



Report on the 2022 Sark Census



Introduction

In 2021, Chief Pleas agreed to carry out the first island-wide census for fifty years. Legislation¹ was drafted and approved to enable a compulsory Census. An independent Registrar was appointed, based in Guernsey, and local enumerators were engaged.

Census day was 27th April 2022. The island was divided into five “districts” and six enumerators, acting as field staff to the Registrar, were appointed.

The census questionnaire contained a total of 28 questions covering topics such as marital status, health, ethnic group, education and employment whilst no data was requested concerning income.

Islanders were given 10 days to complete the forms and a freepost envelope was provided to enable return of forms confidentially to the Registrar.

The Registrar received 309 household forms, three individual forms and three communal forms. The forms were checked for any discrepancies and the quality of return was considered to be commendably high, with few follow up queries.

Statistics Jersey were engaged to extract, capture and analyse the data and prepare this report which acts to establish a reference point for the future.

All original census forms/data will be held by Island Archives in Guernsey and will only be available to the Public after 100 years.

¹ [Census \(Sark\) Law, 2021](#) & [The Census \(Sark\) Ordinance, 2022](#)



What is a census

A census provides figures and statistics. Census results do not provide or publicise any of the personal data collected.

A census needs to be answered by a good size of population to provide statistically useful/meaningful data. In a census covering a small population, such as that on Sark, care is needed not to release data that could identify an individual, so not all statistics may be released.

The personal data collected in a census such as names, ages, marital status, and address is only released 100 years after collection. Previous censuses, collected on Sark since 1841, provide snapshots of the population on census day on Sark. The most recent data released is taken from the 1921 census, it includes the many visitors on island on census day as the data was collected in June. Unlike Sark's recent census the data collected in 1921 is available on the search engine Findmypast.com

A census is used to ask questions of a population on a given day. The answers are used by the government to inform and guide current & future policies.

A census is not just a way of finding out how many people are present on a given day. A census is often used to gain information on the demographics of a population that is age, gender, and place of birth. Some governments use this type of data to look at the structure of a household. It is useful for Governments in budgeting and planning for social welfare and medical care to know how many households are multi-generational and are providing care for that elder generation to single resident households where such care is not being provided by family members. The size of a household is also important -if the overall population remains static but the number of residents in households are getting smaller then more dwellings will be needed.

Knowing how much long-term illness is prevalent in the community is a useful measure in looking at workforce availability and support service provision. Where long term & chronic illnesses are being reported (physical conditions such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis, bronchitis, sight and hearing problems and/or mental health issues such as depression or anxiety) may steer Government in its medical & social resource allocation. Knowing how the number of people under 18 years informs Government on current & future education provision needs. The educational attainment of a population, particularly in a small community can indicate what levels of skills and abilities are available to a government as employees, volunteers or even as members of Government itself.

A census does not provide all the information that a government might need to inform and guide future policy, but a well-designed census can be is a useful tool in planning for a community's future.

Jane Norwich
Sark Resident



Chapter 1: Population characteristics

Total population

The total resident population of Sark on 27 April 2022 was 562.

This figure:

includes 67 residents of Sark who were absent from the island on Census Day; and

excludes 59 short-term visitors to the island who were present on Census Day.

Change over time

The last formal census for Sark was as a part of the 1971 Census of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. From this census the total resident population was 493. Table 1 below shows the figures recorded in the official census over the last 150 years:

Table 1: Total resident population of Sark as recorded by the official census

Year	Population	Notes
1871	525	
1881	569	
1891	562	
1901	506	
1911	587	
1921	615	
1941	481	Conducted during occupation
1971	493	
2022	562	

As can be seen from the above, over the last 150 years the population of Sark has remained relatively stable in terms of overall size.

Average age

The mean average age of Sark residents was 51.4 years, the median average was 54.8 years. Female residents had a slightly greater median age (56 years) than male residents (53 years).

The median age of Sark residents is notably higher than that of Jersey (43 years), Guernsey (44 years) and that of England and Wales (40 years)².

Age structure

As Table 2 shows, 351 people were aged between 16 and 64 years of age. This provides a measure of potential workforce size.

² All with respect of March 2021



The dependency ratio for Sark (the ratio of those outside of working age to those of working age) was 58%. However, it should be noted that Sark has a higher proportion of over 65s who are economically active compared to many other jurisdictions.

Table 2: Working age population of Sark

	Males	Females	All
Under 16 years	28	25	53
16-64 years (working age)	181	170	351
65+	69	83	152
Total	279*	283*	562*
Dependency ratio	54%	64%	58%
Percent at working age	65%	61%	63%

*6 respondents did not give their date of birth, therefore the total numbers will be larger than the sums of the numbers broken down by age

Age and sex structure

Figure 1 and table 3 below show the population of Sark by age group and sex.

Figure 1: The population structure of Sark

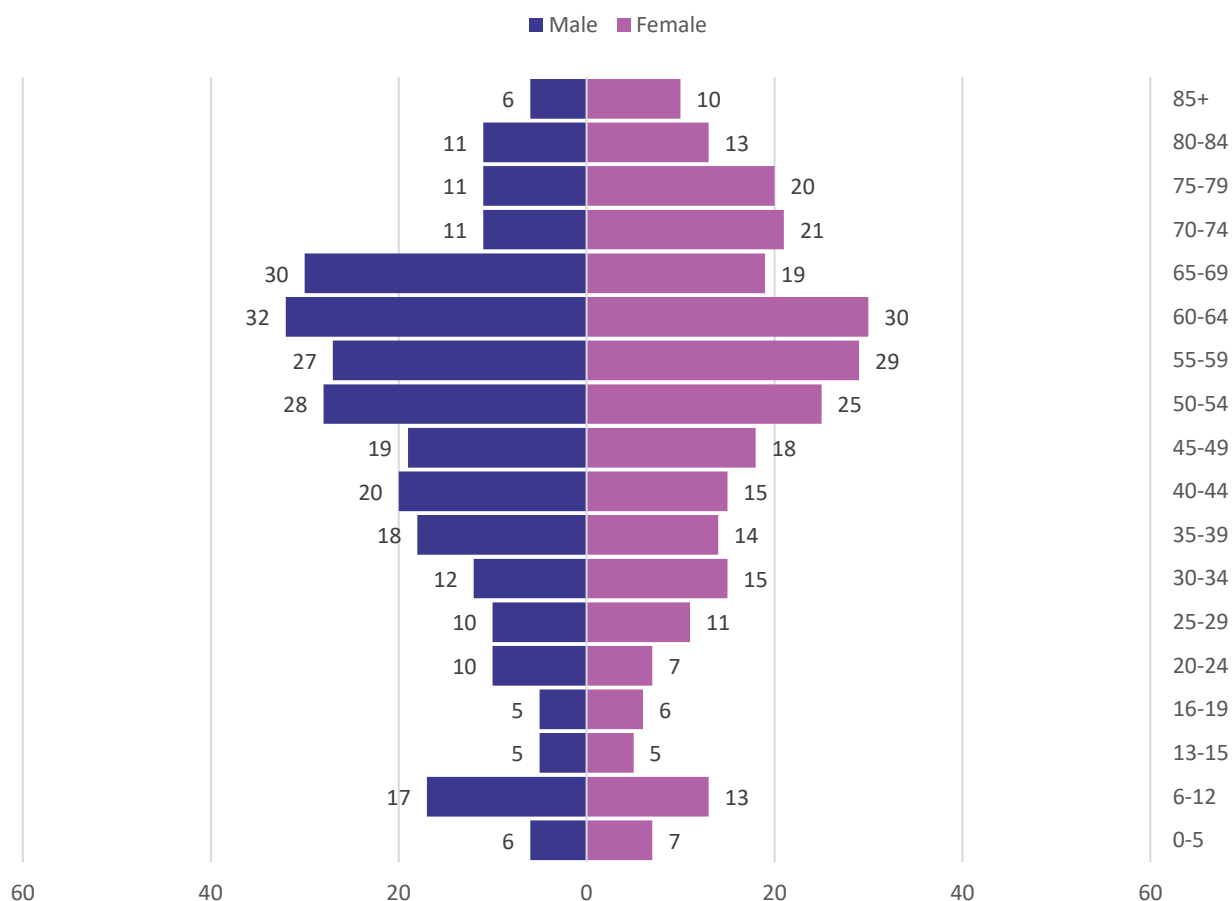




Table 3: Population of Sark by age group and sex

Age band	Male	Female	Total
0-5	6	7	13
6-12	17	13	30
13-15	5	5	10
16-19	5	6	11
20-24	10	7	17
25-29	10	11	21
30-34	12	15	27
35-39	18	14	32
40-44	20	15	35
45-49	19	18	37
50-54	28	25	53
55-59	27	29	56
60-64	32	30	62
65-69	30	19	49
70-74	11	21	32
75-79	11	20	31
80-84	11	13	24
85+	6	10	16
Total	278	278	556

6 residents did not provide their date of birth

Place of birth

In 2022, just over a quarter (28%) of Sark residents were born in Sark / Guernsey (very few Sark residents are physically born on Sark, as most mothers travel to Guernsey prior to giving birth). Over half of Sark residents (52%) were born in the British Isles³ and 1% were born in one of the other Channel Islands.

Table 4: Sark's population by place of birth (percent, rounded to the nearest integer)

Place of Birth	Percent
Sark / Guernsey	28
Other Channel Islands	1
British Isles	52
Europe	14
Elsewhere in the world	5
Total	100

³ Including England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland



Ethnicity

The 2022 Census asked residents of Sark to identify which ethnic category they felt best described themselves. The vast majority (97%) of Sark residents reported their ethnicity to be 'White' with only 3% identifying as any other ethnicity or not responding to the question.

Length of residence

Table 5 shows the number of residents by their year of arrival in Sark. It should be noted that the numbers represent those arriving in the island in each year and remaining in Sark, and will not include any who have since left the island.

In 2022, over half (56%) of residents had lived in the island for more than 10 years.

Table 5: Number of residents by year that their current period of residence in Sark began

	Arrived / born in Sark*	Percent
Prior to 1980	97	18%
1980 - 1989	47	8%
1990 - 1999	54	10%
2000-2009	92	17%
2010	11	2%
2011	6	1%
2012	11	2%
2013	9	2%
2014	11	2%
2015	7	1%
2016	7	1%
2017	13	2%
2018	17	3%
2019	18	3%
2020	61	11%
2021	58	10%
2022 (up to 27 April)	35	6%
Total	553	100%

*7 respondents did not respond to this question



Chapter 2: Households and properties

Dwellings

The 2022 Census identified 290 private dwellings⁴ and 5 communal establishments (an establishment providing managed residential accommodation such as a guest house or hotel) in Sark.

The number of private dwellings in Sark increased by 99 since that recorded in the 1971 Census (191).

Persons per dwelling

Excluding those living in communal establishments, 547 people were living in 290 dwellings in 2022, representing an average of 1.89 persons per dwelling.

Table 6 below shows the breakdown of the number of adults living in each dwelling in Sark.

Table 6: Number adults (aged over 16) resident per dwelling (including communal establishments)

Number of adults resident	Number of dwellings
0*	13
1	107
2	146
3	20
4+	9

* Dwellings with zero adults were either vacant at the time of the census or only occupied by visitors to the island.

Property types

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the types of dwellings in Sark (excluding vacant dwellings). An overwhelming majority of the dwellings in Sark were detached houses (79%). The next highest proportion came from the Semi-detached houses (14%).

Table 7: Property types in 2022, excluding vacant properties

	Property type	Number	Percentage
House	Detached	209	79%
	Semi-detached	37	14%
	Terraced	8	3%
Flat	Flat/Bedsit/Converted Housing/Shared Housing	4	2%
Communal	Communal	5	2%
All		263*	100%

* There were 27 properties where the household did not respond to this question in the Census

⁴ Private dwellings as measured by the census are not necessarily separate physical dwellings; in the census separate dwellings were identified where the occupants shared a living space and a cooking area and may not necessarily correspond to a dwelling with a separate entrance. For example, a lodger in a private household was counted as living in a separate dwelling if there was a separate living space and cooking facilities for their use.



Household structure

Each private household was categorised into a household structure, according to the number of residents, their age and relationships. Table 8 provides a breakdown of household types resident at the time of the 2022 Census.

Table 8: Household structure

Household structure	2022 percent
Single adult	20
Couple (adult)	22
Single parent (with dependent children)	2
Single parent (all children 16 years or more)	2
Couple with dependent children	9
Couple with children (all children 16 years or more)	4
Couple (one pensioner)	4
Couple (pensioners)	7
Single pensioner	16
Two or more pensioners	1
Two or more unrelated persons	4
Households in communal establishments	2
Other	7
All private households	100

Chapter 3: Health

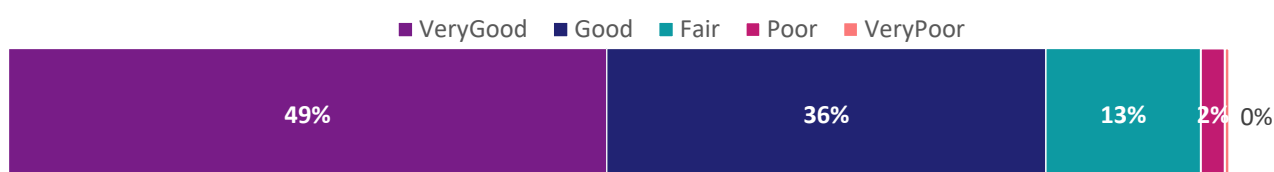
Self-assessed general health

A question on self-assessed general health was asked for every resident in private households and communal establishments. The question asked was ‘How is your health in general?’; the possible responses were ‘very good’, ‘good’, ‘fair’, ‘poor’ and ‘very poor’.

Self-assessed health brings together a person’s perception of all aspects of their health and wellbeing and is a useful indicator of general wellbeing and health-related quality of life.

The majority (85%) of the population rated their health as either ‘very good’ or ‘good’, whilst 2% rated their health as either ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ (13 residents). Less than 1% of the population stated that their health was ‘very poor’ (See Figure 2).

Figure 2: Self-assessed general health



Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding

Longstanding physical or mental health conditions or illnesses

Residents were then asked whether they had any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more. The response categories were ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

The majority of residents (80%) stated that they did not have a longstanding physical or mental health condition or illness. Around one in five residents (113 people) reported that they did have a longstanding condition.

The proportion of people with a longstanding condition generally increased by age (see Table 9).

Table 9: Longstanding physical or mental health conditions or illness, by age

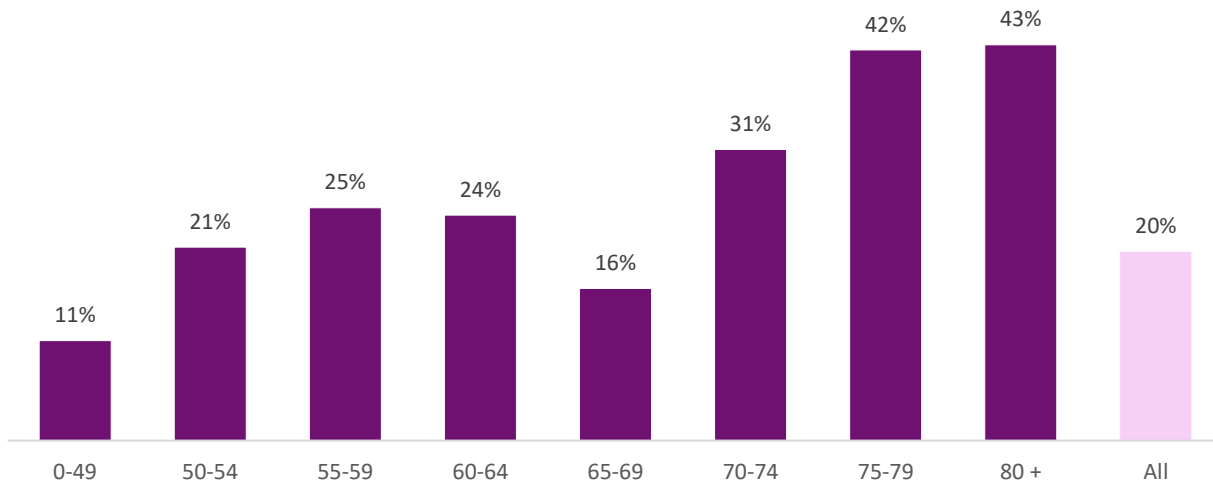
	0 – 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80 +	All
Yes	25	11	14	15	8	10	13	17	113
No	208	41	42	46	40	22	18	23	440
Total	233	53	56	62	49	32	31	40	553*

* 9 Residents did not respond to this question



Figure 3 shows the proportion of residents with a longstanding condition by age group. The proportion ranged from 11% of residents aged 49 or under to 43% of residents aged 80 or over.

Figure 3: Proportion of population with longstanding physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, by age



Activity limiting health condition or illness

Residents who answered that they had a longstanding physical or mental health condition or illness were asked a supplementary question: 'Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?'.

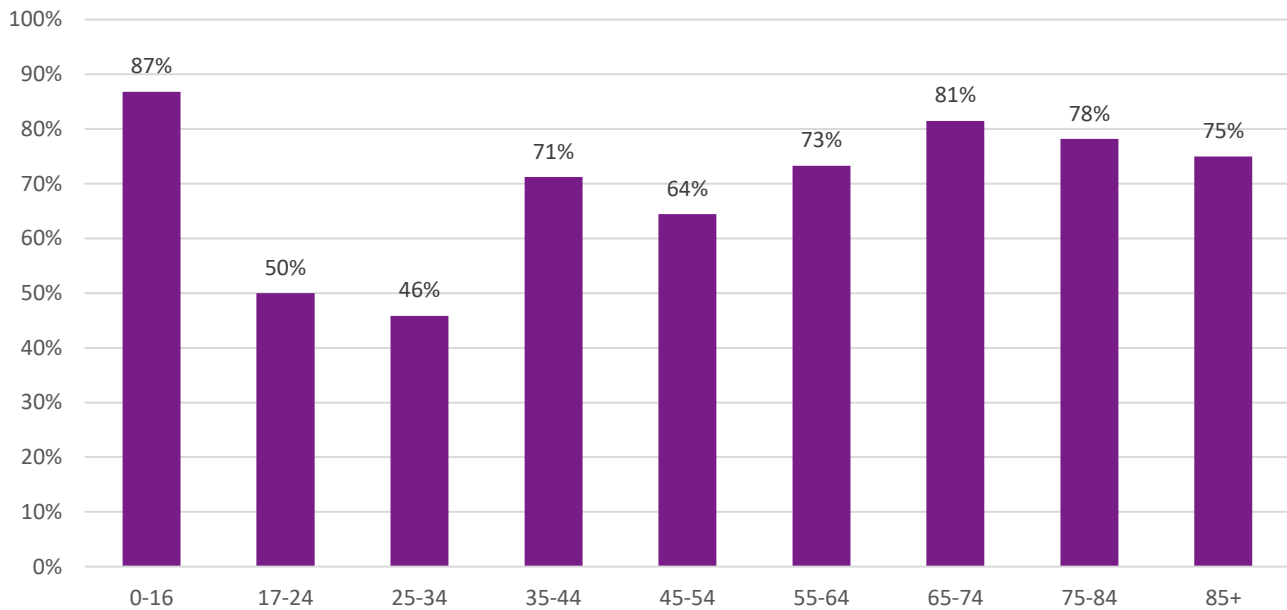
In total, 38 residents reported that they were limited in their daily activities. This represents around 7% of Sark's population.

Health insurance

A question was asked for every resident as to whether they had private health insurance. Overall, 71% of respondents to this question indicated that they did have private health insurance.

As can be seen from Figure 4 below, there was some variation by age for those reporting having health insurance.

Figure 4: Percentage of age group reporting having private health insurance



Generally, younger working age residents were less likely to have private health insurance, while children and older residents were more likely to have insurance.



Chapter 4: Employment and economic activity

Economic activity

Residents aged 16 and over were considered to be economically active if they were employed, self-employed or actively looking for work in the seven days prior to Census Day. An economically active person was considered to be working if they had done any paid work over the previous seven days (of one hour or more). This is consistent with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of economic activity.

On Census Day 75% of adults aged 16 and over were economically active.

Table 10: Economic activity for all adults (aged 16 and over) and for adults aged 16 to 64

	All adults (aged 16 and over)			Adults aged 16-64		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Economically active						
Working for an employer full-time	90	70	170	80	60	140
Working for an employer part-time	20	40	60	10	30	40
Self-employed	90	60	150	70	49	120
Unemployed, looking for or waiting to take up a job	~	~	10	~	~	10
Total active	200	180	380	160	150	310
Economically inactive						
Retired	40	50	90	~	~	10
Looking after the home	~	20	20	~	~	10
In full-time/part-time education	~	~	10	~	~	10
Unable to work: sickness or disability	~	~	~	~	~	10
Unemployed, not looking for a job	~	~	10	~	~	10
Total inactive	50	80	130	20	20	50
Overall totals	250	260	510	180	170	360

Numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10. ~ denotes a number below 10.

Economic activity: adults aged 16 and over

Over two-thirds (71%) of women aged 16 and over were economically active (i.e. working or looking for work). This is higher than similar jurisdictions such as Guernsey (62%), Jersey (63%), but lower than the UK (59%).



Economic activity: adults aged 16 to 64

Economic activity rates by place of birth are shown in Table 11. Economic activity rates for residents aged 16-64 were highest for those born in Sark/Guernsey and the British Isles (including other Channel Islands) (both 92%). The economic activity rate for Other European-born residents (75%) was lower than the rates for those born in other jurisdictions.

Table 11: Economic activity for adults aged 16 to 64 by place of birth

	Sark/ Guernsey	British Isles	Other European country	Elsewhere in the world	All adults 16-64
Economic activity rate	92%	92%	75%	78%	87%

Of the economically inactive adult population aged 16-64, almost a third (31%) were retired, the majority of whom were adults aged 60-64 years. Around 10% were unable to work due to sickness or disability. Half (50%) of economically inactive women aged 16-64 were looking after the home, compared with 6% of economically inactive men.



Occupation

Occupations were categorised into nine major groups using the internationally comparable Standard Occupational Classification⁵ system (see Table 12). Data in this section is presented for working adults aged 16 and over.

The largest group was the 'Skilled trades' occupation, engaging 98 adults (27% of workers). Skilled trades include agricultural and related trades, metal, electrical and electronic trades, construction and building and textiles, printing and other skilled trades. The smallest groups were administrative & secretarial occupations (5%) and sales and customer service occupations (3%).

In Sark the proportion of residents that were part of 'Managers, directors & senior officials' and the 'Skilled trades' sectors were much greater than in other similar jurisdictions. The former being likely because businesses in Sark tend to be very small and family run, therefore there are more business owners and managers per capita. The latter being because there is a minimum of skilled trades that required, therefore the smaller the population the higher proportion of jobs this will take up. Hence why we can see a gradual decrease in the proportion of skilled trades as populations increase from Sark to Jersey to the UK.

Table 12: Major occupation group of working adults (aged 16 and over)

Occupation	Persons	Percent	Jersey %	UK %
Managers, directors & senior officials	90	25	13	10
Professional	32	9	17	26
Associate professional & technical	28	8	14	15
Administrative & secretarial	14	5	14	11
Skilled trades	98	27	13	9
Caring, leisure & other service	23	6	9	8
Sales & customer service	11	3	5	7
Process, plant & machine operatives	24	7	4	6
Elementary occupations	42	12	10	9
All	365	100	100	100

Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding

⁵ Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC2010).



Chapter 5: Education

Highest attained educational qualification

As Table 13 shows, just under two-fifths of all adults had at least a degree-level or equivalent qualification (37%), rising slightly to 39% when considering adults aged 16-64 only. In comparison, just under a fifth of all adults (19%) had no formal qualifications, dropping to 15% for those aged 16-64.

Table 13: Highest level of educational qualification, adults aged 16-64 and all adults 16+

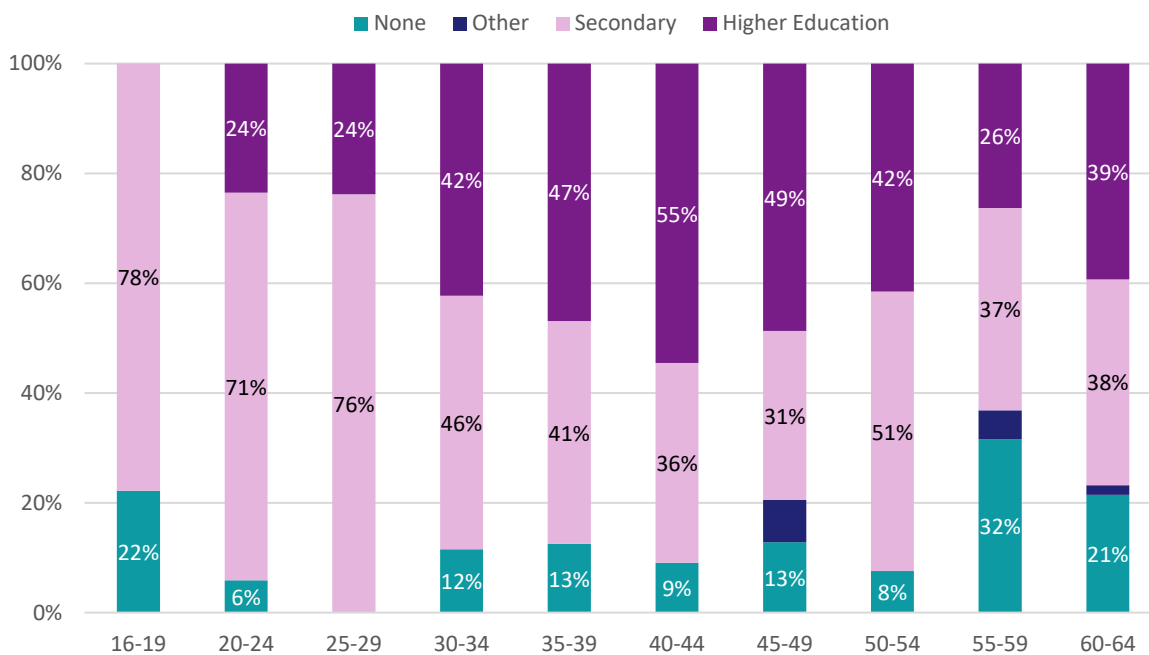
Highest qualification (or equivalent)	Adults aged 16-64		All adults aged 16+	
	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Higher education at or above degree-level	130	39	180	37
2 or more A-Levels or 4 or more AS-Levels	30	10	50	10
NVQ 3	50	14	60	12
AS/A-Level (any)	10	2	10	3
5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C	30	8	40	9
NVQ 2	10	2	10	2
GCSEs (any)	30	9	40	8
NVQ 1	~	~	~	~
No formal qualifications	50	15	90	19
All	330	100	480	100

Numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10. ~ denotes a number below 10.

Education by age

As shown in Figure 5, the proportion of adults with no formal qualifications was highest at either end of the age scale, with around a third of adults aged 55-59 having no formal qualifications (32%) and around a fifth of those aged 16-19 (22%) and 60-64 (21%), though the former is likely to be influenced by the small number of those aged 16-19 and the fact the 16-year-olds in that age bracket would not have taken their GCSE examinations at the time of the census.

Figure 5: Highest level of educational qualification by age (adults aged 16-64) - percent

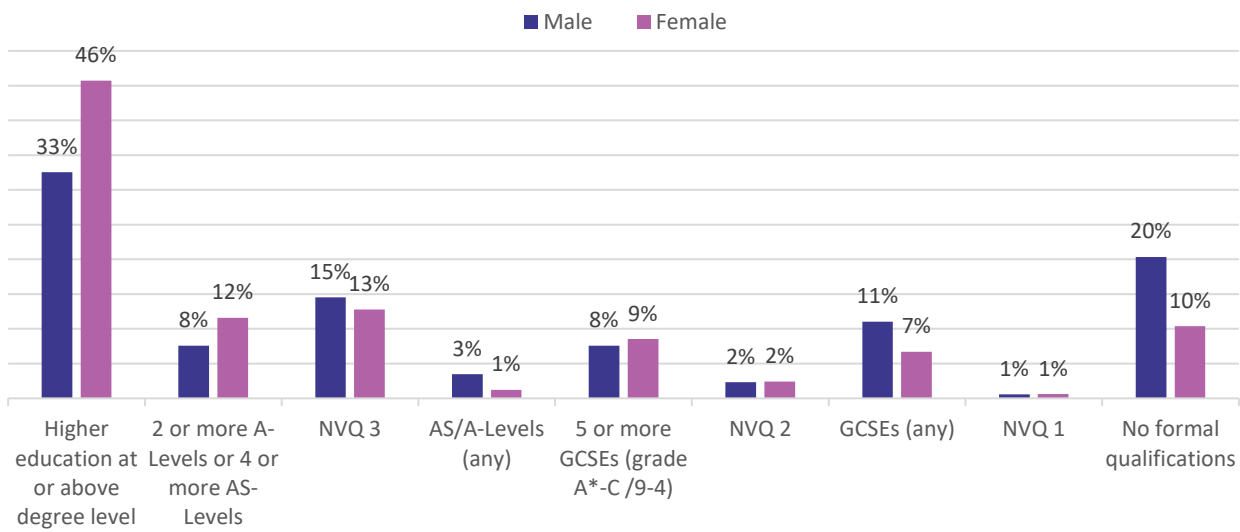


Adults aged 35 to 49 had the largest proportion of higher education-level qualifications (around half of the total number of adults). For all other age groups, except those aged 60-64, the greatest proportion were educated to a secondary level, ranging from 78% of those aged 16-19 (the majority of which would have had little opportunity to complete a level 4 qualification) to the 37% of those aged 55-59.

Education by sex

Figure 6 below shows that the highest level of educational qualification broken down by sex. Overall, a third of males (33%) and just under half of all females (46%) stated they had attained a higher-level qualification, 47% of men and 43% of women stated that they had a secondary-level qualification; a fifth of all men (20%) and one-in-ten women (10%) had declared no formal qualifications.

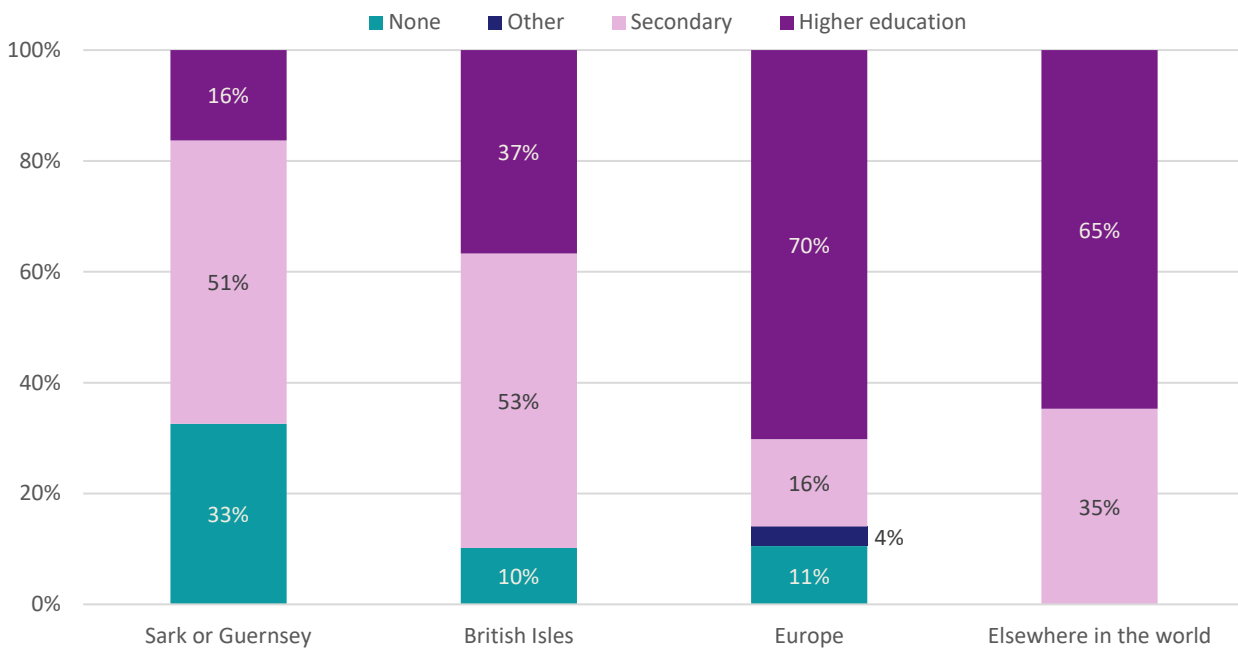
Figure 6: Highest level of educational qualification by sex (adults aged 16-64) – percent



Education by place of birth

Around a sixth (16%) of adults aged 16-64 who were born in Sark or Guernsey had a higher-level qualification, whereas a third (33%) had no formal qualifications.

Figure 7: Highest level of educational qualification by place of birth, (adults aged 16-64) – percent





The highest proportion of those with a higher-level qualification were born in Europe (70%) or elsewhere in the world (65%), whilst over half of adults aged 16-64 have a secondary-level qualification if born in Sark or Guernsey (51%) or the British Isles (53%)⁶

Table 14: Highest level of educational qualification by place of birth (adults aged 16-64)

Highest qualification (or equivalent)	Sark or Guernsey	British Isles ⁷	Europe	Elsewhere in the world
Higher education at or above degree-level	10	70	40	10
2 or more A-Levels	10	20	~	~
NVQ 3	20	30	~	~
1 A-Level or 2 AS-Levels	~	10	0	~
5 or more GCSEs grade A*-C	10	20	0	~
NVQ 2	~	10	0	0
GCSEs (any)	10	20	~	~
NVQ 1	0	~	0	0
Other qualification	0	0	~	0
No formal qualifications	30	20	10	0
All	90	200	50	10

Numbers have been rounded independently to the nearest 10. ~ denotes a number below 10.

⁶ There were 16 non-responses as 14 did not identify what qualifications they had and 2 did not identify where they were born. Two respondents from this section were added to the "other" section as they have declared an apprenticeship.

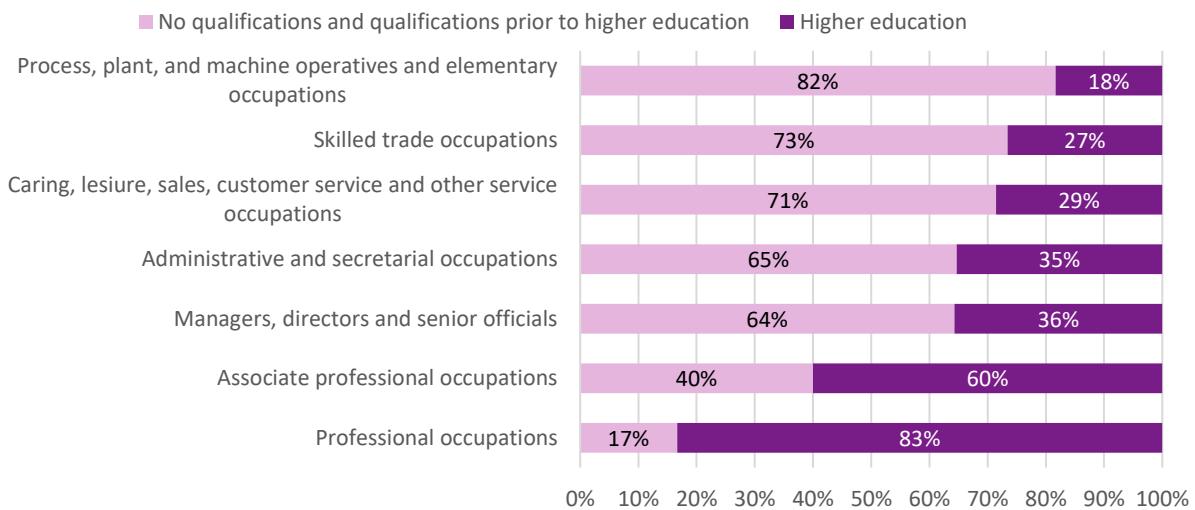
⁷ Includes other Channel Islands

Education by occupation

Figure 8 shows the highest level of education broken down by different occupation groups. 85% of those in professional occupations had a higher-level qualification, whilst three-fifths (60%) of those in associate professional occupations had such a qualification.

For all other occupations, there were a greater proportion of adults aged 16-64 with no qualifications or qualification prior to higher education, with slightly less than one-fifth (18%) of those who worked in process, plant, and machine operatives, and elementary occupations possessed a higher-level qualification.

Figure 8: Highest level of educational qualification by occupation (aged 16-64 and working) – percent





Acknowledgements

The 2022 Sark census project was commissioned by Chief Pleas.

Chief Pleas would like to thank everyone who has been involved in delivering the Sark Census, particularly islanders for responding so positively & the field staff who supported islanders who needed help in completing and/or returning their forms.

Contacts

Mr Gordon Snell, Registrar for the Sark Census 2022.

Notes

All original census forms/data will be held by Island Archives in Guernsey and only available to the Public after 100 years.