



**WIRRAL
INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE**

**Census 2021: Initial
Results Release**

Wirral Intelligence Service

July 2022

Census 2021: Initial Results Release

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Introduction

The first Census 2021 data release was on 28 June 2022.

This release is a set of data from the census which includes rounded population and household estimates for England and for Wales, at local authority level.

Smaller geographies e.g., Ward data will not be available in this release. A summary of this first release is included in this paper along with further information on the release schedule for future data sets.

The Council and partners widely use census data to plan services and the data releases will lead to a review and refresh of currently available data for this use.

Initial Release Key Results

Number of Households

This information is shown with reference to previous Census 2011 number of households and ONS household estimates including projections used in the Local Plan.

- The 2011 Census showed there were **140,583** households with at least one usual resident.
- The number of households projected by ONS for 2020 by the 2014 based estimates* was **146,900**
- The 2016 based estimates from ONS projected **144,200** for 2021.
- The 2018 based estimates from ONS projected **145,170** for 2021.
- The 2021 Census showed there were **143,300** households with at least one usual resident.

Table 1: Number of Households and Household Estimates in Wirral, by Source

Source	Number of Households
Census 2011	140,583
*ONS 2014-based Estimates for 2020	146,900
ONS 2016-based Estimates for 2021	144,200
ONS 2018-based Estimates for 2021	145,170
Census 2021	143,300

Compared to the previous Census in 2011, the number of households has increased by 2,800 (+1.9% increase). This, however, is not as high as previously estimated figures by ONS utilised by the Council.

Population

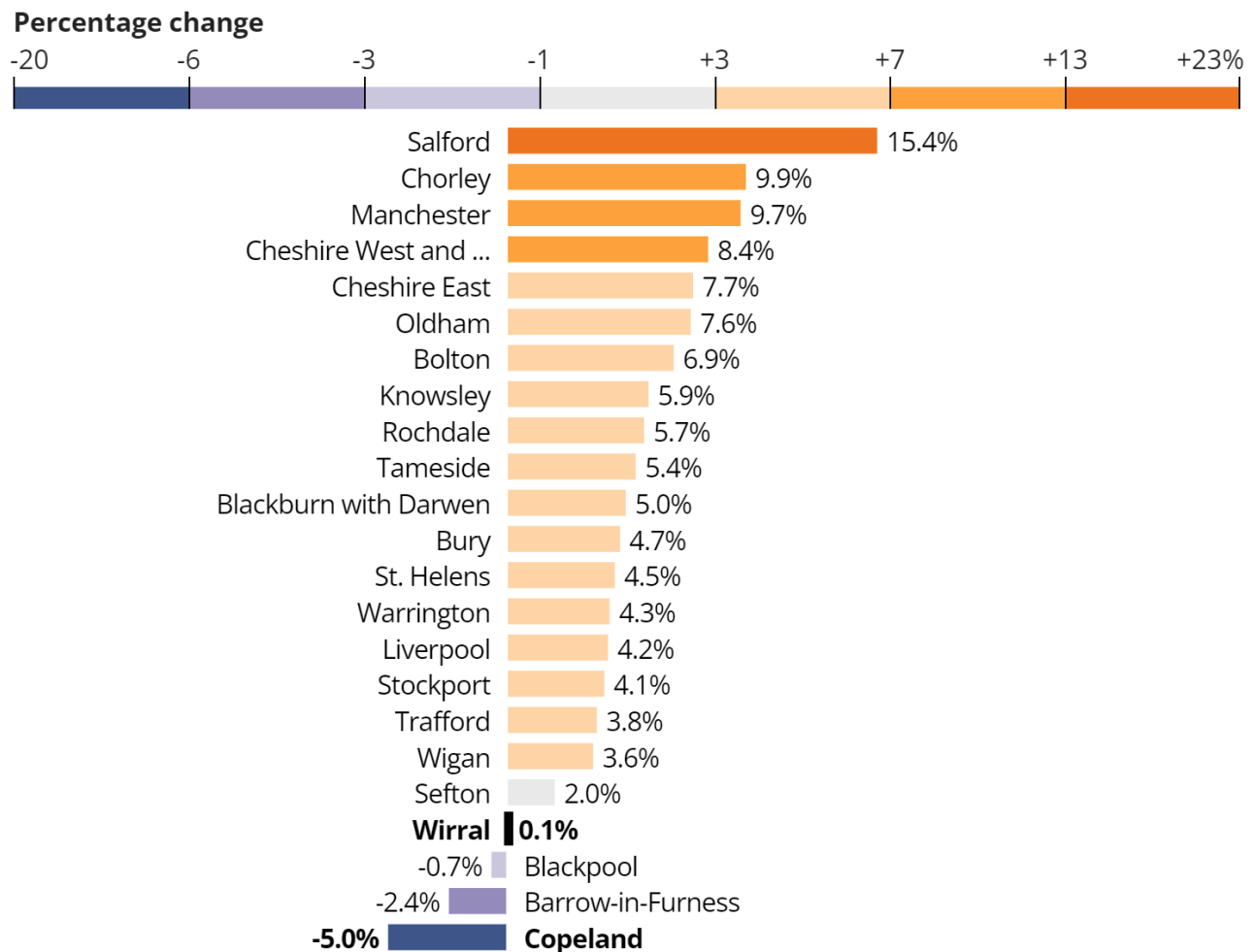
The 2021 Census showed that the population of Wirral is now **320,200** (**165,100** females, **155,100** males). This is a 0.1% growth in population since the previous Census in 2011 (n=319,783).

For comparison, the total population of England grew by 6.6%, increasing by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.

Nearby areas like Cheshire West and Chester and Knowsley have seen their populations increase by around 8.4% and 5.9%, respectively, while other areas such as Liverpool saw an increase of 4.2% and Sefton saw a smaller growth of 2.0%.

The largest population increases in the North-West have been seen in Salford and Chorley, with their populations having grown by 15.4% and 9.9%, respectively.

Figure 1: Population Change of selected Local Authorities in the North-West between 2011 and 2021

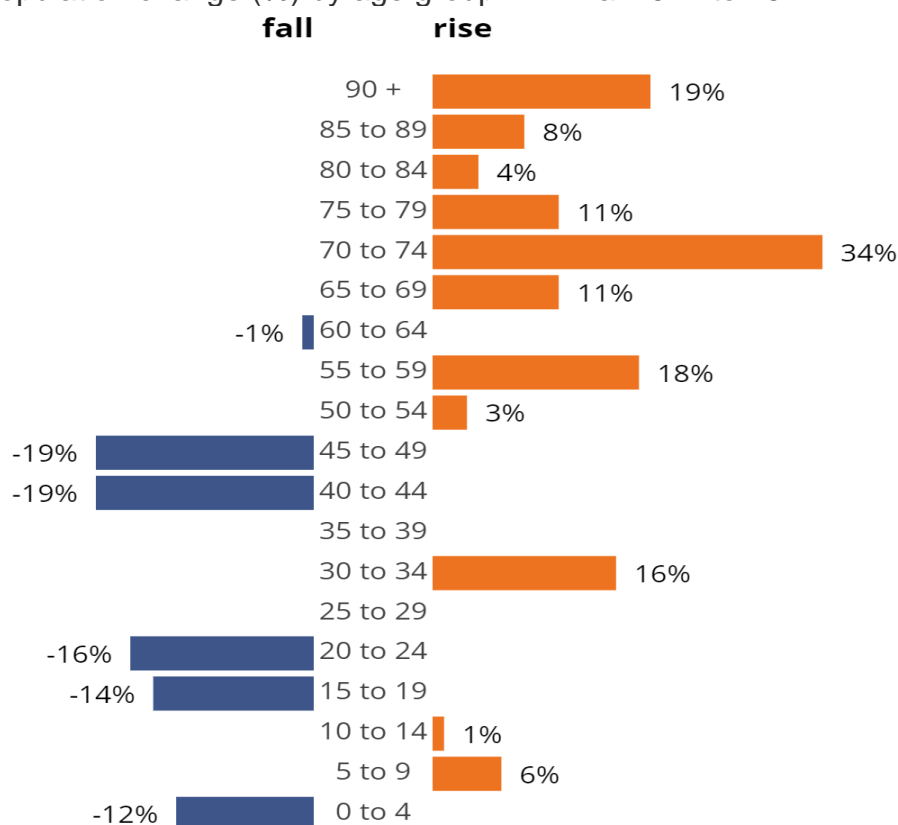


Wirral continues to have an older population than England. Those aged 65 years and over make up 22.0% of the Wirral population, compared to 18.4% of the England population.

In Wirral there has been an increase of 15.5% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 3.9% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.6% in children aged under 15 years.

Overall, in England, there has been an increase of 20.1% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 3.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 5.0% in children aged under 15 years.

Figure 2: Population change (%) by age group in Wirral 2011 to 2021



The table below shows the split of the population by 5-year age group and gender. Please note that individual figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and therefore will not sum to the exact population due to this rounding.

Table 2: Resident Population by 5-Year Age Group and Gender, Wirral, Census 2021

Age Group	Males		Females		Persons	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	8,500	2.7%	7,900	2.5%	16,400	5.1%
5-9	9,700	3.0%	9,100	2.8%	18,800	5.9%
10-14	9,800	3.1%	9,400	2.9%	19,200	6.0%
15-19	8,800	2.7%	8,200	2.6%	17,000	5.3%
20-24	7,600	2.4%	7,400	2.3%	15,000	4.7%
25-29	8,700	2.7%	9,200	2.9%	17,900	5.6%
30-34	9,400	2.9%	10,400	3.2%	19,800	6.2%
35-39	9,200	2.9%	10,100	3.1%	19,300	6.0%
40-44	8,900	2.8%	9,500	3.0%	18,400	5.7%
45-49	9,500	3.0%	10,300	3.2%	19,800	6.2%
50-54	11,200	3.5%	11,800	3.7%	23,000	7.2%
55-59	11,500	3.6%	12,500	3.9%	24,000	7.5%
60-64	10,600	3.3%	11,000	3.4%	21,600	6.7%
65-69	9,100	2.8%	9,900	3.1%	19,000	5.9%
70-74	9,200	2.9%	9,900	3.1%	19,100	6.0%
75-79	6,200	1.9%	7,200	2.2%	13,400	4.2%
80-84	4,100	1.3%	5,600	1.7%	9,700	3.0%
85-89	2,300	0.7%	3,600	1.1%	5,900	1.8%
90+	1,100	0.3%	2,300	0.7%	3,400	1.1%
Total	155,400	48.5%	165,300	51.5%	320,700	100.0%

Note: Figures are individually rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures may not add exactly due to this rounding.

Source: Census 2021

For population size, in 2021 Wirral ranked 37th out of 309 Local Authority areas in England, which is a fall of 13 places in a decade.

As of 2021, Wirral is the ninth most densely populated of the North West's 39 local authority areas, with around 14 people living on the equivalent of a football pitch-sized area of land, compared to 3 people for every football pitch-sized land in England.

For reference, the most densely populated local authority area in England is Tower Hamlets with the equivalent of around 112 people per football pitch.

Future Census Data Releases

For information, the ONS aim to publish all other main Census 2021 data within two years of the census (March 2021). This is being conducted through a set of releases of various categories of data. Key examples and dates are included below.

Autumn to Winter 2022 – Topic Summaries

A topic summary is a set of data and supporting commentary, grouped by a similar theme. ONS propose to cover these topics in the order listed:

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

Autumn to Winter 2022 – Area Profiles

Area profiles will allow users to view statistics from across different topics for a particular area and compare local statistics for an area against national statistics.

Phase 2: Winter 2022 to Early 2023

Multivariate data for the usual resident population base

Multivariate data will allow users to combine variables and explore relationships between the data, collected from Census 2021 on the usual resident population of England and Wales. Alongside standard datasets that users can view and download, we will be introducing new functionality for Census 2021. This new functionality will allow users to make their own datasets, by selecting or changing different combinations of variables, classifications, and geographies

Short-term resident population data

The short-term resident population includes those who were not born in the UK and who intend to stay in the UK for less than 12 months, as of March 2021.

Census 2021 analysis programme begins

All Census 2021 data releases will be published with statistical commentary, with the analysis of the data developing in complexity as the ONS publish more detailed data. Following the release of multivariate data from Census 2021, ONS will begin a three-year, detailed Census 2021 analysis programme.

Full information on the release schedule can be found [here](#)

Further Information

The initial data release can be found [here](#)

The ONS has published [interactive content from the Census 2021 first results](#), including:

- How the population has changed in different local authority areas and how they compare with others across England and Wales.
- A game, testing your knowledge of the population of local authorities

The Census first release data will also be available in the Council's mapping and reporting tool Local Insight within a number of days of release. This can be found [here](#)

Contact details

For further details please contact:

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