

census
2021

A summary of the Census 2021 estimated numbers for people and households in England and Wales



The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

We are the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and a recognised National Statistical Institute (NSI). We're trusted to collect and protect data. We report directly to the UK Parliament, but we do not work for any political parties. At the ONS, we plan and run the census in England and Wales.

What is the census?

The census happens every 10 years. It gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales on Census Day. Nothing else provides as much detail about us and the society we live in.

Information from the census helps public bodies decide how to plan and fund services in your area. This includes organisations like councils, charities, and businesses, as well as individuals and researchers. This means the information from the census can help to inform local and national decisions on education, housing, public transport, libraries, healthcare, equalities monitoring, funding bids and much more.

For 2021, Census Day was on Sunday 21 March 2021.

Census 2021 results

We will publish the results from Census 2021 in phases on the ONS website. In each phase, we will publish commentary or analysis alongside the data to support and explain them.

We have published the first population results for England and Wales from Census 2021. This document gives a summary of the estimated numbers of people and households in England and Wales and provides information about what has been released.

Census 2021 first results include five datasets containing population and household estimates for England and for Wales, rounded to the nearest 100, at local authority level. These are:

- usual resident population by sex
- usual resident population by 5-year age group
- usual resident population by sex and 5-year age group
- usual resident population density
- number of households

To explain the data, we have published two statistical bulletins, both in English and Welsh. One focuses on the rounded population and household estimates for England and Wales. The second focuses on the rounded population and household estimates for Wales. These bulletins provide information on:

- population size and change
- the age and sex of the population
- how densely areas were populated
- how many households there were in 2021

To support the data, we have also published a report on quality and methods, including the processes we have taken to quality assure the data. The supporting material also includes commentary on conducting Census 2021 during a period of change.

Census 2021 first population results of England and Wales

We have estimated the numbers using the information that people gave when they completed their questionnaire for Census 2021.

We have rounded all numbers to the nearest 100.

This includes the estimated number of men in England and Wales and the estimated number of women in England and Wales

It also includes the estimated numbers of people in England and Wales for five-year age groups. For example, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 24, and so on, right up to people who are 90 and older.

These are the main points that came from the information about the estimated numbers for people and households in England and Wales.

The population numbers for England and Wales on 21 March 2021

On Census Day, the size of the usual resident population in England and Wales was **59,597,300**.

The population of England was **56,489,800**.

The population of Wales was **3,107,500**.

This was the largest the population has ever been.

A growing population in England and Wales

On Census Day in 2021, the population of England and Wales had grown by more than **3.5 million** since 2011. This is an increase of **6.3%**.

In 2011, the population of England and Wales was 56,075,912.

The population grew in each of the nine regions of England.

The population also grew in Wales.

The highest population growth

The region with the highest population growth was the East of England which increased by **8.3%** from 2011.

It increased by approximately **488,000** people.

The numbers of men and women in England and Wales on 21 March 2021

There were **30,420,100** women in England and Wales, which is **51.0%** of the overall population.

There were **29,177,200** men in England and Wales, which is **49.0%** of the overall population.

This is similar to 2011, when 50.8% of the population were female and 49.2% were male.

The numbers of older people increased

There were more people than ever before in the older age groups.

The percentage of people in the population who were aged 65 years and over on Census Day was **18.6%**. In 2011 this was 16.4%.

The household numbers for England and Wales on 21 March 2021

There were **24,782,800** households in England and Wales on Census Day. This was an increase of more than **1.4 million (6.1%)** from 2011 when there were 23,366,044 households.

Where can I find the data?

We have published the data sets, statistical bulletins, reports and supporting information in the census hub on www.ons.gov.uk/census

Where can I get promotional materials and information in accessible formats?

If you need promotional materials to help raise awareness of the first release or information in accessible formats you can find this on www.census.gov.uk

What happens next

We plan to publish all other main Census 2021 data within two years of the census.

We will be releasing data about topics including:

- demography and migration
- ethnic group, national identity, language and religion
- health, disability and unpaid care
- housing
- labour market and travel to work
- sexual orientation and gender identity
- education
- UK armed forces veterans

You can find more information about our release plans on the ONS website at www.ons.gov.uk/census

Data security

You cannot be identified in the statistics we publish.

You can be confident that:

- we handle your information securely, in line with UK government standards
- when we publish census statistics, they're completely anonymous and you cannot be identified
- your information cannot and will not be used by the government to impact benefit claims, a residency application, immigration status or taxes
- census records are kept secure for 100 years