

# 2011 Census Town Profile

# SMETHWICK

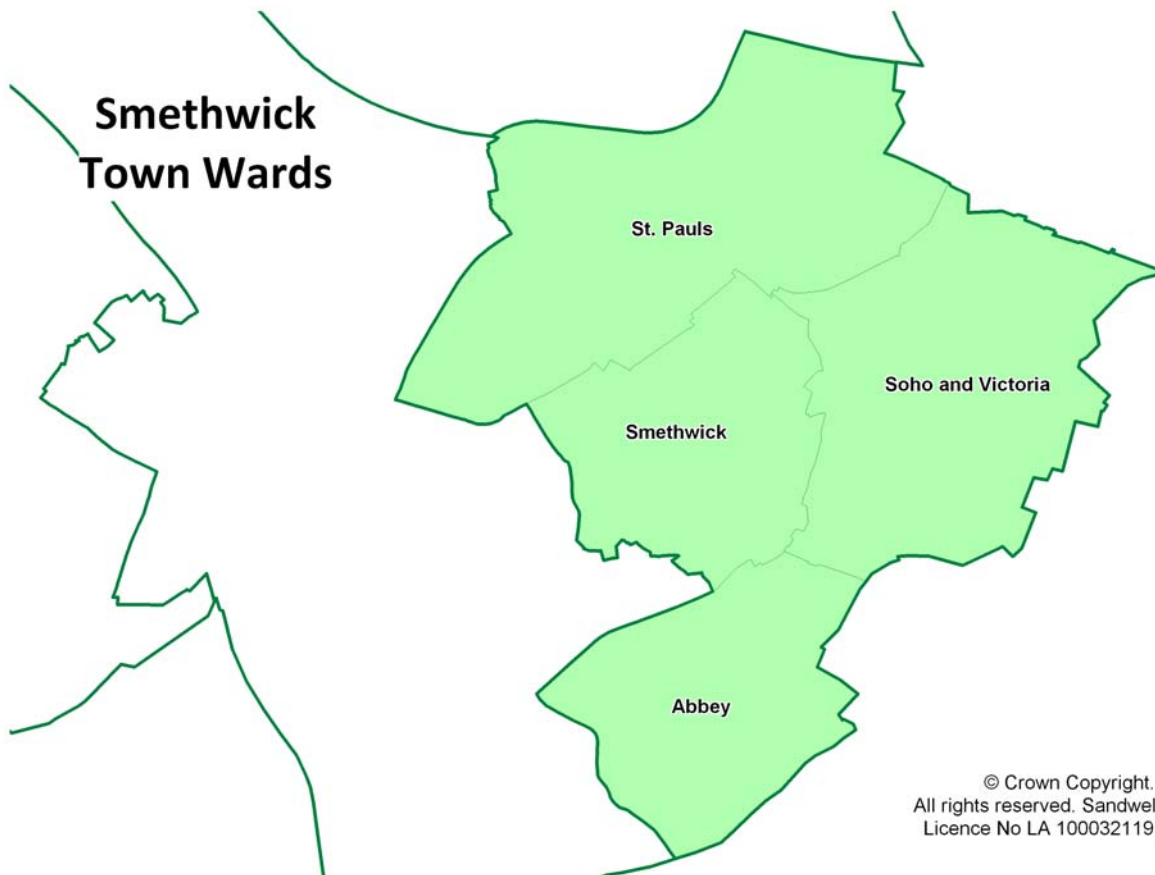
The 2011 Census Town Profiles aim to provide an overview of the socio-economic conditions within each of the six towns of Sandwell, and their constituent wards.

Further analysis and data is available on [Sandwell Trends](#).

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## Smethwick Town Wards



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## Population Change & Structure

Since 2001, Sandwell's population has increased by 8.9%. However, there has been a large variation by ward, and whilst most wards have seen an increase in population, some have seen a fall.

- The rise in population in Smethwick town is greater than that of Sandwell, and all wards within the town have seen an increase. This increase in the number of residents is the largest of the six towns.
- There has been a disproportionate increase in Soho & Victoria ward (+31.8%), the largest rise of all Sandwell wards.

### Population Change by Broad Age Band 2001-2011

	Under 20			20-64			65 & over			All Ages		
	2001	2011	% Change	2001	2011	% Change	2001	2011	% Change	2001	2011	% Change
Abbey	2,612	2,687	+2.9	7,121	7,570	+6.3	1,672	1,495	-10.6	11,405	11,752	+3.0
St. Pauls	4,097	4,634	+13.1	6,909	8,096	+17.2	1,423	1,496	+5.1	12,429	14,226	+14.5
Smethwick	3,616	3,978	+10.0	7,264	8,109	+11.6	2,357	2,059	-12.6	13,237	14,146	+6.9
Soho & Victoria	3,922	5,165	+31.7	6,105	8,441	+38.3	1,383	1,436	+3.8	11,410	15,042	+31.8
TOWN	14,247	16,464	+15.6	27,399	32,216	+17.6	6,835	6,486	-5.1	48,481	55,166	+13.8
SANDWELL	75,762	82,416	+8.8	160,571	178,806	+11.4	46,571	46,841	+0.7	282,904	308,063	+8.9

Source: 2001 & 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

In terms of broad age groups, Smethwick town has seen an increase in the younger age groups, with under 20s and 20-64 year olds rising by 15.6% and 17.6% between 2001 and 2011. However, the proportion aged 65 & over has fallen by 5.1%.

- Soho & Victoria ward has seen a particularly large increase in the younger age groups, with a 31.7% increase in the proportion aged under 20, and a 38.3% increase in the number aged 20-64 (the largest increase of all Sandwell wards for both of these age groups). There has also been a rise in those aged 65 & over.
- Smethwick and St. Pauls Wards have also seen increases of over 10% among the under 20s and 20-64 year olds.
- Both Smethwick and Abbey Wards have seen a large fall in the proportion of the population aged 65 & over since 2001 (-12.6% and -10.6% respectively) - the second and third largest falls of all Sandwell wards.

Smethwick town has a total population of 55,166 in 2011, and makes up 17.9% of Sandwell's total population - an increase on the proportion in 2001 (17.1%). Of the four wards which comprise the town, the largest is Soho & Victoria ward, with 15,042 residents.

- This makes Soho & Victoria ward the most populous in Sandwell, whilst Abbey is the borough's second smallest in terms of population.

### Population by Age 2011

	0-15		16-24		25-44		45-59		60-74		75+		All Ages
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Abbey	2,198	18.7	1,250	10.6	4,175	35.5	2,126	18.1	1,282	10.9	721	6.1	11,752
St. Pauls	3,776	26.5	1,947	13.7	4,414	31.0	2,103	14.8	1,278	9.0	708	5.0	14,226
Smethwick	3,215	22.7	1,760	12.4	4,140	29.3	2,348	16.6	1,678	11.9	1,005	7.1	14,146
Soho & Victoria	4,211	28.0	2,116	14.1	4,832	32.1	2,035	13.5	1,085	7.2	763	5.1	15,042
TOWN	13,400	24.3	7,073	12.8	17,561	31.8	8,612	15.6	5,323	9.6	3,197	5.8	55,166
SANDWELL	66,234	21.5	36,975	12.0	87,899	28.5	54,884	17.8	39,750	12.9	22,321	7.2	308,063

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

The population profile of the town in terms of age structure is markedly different to Sandwell overall - in particular the proportion of 60-74 year olds is lower than the borough average, whilst the proportion of under 16s and 25-44 year olds is higher. There is also some variation when considering the wards that make up the town.

- Abbey has a much smaller proportion of under 16s than average (18.7% compared with 24.3% for the town), but a larger proportion of those aged 25-44 (35.5% compared with 31.8%).
- St. Pauls has a higher proportion of under 16s than both the town and Sandwell averages (26.5% compared with 24.3% and 21.5% respectively). The proportion of over 75s in the ward is the lowest of all Sandwell wards.
- Smethwick ward has an older age profile than the town overall, with lower proportions in the under 45 age groups, and higher in the age groups 45 & over.
- In contrast, the population of Soho & Victoria is younger than the town overall. At 28.0%, the proportion of under 16s is the highest of all Sandwell wards, as is the proportion aged 16-24.

## Household Characteristics

Since 2001, Sandwell overall has seen an increase of 5.3% in the number of households, compared with 5.5% in Smethwick town - this is perhaps surprising considering the large population growth in the area. Within the town, Soho & Victoria ward has seen the largest increase at 17.7%, whilst both Abbey and Smethwick wards have seen a small decline in the number of households.

## Household Composition 2011

	One person HHs <sup>1</sup>				Couple Households		Lone Parents				All Other Households		Total HHs
	Non-Pensioners		Lone Pensioners				Dependent children		Non-dependent children only				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Abbey	1,028	20.3	537	10.6	2,153	42.6	382	7.6	175	3.5	778	15.4	5,053
St. Pauls	643	14.0	459	10.0	1,738	37.8	498	10.8	252	5.5	1,007	21.9	4,597
Smethwick	918	17.1	760	14.2	1,904	35.5	547	10.2	280	5.2	961	17.9	5,370
Soho & Victoria	1,045	20.2	513	9.9	1,624	31.5	692	13.4	253	4.9	1,034	20.0	5,161
TOWN	3,634	18.0	2,269	11.2	7,419	36.8	2,119	10.5	960	4.8	3,780	18.7	20,181
SANDWELL	20,359	16.8	15,576	12.8	49,817	41.0	10,915	9.0	5,502	4.5	19,329	15.9	121,498

<sup>1</sup> HHs = Households

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

Considering household composition, the profile of Smethwick town differs from Sandwell overall, with a lower proportion of couple households (36.8% compared with 41.0%) and a higher proportion of 'all other households', which includes households made up of unrelated adults or more than one family.

- Abbey and Soho & Victoria have a large proportion of single person households (non-pensioners) compared with the town overall. These wards are within the top 4 in Sandwell on this indicator.
- At 14.2%, Smethwick has a large proportion of lone pensioner households, whilst Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls have amongst the lowest proportions in the Borough. This is due to the age profiles of these wards.
- Couple households (both married and co-habiting) are more prevalent in Abbey (42.6% compared with 36.8% in Smethwick town).
- At 13.4%, Soho & Victoria ward has the highest proportion of lone parents (with dependent children) of all Sandwell wards, whilst Abbey is amongst the lowest (7.6%).
- St. Pauls and Soho & Victoria both have more than a fifth of households within the 'all other households' category. These are the highest proportions of all Sandwell wards.

## Ethnic Background

The ethnic makeup of Sandwell has seen extensive changes since 2001. Just under two-thirds of Sandwell residents now class themselves as being of White British origin, and a further 4.1% are of Other White origin (which includes Irish and Gypsy Travellers). 30.1% of Sandwell's population are from other ethnic backgrounds. These Sandwell figures compare with England & Wales averages of 80.5%, 5.5% and 14% respectively.

With the exception of Smethwick, Sandwell towns have seen increases in the proportion of residents in all Minority Ethnic groups, and a contrasting decline in the White British group since 2001. The White British population in Smethwick town has fallen from 54.6% in 2001 to 37.9% in 2011. There has also been a decrease in the proportions of Indian and Black Caribbean residents in the town, and the Indian population has fallen in actual numbers (albeit a small decrease at -81). However there has been a contrasting increase in the Pakistani population in Smethwick town (from 8.3% in 2001 to 12.6% in 2011, an increase of +2,904 in number).

### Population by Ethnic Group 2011: White & Asian Groups

	White				Asian or Asian British							
	British		Other		Indian		Pakistani		Bangladeshi		Chinese & Asian Other	
	No.	%			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	8,038	68.4	1,040	8.8	669	5.7	286	2.4	27	0.2	289	2.5
St. Pauls	3,598	25.3	654	4.6	3,224	22.7	2,181	15.3	1,716	12.1	701	4.9
Smethwick	6,487	45.9	641	4.5	2,385	16.9	1,318	9.3	224	1.6	595	4.2
Soho & Victoria	2,798	18.6	1,056	7.0	2,381	15.8	3,154	21.0	314	2.1	1,032	6.9
TOWN	20,921	37.9	3,391	6.1	8,659	15.7	6,939	12.6	2,281	4.1	2,617	4.7
SANDWELL	202,822	65.8	12,649	4.1	31,400	10.2	13,952	4.5	6,588	2.1	7,318	2.4

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

### Population by Ethnic Group 2011: Other Ethnic Groups

	Mixed		Black or Black British						Arab		Other Ethnic Group	
			Black Caribbean		Black African		Black Other					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	589	5.0	428	3.6	195	1.7	71	0.6	26	0.2	94	0.8
St. Pauls	490	3.4	792	5.6	203	1.4	153	1.1	37	0.3	477	3.4
Smethwick	731	5.2	788	5.6	314	2.2	199	1.4	41	0.3	423	3.0
Soho & Victoria	770	5.1	1,354	9.0	1,008	6.7	535	3.6	138	0.9	502	3.3
TOWN	2,580	4.7	3,362	6.1	1,720	3.1	958	1.7	242	0.4	1,496	2.7
SANDWELL	10,199	3.3	11,382	3.7	4,396	1.4	2,579	0.8	901	0.3	3,877	1.3

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

Smethwick town has the highest ranked proportion of residents from Minority Ethnic groups in Sandwell (that is, all ethnic groups other than White British). These groups make up 62.1% of the town's population, which is considerably higher than West Bromwich town which ranks second with 40.9% of its population from Minority Ethnic groups.

- Three of the four wards in Smethwick town have a high proportion of residents from Minority Ethnic Groups, with Soho & Victoria, St. Pauls and Smethwick wards ranked first, second and fourth for this indicator across all Sandwell wards. In Soho & Victoria 81.4% of residents are from groups other than White British.
- Soho & Victoria ward has the highest ranked proportions of people from the Pakistani, Chinese & Other, and Black ethnic groups, out of all wards in Sandwell. The largest of these groups is Pakistani residents, which make up 21.0% of the ward's population.
- St. Pauls ward has the highest ranked proportions of people from Indian, Bangladeshi and Other Ethnic Groups (out of all Sandwell wards). 22.7% of St. Pauls residents are of Indian origin.
- Abbey ward is ranked second highest of all Sandwell wards in terms of population from Other White groups (at 8.8% of residents), and Soho & Victoria ranks third (7.0%).

### Religion 2011

	Christian		Sikh		Muslim		Hindu		Other Religion		No Religion		Not Stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	6,583	56.0	546	4.6	473	4.0	150	1.3	110	0.9	3,164	26.9	726	6.2
St. Pauls	4,057	28.5	3,194	22.5	4,222	29.7	461	3.2	107	0.8	1,377	9.7	808	5.7
Smethwick	6,127	43.3	2,529	17.9	1,958	13.8	313	2.2	122	0.9	2,173	15.4	924	6.5
Soho & Victoria	5,084	33.8	2,188	14.5	5,096	33.9	405	2.7	120	0.8	1,324	8.8	825	5.5
TOWN	21,851	39.6	8,457	15.3	11,749	21.3	1,329	2.4	459	0.8	8,038	14.6	3,283	6.0
SANDWELL	170,075	55.2	26,934	8.7	25,251	8.2	6,810	2.2	2,543	0.8	57,716	18.7	18,734	6.1

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

In terms of religion, 55.2% of Sandwell residents are Christian, lower than the national average of 59.3%. This has fallen considerably since 2001, when 68.6% of Sandwell residents said they were Christian.

Smethwick town overall has a much lower proportion of Christian residents compared to Sandwell (the lowest of the six towns), but is considerably higher in terms of Sikh and Muslim religious affiliations (ranking highest of the towns on both indicators). Only 14.6% of Smethwick residents stated they follow no religion - the lowest of all Sandwell towns.

- St. Pauls, Soho & Victoria and Smethwick ward rank lowest out of all Sandwell wards in terms of the proportion of Christian residents, with less than three in ten Soho & Victoria residents affiliating with Christianity.
- St. Pauls has a high proportion of Sikhs compared to the rest of the town (22.5% compared with a Smethwick town average of 15.3%), which ranks highest of all Sandwell wards. Smethwick ward ranks second highest of all wards on this indicator.
- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls feature in the top two Sandwell wards in terms of Muslim residents, with more than a third of Soho & Victoria residents stating they are affiliated with this religion.
- 26.9% of Abbey residents state they follow no religion, the highest of all Sandwell wards.

### Country of Birth and Household Language 2011

	Country of Birth								Household Language			
	UK		Ireland		Other EU		Other		All in HH have English as main language		None in HH have English as main language	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	9,895	84.2	206	1.8	520	4.4	1,131	9.6	4520	89.5	255	5.0
St. Pauls	9,026	63.4	36	0.3	616	4.3	4,548	32.0	2640	57.4	837	18.2
Smethwick	10,416	73.6	95	0.7	510	3.6	3,125	22.1	4020	74.9	631	11.8
Soho & Victoria	8,641	57.4	90	0.6	923	6.1	5,388	35.8	3026	58.6	1011	19.6
TOWN	37,978	68.8	427	0.8	2,569	4.7	14,192	25.7	14,206	70.4	2,734	13.5
SANDWELL	258,993	84.1	1,482	0.5	9,859	3.2	37,729	12.2	104,845	86.3	7,425	6.1

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

When considering country of birth, 84.6% of Sandwell residents were born in the United Kingdom or Ireland, compared with 87.3% nationally. One in eight Sandwell residents were born in a country outside the European Union. Smethwick town is well below the Sandwell average and national average in terms of the proportion of residents who were born in the United Kingdom, and ranks lowest of the Borough's six towns.

- In contrast, the town ranks highest for residents born in Ireland, other EU countries and for those born outside of the European Union.

- Less than 3 in 5 Soho & Victoria residents were born in the UK, which is the lowest proportion of all Sandwell wards. St. Pauls has the second lowest proportion for this indicator, with 63.4% of residents having been born in the UK.
- 1.8% of Abbey residents were born in Ireland, the highest proportion of all Sandwell wards.
- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls both have high proportions of residents born outside the EU (the highest of all Sandwell wards). Around a third of residents in both wards were born in countries outside of the EU.
- Soho & Victoria also has a relatively high proportion of residents born in EU countries other than the UK or Ireland, at 6.1% this ranks second highest. 4.8% of residents in this ward were born in countries that have joined the EU since 2001.

The 2011 Census collected information for the first time on main language and English language skills. It should be noted that people who did not report English as a main language may be fluent English speakers. In Smethwick town, 13.5% of households have no residents who have English as a main language - well above the average for the Borough, and the highest of the six towns.

- Within the town, Abbey has the highest proportion of households where all residents have English as a main language (89.5% compared with a Sandwell average of 86.3%).
- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls have high proportions of households where no residents have English as a main language, and rank in the top two Sandwell wards on this indicator. This reflects residents' country of birth.



## Economic Status & Qualifications

### Economically Active

A resident is considered economically active if employed, self-employed, unemployed but looking for work and able to start within two weeks, or a full-time student who also has a job. Smethwick town has the lowest proportion of residents (aged 16-74) who are economically active out of the six towns (65.1%) and St. Pauls ward has the lowest proportion of all wards in Sandwell (60.9%). At 8.2%, the town has the second highest unemployment rate (among 16-74 year olds), only just below Tipton town. Within the town:

- Abbey ward has a high proportion of residents in full time employment (47.1%), this is the highest of all Sandwell wards.
- Unemployment is higher than the Sandwell average in all wards except Abbey. Soho & Victoria has the highest rate of unemployment of all Sandwell wards (10.2% of 16-74 year olds).

### Economic Activity 2011 (Residents aged 16-74)

	Economically Active					Economically Inactive					All aged 16-74
	Employees:		Self-employed %	Un-employed %	Full-time student %	Retired %	Student %	Looking after home or family %	Long term sick/disabled %	Other %	
	Full-time %	Part-time %									
Abbey	47.1	13.6	7.2	5.6	2.9	10.2	5.1	3.3	3.1	2.0	8,833
St. Pauls	28.5	13.6	6.3	8.6	3.9	9.5	8.5	9.0	6.6	5.5	9,742
Smethwick	32.2	13.4	6.0	8.0	3.7	12.0	6.8	7.0	6.6	4.4	9,926
Soho & Victoria	26.9	12.7	6.6	10.2	4.5	7.2	9.6	9.0	6.9	6.2	10,068
TOWN	33.3	13.3	6.5	8.2	3.8	9.7	7.6	7.2	5.9	4.6	38,569
SANDWELL	37.1	13.6	6.0	7.3	2.9	13.0	5.3	5.9	5.8	3.2	219,508

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

### Economically Inactive

In contrast, Smethwick town has the highest rate of economic inactivity (34.9%) of the six towns. However, the proportion of residents aged 16-74 who are retired is the lowest of the six towns.

There are a greater proportion of students and more residents 'looking after the home or family', and 'other' reasons for economic inactivity in the town than in Sandwell as a whole. These groups are particularly high in Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls wards, the highest of all Sandwell wards.

## Highest Level of Qualification of usual residents aged 16 & over

	No Qualifications		Level 1		Level 2		Apprenticeships		Level 3		Level 4 or above		% Other Qualifications	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	2,081	21.8	1,120	11.7	1,203	12.6	221	2.3	1,080	11.3	3,320	34.7	529	5.5
St. Pauls	3,903	37.3	1,404	13.4	1,258	12.0	141	1.3	941	9.0	1,536	14.7	1,267	12.1
Smethwick	4,147	37.9	1,471	13.5	1,398	12.8	212	1.9	1,068	9.8	1,581	14.5	1,054	9.6
Soho & Victoria	3,865	35.7	1,473	13.6	1,291	11.9	125	1.2	943	8.7	1,778	16.4	1,356	12.5
TOWN	13,996	33.5	5,468	13.1	5,150	12.3	699	1.7	4,032	9.7	8,215	19.7	4,206	10.1
SANDWELL	85,040	35.2	34,723	14.4	35,543	14.7	6,451	2.7	25,245	10.4	37,151	15.4	17,676	7.3

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

### Qualifications

The table shows the highest level of academic, vocational or professional qualifications obtained by residents aged 16 and over. Briefly, the categories are as follows:

- No qualifications: No formal qualifications;
- Level 1: 1-4 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications;
- Level 2: 5 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications;
- Apprenticeships;
- Level 3: 2 or more A-levels or equivalent qualifications;
- Level 4 or above: Bachelors degree or equivalent, and higher qualifications;
- Other qualifications including foreign qualifications.

The qualifications information in the 2011 Census is not directly comparable with that in 2001 because it includes all people over 16, in 2001, it only covered those aged 16-74.

Smethwick town has a higher proportion of residents with qualifications at level 4 or above (degree or higher) than Sandwell as a whole, this is because Abbey ward has a particularly high proportion (34.7%), the highest of all Sandwell wards. Soho & Victoria ward has a slightly higher proportion of residents qualified to level 4 or above than the Sandwell average.

The town has a slightly lower proportion of residents with no qualifications than Sandwell as a whole, it is much lower in Abbey ward, but slightly higher in the other three wards.

The 2011 Census asked for the first time whether any qualifications had been gained outside the UK. Smethwick town has the largest proportion of residents with foreign qualifications (11.3%, 4733 residents). Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls wards have the highest proportions in the Borough (14.9% and 13.2% respectively).

## Transport

In 2011, 33.9% of Sandwell households do not have access to a car or van, which has fallen from 37.5% in 2001. Car ownership levels in Smethwick town overall are considerably lower than the Sandwell average, with a total of 16,086 cars and vans available to households living within the town.

- Over half of households in Soho & Victoria are without a car or van in the town, the highest of all Sandwell wards. Smethwick and St. Pauls also rank in the top five Sandwell wards on this indicator.
- None of the wards in Smethwick town have a high proportion of households with access to 2 or more cars or vans (all are in the bottom eight of all Sandwell wards on this indicator). Although a relatively low proportion of households in Abbey are without a car, households in this ward are more likely to have 1 car than 2 or more.

## Car Ownership 2011

	HHs <sup>1</sup> without a car or van		HHs with 1 car or van		HHs with 2 or more cars or vans	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	1,635	32.4	2,351	46.5	1,067	21.1
St. Pauls	1,794	39.0	1,982	43.1	821	17.8
Smethwick	2,370	44.1	2,104	39.2	896	16.7
Soho & Victoria	2,600	50.4	1,910	37.0	651	12.6
TOWN	8,399	41.6	8,347	41.4	3,435	17.0
SANDWELL	41,197	33.9	51,922	42.7	28,379	23.4

<sup>1</sup> Households

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

## Health & Provision of Unpaid Care

In 2011, those reporting a long term health problem or disability (including those related to age) that limited their day-to-day activities and that had lasted, or was expected to last, at least 12 months, were asked to assess whether their daily activities were limited a lot, a little or not at all by such a health problem. In Smethwick town, 9.4% of residents said they were limited a little, whilst 9.6% said they were limited a lot, lower than the Sandwell average, and the lowest proportion of the six towns.

- Abbey ward fares well on this indicator, at 8.8% and 7.0% respectively - the lowest of Sandwell's wards on both indicators. Soho & Victoria is also amongst the best wards in Sandwell in terms of limiting long term illness.
- Smethwick ward is considerably higher than the town average in terms of those whose daily activities are limited a lot (12.0% compared with 9.6%).

Residents were asked to assess their general state of health on a five point scale: very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. Residents of Smethwick town tend to consider themselves healthier than Sandwell residents in general.

- Abbey ward is high in terms of those stating their level of health is good or very good - at 82.6% this is the highest of the Sandwell wards. Abbey also has the lowest proportion of residents who are long term sick or disabled in Sandwell.
- 9.0% of residents of Smethwick ward consider their health to be bad or very bad, the second highest of the wards in Sandwell.

A person is a provider of unpaid care if they look after or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. 9.4% of Smethwick town residents provide unpaid care, lower than the Sandwell average.

- At 8.1%, the proportion who provide unpaid care in Soho & Victoria is the lowest of all Sandwell wards.

## Health Indicators 2011

	Limited Long-term Illness		Level of Health			% Long-term Sick/ Disabled <sup>1</sup>	Provides Unpaid Care	
	% with Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% with Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Good or Very Good	% Fair	% Bad or Very Bad		% Providing Care	% Providing 50 hours a week or more
Abbey	7.0	8.8	82.6	12.7	4.7	3.1	9.2	2.1
St. Pauls	9.6	9.4	78.2	14.2	7.5	6.6	9.3	2.8
Smethwick	12.0	10.4	74.9	16.1	9.0	6.6	10.9	3.4
Soho & Victoria	9.5	8.9	77.9	13.8	8.3	6.9	8.1	2.4
TOWN	9.6	9.4	78.2	14.2	7.5	5.9	9.4	2.7
SANDWELL	10.8	10.1	76.7	15.6	7.7	5.8	10.9	3.2

<sup>1</sup> As a % of those aged 16 to 74  
Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

## Housing

The Census asks various questions relating to housing, including, the type of accommodation people live in, its tenure (whether the household owns or rents their accommodation), whether it has central heating and how many rooms it has. The occupancy ratings of rooms and bedrooms are indicators of deprivation and overcrowding in a household. An occupancy rating of -1 implies that there is one room too few for the number of people living in the household (*shown as % overcrowded on the table*).

Nationally, the Census has shown an increase in private rented accommodation, a fall in owner occupation and a shift in the social rented sector from councils to other registered social landlords since 2001. Smethwick town has the highest proportion of households in private rented accommodation in the Borough (nearly 20%), having more than doubled since 2001, and the second lowest proportion in both social rented and owner occupation.

## Housing Indicators 2011

	Tenure (% of households)				Dwelling Type				Suitability of Accommodation	
	% Owner-occupied	% Social Rented <sup>1</sup>	% Private Rented <sup>2</sup>	% Shared Ownership	Total household spaces	Vacant %	Detached %	Terraced %	% HHS <sup>3</sup> lacking central heating	% Over-crowded HHS <sup>4</sup>
Abbey	64.7	9.3	24.2	0.4	5,328	5.2	3.5	62.1	5.1	6.2
St. Pauls	56.8	20.9	19.5	0.7	4,811	4.4	7.7	41.6	4.1	14.2
Smethwick	49.4	31.5	15.7	0.5	5,576	3.7	6.4	42.8	3.9	10.8
Soho & Victoria	37.6	38.1	20.5	0.6	5,353	3.6	7.8	43.6	3.2	18.4
TOWN	51.9	25.2	19.9	0.5	21,068	4.2	6.3	47.6	4.1	12.4
SANDWELL	56.9	27.5	12.9	0.6	127,196	4.5	11.2	26.2	3.4	8.7

<sup>1</sup> Social Rented includes Social Rented: from Council and Social Rented: Other

<sup>2</sup> Private Rented includes Private Rented: from private landlord or letting agency and Private Rented: Other

<sup>3</sup> Households

<sup>4</sup> Households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics.

- Abbey has the highest level of owner occupation (64.7%), whilst Soho & Victoria has the lowest (37.6%).
- All wards have a higher proportion of households in private rented accommodation than the Borough as a whole, and all have seen a large increase in private renting since 2001. Abbey, which has the highest proportion, is almost double the Sandwell average. Nearly a quarter of households in this ward are in private rented accommodation.
- Soho & Victoria has the greatest proportion of households in social rented accommodation (38.1%), it also has a high proportion in private rented (20.5%). At 9.3%, Abbey has the lowest proportion in social rented accommodation of all Sandwell wards.

The vacancy rate for Smethwick town is similar to the Sandwell average, it is highest in Abbey ward. There is a lower proportion of detached properties and a significantly higher proportion of terraced properties in the town than in Sandwell overall. A slightly higher proportion of dwellings have no central heating and there is a higher proportion of overcrowded households (12.4% compared with 8.7% for Sandwell).

- Overcrowding is higher than the Sandwell average in all wards except Abbey, but it is particularly high in Soho & Victoria (18.4% of households have an occupancy rating of -1 or less).
- There is a very high proportion of terraced housing in all wards. It is particularly high in Abbey ward (62.1%).

Further Census data for Sandwell's wards is available on Sandwell Trends at:

<http://www.sandwelltrends.info/themedpages/Census2011>

or contact the team for more information:



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