

Census 2021 Briefing #5: Labour Market, Industry and Occupation, and Travel to work

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Summary

- 59.5% of residents in Havering have a job, an increase from 58.9% in 2011
- 3.6% of residents are unemployed, which is the fourth lowest rate in London and an improvement from the rate of 5.0% in 2011
- 13.4% of economically active residents are employed in construction and civil engineering, which is the biggest industry in Havering
- 21.0% of residents are retired - the highest rate in London
- 33.4% of economically active residents were working from home at the time of the census
- 39.5% of economically active residents travel to work by car, the second highest rate in London

1. Introduction

On 8th December 2022 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the fifth in their series of Census 2021 'Topic Summaries'. The topics covered by this release are labour market, industry and occupation, and travel to work.

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 this particular topic and care should be taken when using the data for planning and policy purposes.

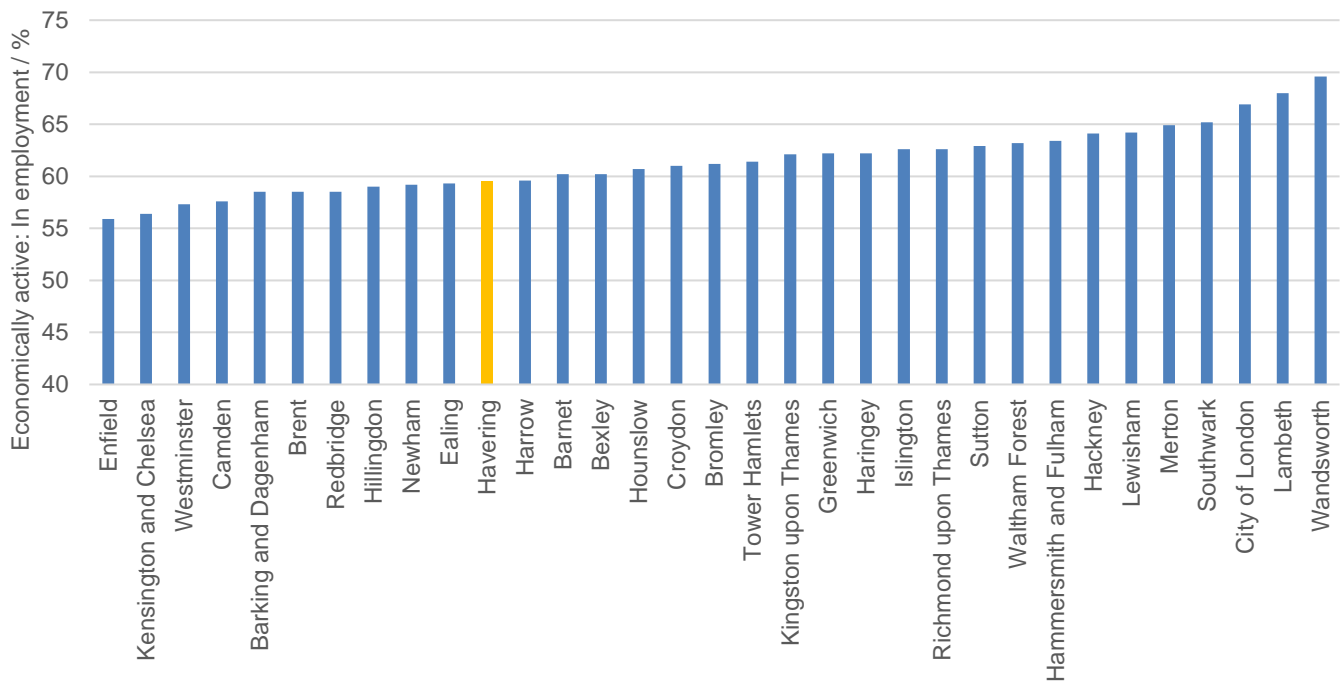
2. Economic Activity

There are three classifications of economic activity status from Census 2021.

(i) Economically active – in employment (an employee or self-employed)

In Havering, 59.5% (124,781) of usual residents aged 16 and over were in employment at the time of the Census 2021. This includes people who were put on furlough. This is a higher rate of economic activity than the England average of 57.4%, but lower than the London average of 61.4%. Havering has the eleventh lowest rate of residents who are economically active and in employment in London. The lowest is Enfield at 55.9% and the highest is Wandsworth at 69.6%.

Figure 1 Percentage of residents who are economically active and in employment, by London Borough 2021



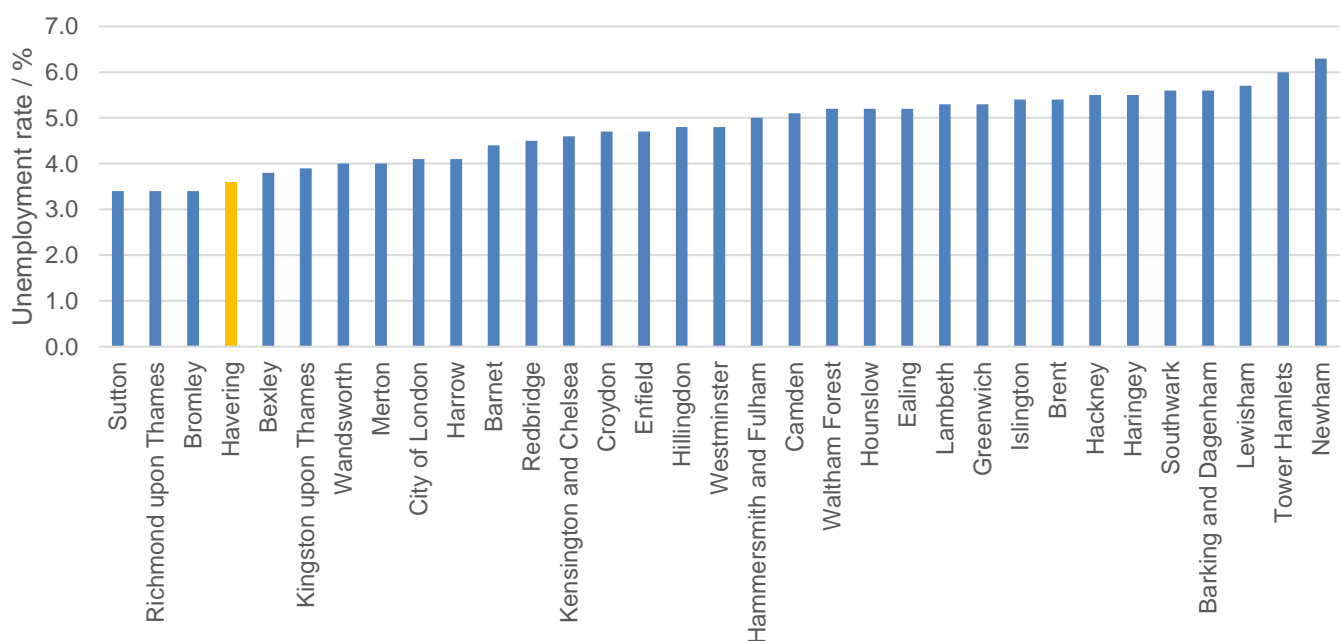
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

(ii) Economically active – unemployed (those who were looking for work and could start within two weeks, or waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted)

At the time of the Census 2021, 3.6% (7,651) of people in Havering were classified as economically active and unemployed. This is an improvement from 5.0% in 2011.

This is comparable to the England average (3.5%) and lower than the London average (4.8%). Havering has the fourth lowest rate of unemployment of all London Boroughs, which ranges from 3.4% (Bromley, Sutton and Richmond-upon-Thames) to 6.3% (Newham).

Figure 2 Percentage of residents who are economically active and not in employment by London Borough, 2021



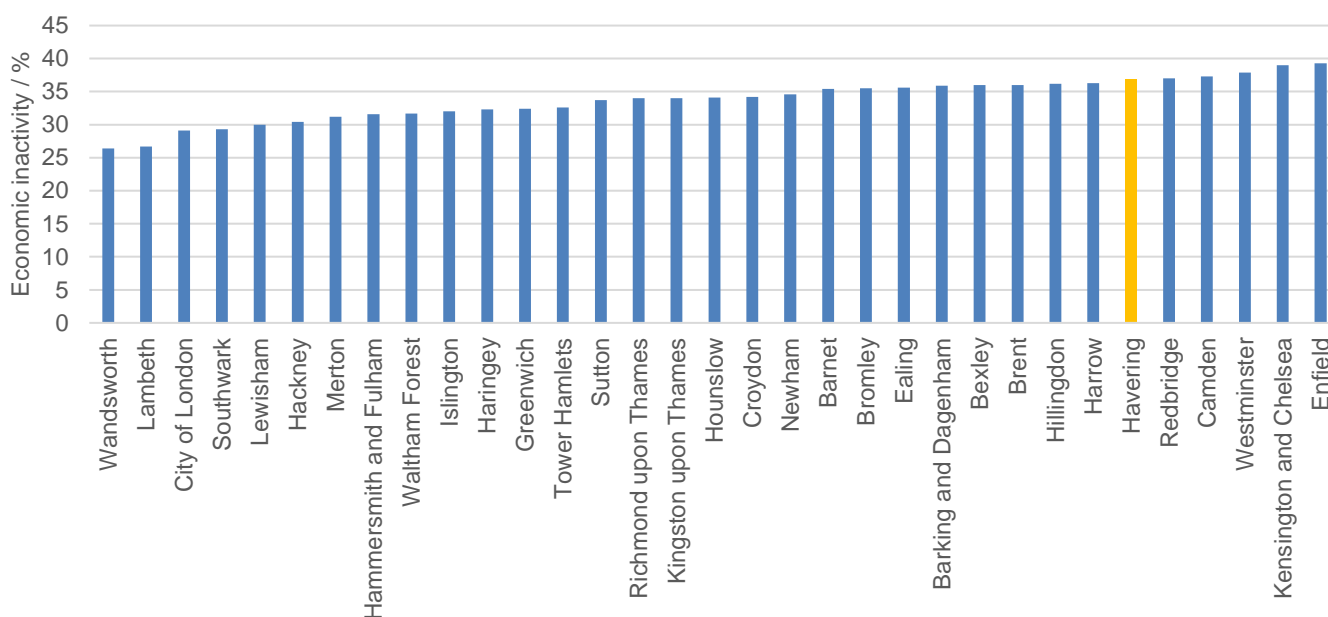
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

(iii) Economically inactive

People aged 16 years and over were classified as economically inactive if, in the week before Census 2021, they were not in employment, and they were not looking for work, or looking for work but not able to start in the next two weeks.

In Havering, 36.9% (77,298) of residents aged 16 years and over were economically inactive at the time of the Census. This is lower than the England average (39.1%) but higher than the London average (33.8%). Havering has the sixth highest rate of economic inactivity in London. The London Borough of Wandsworth has the lowest rate (26.4%) and London Borough of Enfield has the highest (39.3%).

Figure 3 Percentage of residents who are economically inactive by London Borough, 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

The percentage of people who are economically inactive is likely to be related to the age profile of the usual resident population. Further information on the age structure in Havering can be found in Topic Summary #2 “Demography and Migration”, which showed that Havering has one of the highest proportions of older people aged 65+ in London (second after Bromley).

Within England and Wales, the most selected reasons for economic inactivity were being retired (21.6%) and studying (5.6%). This is a similar distribution to Havering as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Reasons for economic inactivity, Havering, London and England, 2021

Reason for economic inactivity	England and Wales	London	Havering
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	4.2%	3.6%	3.1%
Economically Inactive: Looking after home or family	4.8%	6.0%	5.1%
Economically inactive: Other	3.1%	4.1%	3.0%
Economically inactive: Retired	21.6%	12.9%	21.0%
Economically inactive: Student	5.6%	7.2%	4.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

Havering has the highest proportion of retired residents in London (21.0%, 43,979). Havering also has a lower proportion of students (4.6%, 9,680), than the London average.

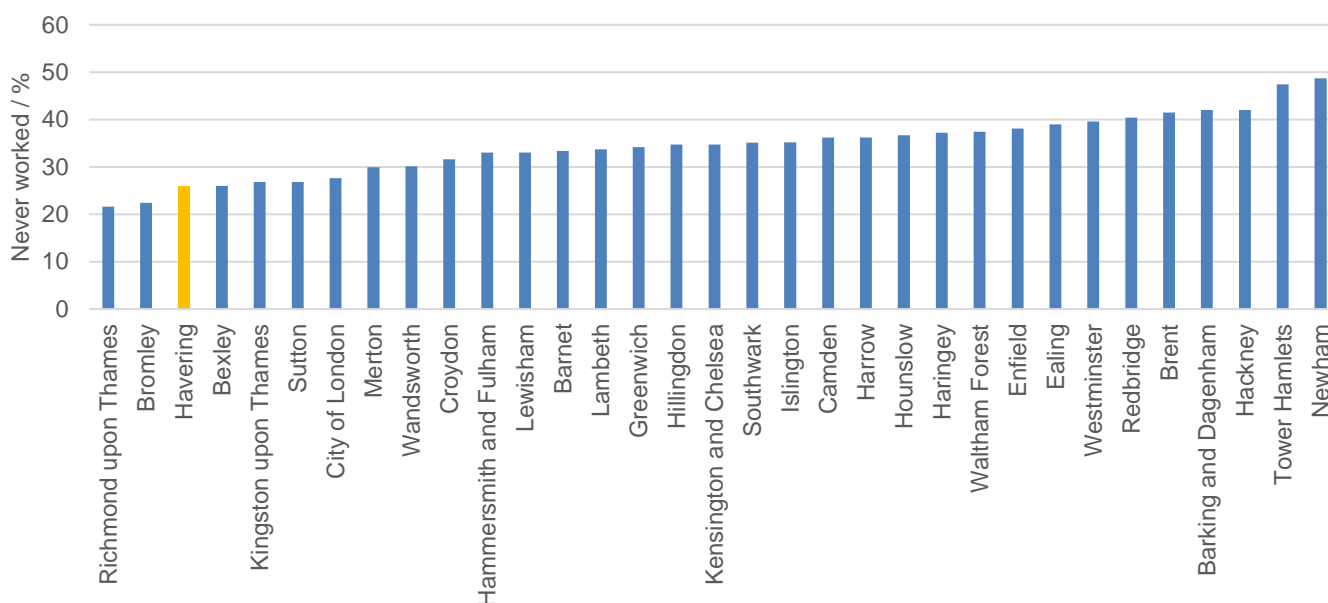
Employment History

Everyone who took part in Census 2021 was asked if they had ever undertaken any paid work. Those not in employment were then divided into three categories according to their response:

- Last did paid work within the last 12 months;
- Last did paid work more than 12 months ago;
- Have never worked

In Havering, 25.9% (22,008) of the usual resident population not in employment have never worked. This is similar to the England average (25.6%) but much lower than the London average (35.2%). Figure 4 below shows a comparison with other London Boroughs. Newham (48.7%) and Tower Hamlets (47.4%) have the highest proportion, not only in London but also in England, of usual residents who are not in employment and have never worked.

Figure 4 Percentage of residents not in employment who have never worked by London Borough, 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

3. Type of Work

Industry

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code¹ has been used to classify the type of industry or business that residents work in. 13.4% (16,713) of working residents in Havering are employed in the Construction and Civil Engineering industry. This is the second highest proportion in London behind Barking & Dagenham (13.6%). The next biggest industries in Havering are Education (9.8%, 12,206) and Human Health activities (8.7%, 10,909).

Occupation

The Standard Occupational Classification 2020 code² has been used to classify occupations into nine high-level or 'broad' categories³. Table 2 shows how Havering compares to England and Wales and to London.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-industrial-classification-of-economic-activities-sic>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc/soc2020>

³

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/industryandoccupationenglandandwales/census2021>

Table 2 Occupation classification, Havering, London and England, 2021

Occupation 'broad' category	England & Wales	London	Havering
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	12.8%	14.6%	12.4%
2. Professional occupations <i>Includes professionals from science, engineering and technology; health; teaching and education; business, media and public service</i>	20.2%	25.8%	19.5%
3. Associate professional and technical occupations <i>Includes science, engineering and technology associate professionals, health and social care associate professionals, protective service occupations, culture, media and sports occupations and business and public service associate professionals</i>	13.2%	15.3%	13.4%
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.3%	8.5%	13.4%
5. Skilled trades occupations <i>Includes skilled agriculture, metal, electrical, electronic, construction and building, textiles and printing trades</i>	10.3%	7.5%	11.5%
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations <i>Includes caring personal service and leisure, travel and related personal service occupations</i>	9.4%	7.7%	8.2%
7. Sales and customer service occupations	7.5%	6.3%	6.5%
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	7.0%	5.0%	6.5%
9. Elementary occupations <i>Includes elementary trades, administration and service occupations</i>	10.5%	9.2%	8.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

The proportion of occupation types in Havering is more similar to the England and Wales average than the London average in the majority of the nine categories. The biggest proportion of Havering workers are in 'Professional' occupations (19.5%, 24,339), however further analysis has shown this to be the second lowest rate in London, the lowest being Barking and Dagenham (16.1%).

Havering has the second highest proportion of workers in Skilled Trades occupations (11.5%, 14,375) (Barking and Dagenham are highest at 11.6%), which is likely to be linked to the high number of employees in the Construction trade in both boroughs.

4. Method of Travel to work

People who were in employment or temporarily away from work in the week before Census day were asked to select one mode of transport that they used for the longest part of their journey (by distance) to work. An estimated 33.4% of employed people in Havering (41,654) reported working mainly at, or from, their home. This is over ten times greater than the figure reported in 2011 (4,038).

The national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures in place at the time of the Census 2021 mean there were likely to be many more people working from home at the time than usual. This will affect all the figures for this topic and comparisons with 2011 should be made with caution.

Table 3 Method of travel to work, Havering, London and England, 2021

Method of travel to work	England and Wales	London	Havering
Bicycle	2.0%	3.0%	0.7%
Bus, minibus or coach	4.2%	8.9%	5.6%
Driving a car or van	45.1%	20.6%	36.8%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%
On foot	7.6%	6.4%	4.9%
Other method of travel to work	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%
Passenger in a car or van	3.9%	1.5%	2.7%
Taxi	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%
Train	1.9%	5.3%	7.0%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	1.8%	9.9%	6.7%
Work mainly at or from home	31.2%	42.1%	33.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

For those in employment and not working from home, the most common method of transport was by car, either as a driver or a passenger (39.5%, 49,247)⁴. Across London, Havering has the second highest rate of travel to work by car after Hillingdon (41.4%).

5.6% of working Havering residents travel to work by walking or cycling. This is a decrease from the 2011 rate of 7.2% and the third lowest rate in London behind Bexley (5.3%) and Bromley (5.4%).

In addition to the increase in working from home, it is likely that restrictions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic contributed to fewer people using public transport. In 2011, 25.8% of Havering residents used the bus or train to get to their place of work, compared to 19.3% in 2021. Within London, Havering currently has the tenth lowest rate of residents using public transport to get to work.

5. Distance to work

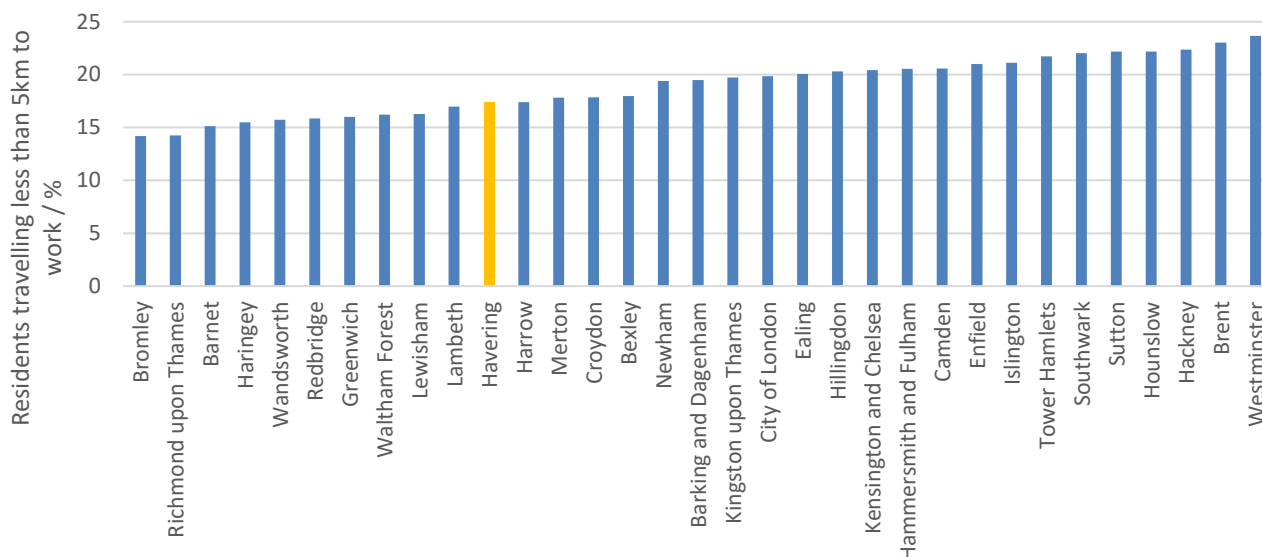
Distance travelled to work was calculated by ONS based on home and workplace addresses⁵.

Figure 5 shows the proportion of residents travelling less than 5km to work in other London boroughs. 17.3% (21,626) of Havering residents travel less than 5km (3.1miles) to work, which is the eleventh lowest percentage in London. Comparing this figure with levels of walking and cycling to work, it seems likely that other factors including occupation type and industry, and local infrastructure, influence the choice of transport mode, and not just the distance travelled.

⁴ This figure represents over half of all Havering residents who are required to travel to work, when excluding those working from home.

⁵ It is not possible to calculate the average distance travelled to work from the data provided.

Figure 5 Percentage of working residents travelling less than 5km to work by London Borough, 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering Insight Team

6. Conclusion

The latest Census data from ONS, along with the previous topic summaries, gives us an up to date picture of working life in Havering, albeit at a unique point in time as the country was emerging from lockdown. Unemployment levels are low, and have decreased since 2011. Our continued large proportion of retired residents has led to higher levels of economic inactivity in Havering than most other London Boroughs.

Havering has a strong construction trade and a high proportion of residents in skilled occupations compared to other London boroughs and to the rest of England and Wales. Havering also has a growing number of residents employed in ‘professional’ occupations, which include health, education and business sectors. This, coupled with data from the upcoming release on education, will provide the Council and its partners with valuable insight to the future skills requirements of the borough.

At the time of the Census 2021, a third of employed residents worked from, or at, their homes. This tenfold increase from 2011 gives a strong indication of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. It is likely that many residents will continue to work from home, at least for a proportion of their working week, as many employers have moved to hybrid models of working⁶. For those residents who do travel to work, the most popular method of transport is by car, as it was in 2011, whilst rates of walking and cycling to work remain low. This insight into Havering’s behaviour patterns will be invaluable evidence when developing Council strategies in order to tackle obesity, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

7. Further reading

The ONS will continue to release further Census data in phases called Topic Summaries. The next Topic Summary, ‘Housing’ is due for release on 5 January 2023 and will be followed closely by “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity” on 6 January. More information on the Census can be found [here](#) and the planned release calendar can be found [here](#). The ONS has produced an interactive summary for all Local Authorities which can be found [here](#). The ONS- has also produced Census maps which can be found [here](#).

Havering Local Insight⁷ also shows Census 2021 data and can be found [here](#). (Select Data box on left hand side and then choose which Census indicator to view. Results will be displayed on the map).

⁶ [Is hybrid working here to stay? - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

⁷ <https://havering.communityinsight.org/>