2011 Census in Birmingham

Population and Migration Topic Report

October 2013

Birmingham City Council

Planning & Growth Strategy, Planning & Regeneration, www.birmingham.gov.uk/census, population.census@birmingham.gov.uk, 0121 303 4208

Contents

Introduction	3
Key points	5
Age structure	6
Population change	11
Internal migration – data not yet released	
Overseas migration	12
Country of birth	13
Ethnic group	14
Language	16
Religion	18
Birmingham population profile	20
Contact and useful links	21

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

Introduction

A census has been carried out in England and Wales every decade since 1801, except in 1941. The Census is the most comprehensive source of information about the country's population. It is a survey that covers everyone at the same time asking the same questions everywhere, making it easy to compare different parts of the country. It is a legal requirement that everyone be included in the Census.

It covers millions of households as well as communal establishments, for example care homes. It even includes British Citizens abroad on temporary postings with the armed forces, people sleeping rough and visitors.

The Census is an invaluable dataset that helps local authorities and other organisations to spend money effectively in the planning of essential services. This report is intended to provide introductory sources of reference about Birmingham's population. There is a mass of data available from the Census, and the material presented here does not pretend to be exhaustive. This report should assist policy makers and researchers, but it does not make inferences about the reasons for particular results. Rather, they should help to identify issues that merit further investigation and research.

Overall, the report highlights similarities and differences between Birmingham and its constituent areas, as well as England and the West Midlands region. As Birmingham is about one fifth of the region's population, the regional average is to some extent influenced by the characteristics of the city. Differences between the city and the rest of the region would in many case be more marked that the differences between the city and regional averages.

Readers should be aware of the differences between the 2011 Census and previous censuses. The main difference between the 2011 and 2001 Census is in the topics covered. There are eight new topics: Bedrooms, type of central heating, second address, month and year of arrival in the UK, length of intended stay in the UK, national identity, passports held and main language. There are also changes to existing topics, for example back in 1991, the census asked 'which ethnic group do you descend from: White; Black-Caribbean; Black-African; Black-Other; Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi and Chinese.' In 2001, it asked about 'your ethnic group in terms of cultural background.' There were additional pre-defined categories of Mixed and White Irish in 2001 as well as an 'Other' category for each broad group of White, Mixed, Asian and Black. The 2011 question, however, simply asked about 'your ethnic group or background' and there were categories added for White Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Arab. The changes in the phrasing on the question restrict comparison across censuses. (ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity CoDE, 2013). Table 1 shows indicators of comparability by question, for more information please see the National Statistics Website: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html
Below is a table showing the indicators of comparability by question (2011 – 2001 Census in England and Wales Question Comparability, ONS, December 2012).
Changes to 2011 Census geography further complicates comparison between Censuses, ONS advise that the latest changes do not have a significant effect on the majority of results. However, readers should be aware that some of the difference at small area level may be explained by these geographically changes.

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

Table 1: Indicators of comparability by question	
Household family and Family relationships	Fully comparable
Household Continuation Sheet - Household and Family relationships	Fully comparable
Sex	Fully comparable
Marital and civil partnership status	Broadly comparable
Accommodation type	Fully comparable
Self-contained accommodation	Fully comparable
Number of rooms	Fully comparable
Number of bedrooms	New question in 2011
Type of central heating	Fully comparable
Tenure	Fully comparable
Type of landlord	Broadly comparable
Number of vehicles	Fully comparable
Reasons for not working*	Fully comparable
Ever worked	Fully comparable
Self-employed or employee	Fully comparable
Job title*	Fully comparable
Job description*	Fully comparable
Supervisor status*	Fully comparable
Industry	Broadly comparable
Travel to work	Fully comparable
Hours worked	Fully comparable
Qualifications	Broadly comparable
General health	Broadly comparable
Carers	Fully comparable
Long-term illness or disability	Broadly comparable
Country of birth	Fully comparable
Month and year of arrival in the UK	New question in 2011
Intended length of stay in the UK	New question in 2011
Passport	New question in 2011
Usual address one year ago	Broadly comparable
National identity	New question in 2011
Ethnic group	Broadly comparable
Knowledge of Welsh language (Wales only)	Fully comparable
Main language and spoken English proficiency	New question in 2011
Religion	Fully comparable
Other address	New question in 2011
Schoolchild or student	Fully comparable
Student term-time address	Broadly comparable
Count of usual residents in each household and Household members table	Broadly comparable
Waiting to start a job*	Fully comparable
Name of employer*	Fully comparable
Workplace address*	Fully comparable

*This information is used to derive census estimates but is not published itself as part of the standard census products.

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

The 2011 Census estimates Birmingham's resident population at 1,073,045. Birmingham is the largest local Authority area and city outside of London. Birmingham is home to around 20% of residents in the West Midlands region. The Census estimate includes full-time students living in Birmingham during term-time, but does not include short-term residents.[1] The 2011 Census recorded 5,063 short-term residents. Three quarters of short-term residents aged 16 years and above said they came to the UK for full-time study.

Key points

Birmingham is the largest Local Authority District and is home to around 20% of residents in the West Midlands.

In Birmingham, there were two wards where 1 in 3 of the population are children: Washwood Heath (33.9%) and Bordesley Green (33.8%).

Wards in Sutton Coldfield ranked 1 to 4 for the proportion of population that were pensioners - 1 in 5 people living in Sutton Coldfield were pensioners

For all wards the greatest proportion of pensioners was found among the White Irish ethnic group. This was followed by White British in all but 10 wards, where the proportion of Black Caribbeans or Indians were greater.

The overall size of the city's population has increased by 9.8% between 2001 and 2011, an increase of 96,000.

Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people of working age has increased by 83,968 (13.9%). This compares with 6.2% for West Midlands and 9.2% for England.

238,313 Birmingham residents were born overseas, of these, 44% (103,682) have been resident in the UK for less than 10 years.

Countries new to the twenty most reported countries of birth for Birmingham residents since 2001 include, Iran, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Romania.

Established migrants outnumbered newer migrants in all wards except for, Edgbaston, Ladywood, Nechells and Selly Oak.

[1] Short term residents refer to people who were born outside the UK and intend to stay for between 3 and 12 months.

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

Population - Age Structure

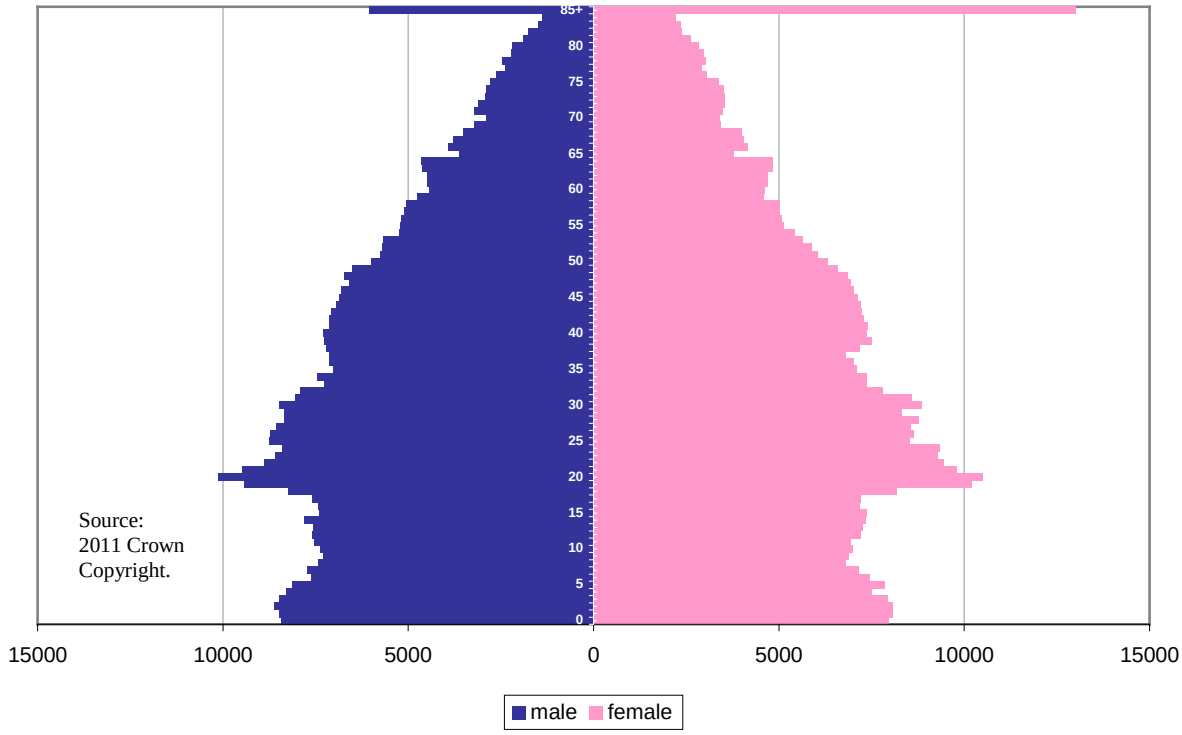
Birmingham has a relatively young age structure compared with the region and England, with on average more children and fewer pensioners.

Table2: 2011 Census Age Structure – Birmingham

		Under 16		16-64		65 and over	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Birmingham	1,073,045	244,682	22.8	690,150	64.3	138,213	12.9
West Midlands	5,601,847	1,094,442	19.5	3,561,430	63.6	945,975	16.9
England	53,012,456	10,022,836	18.9	34,329,091	64.8	8,660,529	16.3

Source: 2011 Census, Crown copyright 2013

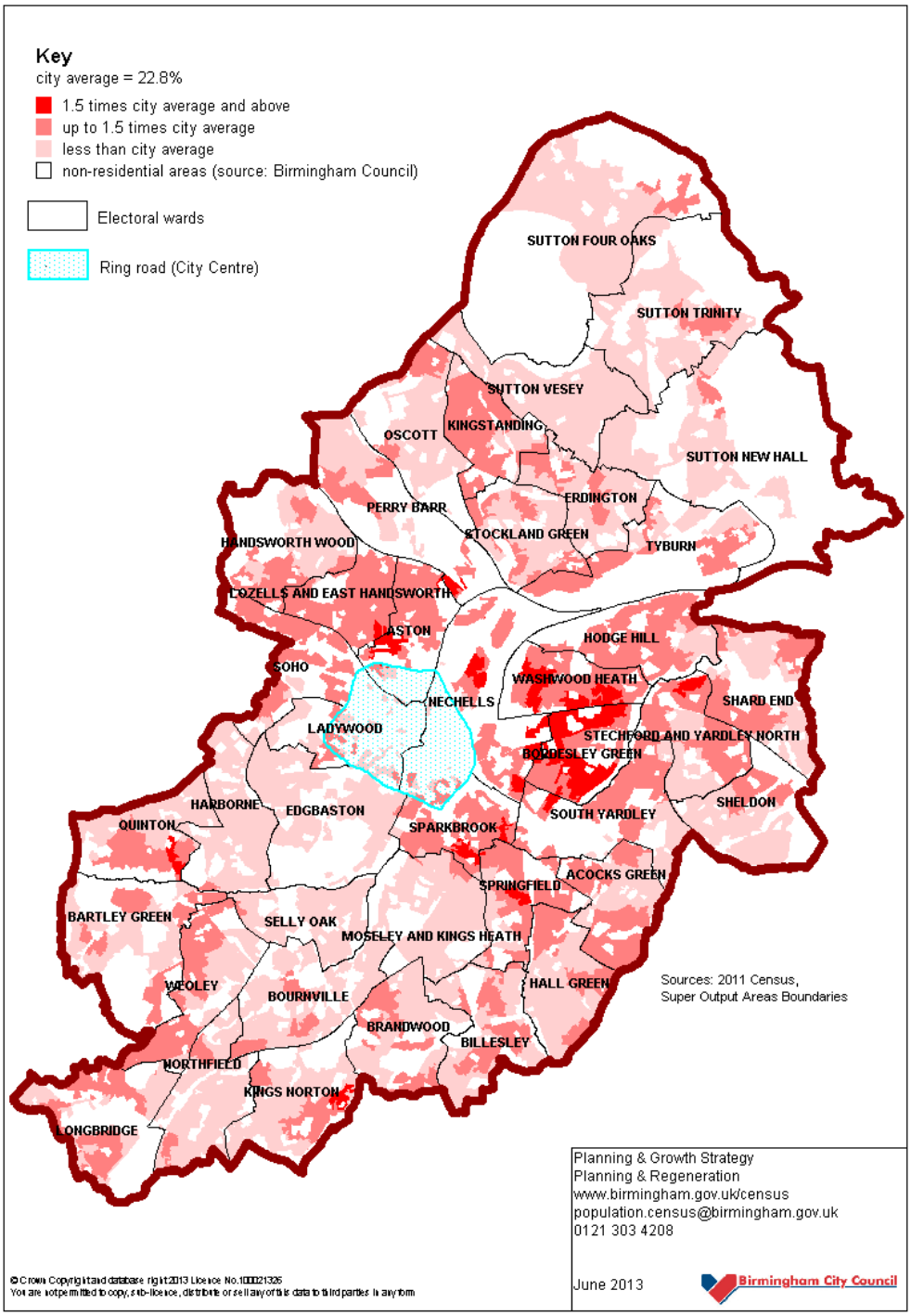
Figure 1: Birmingham resident population – 2011 Census day



Above is an age pyramid of Birmingham's population. Each line of the pyramid represents a single year of age in the population. The size and make up of the population is determined by births, deaths and migration that have taken place in previous years.

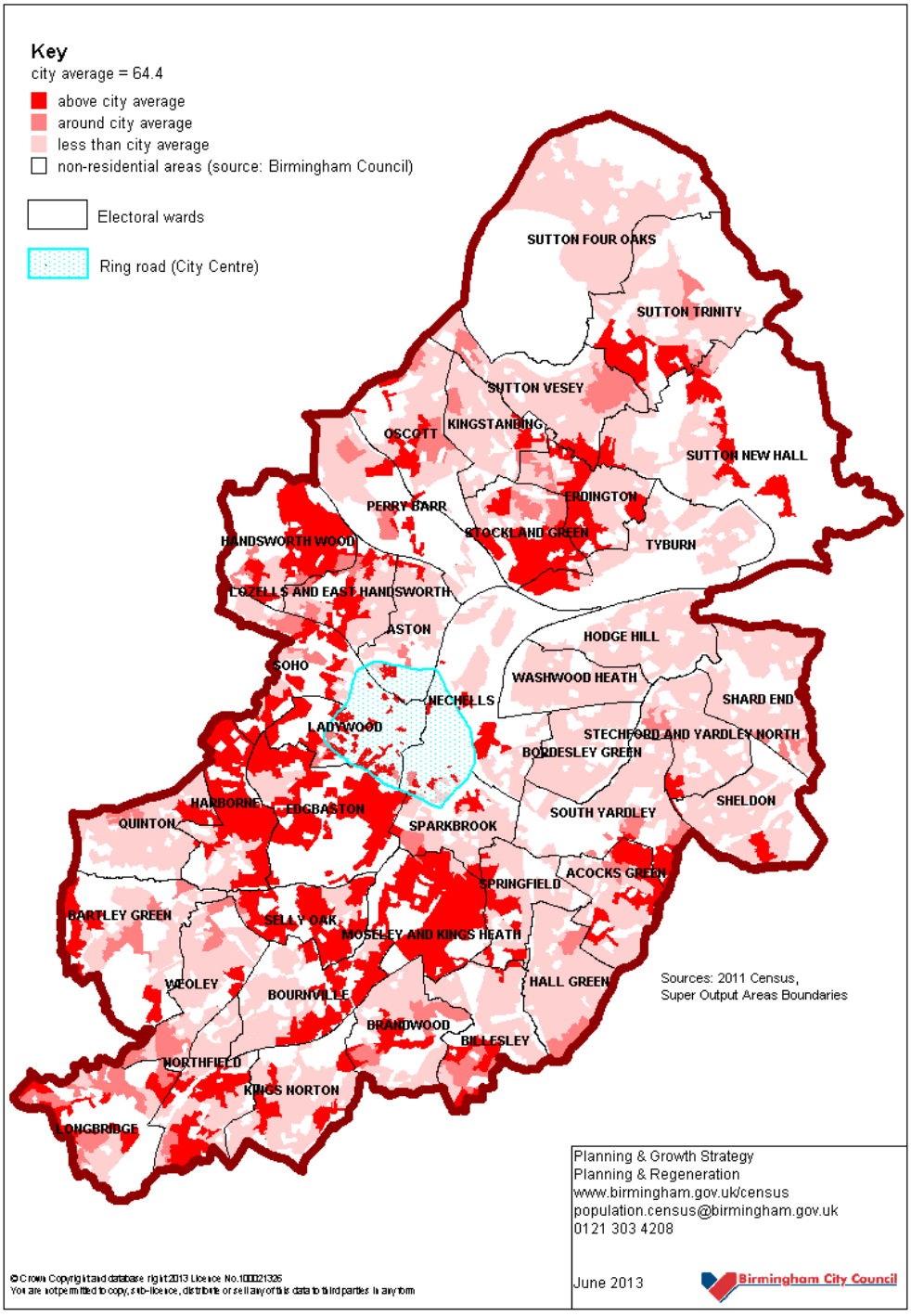
Some key points from the pyramid are:
It shows that there are fewer people in the older age groups than in the younger, confirming Birmingham's young age structure. It also shows the differences between the sexes. There are generally more females than males in each single year of age, except for the youngest ages (0-18) and late 30's and late 50's. The differences are most marked in the oldest age group reflecting greater female longevity. The bulge around the early 20's is due largely to students coming to the city's Universities. The census recorded over 78,000 full-time students who were above 18 years, living in Birmingham during term-time. The narrowing around age 10 reflects declining birth rates around the turn of the Century. The broadening of the base is due to high numbers of births in recent years. Births are up 20% since 2001, increasing from 14,427 to 17,423 in 2011.

Figure 2: Percentage of Birmingham population who were aged 0-15 years



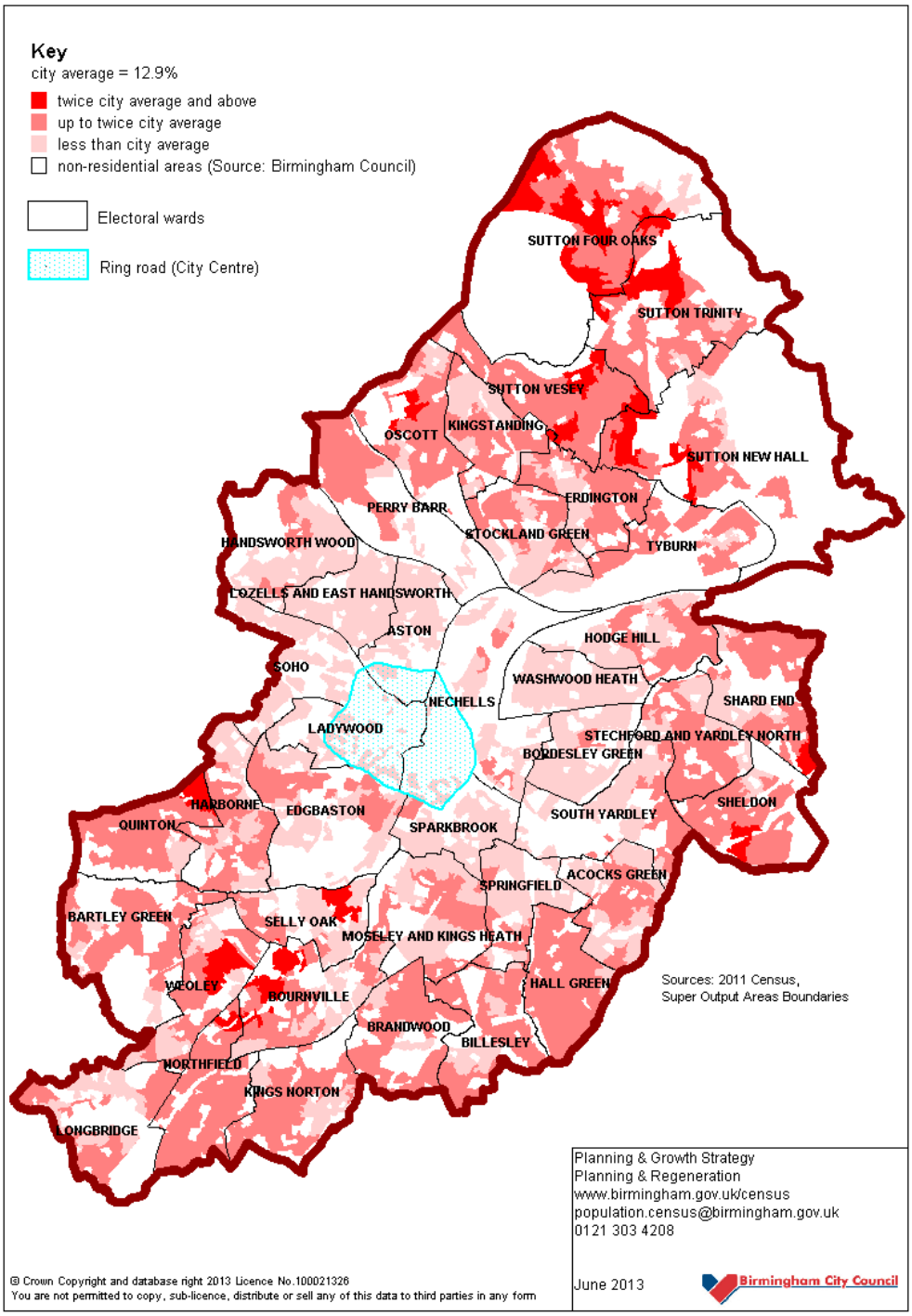
22.8% of Birmingham residents were children, this is higher than the regional (19.5%) and England (18.9%) averages. In Birmingham, there were two wards where 1 in 3 of the population are children: Washwood Heath (33.9%) and Bordesley Green (33.8%). Figure 2 shows that high concentrations of children were also found in parts of Nechells, Kings Norton, Quinton, Springfield, Stetchford, Aston and Lozells. There were very low proportions of children in Selly Oak (9.7%), Ladywood (11.5%) and Edgbaston (12.5%), these wards also having high numbers of full-time students.

Figure 3: Percentage of the population who were aged 16-64 years (working age)



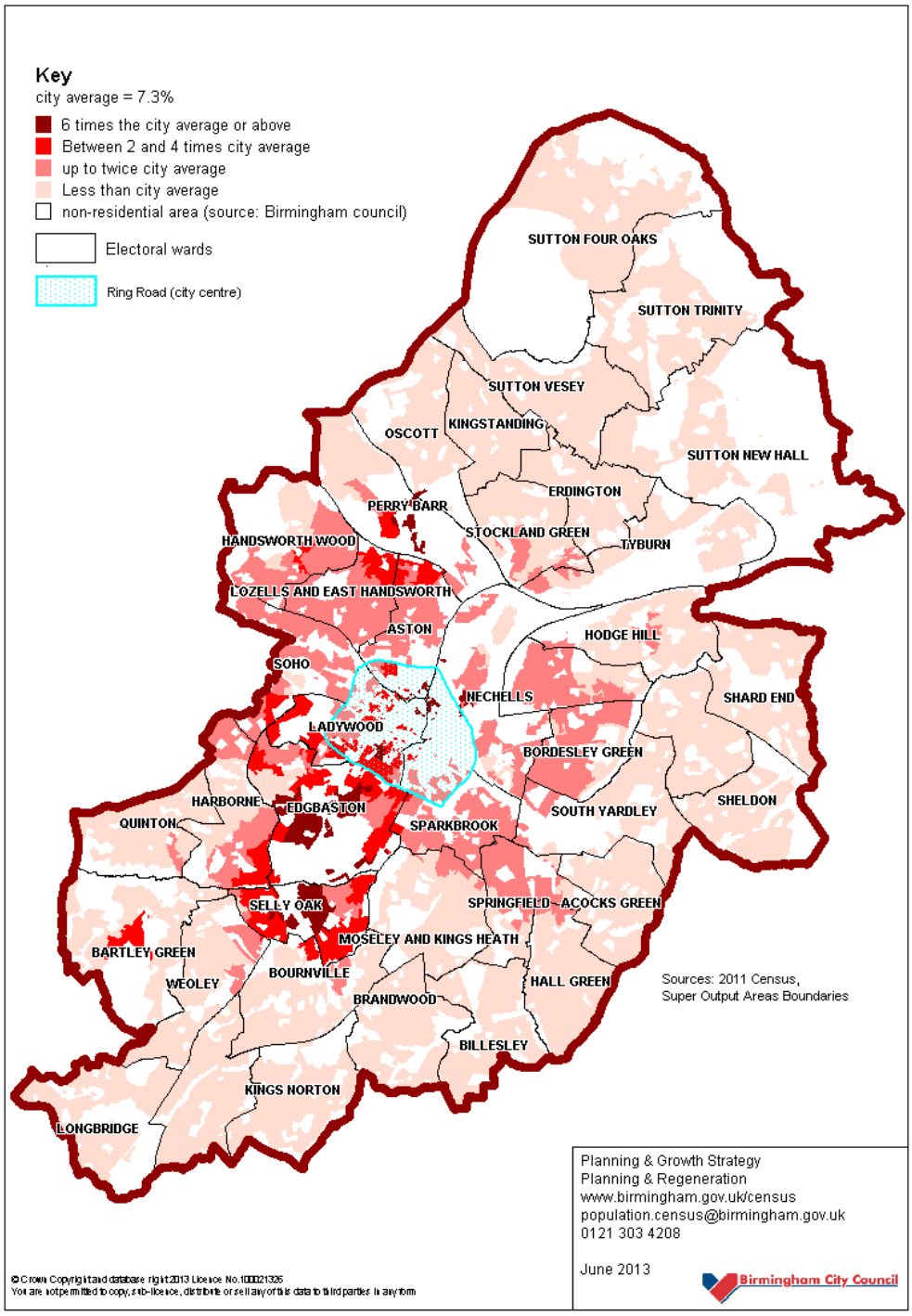
Birmingham (64.3%) has a higher proportion of people of working age than the region (63.6%), but is just below the England average. Ladywood (83.8%), Selly Oak (81.8%) and Edgbaston (76.2%) were Birmingham's highest ranking wards in terms of working population. As previously mentioned, Birmingham attracts young people who come to study at the city's university and this group is also influenced by international migrants. Bordesley Green (57.8%) and Sutton Four Oaks (58.7%) recorded very low proportions of people of working age.

Figure 4: Percentage of Birmingham population who were aged 65 years or more



The proportion of pensioners in Birmingham (12.9%) is significantly lower than the region (16.9%) and England (16.3%). However, 13.8% of pensioners in Birmingham were over 85 years, this was above the region (13%) and slightly above England (13.6%). Wards in Sutton Coldfield ranked 1 to 4 for the proportion of population that were pensioners - 1 in 5 people living in Sutton Coldfield were pensioners. In contrast, LSOAs in Nechells, Ladywood and Selly Oak recorded less than 2% of their population as pensioners.

Figure 5: Percentage of Birmingham population who were full-time students

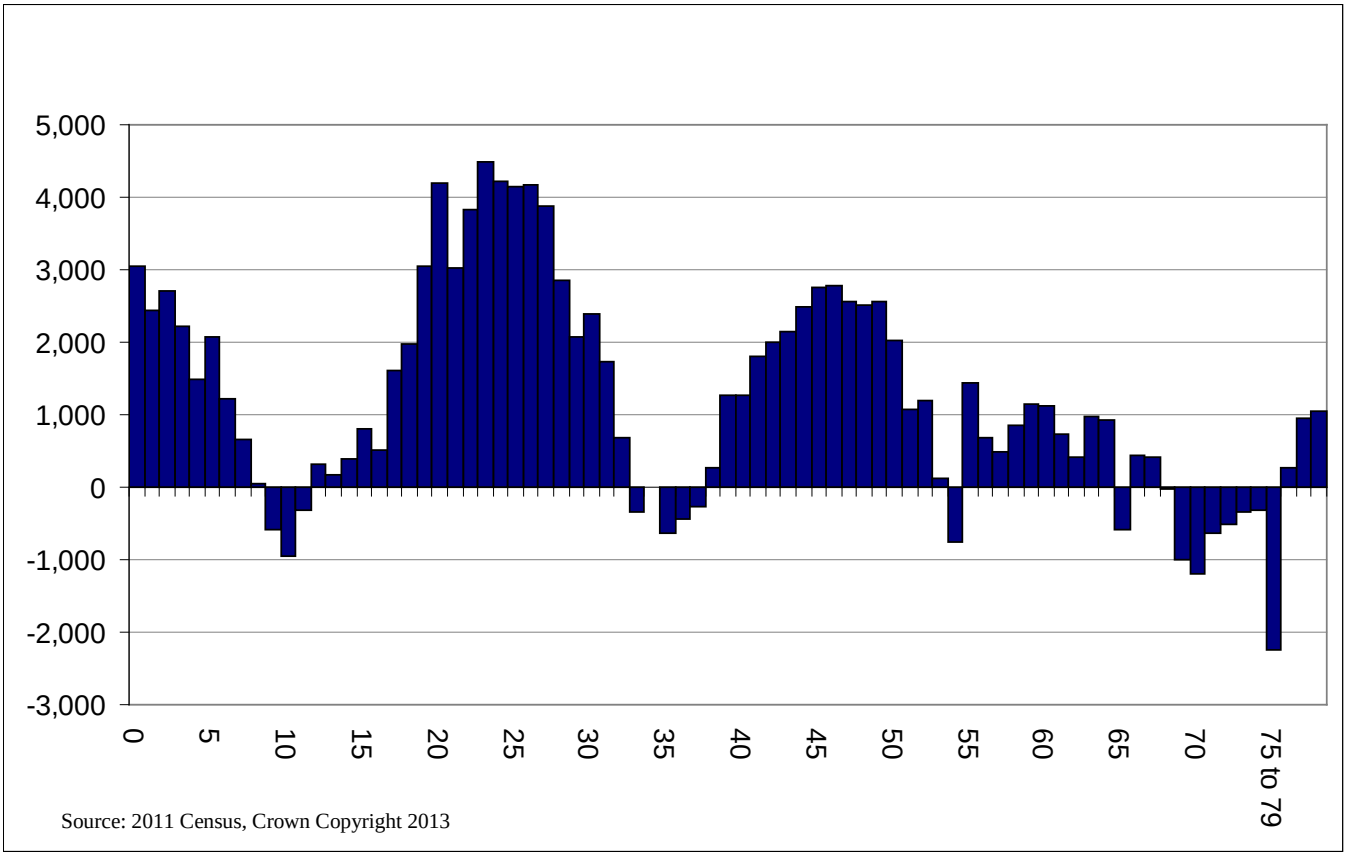


The number of full-time students aged 18 years and above living in Birmingham during term-time increased from 48,227 in 2001 to 78,440, an increase of 62.7% (30,213). There were eight Birmingham LSOAs where the proportion of students exceeded 50%, this was mainly due to communal student accommodation, wards affected were Nechells, Selly Oak, Edgbaston and Perry Barr. However, there were two LSOAs in Selly Oak ward where the proportion of students exceeded 80% despite the Census not recording any communal establishments within the LSOA.

Population change

Birmingham's population was generally reducing during the 1980s and 1990s, continuing a trend of reduction since the 1960s. In contrast, the overall size of the city's population has increased by 9.8% between 2001 and 2011, an increase of 96,000.

Figure 6: 2011 Census – Birmingham population change by single year of age 2001 - 2011



Children

The number of children in Birmingham was estimated to have increased by 15,733 (6.9%) since 2001. This is well above the regional (-0.1%) and England (1.2%) averages. Figure 6 shows the increase mainly took place amongst the under 8's. This is a reflection of increased birth levels during recent years.

Working age

Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people of working age has increased by 83,968 (13.9%). This compares with 6.2% for West Midlands and 9.2% for England. In Birmingham, young adults up to the age of 30 years, accounted for over half of the increase. This group is influenced by student movements and international migration.

Pension age

Overall numbers of pensioners has decreased slightly since 2001, falling from 141,956 in 2001 to 138,213 in 2011. This is in contrast to the region and England, where the number of pensioners has increased by 12.6% and 10.9% respectively. However, numbers of over 85s in Birmingham has increased by 2,003 between Censuses, a percentage increase of 11.7%.

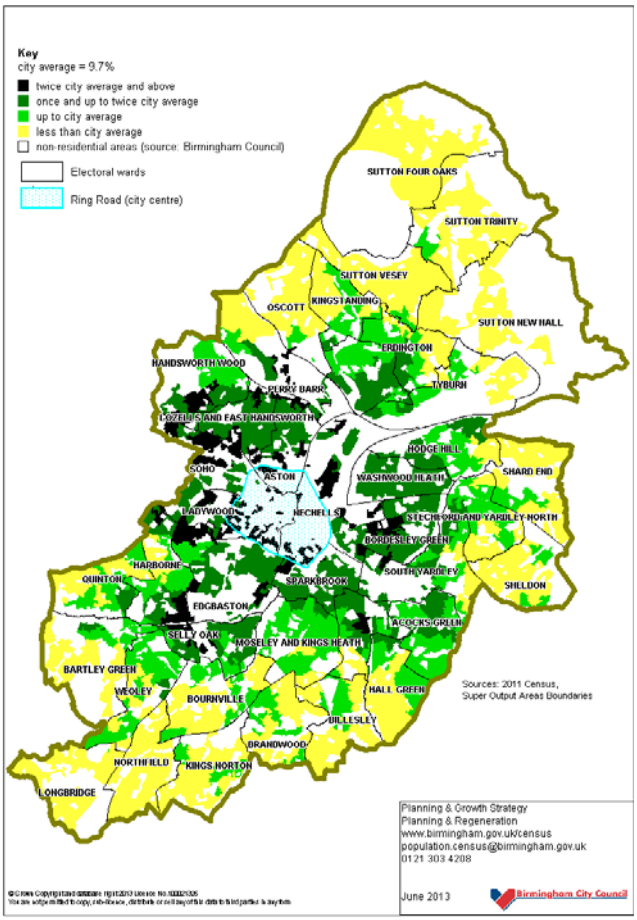
Overseas Migration

The 2011 Census show that the majority (77.8%) of Birmingham residents were born in the UK, this was below England (86.2%) and West Midlands (88.8%) averages.

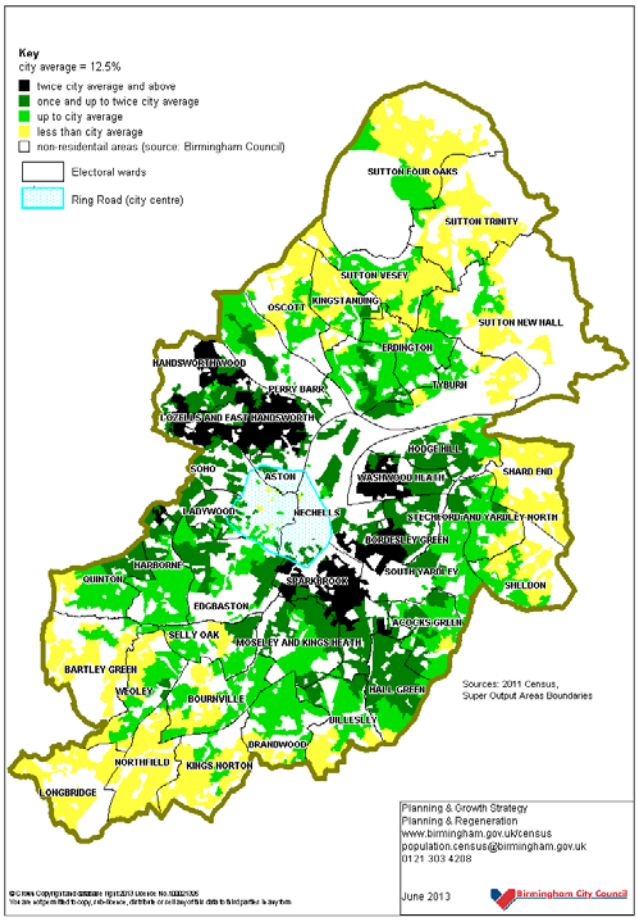
238,313 Birmingham residents were born overseas, of these, 44% (103,682) have been resident in the UK for less than 10 years. The highest concentration of new migrants [2] were found in Ladywood (26.7%), Nechells (23%) and Soho (19.9%), longer established migrants were more likely to live in Lozells and East Handsworth, Sparkbrook and Handsworth Wood wards. More established migrants were twice as likely to live in Sutton Coldfield, compared with new migrants. More settled migrants were less likely to live in Longbridge, Shard End or Northfield than recent migrants. Established migrants outnumbered newer migrants in all wards except for Edgbaston, Ladywood, Nechells and Selly Oak.

Figure 7: Percentage of Birmingham residents born overseas that have been:

Resident less than 10 years



Resident 10 years or longer



[2] New migrants are those resident in UK for 10 years or less

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

Migration - Country of birth

Overseas migrants arriving between the 1950s and 1980s were mainly from southern India and the Caribbean. More recent trends see people arriving from many different parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, Africa and Middle East. Countries new to the twenty most reported countries of birth for Birmingham residents since 2001 include Iran, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Romania (table 2).
In Birmingham, Pakistan, India and Republic of Ireland were the most frequently recorded countries of birth outside of the UK in 2001 and 2011. In England, India was followed by Poland and Pakistan.
The number of Birmingham residents reporting countries of birth outside of the UK has increased for all of the countries in Table 3, with the exception of Republic of Ireland, where the number decreased 29.5% between 2001 and 2011. The most marked increases were seen amongst Romanians, rising from 66 in 2001 to 1,433 in 2011. People born in Poland and Somalia increased nine fold and those in born in China, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Iran 3 fold.

Table 3: Twenty most reported countries of birth outside UK, 2011 and 2001

2011				2001		
rank	Country of birth	number	% of total population	country of birth	number	% of total population
1	Pakistan	55,922	5.2	Pakistan	41,724	4.3
2	India	27,206	2.5	India	23,194	2.4
3	Republic of Ireland	16,085	1.5	Republic of Ireland	22,828	2.3
4	Jamaica	15,100	1.4	Jamaica	14,207	1.5
5	Bangladesh	13,864	1.3	Bangladesh	10,785	1.1
6	Poland	9,477	0.9	Kenya	3,769	0.4
7	Somalia	7,765	0.7	Germany	2,294	0.2
8	China	6,203	0.6	Hong Kong	1,469	0.2
9	Kenya	3,988	0.4	China	1,411	0.1
10	Nigeria	3,399	0.3	North Africa	1,098	0.1
11	Zimbabwe	3,238	0.3	France	1,081	0.1
12	Germany	3,020	0.3	South Africa	1,076	0.1
13	Iran	3,005	0.3	Former Yugoslavia	1,029	0.1
14	North Africa	2,696	0.3	Iraq	1,029	0.1
15	Philippines	2,286	0.2	United States	973	0.1
16	Hong Kong	2,059	0.2	Poland	928	0.1
17	France	1,486	0.1	Malaysia	901	0.1
18	South Africa	1,465	0.1	Somalia	819	0.1
19	Romania	1,433	0.1	Italy	817	0.1
20	United States	1,419	0.1	Nigeria	753	0.1

Source: 2011 Census, Crown Copyright 2013

Migration – Ethnic group

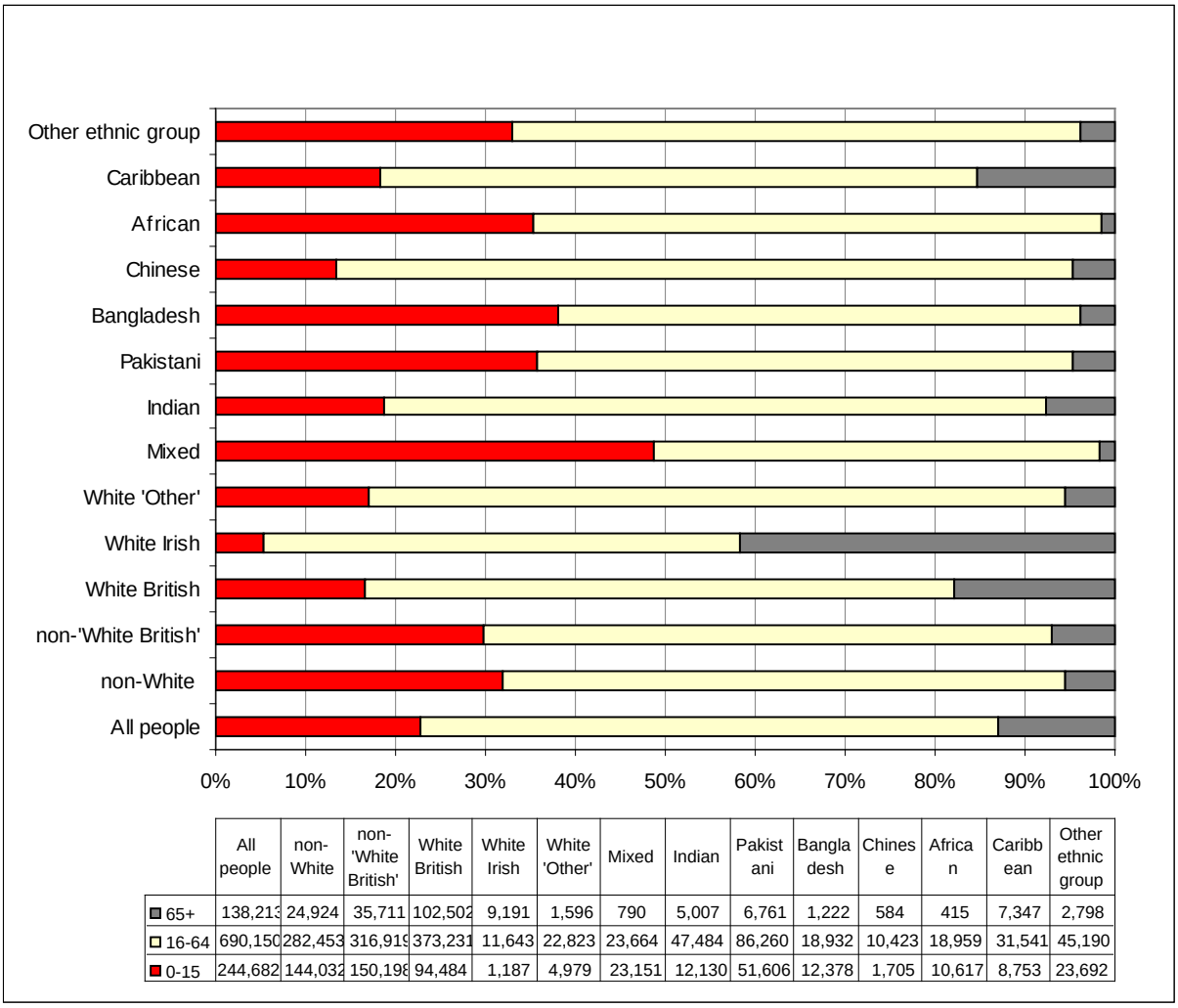
As would be expected, there were very few White British usual residents born abroad. This was also true for people of Mixed or Multiple ethnic backgrounds. This pattern was similar for the West Midlands region and England, although the proportion of people with multiple ethnic backgrounds born abroad and living in England was double the regional and Birmingham average. High proportions of people of White 'Other', Chinese, African and White Irish ethnicity were born outside of the UK.

Table 4: Population born outside the UK by ethnic group, 2011

	Birmingham	West Midlands	England
	Percentage		
All people	22.2	11.2	13.8
White British	1.4	1.3	2.2
White Irish	64.1	65.4	66.4
White 'Other'	82.6	83.2	83.9
Mixed or Multiple ethnic group	9.9	10.1	19.7
Indian	46.0	46.0	56.9
Pakistani	37.8	38.5	43.8
Bangladeshi	43.3	43.2	48.1
Chinese	78.1	77.2	76.3
African	74.7	75.7	67.2
Caribbean	39.0	38.2	39.8
Other ethnic group	52.4	55.8	66.0

Source: 2011 Census, Crown Copyright 2013

Figure 8: Census 2011 age distribution by ethnic group, Birmingham.



	All people	non-White	non-'White British'	White British	White Irish	White 'Other'	Mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladesh	Chinese	African	Caribbean	Other ethnic group
65+	138,213	24,924	35,711	102,502	9,191	1,596	790	5,007	6,761	1,222	584	415	7,347	2,798
16-64	690,150	282,453	316,919	373,231	11,643	22,823	23,664	47,484	86,260	18,932	10,423	18,959	31,541	45,190
0-15	244,682	144,032	150,198	94,484	1,187	4,979	23,151	12,130	51,606	12,378	1,705	10,617	8,753	23,692

Most Birmingham residents belong to the White ethnic group (57.9%, 622,000), with the majority of these belonging to the White British group (53.1%, 570,000), other large groups include Pakistani (13.5%, 144,627) and Indian (6.0%, 64,621).

The proportion of children is very high for the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, this is a reflection of Birmingham's growing diversity, which increases the possibility of mixed partnerships. For all Birmingham wards, with the exception of Selly Oak, the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups contained the greatest proportion of children, when compared with other ethnic groups. In Selly Oak the proportion of Pakistani children was greater. The White Irish group has very few children, reflecting the aging Irish population and a tendency for parents to classify their children as White British.

There were high proportions of people of working age in the Chinese (82%), White 'Other' (77.6%) and Indian (73.5%) ethnic groups.

The White Irish (41.7%) had, by far, the greatest proportion of people of pensionable age, followed by White British (18%) and Black Caribbean (15.4%). The proportion of Black Caribbeans of pensionable was significantly higher than other non-White groups, reflecting the first large scale immigration of non-white groups to Britain in the 1950's. For all wards the greatest proportion of pensioners was found among the White Irish ethnic group. This was followed by White British in all but 10 wards, where the proportion of Black Caribbeans or Indians were greater.

Language

There were 47,000 people who said they did not speak English well or at all, this represents 2.4% of the population aged three years or more. This is more than twice the regional and national averages. Children were more likely to speak English well, than the working age and pensioner populations. Where English was not the main language the most commonly spoken were Southern Asian languages (table 4).
There were seven wards where the proportion of residents aged 3 years and above who could not speak English, or speak it well, was above 10%.

Figure 9: Percentage of people in Birmingham who could not speak English well or at all

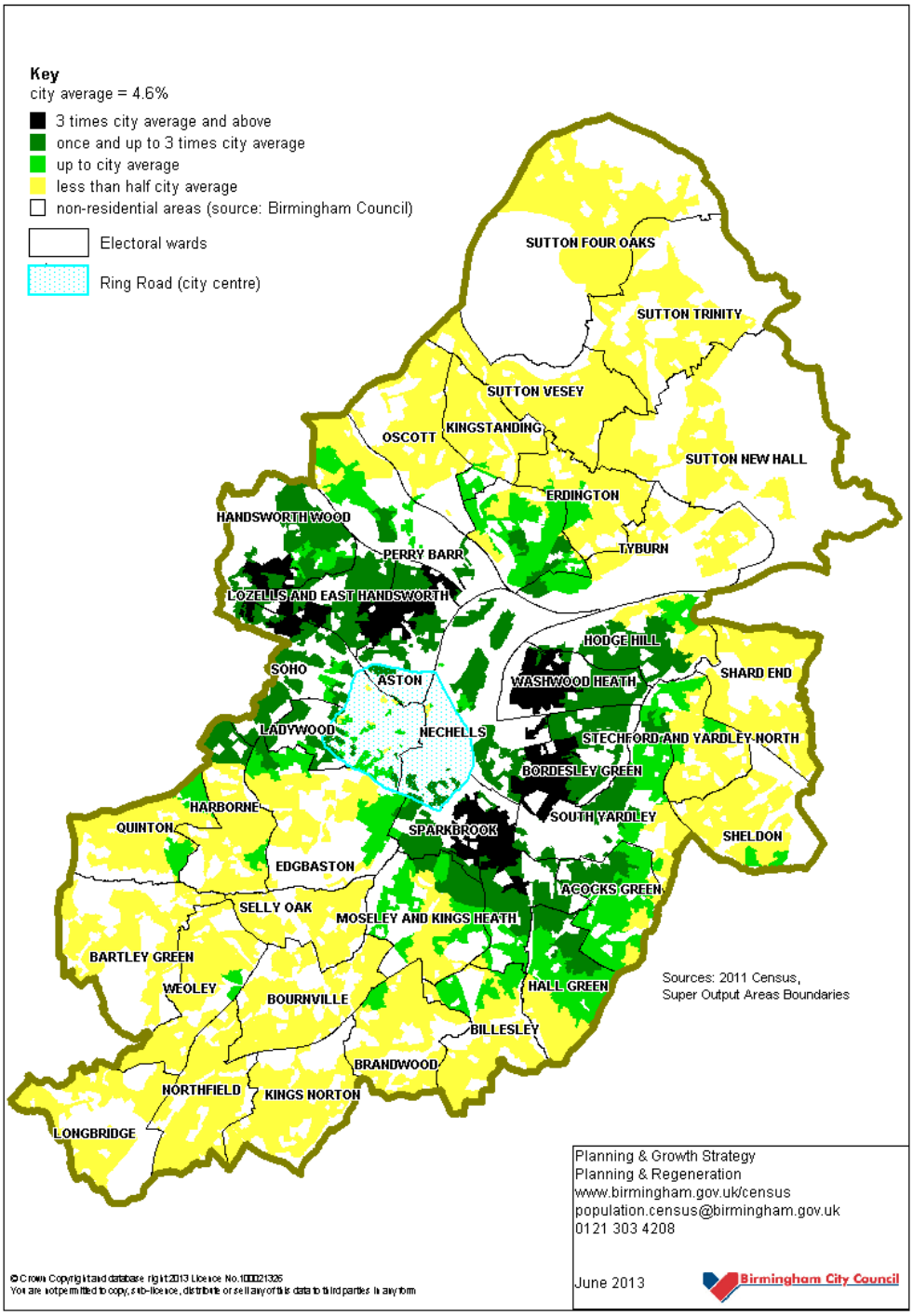


Table 5: Twenty most reported main languages other than English, 2011

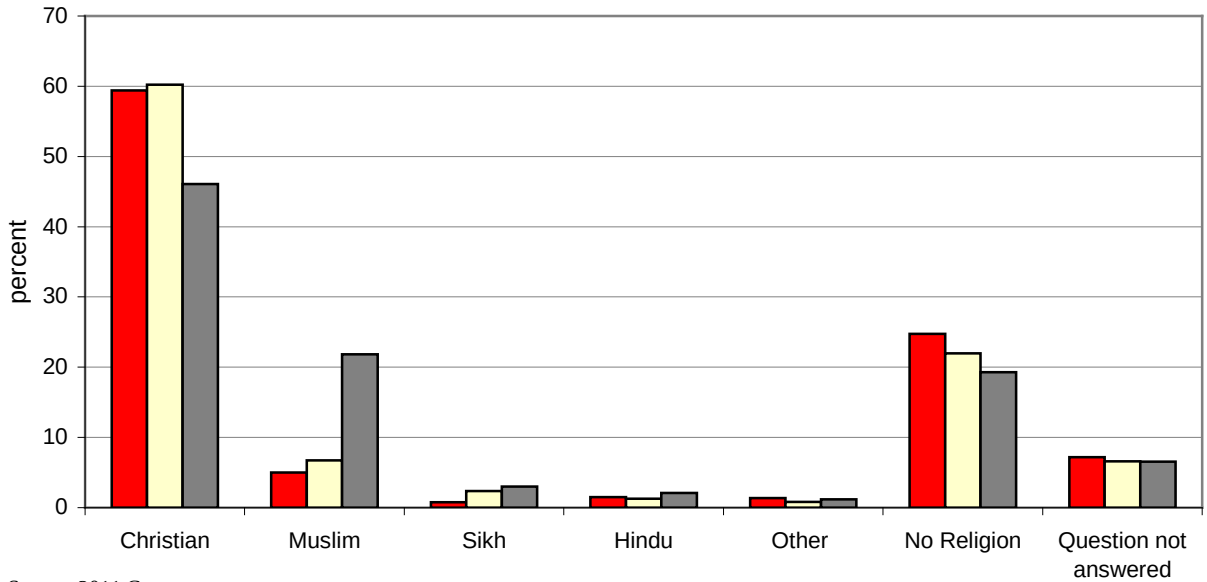
rank	language	number	% of population aged 3+	rank	language	number	% of population aged 3+
1	Urdu	29,403	2.9	11	W Persian/Farsi	3,031	0.3
2	Panjabi	21,166	2.1	12	Kurdish	2,716	0.3
3	Bengali	14,718	1.4	13	French	2,558	0.2
4	Pakistani Pahari	10,827	1.1	14	Hindi	1,540	0.2
5	Polish	8,952	0.9	15	Romanian	1,233	0.1
6	Somali	8,139	0.8	16	Tagalog/Filipino	1,186	0.1
7	Chinese/Cantonese	7807		17	Portuguese	1,127	0.1
8	Arabic	6,921	0.7	18	Tigrinya	1,074	0.1
9	Pashto	6,123	0.6	19	German	1,009	0.1
10	Gujarati	4,871	0.5	20	Tamil	999	0.1

Source: 2011 Census, Crown Copyright, 2013

Almost 40% of Bordesley Green (38.3%), Sparkbrook (38.1%) and Washwood Heath (36%) ward residents reported a main language other than English. This compares with the Birmingham average of 15%. Ten wards were home to over three quarters of Urdu speakers in Birmingham. Four of these wards contained over 3,000 Urdu speakers: Washwood Heath (3,463), Springfield (3,428), Sparkbrook (3,299) and Bordesley Green (3,283). 60% of Panjabi speakers lived in seven wards, the three top ranking wards were Handsworth Wood (3,372), Soho (2,474) and Lozells and East Handsworth (1,857). Over 60% of Bengali speakers lived in 6 Birmingham wards Aston (2,654), Lozells and East Handsworth (2,083) and Bordesley Green (1,389) were the most highly ranked.

Religion

Figure 10: 2011 Religion in Birmingham



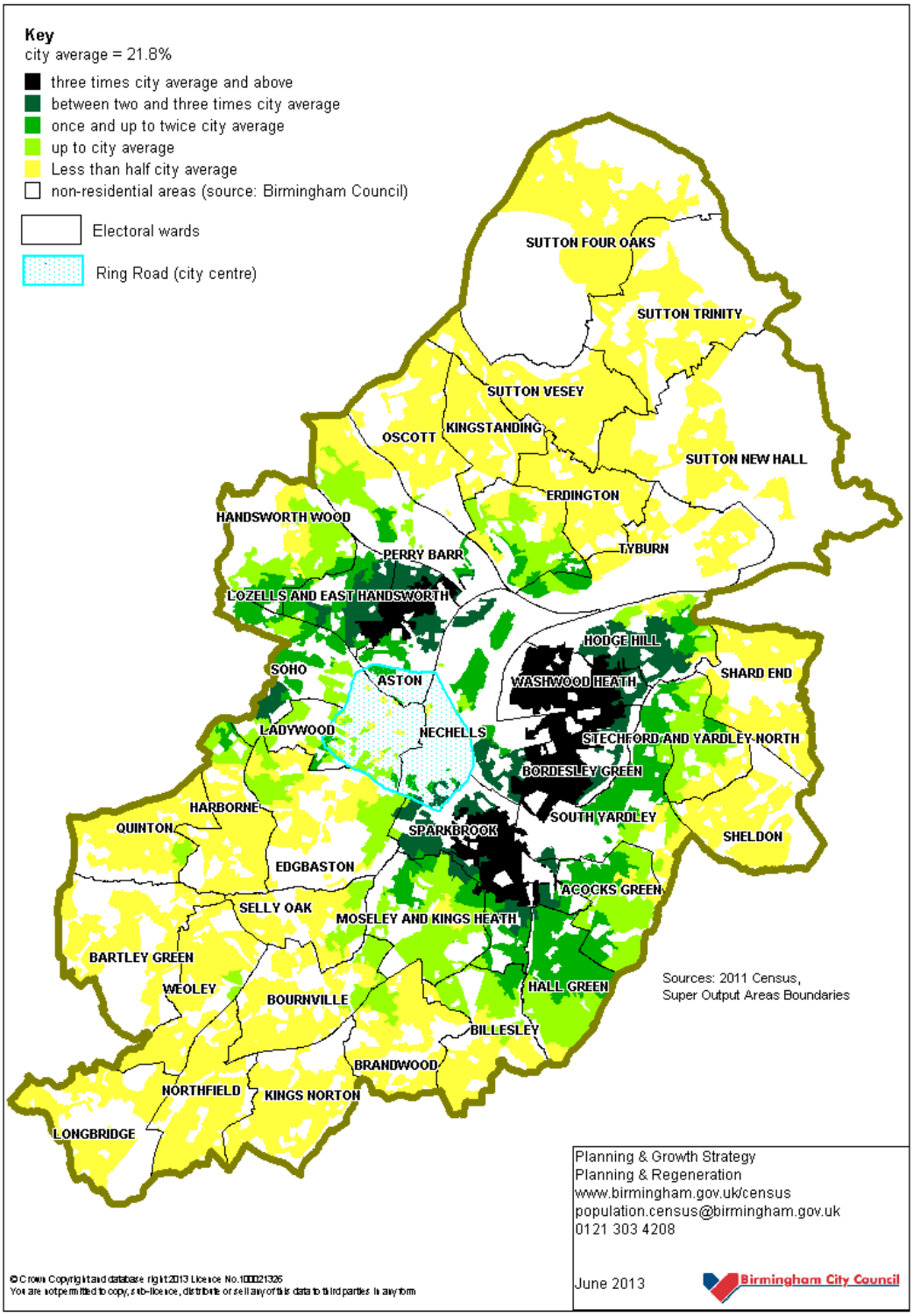
Source: 2011 Census, Crown Copyright, 2013

46.1% of Birmingham residents said they were Christian, this is a decrease of 13 percentage points from 2001. This downward trend was also reflected regionally and nationally. In contrast, people who said they were Muslim increased by 7.5 percentage points in Birmingham, the region (2.6%) and England (1.9%) also record relatively modest increases.

Over 1 in 5 people that responded to the religion question said they were Muslim, making Islam the 2nd largest religion in Birmingham. This differed from the region and England, where the proportion of people who said they had no religion was greater. However, Birmingham does follow the upward trend of people saying they do not have a religion. The proportion of people saying they have no religion increased by 6.9 percentage points between Censuses.

Birmingham ranked 9th for the proportion of respondents stating they were Muslim, behind 4 London authorities, Bradford, Luton, Slough and Leicester. However, the number of Muslims living in Birmingham was far greater than any other Local Authority District. At 234,411, Muslims in Birmingham almost doubled the number found in Bradford (129,041), ranked 2nd for number of Muslims.

Figure 11: Percentage of Birmingham population who said they were Muslim.



There were 5 Birmingham wards where the proportion of Muslims was more than half the population, of these, 3 recorded more than 70% of people identifying with the Islam faith. These were Washwood Heath (77.3%), Bordesley Green (73.9%) and Sparkbrook (70.2%). Very high concentrations of Muslims were also found in LSOAs within Springfield, Nechells and Lozells and East Handsworth.

2011 Census: Birmingham Population and Migration Topic Report

Contact and Useful Links:

Birmingham Council Census and Population pages:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/census

Office for National Statistics – Census homepage:
http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html

Office for National Statistics Census User Guide:
http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-user-guide/index.htmlGlossary

Office for National Statistics Geography Guide
http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/index.html

Contact:

Planning & Growth Strategy,
Planning & Regeneration,
Birmingham Council,
PO BOX 14439,
Birmingham,
B2 2JE.

Tel: 0121 303 4208
Email: population.census@birmingham.gov.uk
www.birmingham.gov.uk/census