

# Commuting & Migration Flows

An Analysis of 2011 Census Data

May 2015



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# Introduction

This report uses 2011 Census Origin and Destination data to analyse and map commuting flows in and out of Birmingham from other local authority areas within the West Midlands. The report also presents an analysis of net in-commuting by area (in-commuting minus out-commuting) as well as data on in-commuting by mode of travel. 2011 Census data comparing the occupational structure and skill levels of those who work in the city and city residents who are in employment is also presented.

The report also examines 2011 Census data on International Migration, highlighting which countries recent migrants to the city originated from and the age profile of recent migrants. Finally economic activity by country of birth data from the 2011 Census is examined. This data is for the wider longer term migrant community in the city and enables comparison of economic activity rates including employment and unemployment rates between differing migrant communities in the city.

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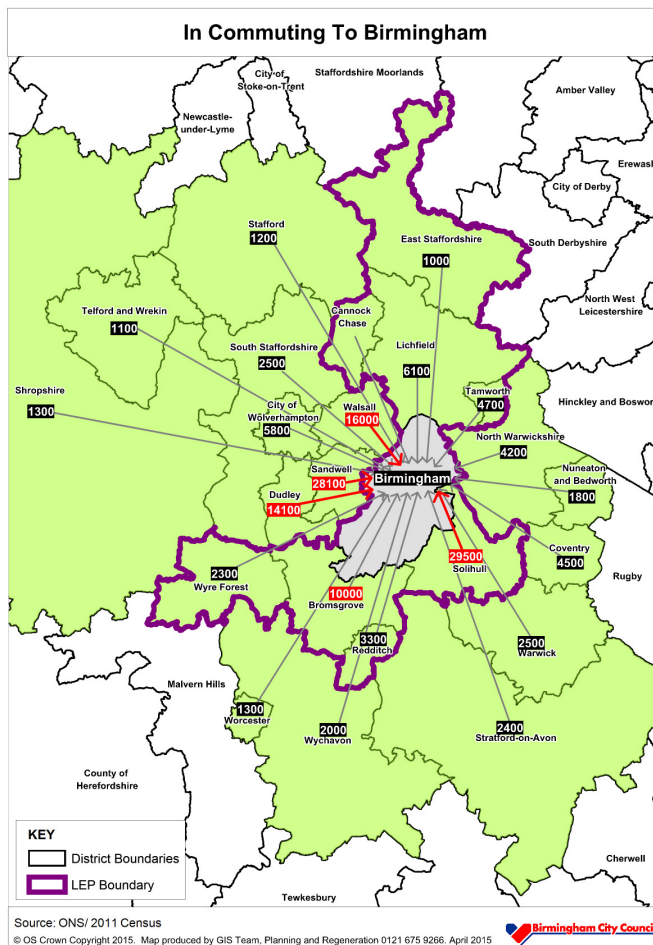


# In-Commuting

**166K  
In-Commuters**

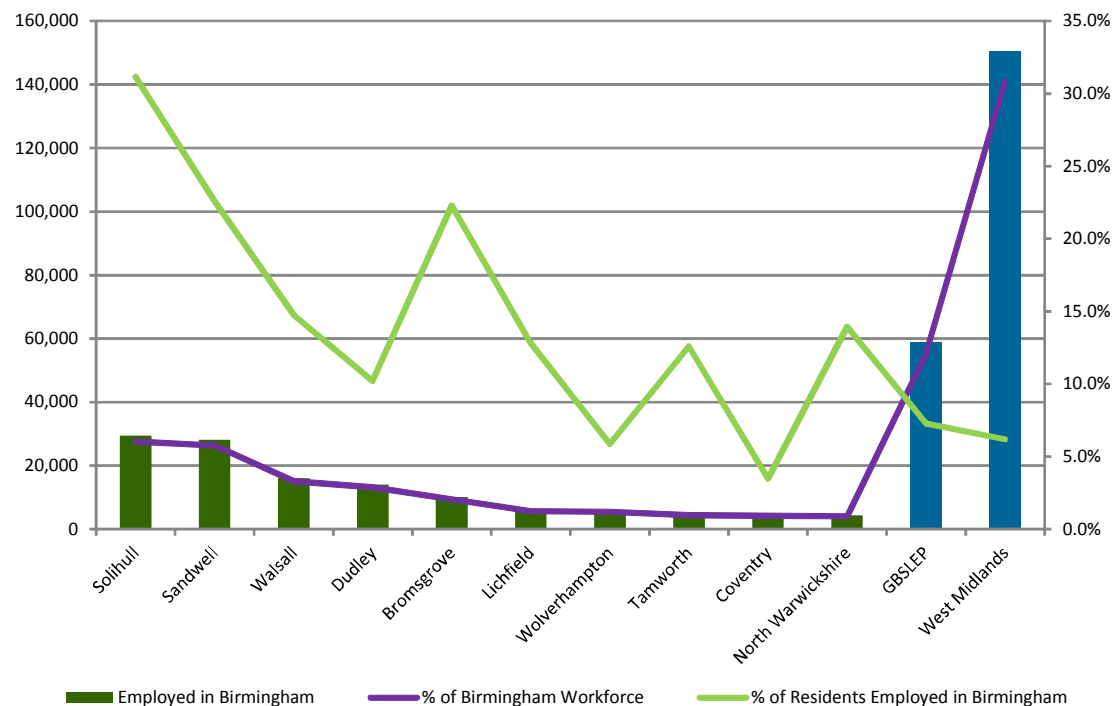
**36% of  
Jobs in City**

**1 in 6 of Regions  
Workers  
Employed in  
Birmingham**



An analysis of the 2011 Census Origin and Destination data shows that there were 166,272 people who commute into Birmingham for work, this equates to 36.4% of the total workforce of the city. Birmingham's labour market is closely linked to those of the surrounding authorities as is demonstrated in the map and the chart below which shows the top 10 in-commuting areas.

## Top 10 Locations for In-Commuting to Birmingham



## Net In-Commuting

If we look at net in-commuting (which is in-commuting minus out-commuting) within the West Midlands we can see the key role that Birmingham performs in providing employment for residents of other areas in the region. The city is a net importer of over 66,000 workers making it by far the largest provider of employment for non-residents of any area in the West Midlands. The city is a bigger net importer of workers than the GBSLEP (32,000) and both the Black Country and the West Midlands region which are both net exporters of labour (25,000 & 15,000 respectively).

Net In-Commuting by Area - West Midlands			
Area	In-Commuting	Out-Commuting	Net in-Commuting
<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>166,272</b>	<b>100,622</b>	<b>65,650</b>
Coventry	50,630	39,600	11,030
North Warwickshire	25,304	16,905	8,399
Warwick	33,760	25,413	8,347
Stoke-on-Trent	40,053	33,785	6,268
Telford and Wrekin	23,418	18,383	5,035
East Staffordshire	23,287	18,866	4,421
Wolverhampton	44,419	40,530	3,889
Worcester	21,141	17,914	3,227
Stafford	23,863	21,006	2,857
Stratford-on-Avon	25,435	22,626	2,809
Solihull	51,403	49,202	2,201
Herefordshire, County of	10,814	13,568	- 2,754
Sandwell	58,772	61,647	- 2,875
Rugby	17,551	20,470	- 2,919
Malvern Hills	10,952	14,080	- 3,128
Redditch	13,747	17,550	- 3,803
Wychavon	20,613	24,678	- 4,065
Lichfield	20,417	24,604	- 4,187
Shropshire	29,274	34,555	- 5,281
Walsall	41,816	48,926	- 7,110
Bromsgrove	18,892	26,035	- 7,143
Tamworth	11,339	19,220	- 7,881
Newcastle-under-Lyme	21,480	29,446	- 7,966
Cannock Chase	14,879	23,463	- 8,584
Wyre Forest	8,632	17,520	- 8,888
Staffordshire Moorlands	10,204	22,898	- 12,694
Nuneaton and Bedworth	15,048	29,858	- 14,810
South Staffordshire	17,583	34,428	- 16,845
Dudley	38,818	57,423	- 18,605
<b>GBSLEP</b>	<b>194,175</b>	<b>162,389</b>	<b>31,786</b>
Black Country	96,526	121,227	- 24,701
West Midlands	137,258	152,663	- 15,405

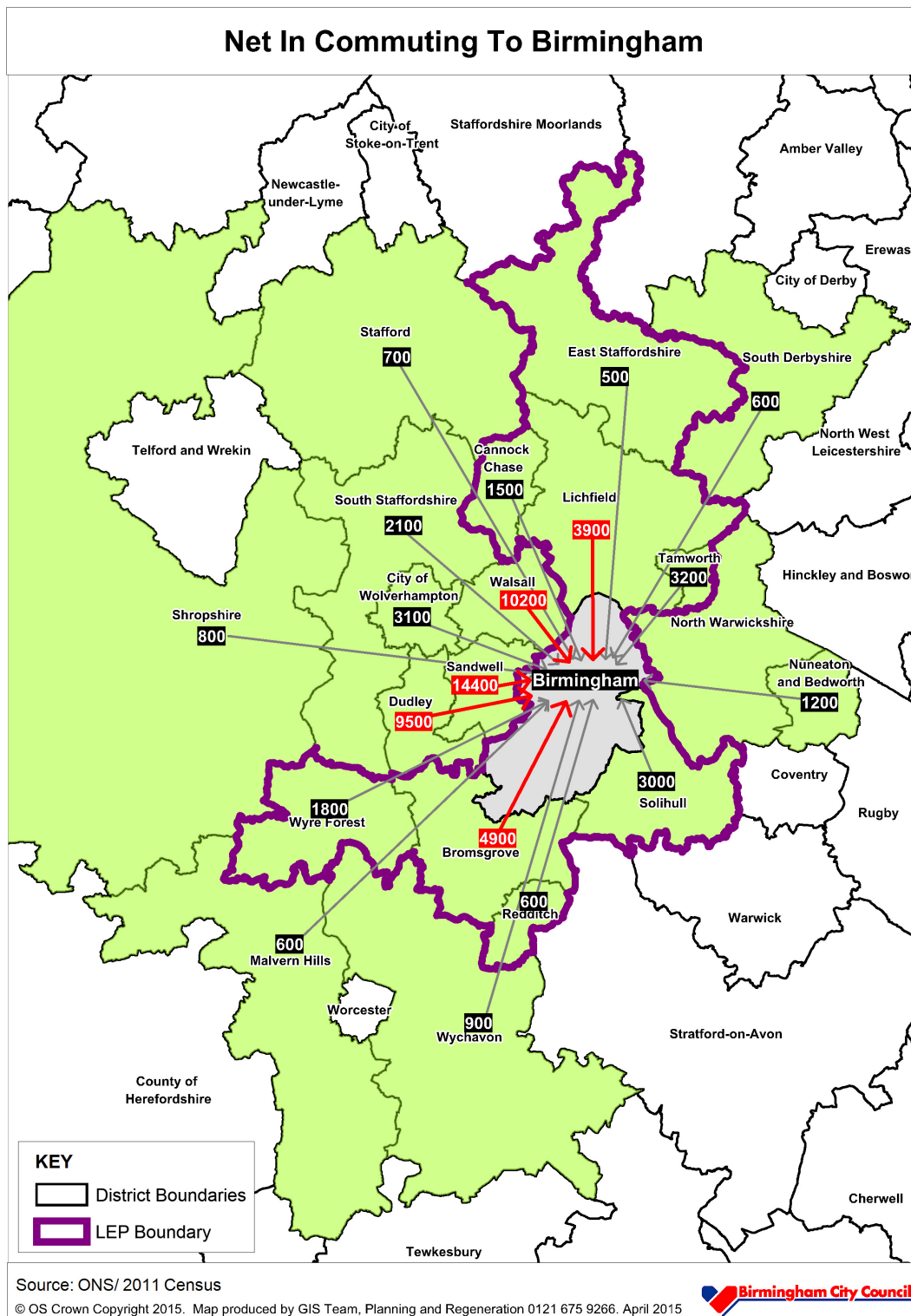
**Birmingham**  
**66k**

**GBSLEP**  
**32k**

**Black Country**  
**-25k**

## Net In-Commuting Map

The map below shows net in-commuting flows (in-commuting minus out commuting) to the city from the surrounding areas. The map clearly highlights the key role the city plays in providing employment for residents of the surrounding areas. The largest net in-flows to Birmingham are from Sandwell (14,400), Walsall (10,200) and Dudley (9,500). In total there is a net inflow of 37,200 workers from the Black Country and 19,500 from other parts of the GBSLEP area.



## In-Commuting by Mode of Travel

If we look at the in-commuting flows into the city by mode of travel we can see that the vast majority of journeys undertaken by people commuting into Birmingham for work are taken in cars or vans which accounts for over 70% of all journeys.



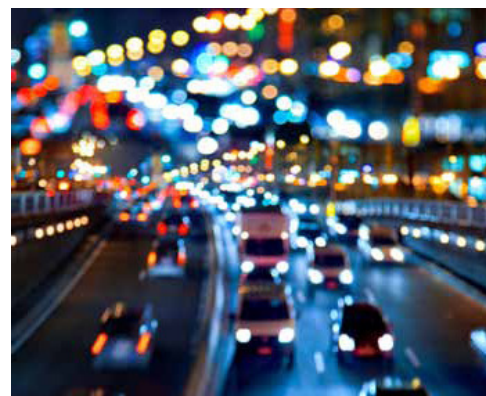
**70%**  
by Car



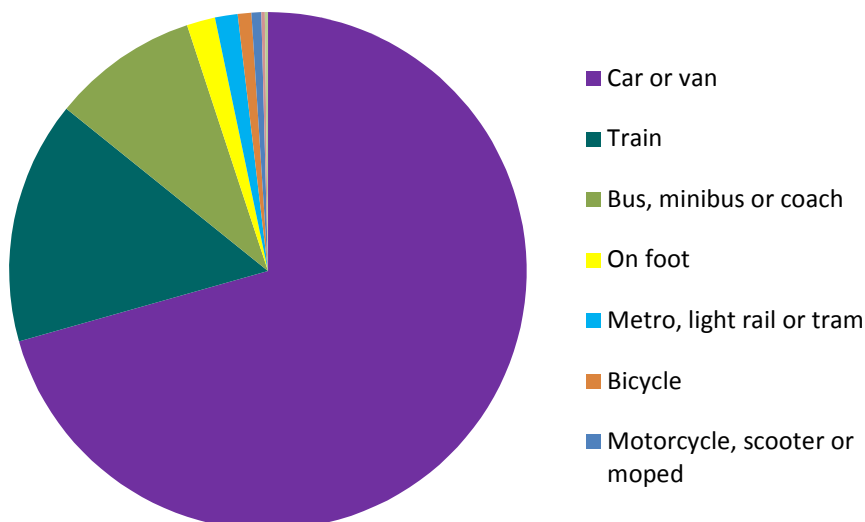
**17%**  
by Train/  
Metro



**9%**  
by Bus



### In-Commuting to Birmingham by Mode of Travel

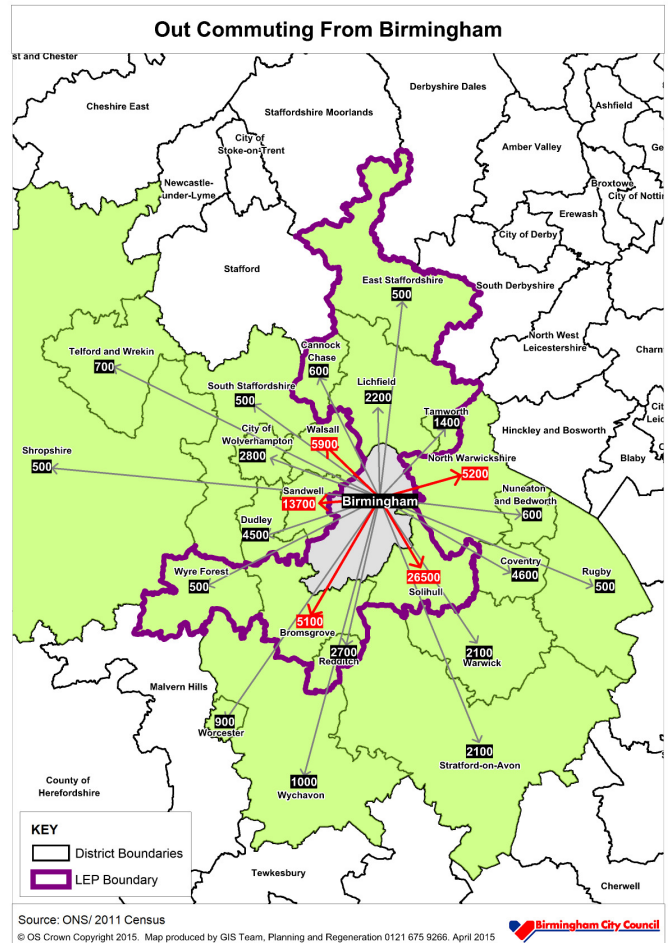


# Out-Commuting

**101K**  
**Out-Commuters**

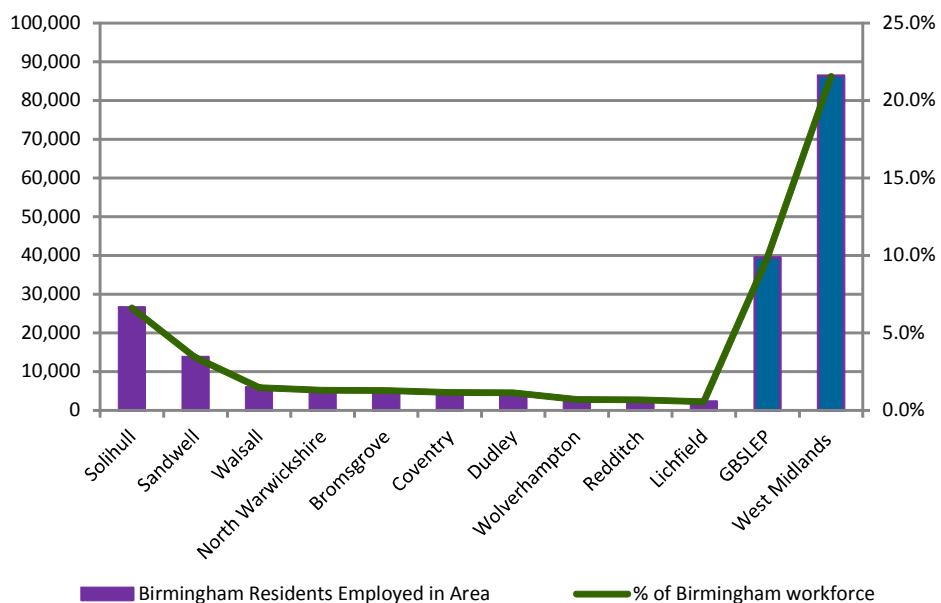
**6%** of  
**Rest of Regions**  
**Workforce**

**1 in 4** of  
**Employed**  
**Residents work**  
**Outside City**



An analysis of the 2011 Census Origin and Destination data shows that there were 100,622 Birmingham residents who commute out of the city for work, this equates to 25.1% of all Birmingham residents in employment. Birmingham’s labour market is closely linked to those of the surrounding authorities as is demonstrated in the chart below which shows the top 10 locations outside the city that Birmingham residents work in.

## Top 10 Locations for Out-Commuting from Birmingham



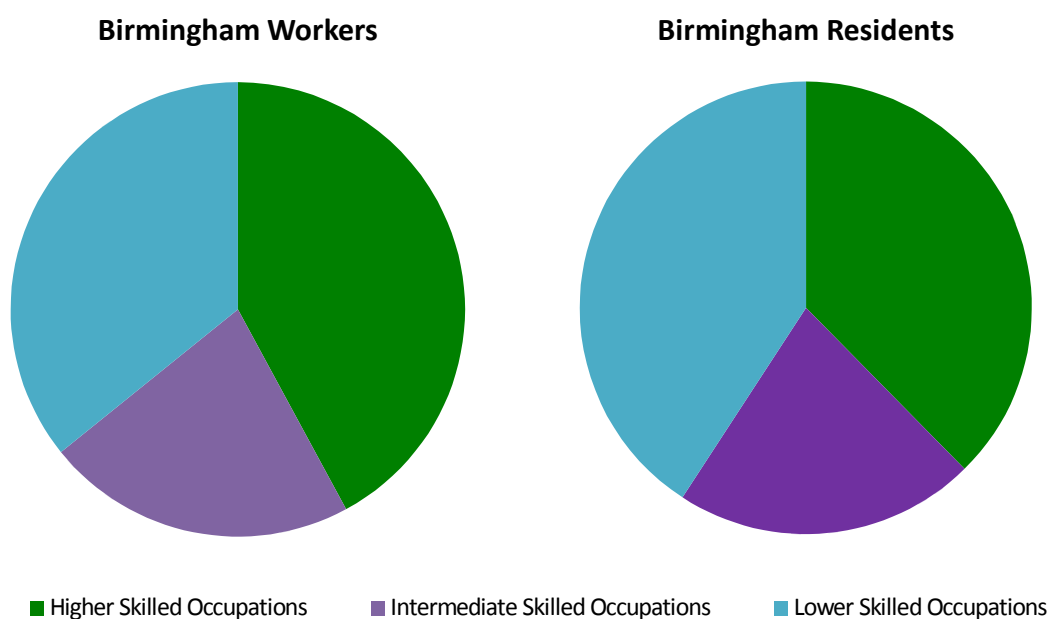


## Occupational Structure & Skill Levels

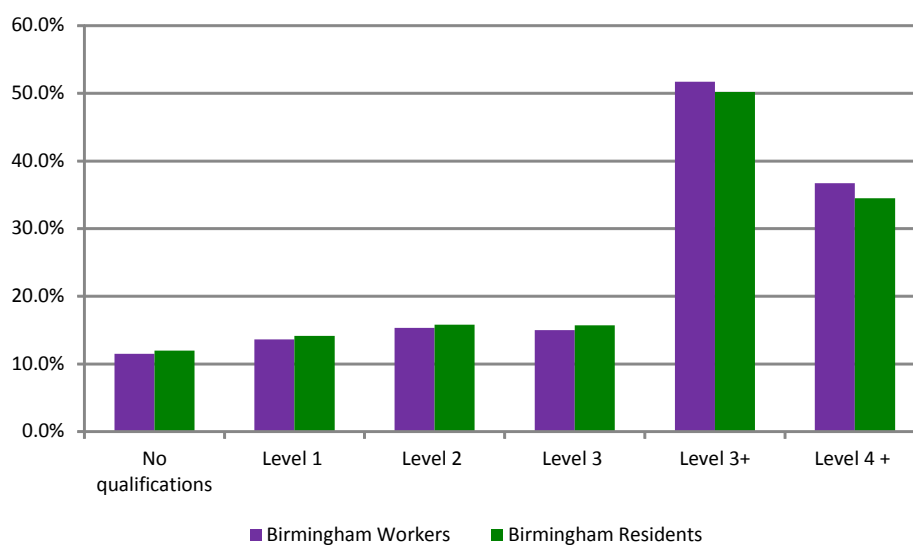
There is no breakdown of the 2011 Census commuting data by occupation or skill levels. However, a proxy measure can be derived by using 2011 Census data to compare the occupational make-up and skill levels of those working in the city with the occupational structure and skill levels of Birmingham residents in employment.

Using this approach we can see that in general those working in the city are proportionately more likely to be employed in higher skilled occupations and have higher skill levels than Birmingham residents in employment. As a large proportion of Birmingham residents in employment work within the city it is likely that in-commuters are largely the reason for the differential in occupational group and skill levels between the workplace based population and residents.

### Comparison of Occupational Structure



### Comparison of Skill Levels



## Occupational Structure & Skill Levels

The table below gives a breakdown of occupation by group for those who work in the city compared to Birmingham residents in employment. The data clearly shows that those who work in the city are more likely to be employed in higher skilled occupations than Birmingham residents.

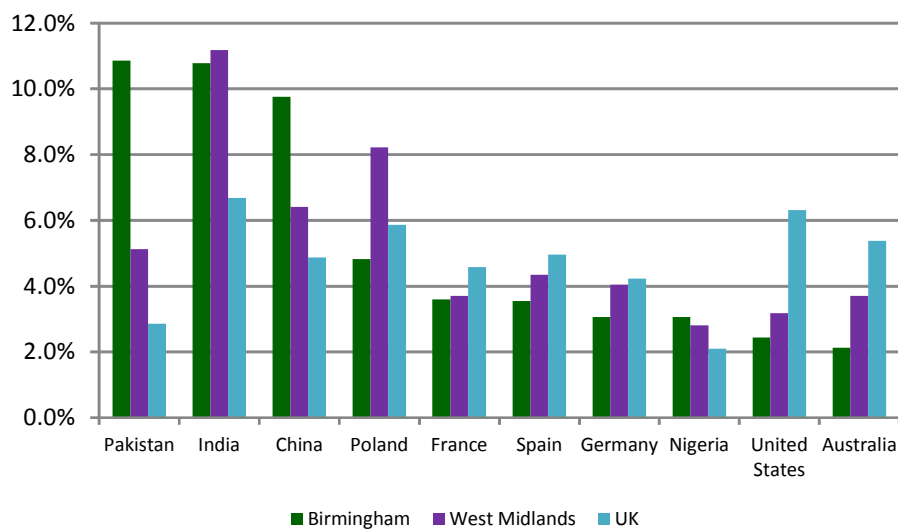
Occupational Structure - Birmingham Workers & Birmingham Residents in Employment					
Occupation	Birmingham Workers		Birmingham Residents		Differential
	Number	%	Number	%	
<b>1 Managers, directors and senior officials</b>	<b>46,470</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>35,427</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
11 Corporate managers and directors	30,868	6.3%	22,398	5.3%	-1.1%
12 Other managers and proprietors	15,602	3.2%	13,029	3.1%	-0.1%
<b>2 Professional occupations</b>	<b>96,988</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>77,693</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
21 Science, research, engineering and technology professionals	17,742	3.6%	14,852	3.5%	-0.1%
22 Health professionals	25,564	5.2%	21,818	5.1%	-0.1%
23 Teaching and educational professionals	26,521	5.4%	21,591	5.1%	-0.4%
24 Business, media and public service professionals	27,161	5.6%	19,432	4.6%	-1.0%
<b>3 Associate professional and technical occupations</b>	<b>62,001</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>46,885</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
31 Science, engineering and technology associate professionals	7,749	1.6%	6,417	1.5%	-0.1%
32 Health and social care associate professionals	7,690	1.6%	6,441	1.5%	-0.1%
33 Protective service occupations	7,466	1.5%	3,546	0.8%	-0.7%
34 Culture, media and sports occupations	7,425	1.5%	6,701	1.6%	0.1%
35 Business and public service associate professionals	31,671	6.5%	23,780	5.6%	-0.9%
<b>4 Administrative and secretarial occupations</b>	<b>64,731</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>50,011</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
41 Administrative occupations	49,823	10.2%	38,654	9.1%	-1.1%
42 Secretarial and related occupations	14,908	3.1%	11,357	2.7%	-0.4%
<b>5 Skilled trades occupations</b>	<b>43,113</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>41,880</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
51 Skilled agricultural and related trades	1,867	0.4%	1,824	0.4%	0.0%
52 Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades	17,172	3.5%	16,095	3.8%	0.3%
53 Skilled construction and building trades	13,082	2.7%	12,711	3.0%	0.3%
54 Textiles, printing and other skilled trades	10,992	2.3%	11,250	2.6%	0.4%
<b>6 Caring, leisure and other service occupations</b>	<b>45,571</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>42,754</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
61 Caring personal service occupations	35,588	7.3%	33,286	7.8%	0.5%
62 Leisure, travel and related personal service occupations	9,983	2.0%	9,468	2.2%	0.2%
<b>7 Sales and customer service occupations</b>	<b>40,148</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>38,262</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
71 Sales occupations	31,704	6.5%	30,761	7.2%	0.7%
72 Customer service occupations	8,444	1.7%	7,501	1.8%	0.0%
<b>8 Process, plant and machine operatives</b>	<b>35,793</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>36,432</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
81 Process, plant and machine operatives	16,028	3.3%	16,969	4.0%	0.7%
82 Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives	19,765	4.0%	19,463	4.6%	0.5%
<b>9 Elementary occupations</b>	<b>53,280</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>56,404</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
91 Elementary trades and related occupations	6,739	1.4%	7,493	1.8%	0.4%
92 Elementary administration and service occupations	46,541	9.5%	48,911	11.5%	2.0%

## International Migration Flows

2011 Census data on international migration allows for an analysis of recent migration to the city by country of origin. Migrants are defined as those who were resident in the city on Census Day who had been resident outside the UK one year previously.

The data presented in the chart below highlights the strong cultural links the city has with the Indian Sub-Continent as well as the large number of Chinese students that are choosing to study in the city. The city has a disproportionately greater share of migrants from these countries than the region of the UK as a whole. The table which shows the top origin countries for migrants to the city also highlights the movements of migrant workers to the area from Eastern Europe and other parts of the EU, the US and Australia.

### Origin of International Migrants



Origin of International Migrants				
Country of Origin	Birmingham		Birmingham Share of WM Total	Birmingham Share of UK Total
	Number	%		
<b>All Migrants</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Pakistan	1,398	10.9%	60.8%	7.1%
India	1,388	10.8%	27.7%	3.0%
China	1,257	9.8%	43.7%	3.7%
Poland	621	4.8%	16.8%	1.5%
France	464	3.6%	27.9%	1.5%
Spain	458	3.6%	23.5%	1.3%
Germany	394	3.1%	21.7%	1.4%
Nigeria	394	3.1%	31.2%	2.7%
United States	313	2.4%	21.9%	0.7%
Australia	275	2.1%	16.6%	0.7%
Iran	255	2.0%	70.2%	8.0%
Ireland	240	1.9%	26.4%	1.1%
Romania	224	1.7%	23.7%	1.9%
Canada	201	1.6%	31.0%	1.5%
Netherlands	197	1.5%	35.1%	2.3%
Latvia	169	1.3%	14.9%	1.6%
Malaysia	168	1.3%	34.9%	2.6%
Bangladesh	162	1.3%	53.5%	4.0%

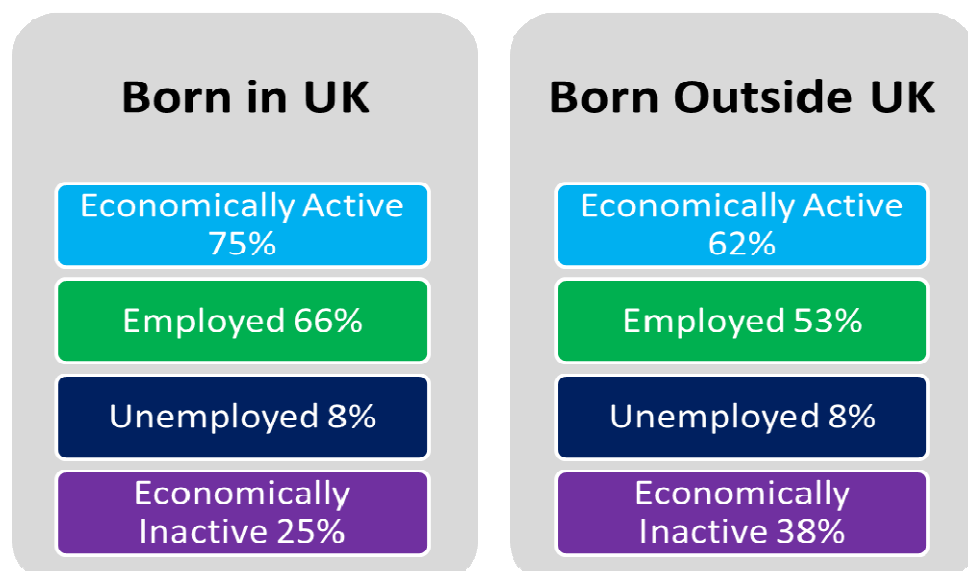
## International Migrants - Age & Economic Activity

If we examine recent international migration by age group it is clear that the vast majority of international migrants (84%) are of working age (16-64) with a further 14% accounted for by dependant children and only 2% being over 65. The table below gives an age breakdown by country of origin which highlights some degree of variation in age group of migrants by country. The main variable apparatus to be the percentage of dependant children with for example 97% of Chinese migrants being aged 16-64 reflecting the fact most are students. Whilst Polish economic migrants are more likely to come with their families with children accounting for nearly a quarter (23%) of migrants from Poland.

International Migrants by Age Group				
Country of Origin	Number	% Children 1-15	% Working Age (16-64)	% 65+
All Migrants	12,879	14.4%	83.8%	1.7%
Pakistan	1,398	18.5%	78.5%	3.1%
India	1,388	10.1%	88.0%	1.9%
China	1,257	2.5%	97.1%	0.3%
Other EU accession countries	686	12.8%	86.4%	0.7%
Poland	621	23.0%	77.0%	0.0%
Other Middle East	493	21.9%	77.1%	1.0%
France	464	7.8%	90.9%	1.3%
Spain (including Canary Islands)	458	7.2%	86.5%	6.3%
Other EU members in March 2001	425	25.2%	74.4%	0.5%
Germany	394	15.0%	84.8%	0.3%
Nigeria	394	15.2%	83.0%	1.8%
USA	313	8.9%	87.5%	3.5%
Other South-East Asia	279	8.6%	91.0%	0.4%
Australia	275	12.0%	85.8%	2.2%

### Migration & Economic Activity

An Analysis of 2011 Census data on economic activity by country of birth enables a comparison of the levels of economic activity between UK born residents of the city and those born overseas who have settled in the city. The following data shows the percentage of the working age population (16+ population minus those who are retired) by economic activity.



The data reveals that migrants living in Birmingham are less likely to be economically active and have lower employment rates than UK born residents. A breakdown of economic activity by country of origin is given in the table below. There are some notable differences between migrants from different parts of the world, more recent economic migrants from Eastern Europe for example have very high economic activity (80%) and employment rates (75%) whereas migrants from other areas and more established migrant groups from Asia and Africa have higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity.

### Economic Activity by Country of Birth

Country of Birth	Working Age (16+ minus Retired)	Economically active Total	Employed	Unemployed	Economically inactive Total	Student	Looking after home/family	Long-term sick or disabled
Born in UK	501,503	376,224	329,286	39,672	125,279	53,118	25,488	30,673
		75.0%	65.7%	7.9%	25.0%	10.6%	5.1%	6.1%
Born Outside UK	183,559	114,145	96,461	14,528	69,414	21,155	23,513	10,777
		62.2%	52.6%	7.9%	37.8%	11.5%	12.8%	5.9%
<i>Europe Total</i>	<i>23,756</i>	<i>17,551</i>	<i>15,824</i>	<i>1,261</i>	<i>6,205</i>	<i>3,785</i>	<i>1,174</i>	<i>470</i>
		73.9%	66.6%	5.3%	26.1%	15.9%	4.9%	2.0%
Ireland	6,849	4,969	4,543	409	1,880	216	274	947
		72.6%	66.3%	6.0%	27.4%	3.2%	4.0%	13.8%
EU countries Total	21,091	15,863	14,397	1,063	5,228	3,235	975	353
		75.2%	68.3%	5.0%	24.8%	15.3%	4.6%	1.7%
EU countries: Member countries	7,446	4,898	4,294	399	2,548	1,851	282	185
		65.8%	57.7%	5.4%	34.2%	24.9%	3.8%	2.5%
EU countries: Accession countries	13,645	10,965	10,103	664	2,680	1,384	693	168
		80.4%	74.0%	4.9%	19.6%	10.1%	5.1%	1.2%
Rest of Europe	2,665	1,688	1,427	198	977	550	199	117
		63.3%	53.5%	7.4%	36.7%	20.6%	7.5%	4.4%
<i>Africa Total</i>	<i>29,119</i>	<i>19,742</i>	<i>15,393</i>	<i>3,403</i>	<i>9,377</i>	<i>3,948</i>	<i>2,385</i>	<i>1,211</i>
		67.8%	52.9%	11.7%	32.2%	13.6%	8.2%	4.2%
North Africa	2,373	1,488	1,088	341	885	303	291	118
		62.7%	45.8%	14.4%	37.3%	12.8%	12.3%	5.0%
Central and Western Africa	7,038	4,976	3,817	777	2,062	1,222	322	120
		70.7%	54.2%	11.0%	29.3%	17.4%	4.6%	1.7%
South and Eastern Africa	19,179	12,900	10,150	2,251	6,279	2,399	1,728	917
		67.3%	52.9%	11.7%	32.7%	12.5%	9.0%	4.8%
Africa not otherwise specified	529	378	338	34	151	24	44	56
		71.5%	63.9%	6.4%	28.5%	4.5%	8.3%	10.6%
<i>Middle East and Asia Total</i>	<i>107,978</i>	<i>60,001</i>	<i>50,481</i>	<i>8,016</i>	<i>47,977</i>	<i>11,887</i>	<i>18,975</i>	<i>7,106</i>
		55.6%	46.8%	7.4%	44.4%	11.0%	17.6%	6.6%
Middle East	9,699	4,962	3,627	1,140	4,737	2,202	1,128	553
		51.2%	37.4%	11.8%	48.8%	22.7%	11.6%	5.7%
Eastern Asia	8,395	3,645	3,054	327	4,750	3,879	471	83
		43.4%	36.4%	3.9%	56.6%	46.2%	5.6%	1.0%
Southern Asia	83,406	47,176	40,015	6,201	36,230	4,647	16,826	6,284
		56.6%	48.0%	7.4%	43.4%	5.6%	20.2%	7.5%
South-East Asia	6,350	4,159	3,734	345	2,191	1,105	543	183
		65.5%	58.8%	5.4%	34.5%	17.4%	8.6%	2.9%
Central Asia	128	59	51	3	69	54	7	3
		46.1%	39.8%	2.3%	53.9%	42.2%	5.5%	2.3%
<i>The Americas and the Caribbean Total</i>	<i>14,949</i>	<i>11,128</i>	<i>9,514</i>	<i>1,401</i>	<i>3,821</i>	<i>1,250</i>	<i>675</i>	<i>1,012</i>
		74.4%	63.6%	9.4%	25.6%	8.4%	4.5%	6.8%
North America and the Caribbean	13,947	10,413	8,877	1,344	3,534	1,085	605	992
		74.7%	63.6%	9.6%	25.3%	7.8%	4.3%	7.1%
Central and South America	1,002	715	637	57	287	165	70	20
		71.4%	63.6%	5.7%	28.6%	16.5%	7.0%	2.0%
<i>Antarctica and Oceania (including</i>	<i>908</i>	<i>754</i>	<i>706</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>
		83.0%	77.8%	4.2%	17.0%	7.6%	3.3%	3.4%