

> Customer Story



Industry

Public Sector

Focus

Analytics

Business Issue

Ireland's Central Statistics Office needed to release bottlenecks and make data access faster and more accurate to empower better political and economic decision making.

Solution

SAS® Grid Manager
SAS® Visual Analytics

Benefits

- CSO confident of capacity of its SAS technology platform to meet current and future data analytics needs
- Greater control and transparency of analytics platform
- CSO set to take on new challenges including the 2016 census.

A modernised analytics approach heightens Ireland's Central Statistics Office capacity to meet new demands

Accurate Irish economic, social and general data enhanced through high-performance analytics



The importance of delivering information fast and accurately is never more under the spotlight than where the results affect the future of a country's citizens. It was with this reality in mind that Ireland's Central Statistics Office (CSO) set about modernising its approach to analytics.

The CSO is responsible for the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination of statistical information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in Ireland. To do this effectively, the CSO uses SAS® analytics tools. With the ever-increasing volumes and variety of data, it became clear to the CSO that an upgrade to its legacy solution was needed to meet its key future objectives.

"Big data presents a number of critical challenges and responsibilities for the CSO, as processing and analysing such data is not an easy task. In our role to collect, compile and disseminate Ireland's national statistics, we are constantly striving to improve how we deliver statistical analysis in the most cost-effective and efficient way possible," said Elaine Lucey, Senior Statistician, IT Corporate Systems, CSO.

As part of its modernisation programme, the CSO opted to implement SAS® Grid Manager and SAS® Visual Analytics across the organisation. This offered more resilience and flexibility and as a result, the CSO is confident of the capacity of its technology platform to meet current and future data analytics needs.

"Our strategic requirements are driven by both national needs and European Union legislation. Accuracy and reliability are paramount to everything we do. As we operate in a fast-changing environment where the processes for compiling official statistics increasingly come under greater scrutiny, we needed to maximise public trust," continued Lucey. "The number one imperative for us is the integrity of our production systems. Our SAS platform plays a vital role in this regard. The added transparency and control from using SAS Grid Manager gives us greater peace of mind."

“ SAS enables us to produce accessible statistics for Ireland and meet growing user needs. We have challenges ahead in developing the Irish Statistical System and in using a diverse range of new data sources. SAS will remain integral in helping us achieve the ambitious targets we have set for delivering continual improvement. ”

Elaine Lucey, Senior Statistician, IT Corporate Systems, CSO

Furthermore, like most other public sector organisations, the CSO has seen its budgets and resources squeezed with higher output demands. As the demand for information increases, the organisation needs to find imaginative solutions to “doing more with less”. This means mining more data sources and more time spent by users collecting, verifying, cleaning, aggregating and tabulating the information.

“Using SAS, we can now analyse more data, more quickly than ever before. There are a host of other benefits such as enhanced control, governance and consistency with the SAS platform. The use of SAS Visual Analytics means we now have the potential to interpret more complex data in a visual way, which should enable us to carry out better and faster analysis,” added Lucey.

In future, even more benefits will be realised as the CSO adds more data sources for analysis. By choosing to modernise with SAS, the CSO has strengthened the data analytics and statistical processing environment, and will be better placed to adapt to future needs including the upcoming census in 2016.

“SAS enables us to produce accessible statistics for Ireland and meet growing user needs. We have challenges ahead in developing the Irish Statistical System and in using a diverse range of new data sources. SAS will remain integral in helping us achieve the ambitious targets we have set for delivering continual improvement,” concluded Lucey.

SAS gives Ireland's Central Statistics Office THE POWER TO KNOW®

SAS UK & IRELAND WITTINGTON HOUSE HENLEY ROAD MEDMENHAM MARLOW BUCKS SL7 2EB
+44 1628 486933 www.sas.com/uk

