

## Census 2021 - Population and households in Oxford

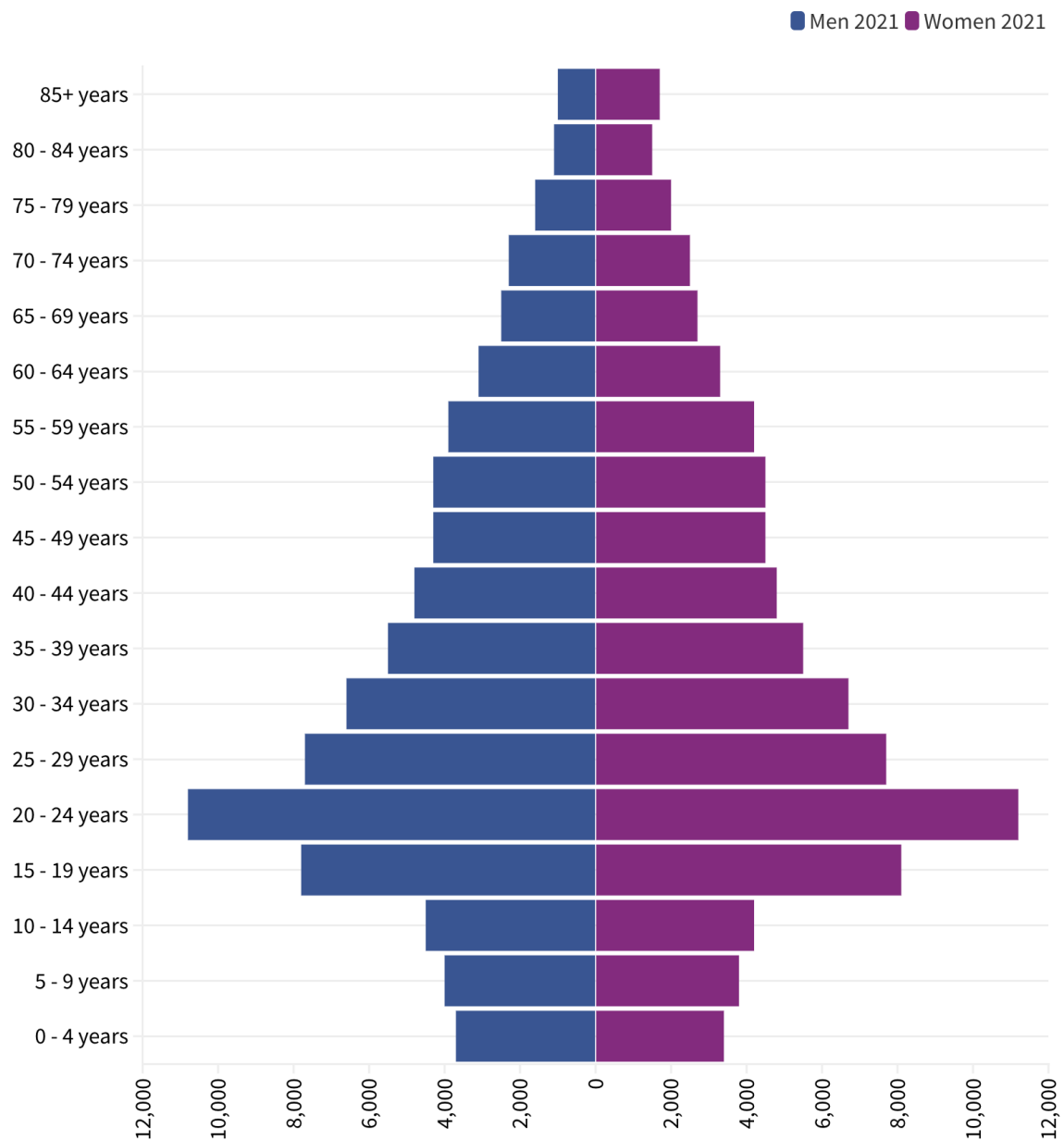
The Office for National Statistics has published the first results from Census 2021. This initial release includes population and household estimates for each local authority in England and Wales. Over the upcoming months, more granulated population and household data will be made available by the ONS. For more information on the Census 2021 and dataset releases, please visit <https://census.gov.uk/>.

This bitesize will explore both population and household figures in Oxford and will, in some cases, make a comparison to the 2011 Census figures. The population pyramid includes 5-year age band groups by gender. Please note, the population estimates in the population pyramid have been rounded to the nearest 100. Additionally, this document includes a chart with the proportion of those below 15 years of age, within working age \*, and those aged 65+ years as a percentage of the total population in Oxford. This will be compared to Oxfordshire, the South East region, and England.

### Key findings:

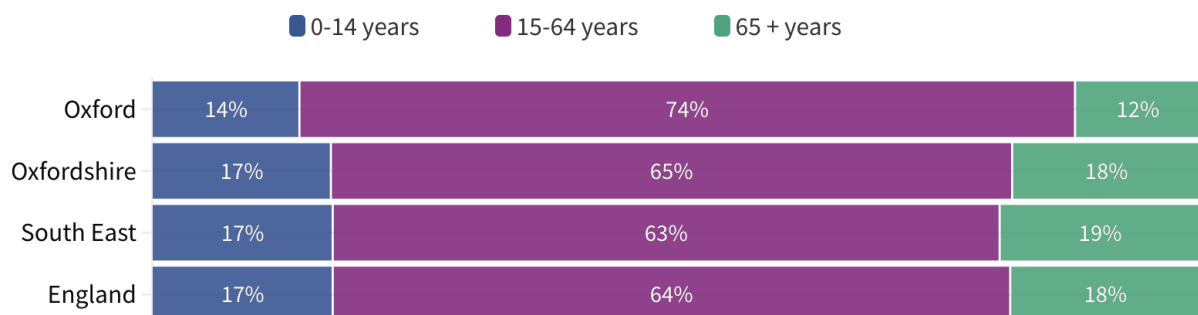
- According to the Census 2021 figures, the city of Oxford has now a population of approximately **162,100** residents of which 79,700 are men and 82,400 women.
- Between 2011 and 2021, the population in Oxford has grown by 6.7%. This change over a 10-year period represents an increase of 10,200 residents in the city.
- The proportion of those aged 0-14 years in Oxford is 14%. This is lower than county (17%), regional (17%), and national (17%) averages.
- In terms of adults in working age (15-64 years)\*, they make up for 74% of the total population. This is higher than county (65%), regional (63%), and national (64%) averages.
- Those aged 65+ years make up for 12% of the population in the city. This is lower than county (18%), regional (19%), and national (18%) averages.
- Census 2021 figures also show that, there are **55,200** households \*\* in Oxford.

Figure 1. Population pyramid for Oxford (broken down by 5-year age bands by gender)



Source: Census 2021 – ONS, 2022

Figure 2. Proportion of those aged 0-14 years, within working age \*, and 65+ years.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Please note that the latest ONS mid-year population estimate for Oxford (2020) showed a total population of 151,600. However we have had concerns for a while that the mid-year population estimates for Oxford have been too low and it is our belief that the ONS has been over-estimating the emigration of those in their 20s leaving Oxford on a yearly basis. As a result Oxfordshire County Council produces its own housing led forecasts which not only take into account housing development but also use admin-based population estimates. Their forecast estimated a total Oxford population of 164,700 in 2020 which is much closer to the Census 2021 figure of 162,100 and therefore supports our belief that ONS mid-year population estimates have been too low.

(\*) - Working age in the UK is made up of those aged 16-64. Population estimates were only released using 5-year age bands and therefore figure 2 has been adjusted to include those aged 15-64.

(\*\*) - Number of households with at least one usual resident.

Sources:

Census 2021 – ONS, 2022

Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales>

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