

Census Specification & Guide

5th May 2016

What is the Census?

Every ten years the census gives us a complete picture of the nation. It allows us to compare different groups of people across the United Kingdom because the same questions are asked, and the information is recorded, in the same way throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The census provides information that government needs to develop policies, plan and run public services, and allocate funding.

Plan and run public services

We all use public services such as schools, health services, roads and libraries. These services need to be planned, and in such a way that they keep pace with fast-changing patterns of modern life. We need accurate information on the numbers of people, including the balance of young and old, what jobs people do, where they live and in what type of housing.

Allocate money to local authorities

An accurate count of the population in each local area helps the Government to calculate the size of grants it allocates each local authority and health authority.

The data are also widely used by academics, businesses, voluntary organisations and the public.

The census is the most complete source of information about the population that we have. Every effort is made to include everyone. It is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same core questions everywhere. This makes it easy to compare different parts of the country.

However no census is perfect and some people are inevitably missed. ONS therefore uses complex statistical techniques to adjust the 2011 Census counts for those people missed by the census. The methods and quality assurance approach was researched and developed in consultation with academics, statisticians, demographers and users of census data. The result was a suite of methods to process, clean, adjust and protect the census results.

Output areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geography at which census estimates are produced. OAs contain approximately equal numbers of population/households, and are intended as geographies that allow reporting of statistics across time on a consistent geographical base.

Using 2001 Census data, 175,434 OAs were created for England and Wales with an average of 297 persons and 123 households in each OA. To prevent statistical disclosure when releasing estimates at OA level, each OA was designed to have a minimum population (100 persons) and number of households (40 households) within it. OAs were intended to be a stable geography and did not change until the 2011 Census when around 2.6% of the 2001 OAs were changed to reflect the change in populations since the 2001 Census. There are now 181,408 OAs in England and Wales.

Postcode Level Counts

As described above, the Census is not collected at a Postcode level and therefore we undertake additional analysis to aggregate Output Area level counts to Postcode Sector, District and Area levels. To do this we source population weighted centroids and, using GIS techniques, we relate the 2011 Output Area geography to the latest Postcode geography to enable us to produce up to date counts.

More information on the 2011 Census can be found at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/2011censususerguide>

Census Data Fields

The following table details the census fields included within our Postcode and Output Area level Census products. The table headings are as follows:

- Theme:** The name of the original census table the field has been extracted from
- Field Code:** The field code from the England & Wales (EW) table this field is taken from.
- Field Name:** The name of the field that appears in our census data tables
- Description:** The full name of the field taken from the England & Wales census tables.

Theme	Field Code	Field Name	Description
Usual resident population	KS101EW0000	KS101 Population	All categories: Sex
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0000	KS401 Households	All Dwelling Types: Detached/ Semi/ Terraced/ Flats/ Mobile
Usual resident population	KS101EW0002	KS101 Males	Males
Usual resident population	KS101EW0003	KS101 Females	Females
Usual resident population	KS101EW0004	KS101 Live Hhld	Lives in a household
Usual resident population	KS101EW0005	KS101 Live Comm Est	Lives in a communal establishment
Usual resident population	KS101EW0006	KS101 Student 4+	Schoolchild or full-time student aged 4 and over at their non term-time address
Age Structure	KS102EW0002	KS102 Age 0 to 4	Age 0 to 4
Age Structure	KS102EW0003	KS102 Age 5 to 7	Age 5 to 7
Age Structure	KS102EW0004	KS102 Age 8 to 9	Age 8 to 9
Age Structure	KS102EW0005	KS102 Age 10 to 14	Age 10 to 14
Age Structure	KS102EW0006	KS102 Age 15	Age 15
Age Structure	KS102EW0007	KS102 Age 16 to 17	Age 16 to 17
Age Structure	KS102EW0008	KS102 Age 18 to 19	Age 18 to 19
Age Structure	KS102EW0009	KS102 Age 20 to 24	Age 20 to 24
Age Structure	KS102EW0010	KS102 Age 25 to 29	Age 25 to 29

Age Structure	KS102EW0011	KS102 Age 30 to 44	Age 30 to 44
Age Structure	KS102EW0012	KS102 Age 45 to 59	Age 45 to 59
Age Structure	KS102EW0013	KS102 Age 60 to 64	Age 60 to 64
Age Structure	KS102EW0014	KS102 Age 65 to 74	Age 65 to 74
Age Structure	KS102EW0015	KS102 Age 75 to 84	Age 75 to 84
Age Structure	KS102EW0016	KS102 Age 85 to 89	Age 85 to 89
Age Structure	KS102EW0017	KS102 Age 90+	Age 90 and over
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0002	KS103 Single	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0003	KS103 Married	Married
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0004	KS103 Civil Partner	In a registered same-sex civil partnership
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0005	KS103 Separated	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0006	KS103 Divorced	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
Marital and civil partnership status	KS103EW0007	KS103 Widowed	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
Household composition	KS105EW0002	KS105 1 Pers Hhld 65+	One person household: Aged 65 and over
Household composition	KS105EW0003	KS105 1 Pers Hhld Other	One person household: Other
Household composition	KS105EW0004	KS105 1 Fam 65+	One family only: All aged 65 and over
Household composition	KS105EW0005	KS105 1 Fam Married 0 Chld	One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: No children
Household composition	KS105EW0006	KS105 1 Fam Married D Chld	One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: Dependent children
Household composition	KS105EW0007	KS105 1 Fam Married ND Chld	One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: All children non-dependent
Household composition	KS105EW0008	KS105 1 Fam Cohab 0 Chld	One family only: Cohabiting couple: No children
Household composition	KS105EW0009	KS105 1 Fam Cohab D Chld	One family only: Cohabiting couple: Dependent children
Household composition	KS105EW0010	KS105 1 Fam Cohab ND Chld	One family only: Cohabiting couple: All children non-dependent
Household composition	KS105EW0011	KS105 1 Fam LP D Chld	One family only: Lone parent: Dependent children

Household composition	KS105EW0012	KS105 1 Fam LP ND Chld	One family only: Lone parent: All children non-dependent
Household composition	KS105EW0013	KS105 Other D Chld	Other household types: With dependent children
Household composition	KS105EW0014	KS105 Other Stdnts	Other household types: All full-time students
Household composition	KS105EW0015	KS105 Other 65+	Other household types: All aged 65 and over
Household composition	KS105EW0016	KS105 Other	Other household types: Other
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0002	KS107 LP PTE	Lone parent in part-time employment: Total
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0003	KS107 LP FTE	Lone parent in full-time employment: Total
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0004	KS107 LP UNEMP	Lone parent not in employment: Total
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0005	KS107 MLP	Male lone parent: Total
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0006	KS107 MLP PTE	Male lone parent: In part-time employment
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0007	KS107 MLP FTE	Male lone parent: In full-time employment
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0008	KS107 MLP UNEMP	Male lone parent: Not in employment
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0009	KS107 FLP	Female lone parent: Total
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0010	KS107 FLP PTE	Female lone parent: In part-time employment
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0011	KS107 FLP FTE	Female lone parent: In full-time employment
Lone parent households with dependent children	KS107EW0012	KS107 FLP UNEMP	Female lone parent: Not in employment
Ethnic group	KS201EW0002	KS201 White	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Irish/Other
Ethnic group	KS201EW0004	KS201 White Gypsy	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Ethnic group	KS201EW0006	KS201 Mixed	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean/ African/ Asian/ Other
Ethnic group	KS201EW0010	KS201 Indian	Asian/Asian British: Indian
Ethnic group	KS201EW0011	KS201 Pakistani	Asian/Asian British: Pakistani

Ethnic group	KS201EW0012	KS201 Bangladeshi	Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi
Ethnic group	KS201EW0013	KS201 Chinese	Asian/Asian British: Chinese
Ethnic group	KS201EW0014	KS201 Other Asian	Asian/Asian British: Other Asian
Ethnic group	KS201EW0015	KS201 Black	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British/Other
Ethnic group	KS201EW0019	KS201 Other	Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group including Arab
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0002	KS301 Limited A Lot	Day-to-day activities limited a lot
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0003	KS301 Limited A Little	Day-to-day activities limited a little
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0004	KS301 Not Limited	Day-to-day activities not limited
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0005	KS301 Limited A Lot 16-64	Day-to-day activities limited a lot: Age 16 to 64
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0006	KS301 Limited A Little 16-64	Day-to-day activities limited a little: Age 16 to 64
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0007	KS301 Not Limited 16-64	Day-to-day activities not limited: Age 16 to 64
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0008	KS301 Very Good Health	Very good health
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0009	KS301 Good Health	Good health
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0010	KS301 Fair Health	Fair health
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0011	KS301 Bad Health	Bad health
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0012	KS301 Very Bad Health	Very bad health
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0013	KS301 Provs No Care	Provides no unpaid care
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0014	KS301 Provs 1-19 Hrs Care	Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week
Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0015	KS301 Provs 20-49 Hrs Care	Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week

Health and provision of unpaid care	KS301EW0016	KS301 Provs 50+ Hrs Care	Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0002	KS401 Unshared	Unshared dwelling
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0003	KS401 Shared	Shared dwelling: Two or more household spaces
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0005	KS401 All Spaces	All categories: Household spaces
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0006	KS401 Spaces 1+ Res	Household spaces with at least one usual resident
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0007	KS401 Spaces 0 Res	Household spaces with no usual residents
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0008	KS401 Detached	Whole house or bungalow: Detached
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0009	KS401 Semi	Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0010	KS401 Terraced	Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0011	KS401 Purpose Flat	Flat, maisonette or apartment: Purpose-built block of flats or tenement
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0012	KS401 Converted Flat	Flat, maisonette or apartment: Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0013	KS401 Comm Flat	Flat, maisonette or apartment: In a commercial building
Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type	KS401EW0014	KS401 Mobile	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Tenure	KS402EW0002	KS402 Owned Outright	Owned: Owned outright
Tenure	KS402EW0003	KS402 Mortgage	Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan
Tenure	KS402EW0004	KS402 Shared	Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)
Tenure	KS402EW0005	KS402 Rent Council	Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)
Tenure	KS402EW0006	KS402 Social Rent Other	Social rented: Other
Tenure	KS402EW0007	KS402 Rent Landlord	Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency
Tenure	KS402EW0008	KS402 Private Rent Other	Private rented: Other

Tenure	KS402EW0009	KS402 Rent Free	Living rent free
Car or van availability	KS404EW0002	KS404 0 Cars	No cars or vans in household
Car or van availability	KS404EW0003	KS404 1 Car	1 car or van in household
Car or van availability	KS404EW0004	KS404 2 Cars	2 cars or vans in household
Car or van availability	KS404EW0005	KS404 3 Cars	3 cars or vans in household
Car or van availability	KS404EW0006	KS404 4+ Cars	4 or more cars or vans in household
Car or van availability	KS404EW0007	KS404 All Cars	All cars or vans in the area
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0003	KS405 Gen Hosp Res	Medical and care establishment: NHS: General hospital
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0004	KS405 Mntl Hosp Res	Medical and care establishment: NHS: Mental health hospital/unit (including secure units)
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0005	KS405 Other Hosp Res	Medical and care establishment: NHS: Other hospital
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0006	KS405 Chld Home Res	Medical and care establishment: Local Authority: Children's home (including secure units)
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0007	KS405 Care Home Res	Medical and care establishment: Local Authority: Care home or other home
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0008	KS405 HA Res	Medical and care establishment: Registered Social Landlord/Housing Association
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0009	KS405 Care Home W Nurse Res	Medical and care establishment: Other: Care home with nursing
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0010	KS405 Care Home W/O Nurse Res	Medical and care establishment: Other: Care home without nursing
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0011	KS405 Other Chld Home Res	Medical and care establishment: Other: Children's home (including secure units)
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0012	KS405 Other Res	Medical and care establishment: Other
Communal establishment residents	KS405EW0013	KS405 Other Est Res	Other establishments
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0002	KS501 No Qual	No qualifications
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0003	KS501 Level 1 Qual	Highest level of qualification: Level 1 qualifications
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0004	KS501 Level 2 Qual	Highest level of qualification: Level 2 qualifications
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0005	KS501 Apprenticeship	Highest level of qualification: Apprenticeship
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0006	KS501 Level 3 Qual	Highest level of qualification: Level 3 qualifications
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0007	KS501 Level 4 Qual	Highest level of qualification: Level 4 qualifications and above

Qualifications and students	KS501EW0008	KS501 Other Qual	Highest level of qualification: Other qualifications
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0009	KS501 FTS 16-17	Schoolchildren and full-time students: Age 16 to 17
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0010	KS501 FTS 18+	Schoolchildren and full-time students: Age 18 and over
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0011	KS501 FTS 18-74 Active	Full-time students: Age 18 to 74: Economically active: In employment
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0012	KS501 FTS 18-74 Unemp	Full-time students: Age 18 to 74: Economically active: Unemployed
Qualifications and students	KS501EW0013	KS501 FTS 18-74 Inactive	Full-time students: Age 18 to 74: Economically inactive
Economic activity	KS601EW0002	KS601 Employee PT	Economically active: Employee: Part-time
Economic activity	KS601EW0003	KS601 Employee FT	Economically active: Employee: Full-time
Economic activity	KS601EW0004	KS601 Self-Emp	Economically active: Self-employed
Economic activity	KS601EW0005	KS601 Unemp	Economically active: Unemployed
Economic activity	KS601EW0006	KS601 FTS	Economically active: Full-time student
Economic activity	KS601EW0007	KS601 Retired	Economically inactive: Retired
Economic activity	KS601EW0008	KS601 Student	Economically inactive: Student (including full-time students)
Economic activity	KS601EW0009	KS601 Looking After Home	Economically inactive: Looking after home or family
Economic activity	KS601EW0010	KS601 Long Term Sick	Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled
Economic activity	KS601EW0011	KS601 Other	Economically inactive: Other
Economic activity	KS601EW0012	KS601 Unemp 16-24	Unemployed: Age 16 to 24
Economic activity	KS601EW0013	KS601 Unemp 50-74	Unemployed: Age 50 to 74
Economic activity	KS601EW0014	KS601 Never Worked	Unemployed: Never worked
Economic activity	KS601EW0015	KS601 Long Term Unemp	Long-term unemployed
Industry	KS605EW0002	KS605 Ag, For, Fish	A Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Industry	KS605EW0003	KS605 Mining	B Mining and quarrying
Industry	KS605EW0004	KS605 Manufacturing	C Manufacturing
Industry	KS605EW0005	KS605 Elec & Gas	D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
Industry	KS605EW0006	KS605 Water	E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities

Industry	KS605EW0007	KS605 Construction	F Construction
Industry	KS605EW0008	KS605 Wholesale	G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles
Industry	KS605EW0009	KS605 Transport	H Transport and storage
Industry	KS605EW0010	KS605 Accommodation	I Accommodation and food service activities
Industry	KS605EW0011	KS605 Information	J Information and communication
Industry	KS605EW0012	KS605 Financial	K Financial and insurance activities
Industry	KS605EW0013	KS605 Real Estate	L Real estate activities
Industry	KS605EW0014	KS605 Professional	M Professional, scientific and technical activities
Industry	KS605EW0015	KS605 Administrative	N Administrative and support service activities
Industry	KS605EW0016	KS605 Public	O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
Industry	KS605EW0017	KS605 Education	P Education
Industry	KS605EW0018	KS605 Health	Q Human health and social work activities
Industry	KS605EW0019	KS605 Other	R, S, T, U Other
Occupation	KS608EW0002	KS608 Manager	1. Managers, directors and senior officials
Occupation	KS608EW0003	KS608 Professional	2. Professional occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0004	KS608 Technical	3. Associate professional and technical occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0005	KS608 Administrative	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0006	KS608 Skilled	5. Skilled trades occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0007	KS608 Service	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0008	KS608 Sales	7. Sales and customer service occupations
Occupation	KS608EW0009	KS608 Machine Operatives	8. Process, plant and machine operatives
Occupation	KS608EW0010	KS608 Elementary	9. Elementary occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0002	KS611 Higher Managerial	1. Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0003	KS611 Large Employers	1.1 Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0004	KS611 Higher Professional	1.2 Higher professional occupations

NS-SeC	KS611EW0005	KS611 Lower Managerial	2. Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0006	KS611 Intermediate	3. Intermediate occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0007	KS611 Small Employers	4. Small employers and own account workers
NS-SeC	KS611EW0008	KS611 Lower Supervisory	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0009	KS611 Semi-routine	6. Semi-routine occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0010	KS611 Routine	7. Routine occupations
NS-SeC	KS611EW0011	KS611 Never Worked & LTE	8. Never worked and long-term unemployed
NS-SeC	KS611EW0012	KS611 Never Worked	L14.1 Never worked
NS-SeC	KS611EW0013	KS611 LTE	L14.2 Long-term unemployed
NS-SeC	KS611EW0015	KS611 FTS	L15 Full-time students