



# **Use of Administrative Software National School Annual Census, 2013/2014**

**November 2014**

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## **Introduction/Background**

An optional question asking schools whether they used a software package to generate/help complete the National School Annual Census form was added to the 2013/2014 Census forms. For schools that answered yes, this was followed by a question on what software package/provider they used, and what other data returns did the package/provider assist them with. The key findings presented below are based on average values from those schools that responded to the question. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these schools for taking the time to do so. Further details on the response rate and the question asked can be found in the Background Notes.

## **Key Findings**

Of the mainstream schools that responded to the questions, less than 40% (38.0%) indicated that they used a software package to generate or to help in completing the National School Annual Census. Mainstream schools listed 16 different software packages, including access and excel, possibly indicating that schools have developed their own databases system using these applications. *See Table 1 below.*

Less than 10% (7.9%) of the special schools that responded to the question indicated that they used a software package to generate the Special School Annual Census. The lower take up of software packages by special schools is perhaps indicative of the lower variety of products available to these schools. *See Table 1 below.*

**Table 1: Schools that used a software package to generate/help to complete the National School Annual Census form 2013/2014 classified by school type**

<b>School Type</b>	<b>Mainstream</b>	<b>Special</b>
Use of a software package to generate/help complete the National School Annual Census form	38.0	7.9

%

Tables 2, 3 and 4 below show further breakdowns of whether schools used a software package classified by various characteristics. As might be expected, schools with special class pupils, larger schools and schools with walking principals were more likely to avail of software packages. *See Tables 2, 3 and 4.*

**Table 2: Mainstream Schools that used a Software Package to generate/help complete the Census Form Classified by Whether the School had Special Class Pupils 2013/2014**

	<b>With Special Class Pupils</b>	<b>Without a Special Class Pupils</b>	<b>All Mainstream Schools</b>
Number that responded (N)	399	115	514
Percentage of all schools that responded (%)	77.6	23.4	

**Table 3: Mainstream Schools that used a Software Package to generate/help complete the Census Form Classified by Whether the School had a Walking Principal, 2013/2014**

	<b>Mainstream Schools With a Walking Principal</b>	<b>Mainstream Schools Without a Walking Principal</b>	<b>All Mainstream Schools</b>
Number that responded (N)	399	115	514
Percentage of all schools that responded (%)	77.6	23.4	

(Note: The 399 schools with a walking principal are not the same as the 399 schools with a special class)

**Table 4: Mainstream Schools that used a Software Package to generate/help complete the Census Form Classified by Number of Pupils Enrolled, 2013/2014**

	<b>50 or Less</b>	<b>51 to 100</b>	<b>101 to 200</b>	<b>201 +</b>	<b>All Mainstream Schools</b>
Number that responded (N)	10	43	115	346	514
Percentage of all schools that responded (%)	1.9	8.4	22.4	67.3	

## **Background Notes**

### **Response Rates**

These results are based on response rates to the question in the 2013/2014 National School Annual Census of 43% for mainstream schools and 50% for special schools. See Table A below for more details.

<b>Level of Response</b>	<b>Mainstream Schools</b>	<b>Special Schools</b>
Responded	1,354	63
Did Not Respond	1,791	78
Total Number of Schools	3,145	141
Response Rate (%)	43.1%	48.7%

### **Question Asked**

The questions asked are presented below. These questions were included in a set of optional questions which also provided schools with an opportunity to provide feedback.

<b>5</b>	<b>Did you use a software package to generate/to help complete this Census form?</b>	
	<b>If yes, what software package/software provider did you use?</b>	
	<b>Does your software package help prepare other data returns? Please list them (e.g. literacy and numeracy returns)</b>	