Additional codes and people in the British Business Census of Entrepreneurs (BBCE) not available through I-CeM

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Comments are welcomed on this paper: contact the authors as above.

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1. Introduction

This paper provides information on data corrections and additions to the digital version of the census data for England and Wales and Scotland that is held within the UK Data Archive (UKDA) data deposit: The Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM) for 1851-1911 (Higgs et al., 2014, 2015; Schürer et al., 2016). These data corrections have been identified during the preparation and subsequent data deposit of the British Business Census of Entrepreneurs (BBCE) at UKDA. For BBCE, the transcripts of the censuses, and coding of individuals, are mostly derived from I-CeM, but BBCE adds to I-CeM the identification and coding of entrepreneurs, plus data enrichment, corrections, and infills of those missing in I-CeM. The BBCE already includes many additional codes to those in I-CeM, and can be linked to I-CeM through the individual identifiers (RecID) for each entrepreneur identified in the censuses to provide a complete resource of the census information on entrepreneurs for Britain as a whole. However, BBCE also has additional people from the census not recorded in I-CeM at all, or that cannot be identified in I-CeM. This paper gives the additional information on them.

This work was supported by the ESRC, and by a special ESRC financial supplementation for Scotland, for the project ES/M010953 ‘Drivers of Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses’. An overview of the project is provided in WP 1. WP 2 defines in detail the different censuses and the challenges they present for identifying entrepreneurs. WPs 3 and 4 describe how the data for 1851-81 an 1891-1911, respectively, were extracted from I-CeM and supplemented.

WP 20 summarises all these activities specifically for the Scottish data. A full list of Working Papers is given at the end of this paper. Full details of the BBCE database deposit at UKDA are given in the BBCE User Guide. The downloads with this paper give changes to specific coding and the new RecIDs which are additions to I-CeM.

2. Corrections and additions to I-CeM in BBCE

In the process of infilling data gaps in I-CeM various checks were run and from these a number of corrections were made based on inspection of the original scans of the Census Enumerators Books (CEBs). These corrections were identified either by the research team listed as authors here, or by research assistants working on the England and Wales, and Scottish records (see WP 3).¹ This Working Paper 21 describes the data codes for these corrections which allow near-replication of the analysis of BBCE in published research by the research team, as listed on the project’s website:

http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/driversofentrepreneurship

The corrected codes make it possible for users to modify I-CeM to align with the data used in BBCE. However, the ESRC project used an improved version of I-CeM developed within Campop which is not identical with I-CeM version 1. The Campop data improvements will be part of I-CeM version 2, but additional improvements will also be made to that deposit (which will include many of the BBCE data corrections given here). As a result the data codes provided here allow near (but not perfect) replication of the main results of the BBCE data assembly and its core analysis using I-CeM version 1, reported in Bennett et al. (2019) The Age of Entrepreneurship, and elsewhere. Users seeking near-replication of the project’s results should use the data codes given here; if there are any queries about precise relationship between the databases please contact the authors.

Most of the data corrections from the ESRC ‘Drivers of Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses’ are small in number, but affect most years, and often concern some of the most crucial people who otherwise become erroneous outliers or extreme cases; such as male

¹ Mark Latham, Gavin Robinson, Tiffany Shumaker and Rebecca Tyler for England and Wales; and Tobias Lunde, Annette Mackenzie and Amber Stevenson for Scotland.

entrepreneurs with large workforces who were sometimes mis-transcribed by FMP and hence in I-CeM as female.

In addition to coding corrections, a number of additional individuals in the census were identified who are not included in current versions of I-CeM. The main addition was for all entrepreneurs for 1871, which for England and Wales is a year not included in I-CeM at all but is included in BBCE for those who were entrepreneurs (See WP 12). As well as 1871, however, checks on the CEBs for missing or truncated transcriptions in I-CeM identified other individuals missing in I-CeM for 1851. The information and main data codes for these additional people are included in BBCE along with all the other entrepreneurs and their codes. Here additional data coding of these individuals is given so that other researchers will have the full information available that was used in the ESRC project and can thus replicate its results, and will be able to add these individuals separately to their analysis of I-CeM if desired.

3. New variables for corrected data coding

The new codes relate to two groups of variables:

1. Corrections of I-CeM for sex, age and marital status
2. For additional people I-CeM codes are given for number of servants, household size, and relationships within the household (I-CeM RELA codes). For RELA the simplified RELA10 code is given in BBCE, but in the downloads with this WP the full I-CeM RELA code is given.

Note that not every year will have every variable, e.g. there were no changes in Scotland for 1851. For 1871 all the new variables and codes are included directly in BBCE.

3.1. Corrections of I-CeM for sex, age and marital status

Variable: NEWSEX
Variable label: Gender
Type: Character
Max length: 1
Description: Corrected gender based on CEB checks.

Coverage: 1851-1861, 1881 England and Wales; 1861-1881 Scotland

**Variable: NEWAGE**
Variable label: Age
Type: Numeric
Max length: 4
Description: Corrected age based on CEB checks.
Coverage: 1851-1861, 1881 England and Wales

**Variable: NEWMAR**
Variable label: Marital Status
Type: Numeric
Max length: 4
Description: Corrected marital status based on CEB checks.
Coverage: 1861 England and Wales

3.2. Codes for additional people 1851 England and Wales not in I-CeM

Variable name and definitions as in I-CeM

**Variable: SERVTS**
Variable label: Total number of servants individual living with
Type: Numeric
Max length: 2
Description: Number of servants in the household.
Coverage: 1851 England and Wales only

**Variable: HHS**
Variable label: Size of household
Type: Numeric
Max length: 2
Description: Number of persons in the household; size of the household unit. The household consists of the head, their relatives and servants

Coverage: 1851 England and Wales only

**Variable: RELA**
Variable label: Relationship to household head code
Type: Numeric
Max length: 4
Description: Relationship to head of family, derived from relationship descriptor in CEBs, then coded using I-CeM dictionary (pp. 189-191).
Coverage: 1851 England and Wales only

4. A note on 1881 data

The ESRC project used two datasets for England and Wales 1881:

1. The pilot data derived from the Leverhulme pilot project. This used the 1881 GSU database deposited by Schürer and Woollard (2000). This predated I-CeM.
2. The I-CeM data.

The Leverhulme pilot project made checks on the CEBs resulting in some data corrections of sex, but no other demographic data. These data were used in some of the ESRC project analyses: e.g. of portfolios in farming (Radicic et al., 2017), and firm-size distribution (Monterbuno et al., 2019), and some subsequent research.

However, in the main ESRC project the core analysis used I-CeM data; e.g. as in Bennett et al. (2019a). The England and Wales 1881 downloads with this WP include corrections where the pilot demographic data differed from I-CeM. These are either based on the GSU data (which is considered a more accurate transcription) given in Schürer and Woollard (2000), or based on CEB checks during the pilot. As with other years, this only affects a small number of people, but includes one spurious code for a female employer with 400 employees, and one with 50 employees, which this download corrects to male.

Scotland in BBCE for 1881 was based solely on I-CeM data.
5. Conclusion

The variables presented in this working paper are the ones used by the BBCE project team. They consist of corrections to demographic data as included in I-CeM version 1, as well as a group of additional people missing from I-CeM for 1851 in England and Wales. It is expected that all or most of the corrections will be included in I-CeM version 2, but additional people will probably remain available only through the codings given in the uploads to this WP and in the BBCE.

Note that not every year has every variable, e.g. there are no changes for Scotland for 1851.

Researchers using these data will be able to achieve near-replication of the analysis reported in Bennett et al. (2019) The Age of Entrepreneurship and other publications.

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We are very pleased to record our thanks for the help of research assistants who checked and filled out I-CeM truncated lines in 1861 using National Archive sources: Mark Latham,
Gavin Robinson, Tiffany Shumaker and Rebecca Tyler. Gavin Robinson also helped fill out 1851 I-CeM truncated lines using transcripts from S&N. In Scotland similar work with truncated lines at Scotland’s People was assisted by Tobias Lunde, Annette Mackenzie and Amber Stevenson.

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WP 8: Bennett, Robert J., Smith, Harry, and Radicic, Dragana (2017) Classification of occupations for economically active: Factor analysis of Registration Sub-Districts (RSDs) in 1891. 
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https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.42285


WP 19: Montebruno, Piero (2019) *Datasets and guide: downloads for reconstructing British census responses 1851-1881 for the BBCE.* [https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.42285](https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.42285)


WP 21: van Lieshout, Carry, Bennett, Robert, J., and Smith, Harry (2019) *Additional codes and people in the British Business Census of Entrepreneurs (BBCE) not available through I-CeM.*

Full list of all current Working Papers available at: [http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/driversofentrepreneurship](http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/driversofentrepreneurship)