

# 2021 Census First Results

(June 2022)

The first statistics from the 2021 Census were released by the Office for National Statistics(ONS) on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## Key findings for Cheshire West and Chester

- 2021 Census population is 357,200
- There are 155,200 households in Cheshire West and Chester
- The 2021 Census population estimate (357,200) is 8.4% (27,600) higher than the 2011 Census estimate (329,600)
- The greatest increase since the 2011 Census is in the number of older people in Cheshire West and Chester. The number of people aged 65 or above has increased from 61,100 in 2011 to 75,900 in 2021. This increase of 24.2% (14,800) is a greater increase than nationally; 20.0%.
- The 2021 Census day population estimate (357,200) is 3.9% (13,400) higher than the latest mid-2020 population estimate provided by ONS (343,800). The key difference is in the 25-44 age group with 10.6% (8,400) more people in the 2021 Census day estimate compared to the mid-2020 estimate.

## Background

Every ten years, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods. The 2021 Census took place on Sunday 21st March 2021. It was the first digital-first Census with almost 90% of people in England and Wales responding online. We have yet to receive information about the final response rates, however, over 97% of people in England and Wales are estimated to have participated.

The Census was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide a crucial snapshot of life in England and Wales at this time. Data will help support understanding the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

The Census is important because it allows central and local government and other organisations to target their resources more effectively and to plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come.

## What is happening

The tranche of data from the Census has been released today. These first Census estimates are very important as they underpin a wide range of statistics such as the calculation of GDP, employment, wellbeing and COVID rates.

This first release of data is just the start of the ONS Census programme, which will continue from Autumn 2022 for the next two years. The picture the Census data paints will become richer and more detailed during this time. Future releases will include data on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Most data will be available for a range of geographies including wards. For the first time, ONS will also include information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity.

## The first release

This first release of 2021 Census data includes Census Day population estimates by five-year age group and gender and number of households.

**Table 1: 2021 Census usual resident population by age and gender**

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	9,000	8,600	17,600
5-9	10,200	9,600	19,800
10-14	10,600	9,800	20,300
15-19	9,400	9,300	18,700
20-24	9,500	10,200	19,700
25-29	10,600	10,600	21,300
30-34	11,000	11,500	22,500
35-39	11,000	11,400	22,400
40-44	10,100	10,700	20,900
45-49	11,100	11,800	22,900
50-54	12,800	13,300	26,000
55-59	13,000	13,500	26,600
60-64	11,100	11,600	22,700
65-69	9,800	10,000	19,800
70-74	9,800	10,800	20,600
75-79	7,100	7,900	15,000
80-84	4,700	6,000	10,700
85-89	2,400	3,700	6,200
90+	1,200	2,400	3,600
Total	174,400	182,800	357,200

Source: Tables P01, P03, H01, 2021 Census. Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2022. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Data has been rounded by ONS to the nearest 100, future releases will include unrounded statistics.

Note: For the 2021 Census, a usual resident of the UK is anyone who, on Census day 2021, 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.

## Estimates of households

The 2021 Census estimates 155,200 households in Cheshire West and Chester, compared to 141,400 at the time of the 2011 Census.

### How do the Census estimates compare to the mid-year population estimates?

The Mid-year estimates (MYEs) are the official population figures published every year by ONS. They are particularly important in the years in between the censuses.

The total 2021 Census day population estimate (357,200) is 3.9% (13,400) higher than the latest mid-2020 population estimate provided by ONS (343,800). There are also some differences in the age structure of the population as shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Comparison of mid-2020 population estimates and 2021 Census**

Age	Mid-2020 population estimate	2021 Census	Difference	% difference
0-14	58,100	57,700	-400	-0.6%
15-24	36,500	38,400	1,900	5.2%
25-44	78,700	87,100	8,400	10.6%
45-64	95,600	98,200	2,600	2.7%
65+	74,900	75,900	1,000	1.3%
All ages	343,800	357,200	13,400	3.9%

Source: Tables P01, P03, H01, 2021 Census. Mid-2020 population estimates. Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2022. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Data has been rounded by ONS to the nearest 100, future releases will include unrounded statistics.

- Census estimates are lower for children and higher for young people than the mid-2020 estimate (around 400 less people aged 0-14 and 1,900 more people aged 15-24)
- Census estimates are 10.6% (8,400) higher for people aged 25-44 than the mid-2020 estimate. This is the age group which is most different to the mid-2020 estimate
- There are 2.7% (2,600) more people aged 45-64 in the 2021 Census estimates compared to the mid-2020 estimates
- Census estimates of those aged 65+ are 1.3% (1,000) higher than the mid-2020 estimate.

### Where is the Census data available from?

ONS: navigate via [www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census) or go straight to [www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales](http://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales)

### What other information is available now?

- Supporting information including:
  - A quality and methodology information (QMI) report
  - An overview of Census 2021 estimation and quality assurance processes
  - A local authority comparison tool
- Explanatory article – a scrolly-telling article about population changes by local authority areas in England and in Wales

- Exploratory: edutainment - an online game that will let you test your assumptions and knowledge about the population of England and Wales

### **When will the rest of the Census data be available?**

- Autumn to Winter 2022:
  - Topic Summaries for a range of topics (primarily univariate data)
  - Area profiles for a range of geographies including small area
  - Published in a staggered approach
- From Winter 2022:
  - Multivariate and cross-tabulated data (ready made tables)
  - Tables users can change themselves
- From Spring 2023:
  - Other data including workday populations, travel to work and migration data.

### **More information**

- For more information about 2021 Census results, visit [Release plans - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releasing-information/plans)
- Or contact the Insight & Intelligence Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, email: [Research@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:Research@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Prepared by the Insight and Intelligence Team  
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