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Coverage
England and Wales
Theme
Population

Results of 2001 Census based Local Authority Population Studies

Sixty thousand people will be added to the 2001 Census population figures for England and Wales. This represents 0.1 per cent of the total population estimate.

Results from studies designed to improve population estimates in areas that proved hardest to count in 2001 confirm the census-based figures in all but 15 local authority areas.

Two reports* summarising the results of these studies are published today by the Office for National Statistics.

John Pullinger, ONS Executive Director responsible for the 2001 Census, said:

"Our increasingly complex and fast changing society presents major challenges to measuring population change. These studies reinforce earlier findings that the 2001 Census did very well to measure the population in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

"The analysis has been carried out by ONS with assistance from local authorities and input from leading experts in this field. It has given us further insight into specific problems in different areas of the country and characteristics that make population estimation difficult. This knowledge will be taken forward and fed into the planning and development of the 2011 Census.

"I also look forward to working with local councils in the future in carrying out further work to investigate administrative sources, assess their reliability and determine the scope for utilising these sources in population statistics."

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*** 2001 Census: Local Authority Population Studies - Progress Review**

***2001 Census: Manchester and Westminster Studies Summary Report**

Available free on the National Statistics website

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology_by_theme/population.asp
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/default.asp



The range of adjustment for the 15 local authorities is given below, in alphabetical order:

	Population estimates	percentage increase
Bristol	5,800	1.5
Cardiff	3,000	1.1
Derby	7,800	3.6
Hartlepool	1,500	1.6
Kingston upon Hull	6,600	2.6
Manchester	26,200	6.7
Middlesbrough	5,800	4.3
Milton Keynes	3,800	1.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,400	1.7
Southwark	4,800	2.0
Stockton on Tees	5,200	2.9
Sunderland	3,800	1.4
Wandsworth	5,000	1.9
Westminster	17,500	9.6
Wirral	2,800	0.9

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The summary of each of the reports is attached.
2. Census day was 29 April 2001. Census data give a snapshot of the country at this time. Population counts by age and sex for England and Wales, Wales, regions of England and English and Welsh local authorities were published on 30 September 2002.
3. **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.

2001 Census: Local Authority Population Studies - Progress Review

Summary

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has now concluded a series of studies designed to improve population estimates in the areas that proved hardest to count in the 2001 Census in England and Wales. The results of this work by ONS, involving experts from local government and other bodies, has confirmed the analysis contained in reports by the Statistics Commission and the Local Government Association, that the One Number Census (ONC) worked well in most areas but that there were a few cases where it was not able to sufficiently adjust for exceptional circumstances.

The results from this analysis show that there is a need for further revisions to the 2001 Census based population figures of around 60,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The revisions are within the 95% confidence interval for the population as a whole, as estimated from the ONC sample in 2002, of +/- 0.2 percent (or +/- 104,100). The revisions are confined to 15 local authorities (LAs). Manchester and Westminster are the authorities with the largest changes, while there are much smaller revisions announced today to 13 other LAs. The estimated revisions for these 15 LAs is given below, in alphabetical order:

Bristol	5,800
Cardiff	3,000
Derby	7,800
Hartlepool	1,500
Kingston upon Hull	6,600
Manchester	26,200
Middlesbrough	5,800
Milton Keynes	3,800
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	4,400
Southwark	4,800
Stockton-on-Tees	5,200
Sunderland	3,800
Wandsworth	5,000
Westminster	17,500
Wirral	2,800

The total revisions for these authorities amount to 104,000. This includes the provisional estimate of 24,500 already made for Manchester released in November 2003 which is confirmed by these results, with a small upwards revision. A further 20,000 are estimated already to have been included in an adjustment made in September 2003 following analysis of the Longitudinal Study. Thus the net change as a result of the work described in this report is a revision of around 60,000.

Following extensive study of areas where the 2001 Census population estimate may have been at risk, we have concluded that relatively small changes are required in some areas. Inevitably, uncertainty remains around these estimates. For Manchester and Westminster this is described in the '2001 Census: Manchester and Westminster Matching Studies Summary Report' published alongside this report and for the other LAs in section 3 of this report. For the great majority of areas, the previously published estimate remains the best estimate of the population.

These studies have given us a stronger understanding of the operation of the Census, Census Coverage Survey and local authority registers in areas where it is most difficult to measure the population. The knowledge we now have both about those authorities where an adjustment will be made this year and those where there is no or insufficient evidence to make an adjustment, either up or down, will be invaluable in the continuing work on population estimates we have in train.

2001 Census: Manchester and Westminster Matching Studies Summary Report

Summary

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has now concluded a series of studies to improve population estimates in the areas that were hardest to count in the 2001 Census. This included address matching studies in two authorities, Manchester and Westminster, reported here. A parallel report [2001 Census: Local Authority Population Studies Progress Review](#) describes findings for other authorities.

Results from the 2001 Census: Manchester and Westminster Matching Studies show that the census failed to account for between 12,000 and 16,000 addresses in Manchester and between 11,600 and 14,600 addresses in Westminster.

ONS estimates the range of underenumeration in Manchester is 22,400 - 29,900 people, with a point estimate of 26,200. The estimate of the range of missed people in Westminster is 13,700 – 19,500 with a point estimate of 17,500.

Previous analysis has concluded that the One Number Census (ONC) worked well in most areas but that in exceptional circumstances it was not able to adjust sufficiently for underenumeration. The two areas where the combination of circumstances has led to most concern about the population estimates based on the 2001 Census are Manchester and Westminster. The results from detailed studies of these authorities arise from an extensive programme of research involving the two local authorities and a number of experts from within and outside ONS.

Some of the changes, especially in relation to enumeration failure, should have been taken into account in the original estimates published in September 2002 and this has been done now within these estimates. Most of the changes, however, rely on analysis that could not have been done within the time available or with the information that was known at that time. In relation to Manchester the findings largely confirm the interim results published on 4 November 2003, at the following link: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/InterimReport_CensusMatching.pdf

These results will feed into revised mid-year population estimates (MYEs) to be published on 9 September 2004.