Civil Service Statistics as at 31 March 2021

This bulletin presents headline statistics on the UK Civil Service workforce, including demographic characteristics, earnings, grades, and locations of civil servants.

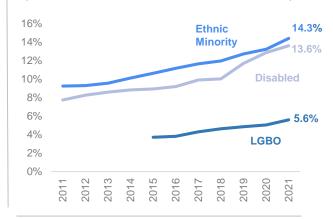
Key Statistics:

Civil Service headcount is 484,880, up from 456,410 in 2020. On a full-time equivalent basis (FTE), employment is 452,830, up from 423,770 in 2020. These figures exclude 19,310 UK Statistics Authority staff employed on short term contracts to deliver Census 2021 (see notes on page 23).

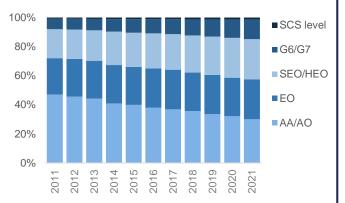
Of these civil servants:

- 54.2% are women, up from 53.8% in 2020.
- 14.3% are from an ethnic minority background, up from 13.2% in 2020.
- 13.6% declare themselves as having a disability, up from 12.8% in 2020.
- 5.6% identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or recorded their sexual orientation as 'other' (LGBO), up from 5.0% in 2020.
- 70.0% are working at Executive Officer (EO) grade and above, up from 67.8% in 2020 and 52.9% in 2011.
- The median age of civil servants is 45 years, down from 46 in 2020.
- Headcount has increased across all regions over the year, with the largest increase in London (101,930, up from 91,660 in 2020).
- The median salary is £29,180, up £1,000 (3.5%) from £28,180 in 2020.
- The median and mean gender pay gap for the Civil Service is 8.1% and 7.8%, down from 10.5% and 9.3% in 2020 respectively.
- There were 57,200 entrants to the Civil Service in 2020/21, up from 40,680 in 2019/20. In 2020/21, 27,830 people left the Civil Service, down from 34,070 in 2019/20.

Representation of ethnic minority, disabled and LGBO (from 2015) civil servants 2011 to 2021 (see tables 2, 3 and A1 in the data tables)



Civil Service grade structure 2011 to 2021 (see table 1)





31 March 2021

Published 28 July 2021 Revised 27 July 2022 Next publication July 2022

Contacts

Lead Statistician, Andrew Millan: civilservicestatistics@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Press enquiries:

ben.walker-collins@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction 2
Size and grades 3-5
Location 6-7

Diversity 8-13

Salary and working patterns 14-16

Gender pay gap 17

Professions 18-19

Functions 20-21

Entrants and leavers 22

Notes 23

Introduction

Civil Service Statistics is an annual National Statistics publication describing the UK Civil Service workforce in terms of its size, demographic characteristics, salaries, working pattern, grade, and location. The data is drawn from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The Civil Service helps the government of the day develop and implement its policies as effectively as possible. It provides services directly to the public, including paying benefits and pensions; running employment services; running prisons and issuing driving licences. Civil Servants also work on policy development and implementation, including analysts, project managers, lawyers and economists. The Civil Service is politically impartial and independent of government. Organisations that make up the Civil Service include central government departments, their agencies, and crown non-departmental government bodies.

These statistics count all home Civil Service employees, including those based in Northern Ireland and overseas. Not included are the Northern Ireland Civil Service, other Crown servants and employees of the wider public sector, for example, employees of non-crown non-departmental public bodies and the National Health Service (NHS). This bulletin presents departmental information as at 31 March 2021, and will not, therefore, reflect machinery of government changes that have or will take place after this date.

Notes on the statistics

Unless otherwise specified all figures are calculated on a headcount basis and exclude unknowns for all variables. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 in the case of headcounts, FTE, and salaries, and to one decimal place for percentages. 2021 data in this bulletin is available in the published Civil Service Statistics tables. Where time series are used, data have been taken from previous Civil Service Statistics publications.

Census 2021 temporary staff

The statistics in this bulletin and the associated data tables exclude 19.310 temporary UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) Census 2021 staff. However, Census 2021 temporary staff feature in the associated GPG data tables (table C) as part of the UKSA breakdown, but are not included in the overall Civil Service GPG figures presented.

Further analysis and methodology

Summary information on the scope and limitations is available at the end of this bulletin, with further details available in the quality and methodology information document published on the gov.uk website, along with previous versions of these statistics:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/civil-service-statistics

National Statistics

Civil Service Statistics are designated National Statistics in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality, and public value.

All official statistics should comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

Responsibility for the collection and publication of Civil Service Statistics transferred to Cabinet Office from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 1 October 2018. The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) — the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority — undertook a compliance check of Civil Service Statistics during December 2019 and January 2020. The OSR confirmed continuing National Statistics designation for Civil Service Statistics in their letter published 19 February 2020.

Request for Feedback

If you would like to provide feedback on any aspect of this publication, please see our survey feedback form here, or contact us at: civilservicestatistics@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

¹ Code of Practice for Official Statistics: https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/

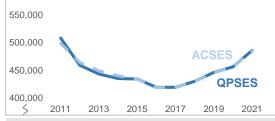
Civil Service headcount has increased over the past year

Civil Service headcount increased by 28,470 in the year to March 2021, and stands at 484,880. This increase does not include 19,310 Census 2021 temporary staff at UK Statistics Authority (see note on page 2).

On a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis Civil Service employment stands at 452,830. FTE takes into account part-time workers.

At the time of publication, the latest statistics from the ONS Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) are also as at March 2021, and show Civil Service employment was 485,780 (453,590 on an FTE basis). Users should refer to the regular ONS quarterly statistics when monitoring changes in the size of the Civil Service. QPSES headline figures includes Census 2021 temporary staff (see note on page 2) that are not included in this bulletin and associated tables.

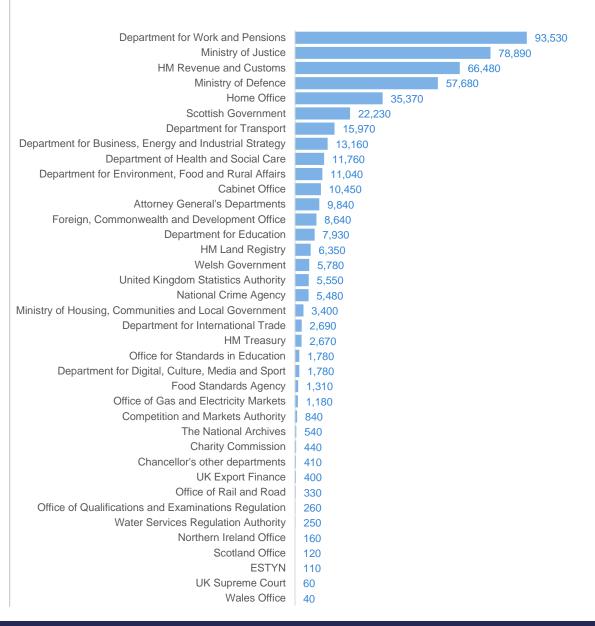
Comparing headcount by data source (excluding temporary census staff) 2011 to 2021 (see table 11)



Statistical Note

Major trends in the overall Civil Service workforce are often due to changes in the five largest departments (DWP, MoJ, HMRC, MoD, HO). These departments account for over two-thirds (68%) of the workforce.

Civil Service Departmental Headcount (see table 11)



The Civil Service is becoming more senior in grade

The percentage of civil servants working at grades EO and above is now 70.0%, up from 67.8% in 2020 and 52.9% in 2011.

In 2021, the percentage of civil servants working in the more junior grades (AA/AO) is 30.0%, and has fallen each year since 2011 (47.1%).

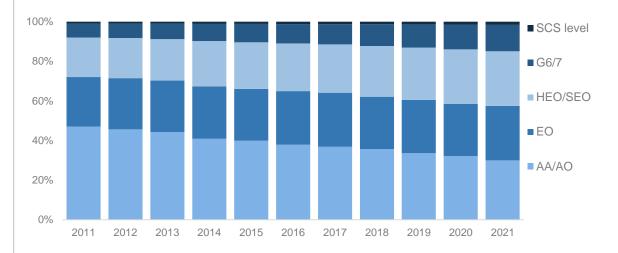
The percentage of civil servants working in grades 6 and 7 has increased to 13.3% in 2021, up from 12.5% in 2020 and 7.1% in 2011.

The percentage of unreported grades remains unchanged since 2018, at 3.4%.

Statistical Note

There are two measures of the SCS available, the Senior Civil Service and SCS level. See Notes on page 23.

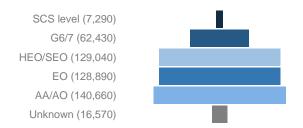
Civil Service grade structure 2011 to 2021 (see table 1)



Percentage of grade not reported 2011 to 2021 (see table 1)



Headcount by Grade (see table 1)



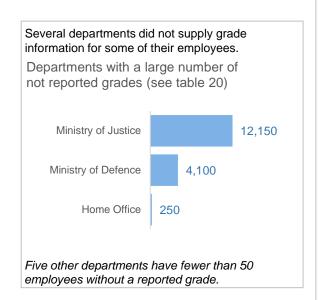
Civil Service grades:

- Senior Civil Service level (SCS level)
- Grades 6 and 7 (G6/7)
- Higher Executive Officers/Senior Executive Officers (HEO/SEO)
- Executive Officers (EO)
- Administrative
 Assistants/Administrative Officers
 (AA/AO)

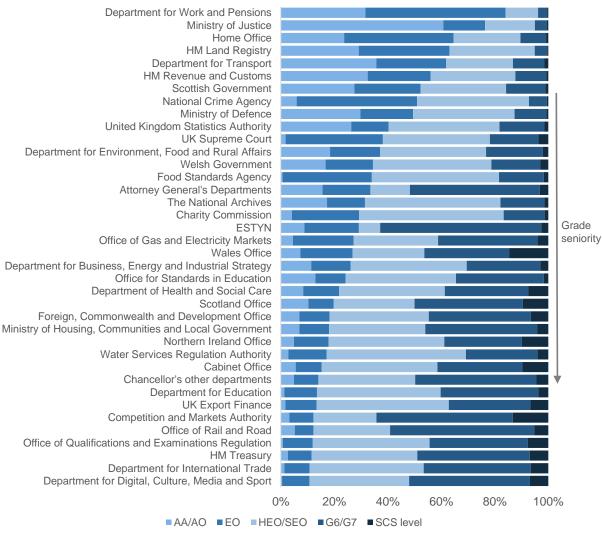
Grade structure varies by department

Departments with large numbers of front-line staff delivering public services tend to have a higher proportion of junior grades. For example, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has the highest percentage of staff at EO grade and below (84.1%).

Departments with more senior grades tend to have fewer employees delivering services directly to the public. For example, DCMS has the highest percentage of employees at grades HEO/SEO and above (89.3%).



Grade structure by department (see table 20)



Civil servants work in all regions of the UK, and overseas

More than one in five civil servants are based in London.

The regions with the largest number of civil servants are London (101,930), the North West of England (59,340), and Scotland (47,590).

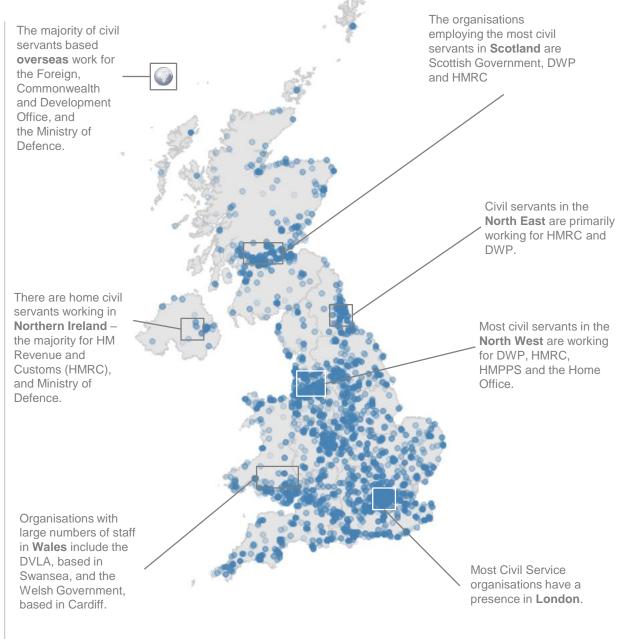
Excluding Northern Ireland and overseas, the East Midlands has the fewest civil servants (21,370).

Civil Service headcount by region (see table 10)



Statistical Note

Workplace postcode data are used to derive geographical information (NUTS 1) from the National Statistics Postcode Lookup (NSPL).



All UK regions saw an increase in Civil Service employment

Civil Service employment increased in all regions between 2020 and 2021.

The proportion of civil servants based in London has increased by 11.2% since 2020, more than any other region.

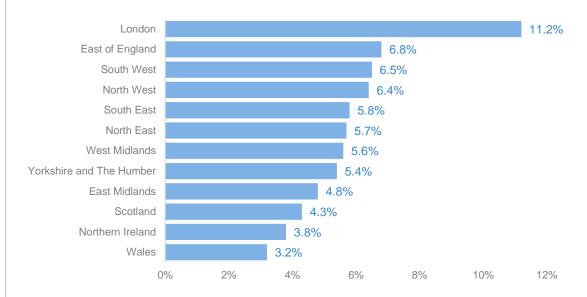
Outside of London, 34.9% of civil servants are in AA/AO grades, compared to just 12.7% within London. The percentage of those in G6/G7 and SCS level grades outside of London is only 10.1%, compared to 32.2% within London.

Some professions are predominantly London-based; 81.8% of those in Economics, 73.0% in International Trade, 67.7% in Policy, and 52.8% in Communications. Other professions tend to be more evenly distributed across the regions (see table 47).

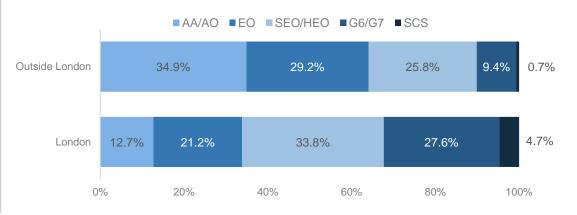
Statistical Note

Workplace postcode data are used to derive geographical information (NUTS 1) from the National Statistics Postcode Lookup (NSPL).

Percentage change in Civil Service regional headcount from 2020 to 2021 (see table 10)



Percentage of civil servants at each grade within London, and outside of London (see table 16)

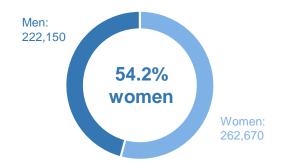


Women remain underrepresented in senior grades

There are more women (262,670) than men (222,150) in the Civil Service. Women outnumber men in grades AA/AO, EO and HEO/SEO, while men outnumber women at G6/G7 and SCS levels.

The percentage of women in senior grades is increasing. In 2021 46.7% of those at SCS level were women compared to 34.7% in 2011. Similarly, 48.4% of G6/G7 are women in 2021, compared to 40.7% in 2011.

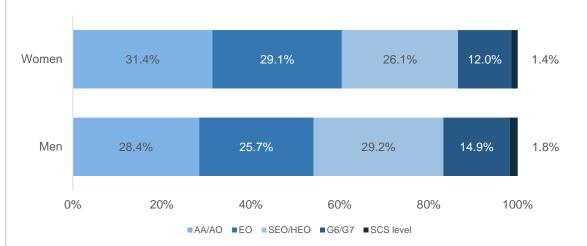
Civil servants by sex (see table 1)



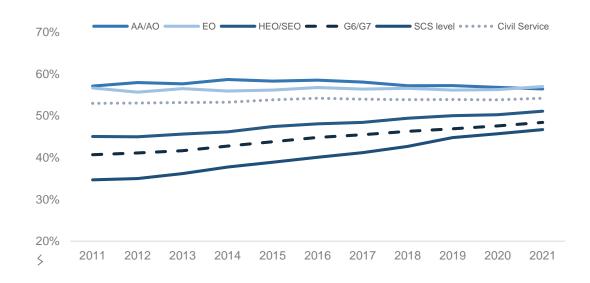
Statistical Note

The ACSES collection that these statistics draw from records data on sex, not gender. We therefore refer to sex throughout the Civil Service Statistics publication.

Percentage of civil servants at each grade by sex (see table 1)



Percentage of women by grade 2011 to 2021 (note: truncated axis)



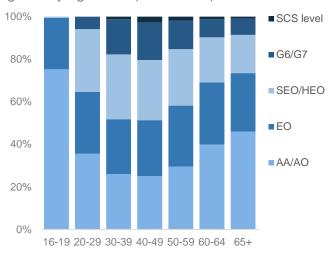
The median age of civil servants is 45 years

The median age of civil servants stands at 45 years, down from 46 in 2020.

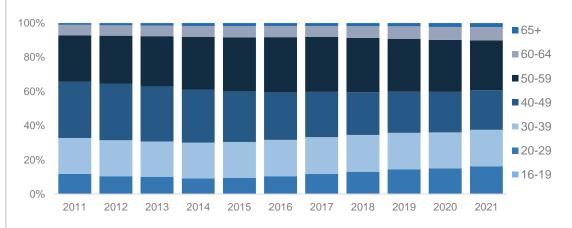
The percentage of civil servants aged under 30 is 16.2%, up from 15.0% in 2020.

Those at the younger and older ends of the age distribution are more likely to be at administrative grades. The percentage of those at AA/AO grades aged under 30, and 65 and over is 36.2% and 46.0% respectively. This compares to 25.1% of 40-49 years old.

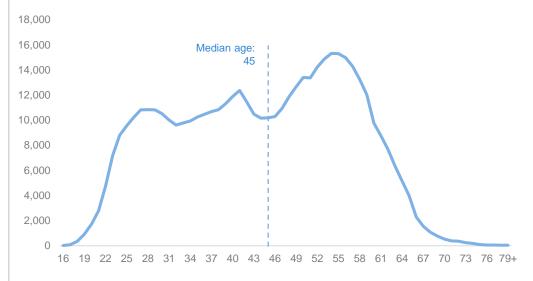
Percentage of civil servants at each grade by age band (see table 4)



Civil Service by age band 2011 to 2021 (see table 4)



Age distribution and median age of the Civil Service



Those from an ethnic minority background represent 14.3% of the Civil Service

Of those with a known ethnicity, the percentage who are from an ethnic minority background is at a record high of 14.3%. This is up from 13.2% in 2020, and 9.2% in 2011.

The percentage of civil servants from an ethnic minority background has increased within each grade since 2011. The largest increase has been at EO level; up to 17.1% in 2021 from 15.1% in 2020, and 11.0% in 2011.

Civil servants from an ethnic minority background are less represented at senior grades than in junior grades, with those at SCS level having the lowest representation rate at 10.6%.

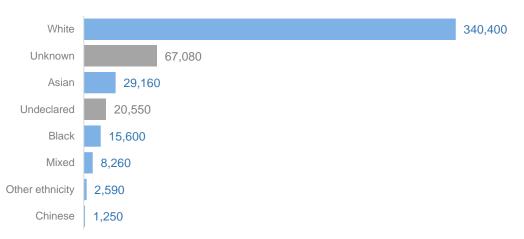
The Civil Service has a higher proportion of workers from an ethnic minority background than the working age population in the UK (13.6%).

Statistical Note

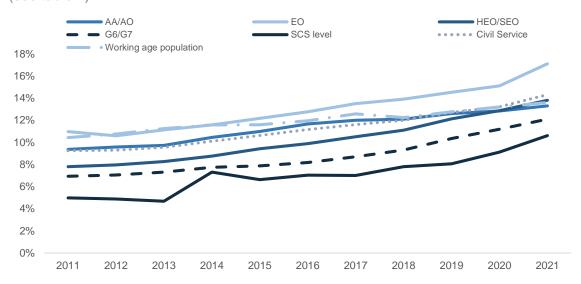
The percentages stated here exclude those with an unknown ethnicity and those that have elected to not declare their ethnicity.

The working age population figure referenced here includes only those who are economically active. See Notes on page 23.

Civil servants by ethnic group (see table 2)



Percentage of civil servants from an ethnic minority background by grade 2011 to 2021 (see table 2)



The percentage of civil servants who are declared disabled is at a high of 13.6%

Since 2011 there has been a year-on-year increase in the percentage of civil servants who declare themselves as disabled. This figure now stands at 13.6%, up from 12.8% in 2020, and 7.7% in 2011.

The proportion of civil servants with a declared disability has increased across all grades compared to 2011.

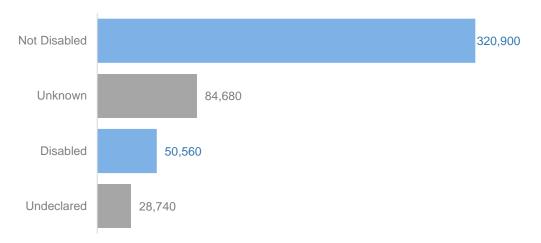
The percentage of civil servants declaring themselves as disabled remains below that of the economically active working age population (14.7%).

Statistical Note

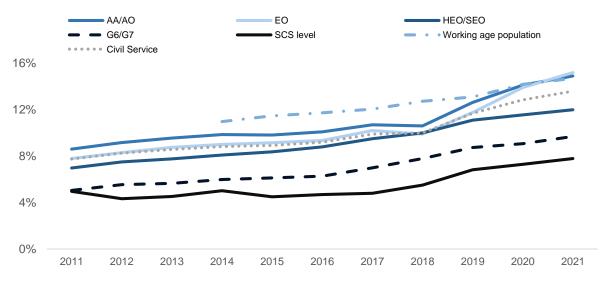
The percentages stated here exclude those with an unknown disability status and those that have elected to not declare themselves as either disabled or non-disabled.

The working age population figure referenced here includes only those who are economically active. See Notes on page 23.

Civil servants by disability status (see table 3)



Declared disabled by grade 2011 to 2021 (see table 3)



The percentage of civil servants identifying as LGBO has increased to 5.6%

Of those with a known sexual orientation, 5.6% of civil servants identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or recorded their sexual orientation as 'other' (LGBO). This has increased every year since data on sexual orientation has been captured in these statistics, and is up from 5.0% in 2020 and 3.7% in 2015.

LGBO representation has increased at all grades over the last year. The grade with the highest percentage of LGBO civil servants is SCS level (6.5%).

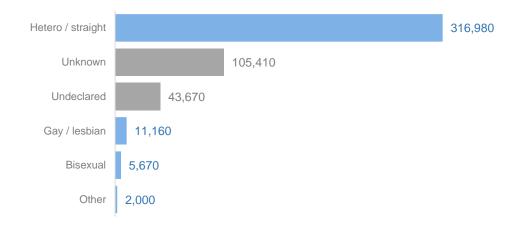
Reporting rates for sexual orientation have increased from 38.1% in 2015 (when it was first collected), to 69.3% in 2021.

Statistical Note

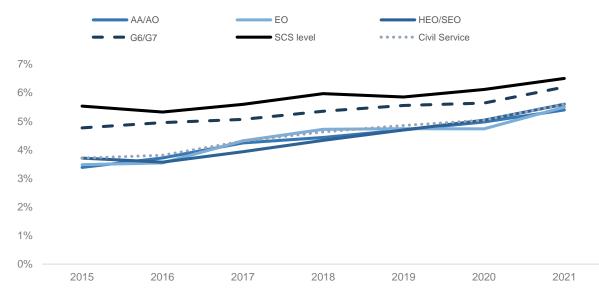
The percentages stated here exclude those with an unknown sexual orientation and those that have elected to not declare their sexual orientation.

Reporting rates refers to those who have positively declared, and therefore excludes 'Undeclared'.

Civil servants by sexual orientation (see table A2)



Percentage of civil servants that identify as LGBO by grade 2015 to 2021 (see table A2)



Reporting rates for religion and belief have increased over the last year

Reporting rates for religion and belief have increased this year to 68.2%, up from 63.4% in 2020.

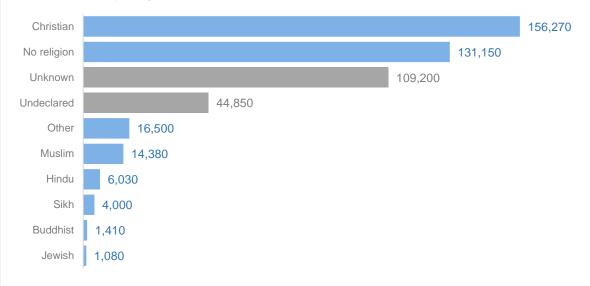
Of those who have reported, the most commonly reported religion or belief is Christianity at 47.2%. The second most commonly reported is Islam (Muslim) at 4.3%. A further 39.6% of civil servants reported having no religion or belief.

Statistical Note

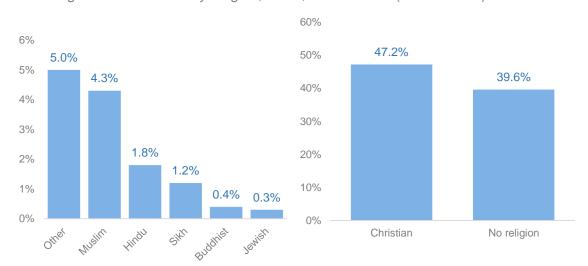
The percentages stated here exclude those with an unknown religion or belief and those that have elected to not declare their religion or belief.

Reporting rates refers to those who have positively declared, and therefore excludes 'Undeclared'.





Percentage of civil servants by religion, belief, or non-belief (see table A4)



Median Salary has increased to £29,180

Over the year, the median salary in the Civil Service rose to £29,180 from £28,180, an increase of £1,000 (3.5%). The mean and median salaries are higher for full-time staff compared to part-time staff on a full time equivalent basis.

The median salary varies by grade, from £21,050 in the administrative grades, to £82,380 at SCS level.

Women in the Civil Service have a median salary of £27,570, compared to £31,180 for men. Women have a mean salary of £32,420 compared to £35,260 for men.

Salary differences between the sexes are partly explained by their relative representations across the grades.

Figures represent the average across all staff, and may not be representative of changes affecting individuals or their salaries.

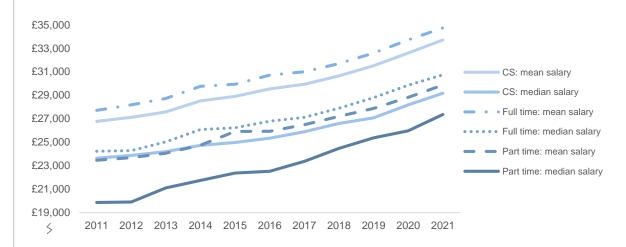
Any differences in pay presented here do not represent the official measure of the 'Gender Pay Gap' (these are presented on page 17). Government departments separately publish their gender pay gap data on the Government Equalities Office (GEO) portal each year to comply with the legal requirements.

Statistical Note

It is important to note that these figures are not adjusted for inflation.

All salaries are on a full time equivalent basis, i.e. the salary that part-time staff would earn if they worked full-time at the same hourly rate.

Median and mean salary of full-time, part-time, and all civil servants 2011 to 2021 (note truncated axis, see table 6)



Median salary by grade (see table 25)

Mean and median pay by sex (see table 31)



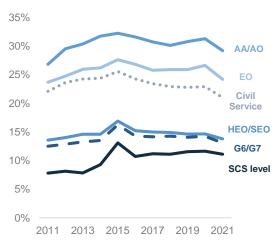
Over one in five civil servants work part-time

21.0% of civil servants work part-time in 2021. This is down from 22.9% in 2020 and a peak of 25.5% in 2015.

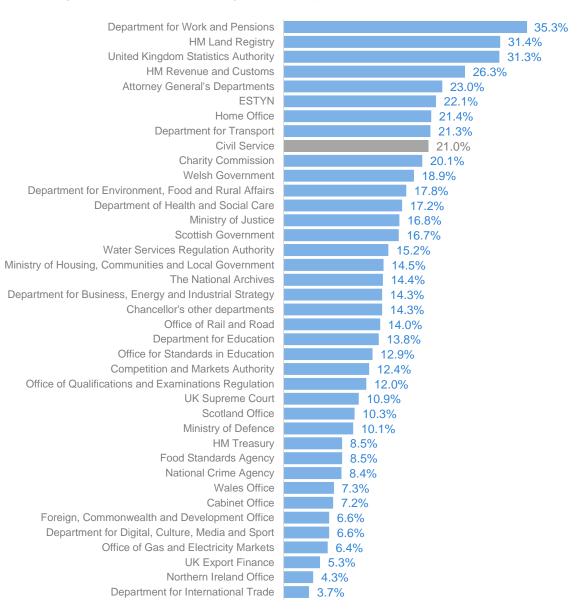
The Department of Work and Pensions has the highest percentage of employees working part-time (35.3%, down from 41.0% in 2020).

The percentage of civil servants working part-time is lower in senior grades, decreasing from 29.2% of those in the AA/AO grades, to 11.1% at SCS level. The increase in part-time working seen in 2015 is largely explained by changes in working patterns in HMRC.

Percentage working part-time by grade 2011 to 2021 (see table 1)



Percentage of civil servants working part-time by department (see table 46)



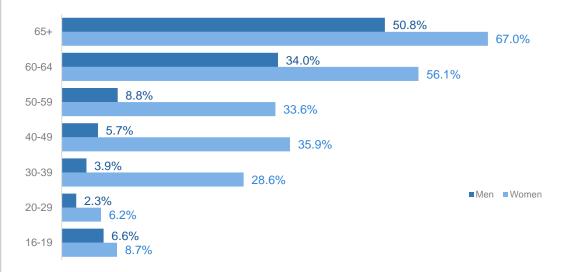
Women are more likely to work part-time than men at all age bands

Overall, older age groups have a higher percentage of both men and women working part-time. Women work part-time at higher rates in all age bands.

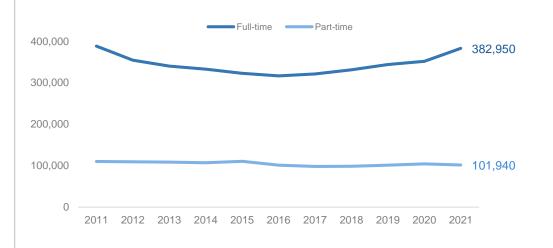
There is a marked increase in women working parttime from age bands 30-39 and above. At the age bands 60-64 and above, both men and women see a large increase in the percentage working parttime.

The number of civil servants working full-time is 382,950; an increase from 351,780 (+8.9%) in 2020. The part-time headcount decreased by 2.5% to 101,940 across the same period.

Percentage of civil servants working part-time by sex and age band (see table 44)



Working patterns of civil servants 2011 to 2021 (see table 1)



The median gender pay gap for the civil service is 8.1%

The median and mean earnings gender pay gaps for the Civil Service fell from 10.5% and 9.3% in 2020, to 8.1% and 7.8% in 2021 respectively.

The median and mean bonus gender pay gaps for the Civil Service are 40.5% and 29.3% respectively, an increase from 17.4% and 24.6% in 2020.

A higher proportion of women received a bonus compared to men (70.8% and 69.8% respectively), increasing from 64.2% and 59.2% in 2020.

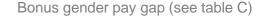
Women are under-represented in the highest pay quartile (46.5% compared to 53.5%) and over-represented in the lowest pay quartile (59.8% compared to 40.2%).

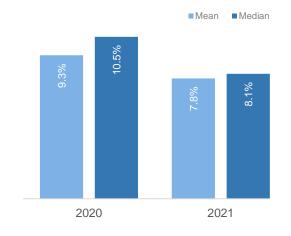
Statistical Note

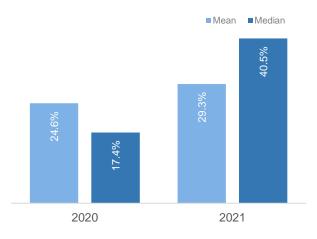
Figures presented on this page are calculated using a methodology fully aligned to the Government Equalities Office (GEO) statutory reporting requirements. Earnings pay gap calculations are based on employees receiving their normal pay on 31st March 2021. Bonus calculations also include employees who received a bonus but were on reduced pay or unpaid leave on 31st March 2021.

These overall figures do not include the Census 2021 temporary staff (see note on page 2).

Earnings gender pay gap (see table C)

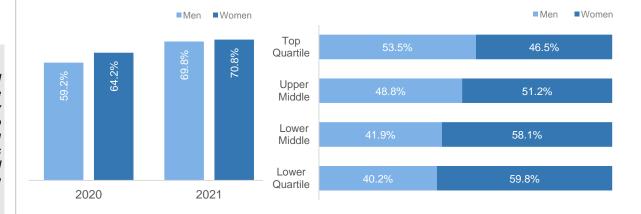






Proportions of men and women receiving a bonus (see table C)

Salary quartiles by sex (see table C)



The majority of civil servants work in the Operational Delivery profession

Of those civil servants with a known profession, just under half (48.3%) work in Operational Delivery.

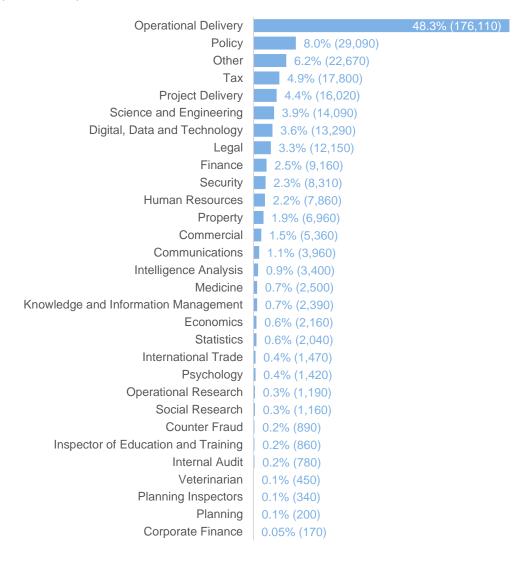
Operational Delivery staff work on providing frontline government services directly to citizens or businesses. These include paying benefits and pensions, providing employment services, staffing prisons, and issuing driving licenses.

The next largest profession is Policy (8.0%), followed by Tax (4.9%), then Project Delivery (4.4%).

The reporting rate for professions data is 75.1% this year.

Statistical Note

DWP, Cabinet Office and Scottish Government either did not supply any, or provided very limited information on professions. The chart opposite is based on those employees with a known profession. Percentage and headcount of civil servants working within each profession (see table 8)



There is wide variation in the median salaries of professions

The professions with the highest median salary are; Education and Training Inspectors (£74,730), Planning Inspectors (£58,810) and Legal (£49,710).

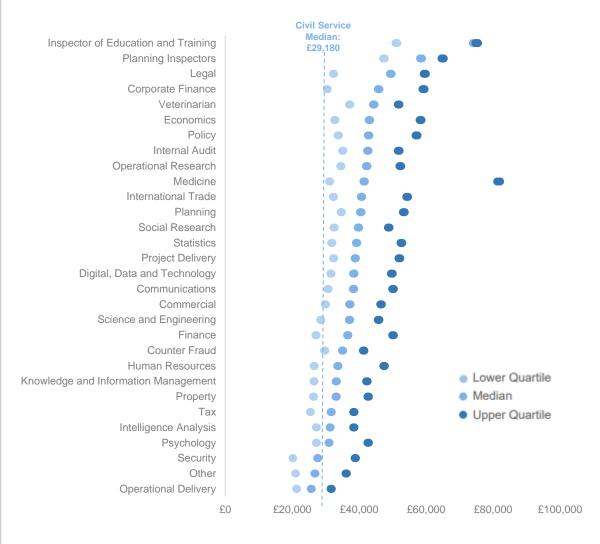
Those with the lowest median salary are Operational Delivery (£25,830), Security (£27,760) and Psychology (£31,180).

The Operational Delivery profession accounts for a large proportion of the Civil Service, therefore the overall median will be heavily influenced by the salaries in this profession.

Statistical Note

DWP, Cabinet Office and Scottish Government either did not supply any, or provided very limited information on professions. The chart opposite is based on those employees with a known profession.

Lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of salary by profession (see table 45)



The majority of civil servants do not work in a core function

The majority of civil servants (58.1%) do not work in a core function.

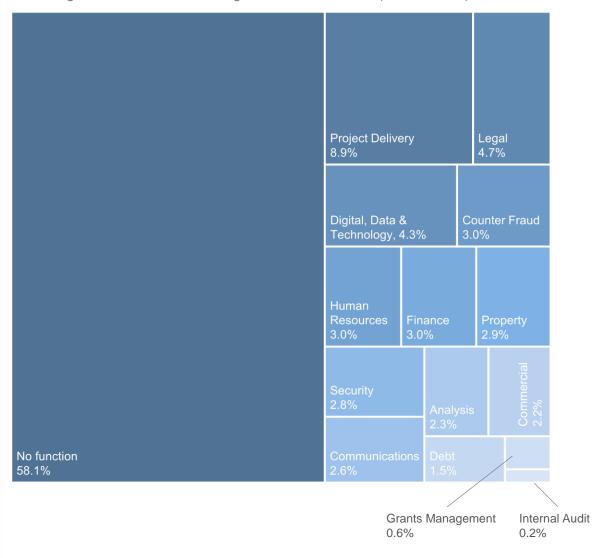
The largest function is Project Delivery (8.9%), followed by Legal (4.7%), then Digital, Data & Technology (4.3%).

The reporting rate for functions information has increased from 38.2% in 2020, to 65.6% in 2021.

Statistical Note

DWP, Home Office, Welsh Government and Scottish Government either did not supply any, or provided very limited information on functions. The chart opposite is based on those employees with a known function.

Percentage of civil servants working within each function (see table D1)



Project Delivery and Legal are the largest functions by headcount

Project Delivery and Legal are the two largest functions by headcount, with 28,400 and 14,850 civil servants respectively. Just under 184,940 civil servants are reported as not being in a core function.

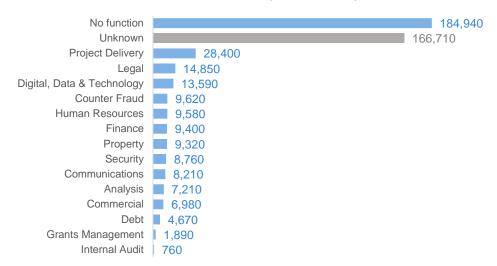
The functions with the highest median salary are; Internal Audit (£43,080), Legal (£42,180) and Commercial (£40,580).

Those with the lowest median salary are Debt (£25,560) and Grants Management (£26,520).

Statistical Note

DWP, Home Office, Welsh Government and Scottish Government either did not supply any, or provided very limited information on functions. The charts opposite are based on those employees with a known function.

Number of civil servants in each function (see table D1)



Lower quartile, median and upper quartile of salary by function (see table D3)



Resignation remains the most common leaving cause for civil servants

There were 57,200 entrants to the Civil Service in 2020/21, up from 40,680 in 2019/20. This is the highest number recorded since 2002/03 (60,610).

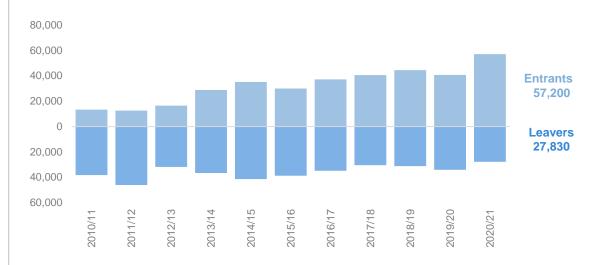
Over the year, 27,830 people left the Civil Service, down from 34,070 in 2019/20. This is the first year since 2001/02 that the number of leavers has fallen below 30,000.

The most common reason for leaving the Civil Service was resignation, accounting for almost two fifths (10,870) of leavers. The next most common reason was retirement (7,670).

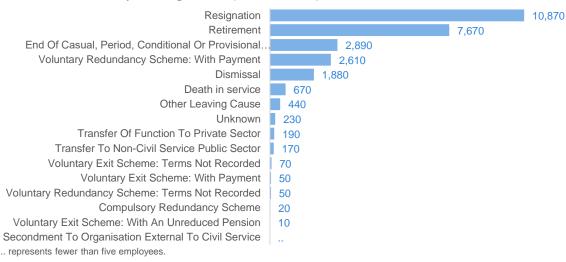
Statistical Note

Entrant and leaver numbers are calculated from entry and leaving dates provided as part of the ACSES data collection. The difference between them does not align precisely with the year-on-year difference between in-post headcounts. For example, there are people who left and rejoined the Civil Service more than once during a year, and people whose last day falls on the reference date (31 March) are counted as both leavers and in-post.

Civil Service entrants and leavers 2010/11 to 2020/21 (see table 40)



Civil Service leavers by leaving cause (see table 42)



Notes

See the quality and methodology information document for further detail

How the output is created

The statistics in the bulletin are derived from returns completed as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). Its scope covers all Civil Service organisations, including all major Departments.

ACSES requests from organisations an individual level record of all their Civil Service employees 'in post' as at the reference date, along with records for leavers and joiners from/to the Civil Service in the preceding 12 months. ACSES collects information via a standard Excel template that includes data fields on pay, contractual hours, grade and location. It also includes personal characteristics, such as age, sex, religion, and sexual orientation. The data collected are anonymous in that no employee names are requested. However, the data is considered and handled as 'personal data' because in certain circumstances individuals may be identifiable.

Where departmental level figures are quoted these will include the main department and their executive agencies and crown non-departmental public bodies. For Gender Pay Gap however, different aggregations may apply – see relevant data table. Given the varied nature of the HR/pay systems within departments, caution should be exercised in comparing statistics across departments.

Further information

The Civil Service Statistics data tables, and the quality and methodology information document are published on gov.uk.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/civil-service-statistics

Data up to 2018 are also made available via NOMIS, which is a service provided by the ONS to give users free access to a range of UK labour market statistics from official sources. There maybe small differences in NOMIS figures and ACSES time-series data within this bulletin resulting from ensuring consistency of methodology between this year and previous years.

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

External Sources

Comparative data for the UK workforce on disability and ethnicity are sourced from the Office for National Statistics Labour market overview UK, published on 15 July 2021. Figures in this publication are based on the Labour Force Survey as at March 2021, and include the UK working age population aged 16-64 who are economically active.

Technical notes

Organisations within the Civil Service have different grading systems. These have been mapped to common responsibility levels in the statistics presented in this bulletin.

There are two measures of the SCS available, the Senior Civil Service and SCS level. ACSES measures SCS level employees, including a number of health professionals, military personnel, and senior diplomats that are not part of the Senior Civil Service. As such, the Civil Service Statistics release does not contain the official headline figures used for monitoring diversity, pay and other key measures of the Senior Civil Service. These are monitored using the Cabinet Office SCS Database that collects more frequent and comprehensive information on those individuals that make up the Senior Civil Service.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

When interpreting these statistics, users should note that a number of organisations across the Civil Service will have been affected by the impact of Covid-19.

Revisions

A number of figures in this document have been revised since it was first published – please see the associated data tables (here), for full details on what has changed.

Census 2021 temporary staff

The statistics in this bulletin and the associated data tables exclude 19,310 temporary UK Statistics Authority Census 2021 staff. However, Census 2021 temporary staff feature in the associated GPG data tables (table C) as part of the UKSA breakdown, but are not included in the overall GPG figures presented.