

Births by Birthplace of Mother: 2009

Background

In August 2010 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released statistics of live-births occurring in 2009 by the country of birth of the mother. Most of the tables relate to births occurring in England & Wales but as well as local authority level data for 2009 a historical series back to 2001 was also made available. Some data relate also to the country of birth of the father.

This *Update* concentrates on the most recent statistics for London and the boroughs but also looks at London trends and draws on some of the salient features at national level.

London

Table 1: Live births by mother's country of birth and usual residence, England & Wales and English Regions, 2009

	All live births	Mothers born in UK	Mothers born outside UK							
			Total	%age	EU Total	New EU only	Europe (non-EU)	Asia	Africa	Rest of World
England & Wales	705,995	531,933	174,062	24.7	47,066	29,432	7,851	61,329	39,384	18,432
England	671,058	500,570	170,488	25.4	45,778	28,679	7,734	59,936	38,848	18,192
North East	29,776	26,858	2,918	9.8	769	390	92	1,327	515	215
North West	87,549	73,202	14,347	16.4	3,458	2,269	350	7,108	2,653	778
Yorkshire & the Humber	66,358	54,283	12,075	18.2	3,085	2,124	276	6,250	1,921	543
East Midlands	53,746	44,233	9,513	17.7	3,448	2,549	290	3,243	1,918	614
West Midlands	71,042	55,309	15,733	22.1	3,216	2,328	307	8,393	2,857	960
East	71,335	56,532	14,803	20.8	5,271	3,330	620	4,418	2,723	1,771
London	129,245	57,872	71,373	55.2	15,950	9,610	4,520	20,550	20,517	9,836
South East	103,669	81,946	21,723	21.0	7,177	4,074	967	6,735	4,359	2,485
South West	58,338	50,335	8,003	13.7	3,404	2,005	312	1,912	1,385	990
Wales	34,937	31,363	3,574	10.2	1,288	753	117	1,393	536	240

Notes:

1 Total and Rest of World include the 28 records where the mother's country of birth was not stated.

2 The 'New EU' constitutes the twelve countries which have joined the European Union since 2004.

Source: Office for National Statistics

In 2009 24.7 per cent of the 706 thousand births in England & Wales were to mothers who had been born outside the UK. At over 55 per cent London was the only region where the proportion of births to non-UK born mothers was higher than the national average. In London there were over 20 thousand births to women born both in Asia and Africa. London had 41 per cent of all births to non-UK born mothers in England & Wales, compared to 18 per cent of all births and 11 per cent of those to UK born mothers. Over half of all births to women from non-EU Europe, Africa and the Rest of the World occurred in London.

Table 2: Live births by mother's country of birth and usual residence, London and London boroughs, 2009

Area of usual residence	All live births	Mothers born in UK	Mothers born outside UK							
			Total	%age	EU Total	New EU only	Europe (non-EU)	Asia	Africa	Rest of World
London	129,245	57,872	71,373	55.2	15,950	9,610	4,520	20,550	20,517	9,836
Inner Boroughs	53,209	21,362	31,847	59.9	6,698	3,119	2,140	8,713	9,294	5,002
Camden	3,094	1,158	1,936	62.6	393	104	191	624	423	305
Hackney and City of London	4,574	2,111	2,463	53.8	476	210	308	468	801	410
Hammersmith & Fulham	2,841	1,261	1,580	55.6	411	113	107	322	442	298
Haringey	4,193	1,549	2,644	63.1	768	541	383	375	741	377
Islington	2,983	1,527	1,456	48.8	311	100	174	255	474	242
Kensington & Chelsea	2,227	679	1,548	69.5	503	73	131	300	257	357
Lambeth	4,863	2,116	2,747	56.5	700	302	99	329	1,049	570
Lewisham	4,888	2,320	2,568	52.5	497	278	121	343	1,025	582
Newham	6,003	1,457	4,546	75.7	817	689	131	2,049	1,207	342
Southwark	4,873	2,010	2,863	58.8	430	201	101	464	1,444	424
Tower Hamlets	4,337	1,445	2,892	66.7	282	123	106	1,928	405	171
Wandsworth	5,335	2,893	2,442	45.8	696	287	118	508	607	513
Westminster	2,998	836	2,162	72.1	414	98	170	748	419	411
Outer Boroughs	76,036	36,510	39,526	52.0	9,252	6,491	2,380	11,837	11,223	4,834
Barking & Dagenham	3,624	1,585	2,039	56.3	328	264	100	487	1,040	84
Barnet	5,286	2,349	2,937	55.6	836	583	259	880	722	240
Bexley	3,029	2,266	763	25.2	120	65	32	129	413	69
Brent	5,132	1,364	3,768	73.4	863	669	123	1,333	909	540
Bromley	4,104	2,999	1,105	26.9	312	152	79	209	308	197
Croydon	5,235	2,765	2,470	47.2	446	293	108	648	828	440
Ealing	5,638	1,851	3,787	67.2	1,078	788	152	1,366	748	443
Enfield	4,828	2,008	2,820	58.4	612	466	610	351	1,016	231
Greenwich	4,480	2,119	2,361	52.7	440	283	119	414	1,181	207
Harrow	3,265	1,170	2,095	64.2	455	363	64	838	374	364
Havering	2,697	2,139	558	20.7	119	84	38	137	213	51
Hillingdon	4,207	2,106	2,101	49.9	387	272	80	840	542	252
Hounslow	4,297	1,631	2,666	62.0	664	497	104	1,129	551	218
Kingston upon Thames	2,321	1,358	963	41.5	271	140	51	293	192	156
Merton	3,462	1,542	1,920	55.5	517	348	51	424	496	432
Redbridge	4,253	1,758	2,495	58.7	401	303	114	1,186	536	258
Richmond upon Thames	2,859	1,831	1,028	36.0	378	137	57	191	174	228
Sutton	2,786	1,868	918	33.0	254	160	44	224	248	148
Waltham Forest	4,533	1,801	2,732	60.3	771	624	195	758	732	276

Notes:

To preserve confidentiality, the count for the City of London has been combined with Hackney.

1 Total and Rest of World include the 28 records where the mother's country of birth was not stated.

2 The 'New EU' constitutes the twelve countries which have joined the European Union since 2004.

Source: Office for National Statistics

London boroughs feature as nineteen of the top twenty local authorities in terms of the percentage of births to non-UK born mothers. The one non-London authority is Slough, which, at 57.2 per cent, is fifteenth highest. Newham, Brent and Westminster all have over 70 per cent of births to non-UK born women. The proportion in 27 boroughs exceeds 40 per cent while only nine authorities in the rest of England also reach this level. After Slough these areas are, in descending order, Luton, Cambridge, Leicester, Forest Heath (location of a large US air base), Oxford, Watford, Manchester and Reading.

Table 3: Live births to mothers resident in London: country of birth of mother, 2001 to 2009

Year	All live births	Mothers born in UK	Mothers born outside UK							
			Total	%age	EU Total	New EU only	Europe (non-EU)	Asia	Africa	Rest of World
2001	104,162	59,104	45,058	43.3	6,977	1,612	3,380	13,489	13,600	7,612
2002	105,603	57,544	48,059	45.5	7,311	1,787	3,368	14,333	14,642	8,405
2003	110,437	58,147	52,290	47.3	7,918	2,265	3,628	15,404	16,334	9,006
2004	113,679	57,772	55,907	49.2	8,733	2,861	3,763	16,498	18,002	8,911
2005	116,019	56,567	59,452	51.2	9,811	3,845	3,951	16,960	19,596	9,134
2006	120,898	57,376	63,522	52.5	11,309	5,118	4,090	18,206	20,043	9,874
2007	125,505	57,854	67,651	53.9	13,371	7,067	4,503	19,153	20,817	9,807
2008	127,651	57,927	69,724	54.6	14,624	8,338	4,396	19,882	20,902	9,920
2009	129,245	57,872	71,373	55.2	15,950	9,610	4,520	20,550	20,517	9,836
Change 2001 to 2009										
Number	25,083	-1,232	26,315	11.9	8,973	7,998	1,140	7,061	6,917	2,224
Per Cent	24.1	-2.1	58.4	-	128.6	496.2	33.7	52.3	50.9	29.2

Source: Office for National Statistics

The 24 per cent rise in births in London between 2001 and 2009 has been driven by the 58 per cent increase in births to non-UK born mothers. The 26 thousand increase in births to non-UK mothers exceeded the total increase in births by over a thousand. By far the largest rise in births was seen in women from the 'New EU' who recorded nearly 500 per cent increase, reflecting the accession to the EU of ten of these countries in 2004. The increases for African and Asian born mothers were both over 50 per cent.

England & Wales

Table 4: Live births for the 'top ten' countries of birthplace of mother, England & Wales, 2001 and 2009

Country of birth of mother	2001		Country of birth of mother	2009	
	Number	% age		Number	% age
1 Pakistan	14,588	2.5	Pakistan	18,394	2.6
2 Bangladesh	8,164	1.4	Poland	18,159	2.6
3 India	6,598	1.1	India	12,499	1.8
4 Germany	4,203	0.7	Bangladesh	8,452	1.2
5 Ireland	3,843	0.6	Nigeria	7,101	1.0
6 Somalia	3,189	0.5	Somalia	5,807	0.8
7 United States	2,878	0.5	Germany	5,158	0.7
8 Nigeria	2,611	0.4	South Africa	4,435	0.6
9 South Africa	2,176	0.4	Ghana	3,528	0.5
10 Jamaica	2,035	0.3	China	3,314	0.5

Source: Office for National Statistics

Through the present decade Pakistan has remained the non-UK country of birth of most mothers in England & Wales. In 2001 the top ten list contained Ireland, the United States and Jamaica. By 2009 these have been replaced by Poland (which is now in second place just behind Pakistan), Ghana and China. The presence of Germany in the top ten list at both years is somewhat misleading. Most of the births to German-born women relate to women born in Germany when their family was on British military duty in that country. Births to mothers born in the three African countries on the list have increased very rapidly since 2001: Nigeria by 172 per cent, South Africa by 104 per cent and Somalia by 82 per cent. Births to Indian-born mothers rose by 89 per cent.

From the range of national tables provided by ONS it is possible to see the proportions of births within and outside marriage and to estimate the average number of previous live-born children for those mothers who were married. These and other statistics are shown in Table 5. Mothers born in the Indian subcontinent were overwhelmingly married (97-98 per cent) while only 39 per cent of Caribbean born mothers were married. The UK born figure is 47 per cent. In 2009 the average married mother had 0.93 previous live-born children in marriage. UK born women had 0.91 and New Commonwealth born women 1.08. However the New Commonwealth figures include 1.49 for Bangladesh, 1.39 for Pakistan, 1.01 for Rest of Africa, 0.98 for the Caribbean and 0.66 for India.

The age-profile of non-UK mothers in 2009 was somewhat older than UK born mothers, with 51 per cent of non-UK births occurring after age 30 compared to 46 per cent. The comparison is more striking for younger mothers: 18 per cent of non-UK mothers were under 25 compared to 28 per cent, however Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Caribbean born mothers also have over 20 per cent of their births before age 25. The oldest age-profiles are seen for the group of mothers born in Australia, Canada and New Zealand (A/C/NZ) who had 82 per cent of their births after age 30. Similar high percentages of births to older mothers are seen for women born in the Irish Republic and the Far East. It is possible to calculate an approximate mean age at birth for each group of mothers. The youngest mean ages are for Bangladeshi, Pakistani and UK born women at around age 29. The oldest, at ages 33-34, are A/C/NZ, the Irish Republic and the Far East.

Table 5: Various Statistics by Mother's Country of Birth, England & Wales, 2009

Country of birth of mother	Births In Marriage %	Number Previous Live-born Children in Marriage	Mother's Age <25 %	Mother's Age 30+ %	Mean Age of Mother (years)	Father's CoB Not Stated %	Father Born in Same Area %	Father Born in UK %
Total	53.8	0.93	25.4	47.1	29.5	6.2	n.a.	70.8
United Kingdom	46.7	0.91	28.0	45.8	29.2	6.8	85.6	85.6
Total outside United Kingdom	n.a.	n.a.	17.5	51.3	30.3	4.4	70.0	25.6
Irish Republic	66.8	0.93	8.3	74.0	33.0	4.1	14.6	70.5
Australia, Canada & New Zealand	n.a.	n.a.	3.2	82.4	33.9	1.4	23.4	62.3
New Commonwealth	84.8	1.08	17.2	50.1	30.2	3.7	67.3	25.0
India	98.0	0.66	12.5	50.3	30.2	0.5	70.6	22.8
Pakistan	97.6	1.39	24.5	39.3	29.0	0.8	58.3	37.5
Bangladesh	97.4	1.49	26.8	38.1	28.7	0.7	85.4	12.8
East Africa	68.9	0.90	11.0	65.0	32.0	8.3	38.7	29.3
Southern Africa	77.3	0.64	8.6	67.3	31.8	3.9	38.1	43.3
Rest of Africa	63.5	1.01	11.6	58.3	31.1	9.4	73.3	12.0
Caribbean	39.3	0.98	21.0	53.1	30.3	15.2	46.2	27.5
Far East	88.2	0.72	3.5	76.8	33.3	1.2	38.3	39.0
Rest of New Commonwealth	90.2	0.84	13.2	51.6	30.4	1.1	87.3	8.5
Other EU (ex. UK and Irish Republic)	n.a.	n.a.	19.9	45.1	29.5	4.8	55.5	26.4
Rest of Europe	n.a.	n.a.	18.3	50.8	30.3	3.9	56.3	25.5
United States of America	n.a.	n.a.	10.5	65.5	32.1	2.4	28.8	52.1
Rest of the World	n.a.	n.a.	18.2	54.0	30.6	5.8	68.9	16.8
Not stated	n.a.	n.a.	25.0	42.9	29.6	42.9	42.9	25.0

Source: Office for National Statistics

In 2009 nearly 94 per cent of births were registered with details about the father's country of birth. From this information some indication can be gleaned relating to mixing – but only based on country/area of birth not on the ethnicity of the parents. Very few birthplace groups of mothers show a preference to have children with fathers from outside their own birthplace area. The exceptions are lead by the Irish (85 per cent) followed by A/C/NZ (77 per cent), USA (71 per cent), the Far East and Southern Africa (both 62 per cent) and East Africa (61 per cent). Each of these groups, except the Far East, has more UK born fathers than those for their own area.

The situation with preferences of fathers (not shown in the table) is very similar with the exception of Caribbean fathers, 67 per cent of whom had children by non-Caribbean born women. Again the most likely pairings are with UK born women, although Far East and East African men were most likely to have children with women born in their own areas, but not as a majority of all of their births.

Table 6: Estimated Total Fertility Rates for UK and non-UK born women, England & Wales, 2004 to 2009

	UK	Non-UK	All
2004	1.68	2.50	1.79
2005	1.69	2.48	1.80
2006	1.76	2.43	1.87
2007	1.80	2.55	1.93
2008	1.85	2.53	1.98
2009	1.84	2.48	1.96

Source: Office for National Statistics, Birth registrations and Annual Population Survey

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of live children a group of women would bear if the age-specific fertility rates of a particular year prevailed throughout their childbearing lifespan. The estimates in Table 6 rely on the populations from the Annual Population Survey and do not take account of women in communal establishments; therefore the TFRs for all women may differ slightly from other ONS published estimates of TFR. It is clear that the TFR of non-UK women has changed little over five years, although the TFR for UK women has risen by nearly 10 per cent (0.16 of a child). There is an apparent paradox in that the TFR for all women has risen by 0.17 of a child. Although the TFR for non-UK women fell very slightly, because their TFR is higher and the overall proportion of non-UK mothers in 2009 was also higher compared to 2004 the relative weightings of the non-UK and UK born women in the population has shifted in favour of the non-UK women and so helped to increase the overall TFR more rapidly than in either subgroup of the population.

Conclusions

Births to non-UK born women have accounted in purely numerical terms for the entire rise in births in London between 2001 and 2009. They account for over 55 per cent of births in London, over 50 per cent of births in 22 London boroughs with over 75 per cent in Newham. London had 41 per cent of all births in England & Wales to non-UK born mothers. The non-UK born mothers tend to be older than UK born mothers, although Bangladeshi and Pakistani mothers are younger. The estimated total fertility rate (TFR) for non-UK born women at 2.48 in 2009 compares with 1.84 for UK-born women. The non-UK TFR has fallen very slightly since 2004 while the UK born TFR has risen by about 10 per cent.

Mothers born in the Indian subcontinent are virtually all married compared to less than half of UK born mothers. The number of previous live-born children in marriage ranges from 0.66 for Indian born mothers to 1.39 for Pakistani born and 1.49 for Bangladeshi born. The UK born mothers had on average 0.91 previous children.

Most fathers were also born in the same geographic area as the mothers, but there were major exceptions for Irish and men from the USA and the Old Commonwealth. Caribbean men were more likely to have children by UK born women.

Availability of Data

The original ONS tables are available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408>