

The December 2022 electoral registers in England

This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the main report: The Electoral Commission Accuracy and Completeness report 2022 Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The results from this wave show that in England December 2022:

- Local government registers were 86% complete and 88% accurate.
- Parliamentary registers were 86% complete and 89% accurate.

Figure 1.1: Completeness and accuracy of the December 2022 local government and parliamentary registers in England



Base (unweighted): Parliamentary: Completeness 6,226; Accuracy 6,338, Local Government: Completeness 6,519; Accuracy 6,620

Completeness

Completeness of the parliamentary register in England has remained stable at 86% (compared to 85% in 2018), while the completeness of the local government register has increased by three percentage points and is now 86% complete.

Type of completeness errors

Completeness means that every person who is entitled to have an entry on the electoral register is registered. It refers to the percentage of eligible people who are registered at their current address.

A variety of errors can be identified when analysing the completeness of the electoral register. These are categorised as either 'major' or 'minor' errors.

Major errors can be split into three different categories:

The proportion of eligible residents who are currently not included on the register at their current address (i.e., the surveyed address).

Errors relating to someone's name which may prevent an individual from casting their vote at a polling station which mean they are not truly registered (e.g., the first name or surname).

Errors which would prevent an eligible elector from casting their vote by suggesting they are ineligible (e.g., an incorrect nationality marker on the parliamentary register or a recorded date of birth which is later than an attainer's birthday).

Minor errors are those which would not prevent someone from casting their vote (for example, an entry with a spelling error).

Completeness errors in England are broadly similar to Great Britain as a whole. The highest proportion of major errors is still due to eligible residents not being registered at their current address. Minor errors are found for 8.7% of eligible residents in England.

Table 1: Types of completeness errors on the local government registers in England

	England		Great Britain	
	2018	2022	2018	2022
Major errors total	16.9%	13.8%	16.9%	14.1%
Major errors – (A)				
Living at address but not named on register	16.4%	13.1%	16.5%	13.4%
Major errors – (B)	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%
First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middle name wrong on register (where necessary)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Major errors – (C)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Incorrect nationality marker that excludes from a register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DoB on register later than actual DoB	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Minor errors total	10.5%	8.7%	8.2%	8.6%
First name/surname on register misspelled	1.4%	0.6%	1.3%	0.6%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Middle name missing from register	6.7%	6.0%	7.2%	6.5%
Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%

Base (unweighted): December 2018: England – 6,854; GB – 9,679

Base (unweighted): December 2022: England – 6,519; GB – 9,495

There have been significant increases in completeness since 2018 in the East Midlands (+8 percentage points since 2018), East of England (+7ppts), London (+6ppts) and South East (+4ppts). Despite this improvement, as shown in Table 2, London still has the lowest level of registration, while the East Midlands now has the highest.

Table 2: Local government register completeness by English region

	December 2018	December 2022
England	83%	86%
North East	91%	88%
North West	85%	84%
Yorkshire and the Humber	87%	86%
East Midlands	83%	91%

West Midlands	86%	87%
East of England	79%	86%
London	76%	82%
South East	84%	88%
South West	84%	86%

Base December 2018: 6,884 (Local Government Registers)

Base December 2022: 6,519 (Local Government Registers)

Patterns have remained similar to 2018, with lower levels of registration among young people, private renters and those living at their address for a shorter duration. However, registration among EU nationals has increased substantially since 2018 (71% vs 54%).

Table 3: Local Government register completeness by key characteristics in England

		England		Great Britain	
		2018	2022	2018	2022
Urban/rural	Urban	83%	86%	83%	85%
	Rural	84%	90%	85%	89%
Gender	Male	82%	85%	83%	85%
	Female	83%	87%	83%	87%
Age	18 - 34	72%	70%	68%	71%
	35 - 44	83%	84%	82%	84%
	45 - 54	90%	91%	90%	91%
	55 - 64	90%	94%	90%	94%
	65+	95%	97%	94%	96%
Tenure	Owner occupied	91%	95%	91%	95%
	Buying on mortgage/shared ownership	86%	88%	86%	88%
	Private renters	59%	66%	58%	65%
	Local authority renters	83%	79%	84%	79%
	Housing Association renters	84%	80%	82%	79%

Socio-economic group	AB	86%	89%	86%	89%
	C1	84%	87%	85%	86%
	C2	80%	85%	80%	86%
	DE	79%	81%	80%	81%
Adults in household	1	86%	86%	86%	86%
	2	84%	89%	84%	88%
	3 - 5	81%	82%	81%	82%
	6+	79%	80%	78%	79%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year	36%	40%	36%	39%
	1 - 2 years	70%	73%	71%	72%
	2 - 5 years	83%	82%	84%	82%
	5 - 10 years	90%	92%	90%	91%
	10 - 16 years	88%	92%	88%	92%
	16 years +	92%	95%	92%	95%
Nationality	UK and RoI	85%	88%	86%	87%
	EU	54%	71%	54%	70%
	Commonwealth	62%	67%	62%	66%

Base (unweighted): December 2018: England – 6,854; GB – 9,679

Base (unweighted): December 2022: England – 6,519; GB – 9,495

Accuracy

The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2022 local government registers. As for Great Britain overall, the highest proportion of major errors (those which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote) relates to entries where the individual on the register no longer lives at the address (accounting for 9.9% of entries). In England, 8.9% of entries contain minor errors which would not prevent someone from voting.

Table 4: Type of errors in accuracy on local government registers in England

	England		Great Britain	
	2018	2022	2018	2022
Major errors total	8.7%	11.7%	11.2%	11.7%

Major errors – (a)

No corresponding name taken at address	7.7%	9.8%	10.4%	9.8%
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Major errors – (b)

	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%	1.1%
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First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.3%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%
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First name and/or surname missing on register	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
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UK/Irish/Commonwealth marked as qualifying foreign national present	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%
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Major errors – (c)

	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%
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Name on register corresponds to ineligible name on survey	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
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Attainers – DOB missing or wrong	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
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Qualifying foreign national with marker missing	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
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Minor errors total

	7.9%	8.9%	9.1%	8.8%
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First name/surname on register misspelled	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%
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First name/surname on register incomplete	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
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Middle name missing from register	4.6%	6.1%	6.4%	6.6%
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Middle name or initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
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Middle name or initial wrong on register	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
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Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%
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Surname is/assumed to be previous surname	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
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First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
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DoB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
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Bases (unweighted): Great Britain: Dec 2022 (9,478); Dec 2018 (9,155)

Patterns in England among key demographics are similar to Great Britain as a whole. Private renters and those where residents have been living at their address for a shorter duration are less likely to have an accurate entry on the register.

Table 5: Accuracy of local government register by key demographics in England

		England		Great Britain	
		2018	2022	2018	2022
Urban/Rural	Urban	89%	88%	88%	88%
	Rural	92%	91%	91%	91%
Tenure	Owner occupied	96%	96%	95%	96%
	Buying on mortgage/shared ownership	95%	91%	95%	91%
	Private renters	81%	78%	81%	77%
	Local authority renters	92%	87%	92%	88%
	Housing Association renters	91%	90%	91%	90%
Socio-economic group	AB	95%	91%	94%	91%
	C1	93%	91%	93%	91%
	C2	94%	93%	93%	93%
	DE	89%	89%	89%	89%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year	57%	54%	56%	54%
	1 - 2 years	93%	84%	93%	84%

2 - 5 years	94%	91%	94%	91%
5 - 10 years	96%	94%	96%	94%
10 - 16 years	95%	94%	95%	94%
16 years +	96%	95%	95%	95%

Bases (unweighted): Great Britain: Dec 2022 (9,478); Dec 2018 (9,155)

Bases (unweighted): England: Dec 2022 (6,620); Dec 2018 (6,485)

Quantifying accuracy and completeness

Using the percentage figures produced from this research, it is possible to estimate the number of people in the population of England who are not correctly registered, or who have inaccuracies in their register entries. These estimates are provided in Table 6.

However, it is important to be aware that these can only be estimates for several reasons – these are detailed in the main report, which should be read in conjunction with this factsheet to ensure the limitations of these estimates are understood.

Table 6: Quantifying accuracy and completeness in England

		December 2018	December 2022
Completeness	Local government register	7.0 - 8.1 million	5.6 - 6.6 million
	Parliamentary registers	5.7 - 6.7 million	5.2 - 6.3 million
Accuracy	Local government register	4.0 - 4.8 million	4.3 - 5.2 million
	Parliamentary registers	3.8 - 4.7 million	3.8 - 4.6 million

It should also be noted that the range presented above does not mean that there should be an additional 5.6 - 6.6 million entries on the register. Those within this 'not correctly registered' total will include those who are included on the register but at a previous address (an inaccurate entry).