

State of the Cities Database – What it is & how to access data on town centres and retail cores

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State of the Cities Database - Overview

The State of the Cities Database (SOCD) is a free to use database, which has been created to provide access to updated data that underpins the State of the English Cities Report (SOCR), published in March 2006. The database contains all the key indicators of urban performance used in the report and allows users to identify in greater detail recent changes in English cities and will allow future monitoring of cities and the impact of policies.

The indicators on employment, education, housing, health, crime, demographics, businesses, etc. are available for 56 cities in England (urban areas with a population of 125,000 or more). The indicators are also available for regions, local authorities and for England as a whole, to enable comparisons with the cities. Information on employment, floorspace and rateable value of properties are available for Areas of Town Centre Activity and Retail Cores.

SOCD is a powerful mechanism and will help answer questions such as:

- What do we know about this city?
- What is this city like?
- How well are we doing in this city?
- How does it compare with other cities?

SOCD is available on the Internet at www.socd.communities.gov.uk/socd



State of the Cities Database – What can it do for me?

Statistical reports on a variety of urban places can be produced at the click of a few buttons. Users are able to:

- Find any of the 56 cities represented in SOCR;
- View a standard or custom defined report for a city;
- Compare a city with another city, with its local authority, with its region or compare it with its wider Travel to Work Area (TTWA);
- Produce maps & charts of indicators;
- Export reports in PDF, Excel and other formats;
- Access data at various spatial levels, including Ward, Tract, Town Centre, Retail Core Primary Urban Area, Travel to Work Area, local authority, Government Office Region and England;
- Find data on economy, housing, education, population, transport, and social & cultural topics

Areas of Town Centre Activity statistics for 1999-2004 have been disseminated via the State of the Cities Database. Retail Core statistics are also available on the database for 2002 (1999-2004 will be available shortly). Statistics are presented for the following employees and property types (those with an * are also available for Retail Cores):

Employees

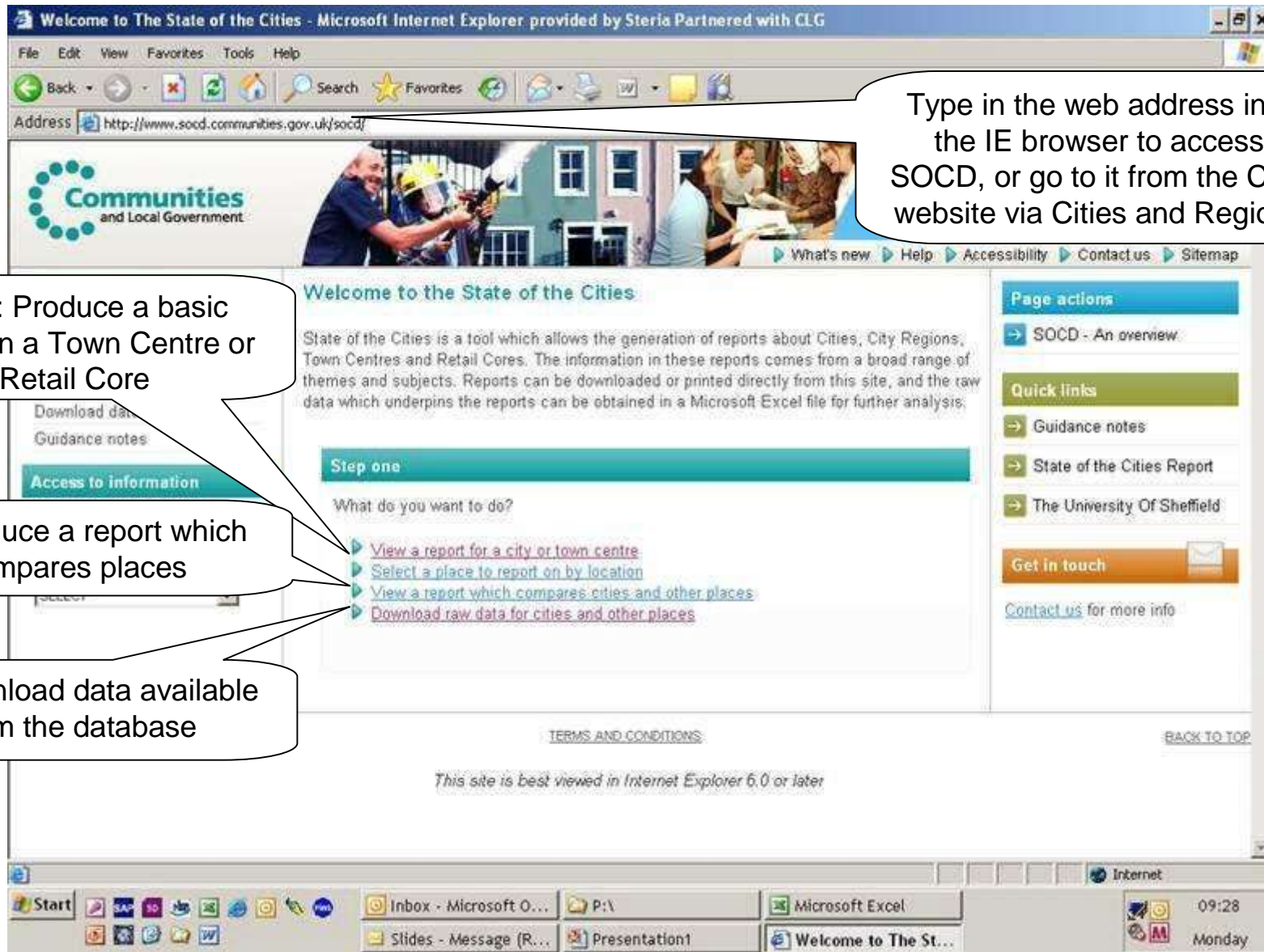
- Commercial office employees;
- Public service employees;
- Convenience retail employees*;
- Comparison retail employees*;
- Service retail employees*;
- Arts, culture and entertainment employees;
- Restaurants and licensed premises employees

Floorspace (in m²) and Rateable value (in £)

- Retail premises*;
- A1 (shops) use class premises*;
- A2 (Financial and professional) use class premises*;
- A3 (Food and Drink) use class premises*;
- Office premises;

The following few slides shows the various options (A to D) within SOCD and demonstrates how reports on individual town centres and reports that compares town centres can be produced

SOCD – How to access it and options on Welcome page



Type in the web address into the IE browser to access SOCD, or go to it from the CLG website via Cities and Regions

A + B: Produce a basic report on a Town Centre or Retail Core

C: Produce a report which compares places

D: Download data available from the database

Example output from State of the Cities Database- Northampton Town Centre

State of the Cities Database

State of the Cities Database Report on the Urban Competitiveness

Theme for:

Northampton Town Centre



Overview map of surrounding area

Economy

Town Centre Size

Town Centre Size (Hectares)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	83.3	87.8 (+4.5)	83.5 (-4.3)	82.5 (-1)	71.9 (-11.3)

- Chart an indicator
- Thematically map an indicator

Employees

State of the Cities Database

Arts, culture and entertainment (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	390.0	420.0 (+30)	470.0 (+50)	570.0 (+100)	290.0 (-280)

Civic and public administration (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	1,770	2,730 (+960)	3,120 (+390)	3,010 (-110)	3,050 (+40)

Commercial office (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	4,470	4,390 (-80)	4,290 (-100)	4,640 (+350)	3,570 (-1,070)

Comparison retail (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	3,430	3,520 (+90)	3,330 (-190)	3,560 (+230)	3,650 (+90)

Convenience retail (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	990.0	1,420 (+430)	1,640 (+220)	460.0 (-1,180)	1,280 (+820)

Restaurants and licensed premises (employees)

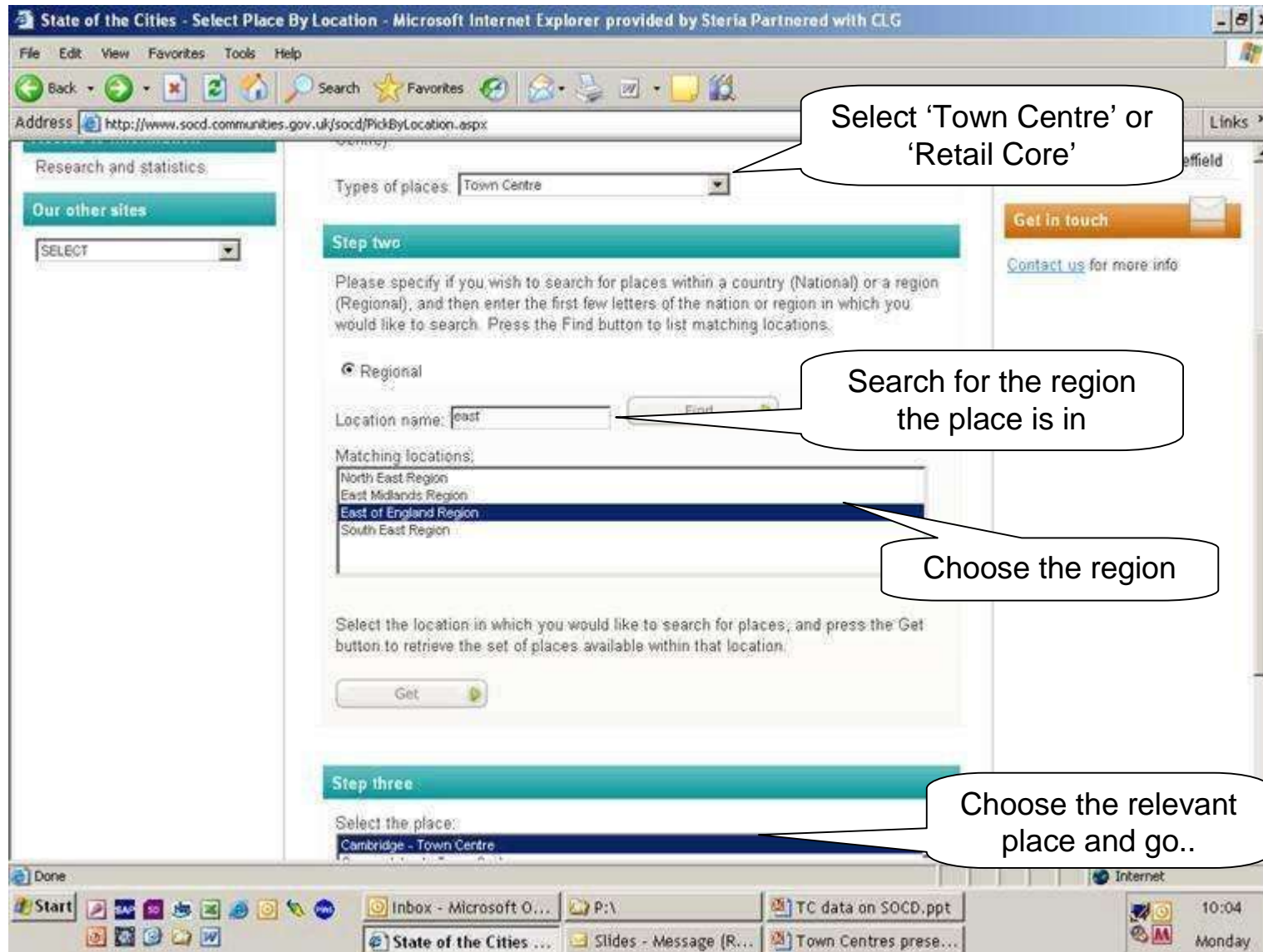
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	1,230	1,310 (+80)	1,180 (-130)	1,140 (-40)	1,020 (-120)

Service retail (employees)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Northampton Town Centre	630.0	620.0 (-10)	580.0 (-40)	610.0 (+30)	560.0 (-50)

- Chart an indicator
- Thematically map an indicator

Option B: Select a place by location



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "State of the Cities - Select Place By Location - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Steria Partnered with CLG". The address bar shows "http://www.socd.communities.gov.uk/socd/PickByLocation.aspx".

Step two

Please specify if you wish to search for places within a country (National) or a region (Regional), and then enter the first few letters of the nation or region in which you would like to search. Press the Find button to list matching locations.

Regional

Location name:

Matching locations:

- North East Region
- East Midlands Region
- East of England Region**
- South East Region

Select the location in which you would like to search for places, and press the Get button to retrieve the set of places available within that location.

Step three

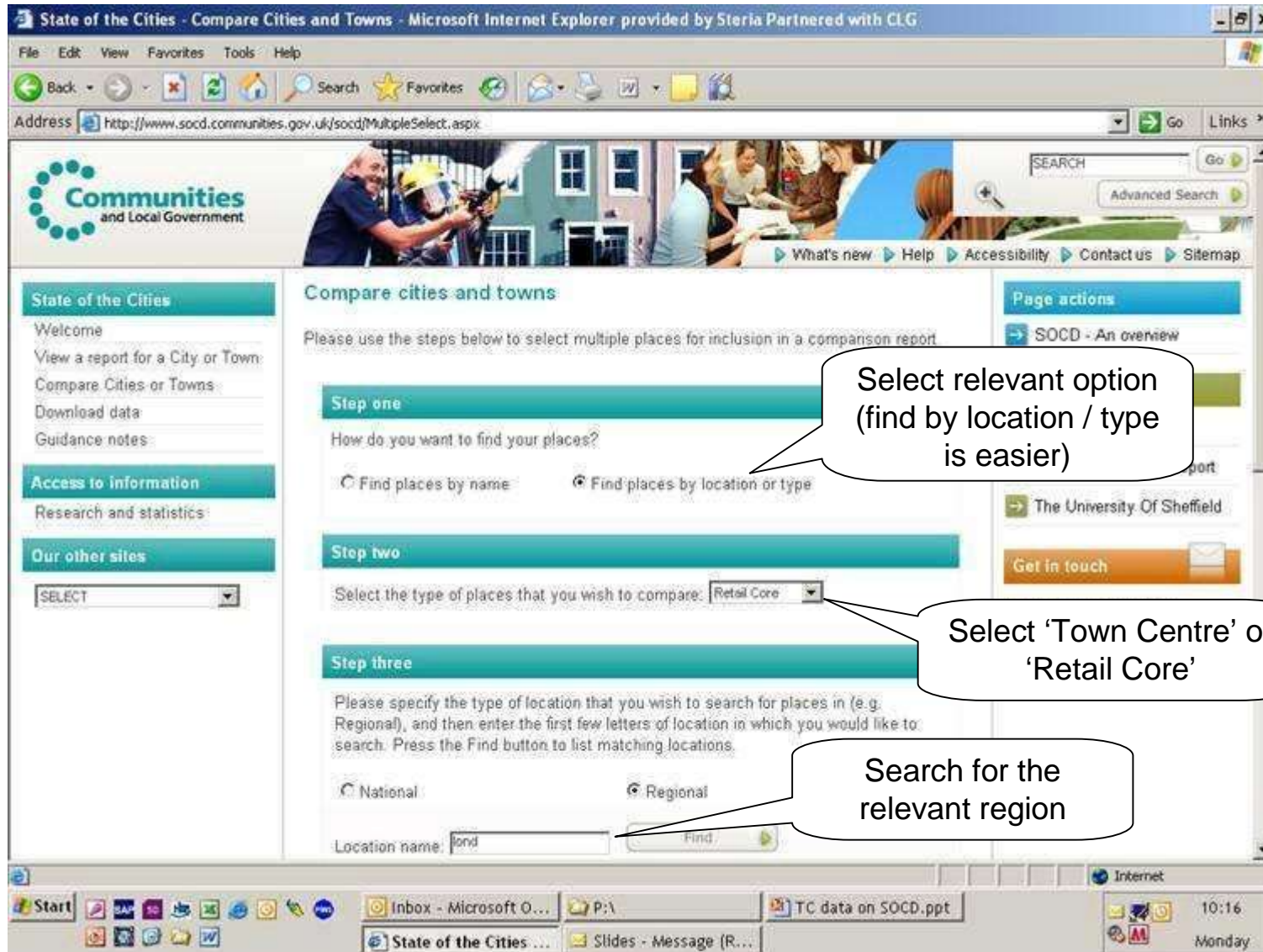
Select the place:

- Cambridge - Town Centre**

Callouts:

- "Select 'Town Centre' or 'Retail Core'" points to the "Types of places" dropdown menu.
- "Search for the region the place is in" points to the "Location name" input field.
- "Choose the region" points to the "East of England Region" in the matching locations list.
- "Choose the relevant place and go.." points to the "Cambridge - Town Centre" in the "Select the place:" list.

Option C: Compare towns

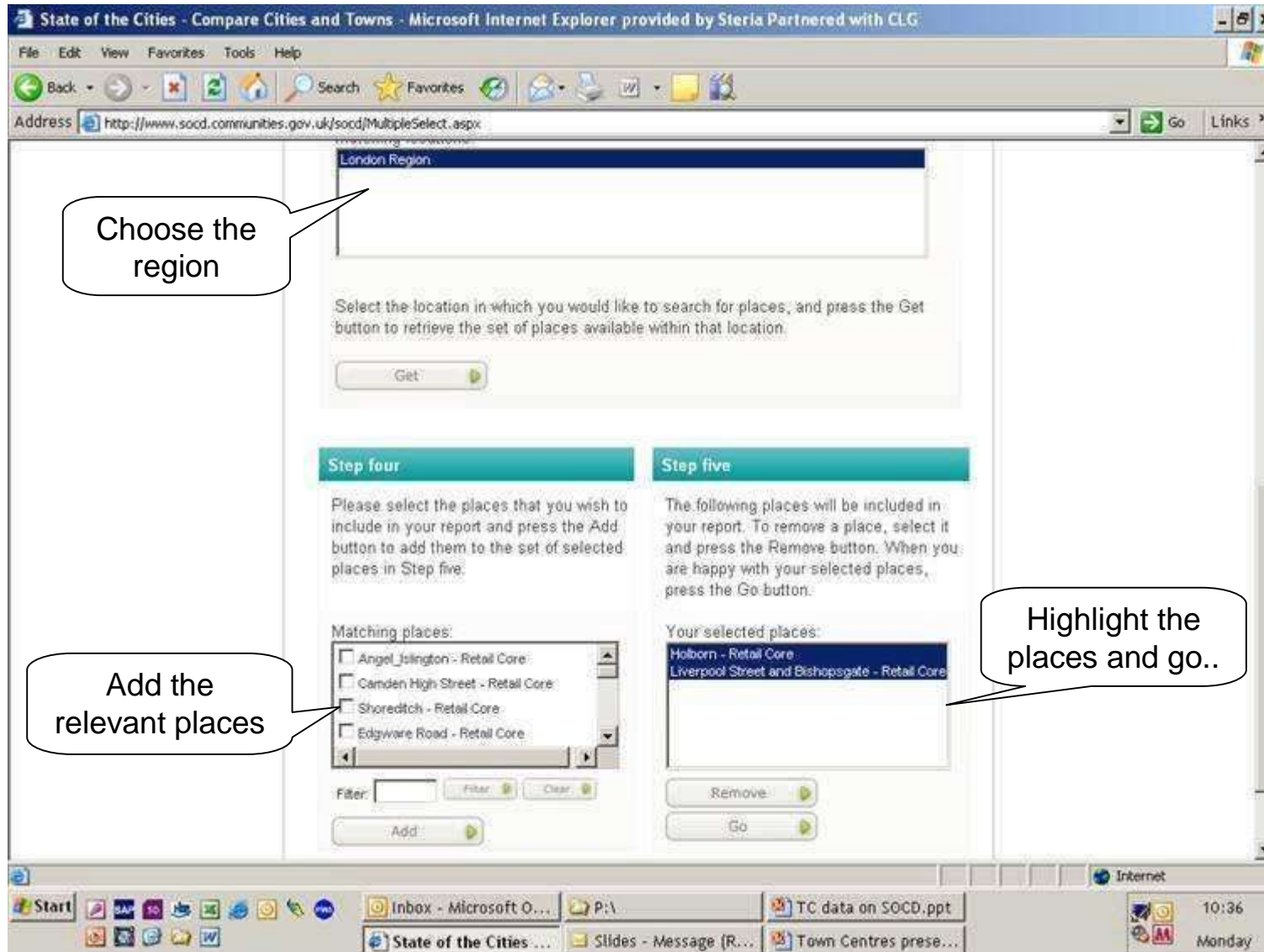


The screenshot shows the 'State of the Cities - Compare Cities and Towns' web application. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Left sidebar:** Contains navigation links for 'State of the Cities' (Welcome, View a report for a City or Town, Compare Cities or Towns, Download data, Guidance notes), 'Access to information' (Research and statistics), and 'Our other sites' (a dropdown menu).
- Header:** Features the 'Communities and Local Government' logo, a search bar, and navigation links for 'What's new', 'Help', 'Accessibility', 'Contact us', and 'Sitemap'.
- Main content area:** Titled 'Compare cities and towns', it guides the user through three steps:
 - Step one:** 'How do you want to find your places?' with radio buttons for 'Find places by name' and 'Find places by location or type'. A callout box points to the second option with the text: 'Select relevant option (find by location / type is easier)'.
 - Step two:** 'Select the type of places that you wish to compare:' with a dropdown menu currently set to 'Retail Core'. A callout box points to this dropdown with the text: 'Select 'Town Centre' or 'Retail Core''.
 - Step three:** 'Please specify the type of location that you wish to search for places in (e.g. Regional), and then enter the first few letters of location in which you would like to search. Press the Find button to list matching locations.' It includes radio buttons for 'National' and 'Regional', a text input field with 'lond', and a 'Find' button. A callout box points to the 'Regional' option with the text: 'Search for the relevant region'.
- Right sidebar:** Includes 'Page actions' (SOCD - An overview), 'The University Of Sheffield', and a 'Get in touch' button.

The browser window title is 'State of the Cities - Compare Cities and Towns - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Steria Partnered with CLG'. The address bar shows 'http://www.socd.communities.gov.uk/socd/MultipleSelect.aspx'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, various application icons, and the system tray with the time '10:16 Monday'.

Option C: Compare towns (cont'd)



State of the Cities - Compare Cities and Towns - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Steria Partnered with CLG

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.socd.communities.gov.uk/socd/MultipleSelect.aspx>

London Region

Choose the region

Select the location in which you would like to search for places, and press the Get button to retrieve the set of places available within that location.

Get

Step four

Please select the places that you wish to include in your report and press the Add button to add them to the set of selected places in Step five.

Matching places:

- Angel Islington - Retail Core
- Camden High Street - Retail Core
- Shoreditch - Retail Core
- Edgware Road - Retail Core

Filter: Filter Clear

Add

Step five

The following places will be included in your report. To remove a place, select it and press the Remove button. When you are happy with your selected places, press the Go button.

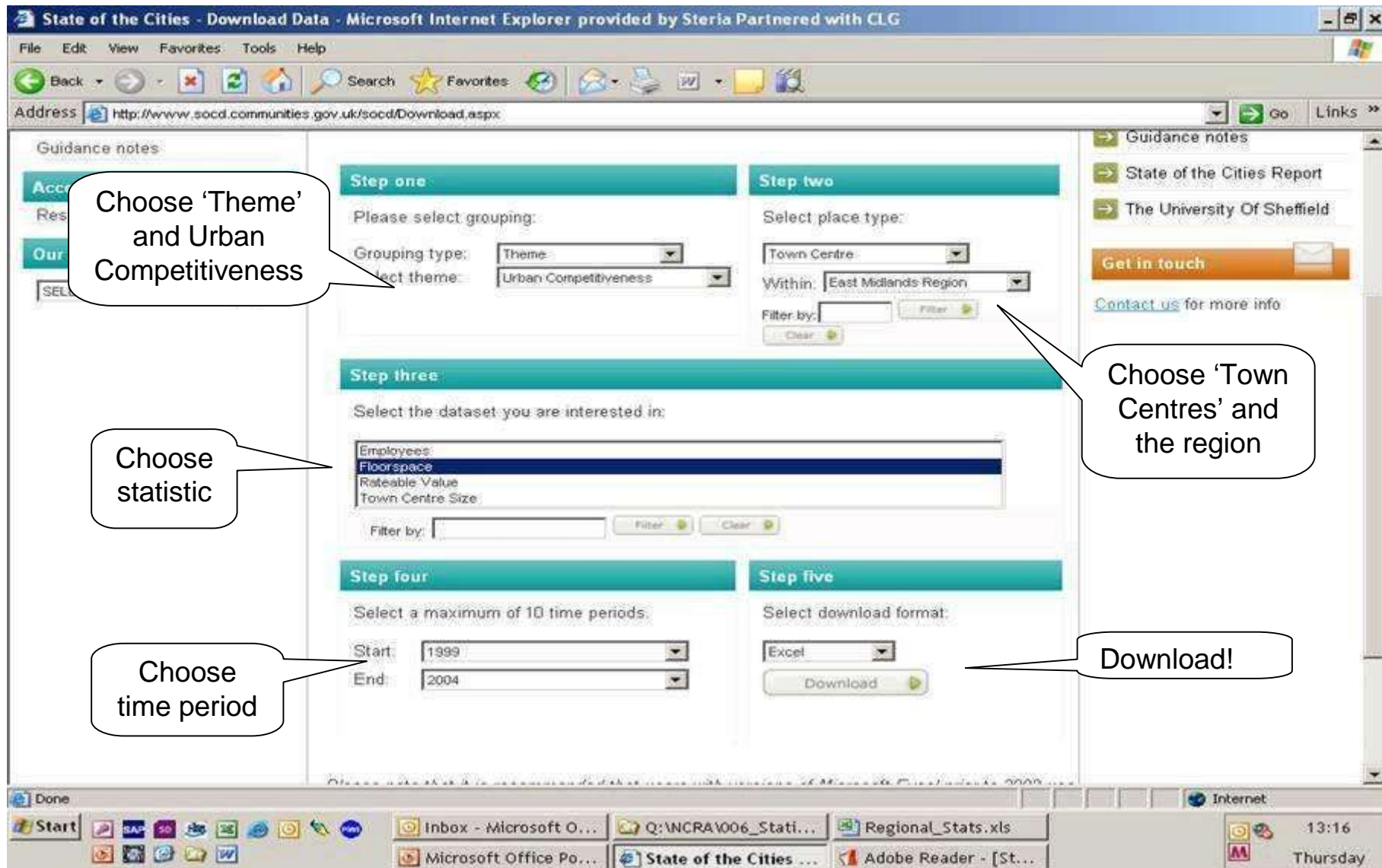
Your selected places:

- Holborn - Retail Core
- Liverpool Street and Bishopsgate - Retail Core

Remove Go

Highlight the places and go..

Start | Internet | 10:36 Monday



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "State of the Cities - Download Data" with the URL <http://www.socd.communities.gov.uk/socd/Download.aspx>. The interface is divided into five steps:

- Step one:** "Please select grouping:" with dropdowns for "Grouping type" (Theme) and "Select theme" (Urban Competitiveness). Callout: "Choose 'Theme' and Urban Competitiveness".
- Step two:** "Select place type:" with dropdowns for "Town Centre" and "Within" (East Midlands Region), and a "Filter by:" field. Callout: "Choose 'Town Centres' and the region".
- Step three:** "Select the dataset you are interested in:" with a list containing "Employees", "Floorspace", "Rateable Value", and "Town Centre Size". Callout: "Choose statistic".
- Step four:** "Select a maximum of 10 time periods:" with "Start" (1999) and "End" (2004) dropdowns. Callout: "Choose time period".
- Step five:** "Select download format:" with a dropdown set to "Excel" and a "Download" button. Callout: "Download!".

On the right side of the page, there is a "Guidance notes" section with links to "State of the Cities Report" and "The University Of Sheffield", and a "Get in touch" button with a "Contact us" link.