

The 2021 Census – Housing

This morning the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released another 2021 Census topic summary covering Housing.

The headline messages for West Yorkshire have been pulled out below by Tom Newton and Peter Glover. A more detailed summary pack will follow shortly. We are not able to produce this pack today as we usually do because of the large volume of housing data that has been released.

We know that people within the Combined Authority have been awaiting this new data. If you have specific information requirements please get in touch using the contact details at the foot of the page.

The headlines are:

Accommodation Type

- Across West Yorkshire, there are 972,900 households, an increase of 50,400 (+5%) compared with the 2011 Census, with 41% of these additional dwellings in Leeds.
- The most common type of housing within West Yorkshire is the semi-detached house, which accounts for 37% of all dwellings. This share is highest in Wakefield (45%) and lowest in Calderdale (29%).
- 83% of West Yorkshire dwellings are houses, with an additional 13% of the housing stock being made up of purpose-built flats or tenements. Across West Yorkshire's districts, the percentage of dwellings that are houses ranges from 78% in Leeds, where city living has led to a greater share of purpose-built flats, to 89% in Wakefield.

Tenure

- In 2021, 61.7%, (600,300) of households in West Yorkshire owned the accommodation they lived in, 38.1% (370,900) rented their accommodation and 0.2% (1,700) of households lived rent free.
- Home ownership in Leeds is below the West Yorkshire average at 57.6% and renting is corresponding higher at 42.2%.

- The proportion of households in West Yorkshire that own their accommodation fell between 2011 and 2021, from 63.4% to 61.7% (although the absolute number increased from 584,900 to 600,300). There was a corresponding increase in the proportion renting their accommodation from 35.1% to 38.1%.
- The share of households in West Yorkshire in private rented accommodation increased from 16.4% to 20.3%, whilst the proportion in social rented accommodation fell from 18.8% to 17.8%. Private rented accommodation is particularly prevalent in Bradford at 23% of households, whilst social rented accommodation is high in Leeds at 20.4% of households.
- When compared with England, households in West Yorkshire are:
 - Slightly less likely to own their accommodation (61.7% versus 62.3%)
 - Slightly more likely to rent their accommodation (38.1% versus 37.6%). The proportion of households in private rented accommodation is similar to the England average (at 20% for both) but the proportion in social rented accommodation is slightly higher in West Yorkshire (at 17.8% versus 17.1%)

Rooms, bedrooms and occupancy rating

- The median dwelling in West Yorkshire has four rooms, and a four-roomed dwelling is also the most common type of dwelling in the region, with 31% of West Yorkshire dwellings having four rooms.
- The median dwelling in West Yorkshire has three bedrooms, as does 40% of the West Yorkshire housing stock.
- Bradford has a skew towards larger households, with one in four Bradford dwellings having four or more bedrooms, compared with one in five across West Yorkshire.

Central heating

- The vast majority of households across West Yorkshire reported that they had central heating in 2021 (98.1%, 954,000). However, 1.9% (18,800) of households had no central heating.

- The most common types of central heating were mains gas (79% of the total), two or more types of central heating (not including renewable energy) (8%) and electric (8%). Mains gas is more widespread in West Yorkshire than the national average, for which the prevalence is 74%.
- For the first time, Census 2021 recorded whether a household's central heating used renewable energy sources. Overall, 0.6% of households in West Yorkshire (5,500) used at least one renewable energy source, compared with 0.9% nationally. A total of 0.4% (3,600) reported using renewable energy alongside another type of central heating (compared with a national average of 0.5%), and the remaining 0.2% (1,900) used only renewable energy sources (national average: 0.4%).
- The proportion of households using District or communal heat networks as their only source of heat was 0.5% (4,700 households), lower than the national average of 0.9%.

Car or van availability

- The proportion of households that had no cars or vans in 2021 was higher in West Yorkshire, at 26.1%, than the England average of 23.5%. West Yorkshire's proportion was three percentage points lower than in 2011 (29.4%).
- In Leeds 29% of households had no cars / vans in 2021, whilst for Bradford it was 28%. The figure for both Kirklees and Wakefield was much lower at 23%.

Census maps

- With each topic summary, the ONS are updating their online mapping tool that allows people to explore census data at neighbourhood level. Maps for the housing topic summary are linked below:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing>

So why is this important?

Every ten years the census gives us a complete picture of all the people and households in the UK. The census asks questions about you, your household and your home. In doing so, it helps to build a detailed snapshot of our society. It allows us to compare different groups of people across the UK because the same questions are asked, and the information is recorded in the same way throughout the UK. The Census provides critical information that we and our district partners need to evidence policies & strategies, as well as helping us to plan and run public services and allocate funding.

The current housing release provides essential data to inform the Combined Authority's Housing Strategy, which is currently under development. There are also wider implications for our understanding of the cost of living crisis (information about central heating) and around transport (car / van availability which is also part of this release).

What's next?

The ONS will continue to release data from the Census over the coming weeks and months, so expect to see more blogs on this topic!

The ONS has the following releases planned:

6th Jan - Sexual orientation & gender identity

10th Jan - Education

19th Jan - Health, disability and unpaid care

For each of these releases, the Research and Intelligence Team will be ready to distil the data down and provide a summary of the picture in West Yorkshire. If you have any questions, please get in touch at research@westyorks-ca.gov.uk.