

Data Management and Analysis Group

2001 Census: Economic Activity in London

An analysis of Census data



DMAG Briefing 2005/3

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2001 Census: Economic Activity in London

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Contents Page

Key Points5

Introduction5

Economic activity6

Economic activity by gender7

Economic activity change over the decade 1991-20018

Change in economic activity rates by gender9

Change in economic activity rates by London borough10

Table 1 - Economic activity rates, 1991 and 200115

Table 2 - Male economic activity rates, 1991 and 200116

Table 3 - Female economic activity rates, 1991 and 200117

Table 4 - Economic inactivity rates, 1991 and 200118

Key Points

- London is home to nearly 3.5 million people of working age who are economically active, 2.1 million live in Outer London and 1.4 million in Inner London.
- Of London's economically active, 1.9 million are men and 1.6 million are women.
- The economic activity rate for London in 2001 was 74 per cent. The Outer London average is higher at 76 per cent, equal to the national average. The rate in Inner London was 72 per cent.
- Economic activity rates are usually higher for men than for women, 81 per cent and 68 per cent respectively, in London in 2001.
- Male economic activity rates in Outer London (83 per cent) are slightly above the national average (82 per cent).
- Economic activity rates for women have been increasing. In 2001 150,000 more women in London were economically active than in 1991, the increase in England and Wales was 900,000.

Introduction

This briefing gives information on London's economically active residents. It provides results from 2001 Census, giving an insight into variations in economic activity between men and women and changes since the 1991 Census. London is compared with England and Wales, Inner and Outer London, London borough data is also included.

The 2001 Census defines an economically active person as:

'someone who is either employed, is unemployed but available for work or is unemployed and temporarily sick but will be available for work when recovered. Students with (or looking for) a job in the week before Census day were classified as economically active.'

In the standard Census output all economic activity tables were based on people aged 16-74. In this briefing we use commissioned census data to produce tables for people of working age, 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men.

Comparisons with previous censuses are complicated by the fact that up to 1981 all students were classified as economically inactive. In 1991 economic activity tables included economically active students and had a separate row stating how many.

Economic activity

In 2001 there were 3.485 million London residents of working age who were economically active. This represents 74 per cent of those aged 16 to pensionable age, two percentage points lower than the national average of 76 per cent.

Over two million of these residents live in Outer London. The economic activity rate in Outer London is the same as the national average, 76 per cent. Inner London has a significantly lower rate of economic activity, 71 per cent.

Figure 1 - Economic activity rates by borough, 2001

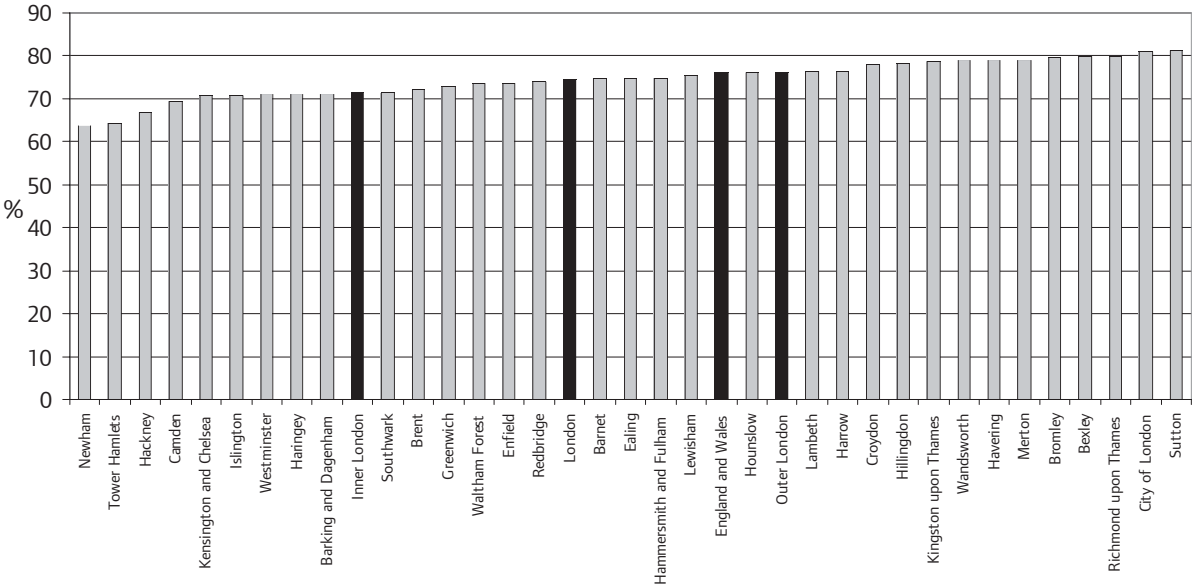
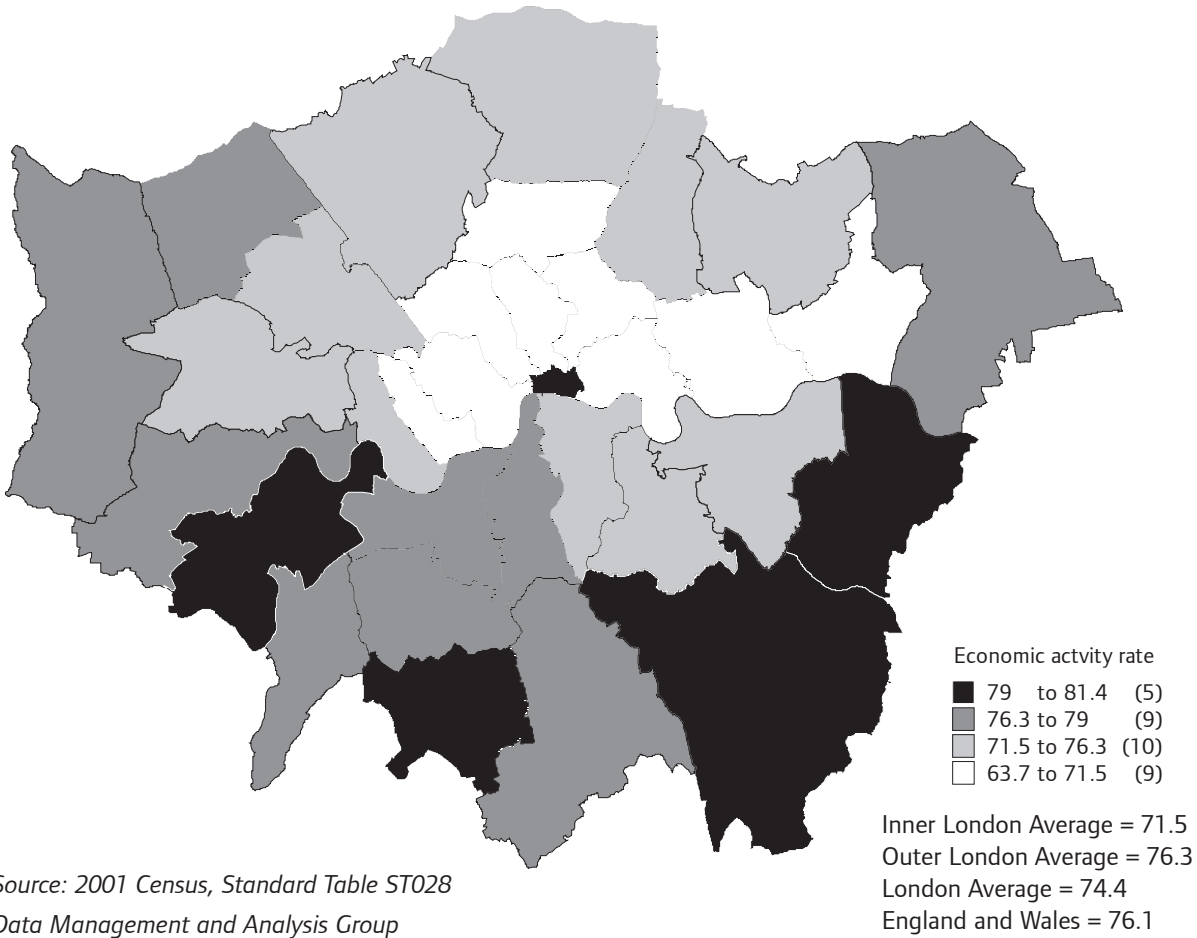


Figure 1 shows how economic activity rates for individual London boroughs vary. Comparative areas such as the London average are highlighted in black. Outer London boroughs generally have higher rates of economic activity. Eleven of the 14 boroughs with rates above the national average are in Outer London. Sutton has the highest rate of economic activity at 81 per cent. At the lower end of the scale, economic activity rates are very low in Newham and Tower Hamlets both with 64 per cent; these are followed by another six Inner London boroughs, the only Outer London borough with an economic activity rate below the Inner London average is Barking and Dagenham. For more detail see Table 1.

Map 1 shows that the lowest rates of economic activity are not distributed equally across London. A pattern emerges with a swathe across central north London from Kensington and Chelsea in the west to Barking and Dagenham in the east.

Map 1 - 2001 Economic activity rates by London boroughs



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028
 Data Management and Analysis Group

Economic activity by gender

Economic activity rates are usually higher for men than for women, 81 per cent and 68 per cent respectively, for London in 2001.

In 2001 there were almost 1.9 million economically active men in London with an economic activity rate of 81 per cent. Economic activity in England and Wales is one percentage point higher at 82 per cent. There is a five percentage point difference between rates for men in Outer London (83 per cent) and Inner London (78 per cent). The spread in male economic activity rates for the London boroughs is 14 percentage points between the highest, Sutton, at 87 per cent, and the lowest, Newham and Hackney both with 73 per cent. Table 2 provides more detail for each London borough.

Women account for 1.6 million of London's economically active. Their economic activity levels are generally lower than men and this can be seen with an activity rate of 68 per cent. Female activity rates are more variable than those for men, the spread in economic activity rates for women is 21 percentage points between the highest, Sutton at 75 per cent, and the lowest, Tower Hamlets at 54 per cent. Some of the difference can be explained by the different employment patterns and economic activity rates within different ethnic and religious groups.

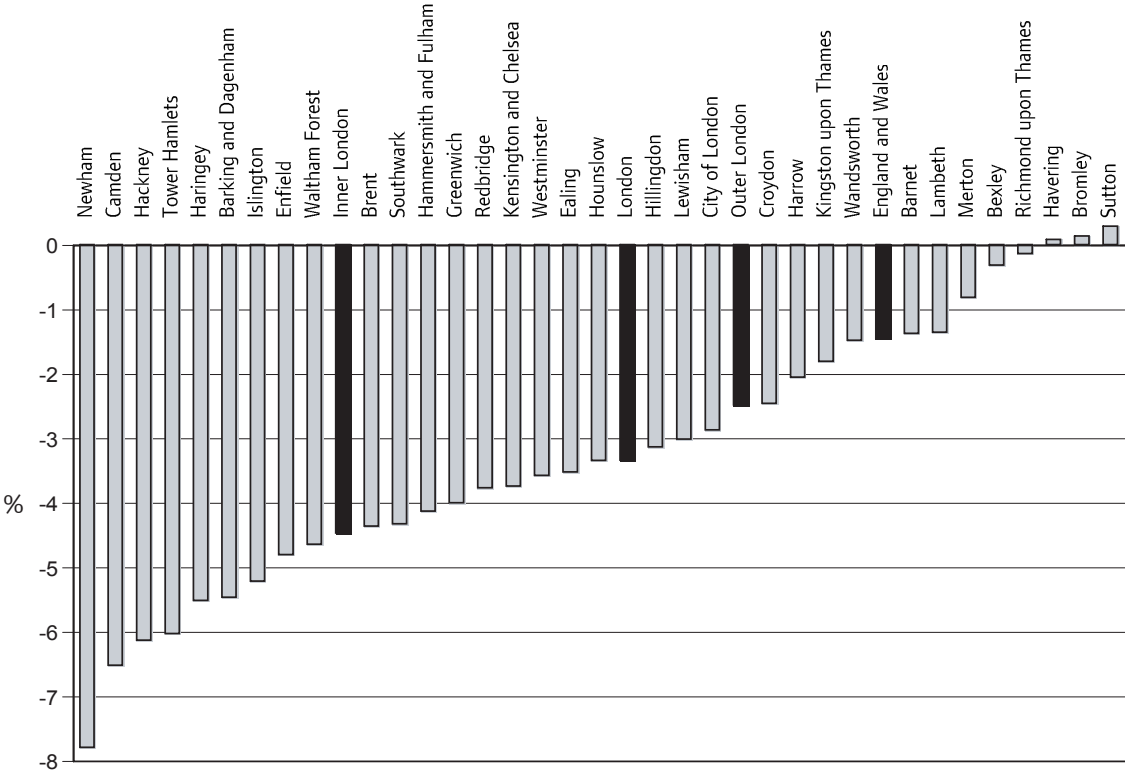
Economic activity change over the decade 1991-2001

Between 1991 and 2001 London saw an increase of almost 180,000 economically active residents of working age. During the same period the number of people aged 16 to pensionable age also increased by over 430,000. This has meant that the proportion of economically active residents has actually fallen.

Over the period 1991 to 2001 the economic activity rate in London has seen a decline of over three percentage points from 77.7 per cent to 74.4. In England and Wales the change was less, a fall of 1.5 percentage points from 77.5 per cent to 75.1.

Figure 2 shows the changes in economic activity rates over the decade for the London boroughs. Thirty London boroughs saw a reduction in their economic activity rates over the decade, the largest fall was in Newham. The increase in the remaining boroughs Sutton, Bromley and Havering were all below 0.3 per cent.

Figure 2 – Percentage point change in economic activity rates 1991-2001



In London some of the changes in the economically active population can be attributed to changes in education policy and employment patterns. Some of the change could also be the result of students being treated as resident at their term-time address in 2001, rather than their home address. In 2001 a greater number of young people remained in full-time education rather than entering the workforce. There were also an increasing number of students who have combined a full-time education with employment.

In 1991 less than ten per cent of full-time students in London were economically active, by 2001 the figure had risen to over 30 per cent. The increase in the number of economically inactive students accounts for 1.4 percentage points of the decline in economic activity rates. Table 4 shows the change in students rates over the decade.

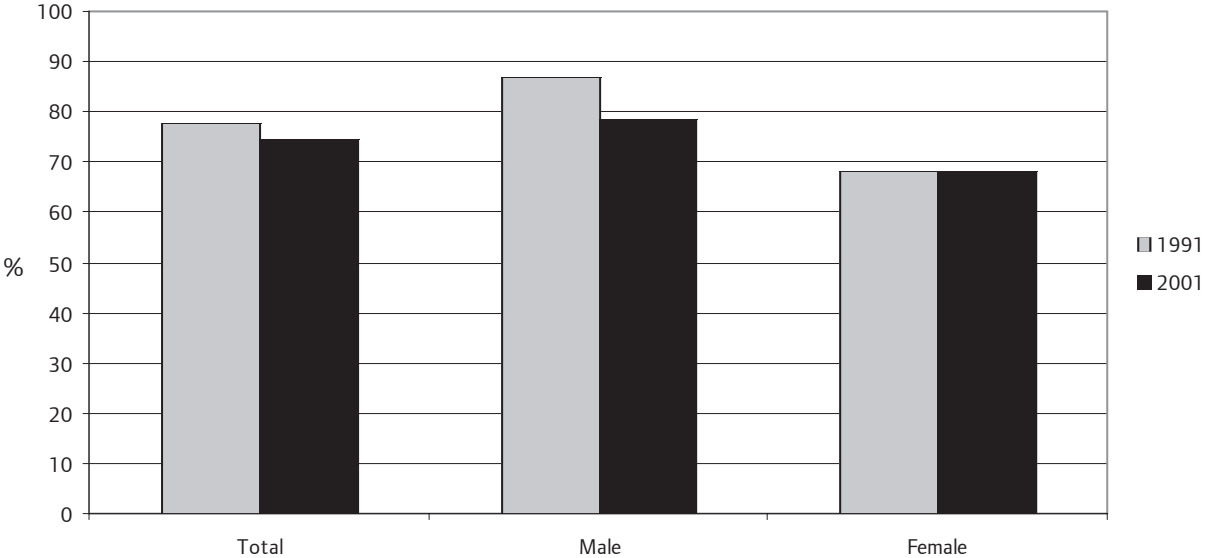
Change in economic activity rates by gender

When considering economic activity by gender we must remember that there have been changes in the labour market over the past decade. Women have increasingly becoming part of the employed workforce. This increase and could conceivably mask or give an incorrect view of what is currently happening to the labour force overall.

In 1991 there were 440,000 more economically active men than women. By 2001 the gap had fallen to less than 315,000. This change is not wholly because of the increase in the number of women in the labour force, but also to a reduction in the number of economically active men. Over the last decade more women have been moving into or returning to the workforce. In London an additional 150,000 women are economically active compared to 1991, compared to 25,000 more men.

Figure 3 shows the change in economic activity rates, the slight reduction in economic activity overall being almost entirely due to the change in employment patterns for men.

Figure 3 - Economic activity rates by gender for London



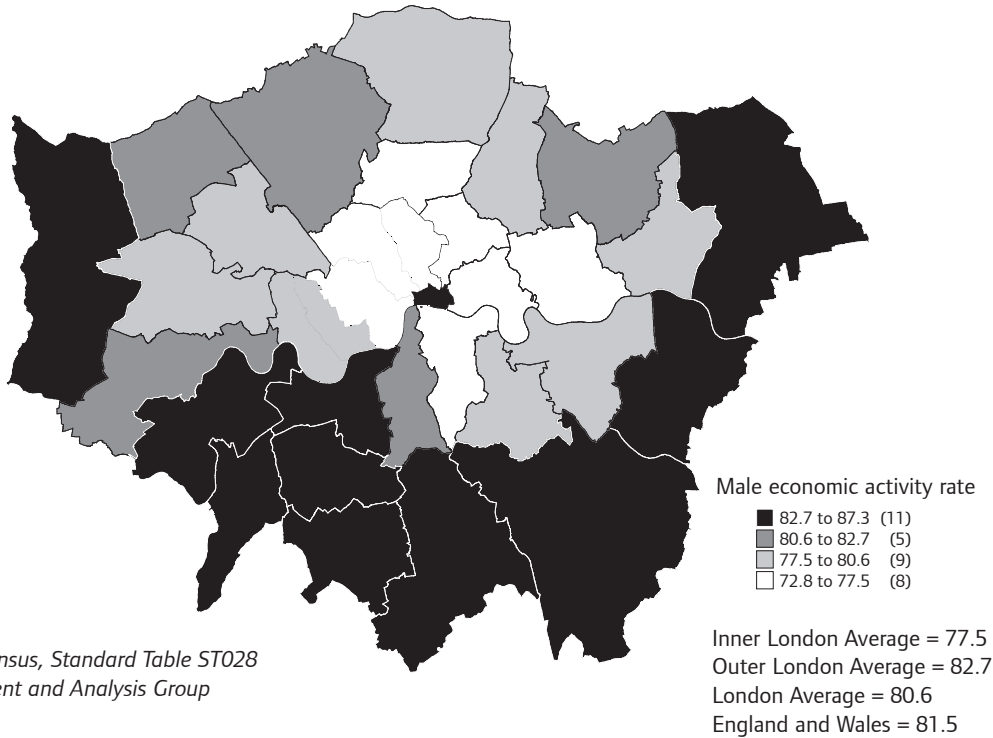
Change in economic activity rates by London borough

Over the decade there was a reduction of 16,000 in the number of economically active men in Outer London, alongside an increase of 82,000 in the number of economically active women. These figures do not provide the full picture, the largest reductions of economic activity rates for men were in Inner London, Newham (11 percentage points) and Hackney (ten percentage points).

The following maps show the distribution of economic activity rates by gender for 2001 and 1991. The bandings have been chosen to display boroughs below the Inner London average, those between the Inner London and London averages, the London and Outer London averages and those above the Outer London average. For detailed London borough figures see Tables 2 and 3.

Map 2 indicates that in 2001 eight London boroughs have male economic activity rates below the Inner London average and 11 boroughs have rates above the Outer London average. Sutton has the highest level of male economic activity at 87 per cent, the City of London is the only Inner London authority to appear in the top third of London authorities.

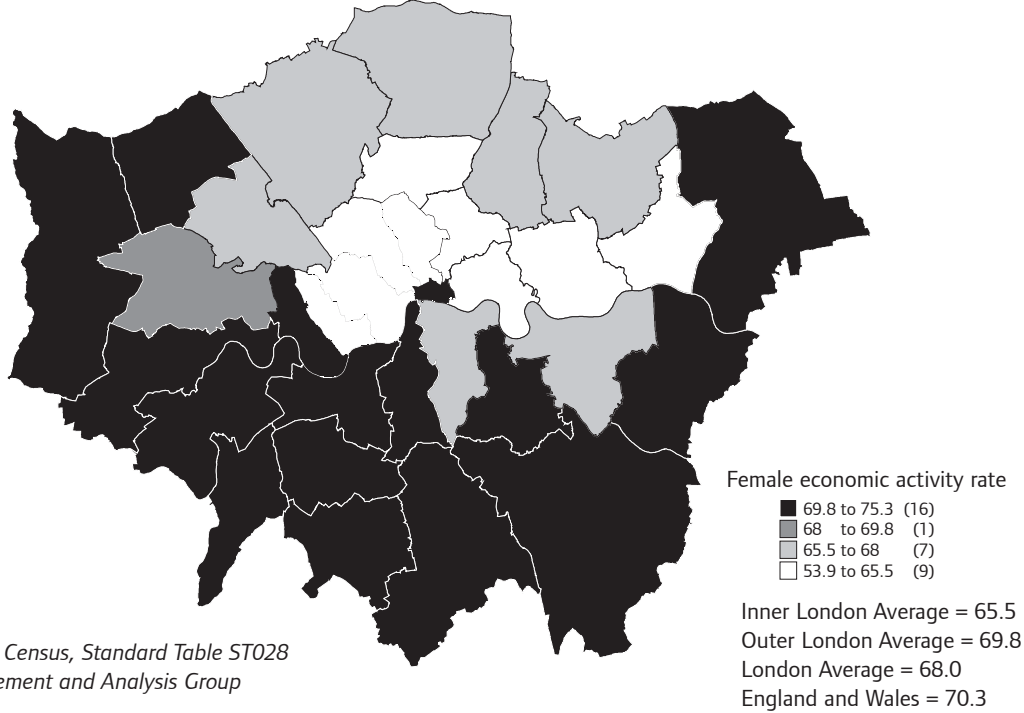
Map 2 - Male economic activity rates by London borough, 2001



Source: 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028
 Data Management and Analysis Group

Map 3 shows female economic activity rates in 2001. Barking and Dagenham is the only Outer London borough to have an economic activity rate below the Inner London average. The top category has half of London authorities with female economic activity rates above the Outer London average, of these all but Lewisham and Ealing have rates above the national average.

Map 3 - Female economic activity rates by London borough, 2001



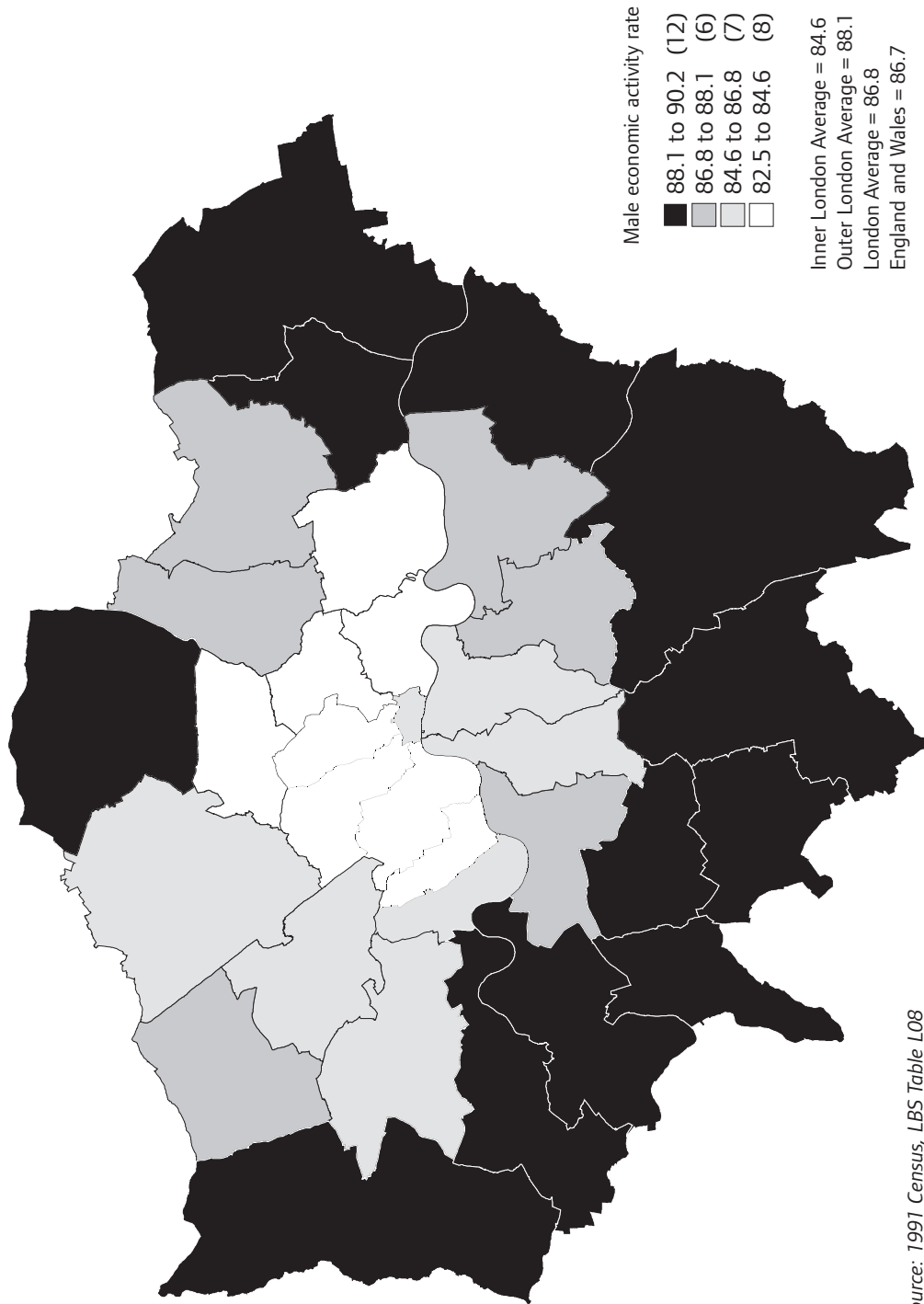
Source: 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028
 Data Management and Analysis Group

Maps 4 and 5 are based on 1991 data. Over the decade borough boundaries have changed slightly but for the purposes of this report the data will be shown on 2001 boundaries.

Map 4 shows that in 1991 there were fewer boroughs with male economic activity rates above the London average than in 2001. Central Inner London has shown little change in relative position but the rates are lower.

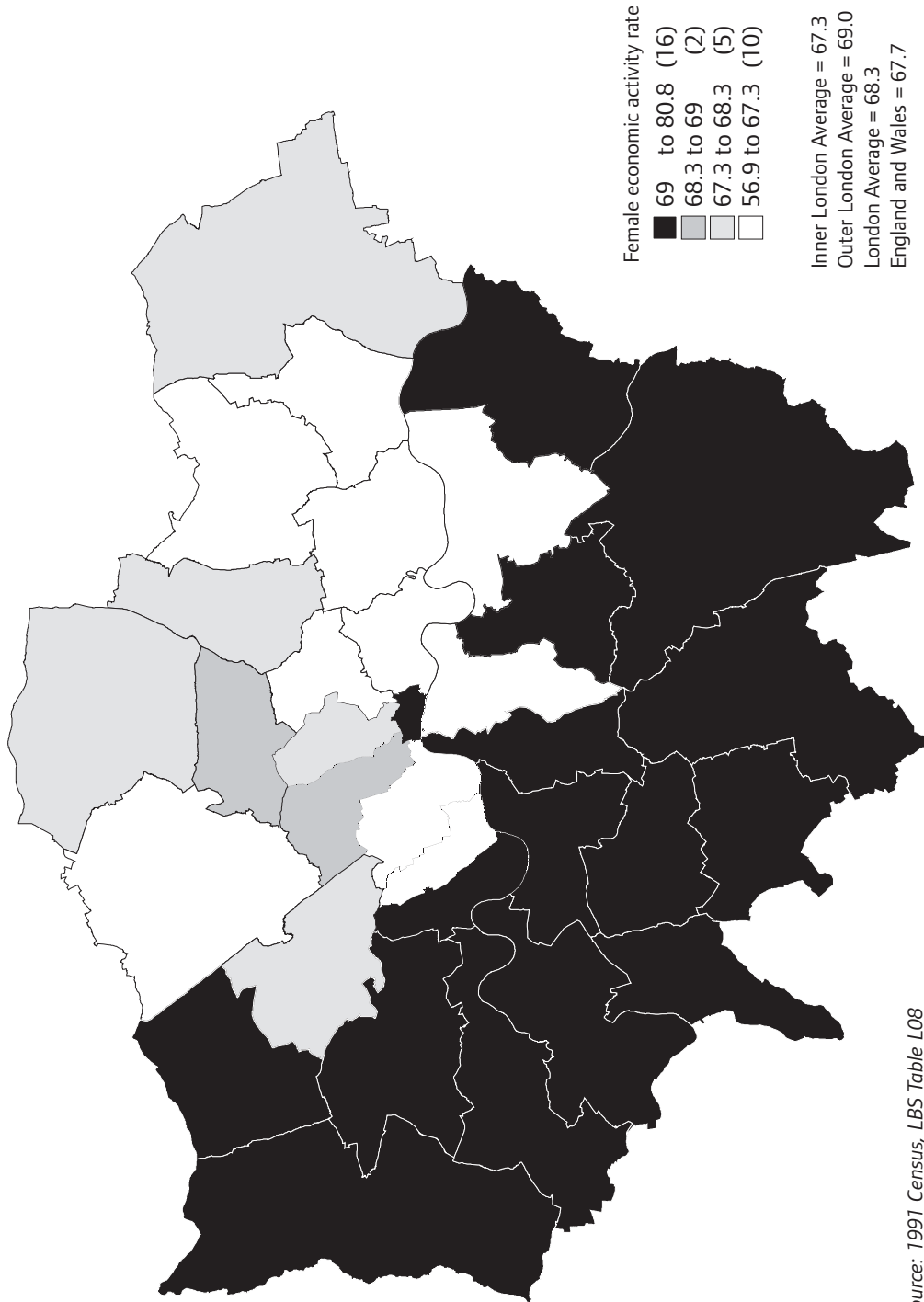
Map 5 shows the patterns for female economic activity rates for 1991. The City of London has the highest rates at 81 per cent followed by Wandsworth at 73 per cent. Over two thirds of London boroughs had rates above the national average.

Map 4 - Male economic activity rates by London borough, 1991



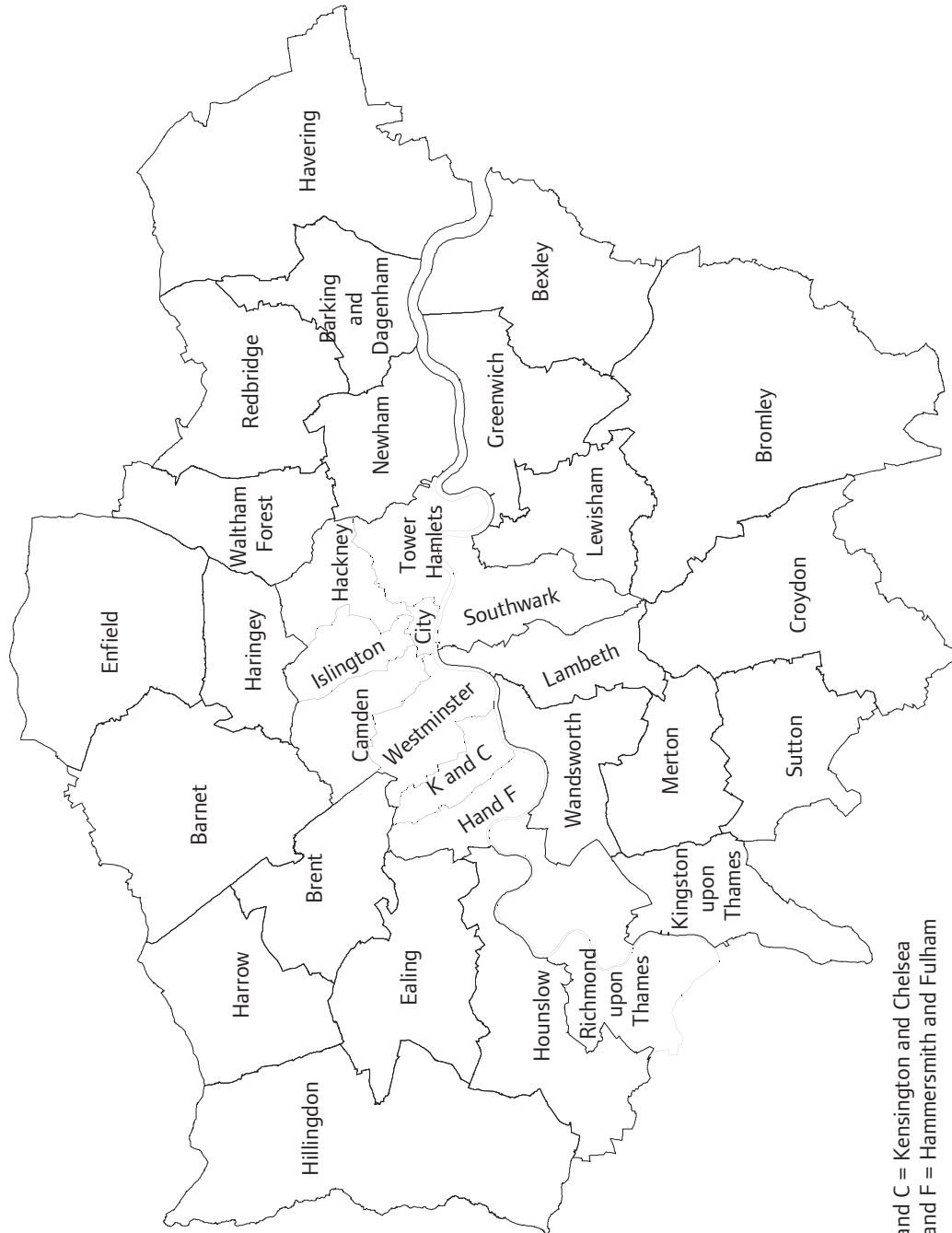
Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08
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Map 5 - Female economic activity rates by London borough, 1991



Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08
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London Boroughs



K and C = Kensington and Chelsea
H and F = Hammersmith and Fulham

Source:
Data Management and Analysis Group

Table 1 - Economic activity rates, 1991 and 2001

	1991		2001		Change 1991-2001	
	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Number 16-PA	Percentage point change 16-PA
City of London	2,635	83.8	4,360	80.7	1,725	-3.1
Barking and Dagenham	64,389	76.7	70,003	71.2	5,614	-5.5
Barnet	138,315	76.1	148,375	74.7	10,060	-1.4
Bexley	107,925	80.1	105,728	79.8	-2,197	-0.3
Brent	121,423	76.5	126,501	72.2	5,078	-4.4
Bromley	143,600	79.4	142,783	79.5	-817	0.1
Camden	85,931	75.8	97,271	69.3	11,340	-6.5
Croydon	161,020	80.4	162,320	77.9	1,300	-2.5
Ealing	139,537	78.4	150,058	74.8	10,521	-3.5
Enfield	126,104	78.4	126,511	73.6	407	-4.8
Greenwich	96,097	76.8	98,704	72.8	2,607	-4.0
Hackney	83,013	73.1	89,156	66.9	6,143	-6.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	80,668	79.0	87,980	74.9	7,312	-4.1
Haringey	103,057	76.5	104,140	71.0	1,083	-5.5
Harrow	98,476	78.5	99,605	76.5	1,129	-2.1
Havering	111,765	78.8	105,921	78.9	-5,844	0.1
Hillingdon	118,964	81.4	119,033	78.2	69	-3.1
Hounslow	104,591	79.7	106,848	76.3	2,257	-3.3
Islington	81,579	75.9	86,598	70.7	5,019	-5.2
Kensington and Chelsea	72,396	74.5	78,501	70.7	6,105	-3.7
Kingston upon Thames	67,668	80.4	76,160	78.6	8,492	-1.8
Lambeth	125,284	77.7	142,036	76.3	16,752	-1.4
Lewisham	114,320	78.2	123,660	75.2	9,340	-3.0
Merton	85,428	79.8	97,407	79.0	11,979	-0.8
Newham	93,194	71.6	98,251	63.8	5,057	-7.8
Redbridge	108,459	77.6	110,093	73.8	1,634	-3.8
Richmond upon Thames	81,940	80.0	90,089	79.8	8,149	-0.1
Southwark	104,647	75.8	118,373	71.5	13,726	-4.3
Sutton	85,234	81.1	91,183	81.4	5,949	0.3
Tower Hamlets	67,078	70.3	83,397	64.3	16,319	-6.0
Waltham Forest	104,267	78.2	104,284	73.6	17	-4.6
Wandsworth	137,367	80.4	146,922	78.9	9,555	-1.5
Westminster	89,284	74.6	92,795	71.0	3,511	-3.6
Inner London	1,240,453	76.0	1,353,453	71.5	113,000	-4.5
Outer London	2,065,202	78.8	2,131,637	76.3	66,435	-2.5
London	3,305,655	77.7	3,485,092	74.4	179,437	-3.3
England and Wales	23,660,097	77.5	24,307,884	76.1	647,787	-1.5

Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08, 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028

PA- Pension age

Table 2 - Male economic activity rates, 1991 and 2001

	1991		2001		Change 1991-2001	
	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Number 16-PA	Percentage point change 16-PA
City of London	1,482	86.3	2,593	85.4	1,111	-0.9
Barking and Dagenham	38,163	88.3	39,010	79.9	847	-8.4
Barnet	78,947	86.1	80,771	81.9	1,824	-4.2
Bexley	62,496	90.0	58,192	86.3	-4,304	-3.7
Brent	68,554	85.1	68,865	78.2	311	-6.9
Bromley	82,438	88.8	78,319	85.6	-4,119	-3.1
Camden	46,746	83.2	52,059	74.8	5,313	-8.4
Croydon	91,140	89.3	86,998	83.9	-4,142	-5.4
Ealing	78,313	86.6	81,973	80.3	3,660	-6.3
Enfield	72,827	88.2	69,042	80.5	-3,785	-7.7
Greenwich	55,050	87.2	53,606	79.3	-1,444	-8.0
Hackney	46,643	82.5	47,214	72.9	571	-9.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	43,151	86.1	46,216	79.6	3,065	-6.5
Haringey	57,377	84.5	55,516	76.9	-1,861	-7.6
Harrow	56,049	87.6	54,243	82.4	-1,806	-5.2
Havering	65,433	89.2	58,800	85.6	-6,633	-3.6
Hillingdon	68,522	90.0	65,027	84.5	-3,495	-5.5
Hounslow	59,711	88.3	58,712	82.3	-999	-6.0
Kingston upon Thames	38,648	88.7	42,037	84.3	3,389	-4.4
Islington	45,035	84.4	45,910	76.4	875	-8.1
Kensington and Chelsea	40,311	84.0	43,293	78.9	2,982	-5.1
Lambeth	68,359	85.4	76,097	80.7	7,738	-4.8
Lewisham	63,266	86.9	66,193	80.4	2,927	-6.5
Merton	48,629	88.8	53,084	84.7	4,455	-4.1
Newham	55,760	83.6	56,587	72.9	827	-10.7
Southwark	58,172	84.6	64,282	76.5	6,110	-8.1
Redbridge	62,862	87.4	61,495	81.1	-1,367	-6.4
Richmond upon Thames	46,147	88.5	49,242	86.0	3,095	-2.5
Sutton	48,531	90.1	49,683	87.2	1,152	-2.9
Tower Hamlets	40,819	82.8	49,513	74.0	8,694	-8.8
Waltham Forest	59,519	87.9	57,027	79.8	-2,492	-8.1
Wandsworth	74,504	87.4	76,301	83.7	1,797	-3.7
Westminster	49,794	82.7	51,391	77.1	1,597	-5.6
Inner London	691,419	84.6	733,168	77.5	41,749	-7.1
Outer London	1,181,979	88.1	1,166,125	82.7	-15,854	-5.5
London	1,873,398	86.8	1,899,292	80.6	25,894	-6.2
England and Wales	13,712,594	86.7	13,421,207	81.5	-291,387	-5.2

Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08, 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028

PA- Pension age

Table 3 - Female economic activity rates, 1991 and 2001

	1991		2001		Change 1991-2001	
	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Economically Active Numbers 16-PA	Rates 16-PA	Number 16-PA	Percentage point change 16-PA
City of London	1,153	80.7	1,767	74.6	614	-6.1
Barking and Dagenham	26,226	64.4	30,993	62.7	4,767	-1.7
Barnet	59,368	66.0	67,604	67.7	8,236	1.7
Bexley	45,429	69.7	47,536	73.1	2,107	3.4
Brent	52,869	67.7	57,636	66.1	4,767	-1.6
Bromley	61,162	69.5	64,464	73.2	3,302	3.7
Camden	39,185	68.6	45,212	63.9	6,027	-4.7
Croydon	69,880	71.1	75,322	71.9	5,442	0.9
Ealing	61,224	69.9	68,085	69.2	6,861	-0.7
Enfield	53,277	68.1	57,469	66.8	4,192	-1.4
Greenwich	41,047	66.1	45,098	66.3	4,051	0.2
Hackney	36,370	63.7	41,942	61.3	5,572	-2.4
Hammersmith and Fulham	37,517	72.2	41,764	70.3	4,247	-1.9
Haringey	45,680	68.5	48,624	65.3	2,944	-3.2
Islington	36,544	67.6	40,688	65.3	4,144	-2.3
Harrow	42,427	69.1	45,362	70.4	2,935	1.3
Havering	46,332	67.7	47,121	71.9	789	4.2
Hillingdon	50,442	71.9	54,006	71.8	3,564	-0.1
Hounslow	44,880	70.5	48,136	70.1	3,256	-0.4
Kensington and Chelsea	32,085	65.1	35,208	62.7	3,123	-2.5
Kingston upon Thames	29,020	71.5	34,123	72.5	5,103	1.1
Lambeth	56,925	70.0	65,939	71.8	9,014	1.8
Lewisham	51,054	69.6	57,467	70.0	6,413	0.4
Merton	36,799	70.3	44,323	73.1	7,524	2.7
Newham	37,434	58.9	41,664	54.5	4,230	-4.4
Redbridge	45,597	67.1	48,598	66.3	3,001	-0.8
Richmond upon Thames	35,793	71.1	40,847	73.5	5,054	2.4
Southwark	46,475	67.1	54,091	66.4	7,616	-0.8
Sutton	36,703	71.6	41,500	75.3	4,797	3.7
Tower Hamlets	26,259	57.0	33,884	54.0	7,625	-3.0
Waltham Forest	44,748	68.2	47,257	67.2	2,509	-1.0
Wandsworth	62,863	73.4	70,621	74.3	7,758	0.9
Westminster	39,490	66.4	41,404	64.7	1,914	-1.7
Inner London	549,034	67.3	620,285	65.5	71,251	-1.8
Outer London	883,223	69.0	965,512	69.8	82,289	0.8
London	1,432,257	68.3	1,585,800	68.0	153,543	-0.3
England and Wales	9,947,503	67.7	10,886,677	70.3	939,174	2.6

Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08, 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028

PA- Pension age

Table 4 - Economic inactivity rates, London 1991 and 2001

Economically Inactive	Total	Number		Percentage		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1991						
Total 16-PA	4,254,094	2,157,837	2,096,257			
Inactive 16-PA	948,439	284,439	664,000	22.3	13.2	31.7
Students	255,805	129,369	126,436	6.0	6.0	6.0
Permanently sick	146,915	85,368	61,547	3.5	4.0	2.9
Retired	61,284	43,567	17,717	1.4	2.0	0.8
Other	484,435	26,135	458,300	11.4	1.2	21.9
2001						
Total 16-PA	4,686,695	2,356,268	2,330,427			
Inactive 16-PA	1,201,605	456,977	744,628	25.6	19.4	32.0
Students	346,653	169,364	177,289	7.4	7.2	7.6
Permanently sick	208,667	117,077	91,590	4.5	5.0	3.9
Retired	70,560	49,682	20,878	1.5	2.1	0.9
Other	575,725	120,854	454,871	12.3	5.1	19.5
Change 1991- 2001				Percentage point change		
Total 16-PA	432,601	198,431	234,170			
Inactive 16-PA	253,166	172,538	80,628	3.3	6.2	0.3
Students	90,848	39,995	50,853	1.4	1.2	1.6
Permanently sick	61,752	31,709	30,043	1.0	1.0	1.0
Retired	9,276	6,115	3,161	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other	91,290	94,719	-3,429	0.9	3.9	-2.3

Source: 1991 Census, LBS Table L08, 2001 Census, Standard Table ST028

PA- Pension age

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DMAG 2004/23	ONS Mid-year Population Estimates: 1991 to 2003	John Hollis/ Georgia Hay
DMAG 2004/24	Fertility of Ethnic Groups in London, 2002/03	Ed Klodawski
DMAG 2004/25	ONS 2003-based Subnational Population Projections	John Hollis / Georgia Hay
DMAG 2004/26	Census Information Note 2004-3	Eileen Howes
DMAG 2004/27	PayCheck 2004	Lovedeep Vaid
DMAG 2004/28	Greater London Demographic Review 2003	Georgia Hay

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