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Londoners born overseas, their age and year of arrival

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Key Findings:

- More than a third of Londoners were born outside the UK.
- Half of all migrants to the UK living in London in 2011 arrived since 2000, but more than a third of those had lived in the UK at least 20 years.
- The known patterns of migration to the UK for Caribbean-born residents are clear, with significant numbers arriving before 1971, though there was another, smaller influx in the 1990s, whereas the arrival dates of migrants currently in London born in India or Pakistan are more evenly spread, though nearly half of those born in India arrived in the UK since 2000.
- One in three of all Londoners born outside the UK arrived when they were aged 16-24. Nearly as many arrived aged 25-34 and a quarter were children when they arrived.
- While the number of immigrants from the United States and from Australia and the patterns of year of arrival were similar, those born in the United States were much more likely to have entered the UK as children than those born in Australia.
- Similar numbers of Asian and Black Londoners were born in the UK, but far more Asians were born outside the UK.
- Just over half of London residents born outside the UK used a language other than English as their main language. The percentage of those whose main language was not English, not surprisingly, increased with age at arrival in the UK.
- One in three Londoners born outside the UK but who arrived in the UK as children (aged under 16) did not have English as their main language, compared with more than half for all those arriving in the UK as adults, regardless of age.

Overall, almost three million people living in London at the time of the 2011 Census (37 per cent) were born outside the UK. In order to understand, plan and provide for Londoners, it is therefore important to understand the characteristics of these immigrants. Censuses in the UK since 1841 have asked questions about birthplace, so give information on the number of people born overseas, and this shows that the proportion of Londoners born outside the UK has almost doubled since 1981. Combined with other questions, this allows a picture of those born overseas to be constructed, including information about the households in which they live as well as individual characteristics, such as their age profile. However, the 2011 Census was the first to

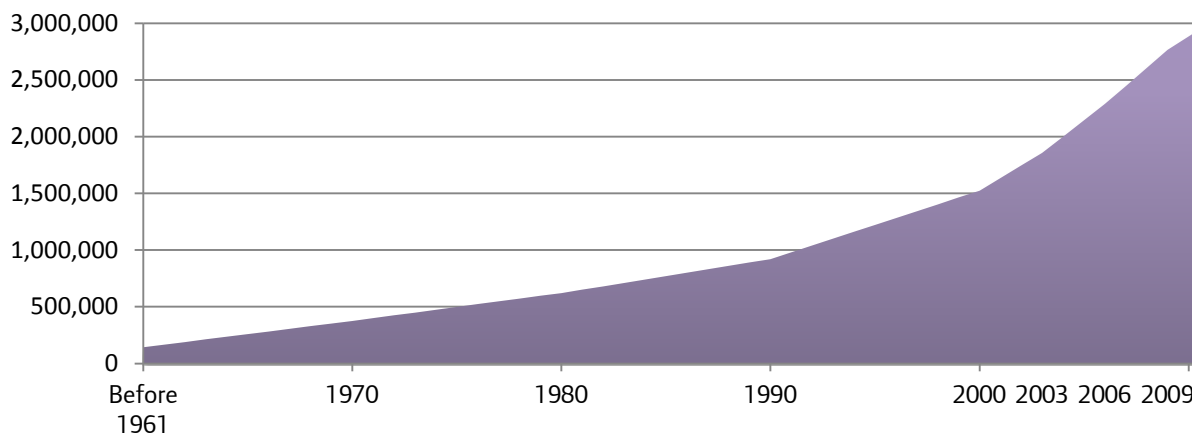
ask when each person arrived to live in the UK, which allows planners and service providers to look at a further dimension to help understand the characteristics of this population and their needs. Not only does this information tell us how long they have been in the UK, but also their age when they first came to the country.

The Census Information Scheme publication CIS2012-13: Detailed Country of birth, passports held and national identity analyses 2011 Census data on the non-UK born population of London.

What the UK Census cannot capture is information about people who have left the UK to live overseas, whether they were born in the UK or originally born elsewhere. However, some information can be gleaned from Censuses in other countries. For example, the Australian Census in 2011 recorded 1.1 million people born in the UK, but does not give how many of those were from London. In contrast, fewer than 0.2 million people born in Australia were living in England at the time of the 2011 Census; 54,000 of them were in London.

Half of all migrants to the UK living in London in 2011 arrived since 2000, which is similar to the proportion for the whole of England. Nearly a third of immigrant Londoners had been resident for more than twenty years, with just one in twenty living in the UK for more than fifty years. These longer term figures are just a little below those for England, which is not surprising, given the churn in London's population and, particularly, the relatively low proportion of older people living in the capital.

Figure 1: All migrants to UK currently resident in London (2011) by year of arrival (cumulative)



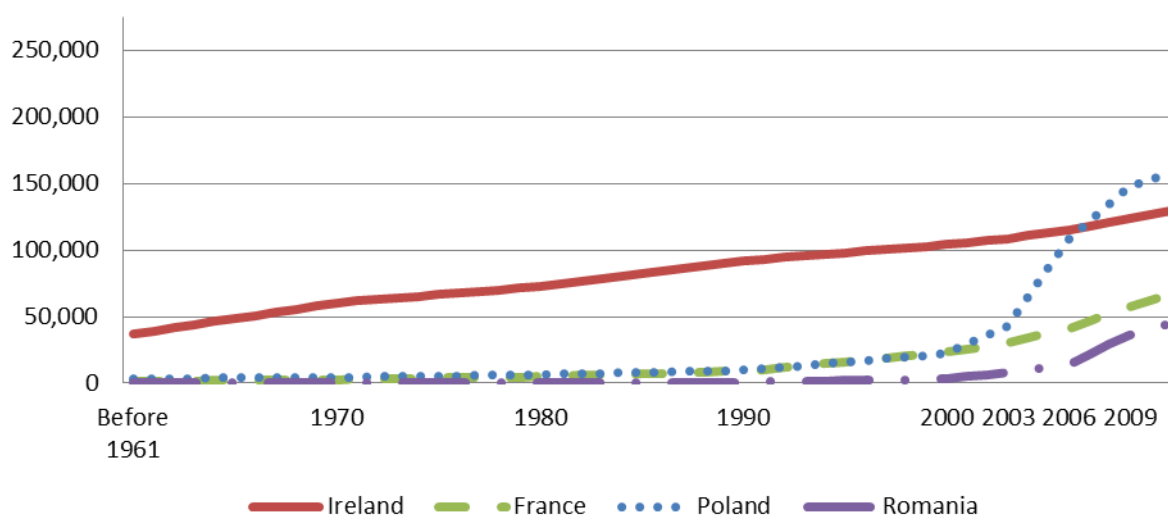
Source: Census 2011 Table DC2804EW

Note that the chart uses smoothed data from the table, which gives only the intervals shown.

The profile of arrivals to the UK does vary considerably for different countries. Of those born in Ireland, just one in five had lived in the UK for less than ten years, with nearly half arriving before 1971, whereas 70 per cent of those from Romania had arrived in 2007 or later and over 90 per cent since 2001, though the total Romanian-born population was only about a third of the size of the Irish-born population, and the total coming from France in the last decade was greater than that from Romania. Indeed more than half of those born in nearly all EU countries

had arrived in the UK in the last decade, and more than a third had arrived after 2006. Those born in Germany did show a slightly different profile to the rest of Europe, with more arriving prior to 1961 and still living in London. More than 40 per cent of those born in Poland arrived between 2004 and 2006 and nearly three quarters of those arriving from Lithuania arrived since 2004, whereas the year of arrival of those from the other countries that acceded to the European Union between 2001 and 2011 were much more evenly spread, back to before 1961. The largest portion, around 40 per cent, of those living in London in 2011 who were born in Turkey and the rest of Europe (outside the EU) came in the 1990s. Again, it should be noted that no information is available on those leaving, so for example, overseas students studying in London during 2011 would be recorded as resident, thus boosting the numbers of recent immigrants.

Figure 2: London residents in 2011 born in selected EU countries by year of arrival in UK (cumulative)

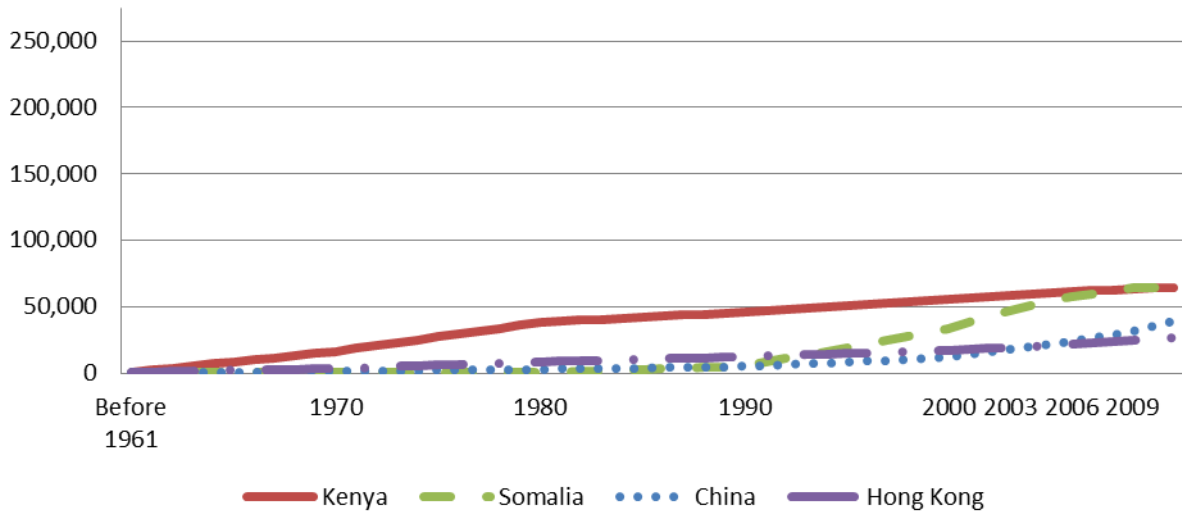


Source: Census 2011 Table DC2804EW/r

Note that the chart uses smoothed data from the table, which gives only the intervals shown.

Similarly, there were also some countries of origin outside Europe from where the majority of those living in London had arrived since 2000 and more than a third between 2007 and the early part of 2011, including China, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. At the other end of the spectrum, there were also some parts of the world from where an even smaller proportion arrived in the last ten years than from Ireland. These include the Caribbean and some African countries, such as Kenya. More than half of those from Caribbean countries had arrived prior to 1971. Many Africans living in London born in Northern, Western and Central Africa arrived in the UK in the 1980s or 1990s, whereas those born in Southern and Eastern Africa were more likely to have arrived in the UK in the 1990s or 2000s. The exception is, as noted above, Kenya, where most Londoners from Kenya had arrived during the 1960s or 1970s.

Figure 3: London residents in 2011 born in selected countries by year of arrival in UK

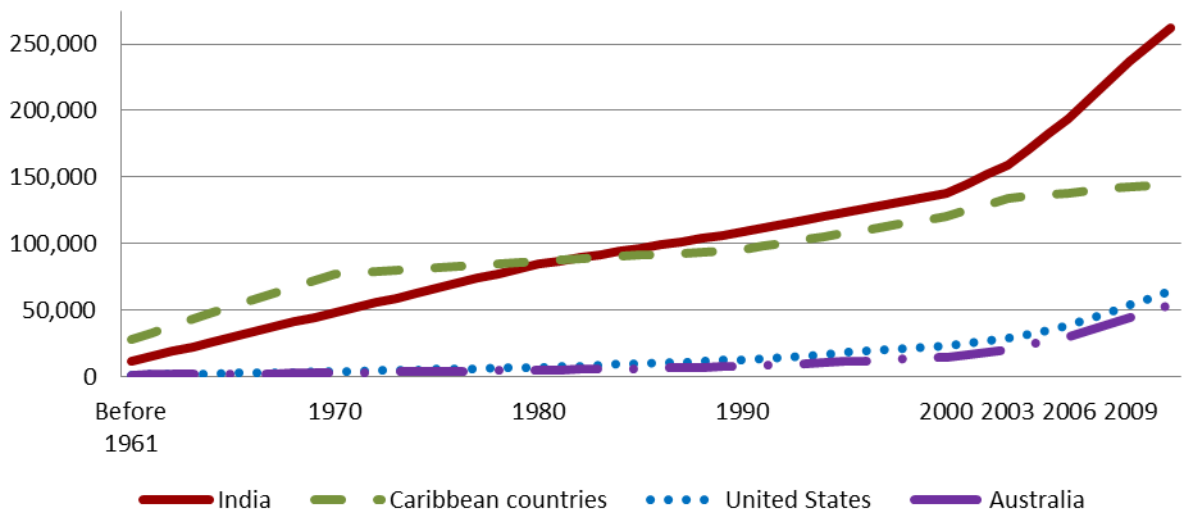


Source: Census 2011 Table DC2804EWr

Note that the chart uses smoothed data from the table, which gives only the intervals shown.

The different relationships of Britain with China and Hong Kong are reflected in the year of arrival of people born in those areas, as is the long-standing relationship between the UK and India and Pakistan.

Figure 4: London residents in 2011 born in selected countries by year of arrival in UK



Source: Census 2011 Table DC2804EWr

Note that the chart uses smoothed data from the table, which gives only the intervals shown.

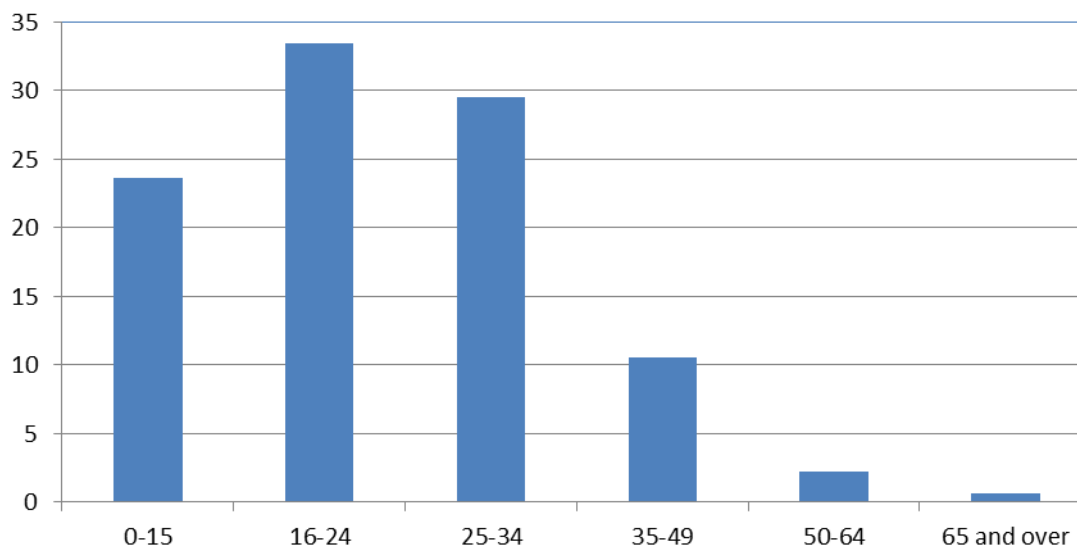
Table 1: London residents with selected countries of birth, percentages arrived in UK by year

Country of Birth	Born outside the UK (000s)	Year of Arrival in UK								
		Before 1961	1961 - 1970	1971 - 1980	1981 - 1990	1991 - 2000	2001 - 2003	2004 - 2006	2007 - 2009	2010 - 2011
All born outside UK	2,998	5	8	8	10	20	11	14	16	8
Ireland	130	28	18	9	15	9	4	5	7	5
France	67	2	2	3	6	21	10	17	24	14
Germany	55	10	6	7	9	16	8	16	20	10
EU Accession countries 2001-2011: Total	369	5	4	3	2	9	12	29	27	10
Poland	158	2	1	1	2	8	13	42	25	7
Romania	45	0	0	0	1	6	10	13	51	19
Other EU accession countries	126	13	11	6	3	10	9	17	22	10
Kenya	64	1	24	34	12	15	5	4	3	1
Somalia	65	0	0	0	7	43	22	16	9	2
China	39	1	3	3	5	17	15	14	21	20
Hong Kong	26	3	10	19	14	20	7	9	12	6
India	262	4	14	14	9	11	8	13	17	10
Pakistan	112	2	10	11	10	19	10	15	14	9
United States	64	2	4	5	9	16	9	15	24	16
Canada	21	5	6	7	9	16	9	13	21	14
The Caribbean: Total	144	19	34	6	6	17	10	3	3	1
Australasia: Total	83	2	3	4	6	15	11	18	25	16

Source: Census 2011 Table DC2804EWr

Of course, the age of people arriving in the UK for the first time varies considerably, but a third of those living in London came to Britain when they were aged between 16 and 24. Nearly as many were in the 25-34 age group, and a quarter were children under 16 when they arrived.

Figure 5: Percentage age distribution at arrival in UK of overseas-born London residents in 2011



Source: Census 2011 Table DC2802

This pattern was fairly similar for those born in most parts of the world, with the proportion aged 16-24 on arrival in the UK between 28 and 38 per cent for nearly all countries. Again Ireland stood out as showing a different profile, with more than half of all Irish-born London residents coming to the UK when they were aged 16-24. Those born in Australia and New Zealand, however, were the least likely to have entered Britain as children (just 11 per cent aged under 16) with half aged 25-34 on arrival in the UK. Those coming to the UK from the Middle East had a slightly older age profile, with the lowest proportion of any region entering the UK aged 16-24, with 18 per cent aged 35 or over, including five per cent aged over 50.

Table 2: Age profile of London residents at arrival in the UK by country of birth

Country of Birth	All usual residents (000s)	Age at arrival in UK (%)					
		0-15	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and over
All residents	8,173,941	24	33	30	11	2	1
United Kingdom	5,175,677						
Ireland	129,807	21	52	20	5	1	0
Other EU countries:							
Member countries in March 2001	341,981	25	35	31	8	1	0
Other EU countries:							
Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	369,152	16	40	31	10	2	0
Rest of Europe	157,754	24	34	29	11	2	1
North Africa	52,798	18	31	37	11	2	1
Central and Western Africa	240,354	22	28	33	14	3	1
South and Eastern Africa	322,322	30	32	24	10	3	1
Africa not otherwise specified	6,139	40	28	20	10	2	1
Middle East	121,794	28	26	28	14	3	1
Eastern Asia	100,934	23	34	28	13	2	0
Southern Asia	626,196	24	33	29	11	2	1
South-East Asia	113,258	21	30	32	14	2	0
Central Asia	4,808	16	42	31	9	2	0
North America and the Caribbean	230,492	34	28	26	10	2	1
Central and South America	95,788	20	28	36	13	2	0
Antarctica and Oceania (including Australasia)	84,661	11	29	50	8	2	0
Other	26	42	31	15	8	4	0

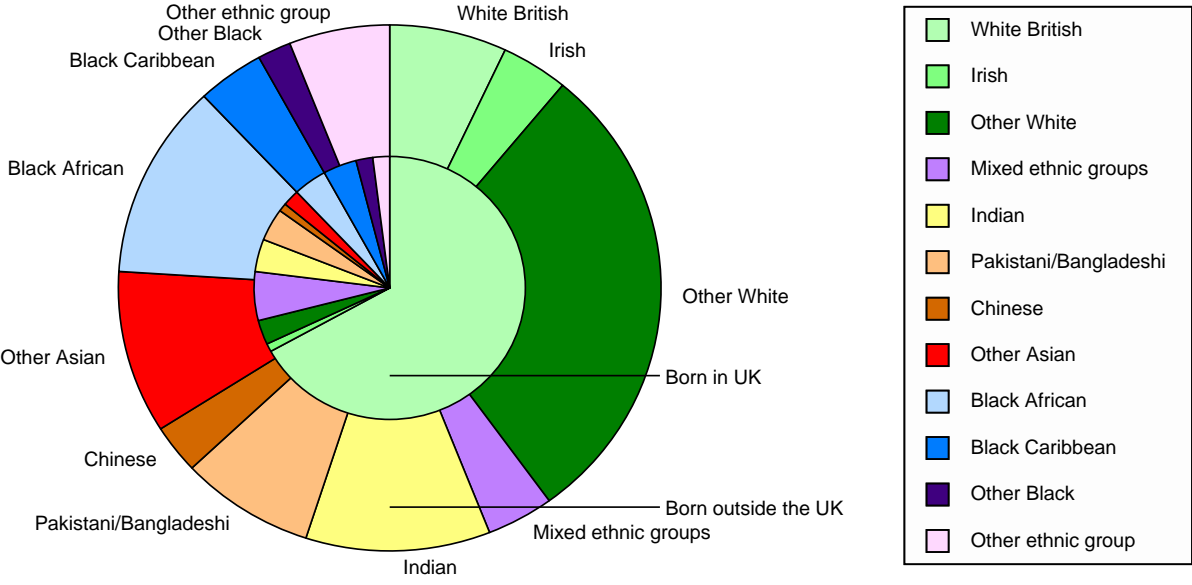
Source: Census 2011 Table DC2802

More than a third of those born in North America and the Caribbean entered the UK as children. Data already released shows that nearly half of those born in that part of the world and now living in London are aged 50 or over. As noted above, the years of arrival are very different for those born in the Caribbean and those born in North America, with most of those born in the Caribbean arriving long before the majority of those from North America, and clearly likely to be in older age groups. No further data is yet available breaking this down to individual countries or, for example, cross-tabulating age of arrival by year of arrival for those born outside the UK, and no information is available on the passports held or national identity of individuals by their country of birth, or country of birth of different people within households. It is therefore not possible to say, for example, how many of these people born in North America or the Caribbean and entering the UK as children, are now in older age groups, or how many may have been born to British parents living temporarily in North America.

However, data is available giving ethnic group by age of arrival in the UK for those born overseas. Overall, 60 per cent of Londoners described themselves as in one of the White ethnic categories, with less than half in one of the White English/Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish/British categories (referred to hereafter as White British). For those born in the UK, more than 70 per cent were in the White British group, with 11 per cent each in one of the Asian and Black categories and six per cent of mixed ethnic groups. Of the total born outside the UK, seven per cent were White British, with 42 per cent of those entering the UK aged under 16. A third of the total born overseas were in one of the other White categories, but far smaller proportions of both the White Irish and Other White categories entered the UK as children – at under 20 per cent of each group, a smaller proportion than might be expected on the basis of the country of birth data. Similarly, the proportion of the Chinese ethnic group born overseas who were aged under 16 on their arrival in the UK was smaller than might be expected from the country of birth data, which only gives broad regions of Asia, while more than 40 per cent of the foreign-born Chinese ethnic group were aged 16-24 on arrival in the UK, with 18 per cent aged 35 and over.

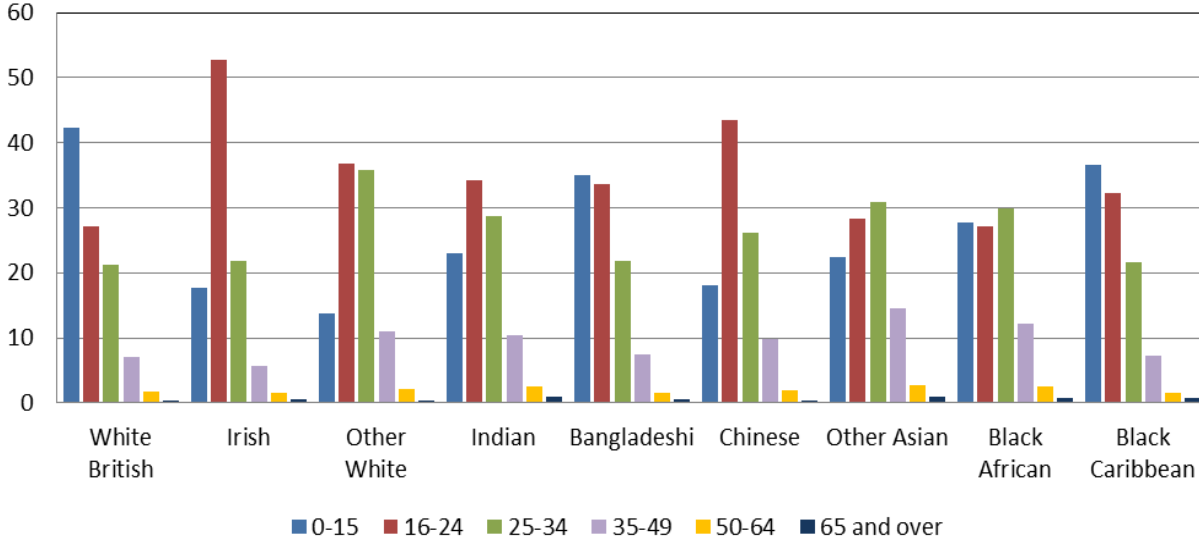
Similar numbers of Asian and Black Londoners were born in the UK, but far more Asians were born outside the UK – around a third of all overseas-born London residents, making up a similar proportion of those arriving in the UK in all age groups except for a slightly larger proportion of those arriving in the UK aged 65 or over (40 per cent). There were broadly similar total numbers of Black Africans, Indians and Other Asians (not including Pakistanis, Bangladeshis or Chinese) among those living in London born outside the UK, but whereas Indians born overseas were the group with the closest age profile to the overall population entering Britain and were most likely to have arrived at age 16-24, more Other Asians came to the UK when they were in the 25-34 age group than the 16-24 age group, and also a relatively high proportion were aged 35-49 at arrival in the UK. The number of Black Africans arriving at either ages under 16 and 25-35 were higher than for the 16-24 age group.

Figure 6: Ethnic group of London residents born inside and outside the UK



Source: Census 2011 Table DC2801EW

Figure 7: Percentage age profile at arrival in UK of selected ethnic groups living in London 2011



Source: Census 2011 Table DC2801EW

Table 3: Percentage age distribution of London residents at arrival in UK by ethnic group

	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and over
All born outside UK	24	33	30	11	2	1
White British	42	27	21	7	2	0
White Irish	18	53	22	6	2	1
Other White ¹	14	37	36	11	2	0
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	31	33	25	9	2	1
Mixed White and Black African	34	29	24	9	2	1
Mixed White and Asian	38	28	23	9	2	0
Mixed Other Mixed	29	29	29	10	2	0
Indian	23	34	29	10	3	1
Pakistani	26	35	26	9	2	1
Bangladeshi	35	34	22	7	2	1
Chinese	18	43	26	10	2	0
Other Asian	22	28	31	15	3	1
Black African	28	27	30	12	2	1
Black Caribbean	37	32	22	7	2	1
Other Black	36	25	24	11	3	1
Arab	25	28	31	12	3	1
Any other ethnic group	25	30	30	12	2	1

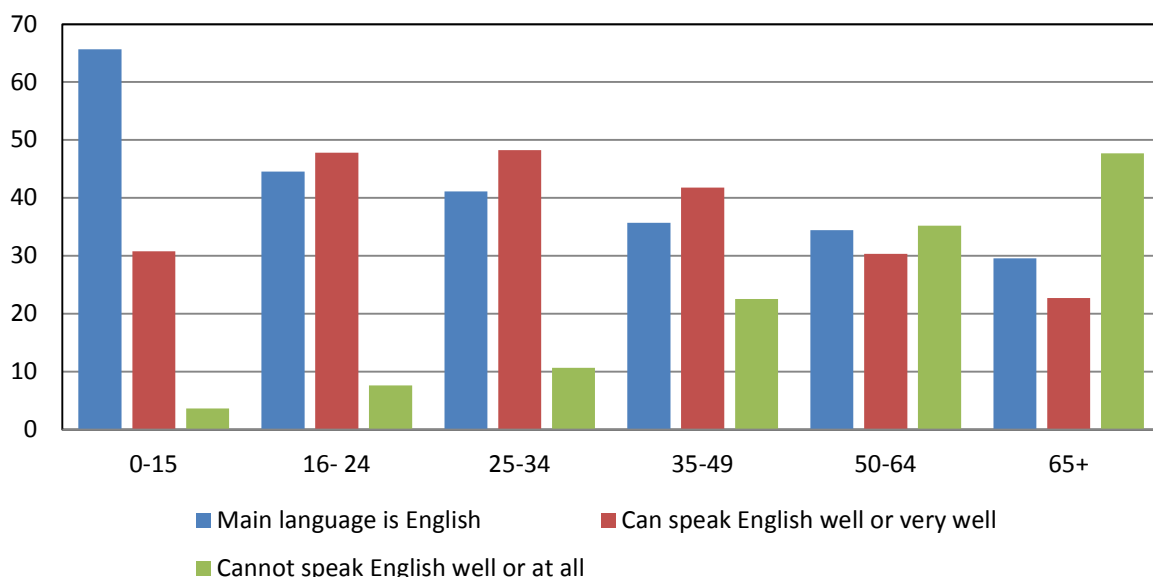
¹ Includes Gypsies and Irish Travellers

Source: Census 2011 Table DC2801EW

The Census tables published to date also include proficiency in English (for those aged 3 or over) by age at arrival in the UK. Of all those living in London who were born in the UK, 150,000 (three per cent) used a language other than English as their main language. Nearly all the remainder spoke English either very well or well. Of those born outside the UK, just below half used English as their main language, though one in ten could not speak English well, or at all.

Overseas-born London residents who were aged under 16 when they arrived in the UK were most likely to use English as their main language (two thirds), with the proportion decreasing with age at arrival down to less than one third of those aged 65 or over when they came to the UK. Conversely, just four per cent of those who had come to Britain as children did not speak English at all or not well, rising with age to nearly half of those who had come the UK aged 65 or over, though the numbers in this age group are quite small – fewer than 14,000 Londoners born overseas who did not use English as their main language. There are more than 9,000 London residents aged 65 and over who would have difficulty understanding and communicating in English. However, this group is small compared with more than 90,000 people who arrived in the UK aged 25-34 who are unable to speak English well or at all, and more than 11,000 London residents aged 35-49 when they came to Britain who cannot speak English at all.

Figure 8: London residents aged 3 and over born outside UK, proficiency in English by age at arrival



Source: 2011 Census Table DC2803EW

While the data is not yet available combining year of arrival with this information on main language, it is reasonable to assume that those arriving in the UK aged 65 or over arrived relatively recently. These data cannot be combined with the information on country of origin at this stage or ethnicity, or year of arrival. The last of these would give an indication of whether

the time spent in the UK was connected to proficiency in English and how quickly people learnt the language after arrival.

Table 4: Percentage of residents speaking English by age at arrival in the UK, London, residents aged 3 and over

Proficiency in English	Number of usual residents aged 3 and over (000s)	Age at arrival in the UK							
		Born in the UK	Born outside the UK	0-15	16- 24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Total (000s)	7,810	4,827	2,983	693	1,002	885	317	66	20
Main language is English	6,083	<i>97</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>30</i>
Main language is not English	1,727	<i>3</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>70</i>
Can speak English very well	764	<i>2</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>9</i>
Can speak English well	643	<i>1</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>13</i>
Cannot speak English well	272	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>23</i>
Cannot speak English	48	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>25</i>

Source: 2011 Census Table DC2803EW

Note: Figures in italics are column percentages, all other figures are in thousands.

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