

A profile of the Somali-born population in Tower Hamlets: key facts



Key findings

- **Size of the population:** The 2011 Census counted 2,925 Somali-born residents in Tower Hamlets, representing 1.2 per cent of the borough's population - the 9th highest proportion in England and Wales. The size of the borough's 'ethnically' Somali population, which includes second and subsequent generations, is much larger, and is estimated to be somewhere in the region of 6,000-9,000.
- **Year of arrival:** More than half (54 per cent) of the Somali-born population arrived before 2001 - with most of this group arriving in the nineties.
- **Gender:** The Somali-born population is more likely to be female compared to the population generally (57 vs. 48 per cent).
- **Household type:** Somali households are twice as likely to have dependent children compared with borough households generally (53 vs. 27 per cent). They are also much more likely to be lone parent households (30 vs. 11 per cent).
- **Housing:** Around three quarters of (74 per cent) of Somali-born residents are living in social housing compared with 44 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population. Almost one third (31 per cent) of Somali households are overcrowded compared with 16 per cent of borough households.
- **Employment:** In 2011, just one third of (working age) Somali-born residents were in work compared with almost two thirds of the borough's working age population (34 vs. 64 per cent). There was a considerable gender gap in employment rates: 26 per cent of Somali women were in employment compared with 46 per cent of Somali men.
- **Occupation:** Somali-born workers are more likely than average to be employed in lower paid 'elementary' occupations (25 vs. 10 per cent). They are also more likely to work part-time than average (48 vs. 20 per cent).

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- **Qualifications:** Somali-born adults are less likely than average to hold higher level qualifications (16 vs. 41 per cent). Within the population, older people and women are least likely to have qualifications.
- **Language:** Just over one in five (22 per cent) Somali-born residents said they could not speak English well (or at all). Levels of proficiency were poorest for older people and women.
- **Poor health and disability:** Over one fifth (22 per cent) of Somali residents had a long term health problem or disability, compared with 14 per cent of the borough population. The proportion rose sharply with age: 70 per cent of older Somali-born residents (aged 65 and over) had a limiting health problem compared with nine percent of those aged 16-34.
- **Household deprivation:** One quarter of Somali households are deprived on at least three out of four different dimensions of deprivation - housing, health, education and employment - compared with 10 per cent of households generally.

Background

In 2015, the Council set up a Somali Task Force to review the issues faced by the Somali community in Tower Hamlets. Qualitative research¹ has persistently highlighted the significant levels of disadvantage faced within the community across the areas of health, housing and employment. However, as the Task Force noted², it remains difficult to quantify these issues locally with firm statistical evidence. This is – in part - due to the fact that Somali was not listed as a separate ethnic group on the most recent Census.

However, the Census does collect data on the country of birth of residents, which can be used to profile different migrant populations in detail. Such analysis has been severely limited by the fact that very little Census data was routinely published for individual countries. To fill this gap, the Council has been working with the Greater London Authority's Intelligence and Analysis Unit, to jointly commission a special set of Census tables from the Office for National Statistics. The tables were designed to provide more detail about residents by their individual country of birth. Appendix A details the tables received to date - more are expected in 2017. This is the first time this level of detail has been available, at a local authority level. The report uses these data to present a profile of the Somali-born population in Tower Hamlets. The analysis covers the following topics:

- Population size
- Year of arrival
- Age and gender
- Household/family type
- Economic activity
- Employment patterns
- Qualifications
- Language proficiency
- Household tenure
- Overcrowding
- Health
- Deprivation

Definition of 'Somali-born'

This report covers those residents born in the country of Somalia as described by the Office of National Statistics³. This includes residents born in Somaliland, which declared independence from the Republic of Somalia in 1991, but has not yet been recognised by the United Nations. Tower Hamlets Council recognised Somaliland as an independent state in November 2015⁴, though Census data are only available for the country of Somalia as a whole.

Country of birth and ethnicity: strengths and limitations of the data

Census data presented here relate to Somali-born residents, so the data are limited to the coverage of the first generation population only. This means the statistics exclude the many 'ethnically' Somali residents who were born in the UK. This particularly affects data about Somali children and young adults – many of whom would be UK-born – so many will be excluded from these figures. For this reason, the analysis focuses on the characteristics of adults and Somali headed households.

¹ [Somalis in London, Open Society Foundations, 2014](#)

² <https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s93852/5.7%20Somali%20Task%20Force%20-%20Cabinet%20Cover%20Report.pdf>

³ When analysing the answers to the country of birth Census question, which was a 'write in' question, ONS included the following answers under the country heading of 'Somalia': *Somalia; Somaliland; British Somaliland or Somaliland (British); Democratic Republic of Somalia/Somali; Italian Somaliland; Mogadishu; Somali; Somali Democratic Republic; Somali Republic; and Somalian.*

⁴ Tower Hamlets Council. [Full council meeting](#), 18th November 2015.

Furthermore, country of birth data are used here as a proxy measure of the first generation Somali population. We cannot be sure that all Somali-born residents would necessarily identify as ethnically Somali; it is quite possible that a small number of Somali-born residents are from other ethnic backgrounds. Likewise, some Somali residents may have been born in countries other than Somalia/Somaliland, so would not be counted in the Somali-born total.

It is recognised that these data do not provide the entire picture - and that the characteristics of Somali-born residents may not necessarily be the same as those of the whole Somali population. However, despite these limitations, the data provide valuable evidence and insights about the needs of this population.

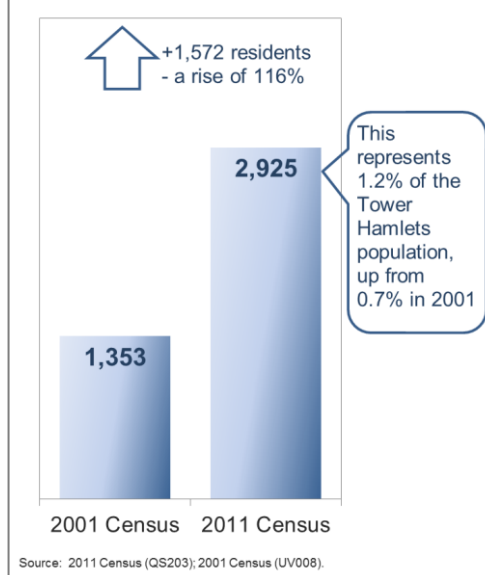
The size of the Somali population in Tower Hamlets

The 2011 Census counted **2,925** Tower Hamlets Somali-born residents representing 1.2 per cent of the population, the 9th highest proportion across all local authority areas in England and Wales, and 8th highest in London.

The size of the borough's Somali-born population has more than doubled in size between the last two Censuses - up from 1,353 in 2001 up to 2,925 in 2011 - a rise of 1,572. As discussed earlier, as these figures do not include second and subsequent generations of Somali residents, they will significantly underestimate the size, and growth, of the entire Somali population.

Indeed, in 2010, the Council carried out a short review of administrative and survey data to estimate the size of the 'ethnically' Somali population. The analysis concluded that the size of the Somali population was likely to be somewhere around **2-3 per cent of the borough's population - currently equal to around 6,000-9,000 residents**. More recent data confirm this estimate ([Appendix B](#)). Of course, such estimates have a wide margin of error attached - there remains considerable uncertainty about the true number.

Figure 1: Number of Somali-born residents, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011



Area of residence

Map 1 shows the distribution of the Somali-born population across the borough's Lower Layer Super Output Areas⁵ - in terms of the number of residents living in each area.

The map shows higher numbers clustered in the Eastern LSOAs and relatively few in the South and riverside LSOAs. In almost one third of LSOAs (42 out of 144), the Somali-born population was very small, numbering less than ten. At the other end of the spectrum, around 14 LSOAs, had a Somali-born population of between 40 and 60 residents. At a ward level, Lansbury has the highest number, and proportion, of Somali-born residents (313 residents which represents 2.1 per cent of the ward population). Just over one in ten of all Somali residents in Tower Hamlets live in Lansbury ward.

⁵ In Tower Hamlets, the 144 LSOAs typically cover populations of between 1,000 and 3,000.

The riverside wards of *St. Katherine's & Wapping* and *Limehouse* have the fewest Somali-born residents (27 people in each).

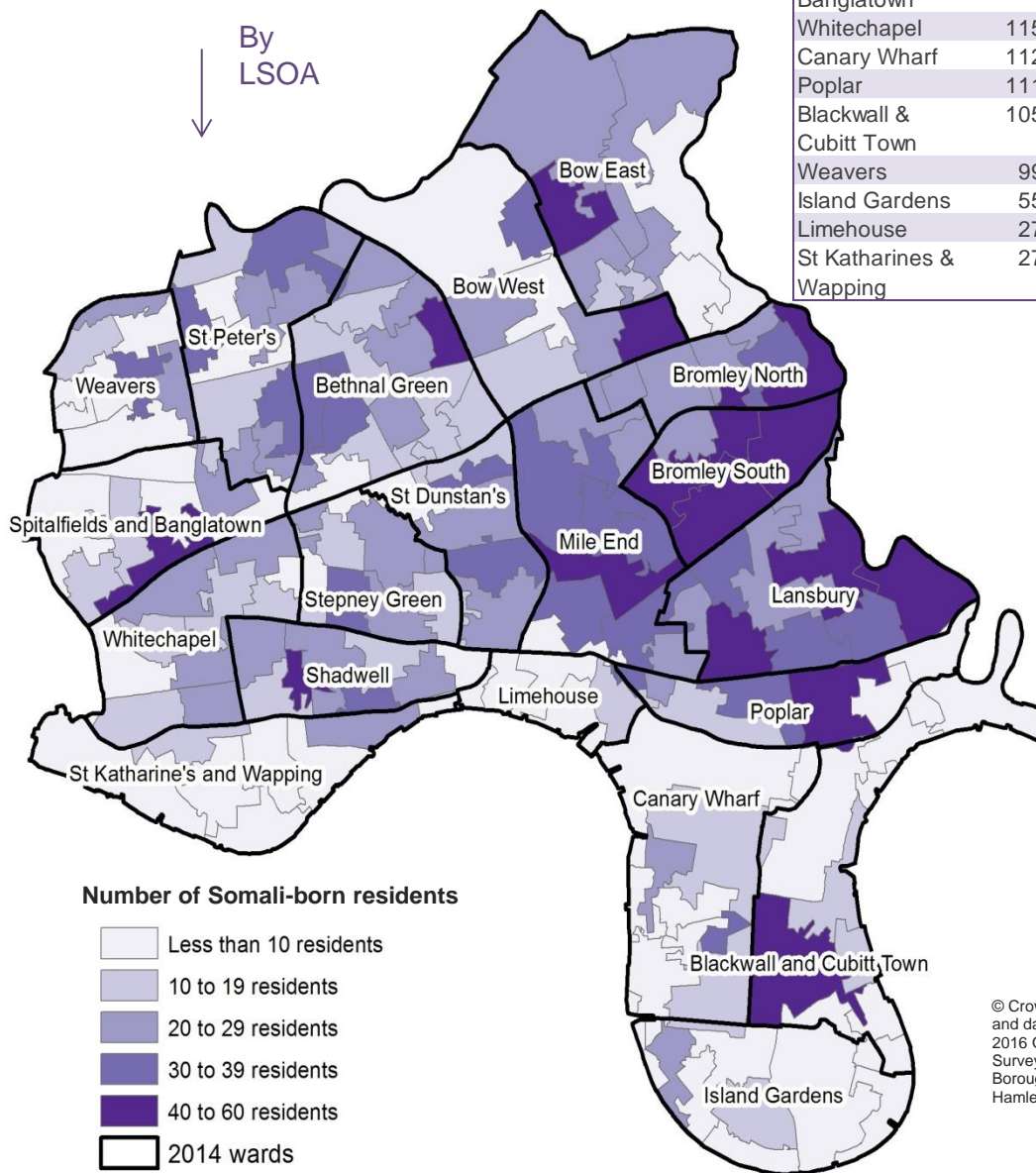
Map 1: Number of Somali-born residents, by Lower layer Super Output Area (and ward), Tower Hamlets, 2011

The 2011 Census counted **2,925** Tower Hamlets Somali-born residents, representing **1.2%** of the Tower Hamlets population.

By WARD

By ward:	Number	As a % of population
Lansbury	313	2.1
Bethnal Green	262	1.4
Mile End	247	1.5
St Peters	209	1.1
Bow East	179	1.2
Bromley North	176	1.9
Shadwell	176	1.4
Bow West	154	1.2
Stepney Green	151	1.3
Bromley South	149	1.7
St Dunstans	142	1.2
Spitalfields & Banglatown	116	0.9
Whitechapel	115	0.8
Canary Wharf	112	0.9
Poplar	111	1.6
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	105	0.8
Weavers	99	0.8
Island Gardens	55	0.4
Limehouse	27	0.4
St Katharines & Wapping	27	0.3

By LSOA



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Year of arrival

The Somali-born population is diverse and includes older residents who migrated to London some years ago, alongside more recent arrivals. Figure 2 shows the Somali-born population by when they first arrived in the UK. *Note: the figures provide a snapshot of the current migrant population and when they arrived, they don't capture all population inflows over time, as those who migrated some years ago may have died, while others may have moved out of the borough.*

More than half (54 per cent) of the Somali-born population arrived before 2001 - with most of this group arriving in the nineties (1991-2000). The remaining 46 per cent arrived after 2000, with numbers slowing down during the decade.

This trend is also reflected by National Insurance Number (NINo) data which capture the number of Somali nationals entering the UK who have been allocated a national insurance number (this is a proxy indicator of working age migration into the borough). These show a slow decline in numbers registering over the last decade (figure 3).

Figure 2: Somali-born population by year of arrival in UK, Tower Hamlets, 2011

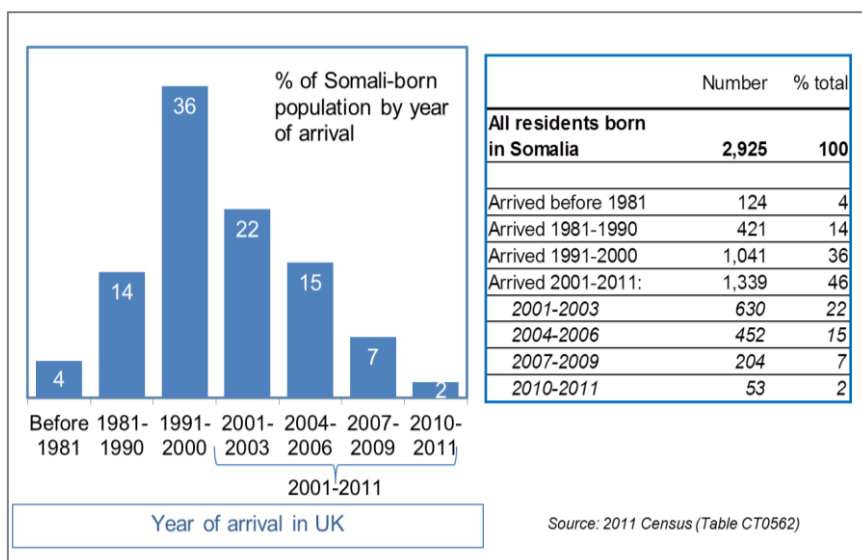
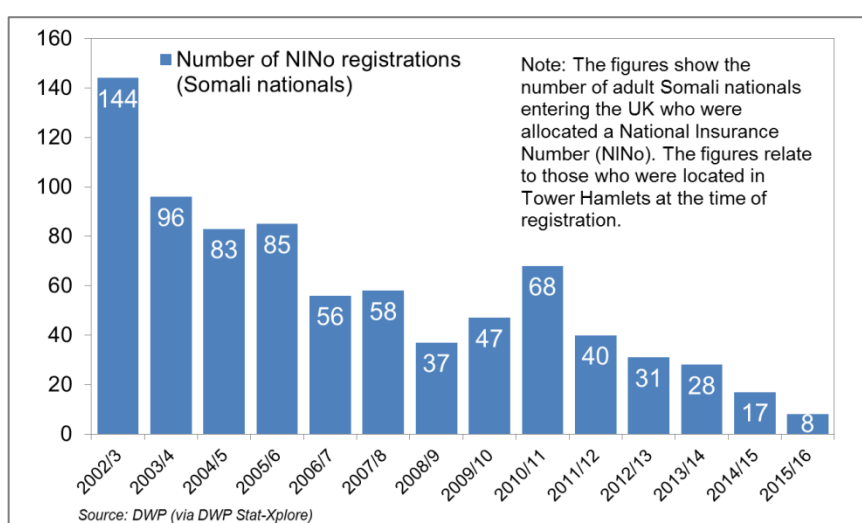


Figure 3: Number of NINo registrations, Somali nationals, Tower Hamlets, 2002-2016



Age structure

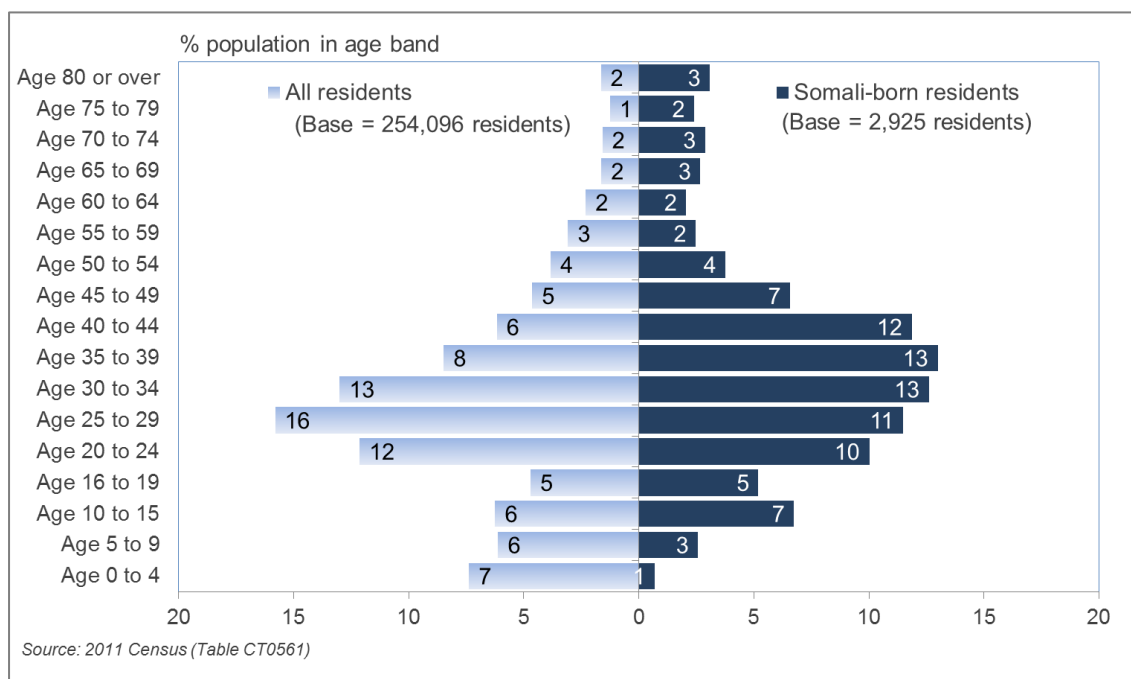
Figure 4 shows the age structure of the Somali-born population. Compared with the borough population, the Somali-born population is characterised by proportionately fewer children and young adults, and more residents aged over 35:

- 25 per cent of the Somali-born population are aged 35-44 compared with 15 per cent of the borough's population;
- 11 per cent of the Somali-born population are aged 65 and over compared with 6 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population;
- 10 per cent of Somali-born residents are children (aged under 16) compared with 20 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population.

Given these figures exclude second and subsequent generations of Somali residents (born in the UK) - who are more likely to be children and young adults - this age profile is not unexpected. Indeed, data from the Schools Census provides a far higher estimate of the number of Somali children in the borough: the Schools Census for Spring 2016 counted 1,418 Somali children (aged 4-15) on the Tower Hamlets school roll – while the 2011 Census counts captured less than three hundred Somali-born children⁶.

The Somali-born population is more likely to be female compared to the population generally: 57 per cent of Somali-born residents are female compared with 48 per cent for the Tower Hamlets population.

Figure 4: Age profiles compared: Somali-born residents compared with all residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011



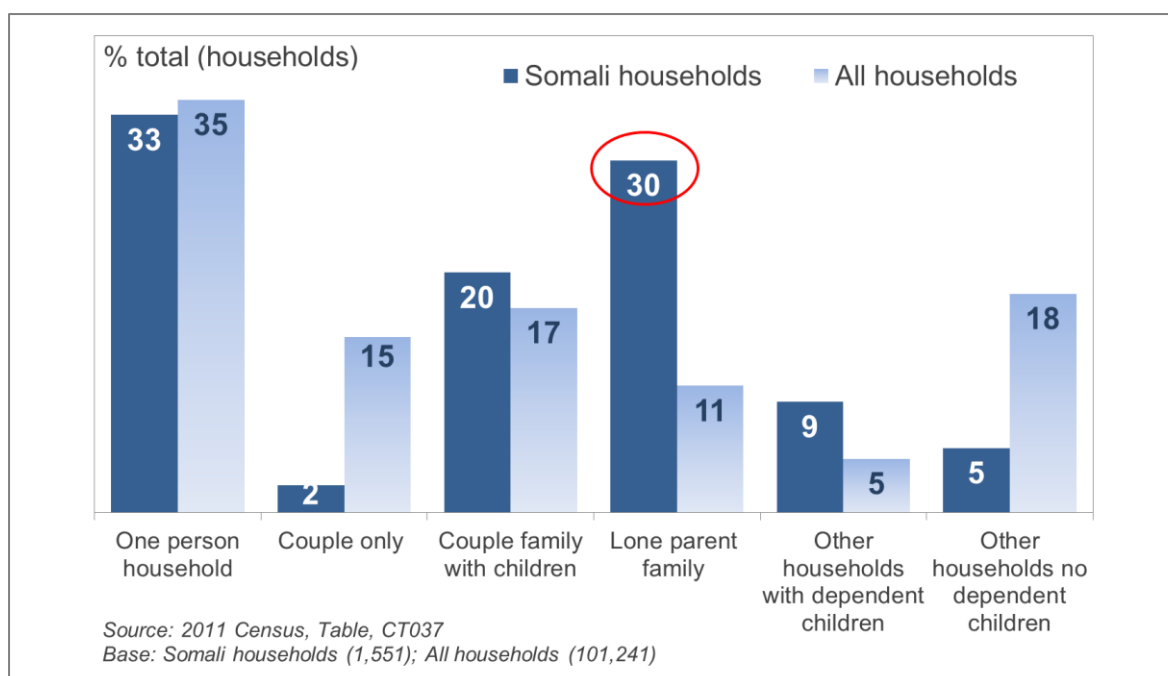
⁶ The 2011 Census recorded 272 Somali-born children aged 5-15 in Tower Hamlets.

Household type

The 2011 Census identified a total of 1,551 households headed by a Somali-born resident⁷ – representing 1.5 per cent of all borough households. Figure 5 shows the breakdown of Somali households by family type, and compares it to the breakdown for all borough households:

- One third of Somali households are one person households, marginally below the percentage across the borough (33 vs. 35 per cent);
- Over half of all Somali households contain dependent children - twice as high as the percentage of Tower Hamlets households (53 vs. 27 per cent);
- Notably, Somali households are far more likely than average to be lone parent families: 30 per cent of Somali households were lone parent families compared with 11 per cent of all Tower Hamlets households. The majority (94 per cent) of Somali lone parent households were headed by a female lone parent;
- Nine per cent of Somali households are classed as *'other' households with dependent children* compared with 5 per cent of households generally. This group includes extended families, and can include lone parent and couple families living with other family members;
- In contrast, Somali families are less likely than average to be *couple only* households or *'other' households with no dependent children*. The latter group contains sharers (unrelated people sharing a home) and is less prevalent within the Somali population.

Figure 5: Household type, Somali vs. all households, Tower Hamlets, 2011



⁷ Households where the 'Household Reference Person (HRP)' was Somali-born. Data about economic activity, age and household composition are used to decide who the HRP is.

Economic activity

Levels of labour market participation are relatively low within the borough's Somali population.

The Census found that, in 2011, only one third of the borough's working age Somali-born population were in employment, compared with almost two thirds of the working age population generally (34 vs. 64 per cent). Figure 6.

Conversely, Somali-born residents were far more likely to be unemployed or economically inactive⁸ compared to the borough population:

- 45 per cent of all working age Somali-born residents were economically inactive compared to 28 per cent of the borough's working age population.
- 21 per cent of the working age Somali-born population were unemployed and actively seeking work, compared with nine per cent of the working age population.

Figure 6: Economic activity status, persons aged 16-64, Tower Hamlets, 2011

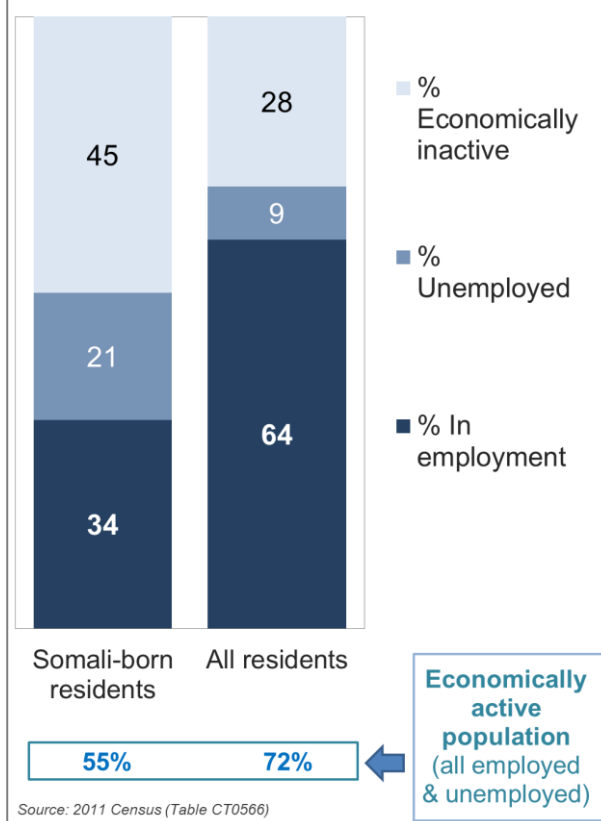


Table 1: Economic activity profile by gender, Somali-born and all residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011

	Somali-born		All residents	
	Number	% total	Number	% total
All persons aged 16-64	2,311	100	188,383	100
Economically active	1,267	55	136,073	72
- In employment	789	34	119,774	64
- Unemployed	478	21	16,299	9
Economically inactive	1,044	45	52,310	28
All males aged 16-64	971	100	98,261	100
Economically active	674	69	78,634	80
- In employment	444	46	69,369	71
- Unemployed	230	24	9,265	9
Economically inactive	297	31	19,627	20
All females aged 16-64	1,340	100	90,122	100
Economically active	593	44	57,439	64
- In employment	345	26	50,405	56
- Unemployed	248	19	7,034	8
Economically inactive	747	56	32,683	36

Source: 2011 Census (Commissioned table CT0566)

⁸ Economically inactive residents are those not active in the labour market (ie they are not in work and are not actively seeking work eg those too sick to work, full-students and those caring for family).

Employment rates by age and gender

As figure 7 illustrates, there is a significant gender gap in employment rates within the Somali population - just over one quarter of Somali women were in employment compared with almost half of Somali men (26 vs. 46 per cent, a gap of 20 percentage points), wider than the gender gap within the population generally (15 per cent).

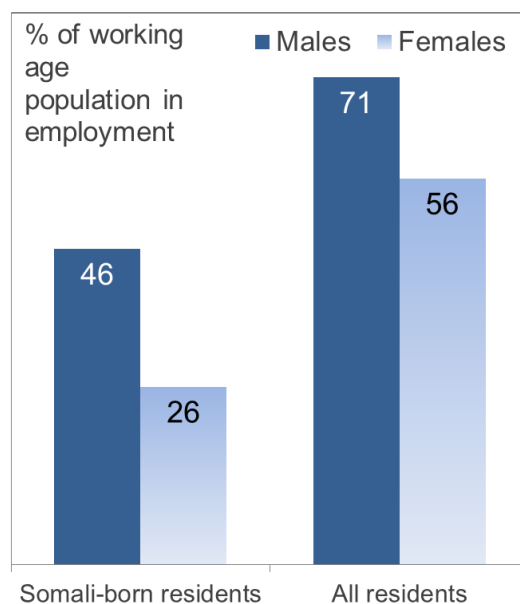
Somali men had an employment rate 25 points lower than the rate for the borough's male residents generally (46 vs. 71 per cent). Somali women had an employment rate of 26 per cent – 30 points lower than the rate for all working age women in the borough (56 per cent).

Employment rates by age and gender

Employment rates were relatively low across all age groups, though lowest for those aged 55-64 - just 20 per cent of Somali-born residents in this age group were in employment.

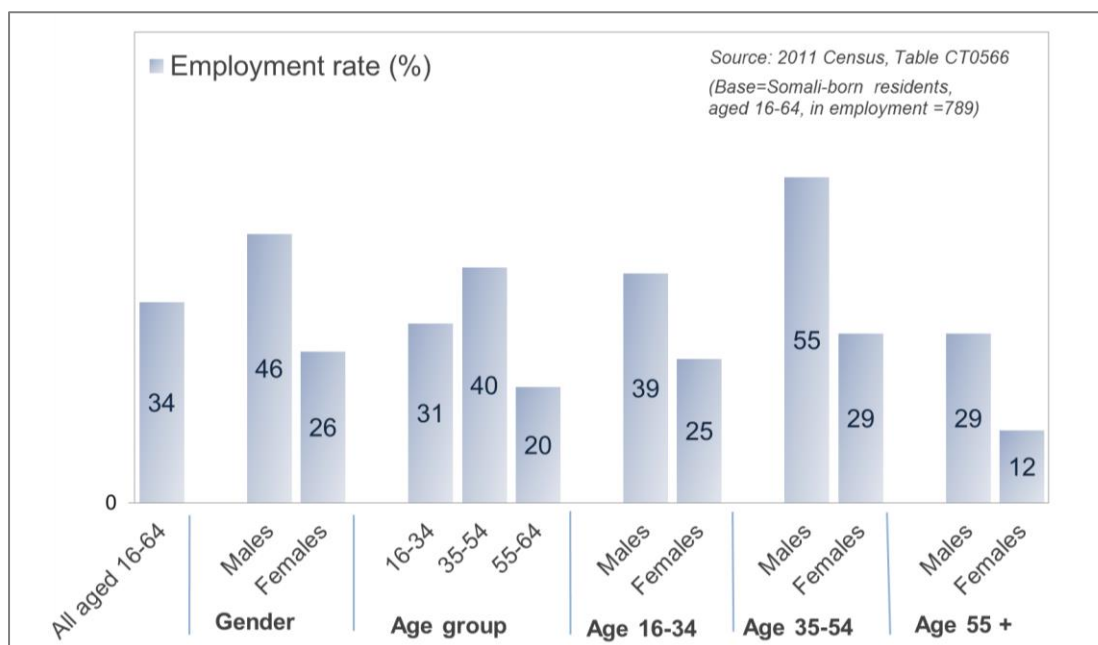
Within the Somali population, the gender gap persists across all age groups, though is particularly wide for those aged 35-54: within this age group, 55 per cent of men were in work compared with 29 per cent of women, a gap of 26 points.

Figure 7: Employment rates by gender, persons aged 16-64, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Source: 2011 Census (Table CT0566)

Figure 8: Employment rates by age and gender, Somali-born population, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Source: 2011 Census, Table CT0566
(Base=Somali-born residents, aged 16-64, in employment =789)

Patterns of employment

The employment profile of Somali-born workers is quite different to that of workers generally⁹.

Somali residents were far more likely to work part-time compared with workers generally (figure 9). Almost one half of Somali workers were in part-time work compared with just one in five of all Tower Hamlets workers (48 vs. 20 per cent).

Conversely, less than half (46 per cent) worked full time compared with 74 per cent on average.

The remaining 6 per cent of workers were full-time students who were also employed. While the employment status of this group is not known, it is likely that many were part-time workers.

Figure 10 shows the types of occupations Somali residents were employed in. Somali-born workers were less likely than average, to be employed in management and professional occupations (30 vs. 57 per cent), and far more likely to be employed in lower paid 'elementary' occupational groups (25 vs. 10 per cent).

Figure 9: Employment profile: full and part-time status, Tower Hamlets, 2011

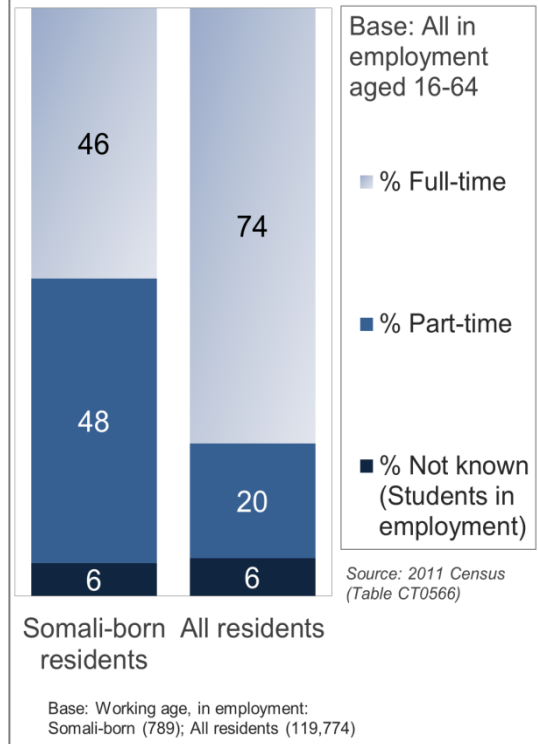
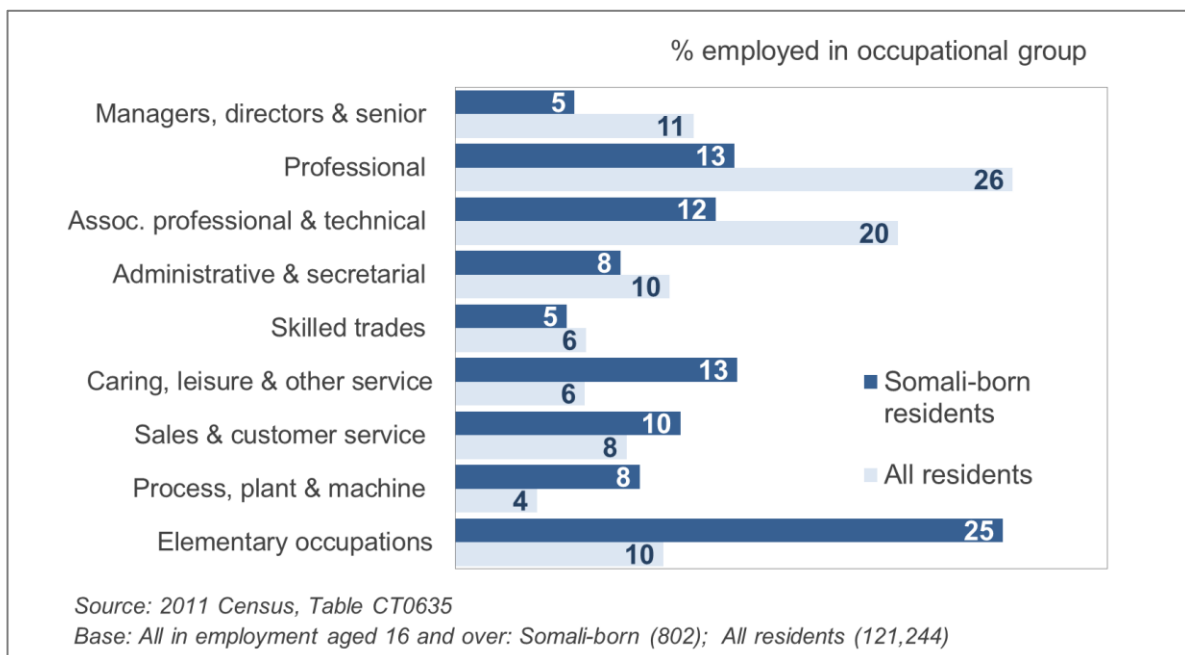


Figure 10: Employment by occupation, Somali vs. all workers, Tower Hamlets, 2011



⁹ Figures relate to Tower Hamlets residents who are in work (regardless of where they work)

Qualifications

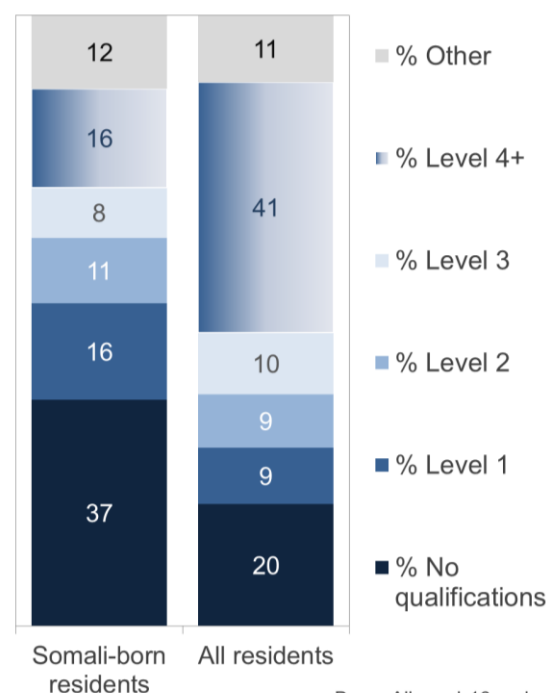
Somali-born residents are less well qualified compared with the borough population: 37 per cent of Somali adults had no formal qualifications compared with 20 per cent of all residents.

Conversely, Somali residents were less likely to hold higher level qualifications (level 4 and above¹⁰) compared with adults generally (16 vs. 41 per cent).

There is a strong relationship between qualification levels and age, with younger residents being more likely than older residents to hold qualifications. Within the Somali population, 77 per cent of residents aged 55 and over held no qualifications compared with 23 per cent of those aged 16-34.

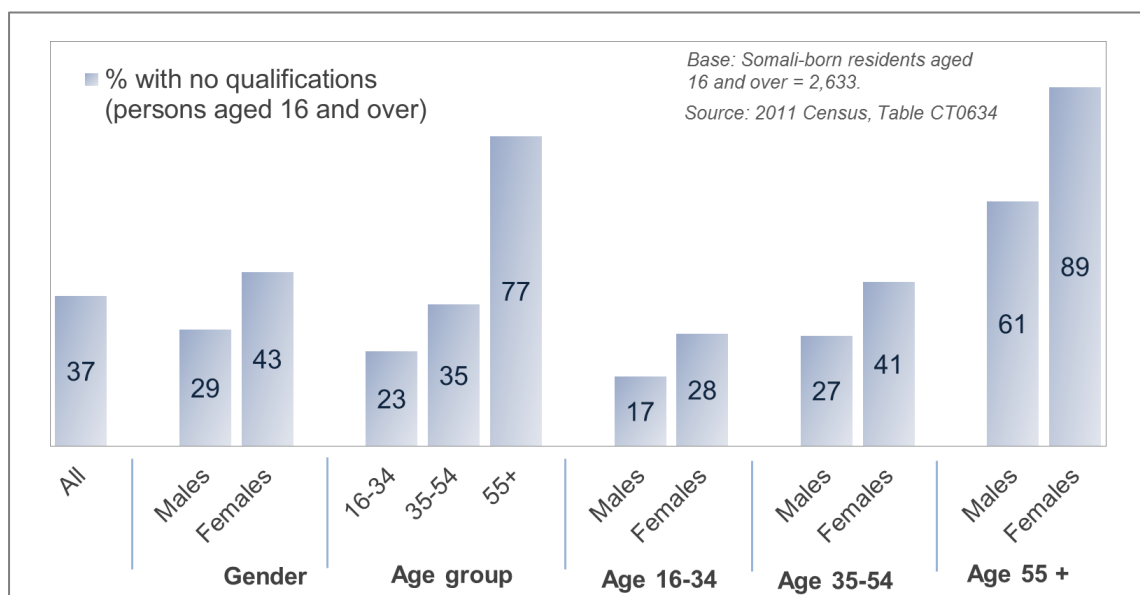
Somali women were more likely than Somali men to be poorly qualified: 43 per cent of Somali-born women had no qualifications compared with 29 per cent of Somali men. This gender gap is evident across all age groups (figure 11).

Figure 11: Highest qualifications level, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Base: All aged 16 and over:
Somali-born (2,633);
All residents (203,953).
Source: 2011 Census, Table CT0634

Figure 12: Percentage of Somali-born adults with no qualifications, by age and gender, Tower Hamlets, 2011



¹⁰ Level 4 and above includes: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy). 'Other qualifications' includes foreign qualifications not included elsewhere (where 'equivalent' levels could not be ascertained).

English language proficiency

The 2011 Census was the first Census to ask about the main language spoken. All those respondents who said they used a main language other than English, were also asked how well they could speak English.

One quarter of Somali-born residents said English was their main language. A further 53 per cent said they used a main language other than English, but that they could speak English well or very well.

The remaining 22 per cent said they could not speak English very well (or at all). Within the population, older people and women tend to have the poorest fluency in English.

By age, 11 per cent of young adults aged 16-34 said they had poor English compared with more than half of those aged 55 and over.

Women were twice as likely as men to report low levels of proficiency in spoken English (27 vs. 14 per cent). The gender divide is evident within all age groups, indeed, 70 per cent of Somali women aged 55 and over said they could not speak English very well compared with 34 per cent of older men.

Figure 13: English language proficiency, adults, Tower Hamlets, 2011

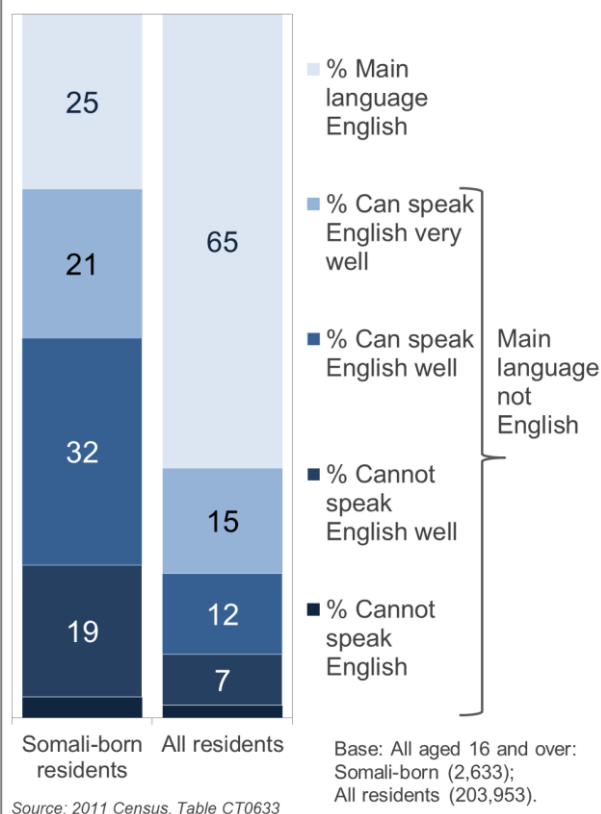
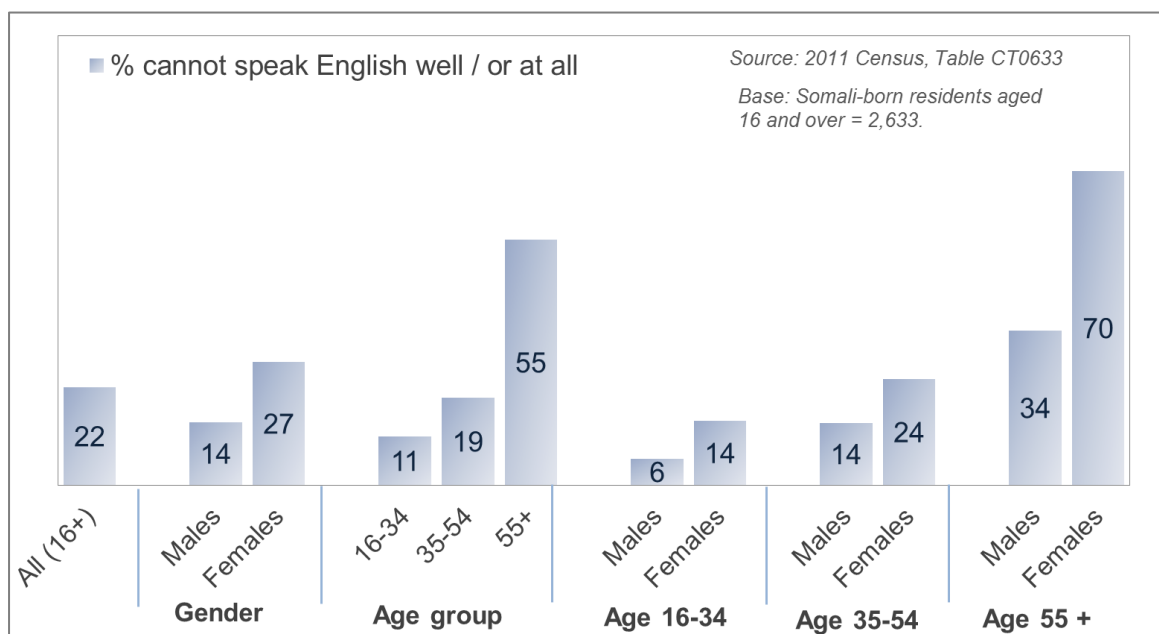


Figure 14: Percentage of Somali-born adults who cannot speak English well, by age and gender, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Housing Tenure

The majority of Somali-born residents live in social housing (74 per cent), far higher than the percentage of the Tower Hamlets population (44 per cent).

Conversely, only a small minority are owner-occupiers compared with one quarter of the borough's population (4 vs. 24 per cent of residents).

The proportion of Somali residents living in privately rented accommodation is also lower than average (22 vs. 32 per cent).

Overcrowded households

The Census also assesses to what extent households are overcrowded or under-occupied. The measure presented here is calculated on the basis of the number of bedrooms a particular household has, in relation to the number it needs given its family size and composition¹¹.

On this measure:

- Almost one third (31 per cent) of Somali households were overcrowded compared with 16 per cent of borough households;
- Just over half (54 per cent) had the required number of bedrooms for their particular household, similar to the borough average (50 per cent);
- Far fewer Somali households were under-occupying their accommodation compared with households generally (15 vs. 33 per cent) - these households had more bedrooms than they needed.

Figure 15: Residents by housing tenure, Tower Hamlets, 2011

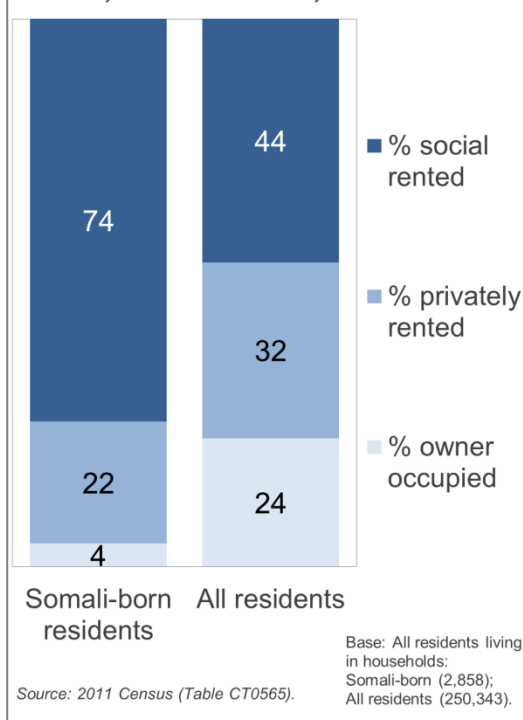
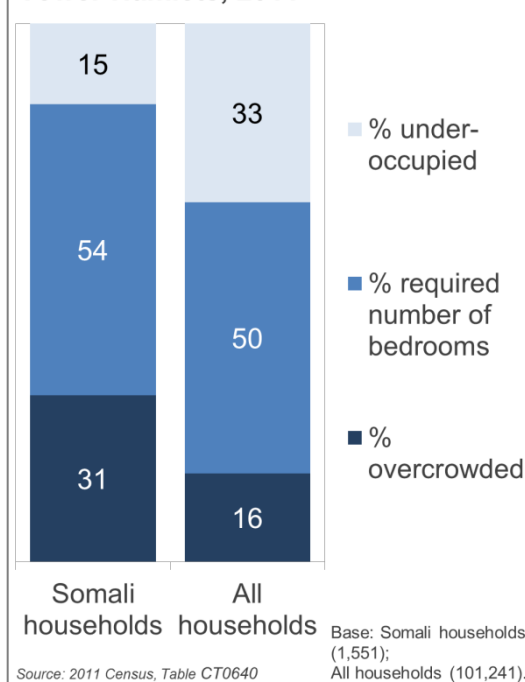


Figure 16: Households by occupancy level (bedrooms), Tower Hamlets, 2011



¹¹ The 2011 Census (bedroom) occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or under occupied. The ages of household members and their relationships to each other are used to derive the number of bedrooms they require, based on a standard formula, and this is compared to the number of bedrooms to obtain the occupancy rating - an approximation of the bedroom standard. Here, 'under-occupied' relates to households with more bedrooms than they require; 'overcrowded' relates to those with fewer bedrooms than required.

Health and disability

The Census asked the following question to ascertain whether residents had a long term health problem and/or a disability: ***Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (Include problems related to old age).***

On this measure, more than one in five Somali-born residents (22 per cent) said they had a health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities either 'a little' or 'a lot' (Figure 17).

The proportion of men and women with a limiting health problem or disability was 21 and 23 per cent respectively.

The proportion whose activities were limited rose sharply with age: 70 per cent of those aged 65 and over said their activities were limited due to a health problem or disability, compared with 9 per cent of young adults (aged 16-34).

The Census also asked residents to rate their overall health by asking: ***How is your health in general?***

In response, just over three quarters of Somali residents described their health as 'good' or 'very good', 14 per cent described it as 'fair' while 10 per cent described their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' (figure 18).

The proportion with bad health was similar among men and women (9 and 10 per cent).

As with the previous measure, the proportion of those rating their health as bad (or fair) rises sharply with age. For example, the percentage of residents with 'bad' or 'very bad' health was 4 per cent for young adults (aged 16-34) but rose to one third of those aged 65 and over.

Figure 17: Limiting long-term health problem or disability, Somali-born residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011

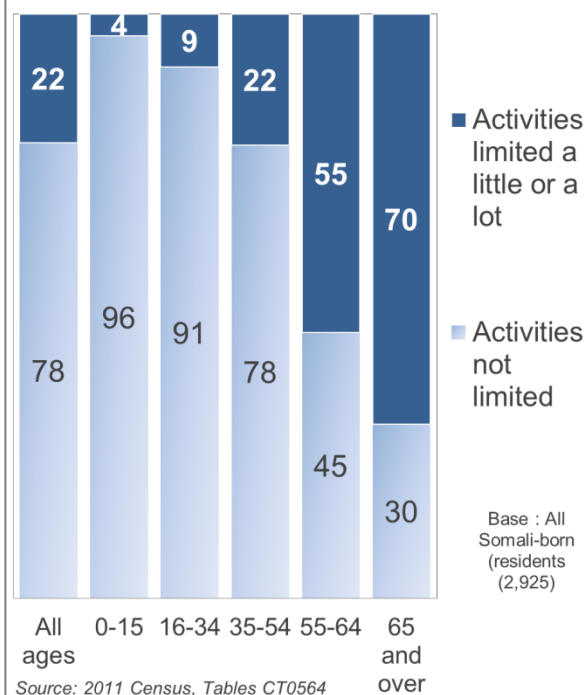
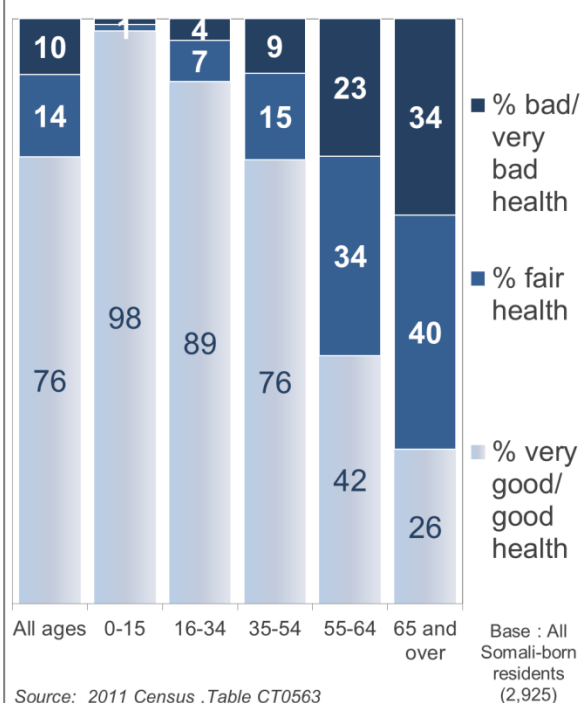


Figure 18: General health by age, Somali-born residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011

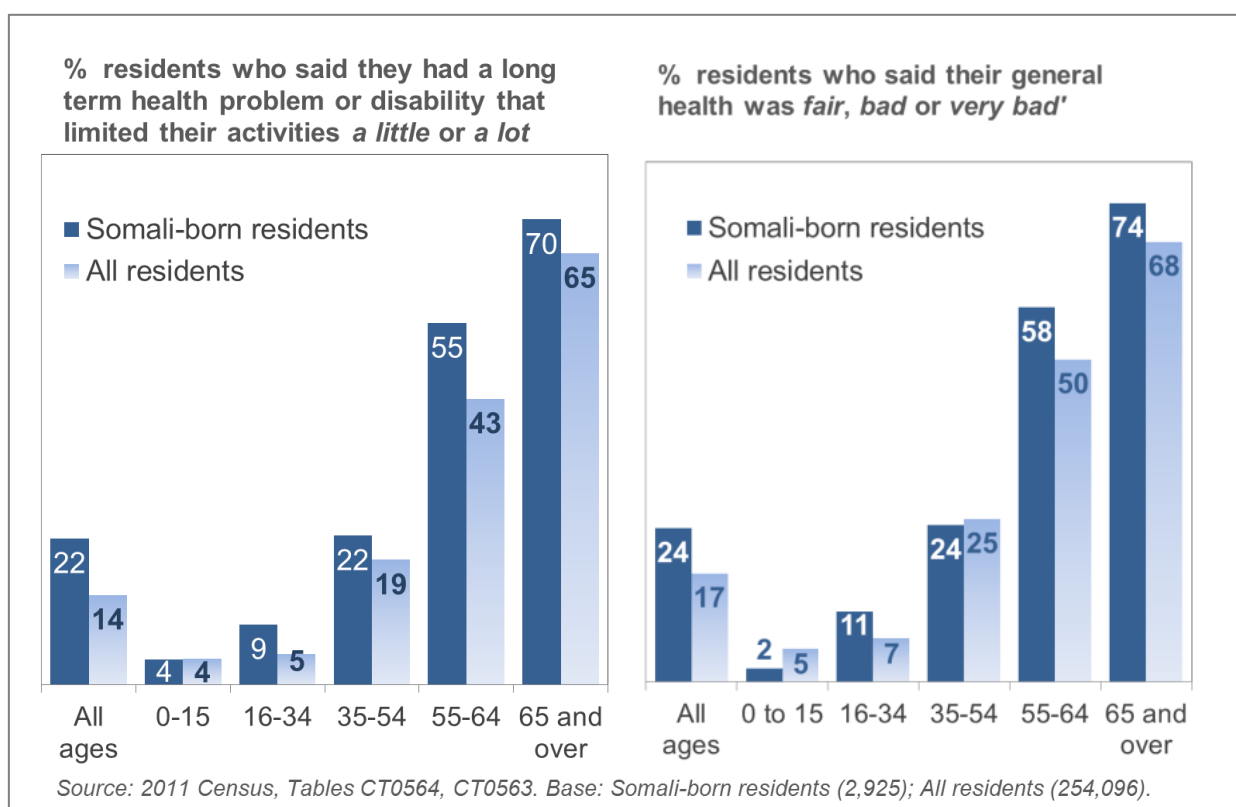


Similarly, the proportion rating their health as 'fair' rose from 7 per cent of those aged 16-34 up to 40 per cent of the population aged 65 and over. Conversely, the proportion rating their health as 'good' or 'very good' fell from 89 per cent of those aged 16-34 down to only one quarter of those aged 65 and over.

The proportion of Somali residents with a limiting long-term health problem or disability is higher than the proportion across the population generally (22 vs.14 per cent). The gap in rates was evident across all adult age groups, though was particularly wide for the 55-64 age group (55 vs. 43 per cent). See figure 19.

There was a similar picture in relation to general health. Almost one quarter of Somali-born residents described their health as *fair*, *bad*, or *very bad* - compared with 17 per cent of the population generally. This reflects the fact that older Somali-born residents were more likely to have poor health, compared to their borough counterparts - for example, 74 per cent of Somali-born residents reported *fair*, *bad*, or *very bad* health compared with 68 per cent of residents generally (in that age group).

Figure 19: Prevalence of poor health and disability by age, Somali-born residents compared with all residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Household deprivation

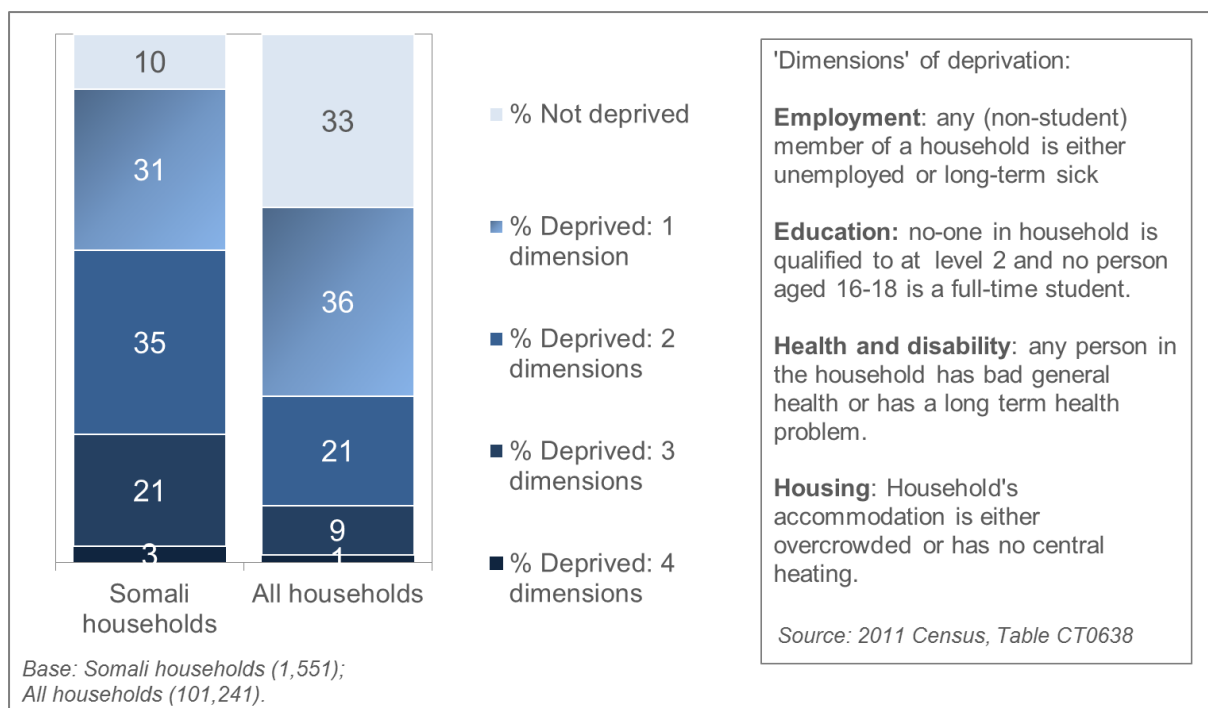
The Census provides a proxy measure of household level deprivation. This measure is constructed using four different Census indicators around worklessness, qualifications, health and housing. More specifically, a household is deprived if they meet one or more of the following 4 conditions (or 'dimensions'):

- **Employment:** any (non-student) member of a household is either unemployed or long-term sick
- **Education:** no-one in household is qualified to at 'level 2'¹² and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and disability:** any person in the household has bad general health or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** Household's accommodation is either overcrowded or has no central heating.

On this measure, the vast majority (90 per cent) of Somali households are deprived on at least one of the four measures - this compares to two thirds (67 per cent) of Tower Hamlets households.

One quarter of Somali households are deprived on at least 3 out of the four dimensions of deprivation compared with 10 per cent of households generally.

Figure 20: Household deprivation indicators, Somali households compared with all households, Tower Hamlets, 2011



¹² Level 2 qualifications are: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma;

Further information

This report summarises Census data received to date about the Somali-born population. Further information is expected in 2017, which will provide more data about family structure and size, and about caring responsibilities.

This report was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit, which is based in the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. The Unit produces a wide range of analysis and research about Tower Hamlets and its residents. For access to the team's previous research publications, please see the [Borough Statistics](#) part of the Council's website. The team publishes all its research briefings here by theme. Topics include: population, diversity, economy, labour market, poverty, health, housing and lots more.

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Copyright and acknowledgements: This report contains Census data from the Office for National Statistics - this is public sector information licenced under the [Open Government Licence v.3.0](#). The Council would like to thank the Intelligence & Analysis Unit at the Greater London Authority for their advice and support in securing the Census commissioned tables, which provided the basis for this report

Appendix A: Commissioned tables

The report is based on a set of specially commissioned Census tables requested from the Office for National Statistics. The tables were commissioned by Tower Hamlets Council, in association with the Greater London Authority, and were designed to fill a gap in published Census statistics, by providing more detail about residents by their individual country of birth. To date, the following tables have been received and form the basis of this analysis:

- CT0561 - Age by sex by country of birth
- CT0562 - Age by year of arrival in the UK by sex by country of birth
- CT0563 - Age by general health by sex by country of birth
- CT0564 - Age by long-term health or disability by sex by country of birth
- CT0565 - Age by tenure by sex by country of birth
- CT0566 - Age by economic activity by sex by country of birth
- CT0633 – Age by proficiency in English by country of birth by sex
- CT0634 – Age by Highest level of qualification by country of birth by sex
- CT0635 – Age by occupation by country of birth by sex
- CT0636 – Age by industry by country of birth by sex
- CT0637 – Age by household composition by country of birth by sex (HRP)
- CT0638 – Age by household deprivation by country of birth by sex (HRP)
- CT0639 – Age by occupancy rating (rooms) by country of birth by sex (HRP)
- CT0640 – Age by occupancy rating (bedrooms) by country of birth by sex (HRP)

Access to data:

The Greater London Authority has published three useful excel tools which help users extract data for different countries of birth:

A) Country of birth profiles on year of arrival, health, disability, housing tenure and economic activity.

<http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/census-2011-small-population-tables>

B) Country of birth profiles on occupancy, household deprivation, employment by occupation, industry, language proficiency and qualifications.

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/small-populations-tables-household-tool>

C) Population Pyramid tool: which provides age and gender breakdowns for different countries of birth.

<http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/country-of-birth---population-pyramid-tool>

More tables are expected in 2017, including:

- Families by number of children by country of birth (of family reference person)
- Dependent children by country of birth (of child) by country of birth of family reference person (*to identify second generation children living in migrant headed households*)
- Families by age of youngest child by country of birth (of Family reference person)
- Place of work by country of birth
- Unpaid care provision by country of birth
- Country of birth by ethnicity
- Religion by country of birth

Appendix B. Somali population estimates

There are no 'official' estimates of the size of the Somali population for local areas. This is because the standard ethnic classification, used by the Office for National Statistics and others, does not capture Somali as a separate ethnic group.

To fill this gap, in 2010, the Council carried out a short review¹³ of administrative and survey data to estimate the size of the Somali population locally. The analysis concluded that the size of the Somali population was **likely to be somewhere around 2-3 per cent of the borough's population - currently equal to around 6,000-9,000 residents**. The analysis also concluded that the Somali population was relatively young, with a high proportion of children.

After this review, two more estimates emerged. The 2011 Census gave a more up to date measure of the proportion of Somali-born residents (1.2%), and a population study¹⁴ commissioned by the Council, provided an estimate for the percentage of the population whose ethnicity was Somali (2.3%). This study drew together a wide range of administrative data about residents to provide an estimate of the population as at 2011.

Different estimates of the size of the Somali population for Tower Hamlets

Source	Measure	Date	% Somali	Age group
2011 Census	% born in Somalia	2011	1.2%	All ages
2011 Mayhew Harper Associates Population Study ¹²	% residents whose ethnicity is Somali	2011	2.3%	All ages
2016 Tower Hamlets Schools Census	% pupils aged 4-15 whose ethnicity was Somali	Spring 2016	3.8%	Age 4-15
Tower Hamlets Annual Residents Survey	% adults whose ethnicity was Somali	2011-2016 Average of 6 estimates	1.6%	Age 18 and over

Most recently, estimates from the Council's Annual Residents Survey, suggest that 1.6 per cent of the adult population are Somali¹⁵, while administrative data about school children, show that 3.8 per cent of pupils in Tower Hamlets are Somali¹⁶ (a proxy indicator for children who live in the borough). Given the fact the Somali population has a high proportion of households with children, the fact the statistic for pupils is higher than the estimate for adults is not unexpected. Applying these two proportions to the latest population estimates for the borough, for both children and adults, would suggest that just over 2 per cent of the borough population are Somali - broadly consistent with the earlier 2010 estimates.

Of course, such estimates are fairly crude and have a wide margin of error attached - there remains considerable uncertainty about the true number.

¹³ Tower Hamlets Council, The Somali population in Tower Hamlets: estimating the size and age profile of the population, October 2010.

¹⁴ Mayhew Harpers Associates Ltd, The London Borough of Tower Hamlets – Population Estimation and Change 2009 to 2011 (August 2011).

¹⁵ Tower Hamlets Annual Residents Survey, annual estimates averaged over the period 2011-2016.

¹⁶ Source: Schools Census, Tower Hamlets, Spring 2016.

Appendix C: Data tables

C1. Profile of the Somali-born population, Tower Hamlets, 2011 (Part 1 of 2)				
	Somali-born	% total	All residents	% total
Persons	2,925	100	254,096	100
Males	1,266	43	130,906	52
Females	1,659	57	123,190	48
Age				
All persons	2,925	100	254,096	100
0-15	292	10	50,143	20
16-24	445	15	42,781	17
25-34	705	24	73,185	29
35-44	727	25	37,217	15
45-54	302	10	21,514	8
55-64	132	5	13,686	5
65 and over	322	11	15,570	6
Household composition				
All households	1,551	100	101,241	100
One person household	517	33	35,041	35
Couple only (no children)	36	2	14,909	15
Couple with children (dependent and non-dependent)	312	20	17,378	17
Lone parent (dependent and non-dependent children)	458	30	10,759	11
Other households: with dependent children	144	9	4,578	5
Other households: no dependent children	84	5	18,576	18
<i>All households with dependent children</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>26,906</i>	<i>27</i>
Health				
All persons	2,925	100	254,096	100
Very good/Good health	2,234	76	211,677	83
Fair health	411	14	27,062	11
Bad/ Very bad health	280	10	15,357	6
Long-term health problem or disability				
All persons	2,925	100	254,096	100
Day-to-day activities limited	644	22	34,303	14
Day-to-day activities not limited	2,281	78	219,793	86
Qualifications				
All persons aged 16 and over	2,633	100	203,953	100
No Qualifications	977	37	40,719	20
Level 1	414	16	18,928	9
Level 2	283	11	17,734	9
Apprenticeship	10	0	1,821	1
Level 3	218	8	20,643	10
Level 4+	425	16	83,675	41
Other	306	12	20,433	10
Language proficiency				
All persons aged 16 and over	2,633	100	203,953	100
Main language English	655	25	131,623	65
Main language not English:	1,978	75	72,330	35
- Can speak English very well	557	21	30,455	15
- Can speak English well	849	32	23,564	12
- Cannot speak English well	495	19	14,768	7
- Cannot speak English	77	3	3,543	2
Source: 2011 Census (Commissioned tables - see Appendix A for more detail).				

C1. Profile of the Somali-born population, Tower Hamlets, 2011 (Part 2 of 2)

	Somali-born	% total	All residents	% total
Economic activity (persons aged 16-64)				
All persons aged 16-64	2,311	100	188,383	100
Economically active	1,267	55	136,073	72
In employment	789	34	119,774	64
Unemployed	478	21	16,299	9
Economically inactive	1,044	45	52,310	28
Patterns of employment				
All in employment aged 16-64	789	100	119,774	100
Full-time	363	46	88,707	74
Part-time	382	48	23,422	20
Other (students in employment - status not specified)	44	6	7,645	6
Employee	666	84	96,132	80
Self-employed	79	10	15,997	13
Other (students in employment - status not specified)	44	6	7,645	6
Occupation				
All in employment (aged 16 and over)	802	100	121,244	100
Managers, directors and senior officials	44	5	13,310	11
Professional occupations	103	13	31,093	26
Associate professional & technical occupations	96	12	24,699	20
Administrative and secretarial occupations	61	8	11,964	10
Skilled trades occupations	41	5	7,277	6
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	104	13	7,217	6
Sales and customer service occupations	83	10	9,544	8
Process, plant and machine operatives	68	8	4,538	4
Elementary occupations	202	25	11,602	10
Housing tenure				
All persons (living in private households)	2,858	100	250,343	100
Owner occupied	123	4	58,869	24
Privately rented	634	22	80,277	32
Social rented	2,101	74	111,197	44
Occupancy and overcrowding				
All households	1,551	100	101,241	100
Under-occupied: Rating of +1 or more bedrooms	232	15	33,587	33
Required number of bedrooms: occupancy rating 0	840	54	51,050	50
Overcrowded: Rating of -1 or more bedrooms	479	31	16,604	16
Household deprivation				
All households	1,551	100	101,241	100
Household is not deprived in any dimension	160	10	33,143	33
Household is deprived in 1 dimension	474	31	36,191	36
Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	541	35	20,980	21
Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	329	21	9,432	9
Household is deprived in 4 dimensions	47	3	1,495	1
Source: 2011 Census (Commissioned tables - see Appendix A for more detail).				