



Census 2021 First Results: Population estimates by Age and Sex Household estimates

in Waltham Forest

June 2022



Introduction

On 28th of June 2022, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released the first results of the 2021 Census for England and Wales on local authority level. These comprise of the following datasets:

- Usual resident¹ population by five-year age band and sex.
- Usual resident population density
- Number of households² with at least one usual resident

Across England and Wales, 97 per cent of households responded to the 2021 Census, which is above the pre-census target of 94 per cent set by the ONS. Waltham Forest's response rate on Census Day was 95%. All local authorities achieved a response rate of over 90 per cent, exceeding the target of 80 per cent. Population change in certain areas may reflect how the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affected people's choice of usual residence on Census Day.

This briefing presents the Census population figures for Waltham Forest and other London boroughs. It compares those figures with the 2011 Census as well as with ONS Mid-Year and GLA population estimates for 2021. In addition, overall person-level census response rates for Waltham Forest will be analysed and compared with other Local Authorities in this briefing.

Further analysis will follow as more Census data become available from autumn this year.

¹ A usual resident is anyone who on Census Day was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.

² A household is either one person living alone; or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room, sitting room or dining area.

Executive Summary

National and London picture

- The size of the usually resident population in England and Wales was 59,597,300; this was the largest population ever recorded through a census in England and Wales.
- London recorded the third-highest rate of population growth at 7.7% (a gain of almost 626,000 people) after the East and South West regions of England.
- The two areas which experienced the largest decrease in population over the last ten years nationally are both London boroughs: Kensington and Chelsea (9.6% decrease) and Westminster (6.9% decrease). However, the area with the highest rate of population growth is also a London borough, Tower Hamlets (22.1% increase) followed by Barking and Dagenham (17.7% increase).
- The 20 most densely populated local authorities across the two nations were all London boroughs, with Tower Hamlets (15,695 residents per square kilometre), Islington (14,578 residents per square kilometre) and Hackney (13,611 residents per square kilometre) topping the list. Waltham Forest is ranked as the 15th most densely populated local authority across the two nations (7,173 residents per square kilometre).
- London has the lowest percentage of the population aged 65 years and over (11.9%) and the largest percentage of people aged between 15 and 64 years (70.0%).

Waltham Forest picture

- The usual resident population of Waltham Forest on Census Day 2021 was 278,000.
 - This compares to 258,000 at Census 2011, an increase of 20,000 (7.8%) over the ten-year period.
 - This is roughly in line with the existing mid-year population estimates (2020) for the borough.
 - It represents a slower pace of growth than in the previous decade (2001-2011), when the increase was twice as large (40,000, +18.1%).
 - The increase in Waltham Forest's population is only slightly above the increase across London (+7.7%)
- The number of households in Waltham Forest has risen to 102,900 in 2021, an increase of 6,039 households since 2011.
- Females made up 51% of the total population in Waltham Forest, and males made up 49%, which match the pattern across England and in London.
- The age group of residents that increased the most since 2011 is 35-64, going up from 34% to 41% (115k) in terms of share of the overall population. By

contrast, the 20-34 age group is down from 28% to 24% (67k). Waltham Forest in 2021 is a place where mature working adults are prevailing more than before.

Waltham Forest total population

A population which is still growing...

The usual resident population of Waltham Forest on Census Day 2021 (21 March) was **278,400**. This compares to 258,200 at Census 2011, an increase of 20,200 or 7.8% over the ten-year period, slightly over London's population average growth of 7.7% (or 626,000 people). The table below shows how the Census 2021 population for Waltham Forest compares with other population estimates and the previous Census snapshot.

	Census 2011	Census 2021	ONS 2020 MYE	GLA 2021 (BPO) estimate
Population Estimate	258,200	278,400	276,900	274,900

Figure 1 – Population Estimates and Census, Source: ONS 2021,22, GLA 2021 Figures are individually rounded to the nearest hundred

GLA's population projections for 2021 slightly under-estimated the true population by 3,500 people when compared to Census'21 data. The latest available ONS's mid-year population estimates (MYE) are for year 2020 and therefore not directly comparable. ONS's Mid-Year Estimates (MYE) for year 2021 are to be published in September 2022.

... But a slowing rate of growth

The time series for Waltham Forest population estimates in Figure 2 shows a significant decline in the 1970s and nearly no change for two consecutive decades prior to the 2001 Census. The population of Waltham Forest has been increasing since 2001, although the rate of growth across the last decade has decreased drastically compared with the rate between 2001 and 2011, when the population grew by 18.3% (~40k people).

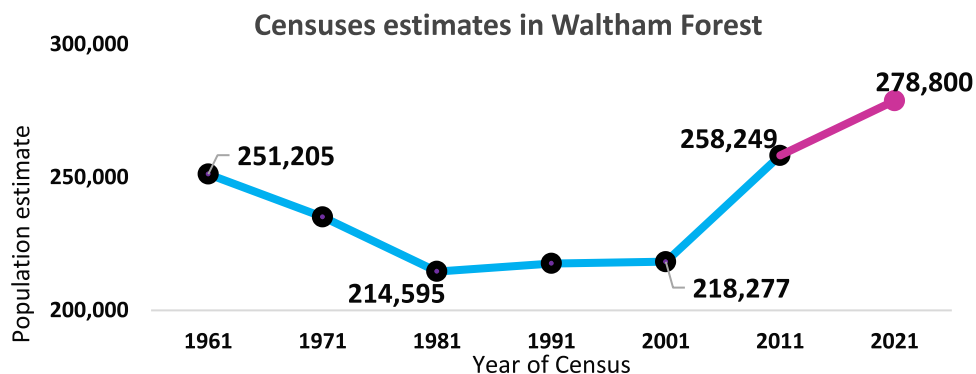


Figure 2 – Waltham Forest Census population estimates, Source, ONS

Changes in population in Waltham Forest and London

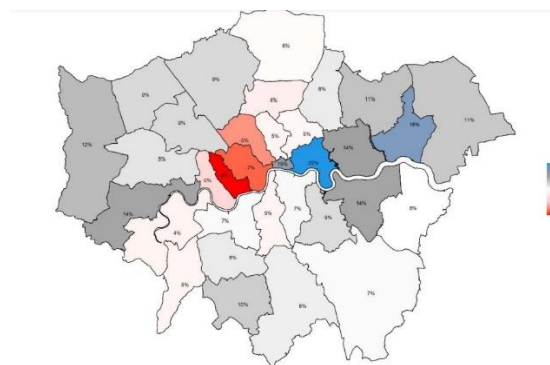
Waltham Forest was ranked 14th London Borough in population size (out of 33) in 2011 and 17th in 2021. In the Capital, Croydon has the highest population size while Kensington and Chelsea has the lowest (City of London excluded, Map 1).

The two areas which experienced the largest decrease in population over the last ten years nationally are both London boroughs: Kensington and Chelsea (9.6% decrease) and Westminster (6.9% decrease). In London, the third-highest borough for population decrease is Camden, with a 4.6% decrease (see table 1).

Nationally, Tower Hamlets, another London borough, tops the table for population growth, (22.1% increase In London, the second-highest population growth can be found in Barking and Dagenham (17.7% increase).

Name	Census 2011	Census 2021	Change
Kensington and Chelsea	158649	143400	-9.6%
Westminster	219396	204300	-6.9%
Camden	220338	210100	-4.6%
Waltham Forest	258249	278400	7.8%
Newham	307984	351100	14.0%
Barking and Dagenham	185911	218900	17.7%
Tower Hamlets	254096	310300	22.1%

Table 1: – Top 3 London Boroughs in population decrease and increase since 2011, ONS Census 2011/2021



Map 1 – Population change
Source: ONS 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey Data ©
Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022

Age Structure

The trend of population ageing has continued in Waltham Forest, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. In 2011, the largest age group in Waltham Forest was 25-29 years old. In 2021, the largest age group now is residents aged 30 to 34 years old, marking a shift from a Borough distinguished by the presence of young people to a setting dominated by young adults.

This trend is also confirmed when looking at the structure of the population segmented by age stages, as in the table below (Table 2).

The table shows that while residents aged 20-34 years old were making up 28% of the borough's population in 2011, they now make up 24% of it, a drop of 4 percentage points. Meanwhile, while in 2011, 36% of residents were aged 35-64 years old, this proportion is now up to 41%, an increase of 5 percentage points.

Nationally, the proportion of the population who were aged 65 years and over was 18.6% (16.4% in 2011) – whilst in Waltham Forest it is 10% for both Census periods.

Age	Census 2011		Census 2021		Change between Censuses		Difference between Census 2021 and MYE 2020	
	Census (2011) Population	Structure	Census (2021) Population	Structure	Growth	Share Change	MYE (2020) Population	Difference to Census2021 (%)
All	258249	100%	278,400	100%	20,151	8%	276,940	0.5%
0-4	20839	8.1%	19,000	6.8%	-1,839	-9%	21,329	-11%
5-9	16463	6.4%	17,400	6.3%	937	6%	19,847	-12%
10-14	14760	5.7%	16,600	6.0%	1,840	12%	16,801	-1%
15-19	15241	5.9%	15,100	5.4%	-141	-1%	14,475	4%
20-24	20604	8.0%	15,600	5.6%	-5,004	-24%	14,680	6%
25-34	50676	19.6%	51,000	18.3%	324	1%	47,797	7%
35-64	94100	36.4%	115,200	41.4%	21,100	22%	111,504	3%
65-89	24309	9.4%	27,200	9.8%	2,891	12%	28,748	-5%
90+	1257	0.5%	1,200	0.4%	-57	-5%	1,759	-32%

Table 2: Comparison table of age bands between Censuses and MYE (2020), Source: ONS 2022

Households and Population Density

The number of households in Waltham Forest has risen to 102,900 in 2021 from 96,861 in 2011, up from 89,788 in 2001. This is an increase of 6,039 households in the borough since 2011

It is worth noting that the Census only records households where at least one usual resident was present on Census Day and therefore that figure shouldn't be used against housing target deliverables. The top 3 boroughs with the highest change on household size are Tower Hamlets (19% increase), Newham (14% increase) and Greenwich (13%), (see below Table3).

There were 395 residents per square kilometre in England and Wales in 2021. **London region has a very high population density (5,598 residents per square kilometre), which is more than 14 times the average in England and Wales,** and more than 37 times the average in Wales alone. The 20 most densely populated local authorities across the two nations were all London boroughs, with Tower Hamlets (15,695 residents per square kilometre), Islington (14,578 residents per square kilometre) and Hackney (13,611 residents per square kilometre) topping the list. Waltham Forest is ranked as the 15th most densely populated local authority across the two nations (7,173 residents per square kilometre).

Ranking	Area name	Population density 2021
1	Tower Hamlets	15695
2	Islington	14578
3	Hackney	13611
4	Lambeth	11848
5	Kensington and Chelsea	11828
6	Hammersmith and Fulham	11168
7	Southwark	10655
8	Newham	9700
9	Camden	9647
10	Wandsworth	9559
11	Westminster	9510
12	Haringey	8924
13	Lewisham	8553
14	Brent	7859
15	Waltham Forest	7173
16	Ealing	6609
17	Greenwich	6111
18	Barking and Dagenham	6064
19	Merton	5720
20	Redbridge	5502

Table 3: Source: ONS, Census 2021, top 20 most dense authorities in England and Wales- Population density:(number of usually residents per square kilometre)