What is metadata?

Metadata is "data about data", and is used to describe the design, specification and content of datasets held on NINIS. It tells the user the purpose of the dataset, how it was collected and if there are any data quality issues they need to be aware of. The user should read the metadata to see if the dataset meets their needs.

Accessing metadata

Every dataset on NINIS has accompanying metadata. To access the metadata, select the metadata tab in the top right hand corner of the dataset.

For datasets which open in MS Excel rather than in grid format, there is an additional tab for metadata within the spreadsheet.

Metadata Features

- Abstract: Brief description of the dataset including links to more detailed definitions
- Reporting Period: Financial, calendar, academic year, or snapshot at point in time
- Year of Data: The years of data available on NINIS
- Related Data: Links to related or comparable data in UK and Ireland
- Geography: Available geographies for dataset on NINIS
- Lineage: How the geographic data is created
- Disclosure: Details of any data disclosure methods applied
- Quality: Details of any data quality issues. Is there any missing data?
- Data Provider: Organisation/contact details for data provider
- Available Geographies: Available geographies for datasets on NINIS

Please use stats responsibly, always read the metadata.