

Migration

The national Census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The last Census Day was on 21 March 2021. On **2nd November 2022**, ONS released a **topic summary** providing detail on **Migration**.

This briefing focuses on analysis of **Migration in Birmingham**. Other themes are analysed in subsequent briefing notes, and an interactive census dashboard is available on the **Birmingham City Observatory**.



KEY HEADLINES:

- The top 3 countries of birth of Birmingham residents in 2021 were Europe (79.8%, 914,214), the Middle East and Asia (13.6%, 155,565) and Africa (4.6%, 52,305). However, in comparison to the other Core Cities, Birmingham had the 2nd smallest percentage of people who were born in Europe.
- In Birmingham, the majority of people held a European passport (82.6%, 945,341), followed by no passport (12.3%, 140,314), a Middle Eastern or Asian passport (3.6%, 41,619), an African passport (1%, 11,952) and an American or Caribbean passport 0.5%, 5,195).
- The majority of people were born in the UK (73.3%, 838,959), which was a 4.5 percentage point decrease since 2011. This was followed by 'living 10 years or more' (16.3%, 187,017) and '5 years or more but less than 10 years' (48,664, 4.3%). In comparison to the other Core Cities, Birmingham had the highest percentage of people living in the UK for 10 years or more in 2021 (16.3% of the population, 187,017). This was above the England and Wales average (9.8%).
- The two decades which witnessed the largest influx of people arriving to the UK between 1951 and 2021 were: 2001-2010 (6.9%, 79,376 people) and 2011-2021 (10.5%, 120,837).

KEY FINDINGS(i):

Country of birth

- Birmingham residents recorded their country of birth in the Census 2021 as the following:
 - 79.8% of Birmingham's population (914,214) were born in Europe. This category includes residents born in the UK, Birmingham, which accounted for 838,959 of the Birmingham population.
 - 13.6% of Birmingham's population (155,565) were born in the Middle East and Asia.
 - 4.6% of Birmingham's population (52,305) were born in Africa.
 - 1.8% of Birmingham's population (20,361) were born in the Americas and the Caribbean.
 - 0.1% of Birmingham's population (1,447) were born in British Overseas Territories.
 - 0.1% of Birmingham's population (1,027) were born in the Antarctica, Oceania (including Australasia) or other.

Passport held

- 82.6% of Birmingham's population (945,341) held a European passport in 2021, which was a 5.4 percentage point increase since 2011 (77.2%, 835,429). Within this category, the majority (74.6%, 854,433) held a UK passport.
- 12.3% of Birmingham's population (140,314) did not hold a passport in 2021, which was a 4.5 percentage point decrease since 2011 (16.8%, 181,560).
- 3.6% of Birmingham's population (41,619) held a Middle Eastern or Asian passport in 2021, which was a 0.6 percentage point decrease since 2011 (4.2%, 45,509). Within this category, the majority (2.7%, 31,109) held a South Asian passport.
- 1% of Birmingham's population (11,952) held an African passport in 2021; this is similar to the 2011 percentage (1%, 10,949). Within this category, the majority (0.5%, 5,893) held a Central and West African passport.
- 0.5% of Birmingham's population (5,195) held an American or Caribbean passport in 2021, which was a 0.2 percentage point decrease since 2011 (0.7%, 7,639). Within this category, the majority (0.2%, 2,707) held a Caribbean passport.
- 0.04% of Birmingham's population (467) held an Antarctic/Oceanic/Australasian passport in 2021, which was a 0.06 percentage point decrease since 2011 (0.1%, 1,213).
- 0.003% of Birmingham's population (36) held a British Overseas Territories passport in 2021 compared to 0.01% (79) in 2011.

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Length of residence

- 73.3% of Birmingham's population (838,959) was born in the UK in 2021, which was a 4.5 percentage point decrease since 2011 (77.8%, 834,732).
- 16.3% of Birmingham's population (187,017) had been living in the UK for 10 years or more in 2021, which was a 3.8 percentage point increase since 2011 (12.5%, 134,631).
- 4.3% of Birmingham's population (48,664) had been living in the UK for 5 years or more, but less than 10 years in 2021, which was a 0.3 percentage point decrease since 2011 (4.5%, 48,575).
- 3.3% of Birmingham's population (37,797) had been living in the UK for 2 years or more, but less than 5 years in 2021, which was a 0.5 percentage point increase since 2011 (2.8%, 30,553).
- 2.8% of Birmingham's population (32,482) had been living in the UK for less than 2 years in 2021, which was a 0.5 percentage point increase since 2011 (2.3%, 24,554).

Year of arrival

- The two decades which witnessed the largest influx of people arriving to the UK between 1951 and 2021 were: 2001-2010 (6.9%, 79,376 people) and 2011-2021 (10.5%, 120,837).
- The two decades which witnessed the smallest influx of people arriving to the UK between 1951 and 2021 were 1951-1960 (0.8%, 8,950) and 1981-1990 (1.7%, 19,133).

COMPARISON WITH CORE CITIES(i):

Country of birth:

- In each Core City (2021), the majority of people were born in Europe, followed by the Middle East and Asia, Africa, and the Americas and the Caribbean.
- In comparison to the other Core Cities, Manchester had the smallest percentage of people who were born in Europe in 2021 (77.6% of the population, 428,451), followed by Birmingham (79.8% of the population, 914,214) and Nottingham (84.4%, 273,133). These figures were below the England and Wales average (90.1%).
- People born in the Middle East or Asia accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following Core Cities in 2021: Manchester (13.6%, 75,297), Birmingham (13.6%, 155,565) and Nottingham (9.0%, 29,073). These figures were above the England and Wales average (5.6%).
- People born in Africa accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following Core Cities in 2021: Manchester (6.9%, 37,872), Nottingham (4.6%, 14,762) and Birmingham (4.6%, 52,305). These figures were above the England and Wales average (2.7%).
- People born in the Americas or Caribbean accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following Core Cities in 2021: Bristol (1.9%, 9,117), Nottingham (1.8%, 5,880) and Birmingham (1.8%, 20,361). These figures were above the England and Wales average (1.3%).

Passport held:

- in each Core City (2021), the majority of people held a European passport, followed by no passport, a Middle Eastern or Asian passport, an African passport and an American or Caribbean passport.
- Across the Core Cities, Birmingham was ranked as having the 5th highest percentage of people with a European passport (82.6% of the population, 945,341). This was slightly below the England and Wales average (83.5%).
- Across the Core Cities, Birmingham was ranked as having the 6th highest percentage of people with no passport in 2021 (12.3% of the population, 140,314). This was slightly below the England and Wales average (13.5%).
- People with a Middle Eastern or Asian passport accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following Core Cities in 2021: Manchester (5.1%, 28,249), Nottingham (3.9%, 12,672) and Birmingham (3.6%, 41,614). These figures were above the England and Wales average (1.8%).
- There was a higher percentage of people with an African passport in the following Core Cities in 2021: Manchester (2% of the population, 10,865), Nottingham (1.7% of the population, 5,631) and Birmingham (1% of the population, 11,953). These figures were above the England and Wales average (0.6%).

Length of residence:

- in each Core City (2021), the majority of people were born in the UK. This was followed by 'living 10 years or more' and '5 years or more but less than 10 years'.
- People born in the UK accounted for a smaller proportion of the population in each of the following Core Cities in 2021: Manchester (68.6%, 378,730), Birmingham (73.3%, 838,959) and Nottingham (75.4%, 244,133). These figures were below the England and Wales average (83.2%).

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- In comparison to the other Core Cities, Birmingham had the highest percentage of people living in the UK for 10 years or more in 2021 (16.3% of the population, 187,017). This was above the England and Wales average (9.8%).

COMPARISON WITH WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITIES⁽ⁱ⁾:

Country of birth:

- across the WMCA area in 2021, the majority of people were born in Europe, followed by the Middle East and Asia, Africa, and the Americas and the Caribbean.
- In the WMCA area, Birmingham had the smallest percentage of people who were born in Europe in 2021 (79.8% of the population, 914,214), followed by Sandwell (82.7% of the population, 282,840) and Coventry (83% of the population, 286,662). These figures were below the England and Wales average (90.1%).
- People born in the Middle East or Asia accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following WMCA areas in 2021: Birmingham (13.6%, 155,565), Sandwell (12.7%, 43,547) and Wolverhampton (10.7%, 28,308).
- People born in Africa accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following WMCA areas in 2021: Coventry (5.5%, 18,850), Birmingham (4.6%, 52,305) and Wolverhampton (3.6%, 9,414).
- People born in the Americas or Caribbean accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following WMCA areas in 2021: Birmingham (1.8%, 20,361), Sandwell (1.5%, 5,239) and Wolverhampton (1.5%, 3,955).

Passport held:

- across the WMCA area in 2021, the majority of people held a European passport, followed by no passport, a Middle Eastern or Asian passport, an African passport and an American or Caribbean passport.
- In the WMCA area, Birmingham had the 2nd highest population with a European passport (82.6% of the population, 945,341), after Solihull (86.8% of the population, 187,778).
- In the WMCA area, Solihull had the smallest percentage of people with no passport (11.3% of the population, 24,417), followed by Birmingham (12.3% of the population, 140,314) and Coventry (12.7% of the population, 44,013). These figures were below the England and Wales average (13.5%).
- People with a Middle Eastern or Asian passport accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following WMCA areas in 2021: Coventry (4.4%, 15,193), Sandwell (4.3%, 14,818) and Wolverhampton (3.7%, 9,824). These figures were above the England and Wales average (1.8%).
- People with an African passport accounted for a higher proportion of the population in each of the following WMCA areas in 2021: Coventry (1.9%, 6,452), Wolverhampton (1.4%, 3,602) and Birmingham (1%, 11,953). These figures were above the England and Wales average (0.6%).

Length of residence:

- across the WMCA area in 2021, the majority of people were born in the UK. This was followed by 'living 10 years or more' and '5 years or more but less than 10 years'.
- In the WMCA area, Birmingham had the 2nd smallest percentage of people born in the UK (73.3% of the population, 838,959), after Coventry (72.1% of the population, 248,991). These figures were below the England and Wales average (83.2%).
- In comparison to the other Core Cities, Birmingham had the highest percentage of people who had lived in the UK for 10 years or more in 2021 (16.3% of the population, 187,017). This was followed by Sandwell (13.8% of the population, 47,319) and Coventry (13.8% of the population, 47,774). These figures were above the England and Wales average (9.8%).

ⁱ For country of birth and passport held, figures are from the non-detailed Census 2021 datasets.