 File format: SHP

This file is a spatial dataset containing polygons for all towns and cities in the Major Towns and Cities geography, attributed with three types of Census 2011 population total, a code and name for the town or city, and additional information on geographic area and population density.



Following is a table of the attributes provided for each town or city.

Field	Type	Description
TCITY15CD	Text	ONS code
TCITY15NM	Text	ONS name
HAOAS	Decimal	Area in hectares calculated from allocated Output Areas
HATC	Decimal	Area in hectares calculated from built-up area
POPCNTUR	Integer	Census 2011 usual resident population total
POPCNTWD	Integer	Census 2011 workday population total
POPCNTWP	Integer	Census 2011 workplace population total
PDENOASUR	Decimal	Population density: number of persons per hectare calculated from POPCNTUR and HAOAS
PDENTCUR	Decimal	Population density: number of persons per hectare calculated from POPCNTUR and HATC

Please see Appendix A for additional information on the calculation of population density.

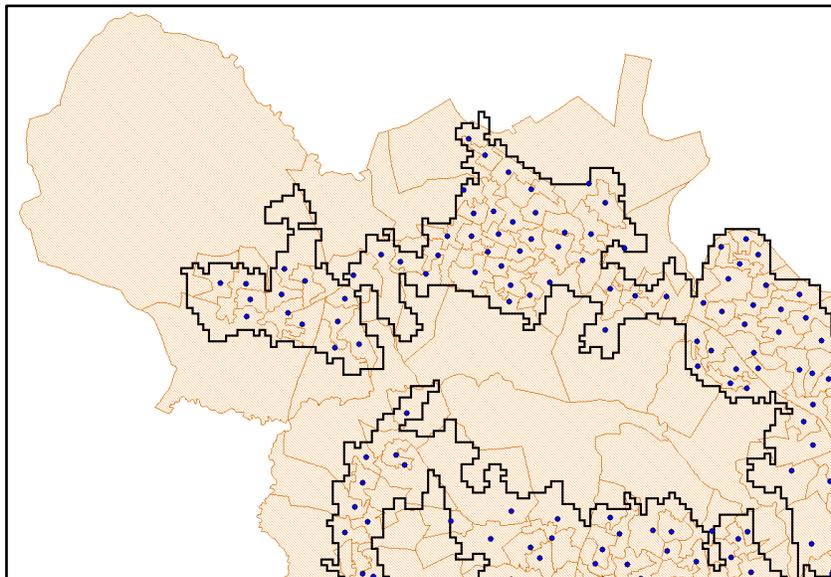
Note: a [version](#) of this spatial dataset without the population attributes is also available at no cost from ONS.

## Appendix A: Calculation of Population Density

The files in this data pack contain two measures of population density calculated from the Census 2011 usual resident population:

- PDENOASUR is the number of persons per hectare based on the sum of the area of all Output Areas allocated to the town or city built-up area (HAOAS), and
- PDENTCUR is the number of persons per hectare based on the area of the town or city built-up area itself (HATC).

PDENTCUR will be higher (and often much higher) than PDENOASUR because the Output Areas have been allocated to the town or city based on the location of their population-weight centroids in or near the built-up area, and as illustrated below the geographic area of some of those Output Areas may extend considerably outside the built-up area.



This means the two measures of population density are not compatible. The “true” population density for the built-up area will lie between the two figures. In principle PDENTCUR is likely to be the more accurate but it is for the user to judge the relative suitability of the measures according to the intended use. The population density measures are included in the data pack mainly as an additional baseline for comparison of towns and cities.