

Census 2021 First Results: *Population on Census Day*

Southwark Public Health Division
Children and Adults Services

June 2022

 @lb_southwark  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil


Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

This profile presents key findings on population in Southwark at the time of the 2021 Census

BACKGROUND

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

- The last census was conducted on Sunday 21 March 2021, and collected information on a range of themes, including:

Demography & Migration	Ethnicity, Identity, Language & Religion	Health & Disability	Housing
Work & Travel	Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity	Education	UK Armed Forces Veterans

- Results of the census are being released in a phased manner:
 - 28 June 2022: Headline population figures for local authorities
 - Phase 1 - Autumn-Winter 2022: Topic profiles for census themes
 - Phase 2 - Date to be confirmed: More detailed data becomes available

This profile focuses on those living in the borough on census day, and forms part of a suite of documents that profile the Southwark results of the 2021 Census. Further profiles will be released in autumn 2022 as new data becomes available.

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Southwark's usual resident population on Census Day 2021 was 307,600, an increase of 7% since 2011

KEY HEADLINES

- The usually resident population of Southwark on Census Day 2021 (21 March) was 307,600. This compares to 288,300 at Census 2011, an increase of 19,300 or 7% over the ten year period.
- In comparison the population of England increased by 7% between 2011 and 2021, with London increasing by 8%.
- London local authorities that had high growth between 2011 and 2021 include Tower Hamlets (22%), Barking and Dagenham (18%), Greenwich (14%), and Newham (14%).
- The key changes in age in Southwark between the 2011 and 2021 Census were:
 - Children aged 5 and under, down by 4,400 people or 21%.
 - Adults aged 55 to 70, up by 12,500 people or 47%.
- The 2021 Census estimate for Southwark is 12,400 (4%) lower than the ONS mid-year population estimate for 2020.
- This compares to a decrease of 2% for London as a whole, and no change seen across England.
- Other London boroughs that saw significant declines in population between 2020 and 2021 include:
 - Camden, down 69,400 (25% decrease).
 - Westminster, down 65,500 (24% decrease).
 - Islington, down 31,500 (13% decrease).

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

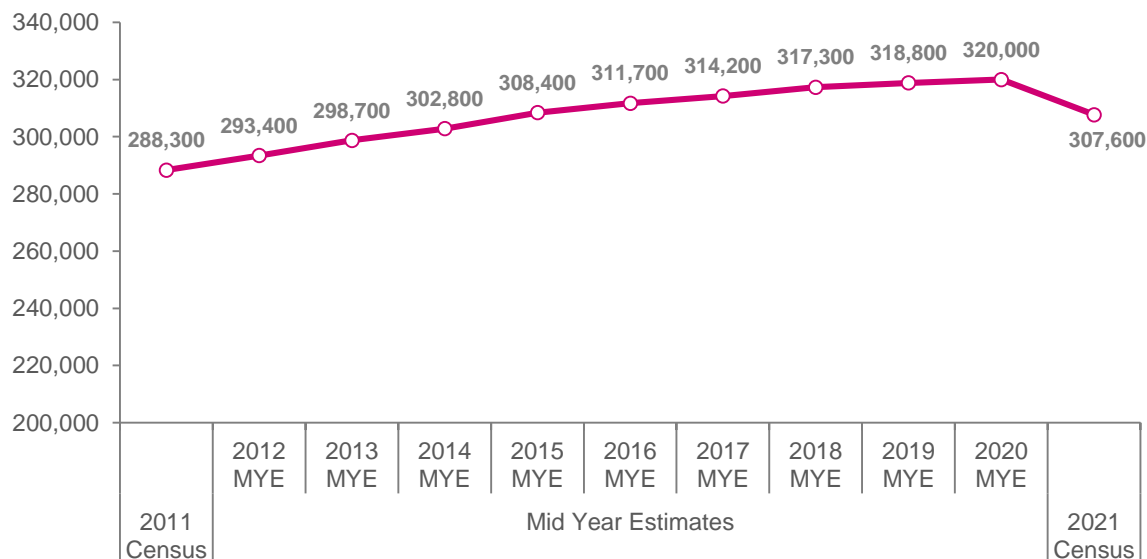
In 2021, Southwark's estimated population decreased by over 12,000 people compared to the previous year

POPULATION CHANGE

The usually resident population of Southwark on Census Day 2021 was 307,600 people, an increase of 7% or 19,300 people in the ten years since the 2011 Census.

- There has been a consistent upward trend in population estimates since the 2011 Census, reaching an estimate of 320,000 people in mid-2020.
- However, 2021 saw a decrease on the previous year, with the population estimate being 4% lower than the ONS mid-year estimate for 2020. This represents a decrease of 12,400 people over the year, and puts current estimates more similar to that seen in 2015.

Figure 1: Estimated resident population of Southwark, by year



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

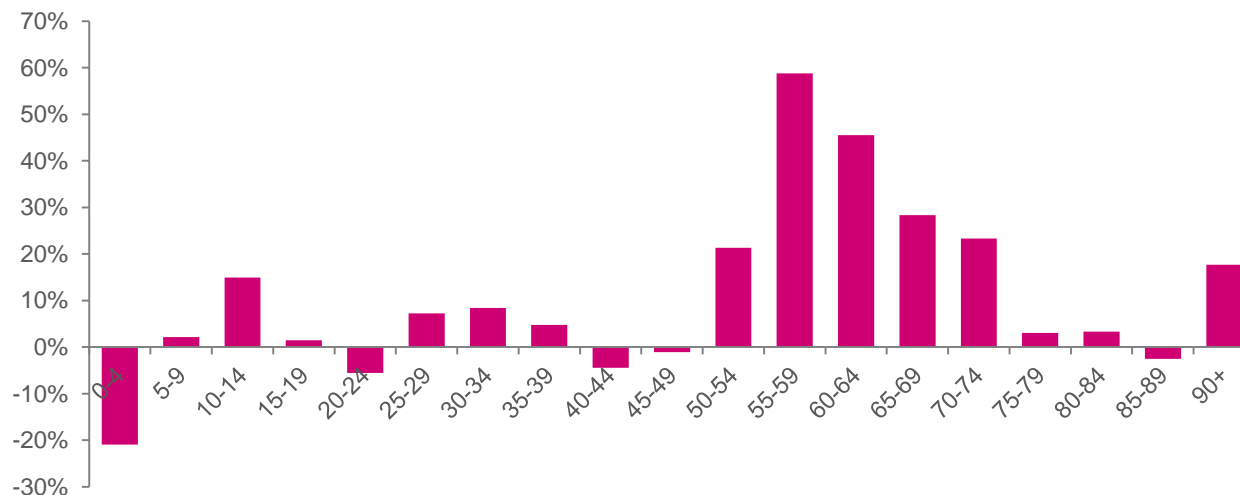
Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, there was a substantial decrease in the number of children under 5

AGE STRUCTURE: 2011-2021

Over the ten year period since the 2011 Census, the most significant changes in the age structure has been in adults aged between 55 and 70, and children aged under 5.

- The largest increase in population has been among those aged 55 to 59, with an increase of 59% over the period, or 6,500 people.
- In comparison, the largest decline in population has been seen among those aged 0 to 4, with a decrease of 21%, or 4,400 people.
- The decrease in this age group in Southwark is larger than across London as a whole (-11%), and England (-7%). However, all have seen a drop, reflecting the decline in birth rates.

Figure 2: Percentage change in population in Southwark between 2011 and 2021, by 5-year age band



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

Between 2020 and 2021, Southwark saw a significant decline in population in its youngest and oldest age groups

AGE STRUCTURE: 2020-21

Between 2020 and 2021, there was a substantial decrease in Southwark residents aged 0 to 9, and aged 90 and over.

- Though there was an overall increase (18%) in numbers of residents aged 90+ over the past ten years, the 2021 year saw a substantial drop of **21%** when compared to 2020.
- A similar pattern is seen across London as a whole, where the population aged 90+ decreased by 14% in 2021.
- The number of children aged 0 to 9 years old also saw a substantial decline in 2021, with a drop of **19%** compared to the 2020 mid-year estimate.
- A similar pattern is seen across London, with the population aged 0 to 9 decreasing by 12%.

Figure 3: Percentage change in population in Southwark between 2020 and 2021, by 5-year age band



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

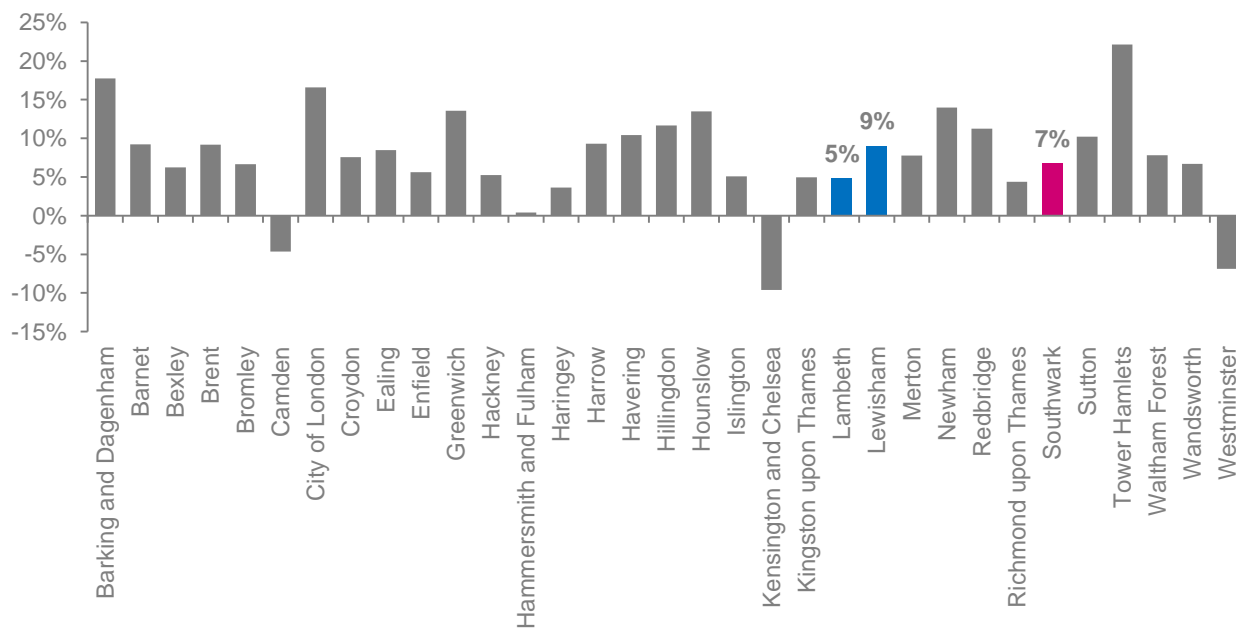
In the decade since the 2011 Census, Southwark has had a population increase comparable to the London average

COMPARISON WITH OTHER BOROUGHES: 2011-2021

Across southeast London, Lambeth saw the smallest increase in population over the decade (5%), with Greenwich seeing the largest at 18%.

- The increase in population since 2011 for Southwark (7%) is similar to the average across London (8%).
- The largest increases were seen in Tower Hamlets (22%) and Barking and Dagenham (18%).
- Substantial decreases in population were seen in Kensington and Chelsea (10%), and Westminster (7%).

Figure 4: Percentage change in population across London boroughs between 2011 and 2021



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

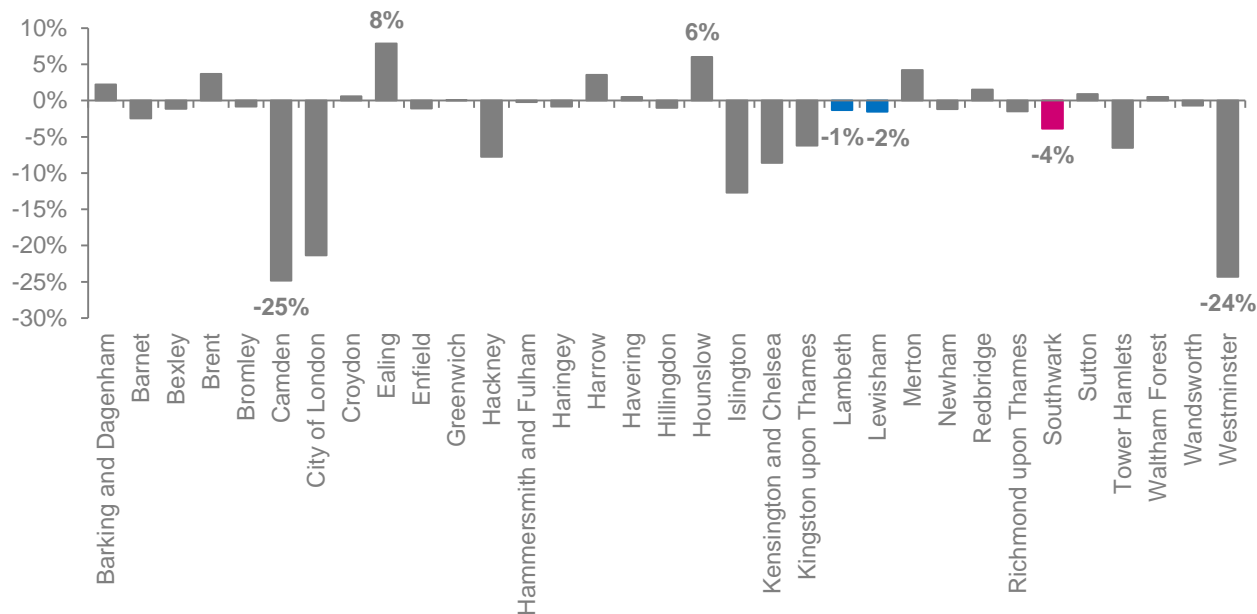
Since 2020, a number of Inner London boroughs have seen significant drops in their population estimates

COMPARISON WITH OTHER BOROUGHES: 2020-2021

While there has been an increase in the London population since the 2011 census, the past year has seen significant decreases for many London boroughs.

- The largest drop was seen in Camden, where it is estimated that the population decreased by 69,400 from 2020 to 2021 (-25%).
- Those boroughs experiencing significant decreases tend to be in inner-London, such as in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Islington, Hackney, and City of London.
- In comparison, increases were seen in outer-London boroughs such as Ealing and Hounslow.

Figure 5: Percentage change in population across London boroughs between 2020 and 2021



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

Results from the 2021 Census need to be considered alongside a number of influencing factors

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Census

- The census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, with respondents required to answer questions based on their place of residence on Census Day. At this time many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place.
- There is likely to have been substantial population movement and change in the period since the March 2021 Census. Notably, students returning to campus' after a time of remote learning, a return of workers in hospitality and entertainment sectors, and a return of people who left London temporarily during the pandemic.
- It is therefore possible that the drop in population seen between the 2020 mid-year estimates and the 2021 census results may only be short-term, with population numbers recovering in subsequent years.

2. Accuracy of mid-year estimates

- There are substantial differences when comparing the results of the 2021 Census with the population estimates for mid-2020 across London, ranging from +4% to -25%. Differences may be due to a number of factors relating to the accuracy of previous mid-year estimates, including:
 - Potentially under estimating the impact of the UK leaving the EU on population movements.
 - Age-related assumptions regarding international migration used in the mid-year estimates, particularly for children and the elderly.
 - The impact of both these factors would disproportionately effect London and those boroughs with high levels of international migration.

Reference

1. Greater London Authority. 2022. 2021 Census: First release.
2. Office for National Statistics. 2022. Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021.

The table below compares population estimates for Southwark at the 2011 and 2021 Census by age group

APPENDIX

Age Band	2011 Census	2020 MYE	2021 Census	Change 2011-2021		Change 2020-2021	
0-4	20,739	19,471	16,632	-4,377	-21%	-3,109	-16%
5-9	15,562	20,208	15,892	330	2%	-4,316	-21%
10-14	14,097	17,165	16,223	2,126	15%	-942	-5%
15-19	15,966	15,101	16,198	232	1%	1,097	7%
20-24	26,996	22,067	25,478	-1,518	-6%	3,411	15%
25-29	35,725	35,306	38,265	2,540	7%	2,959	8%
30-34	32,297	38,521	34,959	2,662	8%	-3,562	-9%
35-39	25,299	29,876	26,535	1,236	5%	-3,341	-11%
40-44	22,926	23,151	21,855	-1,071	-5%	-1,296	-6%
45-49	20,121	20,006	19,915	-206	-1%	-91	0%
50-54	16,070	19,812	19,558	3,488	22%	-254	-1%
55-59	11,084	17,794	17,569	6,485	59%	-225	-1%
60-64	9,072	13,601	13,146	4,074	45%	-455	-3%
65-69	6,547	8,946	8,399	1,852	28%	-547	-6%
70-74	5,432	7,043	6,669	1,237	23%	-374	-5%
75-79	4,271	4,851	4,351	80	2%	-500	-10%
80-84	3,195	3,612	3,274	79	2%	-338	-9%
85-89	1,949	2,081	1,881	-68	-3%	-200	-10%
90+	935	1,405	1,112	177	19%	-293	-21%
Total	288,300	320,000	307,600	19,400	7%	-12,400	-4%

Reference

- Office for National Statistics. 2022. Population & Household Estimates, England & Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/jsna

Southwark Public Health Division
Children and Adults Services

 [@lb_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil