

## Housing in Oxford – Number of bedrooms, rooms, and occupancy rating

As part of the latest Census 2021 release on housing, the ONS has made available data on second address, communal establishments, and characteristics of the current housing stock in Oxford. The Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) has produced a series of summary reports to cover all the indicators included in this topic release. This summary report will explore the latest figures on number of bedrooms and housing occupancy<sup>1</sup> in Oxford. For more information on this topic, please visit [Housing: Census 2021 in England and Wales](#).

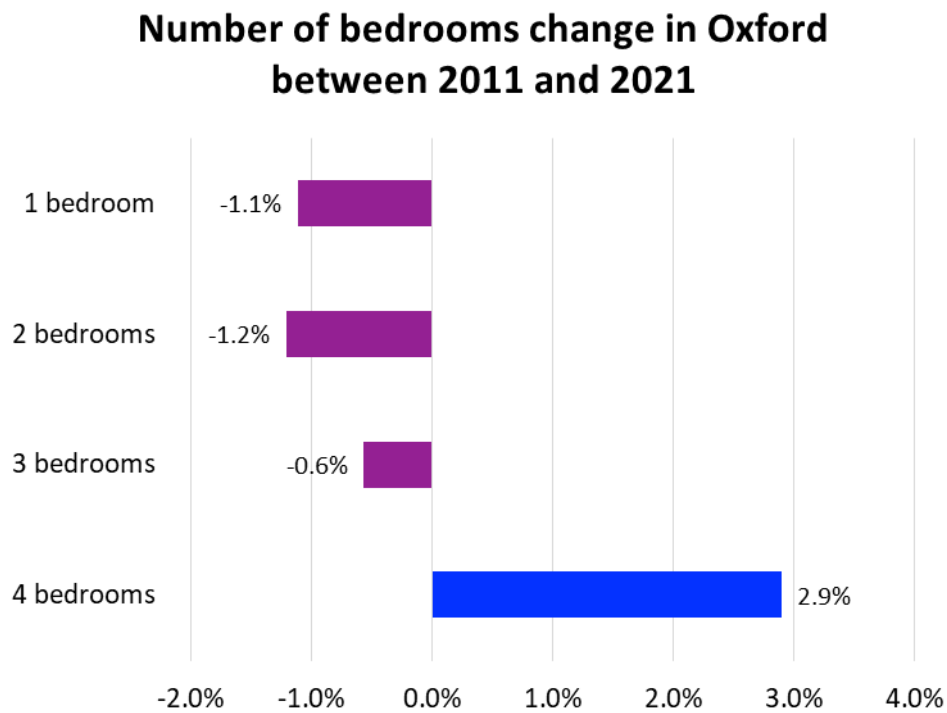
### Key findings:

- The number of bedrooms indicator shows that the largest group was households with 3 bedrooms (35.5%), followed by 2 bedrooms (25.9%).
- Between 2011 and 2021, the largest decrease was recorded in households with 2 bedrooms (-1.2%), followed by 1 bedroom (-1.1%). On the other hand, households with the largest increase were those with 4 bedrooms (+2.9%).
- In terms of number of rooms, the biggest proportion was recorded in households with 5 rooms (27.5%), followed by 4 rooms (22.2%), while the smallest proportion was found in households with 8 rooms (1.4%)
- The largest increase was found in households with 3 rooms (+8.6%), and 2 rooms (+7.5%). The largest decrease was recorded in households with 6 rooms (-11.6%), and 7 rooms (-6.4%).
- In terms of bedroom occupancy, the largest group was households with a rating of 0 = right amount of bedrooms required (34.0%), followed by +1 = one more room than the standard required (30.2%), and +2 or more (29.6%).
- Around 4.8% of households have a bedroom occupancy rating of -1 or less = has one or fewer bedrooms than required.
- The biggest percentage increase was experienced in those households with a bedroom occupancy rating of +2, and -2, both with +0.5%, while the household group with the biggest percentage decrease was those with rating of +1 (-1.2%).
- For the room occupancy rating indicator, the largest group was households with a rating of +2 or more = have 2 or more rooms than required (39.3%), followed by households with 0 rating (26.3%). The smallest proportion are households with a rating of -2 or less (2.0%).
- The biggest percentage increase was experienced in those households with a room occupancy rating of 0 (+2.8%), while the household group with the biggest percentage decrease was those with rating -2 or less (-1.9%).

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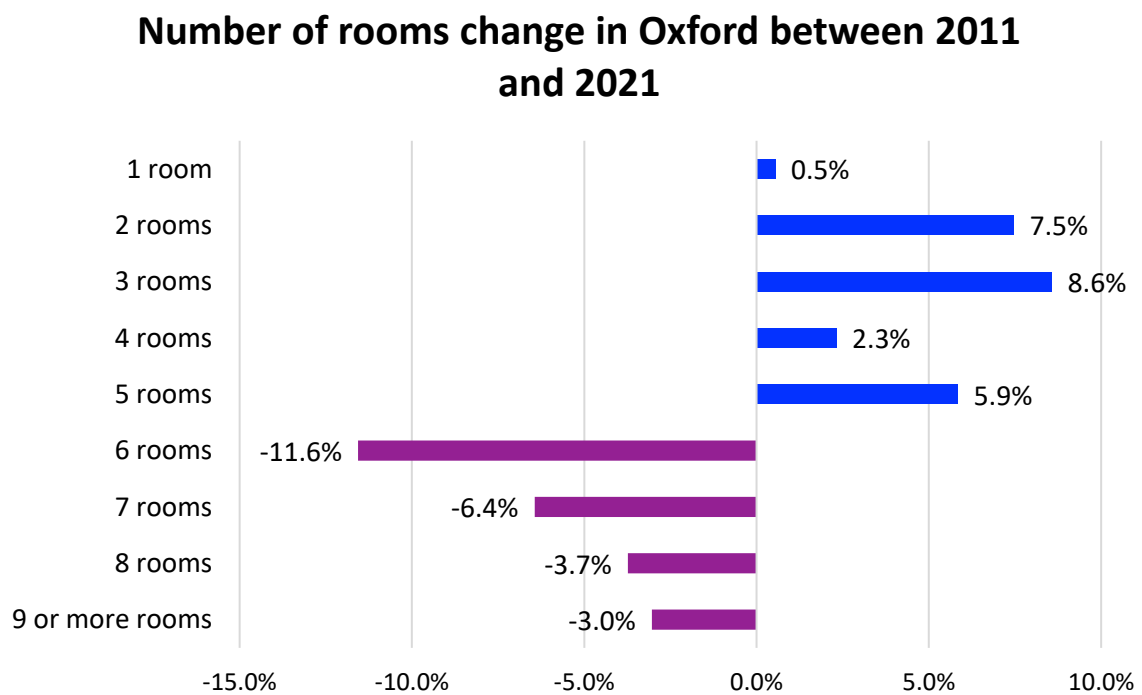
<sup>1</sup> Overcrowding is often measured using an occupancy rating. An occupancy rating is obtained by subtracting a hypothetical number of rooms (or bedrooms) recommended for a household from the actual number of rooms (or bedrooms) it has available. A household is considered overcrowded if it has fewer rooms (or bedrooms) available than recommended (negative occupancy rating), or under-occupied if it has more (positive occupancy rating). This makes the occupancy rating a straightforward way of measuring overcrowding and under-occupancy. [ONS, 2021](#).

Figure 1. Number of bedrooms change in Oxford, between 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Figure 2. Number of rooms change in Oxford between 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Table 1. Occupancy rating (bedrooms) in Oxford in 2011 and 2021.

Occupancy Rating	2011	%	2021	%	change
All categories: Occupancy rating bedrooms	55,375	100%	55,238	100%	
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of +2 or more	16,093	29.1%	16,347	29.6%	0.5%
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of +1	17,397	31.4%	16,680	30.2%	-1.2%
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of 0	18,567	33.5%	18,758	34.0%	0.5%
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of -1	2,812	5.1%	2,673	4.8%	-0.2%
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) of -2 or less	506	0.9%	780	1.4%	0.5%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Table 2. Occupancy rating (rooms) in Oxford in 2011 and 2021.

Occupancy Rating	2011	%	2021	%	change
All categories: Occupancy rating (rooms)	55,375	100%	55,236	100%	
Occupancy rating (rooms) of +2 or more	22,110	39.9%	21,721	39.3%	-0.6%
Occupancy rating (rooms) of +1	12,551	22.7%	13,348	24.2%	1.5%
Occupancy rating (rooms) of 0	13,012	23.5%	14,526	26.3%	2.8%
Occupancy rating (rooms) of -1	5,592	10.1%	4,563	8.3%	-1.8%
Occupancy rating (rooms) of -2 or less	2,110	3.8%	1,078	2.0%	-1.9%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Sources:

[Housing: Census 2021 in England and Wales, ONS, 2023](#)

Produced by:

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