



Research Note

December 2012

2011 Census: Sandwell Results

A population count or Census has taken place once a decade in England and Wales since 1801 (except 1941). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the census in England and Wales, and carried out the most recent in March 2011.

This briefing note summarises the key results that have been released at a Local Authority level. Further analysis and data is available on [Sandwell Trends](#).

Population Change & Structure

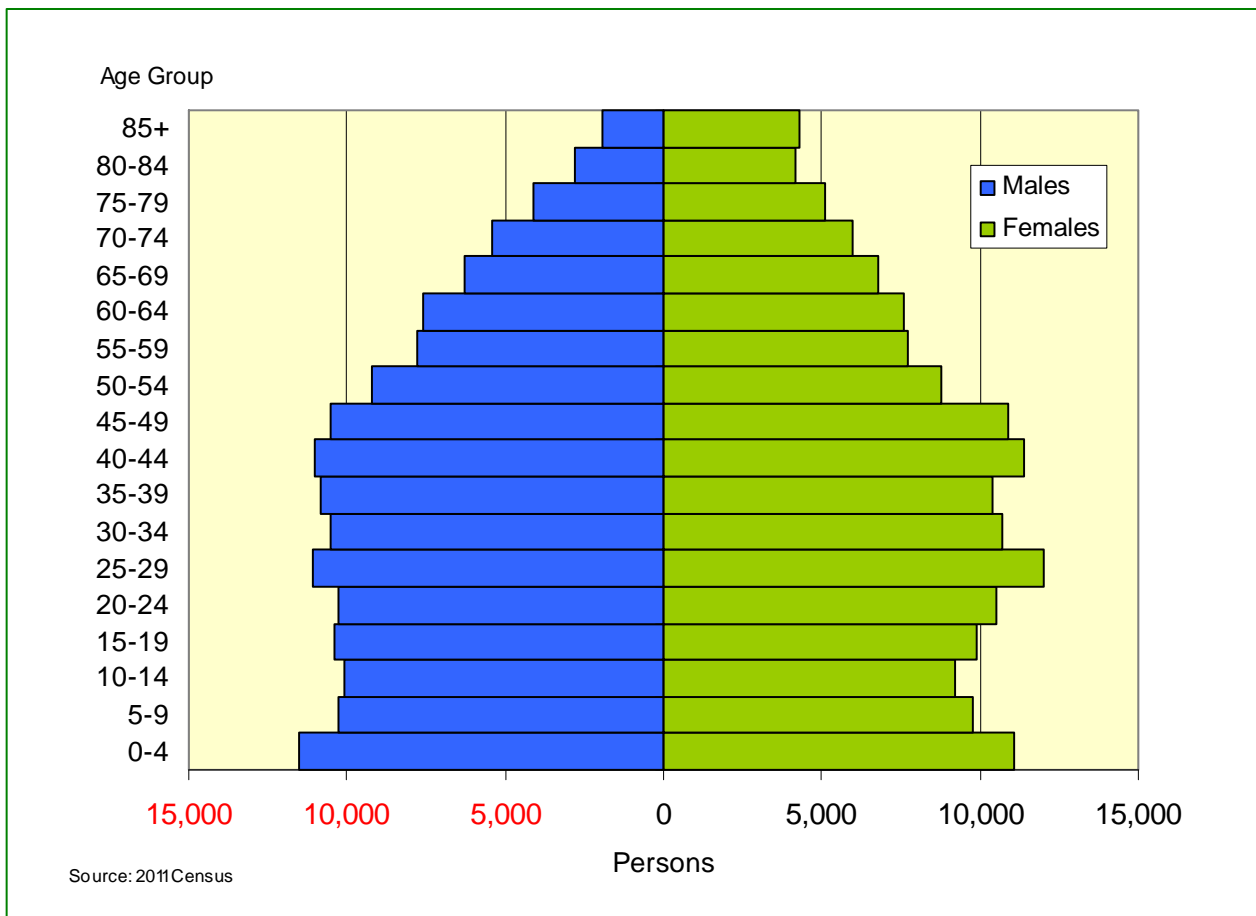
The 2011 Census estimates that Sandwell has 308,063 residents, a rise of 8.9% since 2001. This compares with a rise of 7.8% in England and Wales. This increase reverses the previous decline experienced since 1971.

- 151,592 (49.2%) of these residents are male and 156,471 (50.8%) female. Since 2001, the largest percentage increase has been amongst males (+11.1%).

In terms of age groups, in 2011:

- Under 5s now make up 7.4% of Sandwell's population, compared with 6.2% in England and Wales.
- The largest percentage increases have been in the numbers aged 20-24 (+33.2%), 45-49 (+30%), 85 and over (+27.4%) and under 5s (+24.8%).
- Since 2001, the greatest increases in actual numbers of residents are amongst those aged 20-24 (+5,188) and 45-49 (+4,937).
- Few age groups have seen a fall in population, but the largest falls are in the numbers aged 75-79 (-7.4%) and 30-34 (-5.8%).

Graph 1: Population by Age 2011: Sandwell



Sandwell's total population is the second largest of the Black Country authorities, and Sandwell has seen the largest percentage increase in population since 2001 (+8.9% compared with +6.2% in Walsall, +5.4% in Wolverhampton and +2.5% in Dudley).

- Overall, Sandwell's age profile is younger in comparison with the Black Country and national averages (more than one in five of Sandwell's population is aged 0-14 compared with 17.6% in England & Wales), and shares similarities with neighbouring Birmingham.

Table 1: Age Structure - Comparator Data

Age Group	0-14	15-24	25-39	40-64	65-74	75+	All Ages
Sandwell	20.2%	13.3%	21.3%	30.0%	8.0%	7.3%	308,063
Dudley	17.7%	12.1%	18.2%	33.4%	10.1%	8.5%	312,925
Walsall	19.6%	13.1%	18.9%	31.6%	9.1%	7.9%	269,323
Wolverhampton	18.5%	13.9%	20.5%	30.8%	8.3%	8.0%	249,470
Birmingham	21.4%	16.2%	22.0%	27.4%	6.5%	6.3%	1,073,045
Black Country	19.0%	13.1%	19.7%	31.5%	8.9%	7.9%	1,139,781
West Midlands County	19.8%	14.8%	20.5%	29.8%	7.9%	7.3%	2,736,460
England & Wales	17.6%	13.1%	20.1%	32.7%	8.7%	7.8%	56,075,912

Source: 2011 Census

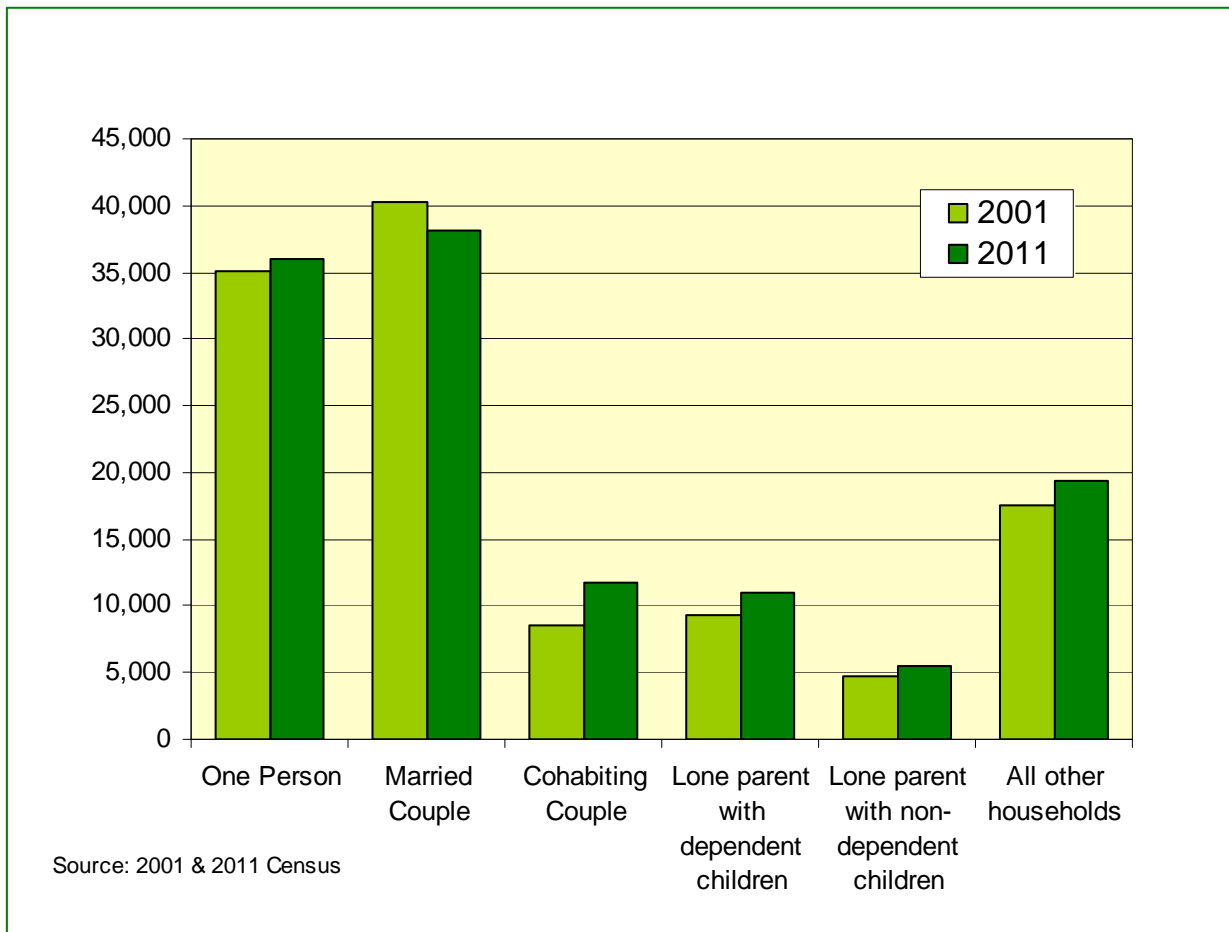
- Sandwell is below average in terms of those over retirement age, with only 8% aged 65-74 and 7.3% aged 75+, compared with 8.9% & 7.9% in the Black Country overall, and 8.7% and 7.8% nationally.

Household Characteristics

There are 121,498 households with residents in Sandwell, a rise of 5.3% since 2001. The average household size in Sandwell is 2.5, which ranks 19th in England & Wales out of 348 Local Authorities (where 1 is highest).

- 305,928 Sandwell residents live in households, whilst 2,135 live in communal establishments (managed residential establishments).

Graph 2: Household Composition – Sandwell 2001-2011



In terms of household composition, in 2011, 35,935 households in Sandwell are made up of only one person.

- There has been a fall of 5.4% in the number of married couple households since 2001, whilst the largest percentage increase has been in the number of cohabiting couple households (+36.7%).

- The proportion of lone parent households (with dependent children) has increased from 8.0% in 2001 to 9.0% in 2011. Sandwell ranks 34th out of 348 Local Authorities on this indicator.

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.

Since 2001, the only group to see a decline in numbers is those of White British background (this excludes Irish and Gypsy Travellers).

- The largest increases have been amongst those of Arab and Other Ethnic origin (+781.5%), Black African (660.6%) and Other Asian groups (+230.1%). However, these groups still account for a low proportion of Sandwell residents overall (1.6%, 1.4% and 2.1% respectively).
- With the exception of White British, the largest single ethnic group in Sandwell is Asian Indian, with just over 10% of residents considering this to be their ethnic background.

Table 2: Ethnic Background – Sandwell 2001-2011

	2001		2011		% Change 2001-2011
	No.	%	No.	%	
White British	220542	78.0%	202822	65.8%	-8.0%
Other White	4936	1.7%	12649	4.1%	156.3%
Mixed	5994	2.1%	10199	3.3%	70.2%
Asian Indian	25855	9.1%	31400	10.2%	21.4%
Asian Pakistani	8342	2.9%	13952	4.5%	67.3%
Asian Bangladeshi	3432	1.2%	6588	2.1%	92.0%
Chinese	485	0.2%	839	0.3%	73.0%
Asian Other	1963	0.7%	6479	2.1%	230.1%
Black Caribbean	9403	3.3%	11382	3.7%	21.0%
Black African	578	0.2%	4396	1.4%	660.6%
Black Other	835	0.3%	2579	0.8%	208.9%
Arab	} 539 }	0.2%	901	0.3%	} 781.5%
Other Ethnic origin			3877	1.3%	

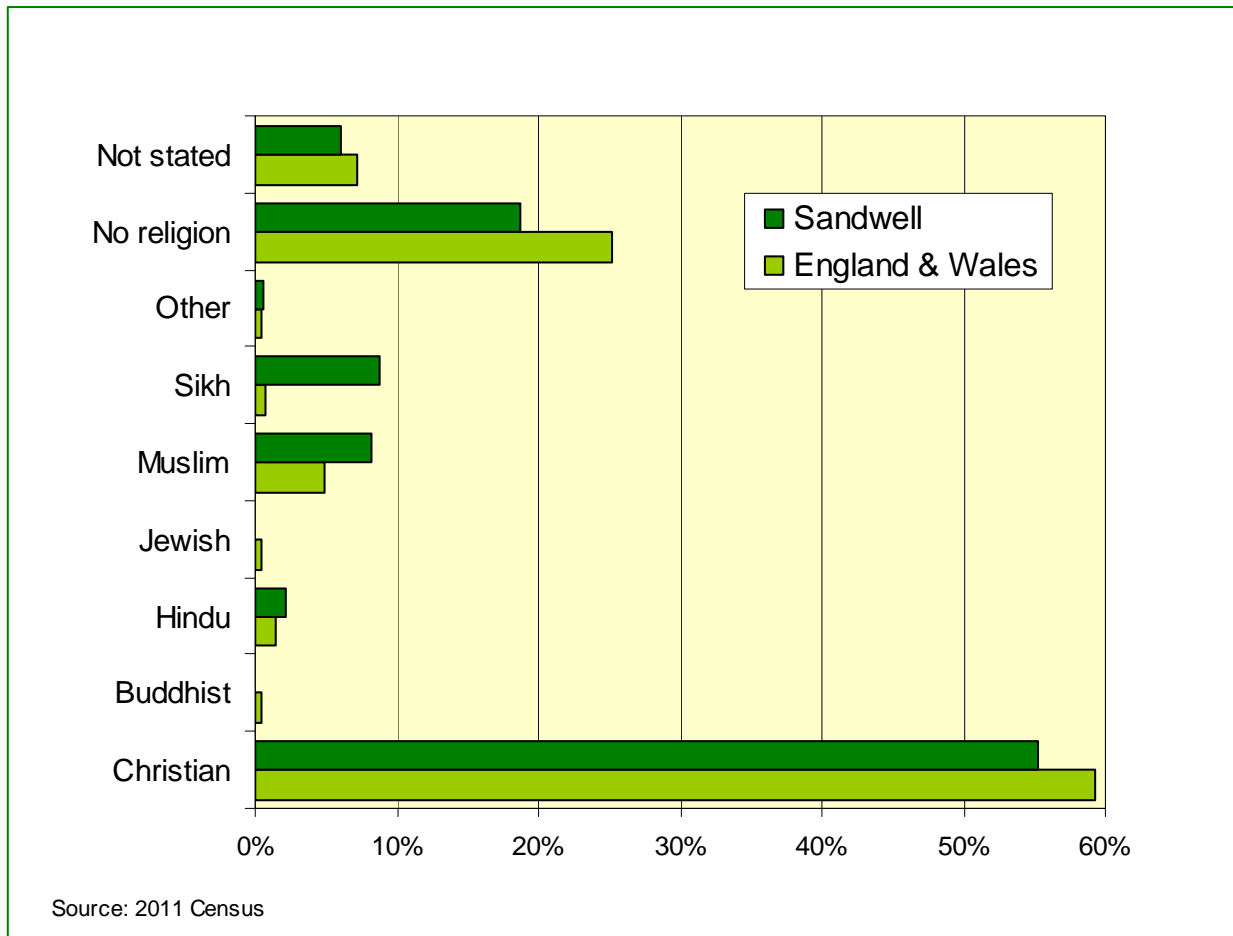
Source: 2001 & 2011 Census

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.

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.

- The largest percentage rises since 2001 have been amongst “Other” religions (+299.1%) and “No religion” (+95.8%), but there have also been large rises amongst Muslims (+93.5%) and Buddhists (+87.9%).
- 8.7% of Sandwell residents are Sikhs. Sandwell ranks 4th out of 348 Local Authorities on this indicator.

Graph 3: Religion – Sandwell and England & Wales 2011



The 2011 Census collected information for the first time on main language and English language skills. In Sandwell, all usual residents in 86.3% of households spoke English as a main language, and in a further 6.4% of households at least one adult spoke English as a main language. In 6.1% of households there were no residents who had English as a main language.

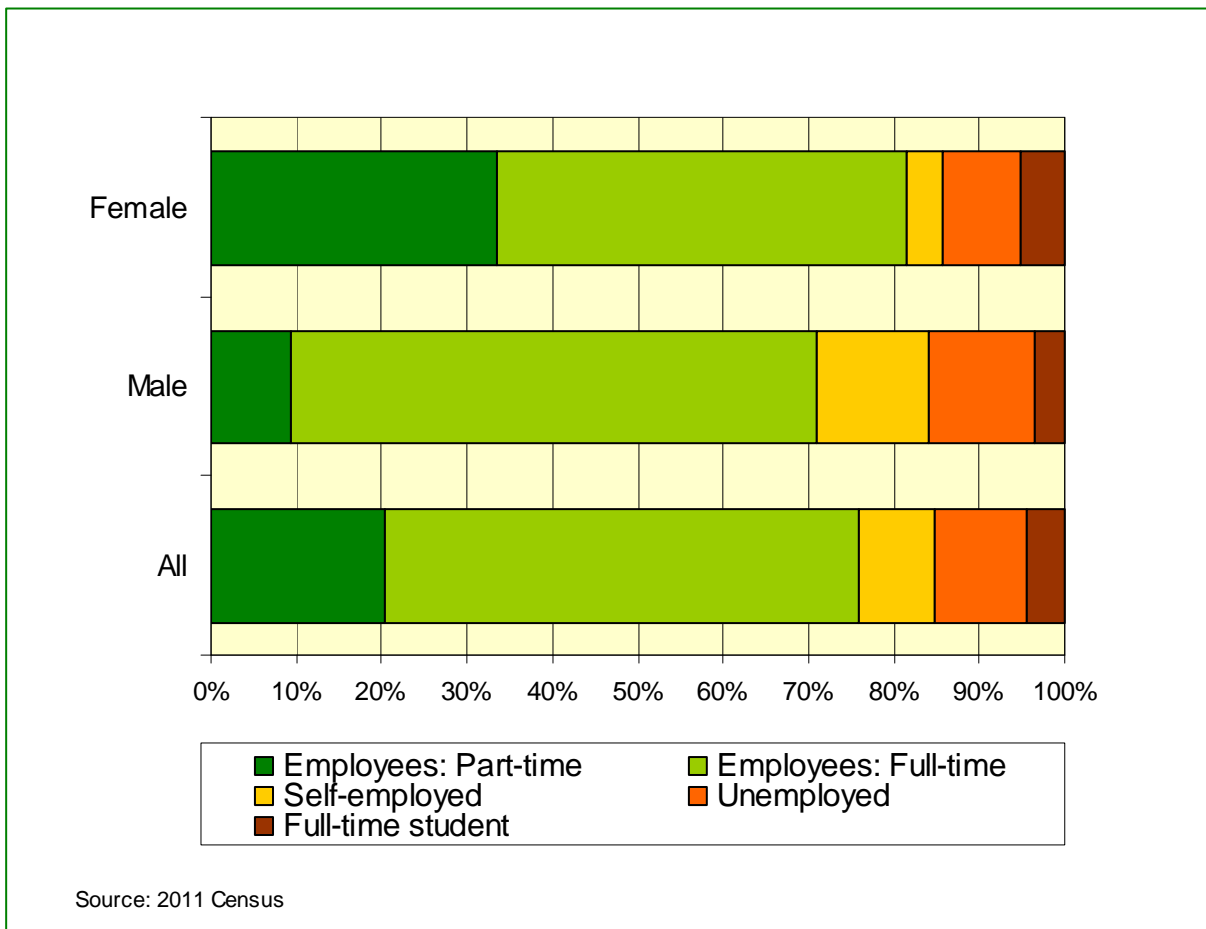
It should be noted that people who did not report English as a main language may be fluent English speakers.

Economic Status & Qualifications

Economic activity as collected by 2011 Census is not directly comparable with 2001 due to factors that include changes in the underlying classification and improvements in the questions on the census questionnaire.

For this briefing, economic activity is presented for usual residents aged between 16 and 74. A usual resident is considered economically active if employed, self-employed or unemployed but looking for work and able to start within two weeks. In 2011, two-thirds of Sandwell residents aged between 16 and 74 were economically active, compared with 69.7% in England & Wales.

Graph 4: Economically Active Residents aged 16-74 by Gender – Sandwell 2011



Sandwell’s profile of economically active residents is fairly similar to England & Wales in terms of full and part-time employees, and full-time students. However, only 9% of Sandwell’s economically active 16-74 year olds are self-employed, compared to 13.9% nationally. Also 6% of the economically active population in England and Wales aged between 16 and 74 was unemployed, compared with 10.9% in Sandwell.

- This group includes those who had never worked (1.6% of those aged 16-74), and those who reported long-term unemployment (3.2% of those aged 16-74).

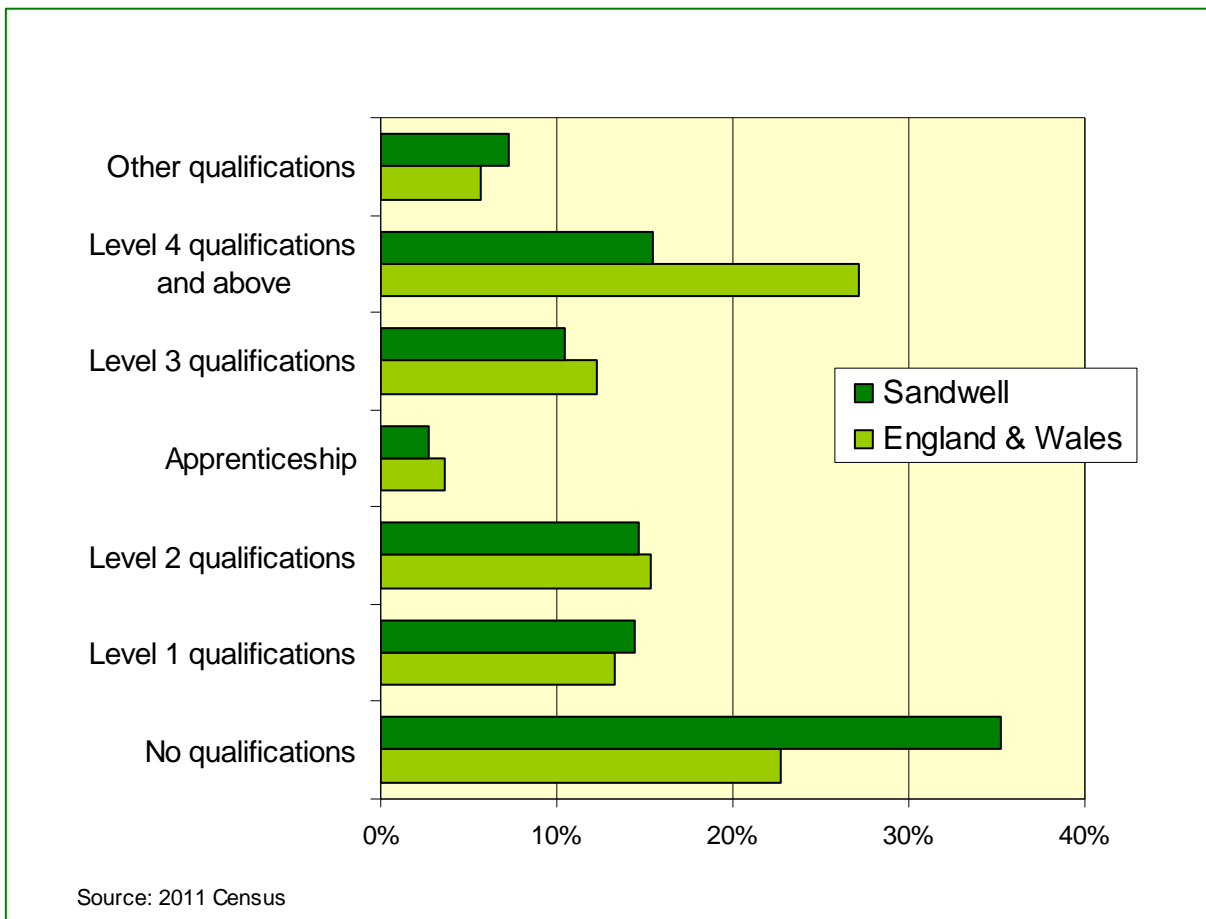
A smaller proportion of employed usual residents aged 16 to 74 in Sandwell worked 49 hours or more per week than nationally (8.9% compared with 13.2% in England & Wales). A larger proportion worked 31 to 48 hours (62.4% compared with 57.7% in England & Wales).

The qualifications classification enables estimates to be produced of the percentage of the population obtaining the highest level of the academic and vocational or professional qualifications. Although not a new question in 2011, some of the qualifications estimates are not directly comparable with 2001. This is due to multiple factors including changes in the level assigned to some qualifications, and the addition of a foreign qualification tick-box. 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.

In Sandwell 15.4% of usual residents aged 16 and over had achieved Level 4 or above qualifications in 2011, compared with 27.2% in England & Wales. Nationally, this was a higher percentage than those that had no qualifications (23%), however in Sandwell a much higher proportion (35.2%) had no qualifications. Sandwell ranks 2nd out of 348 Local Authorities on this indicator. It should be noted that the group who reported no qualifications includes those aged 16 and over who were still studying.

Graph 5: Highest Level of Qualification of usual residents aged 16 & over – Sandwell and England & Wales 2011



Transport

The 2011 Census shows that 116,304 cars or vans are available to households living in Sandwell. 33.9% of Sandwell households do not have access to a car or van, compared with 25.6% of households in England & Wales. This has fallen from 37.5% in Sandwell in 2001.

- Almost a quarter (23.4%) of Sandwell households have two or more cars or vans.

Health and Provision of Unpaid Care

Usual residents were asked to assess their general state of health on a five point scale: very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. Over three-quarters of Sandwell residents (76.7%), described themselves as being in good or very good health, compared with 81.2% in England & Wales. A further 15.6% of Sandwell residents described their health as fair, and the remaining 7.7% described their health as bad or very bad. This was not a new question in 2011 but its structure has changed, and is therefore not directly comparable with the results from 2001.

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 2001 the long term activity limiting illness response categories were yes and no. To compare 2001 and 2011, the 2011 results for 'Yes, limited a lot' and 'Yes, limited a little' must be amalgamated into a single 'Yes' response. On this basis, in Sandwell (and in England & Wales overall) the percentage of people with a long-term activity-limiting illness has changed little since 2001 – 20.9% in 2011, compared to 21.7% in 2001.

- Considering those of working age, 4.8% of 16-64 year olds in Sandwell state their daily activities are limited a lot.

Table 3: Health and Provision of Unpaid Care 2001 & 2011 Comparator Data

	Sandwell		West Midlands County	West Midlands Region	England & Wales
	2001	2011			
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	} 21.7%	10.8%	9.5%	9.1%	8.5%
Day-to-day activities limited a little		10.1%	9.7%	9.9%	9.4%
Day-to-day activities not limited		78.3%	79.1%	80.8%	81.0%
Very good health	n/a	41.9%	44.3%	45.1%	47.1%
Good health	n/a	34.8%	34.6%	34.8%	34.1%
Fair health	n/a	15.6%	14.4%	14.0%	13.2%
Bad health	n/a	5.9%	5.1%	4.7%	4.3%
Very bad health	n/a	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%
Provides no unpaid care	89.4%	89.1%	89.3%	89.0%	89.7%
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	6.3%	5.8%	6.2%	6.8%	6.5%
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	1.6%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	2.8%	3.2%	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%

Source: 2001 & 2011 Census

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.

- 10.9% of Sandwell usual residents were giving care in 2011. This is virtually the same percentage as in 2001 (10.6%). Of this group, almost half (46.8%) were giving 20 or more hours care a week (compared with 36.9% nationally), an increase of over five percentage points on 2001 (41.1%).

Housing

In Sandwell, 26.2% of households live in terraced properties in 2011, a similar proportion to England & Wales overall (24.7%).

- However only 11.2% of Sandwell households live in detached properties, compared with 22.6% nationally.

Type of tenure refers to whether the household owned or rented their accommodation. Table 4 compares the percentage of households with different tenure types in 2011 and 2001. The most frequently reported tenure types for Sandwell households in 2011 were owner occupied (56.9%), followed by renting from the council (22.7%), and renting from a private landlord (12%). This profile does differ from England & Wales considerably, where 63.6% are owner occupied, 9.4% renting from the council, and 15.3% renting privately.

Table 4: Housing Tenure – Sandwell 2001 & 2011

	2001		2011		% Change 2001-2011
	No.	%	No.	%	
Owner Occupied	68,820	59.6%	69,135	56.9%	0.5%
Shared Ownership	835	0.7%	701	0.6%	-16.0%
Rented From Council Local Authority	30,655	26.6%	27,587	22.7%	-10.0%
Rented From Other Social Landlord	4,331	3.8%	5,852	4.8%	35.1%
Rented From Private Landlord Or Letting Agency	5,345	4.6%	14,583	12.0%	172.8%
Rented Other	5,440	4.7%	3,640	3.0%	-33.1%

Source: 2001 & 2011 Census

In Sandwell, since 2001 the proportion of households in shared ownership accommodation or renting from the local authority has declined (by -16% and -10% respectively), whilst the proportion renting from private landlords has increased considerably (+172.8%). This in part reflects the sale of council properties under right-to-buy, and the subsequent growth of the private rented sector to meet demands for rental properties.

In Sandwell in 2011, there was an average of 5.1 rooms per household, compared with an average of 5.4 rooms per household for England & Wales.

- 2011 Census asked about the number of bedrooms in households for the first time. The average number of bedrooms per household in England and Wales was 2.7 – in Sandwell this was 2.6, the lowest in the West Midlands conurbation area.

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. In 2011, 8.7% of households in Sandwell had an occupancy rating of -1 or less for rooms – a similar proportion to England & Wales.

Nearly all households in Sandwell in 2011 reported that they had central heating (96.6%). In 2001, this was almost 15 percentage points lower at 81.9%. Houses built in the intervening 10 years may have had central heating as a standard feature.

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