British Household Panel Survey, waves 1-17 (1991-2008)

User Documentation: Rural-Urban Indicator (URIND)

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Rural-Urban Indicator

<u>England & Wales</u>
The rural and urban classification of postcodes for England and Wales allows datasets to be analysed according to different types of rural and urban area. This is based on the National Statistics Rural and Urban Classification of Output Areas released on 21 July 2004; the product of joint work between the Countryside Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; National Assembly for Wales and Office for National Statistics.
Postcodes on the NSPD have been assigned to the urban or rural category of the Output Area into which each falls. Output Areas are treated as 'urban' if the majority of the population of an Output Area lives within settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. The remaining 'rural' Output Areas are grouped into three other broad morphological types based on the predominant settlement component – i.e. whether the population density for the output area shows characteristics that are predominantly town and fringe, predominantly village or predominantly dispersed (the latter includes hamlets and isolated dwellings).
The classification also categorises Output Areas based on context – i.e. whether the wider surrounding area of a given output area is sparsely populated or less sparsely populated.

<u>Scotland</u>
The urban/rural classification in Scotland is consistent with the Scottish Executive's core definition of rurality which defines settlements of 3,000 or less people to be rural. It also classifies areas as remote based on drive times from settlements of 10,000 or more people.
Postcodes on the NSPD have been assigned to the urban or rural category on an individual basis, based upon data received from GROS.

<u>Northern Ireland</u>
In Northern Ireland, an eight band categorisation of settlements was introduced in February 2005. These categories range from Band A (Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area) to Band H (Small village, hamlet and open countryside) with bands A – E being classed as 'urban' and bands F – H being classed as 'rural'. The DOE (Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland) Planning Service statutory settlement development limits have been used as the geographical delineation of settlements.

Details of the code ranges:

Data description	Range of codes	Comments
Urban/Rural Indicator (England & Wales)	1- 9, or Δ	Urban and rural classification of Output Areas for England and Wales. : 1 = Urban ≥ 10k – sparse: COA falls within Urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated; 2 = Town and Fringe – sparse: COA falls within the Small Town and Fringe areas category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated; 3 = Village – sparse: COA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated; 4 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – sparse: COA falls within the

		Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is sparsely populated;
		5 = Urban ≥ 10k – less sparse: COA falls within Urban settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
		6 = Town and Fringe – less sparse: COA falls within the Small Town and Fringe areas category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
		7 = Village – less sparse: COA falls within the Village category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
		8 = Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling – less sparse: COA falls within the Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling category and the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated;
		9 = postcode in Scotland/NI/Channel Is/IoM (pseudo);
		Δ = no information available
Urban/Rural Indicator (Scotland)	1- 9, or Δ	Urban and rural classification of postcodes for Scotland. A pseudo code is included for England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man:
		1 = Large Urban Area: Settlement of over 125,000 people;
		2 = Other Urban Area: Settlement of 10,000 to 125,000 people;
		3 = Accessible Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;
		4 = Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
		5 = Very Remote Small Town: Settlement of 3,000 to 10,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
		6 = Accessible Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more;
		7 = Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of 30 to 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more; 8 = Very Remote Rural: Settlement of less than 3,000 people, with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more;
		9 = postcode in England/Wales/NI/Channel Is/IoM (pseudo); Δ = no information available
Urban/Rural Indicator (Northern Ireland)		Urban and rural classification of postcodes for Northern Ireland. A pseudo code is included for England, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man:
	A – E (Urban);	A = Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area ; B = Derry Urban Area; C = Large Town: 18,000 and under 75,000 people; D = Medium Town: 10,000 and under 18,000 people; E = Small Town: 4,500 and under 10,000 people;
	F – H	F = Intermediate Settlement: 2,250 and under 4,500 people; G =

	(Rural);	Village: 1,000 and under 2,250 people; H = Small Village, Hamlet or Open Countryside: less than 1,000 people;
	Z;	Z = postcode in England/Wales/Scotland/Channel Is/IoM (pseudo);
	or Δ	Δ = no information available

Useful web link:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp

BHPS Geographical lookup tables – revised version
Version: 20131218

The revised geographical lookup tables for BHPS 1-18 are based on the November 2013 version of the ONS Postcode Directory.

Wave	Wave Letter	Match	Postcode missing	Unmatched	Crown Dependencies	Total
1	a	8523	1	0	0	8524
2	b	5697	283	4	0	5984
3	c	5886	638	10	0	6534
4	d	6238	279	41	0	6558
5	e	6223	306	24	0	6553
6	f	5512	974	1	0	6487
7	g	6350	1240	6	0	7596
8	h	6325	959	11	0	7295
9	i	10867	1070	7	0	11944
10	j	10540	1729	13	0	12282
11	k	12325	1641	20	0	13986
12	l	10415	1785	9	0	12209
13	m	10132	2017	27	0	12176
14	n	9866	2189	33	2	12088
15	o	9564	2323	25	3	11912
16	p	9414	2073	18	2	11505
17	q	9113	2340	43	2	11496
18	r	8832	2541	40	2	11413

The table above shows the number of households with a matching, missing or unmatched postcode for each wave.
The main reason for not recording the postcode is for untraced moves.
Between Wave 7 and 11 the Northern Ireland ECHP panel households were interviewed as a part of BHPS.
For these 135-149 households the postcode was not collected. The Northern Ireland ECHP panel can be identified through wHHORIG.
Geographical codes are unavailable for a few households in the Crown dependencies.

Study number (SN) description

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+----------------------------------------------------------------------------+
| SN     name         type    varlab                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7447 acorntype     byte    acorn type 2013                                  |
| 6135 casward        str6    census area statistics ward                     |
| 6029 lea            str3    local education authorities/education and library boards |
| 6136 lsoa01         str9    census 2001 lower layer super output area        |
| 7446 msoa01         str9    census 2001 middle layer super output area       |
| 6290 oac01          str3    census 2001 output area classification           |
| 7448 oshlthau       str9    strategic health authority                       |
| 6027 oslaua         str9    local authority district                         |
| 6033 pcon           str9    westminster parliamentary constituencies         |
| 6030 pct            str9    primary care organisations                       |
| 6031 ttwa           str9    travel to work areas                             |
| 6032 ur01ind        str1    census 2001 urban/rural indicator                |
| 6330 wardc91        str6    census 1991 ward (census code range)             |
| 6340 oseast1m       long    national grid reference - easting                |
| 6340 osnrth1m       long    national grid reference - northing               |
| 6340 osgrdind       byte    national grid reference - quality indicator      |
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