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**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

# 2021 Census: first results

## August 2022



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# Introduction

This bulletin looks at the first results from the 2021 Census for England and Wales, which were published by the Office for National Statistics on 28 June 2022. These first results include population and household estimates at a Wales and local authority level. Numbers are rounded, and population by age is only available in five year age groups, so totals, proportions and ratios may change when detailed data is available.

More data will be released in phases over the next 18 months and will include detailed data at small area level about people, households and living arrangements, work and housing/amenities.

As well as providing analysis of the Census data, members of the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub team provided local support to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who undertook the decennial survey. Our Regional Project Manager for the Population Needs Assessment sits on the Census Advisory Group for Wales, and has worked on the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of results from every Census since 1991.

Without an accurate Census count, North Wales could lose out, as information from the Census helps us:

- develop policies
- plan and run services, such as schools, health services, roads and libraries
- decide how to allocate funds to make sure public money gets to where it is needed most.

# The key results for North Wales

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in North Wales was 687,000.
- The population has decreased by -950 (-0.1%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 687,950. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 23.5%, (up from 20.1% in 2011), a total of 161,200 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 20,600 residents in North Wales aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 18,350 in 2011 and 15,600 in 2001. At 3.0% of the population this was higher than the Welsh average of 2.7% and the England and Wales average of 2.4%.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 378,100 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 55.0% of all usual residents. This compares to 392,150 or 57.0% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 42.6:100 compared to 35.3:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 111,000 or 16.2% of the total population (down from 115,100 or 16.7% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- Conwy County Borough has the oldest age structure of the North Wales unitary authorities, and Wrexham has the youngest age structure.
- There were 301,300 households with at least one usual resident in North Wales on Census Day; this is an increase of 5,700 (1.9%) since 2011, when there were 295,600 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- The six North Wales unitary authorities make up 22.108% of the population of Wales. This is slightly lower than the proportion of 22.173% which will have been

used in Welsh Government funding calculations for local authorities (figure for 2021 from Welsh Government's 2018-based sub-national projections).

- Eight local authorities in Wales had lower populations in 2021 than in 2011 (including Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy County Borough), and a further five saw growth of less than the Welsh average 1.4% (including Wrexham). The greatest rates of population decline since 2011 were in Ceredigion (5.8%), Blaenau Gwent (4.2%) and Gwynedd (3.7%).
- The rate of population growth in Wales was considerably lower than in England, where the population grew by 6.6%. Population growth was also lower in Wales than in all English regions. The rate of growth in Wales was nearly six times lower than the East of England, the English region with the highest percentage change in the size of the population (8.3%). It was also lower than the English region with the lowest population growth, the North East (1.9%).

Patterns of change were different for each of the North Wales unitary authority areas. Separate analysis for each area is presented later in this document.

## Comparison with other population bases

The Census estimate of population shows that the most recent officially produced population figure (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS) significantly over-estimated the population of North Wales and each of its constituent local authority areas. The population base that was used in the 2021/22 Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is also an over-estimation of the population total.

**This difference does not mean that North Wales has suddenly lost 16,350 people. The difference can be described as a 'counting error'. Our public services will not have to adjust their resources to provide for this change as it does not mean there has been a change in the number of people who are using our services.**

However, the new Census figures may have resource implications in terms of what they mean for our RSG settlement. (see the 'Possible implications – population figures' section below).

Table 1: comparison of different population bases

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	687,000	687,950	703,350	701,150	663,400
As % of Wales total	22.108%	22.456%	22.191%	22.173%	22.852%
Total households	301,300	295,600	308,300	307,800	279,300
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		-950	-16,350	-14,150	23,600
As % of Wales total		-0.348%	-0.083%	-0.066%	-0.744%
Total households		5,700	-7,000	-6,500	22,000

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

## Why is there a difference?

There will be a number of reasons why the census estimates look different. One reason is that population change may reflect how the pandemic affected people's choice of usual residence on Census Day. Census results for Gwynedd in particular are likely to have been affected by where students counted. These changes might have been temporary for some and more long-lasting for others. It is also not clear how exiting the European Union has affected population change in Wales and across the UK.

The population estimates over the 10-year period since 2011 Census have been prepared by starting with the 2011 Census-based population estimates, and every year adding on births, subtracting deaths, and adding in any net migration that has taken place since 2011. The estimates become increasingly more uncertain over time as we move further away from the 2011 Census baseline. The 2021 Census has therefore provided the opportunity for us to update our understanding of the population as it was in March 2021.

Births and deaths data are very reliable as they are underpinned by comprehensive registration systems. This means the difference between the rolled-forward population estimates and the 2021 Census estimates is most likely be due to net migration being over-estimated over the 10-year period. (Migration figures include both international migration and migration from elsewhere within the UK.)

There is also the possibility that the 2011 Census over-estimated the population base. For 2011 there were significant differences in the population estimates for all North Wales unitary authority areas compared to the 2010 mid-year figures. These differences were not fully explained by the statistical methodologies used by the Office for National Statistics when they rebased the 2002-2010 estimates, and that unexplained element was known as 'unattributable change'. The 2021 Census results may include a correction to that.

Mid-year population estimates also form the basis of the 2018-based population projections that provide the population data used in the RSG calculation, so they will have been affected by the over-estimations too.

Later this year the ONS is planning to publish more analysis comparing the Census population estimates with other sources of population data. This will include comparisons with the latest mid-year estimates and the more experimental admin-based population estimates. The ONS will also publish more information on what the Census results mean for updating the existing series of population and migration statistics.

## **Possible implications – population figures**

The decrease in the estimate of our population on its own does not necessarily have an impact on our service provision. As stated above, these people are not 'lost' to the region, they have instead been miscounted in previous estimates of our population. The revision of the population count in isolation does not make a difference to how we operate as service providers.

However, what does potentially have an impact is the change in the proportion of the population as a percentage of the Wales total. This is true for the population as a whole and within specific age groups. This is because the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation and other public sector funding calculations like the health board revenue allocations rely heavily on population data. The RSG is part of the Local Government

Finance Settlement which determines how much of the funding provided for Wales will be given to each local authority.

As a proportion of the total for Wales, North Wales' 2021 Census population figure is 0.066% lower than the 2021/22 RSG settlement (22.108% of the Wales total, compared to 22.173%). Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

The exact impact is not easily assessed, as funding calculations are extremely complicated. The full financial settlement for local government for example also includes redistributed non-domestic rates, the council tax reduction scheme and transitional grants. The impact will be different for each local authority.

It is important to remember that North Wales' share of Welsh Government funding settlements may also be affected by a decrease in total funding, as the size of the settlement for the whole of Wales in future years is likely to be considerably smaller than in 2022/23, as the Census estimates a smaller population relative to the UK total than had been suggested by the previous mid-year population estimates.

In addition, the use of Census data to rebase the mid-year population estimates will have wide ranging impacts. Where rates or percentages of population are used to measure relative need or service efficiency they are likely to be revised (for example – proportion of the population aged 0-4; cancer rates; ratio of dependents to working age population). This will change some of the evidence we use to monitor our services and the wider community. In particular, the new mid-year population estimates which are due to be published in October/November 2022 will be used to calculate some performance indicators. Depending on how each performance indicator uses the population data, there may be a step change in performance results for next year.

Population data will also be revised for 2012-2020 to provide continuity with the 2011 Census. This will have an impact on how we understand and interpret past trends, and how these trends are used to plan the future.

## **Possible implications – household figures**

Despite the decrease in the estimated population total, household numbers have risen in the past decade. This is because the average size of households has continued to decrease, as it has been doing for several decades. The scale of the

growth in household numbers is, however, less than had been predicted by Welsh Government's official estimates and the 2018-based sub-national household projections.

As with the population figures any rates, percentages and ratios which relate to household numbers and which are used to measure need or monitor service provision are likely to be revised (for example – ratio of households accepted as homeless per 10,000 households).

Both the change in population numbers and the size of households will ultimately have an impact on future dwelling requirements as provided for by local planning authorities in their Local Development Plans (LDPs). There are seven local planning authorities (LPAs) in North Wales; the six unitary authorities and the Snowdonia National Park Authority. The delivery schedule for and the location of new housing developments will in turn impact on wider service planning for things like schools, health facilities, employment and infrastructure. However, it will not be possible to predict what these impacts may be until detailed Census data about household composition (who lives in what kind of household) is released in 2023.

Revised Welsh Government household projections – which will form a major part of the evidence needed by the local planning authorities when preparing their LDP growth strategies – are unlikely to be produced before 2024. Because of the stage they are at in the 15 year planning cycle of their LDPs, five LPAs in North Wales are affected by the release of new census data and Welsh Government sub national projections. Conwy County Borough and Denbighshire are preparing for the Deposit stage for their replacement LDPs and Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Snowdonia National Park are likely to see a full review triggered by their next annual monitoring report. Current advice from Welsh Government's Planning Directorate is to continue with the schedules laid out in LDP delivery agreements rather than delay the process. When published, the census data and the revised projections will inform the LDP monitoring process across the region. From 2024 the new Corporate Joint Committee for North Wales is scheduled to take on responsibility for setting the housing requirements and strategic elements of land use development across the region.

# Data release schedule

The first release data from the Census only covers headline population figures. More data will be released in phases over the next 18 months and will include detailed data at small area level about people, households and living arrangements, work and housing/amenities.

The release schedule was correct in August 2022 but dates may change.

Table 2: release schedule for 2021 Census and related population data

Dataset	Release date
Topic summaries and area profiles	October to end of 2022
Mid year population estimates for 2021 (using Census data)	November 2022
Start of the Census 2021 analysis programme; multivariate data for the usual resident population base; short-term resident population data	Winter 2022 to early 2023
Revised mid-year population estimates for 2012-2020	Spring/summer 2023
Alternative population bases; small populations; detailed migration data; origin-destination data or 'flow' data	From spring 2023
UK census data (including results for Scotland and Northern Ireland)	From summer 2023
2021-based population projections (Welsh Government statistics)	Early 2024
2021-based household projections (Welsh Government statistics)	2024

Topic summaries will mainly contain univariate data (meaning they will focus on a single characteristic). Full multivariate analysis is unlikely to be possible until late Spring 2023 at the earliest.

Proposed topic summaries in publication order are:

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

- education
- health, disability, and unpaid care

[As data from the 2021 Census becomes available, the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub will be publishing key results and providing analysis on our website.](https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/research-innovation-and-improvement-coordination-hub/) (https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/research-innovation-and-improvement-coordination-hub/)

## About the Census

The census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Your answers to census questions help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.

Census Day was on Sunday 21 March 2021.

[The main census website](https://census.gov.uk/) is:

https://census.gov.uk/

[A statistical bulletin summarising the key results for Wales is available.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimateswales/census2021)

(https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimateswales/census2021)

[The Welsh Government's Chief Statistician has produced a blog about the first release and what it means for Wales.](https://digitalanddata.blog.gov.wales/2022/06/28/chief-statisticians-update-and-the-population-of-wales-is/)

(https://digitalanddata.blog.gov.wales/2022/06/28/chief-statisticians-update-and-the-population-of-wales-is/)

[ONS have also published a range of supporting data with the first release.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales)

(https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales)

The full data [release schedule for the 2021 Census](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans) is available.

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans>)

# The key results for the Isle of Anglesey

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 68,900.
- The population has decreased by -850 (-1.2%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 69,750. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over 26.4%, (up from 22.4% in 2011), a total of 18,200 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 2,200 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 2,050 in 2011 and 1,500 in 2001. At 3.2% of the population this was higher than the Welsh average of 2.7% and the England and Wales average of 2.4%.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 36,200 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 52.5% of all usual residents. This compares to 39,150 or 56.2% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 50.3:100 compared to 39.9:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 11,100 or 16.1% of the total population (in 2011 the number was about the same but the proportion was slightly lower at 15.9%). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- There were 30,800 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is an increase of 200 (0.7%) since 2011, when there were 30,600 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- About 2.2% of the population of Wales lives on the Isle of Anglesey. This is a slight decrease since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is 0.007% higher than the figure used in the 2021/22

Rate Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Anglesey.

Table 3: comparison of different population bases for the Isle of Anglesey

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	68,900	69,750	70,450	69,900	66,850
As % of Wales total	2.217%	2.277%	2.222%	2.210%	2.302%
Total households	30,800	30,600	31,550	31,300	28,350
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		-850	-1,550	-1,000	2,050
As % of Wales total		-0.060%	-0.005%	0.007%	-0.085%
Total households		200	-750	-500	2,450

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

# The key results for Gwynedd

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 117,400.
- The population has decreased by -4,450 (-3.7%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 121,850. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%. Census results for Gwynedd are likely to have been particularly affected by where students were counted during the pandemic.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 23.3%, (up from 20.6% in 2011), a total of 27,300 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 3,800 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 3,450 in 2011 and 2,750 in 2001. At 3.2% of the population this was higher than the Welsh average of 2.7% and the England and Wales average of 2.4%.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 64,900 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 55.3% of all usual residents. This compares to 68,800 or 56.4% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 42.1:100 compared to 36.6:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 18,000 or 15.3% of the total population (down from 19,600 or 16.1% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- There were 51,100 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is a decrease of -1,350 (-2.6%) since 2011, when there were 52,450 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- About 3.8% of the population of Wales lives in Gwynedd. This is a slight decrease since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is -0.173% lower than the figure used in the 2021/22 Rate Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Gwynedd.

Table 4: comparison of different population bases for Gwynedd

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	117,400	121,850	125,150	124,950	116,850
As % of Wales total	3.778%	3.978%	3.949%	3.951%	4.025%
Total households	51,100	52,450	55,100	55,000	49,250
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		-4,450	-7,750	-7,550	550
As % of Wales total		-0.200%	-0.171%	-0.173%	-0.247%
Total households		-1,350	-4,000	-3,900	1,850

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

# The key results for Conwy County Borough

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 114,800.
- The population has decreased by -450 (-0.4%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 115,250. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 27.4%, (up from 24.4% in 2011). This was the second highest in Wales (after Powys at 27.8%) and was a total of 31,400 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 4,500 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 4,300 in 2011 and 3,650 in 2001. At 3.9% of the population this was the highest proportion in Wales.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 60,800 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 53.0% of all usual residents. This compares to 62,700 or 54.4% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 51.6:100 compared to 44.9:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 17,200 or 15.0% of the total population (down from 17,750 or 15.4% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- There were 52,200 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is an increase of 1,000 (2.0%) since 2011, when there were 51,200 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- 3.7% of the population of Wales lives in Conwy County Borough. This is a slight decrease since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is -0.037% lower than the figure used in the 2021/22 Rate

Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Conwy County Borough.

Table 5: comparison of different population bases for Conwy County Borough

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	114,800	115,250	118,200	118,000	109,600
As % of Wales total	3.694%	3.761%	3.729%	3.732%	3.775%
Total households	52,200	51,200	53,350	53,350	48,050
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		-450	-3,400	-3,200	5,200
As % of Wales total		-0.067%	-0.034%	-0.037%	-0.081%
Total households		1,000	-1,150	-1,150	4,150

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

# The key results for Denbighshire

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 95,800.
- The population has increased by 2,050 (2.2%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 93,750. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 24.8%, (up from 21.0% in 2011), a total of 23,800 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 3,000 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 2,600 in 2011 and 2,650 in 2001. At 3.1% of the population this was higher than the Welsh average of 2.7% and the England and Wales average of 2.4%.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 51,200 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 53.4% of all usual residents. This compares to 52,300 or 55.8% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 46.5:100 compared to 37.7:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 15,800 or 16.5% of the total population (down from 16.8% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- There were 42,400 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is an increase of 1,850 (4.6%) since 2011, when there were 40,550 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- About 3.1% of the population of Wales lives in Denbighshire. This is a slight increase since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is 0.052% higher than the figure used in the 2021/22 Rate Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Denbighshire.

Table 6: comparison of different population bases for Denbighshire

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	95,800	93,750	96,650	95,850	93,050
As % of Wales total	3.083%	3.060%	3.050%	3.031%	3.206%
Total households	42,400	40,550	42,200	42,000	39,900
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		2,050	-850	-50	2,750
As % of Wales total		0.023%	0.033%	0.052%	-0.123%
Total households		1,850	200	400	2,500

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

# The key results for Flintshire

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 155,000.
- The population has increased by 2,500 (1.6%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 152,500. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 21.4%, (up from 17.6% in 2011), a total of 33,200 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 3,800 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 3,150 in 2011 and 2,550 in 2001. At 2.5% of the population this was lower than the Welsh average of 2.7% and higher than the England and Wales average of 2.4%.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 87,900 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 56.7% of all usual residents. This compares to 89,450 or 58.7% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 37.8:100 compared to 30.0:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 25,600 or 16.5% of the total population (down from 26,700 or 17.5% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively).
- There were 66,900 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is an increase of 3,100 (4.9%) since 2011, when there were 63,800 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- About 5.0% of the population of Wales lives in Flintshire. This is a slight increase since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is 0.027% higher than the figure used in the 2021/22 Rate Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Flintshire.

Table 7: comparison of different population bases for Flintshire

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	155,000	152,500	156,850	156,850	148,600
As % of Wales total	4.988%	4.978%	4.949%	4.961%	5.118%
Total households	66,900	63,800	66,950	67,150	60,550
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		2,500	-1,850	-1,850	6,400
As % of Wales total		0.010%	0.039%	0.027%	-0.131%
Total households		3,100	-50	-250	6,350

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.

# The key results for Wrexham

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population was 135,100.
- The population has increased by 250 (0.2%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 134,850. Wales saw an increase of 1.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.3%.
- There were more people than ever before in the older age groups; the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 20.2%, (up from 16.9% in 2011), a total of 27,300 people. The population aged 65+ in Wales as a whole = 21.3%; in England and Wales = 18.6% (up from 18.4% and 16.4% respectively).
- There were 3,300 residents aged 85 and over in 2021, compared with 2,900 in 2011 and 2,500 in 2001. At 2.4% of the population this was lower than the Welsh average of 2.7% and the same as the England and Wales average.
- The population of working age has decreased in the last ten years – there were 77,100 people aged 20-64 in 2021 which was 57.1% of all usual residents. This compares to 79,750 or 59.2% in 2011. The population aged 20-64 in Wales as a whole in 2021 = 56.5%; in England and Wales = 58.4%.
- The old age dependency ratio (the number of people aged 65 or over for every 100 people aged 20-64) has increased significantly and is now 35.4:100 compared to 28.6:100 in 2011. The all-Wales ratio for 2021 is 37.7:100 and for England and Wales it is 31.8:100. A high dependency ratio can put strain on the local economy and on the resources needed to provide social care.
- The number of people aged under 15 was 23,300 or 17.2% of the total population (down from 24,200 or 17.9% in 2011). The population aged under 15 in Wales as a whole = 16.5%; in England and Wales = 17.4% (down from 16.9% and 17.6% respectively). Wrexham has the youngest population age structure of the six unitary authority areas in North Wales.
- There were 57,900 households with at least one usual resident on Census Day; this is an increase of 850 (1.5%) since 2011, when there were 57,050 households. Wales saw an increase of 3.4%, and England and Wales an increase of 6.1%.
- About 4.3% of the population of Wales lives in Wrexham. This is a slight decrease since 2011. As a proportion of the total for Wales, the 2021 Census population figure is 0.058% higher than the figure used in the 2021/22 Rate Support Grant settlement for local authorities. Though this seems a slight difference, it could have a significant impact on income from the settlement.

- The most recent officially produced population figures (2020 mid-year estimate of population, ONS and Welsh Government's 2018-based projections) significantly over-estimated the population of Wrexham.

Table 8: comparison of different population bases for Wrexham

	2021 Census	2011 Census	2020 mid-year estimate	2021/22 RSG settlement*	2001 Census
Total population	135,100	134,850	136,050	135,650	128,500
As % of Wales total	4.348%	4.402%	4.293%	4.289%	4.425%
Total households	57,900	57,050	59,050	58,950	53,250
<b>Difference</b>					
Total population		250	-950	-550	6,600
As % of Wales total		-0.054%	0.055%	0.058%	-0.078%
Total households		850	-1,150	-1,050	4,650

Sources: 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census of population, ONS; 2020 mid-year population estimates, ONS; 2020 mid-year household estimates, WG; 2018-based projections, WG)

\* The population base used in the Rate Support Grant (RSG) calculation is taken from the 2018-based population projections produced by Welsh Government and uses the projected population figures for mid-2021.