

Census 2021: Population Comparison

Source: Census 2021 initial release population data, GLA Housing Led Projections 2020 and ONS Mid-year Projections 2020

This note looks at the initial data release of resident population data for the City of London from the Census 2021 and compares with other established data sources, namely the GLA Housing-led projections 2020 and ONS Mid-year projections 2020 which are analysed further in the Resident Estimates and Projections report.

Census 2021 Initial Data release

The data tables in the initial data release are:

- P01 Census 2021: Usual resident population by sex, local authorities in England and Wales
- P02 Census 2021: Usual resident population by five-year age group, local authorities in England and Wales
- P03 Census 2021: Usual resident population by sex and five-year age group, local authorities in England and Wales
- P04 Census 2021: Usual resident population density, local authorities in England and Wales
- H01 Census 2021: Number of households with at least one usual resident, local authorities in England and Wales

Usual resident population

Headline resident population figures for the City of London from P01 are shown in Table 1 below:

Sex	Census 2021: Population
Males	4,800
Females	3,800
Total	8,600

Table 1: Usual Resident Population by sex

Source: Census 2021: Initial data release

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Table 2 shows a comparison of the Census 2021 figures with GLA Housing-led projections 2020 and ONS Mid-year projections 2020. The comparison figures are from the GLA Housing targets scenario 2021.

Sex	Census 2021: Population	GLA Demographic Projections 2020: Housing targets scenario 2021	ONS Mid-year Estimates 2020
Males	4,800	5,357	5,973
Females	3,800	4,881	4,965
Total	8,600	10,238	10,938

Table 2: Usual Resident Population by sex – data comparison

Sources: Census 2021: Initial data release, GLA Demographic Projections 2020, ONS Mid-year Estimates 2020

The Census 2021 total population count is substantially lower than both the ONS mid-year estimates and the GLA housing-led population estimates which have been preferred in the City as they take into account housing delivery and the constrained nature of housing development. The small size of the City's resident population also makes residential projections more susceptible to changes in projection methodology than in other London boroughs.

The total population count on Census Day is likely to have been affected by the pandemic due to significant out-migration of residents who used their address in the City as a second home and who did not regard the City as their main residence. This includes residents who formerly would have resided in the City on weekdays but who worked remotely during the pandemic.

The proportion of international migrants pre-pandemic was higher in the City than most other authorities and there is anecdotal evidence of significant out migration during the pandemic in 2020/21 as residents returned home due to lockdowns. This will have resulted in a lower resident population on Census Day. It is also likely that the effect of returning international migrants is varied across the city, with a greater impact in areas with new housing developments that have been marketed internationally.

The effect of Brexit is not considered to have a significant effect on migration of second homeowners.

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Resident population by age band

Population figures by 5-year age band are provided in P02 and P03. Figure 1 show the distribution of the Census figures by age band and sex (generalised numbers to the nearest 100 per age band) against the equivalent data from the GLA Projections.

The population distributions are broadly similar for most age bands, but the Census data is more gender-balanced in the 20-39 age bands unlike the GLA projections which are skewed towards female in the 20-29 bands and male in the 30-39 bands.

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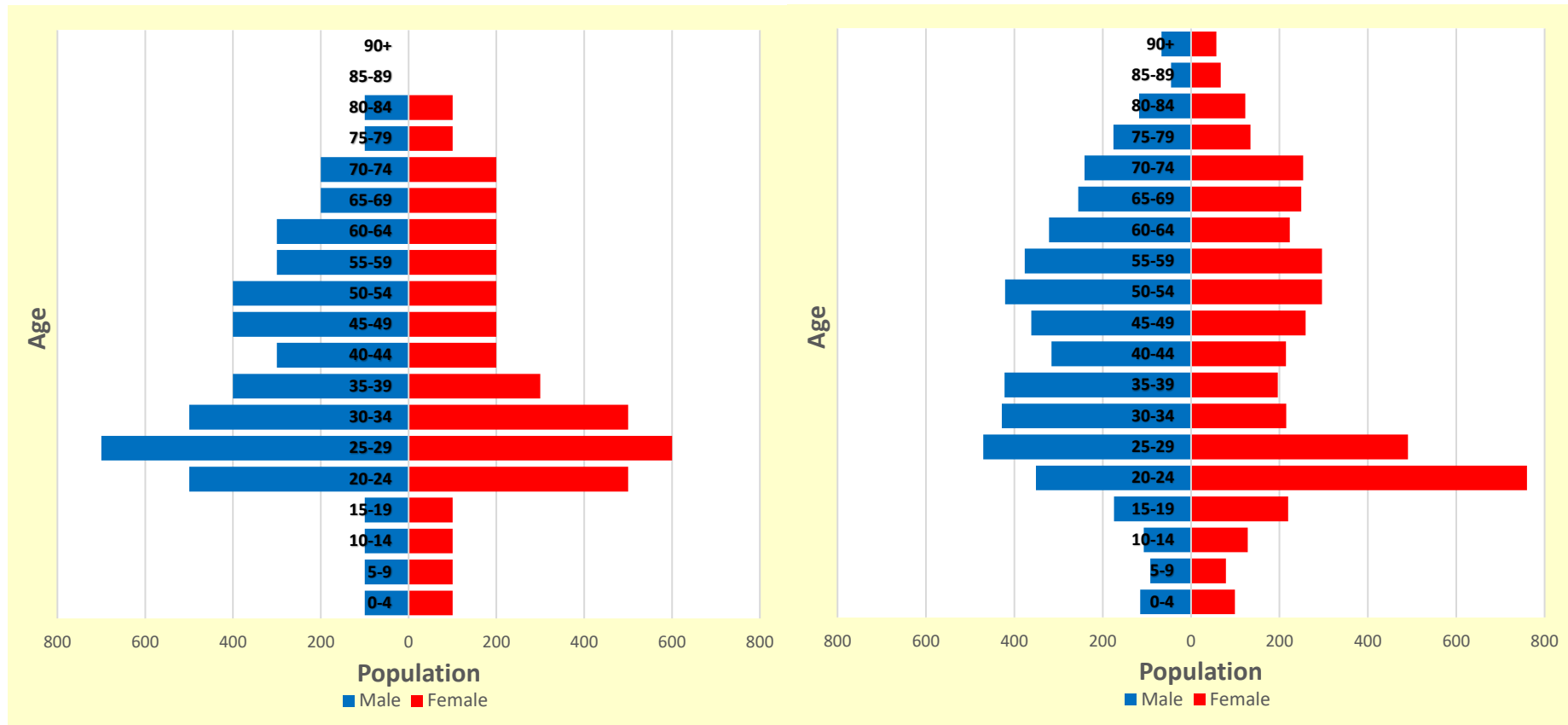


Figure 1: Resident Population by 5-year age band and sex – Census 2021 (left) vs GLA Projections (right)

Sources: Census 2021: Initial data release, GLA Demographic Projections 2020

Households

Household figures are provided in H01. Table 3 shows a comparison of the Census 2021 figures with the ONS Household Projections 2018 - 2021 data.

For the Census, a household is any dwelling with one or more residents on Census Day. The figure is greater than the pre-existing ONS projection for 2021.

Note: The GLA Demographic Projections produce a figure for Housing Stock. This would include second homes that will not have been included in Census or ONS household projections and so it is a much higher figure for the City (6997 units).

Sex	Census 2021: Households	GLA Demographic Projections 2020: (Housing targets scenario) – Housing Stock 2021	ONS Household Projections 2018 – 2021 data
Number of Households	4,900	6,997	4,284

Table 3: Households – data comparison

Sources: Census 2021: Initial data release, ONS Household projections 2018

Information

Sources:

City of London Corporation
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