# Good Practice Tables Python package

This demonstration video outlines how to use the [Good Practice Tables](https://gptables.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html) (gptables) Python package to automate Excel reference data tables into an accessible format. The video is trying to replicate the [Labour market overview table,](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Labour-market-overview-accessibility-example-Nov21.ods) an example table which has been created in an accessible format using the [releasing statistics in spreadsheets guidance.](https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/releasing-statistics-in-spreadsheets/#section-13)

The video shows how to use and amend the [example code on the gptables guide](https://gptables.readthedocs.io/en/latest/usage.html) to create your table.

The video shows how the package can:

* create a cover page
* create a table of contents with hyperlinks to each table
* create a notes page and add notes into the table header
* include a descriptive title and subtitle
* mark up all tables and give the table a descriptive name
* apply [additional formatting](https://gptables.readthedocs.io/en/latest/doc.gptable.html?highlight=rich%20formatting#additional-formatting) to the table, such as bold text

## Current limitations of the package

It is important to note that this package is still in development. This means there are certain aspects of the accessibility guidance that cannot be implemented currently.

When formatting the data tables, the package will output the whole spreadsheet in a ‘General’ format rather than a ‘Number’ format. It cannot output different formats on the same spreadsheet. For example, a ‘General’ format for the titles and headings and then a ‘Number’ format for the table. This will need to be changed manually to ensure the data is formatted correctly.

In addition, the note numbers can only be placed in the column headings and titles above the table. Currently the package cannot place note numbers in specific cells in the table itself.

## Changes in the next update of gptables

There are some aspects of the guidance that will be implemented in the next update of the package. We do not have a date for this yet, but it should be in the next few months.

The updates will include the correct alignment of data in the tables in accordance with the guidance. All data within a table will be right aligned, as currently everything is left alighted in the spreadsheet.

It will also include automatic resizing of columns. Written content on the cover page, contents page and notes page will no longer be running across the spreadsheet. Currently this format makes the text difficult to read, especially if a user requires a high level of zoom.

Please note that if shorthand is used, such as for indicating the reason for a blank cell, it needs to be updated in the incoming CSV file before it is run through the package.

Please find further information on what the package can automate on the [accessibility checklist](https://gptables.readthedocs.io/en/latest/checklist.html).

If you have any questions or feedback about the demonstration, please email Analysis.Function@ons.gov.uk.