

2011 Population Census
Interactive Data Dissemination Service
Frequently Asked Questions

User Instructions:

1. Q: What is Interactive Data Dissemination Service (IDDS)?
A: The Interactive Data Dissemination Service (IDDS) is a service which enables the public to build and customise their own statistical tables online with data of population census / by-census.

2. Q: How can I enter the IDDS system?
A: Please click the Start button on the “Build Your Census Tables” web page in the website of the 2011 Population Census (<http://www.census2011.gov.hk/en/build-your-census-tables.html>) to enter the IDDS system. Alternatively, you may access it direct through the following hyperlink: <http://itable.censtatd.gov.hk>.

3. Q: How can I learn more about the use of the IDDS?
A: Please refer to the [usage guide](#) and online [demonstration](#) of the IDDS which can be found on the “Build Your Census Tables” web page in the website of the 2011 Population Census (<http://www.census2011.gov.hk/en/build-your-census-tables.html>).

Building Table:

1. Q: How can I build a statistical table in IDDS?
A: To build a statistical table, you need to specify the tabulation requirements by selecting **statistics**, **classification** and **year** (2011 already selected as a default) on the left-hand panel of the IDDS system. When a new selection is made, an updated version of the statistical table is displayed automatically in the “Table” panel to facilitate further selection. You may refer to the [usage guide](#) and online [demonstration](#) for more detailed procedures on building table.

2. Q: What are the statistics and classifications of statistics available in the IDDS?
A: Please refer to the [list of statistics and classifications](#) which can be downloaded on the “Build Your Census Tables” web page in the website of the 2011 Population Census (<http://www.census2011.gov.hk/en/build-your-census-tables.html>).

3. Q: How can I select statistics to build a statistical table?
A: Please simply click on the required statistics from the list (either sorted by type or a full list in alphabetical order) in the “Available Statistics” section of the “Statistics” panel on the left hand side of the IDDS system. The selected statistics will be shown in the “Selected Statistics” Section instantly.
4. Q: How can I select classification of statistics?
A: Please first click on the required classification from the list (either sorted by characteristics or a full list in alphabetical order) in the “Classification” panel on the left hand side of the IDDS system. After clicking on the classification, a pop-up window will be displayed for you to specify the position of the selected classification (i.e. either used as a row classification or a column classification). The selected classification will be displayed in either “Selected Column Classification” or “Selected Row Classification” section instantly as specified.
5. Q How can I remove statistics or classification after selection?
A: Please click on the “Remove” button (i.e. the recycle bin icon) beside the name of the selected statistics or classification of statistics.
6. Q: Can I build a statistical table with data in multiple rounds of population census / by-census through the use of the IDDS?
A: Yes, you can build a statistical table with data of the 2011 Population Census, the 2006 Population By-census and the 2001 Population Census by clicking on the boxes in the “Year” panel so long as a comparable set of statistical data is available for these three rounds of population census / by-census.
7. Q: Why do some of the statistics / classifications / years become not available for selection after several steps of selection?
A: The IDDS system will filter out the available combinations of statistics, classification and year after each step of selection. For example:
- i. If a type of statistics is selected to build a table, only those classifications applicable to the statistics will be displayed in the “Available Classification” section of the “Classification” panel, e.g. if the statistics “domestic households” is selected, the classifications “age” and “sex” will no longer be displayed in the “Available Classification” section for selection.
 - ii. If a classification is selected, only those statistics with such classification will be shown in the “Available Statistics” section of the

“Statistics” panel, e.g. If “household size” is selected, population will not be shown in the “Available Statistics” section for selection.

- iii. If a type of statistics / classification is selected, only those reference years with comparable statistics / classification will be available for selection, e.g. if population, District Council / Constituency Area and 2011 are chosen as statistics, classification and year respectively, 2001 and 2006 will be hidden for selection because figures for these three years are not comparable due to different boundaries of District Council / Constituency Area between 2001, 2006 and 2011.

8. Q: How can I change the classification grouping?

A: A classification grouping with the maximum number of items will be chosen by default. If the default classification grouping is not what you need, please click on the “Edit” button (i.e. the pencil icon) beside the name of the selected classification in the “Classification” panel and choose to use another available grouping in the pop-up window.

9. Q: Can I modify the statistical table after selection of all the required statistics and classifications?

A: You may use the following customisation features to modify the statistical table in IDDS:

- (i) Change presentation order of the selected statistics / classification of statistics
- (ii) Change position of the selected statistics (available only if two types of statistics are selected)
- (iii) Change position of the selected classification (from row to column or from column to row)
- (iv) Change classification groupings by clicking on the “Edit” button of the selected classification
- (v) Filter out classification items of the selected classification
- (vi) Add a set of percentage figures (against row totals, column totals or the grand total) of the selected statistics
- (vii) Hide / show sub-totals for each or all of the selected classifications

10. Q: How many statistics and classifications can I choose to build a statistical table in the IDDS system?

A: You may select up to 2 types of statistics and 5 classifications to build a statistical table subject to the level of analysis permissible.

11. Q: Are there any other limits for building a statistical table in the IDDS system?
A: Apart from the maximum numbers of statistics and classifications allowed, the IDDS system supports the generation of a statistical table of not more than 20 000 cells in at most 1 000 columns.
12. Q: Can I save the statistical table I have built in the IDDS system for further use?
A: Yes, you may click on the “Export” button on the menu bar in the “Table” panel and select the file format (Excel or HTML) to save the statistical table.
13. Q: How can I know the meaning or definitions of statistics and classifications selected in the statistical table?
A: After building a statistical table, you may click on the “Glossary” button at the top of the “Table” panel to view the definitions of statistics and classifications selected in the statistical table in a pop-up window.
14. Q: Can I make a self-defined classification grouping for building tables or perform other advanced table customisation?
A: The IDDS system does not support advanced table customisation. You are suggested to export the statistical table with all the required data in Excel format for further manipulation.
15. Q: Can I save the specification of the statistical table for re-use?
A: The IDDS system does not provide any functions for saving the specification of the statistical table for re-use. You are suggested to export the statistical table you have built before leaving the IDDS system.

Generating Chart:

1. Q: How can I generate a chart?
A: A chart can be generated after a statistical table (with at least one classification selected) is prepared. Please click on the “Chart” tab at the top of the “Table” panel to display data in chart format.
2. Q: What types of chart are available in the IDDS system?
A: Four different chart types are supported and they are vertical bar chart, line chart, pie chart and population pyramid. However, a few chart types are only applicable to selected types of statistics and classifications. For example, pie

chart can be used for count statistics only and population pyramid can be used only if “sex” is selected as one of the classifications.

3. Q: Can I modify the presentation of the chart?

A: You may use one of the following functions to modify the presentation of the chart through the “Chart Setting” panel on the right hand side of the “Chart” panel :

- (i) Change chart type
- (ii) Show / hide line marker (for line chart only)
- (iii) Show / hide statistics (for charts with more than one statistics item)
- (iv) Change presentation of statistics (in primary / secondary axis)
- (v) Change presentation of classifications (horizontal axis (category) / legend items (data series))
- (vi) Change order of classifications in the horizontal axis (category)
- (vii) Show / hide classification
- (viii) Show / hide data label

4. Q: Can I change the selected statistics or classifications in my chart just as the same I do in building statistical table?

A: Charts are generated based on statistical tables. You can only perform modifications of your chart based on the selected statistics and classifications in your statistical table, such as changing the presentation of statistics and classifications. To make changes of the selected statistics or classifications in your chart, you should first go back to the statistical table by clicking on the “Table” tab and generate a new chart after updating the statistical table.

5. Q: How can I save the chart?

A: Please click on the “Export” button on the menu bar to save the chart in Excel format or as a picture image (in PNG format).

6. Q: How can I perform advanced customisation of my chart, such as changing the title of my chart or labels in the legend?

A: You are suggested to export the chart in Excel format for further manipulation.

7. Q: There are too many bars in my chart and there is no label for each bar. How can I make the chart look better so that each bar can be well distinguished?

A: You are recommended to simplify the chart first. If some of the classifications or items in the classification groupings are not necessary to be

shown in your chart, you may filter out the unnecessary classifications using the chart setting function or go back to your table for removing the unnecessary items. In case all the classifications and items in the classification groupings are necessary, you are suggested to export the chart in Excel format for viewing the label of each bar in the chart.

8. Q: Why cannot I specify some classifications as the legend items (data series) for the vertical bar chart and line chart?

A: The IDDS system can support the generation of a chart with a maximum of 255 legend items (data series) in vertical bar chart and line chart.

Others:

1. Q: What is the system requirement for IDDS?

A: You only need a web browser for accessing the IDDS. You are recommended to use Microsoft Internet Explorer version 8.0 or above, Mozilla Firefox version 12 or above, Safari version 5.17 or above, or Chrome version 19 or above.

2. Q: What is the recommended screen resolution for viewing the IDDS webpages?

A: The IDDS is best viewed at a screen resolution of 1024 x 768.

3. Q: Can I use IDDS with smartphone?

A: The IDDS is a web application best viewed at a screen resolution of 1024 x 768 and there is no tailor-made version for smart phone. You will experience some difficulties in using the IDDS system and viewing the statistical tables and charts if mobile phone / smart phone is used.

4. Q: Is the IDDS accessible for the visually impaired?

A: The IDDS conforms to priority 2 level (Double-A conformance) of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 level AA (with the exception of no button for drop-down list). This means that it meets both basic and advanced accessibility standards and can be used by most people with special needs. Besides, the IDDS adopts the Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and style templates, which standardise all system web pages, and thus enhance its accessibility.

5. Q: Why is the message "Page Has Expired" displayed when I clicked on the back button of the browser?

A: The IDDS system does not support the undo function by clicking on the back

button of the browser. In case you wish to cancel the steps you have just done, please use the system function to revert to your previous setting (e.g. removing a newly added statistics by clicking the “Remove” button).

6. Q: What should I do when the message “Your session expires” is displayed?
A: The message “Your session expires.....” will be displayed when users leave the IDDS system idle for 20 minutes. You may click on the link shown at the bottom of the message to go back to the IDDS system.

7. Q: What can I do if I cannot find the required statistics in the IDDS system?
A: The IDDS system contains a large volume of statistical data based on the results of the 2011 Population Census, the 2006 Population By-census and the 2001 Population Census. In case you cannot find the required statistics, please contact the 2011 Population Census Office, Census and Statistics Department, by phone (tel: 2716 8025) during office hours or by email (census@censtatd.gov.hk) for support.