

Census 2021 Manchester

A snapshot of life in the middle of a pandemic



Economic Scrutiny (Appendix 1) – 20 June 2023

Performance, Research and Intelligence Team
Manchester City Council

A photograph of a 'Census 2021 Household Questionnaire' form from England. The form is purple and white. It features the Royal Coat of Arms at the top left. The text 'census 2021' is in large purple letters. Below it, it says 'Household Questionnaire England'. There are instructions to 'Complete online' at 'www.census.gov.uk' or 'fill in this paper questionnaire'. It asks for the household access code and the correct address. A 'Declaration' section asks for a signature and date. It includes a list of steps to complete the census online: 1. Go to www.census.gov.uk, 2. Enter the household access code, 3. Answer the questions and select submit. It thanks the respondent for taking part. At the bottom, it says 'Your information is protected by law' and provides contact information for help: 'www.census.gov.uk/help', 'Contact Centre 0800 141 2021', 'NGT (18001) 0800 141 2021', and 'Language helpline 0800 587 2021'. The Office for National Statistics logo is at the bottom right. The page is numbered 'Page 1' and 'H1'.

The Census process in 2021

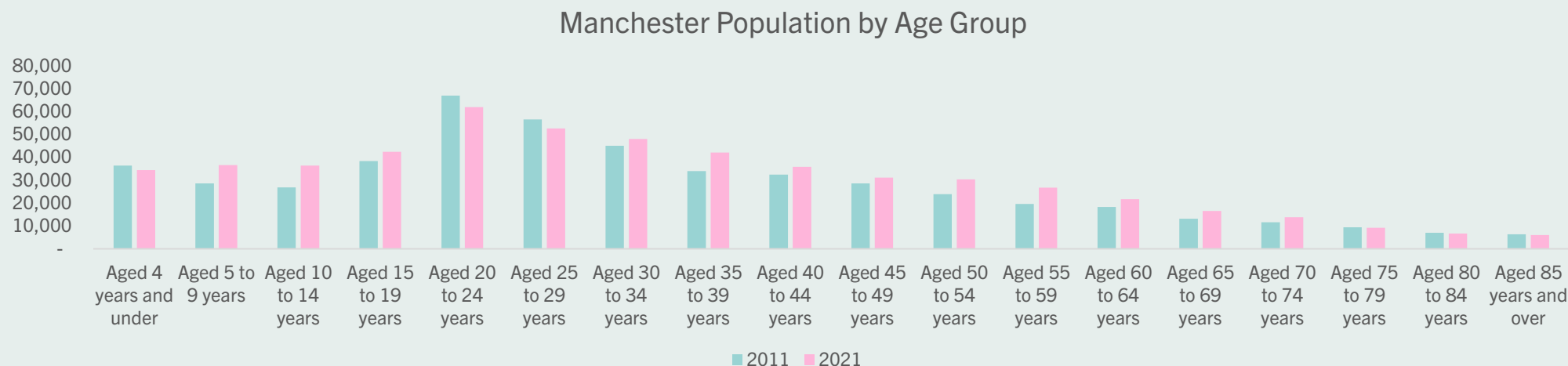
- Census 2021 was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic at a point when Greater Manchester was seeing COVID-19 infection rates rise (March 2021).
- A national 'lockdown' was in place; though pupils had returned to face-to-face teaching in schools (8th March), the 'stay at home' order remained, and social contact was limited to households or 'support bubbles' only.
- This will have undoubtedly impacted how many people were aware of the Census, how many responded and how many non-responding households were chased up.
- This was the first 'digital' Census conducted in England and Wales. Paper surveys were available, but relied on the respondent knowing that a paper copy was available, how to request one (via the telephone) and having the 'access code' from the Census letter.
 - The 'access code' may have contributed to challenges with capturing all households within a house in multiple occupation (HMO). Capturing all households within an HMO relied on every household within the HMO knowing the online access code or organising their own code, then subsequently completing the Census. Potentially, many households did not see this code (limited communication between households in a HMO) and therefore did not complete the Census.
 - Of those who responded, we know the majority responded online, with mobile phone being the most popular method for response. However, we know that many households will have been missed because of no digital access, the restrictions placed on socialising due to COVID-19 making it hard to get help, and there being limited recognition of the fact that a paper copy was an option.
- Though 'follow-up' officers were operational, there may have been reluctance – during a pandemic – to open doors to unknown callers.
- The Census asks respondents to self-identify in terms of ethnicity, national identity, language and religion. In 2021 there were new questions on:
 - Sexual orientation and gender identity for over 16s
 - Same-sex marriages
 - Past service in the UK Armed forces

Census 2021 Challenge

- Manchester City Council's (MCC) **mid-2021** population estimate is **588,277** usual residents (assuming all students at term-time address).
- The Census 2021 count is an undercount of **at least 33,000** residents compared to the MCC Forecasting Model (MCCFM), from an estimated 12,862 - 20,362 households missing when comparing Council Tax and our record of registered Houses in Multiple Occupation
- MCC assess Manchester's household count as between **227,596 - 229,500** not 214,730 as counted by the Census
- MCC have concluded that most **missing households** are due to missed new build apartment blocks, hidden HMO households or because of digital exclusion
- The most likely demographics of missing residents in households are **aged 18-49**, with a mix of young professionals and international students in the inner city, and young to middle-aged adults including students in HMO, some with young children. Those missing from digitally excluded areas could be any age but more likely to be aged under 40 or over 65
- A higher-than-average proportion of those missing are likely to be **Black, Asian and minority ethnic residents** based on their age and the areas they are missing from
- As well as missing **households**, MCC assess there are **4,641 to 9,910 Communal Establishment students** missing on the Census (based on official records and available bedspaces)
- All the above correlate with the fall or low rise in resident numbers of those aged 18-49 between Census 2011 and Census 2021
- While the Census offers a rich snapshot of data, some of which is not available elsewhere, this Census was undertaken during a pandemic and does not reflect the entire usual population or their characteristics as a result. Local data and intelligence products are used to complement administrative data (such as the Census) and 'fill in the gaps'.

Census undercount in Manchester

- Manchester's population has been consistently undercounted by ONS - the 2001 Census missed 40,000 residents, which MCC successfully challenged, and the city continues to be undercounted in ONS mid-year estimates*.
- The Census counted 551,944 Manchester residents. This is believed to be an undercount of at least 33,000 so we need to consider this when looking at any 2021 Census Data
- Census is statistically adjusted to smooth out inaccuracies caused by non-response but still lower than expected
- Undercount notably among people in their 20s and 30s, more broadly those aged 18-49, including students, students (inc. International), graduates, young professionals and workers from the rest of the UK and abroad – much attributed to the impact of the pandemic
- Note that the number of students living in the Manchester rose by 5,100 in the academic year 2021/22, and local media reports (cite) student accommodation is so oversubscribed in 2022/23 incentives are being offered to students to live elsewhere. Some of this rise is likely to be students who deferred during COVID19 taking up places.



*ONS MYE net migration is consistently too low, with too few people estimated by ONS to be joining the city and too many residents estimated to be leaving each year, e.g., ONS estimate Manchester lost c.2,000 residents through migration in 2018 during our construction and economic boom.

Manchester City Council Forecasting Model (MCCFM)

Manchester's Population is inherently difficult to quantify with a wide range of drivers (current & historic) which means that national (Office for National Statistics) estimates / projections are out-of-sync with evidence of population growth and change 'on the ground'. Historically, the assumptions behind ONS's projections (sub-national population projections (SNPP) and mid-year estimates (MYE) have not fully reflected the constitution and long-term make-up of the population in the city.

It's challenging gauging migration anywhere in UK but Manchester is particularly difficult because it's the north west's economic hub, has two universities, has lots of available rental stock and established communities from across the world. It also has the difficulty of the other GM districts acting like suburbs because of its shape. Jobs' growth and considerable residential development 'pulled' residents to the city and are factors in graduates hoping to stay in the city.

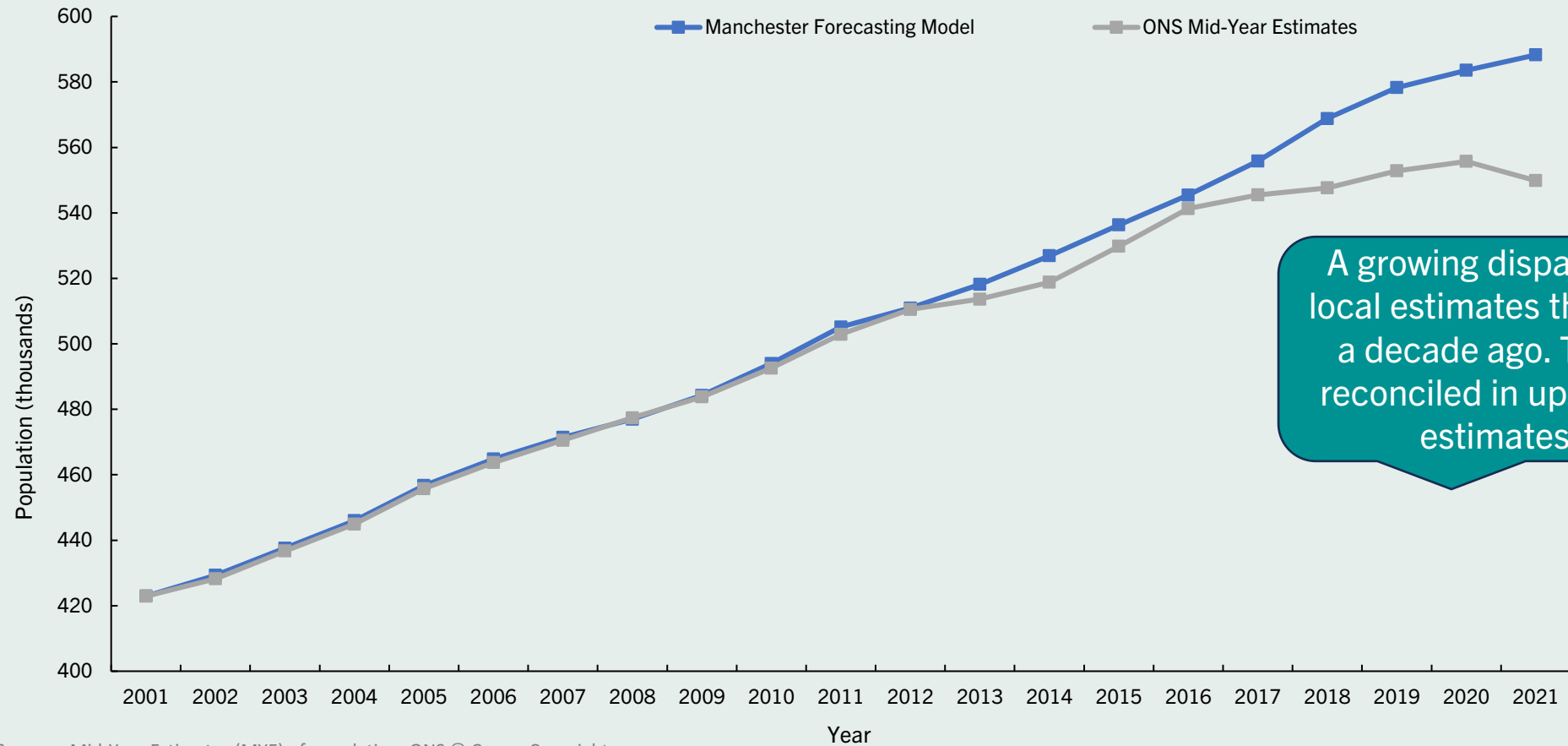
National projections are also subject to a time delay and it's challenging to adjust these datasets to provide forecasts for ward and district level populations. If populations at ward level are revised upwards retrospectively, whether from more births than expected or administrative records indicating higher numbers, the method of distributing extra population is the same across the country, not an issue for 99% of districts but a problem with some of our wards where there are either very low or high numbers of a particular age and/or where there has been rapid population change.

The **MCCFM therefore is a population forecasting model for the 32 wards in Manchester**. The Council started its own forecasts in response to the challenges we had with the 2001 Census, and formally started using MCCFM in preparation for the 2011 Census, giving us well over a decade of experience. It forecasts the population by single year of age (SYOA) and by sex (male/female). The model consists of five elements, with multiple administrative datasets contributing to each element.

- Constraints – using administrative data & published estimates to set a starting position
- Fertility – new births in the city; and Mortality – deaths in the city
- Immigration – people moving to the city; and Emigration – people moving out of the city

The MCCFM enables us to address some of the challenges above, allowing us to: take account & assess ONS estimates/projections; update as soon as local data is available; adjusted to reflect local migration birth or death rates; model at smaller areas than the city to reflect localised changes; and the ability to add in known policy decisions that may affect our future population (i.e. house building, jobs, etc)

Manchester's Forecasting Model vs ONS Estimates



Sources: Mid-Year Estimates (MYE) of population, ONS © Crown Copyright;
MCCFM W2021xiii, Manchester City Council (Shared Intelligence PRI)

A growing disparity in national & local estimates that started almost a decade ago. This needs to be reconciled in updated population estimates from ONS

Difference between MCC and ONS estimates is predominantly made up of residents of working age (due to differing migration assumptions) because ONS consistently estimate more people have left the City than MCC do.

Census 2021 Results: Population overview

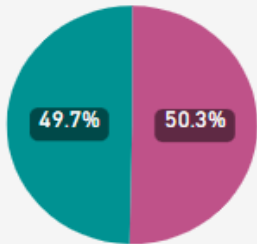
- Our population has grown by 48,900 between censuses, it was 503,100 in 2011.
- The largest increases between censuses have been in the 10-14 age group, rising by 9,500 and the 35-39 age group rising by 8,000.
- Proportionally, the 10-14 and 55-59 age groups have changed most, both growing by 36%.
- The median average age band is 30-34 years old, the median age is 31.
- The census recorded 214,700 households in Manchester.
- Based on census figures, there are 4,773 people per square kilometre.
- Census 2021 captured 94% of residents and 93% of households, based on ONS estimates.

Note this compares to 588,277 in our own estimates

Manchester's Census 2021 population

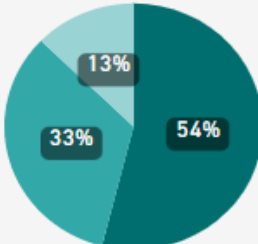
551,944

Population by Sex



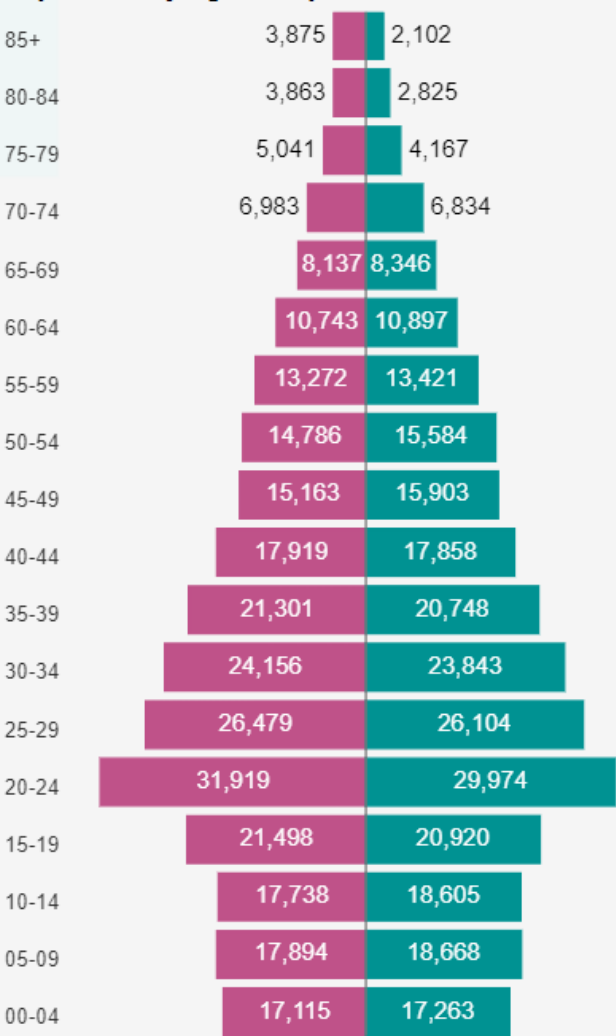
Sex Female Male

Household Composition Overview

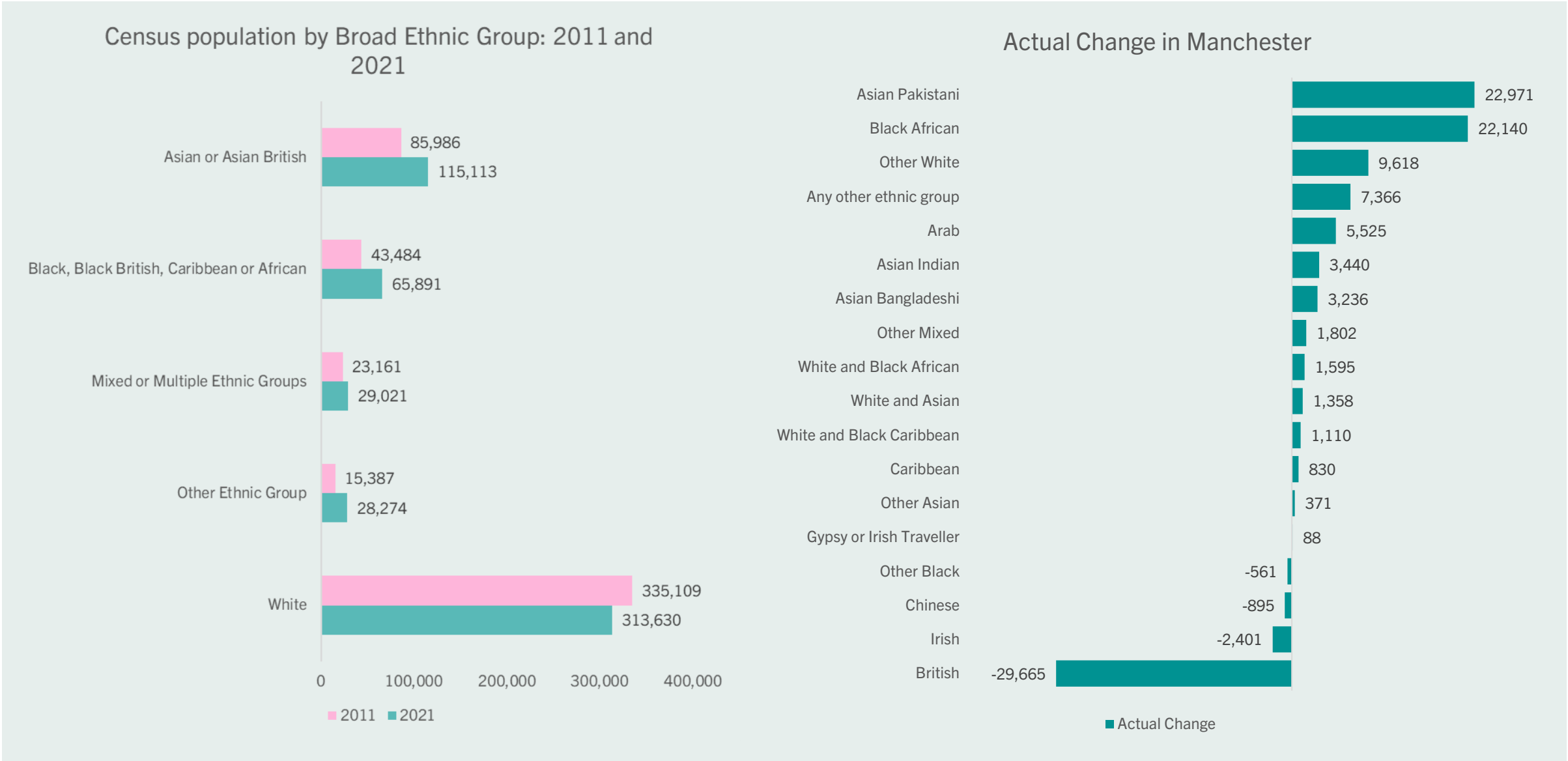


1 Family 1 person Multi Family

Population by Age Group and Sex



Census 2021: Ethnicity - Overall population by ethnic group

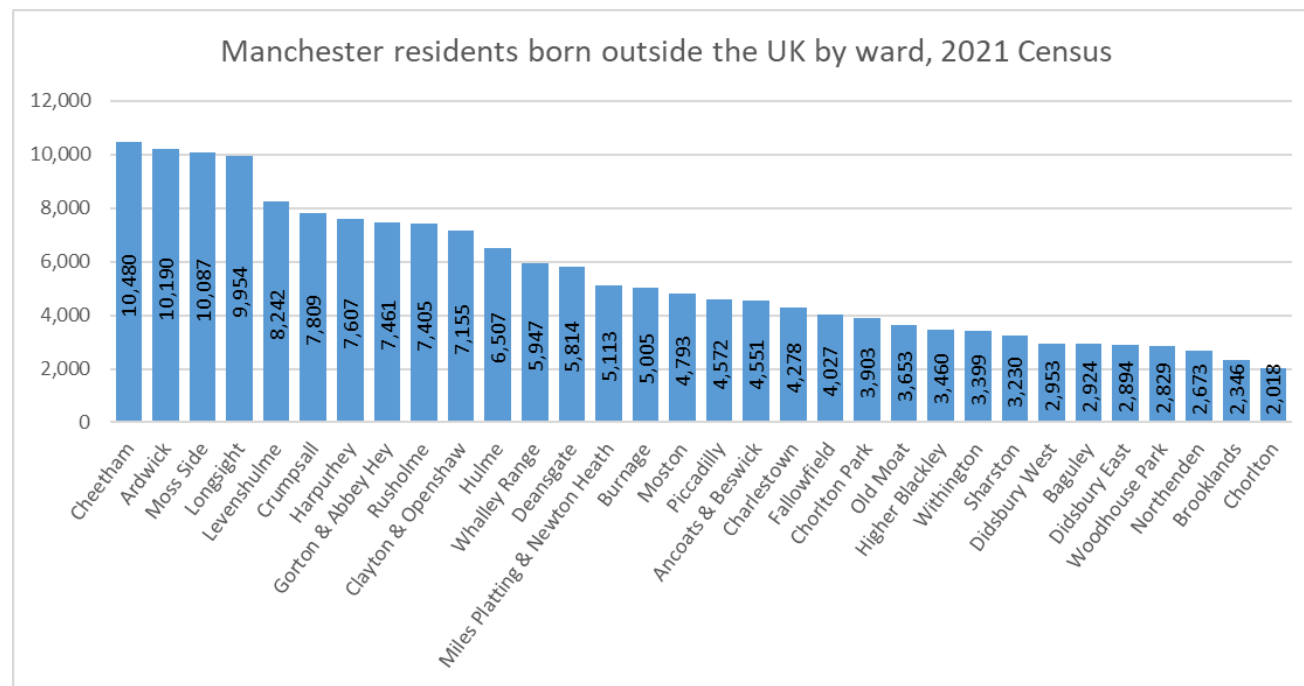


1 in 3 residents of Manchester were born outside the UK

Manchester has a proud tradition of attracting people from outside the UK which stretches back centuries, with many newcomers choosing to make the city their permanent home. These settled residents have thrived to form established communities and continue to act as a strong pull factor from around the world, particularly in certain areas of the city.

Within Manchester:

- 1 in 3 residents recorded in the 2021 Census* were born outside the UK (173,200 residents, 31%) compared to 1 in 4 residents (127,050, 25%) in the 2011 Census.
- Cheetham had the highest number of residents born outside the UK who had lived in Manchester for 10 years or more (5,350 residents) followed by Moss Side (5,200), Longsight (5,050) and Ardwick (4,200).
- Nearly a quarter of residents born outside the UK lived in Cheetham, Ardwick, Moss Side and Longsight.
- Cheetham had the highest number of residents born outside the UK (10,450) and the highest percentage (48%).
- The highest region of birth for those born outside the UK recorded in 2021 was the Middle East and Asia (52,100 residents) as in 2011 (57,350).
- Pakistan was the highest country of birth after England (30,750 residents) recorded in the 2021 Census, as in 2011 (20,700 residents).
- 105,850 residents had a non-UK passport compared to 76,700 in 2011.

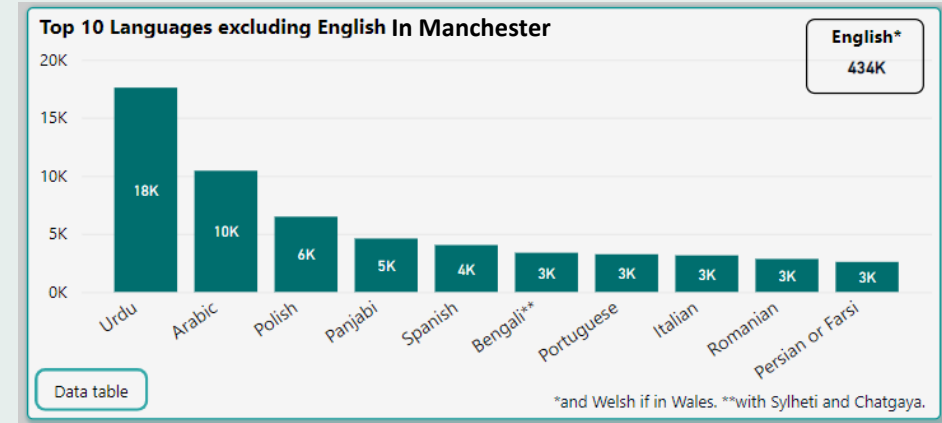


More detail from the 2021 Census about these topics is available on the Manchester City Council Census 2021 website: [Census 2021 - MCC Intranet \(manchester.gov.uk\)](https://manchester.gov.uk/census2021)

*not all residents were recorded in the 2021 Census due to COVID19

Census 2021: Languages spoken across the city

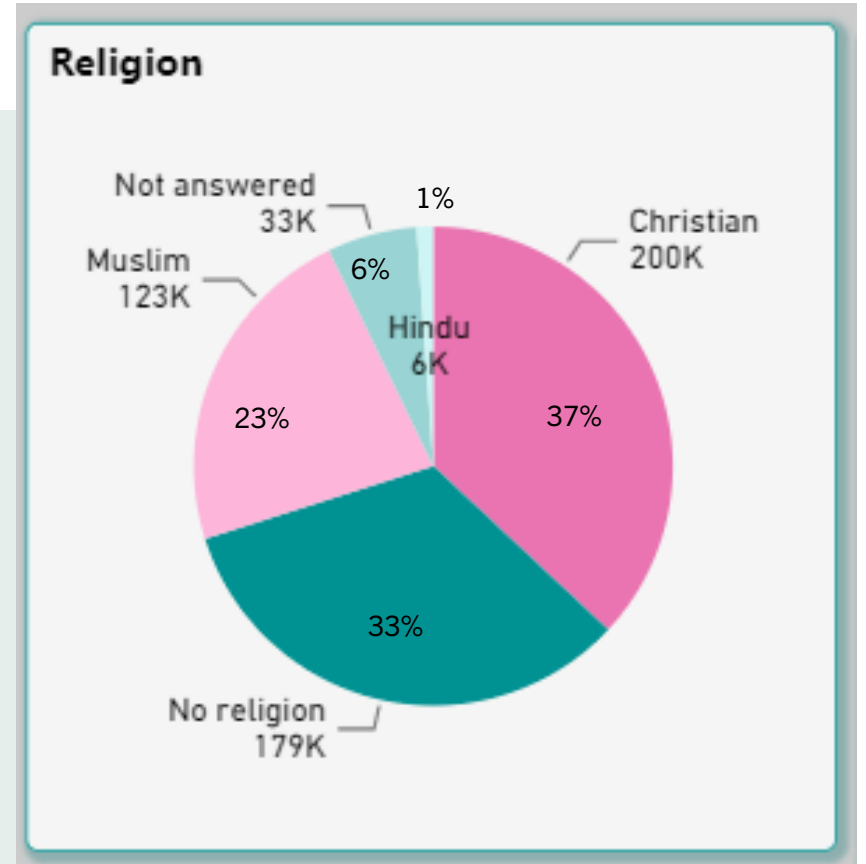
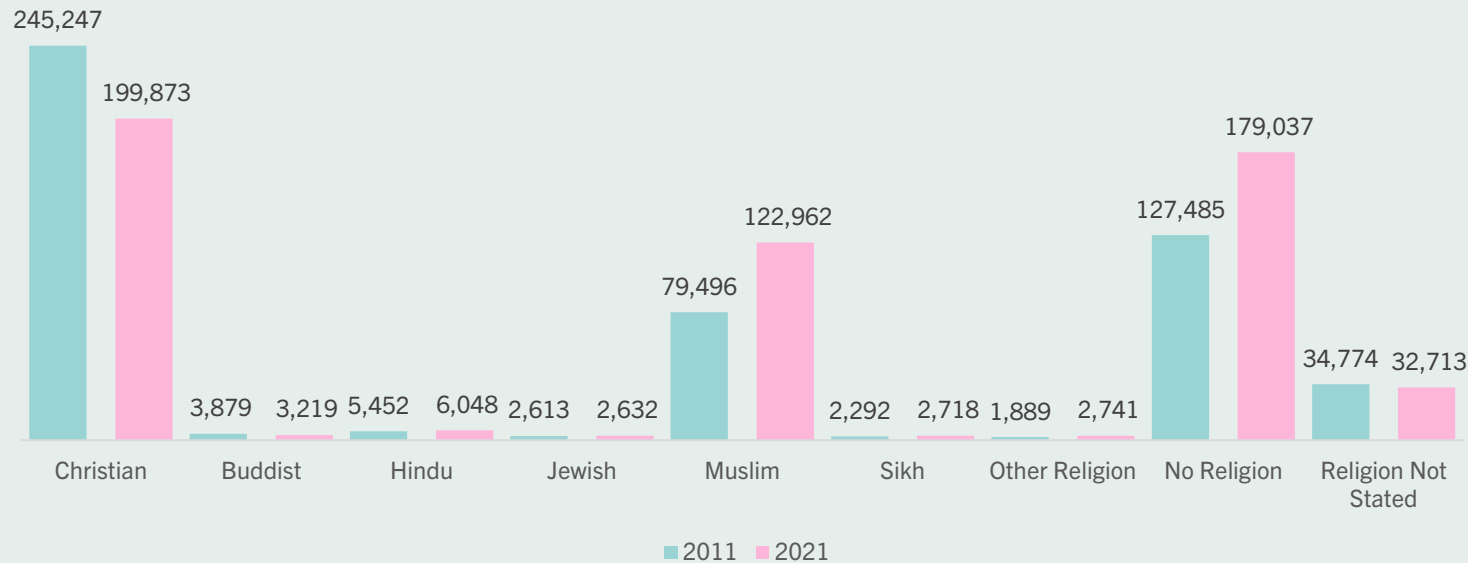
Main Language	2021 Manchester	2011 Manchester	% Change In Manchester
Urdu	17,572	13,095	34.2%
Arabic	10,425	7,037	48.1%
Polish	6,471	6,447	0.4%
Chinese (other than Mandarin and Cantonese)	5,019	5,878	-14.6%
Punjabi	4,591	4,719	-2.7%
Spanish	4,032	1,869	115.7%
Bengali (w. Sylheti and Chatgaya)	3,367	3,114	8.1%
Portuguese	3,239	1,458	122.2%
Italian	3,142	753	317.3%
Romanian	2,834	720	293.6%



- 94 languages in total are spoken as a main language across Manchester.
- After English (in residents aged 3+), the most common language spoken is Urdu, followed by Arabic. There has been an increase in residents with these as their main language since 2011.
- Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian have also increased significantly since 2011.
- The respondent having a main language other than English should be considered against 'proficiency in English'. Across the city, English is the main language in every ward.
- 'Main language' does not equate to identity or give an idea of proficiency.

Census 2021: Religion

Religion in Manchester, 2011 & 2021 Census



- Manchester has seen a decline of 12.5 percentage points in the number of Christian residents between the 2011 and 2021 Census. England & Wales have a 59.3% Christian resident population.
- The Muslim resident population has increased by 6.5 percentage points between the 2011 and 2021 census. Compared with England & Wales in 2021 Manchester has a higher rate of Muslim residents, England & Wales has 4.8%, Manchester has 22.3%.

Census 2021: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

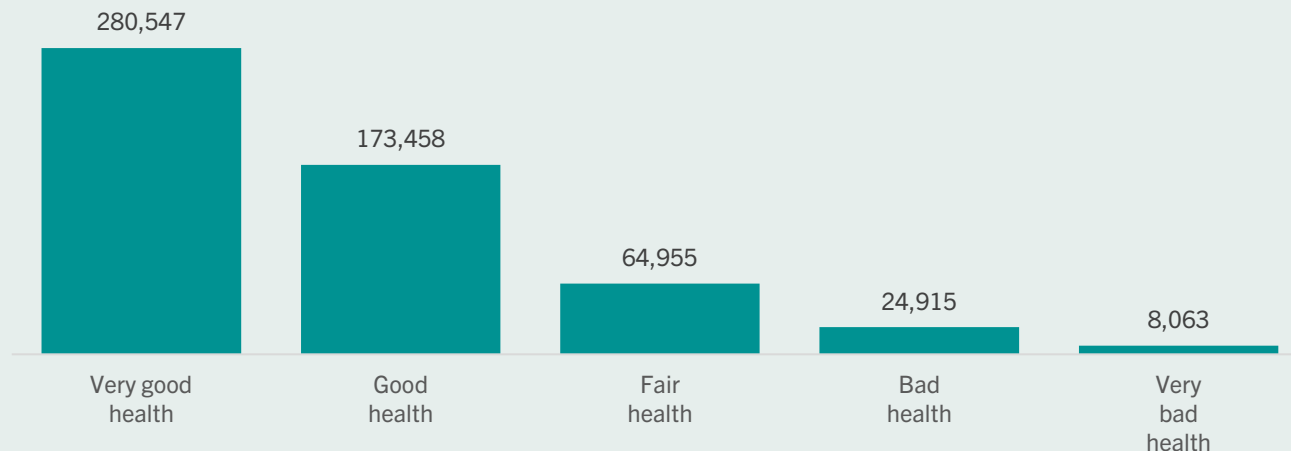
Sexual Orientation	Count	Percent
Straight or Heterosexual	370,576	84.61%
Not answered	38,162	8.71%
Gay or Lesbian	14,608	3.34%
Bisexual	11,782	2.69%
Pansexual	1,853	0.42%
Queer	429	0.10%
Asexual	375	0.09%
All other sexual orientations	175	0.04%

Gender Identity	Count	Percent
Same as registered at birth	401,445	91.66%
Not answered	32,034	7.31%
Different from registered at birth but not specified	1,988	0.45%
Trans man	751	0.17%
Trans woman	725	0.17%
Non-binary	701	0.16%
All other gender identities	314	0.07%

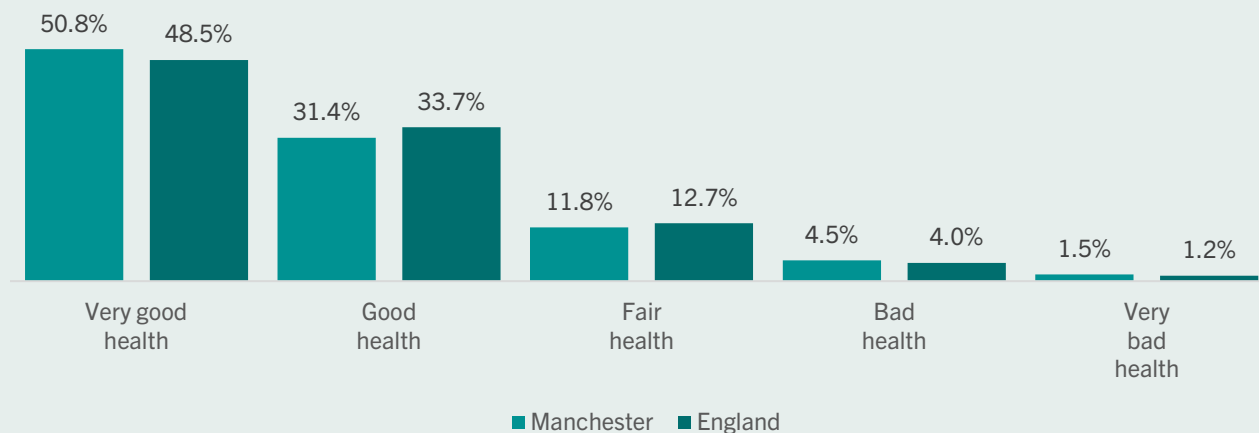
- Sexual orientation and Gender identity were not collected in the 2011 census; this was the first time that these questions have been asked. Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender and may differ from the sex registered at their birth.
- Across England and Wales, 89.4% of those aged 16 and over identified as straight or heterosexual (43.4 million people), 3.2% identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation (1.5 million people). Manchester has a lower rate of Straight or Heterosexual (84.6%) and has a higher rate of those who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation (6.7%) when compared with England and Wales.
- Across England and Wales, the gender identity of 93.5% of those aged 16 and over is the same as registered at birth (45.5 million people), and the gender identity of 0.5% differs (262,000 people). The remaining 6% did not answer (2.9 million). In Manchester 0.8% of respondents (c.3,470 people) stated that their gender identity was different to that registered at birth. A lower percentage of people reporting the same registered gender as birth than England and Wales, demonstrating that Manchester is a city where differences are embraced and welcomed.

Census 2021: General Health

General Health Manchester



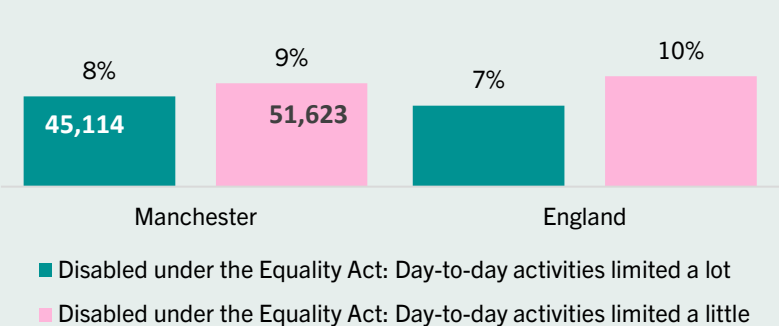
General Health Rate, England & Manchester



- 50.8% of Census 2021 respondents in Manchester stated that they are in 'Very good health'. This is higher than the national level of 48.5%.
- Those considering themselves to be in 'Good health' was higher at the National level than in Manchester (nationally 33.7% compared with 31.4% in Manchester).
- England also has a higher proportion of people who consider themselves to have 'Fair health'. Manchester is behind the national rate by 0.9 percentage points.
- For those identifying their health as 'Bad health' and 'Very bad health', Manchester has a higher proportion of people than at the national level, for 'Bad health' there is a 0.5 percentage points difference, and for 'Very bad health', there is a 0.3 percentage point difference.

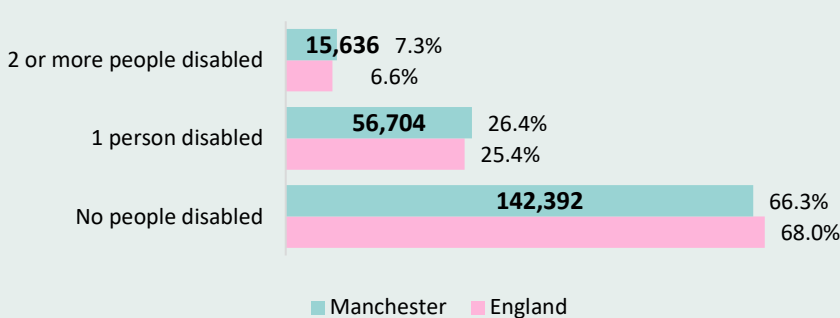
Census 2021: Disability and carers

Day to Day Limitations, Manchester & England



- Within Manchester there are more people who are classified as Disabled under the Equality Act that have their activities limited a little rather than limited a lot. England has a higher proportion of people who are disabled who are limited a little than in Manchester. Manchester has a higher proportion of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot than England.

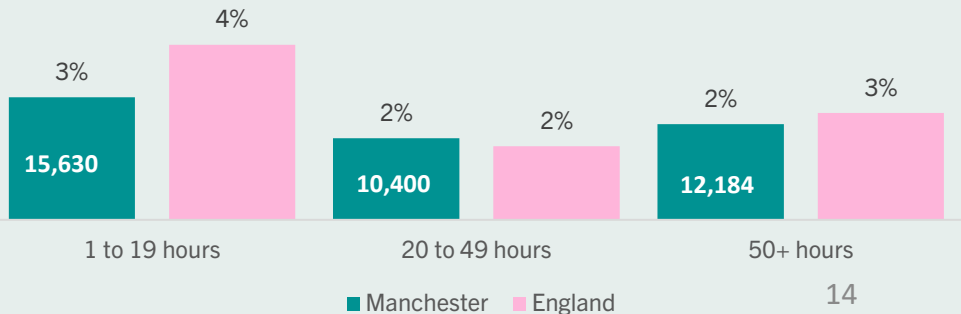
Household Residents with a Disability



- Manchester has a higher proportion of households with residents disabled under the Equality Act in comparison with England. Census responses indicate that 15,636 households have 2 or more people disabled, 7.3% of Manchester households (6,6% of England households) and 56,704 households have 1 person disabled, 26.4 of Manchester households (25,4% of England households)

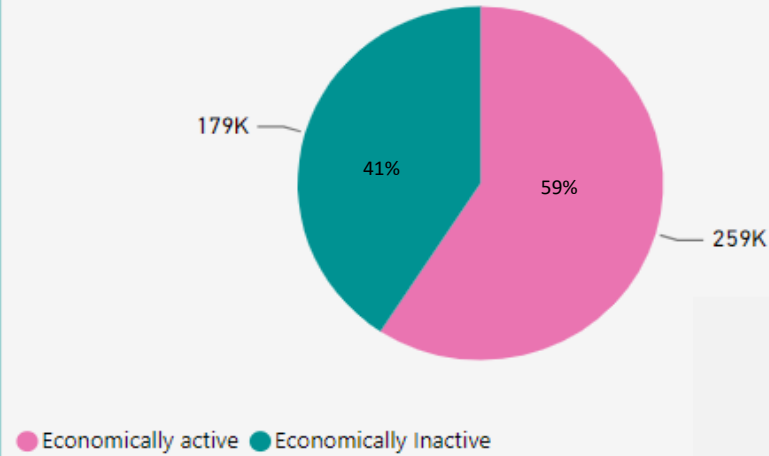
- The provision of unpaid care in Manchester is predominantly between 1-19 hours, with 3.0% of 2021 census respondents reporting that level of unpaid care. The national level, the figure stands at 4.3%. Those reporting unpaid care between 20-49 in Manchester was higher than at the national level, 2.0% compare with 1.8%, however the provision of unpaid care over 50 hours was higher at the national level than in Manchester, 2.6% compared with 2.4%.

Provision of Unpaid Care

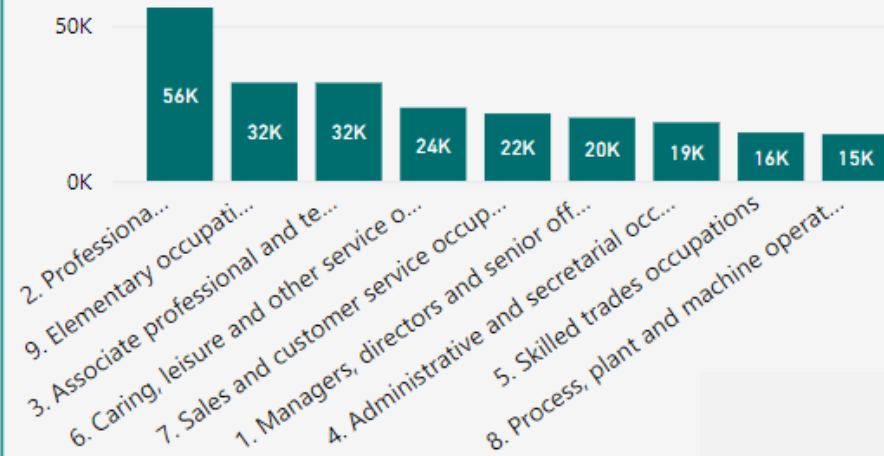


Census 2021: Economic Activity

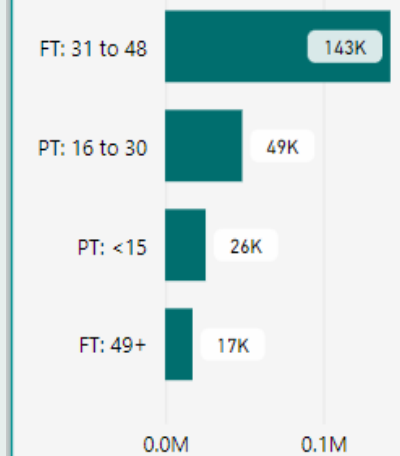
Economic Activity



Occupation Type



Hours Worked

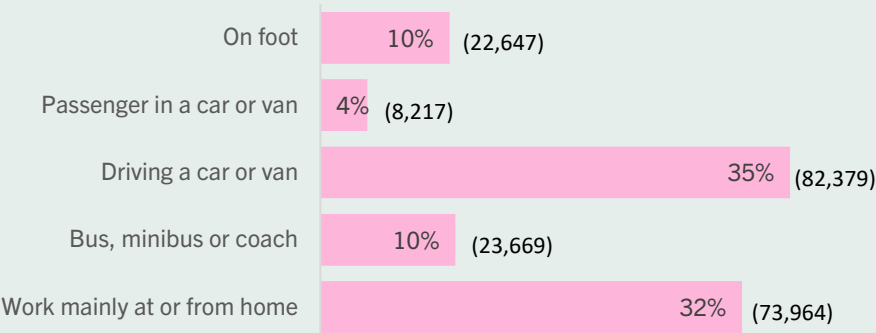


- Census 2021 shows a decrease in those economically active from 63.5% of the population in 2011 to 59.2% in 2021. However, caution is needed in comparing those values as census 2011 included those aged 16-74 whereas census 2021 included 16+ and so likely included more people economically inactive due to age.
- Census 2021 took place during a period of rapid change. The ONS gave extra guidance to help people on furlough answer the census questions about work but are unable to determine how it was followed.

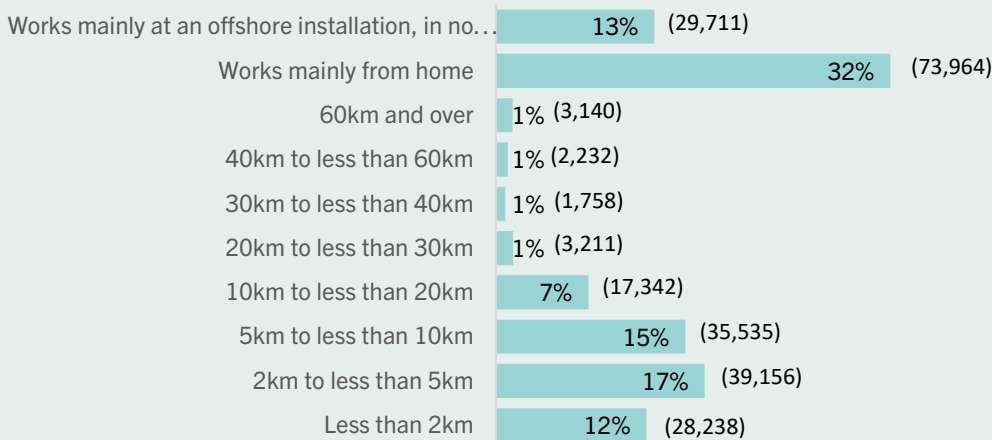
* Response likely impacted by Covid including employees on Furlough – NB 22,000 Students also included in 'Economically Active'

Census 2021: Travel to Work

Top 5 Travel to Work Methods



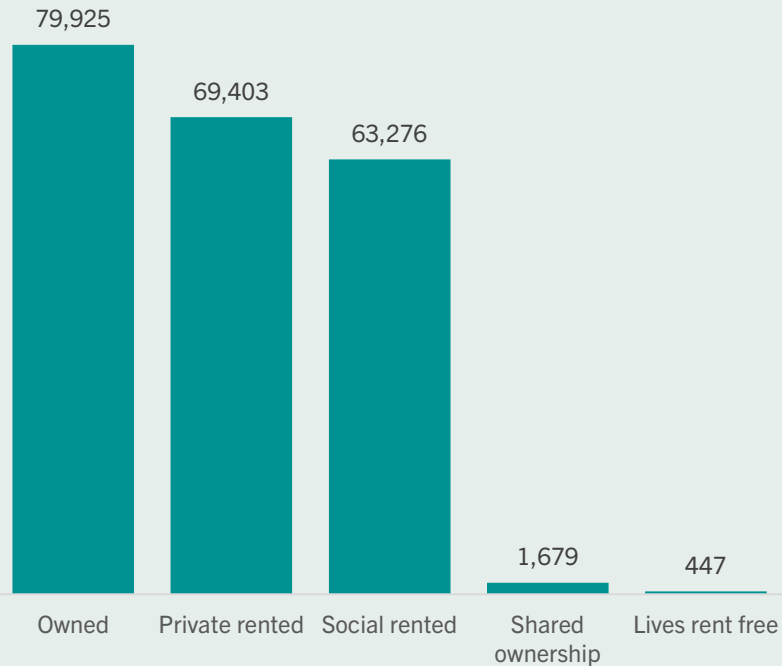
Distance Travelled to Work



- Driving a car or van remained the most common method of travel to work between censuses, with working from home becoming the 2nd most common, up from 6th in 2011.
- The travel distances to work decreased between censuses to include working from home as the most common.
- Caution must be taken when reviewing this data. As the Census was conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic this will have had an impact on the number of people working from home and also on the distances being travelled for work.
- Travel to work methods is monitored more closely using Transport for Greater Manchester and can be found on slide 28 of the Economy Update that is produced on a quarterly basis.

Census 2021: Housing and home

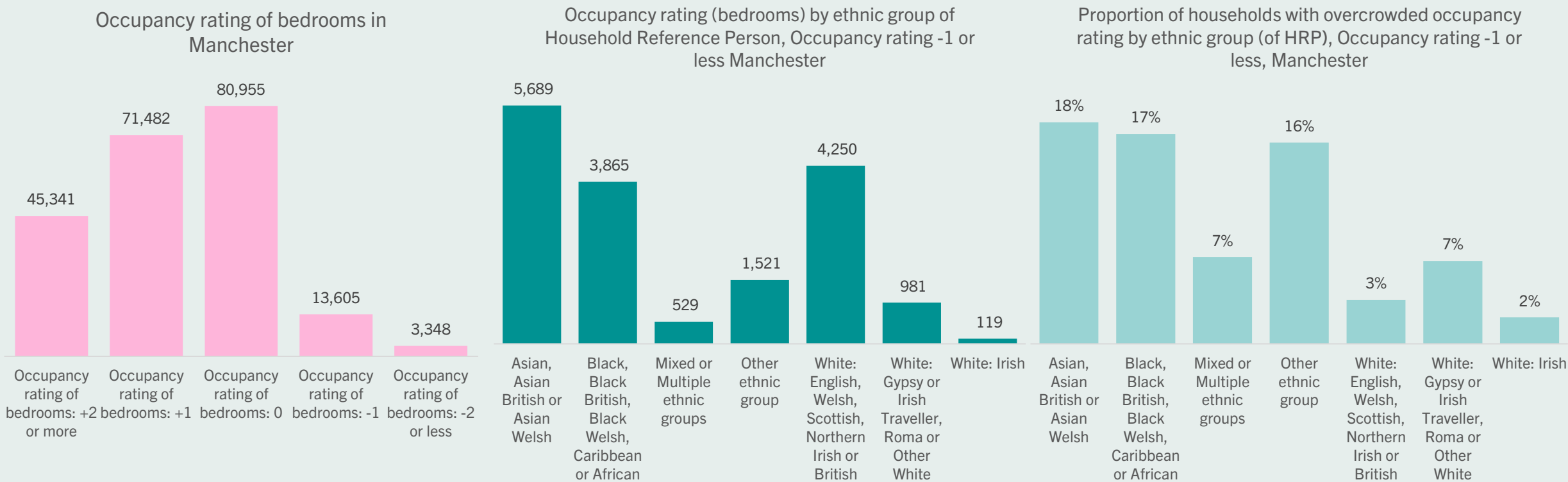
Housing Tenure Manchester



Purpose of Second Address	Count in Manchester
Student's home address	24,197
Another parent or guardian's address	15,063
Other	5,013
Partner's Address	3,879
Holiday Home	2,151
Another address when working away from home	1,557
Student's term-time address	153
Armed forces base address	107

- The most common tenure type in Manchester are 'Owned' properties at 37%, down from 38% in 2011.
- The second most common tenure type are 'Private Rented' at 32%, up from 28%, and replacing Social Rented (30%) from the 2011 Census.
- Caution must be taken when interpreting 'tenure' data especially with the 'privately rented sector' as these are the households most likely to be affected by the undercount.
- In Manchester 499,818 (91%) residents do not have a second address, according to the 2021 census. Of those that do, 40,339 have a second address in the UK and 25,100 have a second address outside of the UK.
- Second Address and Purpose of Second Address are resident counts.

Census 2021: Overcrowding by Ethnicity

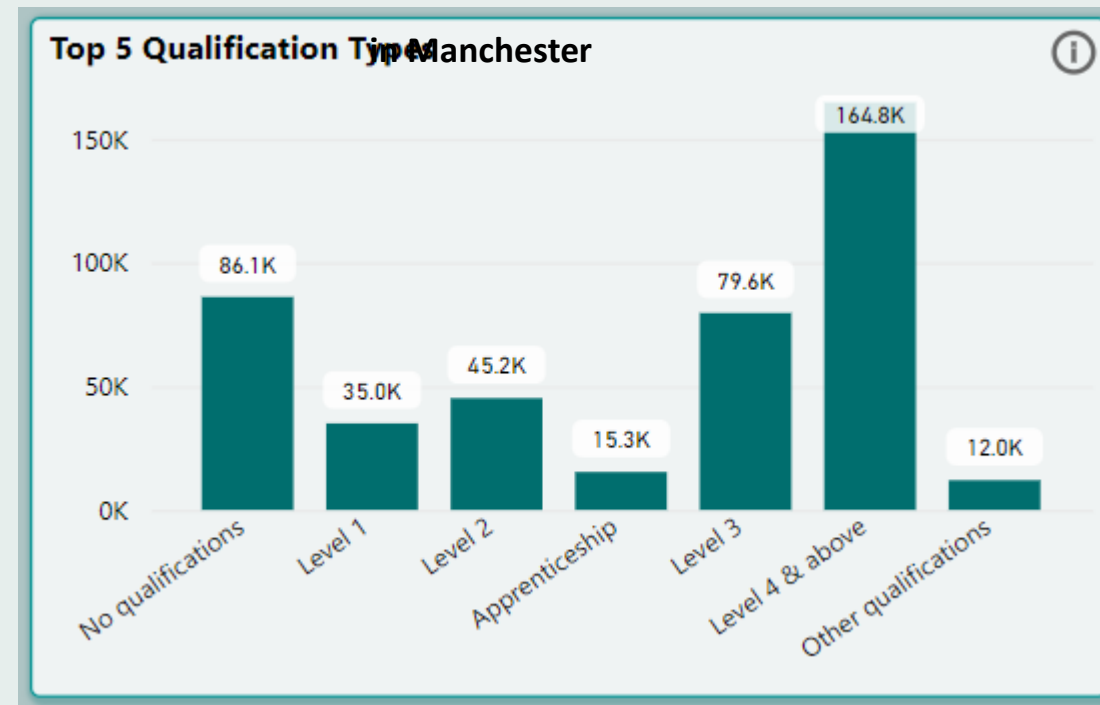


- According to the 2021 Census, there are 16,953 (the combined figure of occupancy rating -1 and -2 combined) households in Manchester that have an occupancy rating below the recommended amount for each specific household. Technically meaning there isn't enough bedrooms for the composition of the household.
- Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh has the highest number of domiciles that are understood to be overcrowded due to there not being enough bedrooms. This ethnic group also have the highest percentage of households that are overcrowded, with 18%.
- Other ethnic group, had the fourth largest count of overcrowded households. As a proportion of households with an overcrowded occupancy rating of -1 or more, this demographic cohort ranks third at 16%.

Census 2021: Highest Level of Qualification

All Residents aged 16+	2021 in Manchester	% in Manchester	England and Wales %
No Qualifications	86,110	19.7%	18.2%
Level 1/Entry Level	34,988	8.0%	9.6%
Level 2	45,164	10.3%	13.4%
Apprenticeship	15,322	3.5%	5.3%
Level 3	79,621	18.2%	16.9%
Level 4 or Above	164,763	37.6%	33.8%
Other	11,990	2.7%	2.8%

Level 1 – one to 4 GCSE passes (C+/Grade 4) or equivalent
 Level 2 – 5 or more GCSE passes (C+/Grade 4+) or equivalent
 Level 3 – Two or more A-Levels or equivalent
 Level 4 – HNC/HND/Degree/Post-Graduate



- Manchester has seen a rise in the number of people with higher level qualifications, with 'Level 3' and 'Level 4 and Above' exceeding the rates seen in England & Wales. One explanation for this rise is that for younger people, degrees are becoming the norm. Another is that new entrants into the City, including international workers and student, are likely to be highly qualified.
- Lower level / No Qualifications have seen a decline since the 2011 census, this is due to the older working age retiring, when qualifications were not necessarily needed to work.

Using population statistics to inform service planning

Public Service Planning

- MCC using MCCFM to determine future demand & changing need to develop more accurate business and budget planning
- Alongside profiling residents' characteristics with the locality insight packs
- Planning for local services, like GPs, Libraries, schools, transport, etc
- Business Rates and Council Tax projections

Health & Social Care

- Project to consider & respond to demand from projected population growth (i.e. Primary and Community Care)
- Short term actions to react to current growth in wider city centre
- Long term approach to substantial developments taking place over the next 15-20 years, e.g. Northern Gateway.

Education

- MCC using MCCFM for school place planning
- ONS estimates & projections led to too few places being planned for in certain areas of the city in 2015
- Local MCCFM ensure we are planning based on local context & reality

Electoral Services

- MCCFM used by Electoral Boundary Commission for boundary review
- Supporting the need to keep boundaries reflective of real local communities

Neighbourhoods

- Waste & Recycling planning
- Parks, Open Space & Leisure assessments and planing
- Neighbourhood insights packs to support local planning & engagement

Housing

- Translating expected population growth into new housing requirements
- Considering household makeup, housing type/locations, and affordability

The importance of the Census and population statistics

Funding – ensuring funding is proportional to the actual population

- Any resource allocation formula that is based on ONS population estimates and projections derived from the 2021 Census may mean that we have insufficient funding to meet the needs of the local population. Such as the Government's Local Government funding settlement administered by DLUHC.
- The particular characteristics of our local population means that the undercount in the 2021 Census has a bigger impact in Manchester compared with other parts of Greater Manchester.

Service Planning – ensure the undercount in the census results is understood in terms of key cohorts

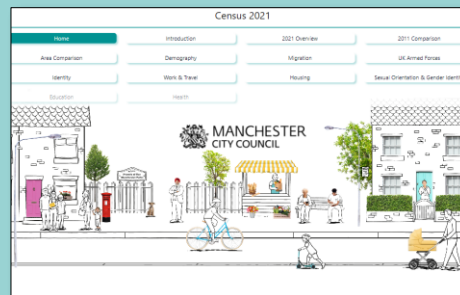
- The disproportionate undercount of the population in certain age groups, notably 20-39 year olds means that planning and funding services that meet the needs of this cohort of people needs to be carefully considered.
- This age group contains a higher proportion of people identifying with an ethnic group compared with other age groups so the 'missing' population is likely to contain a disproportionate number of BAME people.
- The 'ageing on' of this population cohort means that the undercount may continue to be seen in older age groups in the future.

Transparency & equality – ensuring all residents are visible

- We need the Census, alongside other local datasets, to help us ensure we know our residents & communities and that they are properly represented in decision-making and future planning.

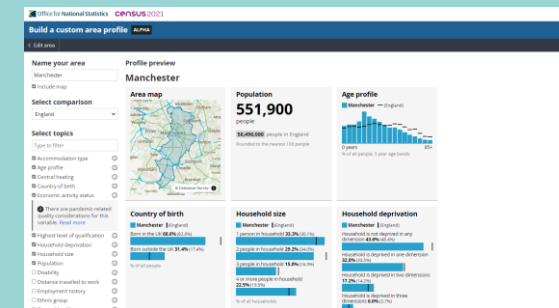
Census 2021: Accessing the Data

Manchester insight tool – Census profiles – including Ward level breakdowns
Updated as data is released



[Census 2021 | Census 2021 | Manchester City Council](#)

ONS Online tool –
Build a custom area profile



[Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS](#)

ONS Online tool – compare nationwide and visualise on interactive maps



[Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

ONS Online tool – Create a custom dataset (can combine multiple variables and data can be available at small area)

Create a custom dataset

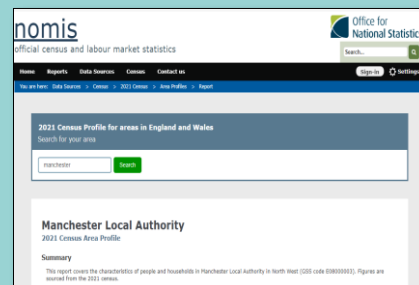
We group Census 2021 data together based on who or what the information is about, for example, people or households. We make population types from these groups or subsets of them. For example, people who are usually resident in England or Wales make up the population type usual residents. [Read about the measurements we used for Census 2021 data.](#)

Select population type

- ☐ Households
Either one usual resident living alone or a group of people who share cooking and living facilities, where that group includes at least one usual resident.
- ☐ Household reference persons
A person who serves as a reference point, mainly based on economic activity, to characterise a whole household.
- ☐ Usual residents in communal establishments
A usual resident who lives in a place that provides managed full-time or part-time supervision of residential accommodation such as a university hall of residence, care home or prison.
- ☐ Usual residents in households

[Create a custom dataset - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

NOMIS: Access and query the raw data and past Census data



[Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

Timetable for future Census Releases:
[Release plans - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Accessing other Data

Manchester Intelligence Hub

[Intelligence Hub | Manchester City Council](#)

Quarterly Economic Monitor

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Economy Scrutiny Committee, 23/05/2023](#)
[10:00 \(manchester.gov.uk\)](#) (Page 19)

Population - Mid Year Estimates

[Population \(instantatlas.com\)](#)

