

2021 Census labour market and travel to work headline results for Herefordshire

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a labour market and travel to work topic summary on 08 December 2022. This document presents the headline results for Herefordshire.

Other topic-based headline summaries for Herefordshire are available to download from the [Census 2021](#) page on Understanding Herefordshire.

The Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic. Caution should therefore be applied when using these data for planning and policy purposes.

Labour market data from the Census are not comparable with data from other survey-based sources (as reported on [Nomis](#)) due to differences in the population bases, data collection and question design.

Economic activity¹

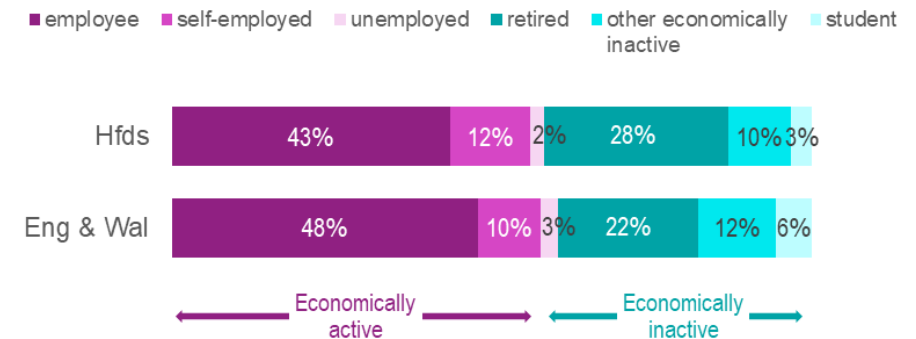


Economic activity rates had fallen since 2011, with 59% of Herefordshire's residents aged 16 and over either working or seeking work in the week before the census 2021 (down from 63%). This is slightly below the national rate (61%).

¹ The economic activity status of a person aged 16 and over, in the week before Census 2021, relates to whether they were working or looking for work. An economically active person can be in employment, either as an employee or self-employed; or unemployed, either looking for work and could start within two weeks, or waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted. The economically active population includes people who were put on furlough at the time of Census 2021, who were considered to

An ageing population has driven this fall in economic activity, through a rise in the number of people who were retired (69% of the economically inactive population).

The rate of self-employment in Herefordshire (12% of all 16+ year-olds) sits just outside the highest 10% of local authorities across England and Wales (the national rate was 10%). The rate remained relatively stable since 2011, both locally and nationally.



Note - 'Other economically inactive' includes 'looking after home or family'; 'long-term sick or disabled'; 'other'.

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

be temporarily away from work. However, some people on furlough may have identified as economically inactive, instead of temporarily away from work.

An economically inactive person did not have a job between 15 March and 21 March 2021 and had not looked for work between 22 February and 21 March 2021 or could not start work within two weeks.

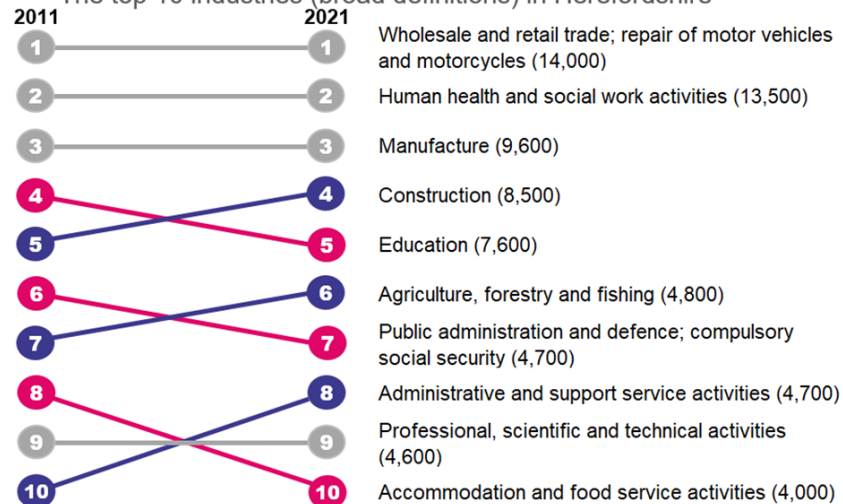
Industry

As with nationally, the largest proportion of working residents in Herefordshire (16%) worked within the broad wholesale, retail and motor trade industry.

Herefordshire's working residents were more likely than those across England and Wales as a whole to work in agriculture, forestry and fishing (5% vs. 1% - the 10th highest rate in the country) and manufacturing (11% vs. 7% - amongst the highest 20%). They were less likely to be employed in financial and insurance activities (1% vs. 4%); transport and storage (3% vs. 5%); and information and communication (3% vs. 5%).



The top 10 industries (broad definitions) in Herefordshire



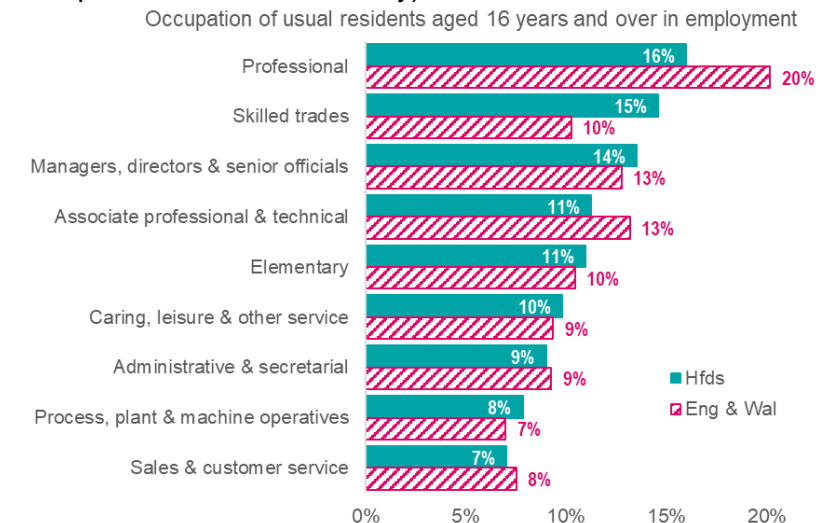
Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Occupation

A relatively high proportion of residents worked in skilled trade occupations (15%, 12,900 people - amongst the highest 10% of local authorities in England & Wales).



As with nationally, more people were employed in professional occupations compared with any other broad occupation categories (16%, 14,300 people); however, it was a relatively low proportion compared with nationally (20%). A relatively low proportion also worked in associate professional and technical occupations (11% compared with 13% nationally).



Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Travel to work

It is not possible to directly compare the travel to work data from the Census 2021 with the previous Census 2011 because the ONS has widened the age range (from 16-74 in 2011 to 16 and over in 2021).

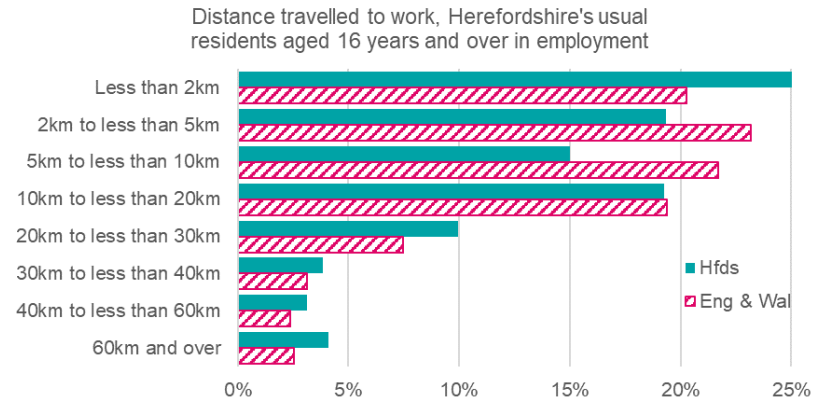
Because the Census 2021 was conducted during a time of a nationwide lockdown in the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is therefore inevitable that the number of people recorded as working at or from home had increased significantly since the previous census – 22,600 (26%) workers worked mainly at or from home during the week before the census (compared with 31% nationally).

The pandemic also contributed to changes in the way people travelled to work, including fewer people using public transport. Of the 75,900 who travelled to work, the majority (78%) either drove or were a passenger in a car or van; 14% walked; 4% cycled; 2% used public transport and 2% used a motorcycle, scooter, moped or other method.



A quarter (25%) of Herefordshire's residents travel less than 2km to work, which is a higher proportion than across England and Wales as a whole (20%). At the other end of the scale, Herefordshire also

has a higher proportion (21%) who travel 20km or more, compared to England and Wales (15%).

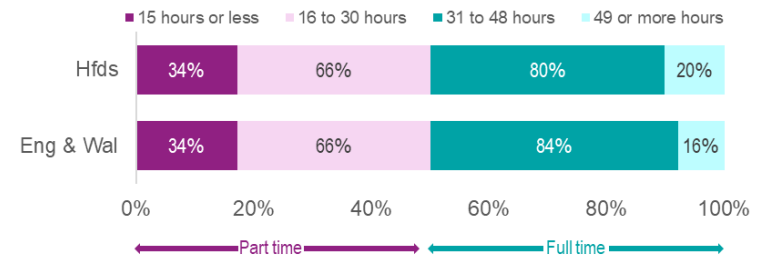


Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Hours worked

ONS states that furlough and changes to working patterns in England and Wales at the time of the 2021 Census because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, may have led to people reporting more, or fewer, hours worked than pre-coronavirus.

In Herefordshire 59,900 of usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment (68%) worked full time (31 hours or more a week), slightly less than nationally (70%).



Never worked and long-term unemployed

In Herefordshire, 9,700 (6%) of usual residents aged 16 and over had never worked or were long-term unemployed in 2021 and therefore classified as 'workless'². This was higher than in 2011 (4%), but remains lower than nationally (9% in 2021, up from 6% in 2011).

If you need help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact us on 01432 261944 or e-mail researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk

² Positions that involve involuntary exclusion from the labour market, specifically those who have never been in paid employment but would

wish to be and those who have been unemployed for an extended period while still seeking or wanting work.