

Appendix E - Census (2021) Note

July 2022

The 2021 Census took place on 21 March 2021 and the first results were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 28th June 2022; which showed that Welwyn Hatfield's population at the time of the Census was 119,900 persons and the number of households 46,200. This results in a number of persons per household of 2.60.

Comparing the 2021 Census results to the population projections for 2021 shows that all of the variant projections had overestimated the population and number of households in Welwyn Hatfield. The 2018-based alternative projections overestimated Welwyn Hatfield's population in 2021 by 7,164 persons and households by 3,020. This difference in percentage terms was greater than most surrounding areas.

Table 1: Population at the 2021 Census compared with 2018-based population projections for 2021

Population	2021 CENSUS	2018-based principal (2021 estimate)	Difference	2018-based alternative (2021 estimate)	Difference
Welwyn Hatfield	119,900	125,266	-4.3%	127,064	-5.6%
Broxbourne	99,000	97,016	2.0%	97,605	1.4%
East Hertfordshire	150,100	150,745	-0.4%	151,429	-0.9%
Hertsmere	107,800	105,173	2.5%	105,502	2.2%
North Hertfordshire	133,200	134,479	-1.0%	135,365	-1.6%
St Albans	148,200	148,256	0.0%	148,948	-0.5%
Barnet (London)	389,300	403,015	-3.4%	404,284	-3.7%
Enfield (London)	330,000	336,243	-1.9%	340,350	-3.0%
Hertfordshire (county)	1,198,800	1,196,507	0.2%	1,204,219	-0.4%
England	56,489,800	56,989,570	-0.9%	56,989,570	-0.9%

Looking at the difference between the census results and projections by age group for Welwyn Hatfield, the population for the 20-34 age groups were significantly over estimated; by 5,315 persons across these three age groups.

The working age population (15-69 age group) was also lower than was projected; at 85,000 persons compared to the projected 90,073 for 2021 in the 2018-based alternative projections.

However, it is important to note that the coronavirus pandemic may have had some impact on where students lived at the time of the Census. The Quality and Methodology information for the 2021 Census from the ONS states that: "For some students and in some urban areas, there is evidence that the coronavirus pandemic did result in changes to where people lived."