



# Census 2021 - Staffordshire's Population



## Key Headlines

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the resident population in Staffordshire was 876,100.
- Staffordshire's population had grown by 3.3% since the last census in 2011, equating to just under 28,000 additional residents - a smaller increase than seen across England and Wales (6.3%).
- Six districts and boroughs saw their population grow, with the highest growth in East Staffordshire, which increased by 9.2% from 2011. Conversely Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle each saw a small decline of under 2%.
- The trend of population ageing in Staffordshire has continued, with those aged 65-79 increasing by 22.5% from just over 117,000 in 2011 to 143,400 in 2021, and those aged 80+ increasing by 27.4%, from just under 40,000 in 2011 to nearly 51,000 in 2021.
- An ageing population has increased demand for NHS and Adult Social Care services. Older people are more likely to develop chronic conditions with multiple morbidities, and over the last decade we have seen increasing numbers with conditions such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and dementia, increasing demand for NHS and adult social care services.
- The ratio of working aged adults to pension aged adults has declined from 3.2 to 1 in 2011, to 2.6 to 1 in 2021. Whilst the demand for NHS and adult social care services has been rising, the pool of working aged adults from which the health and care workforce is drawn has fallen slightly (0.6% reduction). This has led to growing difficulties with recruitment and retention in all sectors, including health and care, especially in the face of increasing demand.
- The increasing ageing population is projected to continue; the Office for National Statistics suggest that by 2041 the number of 65-79-year-olds in Staffordshire will have increased by a further 18.8% and the 80+ population by a further 62.4%. The working age population over the same period is projected to remain fairly stable (0.7% increase), however due to the large increase in the older population, the ratio of working age to pension age adults is expected to be just 2 to 1 by 2041. Planning for the future will be key, considering how we can encourage residents to take greater care of themselves and each other as they approach their 60s and beyond to reduce demand for health and care services.

## Introduction

Census Day took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, with results providing a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics at a point in time. This first release of data, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022, provided household and population estimates by age and gender, for England and Wales and local authorities.

## Methodology and Response Rate

Census 2021 was the first digital-by-default census in the UK, and achieved an overall response rate of 97%, exceeding the target of 94%. All districts and boroughs achieved a response rate of between 97% and 99%, with an overall response of 98% for Staffordshire.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) took a flexible approach to data collection to enable them to respond to changing circumstances, such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Their data quality control validation strategies helped to detect and resolve any issues, and for the first time, local government organisations were asked to help assess the data before publication, with Staffordshire County Council participating in this process.

ONS has recognised the challenge of undertaking the 2021 Census during the Coronavirus Pandemic, with Census Day (21<sup>st</sup> March) coming at a time when Covid restrictions were still in place across the country. ONS advises that for most of the population, this would not have affected where they consider themselves resident; however, there is potential for some 'distortion' such as some students and those in urban areas recording changes to where they lived, either on a temporary or a permanent basis.



## Results

The resident population of Staffordshire increased by 3.3% over the last 10 years to 876,100. This is a smaller increase than across England and Wales as a whole, where the population increased by 6.3% to 59,597,300.

Across Staffordshire's districts and boroughs, the largest increases were recorded in East Staffordshire (an increase of 9.2%, equal to over 10,000 additional residents) and Lichfield (an increase of 5.7%, equal to just under 6,000 additional residents). Population fell in both Staffordshire Moorlands (a 1.3% fall, equal to over 1,000 residents) and Newcastle-under-Lyme (a 0.5% fall, equal to just under 600 residents).

**Figure 1** - Population of Staffordshire by district 2021, including comparison with results from the previous Census.

District/Borough	2021	2011	Change	% Change
Cannock Chase	100,500	97,462	3,038	3.1%
East Staffordshire	124,000	113,583	10,417	9.2%
Lichfield	106,400	100,654	5,746	5.7%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	123,300	123,871	-571	-0.5%
South Staffordshire	110,500	108,131	2,369	2.2%
Stafford	136,800	130,869	5,931	4.5%
Staffordshire Moorlands	95,800	97,106	-1,306	-1.3%
Tamworth	78,600	76,813	1,787	2.3%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>876,100</b>	<b>848,489</b>	<b>27,611</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

Please note: District/borough figures for 2021 do not sum to the Staffordshire total. This is because ONS figures are rounded to the nearest hundred for each individual area.

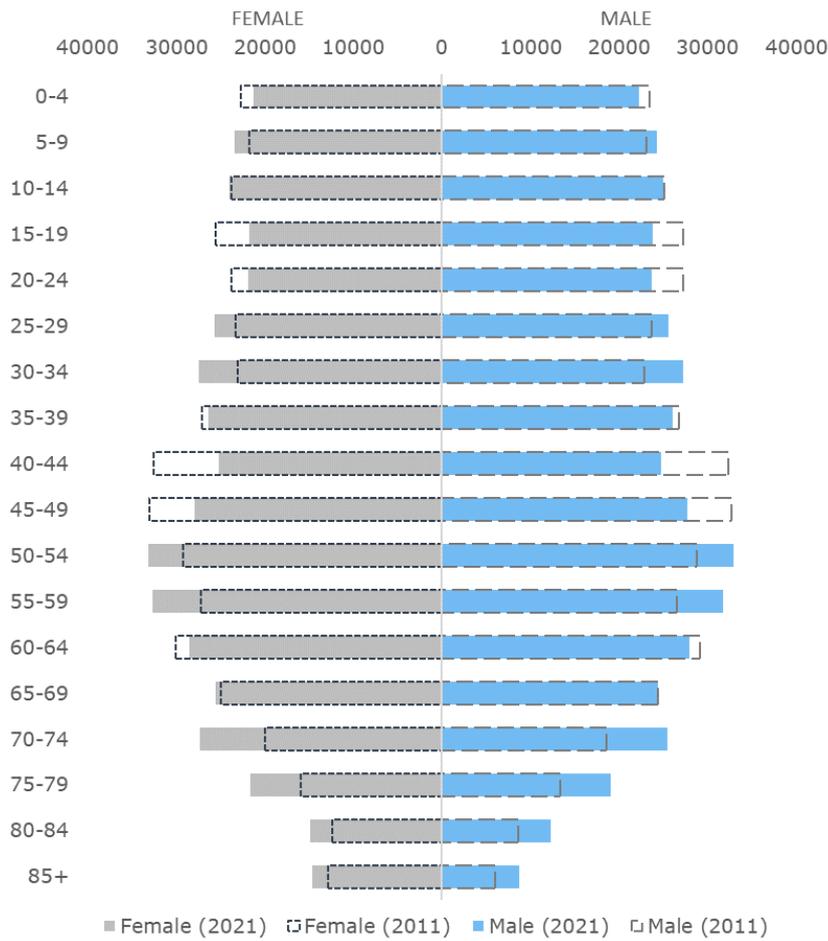
The increase in population in Staffordshire since the 2011 census is predominantly due to an ageing population, with the number of residents aged 65 or over increasing by around 37,000 (23.7%)

Conversely, there has been an overall reduction of around 7,000 (3.5%) children and young people (aged 0-19). However, within this age band there is some variation; the 5-9s have increased by 3,000 (6.6%), whereas the older 15-19 age group has fallen by 7,000 (13.6%).

The following chart highlights the change in population across Staffordshire within five-year age bands.



**Figure 2** – Change in population of Staffordshire by gender and five-year age band



The change in population by age group shows some very different patterns across each of Staffordshire’s districts (Figure 3). For example overall, the number of residents in the 5-19 age group has decreased by 3%, however this ranges from an increase of just over 7% in East Staffordshire to a decrease of just short of 10% in South Staffordshire.

East Staffordshire also records one of the lowest increases in those aged 80 and over; just short of 19% compared to a high of almost 40% in Lichfield and a Staffordshire wide increase of over 27%.



**Figure 3** – Change in population for Staffordshire’s Districts by broad age band

District/Borough	0-4	5-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65-79	80+
Cannock Chase	▼ -4.6%	▼ -5.8%	▲ 7.0%	▼ -17.8%	▲ 17.1%	▲ 24.5%	▲ 24.6%
East Staffordshire	▼ 0.0%	▲ 7.2%	▲ 12.2%	▼ -5.0%	▲ 18.2%	▲ 21.4%	▲ 18.8%
Lichfield	▼ -1.6%	▼ -0.7%	▲ 10.7%	▼ -12.8%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 21.7%	▲ 39.5%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	▼ -8.1%	▼ -5.4%	▼ -0.8%	▼ -16.0%	▲ 5.1%	▲ 17.9%	▲ 20.7%
South Staffordshire	▲ 0.5%	▼ -9.9%	▲ 10.8%	▼ -18.9%	▲ 6.6%	▲ 19.6%	▲ 37.3%
Stafford	▼ -4.4%	▼ -0.6%	▲ 1.6%	▼ -11.6%	▲ 11.3%	▲ 24.1%	▲ 26.2%
Staffordshire Moorlands	▼ -12.2%	▼ -6.4%	▼ -0.9%	▼ -24.1%	▲ 4.0%	▲ 21.5%	▲ 26.1%
Tamworth	▼ -13.1%	▼ -2.3%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -10.3%	▲ 5.5%	▲ 34.6%	▲ 26.8%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	▼ -5.2%	▼ -3.0%	▲ 5.1%	▼ -14.5%	▲ 9.6%	▲ 22.5%	▲ 27.4%

Until more detailed Census 2021 results are released, figure 4 provides additional information on 20 to 64-year-olds, whom we are using as a proxy for the working aged population.

Overall, in Staffordshire, numbers in this age-group remained fairly stable between 2011 and 2021, falling by just 0.6%.

Although at County level, numbers in this age-group remained fairly stable, there was some variation at district/borough level. East Staffordshire saw a fairly large rise in the working aged population, whereas Newcastle-under-Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands both experienced a fall in the working aged population. The remaining Staffordshire districts and boroughs all had a comparatively stable working aged population (aged 20-64 years) between 2011 and 2021.

**Figure 4** – Working Aged Population by district 2021, including comparison with results from the previous Census.

District/Borough	2021	2011	Change	% Change
Cannock Chase	58,800	58,424	376	0.6%
East Staffordshire	72,200	67,016	5,184	7.7%
Lichfield	58,900	58,093	807	1.4%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	70,100	73,175	-3,075	-4.2%
South Staffordshire	61,500	62,647	-1,147	-1.8%
Stafford	77,000	76,952	48	0.1%
Staffordshire Moorlands	51,900	56,245	-4,345	-7.7%
Tamworth	45,700	46,485	-785	-1.7%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>496,200</b>	<b>499,037</b>	<b>-2,837</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>

Office for National Statistics (ONS) projections for this age-group (Figure 5) suggest that numbers will fall by a further 0.4% between 2021 and 2031 but increase slightly by 0.7% over the period 2021 to 2041.



**Figure 5** – Projected increase in the working aged (20-64) population from 2021

District/Borough	Age 20 - 64	
	2021	2041
Cannock Chase	2.6%	5.4%
East Staffordshire	0.6%	2.8%
Lichfield	-0.3%	1.2%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1.1%	2.9%
South Staffordshire	-3.7%	-3.3%
Stafford	1.8%	4.3%
Staffordshire Moorlands	-3.4%	-5.1%
Tamworth	-4.8%	-6.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

Figure 6 provides additional detail on the 65-79 and 80+ age-groups; demonstrating how notable, both in terms of number and percentage, the increases in these two age groups are across our districts and boroughs.

Data suggests over 26,300 more 65–79-year-olds and over 10,900 more residents aged 80+ in 2021 compared to 2011. This ageing population has impacted, and may continue to impact on, demand for both NHS and Adult Social Care services, especially if life expectancy continues to increase but the years spent in good health do not.

**Figure 6** – Elderly Population by district 2021, including comparison with results from the previous Census.

District/Borough	Age 65 - 79				Age 80 and above			
	2021	2011	Change	% Change	2021	2011	Change	% Change
Cannock Chase	14,600	11,725	2,875	24.5%	4,900	3,932	968	24.6%
East Staffordshire	17,100	14,082	3,018	21.4%	6,000	5,049	951	18.8%
Lichfield	18,900	15,524	3,376	21.7%	6,600	4,730	1,870	39.5%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	19,400	16,461	2,939	17.9%	7,300	6,047	1,253	20.7%
South Staffordshire	20,300	16,968	3,332	19.6%	7,600	5,537	2,063	37.3%
Stafford	23,000	18,540	4,460	24.1%	8,500	6,734	1,766	26.2%
Staffordshire Moorlands	18,500	15,226	3,274	21.5%	6,500	5,155	1,345	26.1%
Tamworth	11,500	8,542	2,958	34.6%	3,300	2,602	698	26.8%
<b>Staffordshire</b>	<b>143,400</b>	<b>117,068</b>	<b>26,332</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>50,700</b>	<b>39,786</b>	<b>10,914</b>	<b>27.4%</b>

ONS projections for the future older population in Staffordshire (Figure 7) suggest that the trend for an increasingly ageing population is likely to continue. With the percentage of 65–79-year-olds, compared to 2021, projected to increase by almost 10% by 2031 and almost 19% by 2041. The increase is even more stark for those aged 80 and above; an almost 43% projected increase by 2031 and an over 62% increase by 2041 compared to 2021.



**Figure 7** – Projected increase in the older population from 2021

District/Borough	Age 65 - 79		Age 80 and above	
	2031	2041	2031	2041
Cannock Chase	15.4%	29.9%	43.3%	67.7%
East Staffordshire	18.0%	31.4%	42.4%	72.8%
Lichfield	2.0%	9.5%	44.6%	57.3%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	8.1%	14.5%	36.2%	54.2%
South Staffordshire	9.6%	17.4%	38.1%	55.3%
Stafford	11.8%	24.0%	45.3%	67.3%
Staffordshire Moorlands	5.1%	12.5%	44.3%	57.3%
Tamworth	6.2%	9.9%	53.8%	76.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>62.4%</b>

As illustrated, the elderly population has seen a sharp increase in numbers between 2011 and 2021 compared to fairly stable numbers in the working aged population. Consequently, the ratio of working aged adults to pension aged adults has declined - approaching one fewer working aged adult per pension aged adult, with the ratio now at 2.6 working aged adults to 1 pension aged adult compared to 3.2 to 1 in 2011.

Across Staffordshire’s districts and boroughs, it now varies from 3.1 working aged adults to 1 pension aged adult in East Staffordshire and Tamworth, to 2.2 to 1 in South Staffordshire and 2.1 to 1 in Staffordshire Moorlands.

Based on ONS population predictions, the ratio of working age to pension aged adults is going to decline further to 2.1 to 1 in 2031 and 2.0 to 1 in 2041.

This reduction in working aged adults to pension aged adults may have implications for the extent to which older adults are able to be supported by informal care outside of the care system. It also reduces the number of working aged adults per older person to work in health and care provision.

When released by the ONS, it will be important to look at information on the provision of unpaid care and consider the wider implications for the county and its residents.



## Census 2021 - Future Data Releases

From November 2022 to February 2023, the ONS plans to release topic summaries in a staggered approach, with some data available below district and borough level. The following data, when released, will allow further analysis of the older population:

- Demography and Migration:
  - Resident age – population by single year of age will enable a more accurate calculation of the ratio of working age adults to pension age adults
  - Household family composition, including:
    - One person households aged 66 years and over
    - Single family households, all aged 66 and over
- Housing
  - All usual residents in communal establishments by age and gender
- General Health and Disability
  - Provision of unpaid care

The demography and migration summary is due for release in November 2022, whilst the housing and the general health and disability summaries are currently scheduled for January to February 2023.

### Useful Links

The ONS data is available to explore and use now, with a number of helpful resources made publicly available.

- Access to the ONS data tables can be found [here](#).
- ONS Local Authority interactive guide is available [here](#).

For more information contact the Insight Team at:  
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