

# Briefing Note

Census 2021

Topic summary release <sup>(006)</sup>:

13 January 2023

## census 2021

### Housing

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The housing topic summary, published by ONS provides information on:

- Accommodation type
- Tenure
- Rooms, bedrooms, and occupancy rating
- Central heating
- Car or van availability

This note provides an overview of the key headline statistics related to South Gloucestershire and how these compare to regional and national trends.

For additional information related to data collection and definitions, please refer to the [ONS website](#).

ONS have also produced an interactive map where you can view all published data at local level. You can access this via their website (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>).

## Headline data

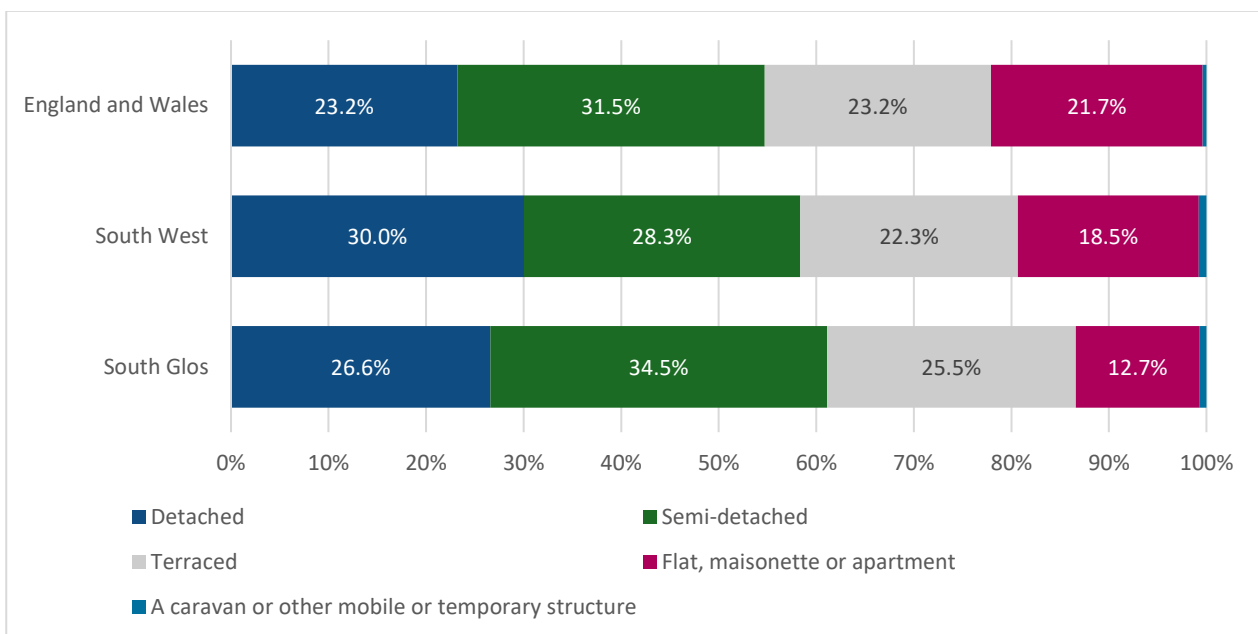
### Accommodation type

In England and Wales there were 24.8 million households in England and Wales – an increase of more than 1.4 million since 2011 (from 23.4 million). The proportions of households in different types of accommodation remained very similar across this period.

The largest increase for any type of accommodation across England and Wales was for households in a flat, maisonette or apartment – up to 21.7% from 21% in 2011.

Within South Gloucestershire, 26.6% of households were detached, 34.5% semi-detached and 25.5% terraced houses. There was a lower proportion of flat, maisonette or apartment accommodation in South Gloucestershire at 12.7%, compared to 21.7% in England and Wales and 18.5% in the South West.

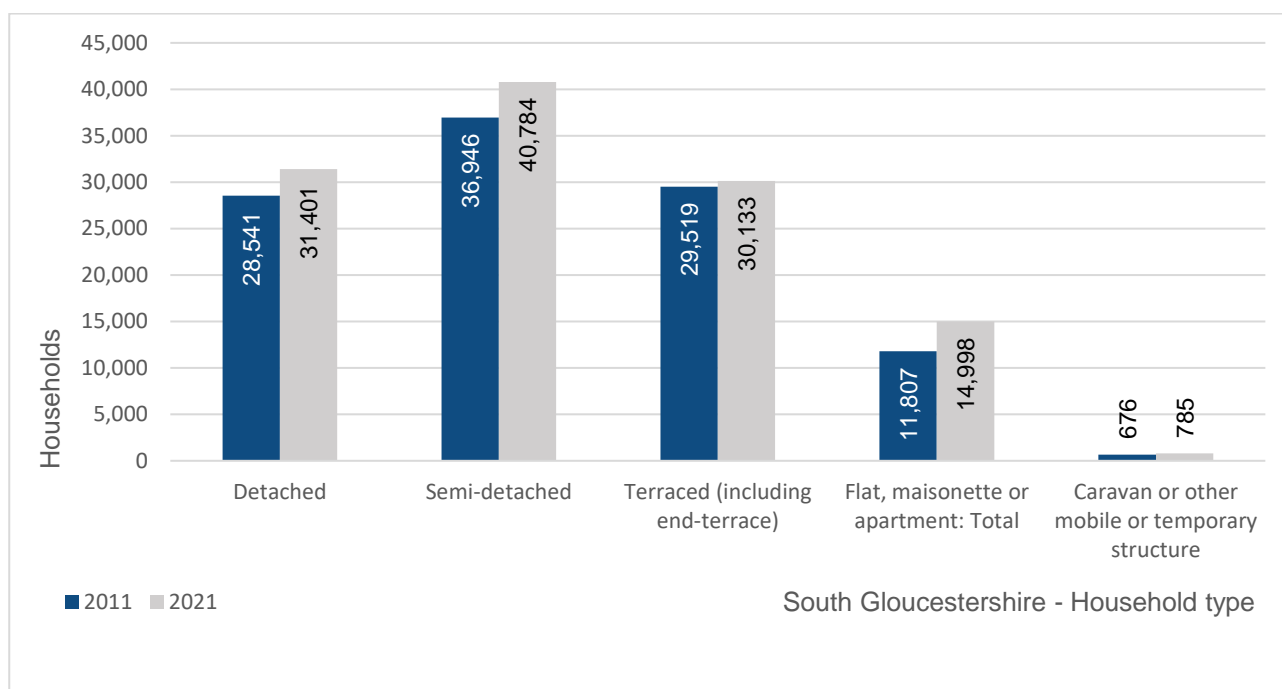
Figure 1: Percentage of accommodation type, 2021, South Glos, South West, England & Wales – all households



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

In comparison to 2011, flat, maisonettes or apartments saw the largest proportional increase in South Gloucestershire from 11,807 to 14,998 (including commercial buildings such as an office, hotel or over a shop), a 27% increase. This compares to an increase of 10.0% for detached properties, 10% for semi-detached and a 2.1% increase in terraced accommodation.

Figure 2: Accommodation type in South Gloucestershire, 2011 to 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

## Tenure type

Tenure is defined as whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies. The overall pattern across England and Wales showed:

- A decrease in the proportion of households that owned their accommodation to 62.6% from 64.4% in 2011.
- An increase in the proportion of households that rented their accommodation to 37.4% from 34.3% in 2011.
- A decrease in the proportion of households that lived rent free to 0.1% from 1.4% in 2011.

Within South Gloucestershire, this followed a similar pattern with a decrease in the proportion of owned or shared ownership from 75.4% in 2011 to 73.4% in 2021, and an increase in the proportion of households that rented their accommodation (including both social rented, privately rented and rent free) from 24.6% to 26.6%.

Figure 3: South Gloucestershire accommodation by tenure

South Gloucestershire	2011		2021	
		%		%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,538</b>		<b>118,101</b>	
Owned or shared ownership	81,083	75.4%	86,723	73.4%
Social rented	10,633	9.9%	12,738	10.8%
Private rented or lives rent free	15,822	14.7%	18,640	15.8%

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

## Rooms, bedrooms and occupancy rating

### Rooms<sup>1</sup>

In a change from previous counts, Census 2021 used Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data to count the number of rooms in a dwelling.

Across England Wales, 10.9% of households had one or two rooms, 74.1% had three, four or five rooms, 13.9% had six, seven or eight rooms and 1.1% had nine or more rooms.

By comparison, within South Gloucestershire, 7.5% had one or two rooms, 75.1% had three, four or five rooms, 16.9% had six, seven or eight room and 0.6% had nine or more rooms. Nearly half of all accommodation in South Gloucestershire had 5 rooms or more (48.8%) compared to 39.7% for the South West and 38.2% for England and Wales.

Figure 4: Household rooms for South Gloucestershire, South West, England and Wales

Number of rooms (VOA)	South Gloucestershire		South West		England and Wales	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Total: All households</b>	<b>118,101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,448,881</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,783,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1 room	442	0.4	22,441	0.9	260,360	1.1
2 rooms	8,421	7.1	227,026	9.3	2,435,589	9.8
3 rooms	21,593	18.3	557,605	22.8	5,716,952	23.1
4 rooms	30,096	25.5	668,635	27.3	6,897,000	27.8
5 rooms	36,962	31.3	547,161	22.3	5,742,998	23.2
6 rooms	13,454	11.4	239,642	9.8	2,165,070	8.7
7 rooms	5,023	4.3	109,142	4.5	920,198	3.7
8 rooms	1,374	1.2	42,784	1.7	367,001	1.5
9 or more rooms	736	0.6	34,445	1.4	278,029	1.1

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

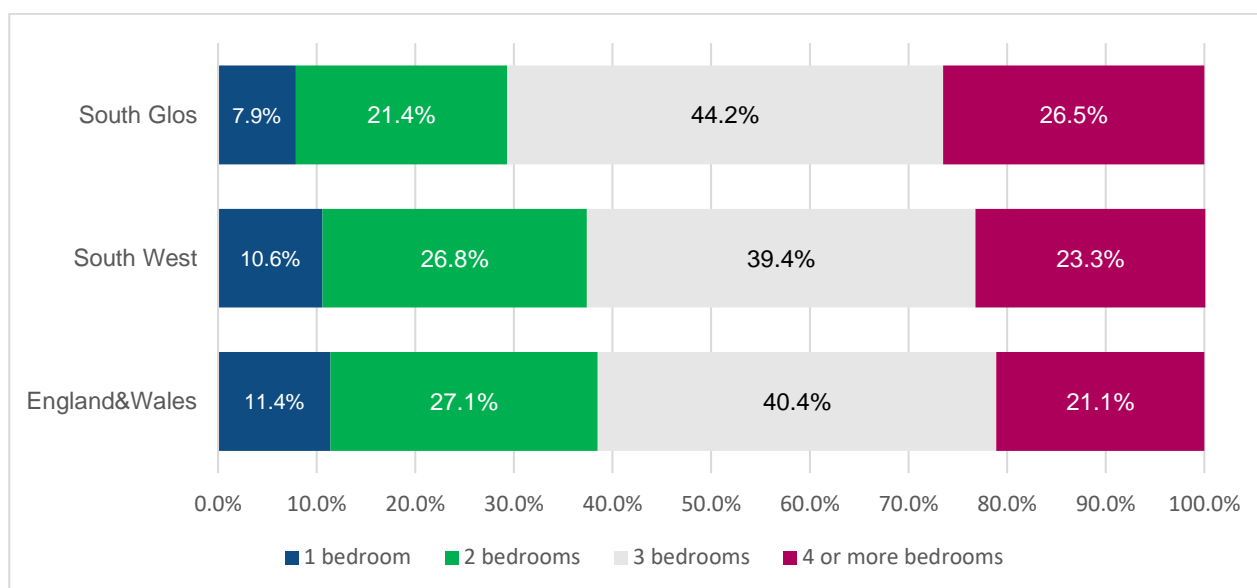
**Note:** The VOA method for counting the number of rooms should not be compared to 2011 due to the differences in how the data is calculated. For example, the VOA method includes storage rooms (excluded in the 2011 Census) but excludes kitchens, conservatories, and utility rooms (included in the 2011 Census). ONS have provided an update on their website on their methodology for estimating the number of rooms which can be viewed on their [website](#).

### Bedrooms

Census 2021 asked about the number of bedrooms available to the household. The national picture showed that the households with one, two or three bedrooms decreased across the past decade with the proportion with four or more bedrooms increasing. This was also the pattern in South Gloucestershire where accommodation with three bedrooms or less has decreased from 75.9% to 73.5%. Accommodation with four bedrooms or more has increased from 24.1% (25,916 households) to 26.5% (31,342 households).

South Gloucestershire had more households with four or more rooms (26.5%) compared to the South West (23.3%) and England and Wales as a whole (21.1%).

Figure 5: Proportion of rooms across households in South Gloucestershire, South West, England & Wales



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Figure 6: Number of bedrooms available per household in South Gloucestershire 2011 to 2021

	South Gloucestershire	
	2011	2021
<b>Total: All households</b>	<b>107,538</b>	<b>118,101</b>
1 bedroom	8,240	9,363
2 bedrooms	22,619	25,231
3 bedrooms	50,653	52,165
4 or more bedrooms	25,916	31,342

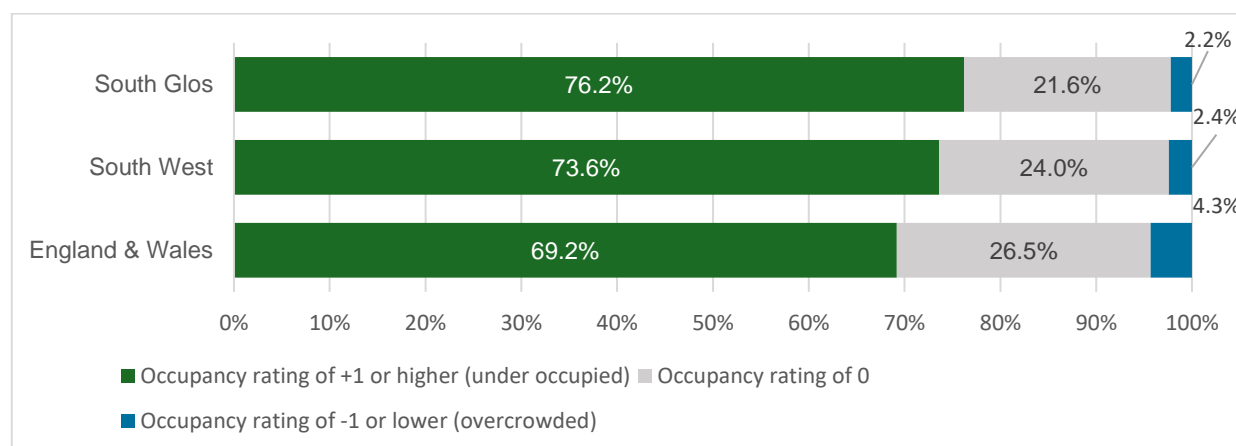
Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

## Overcrowding and under-occupancy<sup>2</sup>

Occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household’s accommodation is overcrowded or under-occupied. An occupancy rating of negative 1 or less implies that a household has fewer bedrooms than the standard requirement, positive 1 implies they have more bedrooms than required whilst 0 implies the required standard has been met.

In South Gloucestershire, 2609 (2.2%) had fewer bedrooms than required. This is slightly down from 2,570 (2.4%) in 2011. There was a larger proportion of rooms in South Gloucestershire that had more than the required rooms (76.2%) compared to the South West region (73.6%) and England and Wales (69.2%).

Figure 7: Bedroom occupancy rating, 2021, South Gloucestershire, South West, England & Wales



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

## Central Heating<sup>3</sup>

Across England and Wales, the majority of households reported they had central heating in 2021 (98.5%). This figure was slightly higher in South Gloucestershire with 99.1% having central heating, but with 1,081 (0.9%) saying they had no central heating. This was slightly below the 2011 figure of 1,841 (1.7%).

Figure 8: Type of central heating, 2021, South Glos, South West, England & Wales

Type of central heating in household	South Gloucestershire		South West		England and Wales	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Total: All households</b>	<b>118,101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,448,877</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,783,199</b>	<b>100.0</b>
No central heating	1,081	0.9	42,552	1.7	367,132	1.5
Mains gas only	91,075	77.1	1,638,032	66.9	18,298,725	73.8
Tank or bottled gas only	1,257	1.1	39,912	1.6	260,102	1.0
Electric only	8,640	7.3	253,309	10.3	2,113,111	8.5
Oil only	4,652	3.9	173,493	7.1	865,940	3.5
Wood only	147	0.1	7,898	0.3	35,723	0.1
Solid fuel only	163	0.1	5,408	0.2	49,459	0.2
Renewable energy only	487	0.4	18,646	0.8	98,732	0.4
District or communal heat networks only	442	0.4	12,142	0.5	220,917	0.9
Other central heating only <sup>1</sup>	507	0.4	12,668	0.5	225,381	0.9
Two or more types of central heating (not including renewable energy)	8,960	7.6	224,308	9.2	2,113,325	8.5
Two or more types of central heating (including renewable energy)	690	0.6	20,509	0.8	134,652	0.5

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

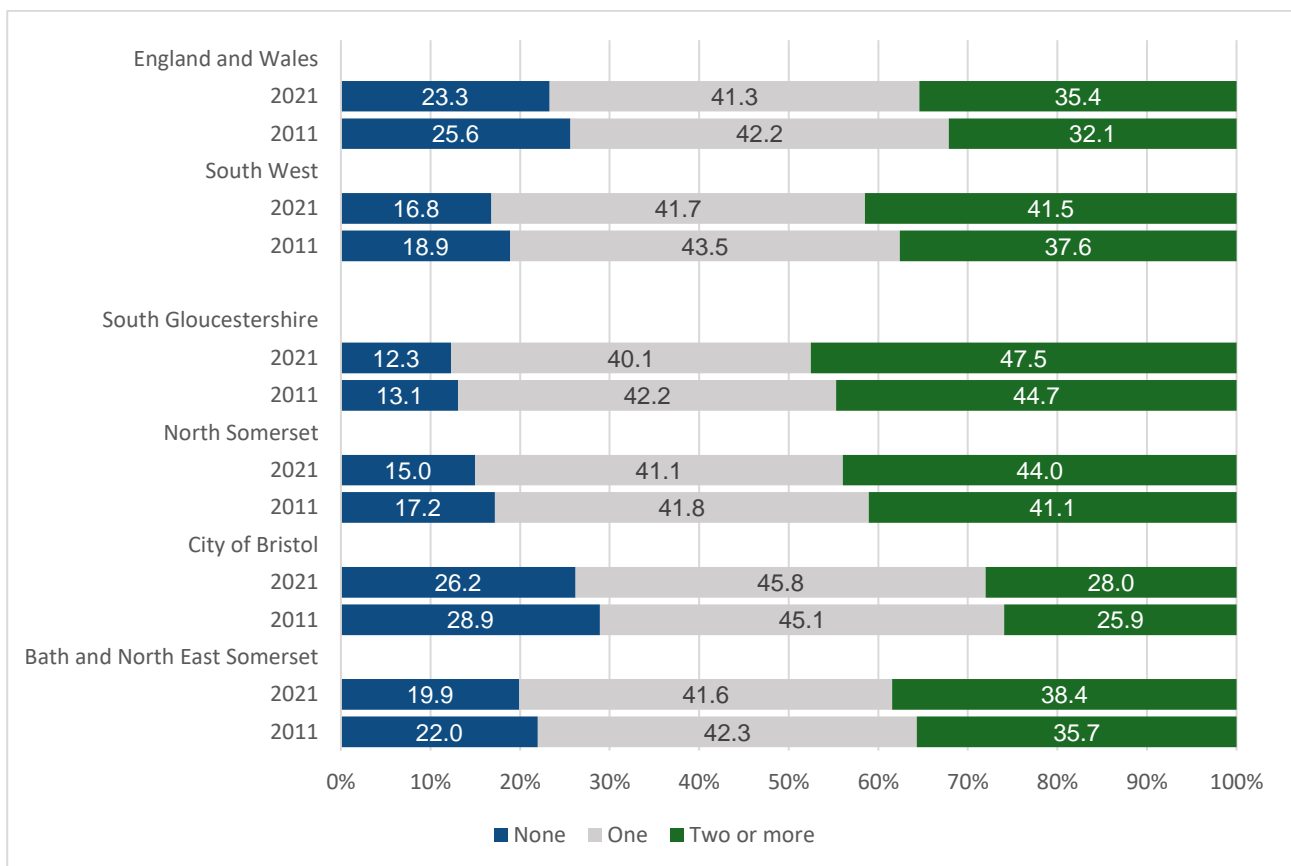
<sup>1</sup> 'Other central heating' also includes the categories 'Tank or bottled gas only', 'Oil only', 'Wood only' and 'Solid Fuel only.'

## Car or van availability

Consistent with previous censuses, Census 2021 asked households how many cars or vans the household owned or had available to them.

South Gloucestershire is consistent with the national picture and other regions in seeing a decrease in the number of households with no cars or vans from 13.1% to 12.3%. There was also an increase in the number of households with two or more cars from 44.7% to 47.5%. 37.6% to 41.5%. As was the case in 2011, car ownership in South Gloucestershire is proportionally higher than other regions within the West of England.

Figure 9: Car or van availability, 2021 and 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

South Gloucestershire was the only region in the West of England area to see an actual increase in those households with no cars or vans, though overall numbers for other categories saw similar increases.

Figure 10: Car or van availability in West of England areas, 2011 and 2021

<b>South Gloucestershire</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
No cars or vans in household	14,044	14,585	3.9%
1 car or van in household	45,398	47,411	4.4%
2 cars or vans in household	36,103	40,325	11.7%
3 or more cars or vans in household	11,993	15,780	31.6%
<b>Bath and North East Somerset</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
No cars or vans in household	16,158	15,796	-2.2%
1 car or van in household	31,073	32,994	6.2%
2 cars or vans in household	19,957	22,271	11.6%
3 or more cars or vans in household	6,327	8,189	29.4%
<b>Bristol</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
No cars or vans in household	52,814	50,141	-5.1%
1 car or van in household	82,483	87,781	6.4%
2 cars or vans in household	37,858	41,397	9.3%
3 or more cars or vans in household	9,592	12,321	28.5%
<b>North Somerset</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
No cars or vans in household	15,151	14,156	-6.6%
1 car or van in household	36,867	38,878	5.5%
2 cars or vans in household	27,620	30,335	9.8%
3 or more cars or vans in household	8,589	11,279	31.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021



# Additional information

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## Census dictionary

ONS have published a 'Census 2021' dictionary with detailed information about variables, definitions and classifications. This can be viewed on their [website](#).

## Census maps

ONS have published an [interactive mapping tool](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>) where you can view all the latest census data to Output Area level (where applicable).

## About the Census

Every ten years a census is carried out in England and Wales to produce an accurate estimate of the population. The 2021 Census for England and Wales took place on 21 March 2021 and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has now published the first release of data.

A significant volume of more detailed data is scheduled for release over the winter and throughout 2023.

Data Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence.

[For further information, please contact \[research@southglos.gov.uk\]\(mailto:research@southglos.gov.uk\).](mailto:research@southglos.gov.uk)

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> **Definition for room:** A room can be any room in a dwelling apart from bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, kitchens, conservatories or utility rooms. All other rooms, for example, living rooms, studies, bedrooms, separate dining rooms and rooms that can only be used for storage are included. If two rooms have been converted into one, they are counted as one room.

The number of rooms is recorded by address, this means that for households living in a shared dwelling the number of rooms are counted for the whole dwelling and not the individual household.

This definition is based on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) definition.

<sup>2</sup> **Definition for occupancy rating:** Whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires to the number of available bedrooms.

The number of bedrooms the household requires is calculated according to the Bedroom Standard, where the following should have their own bedroom:

- 1. married or cohabiting couple
- 2. single parent
- 3. person aged 16 years and over
- 4. pair of same-sex persons aged 10 to 15 years

- 5. person aged 10 to 15 years paired with a person under 10 years of the same sex
- 6. pair of children aged under 10 years, regardless of their sex
- 7. person aged under 16 years who cannot share a bedroom with someone in 4, 5 or 6 above

An occupancy rating of:

- -1 or less: implies that a household's accommodation has fewer bedrooms than required (overcrowded)
- +1 or more: implies that a household's accommodation has more bedrooms than required (under-occupied)
- 0: suggests that a household's accommodation has an ideal number of bedrooms

<sup>3</sup> **Definition for central heating:** Central heating is a heating system used to heat multiple rooms in a building by circulating air or heated water through pipes to radiators or vents. Single or multiple fuel sources can fuel these systems. Central heating systems that are unused or not working are still considered. No information is available for household spaces with no usual residents.

**Comparability with 2011:** Broadly comparable

ONS have added the categories "Renewable energy (for example, solar thermal or heat)" and "District or communal heat network".

The category "Gas" has been split into "Mains gas" and "Tank or bottled gas". The category "Wood (for example, logs, waste wood or pallets)", has been separated from "Solid fuels".