

census
2021

Census 2021 results: Topic summaries explained

Census 2021

At the Office for National Statistics, we plan and run the census in England and Wales.

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.

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

Census 2021 first results

On Tuesday 28 June 2022, we published the first results from Census 2021 on the population and housing in England and Wales.

These data are available on the ONS website. You can find more information at www.ons.gov.uk/census

You can view our other British Sign Language (BSL) videos including "A summary of the Census 2021 estimated numbers for people and households in England and Wales" online at www.census.gov.uk/getting-support/accessible-formats

Autumn to winter 2022/23: topic summaries

A topic summary is a set of data and supporting commentary grouped by a similar theme. Throughout autumn and winter 2022/23, we will publish a variety of topic summaries.

The topics of the data that we release will include:

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

What will the topic summary releases include?

Datasets

These are tables of Census 2021 data which are relevant to the topic, such as demography and migration, or housing. Most of the datasets for each topic will contain data about just one variable. A variable is a particular characteristic of a person or household. For example, religion or accommodation type.

Statistical bulletins

These are documents to support the datasets, including statistical data, text, charts and tables, which give you the main findings and interesting information.

Statistical supporting information

We will release documents providing additional context to the data. For example, by outlining definitions of key terms, quality measures and statistical methods.

Interactive content

We are creating innovative content that will allow you to interact with the census data in new and exciting ways. This includes:

- maps you can adapt to see geographic patterns and help you explore your area
- a customisable tool which will allow you to define your own area to explore and visualise the data you want
- reports that will highlight the most interesting changes in each local authority area
- a quiz to help you learn more about where you live

We will release and update this content as more data are published.

Area profiles

Area profiles allow you to view statistics from across different topics for a particular area. We will begin to make these available after the first topic summary release.

Future release plans

We will publish a detailed programme of analysis across a wide range of topics. The aim of the Census 2021 analysis programme will be to help you understand the data and inform decisions on future policies and services.

We're also planning further releases of Census 2021 data throughout 2023. Future releases will include detailed data and updates to tools and products. These will allow you to explore relationships between the data in different ways.

Where to find Census 2021 results

Census 2021 first results, including rounded population and household estimates for England and Wales, are available on the ONS website.

www.ons.gov.uk/census

Information about the data and analysis about different topics, including the variables and classifications we plan to include in them are available on the ONS website, topic summaries page.

The census page on the ONS website includes supporting information about census activities and outputs. www.ons.gov.uk/census

Help and support

To help you get information about the Census 2021 results, we've produced some information in accessible formats, including British Sign Language (BSL) videos available online at www.census.gov.uk.

We will update these formats with future release information. We also plan to produce further BSL videos, to help share the topic summaries data and products.