

# Residents by country of birth

## A profile of Tower Hamlets residents by country of birth

### Summary

This briefing presents a profile of Tower Hamlets residents by their country of birth. The analysis is based on recently released 2011 Census data which provide important intelligence on the size of first generation migrant populations in the borough. Key findings:

- In 2011, **43 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population were born outside the UK**. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest percentage nationally (out of 348 areas) but is about average for Inner London where 42 per cent of residents were born outside the UK.
- The migrant population in Tower Hamlets is hugely diverse and **includes older residents who migrated to London decades ago alongside more recent arrivals**: 28 per cent were long established residents who arrived in the UK twenty or more years ago (before 1991); 18 per cent arrived between 1991 and 2000; and over half (54 per cent) arrived between 2001 and 2011. The majority migrated to the UK as young adults or children.
- **The Census identified Tower Hamlets residents born in over 200 different countries.** Those born in Bangladesh are, by far, the largest migrant group in the borough, numbering 38,877 residents and comprising 15 per cent of the borough's population. Tower Hamlets has the largest Bangladeshi population in England and Wales – both in terms of ethnicity and country of birth. First generation Bangladeshi residents make up just under one half of the borough's 'ethnically' Bangladeshi population.
- In addition to Bangladesh, the Census identified a further 20 migrant groups with significant populations of more than 1,000. The largest were from: **India, China, Italy, France, Somalia, Ireland, Poland, Australia, Germany, the US and Spain** – each numbering between 2,000-4,000 residents, and comprising 1-2 per cent of the borough's population. The Census also identified 190 smaller groups with populations of less than 1,000. Of these, half were very small populations numbering 50 residents or less.
- The Tower Hamlets population grew by 30 per cent between 2001 and 2011- the fastest rise in England. Over this period, the population also became more diverse: **the percentage of the borough's population who were born outside the UK increased from 35 to 43 per cent between 2001 and 2011**. There were similar trends across London and England which both saw rises in the proportion (and number) of migrant residents.
- In Tower Hamlets, the most significant population growth was among European migrants: **the number of residents born in European countries (other than the UK) almost trebled in size between 2001 and 2011** - from 10,269 up to 29,363, a rise of 186 per cent. European migrants now comprise 12 per cent of the borough's population, up from 5 per

cent in 2001. One in ten residents were born in European Union countries: 7 per cent were from the original 'EU15' member states (those in place in 2001) and 3 per cent were from the Accession countries who joined the EU between 2004 and 2007.

- Following EU enlargement, the number of residents born in the **12 Accession countries increased five-fold between 2001 and 2011**, from 1,490 up to 7,828. The Polish-born population, the largest of the 12 groups, grew ten-fold over the period and is now the 8th largest migrant population in the borough numbering 2,674. Those populations born in: Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Latvia, also saw fast growth but remain relatively small in population size (300-1,100).
- The population born in the original EU15 member states also grew strongly over the period, more than doubling in size since 2001. The fastest growing were the **Spanish and Italian-born populations** who more than quadrupled in size over the period (and now number 2,025 and 3,047 respectively).
- Residents born in African countries comprise 4 per cent of the borough's population. **Somali-born residents were the largest single migrant population from Africa, and were also the group that saw the biggest increase in population since 2001** – doubling in size from 1,353 up to 2,925 – a rise of 116 per cent over the period. Somali-born residents now comprise 1.2 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population (*note: these figures only capture first generation residents – the size of the 'ethnically' Somali population will be higher*).
- The number of residents born in Bangladesh saw relatively modest growth over the last ten years, rising by 9 per cent, while the population born in the rest of Asia more than doubled in size over the period (a rise of 153 per cent). This was due, in part, to a **significant increase in the numbers born in China and India** – whose populations now number 3,522 and 3,889 respectively. Residents born in Asian countries (excluding Bangladesh) now make up 6 per cent of the population, up from 3 per cent in 2001.
- The number of residents born in South American countries more than trebled in size between 2001 and 2011 and now number 2,702. **The Brazilian-born population, the largest South American group in the borough, grew more than six-fold over the period to number 1,439 in 2011.** There was also strong population growth among migrants from the US and Canada whose populations more than doubled in size over the period, to number 2,143 and 961 respectively in 2011.
- The number of residents born in **Middle Eastern countries has trebled** in number since 2001, but the size of the population remains relatively small in number (1,687). The most significant populations from the region were from Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia (which each numbered between 200 and 400 residents).
- While most migrant populations in Tower Hamlets grew in size between 2001 and 2011, a significant minority saw little population change or reduced in number. These included migrant populations from countries such as Vietnam and parts of the Caribbean - typically areas where the main migration flows into the UK took place some years ago.

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### Acknowledgements and Copyright statement

This report is based on 2001 and 2011 Census data: Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licenced under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

The Council would like to thank the Greater London Authority's Intelligence Unit for securing access to the specially commissioned Census tables on country of birth that made this analysis possible.

### Further information

This Briefing was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit. Research briefings provide timely and in-depth analysis of data about Tower Hamlets and are designed to improve the use and sharing of data. The team's recent briefings can be accessed on the intranet:

[http://towernet/Intranet/staff\\_services/business\\_planning/corporate\\_research\\_unit.aspx](http://towernet/Intranet/staff_services/business_planning/corporate_research_unit.aspx)

## 1. About this briefing

The 2011 Census contains a wealth of data about diversity within the population including data on country of birth. Data on where residents are born provide important intelligence on the size of first generation migrant groups and this briefing explores what these figures reveal about the borough's population.

This briefing is one of a series of Census topic reports (being produced by the Corporate Research Unit) and follows recent reports on ethnicity and language in Tower Hamlets. These reports are available on the [LBTH intranet](#).

## 2. About the 2011 Census and questions on country of birth

The Census aims to provide a count of all people and households in the UK and is carried out every ten years by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The 2011 Census questionnaire collected data on a range of topics including: demography, diversity, employment, housing and health.

While the Census aims for complete coverage, in practice it achieved a response rate of 94 per cent across England and Wales and 91 per cent per cent in Tower Hamlets. Response rates in Tower Hamlets have improved dramatically since the previous Census in 2001 (up 15 percentage points from 76 per cent)<sup>1</sup>. To deal with non-response ONS imputes the missing values so the final data accurately reflect the size and composition of the population.

One of the key strengths of the Census is that, unlike sample surveys, it can provide reliable estimates for small groups within the population, and it remains one of the few data sources which can provide good estimates of the size of smaller migrant populations at a borough level.

The Census question on country of birth simply asked: *What was your country of birth?* For those not born in UK countries or the Irish Republic, a write in box was provided to allow respondents to specify their country of birth (Figure 1).

In 2011, a follow up question was added to ascertain when those born outside the UK had arrived. This helps explore diversity within the migrant population by distinguishing between long term residents and more recent arrivals.

The sections that follow summarise the available data on country of birth for Tower Hamlets. In this report the term '*migrant*' is used to refer to a person born outside the UK.

**Figure 1: 2011 Census questions on country of birth and year of arrival**

What is your country of birth?

England ➔ Go to 13

Wales ➔ Go to 13

Scotland ➔ Go to 13

Northern Ireland ➔ Go to 13

Republic of Ireland

Elsewhere, write in the current name of country

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?

Do not count short visits away from the UK

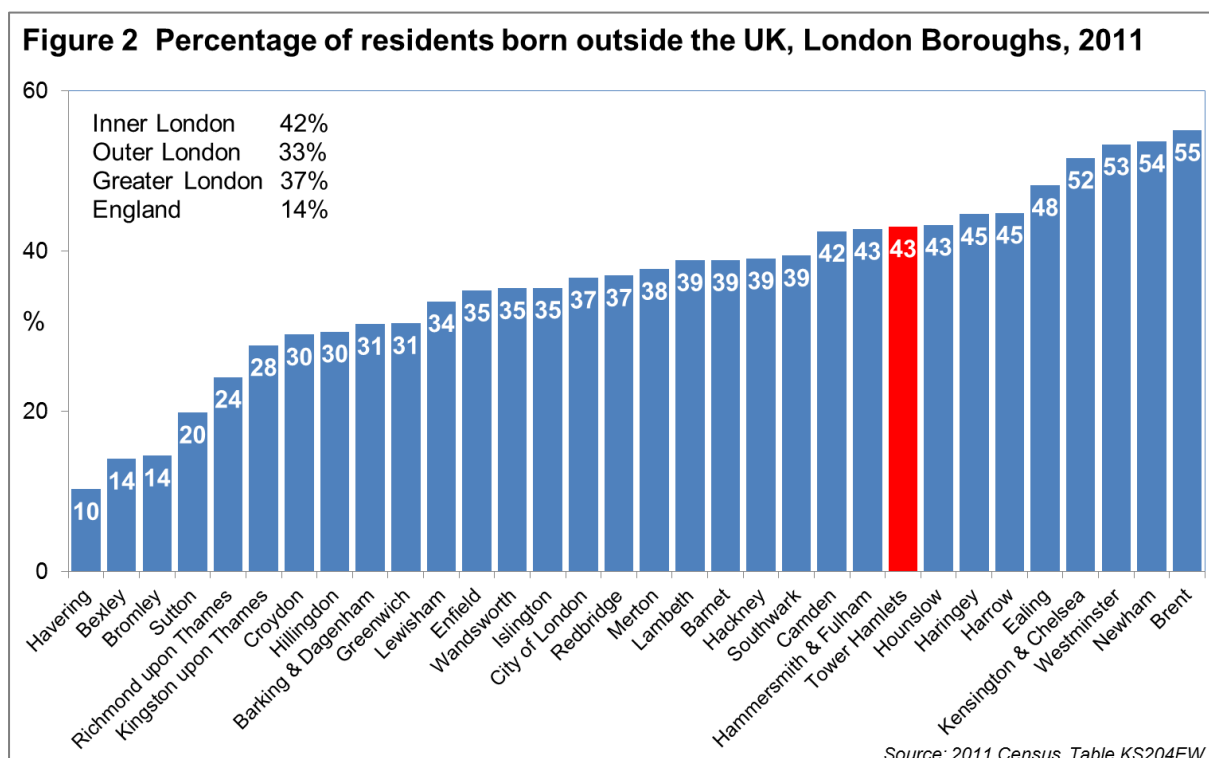
Month Year

\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Greater London Authority, [2011 Census quality assurance: London borough's response rates](#)

### 3. The migrant population in London

London is the most diverse region in the country: 37 per cent of all Londoners were born outside the UK compared to 14 per cent nationally (England). In Tower Hamlets, 43 per cent of the borough's residents (109,434 people) were born outside the UK. While this is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest percentage nationally (out of 348 local authority areas in England and Wales), it is about average for Inner London where 42 per cent of residents were born outside the UK.



London boroughs dominate the list of areas with significant migrant populations – the boroughs of Brent, Newham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea have the highest proportions of migrant residents nationally: in all four areas, more than half of the population were born outside the UK (Figure 2).

### 4. Year of arrival and age at time of arrival

The migrant population in Tower Hamlets is hugely diverse and includes older residents who migrated to London years ago, alongside more recent arrivals. Of the borough's migrant population:

- 28 per cent were long established residents who had arrived in the UK twenty or more years ago (ie before 1991);
- 18 per cent were well established residents who arrived between 10 and 20 years ago;
- Just over half (54 per cent) were more recent arrivals who had arrived in the UK between 2001 and 2011. This is similar to the picture regionally and nationally: in both London and England, around half the migrant population arrived between 2001 and 2011 (49 and 50 per cent respectively).

There is, of course, a bias in the census data towards more recent years of arrival, as these groups will be less affected by deaths, or onward migration (ie people moving elsewhere). So the figures provide a snapshot of the current migrant population - they don't capture all population inflows over time.

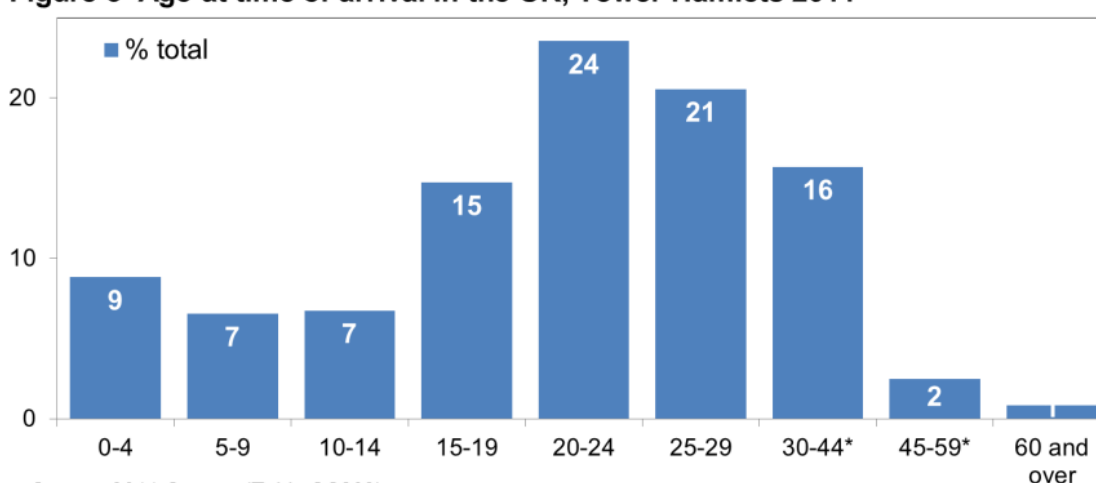
The majority of the borough's migrants arrived in the UK when they were young adults or children: 81 per cent were aged under 30 at the time they arrived, similar to the proportion across England (78 per cent). Just under one quarter (24 per cent) of the borough's migrant population arrived as children, aged under 16 (Table 1). These findings are not unexpected and reflect typical migration patterns, where those who migrate tend to do so when they are younger, some with young families.

**Table 1 Profile of migrant population by year of arrival and age at arrival, Tower Hamlets, London and England, 2011**

	Tower Hamlets (numbers)	Tower Hamlets 100	London Percentage totals (%)	England 100
<b>All born outside UK</b>	109,434	100	100	100
<b>By year of arrival:</b>				
1941-1980	13,446	12	21	24
1981-1990	16,708	15	10	9
1991-2000	19,888	18	20	17
2001-2011:	59,392	54	49	50
2001-2003	11,647	11	11	10
2004-2006	15,182	14	14	15
2007-2009	20,105	18	16	16
2010-2011	12,458	11	8	8
<b>By age at time of arrival:</b>				
Under 16	25,872	24	24	29
Age 16-29	62,727	57	53	49
Age 30-59	19,905	18	23	21
Age 60 and over	930	1	1	1

Source: 2011 Census, Tables QS801 and QS802.

**Figure 3 Age at time of arrival in the UK, Tower Hamlets 2011**



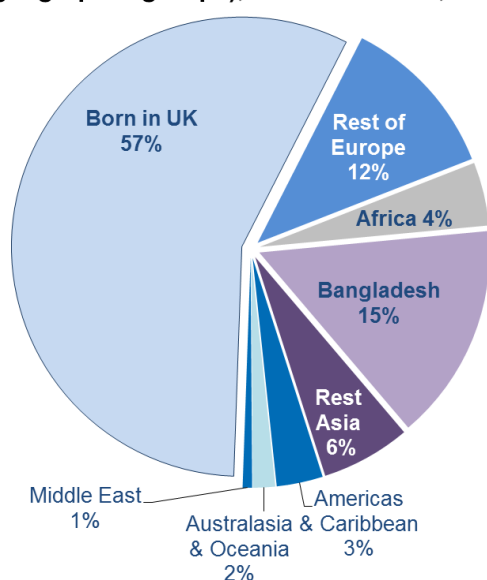
Source: 2011 Census (Table QS802).

\* Figures only available for broader age groups (no further breakdowns available)

## 5. Residents by country of birth: broad geographic areas

Residents born in Bangladesh are, by far, the largest single migrant group in the borough. Bangladesh-born residents number 38,877 – representing 15 per cent of the borough population and over one third of the total migrant population.

**Figure 4 Population by country of birth (geographic groups), Tower Hamlets, 2011**



Source: 2011 Census (Table QS203).

The rest of the borough's migrant population come from a wide and diverse range of countries. By geographic area, after Bangladesh, the most sizeable migrant populations were from countries in: Europe (12 per cent of the borough population); the rest of Asia (6 per cent); Africa (4 per cent) and the Americas & the Caribbean (3 per cent).

Most migrants born in Europe were from European Union (EU) countries. EU migrants account for 10 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population: 7 per cent are from the original 'EU15' member states (those in place prior to 2004) and 3 per cent were from the EU Accession countries<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 2 Population by country of birth (geographic categories), Tower Hamlets, 2011**

	Number of residents	% of population	% of migrant population
<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>254,096</b>	<b>100</b>	
Born in UK	144,662	57	
Born outside UK	<b>109,434</b>	43	<b>100</b>
<b>Born outside UK by area:</b>			
Europe	29,363	12	27
- European Union including Ireland	25,297	10	23
<i>EU15 (15 member states as at 2001)</i>	17,469	7	16
<i>EU Accession countries</i>	7,828	3	7
- Other Europe (non EU countries)	4,066	2	4
Africa	11,342	4	10
Middle East	1,687	1	2
Asia	54,819	22	50
- Bangladesh	38,877	15	36
- Rest of Asia	15,942	6	15
The Americas and the Caribbean	8,257	3	8
Australasia / Oceania / Other	3,966	2	4

Source: 2011 Census (Table QS203).

<sup>2</sup> The term Accession countries is used here to refer to the 12 member states who joined the European Union between 2004 and 2007. This includes the 'A8' nations in Central and Eastern Europe that joined the European Union in 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), and also Cyprus and Malta who joined in the same year. It also includes Bulgaria and Romania who joined later in 2007.

## 6. Residents by country of birth: individual countries

The Census provides valuable information on individual countries of birth which enables profiling of both large and small migrant populations in the borough. In the case of Tower Hamlets, the 2011 Census identified residents born in over 200 different countries – illustrating the rich diversity of the borough's population.

Table 3 shows the borough's largest migrant populations. In addition to those born in Bangladesh, the Census identifies a further 20 migrant groups with populations of more than 1,000. Considered together, these groups comprise almost three quarters of the whole migrant population. The largest are: India, China, Italy, France, Somalia, Ireland, Poland, Australia, Germany<sup>3</sup>, the US and Spain – each numbering between 2,000-4,000 residents, and comprising 1-2 per cent of the borough's population.

Table 3 Population by country of birth, largest groups, Tower Hamlets, 2011				
	Number of residents	% of all born outside UK	% of population	Rank*
<b>All residents</b>	<b>254,096</b>		<b>100.0</b>	
Born in UK	144,662		57.0	
Born outside UK	109,434	<b>100.0</b>	43.0	
Countries (>1000 residents):				
Bangladesh	38,877	35.5	15.3	1
India	3,889	3.6	1.5	52
China	3,522	3.2	1.4	2
Italy	3,047	2.8	1.2	10
France	3,014	2.8	1.2	9
Somalia	2,925	2.7	1.2	9
Ireland	2,862	2.6	1.1	41
Poland	2,674	2.4	1.1	101
Australia	2,671	2.4	1.1	10
Germany	2,318	2.1	0.9	23
United States	2,143	2.0	0.8	25
Spain (inc. canary isles)	2,025	1.9	0.8	5
South Africa	1,481	1.4	0.6	52
Brazil	1,439	1.3	0.6	n/a
Nigeria	1,269	1.2	0.5	39
New Zealand	1,249	1.1	0.5	n/a
Hong Kong	1,218	1.1	0.5	10
Pakistan	1,141	1.0	0.4	81
Lithuania	1,140	1.0	0.4	22
Vietnam	1,109	1.0	0.4	n/a
Turkey	1,005	0.9	0.4	11
<i>Source: 2011 Census, commissioned table CT0048</i>				
<i>* Rankings relate to the % population and show Tower Hamlets' position relative to 348 areas in E&amp;W (1=highest, 348 lowest). Data for some countries have not been published for areas outside London, so rankings are not available for these countries.</i>				

The Census also identified 190 smaller migrant populations whose population numbered less than one thousand. Of these, 95 were very small populations

<sup>3</sup> Those born in Germany may include the children of HM Forces previously stationed in that country.



numbering 50 residents or less.

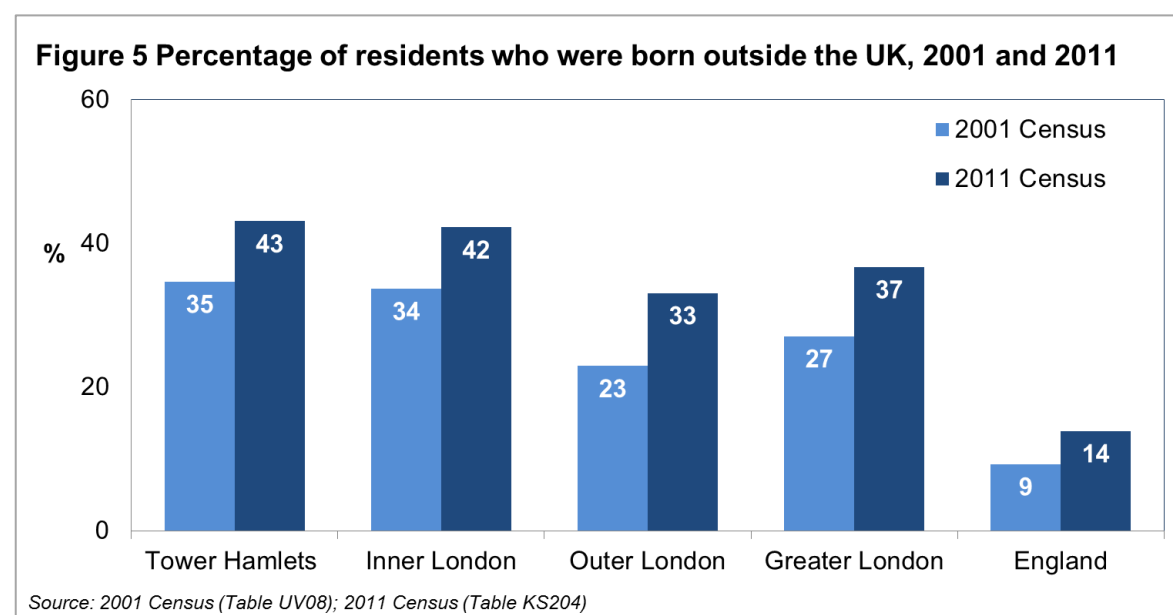
Tower Hamlets has – by far - the largest percentage (and number) of Bangladeshi-born residents in England and Wales. However, the borough also ranks highly in relation to some of its smaller, but significant populations. These include China: 1.4 per cent of the borough population was born in China – the second highest percentage nationally after Cambridge (1.9 per cent). Tower Hamlets is also ranked within the top 10 areas nationally for the proportion of the population born in the following countries: Spain, France, Italy, Somalia, Australia and Hong Kong.

[Appendix A](#) provides full detail on the size of all migrant populations in the borough – both small and large.

## 7. Growth in the migrant population 2001-2011: overview

Tower Hamlets has seen strong population growth in recent years: the resident population grew by 30 per cent between 2001 and 2011 - the largest percentage rise in England. Census data also show that the population has become more diverse over this period - both in terms of ethnic diversity and country of origin.

Between 2001 and 2011, the percentage of the borough's population who were born outside the UK rose from 35 to 43 per cent of residents. There were similar trends across London and England which both saw rises in the proportion (and number) of migrant residents (Figure 5).



## 8. Change 2001-2011: By geographic area of birth

Overall, the number of Tower Hamlets residents who were born outside the UK increased by 61 per cent over the period 2001-2011. The UK-born population also increased in number but at a slower rate (an increase of 13 per cent).

In Tower Hamlets, the most significant population growth has been among European migrants, consistent with the enlargement of the European Union over the period, and reflecting similar trends regionally and nationally.

Between 2001 and 2011, the number of borough residents born in European countries (other than the UK) trebled in size from 10,269 up to 29,363 – a rise of 186 per cent. As a proportion of the population, European migrants now comprise 12 per cent of the borough's population, up from 5 per cent in 2001

The number of residents born in Middle Eastern countries has also seen very fast growth over the period, trebling in size since 2001, but the size of this population remains relatively small in number (1,687).

While migrants from Bangladesh still comprise the largest single migrant population in the borough, the growth in this group has been slower than average (+9 per cent). Consequently, the percentage of residents born in Bangladesh has fallen from 18 to 15 per cent of the population.

The migrant population from the rest of Asia has grown much faster and has more than doubled in size over the period (a percentage increase of 153 per cent). The rise reflects - in part - a significant increase in number of residents born in India and China, two of the borough's larger migrant groups.

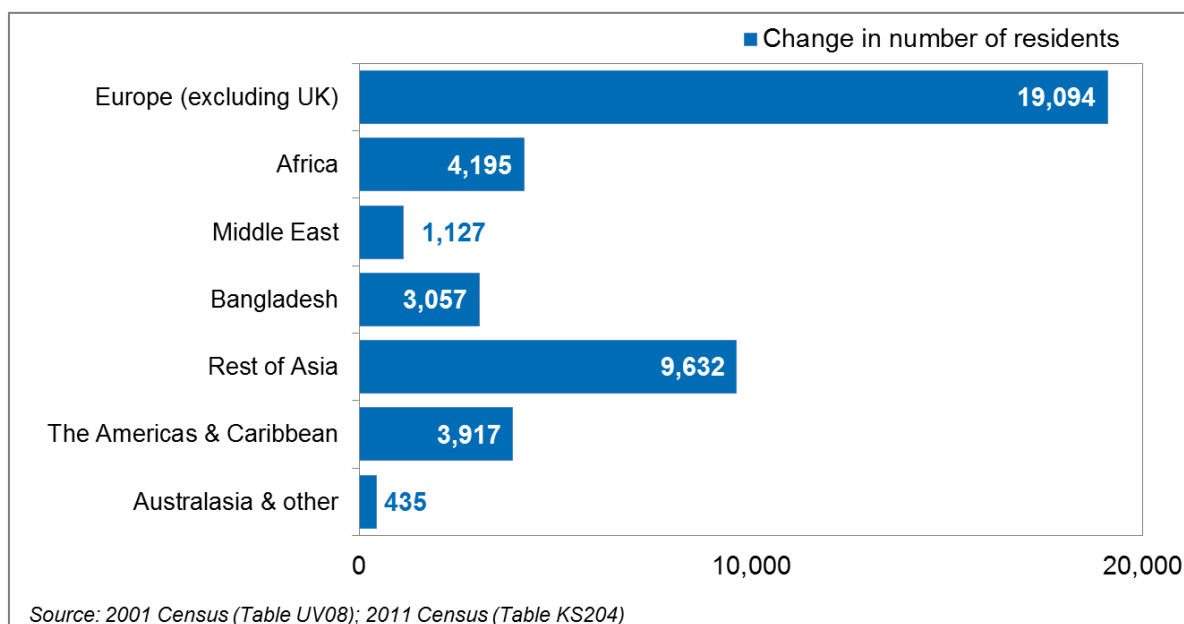
**Table 4 Change in population by country of birth (geographic groupings), Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011**

	2001	2011	Change 2001-2011		Population composition (% totals)	
			Increase	% change	2001	2011
All usual residents	196,106	254,096	57,990	30	100	100
Born in UK	128,129	144,662	16,533	13	65	57
<b>Born outside UK</b>	<b>67,977</b>	<b>109,434</b>	<b>41,457</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>
<i>Born outside UK: by area</i>						
Europe*	10,269	29,363	19,094	186	5	12
Africa	7,147	11,342	4,195	59	4	4
Middle East*	560	1,687	1,127	201	<1	1
Asia	42,130	54,819	12,689	30	21	22
- Bangladesh	35,820	38,877	3,057	9	18	15
- Rest of Asia	6,310	15,942	9,632	153	3	6
Americas & Caribbean	4,340	8,257	3,917	90	2	3
Australasia/Oceania/other	3,531	3,966	435	12	2	2

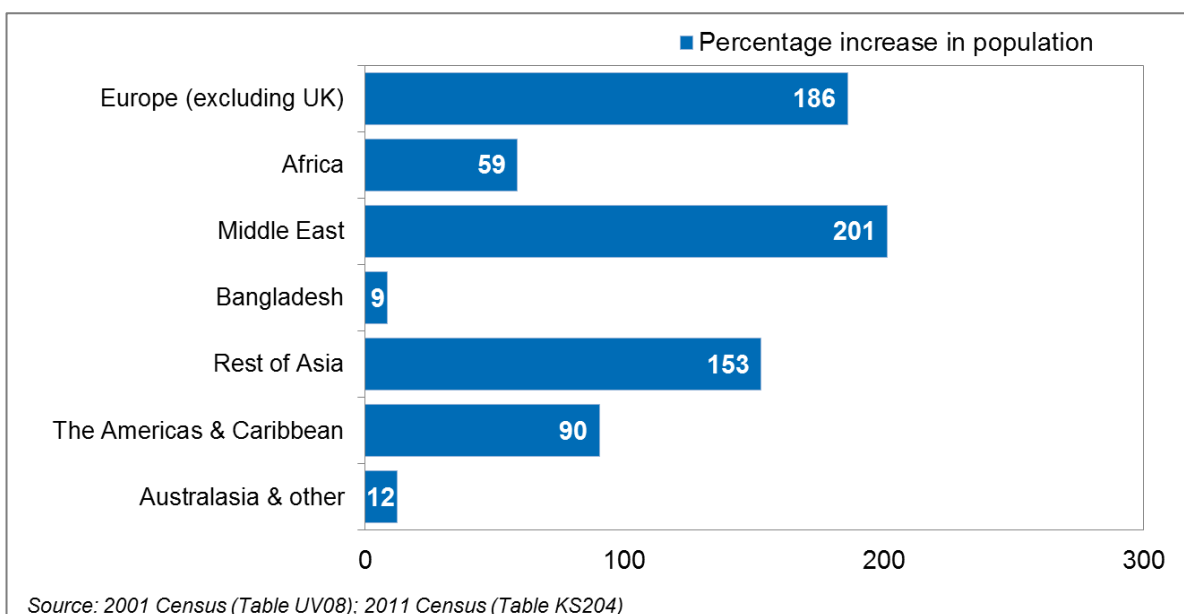
Source: 2001 Census (Table UV08); 2011 Census (Table KS204)

\* In 2001, ONS included Cyprus under the Middle East, whereas in 2011, it was included as part of Europe. To adjust for this, 2001 data have been adjusted in this table to include Cyprus under Europe not the Middle East to provide a better like for like comparison. This means these figures are marginally different from published ONS data.

**Figure 6(a): Change in size of population by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011 (numbers)**



**Figure 6(b): Change in size of population by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011 (percentage change)**



### Census data for individual countries of birth

The sections that follow explore change in the size of different migrant populations in more detail. Census data are not routinely available for all individual countries of birth (at borough level) so specially commissioned Census data have been used here to explore change in some detail. Data were not strictly comparable for all countries because: there was less detail available in the 2001 data than in 2011; and, in some cases there were differences in category descriptions. However, comparisons were possible for most of the borough's significant populations.

## 9. Change 2001-2011: The borough's largest migrant populations

Table 5 provides detail on population change for individual countries of birth for the borough's larger populations (those which number more than 1,000 residents). Most groups saw significant population growth over the period.

The two groups with the fastest rates of growth were Poland and Lithuania – both countries which joined the European Union in 2004. Outside Europe, the fastest growing populations were those from China and Brazil – whose populations grew more than six-fold.

In terms of population numbers, it is the borough's larger populations that have seen the biggest absolute rise in population – Chinese and Bangladeshi-born residents have both increased in number by just over three thousand residents.

The sections that follow explore population trends in more detail among residents born in Europe, Africa, Asia, The Americas & Caribbean and the Middle East. These analyses also consider change in the size of the borough's smaller, but significant, populations.

**Table 5: Change in population by country of birth, larger migrant groups, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011 (ranked by fastest growing)**

	Population size		Population change	% change (ranked)
	2001	2011		
<b>All born outside UK</b>	67,977	109,434	41,457	<b>61</b>
<i>Countries of birth (&gt;1000 residents in 2011):</i>				
Lithuania	102	1,140	1,038	<b>1,018</b>
Poland	267	2,674	2,407	<b>901</b>
China	514	3,522	3,008	<b>585</b>
Brazil	216	1,439	1,223	<b>566</b>
Spain	418	2,025	1,607	<b>384</b>
Italy	733	3,047	2,314	<b>316</b>
India	1,091	3,889	2,798	<b>256</b>
France	851	3,014	2,163	<b>254</b>
U.S.A	820	2,143	1,323	<b>161</b>
Germany	1,005	2,318	1,313	<b>131</b>
Turkey	444	1,005	561	<b>126</b>
Somalia	1,353	2,925	1,572	<b>116</b>
Australia	1,568	2,671	1,103	<b>70</b>
Hong Kong	857	1,218	361	<b>42</b>
Pakistan	827	1,141	314	<b>38</b>
South Africa	1,146	1,481	335	<b>29</b>
Nigeria	1,012	1,269	257	<b>25</b>
Bangladesh	35,820	38,877	3,057	<b>9</b>
Ireland	2,692	2,862	170	<b>6</b>
New Zealand	1,213	1,249	36	<b>3</b>
Vietnam	1,147	1,109	-38	<b>-3</b>
<i>Source: Commissioned tables: 2001 Census (C0413); 2011 Census (CT0048)</i>				

## 10. Change 2001-2011: European-born populations

EU enlargement has had a significant impact on migration from European countries – particularly from the new Accession countries across Eastern Europe. In Tower Hamlets, the size of the migrant population from the 12 EU Accession countries grew five-fold between 2001 and 2011 (Table 6).

**Table 6 Residents born in European Union countries (excluding UK), Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011**

	2001	2011	Change	% change
EU27 countries (as at 2011)	8,893*	25,297	16,404	184
EU15: Member states as at 2001	7,403	17,469	10,066	136
EU Accession countries 2004-2007	1,490*	7,828	6,338	425

Source: Census tables: UV08 (2001); KS204 (2011); C0413 (2001); 2011 (CT0048)

\* The 2001 figure for the EU12/EU27 areas are estimates based on data on individual countries. The total excludes Estonia because its population figure was not published as it was less than 10.

The size of the Polish-born population has grown ten-fold since 2001 to become the 8<sup>th</sup> largest migrant population in the borough (numbering 2,674). Lithuanian-born residents, while smaller in population size, also saw fast growth over this period, increasing eleven-fold over the period from 102 to 1,140.

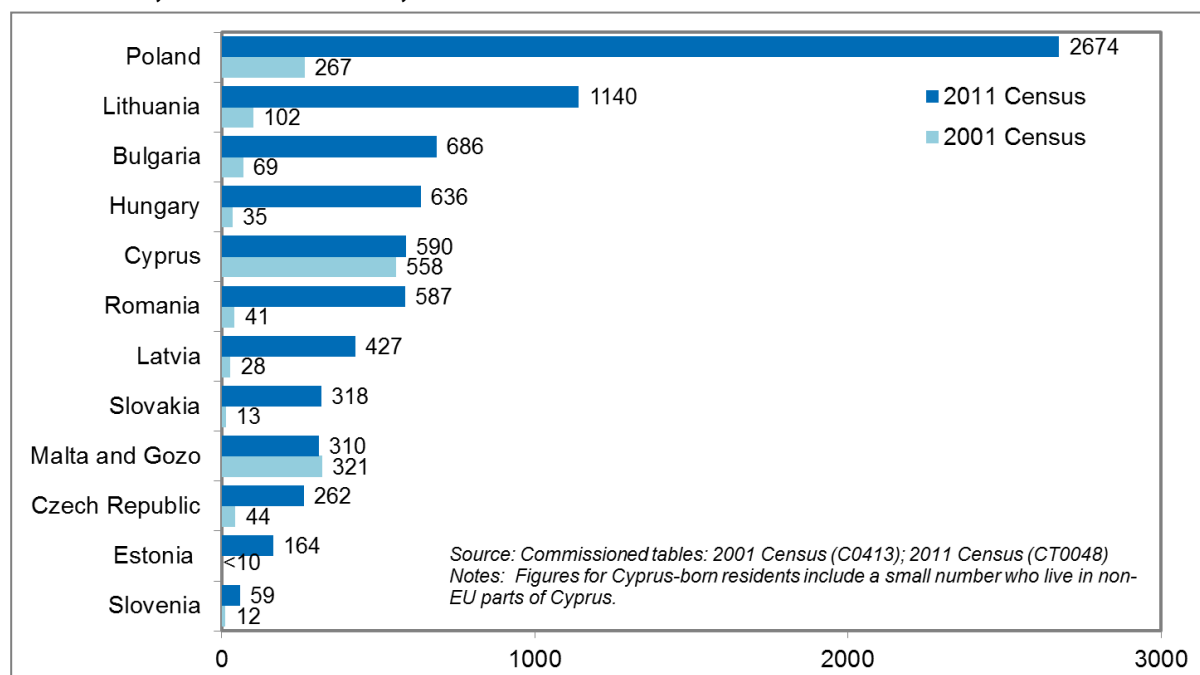
Many of the smaller Accession country populations in Tower Hamlets have also grown rapidly since 2001: residents born in: Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia have all grown ten-fold or more in size. However, these populations remain relatively small in size in Tower Hamlets numbering between 100 and 700 (Figure 7). Cypriot and Maltese-born populations have seen little change in size over the period.

Migrant populations born in the original 'EU15' member states have also grown strongly since 2001, though less rapidly than the Accession states. Overall, the number of borough residents born in EU15 countries has more than doubled over the period (+136 per cent). The fastest growing groups were the Spanish and Italian-born populations who more than quadrupled in size over the last ten years, and the French and Portuguese-born populations who more than trebled in size over the period (Figure 8).

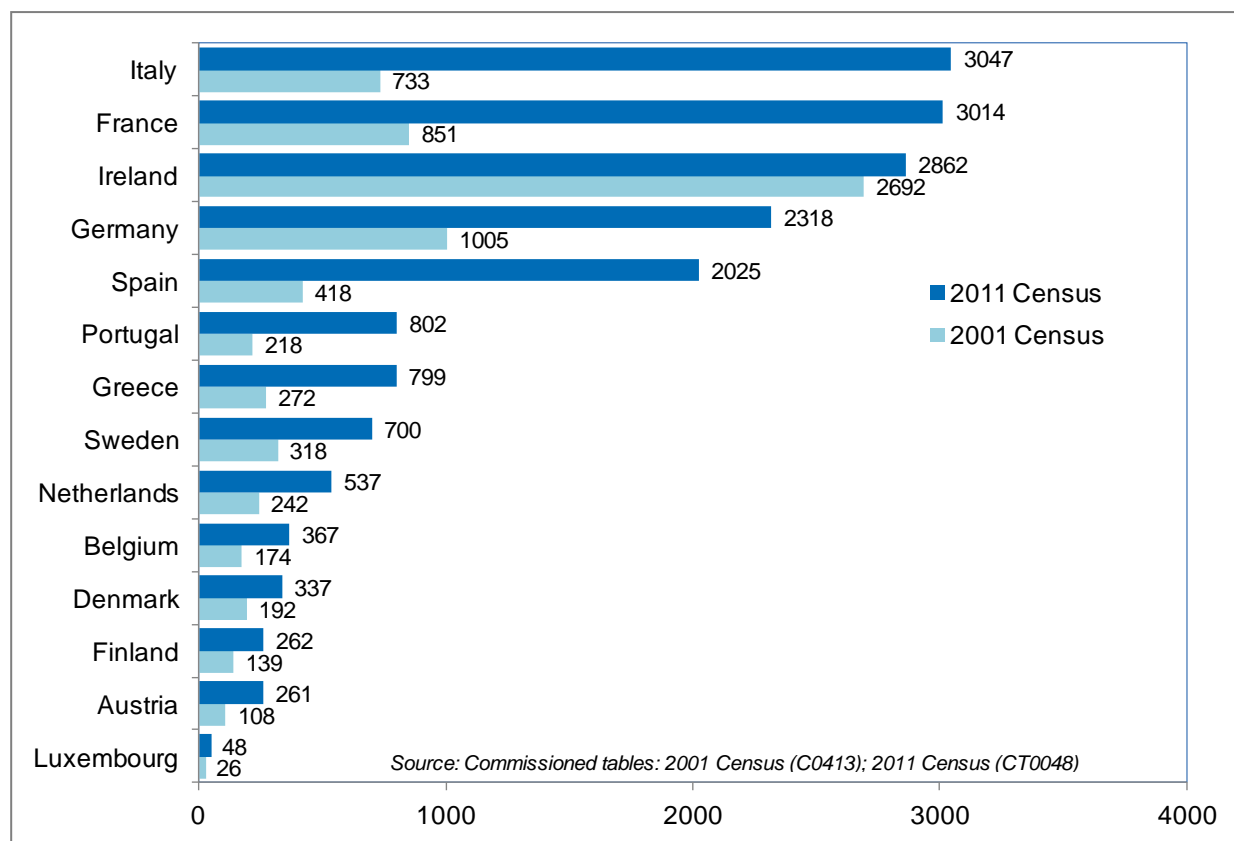
Of all original EU states, Ireland has seen the lowest rate of growth: the number of Irish-born residents in the borough increased by 6 per cent over the period.

Outside the EU, in the rest of Europe, those born in Turkey and Russia were the largest migrant populations – both numbering around one thousand residents. Over the period 2001-2011, the Russian-born population grew five-fold in size from 183 to 956, and the Turkish-born population more than doubled in size from 444 to 1,005.

**Figure 7: Change in the size of migrant populations born in EU Accession countries, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011**



**Figure 8: Change in the size of migrant populations born in EU15 (member states as at 2001), Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011**



### 11. Change 2001-2011: African-born populations

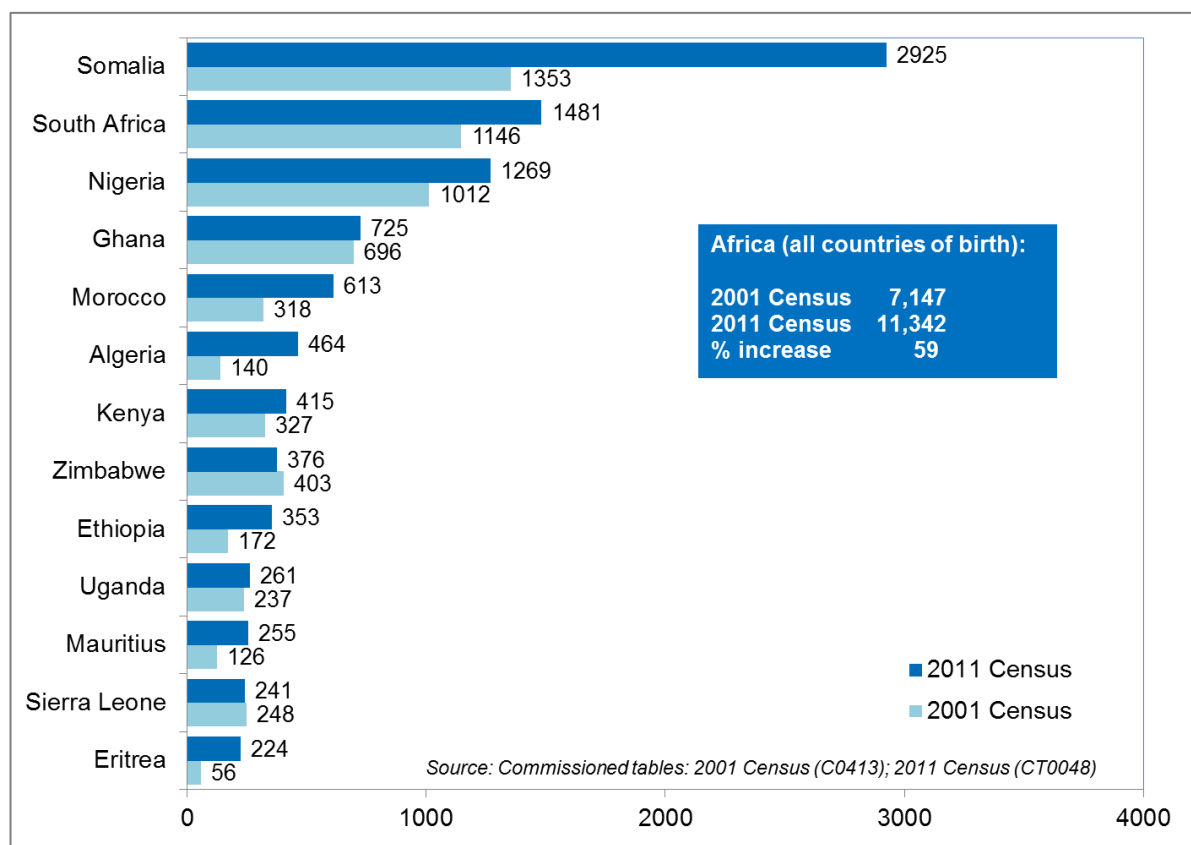
The number of residents in Tower Hamlets who were born in African countries rose from 7,147 to 11,342 between 2001 and 2011 – an increase of 59 per cent. African-born residents comprised 4 per cent of the population in 2011.

The Census identified residents born in 56 different countries in Africa, though many of these population groups were relatively small in size (less than 100 residents). Figure 9 shows population change for the larger groups - those where the resident population in Tower Hamlets numbers 200 or more.

Somali-born residents were the largest population group from Africa in both 2001 and 2011, and this group also saw the largest absolute rise in population numbers over the period: the number of residents born in Somalia more than doubled in size from 1,353 up to 2,925 – a rise of 116 per cent over the period. Somali-born residents now make up 1.2 per cent of the Tower Hamlets population. However, the size of the ethnically Somali population will, of course, be higher still as these figures only capture first generation residents.

Many smaller population groups from Africa have also shown significant growth since 2001: residents born in: Algeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Mauritius have all more than doubled in size over the last ten years, though these populations remain relatively small in size numbering between 200 and 500 residents.

**Figure 9: Change in the size of African-born populations in Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011 (selected countries > more than 200 residents)**



## 12. Change 2001-2011: Asian-born populations

As discussed earlier, the number of residents born in Bangladesh has seen relatively modest growth over the last ten years, rising by 9 per cent, while the migrant population from the rest of Asia has more than doubled in size over the period (an increase of 153 per cent).

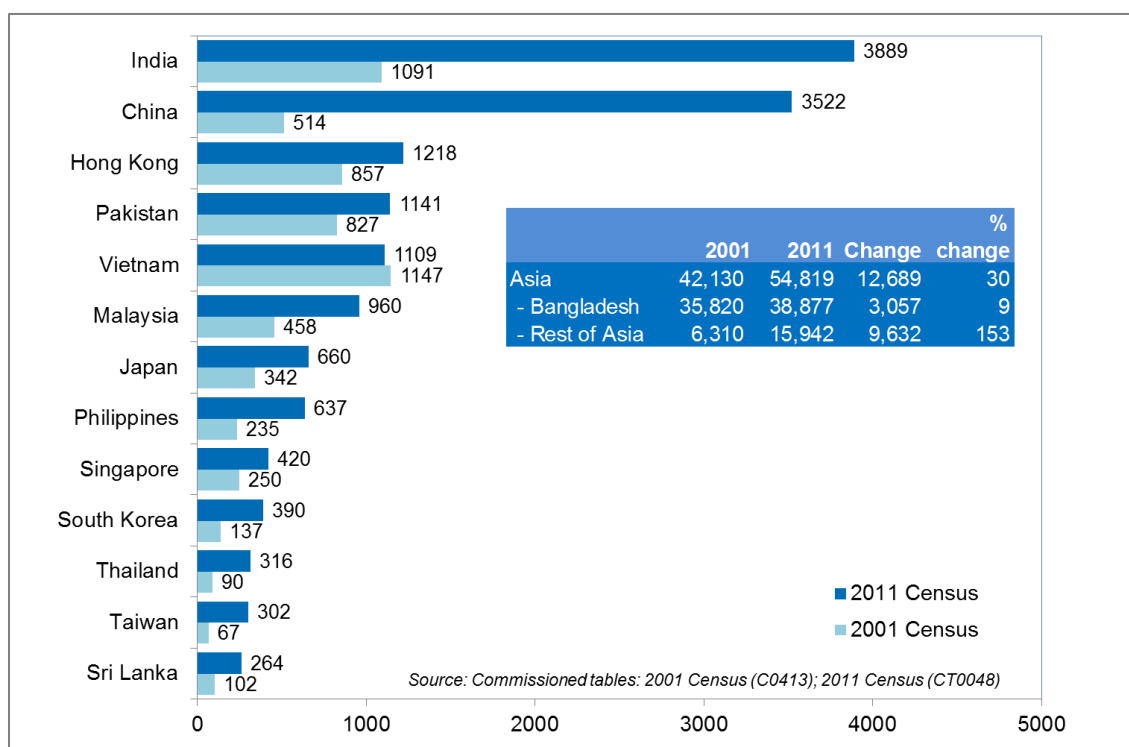
The Census identified residents born in 30 different countries in the rest of Asia. Figure 10 shows population change for the larger groups - those where the resident population in Tower Hamlets numbers 200 or more.

In terms of population numbers, it is the two largest migrant populations from the rest of Asia - India and China - that have seen the largest rises in population during 2001-2011. The Chinese-born population grew more than six-fold from 514 to 3,522 (an increase of 3,008 residents), and the Indian-born population more than trebled in size from 1,091 up to 3,889 (an increase of 2,798 residents).

Many of the smaller migrant populations also saw rapid growth: Taiwanese-born residents more than quadrupled in size and the number of Thai-born residents trebled. However, both remain small populations numbering just over three hundred.

There was strong growth across most other groups, with the exception of Vietnamese-born residents who were the only group to see no population growth, with a marginal fall in numbers over the last ten years. However, it needs to be borne in mind that these figures do not include second (and subsequent generation) Vietnamese residents.

**Figure 10: Change in the size of Asian-born populations in Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011 (countries > more than 200 residents, excluding Bangladesh)**





### 13. Change 2001-2011: Americas & Caribbean-born populations

The 2011 Census identified residents born in 46 different countries across the Americas & Caribbean, who together comprise 3 per cent of the borough population. The number of residents who were born in the Americas & Caribbean almost doubled in size (from 4,340 to 8,257) between 2001 and 2011, driven by strong population growth among those from South and North America.

In contrast, the size of the Caribbean-born population actually fell over the period (-7 per cent), perhaps reflecting the fact that the main migration flows from the Caribbean took place some years ago. Jamaica and St. Lucia remain the largest populations from the Caribbean.

**Table 7 Change in the size of the population born in The Americas & Caribbean, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011**

	2001	2011	Change	% change
<b>The Americas &amp; the Caribbean</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>3,917</b>	<b>90</b>
North & Central America*	1,270	3,364	2,094	165
South America	709	2,702	1,993	281
The Caribbean	2,361	2,191	-170	-7
<i>Selected countries (more than 100 residents):</i>				
United States	820	2,143	1,323	161
Brazil	216	1,439	1,223	566
Canada	393	961	568	145
Jamaica	746	741	-5	-1
Colombia	152	492	340	224
St Lucia	500	418	-82	-16
Trinidad and Tobago	184	199	15	8
Argentina	71	182	111	156
Mexico	29	164	135	466
Dominica	205	158	-47	-23
Venezuela	33	143	110	333
Grenada	156	128	-28	-18
Guyana	112	119	7	6
Barbados	117	115	-2	-2
Montserrat	122	101	-21	-17
Peru	31	100	69	223

*Source: 2001 Census (Tables UV08; C0413); 2011 Census (Table KS204; CT0048).*

*\* In 2001, Central America was not identified separately but was included under 'other North America'. For this comparison, the 2011 data have been presented in the same way.*

The South American-born population showed strong growth over the period, more than trebling in size from 709 up to 2,702. The Brazilian-born population, the largest South American group, grew particularly fast, increasing more than six-fold in size from 216 up to 1,439 over the ten years. Other populations to see fast growth were: Columbia, Venezuela and Peru, which more than trebled in size over the period, though they all remain relatively small populations (<500).

The US-born population, the largest single migrant group from the Americas, more than doubled over the period, and now numbers 2,143. The Canadian-born population, while smaller in size (961), saw a similar rate of growth.

Mexico – the only country in the list from Central America – grew more than five-fold in size but remains relatively small in size numbering 164. Indeed, Mexican migrants comprise the majority of all residents born in all of Central America who number 226 residents in total.

#### 14. Change 2001-2011: Middle Eastern-born populations

The 2011 Census identified a small, but significant, number of residents who were born in Middle Eastern countries. The number of Tower Hamlets residents born in the Middle East has more than trebled in size since 2001 – from 560 up to 1,687. In total, the 2011 Census, identified residents from 14 different countries in the Middle East. The largest populations from the region were from Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Table 8 shows the population change for selected countries – specifically those numbering more than 100 residents in Tower Hamlets. The populations born in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have grown particularly strongly and grew five fold over the period, though both remain relatively small populations in number (234 and 130).

Table 8 Change in the size of the population born in the Middle East, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011				
	2001*	2011	Change	% change
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>201</b>
<i>Selected countries (more than 100 residents):</i>				
Iran	148	401	253	171
Iraq	97	242	145	149
Saudi Arabia	46	234	188	409
Israel	64	160	96	150
United Arab Emirates	26	130	104	400
Lebanon	42	111	69	164
Yemen	65	106	41	63

*Source: 2001 Census (Tables UV08; C0413); 2011 Census (Table KS204; CT0048). In 2001, ONS included Cyprus under the Middle East in Census tables, whereas in 2011, Cyprus was included as part of Europe. To adjust for this, 2001 data have been adjusted in this table to exclude Cyprus from the Middle East total which enables a better like for like comparison.*

#### 15. Change 2001-2011: Australasian-born populations

In Tower Hamlets, the Australian and New Zealand-born populations are both significant in size, and together number almost four thousand residents. However, while the number of Australian-born residents increased by 70 per cent during 2001 and 2011, the number born in New Zealand has remained largely unchanged, showing only a marginal increase of 3 per cent.

Table 9 Change in the size of the population born in Australia and New Zealand, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011				
	2001	2011	Change	% change
Australia	1,568	2,671	1,103	70
New Zealand	1,213	1,249	36	3

*Source: 2001 Census (Tables UV08; C0413); 2011 Census (Table KS204; CT0048).*

## 16. Ethnicity and country of birth

The Census also records ethnicity as well as country of birth, so it is possible to consider the ethnic make-up of the migrant population. Not surprisingly, the analysis shows the population is very ethnically diverse (Figure 11).

Around half are from Asian ethnic groups, including the Bangladeshi group which accounts for just over one third of all migrant residents. Almost one in ten (9 per cent) belong to Black ethnic groups.

Just over one quarter (27 per cent) of the migrant population have 'White Other' ethnicity which includes residents from a mix of different backgrounds (eg Europeans, Australians, Americans).

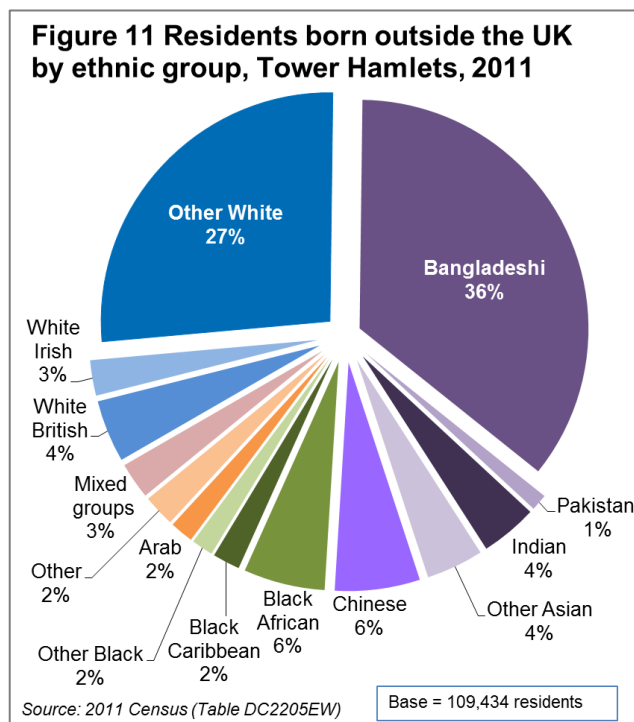


Table 10 shows the ethnic composition of residents born outside the UK by broad geographic area of birth. These figures illustrate the complexity of the relationship between ethnic group and country of birth. For example, residents born in the Middle East are very diverse: while 29 per cent have Arab ethnicity, 22 per cent are from White ethnic groups and 20 per cent are Asian. The remainder are from Black, mixed and other ethnic groups.

Similarly, the ethnic composition of African-born residents comprises: 61 per cent (Black ethnic groups), 17 per cent (White groups), 7 per cent (Asian groups), 7 per cent (Arab ethnicity) and 8 per cent (other groups). The figures are a good illustration of the fact that country of birth is not necessarily a guide to ethnic group, and vice versa.

**Table 10 Population by country of birth and ethnicity, Tower Hamlets, 2011**

Country of birth:	All groups =100%	Ethnic group (% row totals)						All BME Groups
		White groups	Asian groups	Black groups	Mixed groups	Arab	Other	
<b>All</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>
Born in UK	100	54	34	6	5	1	1	46
Born outside UK	100	34	51	9	3	2	2	66
<b>By area:</b>								
Europe	100	88	3	2	3	1	2	12
Africa	100	17	7	61	4	7	4	83
Middle East	100	22	20	5	5	29	19	78
Asia	100	1	96	0	1	0	1	99
Americas & Caribbean	100	52	5	26	9	1	7	48
Australasia & other	100	87	6	0	4	1	2	13

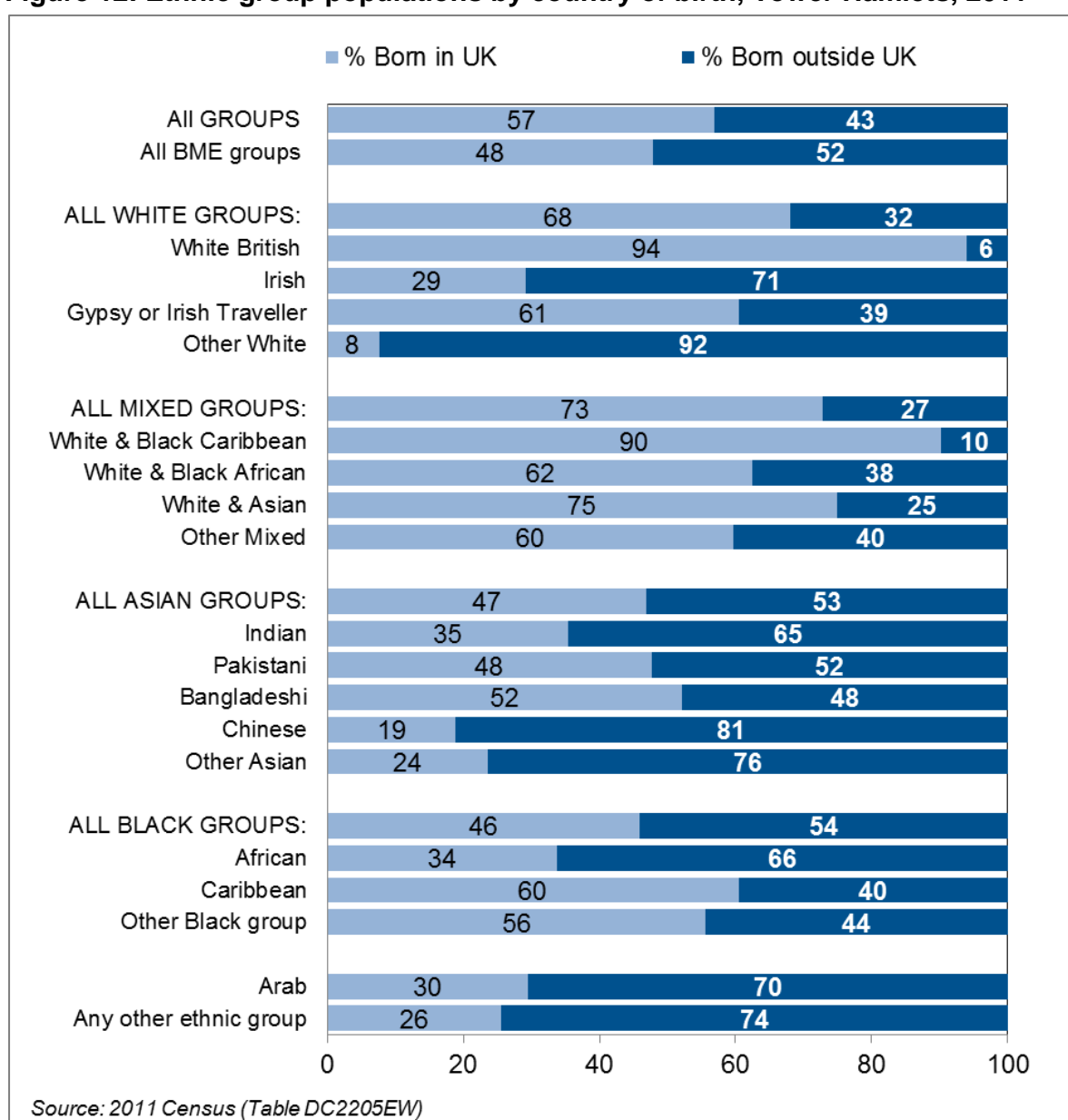
Source: 2011 Census (Table DC2205EW)

At the other end of the spectrum, those born in Asia were more ethnically heterogeneous – with 96 per cent reporting Asian ethnicity. In the case of European-born residents, while the majority were from White ethnic groups, a significant number (12 per cent) were from BME groups.

Figure 12 provides more detail about the relationship between ethnic group and country of birth by quantifying the proportion of different ethnic group populations that were born in and outside of the UK. In effect, this provides estimates of first and second (or subsequent) generation populations within each ethnic group population.

In Tower Hamlets, 81,377 residents were ethnically Bangladeshi, and of these 52 per cent were born in the UK and 48 per cent were born outside the UK (mostly in Bangladesh).

**Figure 12: Ethnic group populations by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2011**



In contrast, the majority (92 per cent) of the 'Other White' population were born outside the UK. Similarly, most Chinese residents (81 per cent) in the borough were born outside the UK.

While most of the borough's White British residents are UK born, a small, but significant, proportion (6 per cent) were born outside the UK. This group is likely to be diverse and could include children born overseas to UK-born parents, or those born overseas with UK nationality who consider themselves White British.

Residents from mixed ethnic groups are more likely to be UK-born than average, especially those with White & Black Caribbean mixed ethnicity – 90 per cent of these residents were UK-born. Within the borough's Black population, Black Caribbean residents were more likely to be UK-born than Black African residents (60 vs. 34 per cent).

Further analysis is planned to explore the characteristics of different ethnic and migrant populations in further detail.

### **17. More information**

This briefing was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit and summarises available Census data as at August 2013. This report provides important information on country of origin that complements other Census information on ethnicity and language.

For more information about the Census results, including analysis on other diversity topics, please see the [LBTH intranet](#).

For more information about this report, please contact: [Lorna Spence](#), Research Officer, Corporate Research Unit.

#### Accompanying data:

To supplement this report, an excel spreadsheet has also been made available, which provides all the charts and tables presented in this report, as well as supplementary data, and background about the Census data underpinning this analysis.

<b>Population by country of birth (individual countries), Tower Hamlets, 2011 (Table 1 of 3)</b>			
<i>Source: 2011 Census, commissioned table CT0048 (n.o.s. = not otherwise specified).</i>			
<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>
All residents	254,096	Cambodia	10
UK-born	144,662	Cameroon	58
England	138,710	Canada	961
Northern Ireland	1,124	Canary Islands	2
Scotland	3,074	Cape Verde	10
Wales	1,665	Cayman Islands	14
Great Britain (n.o.s.)	16	Central African Republic	2
United Kingdom (n.o.s.)	73	Chad	2
		Channel Islands (NES)	13
Born outside UK	109,434	Chile	85
		China	3,522
<b>By country - alphabetical</b>		Christmas Island	0
Afghanistan	165	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	0
Aland Islands	0	Colombia	492
Albania	71	Comoros	1
Algeria	464	Congo	67
American Samoa	0	Congo (Democratic Republic)	155
Andorra	0	Cook Islands	2
Angola	136	Costa Rica	9
Anguilla	5	Croatia	75
Antarctica	0	Cuba	44
Antigua and Barbuda	49	Cyprus (European Union)	2
Argentina	182	Cyprus (Non-European Union)	29
Armenia	58	Cyprus (n.o.s.)	559
Aruba	5	Czech Republic	262
Australia	2,671	Czechoslovakia (n.o.s.)	4
Austria	261	Denmark	337
Azerbaijan	41	Djibouti	12
Bahamas	22	Dominica	158
Bahrain	52	Dominican Republic	24
Bangladesh	38,877	East Timor	1
Barbados	115	Ecuador	73
Belarus	70	Egypt	186
Belgium	367	El Salvador	10
Belize	4	Equatorial Guinea	0
Benin	8	Eritrea	224
Bermuda	33	Estonia	164
Bhutan	8	Ethiopia	353
Bolivia	34	Falkland Islands	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	80	Faroe Islands	6
Botswana	19	Fiji	21
Bouvet Island	0	Finland	262
Brazil	1,439	France	3,014
British Indian Ocean Territory	1	French Guiana	1
British Virgin Islands	1	French Polynesia	0
Brunei	20	French Southern Territories	0
Bulgaria	686	Gabon	4
Burkina	2	(The) Gambia	126
Burma	107	Georgia	56
Burundi	31	Germany	2,318

<b>Population by country of birth (individual countries), Tower Hamlets, 2011 (Table 2 of 3)</b>			
<i>Source: 2011 Census, commissioned table CT0048 (n.o.s. = not otherwise specified).</i>			
<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>
Ghana	725	Madagascar	13
Gibraltar	65	Malawi	37
Greece	799	Malaysia	960
Greenland	0	Maldives	4
Grenada	128	Mali	5
Guadeloupe	12	Malta	310
Guam	2	Marshall Islands	1
Guatemala	11	Martinique	9
Guernsey	40	Mauritania	3
Guinea	21	Mauritius	255
Guinea-Bissau	32	Mayotte	1
Guyana	119	Mexico	164
Haiti	13	Micronesia	0
Heard & McDonald Islands	0	Moldova	44
Honduras	10	Monaco	7
Hong Kong	1,218	Mongolia	50
Hungary	636	Montenegro	4
Iceland	51	Montserrat	101
India	3,889	Morocco	613
Indonesia	124	Mozambique	39
Iran	401	Namibia	23
Iraq	242	Nauru	0
Ireland	2,862	Nepal	92
Island of Ireland (n.o.s.)	0	Netherlands	537
Isle Of Man	32	Netherlands Antilles	9
Israel	160	New Caledonia	3
Italy	3,047	New Zealand	1,249
Ivory Coast	65	Nicaragua	7
Jamaica	741	Niger	2
Japan	660	Nigeria	1,269
Jersey	67	Niue	0
Jordan	46	Norfolk Island	0
Kazakhstan	158	Northern Mariana Islands	0
Kenya	415	Norway	246
Kiribati	0	Occupied Palestinian Territories	20
Korea (North)	0	Oman	17
Korea (South)	390	Pakistan	1,141
Kosovo	181	Palau	0
Kuwait	68	Panama	11
Kyrgyzstan	31	Papua New Guinea	6
Laos	7	Paraguay	9
Latvia	427	Peru	100
Lebanon	111	Philippines	637
Lesotho	10	Pitcairn & other Islands	0
Liberia	18	Poland	2,674
Libya	47	Portugal	802
Liechtenstein	2	Puerto Rico	11
Lithuania	1,140	Qatar	25
Luxembourg	48	Reunion	3
Macao	24	Romania	587
Macedonia	26	Russia	956

Population by country of birth (individual countries), Tower Hamlets, 2011 (Table 3 of 3)			
<i>Source: 2011 Census, commissioned table CT0048 (n.o.s. = not otherwise specified).</i>			
<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>By country of birth:</b>	<b>Population</b>
Rwanda	32	Tuvalu	0
Samoa	0	Uganda	261
San Marino	0	Ukraine	374
Sao Tome and Principe	2	USSR (n.o.s.)	60
Saudi Arabia	234	United Arab Emirates	130
Senegal	49	United States	2,143
Serbia	108	United States outlying islands	0
Serbia and Montenegro (n.o.s.)	0	United States Virgin Islands	1
Seychelles	20	Uruguay	16
Sierra Leone	241	Uzbekistan	184
Singapore	420	Vanuatu	2
Slovakia	318	Vatican City	0
Slovenia	59	Venezuela	143
Solomon Islands	0	Vietnam	1,109
Somalia	2,925	Wallis and Futuna	0
South Africa	1,481	Western Sahara	0
South Georgia & S. Sandwich Isles	0	Yemen	106
Spain (Except Canary Islands)	4	Yugoslavia (n.o.s.)	28
Spain (n.o.s.)	2,019	Zambia	106
Sri Lanka	264	Zimbabwe	376
St Barthelemy	0	<i>Europe (n.o.s.)</i>	21
St Helena	4	<i>Africa (n.o.s.)</i>	61
St Kitts and Nevis	18	<i>Middle East (n.o.s.)</i>	18
St Lucia	418	<i>Asia (exc. Middle East n.o.s.)</i>	84
St Martin (French part)	1	<i>North America (n.o.s.)</i>	1
St Pierre and Miquelon	0	<i>Central America (n.o.s.)</i>	0
St Vincent and the Grenadines	44	<i>South America (n.o.s.)</i>	4
Sudan	93	<i>Caribbean (n.o.s.)</i>	70
Surinam	5	<i>Antarctica &amp; Oceania (n.o.s.)</i>	0
Svalbard and Jan Mayen	0	<i>At sea</i>	0
Swaziland	11	<i>In the air</i>	0
Sweden	700	<i>Elsewhere</i>	0
Switzerland	315		
Syria	57		
Taiwan	302		
Tajikistan	14		
Tanzania	110		
Thailand	316		
Togo	11		
Tokelau	0		
Tonga	8		
Trinidad and Tobago	199		
Tunisia	106		
Turkey	1,005		
Turkmenistan	31		
Turks and Caicos Islands	0		

*Notes: In the main report, totals for Spain include: Spain (Except Canary Islands), Spain (n.o.s) and Canary Islands. Similarly, totals for Cyprus include: Cyprus (n.o.s), Cyprus (EU) and Cyprus (non-EU).*



### The Corporate Research Unit

This Briefing was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit, which is based in the Chief Executive's Directorate. Research briefings provide timely and in-depth analysis of data about Tower Hamlets and are designed to improve the use and sharing of data across the Partnership.

Recent briefings include:

- House prices - June 2013 Update: Factsheet 2013/02
- A Guide to Census Geography (Research Briefing 2013/05)
- Household income 2013 (Research Briefing 2013/04)
- Faith Key facts: Census 2011 (Research Briefing 2013/03)
- Language in Tower Hamlets: Census 2011 (Research Briefing 2013/02)
- Ethnicity Topic Report: Census 2011 (Research Briefing 2013/01)
- Census 2011 - headline analysis Second release (Research Briefing 2012/12)
- Employment and Enterprise in Tower Hamlets 2012 (Research Briefing 2012/11)

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