

Census 2021 release on population and migration

Key points for London

2 November 2022 release

- London's population at Census 2021 was 8.80 million an increase 626 thousand (8 per cent) since 2011.
- Tower Hamlets saw the greatest population growth over the decade (22 per cent) followed by Barking and Dagenham (up 18 per cent). Kensington & Chelsea (down nearly 10 per cent), Westminster (-7 per cent) and Camden (-5 per cent) all saw population decreases.
- There were 3.42 million households in London, an increase of 158 thousand (4.6 percent) since 2011. This was only around half the recorded growth in dwellings over the decade.
- Average household size in London increased over the decade from 2.47 persons per household to 2.54 persons per household, the highest figure of any region.
- The local authority with the largest average household size in England and Wales was Newham (3.02 persons per household) followed by Slough (3.02). Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Harrow and Brent all had average household sizes over 2.8 persons per household. Conversely, some boroughs had the smallest average household sizes: City of London was smallest in England and Wales (1.70 persons per household) while Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster were equal fourth smallest at 2.11 persons per household.
- Median age is the age of the person in the middle of a group, with half of the group younger than the median person and half older. The median age at last birthday for London was 35 years, the lowest of any region. The local authority with the lowest median age in England and Wales was Tower Hamlets (30 years), followed by university towns Nottingham, Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester (all 31 years) then London boroughs Newham and Hackney (both 32 years). Only Bromley and Richmond upon Thames (both 41 years) were higher than the England and Wales figure (40 years).
- The number of London residents born outside UK in 2011 was 3.58 million up from 3.00 million in 2011. The proportion non-UK born rose slightly from 37 per cent to 41 per cent. These remained the largest number and highest percentage non-UK born residents of any region.
- Of the top 20 local authorities with the highest proportions of non-UK born residents, 18 were in London. The areas with the highest proportions were Brent and Westminster (each 56 per cent), Kensington & Chelsea and Newham (each 54 per cent) and Harrow and Ealing (each 51 per cent). The top 20 local authorities outside London were Slough (44 per cent) and Leicester (41 percent).

- The top 10 countries of birth for non-UK born Londoners in 2021 were:

India	Romania	Poland	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Italy	Nigeria	Ireland	Sri Lanka	France
323,000	176,000	323,000	139,000	130,000	126,000	117,000	97,000	80,000	78,000

- The number of Romanian-born nearly quadrupled from 45,000 in 2011 to 176,000 in 2021. Other large increases were Italians up 64,000 over the decade, Indians up 60,000 and Bangladeshis up 29,000. Conversely the number of Irish-born Londoners fell by 33,000, Jamaicans by 12,000 and Australians by 11,000.
- Patterns for passports held are similar except that many Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan-born Londoners are British citizens and hold a British passport (they may also hold another passport but that will not be counted in the Census figures). The top non-UK passport held by Londoners in 2021 was Romanian (189,000) followed by Italian (162,000), Polish (145,000) and Indian (129,000). There were 20,000 fewer Irish passport holders in 2021 than in 2011 (121,000 down from 141,000), and 12,000 fewer Polish passport holders.
- In the year before Census, 545,000 migrants came to England and Wales from outside the UK, some 0.9 per cent of the total population. London received 150,000 non-UK migrants or 1.7 per cent of the population.
- The top destinations within London were Tower Hamlets (10,500 new migrants), Westminster (9,900), Camden (8,200) and Newham (7,600). Recent migrants made up over 6 per cent of the population of City of London, and nearly 5 per cent in Westminster the highest proportions of any local authorities in England and Wales.
- Over the longer term, 914,000 migrants, over 10 per cent of London's total population at Census 2021 arrived in the UK between 2001 and 2010. 309,000 arrived 2011 to 2013, 434,000 between 2014 to 2016 and 502,000 arrived 2017 to 2020.
- Households in England and Wales were classified by four selected household characteristics chosen to indicate different aspects of household deprivation - employment, education, health and disability and housing. A household is considered to be deprived if the conditions for any of characteristics are met. Overall, 52 per cent of households in London were deprived on at least one of these measures, the same proportion as for England.
- Barking and Dagenham showed 62 per cent of households deprived on at least one measure, along with Sandwell the highest rate of any local authority in England and Wales. Newham (61 per cent) and Brent (60 per cent) were next highest in London. Lowest in London was Richmond upon Thames with 39 per cent of households deprived.

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