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Homeworking in London

Census Information Scheme

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Introduction

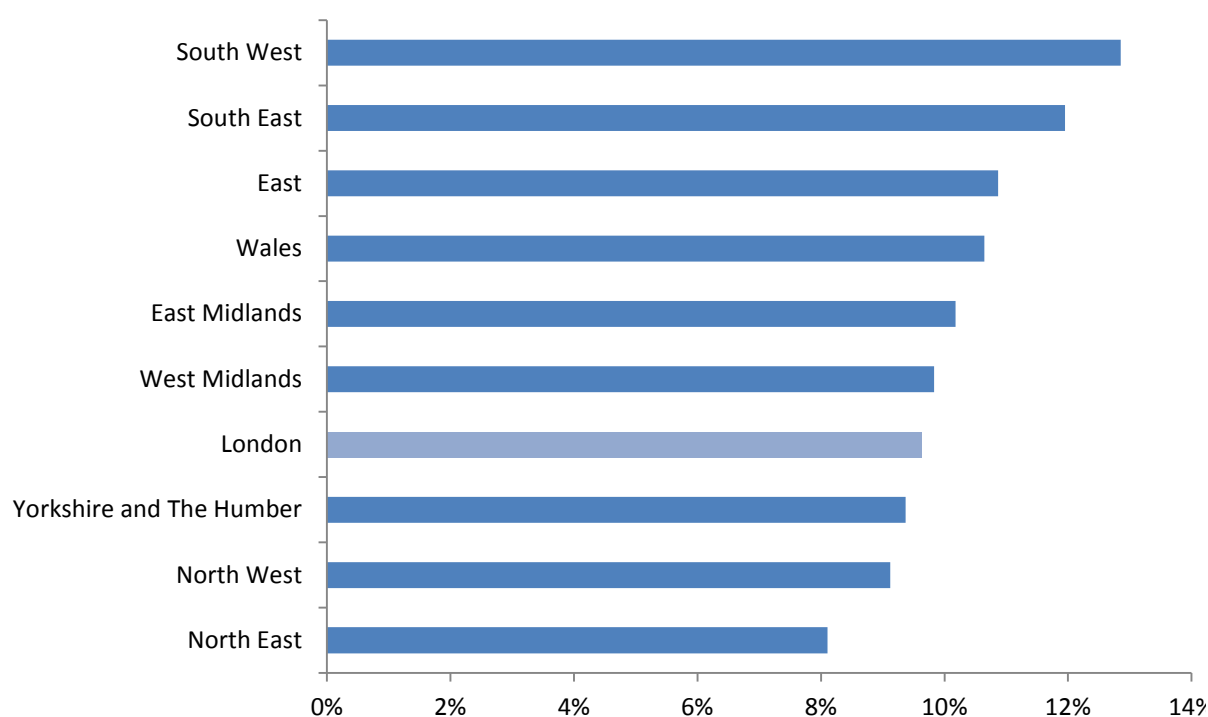
The 2011 Census collected data on the economic activity of all usual residents aged 16 and over. This report focuses on those in employment who worked mainly at or from home and is split into two sections; first looking at the kinds of jobs homeworkers had before looking at the characteristics of the homeworkers themselves.

Overview

In 2011 there were 388,000 homeworkers living in London, equating to ten per cent of the 3.8 million in employment. This percentage has changed little from 2001, when the respective figure was nine per cent.

The homeworking rate for England & Wales as a whole was also ten per cent. There wasn't much regional variation, though London reported a lower rate than its neighbouring regions (South East was 12 per cent, East of England was 11 per cent).

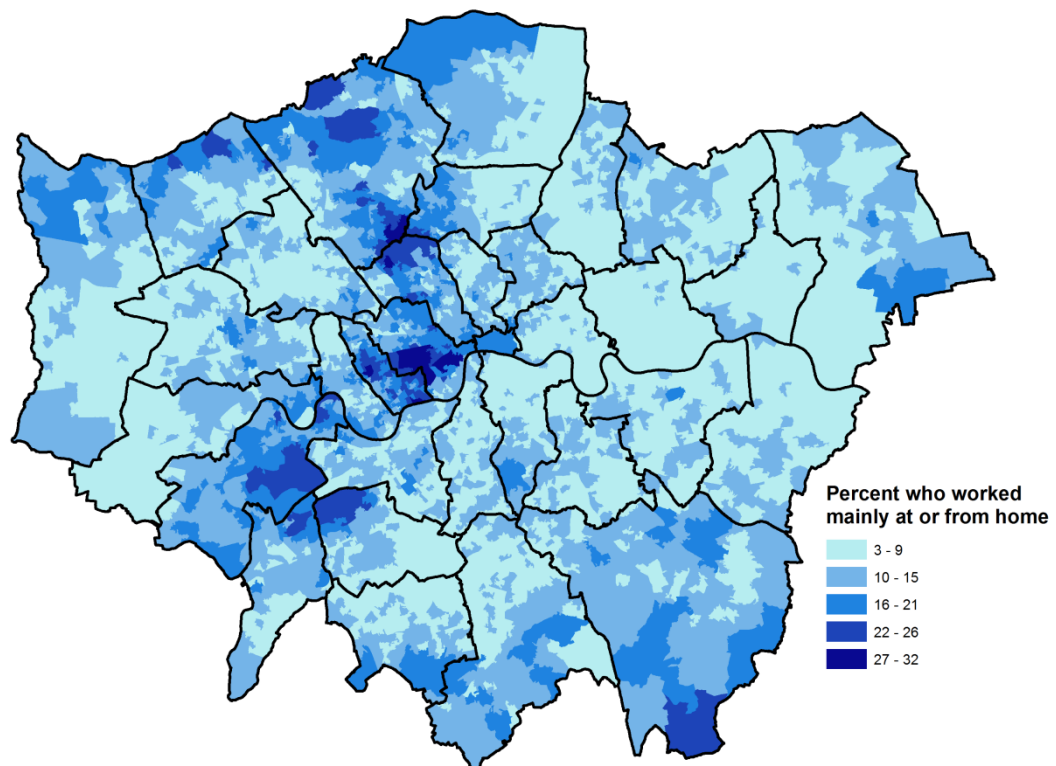
Figure 1: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC7101EW1a

Looking more closely at London, Figure 2 maps the rate of homeworkers at LSOA level. Clusters of high proportions of homeworkers could be found in Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham, Richmond, Merton, Barnet, Harrow, and Bromley. There was comparatively little homeworking in the north-eastern boroughs.

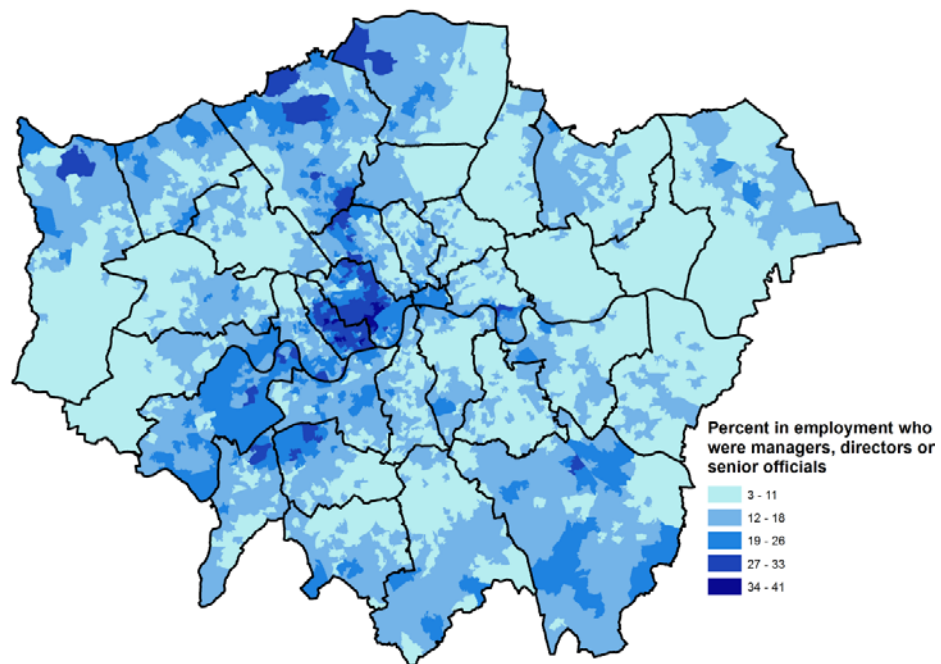
Figure 2: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by London LSOA, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Tables LC7101EW

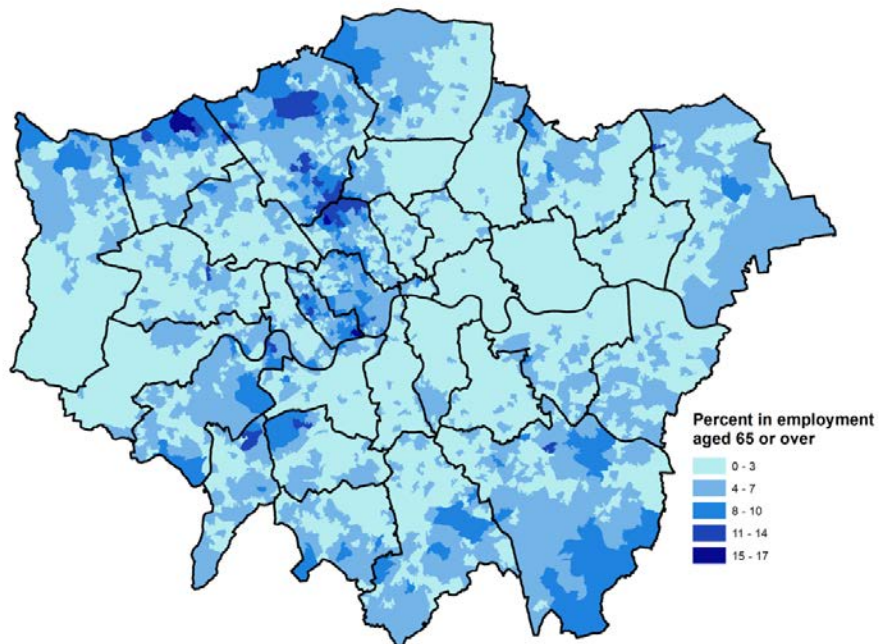
Figure 3 maps the percentage of all people who worked as managers, directors and senior officials while Figure 4 maps the percentage in employment who were aged 65 and over. Comparing these two maps with Figure 2, it is noticeable how similar they appear. This is due to the fact they are all interlinked; both older people and those classified as managers, directors and senior officials were more likely to be homeworkers. This is explained in more detail later in this report.

Figure 3: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked as managers, directors and senior officials by London LSOA, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Tables LC6120EW

Figure 4: Percentage in employment aged 65 and over by London LSOA, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Tables LC6107EW

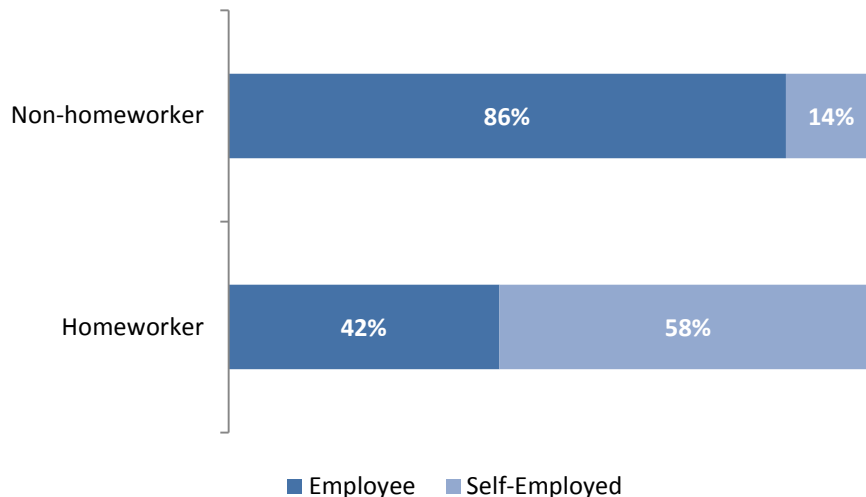
Occupation of Homeworkers

This section will look into what kind of jobs homeworkers had at the time of the Census.

Economic activity

Those who worked mainly at or from home were far more likely to be self-employed than those who didn't (58 per cent of homeworkers were self-employed compared to 14 per cent of non-homeworkers). This trend was matched at the national level.

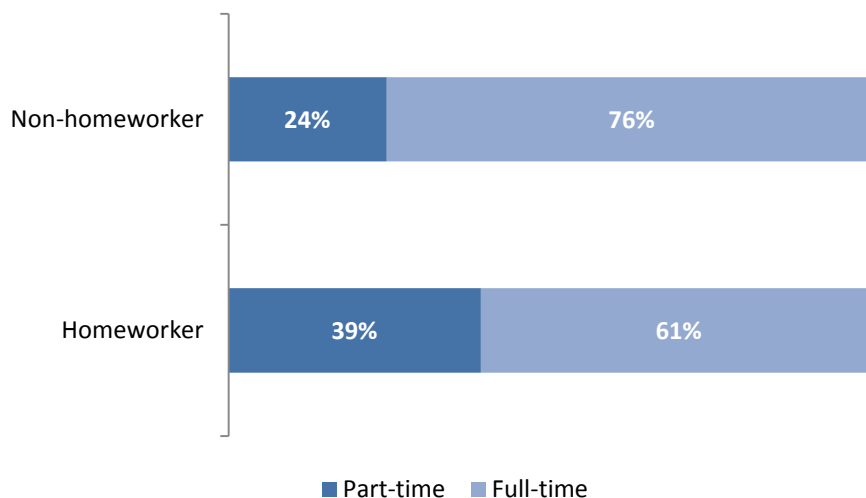
Figure 5: Usual residents in employment aged 16 and over by economic activity, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Tables DC6607EW1a & DC6602EW

The majority of homeworkers (61 per cent) worked full-time. However homeworkers were more likely to be working part-time than non-homeworkers (39 per cent working part-time compared to 24 per cent of non-homeworkers). This trend was also matched at the national level.

Figure 6: Usual residents in employment aged 16 and over by economic activity, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Tables DC6607EW1a & DC6602EW

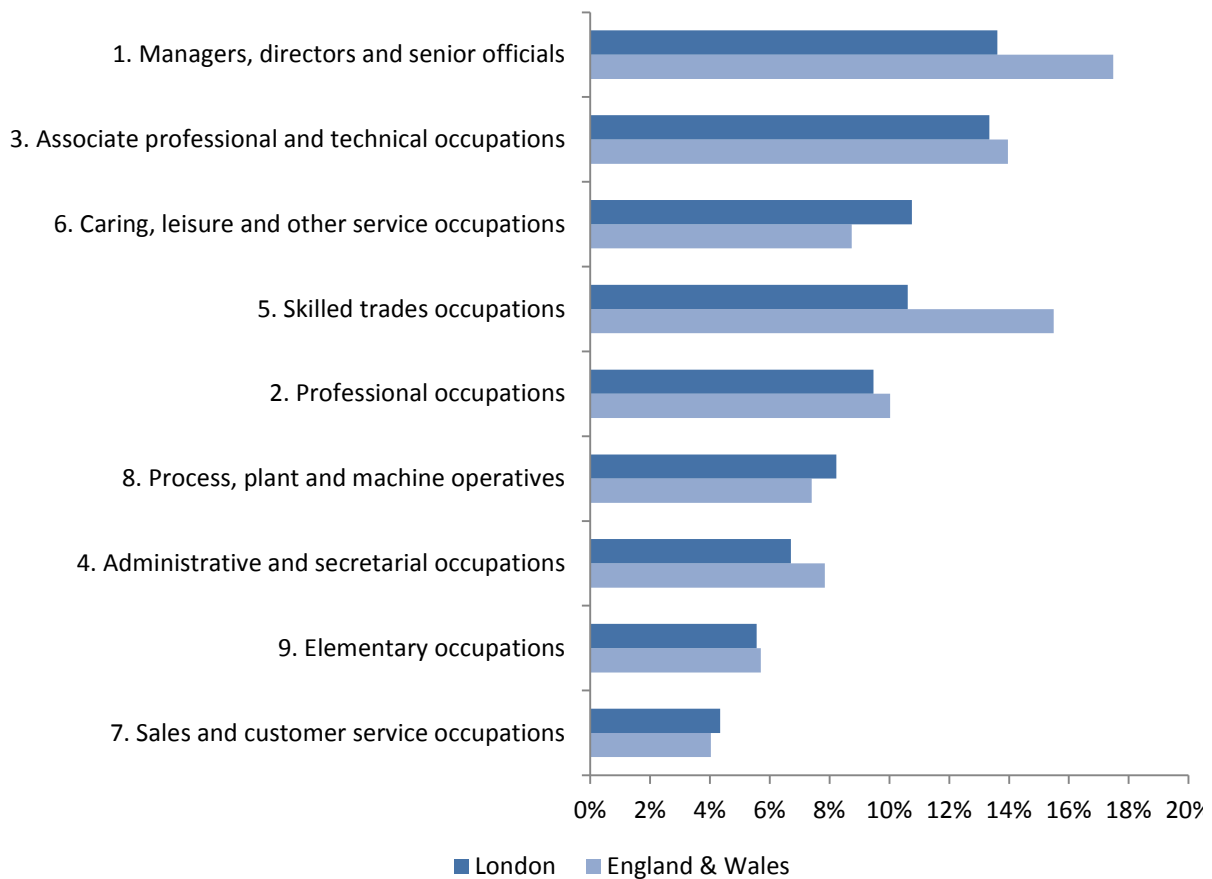
Occupation

In Census outputs, a person's occupation relates to their main job and is derived from either their job title or details of the activities involved in their job. This is used to assign responses to an occupation code based on the Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (SOC2010).

The occupation type with the highest homeworking rate was Managers, directors and senior officials at 14 per cent. This was also the occupation type with the highest homeworking rate for England & Wales as a whole; although the rate at a national level was higher (at 17 per cent).

Sales and customer service occupations had the lowest rate of homeworkers in both London and England & Wales as a whole (both four per cent).

Figure 7: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by occupation, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC7603EW/a

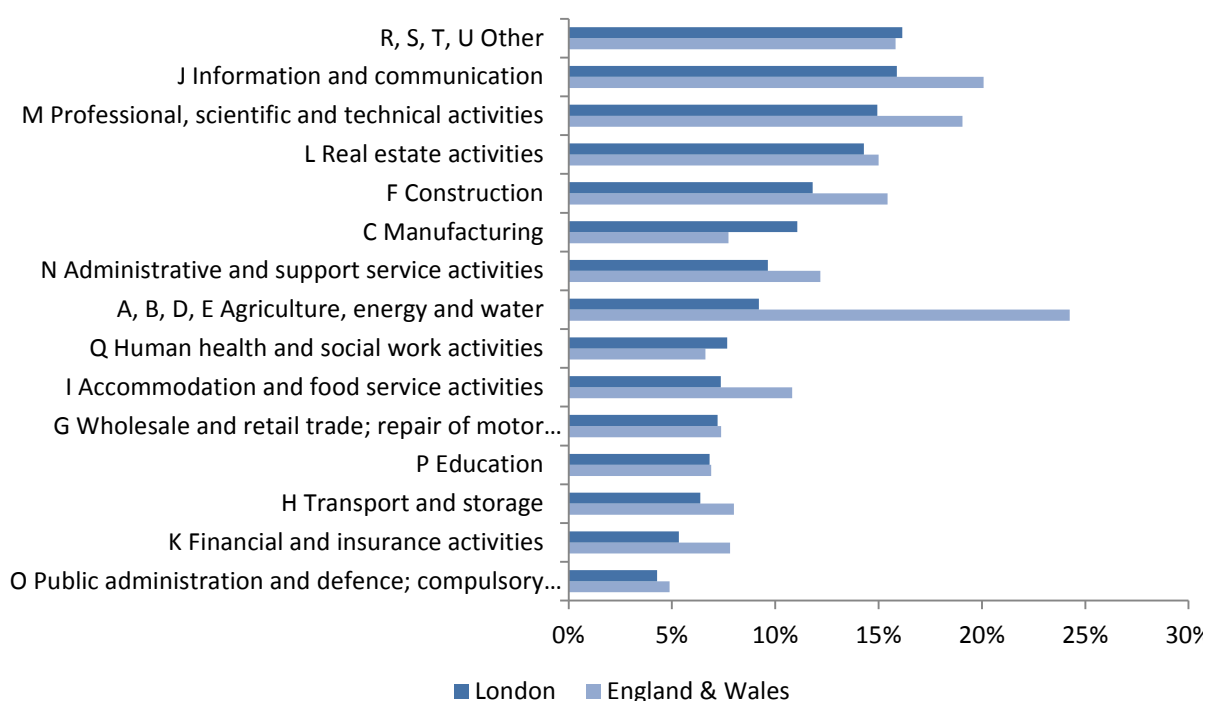
Industry

The industry in which a person works relates to their main job, and is derived from information provided in the Census on the main activity of their employer or business. This is used to assign responses to an industry code based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC2007).

The industries with the largest share of Londoners working mainly at or from home (at 16 per cent) were classified under “R, S, T, U Other”¹. This was followed closely by those working in Information and Communication with 16 per cent being homeworkers.

Professional, scientific and technical activities; real estate activities; construction; manufacturing; and administrative and support service activities were all industries that had an above average rate of Londoners working mainly at or from home.

Figure 8: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by industry, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC7602EW1a

The most noticeable difference between London and the national average was in the Agriculture, energy and water sector. In this industry, around one in ten of London's workforce were homeworkers with the corresponding national figure being one in four. This is likely due to the fact that only 7 per cent of Londoners in this industrial group worked in agriculture (as opposed to energy and water) compared to 37 per cent nationally².

¹ This group includes jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation; activities of households (i.e. butlers, cooks, caring for other household members, etc.); as well as any job not covered by the other SIC 2007 groups.

² Due to the nature of the job, those working in agriculture are assumed to have been more likely to work from home than those in the energy and water sectors.

Characteristics of Homeworkers

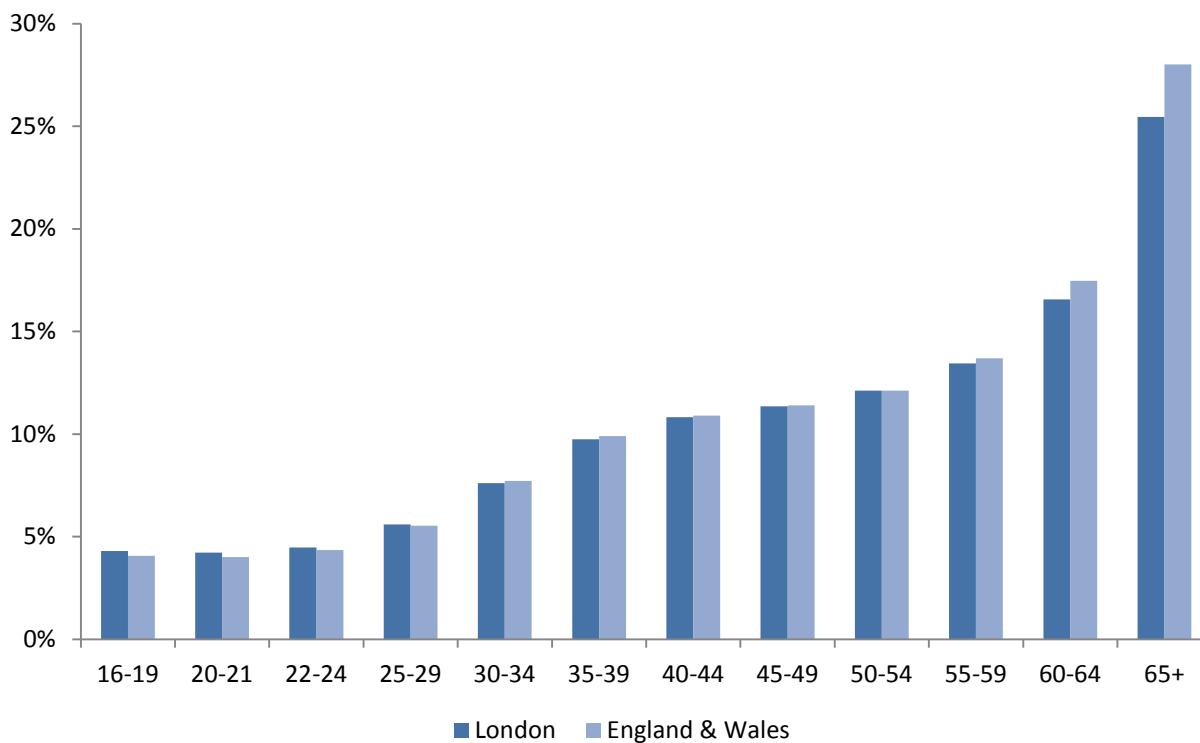
This section will look into what kinds of people worked mainly at or from home at the time of the Census.

Age

Those in older age groups were more likely to work from home. Just four per cent of 16 to 19 year olds worked mainly at or from home compared to 25 per cent of those aged 65 or over. The same trend was also seen at the national level.

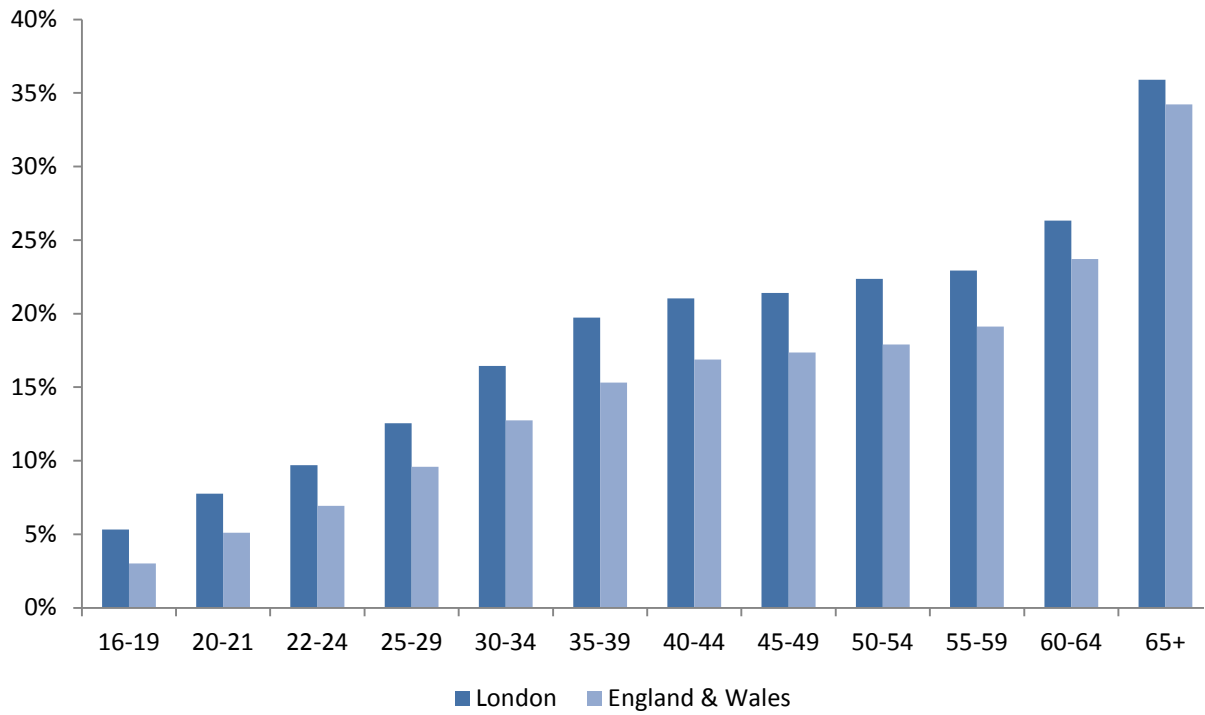
It's also interesting to note that up to the age of 29, Londoners were more likely to be homeworkers compared to the national average. However from age 30 onwards the opposite was true, with Londoners less likely to be homeworkers in comparison to England & Wales as a whole.

Figure 9: Percentage of usual residents in employment who worked mainly at or from home by age, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC7101EW/a

There was also a higher rate of self-employment in the older age groups (Figure 10) and, as shown in Figure 5, homeworkers were most likely to be self-employed. This relationship between homeworking and self-employment suggests that the trend shown in Figure 9 may be partly as a result of the trend in self-employment amongst older people.

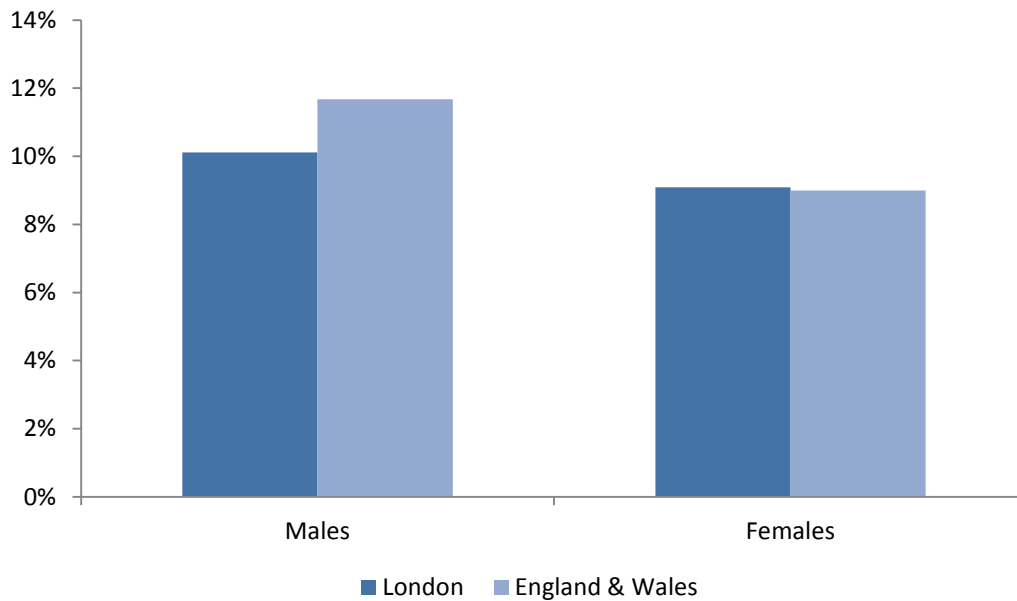
Figure 10: Percentage of usual residents in employment who were self-employed by age, 2011

Source: 2011 Census Table DC6107EW

Sex

Males were more likely to work from home than females, although the difference wasn't large. In London, ten per cent of males were homeworkers while nine per cent of females worked from home. For England & Wales as a whole, twelve per cent of males were homeworkers compared to nine percent of females.

Figure 11: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by sex, 2011

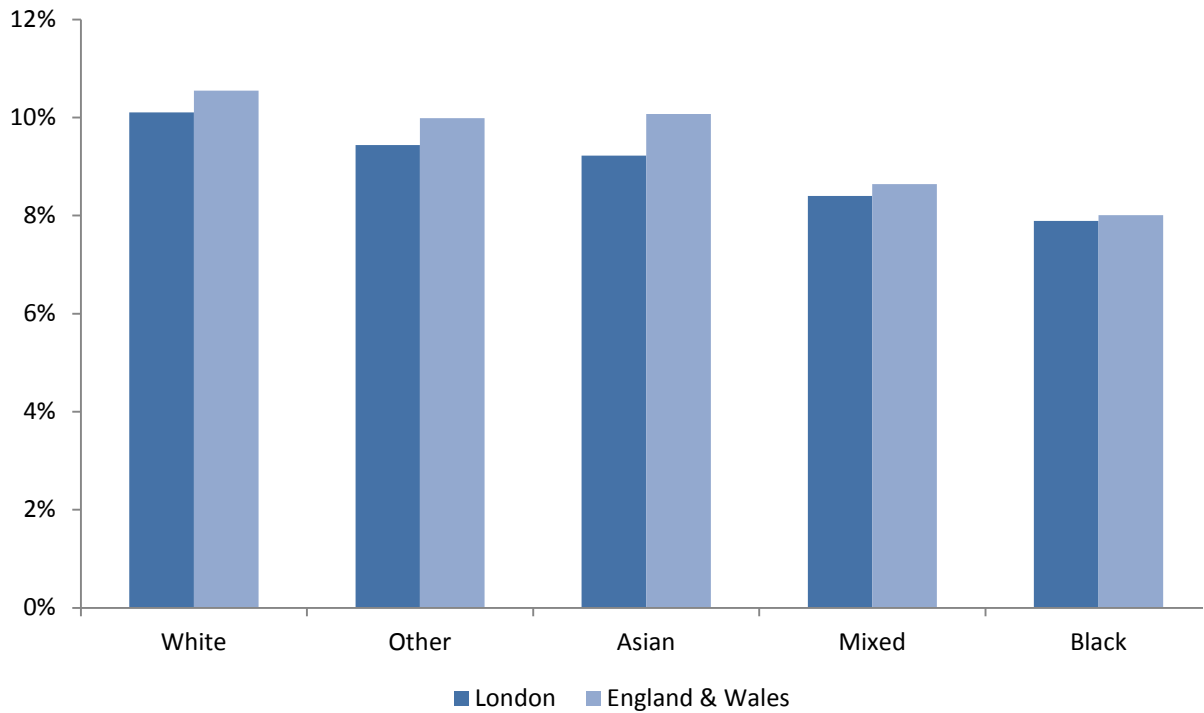


Source: 2011 Census Table LC7103EW

Ethnic Group

There wasn't much variation between ethnic groups when looking at the rate of those who worked mainly at or from home. White residents had the highest rate of homeworking at ten per cent, followed by Other and Asian both at nine percent whilst both Mixed and Black ethnic groups stood at eight per cent.

Figure 12: Percentage of usual residents in employment aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by ethnic group, 2011

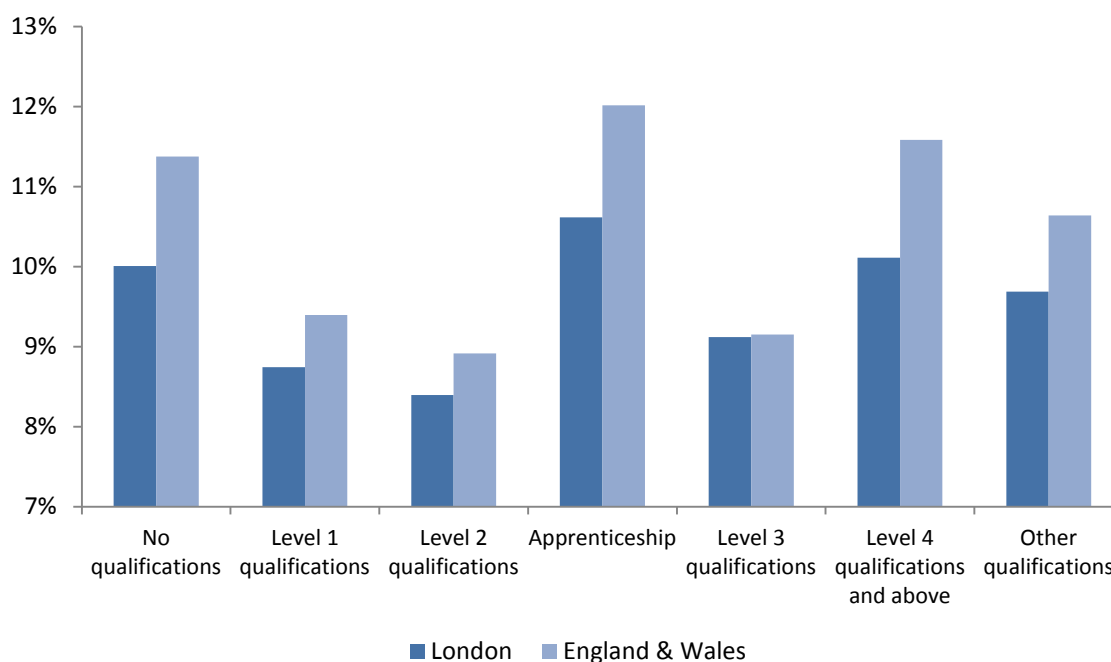


Source: 2011 Census Table DC7201EW1a

Qualifications

Those whose highest level of qualification was an apprenticeship were the most likely to work mainly at or from home, with 11 per cent being homeworkers. This qualification level was also the most likely to be self-employed (30 per cent of working-age Londoners whose highest level of qualification was an apprenticeship were self-employed).

Figure 13: Percentage of usual residents aged 16 and over who worked mainly at or from home by highest level of qualification, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC7501EW1a

The next two highest home-working rates were those with level 4 qualifications and, contrastingly, those with no qualifications (both at ten per cent).

A significant proportion of those with level 4 qualifications were working in information and communication (10 per cent) or professional, scientific and technical activities (17 per cent). A relatively high proportion of the workforce for both these industries worked mainly at or from home (Figure 8).

Those with no qualifications were much more likely to be older people (63 per cent with no qualifications were aged 50 or over) and 38 per cent were part-time workers – a higher rate than any other qualification level.

Conclusion

Whilst there is no one explanation as to what drove the rate of homeworking, there were several interlinking factors that played a role. The following bullet points summarise these:

- The majority of homeworkers were self-employed;
- Homeworkers were more likely to work part-time than non-homeworkers;
- Senior staff or those in professional/technical occupations were most likely to be homeworkers;
- Older age groups were more likely to work from home;
- There was variation in the homeworking rate between different qualification levels. However this was likely an indirect relationship, with qualification level being linked to occupation type which in turn is linked to homeworking.

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