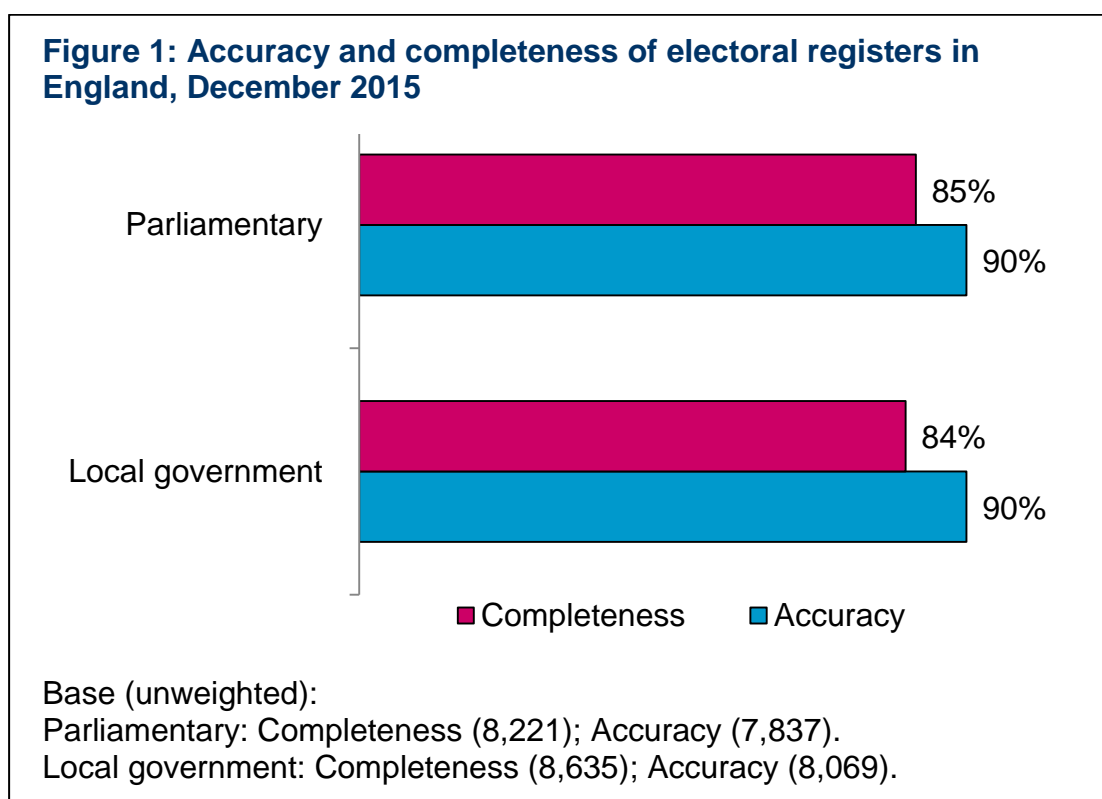


The December 2015 electoral registers in England

This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the main report: [The December 2015 electoral registers in Great Britain](#) (July 2016).

The results show that the England **December 2015**:

- **Parliamentary registers** were 85% complete and 90% accurate;
- **Local government registers** were 84% complete and 90% accurate.



Completeness

The estimates produced on the 2014 registers provided combined results for Great Britain only. Estimates were however produced for England for the December 2010 and the April 2011 registers (albeit using a different methodology).¹

These estimates found the December 2010 English local government registers to be 85% complete and the parliamentary registers to be 86% complete. In line with the findings for Great Britain as a whole, the estimates for the English December 2015

¹ For further information on the methodology of that study see Chapter 2 in [Electoral Registration in 2011](#) (July 2014).

registers suggest that levels of completeness have remained stable since our last assessment.

Given the proportion of the Great British population made up by England it is not surprising that the patterns we observe at the Great Britain level are similar for England. Where England differs in a statistically significant way from the rest of Great Britain it is generally because a pattern is more pronounced than in Scotland and Wales.

Completeness among those aged over 55, the age group with the highest level of completeness in Great Britain, is even higher in England than it is among the equivalent group in Scotland and Wales (95% complete compared with 91% in Scotland and 93% in Wales).

At the overall Great Britain level we see very high levels of completeness among those that own their own property outright, this is higher in England than in Great Britain overall, particularly Scotland (95% in England compared with 92% in Scotland). Similarly those that have lived at their address for more than 16 years have higher levels of completeness in England compared with Great Britain overall.

At the other end of the spectrum private renters, a group we have repeatedly found are less likely to be registered than other tenure groups, in England are less likely than private renters elsewhere in Great Britain to be registered (56% compared with 70% in Scotland and 61% in Wales).

Given the size of the sample for England, it is possible to compare levels of completeness by region. This reveals significant levels of regional variation, as we observed in 2011. The difference in methodology should be noted, the 2010 estimates were calculated using census data rather than that generated from a house-to-house survey. Consequently any comparison between the results is indicative only.

Table 1: Completeness by region, England December 2015 registers.

Region	December 2010	December 2015
England	85%	84%
North East	88%	78%
North West	85%	84%
Yorkshire and the Humber	85%	82%
East Midlands	89%	83%
West Midlands	85%	88%
East of England	86%	85%
London	81%	81%
South East	86%	87%
South West	85%	84%

Base December 2010: 41,082 (Local Government registers)

Base December 2015: 8,635 (Local Government registers)

As the figures in Table 1 show, for some areas levels of completeness have remained stable, for instance the East, London, the South East and South West. In contrast the figures suggest that there has been a decline in completeness in the North East and the East Midlands.

For the December 2015 registers the highest levels of completeness were found in the West Midlands (88%) and the South East (87%). The lowest levels of completeness were found in the North East (78%) and London (81%).

Table 2: Completeness by key characteristics, England December 2015 registers.

		England	Great Britain
Urbanity	Urban	83%	84%
	Rural	86%	86%
Gender	Male	83%	84%
	Female	85%	86%
Age	18-34	68%	69%
	35-54	86%	86%
	55+	95%	95%
Tenure	Own outright	95%	95%
	Mortgaged/shared ownership	89%	89%
	Social renters ²	78%	78%
	Private renters	56%	57%
	Rent free/other	75%	77%
Socio-economic group	AB	88%	88%
	C1	82%	83%
	C2	86%	86%
	DE	80%	80%
Adults in household	1	82%	82%
	2	86%	85%
	3 to 5	82%	83%
	6+	74%	75%
Duration at address	Up to 1 year	26%	27%
	More than 1, up to 2 years	68%	69%
	More than 2, up to 5 years	86%	85%
	More than 5, up to 10 years	92%	92%
	More than 10, up to 16 years	95%	94%
	16 years +	96%	96%
Disability	Mental condition	74%	76%
	Physical condition	90%	90%

² This category combines council renters (completeness 78%) and housing association renters (completeness 79%).

	None	83%	83%
Nationality	UK and ROI	86%	86%
	EU	53%	53%
	Commonwealth	62%	61%
Vote at 2015 UKPGE ³	Yes	92%	92%
	No	68%	68%

Base (unweighted): December 2015: England - 8,635; Great Britain - 11,648

Accuracy

As we have seen, our results suggest that there has been an increase in accuracy across England, Scotland and Wales. We estimated that the registers in England in December 2010 were 90% accurate, while the registers in December 2014 for Great Britain overall were 87% accurate. Our findings for this study suggest that the English registers are 90% accurate (both local government and parliamentary). This suggests that accuracy may have improved since 2014.

The table below shows the types of error found on the December 2015 local government registers. As for Great Britain overall, the most significant proportion of **major errors** - those which would prevent someone from voting, or incorrectly allow someone to vote – relate to entries that refer to individuals who no longer live at the property (9.0%). The highest proportion of this type of error is found in London (11.6%).

In England 9.6% of entries contain **minor errors** – those which would not prevent someone from voting. This figure is lower than that for Great Britain overall (10.4%) which is inflated by the greater number of minor errors found on the registers in Scotland (17.4%).

Table 3: Type of errors on local government registers in England and Great Britain, December 2015.

	England	Great Britain
Major errors total	9.6%	9.4%
Major errors – (a)		
No corresponding name taken at address	9.0%	8.8%
Major errors – (b)	0.3%	0.3%
First name and/or surname wrong on register	0.1%	0.1%
First name and/or surname missing on register	-	-
UK/Irish/Commonwealth marker present ⁴	0.2%	0.2%
Major errors – (c)	0.3%	0.3%
Name on register corresponds to ineligible	0.1%	0.1%

³ Data based on respondents only.

⁴ These electors should not have a marker.

name on survey		
Attainers - DOB missing or wrong	0.1%	0.1%
EU citizens marker missing	0.1%	0.1%
Accurate with minor errors	9.6%	10.4%
First name/surname on register misspelled	1.0%	1.0%
First name/surname on register incomplete	0.6%	0.5%
Middle name missing from register	7.0%	7.8%
Middle name initials misspelled or incomplete on register	0.1%	0.1%
Middle initial wrong on register	0.1%	0.1%
Person does not have a middle name but middle name on registers (respondents only)	0.2%	0.2%
Surname is/assumed to be previous surname ⁵	0.5%	0.5%
First/middle/surname in different order on register	0.2%	0.1%
DoB earlier on register for attainer	0.0%	0.0%

Base (unweighted): England – 8,069; Great Britain - 10,871.

⁵ This assumption was made if an individual's first name matched and the surname they had given matched that of other members of their household but not the surname on the electoral register.