

# Administrative data used in Census 2021, England and Wales

The administrative data sources that were used in the statistical design for Census 2021, with information on their coverage, accuracy, and timeliness.

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# 1 . About the report

This report allows users to understand how the Office for National Statistics used administrative data sources to support a high-quality Census 2021 in England and Wales. It also allows users to understand the quality of the sources.

Administrative data are those that public and private organisations have collected for operational purposes, such as registration, transaction, and recordkeeping, usually to provide public services.

## 2 . What information the report contains

The report gives details about each data source, and its coverage, accuracy, and timeliness against the needs of the census.

It also contains information about how we used the data sources throughout the census design, including to:

- construct and quality assure the Census 2021 Address Frame
- support the census fieldwork operation and ensure the right approaches and resources were in place to achieve a high response
- inform the processing and estimation stages and the quality assurance of the census results

## 3 . Important points about data use

- Using administrative data to support the census aligns with international best practice and the "Quality" pillar of the Code of Practice for Statistics on the use of [suitable data sources](#).
- We only use administrative data for statistical purposes in the public interest, and the data are subject to robust controls to ensure that individuals cannot be identified.
- We comply with all data protection legislation - you can find further information including the ONS's privacy statement and data protection policy on our [data protection page](#).

## 4 . How to download the report

Download [Administrative data used in Census 2021, England and Wales \(PDF, 824.7KB\)](#).

You can also download the article from the Related downloads.

## 5 . Related links

### [Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 June 2022

Census 2021 rounded population and household estimates for local authorities in England and Wales, by sex and five-year age group.

### [Quality and methodology information \(QMI\) for Census 2021](#)

QMI | Released 28 June 2022

Details the data strengths, limitations, uses, users, and methods used for Census 2021, England and Wales.

### [Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates](#)

Methodology | Released 28 June 2022

How we maximised the quality of Census 2021 population estimates during the processing and quality assurance of the final statistics.

### [Design for Census 2021](#)

Web page

How we have planned and designed Census 2021 from start to finish, to ensure results are of high quality and fit for purpose.