

Accessing census 2021 data

Developing an area profile: Accessing data



[10/03/2023]

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Version No. 1.0

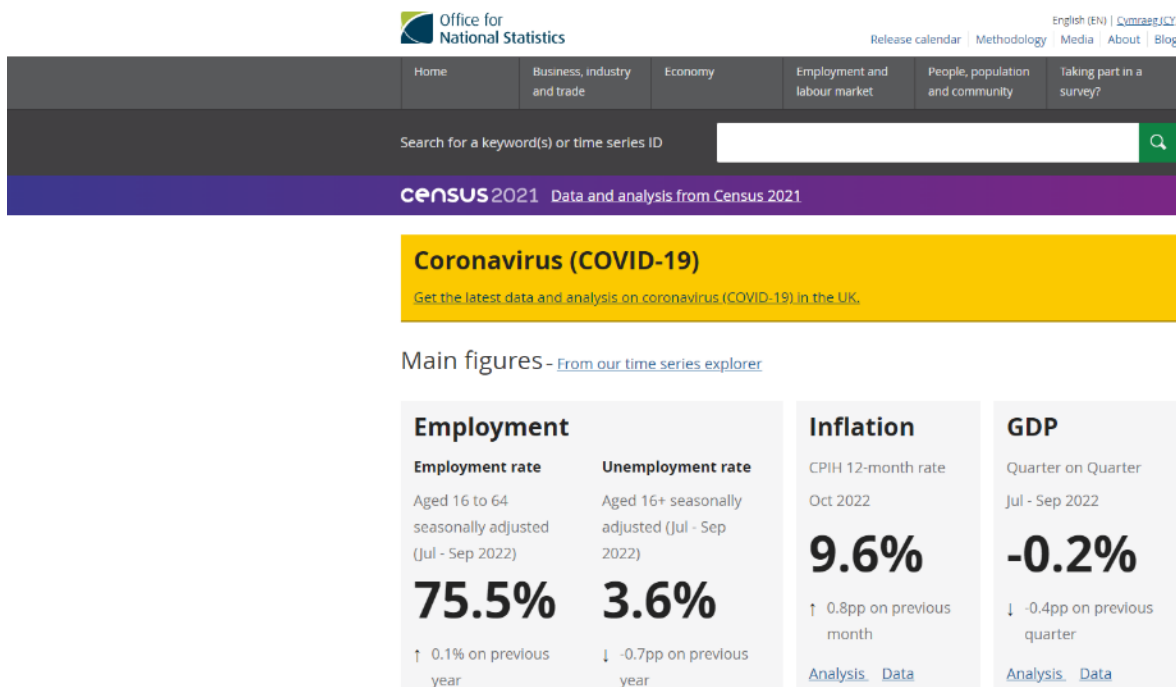
There are three ways to access the data documented within this briefing. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Nomis and the UK Data Service.

The interface for both ONS and the UK Data Service will be upgraded in the future. The information provided here is based on the systems as they were on 17 November 2022. They will be revised and reissued when there are significant upgrades.

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Their website provides access to topic summaries for single variables at country, region, local authority, MSOA and LSOA level and OA data is provided in regional files.

If you go to the ONS website the front page shows a link to census 2021 data and analysis.



The screenshot shows the ONS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Business, industry and trade, Economy, Employment and labour market, People, population and community, and Taking part in a survey?. A search bar is located below the navigation menu. A prominent purple banner highlights 'census2021 Data and analysis from Census 2021'. Below this, a yellow banner for 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)' offers the latest data and analysis. The 'Main figures' section, accessed via a time series explorer, displays four key metrics:

Employment		Inflation	GDP
Employment rate	Unemployment rate	CPIH 12-month rate	Quarter on Quarter
Aged 16 to 64 seasonally adjusted (Jul - Sep 2022)	Aged 16+ seasonally adjusted (Jul - Sep 2022)	Oct 2022	Jul - Sep 2022
75.5%	3.6%	9.6%	-0.2%
↑ 0.1% on previous year	↓ -0.7pp on previous year	↑ 0.8pp on previous month	↓ -0.4pp on previous quarter
Analysis Data	Analysis Data	Analysis Data	Analysis Data

Selecting this link shows the data available from ONS and other sources.

Census

The census takes place every 10 years. It gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.



About the census

Find out what the census is and why it's important for all of us.

- [About the census](#)

Census 2021 data

Find data for Census 2021.

- [Get census data \(England and Wales\)](#)
- [Get census data \(Wales\)](#)

Census releases

See what we've published, and our plans for the future.

- [Release calendar](#)
- [First results and timeline](#)

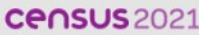
Census topics

Find census data and analysis using these topics.

- [Topic summaries](#)

For the univariate data select Topic summaries and the topic area you are interested in. In the example we will look at NS-SEC (the measure of occupational social class). This is accessed via the labour market and travel to work topic summary.

Labour market and travel to work: Census 2021 in England and Wales



contact:
Sarah Garlick

Release date:
8 December 2022 09:30

Next release:
To be announced

Data and supporting information about labour market and travel to work from Census 2021 in England and Wales.

These publications are part of the topic summaries and will include: datasets, statistical bulletins and supporting information.

It includes univariate data (one variable only) down to Output Area (OA) level, where possible. Multivariate data (more than one variable) will be released in early 2023.

Publications

Economic activity status, England and Wales: Census 2021

People in and out of work covering employment, unemployment, hours worked and employment history. [Census 2021 data](#)

This page provides publications, comparisons between census 2021 and the labour force estimates and the tables for individual variables. Selecting NS-SeC provides information about the dataset and allows you to select the geographical level of analysis and geographical coverage.

NS-SeC



census 2021

Dataset ID: TS062

Released: 08 December 2022

Page contents

- [Summary](#)
- [Variables](#)
- [Get the data](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Protecting personal data](#)
- [Related content](#)

As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this data for planning purposes.

Read more about this [quality notice](#).

Summary

This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over in England and Wales by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC). The estimates are as at Census Day, 21 March 2021.

> [Variable and dataset information](#)

Variables

Area type	Lower Tier Local Authorities	Change
Coverage	England and Wales	Change
National Statistics	10 Categories	

For the area type I changed the scale to Lower Layer Super Output Areas. To select the geography I clicked [Change](#) next to the coverage then selected all lower layer super output areas within a larger area, within regions for the larger area type, searched for London and then clicked the <Add> button next to London in the Results.

Coverage

Select the geography you would like your dataset to cover

- All lower layer super output areas within England and Wales
- Search for lower layer super output areas by name
- Select all lower layer super output areas within a larger area

Larger area type

For example, a region or local authority

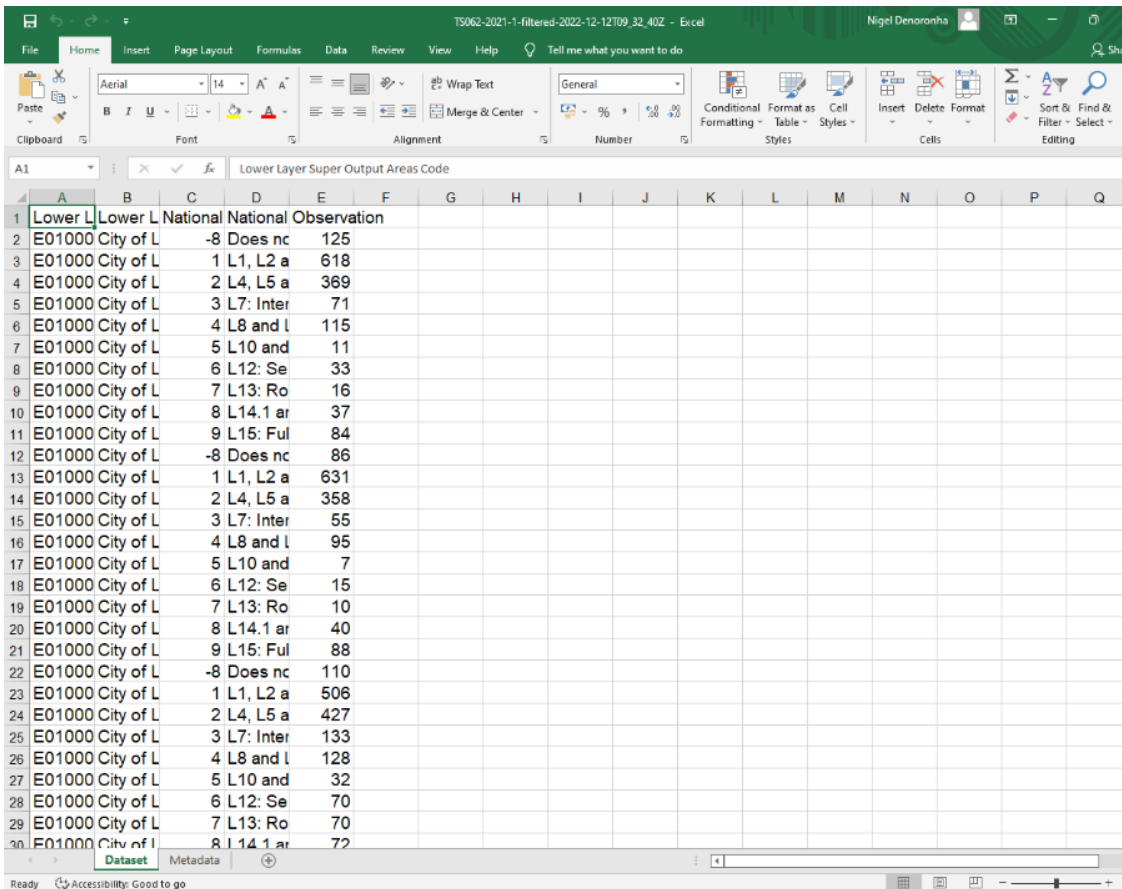
Enter an area name or code

Results

London	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>
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Area added

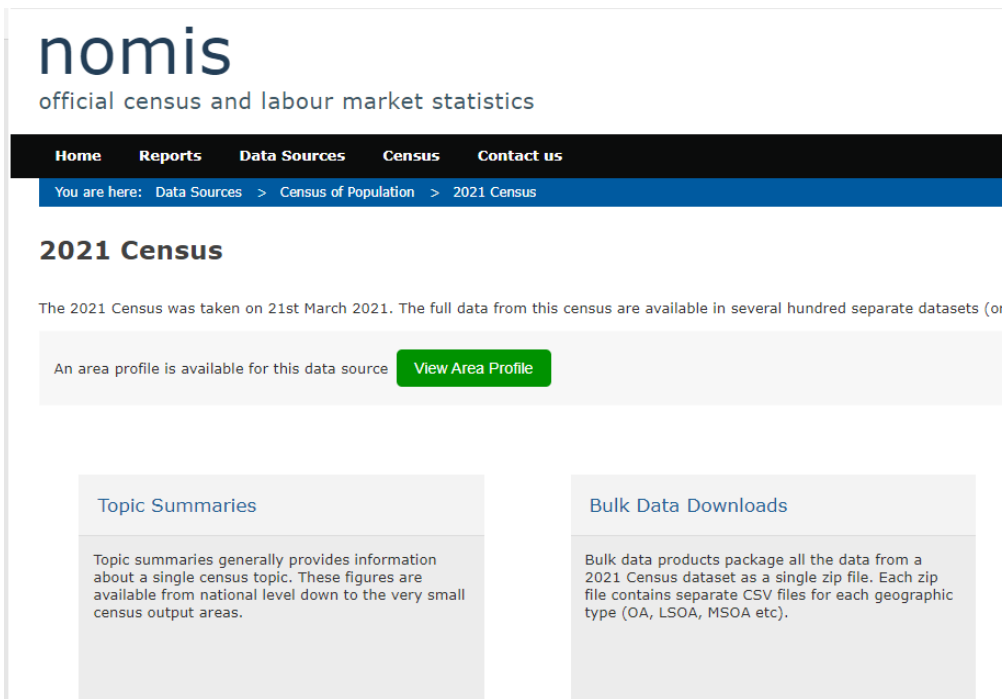
I then clicked <Continue> and from the Review changes screen selected <Get the data>. I then downloaded it in XLS format – *on the version I used this was not initially available but was after clicking the Download button with no selection*. This had the advantage of providing the metadata for the table in a separate worksheet.



Lower L	Lower L	National	National	Observation
1	E01000 City of L	-8	Does nc	125
2	E01000 City of L	1	L1, L2 a	618
3	E01000 City of L	2	L4, L5 a	369
4	E01000 City of L	3	L7: Inter	71
5	E01000 City of L	4	L8 and l	115
6	E01000 City of L	5	L10 and	11
7	E01000 City of L	6	L12: Se	33
8	E01000 City of L	7	L13: Ro	16
9	E01000 City of L	8	L14.1 ar	37
10	E01000 City of L	9	L15: Ful	84
11	E01000 City of L	-8	Does nc	86
12	E01000 City of L	1	L1, L2 a	631
13	E01000 City of L	2	L4, L5 a	358
14	E01000 City of L	3	L7: Inter	55
15	E01000 City of L	4	L8 and l	95
16	E01000 City of L	5	L10 and	7
17	E01000 City of L	6	L12: Se	15
18	E01000 City of L	7	L13: Ro	10
19	E01000 City of L	8	L14.1 ar	40
20	E01000 City of L	9	L15: Ful	88
21	E01000 City of L	-8	Does nc	110
22	E01000 City of L	1	L1, L2 a	506
23	E01000 City of L	2	L4, L5 a	427
24	E01000 City of L	3	L7: Inter	133
25	E01000 City of L	4	L8 and l	128
26	E01000 City of L	5	L10 and	32
27	E01000 City of L	6	L12: Se	70
28	E01000 City of L	7	L13: Ro	70
29	E01000 City of L	8	L14.1 ar	72

Nomis

For those of you familiar with Nomis, the interface is similar to the 2011 census. From the front screen there are three ways to access the data – through the <Census> tab at the top of the screen, select 2021; through the 2021 data catalogue on the right of the screen; and through Query data, select Census 2021. The first two provide two options – topic summaries and bulk data downloads. The third option provides a list of topic summaries.



nomis
official census and labour market statistics

Home Reports Data Sources Census Contact us

You are here: Data Sources > Census of Population > 2021 Census

2021 Census

The 2021 Census was taken on 21st March 2021. The full data from this census are available in several hundred separate datasets (or 1

An area profile is available for this data source [View Area Profile](#)

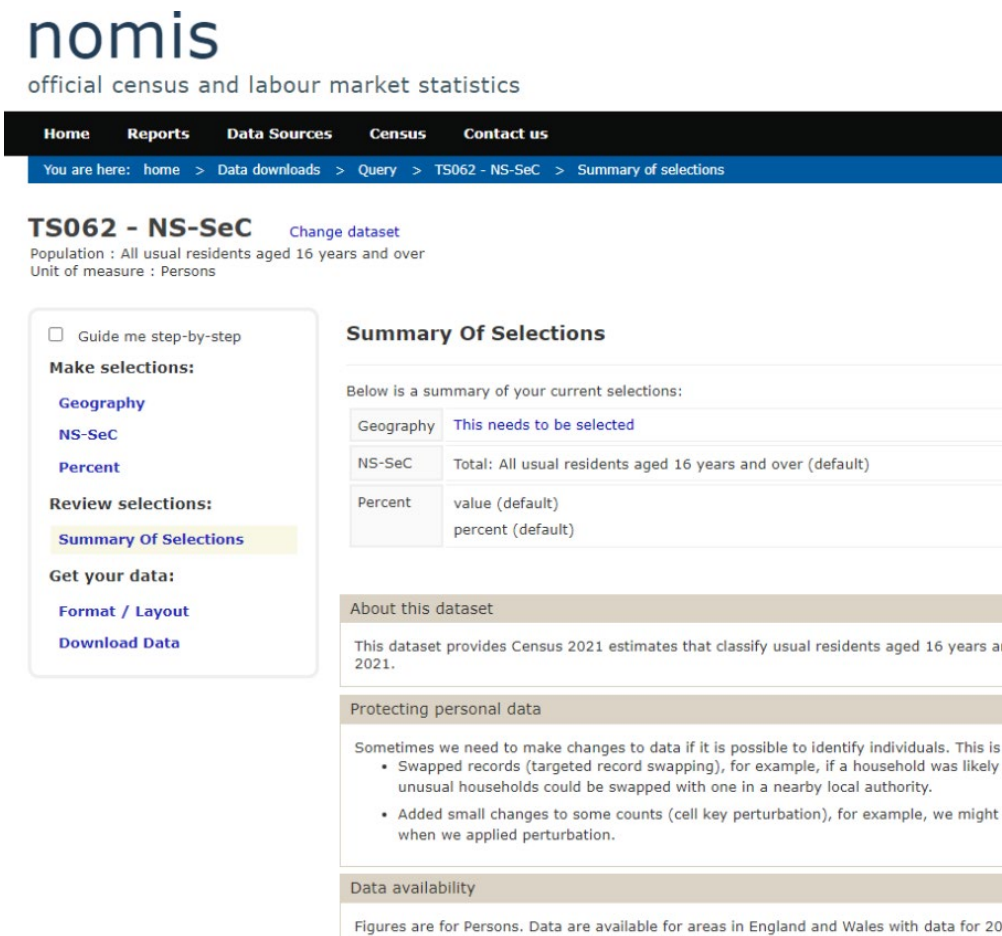
Topic Summaries

Topic summaries generally provides information about a single census topic. These figures are available from national level down to the very small census output areas.

Bulk Data Downloads

Bulk data products package all the data from a 2021 Census dataset as a single zip file. Each zip file contains separate CSV files for each geographic type (OA, LSOA, MSOA etc).

Selecting Topic Summaries provides a list of available datasets for the univariate data. For this example, I looked at TS062 – NS-SeC. I then selected <Query data>.



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Home Reports Data Sources Census Contact us

You are here: home > Data downloads > Query > TS062 - NS-SeC > Summary of selections

TS062 - NS-SeC [Change dataset](#)

Population : All usual residents aged 16 years and over
Unit of measure : Persons

Guide me step-by-step

Make selections:

[Geography](#)

[NS-SeC](#)

[Percent](#)

Review selections:

[Summary Of Selections](#)

Get your data:

[Format / Layout](#)

[Download Data](#)

Summary Of Selections

Below is a summary of your current selections:

Geography	This needs to be selected
NS-SeC	Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over (default)
Percent	value (default) percent (default)

About this dataset

This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over in 2021.

Protecting personal data

Sometimes we need to make changes to data if it is possible to identify individuals. This is known as data perturbation. We apply this to the data in the following ways:

- Swapped records (targeted record swapping), for example, if a household was likely to be unusual households could be swapped with one in a nearby local authority.
- Added small changes to some counts (cell key perturbation), for example, we might change a count by a small amount when we applied perturbation.

Data availability

Figures are for Persons. Data are available for areas in England and Wales with data for 2021.

Selecting the data takes you into a dialogue window to specify the geography and categories required. I then selected Geography, <select areas within> from the top menu, lower layer super output areas as the type of area, then local authorities: counties as the areas within. I changed to region to London and selected all local authorities.

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You are here: [home](#) > [Data downloads](#) > [Query](#) > [TS062 - NS-SeC](#) > [geography](#) > [select areas within](#)

TS062 - NS-SeC [Change dataset](#)

Population : All usual residents aged 16 years and over
 Unit of measure : Persons

Geography
[select using list](#)
[map](#)
select areas within
[load / save selections](#)
[user defined](#)

Select Areas Within Other Areas

Select the type of area for which you require data, then select the parent areas required.

Category of area:

Type of area to select:

Select all areas within:

Select all 2021 super output areas within 2022 local authorities: counties

List 2022 local authorities: counties within

- Barking and Dagenham (115 areas [i](#))
- Barnet (220 areas [i](#))
- Bexley (148 areas [i](#))
- Brent (181 areas [i](#))
- Bromley (199 areas [i](#))
- Camden (130 areas [i](#))
- City of London (6 areas [i](#))
- Croydon (229 areas [i](#))
- Ealing (199 areas [i](#))
- Enfield (183 areas [i](#))
- Greenwich (164 areas [i](#))

Having completed this, I then clicked on NS-SeC in the left hand box to select the categories. I selected all categories and then clicked Download data in the left hand box.

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You are here: [home](#) > [Data downloads](#) > [Query](#) > [TS062 - NS-SeC](#) > [NS-SeC](#)

TS062 - NS-SeC [Change dataset](#)

Population : All usual residents aged 16 years and over
Unit of measure : Persons

Guide me step-by-step

Make selections:

[Geography](#)

[NS-SeC](#)

[Percent](#)

Review selections:

[Summary Of Selections](#)

Get your data:

[Format / Layout](#)

[Download Data](#)

NS-SeC

- Tick to select columns
- Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over
 - L1, L2 and L3 Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations
 - L4, L5 and L6 Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations
 - L7 Intermediate occupations
 - L8 and L9 Small employers and own account workers
 - L10 and L11 Lower supervisory and technical occupations
 - L12 Semi-routine occupations
 - L13 Routine occupations
 - L14.1 and L14.2 Never worked and long-term unemployed
 - L15 Full-time students

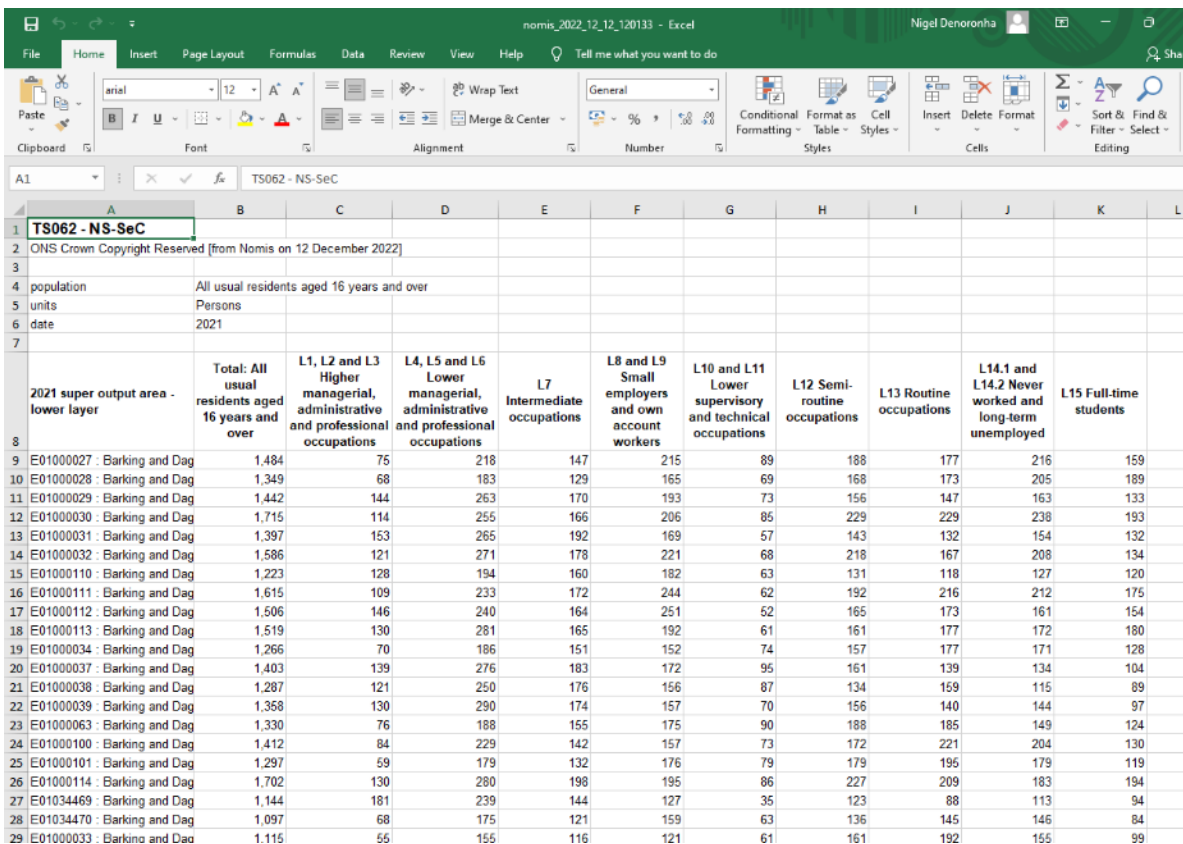
National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) information

Definition: The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) indicates a person's socio-economic. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification. NS-SEC categories are assigned based on a person's Full-time students are recorded in the "full-time students" category regardless of whether they are economically.

Quality information: As Census 2021 was during a unique period of rapid change, take care when using this c

Comparability with 2011: Not comparable. This variable is derived from the occupation variable. It cannot be

This provides an Excel table with a row for each area and a column for each of the variables.



2021 super output area - lower layer	Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over	L1, L2 and L3 Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	L4, L5 and L6 Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	L7 Intermediate occupations	L8 and L9 Small employers and own account workers	L10 and L11 Lower supervisory and technical occupations	L12 Semi-routine occupations	L13 Routine occupations	L14.1 and L14.2 Never worked and long-term unemployed	L15 Full-time students
E01000027 : Barking and Dag	1,484	75	218	147	215	89	188	177	216	159
E01000028 : Barking and Dag	1,349	68	183	129	165	69	168	173	205	189
E01000029 : Barking and Dag	1,442	144	263	170	193	73	156	147	163	133
E01000030 : Barking and Dag	1,715	114	255	166	206	85	229	229	238	193
E01000031 : Barking and Dag	1,397	153	265	192	169	57	143	132	154	132
E01000032 : Barking and Dag	1,586	121	271	178	221	68	218	167	208	134
E01000110 : Barking and Dag	1,223	128	194	160	182	63	131	118	127	120
E01000111 : Barking and Dag	1,615	109	233	172	244	62	192	216	212	175
E01000112 : Barking and Dag	1,506	146	240	164	251	52	165	173	161	154
E01000113 : Barking and Dag	1,519	130	281	165	192	61	161	177	172	180
E01000034 : Barking and Dag	1,266	70	186	151	152	74	157	177	171	128
E01000037 : Barking and Dag	1,403	139	276	183	172	95	161	139	134	104
E01000038 : Barking and Dag	1,287	121	250	176	156	87	134	159	115	89
E01000039 : Barking and Dag	1,368	130	290	174	157	70	156	140	144	97
E01000063 : Barking and Dag	1,330	76	188	155	175	90	188	185	149	124
E01000100 : Barking and Dag	1,412	84	229	142	157	73	172	221	204	130
E01000101 : Barking and Dag	1,297	59	179	132	176	79	179	195	179	119
E01000114 : Barking and Dag	1,702	130	280	198	195	86	227	209	183	194
E01034469 : Barking and Dag	1,144	181	239	144	127	35	123	88	113	94
E01034470 : Barking and Dag	1,097	68	175	121	159	63	136	145	146	84
E01000033 : Barkino and Dao	1,115	55	155	116	121	61	161	192	155	99

UK Data Service

Go to the front page of the UK Data Service website (<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk>) and select Explore our census guidance.

<p>Annual Report 2020 - 2022</p> <p>Service value, training and impact for public benefit during the extraordinary period from April 2020 to March 2022.</p>	<p>Data Impact Fellows 2023</p> <p>Are you an early career researcher in the academic or VCSE sector? Applications are now open for the next round of our Data Impact Fellows scheme.</p>	<p>New Census 2021 data</p> <p>View our news from 6 January on new Census 2021 data released for England and Wales. Read some highlights from 21 December on data for Northern Ireland.</p>
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Spotlight on the UK censuses

Census 2021 data is available and our census section highlights datasets, resources and new census explainers. [Find statistics about the UK population](#) including data on housing, health, migration and the labour market. [Read our data insights](#) for highlights and analysis.

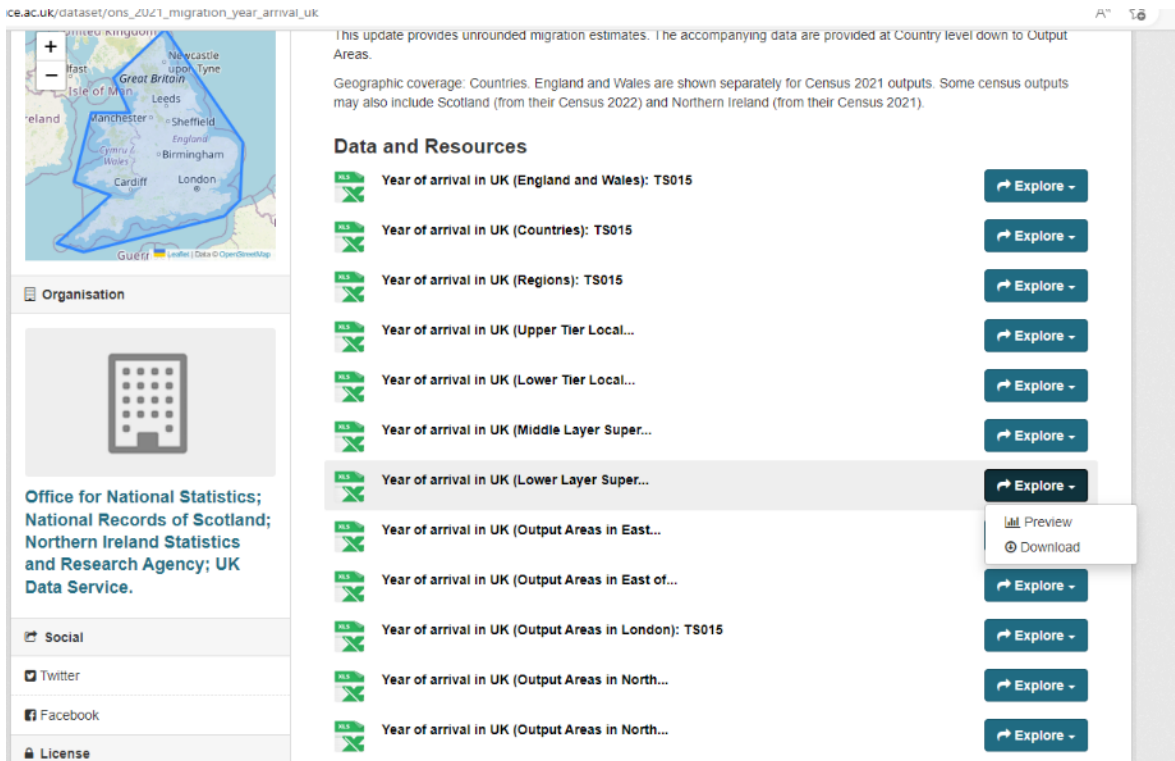
[Explore our census guidance >](#)



You then see a number of options. Selecting the top one (census 2021) will give you access to aggregate (tables) and boundary data.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census 2021 Census 1961 - 2011 Census 1851 - 1911 Census explainers Resources Use of census data Mapping census data in QGIS Other information 	<h2>Census 2021</h2> <h3>News and impact</h3> <p>Why run a census in the middle of a pandemic? David Martin, Deputy Director of the UK Data Service, introduced our blog series on the 2021/22 UK census, with a pertinent discussion of 'why now?'</p> <p>Aggregate census data and the UK Data Service As part of our series of posts on the 2021/2022 UK censuses, Rob Dymond-Green explored how the UK Data Service offers access to UK census data from 1971 to 2011, and how the 2021/2022 censuses have developed from earlier versions.</p> <p>Our census experts have also been interviewed on various podcasts and radio interviews and the UK Data Service Impact blog posts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives on the Census from the Office for National Statistics. • Rihab Dahab sharing the tale of the Census Microdata from the UK Data Service. • Oliver Duke-Williams - flow data expertise and the quality survey. • Matthew Woollard - the historical perspective on the development of the UK Censuses. <p>Visit our featured external resources for data access from other organisations.</p> <p>Aggregate data 2021</p> <p>Boundary data</p>
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You can use the filter on the left to select 2021 datasets and from the Tags, the variable you are interested in. In this example we will look at the year of arrival in the UK. Select the tab migration and then the table TS015: Year of arrival in UK.



The screenshot shows the UK Data Service interface for the dataset 'ons_2021_migration_year_arrival_uk'. On the left, there is a map of Great Britain and a sidebar with 'Organisation' information (Office for National Statistics, etc.) and social media links. The main content area is titled 'Data and Resources' and lists various geographical scales for the 'Year of arrival in UK (TS015)' dataset. The 'Year of arrival in UK (Lower Layer Super...' option is highlighted, and its 'Explore' button has a dropdown menu open showing 'Preview' and 'Download' options.

You can then select your geographical scale – I chose Lower Layer Super Output Areas, clicked on the <Explore> button and Download. This provides a view of the national data with the estimate by category and geography. The data can be downloaded by pressing the <Download file> button near the top of the screen.

We've opened your file for quick and easy viewing right in Microsoft Edge. Choose Download file if you want to use it later. [Download file](#)

Excel UR-Isaa+year_arrival_uk - Saved

Search (Alt + Q)

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help Viewing

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Lower Layer Super Output Areas Code	Lower Layer Super Output Areas Label	Year of arrival in the UK (13 categories) Code	Year of arrival in the UK (13 categories) Label	Count	
2	E01000001	City of London 001A	-8	Does not apply	0	
3	E01000001	City of London 001A	1	Born in the UK	874	
4	E01000001	City of London 001A	2	Arrived before 1951	1	
5	E01000001	City of London 001A	3	Arrived 1951 to 1960	5	
6	E01000001	City of London 001A	4	Arrived 1961 to 1970	19	
7	E01000001	City of London 001A	5	Arrived 1971 to 1980	34	
8	E01000001	City of London 001A	6	Arrived 1981 to 1990	31	
9	E01000001	City of London 001A	7	Arrived 1991 to 2000	67	
10	E01000001	City of London 001A	8	Arrived 2001 to 2010	106	
11	E01000001	City of London 001A	9	Arrived 2011 to 2013	54	
12	E01000001	City of London 001A	10	Arrived 2014 to 2016	82	
13	E01000001	City of London 001A	11	Arrived 2017 to 2019	107	
14	E01000001	City of London 001A	12	Arrived 2020 to 2021	97	
15	E01000002	City of London 001B	-8	Does not apply	0	
16	E01000002	City of London 001B	1	Born in the UK	759	
17	E01000002	City of London 001B	2	Arrived before 1951	7	
18	E01000002	City of London 001B	3	Arrived 1951 to 1960	6	
19	E01000002	City of London 001B	4	Arrived 1961 to 1970	25	
20	E01000002	City of London 001B	5	Arrived 1971 to 1980	28	
21	E01000002	City of London 001B	6	Arrived 1981 to 1990	30	
22	E01000002	City of London 001B	7	Arrived 1991 to 2000	58	
23	E01000002	City of London 001B	8	Arrived 2001 to 2010	122	
24	E01000002	City of London 001B	9	Arrived 2011 to 2013	61	
25	E01000002	City of London 001B	10	Arrived 2014 to 2016	94	
26	E01000002	City of London 001B	11	Arrived 2017 to 2019	135	
27	E01000002	City of London 001B	12	Arrived 2020 to 2021	61	
28	E01000003	City of London 001C	-8	Does not apply	0	
29	E01000003	City of London 001C	1	Born in the UK	924	
30	E01000003	City of London 001C	2	Arrived before 1951	0	
31	E01000003	City of London 001C	3	Arrived 1951 to 1960	8	
32	E01000003	City of London 001C	4	Arrived 1961 to 1970	22	
33	E01000003	City of London 001C	5	Arrived 1971 to 1980	25	
34	E01000003	City of London 001C	6	Arrived 1981 to 1990	54	

Metadata Table

www.ukdataservice.ac.uk

help@ukdataservice.ac.uk