

# Recent developments in microdata access at Statistics New Zealand

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# Outline

- History and Now
- Issues
- Points for discussion

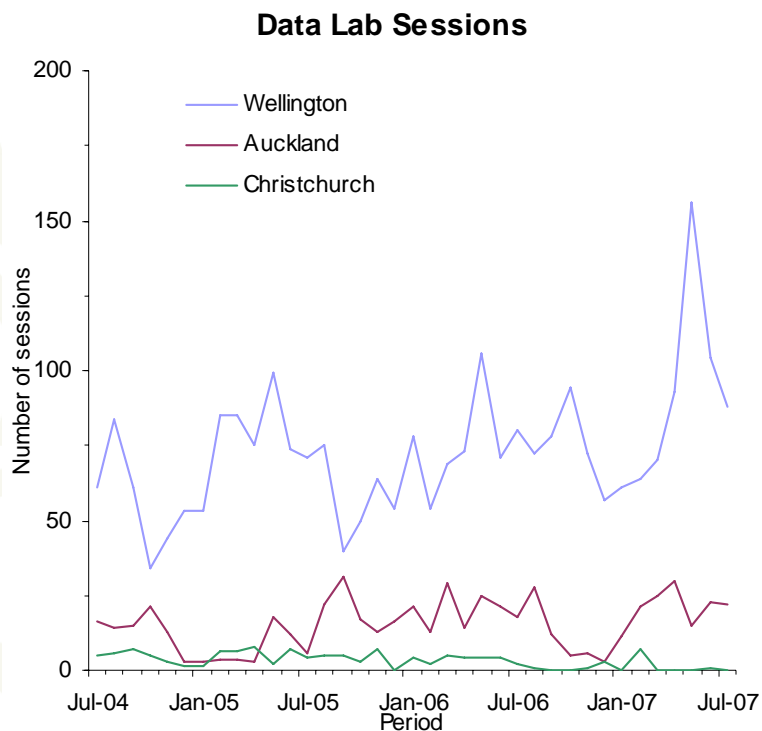
# History

- Data Lab operating since 1997
- OSRDAC established in 2004
- 5 CURFs now available:
  - 2002 Income Supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey
  - 2003 Income Supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey
  - 2004 Household Labour Force Survey and Income Supplement
  - 2001 Household Savings Survey
  - 2001 Census

## Now

- Datalab well used. 71 researchers active now
- 20 – 60 output checks per month
- 5 govt depts have access to microdata from 9 surveys off-site on their own premises
- Four of the five CURFs will be expanded for AtoM
- Just signed an agreement with universities for CURFs for postgraduates

# Data Lab usage



- Each session indicates that one researcher has used the Data Lab on a given day. Sessions typically last for either a half or full working day. (Data Lab opening hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm Mon to Fri)

# Issues

- Decide strategic value
- Relationships with researchers
- Dissemination strategy
- Standardising production

## Decide strategic value

- Need a consistent corporate viewpoint on why we provide microdata access
- Basis for decisions about resourcing and pricing

## Relationships with researchers

- Small community of researchers
- Implicitly trusted, but formally regarded as potential breachers of confidentiality



## Dissemination strategy

- Integrate microdata into our wider dissemination strategy
- Should be viewed as part of the spectrum of methods for disseminating statistical information
- Recognise Data Lab as a specialist service supporting complex analysis

## Standardising production

- Standardising the production processes for CURFs and Data Lab datasets to reduce time and effort

## Points for discussion

Interested in other's experiences with

- Checking analytical output
- The audience for CURFs. What makes CURFs successful
- Times things have gone wrong