

2021 Census: What is planned and how will you use it? A UK Data Service users update

Ana Morales Gomez
Richard Wiseman

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Outline

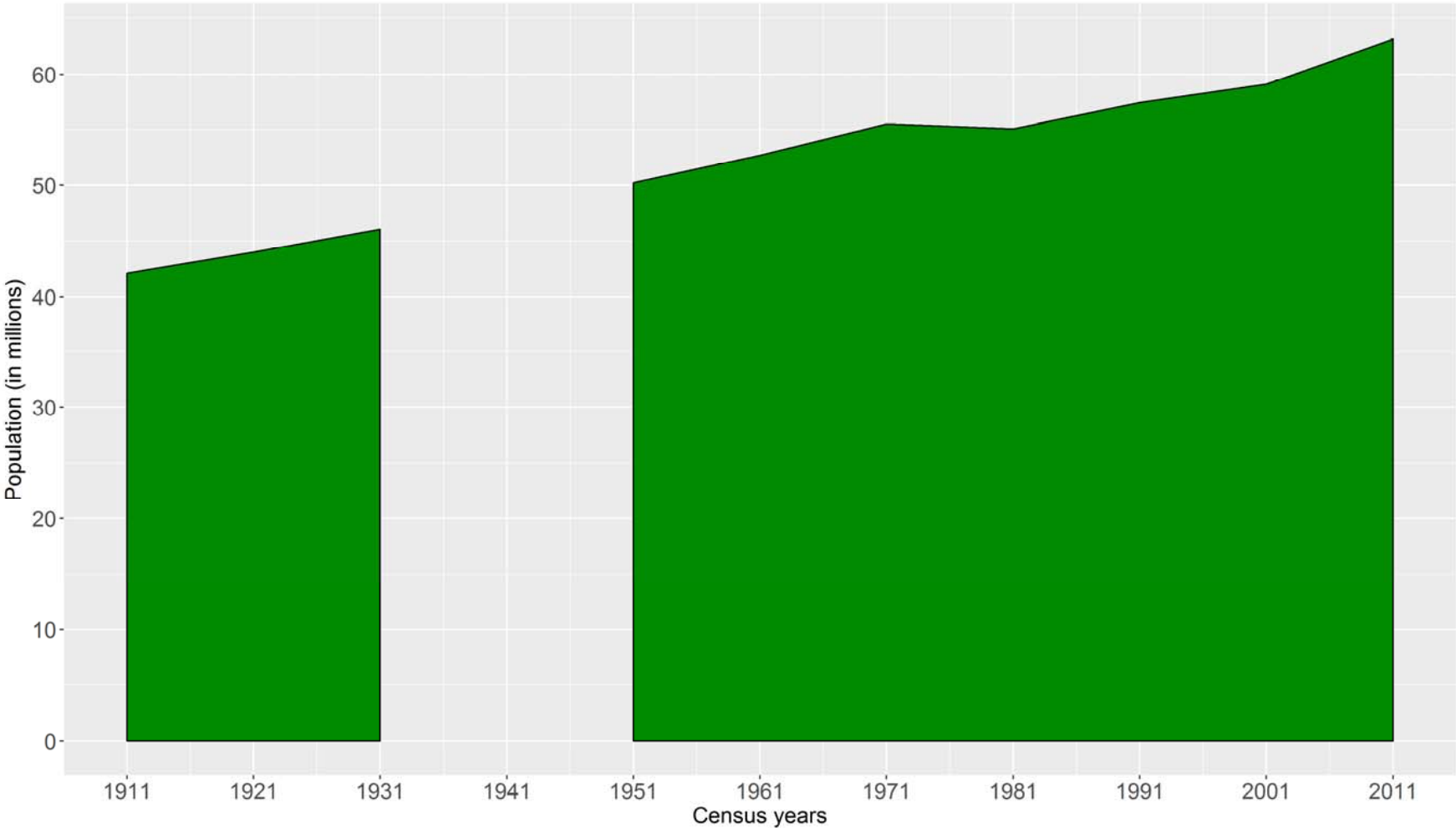
- Brief overview about census in the UK
- 2021 Census outputs
- UK Data Service census consultation



Census Data

- Census Act 1800 enabled the first census in 1801
- Until 1831 the census was essentially a head count of everyone in the country on a given day
- Repeated every decade, except 1941
- Nowadays defined as a “count of all people and households”, incorporating gradually more detailed characteristics (demographic, social, economic, health-related)
- Next census will be 21 March 2021 throughout the UK

UK Population change 1911-2011



Source: Census - Office for National Statistics, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, National Records of Scotland

3 separate, simultaneous censuses:



National Records of Scotland



Office for National Statistics

(England and Wales)



UK Data Service



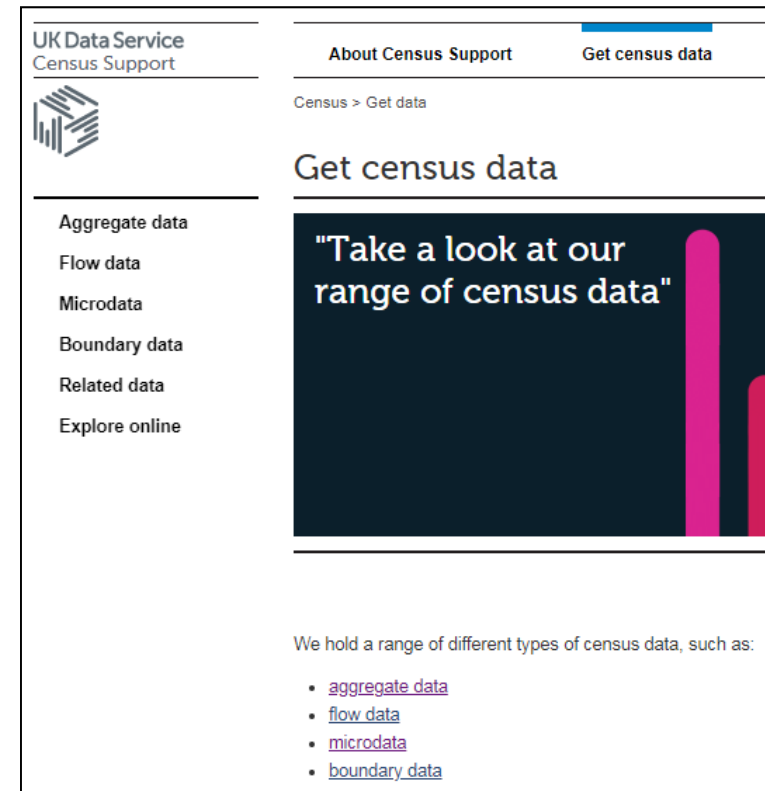
A brief description of the census

- What is a census?
 - Main function is to count the population (primarily at usual residence)
 - Obtain key characteristics of the population
 - Produce a wide variety of outputs, including data for small areas
- What is it for?
 - Informs public spending and allocation of resources
 - Used as a basis for other statistical data products
 - Informs the public policy making process
 - Used by Central and Local Governments
 - Used by NGOs
 - Used for research purposes (to inform public policy too)

2011 Census Outputs

1. Supported by the UK Data Service

- Microdata
 - Anonymised samples of census records
 - Detail limited to protect confidentiality
- Aggregate data
 - Counts of combinations of characteristics for areas
- Flow data
 - Counts of migrants from origin to destination
 - And between first and second address
 - And between home and place of work
- Boundary data
 - Geographical Information System (GIS) formats
 - Enable mapping of aggregate and flow data



The screenshot shows the UK Data Service Census Support website. The header includes 'UK Data Service Census Support' and navigation links for 'About Census Support' and 'Get census data'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Census > Get data'. The main content area features a 'Get census data' section with a dark banner that says 'Take a look at our range of census data' next to a bar chart with two bars, one pink and one red. Below this, a text block states 'We hold a range of different types of census data, such as:' followed by a bulleted list of links: 'aggregate data', 'flow data', 'microdata', and 'boundary data'. On the right side of the page, there are several decorative green and blue shapes.

2. Supported by CALLS

- Census-linked Longitudinal Studies for each UK (<https://calls.ac.uk>)

2021 Census

- Something old:
 - Still available on paper, but!!
- Something new:
 - Online completion by design (each household receives unique internet access code)
 - New questions: sexual orientation, gender identity, armed force community
 - Enhanced Census Outputs (ECO) - Admin data
- Something borrowed:
 - Previous questions mostly retained



2021 Census Topics

Demographics

Age
Sex
Country of Birth
Short-term residence
Ethnicity
Religion
Passports
Language
National identity
Household relationships
Marital status
Second residence
Migration
Sexual Orientation
Gender identity
UK armed forces community

Household

Tenure
Accommodation type
Cars
Central heating
No. of bedrooms
No. of rooms
Renewable energy systems (NI specific – category in ONS &NRS)

Socio-economic

Health
Unpaid care
Qualifications
Economic activity
Occupation
Industry
Travel to work
FT / PT
Year you last worked



New questions (ONS household form)

26 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

↻ This question is voluntary

- Straight/Heterosexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other sexual orientation, write in

27 Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

↻ This question is voluntary

- Yes
- No, write in gender

32 Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?

↻ Current serving members should only tick "No"

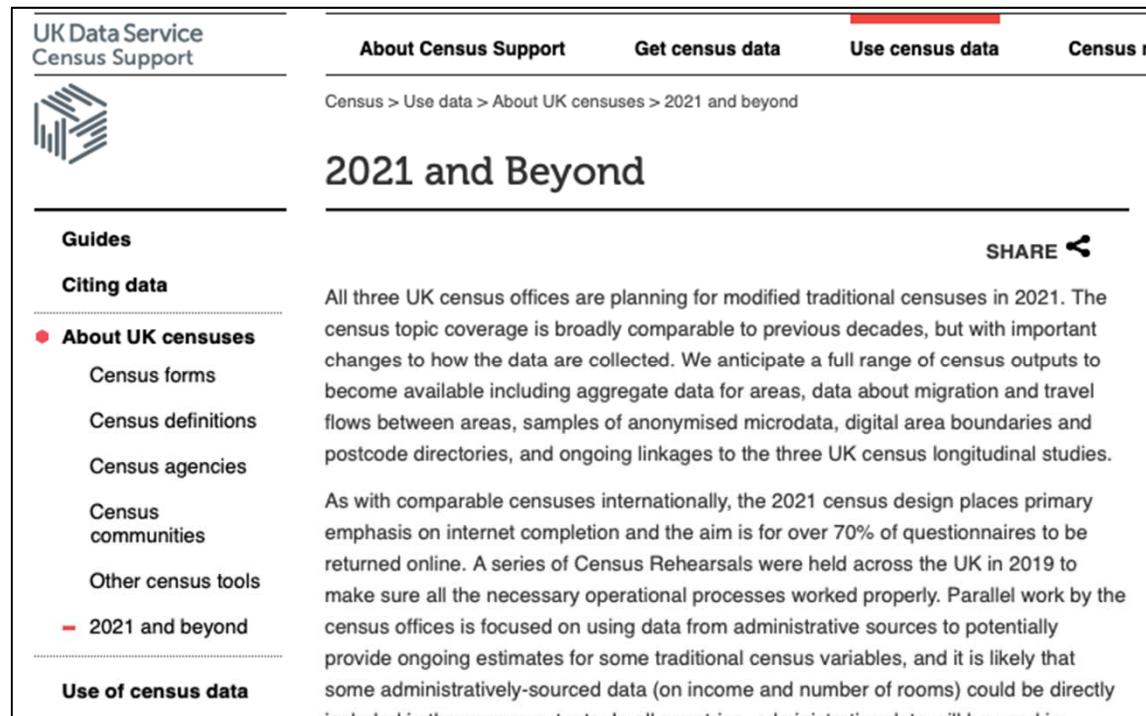
- No
- Yes, **previously** served in Regular Armed Forces
- Yes, **previously** served in Reserve Armed Forces

www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/testingthecensus/2019rehearsal

Find out more

- ONS
- NRS
- NISRA

Go direct to the relevant links from:



The screenshot shows the UK Data Service Census Support website. The page title is '2021 and Beyond'. The main content area contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph discusses the planning for modified traditional censuses in 2021, mentioning changes in data collection and the availability of various outputs like aggregate data, migration data, and microdata. The second paragraph discusses the 2021 census design, emphasizing internet completion and the use of administrative data to provide ongoing estimates for some variables. A 'SHARE' button is visible in the top right corner of the content area. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories like 'Guides', 'Citing data', 'About UK censuses', and 'Use of census data'. The 'About UK censuses' category is currently selected, and '2021 and beyond' is highlighted within it.

UK Data Service
Census Support

About Census Support Get census data Use census data Census n

Census > Use data > About UK censuses > 2021 and beyond

2021 and Beyond

SHARE

All three UK census offices are planning for modified traditional censuses in 2021. The census topic coverage is broadly comparable to previous decades, but with important changes to how the data are collected. We anticipate a full range of census outputs to become available including aggregate data for areas, data about migration and travel flows between areas, samples of anonymised microdata, digital area boundaries and postcode directories, and ongoing linkages to the three UK census longitudinal studies.

As with comparable censuses internationally, the 2021 census design places primary emphasis on internet completion and the aim is for over 70% of questionnaires to be returned online. A series of Census Rehearsals were held across the UK in 2019 to make sure all the necessary operational processes worked properly. Parallel work by the census offices is focused on using data from administrative sources to potentially provide ongoing estimates for some traditional census variables, and it is likely that some administratively-sourced data (on income and number of rooms) could be directly included in the census outputs. In all countries, administrative data will be used in

Guides

Citing data

• **About UK censuses**

- Census forms
- Census definitions
- Census agencies
- Census communities
- Other census tools
- 2021 and beyond

Use of census data

<https://census.ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/censuses/2021-and-beyond>

Outputs 2021

- Similar to what was available in 2011, but with some changes.
- ONS, NRS and NISRA are working to ensure questions are more directly comparable across the UK
- Flexible, Timely, Accessible

Aggregate data

- Flexible dissemination tool – design your own tables!
- First outputs expected:
 - ONS: March 2022 (starting with population and household estimates), and all remaining pre-planned outputs by March 2023
 - NRS: March 2022: Summary population tables by age, sex and Council Area (Univariate and multivariate tables released at the same time)
 - NISRA, by summer 2022 – detailed timeline early 2022
- Exact timings of releases and UK harmonisation still to be decided

Microdata

- Same as in 2011 microdata outputs
 - Public (Teaching file): 1% individual sample
 - Safeguarded: Two 5% individual anonymised sample:
 - Regional level
 - Grouped Local Authorities
 - Secure: two 10% individual anonymised sample:
 - Individual
 - Household
- New
 - Review of sample design and size
 - Considering a safeguarded household file

Exact time of release will depend on statistical disclosure control and UK harmonisation considerations.



Census geography

ONS

- Output Areas and Workplace Zones as smallest areas for aggregate data
- Aim to keep OA/WZ changes to the minimum (<5%)
- Commitment to also producing some statistics for grid squares

NISRA

- Assessing extensive redesign of Small Areas to match new Local Government geography (decision due Spring 2020)

NRS

- Output areas/Datazones as smallest areas for aggregate data
- Aiming for minimal change

Origin / Destination (Flow)

- Assessing if access can be less restrictive
- Reviewing the statistical disclosure control methodology, and 2011 Census tables usage
- Considering the storage arrangements of origin-destination data to improve ease of access
- Ensuring UK harmonisation, where possible

UK Data Service 2021 Census: user needs

- Why?
 - How will it be used
- Data collection strategies:
 - Survey
 - Interviews
 - Student focus group



2021 Census user needs survey

0% complete

Page 1

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this UK Data Service survey, which should take 5-10 minutes to complete. The UK Census agencies will be conducting new censuses of population in each of the countries of the UK on 21 March 2021. You can find out more about the [2021 Census](#) on the UK Data Service website.

The aim of this survey is to help us understand your expected requirements and use of 2021 Census data so that we can best plan future data access and support services.

If you would like to discuss more about the 2021 Census, please leave your email address at the end of the survey as we are also planning to carry out some semi-

manchester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/2021-census-user-needs-survey

Questions

Survey:

manchester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/2021-census-user-needs-survey

