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- The most recent official estimate of London's population, for mid-2001, showed there to be 7.19 million residents, an annual average increase of about 19,000 since 1981.
- In 2001 natural population growth (births less deaths) in London accounted for 70 per cent of the total natural growth of the UK even though London was home to only 12 per cent of the total population.
- London's average annual migration net inflow was nearly 14,000 in the period 1996-2001

02: Population



- A regular feature of the migration patterns within the UK is that 60 to 65 per cent of those leaving London move to the adjacent South East or East of England regions.
- London had a higher proportion of females than males among its resident population in the 2001 Census at 52 per cent.
- The 2001 Census showed that 2.1 million people belonging to a minority ethnic group lived in London. This accounted for 29 per cent of the city's total population.
- Households with one person living alone made up 35 per cent of London households including nearly half of households in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, and 60 per cent of households in the City of London.

A full population census has been conducted every ten years since 1801 with the exception of 1941. A key use of the census is its role as a benchmark for the population estimates. Between censuses the population figures are rolled forward using annual estimates of the components of population change (births, deaths, net migration and other changes). As the decade proceeds, the estimates of change, and migration in particular, progressively affect these rolled-forward figures. The Census is used as a base both for revising previous years' data and for preparing estimates for the following decade.

Following the 2001 Census, there were larger revisions to population estimates than has previously been the case. The Office for National Statistics has published a revised series from 1982 to 2001. See Introduction and Notes and Definitions.

This chapter starts by describing the trends in the population of London, then looks at the components that underlie the changes – the levels of fertility and mortality and the impact of migration and other changes. It continues by analysing the population in terms of its sex, age and ethnic structure, and finally it looks at the household structure of London's residents.

General comparisons

London is one of the largest cities in the developed world in terms of its built-up area, and is by a considerable margin the most populous city in the European Union, with over 7 million residents (Table 2.1). It is also one of the European Union's most densely settled areas. Only Brussels and Paris are more densely populated: Paris, the area within the Périphérique, has a density of over 20,000 residents per

square kilometre, four and a half times higher than London as a whole, but equivalent to the most densely populated parts of Inner London. The crude birth rate in London, at nearly 15 live births per thousand residents in 1999, is high compared with those for most cities on mainland Europe. London's crude death rate, at fewer than 9 deaths per thousand residents, is close to the rates for most of the cities shown in Table 2.1. London's birth rate is consistent with some other British cities but it has a lower death rate. In a later section in this chapter, London's fertility and mortality are compared with the national average, after taking account of the age structure of the population.

Table 2.1

Cities in Europe¹, 1999

	Population (thousands)	Land area ² (sq km)	Population density (people sq km)	Births (thousands)	Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	Deaths (thousands)	Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)
London	7,104	1,584	4,486	105.3	14.8	61.8	8.7
Inner London	2,722	321	8,493	44.8	16.5	21.5	7.9
Outer London	4,382	1,263	3,469	60.5	13.8	40.3	9.2
Birmingham	978	266	3,684	14.4	14.7	10.2	10.4
Glasgow	577	175	3,297	6.8	11.8	8.2	14.2
Manchester	393	116	3,388	5.5	14.0	4.5	11.4
Amsterdam	1,165	719	1,607	15.6	13.5	10.0	8.6
Athens	3,761	3,808	906	36.6	10.6	34.1	9.9
Barcelona	4,667	7,733	601	45.9	10.0	44.3	9.7
Berlin	3,384	891	3,807	29.9	8.8	35.0	10.3
Brussels	962	161	5,914	13.2	13.9	10.6	11.1
Lisbon	1,876	1,055	1,779	22.4	12.2	19.1	10.4
Madrid	5,151	7,995	636	52.3	10.4	39.0	7.7
Milan	3,774	1,983	1,894	33.4	8.9	34.9	9.3
Munich	1,202	311	3,837	12.4	10.4	11.7	9.8
Paris	2,129	105	20,161	31.2	14.7	16.7	7.8
Rome	3,850	5,352	713	38.0	10.0	35.5	9.3
Stockholm	1,823	6,490	276	20.9	11.6	16.0	8.9
Vienna	1,609	415	3,862	15.2	9.5	18.0	11.2

¹ Population figures for the UK cities are for 2000, and have been revised to be consistent with the 2001 Census results. UK city birth and death figures are the totals from mid-year 1999 to mid-year 2000.

² The land area figures for UK cities used here are not consistent with table 2.10. See Notes and Definitions.

Trends in total population

The population of London generally fell over the 49 years following a peak of 8.6 million residents at the time of National Registration in 1939. The decline was particularly rapid during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1988 the population reached a low point of just 6.73 million, a size previously achieved when London's population was rising rapidly, 80 years earlier, in the Edwardian era. The most recent official estimate of London's population, for mid-2001, shows there to be 7.19 million residents, an annual average increase of about 19,000 since 1981 when the figure was 6.81 million.

Table 2.2 shows population trends since 1961. In the Appendix, Table A2.1 shows the mid-year resident population estimates for all boroughs for 2001 by sex and age.

The population dynamics of cities often reveal a picture of an expanding centre, which eventually declines leaving the largest populations in the newer suburbs. In time the centre may again increase in population. In this respect the changes in London through the 20th century are of particular interest. Map 2.3 shows the patterns of population change in the London boroughs in each decade since 1971.

In 1901, the area now termed Inner London had 4.9 million residents, with nearly 600,000 in each of the areas now forming the boroughs of Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Inner London's population peaked at just over 5 million in 1911 and in 2001 stood at 2.77 million (Table 2.2), having reached a low point in 1981 of 2.55 million. The population of Inner London in 2001 accounted for 39 per cent of the population of London as a whole.

Outer London expanded much later than Inner London; in 1901 its population stood at 1.6 million, with around 200,000 people in each of the areas now forming the boroughs of Greenwich and Waltham Forest. The most rapid growth

Table 2.2

Population trends and projections

	1961	1971	1981	1991 ¹	2001	2011 ²	2021 ²	Thousands
Inner London	3,481	3,060	2,550	2,599	2,772	2,863	2,963	
Outer London	4,496	4,470	4,255	4,230	4,416	4,607	4,773	
London	7,977	7,529	6,806	6,829	7,188	7,470	7,736	
United Kingdom	52,807	55,928	56,357	57,439	58,837	60,524	62,386	

¹ Mid-1991 population estimates have been revised.

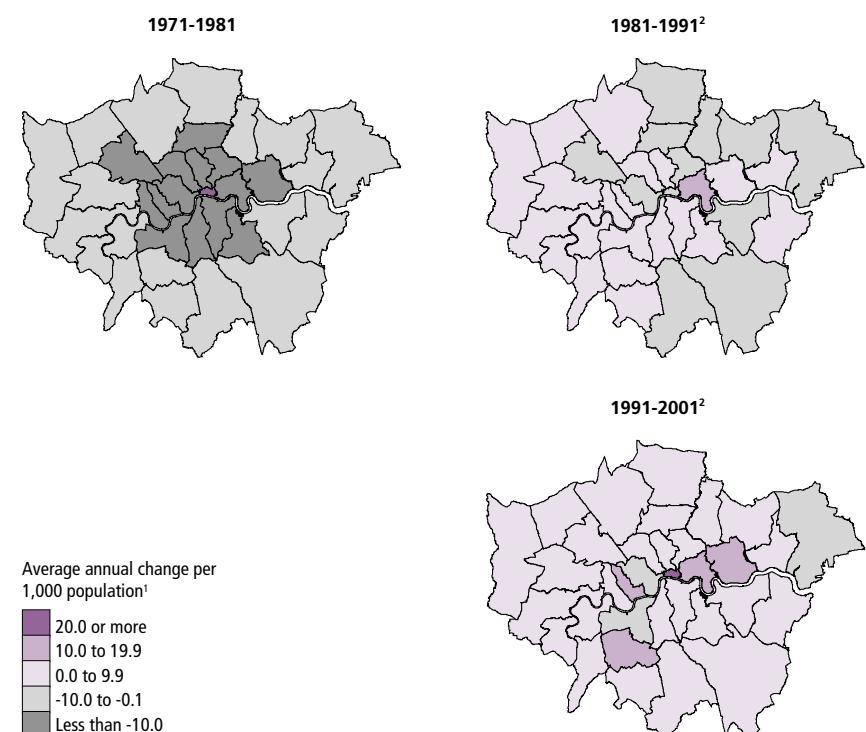
² 1996-based London and 2002-based United Kingdom projections. See Notes and Definitions.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department

Map 2.3

Population change

Average annual change per 1,000 population¹



¹ Geometric mean.

² Mid-year population estimates for 1991 to 2001 are consistent with the 2001 Census results.

Source: Office for National Statistics

in Outer London took place in the 1920s and 1930s. The 1951 Census recorded a peak of 4.52 million. Population decline in Outer London was relatively slow and over the past few years has been reversed. The lowest recent population estimate was of 4.23 million in 1991, but by 2001 the population estimate had increased to 4.42 million.

After decades of declining population, central London (the City of London, Camden, Kensington and Chelsea, and

the City of Westminster) is again showing increases in its population, from a low point of 486,000 in 1995 to 546,000 in 2001.

The first part of London to experience a population peak was the City of London, which recorded its highest population at the time of the first Census in 1801, when there were 129,000 residents within the 'square mile'. The remaining Inner London boroughs peaked between 1871 (City of

Westminster) and 1931. The first Outer borough to reach a peak was Greenwich in 1931. The population of Waltham Forest peaked in 1939, with the majority of other boroughs peaking in 1951. The exceptions are Bromley, Croydon and Havering, whose populations peaked in 1971; Bexley, whose population has changed little over the last decade; and Hillingdon, where the population is still slowly rising. These examples point to a dispersal of the population towards the edges of the present area of London,

Table 2.4

Mid-year estimate change analysis, 1991-2001¹

Mid-year to mid-year	Resident population at start period						Resident population at end period	Thousands
		Live Births	Deaths	Natural change	Other changes ²	Total change		
London								
1991/92	6,829.3	106.6	67.7	38.9	-45.6	-6.7	6,822.6	
1992/93	6,822.6	104.4	66.4	38.1	-29.1	8.9	6,831.5	
1993/94	6,831.5	105.7	67.8	37.9	-25.6	12.3	6,843.8	
1994/95	6,843.8	104.1	66.1	38.0	-22.1	16.0	6,859.8	
1995/96	6,859.8	103.9	66.9	37.0	4.5	41.5	6,901.3	
1996/97	6,901.3	106.4	65.1	41.3	-14.9	26.5	6,927.7	
1997/98	6,927.7	105.1	61.4	43.7	-2.6	41.1	6,968.8	
1998/99	6,968.8	105.3	62.6	42.7	29.7	72.5	7,041.3	
1999/2000	7,041.3	105.3	61.8	43.5	19.6	63.1	7,104.4	
2000/01	7,104.4	104.4	58.5	45.9	37.8	83.6	7,188.0	
1991-2001	6,829.3	1,051.2	644.2	407.0	-48.3	358.7	7,188.0	
United Kingdom								
1991/92	57,438.7	792.7	635.4	157.3	-32.9	124.4	57,563.1	
1992/93	57,563.1	762.4	633.6	128.8	-19.4	109.4	57,672.5	
1993/94	57,672.5	763.1	650.8	112.3	12.6	124.9	57,797.4	
1994/95	57,797.4	737.2	630.4	106.9	23.8	130.6	57,928.0	
1995/96	57,928.0	722.3	645.0	77.3	37.7	115.0	58,043.0	
1996/97	58,043.0	739.9	637.1	102.8	21.3	124.2	58,167.2	
1997/98	58,167.2	717.5	617.1	100.4	37.6	138.0	58,305.3	
1998/99	58,305.3	710.5	633.9	76.6	99.2	175.8	58,481.1	
1999/2000	58,481.1	688.0	625.7	62.3	99.8	162.2	58,643.2	
2000/01	58,643.2	673.5	599.2	74.3	119.2	193.4	58,836.7	
1991-2001	57,438.7	7,307.2	6,308.1	999.1	398.9	1,398.0	58,836.7	

¹ Mid-year population estimates for 1991 to 2000 are consistent with the 2001 Census results.

² The figures shown are not an estimate of net civilian migration. They have been derived by subtraction using revised population estimates and natural change. Although the main component of these other changes is net civilian migration, this is not the only component. Changes to the non-civilian population and definitional differences are also included.

with large pockets of growth in Inner London at various times, most notably in Tower Hamlets since the 1980s.

Components of population change

Local population change is the sum of natural change (births minus deaths in the resident population), net migration, and any special circumstances such as changes in the numbers of resident armed forces. In recent years, a high level of natural change has underpinned population growth in the capital (Table 2.4). This can also be seen in Map 2.3. The components of population change between 2000 and 2001 at borough level are given in Table A.2.2 in the Appendix.

In 2001 there were 104,200 live births and 58,600 deaths in London, a natural increase of 45,600 people. London had a high crude birth rate compared with the United Kingdom (14.5 births per thousand residents compared with 11.4) and a low crude death rate (8.2 deaths per thousand residents compared with 10.3) (Table 2.5). The rate of natural change in London was 6.3 people for every thousand residents in 2001 – high in comparison with the UK as a whole (1.1 people per thousand). In 2001 natural population growth (births less deaths) in London accounted for 70 per cent of the total natural growth of the UK even though London was home to only 12 per cent of the total population.

Fertility

The main reason for London's comparatively high crude birth rate was its higher proportion of women of childbearing age in the population compared with the UK as a whole. One measure of overall fertility, which takes account of the age structure of the female population, is the total fertility rate (TFR). In 2001, the London rate was 1.62 children per woman – almost identical to the UK rate of 1.63 (Table 2.6). Since 1971 the TFR in London has declined by 22 per cent, compared to

Table 2.5

Live births, deaths and natural change

	Thousands and rates per 1,000 population					
	London			United Kingdom		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
Thousands						
1971	113.1	85.0	28.1	902.0	645.1	256.9
1981	92.4	77.6	14.8	730.7	658.0	72.7
1991	105.8	68.9	36.9	792.3	646.2	146.1
1999	105.5	61.7	43.8	700.2	629.5	70.7
2000	104.7	59.7	45.0	679.0	610.6	68.4
2001	104.2	58.6	45.6	669.1	604.4	64.7
Crude Rates per 1,000 population						
1971	15.0	11.3	3.7	16.1	11.5	4.6
1981	13.6	11.4	2.2	13.0	11.7	1.3
1991	15.5	10.1	5.4	13.8	11.2	2.6
1999	15.0	8.8	6.2	12.0	10.8	1.2
2000	14.7	8.4	6.3	11.6	10.4	1.2
2001	14.5	8.2	6.3	11.4	10.3	1.1

Source: Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

the more rapid decline of 32 per cent in the UK as a whole.

However, the age-specific fertility rates, also shown in Table 2.6, reveal

differences in the timing of childbearing. In the past 30 years, age-specific fertility rates for teenagers and women in their twenties generally have been lower in London than in the UK as a whole. Since

Table 2.6

Age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rates

	Live births per 1,000 women ¹							
	London				United Kingdom			
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971	1981	1991	2001
Age group								
Under 20 ²	45	29	29	26	50	28	33	28
20 to 24	115	83	69	59	154	107	89	68
25 to 29	134	114	97	73	155	130	120	92
30 to 34	79	80	96	94	79	70	87	88
35 to 39	33	31	47	59	34	22	32	41
40 and over ³	9	6	10	15	9	5	5	9
Total Fertility Rate⁴	2.09	1.71	1.74	1.62	2.41	1.82	1.82	1.63

1 Total population base is women aged 15 to 44.

2 Population base is women aged 15 to 19.

3 Population base is women aged 40 to 44.

4 Per woman, UK rates for 1991 and 2001 are based upon single years of age; all other rates are based upon five-year age groups.

Source: Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

1981, women in their thirties and forties living in the capital have had significantly higher age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) than those in the rest of the UK. The shift to a higher proportion of total fertility in women aged 30 and over has been consistent in both London and the rest of the UK since 1971. In 2001, 48 per cent of London's births were to women aged below 30, while the UK percentage was 58 per cent.

There were large variations in 2001 within London; borough level fertility statistics are shown in Table A2.3 in the Appendix. While TFRs in 2001 in central boroughs (around 1.40) were some of the lowest in the country, those in Hackney (2.08) and Newham (2.19) were among the highest.

Mortality

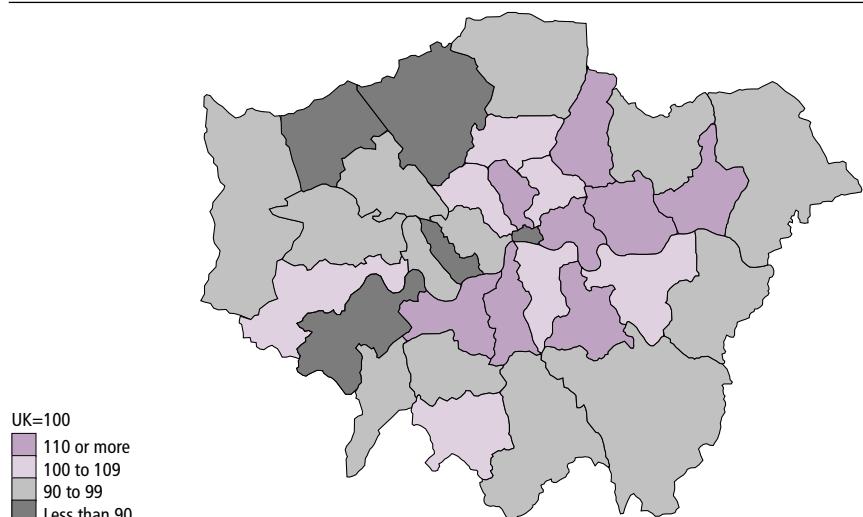
The young age structure of the population also contributed to London's low crude death rate. Measured using the standardised mortality ratio (SMR), which takes age structure into account, overall mortality in London in 2001 was about 2 per cent lower than that for the UK as a whole. See Table A2.3 in the Appendix.

However, there were slight sex differences in comparison with the UK average as indicated in Table 8.11 in Chapter 8 (Living in London). Mortality rates from all causes in 2001 were almost identical in London and the UK for

Map 2.7

Standardised mortality ratios¹, 2001

UK=100



¹ Adjusted for the age structure of the population. See Notes and Definitions.

Source: Office for National Statistics

males, and 4 per cent lower for females. Borough level SMRs are shown in Table A2.3 in the Appendix and Map 2.7. The majority of Outer London boroughs (14 out of 19) had SMRs below 100, while 10 of the 14 Inner London boroughs had SMRs above 100. Exceptions to this pattern were the low levels recorded in Kensington and Chelsea, and in the City of London, at 73 and 50 respectively; and the high level of 110 in both Barking and Dagenham, and Waltham Forest. The highest SMR in London, 119, was

found in Tower Hamlets. Although these SMRs are based on mortality and population statistics for 2001, the resultant patterns are consistent with the situation in most years since London boroughs were established in 1965.

Migration and other changes

One of the main components of the high levels of change in total population in recent years is the estimated level of net migration. The levels in London are the

Table 2.8

Net migration and other changes¹

	Total ¹				Annual average ¹				Thousands
	1981-91	1991-96	1996-2001	1991-2001	1981-91	1991-96	1996-2001	1991-2001	
Inner London	-63.1	-75.4	41.8	-33.6	-6.3	-15.1	8.4	-3.4	
Outer London	-155.1	-42.5	27.8	-14.7	-15.5	-8.5	5.6	-1.5	
London	-218.3	-117.9	69.6	-48.3	-21.8	-23.6	13.9	-4.8	

¹ The figures shown are not an estimate of net civilian migration. They have been derived by subtraction using revised population estimates and natural change. Although the main component of these other changes is net civilian migration, this is not the only component. Changes to the non-civilian population and definitional differences are also included.

Source: Office for National Statistics

sum of separate estimates of movements within the UK and international migration flows. Throughout the 1980s the annual average net migration (and other changes) amounted to a loss of about 22,000 (Table 2.8). The outflow increased during the early 1990s but declined and reversed in the mid-1990s and there was an average annual net inflow of nearly 14,000 in the period 1996-2001.

London's annual net migration loss to the rest of the UK, measured by the National Health Service Central Registers (see Notes and Definitions), increased from around 69,000 in 1999/2000 and 2000/01 to 98,000 in 2001/02 (Table A2.4 in the Appendix). However, these losses disguise a consistently large net inflow (19,000 in 2000/01) of young adults (those aged between 16 and 24) offset by net losses for all other age groups (Table 2.9).

As Table A2.4 also shows, London had an annual net inflow from the majority of UK regions from mid-1996, but the few exceptions were critical to the overall balance. The total net loss from London to the South East and the East of England regions constituted the majority of the total net loss to all parts of the UK. Apart from Northern Ireland, other regions which consistently showed a net gain from London were the South West and, in most years, the East Midlands. A regular feature of the migration patterns within the UK is that 60 to 65 per cent of those leaving London move to the adjacent South East or East of England regions.

London tends to have annual net inflows of people from outside the UK, as indicated by the International Passenger Survey (IPS) in Table A2.4 (see Notes and Definitions). In the year to mid-2001 this international flow was estimated to have been 67,000 people, and the total net inflow in the period from mid-1996 to mid-2001 was 250,000. Table 2.9 shows the majority of this net inflow from abroad is from those aged 16 to 44.

Table 2.9

Migration to and from London: by age, 2000/01¹

	Thousands					
	Within the UK			International ²		
	To	From	Net	To	From	Net
0 to 15	13.2	39.5	-26.3	9.2	-4.5	4.6
16 to 24	65.1	46.1	19.1	50.4	-17.9	32.5
25 to 44	71.2	103.0	-31.9	78.1	-54.8	23.3
45 to 64	9.8	28.7	-18.9	8.9	-3.9	5.0
65+	4.3	14.9	-10.6	1.3	-0.2	1.2
All ages	163.6	232.2	-68.6	147.8	-81.2	66.6

¹ Mid-2000 to mid-2001.

² Excludes asylum seekers/visitor switchers and movements to and from the Irish Republic.

Source: National Health Service Central Register; International Passenger Survey, Office for National Statistics

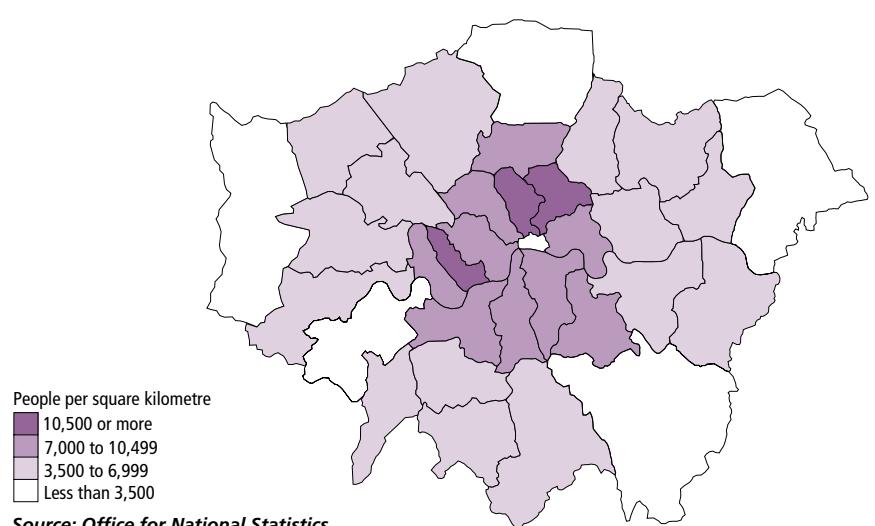
There is another important element to international migration. In recent years, the numbers of people given UK residence, either as a result of seeking asylum or of entering the country as visitors and subsequently requesting residence (visitor switchers), has been an increasingly significant part of the total change in London's population. These people are not covered by the IPS estimates of migrants (see Notes and Definitions), but their numbers are

included in the estimates of population change. Over the period 1996 to 2000, 65,800 asylum applicants were granted permission to remain in the UK. Using the Home Office assumption – originally based on analysis by the London Research Centre – that about 85 per cent of all UK asylum applicants live in the capital, the implied total of those allowed to remain in London was 56,000. (See Notes and Definitions.)

Map 2.10

Population density by Borough, 2001

People per sq km



Population density

As stated earlier, London is one of the most densely populated parts of the European Union. In 2001 the overall density was 4,573 persons per square kilometre, but there were considerable differences between the boroughs.

Map 2.10 shows that the most densely populated boroughs were Kensington and Chelsea with 13,300 people per square kilometre and Islington with 11,700. Except for the City of London, which had the fourth lowest borough density (2,400), all other Inner London boroughs had population densities in excess of 6,700 persons, while the most densely populated Outer London boroughs were Brent and Waltham Forest at 6,100 and 5,600 respectively. Six Inner London boroughs – Kensington and Chelsea, Islington, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets – had densities in excess of twice the London average, and the Outer London boroughs of Brent,

Waltham Forest, Ealing, Merton and Greenwich all had densities greater than the London average. The lowest densities in Outer London – less than half the London average – are found in Bromley, Havering and Hillingdon. These boroughs are characterised by their recent patterns of population growth and the retention of the largest proportions of Green Belt areas among all boroughs.

This pattern – of a relatively sparsely populated core area surrounded by high densities that reduce as the external boundary is approached – is typical of mature cities. Most major exceptions can be explained by the history of land use within London. For example, the high density in Waltham Forest is a legacy of the early industrialisation of the Lea Valley, and the relatively low densities of the City of Westminster and Camden are due, in part, to the large public parks established when the city was growing in the 19th century.

Population structure

As with most other parts of the UK, London has a higher proportion of females than males among its resident population at 52 per cent (Table A2.1 in the Appendix). Women outnumbered men in all the age groups from 16 and over (both in the UK as a whole and in London).

London also has a different age structure from the rest of the UK as a whole; its population tends to be younger on average (Table 2.11). In 2001 London had proportionally more children under 5 and more adults aged between 20 and 44, 43 per cent of the total compared with 35 per cent for the UK as a whole. However, London had considerably fewer people aged between 5 and 15, and 45 and over. Females aged between 20 and 44 also accounted for nearly all births despite the high economic activity rates in this age band. The high numbers of young

Table 2.11

Population: by age

Percentages and thousands

	London						United Kingdom					
	Mid-year estimates				Projections		Mid-year estimates				Projections	
	1971	1981	1991 ¹	2001	2011 ²	2021 ²	1971	1981	1991 ¹	2001	2011 ³	2021 ³
0 to 4	7.3	5.8	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.4	8.1	6.1	6.7	5.9	5.6	5.7
5 to 10	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.0	10.0	8.1	7.6	7.7	6.7	6.7
11 to 15	5.3	6.0	6.0	5.5	7.4	8.0	6.0	6.6	5.9	5.5
16 to 19	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.6	5.5	6.7	5.3	4.9	5.1	4.5
20 to 24	8.7	8.8	9.0	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.7	7.6	7.7	6.0	6.7	5.9
25 to 44	24.9	27.5	33.0	35.4	30.4	29.7	24.1	26.2	29.3	29.1	26.5	25.8
45 to 59/64	22.3	19.5	17.4	18.0	23.0	23.5	20.9	19.4	19.0	21.3	23.2	23.2
60/65 to 74	11.8	12.1	9.9	8.5	9.0	10.5	11.6	12.0	11.4	10.9	12.3	13.7
75 to 84	3.9	4.9	5.1	4.3	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.8	5.4	5.6	5.7	6.5
85 or over	1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.5
Pensionable age	16.7	18.2	16.4	14.4	14.3	16.0	16.3	17.9	18.4	18.4	20.2	22.7
All ages	7,529	6,806	6,829	7,188	7,470	7,736	55,928	56,357	57,439	58,837	60,524	62,386

¹ Mid-year population estimates are consistent with the 2001 Census results.

² 1996-based subnational projections.

³ 2001-based national projections.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department

adults, particularly women in their twenties, helps to explain London's high crude birth rate compared with the UK average. London's relatively low proportion of residents over state retirement age (14 per cent compared with 18 per cent nationally) partly explains London's low crude death rate.

The main reasons for these differences from the national norms are to be found in the analysis of London's migration patterns. London, particularly the central area, attracts young people and there is a tendency for young women to 'leave home' at an earlier age than young men do and in greater numbers. Some of this migration is associated with opportunities for further education, but people move primarily to improve their employment prospects. As many opportunities for education and work (along with the nightlife) are in the central parts of the city, the result is the mass movement of young adults to areas with good access to the centre, giving rise to the somewhat unbalanced age structure.

As a young population grows older and enters different stages in the life-cycle (especially when raising a family) a different kind of accommodation is needed. Generally this need is better catered for either in Outer London or beyond the capital completely. This demand for living space creates high levels of net outflow of people in their thirties and forties. London also experiences large annual net outflows of people around retirement age, leading to their relatively low representation in the population.

These variations from the national age and sex structure are an enduring feature of London's population, maintained as a result of the relative balance of the large flows of people who move both to and away from the city each year.

Ethnic origin

The 2001 Census showed that 29 per cent of the city's population were from a

Table 2.12

Population: by ethnic group, April 2001

	Percentages and thousands			
	Inner London	Outer London	London	England and Wales
White: British	50.5	65.6	59.8	87.5
White: Irish	3.4	2.9	3.1	1.2
White: Other	11.8	6.1	8.3	2.6
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.5
Mixed: White and Black African	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2
Mixed: White and Asian	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4
Mixed: Other	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.3
Asian or Asian British: Indian	3.1	8.0	6.1	2.0
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.4
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	4.6	0.6	2.2	0.5
Asian or Asian British: Other	1.3	2.2	1.9	0.5
Black or Black British: Caribbean	6.9	3.5	4.8	1.1
Black or Black British: African	8.3	3.4	5.3	0.9
Black or Black British: Other	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.2
Chinese	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.4
Other minority ethnic group	2.0	1.3	1.6	0.4
All minority ethnic groups	34.3	25.4	28.8	8.7
White	65.7	74.6	71.2	91.3
Total population	2,766	4,406	7,172	52,042

Source: Office for National Statistics

minority ethnic group (Table 2.12). The proportion of people from a minority ethnic background in England and Wales was 9 per cent – 4.5 million people; London was home to nearly half (46 per cent) of that total – 2.1 million people. The capital had a higher proportion of people from most minority ethnic groups than any other region of England and Wales. For example, more than half of the people from Black and Bangladeshi groups lived in London. Of the city's total minority ethnic population 42 per cent were Asian or Asian British and 38 per cent were of Black or Black British origin. A further 11 per cent belonged to one of the Mixed ethnic origin categories. Indians made up the largest minority ethnic group recorded in London, followed by Black Africans and Black Caribbeans. The data also show differences between living

patterns in Inner and Outer London. People belonging to the Mixed groups, Black groups and Bangladeshis are more likely to live in Inner London, whereas Indians, Pakistanis and Other Asians are more likely to live in Outer London.

International migrants

Statistics on international migration are subject to significant revision following the results of the 2001 Census.

Table 2.13 shows the original International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimated international inflows (people coming into London from abroad) and outflows (people leaving London to go abroad) from 1991 to 2001. The table shows the considerable rise in the inflows alongside more stable outflows. This has led to the significant change in

net migration to London, from a small net loss of 2,800 people in 1992/93, to a net gain of over 60,000 people in 1998/99, and a net gain of about 310,000 people over the whole period.

Household structure

The 2001 Census household totals for London are given in [Table 2.14](#), and information for each of the boroughs is in [Table A2.5](#) in the Appendix. The breakdown into household types is based on the classification used in the 2001 Census *Key Statistics*.

In 2001, London's average household size (2.3 people) was the same as that for England and Wales, the North East and the South West. In all other Government Office Regions in England, the average household size was 2.4.

Inner London had a lower average (2.2 people), compared with the Outer London average of 2.4 people. The City of London and City of Westminster were the only local authorities in England and Wales that had an average household size below 2.0 people, at 1.6 and 1.9 respectively. The Outer London borough of Richmond upon Thames and 8 Inner London boroughs had an average household size below 2.3. Newham in Inner London and Brent, Harrow and Redbridge in Outer London had the highest average household size, of 2.6 people, in the country. Within England and Wales, Luton in the East of England, Bradford in Yorkshire and the Humber, and Slough in the South East were the only other areas with this average household size.

Inner London has high proportions of one-person households and lone parent households but relatively few couple households. Outer London also has relatively few married couple households with no children (9.8 per cent) compared with England and Wales (13.0 per cent). In common with Inner London it also has proportionally more lone parent households than the national average. Households of one person living alone made up 35 per cent

Table 2.13

International migration flows to and from London¹

	Inflow	Outflow	Thousands
1991/92	68.8	-65.9	3.0
1992/93	54.0	-56.8	-2.8
1993/94	75.8	-57.9	17.8
1994/95	72.0	-61.7	10.3
1995/96	83.7	-53.0	30.8
1996/97	87.0	-53.3	33.7
1997/98	115.0	-73.4	41.6
1998/99	137.0	-76.5	60.5
1999/2000	130.3	-82.4	47.9
2000/01	147.8	-81.2	66.6
1991/2001	971.5	-662.1	309.3

¹ Excludes asylum seekers, visitor switchers, and movements to and from the Irish Republic.

Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)

of all London households including nearly half of those in Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea, and 60 per cent of households in the City of London. The proportion of one-person households in London was 5 percentage points higher than in England and Wales as a whole. This was higher than in any other English region. The one-person household type was particularly dominant in Inner London, accounting for 40 per cent of households compared with 31 per cent in Outer London.

The proportion of lone-parent households with dependent children varied between boroughs, ranging from, less than 4 per cent in the City of London up to nearly 12 per cent in Newham. Lone parents with dependent children headed 8 per cent of London households, a higher proportion than in any other region except the North West. Regions with the lowest proportion (5 per cent) were the South East, East of England and South West.

Table 2.14

Households¹, April 2001

Numbers, percentages and thousands

	Average household size (persons)	Household type (percentages)						All Households (thousands)	
		Co- habiting couple		Lone parent	One person	Other			
		Married couple	Co- habiting couple						
Inner London	2.2	20.5	8.8	11.8	40.1	18.8		1,220	
Outer London	2.4	33.9	7.6	10.7	31.1	16.7		1,796	
London	2.3	28.5	8.1	11.1	34.7	17.5		3,016	

¹ Resident population in households.

Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)

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