

23 October 2024

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Tēnā koe Shane

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Request for 2023 census main means of travel

On 10 October 2024, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *We have been waiting patiently for the release of the 2023 census data, specifically regarding the "main means of travel". Please refer to the attached Excel file for the 2018 data, which illustrates the format required for this request.*
- *Below is an example of data fields from a 2018 Statistics New Zealand Excel download:*
- *Data fields:
"SP1, Bridge, SA2_code_usual_residence_address,
SA2_name_usual_residence_address, SA2_usual_residence_easting,
SA2_usual_residence_northing, SA2_code_workplace_address,
SA2_name_workplace_address, SA2_workplace_easting, SA2_workplace_northing,
Work_at_home, Drive_a_private_car_truck_or_van,
Drive_a_company_car_truck_or_van,
Passenger_in_a_car_truck_van_or_company_bus, Public_bus, Train, Bicycle,
Walk_or_jog, Ferry, Other, Total, W1, W2, W3"*
- *Example data from a 2018 Statistics New Zealand Excel download:
193800, Tauranga Central, 1879300.025, 5825025.981, 194400, Tauranga Hospital,
1877444.089, 5822451.312, -999, 42, -999, 6, -999, -999, -999, -999, 57*
- *Please see the attachment for further details.*
- *The Statistics New Zealand website, including its Census product guides, does not appear to provide this information. Enclosed is a screenshot showing that stats.govt.nz only offers data up to 2013, with 2018 and 2023 data missing.*
- *This may explain why Tauranga City is relying on 2013 data for transport business cases, which is now 11 years out of date.*
- *Additionally, I have provided:*

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

- A Link to the 2018 download obtained in 2021, which is no longer available.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1poQIJryStRFJEahWUnRxoPbHKEg2pMDe/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=113447443818080173539&rtpof=true&sd=true

- A Link to a screenshot of the missing information in the Statistics New Zealand website's download menu.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-HYXPd4coB1hh6S268FQ3G-FHDTbCTkL/view?usp=drive_link

- Thank you for your assistance in providing the updated data for 2023 in Excel format as used for 2018 and 2013

2018 Census data

Please note the 2018 Census data is publicly available in the form requested, although it was not made available on NZ.Stat alongside other 2018 Census data due to the unique structure and size of the file.

Accordingly, please see the data on the Stats NZ Geographic Data Service, via the following link: (<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/table/104720-2018-census-main-means-of-travel-to-work-by-statistical-area-2/>).

As such, your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is already publicly available.

2023 Census data

At present Stats NZ plans to release the equivalent data for 2023 Census in June 2025 once the data has been processed for publication. Again, this will be released via the [Stats NZ Geographic Data Service](#) rather than with other 2023 Census data on [Aotearoa Data Explorer](#).

Your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that substantial collation and research would be required to supply the requested information. Although the information you have requested has not yet been created and published by Stats NZ, it may be created from the raw data held by Stats NZ, upon receipt of a customised data request. Please note that there is a [standard charge](#) of \$155 plus GST per hour for customised data requests. If you would like to proceed with a request, one can be made through contacting Stats NZ's Information Centre through one of the following methods:

- By phone – 0508 525 525
- By email – info@stats.govt.nz
- [Online form](#)

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You may also be interested in the tables that we plan on publishing before the June 2025 release (although neither of these tables will include cross-tabulations of geographic variables).

Release	Title
December 2024	Main means of travel to work, age, and gender for the employed census usually resident population count aged 15 years and over, by workplace address (RC, TALB, SA2, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses
February 2025	Māori descent indicator, occupation, and main means of travel to work for the employed census usually resident population count aged 15 years and over, (RC, TALB, SA2, Health), 2013, 2018, and 2023 Censuses

Also note that counts for 2013, 2018, and 2023 Census by workplace address and by usual residence address (though not for cross-tabulations of these addresses) are available in the 'Totals by topic for individuals' tables published on Aotearoa Data Explorer, at the national level and for several subnational geographies including statistical area 1. For example, [this view](#) shows counts for Tauranga City (territorial authority).

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Nāku noa, nā



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