



**WIRRAL
INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE**

Census 2021: Second Results Release

Wirral Intelligence Service

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Census 2021: Second Results Release

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Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the next phase of Census 2021 outputs for England and Wales on 2 November 2022. This release looks at topics including [migration, country of birth and household size and structure](#). In this phase statistics below Local Authority level are published for the first time.

In this release you can find out information such as:

- The number of England and Wales residents born outside of the UK
- Characteristics of people living in England and Wales
- Average household size and composition
- Passports held
- The median age of residents within different local authorities across England and Wales

ONS have also produced an interactive [Census Atlas](#), which can be used to visualise the Census results in Wirral (and across England and Wales).

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.

Second Release Key Results

Characteristics of people living in Wirral

Marital status

Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships were legalised in 2019. The questions on marriage and civil partnerships were updated for 2021 to reflect this.

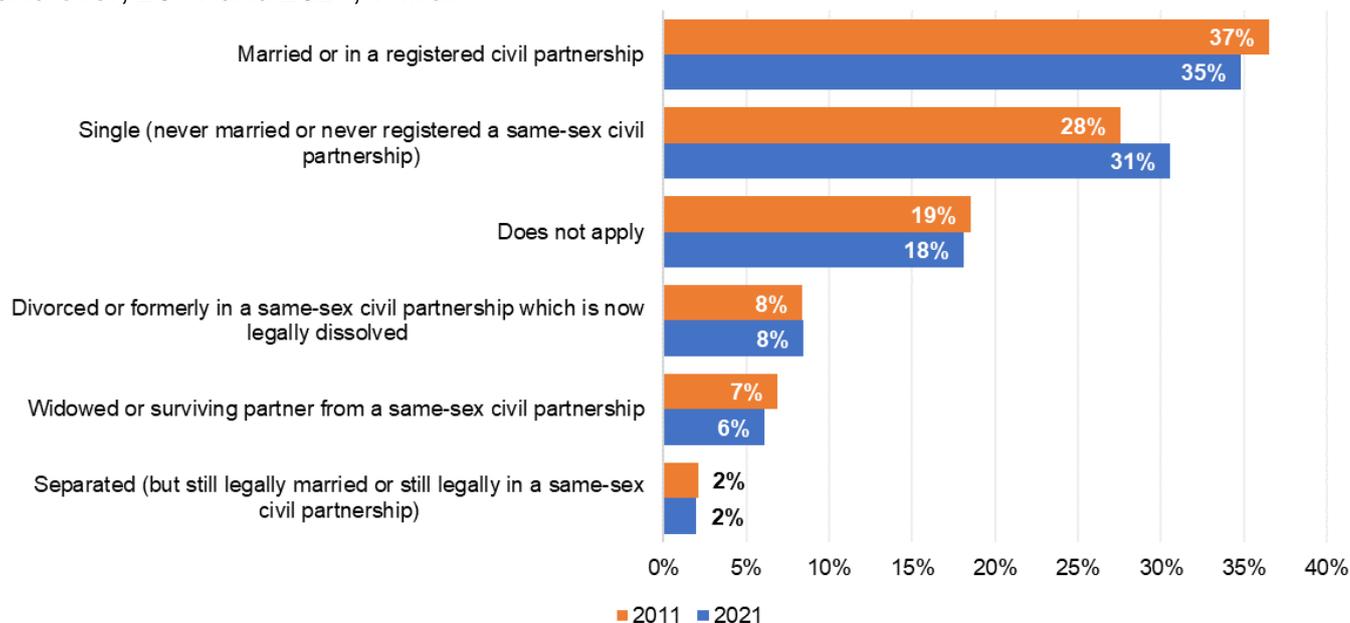
The results for 2021 in Wirral show that, as in 2011, the largest group was those people who reported that they were married or in a civil partnership, at 111,552 (34.8% of all usual residents, or 42.6% of all usual residents aged 16 years and over). The number of people in a marriage or civil partnership has decreased by just over 5,000 (-4.4%) since 2011 (from 116,733).

Of the 111,552 people who were married or in a civil partnership, 0.3% of individuals (932) were in same-sex couples, compared with 99.7% (110,620) in opposite-sex couples. A total of 441 people (0.1%) reported that they were in civil partnerships, of whom 71.0% (313) were in same-sex couples, compared with 29.0% (128) in opposite-sex couples.

The percentage of people who had never married nor never registered a civil partnership (i.e., were single) increased by 3.0 percentage points from 27.6% (88,202) in 2011 to 30.5% (97,809) in 2021. The number of people who were divorced or whose civil partnership had been dissolved stayed almost exactly the same with 26,806 in 2011 and 26,822 in 2021 (+0.02%).

Finally, there were declines in the proportion of people who were widowed or the surviving partner of a civil partnership, from 22,076 (6.9%) in 2011 to 19,572 (6.1%) in 2021, and in those who were separated but still legally married or in a civil partnership, from 6,681 (2.1%) in 2011 to 6,358 (2.0%) in 2021.

Figure 1: Legal partnership status by number and percentage, usual residents aged 16 years and over, 2011 and 2021, Wirral



Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#) and Census 2011 via [NOMIS](#)

Note: 'Does not apply' is the sum of the total number of residents aged under 16 years of age, i.e. not legally allowed to marry

Living arrangements

The majority (57.8%) of the population aged 16 years and over in England and Wales were living in a couple in 2021, including those in legally registered partnerships and those cohabiting. For Wirral, this figure was slightly lower at 55.1%. Consequently, Wirral has a higher proportion of people not living in a couple than England and Wales (44.9% compared to 42.2%).

Of those in Wirral not living in a couple, 60.9% were living alone, 17.6% were divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved, 15.3% were widowed or the surviving partner for a civil partnership, 4.6% were separated (including those who are married and those who are in civil partnerships) and 1.6% were married.

Average household size and composition

Household deprivation

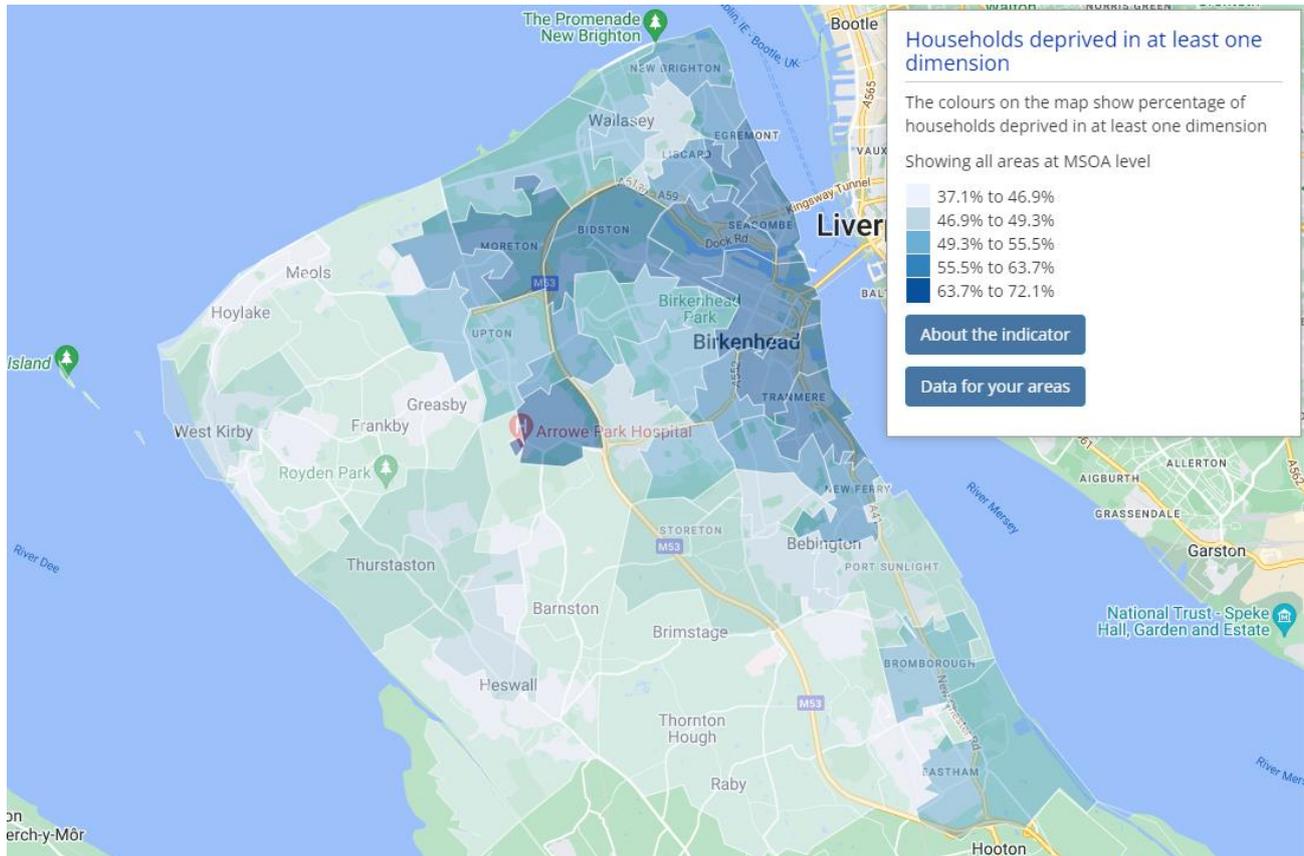
The deprivation information from the Census is different to the classification of deprivation as calculated by the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (last calculated in 2019). In the 2021 Census, households were considered to be deprived if they met one or more of the following four dimensions of deprivation:

1. Employment: where any member of a household, who is not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick
2. Education: no person in the household has at least five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications, and no person aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student
3. Health and disability: any person in the household has general health that is "bad" or "very bad" or is identified as disabled

- Housing: the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating of negative 1 or less (implying that it has one fewer room or bedroom required for the number of occupants), or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating

Over half of households in England and Wales (51.7%, 12.8 million) were deprived in at least one dimension or measure of household deprivation; this number has decreased since 2011, when it was 57.6% (13.5 million). In Wirral, 54.3% of households (77,722) were deprived in at least one dimension or measure of household deprivation.

Map 1: Proportion of households that are deprived in at least one dimension, by Wirral MSOA, 2021



Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#) and [Local Insight](#)

In Wirral, the five MSOAs (Middle Super Output Areas) with the highest deprivation rates were:

- Birkenhead Central: 72.1%
- Seacombe: 71.1%
- Tranmere: 68.1%
- Bidston Hill: 67.4%
- Leasowe South and Moreton East: 66.7%

By contrast, the five MSOAs with the lowest deprivation rates were:

- Gayton and Lower Heswall: 37.1%
- Caldy and Newton: 39.2%
- Poulton, Raby Mere and Thornton Hough: 41.8%
- Great Meols: 45.5%
- Bromborough South: 45.6%

Household size

There were 143,252 households with at least one usual resident in Wirral on 21 March 2021. This was an increase of almost 3,000 (+1.9%) from 140,583 households in 2011.

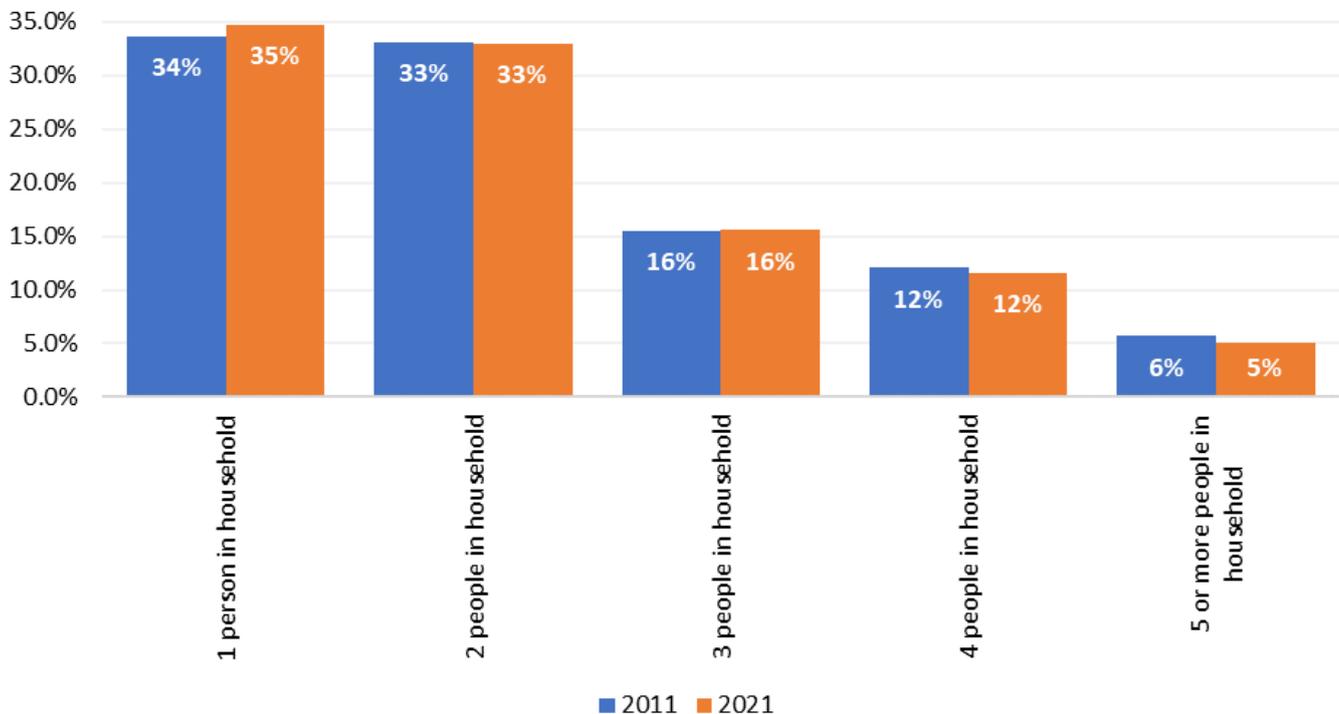
There were 317,403 usual residents (99.1%) who lived in households. The remaining 2,796 usual residents (0.9%) lived in communal establishments. More detail on communal establishments will be published later, as part of the Housing topic summary.

Dividing the overall number of usual residents in households by the overall number of households gives the average household size. For Wirral, in 2021, this was 2.2 residents per household (2.4 residents per household in England and 2.3 residents per household in Wales).

In Wirral, 34.7% of residents lived in a one person household, followed by 33.0% living in a two person household, 15.6% living in a three person household and 11.6% living in a four person household. The remaining 5.1% lived in a household containing five or more people. This information is summarised in **Figure 2**. Of the 309 local authorities in England, Wirral ranks 22nd highest for the proportion of residents living in one person households.

For the regions in England, the largest households on average were in London (2.5 residents per household) and the smallest households were in the North East (2.2 residents per household). The local authorities in England with the highest average household size were Newham, Slough and Redbridge (all 3.0 residents per household). The local authorities in England with the lowest average household size were the City of London (1.7 residents per household) and North Norfolk (2.1 residents per household).

Figure 2: Household sizes, 2011 and 2021, Wirral



Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#) and Census 2011 via [NOMIS](#)

Household composition

Responses to the census are used to calculate household composition, which refers to the relationship between household members. For example, a household might consist of a family, of unrelated adults living together, or it might just be one person living alone.

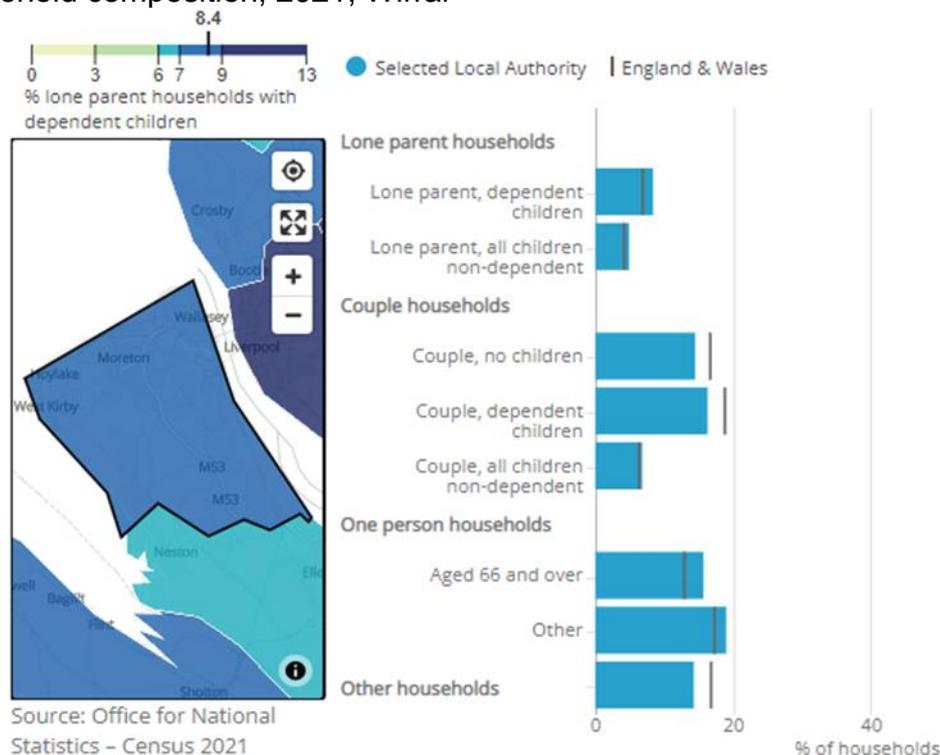
Across Wirral, the data show that 61.2% of households (87,738) were single family households, 34.7% (49,689) were one person households and 4.1% (5,828) were other household types, including households where multiple families lived together and households where unrelated adults lived together. This is similar to 2011, when 61.0% were single family households, 33.7% were one person households and 5.4% were other household types.

The most common types of single family household included those with a married or civil partnership couple with dependent children (16,789, 11.7% of all households) and those where all residents were aged 66 years and over (13,828, 9.7%). The greatest increase was for single family households with a cohabiting couple with non-dependent children, a household type that increased by 46.2% across the past decade, from 733 (0.5%) in 2011 to 1,072 (0.7%) in 2021.

There were 22,478 one person households with residents aged 66 years or over (15.7% of all households). The remaining 27,211 (19.0%) one person households in 2021 were for younger people.

Finally, for other household types, there were 2,635 households (1.8%) in which multiple families lived together with dependent children. There were 3,193 (2.2%) other types of multiple-family households in 2021, such as, for example, full-time students.

Figure 3: Household composition, 2021, Wirral



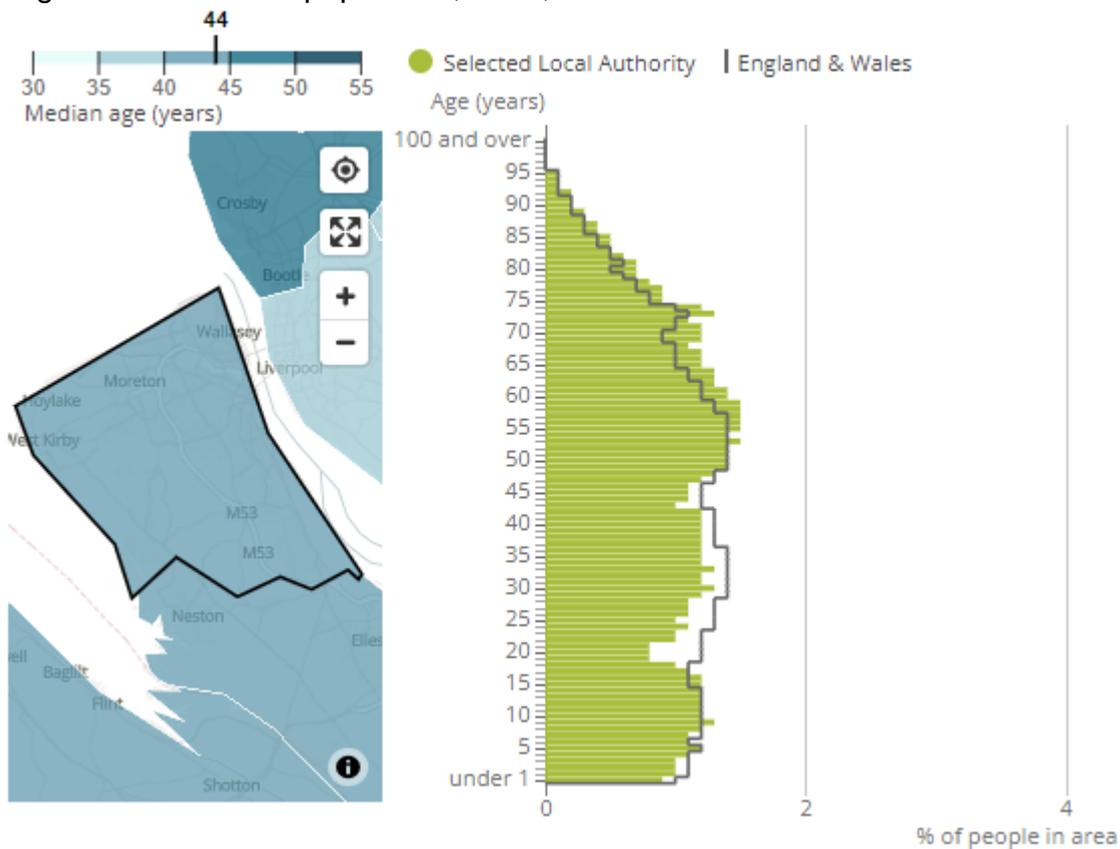
Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

Median age of residents

The region of England with the highest median age was the South-West (44 years) and the region of England with the lowest was London (35 years). Across England and Wales, the local authorities with the highest median age were North Norfolk (54 years), Rother (53 years) and East Lindsey (52 years). The local authority with the lowest median age was Tower Hamlets (30 years), followed by Nottingham, Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester (all 31 years).

Figure 4 shows that Wirral continues to have an older population than in England and Wales. The median age in Wirral was 44 years. This is higher than the median age in England and Wales (40 years).

Figure 4: Age structure of the population, 2021, Wirral



Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

Resident born outside of UK

In England and Wales overall in March 2021, one in six usual residents were born outside of the UK, an increase of 2.5 million since 2011, from 7.5 million (13.4%) to 10 million (16.8%).

In Wirral, this figure was one in 20 residents who were non-UK born. In numbers, the total residents (who numbered 320,196 in 2021), who were born in the UK was 302,789 (meaning 17,400 or around 5% were non-UK born).

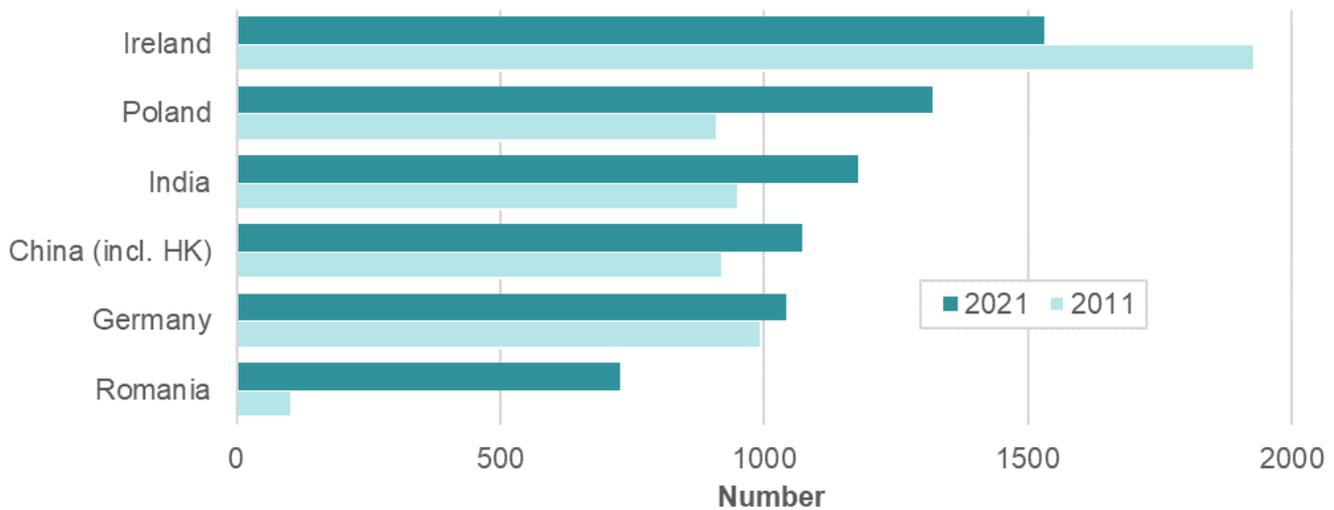
In England & Wales overall in 2021, the top 5 non-UK countries of birth were India, Poland, Pakistan, Romania and Ireland. The largest change for the UK overall since the 2011 Census was that Romania entered the top 5 and Germany dropped out of the top 5.

In Wirral, the top non-UK country of birth in 2021 remained Ireland, as was the case in 2011 (although by a smaller margin than in 2011). The next most common countries were Poland, India, China (see note under chart), Germany and Romania.

A sixth country (Romania) is included in the chart, because a) it has shown a large increase on 2011 which is worth noting, and b) China appears fourth when both 'China' and the 'Special Administrative Region of China - Hong Kong' are totalled together (rather than being presented

separately). If they were presented separately, Romania would be 5th (and China, *not including* the Special Administrative Region of China – Hong Kong, would be 6th). See **Figure 5** below.

Figure 5: Top non-UK countries of birth in 2021, with 2011 figures for comparison, Wirral



Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#)

Note: China (incl. HK) indicates total population of both ‘China’ and ‘Special Administrative Region of China – Hong Kong).

Passports held

In 2011, ONS added information on passport(s) held by usual residents to the Census, which is another measure that can be used to describe migration statistics. It is often used as a proxy for nationality and a way of identifying those who hold dual or multiple nationalities. **Table 1** shows this information from both 2011 and 2021 in both Wirral and England as a comparison.

Table 1: Comparison of passports held, in Wirral, by region of world, 2011 and 2021

Region of world	2011		2021		Difference
	Number	%	Number	%	
UK	255,651	79.9	265,510	82.9	3.0
No passport	58,437	18.3	46,082	14.4	-3.9
Africa	330	0.1	435	0.1	0.0
Antarctica and Oceania	130	0.0	132	0.0	0.0
Europe	3,732	1.2	6,231	1.9	0.8
Middle East & Asia	1,147	0.4	1,339	0.4	0.1
Americas & Caribbean	356	0.1	467	0.1	0.0
Other	0	0.0	2	0.0	0.0
Total	319,783	100.0	320,196	100.0	

Source: Census 2021 via [Office for National Statistics](#)

Note: People can hold multiple passports. ONS prevented double-counting residents by only showing them in one passport category. When a person had more than one passport, they were categorised in the following priority order: 1. UK passport 2. Irish passport, 3. Other country passport

As **Table 1** shows, the largest difference in passports held between 2011 and 2021, was that the number and proportion of the Wirral population with no passport decreased by 3.9%. The largest increase was in the number of people who had a UK passport (increased by 3.0%), followed by a 0.8% increase in the number of residents holding a European passport.

This is one of the highest proportions in the UK of residents holding UK passports and compares to 76.7% in England overall.

Find Out More

ONS's new digital [Census maps](#) enables users to find out what people's lives are like across England and Wales and explore Census 2021 data for different topics down to a local authority and neighbourhood level. ONS have also published two statistical bulletins, containing charts, tables and supporting information including statistical methods and quality measures. These are included as Appendices to this report (see below).

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](#)

Future Census Data Releases

The next Census 2021 release is due on 10 November, looking for the first time at [UK armed forces veterans](#). The remaining topic summaries will be published in a rolling programme throughout November, December and early 2023, followed by multivariate data and analysis. ONS have provided a [release calendar](#) with provisional publication dates for the following topic summaries on the links below:

- [Ethnicity, national identity, language and religion](#)
- [Welsh Language](#)
- [Labour Market and Travel to Work](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Sexual orientation and gender identity](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Health, disability and unpaid care](#)

Contact details

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Appendix

Household and Resident Characteristics

To access the bulletin produced by ONS on Household and resident characteristics, follow this link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/householdcharacteristics/homeinternetandsocialmediausage/bulletins/householdandresidentcharacteristicsenglandandwales/census2021>

International Migration

To access the bulletin produced by ONS on International Migration, follow this link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/internationalmigrationenglandandwales/census2021>