

2021 Census demography and migration headline results for Herefordshire

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a demography and migration topic summary on 2 November 2022, as part of a rolling programme of Census 2021 topic summaries throughout November and December of 2022 and early 2023. This included a range of statistics that relate to population, household composition, migration and non-UK born short-term residents.

We plan to produce county-level key headline summaries following each release. This document is a headline summary for demography and migration.

A detailed insight into the characteristics of the population will be available once the ONS release combinations of the different variables from early 2023.

See ONS' Census 2021 [release calendar](#) for the plan of what is to be published and when.

A geographical analysis of how different areas within the county compare will follow shortly. In the meantime, you can explore the data yourself using the [Census maps](#) on the ONS website.

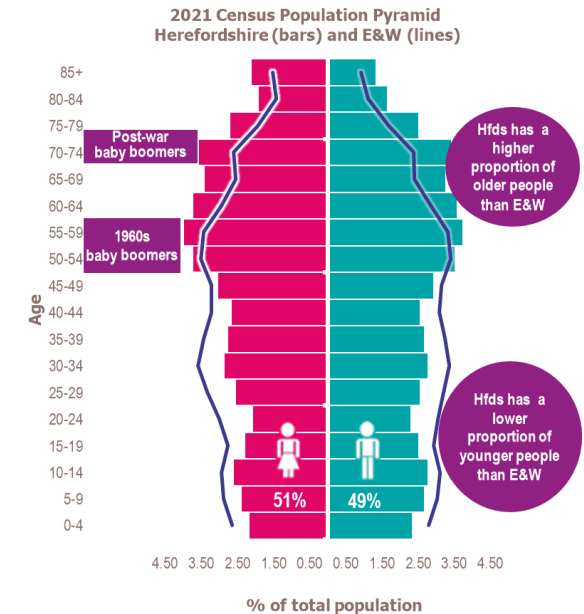
Population

The 2021 Census estimated that 187,000 people were usually resident in Herefordshire on 21 March 2021. A usual resident is anyone who on Census Day 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 county's age structure remains older than nationally with higher proportions of residents in their early fifties and above and lower proportions of young people.

- The 65 and over age group has grown the fastest, by 24% (from 39,000 in 2011 to 48,500 in 2021), compared with 20% nationally.
- The working age population (16-64) fell by 4% (from 112,900 in 2011 to 108,700 in 2021), compared with a 4% increase nationally.
- The number of children (aged under 16) fell by 5% (from 31,500 in 2011 to 29,900 in 2021), compared with a 5% increase nationally.



The census figures show a much slower growth over the last decade than the rolled forward mid-year estimates have indicated, with around 6,600 fewer residents than the 2020 mid-year estimate, particularly in the under 55 year old age groups. We will get a better idea of the true extent and underlying reasons for the inter-censal drift once the ONS publishes the rebased mid-year population estimates.

See 2021 [Census population and household estimates](#) for further details about which age groups have grown/declined the fastest and which have been over-estimated the most in Herefordshire over the last 10 years.



There were 220 non-UK short-term residents staying in Herefordshire on Census day, i.e. people who had arrived in the UK within the year before Census day and did not intend to stay for longer than 12 months. However, this is not a proxy for typical seasonal worker numbers as the

Census was not taken at the height of the season for seasonal work and it was taken at a moment of pandemic lockdown.

Migration



Since the expansion of the EU in 2004, population growth in the county has been predominantly driven by net inward migration from outside the UK.

16,000 (9%) of Herefordshire's residents were born outside of the UK, compared with 17% nationally. Of the 16,000 - 58% have been here for longer than 10 years, 24% for between 5 and 10 years, 12% between 2 and 5 years and 6% for fewer than 2 years.

Polish people still make up the largest (21%) non UK-born group in Herefordshire, but the Romanian population has seen a nine-fold increase since 2011 and now forms the second largest (11%) non UK-born group in Herefordshire.

Migrants from outside the UK have a relatively lower age profile and international migration has been responsible for lowering the age profile of the county's population over the last 17 years.

Ethnicity and identity will form part of a future topic summary.

The map demonstrates the impact the expansion of the European Union in 2004 has had on immigration to Herefordshire, when Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined. It shows the proportions of the resident population who were born in those countries for all local authority districts in England and Wales.

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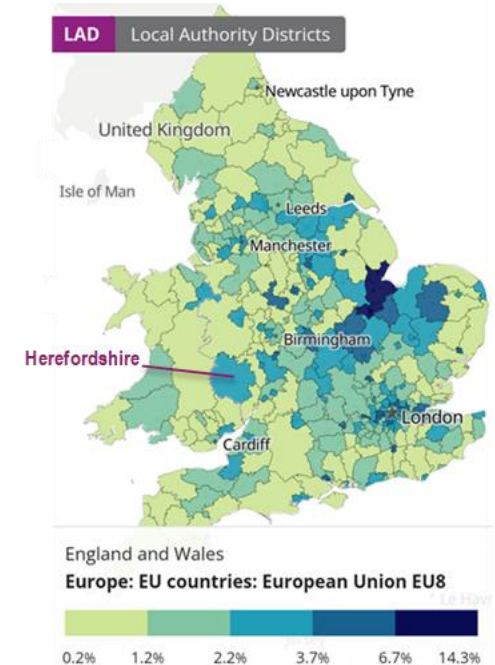
Relationships and living arrangements

Herefordshire adults were more likely to be living as a couple than nationally (50% vs. 45%).

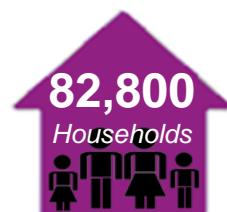
Almost half (49%) of adults were in an opposite-sex, married couple; but this had fallen since 2011 (52%), whilst the proportion who were single (never married or in a civil partnership) had risen (from 28% to 30%).

Around 620 adults in Herefordshire were either living in a registered same-sex civil partnership or were in a same-sex marriage - the same proportion of adults as nationally (0.4%).

Co-habiting amongst adults living in households was more common than in 2011 (up from 12% to 14%).



Households



There are fewer households with dependent children than in 2011: 19,600 in 2021 compared with 20,700 in 2011. Now making up under a quarter of households. There were 8,300 households with grown-up children living at home – a 12% increase since 2011 (although as a proportion of all households this has not changed significantly).

The proportion of lone parent households remains relatively stable (at just under 1 in 10 households), but the number had increased by 9% over the previous 10 years to 7,300 in 2021.

Similar to England & Wales, just under a third (31%) of adults live alone in Herefordshire. This amounts to 25,400 single-person households, around half (51%) are pensioners (aged 66+); this equates to 28% of all pensioners.

Deprivation

The number of deprived households fell by around 2,000, over the last 10 years, to 41,900 (51% of households compared to 52% nationally). Decreases in the numbers of deprived households have taken place across England & Wales as a whole. Households were considered as being deprived if they met any of the following criteria:

- no one with five or more GCSE passes and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student
- any member who is either unemployed or disabled and not a full-time student
- any member is disabled
- if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating

Sexual orientation and gender identity

Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

The 2021 Census was the first census to ask questions about gender identity and sexual orientation, the questions were voluntary and were only asked of people aged 16 and over. In Herefordshire, 92% of people answered the question on sexual orientation and 94% answered the question on gender identity.

Of those who answered the question on sexual orientation, around 141,000 people (98%) identified as straight or heterosexual in Herefordshire. Around 3,400 people (2.4%) identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation").

Of those who answered the question on gender identity, around 146,000 people (99.6%) stated that the gender they identify with is the same as their sex registered at birth. Around 500 people (0.4%) indicated that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth.