

2021 Census Town Profile

SMETHWICK

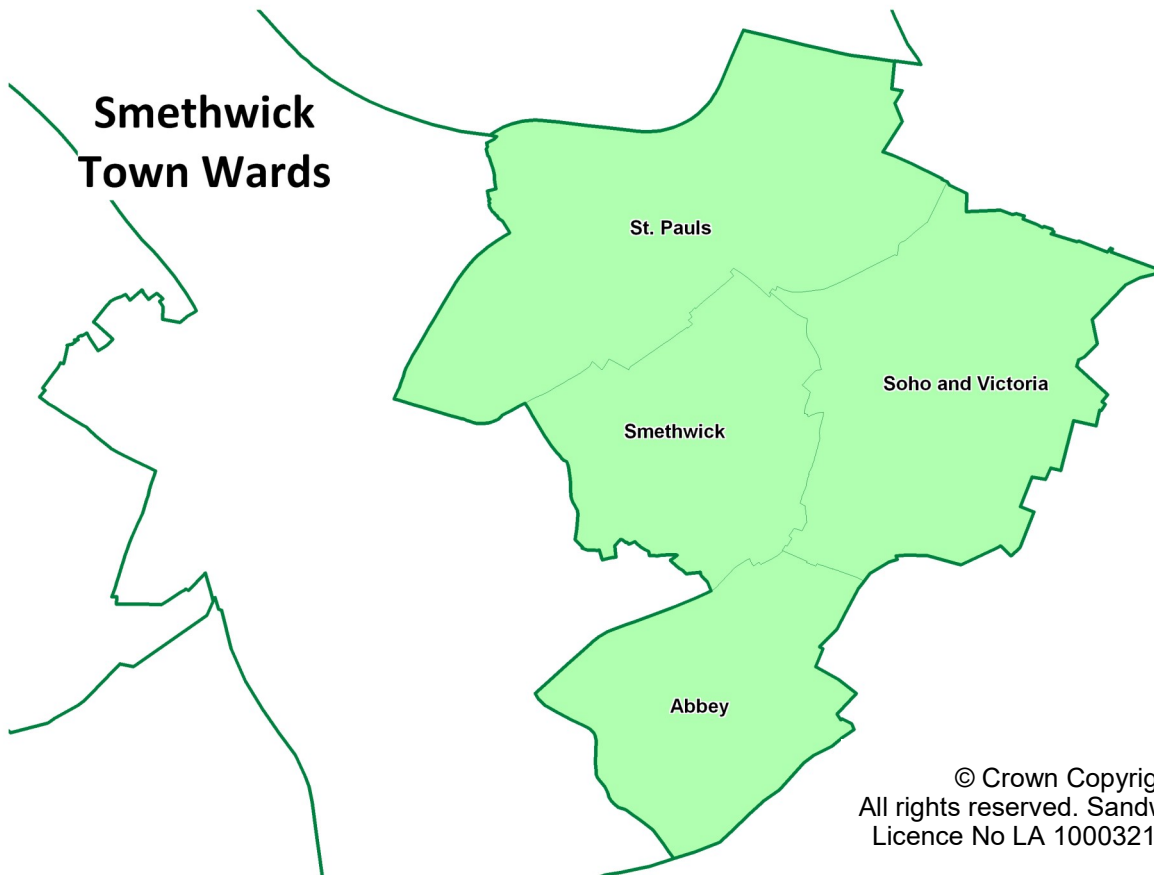
The 2021 Census Town Profiles aim to provide an overview of the socio-economic conditions within each of the six towns of Sandwell, and their constituent wards.

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

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Smethwick Town Wards



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Population Change & Structure

Since 2011, Sandwell's population has increased by 11.0%. However, there has been a large variation by ward, with the majority of wards seeing an increase in population.

- 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 (+30.5%), the largest rise of all Sandwell wards.

Population Change by Broad Age Band 2011-2021

	Under 20			20-64			65 & over			All Ages		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
Abbey	2,687	2,934	2.1	7,570	7,672	0.9	1,495	1,580	0.7	11,752	12,186	3.7
Smethwick	3,978	4,707	5.2	8,109	8,774	4.7	2,059	1,991	-0.5	14,146	15,472	9.4
Soho and Victoria	5,165	6,673	10.0	8,441	11,451	20.0	1,436	1,505	0.5	15,042	19,629	30.5
St. Pauls	4,634	5,310	4.8	8,096	9,819	12.1	1,496	1,591	0.7	14,226	16,720	17.5
TOWN	16,464	19,624	5.7	32,216	37,716	10.0	6,486	6,667	0.3	55,166	64,007	16.0
SANDWELL	82,416	93,100	3.5	178,806	199,031	6.6	46,841	49,704	0.9	308,063	341,835	11.0

Source: 2011 & 2021 Census.

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 +5.7% and +10.0% between 2011 and 2021. However, the proportion aged 65 & over has only risen by +0.3%.

- Soho & Victoria ward has seen a particularly large increase in the younger age groups, with a +10.0% increase in the proportion aged under 20, and a +20.0% 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 slight rise in those aged 65 & over.
- Smethwick ward has seen an increase of over 5% among the under 20s, whilst St. Pauls has seen a +12.1% increase in 20-64 year olds.
- Smethwick ward has seen a fall in the proportion of the population aged 65 & over since 2011 (-0.5%) - the second largest fall of all Sandwell wards.

Smethwick town has a total population of 64,007 in 2021, and makes up 18.7% of Sandwell's total population - a slight increase on the proportion in 2011 (17.9%). Of the four wards which comprise the town, the largest is Soho & Victoria ward, with 19,629 residents.

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

Population by Age 2021

	0-15		16-24		25-49		50-64		65-74		75+		All Ages
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Abbey	2,467	20.2	1,197	9.8	4,790	39.3	2,152	17.7	858	7.0	722	5.9	12,186
Smethwick	3,869	25.0	1,804	11.7	5,315	34.4	2,493	16.1	1,004	6.5	987	6.4	15,472
Soho and Victoria	5,472	27.9	2,611	13.3	7,474	38.1	2,567	13.1	847	4.3	658	3.4	19,629
St. Pauls	4,231	25.3	2,348	14.0	6,080	36.4	2,470	14.8	876	5.2	715	4.3	16,720
TOWN	16,039	25.1	7,960	12.4	23,659	37.0	9,682	15.1	3,585	5.6	3,082	4.8	64,007
SANDWELL	75,804	22.2	37,669	11.0	117,500	34.4	61,158	17.9	26,514	7.8	23,190	6.8	341,835

Source: 2021 Census.

The population profile of the town in terms of age structure is markedly different to Sandwell overall - in particular the proportion of 50-64 year olds is lower than the borough average, whilst the proportion of under 16s and 25-49 year olds is higher. There is also some variation when considering the wards that make up the town.

- Abbey has a smaller proportion of under 16s than average (20.2% compared with 25.1% for the town), but a larger proportion of those aged 25-49 (39.3% compared with 37.0%).
- Soho & Victoria has a higher proportion of under 16s than both the town and Sandwell averages (27.9% compared with 25.1% and 22.2% 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 50 age groups, and higher in the age groups 50 & over.
- In contrast, the population of St. Pauls is fairly similar to the town overall.

Household Characteristics

Since 2011, Sandwell overall has seen an increase of 7.2% in the number of households, compared with 7.9% in Smethwick town. Within the town, Soho & Victoria ward has seen the largest increase at 21.6%, whilst Smethwick ward has seen a small decline in the number of households.

Household Composition 2021

	One person HHs ¹				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	1,022	19.9	561	10.9	2,107	41.0	407	7.9	267	5.2	772	15.0	5,136
Smethwick	872	16.3	621	11.6	2,024	37.9	546	10.2	347	6.5	932	17.4	5,342
Soho and Victoria	1,294	20.6	451	7.2	2,301	36.7	736	11.7	353	5.6	1,142	18.2	6,277
St. Pauls	704	14.0	354	7.1	2,130	42.4	419	8.3	315	6.3	1,097	21.9	5,019
TOWN	3,892	17.9	1,987	9.1	8,562	39.3	2,108	9.7	1,282	5.9	3,943	18.1	21,774
SANDWELL	23,017	17.7	15,025	11.5	52,436	40.3	12,228	9.4	7,228	5.5	20,312	15.6	130,246

¹ HHs = Households
Source: 2021 Census.

Considering household composition, the profile of Smethwick town differs from Sandwell overall, with a slightly lower proportion of couple households (39.3% compared with 40.3%) and lone pensioners (9.1% compared with 11.5%), 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.
- At 11.6%, Smethwick has a relatively 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 St. Pauls and Abbey (42.4% and 41.0% compared with 39.3% in Smethwick town).
- At 11.7%, Soho & Victoria ward has the second highest proportion of lone parents (with dependent children) of all Sandwell wards, whilst Abbey is amongst the lowest (7.9%).
- St. Pauls has more than a fifth of households within the 'all other households' category. This is the highest proportion of all Sandwell wards.

Ethnic Background

The ethnic makeup of Sandwell has seen extensive changes since 2001. Just over half of Sandwell residents now class themselves as being of White British origin, and a further 5.2% are of Other White origin (which includes Irish and Gypsy Travellers). 42.8% of Sandwell's population are from other ethnic backgrounds. These Sandwell figures compare with England & Wales averages of 74.4%, 7.3% and 18.3% 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 2011. The White British population in Smethwick town has fallen from 37.9% in 2011 to 24.4% in 2021 and there has also been a decrease in the proportion of Black Caribbean residents in the town (falling from 6.1% in 2011 to 4.8% in 2021). However the other groups have seen a contrasting increase, with a rise of 2,242 in the Indian population in Smethwick town (from 15.7% in 2011 to 17.0% in 2021) and a rise of 2,971 in the number of Pakistani residents (from 12.6% in 2011 to 15.5% in 2021)..

Population by Ethnic Group 2021: White & Asian Groups

	White				Asian or Asian British							
	British		Other		Indian		Pakistani		Bangladeshi		Chinese & Asian Other	
	No.	%			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	6,712	55.1	1,365	11.2	882	7.2	481	3.9	74	0.6	347	2.8
Smethwick	4,576	29.6	807	5.2	3,057	19.8	2,144	13.9	405	2.6	684	4.4
Soho and Victoria	1,931	9.8	1,301	6.6	3,015	15.4	4,145	21.1	434	2.2	1,570	8.0
St Pauls	2,376	14.2	711	4.2	3,947	23.6	3,140	18.8	2,105	12.6	990	5.9
TOWN	15,595	24.4	4,184	6.5	10,901	17.0	9,910	15.5	3,018	4.7	3,591	5.6
SANDWELL	177,926	52.0	17,703	5.2	44,378	13.0	22,148	6.5	11,074	3.2	10,429	3.1

Source: 2021 Census.

Population by Ethnic Group 2021: 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	837	6.9	382	3.1	526	4.3	160	1.3	71	0.6	354	2.9
Smethwick	882	5.7	707	4.6	887	5.7	260	1.7	55	0.4	1,010	6.5
Soho and Victoria	811	4.1	1,284	6.5	2,840	14.5	530	2.7	253	1.3	1,520	7.7
St Pauls	610	3.6	681	4.1	784	4.7	236	1.4	71	0.4	1,088	6.5
TOWN	3,140	4.9	3,054	4.8	5,037	7.9	1,186	1.9	450	0.7	3,972	6.2
SANDWELL	14,680	4.3	13,096	3.8	12,351	3.6	4,333	1.3	2,016	0.6	11,709	3.4

Source: 2021 Census.

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 75.6% of the town's population, which is considerably higher than West Bromwich town which ranks second with 55.8% 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 90.2% of residents are from groups other than White British.
- Soho & Victoria ward has the highest ranked proportions of people from the Pakistani, Chinese & Asian Other, Black African and Black Other groups, out of all wards in Sandwell. The largest of these groups is Pakistani residents, which make up 21.1% of the ward's population.
- St. Pauls ward has the highest ranked proportions of people from Bangladeshi groups (out of all Sandwell wards). 12.6% of St. Pauls residents are of Bangladeshi origin.
- Abbey ward is ranked highest of all Sandwell wards in terms of population from Other White groups (at 11.2% of residents), and also has the highest proportion of those of mixed origin (6.9%).
- Smethwick, Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls are also in the top three wards for residents of "Other Ethnic" origin.

Religion 2021

	Christian		Sikh		Muslim		Hindu		Other Religion		No Religion		Not Stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	5,324	43.7	706	5.8	1,029	8.4	186	1.5	163	1.3	4,070	33.4	709	5.8
Smethwick	4,572	29.6	3,371	21.8	3,640	23.5	383	2.5	111	0.7	2,636	17.0	754	4.9
Soho and Victoria	5,253	26.8	2,647	13.5	8,300	42.3	535	2.7	172	0.9	1,686	8.6	1,039	5.3
St Pauls	3,357	20.1	4,016	24.0	6,069	36.3	592	3.5	134	0.8	1,664	9.9	900	5.4
TOWN	18,506	28.9	10,740	16.8	19,038	29.7	1,696	2.6	580	0.9	10,056	15.7	3,402	5.3
SANDWELL	136,354	39.9	39,252	11.5	45,763	13.4	9,447	2.8	3,451	1.0	89,099	26.1	18,465	5.4

Source: 2021 Census.

In terms of religion, 39.9% of Sandwell residents are Christian, lower than the national average of 46.2%. This has fallen considerably since 2011, when 55.2% 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 15.7% 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 only one in five St. Pauls residents affiliating with Christianity.
- St. Pauls has a high proportion of Sikhs compared to the rest of the town (24% compared with a Smethwick town average of 16.8%), which ranks highest of all Sandwell wards. Smethwick ward ranks second highest of all wards on this indicator.
- Soho & Victoria, St. Pauls and Smethwick feature in the top three Sandwell wards in terms of Muslim residents, with more than 40% of Soho & Victoria residents stating they are affiliated with this religion.
- 33.4% of Abbey residents state they follow no religion, among the highest of all Sandwell wards.

Country of Birth and Household Language 2021

	Country of Birth						Household Language			
	UK		All EU		Other		All in HH have English as main language		None in HH have English as main language	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	9,256	75.9	1,166	9.6	1,766	14.5	4,275	83.2	409	8.0
Smethwick	9,818	63.5	1,039	6.7	4,607	29.8	3,529	66.1	879	16.5
Soho and Victoria	9,840	50.1	1,909	9.7	7,886	40.1	3,386	54.0	1,256	20.0
St. Pauls	9,424	56.3	1,021	6.1	6,286	37.6	2,558	51.0	1,037	20.7
TOWN	38,338	59.9	5,135	8.0	20,545	32.1	13,748	63.1	3,581	16.4
SANDWELL	261,213	76.4	19,806	5.8	60,814	17.7	105,246	80.8	11,164	8.6

Source: 2021 Census.

When considering country of birth, 76.4% of Sandwell residents were born in the United Kingdom, compared with 83.2% nationally. Around one in six 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 the EU countries and for those born outside of the European Union.

- Only half of 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 56.3% of residents having been born in the UK.
- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls both have high proportions of residents born outside the EU (the highest of all Sandwell wards). Around two in five 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 (including Ireland), at 9.7% this ranks second highest. Abbey also has a high proportion, and at 9.6% ranks third out of all Sandwell wards.
- Abbey has the highest proportion of residents born in the UK in the town, at 75.9%.

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 80.8% of Sandwell households all residents have English as their main language in 2021, compared with 86.3% in 2011. In Smethwick town, 16.4% 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 (83.2% compared with a Sandwell average of 80.8%).
- 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. The figures currently published are for those residents aged 16 & over. Smethwick town has the third lowest proportion of residents who are economically active out of the six towns (57.6%). At 5.4%, the town has the highest unemployment rate (among those aged 16 & over). Within the town:

- Abbey ward has a high proportion of residents in full time employment (39.3%), this is the highest of all Sandwell wards.
- Soho & Victoria has the highest rate of unemployment of all Sandwell wards (6.2% of those aged 16+).
- The three highest Sandwell wards in terms of economically active full-time students are all within Smethwick town - the highest being Soho & Victoria at 4.2%.

Economic Activity 2021 (Residents aged 16+)

	Economically Active					Economically Inactive					All aged 16+
	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	39.3	12.3	8.6	4.6	2.4	16.0	5.0	5.1	3.0	3.7	9,724
Smethwick	27.9	12.2	6.5	4.8	3.5	15.2	7.6	9.9	6.5	5.8	11,597
Soho and Victoria	25.5	13.1	7.1	6.2	4.2	9.2	10.1	12.5	5.1	7.1	14,157
St Pauls	25.9	12.2	7.0	5.5	4.1	11.0	9.8	11.8	5.5	7.3	12,495
TOWN	29.0	12.5	7.2	5.4	3.6	12.5	8.4	10.2	5.1	6.1	47,973
SANDWELL	32.5	12.2	6.7	4.5	2.5	17.4	6.2	7.6	5.8	4.7	266,026

Source: 2021 Census.

Economically Inactive

In terms of economic inactivity, Smethwick town has the lowest proportions of residents who are retired or long term sick/disabled of the six towns, and the highest proportion in the three other categories.

- Soho & Victoria has the lowest proportion of retired residents of all Sandwell wards at 9.2%.
- 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 Level of Qualification of usual residents aged 16 & over 2021

	No Qualifications		Level 1		Level 2		Apprenticeships		Level 3		Level 4 or above		% Other Qualifications	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	1,846	19.0	778	8.0	1,118	11.5	398	4.1	1,408	14.5	3,915	40.3	258	2.7
Smethwick	3,883	33.5	1,284	11.1	1,471	12.7	472	4.1	1,497	12.9	2,373	20.5	615	5.3
Soho and Victoria	4,550	32.1	1,574	11.1	1,542	10.9	426	3.0	1,887	13.3	3,491	24.6	694	4.9
St Pauls	4,133	33.1	1,415	11.3	1,487	11.9	410	3.3	1,699	13.6	2,737	21.9	612	4.9
TOWN	14,412	30.0	5,051	10.5	5,618	11.7	1,706	3.6	6,491	13.5	12,516	26.1	2,179	4.5
SANDWELL	76,839	28.9	30,586	11.5	36,175	13.6	12,758	4.8	39,465	14.8	60,316	22.7	9,889	3.7

Source: 2021 Census.

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.

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 (40.3%), 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 overall has a slightly higher proportion of residents with no qualifications than Sandwell as a whole, however it is much lower in Abbey ward (the lowest proportion of all Sandwell wards).
- Smethwick, Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls are all within the top 5 Sandwell wards for residents with "Other" qualifications.
- All four Smethwick town wards make up the bottom 4 Sandwell wards in terms of residents with apprenticeships.

Transport

In 2021, 29.2% of Sandwell households do not have access to a car or van, which has fallen from 33.9% in 2011. This compares with 23.3% in England & Wales in 2021. Car ownership levels in Smethwick town overall are considerably lower than the Sandwell average, with a much higher proportion of households without a car or van than average.

- Over 40% of households in Soho & Victoria are without a car or van in the town, the second highest of all Sandwell wards. Smethwick ward also ranks in the top four 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 nine 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 2021

	HHs ¹ without a car or van		HHs with 1 car or van		HHs with 2 or more cars or vans	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Abbey	1,603	31.2	2,362	46.0	1,173	22.8
Smethwick	1,965	36.8	2,144	40.1	1,234	23.1
Soho and Victoria	2,571	41.0	2,511	40.0	1,195	19.0
St. Pauls	1,560	31.1	2,072	41.3	1,385	27.6
TOWN	7,699	35.4	9,089	41.7	4,987	22.9
SANDWELL	38,092	29.2	54,728	42.0	37,426	28.7

¹ Households

Source: 2021 Census.

Health & Provision of Unpaid Care

To identify disability in 2021, people were asked "Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?". If they answered yes, a further question "Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?" was presented. This differs from the 2011 Census question used, in order to collect data that more closely aligned with the definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010). In Smethwick town, 7.6% of residents said they were limited a little, whilst 7.1% said they were limited a lot, lower than the Sandwell average, and the lowest proportion of the six towns.

- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls both fair well on these indicators, being among the lowest of all Sandwell wards. Abbey is also lowest in terms of residents whose activities are limited a lot.

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 83.4% this is the highest of the Sandwell wards. Soho & Victoria ranks second on this indicator.
- Soho & Victoria and St. Pauls have the two lowest rates of long term sick and disabled out of the Sandwell wards, at 16.0% and 16.9% respectively.

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. 7.6% of Smethwick town residents provide unpaid care, lower than the Sandwell average.

- At 6.7%, the proportion who provide unpaid care in Soho & Victoria is the lowest of all Sandwell wards.

Health Indicators 2021

	Disabled under the Equality Act		Level of Health			% Long-term Sick/ Disabled ¹	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	6	9.4	83.4	11.8	4.7	22.3	8.2	2.2
Smethwick	8.8	8.4	78.6	14.3	7.1	21	7.9	2.7
Soho and Victoria	6.4	6.6	82.4	12	5.6	16	6.7	2.2
St. Pauls	7.1	6.9	81.3	13.2	5.6	16.9	8	2.4
TOWN	7.1	7.6	81.3	12.9	5.8	18.6	7.6	2.4
SANDWELL	8.7	9.2	79.1	14.3	6.6	22.8	9.3	3.2

¹ This includes people disabled under equality act and people with long term condition with no limits on day-to-day activities (not disabled under equality act)
Source: 2021 Census.

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 (at 28.4%), and the lowest proportion in owner occupation.

Housing Indicators 2021

	Tenure (% of households)				Dwelling Type			Suitability of Accommodation	
	% Owner-occupied	% Social Rented ¹	% Private Rented ²	% Shared Ownership	Total household spaces	Detached %	Terraced %	% HHs ³ lacking central heating	% Over-crowded HHs ⁴
Abbey	58.4	9.1	31.9	0.5	5,137	4.5	59.4	2.2	6.3
Smethwick	46.0	30.1	22.4	0.5	5,342	7.8	38.1	2.1	10.4
Soho and Victoria	35.5	31.6	31.2	0.5	6,277	9.4	37.8	2.0	16.5
St. Pauls	52.2	18.8	27.8	0.5	5,019	10.8	37.1	1.9	13.3
TOWN	47.3	22.9	28.4	0.5	21,775	8.2	42.8	2.1	11.8
SANDWELL	53.7	26.6	18.6	0.5	130,246	11.9	24.4	1.8	8.2

¹ Social Rented includes Social Rented: from Council and Social Rented: Other

² Private Rented includes Private Rented: from private landlord or letting agency and Private Rented: Other

³ Households

⁴ Households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less

Source: 2021 Census.

- Abbey has the highest level of owner occupation (58.4%), whilst Soho & Victoria has the lowest (35.5%).
- 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 2011. In both Abbey and Soho & Victoria, nearly a third of households are in private rented accommodation.
- Soho & Victoria has the greatest proportion of households in social rented accommodation (31.6%) in the town. At 9.1%, Abbey has the lowest proportion in social rented accommodation of all Sandwell wards.

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 (11.8% compared with 8.2% for Sandwell).

- Overcrowding is higher than the Sandwell average in all wards except Abbey, but it is particularly high in Soho & Victoria (16.5% 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 (59.4%), the highest of all Sandwell wards.

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

<http://www.sandwelltrends.info>

or contact the team for more information:



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