Census Data

What census data is available?

2021 census data is now freely available on www.nomisweb.co.uk. The site stores files summarizing various aspects of the UK population. Data is stored for each census topic with different levels of geographic accuracy from entire country, down to neighbourhood level. For this paper we focussed on the data for people's ages and use it to calculate **Dependency Ratios**.

What is the Dependency Ratio?

The Dependency Ratio is a population measure showing the proportion of people not of 'working age' compared to those who are. Within the measure, working age is defined as age 15-64. **The census data shows the dependency ratio for England & Wales is 56.1%**.

To see what the Dependency Ratio is in your area, visit the interactive OAC Analytics' Census Dashboard.

https://oacplc.com/vis101

Dependency ratios around the world range from around 20% to 110%. A higher dependency ratio may mean more burden on the working population to support and care for the non-working population. A higher senior dependency ratio means more funding may be required for pensions and retirement care, whereas a higher child dependency ratio may mean more funding is required for childcare and education. One caveat is that the age definition fails to consider that people may work beyond 65, and that many of 'working age' do not have jobs.

OAC Analytics' dashboard shows the **age distribution and dependency ratios for all regions** against the overall numbers for England and Wales. Dependency ratio varies across regions from 25.7% in the City of London up to 77.6% in Dorset. Birmingham (see Figure 1) has a dependency ratio (51.6%) lower than the overall nation, although its child dependency ratio is higher than average. This can be seen in the age distribution graph, where Birmingham has a greater proportion of younger ages and a lower proportion of older ages than the rest of the country.

Figure 1: OAC Analytics' Census Dashboard

Select a UK region from 2021 census data: Birmingham

Dependency Ratio is a measure of the proportion of the population of 'non-working age':

$$\frac{\text{(Number of lives age 0-14) + (Number of lives age 65+)}}{\text{(Number of working age lives 15-64)}} = 51.6\%$$

Dependency Ratio for England & Wales vs. Selected Region
● Child dependency ratio ● Senior dependency ratio

Age Distribution of Selected Region's population
● Selected Region ● England & Wales (Total)

Source data: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_bulk