



## **2011 UK Census results published: United Kingdom**

The first results from the UK 2011 population census were published on 16 July 2012. The population of England and Wales on census day (27 March 2011) was 56.076 million; the figure for Northern Ireland was 1.810. The figures for Scotland (and therefore for the UK in total) are expected to be released towards the end of the year.

The figures for England and Wales represents a increase of 3.7 million (7 per cent) since 2001 when there were 52.4 million people – the largest growth rate for 100 years, and the largest increase in total numbers seen in any period between censuses since census taking began in 1801. In the last 10 years the population grew by 7 per cent in England and by 5 per cent in Wales. In Northern Ireland the increase was 125.6 thousand (7 per cent) since 2001, and represents the largest growth in population between censuses since 1961.

Every region in England and Wales had a larger population in 2011 than 2001. The largest increase in population since 2001 was in London, which gained more than 850 thousand residents (12 per cent) and now has a population of over 8 million.

Around 55 per cent of the increase in population between 2001 and 2011 was the result of net migration. Around 45 per cent of the increase resulted from the number of births exceeding the number of deaths, caused partly by the number of women of child bearing age increasing and partly by people living longer.

Although the average age of the population has increased, there was an increase in the number of under-five-year-olds. There were more than 400,000 more in 2011 compared with 2001. This partly reflected a rise in the number of women of child-bearing age because of inward migration.

There were 23.4 million households in England and Wales, an 8 per cent increase on the 21.7 million households in 2001. The average household size was 2.4 people, unchanged from 2001.

The demographic structure of the households in Northern Ireland has changed dramatically over recent decades. Fifty years ago, in 1961, half of the population lived in households containing 5 or more people, in 2011 only 22 per cent of the population did so. And in 1961, only a third of households contained up to 2 people, compared with 58 per cent of households in 2011. Single person households now represent 28 per cent of all households.

In a press release on publication day, Glen Watson, the 2011 Census Director at the UK's Office for National Statistics, said:

"The whole operation has worked well. We met our targets both for response and quality. We've had fantastic support from the public, and also from voluntary groups, community groups and local authorities throughout England and Wales. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone involved, including the 35,000 people who worked on the data collection and helped to make the census a success."

Further details of the first release for England and Wales, and for the timetable and content of future releases, can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>

and for Northern Ireland at:

[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011\\_results\\_population.html](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011_results_population.html)