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Coverage

England and Wales

One in eight moved in year to Census 2001 – National Report for England and Wales part 2

The mobile nature of the population of England and Wales is illustrated by new census data which show that one in eight people had moved address in the year before Census 2001.

This is one of many findings revealed with the publication today* of the *National Report for England and Wales part 2*. The printed version contains further detailed results from the 2001 Census in eighteen tables on migration and on travel-to-work patterns together with tables on members of the Armed Forces.

Key findings are:

Movers

Over 6.3 million people who were living in England and Wales on census day (29 April 2001) had moved home during the previous 12 months. This number represents 12.2 per cent of the population. 10.6 per cent of the population had moved within England and Wales, 0.1 per cent had moved from Scotland or Northern Ireland and 0.7 per cent moved from outside the UK. A further 0.8 per cent reported having no usual address a year earlier.

Among the 4.5m non-white population in England and Wales, a rather higher proportion (16.1 per cent) had moved during the year preceding census day. Of these, 11.7 per cent moved within England and Wales, 0.1 per cent from Scotland or Northern Ireland and 2.5 per cent moved from outside the UK. 1.8 per cent stated that they had no usual address a year earlier.

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The areas with the highest turnover of people included the major university towns and cities and Inner London boroughs. Both Oxford and Cambridge experienced a turnover of around a quarter of their population during the year to April 2001. In the City of London, Westminster, Wandsworth, Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham, more than one in five people moved during the year, around a quarter of them changing addresses within the borough.

By contrast, the lowest rates of migration took place in the outer London borough of Havering and in Knowsley on Merseyside, where fewer than 8 per cent of the population changed address during the year. Rochford and Castle Point, both in Essex, Dudley in the West Midlands, North East Derbyshire, South Staffordshire and Ellesmere Port and Neston, Cheshire, also experienced some of the lowest migration rates, of around 8 per cent.

Migration rates were slightly higher for males than for females: 12.5 per cent for males compared to 11.9 per cent for females.

Certain groups of people were more likely to move than others. Among people aged 20 to 24, 36.0 per cent had changed address during the year, whereas only 3.6 per cent of people aged 65 to 79 had moved. Among full-time students 23.3 per cent had moved, as had 15.0 per cent of full-time workers. 19.8 per cent of the unemployed moved during the year compared to 13.8 per cent of people who were employed at the date of the Census. Cohabiting couple family households were more than twice as likely to move in the year before census day than married couple family households: 12.6 per cent compared to 5.9 per cent.

By comparison with ten years earlier, the 1991 census recorded that 4.8 million people had moved home in the previous year, 9.7 per cent of the population.

Travel to work

The distance travelled to work was measured as a straight line from each worker's usual residence to his or her workplace. Men were found to be twice as likely to travel over 40 km to work than women: 6.5 per cent of men compared to 3.0 per cent of women. Conversely, 25.4 per cent of women worked less than 2 km from home compared to 15.4 per cent of men.



There were twenty-three local authorities out of 376 in which over 5 per cent of workers travelled more than 60km to get to work. There were a number of reasons for this; e.g. Richmondshire in North Yorkshire housed some members of the armed forces who were temporarily stationed away from their usual residence. Others, such as six Inner London boroughs, largely consisted of people making long daily journeys to work.

Over 5 per cent of workers travelled more than 60km to get to work in several areas in the South East of England. These include Three Rivers in Hertfordshire, Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Milton Keynes, Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and Runnymede.

Men were more likely to drive to work than women. 59 per cent of men drove in 2001 compared with 51 per cent of women. However, the proportion of men driving to work had declined slightly since the 1991 Census when 62 per cent of men reported driving to work. On the other hand, more women were drivers than in 1991, when 43 per cent drove to work.

Women were twice as likely to travel to work by bus than men, although there had been a decline for both sexes since 1991. The proportion of people travelling to work on foot, by bicycle or motorcycle or as a passenger in a car also fell during the period. There was a considerable growth in the proportion working from home, from 4.9 per cent in 1991 to 9.2 per cent in 2001.

Armed forces

The Census recorded some 161,000 members of the Armed Forces as usually resident in England and Wales, 146,000 of whom were men and 15,000 women; 117,000 were living in households and 44,000 in barracks or other communal establishments.



BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Part 1 of the National Report for England and Wales was published in May 2003.
2. **Movers – migration from outside the UK.** The numbers reported here refer to census data and relate to moves in the year to 29 April 2001. These do not correspond to other data on international inflows produced by the Migration Statistics Unit. Alternative data sources indicate in excess of 450,000 migrants to England and Wales from outside the UK, compared with 370,000 international migrants recorded by the Census.
3. **Travel to work.** Distance travelled to work is calculated as the distance between a person's usual residence and their workplace. There are a small proportion of people who live away from home during the week or, in the case of the armed forces, for example, live temporarily away from home for longer periods. As the census did not capture information at a person's temporary address, anomalies can appear in the data. For example, people may walk to work, yet their usual residence is many kilometres from their workplace. Furthermore, some employees listed their employer's head office address as their workplace rather than the address at which they actually worked.
4. **Armed forces.** Analysis by the ONS of census records revealed inconsistencies with the coding of the occupations of Armed Forces members. Further work was carried out to check whether people with certain industry or occupation codes were members of the Armed Forces. The industry codes examined were 7522 (defence activities) and 99 (extra-territorial organisations and bodies) according to SIC92. The occupation codes were 1171 (officers in armed forces) and 3311 (NCOs and other ranks) according to SOC2000. The figures vary from those published by the Ministry of Defence which are based on data from administrative systems and exclude US and other overseas Service personnel.
5. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
6. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2004.