

Marital status by country of birth

Top tens of marital status by country of birth, for all people aged 16+ in London, 2001

Specially commissioned tables from the 2001 Census provide a rich data source for new and mostly unexplored data. Table C0116 is a theme table by country of birth, which contains details about people born in 148 countries by age group. The table is available for each region of England and Wales.

A small part of the table gives the breakdown of marital status by age. This update contains data on all people aged 16 and over living in London. The marital status classification is broken down into people 'living in a couple' or 'not living in a couple'. The two sub-sets of living in a couple are 'married or re-married' and 'cohabiting', while all other sub-sets are for people who are not living in a couple. The full data set is available from the DMAG [Census team](#).

Results

- Londoners born in *India* are the most likely to be married with 67 per cent of all people aged 16 and over **married or re-married**. Other south Asian countries are also high on the list, while *Kenya* is the birthplace of many African Asians and is placed fifth. North African countries also appear high up in the rankings.
- The percentage of people from *Papua New Guinea* who are **cohabiting** is the highest in London. Other countries in the top ten with a high proportion include five Scandinavian countries, *Australia* and *New Zealand*, plus *France* and *Netherlands*.
- People from the *United Arab Emirates* are most likely **not to be living in a couple**, though over half of these people are students. People born in *Somalia* also are second on the list and over half of these people are living in a lone parent family. Five of the top six countries are East African countries (*Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Eritea*), groups that are likely to include a high proportion of refugees and people seeking asylum. The Middle Eastern countries of *Saudi Arabia, Kuwait* and *Qatar* also appear in the top ten.
- The top ten of people who are **single (never married)** is similar to that of not living in a couple, but also includes Bahamas, Slovakia and Botswana. In the top 20, eight are African countries and five are Middle Eastern countries.
- Of the people who are **married but not living with their spouse** Somalians are top. Again countries often regarded as asylum countries are high in the rankings, though Bangladesh is fourth. It may be a valid assumption that a number of these people may be re-united with their families in London in the future and could be an important factor in forecasting migration to London. There are around 115 thousand Londoners who are not living with their spouse and around 20 thousand of these (over a sixth) are from *Somalia, Bangladesh, Nigeria* and *Ghana* alone. Other countries that have high numbers of married people not living in a couple are *India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka* and *Turkey*.
- Nine of the top ten countries for people who are **separated (but still legally married)** are in Africa. Somalia is again top (nine per cent), while *Sierra Leone* and *Ivory Coast* also have the same percentage.
- Adult Londoners born in countries in the West Indies are far more likely to be **divorced** than people from any other countries. All of the top ten is represented by Caribbean countries with as many as a fifth of people from *West Indies (not otherwise stated)* being divorced. Around four-fifths of these people are aged over 45 and each of the top ten countries has a population with an older-than-average age structure.
- Age structure is likely to play an important role in the rates of people who are **widowed**. Almost a third of adult *Austrians* are aged over 75 and 45 per cent are aged 65 and over. Six of the top ten have over 30 per cent aged 65 and over, but people from *Republic or Ireland, India, Czech Republic* and *Occupied territories* have under 30 per cent in this age category. It is possible that a combination of older husbands, high rates of poor health, an above average percentage of older people and even death caused by wars could all contribute to high numbers of widows.

Proportion of people who are living in a couple and married or re-married

Country of birth	Married or re-married
India	67
Tanzania	65
Cyprus	65
Pakistan	64
Kenya	64
Yemen	63
Bangladesh	61
Mauritius	61
Tunisia	60
Morocco	59
London Average	39

Proportion of people who are cohabiting

Country of birth	Cohabiting
Papua New Guinea	28
Iceland	25
Sweden	24
New Zealand	23
Denmark	23
Australia	21
Netherlands	21
Monaco, France	20
Norway	20
Finland	19
London Average	10

Proportion of people who are not living in a couple

Country of birth	Not living in a couple
United Arab Emirates	77
Somalia	75
Burundi	72
Rwanda	66
Ethiopia	62
Eritrea	62
Saudi Arabia	62
Kuwait	60
Luxembourg	60
Qatar	59
London Average	49

Proportion of people who are single (never married)

Country of birth	Single (never married)
United Arab Emirates	73
Saudi Arabia	54
Luxembourg	53
Bahamas	50
Slovakia	49
Botswana	49
Ethiopia	48
Burundi	48
Kuwait	48
Rwanda	47
London Average	32

Proportion of people who are not living in a couple but are married or re-married

Country of birth	Not living in a couple: Married or re-married
Somalia	14
Nepal	11
Afghanistan	10
Bangladesh	10
Gambia	9
Oman	9
Nigeria	8
Burundi	8
Ghana	7
Guinea	7
London Average	2

Proportion of people who are separated but still legally married

Country of birth	Separated (but still legally married)
Somalia	9
Sierra Leone	9
Ivory Coast	9
Democratic Republic of Congo	8
Congo	8
Nigeria	8
Vietnam	7
Ghana	7
Angola	7
Cameroon and other areas	7
London Average	2

Proportion of people who are divorced

Country of birth	Divorced
West Indies (not otherwise state)	19
St Lucia	17
Barbados	16
Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana	16
St Christopher (St Kitts) - Nevi	16
Dominica	15
Grenada	15
St Vincent and the Grenadines	15
Jamaica	15
Trinidad and Tobago	13
London Average	6

Proportion of people who are widowed

Country of birth	Widowed
Austria	19
Estonia	13
Poland	13
Myanmar	13
Republic of Ireland	12
Hungary	11
Latvia	11
India	9
Czech Republic	8
Occupied Territories (Gaza and W	8
London Average	6

Proportion of people living in communal establishment

Country of birth	Living in a Communal Establishment
Brunei	14
Botswana	12
Albania	10
Greece	10
Mexico	9
Taiwan	8
Oman	8
Korea, Democratic People's Repub	8
Luxembourg	7
Jordan	6
London Average	2

Source: 2001 Census, Specially Commissioned Table C0116