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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

2021 Census

Topic summary: UK armed forces veterans

November 2022



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Introduction

This bulletin looks at the UK armed forces veterans topic summary data from the 2021 Census for England and Wales that was published on 10 November 2022 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It provides unrounded population and household estimates at North Wales and unitary authority level.

Census 2021 in Wales and England was the first to ask people if they had previously served in the UK armed forces. People aged 16 years or older 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”.

People who have previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces are often known as the veteran population and form part of the armed forces community (along with people who currently serve in the armed forces or Merchant Navy and their families). The question on UK armed forces veterans was added to better meet the needs for service providers and others who support veterans, in line with the [Armed Forces Covenant](#).

The ONS has also published [UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales: Census 2021](#).

More data will be released in phases until the end of 2023 and will include detailed data at small area level about people, households and living arrangements, work and housing/amenities.

The key results for North Wales

- In 2021, 29,194 people in North Wales reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 5.1% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%).
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in North Wales, 78.1% (22,802 people) previously served in the regular forces, 17.6% (5,152 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 4.2% (1,240 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 613 UK armed forces veterans (2.1%) lived in communal establishments and the remainder (28,581, 97.9%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 9.1% (27,424 households). This was higher than it was in Wales (8.1%) or in England (7.0%).
- Across Wales, the local authorities with the highest proportion of veterans include Conwy County Borough (5.9%, 5,649 people), and the Isle of Anglesey (5.6%, 3,221 people).

The key results for the Isle of Anglesey

- In 2021, 3,221 people on the Isle of Anglesey reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 5.6% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%). Isle of Anglesey is one of the local authorities with the highest proportion of veterans in Wales.
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population on the Isle of Anglesey, 81.3% (2,619 people) previously served in the regular forces, 14.9% (481 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 3.8% (121 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 1.2% of UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (98.8%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 9.9% (3,052 households). This was higher than it was in Wales (8.1%) or in England (7.0%).

The key results for Gwynedd

- In 2021, 4,177 people in Gwynedd reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 4.3% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in England and Wales as a whole (3.8%).
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in Gwynedd, 76.9% (3,214 people) previously served in the regular forces, 19.1% (796 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 4.0% (167 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 2.4% of UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (97.6%) lived in households.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 7.7% (3,930 households). This was higher than it was in England and Wales as a whole (7.0%).

The key results for Conwy County Borough

- In 2021, 5,649 people in Conwy County Borough reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 5.9% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%). Conwy County Borough is the local authorities with the highest proportion of veterans in Wales.
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in Conwy County Borough, 78.8% (4,453 people) previously served in the regular forces, 16.9% (954 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 4.3% (242 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 2.5% of UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (97.5%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 10.2% (5,306 households). This was higher than it was in Wales (8.1%) or in England (7.0%).

The key results for Denbighshire

- In 2021, 4,309 people in Denbighshire reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 5.5% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%).
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in Denbighshire, 77.6% (3,334 people) previously served in the regular forces, 17.3% (746 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 5.1% (219 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 2.2% of UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (97.8%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 9.5% (4,032 households). This was higher than it was in Wales (8.1%) or in England (7.0%).

The key results for Flintshire

- In 2021, 6,772 people in Flintshire reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 5.3% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%).
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in Flintshire, 77.5% (5,249 people) previously served in the regular forces, 18.3% (1,237 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 4.2% (286 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 0.9% of UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (99.1%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 9.6% (6,399 households). This was higher than it was in Wales (8.1%) or in England (7.0%).

The key results for Wrexham

- In 2021, 5,066 people in Wrexham reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This is around 4.6% of usual residents aged 16 years or older.
- The percentage of UK armed forces veterans was higher than it was in Wales (4.5%) or in England (3.8%).
- Of the UK armed forces veteran population in Wrexham, 77.4% (3,923 people) previously served in the regular forces, 18.5% (938 people) previously served in the reserve forces, and 4.0% (205 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces.
- 3.4% of the UK armed forces veterans lived in communal establishments and the remainder (96.6%) lived in households. Veterans are very slightly more likely to live in communal establishments than the population in general.
- The percentage of households with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces was 8.1% (4,705 households). This was higher than it was in England and Wales as a whole (7.0%).

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.

[As data from the 2021 Census becomes available, the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub website will be publishing key results and providing analysis for North Wales and our unitary authority areas.](https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/census/)

(<https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/census/>)

[A statistical bulletin summarising the key results for Wales is available.](https://gov.wales/uk-armed-forces-veterans-wales-census-2021)

(<https://gov.wales/uk-armed-forces-veterans-wales-census-2021>)

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

<https://census.gov.uk/>

[Welsh Government's main Census website](https://gov.wales/census-population) is:

<https://gov.wales/census-population>

The full [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>)