

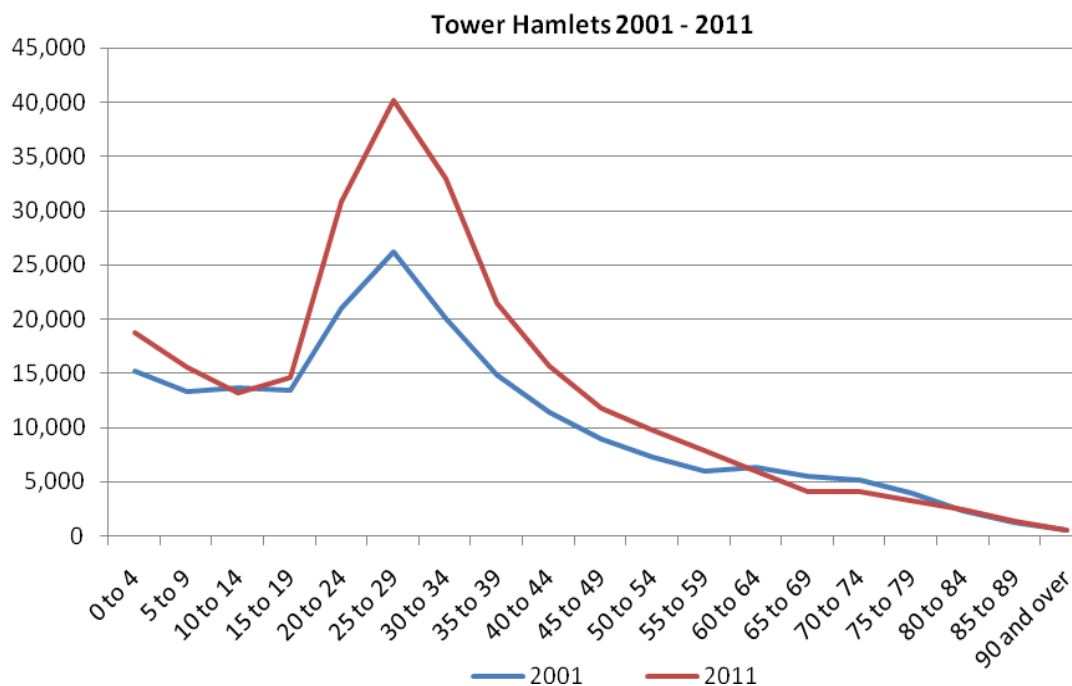
# 2011 Census Results: Headline Analysis - Population

## Population growth in Tower Hamlets

The Census estimate for the usually resident population in Tower Hamlets on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was 254,100 residents. This is a 26.4% increase since the 2001 ONS mid-year estimate and a 29.6% increase on the 2001 Census results. On either measure, LBTH has experienced the highest growth rate seen across all of England and Wales.

- The population of England and Wales has grown by 4.03 million since the 2001 Census from 52.04 million to 56.07 million. This is an increase of 7.8% and was the largest growth since the first Census in 1801. It compares with a rise in population of 1.6 million between 1991 and 2001.
- Tower Hamlets has a resident population of 254,100, including 3,800 residents living in communal establishments<sup>1</sup>. The Census also identified 4,200 short term migrants<sup>2</sup>. Nationally, Tower Hamlets had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of short term residents.
- Tower Hamlets also had the highest increase in the country in the number of households. There are 101,300 households in the borough, an increase of 29% since 2001.

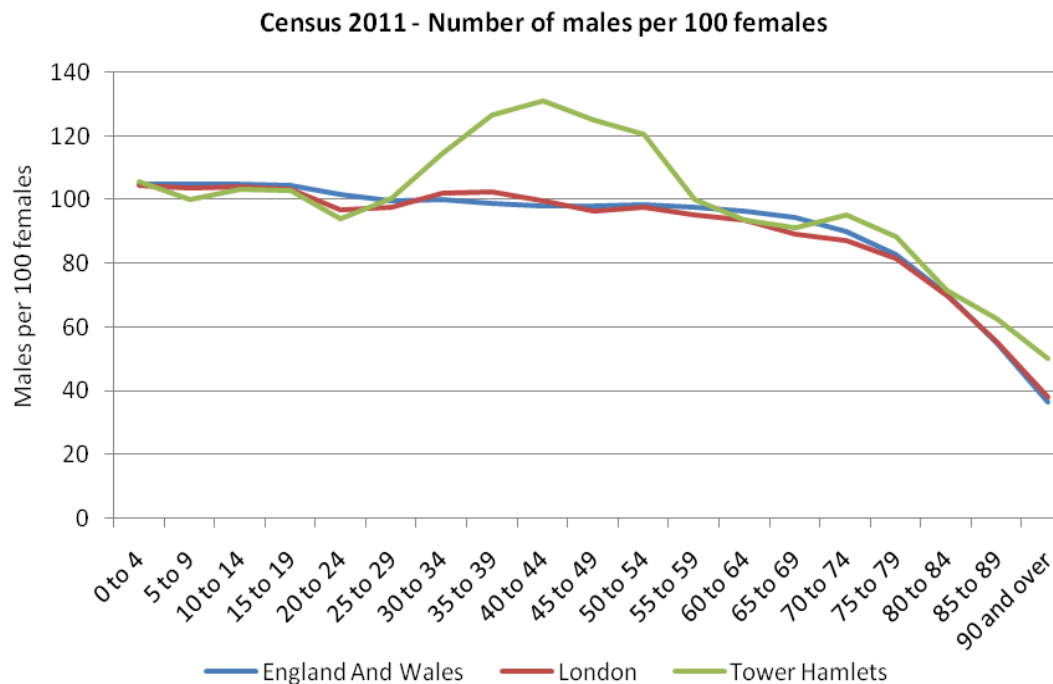
**Fig. 1 LBTH Population change by age 2001 - 2011**



Source: 2001/2011 Census ONS, Crown Copyright

- The main driver of the growth since the 2001 Census has been in the working age population (aged 20 to 64). Residents in the 20 to 64 age group have increased from 122,070 in 2001 to 176,400 in 2011, an increase of over 44.5% (54,330 residents). This compares to 17.1% increase in London and 7% in England and Wales.
- Almost half of the growth recorded between the two Censuses (46% of the 57,981 extra residents) is concentrated in the 25 to 35 age range which grew by 26,893 persons.
- All of the separate 5 year age bands in the age range 20 to 59 have seen increases of over 30%.
- The largest absolute increase was in the 25 to 29 age group which increased by 13,396 persons (53.1%) and the largest proportional increase was in the 30 to 34 age group which grew by 64.6% (12,957 persons).
- The borough has seen a significant increase in the number of young children since 2001, with a 19.8% increase in the number of residents aged under 10 from 28,542 in 2001 to 34,200 in 2011 (an increase of 5,658 children).
- Nationally, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over was the highest seen in any Census at 16.4 % - one in six people in the population being over 65. Overall, London has fewer older age residents compared to all the other regions in England and Wales. In London the number of older residents has fallen by 1.2% since 2001.
- The number of residents aged over 65 in Tower Hamlets fell from 18,362 in the 2001 Census to 15,500 in 2011. This is a reduction of 15.6% (2,862 residents), the largest in London except for Barking & Dagenham which saw its number of residents aged over 65 decrease by 19.5%.
- Within the over 65 age group, LBTH saw reductions in those aged 65 to 79 of 3,164 residents (a fall of 21.9%), but an increase in those aged over 80 which increased by 302 residents (an increase of 7.7%).
- The borough population density is 12,845 residents per square km based on the total landmass of Tower Hamlets. This is the 4th highest in inner London behind Islington (13,875 per Km<sup>2</sup>), Kensington & Chelsea (13,087) and Hackney (12,930). The London average is 5,200 per Sq km compared to the England and Wales density figure of 321 (London figures excluded).
- The average occupancy of households in the borough is 2.47 residents per household.
- There are estimated to be 130,900 men and 123,200 women in Tower Hamlets, a gender ratio of 106 male residents per 100 female residents. This was higher than the national and London averages which were both at 97 males per 100 females.

Fig. 2 Gender ratios



Source: 2001/2011 Census ONS, Crown Copyright

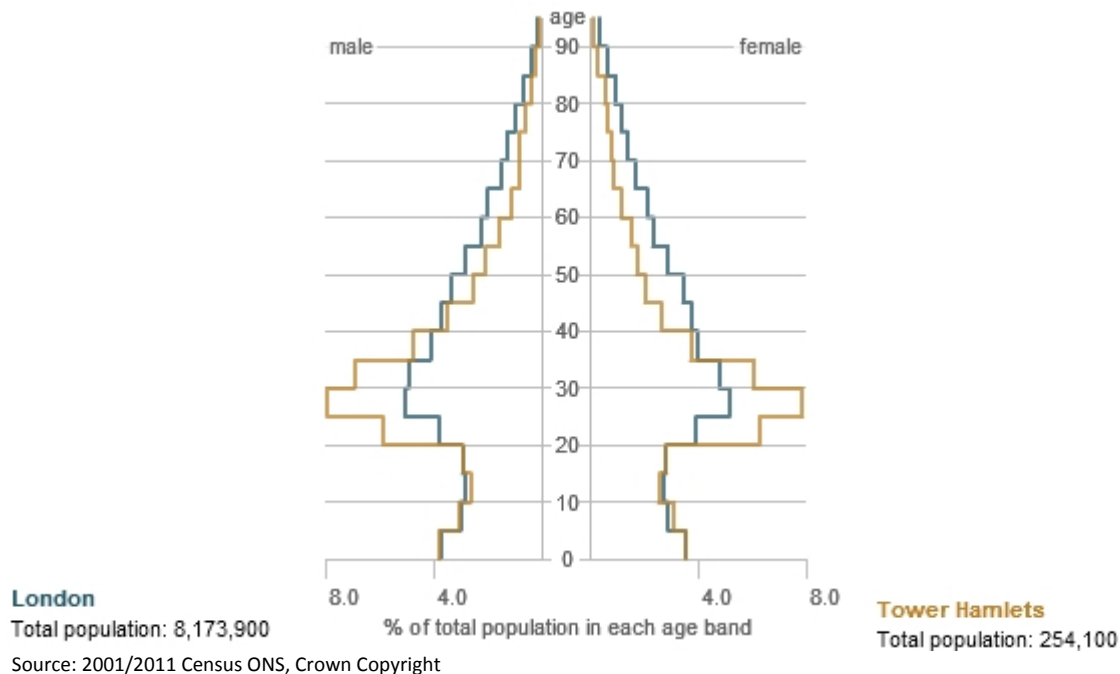
- The borough followed the national and London trends in having more women than men in the older age groups (over 65) with women outnumbering men by 2 to 1 for those aged 90+ (compared with 2.6 to 1 for London) reflecting gender differences in average life expectancy.
- Tower Hamlets diverged from the national and London averages for the population aged 30 to 54. In this age group there was an average of 123 males per 100 females which differed markedly from the national and London figures.

These initial Census results do not currently include data on ethnicity or full data on migration or country of birth. These will provide further insight into the make-up of the population as results become available.

## Wider trends

The population change in Tower Hamlets reflects that of both Inner London and the Olympic host boroughs<sup>3</sup> which, as expected, differed significantly from the national picture.

**Fig. 3 Census 2011: Population estimates for Tower Hamlets and England and Wales**



Inner London and the host boroughs both saw large increases in the working age population, which was concentrated in the 20 to 35 age range. However, the changes in the LBTH working age population were of a far greater magnitude than for either Inner London or the East London boroughs.

Residents aged 20 to 64 increased by 44.5% in Tower Hamlets compared with a 30.7% average increase across the Olympic host boroughs and 22.2% for Inner London. The London wide average for this age group was an increase of 17.1%.

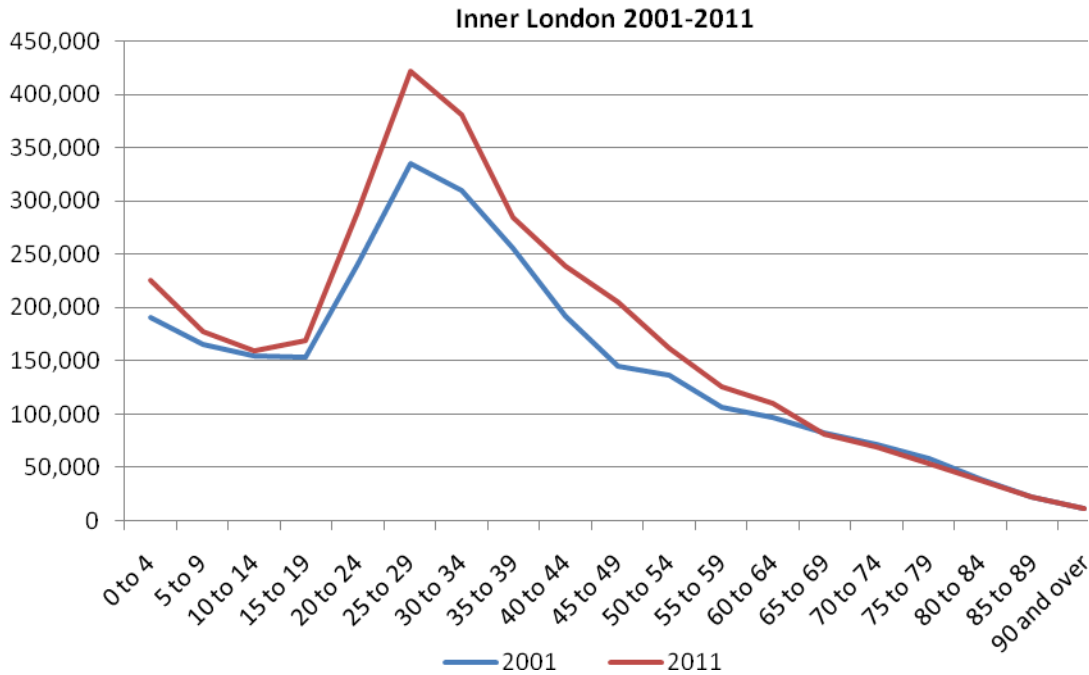
This growth was accompanied by increases in the population aged under 10, with Tower Hamlets having a slightly lower proportional increase at 19.8% (5,658 children) than the Host Boroughs average of 20.3%. The percentage growth in children under 10 for LBTH and the host boroughs exceeded that of Inner London at 13.4% and London overall which saw growth of 15.5%, which reflects an East London trend for increasing numbers of younger children.

Conversely, Tower Hamlets saw a slight reduction in the number of children aged 10 to 14 which fell by 500 children (-3.7%). The change for this specific age band actually ran counter London trends where the age 10-14 cohort increased by 3.6% in Inner London and 7.0% in the host boroughs. This change in LBTH mirrored the national picture where for England the number of 10 to 14 year olds fell by 4.6%. At ages 15 to 19, Tower hamlets again reflected an Inner London and host borough trend with numbers increasing by 8.7% (1,164 young people) compared with increases of 10.5% in Inner London and 11.1% in the host boroughs.

In the older population aged 65+, London showed significantly lower growth (1.5%) than nationally (10.9%), however, both Inner London and the host boroughs both saw reductions of -2.3% and -8.7% respectively. The change in this age group reflected the direction of change in Tower Hamlets, though this was more marked with the over 65 population reducing by 15.6% (2,862 residents).

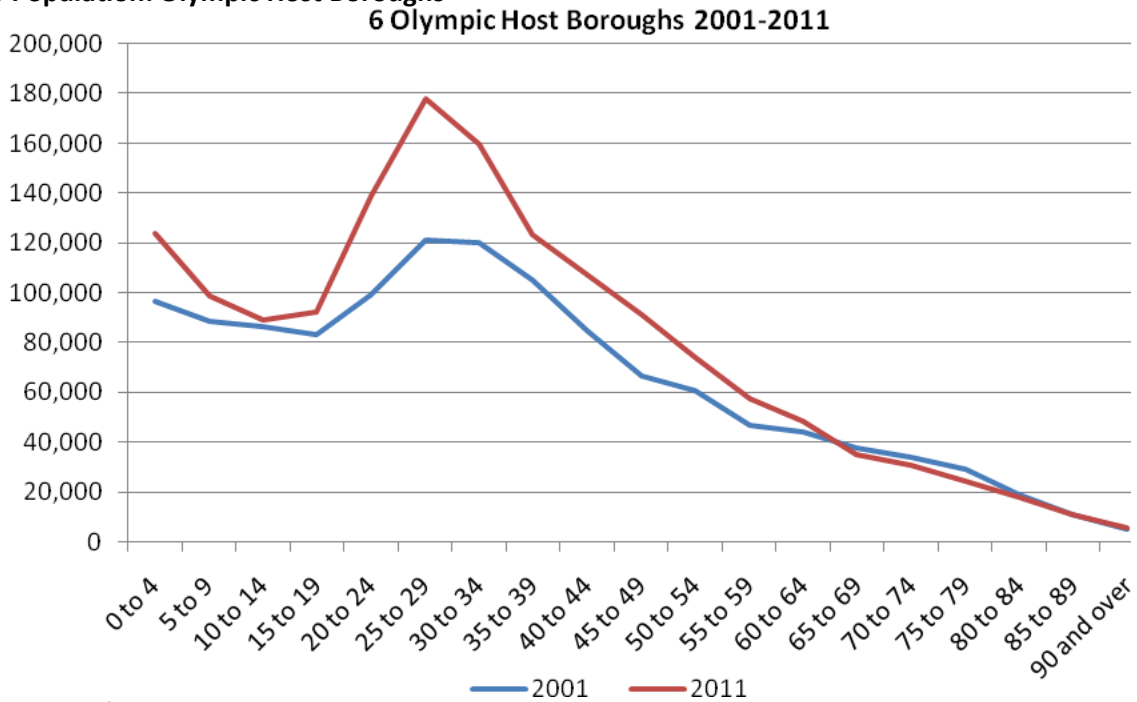
Within the over 65 cohort, LBTH did diverge from the Inner London and host borough trends. The number of those aged 65 to 79 reduced by 3.5% in Inner London and by 10.9% in the host boroughs, but Tower Hamlets saw a significantly greater reduction of 21.9% (3,164 residents). This contrasts with the figures for those over 80, where LBTH actually saw an increase of 302 residents (+7.7%) compared with growth of 1.32% in Inner London and a reduction across the host boroughs of 2.4%.

**Fig. 4 Population: Inner London**



Source: 2001/2011 Census ONS, Crown Copyright

**Fig. 5 Population: Olympic Host Boroughs**



Source: 2001/2011 Census ONS, Crown Copyright

## Non-UK short term residents

The data on non-UK short term residents contained in the first Census release refers to a very narrow category of resident who has, and/or intends to, remain in the country for between 3 and 12 months only. This category is based on the intentions of respondents and will capture both longer term visitors and those in short term employment.

While this data can be used to make comparisons with other areas, this category was not included in the 2001 Census and is focused on a very specific subset of residents, therefore these figures cannot be used make inferences about wider migration trends. More comprehensive data on long term migrants and residents country of birth will be made available in subsequent Census data releases.

The available data on this cohort shows that Tower Hamlets has 4,200 non-UK short term residents; this is the third highest number of in London, behind Westminster (6,900) and Camden (5,000). The fourth highest was Newham with 4,000.

Non-UK short term residents accounted for 1.63% of the resident population in Tower Hamlets compared to an Inner London average of 1.33% and a London average on 0.84%. This placed Tower Hamlets sixth within London for the percentage of short term residents in the resident population.

Nationally, Tower Hamlets had the eighth highest proportion of non-UK short term residents with two areas outside of London having a higher percentage. These were Cambridge with 2.59% (3<sup>rd</sup> highest) and Oxford with 2.57% (4<sup>th</sup> highest).

**Fig. 6 Non-UK Short Term Residents**

Area	Number of non-UK short term residents	Percentage of resident population	% of population rank	Rank of number
City of London	300	3.90%	1	14
Westminster	6,900	3.05%	2	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3,800	2.34%	3	5
Camden	5,000	2.22%	4	2
Islington	3,500	1.67%	5	7
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>1.63%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
Southwark	3,800	1.30%	7	5
Newham	4,000	1.28%	8	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,200	1.19%	9	9

Source: 2011 Census ONS, Crown Copyright

## Census Results: Background

The first release of 2011 Census results were published by ONS on 16th July at 11.00am. This included estimates of:

- The usually resident population by age and sex at national, regional and local authority level
- The number of households at national, regional and local authority level
- The number of non-UK short term residents on Census day at local authority level

Subsequent releases will be as follows:

- Second release November 2012 – February 2013
- Third Release March 2012 – June 2012
- Fourth Release July 2013 – October 2013

In the last decade the borough's economy and population has been driven by a focus on East London and in particular the regeneration priorities of the Olympics, Paralympics and Canary Wharf. While the first results from the 2011 Census broadly confirm what we knew about the extent of the population growth in the borough, the headline population figure it provides is higher than previous official estimates of the boroughs population<sup>4</sup>. Both the ONS and GLA will now be incorporating the 2011 Census baseline into their official estimates and population projections.

The council has developed a range of tools to enable it to better plan and anticipate the service needs of residents in terms of social infrastructure such as schools, health care provision and leisure.

The Census data for 2011 are important for local authorities because they will be used to determine the baseline for the new business rates retention system. This will determine what share of rates income is retained by the authority for at least the next ten years and possibly in perpetuity. In addition, some specific grants are still allocated using Census data. In addition many services depend upon accurate data on population to plan adequately for services.

## Response rate

Prior to and during the enumeration period the council actively encouraged residents to return their Census forms, working closely with ONS and providing a comprehensive support programme. The response rate for Tower Hamlets was 91%, compared to 94% for England and Wales. Tower Hamlets had the highest percentage of online returns in the country (29.3%). Online completions were highest in Millwall (36.5%) and Bethnal Green South (34.5%).

Not surprisingly, response rates were higher for younger and older residents in the borough and in line with the national response rates. Overall women had a higher response rate than men. Tower Hamlets was considered to be a particularly 'hard to count' area by ONS. The 91% response rate is a considerable success, particularly given the national target of achieving no less than an 80% rate in any one area and our experience of low response in the past, including a Census response rate of 76% in 2001.

## Further information

This Briefing was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit (CRU), 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:

- Population - Key facts 2011 (Research Briefing 2011/06)
- Economic Immigration - NINO data analysis (Research Briefing 2011/05)
- Employment and Enterprise in Tower Hamlets (Research Briefing 2011/04)
- Annual Residents Survey Results 2010-11 (Research Briefing 2011/02)
- Indices of Deprivation 2010 (Research Briefing 2011/03)
- Welfare Reform Briefing (Research Briefing 2011/01)

Contact the Corporate Research Unit: [CRU@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:CRU@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> A communal establishment resident is a person living in a managed residential accommodation who has lived, or intends to live there for six months or more.

<sup>2</sup> A short term resident is defined as anyone born outside the UK who intends to stay in the UK for a period of three months or more, but less than 12 months. People intending to stay in the UK for longer than 12 months are considered to be a "usual resident" on Census night.

<sup>3</sup>The Olympic Host Boroughs include Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

<sup>4</sup> The 2011 census results for usually resident population was 3.4% higher than the 2011 GLA SHLAA population projections and 6.8% higher than the 2010 ONS Mid Year Estimate.