

Briefing Note

Census 2021

Topic summary release ⁽⁰⁰²⁾

01 September 2023

Last revised June 2024 (Please note, this is an updated version of the briefing note released in November 2022. A list of revisions made is available at the end of the document).

census 2021

Demography and Migration

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published Census 2021 outputs for England and Wales which provide data on specific topic areas.

This data set focuses on demography and migration, including:

- Household and resident characteristics
- International migration
- Population and household estimates

This phase publishes statistics below Local Authority level (including at MSOA, LSOA and, where possible, at Output Area level). In this release, we can analyse data to find out information that includes age, sex, legal partnership status, living arrangements (households or communal establishments), household size and households by family type.

This briefing note gives information on South Gloucestershire compared to regional and national figures.

1. Population data

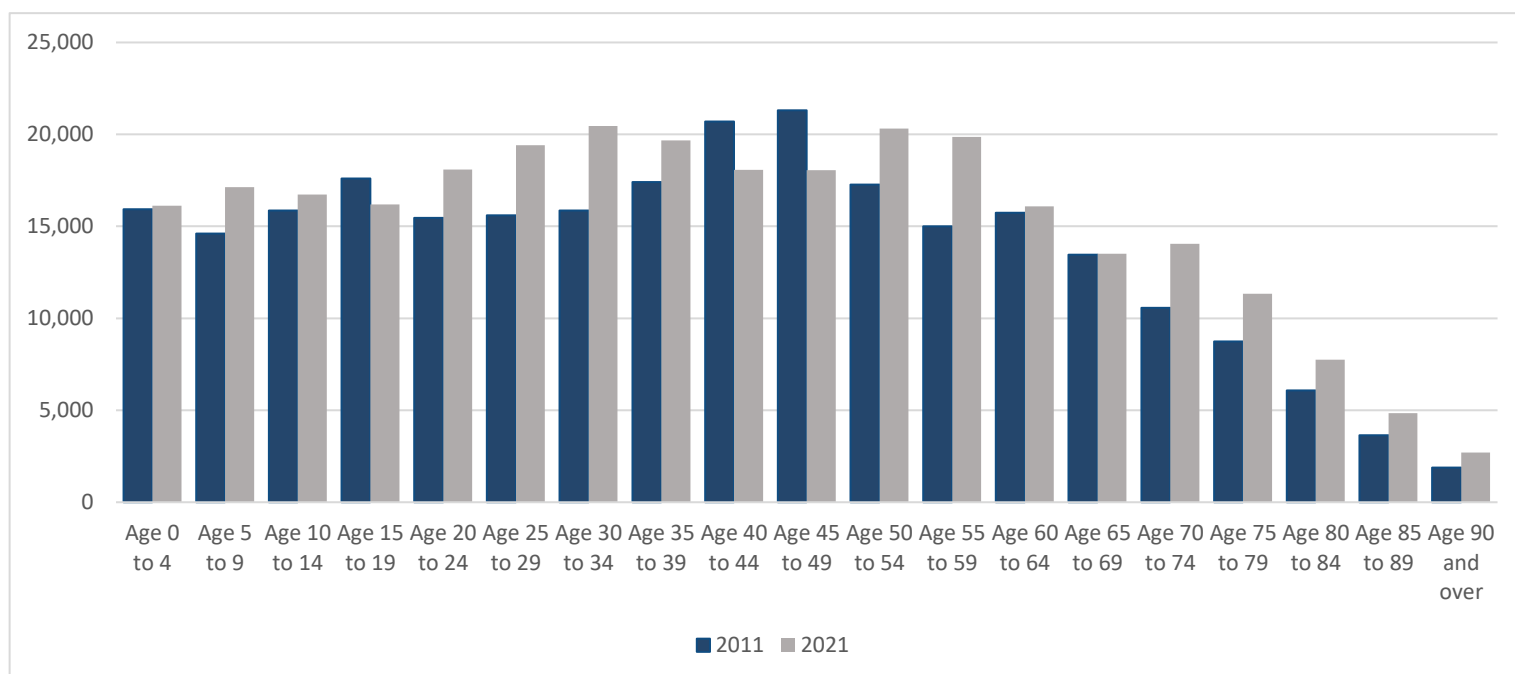
Total Population (usual residents¹)

- The population estimate for South Gloucestershire is **290,424**. This represents an increase of 10.5% compared to the recorded population in 2011 (262,800). This compares to a 7.0% increase seen in 2011 from the 2001 census.
- At 10.5%, South Gloucestershire's population increase is higher than the increase for the South West (7.8%) and England and Wales (6.3%).
- In terms of the national context, the South West had the second highest growth of all regions with an increase in population of 7.8%.
- All local authorities in the area have seen their populations increase: Bristol by 10.3%, Bath and North East Somerset by 9.9%, and North Somerset by 7.0%.

Population structure

- In [South Gloucestershire](#) there has been an increase of 7.7% in children aged under 15 years, an increase of 8.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 22% in people aged 65 years and over.
- Overall, in England and Wales there has been an increase of 4.6% in children aged under 15 years, an increase of 3.2% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 20.0% in people aged 65 years and over. Figure 1 shows a comparative chart showing population by age in 2011 and for 2021.

Figure 1: South Gloucestershire population by age - Census 2011 compared to 2021



Source: (ONS)

¹ A usual resident is anyone who on Census Day, 21 March 2021 was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.

The number of residents has increased in most age groups since the 2011 Census. The age groups that have seen decreases in population since 2011 are those aged 15 to 19, 40 to 44, and 45 to 49. There has been a 14% decrease in residents aged 40 to 49 in South Gloucestershire since 2011.

The number of people aged 65 years and over has increased by 22%, from 44,409 in 2011 to 54,192 in 2021.

2. Household and resident characteristics

Household Spaces

In 2021, there were 118,101 household spaces in South Gloucestershire occupied by at least one usual resident. This is an increase of 9.8% from 2011, when there were 107,538 household spaces. England and Wales saw a 6.1% increase in households from 2011.

Every region of England experienced a rise in the number of households between 2011 and 2021. The regions with the largest percentage increases were the East of England (8.5%) and the South West (8.1%).

Of the 290,424 usual residents in South Gloucestershire in 2021, 285,030 (98.1%) lived in a household and 5,394 (1.9%) lived in communal establishments. This is in line with national statistics; 98.3% of residents in England and Wales lived in a household, whereas 1.7% lived in communal establishments.

Average household size

- The average household size in England and Wales in 2021 was 2.4 people per household, the same as in 2011. The majority of households in England and Wales contained fewer than three people.
- The average household size in South Gloucestershire was 2.4 people per household, which is the same as the 2011 figure.

Household composition

- Responses of 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 be just one person living alone.
- In South Gloucestershire, 80,156 (67.9%) of households were single family households, 30,747 (26%) were one person households, 2,368 (2%) were multiple-family households with dependent children, and 4,830 (4.1%) were other household types. 46.8% of one person households in South Gloucestershire were occupied by residents aged 66 years and over.
- Across England and Wales, the data shows that 63% of households were single family households, 30.2% were one person households and 6.8% were other household types, including households where multiple family types lived together and households where unrelated adults lived together. These figures are similar to 2011.
- The most common type of single-family household nationally is those with a married or civil partnership couple with dependent children (14.3% of all households). This figure for South Gloucestershire was slightly higher at 16.5% (19,480).

Legal partnership status

- Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships were legalised in 2019. The Census questions on marriage and civil partnerships were updated for 2021 to reflect this.
- The results for 2021 for England and Wales show that, as in 2011, the largest group reported that they were married or in a civil partnership – 44.6% of all usual residents aged 16 years and over.
- This compares to 47.9% (113,593) in South Gloucestershire, a decrease from 52% in 2011. This is slightly higher than the South West data, which shows 46.5% of residents aged 16 years and over were married at the time of the recent Census (2,203,234).
- The percentage of people who had never married and never registered a civil partnership in England and Wales increased by 3.3 percentage points from 34.6% in 2011 to 37.9% in 2021.
- In South Gloucestershire, this figure was 35.9% (85,114) in 2021, compared to 30.4% (64,712) in 2011. This is similar to the South West, where, in 2021, 34.7% of residents aged 16 years and over stated they had never married or registered a civil partnership.

Household deprivation

- Households in England and Wales were also classified in terms of dimensions of deprivation, based on selected characteristics. Specifically, households were considered to be deprived if they met one or more of the following four dimensions of deprivation:
 - **employment:** where any member of a household, who is not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick
 - **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
 - **health and disability:** any person in the household has general health that is "bad" or "very bad" or has a long-term health problem
 - **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
- Overall, 51.7% of households in England and Wales in 2021 (12.8 million) were deprived in at least one of these dimensions – a decrease from 57.7% in 2011.
- Across the country, the area with the highest household deprivation was the North East (54.6%), and the lowest was the South East (52%).
- Nearly half of households in South Gloucestershire (46.1% or 54,400) were deprived in at least one dimension or measure of household deprivation. This number has decreased since 2011, when it was 49.7% (or 53,438).

The table below shows the most recent number of households by deprivation dimensions in England and Wales, and in South Gloucestershire.

Figure 2: Number of households by deprivation dimensions compared to national statistics

Deprivation	England and Wales	South Gloucestershire
Household is not deprived in any dimension	11,968,324 (48.3%)	63,701 (53.9%)
Household is deprived in one dimension	8,292,747 (33.5%)	38,638 (32.7%)
Household is deprived in two dimensions	3,536,076 (14.3%)	13,163 (11.1%)
Household is deprived in three dimensions	928,687 (3.7%)	2,454 (2.1%)
Household is deprived in four dimensions	57,365 (0.2%)	145 (0.1%)

Source: (ONS)

- 49.9% of households in the South West are deprived in at least 1 dimension. This compares to 45.9% in Bath and North East Somerset, 49.8% in Bristol and 48.5% in North Somerset.

This is a complex area and one which we will be revisiting as more analysis is undertaken.

3. International migration

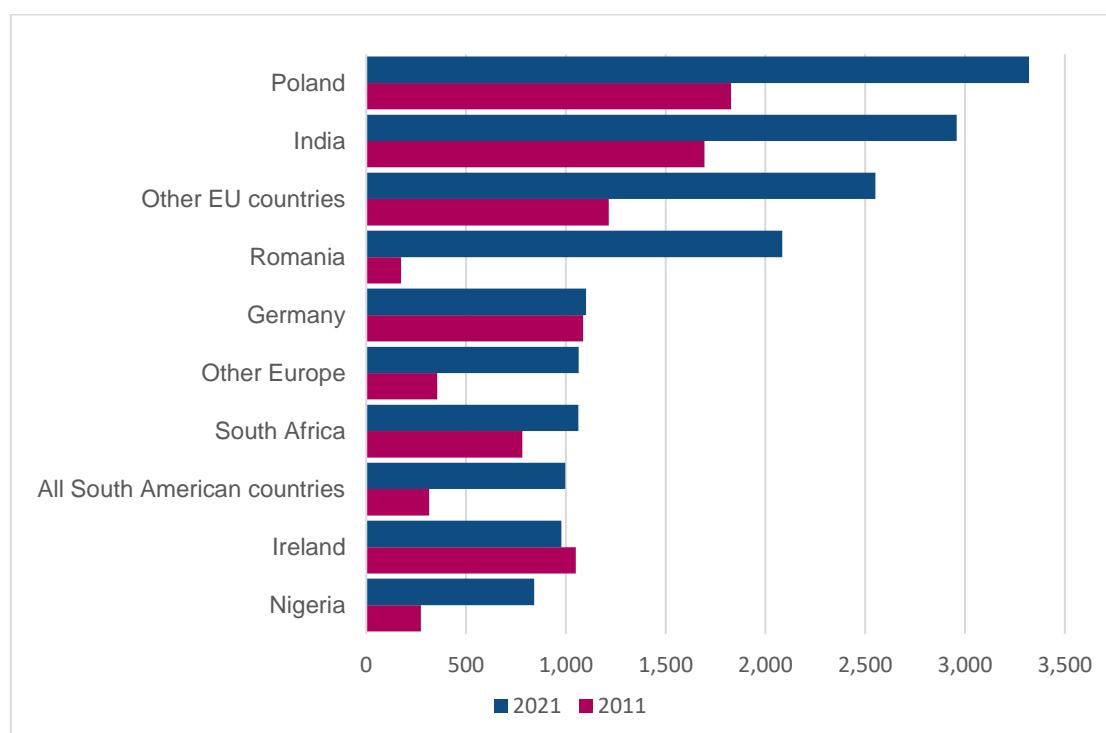
Country of birth

- Headline data for England and Wales showed that one in six residents were born outside of the UK. This represents an increase of 2.5 million since 2011 (from 13.4% to 16.9%). India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021, followed by Poland and Pakistan.
- ONS estimates that over half of the increase in population since 2011 was because of positive net migration.
- In 2021, 30,668 (10.6%) residents of South Gloucestershire were born outside of the UK. This figure has increased by 13,371 since 2011. Within South Glos, Poland was the most common country of birth outside the UK, followed by India and other EU countries.

As further analysis is undertaken, we will be able to provide more insight into comparisons and variations across the SGC geographies.

The chart below shows the top 10 non-UK countries of birth of South Gloucestershire residents:

Figure 3: Top 10 non-UK countries of birth among residents of South Gloucestershire



Source: (ONS)

Passports

- In South Gloucestershire, 87.5% of residents held at least 1 passport. The three most common non-UK passports held were Polish (1.1%), other EU countries (1.1%) and Romanian (0.7%).
- By comparison, in the South West, 84.2% of residents held at least 1 passport. The three most common non-UK passports held by residents were Polish (1.1%), other EU countries (0.9%), and Southern Asian (0.5%).
- In England and Wales, results from Census 2021 show that 86.5% held at least one passport. Those who held a UK passport increased from 75.7% in 2011 to 76.7% in 2021. Those who held a non-UK passport also increased from 7.4% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2021.
- Polish (1.3%), Romanian (0.9%) and Indian (0.6%) were the three most common non-UK passports held by usual residents in England and Wales in 2021.

Age and year of arrival

- Usual residents born outside the UK were asked when they have most recently arrived to live in the UK. This, combined with their date of birth, also provides information on their age of arrival.
- The trend across the past decade shows that most people listed their most recent year of arrival in the later years. This a trend that has continued despite the restrictions in place during Covid 19.
- Across England and Wales, 4 in 10 non-UK born residents arrived in the UK in the decade before the census.

- In South Gloucestershire 10.6% of residents were born outside of the UK.
 - 84.1% (25,788) of those not born in the UK arrived since 1991. 23.2% (7,105) arrived after 2017.
 - This compares to the South West, where 10.2% of residents were not born in the UK. 78.6% of those not born in the UK arrived since 1991, whereas 21.4% arrived after 2017.
-

Additional information

Census maps

ONS has [published interactive census maps](#) where you can view more detailed information for different topics down to local authority and neighbourhood level.

Census dictionary

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

Our ageing population

ONS have also published an article describing what Census 2021 data tells us about ageing and why it matters: [Voices of our ageing population: Living Longer Lives](#)

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.

Revisions

Corrections and amendments have been made on reviewing and checking of data as more data is released. Depending on the data tables used there are some variations in rounding which have been corrected or amended in the following revisions. This latest version includes all amends and supersedes previous versions. For any reporting or forward planning, please contact the Insight and Engagement team to provide latest updates and tables as variations can occur between different sources and the geographies used for calculation.

v1.1. Revisions –

Total population estimate of South Gloucestershire revised.

Number of household spaces in South Gloucestershire amended.

Average household size for South Gloucestershire amended.

Proportion of residents of South Gloucestershire with at least one passport amended.

V1.2

Amended incorrect percentage in household deprivation – household deprived in four dimensions corrected from 1.0 % to 0.1% for South Gloucestershire.

V1.3

Percentage of residents aged 15-64 corrected from 7.6 to 8.3%.

Percentage of aged 65 years and over changed from 18% to 22%.

Percentage of residents aged 40 – 49 changed from a 16.5% decrease since 2011 to a 14% decrease.

Minor adjustments to rounding were also made to:

Growth in the number of household spaces occupied by at least one usual resident changed from a 9.9% increase since 2011 to 9.8%; -person household aged 66+ changed from 45% to 46.8%.

Residents in the South West aged 16 and over never married and never registered a civil partnership amended from 28.8% to 34.7%.

Households in England & Wales deprived in at least one dimension in 2011 amended from 57.6% to 57.7%

Households in South Gloucestershire deprived in at least one dimension amended from 47% to 46.1%.

Residents born outside the UK in South Gloucestershire adjusted from 30,643 to 30,668.

Number of residents born outside of the UK in South Glos from 2011 to 2021 amended from 13,346 to 13,371.

Residents in South Gloucestershire that held at least 1 passport adjusted from 87.9% to 87.5%.

Residents in South Glos not born in the UK but arrived after 1991 changed from 84.0% to 84.1%.

Residents in South Glos not born in the UK but arrived after 2017 changed from 23% to 23.2%.

Residents in the South West not born in the UK but arrived after 1991 changed from 78% to 78.6%.

Residents in the South West not born in the UK but arrived after 2017 changed from 21% to 21.4%.