



Census 2011: City snapshot

Rachel Smith, September 2012

On 16 July 2012 the first outputs from the Census 2011 for England and Wales were released, followed on 19 September 2012 with publication of data for Northern Ireland. The demographic data released looks at:

- Population;
- Households;
- Non-UK short-term residents (England and Wales only).

This briefing provides city-by-city data across each of these three indicators.¹

Population

In 2011 a total of 57.9 million people were living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Many of these people were living in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield – England, Wales and Northern Ireland’s largest cities in population terms. Of these cities, London is by far the largest, accounting for almost 16 percent of England, Wales and Northern Ireland’s population. The others account for less than five percent each.

Hastings and Worthing are amongst the smallest cities in the UK, accounting for around 0.2 percent of the population in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table 1: Total population, 2011

Rank	City	Population	Share of England, Wales & Northern Ireland
1	London	9,480,600	16.4%
2	Birmingham	2,419,500	4.2%
3	Manchester	1,876,200	3.2%
4	Newcastle	829,300	1.4%
5	Sheffield	810,000	1.4%
55	Ipswich	133,400	0.2%
56	Cambridge	123,900	0.2%
57	Gloucester	121,700	0.2%
58	Worthing	104,600	0.2%
59	Hastings	90,300	0.2%

Source: Census 2011

1. This analysis defines cities as their Primary Urban Areas (PUAs), rather than local authority boundaries. See www.centreforcities.org/puas for a full list of PUA definitions.

Absolute population growth:

Looking back to 2001, the total population across England, Wales & Northern Ireland grew by 3.8 million people or 7.1 percent, a significant increase.

London was the city that saw the largest absolute net growth: its population increased by almost one million people. This is equivalent to the growth seen across the next 21 fastest growing cities combined.

Middlesbrough, Blackpool and Grimsby saw relatively slow population growth. Two cities – Sunderland and Burnley – saw a net fall in their population from 2001 to 2011.

Relative population growth:

Looking at relative change over time reveals a different story. It was some of England, Wales and Northern Ireland's smaller cities, such as Milton Keynes, Peterborough and Swindon, which saw the largest population expansions. Looking at the opposite end of the spectrum, similar cities remain in the bottom five.

Table 2: Change in population, 2001 to 2011

Rank	City	Absolute change	Rank	City	Percentage change
1	London	938,500	1	Milton Keynes	17.0%
2	Birmingham	154,300	2	Peterborough	16.6%
3	Manchester	129,200	3	Swindon	16.2%
4	Bristol	55,000	4	Ipswich	13.8%
5	Bradford	51,700	5	Cambridge	12.7%
55	Blackpool	4,200	55	Blackpool	1.3%
56	Grimsby	1,600	56	Grimsby	1.0%
57	Middlesbrough	1,000	57	Middlesbrough	0.2%
58	Burnley	-2,300	58	Burnley	-1.3%
59	Sunderland	-9,100	59	Sunderland	-3.2%

Source: 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census 2011

Working age population

The data released to date also provides a breakdown of the population by age. Table 3 below shows the cities with the largest and smallest working age populations (defined as those aged between 15 and 64) as a share of their total populations.

Cambridge has the largest share of its population of working age at 75 percent whilst Blackpool has the smallest at 62 percent. The average across England, Wales and Northern Ireland was 66 percent.

Table 3: Working age population, 2011

Rank	City	Working age population	Percentage of total population
1	Cambridge	92,700	75%
2	Oxford	111,500	73%
3	Brighton	233,700	70%
4	Cardiff	241,500	70%
5	London	6,590,100	70%
55	Grimsby	103,100	65%
56	Southend	219,600	64%
57	Birkenhead	203,600	64%
58	Worthing	65,600	63%
59	Blackpool	202,600	62%

Source: Census 2011

Non-UK short-term residents

A non-UK short term resident is someone who is born outside the UK who intends to stay in the UK for at least three months but for fewer than 12 months.

In total in 2011 there were 195,100 non-UK short-term residents in England and Wales. And as Table 4 shows, London was the most attractive city for these people, accounting for over a third of the total for England and Wales. Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Oxford also housed relatively high numbers of non-UK short-term residents.

Table 4: Non-UK short-term residents, 2011

Rank	City	Non-UK short-term residents	Percentage of total population
1	London	72,500	37.2%
2	Manchester	7,500	3.8%
3	Birmingham	7,000	3.6%
4	Nottingham	4,200	2.2%
5	Oxford	4,000	2.1%
51	Barnsley	100	0.1%
51	Birkenhead	100	0.1%
51	Blackburn	100	0.1%
51	Burnley	100	0.1%
51	Hastings	100	0.1%
51	Mansfield	100	0.1%
51	Rochdale	100	0.1%
51	Wigan	100	0.1%
51	Worthing	100	0.1%

Source: Census 2011

Nine cities including Wigan and Hastings each housed around 100 non-UK short-term residents and so accounted for the fewest non-UK short-term residents of all cities across England and Wales.

Next steps

There is still a lot more information to come from the 2011 Census. The Office for National Statistics has said this will be published over the course of the next 18 months, but the exact details have yet to be announced.

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Table A1: Total population, 2011

City	Total population	Share of England, Wales & Northern Ireland population	City	Total population	Share of England, Wales & Northern Ireland population
London	9,480,600	16.4%	Sunderland	275,500	0.5%
Birmingham	2,419,500	4.2%	Chatham	263,900	0.5%
Manchester	1,876,200	3.2%	Norwich	257,200	0.4%
Newcastle	829,300	1.4%	Hull	256,400	0.4%
Sheffield	810,000	1.4%	Plymouth	256,400	0.4%
Liverpool	787,600	1.4%	Milton Keynes	248,800	0.4%
Leeds	751,500	1.3%	Derby	248,700	0.4%
Bristol	691,000	1.2%	Crawley	244,400	0.4%
Belfast	671,600	1.2%	Swansea	239,000	0.4%
Nottingham	640,900	1.1%	Barnsley	231,200	0.4%
Bradford	522,500	0.9%	Mansfield	223,900	0.4%
Portsmouth	520,000	0.9%	Northampton	212,100	0.4%
Leicester	480,000	0.8%	Rochdale	211,700	0.4%
Middlesbrough	465,200	0.8%	Swindon	209,200	0.4%
Reading	423,300	0.7%	Luton	203,200	0.4%
Huddersfield	422,500	0.7%	Warrington	202,200	0.3%
Bournemouth	378,800	0.7%	York	198,000	0.3%
Stoke	372,900	0.6%	Peterborough	183,600	0.3%
Southampton	362,100	0.6%	Aldershot	180,000	0.3%
Preston	356,500	0.6%	Burnley	176,500	0.3%
Cardiff	346,100	0.6%	Telford	166,600	0.3%
Southend	344,900	0.6%	Grimsby	159,600	0.3%
Brighton	334,600	0.6%	Oxford	151,900	0.3%
Wakefield	325,800	0.6%	Blackburn	147,500	0.3%
Blackpool	325,600	0.6%	Newport	145,700	0.3%
Birkenhead	319,800	0.6%	Ipswich	133,400	0.2%
Coventry	318,600	0.6%	Cambridge	123,900	0.2%
Wigan	317,800	0.5%	Gloucester	121,700	0.2%
Doncaster	302,400	0.5%	Worthing	104,600	0.2%
Bolton	276,800	0.5%	Hastings	90,300	0.2%
England, Wales & Northern Ireland	57.9m				

Source: Census 2011

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Table A2: Absolute change in total population, 2001 to 2011

Rank	City	Absolute change	Rank	City	Absolute change
1	London	938,500	31	Wigan	16,300
2	Birmingham	154,300	32	Ipswich	16,200
3	Manchester	129,200	33	Norwich	16,000
4	Bristol	55,000	34	Coventry	15,800
5	Bradford	51,700	35	Bolton	15,500
6	Leicester	51,000	36	Doncaster	15,500
7	Sheffield	48,600	37	Swansea	15,500
8	Nottingham	42,600	38	Plymouth	15,400
9	Milton Keynes	36,100	39	Mansfield	14,300
10	Cardiff	36,000	40	Chatham	14,200
11	Leeds	35,900	41	Cambridge	14,000
12	Huddersfield	33,500	42	Barnsley	13,100
13	Bournemouth	31,900	43	Gloucester	11,800
14	Portsmouth	30,200	44	Warrington	11,000
15	Swindon	29,100	45	Stoke	10,500
16	Newcastle	27,100	46	Wakefield	10,400
17	Southampton	26,300	47	Blackburn	9,000
18	Peterborough	26,200	48	Aldershot	8,800
19	Brighton	25,000	49	Newport	8,100
20	Belfast	24,500	50	Telford	8,000
21	Preston	21,600	51	Worthing	6,900
22	Southend	19,100	52	Hull	6,500
23	Reading	18,600	53	Rochdale	5,300
24	Derby	18,000	54	Hastings	4,900
25	Liverpool	17,700	55	Birkenhead	4,800
26	Northampton	17,700	56	Blackpool	4,200
27	Luton	17,300	57	Grimsby	1,600
28	Crawley	17,300	58	Middlesbrough	1,000
29	York	16,700	59	Burnley	-2,300
30	Oxford	16,400	60	Sunderland	-9,100
	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	3.8m			

Source: 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census 2011

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Table A3: Relative change in total population, 2001 to 2011

Rank	City	Percentage change	Rank	City	Percentage change
1	Milton Keynes	17.0%	31	Plymouth	6.4%
2	Peterborough	16.6%	32	Sheffield	6.4%
3	Swindon	16.2%	33	Portsmouth	6.2%
4	Ipswich	13.8%	34	Barnsley	6.0%
5	Cambridge	12.7%	35	Bolton	5.9%
6	Oxford	12.1%	36	Newport	5.9%
7	Leicester	11.9%	37	Southend	5.9%
8	Cardiff	11.6%	38	Warrington	5.8%
9	London	11.0%	39	Hastings	5.7%
10	Bradford	11.0%	40	Chatham	5.7%
11	Gloucester	10.7%	41	Wigan	5.4%
12	Luton	9.3%	42	Doncaster	5.4%
13	York	9.2%	43	Coventry	5.2%
14	Bournemouth	9.2%	44	Aldershot	5.1%
15	Northampton	9.1%	45	Telford	5.0%
16	Bristol	8.6%	46	Leeds	5.0%
17	Huddersfield	8.6%	47	Reading	4.6%
18	Brighton	8.1%	48	Belfast	3.8%
19	Southampton	7.8%	49	Newcastle	3.4%
20	Derby	7.8%	50	Wakefield	3.3%
21	Crawley	7.6%	51	Stoke	2.9%
22	Manchester	7.4%	52	Hull	2.6%
23	Nottingham	7.1%	53	Rochdale	2.6%
24	Worthing	7.1%	54	Liverpool	2.3%
25	Swansea	6.9%	55	Birkenhead	1.5%
26	Mansfield	6.8%	56	Blackpool	1.3%
27	Birmingham	6.8%	57	Grimsby	1.0%
28	Norwich	6.6%	58	Middlesbrough	0.2%
29	Blackburn	6.5%	59	Burnley	-1.3%
30	Preston	6.4%	60	Sunderland	-3.2%
	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	7.1%			

Source: 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census 2011

Annex

Table A4: Households, 2011

City	Households	Share of England, Wales & Northern Ireland households	City	Households	Share of England, Wales & Northern Ireland households
London	3,798,300	15.8%	Bolton	116,400	0.5%
Birmingham	958,200	4.0%	Norwich	113,600	0.5%
Manchester	787,900	3.3%	Hull	112,600	0.5%
Newcastle	364,900	1.5%	Plymouth	109,300	0.5%
Liverpool	343,500	1.4%	Chatham	106,200	0.4%
Sheffield	338,200	1.4%	Swansea	103,500	0.4%
Leeds	320,600	1.3%	Derby	102,300	0.4%
Bristol	290,200	1.2%	Barnsley	100,700	0.4%
Belfast	277,477	1.2%	Milton Keynes	98,600	0.4%
Nottingham	271,000	1.1%	Crawley	98,100	0.4%
Portsmouth	218,800	0.9%	Mansfield	95,800	0.4%
Bradford	199,300	0.8%	Northampton	88,700	0.4%
Middlesbrough	196,000	0.8%	Swindon	88,400	0.4%
Leicester	183,100	0.8%	Rochdale	87,600	0.4%
Huddersfield	173,500	0.7%	Warrington	85,100	0.4%
Reading	169,100	0.7%	York	83,600	0.3%
Bournemouth	167,400	0.7%	Burnley	74,900	0.3%
Stoke	160,200	0.7%	Luton	74,300	0.3%
Southampton	150,500	0.6%	Peterborough	74,000	0.3%
Preston	148,600	0.6%	Aldershot	69,800	0.3%
Brighton	148,500	0.6%	Grimsby	69,700	0.3%
Blackpool	146,600	0.6%	Telford	66,600	0.3%
Southend	144,700	0.6%	Newport	61,200	0.3%
Cardiff	142,600	0.6%	Blackburn	57,400	0.2%
Birkenhead	140,600	0.6%	Ipswich	57,300	0.2%
Wakefield	140,400	0.6%	Oxford	55,400	0.2%
Wigan	136,400	0.6%	Gloucester	50,400	0.2%
Coventry	128,600	0.5%	Worthing	47,000	0.2%
Doncaster	126,500	0.5%	Cambridge	46,700	0.2%
Sunderland	119,800	0.5%	Hastings	41,200	0.2%
England, Wales & Northern Ireland	24.1m				

Source: Census 2011

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Table A5: Change in households, 2001 to 2011

Rank	City	Absolute change	Rank	City	Absolute change
1	London	282,983	31	Wakefield	8,188
2	Manchester	64,302	32	Brighton	8,151
3	Birmingham	47,609	33	Northampton	7,878
4	Bristol	29,072	34	Doncaster	7,801
5	Liverpool	22,385	35	Mansfield	7,599
6	Belfast	19,819	36	Ipswich	7,431
7	Bradford	19,054	37	Birkenhead	7,255
8	Cardiff	19,020	38	Warrington	7,070
9	Leeds	18,986	39	Plymouth	6,760
10	Newcastle	18,432	40	York	6,680
11	Sheffield	18,299	41	Chatham	6,634
12	Portsmouth	16,707	42	Southend	6,491
13	Nottingham	15,663	43	Stoke	6,266
14	Bournemouth	15,529	44	Coventry	6,247
15	Milton Keynes	15,241	45	Crawley	6,024
16	Huddersfield	14,469	46	Blackpool	4,996
17	Leicester	14,122	47	Newport	4,665
18	Swindon	13,246	48	Gloucester	4,635
19	Southampton	12,282	49	Rochdale	4,148
20	Preston	11,875	50	Cambridge	4,042
21	Wigan	11,304	51	Blackburn	3,993
22	Reading	10,559	52	Oxford	3,668
23	Middlesbrough	10,442	53	Grimsby	3,646
24	Derby	9,895	54	Hastings	3,596
25	Swansea	9,100	55	Luton	3,545
26	Norwich	9,007	56	Sunderland	3,444
27	Peterborough	8,620	56	Worthing	2,872
28	Barnsley	8,535	58	Telford	2,832
29	Bolton	8,315	59	Aldershot	2,816
30	Hull	8,312	60	Burnley	2,144
	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	1.8m			

Source: 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census 2011

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Table A6: Relative change in households, 2001 to 2011

Rank	City	Percentage change	City	Percentage change	
1	Milton Keynes	18.3%	31	Belfast	7.7%
2	Swindon	17.6%	32	Blackburn	7.5%
3	Cardiff	15.4%	33	Oxford	7.1%
4	Ipswich	14.9%	34	Liverpool	7.0%
5	Peterborough	13.2%	35	Chatham	6.7%
6	Bristol	11.1%	36	Reading	6.7%
7	Derby	10.7%	37	Plymouth	6.6%
8	Bradford	10.6%	38	Doncaster	6.6%
9	Bournemouth	10.2%	39	Crawley	6.5%
10	Gloucester	10.1%	40	Worthing	6.5%
11	Northampton	9.7%	41	Leeds	6.3%
12	Swansea	9.6%	42	Wakefield	6.2%
13	Hastings	9.6%	43	Nottingham	6.1%
14	Cambridge	9.5%	44	Brighton	5.8%
15	Barnsley	9.3%	45	Sheffield	5.7%
16	Huddersfield	9.1%	46	Middlesbrough	5.6%
17	Warrington	9.1%	47	Grimsby	5.5%
18	Wigan	9.0%	48	Birkenhead	5.4%
19	Manchester	8.9%	49	Newcastle	5.3%
20	Southampton	8.9%	50	Birmingham	5.2%
21	Preston	8.7%	51	Coventry	5.1%
22	York	8.7%	52	Luton	5.0%
23	Mansfield	8.6%	53	Rochdale	5.0%
24	Norwich	8.6%	54	Southend	4.7%
25	Leicester	8.4%	55	Telford	4.4%
26	Portsmouth	8.3%	56	Aldershot	4.2%
27	Newport	8.3%	57	Stoke	4.1%
28	London	8.0%	58	Blackpool	3.5%
29	Hull	8.0%	59	Sunderland	3.0%
30	Bolton	7.7%	60	Burnley	2.9%
	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	8.0%			

Source: 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census 2011

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Table A7: Total working age population, 2011

Rank	City	Working age population	Rank	City	Working age population
1	London	6,590,100	31	Bolton	180,800
2	Birmingham	1,567,700	32	Chatham	176,900
3	Manchester	1,262,700	33	Hull	175,400
4	Newcastle	558,000	34	Plymouth	172,700
5	Liverpool	539,000	35	Norwich	170,000
6	Sheffield	538,800	36	Milton Keynes	169,200
7	Leeds	513,400	37	Derby	163,500
8	Bristol	470,100	38	Crawley	162,100
9	Belfast	445,600	39	Swansea	157,600
10	Nottingham	436,900	40	Barnsley	151,100
11	Portsmouth	341,300	41	Mansfield	146,800
12	Bradford	338,200	42	Northampton	143,400
13	Leicester	324,500	43	Swindon	141,600
14	Middlesbrough	304,800	44	Rochdale	139,100
15	Reading	287,900	45	Luton	135,300
16	Huddersfield	277,800	46	York	134,900
17	Southampton	249,500	47	Warrington	133,800
18	Stoke	246,200	48	Peterborough	122,100
19	Bournemouth	245,000	49	Aldershot	120,600
20	Cardiff	241,500	50	Burnley	114,600
21	Preston	237,900	51	Oxford	111,500
22	Brighton	233,700	52	Telford	110,600
23	Southend	219,600	53	Grimsby	103,100
24	Wakefield	214,800	54	Blackburn	96,300
25	Coventry	213,800	55	Newport	94,600
26	Wigan	210,300	56	Cambridge	92,700
27	Birkenhead	203,600	57	Ipswich	89,100
28	Blackpool	202,600	58	Gloucester	81,000
29	Doncaster	197,500	59	Worthing	65,600
30	Sunderland	183,900	60	Hastings	59,200
	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	38.2m			

Source: Census 2011

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Table A8: Working age population as a share of total population, 2011

City	Working age population	Working age population as a share of total population	City	Working age population	Working age population as a share of total population
Cambridge	92,700	75%	Telford	110,600	66%
Oxford	111,500	73%	Belfast	445,600	66%
Brighton	233,700	70%	Crawley	162,100	66%
Cardiff	241,500	70%	Wigan	210,300	66%
London	6,590,100	70%	Warrington	133,800	66%
Southampton	249,500	69%	Norwich	170,000	66%
Liverpool	539,000	68%	Stoke	246,200	66%
Hull	175,400	68%	Swansea	157,600	66%
Leeds	513,400	68%	Wakefield	214,800	66%
Nottingham	436,900	68%	Huddersfield	277,800	66%
York	134,900	68%	Derby	163,500	66%
Bristol	470,100	68%	Rochdale	139,100	66%
Reading	287,900	68%	Portsmouth	341,300	66%
Milton Keynes	169,200	68%	Mansfield	146,800	66%
Swindon	141,600	68%	Hastings	59,200	66%
Northampton	143,400	68%	Middlesbrough	304,800	66%
Leicester	324,500	68%	Barnsley	151,100	65%
Plymouth	172,700	67%	Bolton	180,800	65%
Manchester	1,262,700	67%	Doncaster	197,500	65%
Newcastle	558,000	67%	Blackburn	96,300	65%
Coventry	213,800	67%	Burnley	114,600	65%
Chatham	176,900	67%	Newport	94,600	65%
Aldershot	120,600	67%	Birmingham	1,567,700	65%
Ipswich	89,100	67%	Bradford	338,200	65%
Sunderland	183,900	67%	Bournemouth	245,000	65%
Preston	237,900	67%	Grimsby	103,100	65%
Luton	135,300	67%	Southend	219,600	64%
Gloucester	81,000	67%	Birkenhead	203,600	64%
Sheffield	538,800	67%	Worthing	65,600	63%
Peterborough	122,100	67%	Blackpool	202,600	62%
England, Wales & Northern Ireland	38.2m	66%			

Source: Census 2011

Annex

Table A9: Non UK short-term residents, 2011

City	Number	Share of England and Wales total	City	Number	Share of England and Wales total
London	72,500	37.2%	Stoke	700	0.4%
Manchester	7,500	3.8%	Crawley	600	0.3%
Birmingham	7,000	3.6%	Huddersfield	600	0.3%
Nottingham	4,200	2.2%	Plymouth	600	0.3%
Oxford	4,000	2.1%	Aldershot	500	0.3%
Newcastle	3,900	2.0%	Chatham	500	0.3%
Leeds	3,800	1.9%	Ipswich	500	0.3%
Sheffield	3,600	1.8%	Northampton	500	0.3%
Cambridge	3,300	1.7%	Peterborough	500	0.3%
Coventry	3,300	1.7%	Blackpool	400	0.2%
Cardiff	3,000	1.5%	Swindon	400	0.2%
Brighton	2,600	1.3%	Bolton	300	0.2%
Bristol	2,600	1.3%	Doncaster	300	0.2%
Liverpool	2,600	1.3%	Newport	300	0.2%
Leicester	2,400	1.2%	Gloucester	200	0.1%
Reading	1,900	1.0%	Grimsby	200	0.1%
Southampton	1,900	1.0%	Southend	200	0.1%
Preston	1,800	0.9%	Telford	200	0.1%
Bournemouth	1,700	0.9%	Wakefield	200	0.1%
Portsmouth	1,500	0.8%	Warrington	200	0.1%
York	1,500	0.8%	Barnsley	100	0.1%
Bradford	1,300	0.7%	Birkenhead	100	0.1%
Norwich	1,300	0.7%	Blackburn	100	0.1%
Luton	1,200	0.6%	Burnley	100	0.1%
Hull	1,100	0.6%	Hastings	100	0.1%
Swansea	1,000	0.5%	Mansfield	100	0.1%
Middlesbrough	900	0.5%	Rochdale	100	0.1%
Sunderland	900	0.5%	Wigan	100	0.1%
Derby	700	0.4%	Worthing	100	0.1%
Milton Keynes	700	0.4%	England & Wales	195,100	N/A

Source: Census 2011

Technical note

Population data refers to the ‘usual resident’ population. A usual resident is someone who, on the day of the 2011 Census, was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months. Similarly, household data refers to households with at least one usual resident.

The working age population data refers to those aged between 15 and 64. The usual definition of working age is 16-64 but due to data restrictions it was not possible to provide this breakdown.

The data released today along with a glossary of terms and wider information about the Census 2011 can be found at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>.