

# Census 2021 Briefing

## Ageing

**GMCA Research**  
April 2023

**Datalink:** The data used in this briefing can be found at [Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk).

**Definition:** This report combines cross-cutting census release data, that relate to the thematic area of Ageing. Because of the difficulty of finding a consistent and inclusive definition for 'older residents', this report will refer to the following older age groups: those residents aged 55 and over, aged 65 and over, and aged 75 and over. It also includes the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOP) for residents aged 60 and over which uses census data as its base.

**Census day:** The 2021 census was held in England and Wales on 21 March 2021. Census 2021 was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic so may not show normal population and household patterns due to temporary changes in living circumstances during the pandemic for some households.

## Key points

- The proportion of residents in Greater Manchester aged 55 and over increased by 1.9 percentage points between 2011 and 2021 from 25.5% to 27.4%. This equates to approximately 780,000 residents.
- Some 42.9% of residents aged 60 and over are now living in the top 30% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) nationally. This represents an increase of 4.5 percentage points from 2011 (38.4%).
- The proportion of males to females has increased – most prominently males aged 75 and over, with a 3.1 percentage point increase from 2011 in males to females.
- The number of older residents recorded as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh has increased by 1.1%, reflecting change in the overall Greater Manchester position (3.4% growth). There has been a slight increase in those recorded as White aged 75 and over.
- Bury and Wigan's over 65 population increased significantly above the Greater Manchester position. In contrast, Manchester has recorded a decline in residents aged 75 and over – the only recorded population decrease for residents aged over 55 across Greater Manchester.
- Manchester also records the largest proportion of those living in top 30% most deprived LSOAs, equating to nearly a quarter of all residents aged 60 and over (23.5%).

# Main Findings

## Population Change

The census data has recorded an additional 102,000 residents aged 55 and over when compared to the 2011 position.

The change in all age groups across Greater Manchester shows a 6.9 percentage point increase in between 2021 and 2011. The rate of increase for over 55s, over 65s and over 75s is significantly greater than that observed amongst all residents (15.3 percentage points across the three age groups)

The rate of change is not equal across the ten localities within Greater Manchester – amongst residents aged 75 and over, the rate of population changes ranges from a 4.0 percentage point decrease in Manchester to 32.9 percentage point growth in Wigan, demonstrating a level of additional complexity when exploring the Greater Manchester position.

### Population change, by age group and district, between 2011 and 2021

Local Authority	Aged 55 and over			Aged 65 and over			Aged 75 and over		
	2011	2021	%	2011	2021	%	2011	2021	%
Bolton	74,729	86,141	15.3%	42,540	50,720	19.2%	18,987	22,659	19.3%
Bury	51,833	60,199	16.1%	29,540	35,452	20.0%	13,248	16,051	21.2%
Manchester	85,413	100,506	17.7%	47,544	52,173	9.7%	22,777	21,873	-4.0%
Oldham	58,056	66,318	14.2%	32,953	38,615	17.2%	14,673	17,158	16.9%
Rochdale	55,636	63,739	14.6%	30,816	36,868	19.6%	14,174	15,679	10.6%
Salford	57,127	63,633	11.4%	33,206	35,920	8.2%	15,663	16,271	3.9%
Stockport	86,466	97,435	12.7%	51,027	59,277	16.2%	24,512	28,324	15.6%
Tameside	60,681	70,563	16.3%	34,201	40,513	18.5%	15,157	17,706	16.8%
Trafford	61,809	70,263	13.7%	36,273	41,292	13.8%	17,948	19,806	10.4%
Wigan	91,160	106,579	16.9%	51,649	63,597	23.1%	21,330	28,350	32.9%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>682,910</b>	<b>785,376</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>389,749</b>	<b>454,427</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>178,469</b>	<b>203,877</b>	<b>14.2%</b>

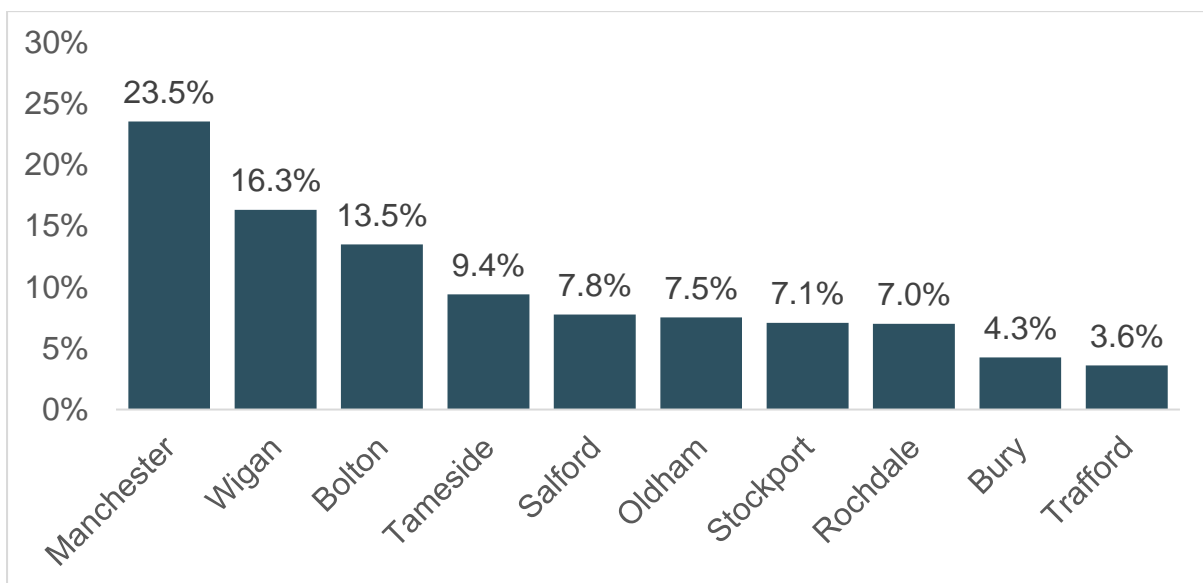
Source: ONS, Nomis - 2021 Census

## Income Deprivation Affecting Older People

The proportion of older residents experiencing income deprivation in Greater Manchester is growing. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) maps, at a Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level, the proportion of residents aged 60 and over, who experience income deprivation.

It shows that 42.9% of residents aged 60 and over across Greater Manchester are living in the top 30% most deprived LSOAs nationally. This is an increase of 4.5 percentage points when compared with the 2011 data (38.4%).

### Proportion of most deprived decile (1-3), by district



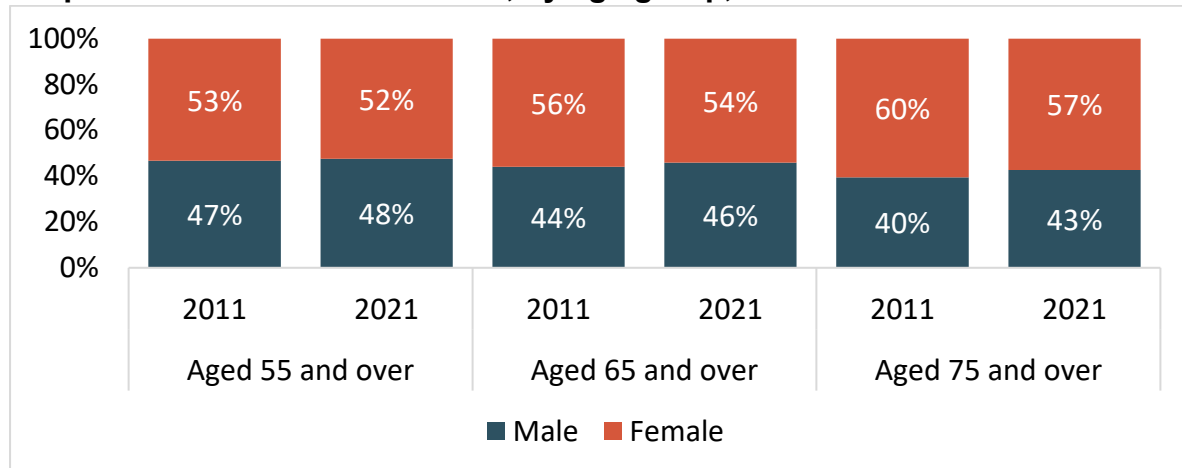
Source: ONS, Nomis - [2021 Census](#), IDAOPI - [data.gov](#)

## Gender

The proportion of males to females has increased within the older age groups counter to the overall population trend. This is most clearly reflected amongst residents aged 75 and over, where males now make up 42.6%, compared to 39.5% in 2011. The trend is observed to a lesser degree for residents aged 55 and over, and those aged 65 and over (0.8 and 1.8 percentage point increase in males against females respectively).

This trend amongst residents aged 75 and over is part of a wider pattern at a regional level (a 3.3 percentage point increase in males compared with females across the North West).

### Proportion of males and females, by age group, between 2011 and 2021



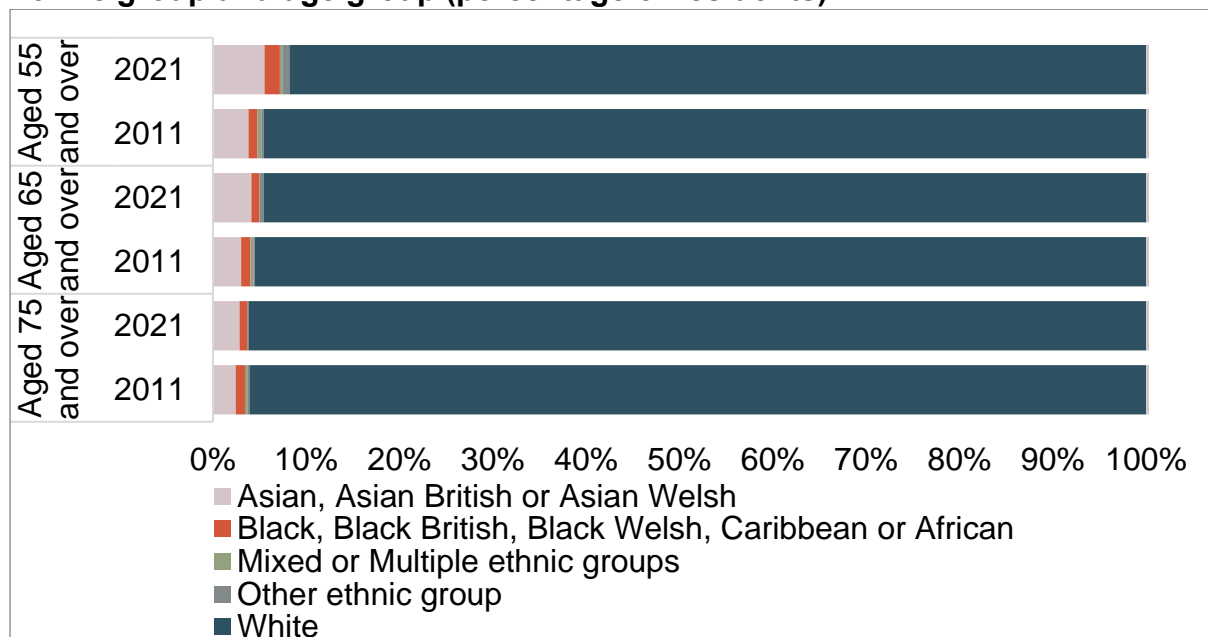
Source: ONS, Nomis - [2021 Census](#)

## Ethnicity

Amongst residents aged 55 and over, 91.8% identify as White, compared with 94.6% of the same age group in 2011 (a 2.8 percentage point reduction). This change is reflective of the entire Greater Manchester population, which also records a reduction, though more pronounced, in those identifying as White. In 2011, Greater Manchester had 83.8% of all residents identifying as White, which has reduced to 76.8% in the 2021 records (a 7.0 percentage point decrease).

Residents identifying as Asian, Asian British and Asian Welsh, have demonstrated an increase across all three older age groups, mirroring the rate of change observed across all age groups in GM (an increase of 3.4 percentage points). The largest increase within the three older age groups comes amongst residents aged 55 and over – a 1.7 percentage point increase from 2011.

### Ethnic group and age group (percentage of residents)



Source: ONS, Nomis - [2021 Census](#)

## Local Authority Ageing Trends

Strong variation is evident in the data at a local authority level.

On deprivation, Manchester continues to record the highest proportion of residents in GM living in the top 30% most deprived LSOAs nationally, although this has decreased by 1.9 percentage points since 2011. Salford's figure has also promisingly reduced by 3.1 percentage points. Conversely, Wigan has recorded an increase of 4.2 percentage points from 2011.

On gender, Salford saw a 4.6 percentage point increase in the proportion of males to females in residents aged 75 and over. This is significantly higher than the Greater Manchester position (a 3.3 percentage point shift). Across all residents, Salford is also the only locality which records a higher proportion of males to females based on the 2021 data.

On ethnicity, Manchester records a far steeper reduction in residents aged 55 and over recorded as White – 9.3 percentage point decrease compared to 2.8 at a Greater Manchester level.

## Reflections

- Both nationally and locally there has been a growth in the proportion of older residents - particularly those in the oldest age groups (aged 75 and over). People aged over 55 now represent 27.4% of the overall Greater Manchester population and this proportion is forecast to grow.
- The census, however, suggests that more older people are now living in conditions of deprivation. Some four in ten are now living in the top 30% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across Greater Manchester, compared to two in ten nationally, presenting challenges for local authorities, particularly through the need to ensure access to eligible benefits and wider support which may be needed.
- The demographic make-up of older residents is also shifting. We are witnessing more older males and ethnically diverse residents which may have specific implications for service provision across Greater Manchester.