

Discussion forum survey

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Overview

At the Office for National Statistics, we are passionate about connecting users and producers of statistics, to encourage collaboration and learning. We need your views, opinions, and preferences to help us understand what is important to you when engaging in conversations about statistics online.

This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous.

By completing this survey, you will help us to understand how you engage with discussion forums and how they could best meet your needs.

A discussion forum is an online site where you can engage in conversations with others about your topics of interest. There are multiple features which typically exist on discussion forums, so options are included in all questions about these.

We are interested in your responses even if you do not currently use discussion forums.

We value both your professional and personal interests.

You may add your contact details at the end of the survey if you would like to attend a follow-up interview and expand your influence.

We encourage you to share the survey with your networks.

All responses you provide will be kept secure and confidential. To find out more, read the StatsUserNet [privacy policy](#).

If you have any questions, please contact statsusernet@ons.gov.uk.

About you

1. What type of organisation do you belong to?

Please select all that apply. *Required*

- Local authority or government department
- Academia
- Community group
- Professional network, for example a data or work community
- Not-for-profit organisation
- Statistical student
- Professional service, for example, media, consultancy
- None, personal interest
- Other

If you selected other, please explain

Your use of statistics

We'd like to ask a few questions about your interest in statistics, including what types of data you are interested in and what you use it for.

1. Which types of statistics are you interested in?

Please select all that apply. *Required*

- Environmental, for example environment, climate and nature statistics
- Economic, for example prices and inflation, national accounts, public sector finances, labour market, global trade and investment
- Health, for example health and social care, hospital admission rates, health condition statistics
- Society, for example housing, crime, welfare, transport, children and education
- Population and migration, for example where people move, birth and death statistics
- Census, for example household statistics
- Current topics in the news
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

2. What do you use statistics for?

Please select all that apply. *Required*

- Business cases
- Content creation, such as news articles
- Informing audiences I work with
- Organisational strategy
- Policy and decision making
- Undergraduate research
- Postgraduate research
- Service development or commissioning
- Understanding issues related to my work
- Personal interest
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

Your use of discussion forums

3. Do you use any discussion forums?

Select one. *Required.*

- Yes (go to question 5)
- No (go to question 8)
- I used to but currently do not (go to question 7)

4. Which discussion forums do you use?

5. How often do you read or post on discussion forums?

Select one. *Required*

- Several times a day
- Daily
- Weekly
- Fortnightly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Six monthly
- Once a year
- Infrequently
- I have never done this
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

6. Is there a reason for your visiting time pattern?

If you use discussion forums, go to question 8.

7. Why did you stop using discussion forums

8. How would you decide which discussion forums to join?

Please select all that apply. *Required.*

- Advertisements on social media
- Promotions in your workplace or community or group
- Discussions in your workplace or community or group
- Your organisation's preference or access
- Word of mouth in friend or interest groups
- Stumble upon them
- I do not have any interest in discussion forums
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

If you selected advertisements on social media, please tell us which social media site(s). This response is optional.

Discussion forum features

9. Which features would you find most useful on the entry page of discussion forums?

Please select all that apply. *Required*

- Noticeboards with important information and latest posts
- Popular topics
- Discussion topic areas, for example, economics, health
- Document storage areas
- Visualisations, for example, graphs, tables, charts
- Images or videos, for example for webcasts and research excerpts
- Data sets
- Upcoming event notices, including calendars and links
- Challenge areas for working together on problem solving
- Tutorial areas for 'how to' posts
- Question and answer areas where users help each other
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

10. Which features would you find most engaging on discussion forums?

Please select all that apply. *Required*

- Noticeboards with important information and latest posts
- Popular topics
- Discussion topic areas, for example, economics, health...
- Document storage areas
- Visualisations, for example, graphs, tables, charts
- Images or videos, for example webcasts and research excerpts
- Data sets
- Upcoming event notices, including calendars and links
- Notebook for recording ideas
- Challenge areas for working together on problem solving
- Tutorial areas for 'how to' posts
- Question and answer areas where users help each other
- Other, please explain

11. Is there anything that would prevent you from using discussion forums?

For example, features you find difficult to navigate.

Your update preferences

12. How often would you prefer to receive updates about activity on a forum?

Required

- Daily
- Weekly
- Fortnightly
- Monthly
- Only for policy and account activity updates
- Never
- Other, please explain

If you selected other, please explain.

Your additional thoughts

13. Do you have any other comments?

Opt-in to expand on your thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

If you are happy to participate in a follow-up 30-minute interview to provide more detail, please add your contact details.

Your name

Your email address

Please select all the weeks that you are likely to be available for a follow up interview.

I am free on the week commencing:

- 14 August 2023
- 21 August 2023
- 28 August 2023
- 4 September 2023
- 11 September 2023

Thank you for your response

Thank you for your response, we appreciate your time and support.

Your responses will be used to improve our discussion forum.

If you have any questions or decide later that you would like to participate in a follow-up interview, please contact statsusernet@ons.gov.uk.