**Fastest growing places**

**The population of England and Wales has grown by 3.7 million in the 10 years leading up to Census 2011. Using the first results from the census, we look at which places have seen the biggest changes, which populations are ageing fastest, and how your area compares to other areas.**

Scroll to begin

**The Census is a survey that happens every 10 years. The latest one gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales in March 2011.**

**Select your area to see how the population has changed where you live and how it compares with others.**

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Barking and Dagenham

In Barking and Dagenham, the population has risen from 163,900 in 2001 to 185,900 in 2011, an increase of 13% in a decade.

Some neighbouring areas like Tower Hamlets and Newham have seen their populations increase by 30% and 27% respectively, while others such as Havering (6%) and Bexley (6%) have seen slower growth.

The sharpest population increases in London have been seen in Tower Hamlets and Newham, where the population has grown by 29% and 26%.

At the other end of the scale, Kensington and Chelsea has seen no notable change at all.

Barking and Dagenham's population change is considerably higher than the average for England (7.9%).

Tower Hamlets saw the largest percentage growth in its population, rising 29% between 2001 and 2011. Manchester was second, rising 28%.

A few places have seen their populations decline. Barrow-in-Furness in the North West had an estimated resident population of 69,100 in 2011, which was 2,900 fewer than in 2001, and a decrease of 4%.

The total population of local authority areas varies considerably, from Birmingham with over 1 million people, to the Isles of Scilly with little more than two thousand people. The area of these circles indicates total population.

In 2011, Barking and Dagenham ranked 90th for total population out of 326 local authority districts in England, moving up 8 places in a decade.

The ONS classifies areas according to their demographic characteristics. Barking and Dagenham is in the group *"ethnically diverse metropolitan living"*, which also applies to 18 other Local Authority Districts in England and Wales such as Waltham Forest, Enfield, or Greenwich. This kind of place has grown more than the average.

**While the population has risen, the amount of land in England and Wales has not. Some areas have seen their population density increase much more than others.**

As of 2011, Barking and Dagenham is the sixth most densely populated of Outer London's 19 districts, with around 28 people living on each football pitch sized area of land.

In Islington in Inner London the population works out at around 79 per pitch. That is equivalent to seven football teams playing at once.

At the other end of the population density scale, the amount of land in the rural district of Eden, Cumbria, works out at nearly seven pitches per resident.

**The population of England/Wales has generally got older in the past decade.**

In 2001 the largest age group in Barking and Dagenham was children aged under five. This remains the same for 2011. Barking and Dagenham has the highest proportion of under-fives in the country.

In England the largest age-group is people in their early fifties.

Overall, in England there has been an 11% rise in people aged 65 years and over, a 9%, a rise in in people aged 20 to 65 years, and a 2% rise in people aged under 20 years.

This is how Barking and Dagenham compares. There has been a 20% fall in people aged 65 years and over, a 17%, a rise in in people aged 20 to 65 years, and a 25% rise in people aged under 20 years.

The places that have seen the highest increase in proportion of over-65s are South Lakeland, East Lindsey and North Norfolk.

The proportion of children has increased most in Luton, Slough and Milton Keynes.

**Around 51% of the population of England and Wales is female and 49% is male. However, women tend to live longer than men, so areas with an older population typically have more females than males.**

In the over-66 age group, Barking and Dagenham has a split of 14,500 females to 9,600 males.

The most male places in England/Wales are City of London, Richmondshire and Newham.

The most female places: West Somerset, Rother and Arun.

**Tracking the change in population size of people born in different eras allows us a glimpse of how people move.**

Women born between 1981 and 1986 are the largest group to have moved to Dagenham, increasing the size of this cohort by 59% in a decade. The number of men born between 1976 and 1981 has increased by 57%. This suggests that Dagenham mainly attracts (middle aged) people.

The number of people born in the late 1950's has dropped by 13%, indicating that people move away from the area when they retire.

**We’re publishing more insights from Census 2021. These first results are from the more** [**detailed bulletin**](detailed%20bulletin)**.**

You can find out more about what’s changed in your area since 2011 with our [local page](l)

Test your population knowledge with this [game](g). The top score recorded to date was 152. Good luck!

Topics in census include:

Households and their characteristics

Ethnicity, identity, language and religion

Explore more census content [here](h).