

Census 2021 – First Results

The ONS have just published the first results from Census 2021.

The Census 2021 [first results](#) include five datasets containing population and household estimates for England and for Wales, rounded to the nearest 100, at local authority level. These are:

- usual resident population by sex
- usual resident population by 5-year age group
- usual resident population by sex and 5-year age group
- usual resident population density
- number of households

The headlines for Dorset:

In Dorset, the population size has increased by 4.0%, from around 365,200 in 2011 to 379,600 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.

Nearby areas like East Devon and Wiltshire have seen their populations increase by around 13.8% and 8.4%, respectively, while others such as Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole saw a smaller increase (5.7%) and New Forest saw a decrease of 0.4%.

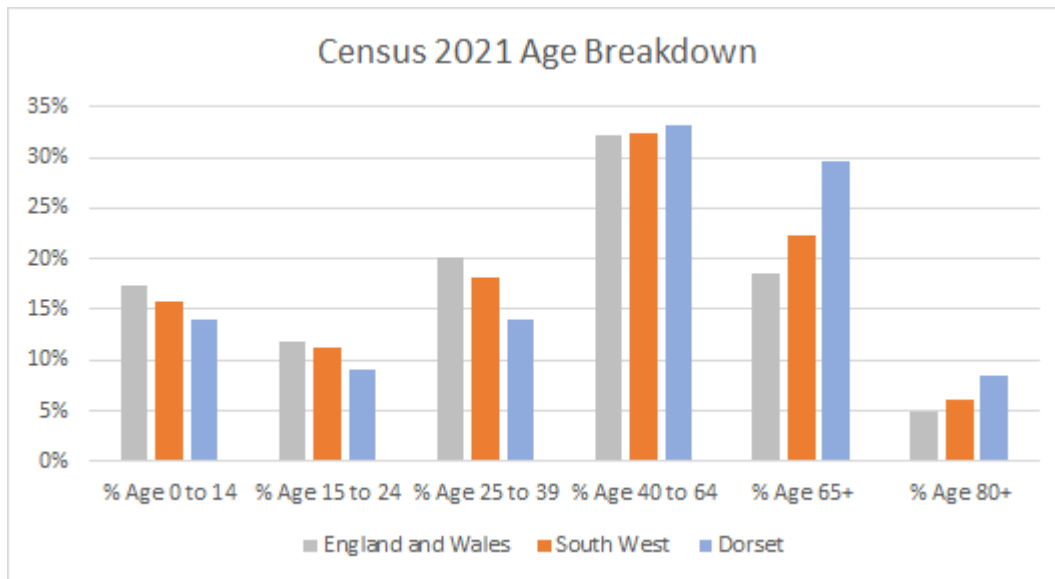
There has been an increase of 24.8% in people aged 65 years and over in Dorset, a decrease of 2.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 3.2% in children aged under 15 years.

*Dorset has the highest proportion of 65 and over of any County or Unitary Authority in England and the highest proportion of 80 and over too.

There has been an increase of 33% of those aged 90 and over in Dorset since the last Census.

The table and Chart below illustrate comparisons between Dorset, The South West and England and Wales.

Age Breakdown	England and Wales	South West	Dorset*
% Age 0 to 14	17%	16%	14%
% Age 15 to 24	12%	11%	9%
% Age 25 to 39	20%	18%	14%
% Age 40 to 64	32%	32%	33%
% Age 65+	19%	22%	30%
% Age 80+	5%	6%	8%



Find out more information from the ONS using this visualisation tool:

[How the population changed in Dorset, Census 2021 - ONS](#)

More detailed data will be released in the Autumn of 2022.