

South Ayrshire Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2015

Appendix 1 Advantages and Disadvantages of Secondary Data

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Advantages of Secondary Data

There are a number of advantages of using secondary data, including:

- **Accessible and available**
A great deal of secondary data is now available on user-friendly web-based interfaces, which makes retrieval and analysis quick and simple.
- **Data is accessible to all**
Given the improved access to data sources, transparency of data assembly is improved.
- **Relatively Cheap**
Compared with undertaking primary data collection, the cost of using secondary data is relatively inexpensive.

Disadvantages of Secondary Data

There are also a number of disadvantages associated with using secondary data. These might include:

- **Restricted Updates**
As data sources are often updated at different intervals, updates may not be available when required for research.
- **Scale of Data**
Data is often collected at a variety of scales. Many data can now be disaggregated to datazone level; however, survey data based on samples often cannot be disaggregated.
- **Design of Data**
Using secondary data means that the data has not been collected for the purpose of the research, potentially leading to misinterpretation of results. This can be minimised by supply and scrutiny of relevant metadata.