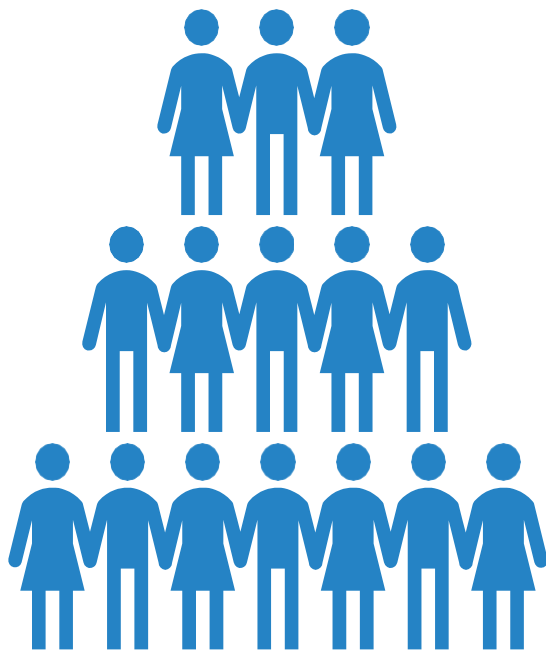


2021 Census- First Results



FIRST RESULTS FOR BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Demographic Brief 2022/01
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Summary

The first results from the 2021 Census show Birmingham's resident population is 1,144,900. This is up 6.7% (71,900) since 2011, this is moderately higher than the 6.6% rate of growth seen in England.

The most marked increase has been among those aged 50 to 59 years, accounting for more than one third of population growth since the last Census. There has also been an increase for those aged 65 and over (9%), with the most rapid growth seen in the over 90's, rising by over one fifth to almost 8,000 people. There has been a decline in the number of young adults aged 20-29 years (-2.1%), this is in contrast with marked growth of 26% seen between 2001 and 2011. There is also a decline in the number of pre-school children (-8.4%) compared with 2011.

The Census also shows that the city's population is relatively youthful. Under 30's make up 43.8% of Birmingham's population, compared with 35.7% in England.

The number of households in Birmingham has increased by 3% to 423,500 households. This is half of the average increase for number of households in England (6%).

2021 Population Census in Birmingham – First Results

The Office for National Statistics released the first results from the 2021 population census on 28th June 2022. It shows Birmingham's resident population as 1,144,900. This is up 6.7% (71,900) since 2011, moderately higher than the rate of growth for England (6.6%) and higher than the region (6.2%). Birmingham ranked 5 of the 8 English Core cities for population growth, Bristol (10.2%) ranked 1, with Newcastle (0.6%) ranked 8.

Table 1: 2021 Population Census summary of First Results

Census 2021	Birmingham	West Midlands	England
Population	1,144,900	5,950,800	56,489,800
Population change since 2011	+6.7%	+6.2%	+6.6%
Number of households	423,500	2,429,500	23,435,700
Household change since 2011	+3.1%	+5.9%	+6.2%
Population density per KM SQ ¹	4,275	458	434
Response rates ²	94%	97%	97%

Figure 1: 2021 Census Population in Birmingham – Age Structure

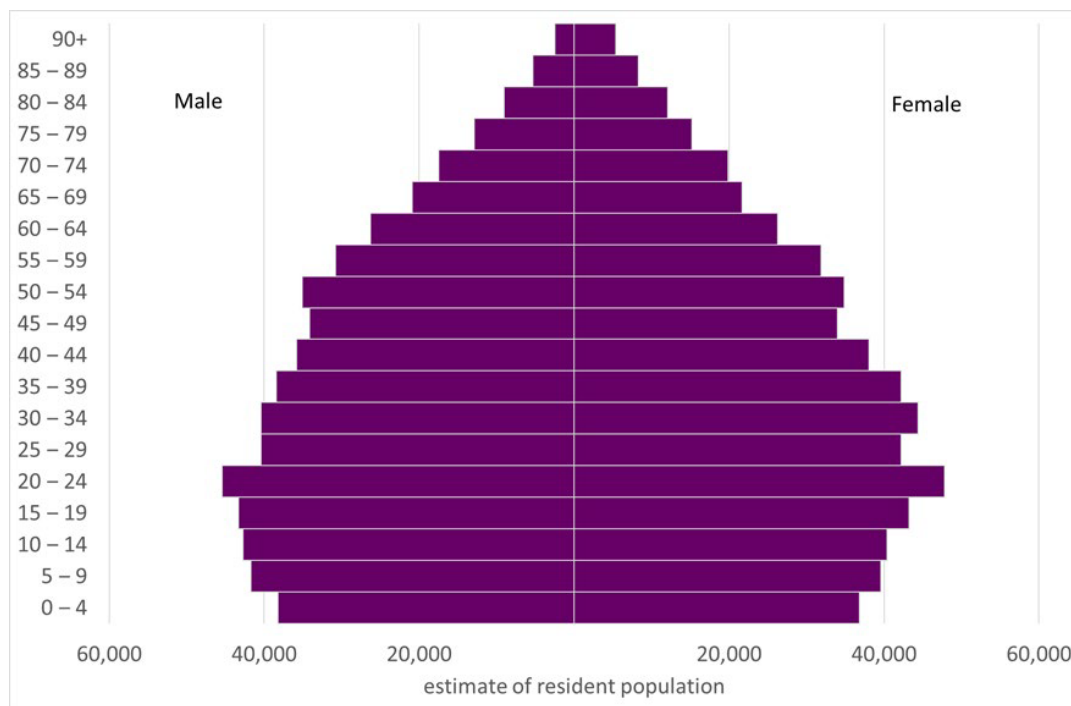


Figure 1 shows Birmingham's age structure on Census day. There were 560,700 males (49%) and 584,400 females (51%). The pyramid shows more people in the younger ages, compared with people in older age groups, this means that Birmingham has a young age structure. 43.8% of Birmingham's population was under 30, this compare with 35.7% for England and 36.5% for the region.

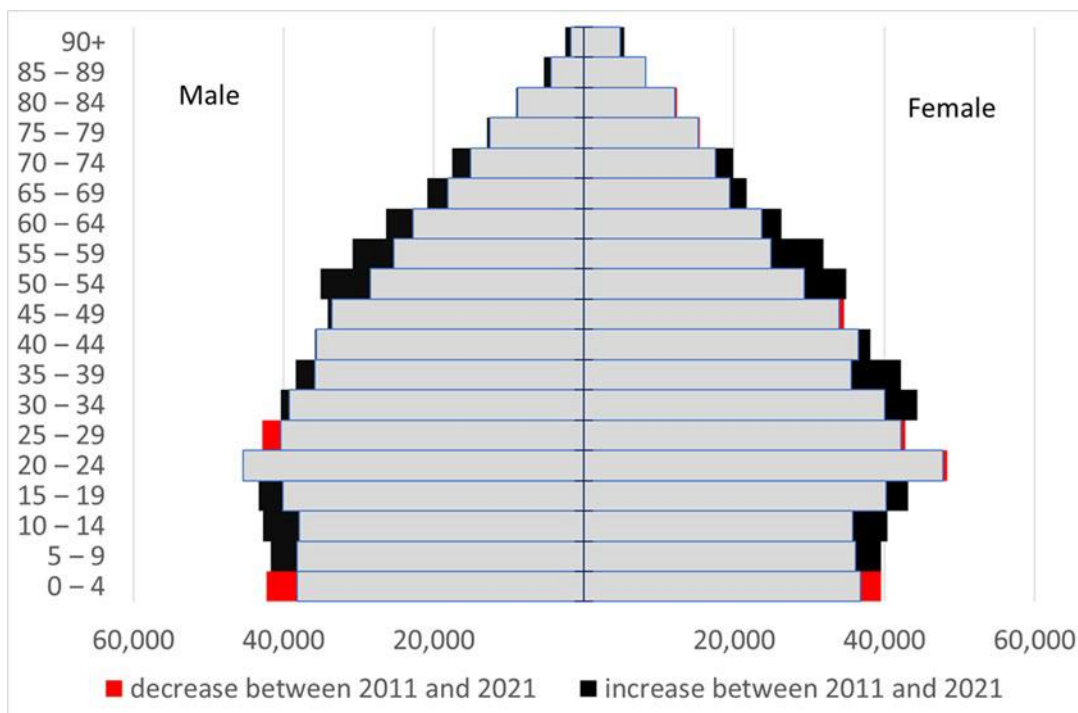
¹ People per kilometre square

² Response rate is calculated as the census count for an area or group divided by the final census estimate.

Population change

Overall, the population in Birmingham increased by 71,900 people between 2011 and 2021. There were 165,183³ births and 86,783³ deaths in Birmingham during the decade resulting in natural change of 78,400 people. This means that natural change was higher than population change. This has happened because Birmingham has a longstanding trend of net outmigration to other areas of the UK, particularly to the neighbouring Districts. As well as the high number of births over deaths, people moving from overseas help to offset this outward net migration from Birmingham.

Figure 2: 2011 to 2021 Population change in Birmingham by age



Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 2 shows 2011 age pyramid compared with 2021. Females accounted for over half (54%) of population growth in Birmingham, in contrast to 2001 to 2011 where men accounted for the majority (57%) of growth. Overall, most age groups show an increase between 2011 and 2021. There is some evidence that despite Birmingham’s youthful population that our population is aging. The number of people in their 50’s show the largest increase 24,800 (23%), accounting for more than a third of population growth since the last census. Numbers of pensioners have increased by 9% (12,500). Although the number of the very elderly (90+) is comparatively small, their numbers increased by more than a fifth from 6,400 in 2011 to 7,900 in 2021. There were decreases in the number of pre-school children (-8.4%, -6,900) and young adults in their twenties (-2.1%, -3,700).

³ Birth and death data for 2020/2021 are provisional

Difference between the Census estimate and other measures of the population

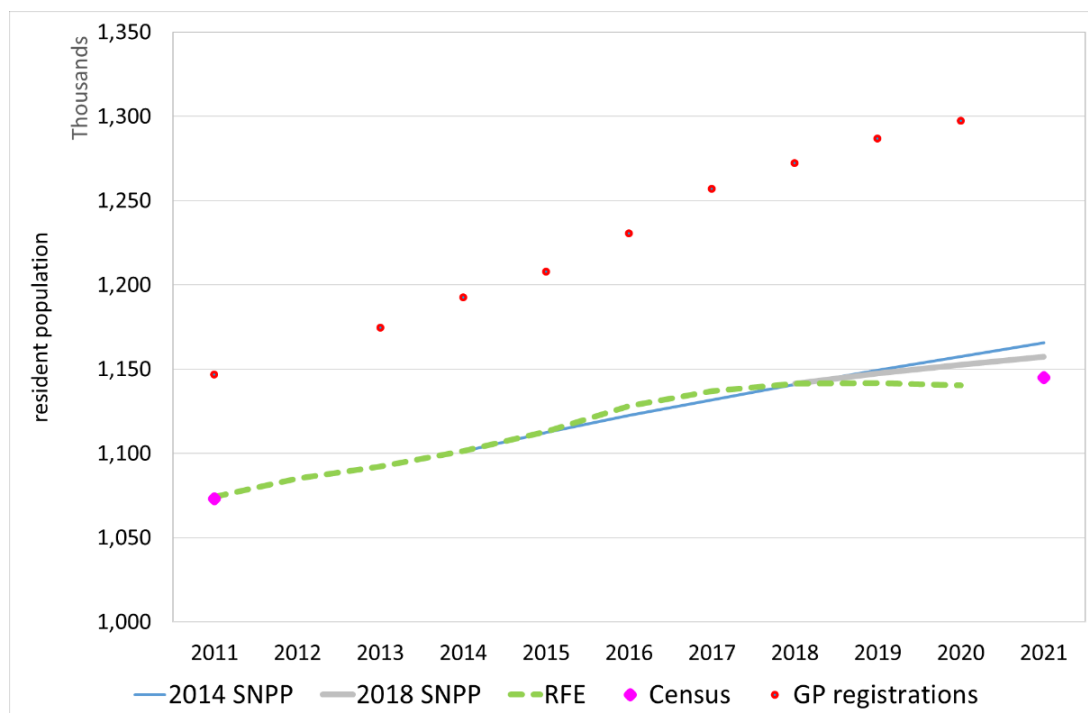
Figures 3 and 4 show how the Census estimate compares with sub national population projections (SNPP), rolled forward population estimates (RFE) and GP registrations. The comparisons provide some indication of how accurate the intercensal estimates and projections are and helps to identify any potential weaknesses in the models.

The rolled forward or intercensal 2020 population estimate (1,140,500) is broadly in line with the 2021 Census. However, the difference between the RFE and Census estimate varies according to age group, for example, figure 4 shows a wide gap between RFE and Census estimate for people in their 20's. The RFE overestimate this age group by 15% (27,100). Conversely, estimates for over 70's show a difference of 2% or less.

The 2018 SNPP follows a similar pattern to the RFE estimate as observed demographic trends in RFE are projected forward and there is no attempt to predict the impact that future policies or changing economic circumstances may have.

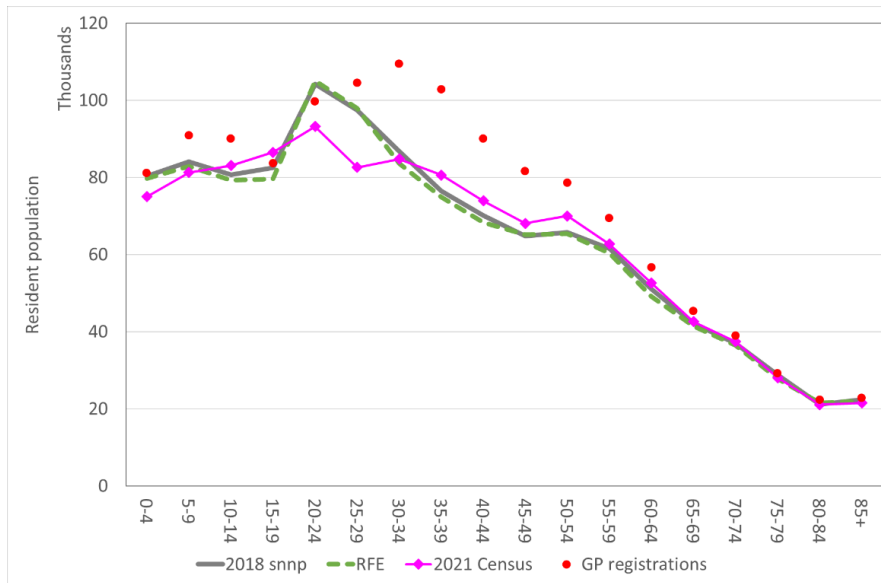
GP registrations are also compared to the 2021 Census estimate, the number of the GP registrations for Birmingham was 13% (152,000) higher than census estimates. An excess of GP registrations is expected, this may in part be due to people failing to de register when moving to another UK address or abroad. The quality of GP data varies across the population, data for children and older people are more reliable due to their increased contact with health services. However, data for young adult males is particularly unreliable due to their tendency to not register or to be late registering with a GP after moving. Birmingham with a large student population and high international movement has an added layer of complexity.

Figure 3: 2021 Census population estimates compared with other measures of the population



Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2022

Figure 4: 2021 Census population estimates compared with other measures of the population by age

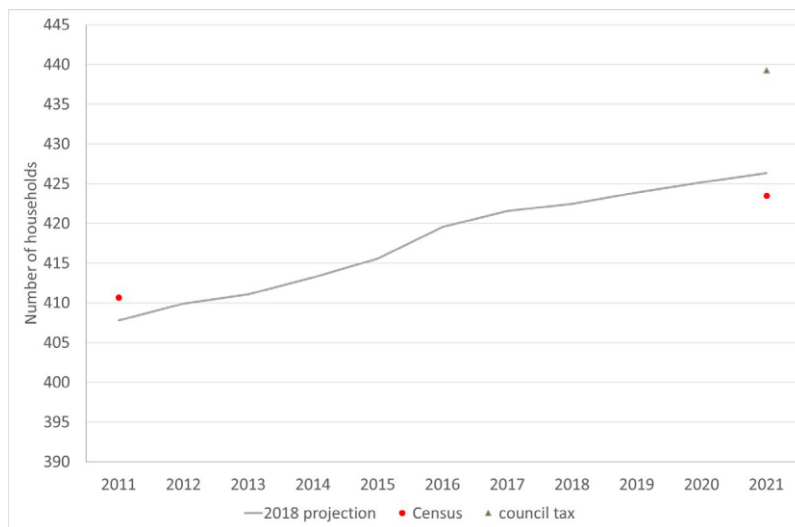


Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2022

Households

The 2021 Census estimated that there were 423,500 households in the UK with at least one usual resident. This is up 3.1% from 410,700 in 2011. The rate of growth in Birmingham is half that seen in the region (5.9%) and England (6.2%). Figure 5 shows how the Census estimate compares with council tax⁴ household data and household projections. 2018-base projections show 0.6% more households for 2021 and council tax estimates were almost 4% higher.

Figure 5: 2021 Census household estimates



⁴ Council tax figures for occupied households differs from the Census. For example, being an 'occupied dwelling' on Council Tax records does not mean that address is someone's place of usual residence according to the standard census definition. For example, a newly built dwelling may be liable for the full Council Tax charge but not yet be occupied by a usual resident. [To read more about the differences please follow this link to First results from Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2021-first-results)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2022

Where to find more information

[Follow this link to view more analysis about Birmingham's First Results](#)

It is important to note that the 2021 Census took place during the COVID 19 pandemic and this may have affected some people's choice of their usual residence on Census day, for example, students and in some urban areas. These changes may have been temporary for some and more long lasting for others. [To read more about the reliability of the Census please follow this link](#)

The next set of results from the Census will provide characteristics of the population, housing, labour market, education, health and unpaid care data. These results are expected to be released in tranches from Autumn/Winter 2022.

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Appendix 1

Table 2: 2011 to 2021 Census Population change in Birmingham by five-year age groups

Age	2021	2011	2011-2021 (number)	2011-2021 (percent)
All	1,144,900	1,073,100	71,800	6.7
0 – 4	75,000	81,900	-6,900	-8.4
5 – 9	81,300	74,400	6,900	9.3
10 – 14	83,100	73,700	9,400	12.8
15 – 19	86,400	80,300	6,100	7.6
20 – 24	93,200	93,900	-700	-0.7
25 – 29	82,600	85,600	-3,000	-3.5
30 – 34	84,800	79,200	5,600	7.1
35 – 39	80,600	71,400	9,200	12.9
40 – 44	74,000	72,100	1,900	2.6
45 – 49	68,000	68,100	-100	-0.1
50 – 54	69,900	57,700	12,200	21.1
55 – 59	62,700	50,200	12,500	24.9
60 – 64	52,600	46,400	6,200	13.4
65 – 69	42,600	37,500	5,100	13.6
70 – 74	37,300	32,600	4,700	14.4
75 – 79	28,100	27,900	200	0.7
80 – 84	21,000	21,200	-200	-0.9
85 – 89	13,600	12,600	1,000	7.9
90+	7,900	6,500	1,400	21.5
Age	2021	2011	2011-2021 (number)	2011-2021 (percent)
0-19	325,800	310,300	15,500	5.0
20-64	668,400	624,600	43,800	7.0
65+	150,500	138,300	12,200	8.8
All	1,144,900	1,073,000	71,900	6.7