

Section 2 – Information relating to specific characteristics

Ethnic data

- The majority of the usual resident population in England and Wales gave their ethnic group as White in the 2011 Census, In all, 86.0% of the population (48.2 million people) did so, compared with 91.3% in 2001 and 94.1% in 1991.
- Within this White ethnic group, White British was the largest, with 45.1 million people (80.5%), followed by Any Other White with 2.5 million people (4.4%). Indian was the next largest ethnic group with 1.4 million people (2.5%) followed by Pakistani (2.0%). This is consistent with census findings on international migration, which found that South Asian countries (India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) continued to rank highly among the most common non-UK countries of birth. The remaining ethnic groups each accounted for up to 2% of the population in 2011.
- Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the population identifying as White British and White Irish decreased. The remaining White ethnic groups increased; the Any Other White group had the largest increase of 1.1 million people (1.8%).
- London was the most ethnically diverse area, with the highest proportion of minority ethnic groups and the lowest proportion of the White ethnic group at 59.8%. The West Midlands was the second most diverse area with the White ethnic group at 79.2%. Wales was the least diverse area, followed by the South West and North East. Over 95% of the population identified as White in these areas.
- The local authorities with the highest proportions of White British were Redcar & Cleveland and Allerdale at 97.6% each. The lowest proportions of White British were found in Newham (16.7%). Kensington & Chelsea had the highest percentage of people identifying with Any Other White at 28.9%. Leicester had the highest percentage of those reporting to be Indian at 28.3%.

Religion

- In the 2011 Census, Christianity was the largest religion, with 33.2 million people (59.3 per cent of the population). The second largest religious group were Muslims with 2.7 million people (4.8 per cent of the population).
- 14.1 million people, around a quarter of the population in England and Wales, reported they have no religion in 2011.
- The religion question was the only voluntary question on the 2011 census and 7.2 per cent of people did not answer the question.
- Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a decrease in people who identify as Christian (from 71.7 per cent to 59.3 per cent) and an increase in those reporting no religion (from 14.8 per cent to 25.1 per cent). There were increases in the other main religious group categories, with the number of Muslims increasing the most (from 3.0 per cent to 4.8 per cent).

- In 2011, London was the most diverse region with the highest proportion of people identifying themselves as Muslim, Bhuddist, Hindu and Jewish. The North East and North West had the highest proportion of Christians and Wales had the highest proportion of people reporting no religion.
- Knowsley was the local authority with the highest proportion of people reporting to be Christians at 80.9 per cent and Tower Hamlets had the highest proportion of Muslims at 34.5 per cent (over 7 times the England and Wales figure). Norwich had the highest proportion of the population reporting no religion at 42.5 per cent.

Age and Sex

- On 16 July 2012, the 2011 Census population and household estimates for England and Wales were published. These showed that on 27 March 2011, the population of England and Wales was 56.1 million usual residents; 53.0 million in England and 3.1 million in Wales. There were 27.6 million men and 28.5 million women in the two countries.
- One in six (16 per cent, 9.2 million), of the population was aged 65 and over. This was an increase of 0.9 million on 2001 (but the same percentage of the usually resident population as in 2001). The population aged over 90 years rose from 0.7 per cent (336,000) in 2001 to 0.8 per cent (429,000). Similarly, six per cent (3.5 million) of the usually resident population in England and Wales were children under five, an increase of 406,000, and the same percentage of the population as in 2001.
- There were 23.4 million households in England and Wales, with an average of 2.4 residents per household. All regions of England, and Wales, saw population growth between 2001 and 2011, with the highest growth in London, the East of England and East Midlands.

Disability and long term health problems

Some health problems and disabilities are long-lasting and reduce a person's ability to carry out the activities people usually do day-to-day and which most of us take for granted. In England and Wales, approximately 10 million people were limited in daily activities because of a health problem or disability. This figure is similar to the number of disabled people in England and Wales reported by the Department for Work and Pensions using information available from the Family Resources Survey (10.1 million) for the period 2010/11, which suggests the question used in the 2011 Census will be a good representation of the prevalence of disability. In England and Wales, 8.5 per cent of the population reported their daily activities were 'limited a lot'¹, and 9.4 per cent were 'limited a little'; so more than four-fifths of the population were free from activity limitations.

- The percentage of people with activity limitations has fallen slightly since 2001; by 0.3 of a percentage point in England and 0.6 of a percentage point in Wales; however, prevalence remains 5 percentage points higher in Wales, a similar difference to that in 2001.
- People whose activities are limited 'a lot' because of a health problem or disability was more than 3 percentage points higher in Wales (11.9 per cent) than in England (8.3 per cent) in 2011.
- Across English regions there was a general north-south divide with percentages of people limited a lot or a little in daily activities lower in the south and higher in the north.
- The North East region (21.6 per cent) had the highest percentage of activity limitations and London (14.2 per cent) the lowest.
- The London borough of Wandsworth (11.2 per cent) had the lowest percentage of activity limitations and Neath and Port Talbot in Wales (28.0 per cent) the highest.
- The ten English local authorities with the lowest percentage of activity limiting health problems or disabilities were located exclusively in London and the South East.
- London and other large urban conurbations in England such as Manchester experienced the greatest reductions in activity limitations since 2001, while rural local authorities, such as East Lindsey in Lincolnshire, experience the greatest rise in prevalence.
- The percentage of activity limitations in Liverpool, the most deprived¹ English local authority, was 10.4 percentage points higher than Hart in Hampshire, the least deprived local authority.
- The level of inequality by area disadvantage groupings has fallen since 2001 by 3.2 percentage points in Wales and by 3.3 points in England.

Socio economic – employment levels

- In 2011, 70 per cent (28.7 million) of usual residents aged between 16 and 74 (41.1 million) were economically active
- The region with the highest economic activity amongst 16 to 74 year old usual residents in 2011 was the South East with 72 per cent (4.5 million) economically active usual residents. Wales had a lower level of economic activity amongst 16 to 74 year old usual residents than any England region, with 66 per cent (1.5 million) economically active people.
- In 2011 almost four times as many women (33 per cent, 4.4 million) were part-time employees compared to men (eight per cent, 1.2 million).
- The number of hours worked¹ by employed usual residents aged 16 to 74 decreased overall between 2001 and 2011. In 2001, 16 per cent (3.8 million) of this group worked 49 hours or more. This decreased by three percentage points to 13 per

cent in 2011. Similarly; in 2001, 59 per cent (14.0 million) of this population worked 31 to 48 hours; this decreased by one percentage point to 58 per cent (15.3 million) in 2011

- According to 2011 Census, six per cent (1.8 million) of the economically active population in England and Wales aged between 16 and 74 was unemployed¹. This group includes those who had never worked (less than one per cent, 291,000), and those who reported long-term unemployment (one per cent, 706,924).
- The level of unemployment varied between the regions from eight per cent (103,000) in the North East to five per cent (126,000) in the South West