

Bristol Census 2021 Dashboard

Headline results

Population

Population 472,500
10.3% more people than 2011
Fastest growing Core City in England and Wales

Ethnicity

More than 287 ethnic groups
Somalis are the largest ethnic minority group in Bristol with a population of almost 9,200 people

Countries of birth

More than 185 countries of birth
18.8% born outside of UK (16.8% E&W)

Religion

More than 45 religions
51% no religion (37.2% E&W)

Main languages

More than 90 languages spoken
7,000 Polish speakers

Sexual orientation LGB+

23,650 people identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or other
6.1% of people aged 16 and over (3.2% E&W)

Gender identity Trans

3,220 people aged 16 and over
0.8% of people aged 16 and over (0.5% E&W)

Qualifications

42.1% of people have a degree or higher, highest level of Core City in England and Wales (33.8% in E&W)

Health issue or disability

17.2% of people have a long-term health issue or disability (17.5% E&W)

No car

26.2% households have no car (23.3% E&W)

Veterans

9,491 veterans
2.4% of population aged 16 and over (3.8% E&W)

Information and Tools

Population of Bristol on Census Day, 21 March 2021 was 472,500

What is the census?

The census is undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Census 2021 Dashboard

This Census 2021 Dashboard presents a summary of Census 2021 results for Bristol with topics being added as the census data is released by ONS. Just click on a theme and then select the topic you are interested in.

More detailed statistics for small geographies are presented in the [Bristol Census Data Profiles](#) dashboard which includes:

- Area Profiles - all census indicators for a selected geographic area
- Topic Profiles - an individual indicator mapped across the city

ONS National tools

ONS have created several interactive tools including:

- [Census maps](#) - an interactive tool to explore Census 2021 topic summary data down to a neighbourhood level
- [Change over time](#) - see how Bristol has changed since the 2011 Census
- [Custom Profiles](#) - build a custom area profile for Bristol using Census 2021 data
- [Area Profiles](#) - view Census 2021 data tables for Bristol (on Nomis)

Publication of census results

ONS aim to release all the main results within two years of the census which took place on the 21st March 2021. The breadth and depth of census statistics means that ONS will release the more detailed data in stages.

Topic Summaries were released in the first phase of publication and analysis of all the topics is presented on this dashboard.

More detailed census outputs will be published during 2023. For the latest information on publication plans go to the [ONS Census 2021 outputs release plans](#).

Population

Population of Bristol on Census Day, 21 March 2021 was 472,500

Population change

The population of Bristol increased by just over 44,200 (10.3%) compared with Census Day 2011, when there were 428,234 people living in Bristol. England and

Wales saw a population increase of 6.3%. Bristol was the fastest growing of all the Core Cities in England and Wales over the last decade.

There were almost 62,000 live births and 34,000 deaths registered in Bristol between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census. This represents a natural increase of approximately 28,000 usual residents (63% of the total population increase). The remainder of the population growth (approximately 16,000 usual residents, 37% of total population increase) was because of positive net migration into the Bristol local authority area both from other parts of the UK or from outside of the UK.

Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase of 5.6% in children aged under 15 years, an increase of 11.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years and an increase of 8% in people aged 65 years and over.

All age groups increased except for 0-4 year olds, reflecting a decade of falling birth rates, and people aged 80 and over.

Age and sex

The usual resident population of Bristol Local Authority was 472,500 on Census Day, 21 March 2021.

A usual resident is anyone who on Census Day was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. Students are counted at their term time address.

In 2021, Bristol ranked 11th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, maintaining the same position it held a decade ago.

Bristol has a relatively young age profile with more children aged 0-15 than people aged 65 and over. The median age of people living in Bristol is 32.4 years old, this compares to the England and Wales median of 40.3 years.

Overall, there were 234,500 men (49.6% of the overall population) and 237,900 women (50.4%) living in Bristol in 2021. This is similar to 2011, when 49.8% of the population were male and 50.2% were female.

Census 2021 statistics are also available on gender identity – go to the Identity section of the dashboard.

Migration

Migration

In order to measure the level of transience in the population, the census asks a question about a persons' address one year before the census. In Bristol, 82.4% of the total population had the same address one year before the census and 17.6% had a different address. This is a higher level of transience than the England and Wales average where 11% of people had a different address.

Of those Bristol residents with a different address one year before the census, 79% moved within the UK, 8% moved from an address outside the UK and 13% had a student term-time address elsewhere in UK.

International migration

Out of the 472,500 usual residents in Bristol in 2021, 81.2% were born in the UK and 18.8% were born outside the UK. In England and Wales as a whole 16.8% of the total population were born outside the UK.

Of the people living in Bristol not born in the UK, almost half (49%) have been resident in the UK for less than 10 years, a higher proportion than the England and Wales average of 42%. In the last decade 2011-21, almost 44,000 people who arrived in the UK now live in Bristol. Of Bristol people not born in the UK, two thirds (65%) arrived in the UK when they were aged 18-44 years and 26% arrived as children, similar to the England and Wales average.

Legal Partnership Status

Of all people aged 16 and over living in Bristol just over half (52.8%) have never been married or registered a civil partnership, whilst a further third (33.8%) are married or in a registered civil partnership.

This is different to the picture in England and Wales where a greater proportion of people are married or in a registered civil partnership 44.6% than people who have never been married or never registered a civil partnership. 37.9%. The remaining 13.4% of people are either separated, divorced or widowed (E&W 17.5%).

In total, 1,280 people aged 16 and over in Bristol are or have been in a registered civil partnership (opposite sex and same sex), this includes 612 people currently in a same-sex civil partnership and 442 people in an opposite-sex civil partnership. 1,173 people were in a same-sex marriage.

Changes since 2011

Following national trends, since 2011 the proportion of people who are single has increased slightly whilst the proportions married or in a registered civil partnership have fallen slightly.

Living arrangements

Just over half of people (51.5%) aged 16 and over in Bristol live in a couple. Overall, this is a lower proportion than the England and Wales average of 57.8%. However, the proportion of cohabiting couples at 18% is higher than the national average at 14.1%.

Of people not living in a couple, three quarters are single (never married and never registered a same-sex civil partnership); this is 36.1% of all people aged 16 and over and much higher than the national average of 26.7%.

In Bristol, 5,023 people live in a same-sex couple – 1,447 are married or in a civil partnership and 3,576 are co-habiting. Same-sex couples (living in a couple) make up 1.4% of all people aged 16 and over, a higher proportion than the England and Wales average at 1.0%.

Change since 2011

In Bristol the largest increase was seen in the number of cohabiting couples which increased by 36.9% between 2011 and 2021, a higher growth than the England and

Wales increase of 26.1%. Single people not living in a couple increased by 14.7% (E&W 10.5%).

Of people not living in a couple, single people increased by 14.7% (E&W 10.5%), whilst all other categories decreased between 2011 and 2021.

Same sex couples are more difficult to compare as new categories are included in 2021 to reflect that people can now marry someone of the same-sex and people of the opposite-sex can be in a civil partnership.

Legal partnership status shows that there were 1,126 people in a same-sex civil partnership in Bristol in 2011. In 2021 there were 612 people in a same-sex civil partnership, plus 1,173 people in a same-sex marriage.

Core Cities

Bristol is the 6th largest of the Core Cities in England and Wales. Over the last decade Bristol was the fastest growing Core City in England and Wales with a population increase of 10.3%.

Bristol had a higher % increase in population than both the London Region 7.7% and England and Wales as a whole 6.3%.

West of England

Bristol is the largest local authority in the West of England sub-region.

Over the last decade Bristol had the largest increase in population with an additional 44,200 usual residents.

Identity

Ethnic group

Trend

The population of Bristol is increasingly diverse. In 1991 the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population accounted for 5.1% of the total population, in 2001 this increased to 8.2%, in 2011 to 16.0% and in 2021 to 18.9%.

In Bristol the largest minority ethnic groups in 2021 were Somali 9,167 (1.9%), Pakistani 9,103 (1.9%) and Indian 8,371 (1.8%).

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

In 2021 the % Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community was highest in Newham at 69.2%. Outside of London, there were three local authorities where the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community was more than 50% of the total population. These have been identified as 'Minority Majority' locations and include Leicester 59.1%, Luton 54.8% and Birmingham 51.4%.

Ethnicity is multi-dimensional and subjective, with various ways in which a person may choose to define their ethnic group. This may include common ancestry, elements of culture, identity, religion, language and physical appearance. It is generally accepted that ethnic group does include all these aspects, and others, in combination.

Ethnic group

In 2021, 81.1% of usual residents in Bristol identified their ethnic group within the high-level 'White' category, a decrease from 84.0% in the 2011 Census. In England and Wales, the 'White' population decreased from 86.0% in 2011 to 81.7% in 2021.

Within the 'White' ethnic group in Bristol, 71.6% identified as 'English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British'. This was a decrease from 77.9% in 2011, and a continued decrease from 2001, when 88.0% identified as 'White: British' (E&W 87.5% in 2001, 80.5% in 2011 and 74.4% in 2021).

In 2021, there was a new response option for 'Roma' within the high-level 'White' ethnic group. In Bristol, 966 people (0.2%) identified this way, the same percentage as in England and Wales.

Looking at population size, 17 out of the 19 ethnic groups in Bristol increased in size except the 'White: Gypsy and Irish Traveller' group (down from 359 in 2011 to 273 in 2021) and the 'Black: Other' group (down from 6,922 in 2011 to 2,938 in 2021). The decrease in the 'Black: Other' population is mirrored by an increase in the 'Black: African' population where in the Census 2021 people were given the option to identify their specific African identity.

Across the 19 ethnic groups in Bristol, the largest percentage point increase was seen in the number of people identifying through the 'White: Other White' group – 8.3% in 2021 (E&W 6.2%), up from 5.1% (E&W 4.4%) in 2011.

The next highest percentage point increase was in the 'Black: African' group which increased from 2.8% (12,085) in 2011 to 3.8% (18,149) in 2021 and the 'Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group' which increased from 0.6% (2,543) in 2011 to 1.4% (6,510) in 2021.

These were three of the six available response options that allowed people to specify their ethnic group through writing it in. In part, the increases seen to these ethnic groups may be explained by the new Search-as-you-type functionality for Census 2021, making it easier for people to self-define when completing the census online.

Ethnic group detailed categories

In Bristol the largest minority ethnic groups in 2021 were Somali 9,167 (1.9%), Pakistani 9,103 (1.9%) and Indian 8,371 (1.8%).

The write-in functionality has enabled ONS to produce a detailed ethnic group classification providing insight for 287 ethnic groups.

Ethnic groups within the 'White Other' ethnic group

In Bristol, the largest ethnic groups specified within 'White: Other' group included Polish with 6,996 people (1.5% of the overall population) identifying this way, Romanian 2,354 (0.5%), Spanish 2,115 (0.4%) and Italian 1,873 (0.4%). A notably large group included 8,026 people (1.7%) classified as 'European Mixed'.

Ethnic groups within the 'Black African' ethnic group

The new write-in response option for 'Black, Black British Caribbean or African: African' has allowed insights into specific African backgrounds. In Bristol by far the largest ethnic groups specified within this write-in included Somali 6,660 (1.4%) and Somalilander 1,759 (0.4%). An additional 268 people also identified as Somali under 'Black or Black British or Caribbean background' and Somali (396) and Somalilander (84) under 'Other ethnic group'. If all people who identified as Somali or Somalilander are aggregated, then this is a population of 9,167 people (1.9%) and makes the Somali population the largest minority ethnic group in Bristol in 2021. The other large 'Black African' identity was Nigerian with 1,229 people (0.3%).

Ethnic groups within the 'Other ethnic group'

Following the national trend, the number of people in Bristol choosing to specify their ethnic group through the 'Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group' write-in response option (6,510, 1.4%) almost tripled since 2011 (2,543, 0.6%). The largest ethnic groups within the 'Any other ethnic group' write-in response option included Kurdish 728, Hispanic or Latin American 572 and Iranian 407.

List of ethnicities

Ethnic group is multi-dimensional and complex, as such identities highlighted here may appear multiple times in the detailed classification based on what people chose to tick on the census questionnaire.

Based on the how people responded to the ethnic group question, it is possible to list all 287+ ethnic groups people provided, including where people specified a specific ethnic group by writing in the box on the questionnaire.

Using the list here, it is possible to see the total population for a particular group, based on the question response.

Using the Somali population as an example:

Scroll down the list of detailed ethnic groups and you will see the number of people who identified as 'Somali' or 'Somalilander', together with the broad ethnic group they chose. The total Somali population can be calculated by adding the 5 individual detailed ethnicities together.

Religion

Religion

The religion question was voluntary - in Bristol 93% of usual residents answered the question in 2021.

For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the country's population (46.2%) described themselves as "Christian", a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% in 2011.

In Bristol there are more than 45 religions represented, although 51% of people state they have no religion. This is the third highest proportion of people with no religion of all local authorities in England, with only Brighton and Hove and Norwich having a higher proportion. In England and Wales 37.2% of people have no religion.

The second largest group were Christian, with a third (32.2%) of people living in Bristol stating they were Christian. This is a lower proportion of the population than in England and Wales as a whole, where 46.2% are Christian.

Muslims are the third largest religion group in Bristol and include 31,776 people - this is 6.7% of the population and similar to the England and Wales average of 6.5%.

The remaining 2.8% of the population identify with other religions, including Hindu (3,545 people), Buddhist (2,710 people), Sikh (2,247 people) and Jewish (1,228 people). A total of 3,546 people identified with other religions, accounting for 0.8% of the total population..

Change since 2011

The 2021 data show that the largest changes since 2011 were for those describing their religion as “Christian” and those reporting “No religion”.

In Bristol, the number of people who described themselves as Christian saw a 14.6 percentage point decrease from 46.8% in 2011. This continues the decrease since 2001, when 62.1% of people in Bristol described themselves as Christian.

This coincided with an increase in the number of people reporting No religion to 51.4% in 2021 from 37.4% in 2011. Again, this continues the trend between 2001 and 2011, when the number of people reporting No religion had risen from 24.5%.

Between 2011 and 2021 in Bristol, the other notable increase was in the number of people who described themselves as Muslim from 5.1% in 2011 to 6.7% in 2021. A similar change to that seen nationally.

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing religious composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to answer the religion question between censuses.

Country of birth

UK and non-UK born

Since 1851, the census has been collecting information on where people are born.

Out of the 472,500 usual residents in Bristol in 2021, 81.2% were born in the UK and 18.8% were born outside the UK. This means that almost one in five people in Bristol were born outside the UK, a higher proportion than the England and Wales average where 16.8% of the population were born outside the UK.

The non-UK born population in Bristol has increased from 5.6% in 1981 to 18.8% in 2021, with the largest increases taking place over the last two decades.

Country of birth

In 2021 people born in the European Union (EU) made up 41.9% (37,251) of the non-UK born Bristol population, the remaining 58.1% (51,717) were born outside the EU. This continues a longer-term trend of an increasing proportion of non-UK born residents being from within the EU.

People born in Europe: the majority 18,316 were born in the original EU14 member states (Western Europe), followed by 13,152 born in EU8 Accession countries

(Eastern Europe), 5,055 born in EU2 countries (Romania and Bulgaria), 728 born in other EU countries and 3,294 people born in European countries that are outside of the EU.

People born in Africa: by far the largest number were born in Somalia (4,654). This number includes only a proportion of the total Somali population living in Bristol, as many Somalis were born in the UK or other European countries.

People born in Asia: the highest numbers were born in India (4,381), Pakistan (3,586) and China (2,638). For the Americas and Caribbean region, the largest populations were born in Jamaica (2,594), South America (2,468) and the United States (2,422).

Change since 2011

Of the total increase in population in Bristol over the last decade, 42% can be attributed to people born in the UK and a third (33%) to people born in the EU.

The Census 2021 data show that there were increases between 2011 and 2021 for most individual countries, when looking at those with the largest populations in Bristol. Exceptions to this include the number of people born in Somalia (down 293), Jamaica (down 685), Ireland (down 470) and Germany (down 90).

In Bristol, the 3 most common non-UK countries of birth in 2021 were the same as in 2011:

- Poland, which increased by 37% from 6,415 in 2011 to 8,770 in 2021
- Somalia, which fell by 6% from 4,947 in 2011 to 4,654 in 2021
- India, which increased by 15% from 3,809 in 2011 to 4,381 in 2021

Italy, Spain and Romania all entered the top 10 non-UK countries of birth in Bristol. Those who listed Romania as their country of birth increased from 587 in 2011 to 3,782 in 2021, an increase over the decade of 3,195 (544%). This increase is driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014. France, Germany and South Africa fell out of the top 10 countries of birth.

Language

Main language

English as a main language

In Bristol, 89.9% of usual residents aged three years and over had English as a main language (E&W 91.1%) down from 91.5% in 2011 (E&W 92.3% in 2011).

Main languages, other than English

Polish remained the most common main language both in Bristol and nationally, accounting for 1.5% of usual residents (E&W 1.1%).

The most common main languages in Bristol, other than English include: Polish 7,017, Spanish 3,858, Somali 3,152, Romanian 3,063, Arabic 2,330 and Italian 2,180. All other languages have less than 2,000 people.

In Bristol and nationally, the largest increase were people who specified Romanian as a main language, with 3,063 speakers in 2021 (ranked 4th), up from 503 in 2011 (ranked 18th). Portuguese also moved into the top ten languages in Bristol in 2021

(ranked 8th). Both Panjabi (ranked 12th) and Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya) (ranked 15th) fell out of the top ten ranked languages in Bristol in 2021.

British Sign Language

In addition to spoken languages, British Sign Language (BSL) was the main language of 181 (0.04%) of people in Bristol (E&W 0.04%). This is an increase from 153 people in 2011.

Proficiency in English

People who did not report English as a main language were asked to report how well they could speak English.

The proportion of people in Bristol proficient in English - so they spoke English either well or very well but did not speak it as their main language – was 8.6% of the total population, higher than the England and Wales average 7.1%. The proportion not proficient in English - so they cannot speak English at all or not well – was 1.6%, lower than the England and Wales average 1.8%.

Of those 46,237 people in Bristol, almost half (49.2%, 22,748) could speak English very well, 35.3% (16,342) could speak English well, 13.4% (6,195) could not speak English well, and just 2.1% (952) could not speak English at all.

For households that did not have English as a main language, assistance in completing the census questionnaire was provided through interpretation services, and translation leaflets were made available in over 50 languages.

Sexual orientation

Sexual orientation overview

Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. For an individual respondent, these may not be the same. For example, someone in an opposite-sex relationship may also experience same-sex attraction, and vice versa. This means the statistics should be interpreted purely as showing how people responded to the question, rather than being about whom they are attracted to or their actual relationships.

The question on sexual orientation was new for Census 2021. The question was voluntary and only asked of those aged 16 years and over. People were asked “Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?” The different sexual orientations that people could choose from included: straight or heterosexual; gay or lesbian; bisexual; or other sexual orientation. If they selected “Other sexual orientation”, they were asked to write in the sexual orientation with which they identified.

A total of 23,649 people in Bristol identified with an LGB+ orientation, representing 6.1% of the population aged 16 years and over. This is a much higher proportion of the population than the England and Wales average of 3.2%.

The local authority with the largest LGB+ population as a proportion of all people aged 16 years and over was Brighton and Hove (10.7%) - Bristol was ranked 15th (6.1%). Based on the overall size of the LGB+ population, Bristol was ranked 5th nationally after Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Brighton and Hove.

LGB+ detailed groups

In Bristol:

- 333,008 people, 85.5% of the population aged 16 years and over, identified as straight or heterosexual (E&W 89.4%)
- 8,568 (2.2%) described themselves as gay or lesbian (E&W 1.5%)
Bristol ranked 10th out of 331 LAs based on the number of gay or lesbian people
- 12,020 (3.1%) described themselves as bisexual (E&W 1.3%)
Bristol ranked 2nd based on the number of bisexual people (Leeds 1st)
- 3,061 (0.8%) selected "Other sexual orientation" (E&W 0.3%)

Of those who selected "Other sexual orientation", the most common write-in responses included:

- Pansexual 1,075 people, 0.28% (E&W 0.10%)
Bristol has the largest pansexual population (based on numbers) of all local authorities in England and Wales
- Asexual 435 people, 0.11% (E&W 0.06%)
Bristol ranked 4th based on number of asexual people
- Queer 496 people, 0.13% (E&W 0.03%)
Bristol ranked 2nd based on number of queer people (Brighton and Hove 1st)

Another 1,055 people (0.27%) wrote in a different sexual orientation.

The remaining 8.5% of people aged 16 years and over did not answer the question.

Gender identity

Caveat - Reliability of Census 2021 estimates

The Census 2021 estimates are considered broadly in line with other data on gender identity however there are some patterns in the data that suggest some respondents did not interpret the question as intended. Given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, ONS cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.

Gender identity overview

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

The question on gender identity was new for Census 2021. It was added to provide the first official data on the size of the transgender population in England and Wales. The question was voluntary and was only asked of people aged 16 years and over. People were asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" and had the option of selecting either "Yes", or selecting "No" and writing in their gender identity.

A total of 3,220 people in Bristol indicated that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth, representing 0.83% of the population aged 16 years and over. This is a higher proportion of the population than the England and Wales average of 0.54%.

Of the 10 local authorities with the largest proportion of the population aged 16 years and over whose gender identity was different from their sex at birth, 8 were in London. The two non-London local authorities in the top 10 were Oxford (1.25%), which was 3rd, and Norwich (1.07%), which was 9th. Based on the overall size of the Trans population, Bristol was ranked 7th nationally.

Trans identities

In Bristol:

- 1,145 (0.29%) said that their gender identity was different from sex registered at birth but did not provide a write-in response (E&W 0.24%)
- 794 (0.20%) identified as non-binary (E&W 0.06%)
- 466 (0.12%) identified as a trans woman (E&W 0.10%)
- 440 (0.11%) identified as a trans man (E&W 0.10%)
- 375 (0.10%) wrote in a different gender identity (E&W 0.04%)

The remaining 6.7% did not answer the question on gender identity (E&W 6.0%).

In terms of specific gender identities by population size, Bristol had the second largest non-binary population out of 331 local authorities in England and Wales with 794 people; Brighton had the largest with 835 people identifying as non-binary. Bristol also had the second largest number of people identifying as any other gender identity with 375 people; Leeds had the largest with 395 people identifying as any other gender identity.

Health

General Health

Respondents were asked to assess their general health on a five-point scale: from "Very good" to "Very bad". Census 2021 was conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceive and rate their health and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

In 2021, 50.8% of Bristol residents described their health as "very good". The proportion of people in very good health increased by 2.0 percentage points from 48.8% in 2011. This increase was greater than in England and Wales as a whole which increased by 1.2 percentage points.

Those describing their health as "good" fell from 33.5% to 32.7%. The proportion of Bristol residents describing their health as "very bad" was 1.1%, slightly lower than 1.3% in 2011, while those describing their health as "bad" fell from 4.2% to 3.8%.

The proportion of people reporting very good health increased in almost every local authority in England and Wales.

Note 3 May 2023 - Data in this section has been revised to show crude rates rather than age standardised rates

Long-term physical or mental health issues

Long-term physical or mental health issues

Census 2021 collects data on whether people have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses and the extent to which they affect day-to-day activities. This can provide data on numbers of people that would be considered Disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010, but not on people that consider themselves to be Disabled (see 'Disability benchmarking' section).

In 2021, there was just over 81,000 people living in Bristol with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities were limited. Overall, 17.2% of the total population had long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses which limited their day-to-day activities (England and Wales 17.5%).

The extent to which day-to-day activities were limited include:

- Day-to-day activities limited a lot - 32,444 (6.9%)
- Day-to-day activities limited a little - 48,715 (10.3%)

A further 33,272 (7%) of the population had a long term physical or mental health condition but their day-to-day activities were not limited.

When using any health and disability data, it is helpful to look at the statistics broken down by age, as this will exclude many of the limitations due to old age. In Bristol the proportion of the population that had long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses which limited their day-to-day activities broken down by age includes:

- 6.1% of all children aged under 16
- 16.0% of the working age population
- 38.5% of older people aged 65 and over

Households and long-term physical or mental health issues

In Bristol, a third of all households included at least one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited:

- 67.8% of households had no people with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (E&W 67.6%)
- 25.5% (48,960) of households include one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (E&W 25.6%)
- 6.7% (12,771) of households include two or more people with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (E&W 6.7%)

Wards where more than 40% of households have at least one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited include: 46% of households in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward, 43% of

households in Filwood ward and 41% of households in Southmead ward. The neighbourhood (LSOA21) with the highest proportion is 'Inns Court', where more than half (52%) of all households include at least one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited.

Census question

Census 2021 asked the following two-part question:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? If yes: Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

The 2021 Census question on health issues and disability is different to the question asked in earlier Census in order for the results to align more closely with the Equality Act (2010). The potential influence of question changes should be considered when drawing comparisons between Census 2021 and earlier years, particularly for older age groups. Potential impacts may include:

- the visible prompt "include problems related to old age" was removed in the 2021 questionnaire, which may have reduced the percentage of older people who considered that they had a condition or illness
- reference to mental health conditions or illnesses was included in 2021, which may have contributed to the increase in disability seen in younger age groups
- Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which may have influenced how people perceived their conditions or illnesses

Disability benchmarking

There are two ways to consider Disability in terms of the data available. One is whether someone considers themselves to be a Disabled person, and the other is whether someone has physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life such that they would be considered Disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010.

The first option, based on a persons' self-identified disability, is used in most consultations, surveys and equalities forms via the BCC equalities monitoring question: "Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?", and this option is also closer to the Social Model of Disability.

The Census 2021 uses the fuller definition which includes all people with a health issue or disability that impacts their day-to-day activities to some extent, either a little or a lot.

When benchmarking disability results against the Bristol population, it is important that the same definition is used as in the question asked. For a more detailed guidance on equalities statistics benchmarking please see our [Equalities Statistics guide](#).

Note: ONS have also published Age Standardised Percentages (ASPs) for all local authorities. Age-standardised percentages account for differences in age structures in the population and are more appropriate than crude percentages when drawing comparisons between sexes, over time and across geographical areas. For further information on age standardisation, see the [ONS Blog](#).

The Bristol Age Standardised Proportion of Disabled People under the Equality Act is 19.4%, compared to the Age Standardised Proportion of 17.8% for England and Wales as a whole.

Carers

Unpaid Care

Census 2021 asked "Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?". People were asked to exclude anything they did as part of their paid employment. The wording of the question differs from the 2011 Census question, which began "Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others".

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and managed their provision of unpaid care, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

In 2021 there were almost 34,000 people providing unpaid care in Bristol. This accounts for 7.6% of all people aged 5 years and over, a slightly lower proportion than the England and Wales average of 8.9%.

Note 3 May 2023 - Data in this section has been revised to show crude rates rather than age standardised rates

Hours of unpaid care

The proportion of people providing unpaid care fell from 9.4% in 2011 to 7.6% in 2021 (E&W 10.3% in 2011 to 8.9% in 2021). The decrease was driven by the substantial fall in the proportion of people who provided 19 hours or less of unpaid care in a typical week (6.0% in 2011, compared with 4.0% in 2021).

The proportion of people providing between 20 and 49 hours of unpaid care each week increased slightly to 1.5% (1.2% in 2011) and the proportion providing at least 50 hours of weekly unpaid care remained unchanged at 2.1%.

Note 3 May 2023 - Data in this section has been revised to show crude rates rather than age standardised rates

Work and Education

Economic Activity

Economic Activity status

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topics. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

The economically active population includes people who were put on furlough at the time of Census 2021, who were considered to be temporarily away from work.

In Bristol, 252,652 (64.8%) people aged 16 years and over were economically active (E&W 60.6%), while 137,056 (35.2%) were economically inactive (E&W 39.4%).

Economically active

In employment

In Bristol, 238,510 people aged 16 years and over were recorded as in employment in the week before Census 2021. This was 61.2% of all usual residents aged 16 years and over (E&W 57.2%).

More than half of people (51.6%) were employees and 9.6% were self-employed (with and without employees) (E&W 47.6% and 9.6% respectively).

The number of people in employment in Bristol included 10,906 economically active full-time students.

Unemployed

At the time of Census 2021, there were 14,142 (3.6%) people who were unemployed (E&W 3.4%). This included people who were looking for work and could start within two weeks or waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted.

The number of people unemployed in Bristol included 4,346 economically active full-time students.

Economically inactive

People aged 16 years and over were economically inactive if, in the week before Census 2021, they were not in employment, and they were either not looking for work or looking for work but were not able to start work in the next two weeks.

In Bristol, 35.2% of people aged 16 years and over were economically inactive, lower than the England and Wales average of 39.4%.

The reason why people in Bristol were economically inactive was recorded as being one of the following:

- Retired 56,502 (Bristol 14.5%; E&W 21.6%)
- Studying 38,164 (Bristol 9.8%; E&W 5.6%)
- Looking after home or family 15,014 (Bristol 3.9%; E&W 4.8%)
- Long-term sick or disabled 16,350 (Bristol 4.2%; E&W 4.2%)
- Another reason 11,026 (Bristol 2.8%; E&W 3.1%)

Of all people aged 16 years and over who were economically inactive, the largest proportion (14.5%) were inactive because of retirement, lower than the England and Wales average of 21.6%. A further 9.8% were inactive students, higher than the England and Wales average of 5.6%. These differing proportions reflect the younger age profile of the Bristol population compared to the national population profile.

Because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, in some areas the estimated number of people who were economically inactive might be higher than anticipated. It is possible that some people on furlough may have identified as economically inactive, instead of temporarily away from work.

Hours worked

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topics. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

All usual residents aged 16 years and over who were in employment - 238,510 people in Bristol - were asked how many hours a week they usually worked, including paid and unpaid overtime.

Furlough, and businesses being open for reduced hours in England and Wales because of the coronavirus pandemic, may have led to people reporting more, or fewer, hours worked than pre-coronavirus.

In Bristol, 70.2% of people aged 16 years and over in employment worked full time, 31 hours or more a week, the same proportion as nationally. Of the people who worked full time, 61.7% worked 31 to 48 hours per week (E&W 59.1%) and 8.6% worked 49 hours or more a week (E&W 11.0%).

In Bristol, 29.8% of people in employment were working part time, up to 30 hours a week, the same proportion as nationally. Of those who worked part time, 10.4% worked 15 hours or less a week (E&W 10.3%) and 19.4% worked 16 to 30 hours a week (E&W 19.5%).

Change since 2011

Since 2011 more people are working part time (up 0.7% percentage points from 29.1% to 29.8%, and full time up to 48 hours a week (up 1.6% percentage points from 60.1% to 61.7%). Fewer people are working 49 hours or more (down 2.2% percentage points from 10.8% to 8.6%).

Travel to Work

Working mainly at or from home

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the travel to work topic. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

Large numbers of people were being supported by government furlough schemes and it is not clear how question guidance provided was followed. Some people may have provided employment and travel information for the last time they worked, or answered based on their behaviours on Census Day. Since then, for some, working from home or hybrid working has continued while others have returned to their place of work full time. People will have changed jobs, got new jobs, while others will have retired.

In Bristol, 238,500 people aged 16 and over were in employment during the week leading up to Census Day, 21 March 2021. In Bristol, just over 92,000 (38.6%) people reported working mainly at or from home, higher than the England and Wales average of 31.2% and the highest proportion of the Core Cities in England and Wales.

The data for Bristol shows there was an increase in home working from 4.6% in 2011 to 38.6% in 2021 (E&W 5.4% in 2011; 31.2% in 2021) but, of course, the government advised people to stay at home and only attend work if you had no alternative at that time.

Method of travel to work

On the Census 2021 form, people who were in employment or temporarily away from work in the week before Census Day were asked "How do you usually travel to work?". People were asked to select one mode of transport that they used for the longest part, by distance, of their usual journey to work. It is likely that restrictions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic contributed to changes in the way people travelled to work, including fewer people using public transport.

In Bristol, a total of 146,500 people (61.4%) aged 16 years and over in employment gave a method other than 'at or from home'. The most selected mode of travel to work both nationally and in Bristol was driving a car or a van.

In Bristol:

- 78,915 people travelled to work by driving a car or van (Bristol 33.1% E&W 45.1%) - the lowest percentage of all Core Cities in England and Wales
- 26,730 walked to work (Bristol 11.2% E&W 7.6%) - the highest percentage of all Core Cities in England and Wales
- 16,382 people travelled by public transport (Bristol 6.9% E&W 7.9%)
- 12,466 travelled by bicycle (Bristol 5.2% E&W 2.0%) - the highest percentage of all Core Cities and the 13th highest out of all 331 local authorities in England and Wales
- 7,329 travelled as passengers in a car or van (Bristol 3.1% E&W 3.9%) - the lowest percentage of all Core Cities in England and Wales
- 4,664 travelled by another method of travel to work (Bristol 2.0% E&W 2.2%)

Distance of travelled to work

Respondents aged 16 years and over who were in employment were asked for their workplace address, from which the distance they travelled to work was calculated.

In Bristol, just under half (49.3%) of people travelled to a workplace (E&W 54.3%). In addition to the 38.6% of people who worked mainly at or from home (E&W 31.2%), a further 12.1% worked mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK (E&W 14.4%).

Of those travelling to a workplace:

- 30,808 (12.9%) travelled less than 2km (E&W 11.0%)
- 42,525 (17.8%) travelled 2km to less than 5km (E&W 12.6%)
- 25,277 (10.6%) travelled 5km to less than 10km (E&W 11.8%)
- 19,066 (8.0%) travelled 10km or more (E&W 19.0%)

Socio-economic group

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topics. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position, based on responses to economic activity status, occupation and employment history questions in the census.

The most common socio-economic group in both Bristol and England and Wales was 'Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations', representing a fifth (20.1%) of people aged 16 years and over (E&W 19.9%). The next most common group was 'Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations', representing 15.7% of people aged 16 years and over in Bristol (E&W 13.1%).

Full-time students make up 13.4% of people aged 16 and over in Bristol, a higher proportion than nationally where full-time students make up 7.7% of people aged 16 and over. In Bristol, 6.8% of people have never worked or are long-term unemployed (E&W 8.5%).

Industry and Occupation

Industry

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topics. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

In Bristol, there were 238,509 usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment in the week before Census Day. The broad industries that employed the largest numbers of Bristol residents were:

- Human health and social work activities 38,634 people 16.2% (E&W 14.7%)
- Wholesale, retail and motor trade 31,726 people 13.3% (E&W 15.0%)
- Education 26,738 people 11.2% (E&W 9.8%)
- Professional, scientific and technical activities 21,255 people 8.9% (E&W 6.6%)

In addition to the above industries, a greater proportion of people in Bristol than nationally were employed in Information and communication, Financial and insurance services, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and Accommodation and food services.

Change since 2011

The industries in which people are employed have remained relatively unchanged since 2011.

In Bristol, employment in Human health and social work activities saw a 2.2 percentage point increase, from 14.0% to 16.2% (E&W 2.2% point increase). Information and communication saw a 1.1% point increase from 5.3% to 6.4% (E&W 0.6% point increase).

Employment in Financial and insurance activities decreased by 1.7 percentage points, from 6.0% to 4.4% and Manufacturing employment decreased by 1.5 percentage points, from 6.5% to 5.0%. A similar trend was seen in England and Wales in the Manufacturing industry but the decrease in Financial and insurance activities was lower nationally with a 0.5% percentage point drop, from 4.3% to 3.8%.

Occupation

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topics. Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

In Census 2021, people aged 16 years and over were asked for their full job titles (for their main job, or if not working their last main job) and the main activity of their employer. The answers they gave were coded using the Standard Occupational Classification 2020.

In Bristol, more than a quarter of all people aged 16 years and over were employed in Professional occupations 64,929 people, 27.2% (E&W 20.2%). A further quarter were employed in either Associate professional and technical occupations 35,165 people, 14.7% (E&W 13.2%) or as Managers, directors and senior officials 24,219 people, 10.2% (E&W 12.8%).

Elementary occupations employed a further 10.4% of people (E&W 10.5%). All other occupations employ a lower proportion of people in Bristol than in England and Wales as a whole.

Veterans

Bristol veterans

The 2021 Census in England and Wales was the first to ask people if they had previously served in the UK armed forces. People aged 16 years and over were asked whether they had previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces, or both. People currently serving in the UK armed forces and those who had never served were both advised to tick 'no'.

In Bristol, there were 9,491 people aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces in Bristol (2.4%). 6,450 of these had served in regular UK armed forces (1.7%), 2,623 in reserve UK armed forces (0.7%) and 418 who had previously served in both (0.1%).

Within Bristol neighbourhoods, Westbury-on-Trym 2021 Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA21) has the highest proportion of veterans at 4.4% of all people aged 16 and over and St Pauls and University and Brandon Hill neighbourhoods have the lowest proportions at 0.8%.

West of England comparisons

Bristol has fewer veterans than the other local authorities in the West of England. North Somerset has the highest percentage of veterans at 5.3% (9,443 veterans), then South Gloucestershire with 4.0% (9,498 veterans) and Bath and North East Somerset with 3.6% (5,858 veterans).

281 (3.0%) out of the total 9,491 veterans live in a communal establishment in Bristol. This is a higher proportion than in the other West of England local authorities, all regions and in England and Wales as a whole.

In Bristol 8,949 households included at least one veteran, this is 4.6% of all households in Bristol and is lower than both the South West as a whole (10.1% of households) and England and Wales (7.1% of households).

Regional and national comparisons

The South West was the region within England that had the highest proportion of veterans (5.6%, 317,000 people), followed by the North East of England (5.0%, 109,000 people). The areas in the South West with the highest percentages were Plymouth (8.4%, 18,279), Wiltshire (7.5%, 31,378), West Devon (7.3%, 3,508) and Dorset (7.1%, 22,884). Across the country, the areas with the highest proportion of UK armed forces veterans tended to be near existing armed forces bases.

Qualifications

Highest level of qualification

Residents aged 16 years and over were asked to record any qualifications (including academic, vocational, and professional qualifications) they had achieved in England, Wales or worldwide. This is used to calculate the highest level of qualification.

In Bristol, 42.1% of people aged 16 and over indicated that their highest level of qualification was a degree or higher (Level 4 or above). This is much higher than the England and Wales average of 33.8% and the highest of all the Core Cities in England and Wales.

Highest qualifications at other levels include:

- Level 3 (two or more A Levels) 19% (E&W 16.9%)
- Apprenticeships 3.9% (E&W 5.3%)
- Level 2 (5 or more GCSEs) 10.7% (E&W 13.4%)
- Level 1 (1-4 GCSEs) 7.5% (E&W 9.6%)
- Other qualifications 2.2% (E&W 2.8%)

Qualification levels varies widely across the city, ranging from 67% of people having a degree or higher in Redland ward to just 15.8% in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward.

In Bristol, 14.5% of all people aged 16 and over indicated that they had no qualifications, this is lower than the England and Wales average of 18.2% and the lowest of all the Core Cities in England and Wales.

The proportion of people with no qualifications also varies widely across the city. There are two wards in Bristol where more than a quarter of people aged 16 and over have no qualifications - Hartcliffe and Withywood 30.4% and Filwood 28.2%.

Change since 2011

Although highest level of qualification categories are the same as they were in 2011 and are derived in the same way, the way the questions were structured and how the respondent was routed in the qualification questions changed substantially from 2011. These mean that a reasonable proportion of respondents will have identified a different qualification level than they did in 2011 even though they still hold the same qualifications. Therefore, any change in qualification levels when compared with 2011 will be partly a result of the methodology changes and be partly indicative of real change.

Qualification level categories

Qualification levels in the Census 2021 include the following categories:

- No qualifications: No formal qualifications

- Level 1: One to four GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) and any other GCSEs at other grades, or equivalent qualifications
- Level 2: Five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications apprenticeships
- Level 3: Two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- Level 4 or above: Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree, or postgraduate qualifications
- Other: Other qualifications, of unknown level

Students

Students

In 2021, there are 43,667 full-time students aged 18 and over living in Bristol, making up 9.2% of the total usually resident population (E&W 4.1%). Students are counted at their term-time address and the estimate includes all students, not just those enrolled at university.

Over the decade 2011 to 2021, the number of full-time students aged 18 and over living in Bristol increased by 8,000 – this is a 22.5% increase and compares to a 0.9% increase in England and Wales as a whole.

Of the Core Cities in England and Wales, full-time students make up a higher proportion of the total population in Nottingham (17.0%), Newcastle (13.8%), Manchester (11.7%), Cardiff (11.2%) and Liverpool (10.4%).

In Bristol, almost half (48%) of all full-time students aged 18 and over live in just five wards:

- Central (8,634)
- Clifton Down (3,363)
- Cotham (3,218)
- Clifton (3,062)
- Stoke Bishop (2,692)

In these five wards, plus Hotwells and Harbourside ward (1,570), more than a fifth of the total ward population are full-time students aged 18 and over, including Central ward where the proportion of the total population who are full-time students aged 18 and over is 47%.

Student accommodation

In Bristol, 42% of full-time students aged 18 and over in Bristol live in all student households, a further 25% live in a communal establishment (eg purpose-built student accommodation) whilst the remaining 33% live in another type of household (ie not all students) or live with parents or live alone.

Students living in all student households are concentrated in the following wards:

- Clifton Down 2,736
- Cotham 2,675
- Central 2,549
- Clifton 1,513
- Ashley 1,250

- □Bishopston and Ashley Down 1,233
- Horfield 1,196

Students living in communal establishments are concentrated in Central ward (5,100 students), Stoke Bishop (2,400 students), Lawrence Hill (1,100 students) and Clifton (1,000 students).

Housing

Accommodation type

Accommodation summary

In 2021, there were 191,638 households in Bristol. The proportions of households by accommodation type was very similar in 2011 and 2021.

In Bristol, almost two thirds (64.7%, 124,051) of households live in houses or bungalows and the remaining third (35.2%, 67,403) live in flats – either purpose-built block of flats, conversions or shared houses. In England and Wales as a whole, a higher proportion of households live in houses or bungalows (77.9%) and a lower proportion live in flats (21.7%).

The remaining 0.1% (184) were households that lived in a caravan, or other mobile or temporary structure (E&W 0.4%). This was similar to the proportion in 2011.

Accommodation type varies greatly across the city: Central ward and Hotwells and Harbourside ward have the highest percentage of flats in the city at 93% and 80% of all accommodation, whilst Filwood ward and Hengrove and Whitchurch Park ward have the highest percentages of houses at 89% and 86% of all accommodation.

Houses

Overall, a third (32.1%) of all accommodation in Bristol are terraced houses, a quarter (26.6%) are semi-detached houses and 6% are detached houses.

Nationally, there is a higher proportion of detached (23.2%) and semi-detached (31.5%) houses and a lower proportion of terraced (23.2%) houses than in Bristol.

Change since 2011

Between 2011 and 2021 an additional 3,167 houses were built in Bristol. In 2021, 64.7% of households were in house (E&W 77.9%), down from 66.1% in 2011 (E&W 78.6%). Semi-detached houses increased by 2,280, detached houses by 629 and terraced houses by 258.

Flats, apartments or maisonettes

Overall, a fifth (21.9%) of all accommodation in Bristol are purpose-built blocks of flats, higher than the England and Wales average of 16.7%.

A further 10% of accommodation in Bristol is in converted or shared houses (including bedsits), again a much higher proportion than in England and Wales as a whole at just 3.4% of all households.

The remaining 3.1% of flats are either part of another converted building (eg former school, church or warehouse) or in a commercial building (eg in an office building, hotel or over a shop).

Change since 2011

Between 2011 and 2021 an additional 5,692 flats, apartments or maisonettes were built in Bristol. In 2021, 35.2% of households were in a flat, maisonette or apartment (E&W 21.7%), up from 33.8% in 2011 (E&W 21.0%).

Tenure

Tenure

Tenure is whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies. Households that rent their accommodation were asked what type of landlord owns or manages it.

In 2021, 54.8% of households in Bristol owned the accommodation they lived in, lower than the England and Wales average of 62.5%; 44.9% rented their accommodation, higher than the national average 37.3%; and 0.25% of households lived rent free, higher than the national average 0.13%.

The data on accommodation ownership and renting can be broken down further to show that:

- 25.2% of households owned the accommodation they lived in outright (E&W 32.8%)
- 29.7% owned their accommodation with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership (E&W 29.7%)
- 26.2% rented their accommodation privately (E&W 20.3%)
- 18.7% were in the social rented sector (ie through a local council or housing association) (E&W 17.1%)

Change since 2011

The census data on tenure show the following trends in Bristol between 2011 and 2021:

The proportion of households that owned their accommodation remained unchanged at 54.8% (E&W fell from 64.3% to 62.5%). This includes:

- Households that owned their home outright increased just 0.6 percentage points from 24.6% of all households to 25.2% (E&W +2.0 percentage points 30.8% to 32.8%).
- Households that owned their accommodation with a mortgage or loan fell by 0.6 percentage points from 29.4% to 28.8% (E&W -4.0 percentage points 32.7% to 28.7%).
- Shared ownership households increased from 1,385 (0.76%) in 2011 to 1,656 (0.86%) in 2021 (E&W 0.76% to 0.97%).

There was a small increase in the proportion of households that rented their accommodation, from 43.8% in 2011 to 44.9% in 2021 (E&W 34.3% to 37.3%). This includes:

- Privately rented households increased from 23.5% of all households in 2011 to 26.2% in 2021. This was a 2.7 percentage point increase which was a lower than the England and Wales average which increased 3.6 percentage points from 16.7% to 20.3%.
- Socially rented households decreased 1.6 percentage points from 20.3% of all households in 2011 to 18.7% in 2021, this was a larger fall than the England and Wales average which fell 0.6 percentage points from 17.6% in 2011 to 17.1% in 2021.

There was a decrease in households living rent free, from 2,543 (1.39%) in 2011 to 470 (0.25%) in 2021. Bristol followed the same trend as England and Wales which fell from 1.35% to 0.13% of all households.

Central heating

The vast majority (98.4%) of households in Bristol reported that they had central heating in 2021 (E&W 98.5%). However, 3,110 (1.6%) households had no central heating.

In Bristol, the most common responses were, 75% mains gas, 13% electric and 7% two or more types of central heating (not including renewable energy) (E&W 73.8%, 8.5% and 8.5%). The remaining 3.4% of households used other types of heating.

Renewable energy

For the first time, Census 2021 recorded whether a household's central heating used renewable energy sources.

Overall, 1,349 (0.7%) of households in Bristol used at least one renewable energy source (E&W 0.9%). A total of 953 households reported using renewable energy alongside another type of central heating, and the remaining 396 households used only renewable energy sources.

District or communal heat networks

In Bristol, 2,420 households used district or communal heat networks only, accounting for 1.3% of all households and higher than the England and Wales average of 0.9%.

Change since 2011

The main trend since 2011 has been a decrease in the proportion of households reliant on gas central heating and an increase in the proportion of households with two or more types of central heating.

Bedrooms

Census 2021 asked about the number of bedrooms available to the household.

The data show that the proportion of households in Bristol with one or two bedrooms was higher than nationally, whilst the proportion with 3 or 4 bedrooms was lower than nationally:

- 16.2% of households had one bedroom (E&W 11.4%)
- 28.4% had two bedrooms (E&W 27.1%)

- 38.8% had three bedrooms (E&W 40.4%)
- 16.6% had four or more bedrooms (E&W 21.1%)

Change since 2011

In Bristol, the largest increase since 2011 was in the number of households with 4 or more bedrooms, with an additional 5,299 households, representing a 2.1 percentage point increase, the same level of increase as in England and Wales. Households with two bedrooms increased by 3,461 households, a 0.5 percentage point increase (E&W decrease of 0.6 percentage points). The number of one bedroom households increased by just 396 and households with 3 bedrooms decreased by 265.

Occupancy rating

Overcrowding and underoccupancy

Occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or underoccupied. An occupancy rating of minus 1 or less implies that a household has fewer bedrooms than the standard requirement, plus 1 implies that they have more bedrooms than required, and 0 implies that they met the standard required. For further information on the definition for bedroom occupancy, see Guidance and Definitions.

Occupancy rating

In Bristol, 9,684 (5.1%) households had fewer bedrooms than required (E&W 4.3%) and so are considered to be overcrowded. Some 34.4% of households had the required number of bedrooms (E&W 26.5%) and so met the bedroom standard. The remaining 60.6% of households had more bedrooms than required (E&W 69.2%) and so are considered to be underoccupied.

Across the city the proportion of overcrowded households varies considerably, with more than a fifth of households considered to be overcrowded in St Philips (25.6%), St Pauls Grosvenor Road (23.7%), Easton Road (20.8%) and Cabot Circus (20.2%) (all Lower Layer Super Output Areas).

Change since 2011

In Bristol, the number of overcrowded households has increased by 243 households since 2011, although as a proportion of all households in Bristol there was a small decrease from 5.2% to 5.1% of all households. England and Wales also saw a decrease in overcrowded households from 4.5% to 4.3%.

Cars

As in previous censuses, Census 2021 asked households how many cars or vans the household owned or had available to them. In Bristol:

- 26.2% (50,141) of households had no cars or vans (E&W 23.3%)
- 45.8% (87,781) had one car or van (E&W 41.3%)
- 21.6% (41,397) had two cars or vans (E&W 26.2%)
- 6.4% (12,321) had three or more cars or vans (E&W 9.2%)

The percentage of households with at least one car or van available increased from 71.1% of all households in 2011 to 73.8% in 2021 (E&W 74.4% in 2011 to 76.7% in 2021).

Bristol had the highest level of car availability in 2021 of all the core cities in England.

Levels of car availability vary widely across the city, with many central areas of Bristol having levels of car availability below 50%. The proportion of households with no car range from as low as 5% in West Broadway (LSOA21) in Henleaze to as high as 73.5% in Queens Square (LSOA21).

Communal establishments

Communal establishments

A communal establishment is one with full-time or part-time supervision providing residential accommodation, such as student halls of residence, boarding schools, armed forces bases, hospitals, care homes, and prisons.

When interpreting the data, it is important to keep in mind that the census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have affected the number of residents in types of communal establishment eg student halls of residence.

In 2021, there were 14,600 communal establishment residents in Bristol making up 3.1% of the total population (E&W 1.7%).

In Bristol, the number of people living in communal establishments has risen by 5,200 since 2011 (when 9,420 people lived in communal establishments), this is a 0.9 percentage point increase from 2.2% to 3.1% (E&W 1.8% to 1.7%).

The most common type of communal establishment was "Education", which includes university halls of residence and boarding schools. In 2021, three quarters of communal establishment residents in Bristol (75%) lived in education establishments (E&W 45.7%). This was a doubling of the numbers living in education establishments between 2011 and 2021, an increase of 5,881, from 5,080 (53.9%) in 2011 to 10,961 (75%) in 2021. This is most likely a reflection of the growth in the number of university students across the past decade and may also reflect changes in student housing choices.

A further 15.6% (2,274) of communal establishment residents in Bristol lived in medical and care establishments (E&W 35.3%).

Age and sex of residents

In total, 47.8% of communal establishment residents were male (E&W 48.9%) and 52.2% were female (E&W 51.1%).

A breakdown by age shows that the communal establishment resident population is mostly concentrated within two age groups:

Overall, three quarters (74.7%) of communal establishment residents in Bristol were aged 16 to 24 years (E&W 46.3%). This group primarily consists of those in education establishments, such as university halls of residence or boarding schools, which was the most common type of establishment in Bristol that residents lived in. A further 6.5% were aged 85 years and over (E&W 16.3%).

A breakdown by sex within the age groups living in communal establishments shows that:

- in the 0-15 year age group the percentage of females (60.1%) was higher than males (39.9%)
- in the 16-24 year age group proportions were similar to the overall population
- in the 25-74 year age group the percentage of males (65%) was higher than females (35%)
- in the 75 and over age group the percentage of females (70.8%) was higher than males (29.2%). This may reflect the care home communal establishment population and the difference in life expectancy between men and women

Households

Household composition

Household composition

Of the 191,638 households in Bristol, more than half (57.5%, 110,132 households) were single family households, almost a third (30.2%, 57,862 households) were one person households and the remainder (12.3%, 23,644 households) were multiple family or other household types.

As would be expected in an urban area, single family households make up a lower proportion of all households than nationally (E&W 63%) and multiple family or other households were higher than nationally (E&W 6.8%). Multiple family household include all student households and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The proportion of one person households is the same as the England and Wales average.

Change since 2011

Since 2011, Bristol has had a 6.1% fall in one person households whilst nationally there was a 5.9% increase (mainly households with one person aged 66 and over living alone).

Single family households increased by 10.5% (E&W +8.1%) - including a 34% increase in cohabiting couples both with and without children (E&W +24.6%), a 27.1% increase in lone parent families where all children are non-dependent (E&W +27.1%) but at the same time a 15% fall in lone parent families with dependent children (E&W +2.9%).

Multiple family and other household types grew by 10.1% in Bristol over the decade compared to an 8.7% fall nationally.

Households and children

The majority of households in Bristol have no children – 63.9% of all households do not include children, similar to the national average 60.3%.

Just over a quarter (26.7%) of all households in Bristol include dependent children, lower than the England and Wales average 28.4%. Households where all children are non-dependent make up 8.4% of households in Bristol, again lower than the

England and Wales average 10.5%. Included in households with children are 19,819 lone parent households, making up 10.3% of all households in Bristol (E&W 11.1%).

Since 2011 the number of households with dependent children in Bristol has increased by 5.5% (2,644) from 48,464 in 2011 to 51,108 in 2021. In England and Wales as a whole there was a smaller 3.6% increase in the number of households with dependent children. There was a higher proportion of households with children in England and Wales than in Bristol in both 2011 and 2021.

Definition

A dependent child is any person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who's in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). It does not include any people aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Household size

Number of People Per Household

There were 191,639 households in Bristol in 2021, an increase of 4.9% (+8,892) since 2011 when there were 182,747 households. England and Wales as a whole saw a 6.1% increase in households over the decade.

The average household size in Bristol in 2021 was 2.4 people per household, the same as the England and Wales average, and higher than in 2011 when Bristol had an average of 2.3 persons per household.

In 2021 a third (30.2%) of households were one person households, a third (33.5%) two person households and a third (36.3%) households with 3 people or more. These are similar proportions to the England and Wales average.

Change since 2011

Since 2011, the number of one person households in Bristol has fallen by 6.1% (-3,745) bucking the national trend which saw a 5.9% increase in one person households. At the same time, the number of 2 person households in Bristol increased by 6.1% (+3,671), in line with the national trend, whilst increases in 3, 4 and 5 person households were all greater in Bristol than nationally.

Household deprivation

Household deprivation

In 2021, using the ONS Census measures of deprivation, there were 95,503 households in Bristol which were deprived in at least one dimension or measure of deprivation. This is half of all households in Bristol (49.8%) and similar to the England and Wales average of 51.7%.

There were 584 households in Bristol deprived in all four dimensions of deprivation.

The number and proportion of households deprived, based on these measures, has decreased since 2011, both in Bristol and nationally, when 57.6% of all households were deprived in at least one dimension of deprivation.

Dimensions of deprivation

The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics. A household is classified as deprived:

- in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student
- in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick
- in the health dimension if any member is disabled
- in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating

Guidance and Definitions

Guidance

Conducting a census during the coronavirus pandemic

"Census data users should be aware that total population statistics in the census will reflect circumstances in March 2021. For most of the population, the coronavirus pandemic would not have affected where they considered themselves resident.

Every census has unique circumstances. For Census 2021, the coronavirus pandemic in particular may have affected the data in different ways. It was important to understand the population and its characteristics during the pandemic. For example, early census data have already been used to inform our response to the coronavirus pandemic and to support our humanitarian response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

For some students and in some urban areas, there is evidence that the coronavirus pandemic did result in changes to where people lived. These changes might have been temporary for some and permanent for others."

Protecting personal data and small numbers

Sometimes ONS need to make changes to data if it is possible to identify individuals. This is known as statistical disclosure control.

In Census 2021, ONS:

(1) Swapped records (targeted record swapping) - for example, if a household was likely to be identified in datasets because it has unusual characteristics, the record was swapped with a similar one from a nearby small area. Very unusual households could be swapped with one in a nearby local authority.

(2) Added small changes to some counts (cell key perturbation) - for example, ONS might change a count of 4 to a 3 or a 5. This might make small differences between tables depending on how the data are broken down when we applied perturbation.

Small counts at the lowest geographies will be most affected. This means that sometimes tables will give different results for the same measure. For example, the total population in an area in a table showing population by age may be different the

total population in a table showing population by ethnic group. Similarly, the total number of households in a table showing household composition may be different from a table showing household size. The differences are generally very small but it is always best to use the total within the table you are looking at when calculating percentages or undertaking any other analysis.

Definitions

Accommodation type

Accommodation type - The type of building or structure used or available by an individual or household. This could be: the whole house or bungalow; a flat, maisonette or apartment; a temporary or mobile structure, such as a caravan.

Whole house or bungalow - This property type is not divided into flats or other living accommodation. There are three types of whole houses or bungalows.

Detached - None of the living accommodation is attached to another property but can be attached to a garage.

Semi-detached - The living accommodation is joined to another house or bungalow by a common wall that they share.

Terraced - A mid-terraced house is located between two other houses and shares two common walls. An end-of-terrace house is part of a terraced development but only shares one common wall.

Flats (apartments) and maisonettes - An apartment is another word for a flat. A maisonette is a 2-storey flat.

Bedrooms

The number of bedrooms available for use in a household's accommodation. This number is not available for household spaces with no usual residents.

Carers

An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. This help can be within or outside of the carer's household.

Communal establishment

Communal establishment - a managed communal establishment is a place that provides managed full-time or part-time supervision of residential accommodation. Examples include: university halls of residence and boarding schools; care homes, hospitals, hospices and maternity units; hotels, guest houses, hostels and bed and breakfasts, all with residential accommodation for seven or more guests; prisons and other secure facilities; Single Living Accommodation (SLA) in military bases; staff accommodation; religious establishments. It does not include sheltered accommodation, serviced apartments, nurses' accommodation, and houses rented to students by private landlords. These are households.

Communal establishment resident - A usual resident of a communal establishment is either: someone who lives there; someone who works and lives there; or someone who is a family member of staff that works there and lives there.

Country of birth

The country in which a person was born. For people not born in one of the four parts of the UK, there was an option to select "elsewhere". People who selected "elsewhere" were asked to write in the current name for their country of birth.

Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We have changed some categories to make them more consistent with country classifications used in other national statistics.

Disability

People who assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Economic activity

Economically active status - People aged 16 years and over are economically active if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were: (i) in employment (an employee or self-employed) (ii) unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks (iii) unemployed, but waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted. It is a measure of whether or not a person was an active participant in the labour market during this period. The census definition differs from International Labour Organization definition used on the Labour Force Survey, so estimates are not directly comparable. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes.

Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We changed some of the wording on the Census 2021 questionnaire and removed some of the options that people could choose from.

Economically inactive - people aged 16 years and over who did not have a job between 15 March to 21 March 2021 and had not looked for work between 22 February to 21 March 2021 or could not start work within two weeks. The census definition differs from International Labour Organization definition used on the Labour Force Survey, so estimates are not directly comparable. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We changed some of the wording on the Census 2021 questionnaire and removed some of the options that people could choose from.

Employee - An employee is a person aged 16 years and over in employment doing paid work for an individual or organisation. This relates to people's main jobs or, if not working at the time of the census, their last main jobs. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We changed some of the wording on the Census 2021 questionnaire and removed some of the options that people could choose from.

Self-employed - people aged 16 years and over who own and operate their own business, professional practice or similar enterprise, including those operated with a partner. This relates to people's main jobs or, if not working at the time of the census, their last main jobs. This can include people who work freelance, which means someone who is self-employed and works (or worked) for different companies on particular pieces of work. Self-employed people who are not freelance can have employees who work for them. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We changed some of the wording on the Census 2021 questionnaire and removed some of the options that people could choose from.

In employment - People aged 16 years and over are in employment if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were an employee or self-employed. The census definition differs from the International Labour Organization definition used on the Labour Force Survey, so estimates are not directly comparable. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We changed some of the wording on the Census 2021 questionnaire and removed some of the options that people could choose from.

Employment history

Classifies people who were not in employment on Census Day into: (i) not in employment: worked in the last 12 months (ii) not in employment: not worked in the last 12 months (iii) not in employment: never worked. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. The question on employment history changed between the 2011 and 2021 census.

Ethnic group

Ethnic group - The ethnic group that the person completing the census feels they belong to. This could be based on their culture, family background, identity or physical appearance. Respondents could choose one out of 19 tick-box response categories, including write-in response options.

High-level ethnic group - This refers to the first stage of the two-stage ethnic group question. High-level groups refer to the first stage where the respondent identifies through one of the following options: (i) Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh; (ii) Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African; (iii) Mixed or Multiple; (iv) White; (v) Other ethnic group.

Multiple ethnic groups in households - Classifies households by whether members identify as having the same or different ethnic groups. If multiple ethnic groups are present, this identifies whether they differ between generations or partnerships within the household.

Gender identity

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given - These are people who answered "No" to the question "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" but did not write in a gender identity.

Non-binary - Someone who is non-binary does not identify with the binary categories of man and woman. In these results the category includes people who identified with the specific term "non-binary" or variants thereon. However, those who used other terms to describe an identity which was neither specifically man nor woman have been classed in "All other gender identities".

A trans man - someone who was registered female at birth, but now identifies as a man.

A trans woman - someone who was registered male at birth, but now identifies as a woman.

General health

A person's assessment of the general state of their health from very good to very bad. This assessment is not based on a person's health over any specified period of time.

Heating type

Central heating is a heating system used to heat multiple rooms in a building by circulating air or heated water through pipes to radiators or vents. Single or multiple fuel sources can fuel these systems. Central heating systems that are unused or not working are still considered. No information is available for household spaces with no usual residents.

Hours worked

The number of hours worked per week before the census includes paid and unpaid overtime. This covers the main job of anyone aged 16 years and over. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable.

Household

Household - A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room, or dining area This includes: sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50% or more have their own kitchens (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities), and all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence; this will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK. A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the address. A

group of short-term residents living together is not classified as a household, and neither is a group of people at an address where only visitors are staying.

A household is defined as: one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room, or dining area. This includes: all sheltered accommodation units in an establishment (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities), and all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence; this will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK. A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the address. A group of short-term residents living together is not classified as a household, and neither is a group of people at an address where only visitors are staying.

Household composition

Dependent child - A dependent child is a person aged 0 to 15 years in a household or a person aged 16 to 18 years who is in full-time education and lives in a family with their parent, parents, grandparent or grandparents. It does not include any person aged 16 to 18 years who has a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Family - A family is a group of people who are either: (i) married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with or without children (the children do not need to belong to both members of the couple) (ii) a lone parent with children (iii) a married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with grandchildren but where the parents of those grandchildren are not present (iv) a single or couple grandparent with grandchildren but where the parents of those grandchildren are not present.

Household composition - Households according to the relationships between members. One-family households are classified by: (i) the number of dependent children (ii) family type (married, civil partnership or cohabiting couple family, or lone parent family). Other households are classified by: (i) the number of people (ii) the number of dependent children (iii) whether the household consists only of students or only of people aged 66 and over. Quality information: Data about household relationships might not always look consistent with legal partnership status. This is because of complexity of living arrangements and the way people interpreted these questions. Take care when using these two variables together. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. This is derived from the legal partnership status derived variable. We have made changes to reflect that people can now marry someone of the same-sex and people of the opposite-sex can be in a civil partnership.

Household Deprivation

Household Deprivation The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics. 1 Education: A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student. 2 Employment: A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick. 3 Health: A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any member is disabled. 4 Housing: A household is classified as deprived in the housing

dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Household size

The number of people in the household. Visitors staying at an address do not count to that household's size. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Industry

Classifies people aged 16 years and over who were in employment between 15 March and 21 March 2021 by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code that represents their current industry or business. The SIC code is assigned based on the information provided about a firm or organisation's main activity. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Data on industry is for 2021 Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA21) and higher level geographies only.

Legal partnership status

Classifies a person according to their legal marital or registered civil partnership status on Census Day 21 March 2021. It is the same as the 2011 census variable "Marital status" but has been updated for Census 2021 to reflect the revised Civil Partnership Act that came into force in 2019. Quality information: Separate estimates by opposite and same-sex partnerships for the marital status categories "Separated", "Divorced/dissolved" and "Widowed/surviving partners" are not available. This is because quality assurance showed the figures for some of the categories were unreliable. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. We have added the same-sex marriage and opposite-sex civil partnership status categories that have come in since 2011. Therefore, there are same-sex and opposite sex categories for those in a partnership. However, the same-sex and opposite-sex categories for legal partnership statuses outside of a partnership (people who are either separated, widowed, surviving partner, divorced or their partnership has legally been dissolved) have been collapsed together because of data quality issues.

Living arrangements

The living arrangements classification combines responses to the question on marital and civil partnership status with information about whether or not a person is living in a couple. This topic is only applicable to people in households. Living arrangements differs from marital and civil partnership status because cohabiting takes priority over other categories. For example, if a person is divorced and cohabiting, then in results for living arrangements they are classified as cohabiting. Comparability with 2011: Broadly comparable. This is derived from the legal partnership status derived variable. We have included new categories to reflect that people can now marry someone of the same-sex and people of the opposite-sex can be in a civil partnership. In the 2011 Census people who were married or separated were grouped in one category, in Census 2021 it has been split into two categories.

Main language

Main language - A person's first or preferred language.

Multiple main languages in household - Classifies households by whether members speak the same or a different main language. If multiple main languages are spoken, this identifies whether they differ between generations or partnerships within the household.

English language proficiency - How well people whose main language is not English (English or Welsh in Wales) speak English.

Migration

Address one year ago - The place where a person was living one year before Census Day, that is, on Sunday 22 March 2020. People could choose from: (i) same as the current address (ii) student term-time or boarding school address in the UK (iii) another address in the UK (iv) outside of the UK

Migrant indicator - The migration indicator classifies people based on the difference between their current address and their address one year ago. It provides an indicator of the movement of people within the UK and from outside the UK, in the one-year period before the census. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Age of arrival in the UK - The date a person last arrived to live in the UK and their age. Arrival dates do not include returning from short trips away from the UK. Age of arrival only applies to usual residents not born in the UK. It does not include usual residents born in the UK who have emigrated and since returned. These are recorded in the category "born in the UK". Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Length of residence in the UK - The length of residence in the UK is derived from the date that a person most recently arrived to live in the UK. It does not include returning from a holiday or short stay outside the UK. Length of residence is only applicable to usual residents who were not born in the UK. It does not include usual residents born in the UK who have emigrated and since returned - these are recorded in the category "born in the UK". Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Year of arrival in the UK - The year someone not born in the UK last arrived in the UK. This does not include returning from short visits away from the UK. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Occupancy rating bedrooms

Occupancy rating bedrooms - Whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of rooms the household requires with the number of available rooms. The number of rooms the household requires uses a formula that states that: one-person households require three rooms, comprised of two common rooms and one bedroom; two-or-more person households require a minimum of two common rooms and a bedroom for each person in line with the bedroom standard. An occupancy rating of: -1 or less implies that a household's accommodation has fewer rooms than required (overcrowded); +1 or more implies that a household's accommodation has more rooms than required (underoccupied); zero suggests that a household's accommodation has an ideal number of rooms.

Bedroom Standard - The people who should have their own room according to the bedroom standard are: (i) married or cohabiting couples (ii) single parents (iii) people aged 16 years or over (iv) pairs of same-sex persons aged 10 to 15 years (v) people aged 10 to 15 years who are paired with a person aged under 10 years of the same sex (vi) pairs of children aged under 10 years, regardless of their sex (vii) people aged under 16 years who cannot share a bedroom with someone in (iv), (v) or (vi) above.

Occupation

Occupation classifies what people aged 16 years and over do as their main job. Their job title or details of activities they do in their job and any supervisory or management responsibilities form this classification. This information is used to code responses to an occupation using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2020. It classifies people who were in employment between 15 March and 21 March 2021, by the SOC code that represents their current occupation. The lowest level of detail available is the four-digit SOC code which includes all codes in three, two and one digit SOC code levels. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. We changed the classification for Census 2021 and combined the categories previously available in the 2011 Census data.

Population

Age - A person's age on Census Day, 21 March 2021 in England and Wales. Quality information: Estimates for single year of age between ages 90 and 100+ are less reliable than other ages. Estimation and adjustment at these ages was based on the age range 90+ rather than five-year age bands. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Usually resident population - Persons included are those people usually resident in Bristol including students and school boarders at their term time address and long-term migrants (i.e. coming to UK for more than a year). The estimated resident population of an area includes all those people who usually live there, regardless of nationality. Arriving international migrants are included in the usually resident population if they remain in the UK for at least a year. Emigrants are excluded if they remain outside the UK for at least a year.

Sex - This is the sex recorded by the person completing the census. The options were "Female" and "Male". Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Short-term resident - A census short-term UK resident is anyone born outside of the UK who, on 21 March 2021, had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of three months or more but less than 12 months.

Qualifications

Highest qualification The highest level of qualification is derived from the question asking people to indicate all qualifications held, or their nearest equivalent. This may include foreign qualifications where they were matched to the closest UK equivalent.

Religion

The religion people connect or identify with (their religious affiliation), whether or not they practice or have belief in it. This question was voluntary, and the variable includes people who answered the question, including "No religion", alongside those who chose not to answer this question. This variable classifies responses into the eight tick-box response options. Write-in responses are classified by their "parent" religious affiliation, including "No religion", where applicable.

Residence type

Whether a person lives in a household or a communal establishment. People who completed the normal household questionnaire were recorded as living in a household. Those who completed an individual questionnaire were asked if they lived in a household or a communal establishment. Comparability with 2011: Highly comparable

Rooms (VOA)

A room can be any room in a dwelling apart from bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, kitchens, conservatories, or utility rooms. All other rooms, for example, living rooms, studies, bedrooms, separate dining rooms and rooms that can only be used for storage are included. If two rooms have been converted into one, they are counted as that can only be used for storage are included. If two rooms have been converted into one, they are counted as one room. The number of rooms is recorded by address. This means that for households living in a shared dwelling, the number of rooms are counted for the whole dwelling and not the individual household. This definition is based on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) definition.

Second address

An address (in or out of the UK) a person stays at for more than 30 days per year that is not their place of usual residence. Second addresses typically include: armed forces bases; addresses used by people working away from home; a student's home address; the address of another parent or guardian; a partner's address; a holiday home. If a person with a second address was staying there on census night, they were classed as a visitor to the second address but counted as a usual resident at their home address.

Sexual orientation

LGB+ - An abbreviation used to refer to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other minority sexual orientations (for example, asexual).

Sexual orientation - Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. For an individual respondent, these may not be the same. For example, someone in an opposite-sex relationship may also experience same-sex attraction, and vice versa. This means the statistics should be interpreted purely as showing how people responded to the question, rather than being about whom they are attracted to or their actual relationships. We have not provided glossary entries for individual sexual orientation categories. This is because individual respondents may have differing perspectives on the exact meaning.

Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) indicates a person's socioeconomic position based on their occupation and other job characteristics. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification. NS-SEC categories are assigned based on a person's occupation, whether employed, self-employed, or supervising other employees. Full-time students are recorded in the "full-time students" category regardless of whether they are economically active. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. This variable is derived from the occupation variable. It cannot be compared with the one from the 2011 Census because the classifications in the occupation variable have changed.

Tenure

Whether a household owns or rents the accommodation that it occupies. Owner-occupied accommodation can be: (i) owned outright, which is where the household owns all of the accommodation (ii) with a mortgage or loan (iii) part owned on a shared ownership scheme. Rented accommodation can be: (i) private rented, for example, rented through a private landlord or letting agent (ii) social rented through a local council or housing association. This information is not available for household spaces with no usual residents.

Travel to work

Method used to travel to work - A person's place of work and their method of travel to work. This is the 2001 method of producing travel to work variables. Work mainly from home applies to someone who indicated their place of work as their home address and travelled to work by driving a car or van, for example visiting clients. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. It is difficult to compare this variable with the 2011 Census because Census 2021 took place during a national lockdown. The government advice at the time was for people to work from home (if they can) and avoid public transport. People who were furloughed (about 5.6 million) were advised to answer the transport to work question based on their previous travel patterns before or during the pandemic. This means that the data does not accurately represent what they were doing on Census Day. This variable cannot be directly compared with the 2011 Census Travel to Work data as it does not include people who were travelling to work on that day. It may however, be partially compared with bespoke tables from 2011.

Distance travelled to work - The distance, in kilometres, between a person's residential postcode and their workplace postcode measured in a straight line. A distance travelled of 0.1km indicates that the workplace postcode is the same as the residential postcode. Distances over 1200km are treated as invalid, and an imputed or estimated value is added. Work mainly at or from home is made up of those that ticked either the 'Mainly work at or from home' box for the address of workplace question, or the "Work mainly at or from home" box for the method of travel to work question. Other includes no fixed place of work, working on an offshore installation

and working outside of the UK. Distance is calculated as the straight line distance between the enumeration postcode and the workplace postcode. Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. It is difficult to compare this variable with the 2011 Census because Census 2021 took place during a national lockdown. The government advice at the time was for people to work from home (if they can) and avoid public transport. Only those who work at a workplace or depot gave their workplace address. This means that the number of people who answered this question is a significantly smaller proportion of the population than normal. People who were on furlough (about 5.6 million), could have given details based on their patterns before or during the pandemic, or what they did during the census taking place, including Census Day.

Veterans

UK armed forces veteran - Identifies people who have previously served in the UK armed forces. This includes those who have served for at least one day in armed forces, either regular or reserves, or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations. Quality information: Many who have previously served in the UK armed forces will be older males because of National Service. We applied extra quality assurance to correct some answers from currently serving personnel. Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. This variable is new for Census 2021 and there is no comparability with the 2011 Census.

Data availability Data on veterans is for 2021 Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA21) and higher level geographies only.