

Statistical standard for usual residence

Rationale

Usual residence is a key variable for determining the geographic characteristics of the population. Usual residence data is used widely in both the private and public sectors and in determining electoral boundaries.

Definition

Usual Residence

Usual residence is the address of the dwelling where a person considers himself or herself to usually reside, except in the specific cases listed in the guidelines.

Usual Residence Indicator

The usual residence indicator describes the relationship between a respondent's usual residence and their Census night address.

Guidelines

It is recommended that these guidelines be followed in the cases where usual residence is not self-defined.

1. Dependent children who board at another residence to attend primary or secondary school, and return to their parent's(s') or guardian's(s') home for the holidays, usually reside at the address of their parent(s) or guardian(s). Tertiary students usually reside at the address where they live while studying. If they give up their usual residence in the holidays (eg terminate the lease on a flat or give up their hostel room) and return to their parent/ guardians' home during the holidays their usual residence over that period would be their parent/ guardians' home.
2. Children in shared care usually reside at the place where they spend more nights, or if they spend equal amounts of time at each residence, they usually reside at the place where they are at the time of the survey.
3. People who are in rest homes, hospitals, prisons or other institutions, usually reside where they consider themselves to live, and this may include the institution.
4. A person whose home is on any ship, boat or vessel permanently located in any harbour shall be deemed to usually reside at the wharf or landing place (or main wharf or landing place) of the harbour.
5. A person from another country who has lived in New Zealand the past twelve months, or has the intention of living in New Zealand for twelve months or more, usually resides at his or her address in New Zealand (as in external migration).
6. People of no fixed abode have no usual residence. However, for enumeration purposes, a meshblock of usual residence is assigned to people of no fixed abode based on their location on the date of data collection. They are still recorded as having 'no fixed abode'.
7. People who spend equal amounts of time residing at different addresses, and can not decide which address is their usual residence, usually reside at the address they were surveyed at, assuming that they are not a visitor.
8. If none of the above guidelines apply, the person usually resides at the address he or she was surveyed at.

Dwelling and dwelling address are supporting concepts for usual residence and are defined in the Glossary.

Operational Issues

The definition of usual residence is based on the assumption that each respondent has only one usual residence. The majority of people do not have difficulty in providing one address. Instructions should be provided on which address to give for individuals who have more than one usual residence. For example, see the box below.

If you are an overseas resident and will be staying in New Zealand for less than 12 months, give your address in your home country. Otherwise, give your New Zealand address.

If you are a New Zealand resident, follow these guidelines to give the right address.

- If you are a primary or secondary school student at boarding school, give your home address.
- If you are a tertiary student, give the address where you live during term.
- If you live in more than one dwelling, give the address of the one you most consider to be your home. If you spend equal amounts of time at different addresses, give only one of those addresses.
- Children in shared care should give the address where they spend most nights. If children spend equal amounts of time at different addresses, give the address of where they are staying tonight.

Instructions should also be provided for individuals who have difficulty in determining their address, such as respondents who live on a boat. However, it is probable that there are individuals who will not follow instructions, and will therefore give a usual residence different to the address they may have given if they had followed the instructions. For example, a tertiary student may give their home address rather than their semester address.

Another potential issue in determining usual residence is when children are in shared care arrangements. Both parents could potentially include their child or children as usual residents of their household resulting in double-counting of their child or children. Young children whose questions are answered by a parent or caregiver cannot apply the standard of self-definition of usual residence, as adults can.

These constraints may result in some usual residence data being inaccurate.

Sample surveys often list the usual residents of a household, which may include visitors, before deciding who to survey. The rules and guidelines of coverage vary between different surveys. In some sample surveys it may not be possible to output usual residence. Refer to survey guidelines.

Explanatory Notes

Alternative Names

The terms 'usual residential address', 'usual address' and 'usual residence' have been used interchangeably in the past. The use of only one term is essential for the standardisation process and avoids confusion. The term 'usual residence' is consistent with the terms 'usual residence n years ago' and 'years at usual residence'.

Similar Concepts

Census night address and dwelling address are, on the surface, similar concepts to usual residence. However, usual residence is the address of the dwelling where a respondent considers himself or herself to usually reside, whilst Census night address is the address of the dwelling where a respondent is located on Census night. Both of these concepts are attributes of the respondent. By contrast, dwelling address is the physical location of a dwelling.

Students

The justification for the treatment of students in the usual residence definition is that tertiary students are regarded as having left home and are considered to be independent. Although parent(s) may provide financial support to tertiary students, the day to day control of the finances are with the student. Primary and secondary students are not regarded as having left home and are considered to be almost totally reliant on their parent(s) or guardian(s) for support.

Time Criterion

The definition of usual residence does not include a time criterion about the length of stay in a dwelling. Instead it uses the approach of self-definition. The reasons for this are:

A time criterion can lead to households and families being classified on an arbitrary basis and thus, inaccurate statistics on households and families. For example, if one parent of a two-parent family/household is absent for four months and the usual residence definition specifies a time criterion of three months, then according to the definition the family/household would be a one-parent family/household. The questionnaire instructions that would result from such a definition would lead to the occupier/reference person completing the questionnaire as if only one parent was usually resident.

It is debatable whether respondents apply a time factor when providing their usual residence. Most people know where they usually live (reside) and it is more likely that people think of their 'usual residence' as the home in which they live on a permanent or long-term basis. Many people who have lived somewhere for three months might not consider it to be their usual residence. Also, the concept of usual residence can be regarded as self-defined because it involves feelings of belonging, association and participation in and with a household. Guide notes should be provided to help those who cannot decide.

When a time criterion was used in the past it was not included in the survey questions themselves, and only appeared in the guide notes. If the guide notes were not read, then respondents may not have applied a time factor and their responses may not have been consistent with the three month time criterion.

The only situation where a time criterion applies is when people have come from another country. To be usually resident in New Zealand the respondent should have been residing in New Zealand for the past twelve months, or be intending to reside in New Zealand for twelve months or more. If the respondent has not resided in New Zealand for the past twelve months or more, and does not intend to, then they should give the address of their home country. This is consistent with the long-term migration criterion and enables counts of a 'stable' population for the purposes of population estimates and projections.

Household Surveys

Although a question on usual residence is not necessarily asked in household survey questionnaires, usual residence is a key variable for determining who is to be interviewed in each household survey.

Classification Criteria

Usual Residence

The criterion used to place a person into the classification for usual residence is the address information (street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city, town or district) as stated by a respondent who usually resides in New Zealand. For people who usually reside overseas, the criterion is the country stated by the respondent.

Usual Residence Indicator

The criterion used to place a person into the classification for usual residence indicator is the relationship between a respondent's usual residence and their Census night address. This classification has been developed specifically for Census. It can be modified for other users if required.

Classification

Usual Residence

The usual residence classification consists of a combination of classifications that are ordinarily stored independently of each other. There is a hierarchic relationship between the New Zealand geographic classifications of meshblock, area unit, territorial authority and regional council. For example, meshblocks aggregate to form area units, and area units aggregate to form both territorial authorities and regional councils. The categories of each of these ordinarily independent classifications sit alongside each other at the same level of the usual residence classification. The country classification also sits alongside the New Zealand geographic classifications in the same level of the usual residence classification.

Usual residence is therefore a flat classification. The standard codes are:

- Meshblock codes (7 digits)
- Area Unit codes (6 digits) prefixed by '9'
- Territorial Authority codes (3 digits) prefixed by '9999'
- Regional Council codes (2 digits) prefixed by '99999'
- Country codes (4 digits) prefixed by '999'
- 9999944 Don't Know
- 9999955 Refused to Answer
- 9999977 Response Unidentifiable
- 9999988 Response Outside Scope
- 9999996 No Fixed Abode
- 9999997 Country Not Stated
- 9999998 New Zealand not further defined
- 9999999 Not Stated

Leading '9's are used to create seven digit codes. Codes are available for addresses for which insufficient information is provided to allocate a meshblock but enough information is provided for

another area type (area unit, territorial authority or regional council) to be specified.

'9999996 No Fixed Abode' is a category for respondents who indicate that they have no usual residence.

'9999997 Country Not Stated' is a category for respondents who indicate that they usually reside overseas but do not specify which country.

'9999998 New Zealand not further defined' is a category for respondents who provided insufficient information for a meshblock, area unit, territorial authority or regional council to be allocated, and for non-respondents for whom there is no information to indicate they usually reside overseas.

The standard meshblock, area unit, territorial authority, and regional council classifications that are current at the commencement of the survey cycle should be used.

Usual Residence Indicator

The classification of usual residence indicator is a flat classification with four categories:

- 1 Same as Census Night Address
- 2 Elsewhere in New Zealand
- 3 Overseas
- 4 No Fixed Abode

The category '2 Elsewhere in New Zealand' includes responses that were coded to 'New Zealand not further defined' in the usual residence classification. '2 Elsewhere in New Zealand' may therefore include cases where the respondent's usual residence was in fact the same as their Census night address but it has not been possible to determine this (for example, vague or non-response). '4 No fixed abode' is a category for respondents who indicate that they have no usual residence.

Usual Residence

Classification	Usual Residence Classification
Abbreviation	USUALRES
Version	V7.0
Effective date	01/01/2011

Usual Residence Indicator

Classification	Usual Residence Indicator – Standard Classification
Abbreviation	USRESIN
Version	V2.0
Effective date	21/04/1999

Coding Process

Usual Residence

Responses to usual residence can be coded using one of two codefiles. A codefile is a comprehensive list of probable survey responses and the classification categories to which they are coded.

For addresses where the respondent usually resides in New Zealand, the codefile used contains street names and numbers, address aliases (an alternative name for an address, such as a building or institution name) and geographic features. This codefile relates street attributes to meshblocks. The street data (stored in the Geographic Frame) is continually updated from information received from Land Information New Zealand, the Electoral Enrolment Centre and local authorities. The address alias data is updated from directories such as the Cityscope, UBD and Wisers publications.

If there is insufficient information to code an address to the meshblock level, the response should be coded to area unit level if possible. If there is insufficient information to code an address to the meshblock or area unit level the response should be coded to territorial authority level if possible.

If there is insufficient information to code an address to the meshblock, area unit or territorial authority level, the response should be coded to regional council level if possible.

If there is insufficient information to code an address to the meshblock, area unit, territorial authority or regional council level then usual residence should be coded to '9999998 New Zealand not further defined'.

Respondents who have indicated that they have no usual residence should be coded to '9999996 No Fixed Abode'.

A non-respondent for whom there is no information to indicate that they usually reside overseas should be coded to '9999998 New Zealand not further defined'.

For addresses where the respondent usually resides overseas the country codefile is used to code responses. This contains, in addition to country titles, regions and provinces where appropriate.

Respondents who indicate that their usual residence is overseas but do not specify the name of the country should be coded to '9999997 Country Not Stated'.

Imputation

Imputation of usual residence is necessary in the Census of Population and Dwellings so that everyone is assigned to a specific meshblock. This allows electoral populations to be calculated on a de jure (usually resident) basis. Any responses that were initially coded to a level higher than the meshblock will have a meshblock imputed for usual residence.

The usual residence meshblock of people with no fixed abode will be set to their Census night meshblock. This will result in an inconsistency between the usual residence and usual residence indicator variables. The inconsistency must be retained so that the original status of the respondent is known.

Usual Residence Indicator

The usual residence indicator is derived from the relationship between usual residence and Census night address.

Questionnaire Module

Requirements

The questionnaire module must aim to obtain detailed address information (including country) about where people usually reside. It must aim to obtain adequate information from the respondent to allow a meshblock to be accurately allocated so that geographic information at the meshblock level (or aggregations of meshblocks) can be determined.

The term 'usual' must be included in the questionnaire module to make it clear that a usual residence is required.

Instructions must be provided to respondents to clarify which address to supply in instances when people may appear to have more than one usual residence.

Example

The questionnaire module below is an example of a questionnaire module that meets the requirements documented in this standard. Other questionnaire modules may vary in format and collection mode but should conform to the requirements of this standard.

5 Where do you usually live?

Students and overseas residents: see the Guide Notes for more information.

Print the full address of that dwelling. Give all of these, if possible:

- + street number
- + flat number
- + street name
- + suburb or rural locality
- + city, town or district
- + country

Standard Output

Usual Residence

The standard output variable categories for usual residence are the standard geographic classifications that were in use at the commencement of the survey cycle. These include the New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries, and New Zealand administrative and non-administrative areas as follows.

Non-administrative areas include:

- meshblock
- area unit
- urban area
- statistical area

Administrative areas include:

- regional council
- regional constituency
- territorial authority
- ward
- community board
- general electoral district
- Māori electoral district

Usual Residence Indicator

The standard output variable categories are the same as the classification categories.

Related Classifications and Standards

New Zealand

Usual residence and Census night address are used to derive the usual residence indicator, which describes the relationship between a respondent's usual residence and their Census night address.

Usual residence is linked to the standard geographic classifications used by Statistics New Zealand. Any changes to Statistics New Zealand's smallest spatial unit may affect usual residence. Usual residence is also linked to the classification for country.

Any changes to the definition of usual residence may affect the following standards:

- usual residence n years ago
- years at usual residence
- living arrangements
- household composition
- relationship between members in a private dwelling
- family type
- marital status
- dwelling address
- workplace address
- dwelling type

International

The definition for usual residence in this standard is comparable with the United Nations recommended definition. The United Nations however, refer to "place of usual residence" and define it as:

"...the geographical place where the enumerated person usually resides. This may be the same as, or different from, the place where he or she was present at the time of the census or his or her legal residence."

The United Nations also identifies problems where people may appear to have more than one usual residence. Suggested difficulties that may be encountered are:

- people who maintain more than one residence;
- students living at school;
- members of the armed forces living at a military installation and maintaining private living quarters away from the installation;
- people who sleep away from their homes during the working week but who return home for several days at the end of each week;
- people who have been residing at the place where they are enumerated for some time but do not consider themselves to be residents of that place because they intend to return to their previous place of residence at some future time;
- people who have left the country temporarily but are expected to return after some time.

The United Nations recommends that the treatment of these special cases should be clearly set forth in the census instructions, and that clearly stated time limits of presence in, or absence from, a particular place must be set.

The Office of National Statistics (UK) and Australian Bureau of Statistics have begun extensive research and testing of the concept of secondary residence. Statistics New Zealand is also currently researching this concept which, if implemented, would affect the standard for usual residence and

its related standards.

Glossary

Area unit

Area units are aggregations of meshblocks. They are non-administrative areas intermediate between meshblocks and territorial authorities. Area units must either define or aggregate to define urban areas, rural centres, statistical areas, territorial authorities and regional councils. Each area unit must be a single geographic entity with a unique name. Area units of main or secondary urban areas generally coincide with suburbs or parts thereof. Area units within urban areas normally contain 3,000–5,000 population.

Census night address

Census night address is the physical location of the dwelling where a respondent is located on Census night. For passengers on overnight trains and buses, it is recommended that Census night address is the destination dwelling of the passenger.

Dwelling

A dwelling is any building or structure, or part thereof, that is used (or intended to be used) for the purpose of human habitation. It can be of a permanent or temporary nature and includes structures such as motels, hotels, prisons, motor homes, huts, and tents. At the highest level, dwellings are classified as private or non-private.

A private dwelling accommodates a person or a group of people, but is not available to the public. A private dwelling may be permanent or temporary. Permanent private dwellings include houses and flats, residences attached to a business or institution; baches, cribs and huts. Caravans, cabins, tents and other makeshift dwellings that are the principal or usual residence of households are classified as temporary private dwellings.

All other dwellings are non-private and are available to the public. They may be available for use generally, or by virtue of occupation or study, special needs, or legal requirements. Such dwellings may have facilities (such as a dining room) that are for shared use.

Dwelling Address

Dwelling address consists of the distinguishing details of the physical location of a dwelling and can include street number, name, and type; suburb or rural locality; and city, town or district.

Geographic Frame

The Geographic Frame contains an extensive street listing constantly updated by data received from territorial authorities, Electoral Enrolment Centre and Land Information New Zealand. The Geographic Frame enables an address to be geocoded to a unique meshblock. The Geographic Frame also contains other address related data such as commercial buildings, schools, hospitals etc, which may be used to geocode a location where the exact address is unknown.

Household

A household is either one person who usually resides alone or two or more persons who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area) in a private dwelling.

Meshblock

The meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected and processed by Statistics New Zealand. A meshblock is a defined geographic area, varying in size from part of a city block to large areas of rural land. Each meshblock abuts against another to form a network covering all of New Zealand including coasts and inlets, and extending out to the two hundred mile economic zone. Meshblocks are added together to 'build up' larger geographic areas such as area units and urban areas. They are also the principal unit used to draw-up and define electoral district, territorial authority and regional council boundaries.

Regional council

The Local Government Commission established regional councils in 1989. These regional councils cover every territorial authority in New Zealand with the exception of the Chatham Islands District. The geographical boundaries of regions conform as far as possible to one or more water catchments. In determining regions, consideration was also given to regional communities of interest, natural resource management, land use planning, and environmental matters.

Territorial authority

Territorial authority boundaries are defined by aggregations of area units. When defining the boundaries of territorial authorities, the Local Government Commission placed considerable weight on the 'community of interest'. While the size of the community was a factor, the relevance of the components of the community to each other and the capacity of the unit to service the community in

an efficient manner, were the factors on which the Commission placed most emphasis.

Usual residence n years ago

Usual residence n years ago is the usual residence of a respondent n completed years prior to the date that the data is collected.

Visitor

A visitor to a dwelling is a person who is present in a dwelling at the time of the survey but does not usually reside in that dwelling.

Years at usual residence

Years at usual residence is the length of time up to the date of the data collection, expressed in completed years (including short-term absences, but excluding long-term absences), that a respondent has lived at their usual residence.

Residual categories

Don't know

Use of this category is discretionary. The use of a category capturing don't know responses is most applicable to household surveys where don't know may be a legitimate response to certain questions.

Refused to answer

This category is only used when it is known that the respondent has purposefully chosen not to respond to the question. Use of this residual category in processing is optional. Its use is most applicable in face-to-face or telephone interviews, but may be used in self-completed questionnaires if the respondent has clearly indicated they refuse or object to answering the question.

Response unidentifiable

This category is used when there is a response given, but:

1. the response is illegible, or
2. it is unclear what the meaning or intent of the response is – this most commonly occurs when the response being classified contains insufficient detail, is ambiguous or is vague, or
3. the response is contradictory eg, both the yes and no tick boxes have been ticked, or
4. the response is clear and seemingly within the scope of the classification but can not be coded because no suitable option (particularly other residual category options such as 'not elsewhere classified' or 'not further defined') exists in the classification or codefile.

Response outside scope

This category is used for responses that are positively identified (ie the meaning and the intent are clear) but which clearly fall outside the scope of the classification/topic as defined in the standard.

Not stated

This category is only used where a respondent has not given any response to the question asked, ie it is solely for non-response.

Residual categories - specific to usual residence

No fixed abode

This category is used for respondents that do not permanently reside in any home or dwelling.

Country not stated

This category is used for responses that are recognised as a non New Zealand address but as the country is not given cannot be coded to the appropriate country.

New Zealand not further defined

This category contains responses that are recognised as a New Zealand address but are not specific enough to be coded in more detail.

References

Department of Statistics (1992). *New Zealand Standard Areas Classification Manual*, Wellington.
United Nations (1998). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 1*, New York.

Further Information

For further information on geographic classifications refer to the *New Zealand Standard Areas Classification Manual* (catalogue number 19.035.0092), or contact the Classifications and Standards Section.