

UK armed forces veterans in Oxford in 2021

As part of the latest census release, for the first time, the ONS has published data on UK armed forces veterans. This dataset shows the number and proportion of UK armed forces veterans that are usual residents in Oxford compared to England. In addition to this, veteran figures will be grouped by type of service, living arrangements, number of veterans living in household compared to the national average, and household reference person by service type. More information for this and other topics can be accessed on the [Census 2021 homepage](#).

Key findings:

- According to the 2021 Census, there were 2,474 armed force veterans¹ living in Oxford, making up 2% of the usual resident population aged 16 years and over. This is lower than both the county and national averages, (both at 4%).
- Compared to the rural districts, Oxford City has the lowest number of UK armed forces veterans living in Oxfordshire.
- In terms of living arrangements, 93% of veterans (2,303) live in households while the remaining 7% (171) live in communal establishments.
- Oxford has a higher proportion of veterans living in communal establishments (7%) compared to county (3%) and national averages (2%).
- There were 2,210 households in Oxford with at least one resident who previously served in the UK armed forces. This represents 4% of the total households in the city. This is lower than the county (8%) and national averages (7%).
- In terms of household reference person, there were 1,655 households (3%) in Oxford where the household reference person served either in regular UK armed forces, UK reserve armed forces or both. This is lower than the county and national averages (both at 6%).

¹ Armed forces veterans are defined as those who have previously served in regular UK armed forces, reserve UK armed forces, or both.

Table 1. UK armed forces veterans by type of service in Oxford compared to Oxfordshire and England.

UK armed forces veterans (service)	Oxford (n)	Oxford %	Oxfordshire %	England %
UK armed forces veterans	2,474	2%	4%	4%
Previously served in regular UK armed forces	1,654	67%	77%	76%
Previously served in reserve UK armed forces	701	28%	18%	19%
Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	119	5%	4%	4%
Has not previously served in any UK armed forces	134,244	98%	96%	96%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Table 2. UK armed forces veterans by living arrangements in Oxford compared to Oxfordshire and England.

UK armed forces veterans	Oxford (n)	Oxford %	Oxfordshire %	England %
Living in households	2,303	93%	97%	98%
Living in communal establishments	171	7%	3%	2%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Table 3. Number of people in the household previously served in UK armed forces in Oxford compared to Oxfordshire and England.

UK armed forces veterans' households	Oxford (n)	Oxford %	Oxfordshire %	England %
No people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	53,028	96%	92%	93%
1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces	2,127	4%	7%	7%
2 people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	75	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
3 or more people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Table 4. Household reference person by service type.

UK armed forces veterans' household reference person	Oxford (n)	Oxford %	Oxfordshire %	England %
Household reference person served either in regular UK armed forces, UK reserve armed forces or both.	1,655	3%	6%	6%
Household reference person previously served in regular UK armed forces	1,175	71%	79%	78%
Household reference person previously served in reserve UK armed forces	391	24%	17%	18%
Household reference person previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	89	5%	5%	5%
Household reference person has not previously served in regular or reserve UK armed forces	53,566	97%	94%	95%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Sources:

[Demography and migration data, England and Wales: Census 2021 - ONS, 2021](#)

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