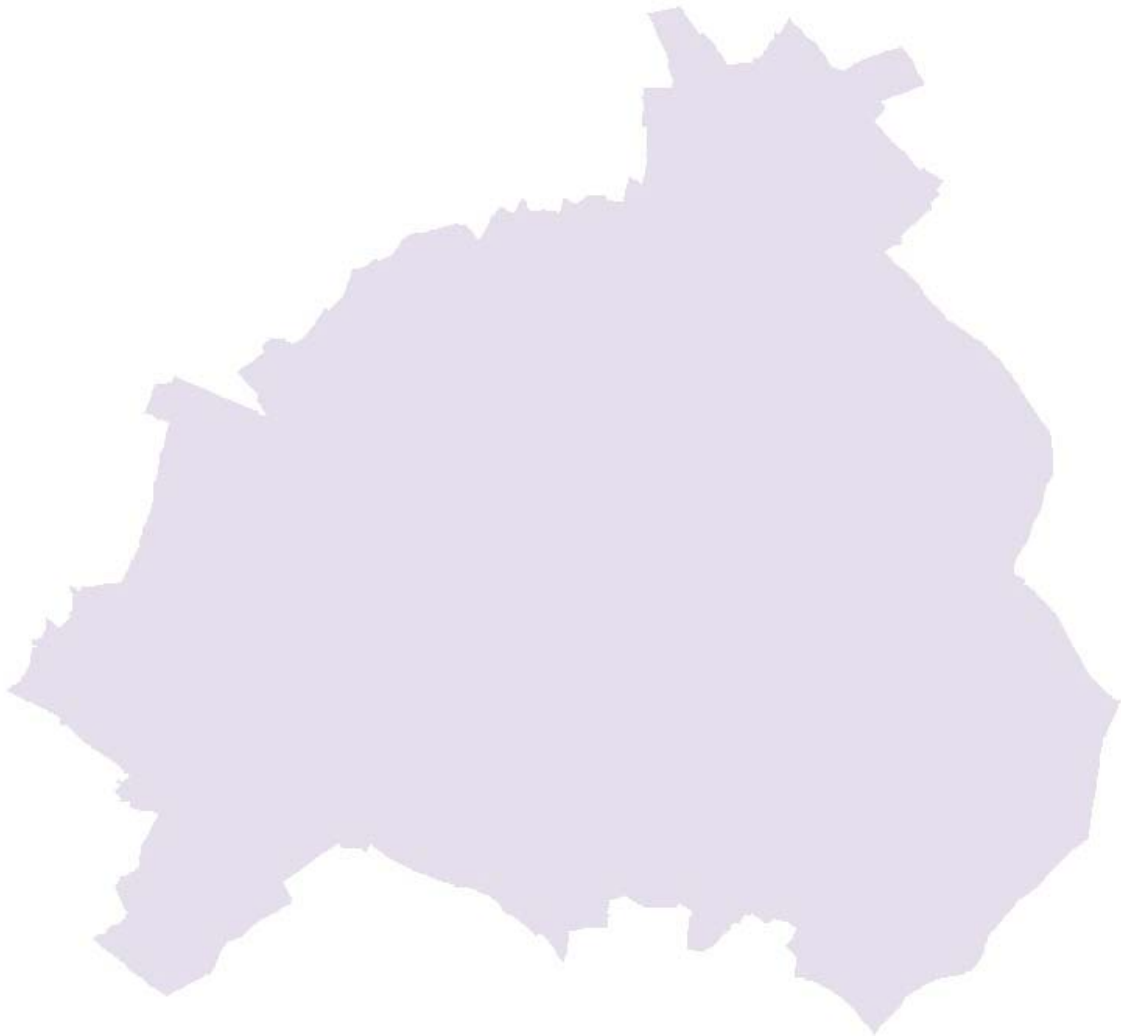




2011 Census Reports

Key Statistics for Walsall: Borough Summary



Walsall Council



Introduction

The census is a count of all people and households in the country, and provides an estimate of the population and a detailed analysis of its characteristics. In the UK a census has been conducted every ten years since 1801 (with the exception of 1941).

Responsibility for the census in England and Wales lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with comparable censuses carried out on the same day by the relevant authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The 2011 Census was conducted on 27th March 2011 and involved around 25 million households. The vast majority of census outputs from 2001 were repeated for 2011, providing comparability and continuity where possible.

Key Statistics for Local Authorities in England and Wales were released as part of the second release of 2011 Census data on 11 December 2012. Information from this release captures the defining characteristics of the population: who we are, how we live and what we do.

This summary report sets out the key results that have been released at Local Authority level, revealing some of the main issues for Walsall. Where appropriate, it highlights changes that have occurred since the previous census and provides comparisons to the national picture and that of neighbouring authorities.

Contact

This report is one of a series of products for Walsall based on the outputs from the 2011 Census.

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WHO WE ARE

The information in this section is about the personal characteristics of the usually resident population of Walsall. It covers age, ethnicity, religious beliefs, marital status, general health and disability, national identity, whether or not residents were born in the UK and when they arrived, what passports are held and language skills.

Population

Walsall has an estimated resident population of 269,323.

This is an increase of around 15,800 residents, or 6.2%, in the ten years since the previous census. This rate of growth is lower than nationally (a 7.8% increase) but in line with the West Midlands regional growth of 6.4%.

There are now 12,400 more residents than suggested by the ONS mid-2010 estimates – the last official population estimates released. This represents an increase of 4.8%, well above the 2.7% increase for the West Midlands. This suggests that official mid-year estimates have been consistently under-estimating Walsall's population in the years since the 2001 census.

There are only around 200 short term migrants in the borough (those born outside the UK and staying for between three and twelve months).

Age and Sex

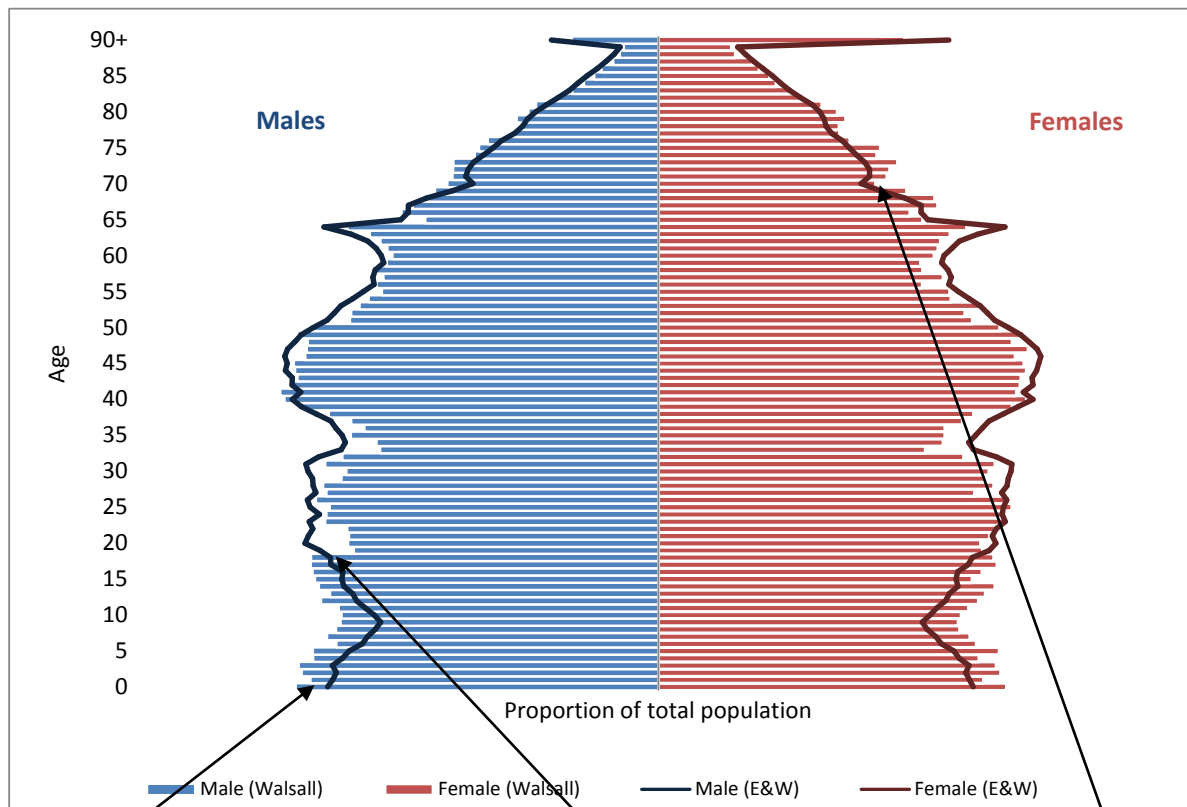
Walsall's population structure has become increasingly 'dependent' since 2001, with an above average proportion of the resident population made up of children and older people, and a correspondingly lower proportion of working age people.

The population pyramid in figure 1 visualises the age and sex structure of the population, with each horizontal bar representing the proportion of residents in a single year of age; males are shown to the left (in blue) and females to the right (in red). The solid line shows the outline of the population pyramid for England and Wales overall. Where the bars fall inside that line, Walsall has a shortage of residents in that age group compared to nationally; where the bars extend outside the line Walsall has a greater than national average number of residents in that age group.

This chart clearly shows the higher than national average numbers of children in Walsall. One possible explanation for this is the number of residents from minority ethnic groups, which tend to have higher birth rates on average than the overall population

However, around age 18 the pattern reverses, with Walsall having fewer residents than nationally in most years throughout the working age group up to age 65.

Walsall has an over-representation again of people in the older age groups, aged 65 and above. At around age 85 national levels are higher once again, possibly as a result of life expectancy in Walsall being lower than it is nationally. (Note that the 'spike' at the top of the chart is due to all people aged 90 years and above being grouped together).



CHILDREN (0-15)

Greater proportion in Walsall than nationally

Birth rates still consistent, supported by minority ethnic populations with higher than average birth rates.

WORKING AGE (16-64)

Fewer working age residents in Walsall than nationally.

Drop off begins at age 18/19, with particularly low numbers in their 20s-30s.

Fewer working age residents to support children and older people.

OLDER PEOPLE (65+)

Greater proportion in Walsall than nationally aged 65-84.

Numbers aged 85+ increasing, but still below national levels – due to lower than national life expectancy.

Figure 1: Population structure pyramid, Walsall and England & Wales

Table 1 shows the structure of the population by 5-year (quinary) age band. The groups preceded by an asterisk are those which contain a greater proportion of Walsall's population than is seen nationally: these consist of younger (0-19) and older (65-85) age groups. And although the age bands which contain the greatest absolute numbers of residents are ages 40-44 and 45-49, these groups still account for a relatively smaller proportion of the total population than they do in England and Wales overall.

Table 1: Population structure by 5-year age group*(highlighted age groups where Walsall has above national proportion of residents)*

| Age | 2011 | | | 2001 | 2001-2011 |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | Walsall number | Walsall % | E & W % | Walsall % | Walsall % change |
| * 0-4 | 18,373 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 12 |
| * 5-9 | 16,971 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 6.9 | -3 |
| * 10-14 | 17,266 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 7.0 | -2 |
| * 15-19 | 17,667 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 9 |
| 20-24 | 17,504 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 5.4 | 27 |
| 25-29 | 17,690 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 12 |
| 30-34 | 16,184 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 7.5 | -15 |
| 35-39 | 16,906 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 7.4 | -10 |
| 40-44 | 19,503 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 17 |
| 45-49 | 19,087 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 6.1 | 24 |
| 50-54 | 16,464 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 0 |
| 55-59 | 14,672 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.9 | -2 |
| 60-64 | 15,221 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 10 |
| * 65-69 | 13,227 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 6 |
| * 70-74 | 11,439 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 6 |
| * 75-79 | 9,194 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 10 |
| * 80-84 | 6,558 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 23 |
| 85-89 | 3,706 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 31 |
| 90-94 | 1,344 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 36 |
| 95+ | 347 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 37 |

Ethnicity and Identity

There are a number of census questions that explore the complexities of personal identity. Many of these (age and year of arrival, passports held, national identity and household language) are new questions introduced in 2011.

Ethnicity

There has been a significant increase in the level of ethnic diversity in Walsall over the past decade. While 'White British' remains the largest single group at 76.9%, the number of residents from a minority ethnic group has risen to almost one in four. This figure of 23.1% residents is an increase on the 14.8% in 2001 (and higher than the 19.5% in England and Wales in 2011).

The largest increase is in people of Asian background, with a rise from 10.4% in 2001 to 15.2% in 2011. Within this group, those of Pakistani background have increased the most to 5.3% of all residents (although Asian Indian remains the largest minority ethnic group at 6.1%).

This change has implications for community cohesion, as some areas have seen major changes in their ethnic composition over a relatively short period of time. Minority ethnic groups are highly concentrated in certain parts of the borough, with some wards experiencing much greater change than the borough average.

Table 2: Broad ethnic group, as a percentage of usual residents

| | 2011 | | 2001 |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | Walsall % | E & W % | Walsall % |
| White British | 76.9 | 80.5 | 85.2 |
| All other White | 1.9 | 5.4 | 1.2 |
| Mixed | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.4 |
| Asian | 15.2 | 7.5 | 10.4 |
| Black | 2.3 | 3.4 | 1.4 |
| Other | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.4 |

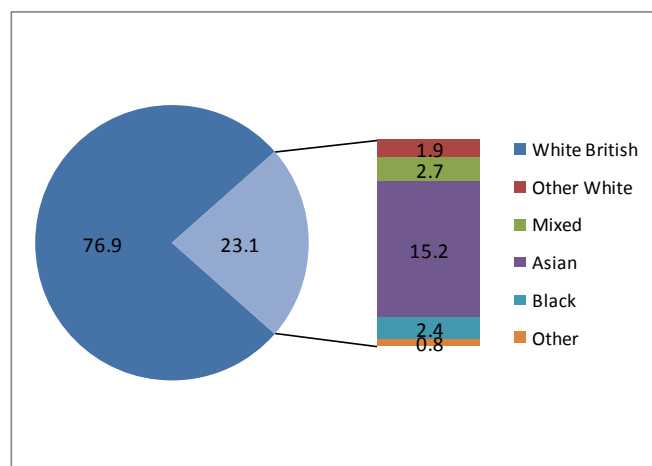


Figure 3: Broad ethnic group

National Identity

The vast majority of Walsall residents (95.0%) perceive themselves as having a solely UK-based national identity (at least one of English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British). Only 4.5% see themselves as having another national identity entirely, with 0.5% a joint UK/other identity.

However, the perception of being ‘English’ is particularly strong, with over two thirds of people identifying themselves as solely ‘English’, compared with less than a fifth claiming to feel solely ‘British’.

Country of Birth

Nine out of ten Walsall residents (90.1%) were born in the UK. There does not appear to be a high volume of residents from Eastern European countries living in the borough, with only 1.0% of residents – 2,681 people – born in EU Accession countries. This is in contrast with 2.0% in England and with neighbouring authorities of Wolverhampton (2.1%) and Sandwell (2.6%).

Table 3: Most reported countries of birth of non-UK born usual residents

| | Number | Walsall % | E&W % |
|------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| India | 7,483 | 2.8 | 1.2 |
| Pakistan | 5,486 | 2.0 | 0.9 |
| Bangladesh | 1,794 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Poland | 1,638 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Jamaica | 1,011 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Ireland | 931 | 0.3 | 0.7 |

Age of Arrival

There are 26,600 Walsall residents (9.9% of the total population) who were born outside the UK. These arrivals had a relatively young age profile, which is typical of economic-driven migration. Exactly half were of young working age (16 to 29) when they arrived. Only around one in seven were of older working age (30-44), and those aged 45 arrived in much smaller numbers. A third were children under the age of 16 when they arrived in the UK – indicative of young families arriving in the UK.

Year of Arrival

Around two in five of those residents born outside the UK are relatively recent arrivals: 3.8% of Walsall people arrived in the UK since 2001, compared with 1.5% who arrived the previous decade (1990s) and 1.7% in the 1960s. However, this figure is much lower than for England and Wales overall, with 6.8% of residents arriving since 2001, and almost half the levels seen in neighbouring authorities of Wolverhampton (7.3%) and Sandwell (7.4%).

Passports Held

Almost a quarter (24.8%) of Walsall residents do not currently hold any passport; this proportion is significantly higher than England and Wales. A further 71.3% of Walsall residents have a UK passport and 3.9% hold a passport from another country.

The 1.3% holding another (non-UK) European Union passport is below the 3.5% across England and Wales overall, and equates to just fewer than 3,600 people in the borough. Again, this suggests Walsall has not seen significant migration from Eastern European countries in contrast with Wolverhampton (2.8%), Sandwell (3.2%) or Birmingham (3.1%).

Other than UK passports, the next largest group are Middle East and Asian passports, which are held by 2.0% of residents. However, this is the same as the proportion nationally, and again much lower than neighbouring authorities of Wolverhampton (3.5%), Sandwell (3.4%) and Birmingham (4.2%).

Language

Levels of English proficiency in Walsall are high, and in line with the average for England and Wales. Overall, 92.6% of residents speak English as their main language; a further 5.0% do not consider English their main language but speak it well.

However, this still leaves 3.3% of households in which no one speaks English as their main language, and over 6,200 residents who cannot speak English well (1,200 of whom cannot speak the language at all).

Religion

As in 2001, the question relating to religious affiliation remains the only voluntary question on the census questionnaire, with missing responses categorised as 'not stated'. In total 6.0% of Walsall residents did not declare a current religion.

Table 4 shows the percentage of Walsall residents by religious group, compared the national average and the 2001 Census.

Table 4: Current religion, as a percentage of resident population

| | 2011 | | 2001 |
|----------------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Walsall | E & W | Walsall |
| Christian | 59.0 | 59.3 | 72.1 |
| Muslim | 8.2 | 4.8 | 5.4 |
| Sikh | 4.3 | 0.8 | 3.0 |
| Hindu | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| Buddhist | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Jewish | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Other religion | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| No religion | 20.0 | 25.1 | 10.0 |
| Not stated | 6.0 | 7.2 | 7.6 |

As in 2001, people in Walsall have a greater level of religious affiliation than in England and Wales overall, with almost three quarters identifying with a religion compared with only two thirds nationally. However, in the past decade the proportion of residents who have no current religion has doubled, to one in five.

While the majority of Walsall people still view themselves as Christian (59.0%) this has fallen substantially in the ten years since the last census, as it has nationally. In contrast, the number of Muslims in Walsall has increased to

8.2%, with the proportion of Sikh residents also rising but to a lesser extent. The proportion of Hindus remained similar to 2001, with other religious groups represented only in very small numbers in the borough.

Marital Status

The largest marital status group in Walsall comprises those people who are married – accounting for just under half (48.2%) of all residents aged over 16. This is similar to the national proportion for England and Wales (46.6%). Almost a third of residents over 16 are single, having never been married or in a civil partnership.

Table 5: Marital status, of resident population aged 16 and over

| | 2011 | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Walsall number | Walsall % | E & W % |
| Single | 70,124 | 32.9 | 34.6 |
| Married | 102,631 | 48.2 | 46.6 |
| Civil Partnership | 283 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Separated | 5,748 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| Divorced | 17,603 | 8.3 | 9.0 |
| Widowed | 16,734 | 7.9 | 7.0 |

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into effect in the UK on 5 December 2005, and there are now just fewer than 300 Walsall residents in a same-sex civil partnership formed since that date. This proportion is lower than that for England and Wales (0.2%), with significant numbers of people in civil partnerships found mainly London and the South East.

The remainder of Walsall's usually resident population is composed of divorced (8.3%), widowed (7.9%) and separated (2.7%) individuals from either opposite or same-sex relationships.

Health

The Census results confirm that overall health is poorer in Walsall than in England and Wales. One in five residents has a health condition that limits their day to day activities: 10.4% are limited a lot, and a further 10.3% limited a little. 77.3% of residents say their health is good or very good – lower than the 81.2% nationally – with 7.3% experiencing bad or very bad health (5.6% nationally).

HOW WE LIVE

This section covers the usually resident population that live in communal establishments and those who live in households – and who they live with in those households. It then presents the type of accommodation in which residents live, whether it is owned or rented, and the number of cars and vans people have access to.

Communal Establishments

The 2011 Census identified 151 communal establishments in Walsall, which together are home to 1,926 residents or 0.7% of the total population.

Three quarters of these residents were in medical and care establishments, primarily in care homes (from a range of providers, either with or without care).

Households

The 2011 Census estimated that there are 107,822 households (with at least one usual resident) in Walsall. This is an increase of 6,500, or 6.4% since 2001. As with the population increase, this is lower than nationally but in line with the increase regionally.

Additionally, there are a further 3,216 household spaces with no usual resident, representing 2.9% of the total (the lowest of all Black Country authorities and below the national average of 4.4%). Note that this does not necessarily equal 'vacant' properties, but also includes those that were unoccupied on Census Day or have no one who is classed as 'usually resident' for the purposes of the census.

Household Composition

Household composition refers to the usual residents in a household and their relationship to one another. Households may be a family or they may consist of one person living alone or unrelated adults sharing. A family is a couple (married, civil partners or cohabiting), with or without children, or a lone parent with at least one child. Children may be dependent or non-dependent.

Table 6: Household composition

| Household Composition | | 2011 | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| | | Walsall number | Walsall % | E & W % |
| ONE FAMILY | With married/civil partnership couple | 35,738 | 33.1 | 33.1 |
| | With cohabiting couple | 11,030 | 10.2 | 9.9 |
| | Lone parent | 12,899 | 12.0 | 10.7 |
| | All aged 65 and over | 9,594 | 8.9 | 8.2 |
| ONE PERSON | Aged 65 and over | 13,845 | 12.8 | 12.4 |
| | Other one person household | 16,926 | 15.7 | 17.8 |
| OTHER | Other household type | 7,790 | 7.3 | 7.9 |

Table 6 shows that the most reported household type in Walsall is where there is one family (64.2%). Families with a married/civil partnership couple are the most common family type, accounting for one in three of all households in the borough (in line with nationally).

There are 12,900 lone parent households in Walsall, accounting for 12.0% of the total – a slightly higher proportion than the 10.7% across England and Wales.

Walsall has a similar proportion of older people living alone as nationally, but there are fewer other single person households in the borough.

Overall, there are 23,730 households in Walsall consisting solely of residents aged 65 and over; this represents 22.0% of all households in the borough.

Accommodation

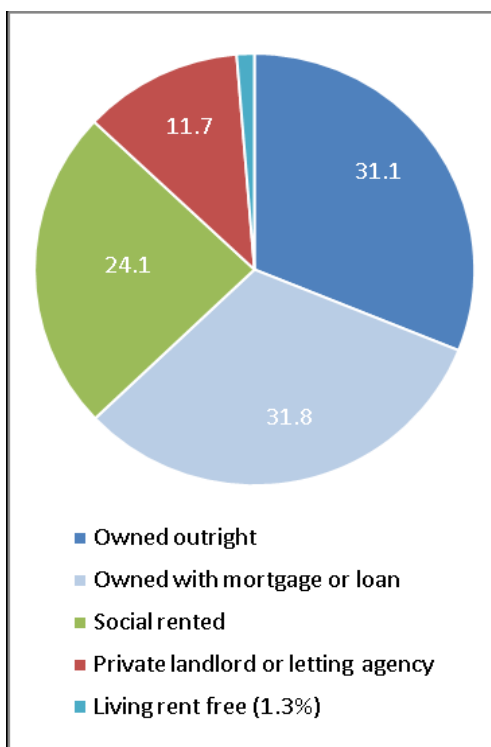


Figure 4: Tenure of households in Walsall

Tenure

Almost two thirds of households in Walsall are owner occupied (either owned outright or with a mortgage), which is similar to national levels.

In terms of rented accommodation, the socially rented sector in Walsall is particularly strong, with a lower than average number of private rented properties. A quarter of households (24.1%) are socially rented, compared with just 17.6% across England and Wales. Conversely, privately-rented households account for 11.7% in Walsall but 15.3% nationally.

The 2011 Census asked respondents to identify who their landlord is and the results reflect the responses they gave. Since the last census, Walsall, in common with many other local authorities, has transferred the management of its local authority housing stock to other social landlords. Individuals responding to the census reported their understanding of their landlord, which does not always reflect the actual management

arrangements. As a result, 10.0% of households in Walsall report themselves as living in local authority housing, despite Walsall Council no longer managing any housing stock. For the purposes of this report, these responses have been aggregated with the 14.1% who identified a social landlord. However, it highlights a potential issue for both the local authority and housing providers around the perception by two in five of their tenants that the council is still their landlord.

Type

The majority of households in Walsall (82.6%) consist of whole houses or bungalows. The borough has a much greater proportion of semi-detached properties than nationally, with relatively fewer detached homes.

There are many fewer flats, maisonettes and apartments in the borough (17.3%) compared with England and Wales (21.6%). Caravans and temporary structures make up only a handful of the total number of Walsall's households.

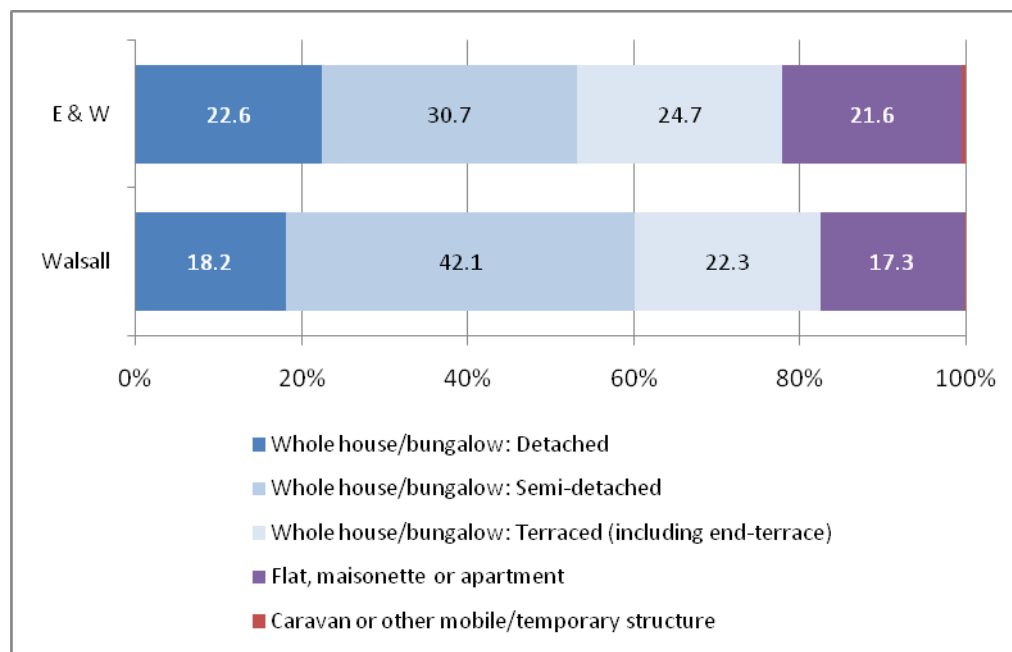


Figure 5: Household type

Car Availability

There are slightly more cars and vans than households in Walsall, giving an average of 1.1 cars per household. Car availability is slightly lower than England and Wales (1.7) but higher than Sandwell and Wolverhampton where there are fewer vehicles than households.

Almost three in ten Walsall households have no car or van, which is higher than the 25.6% found nationally. This equates to over 31,000 households who are dependent on local facilities or public transport to access employment, education and recreation opportunities.

WHAT WE DO

The census is valuable in providing a detailed picture at a point in time of the characteristics of the population and the local labour market. This section covers how Walsall residents occupy themselves, whether they provide care for less able members of society, what they do to earn money, what levels of qualifications they have, whether they are employed and if so where and how many hours they work.

Economic Activity

Economic Activity

For the purposes of the 2011 Census, economic activity is presented for usual residents aged between 16 and 74. A usual resident is considered economically active if employed, self employed or unemployed but looking for work and able to start within two weeks. These definitions mean that figures are not directly comparable with other sources, for example the 2001 Census and some benefits statistics.

In total, two thirds (66.1%) of Walsall's adult population are economically active (compared with 69.7% nationally). Economic activity is categorised into various groups as shown in Figure 6.

Males are more likely to be economically active than females in Walsall. They are also more likely to be employed full time compared to females, or to be self-employed. More females than males are employed part time, with levels similar to those females in full time work.

Unemployment levels reported by the census will vary from other measures collected by different methods. In total 6.8% of adults reported that they are unemployed, with figures higher for males than for females. This compares to 4.4% across England and Wales.

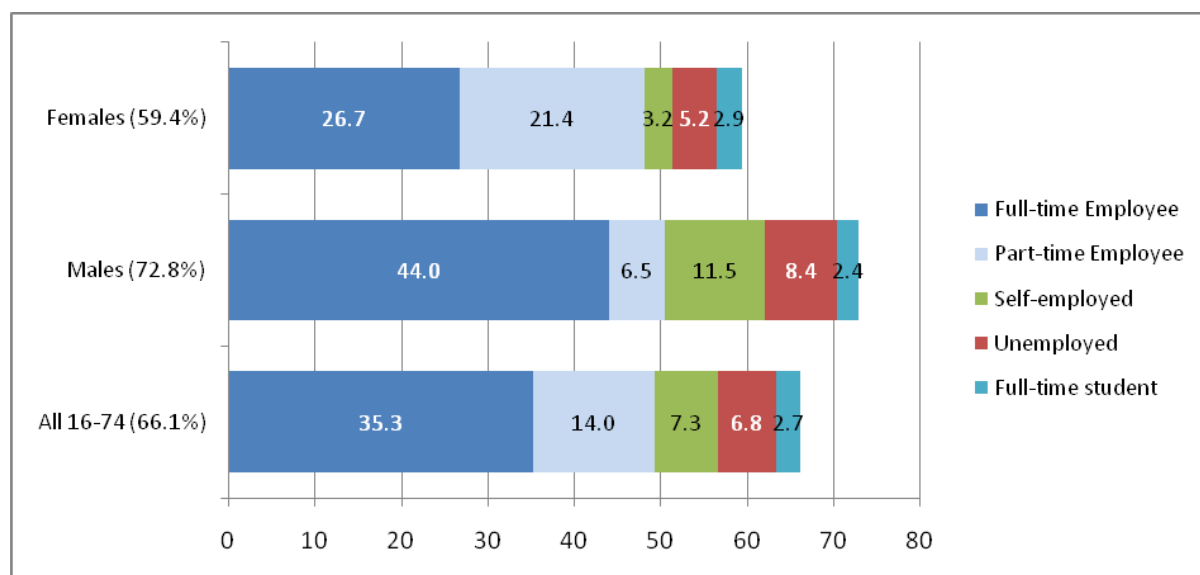


Figure 6: Economic activity of 16-74 year old usual residents in Walsall

Hours Worked

Figure 7 shows the clear difference between males and females in the numbers of hours that employed residents work. Over two thirds of employed males work full time hours of between 31 and 48 hours a week compared with half of all employed females. Those working very long hours (49 hours and above) make up only a small proportion of women, but over 15% of men.

A third of employed females worked part time between 16 and 30 hours, with a further 13.5% working 15 hours or below. Only a very small proportion of men worked less than 15 hours.

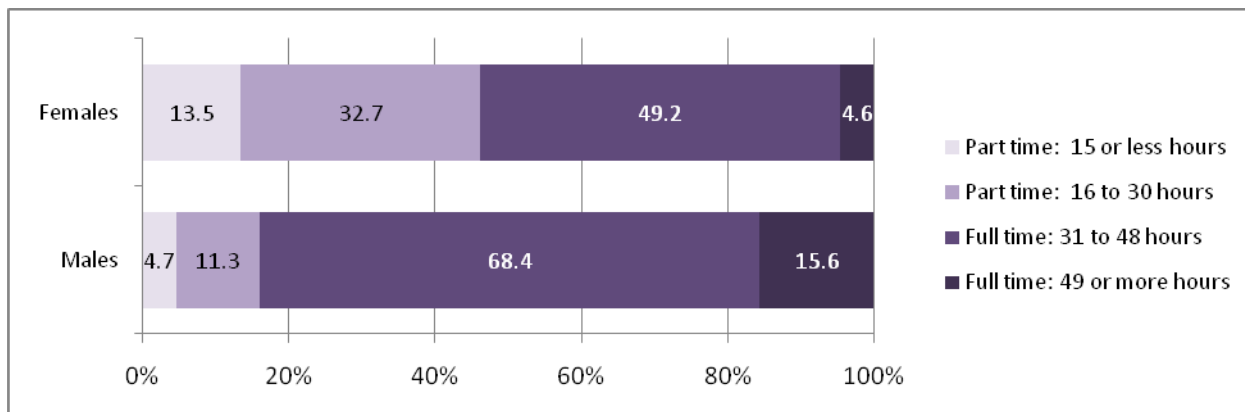


Figure 7: Hours worked per week - employed Walsall residents aged 16-74, by sex

Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity is again presented as a proportion of usual residents aged between 16 and 74. More females are economically inactive than males, with one in ten looking after a home or family (compared with just 1.4% of males). A greater proportion of females are retired, due to a historically lower retirement age for women.

One in twenty (5.2%) of Walsall adults are economically inactive because they are long-term sick or disabled (compared to 4.2% nationally).

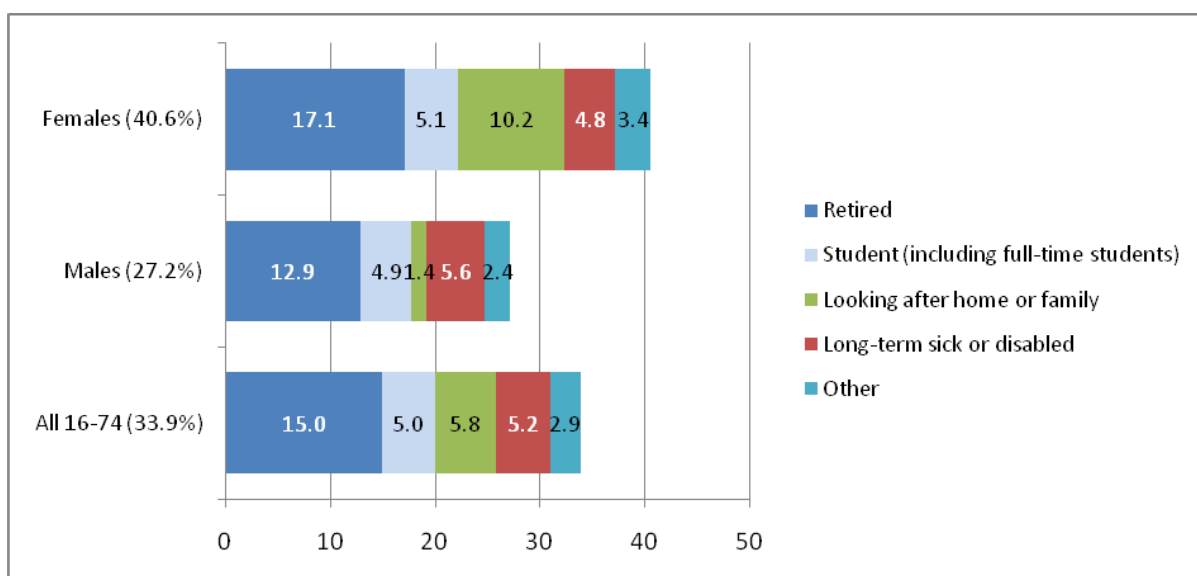


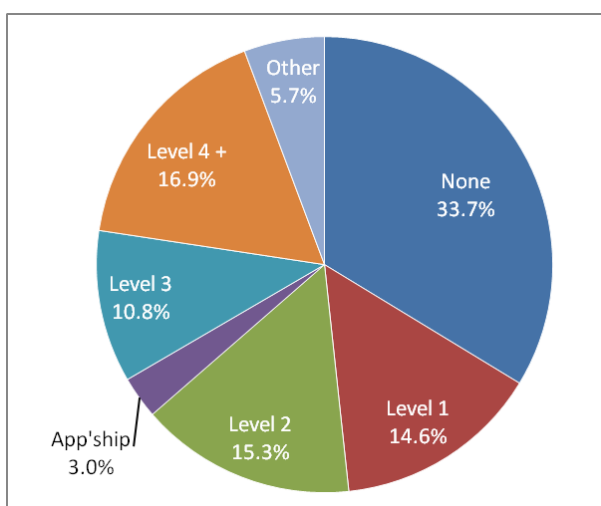
Figure 8: Economic inactivity of 16-74 year old usual residents in Walsall

Unpaid Care

In Walsall 11.4% of residents provide unpaid care to relatives, friends or neighbours compared with 10.3% nationally. This equates to over 17,000 people providing between 1 and 19 hours' unpaid care a week, while almost 8,800 provide unpaid care for over 50 hours a week.

Qualifications

The qualifications classification enables estimates to be produced of the percentage of the population obtaining the highest level of academic and vocational or professional qualifications. Due to changes in levels assigned to some qualifications, figures are not directly comparable with 2001. The categorisation used is briefly:



- *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

Figure 9: Highest level of qualification, Walsall residents aged 16 and above

In comparison with the national picture, Walsall has a higher proportion of residents over 16 with no qualifications or low qualifications (at level 1). One in three Walsall adults has no formal qualifications – which equates to over 71,800 people. This proportion of 33.7% is in comparison with a national figure of just 22.7%. In addition, a further 14.6% of residents only have level 1 qualifications compared with 13.3% in England and Wales. This means that almost half of Walsall's adult population do not have qualifications equivalent to 5 passes at GCSE (level 2).

Level 2 qualification levels are in line with the national average, as are 'other' types of qualification. Level 3 qualifications, at 10.8%, are slightly lower than the 12.3% in England and Wales overall.

However, Walsall has fewer highly qualified residents than expected – only 16.9% have level 4 qualifications or higher compared with 27.2% in England and Wales.

Overall, the census results highlight qualification levels as a particular area of concern in Walsall; low levels of qualifications, combined with few highly qualified people – reflects an under-skilled workforce that could weaken the borough's ability for economic growth and residents who are ill-equipped to take advantage of employment opportunities.

Industry and Occupation

Changes in definition of economic activity between 2001 and 2011 mean that figures on industry and occupation between the two periods is not yet available – although ONS are working to produce analysis and guidance during 2013 to allow users to understand how these estimates have changed in the 10 year period.

Industry

The industry in which a person aged 16 to 74 works relates to their ‘main job’ (in which they usually work the most hours) and is derived from the information provided on the main activity of their employer or business.

Table 7: Industry of employment of usually employed residents aged 16-74

| Industry (<i>asterisk where Walsall has greater than national proportion</i>) | Walsall Number† | Walsall % | E & W % |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| * Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles | 21,620 | 19.3 | 15.9 |
| * Manufacturing | 16,280 | 14.5 | 8.9 |
| Human health and social work activities | 13,980 | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| Education | 10,830 | 9.6 | 9.9 |
| * Construction | 9,780 | 8.7 | 7.7 |
| * Transport and storage | 6,710 | 6.0 | 5.0 |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 5,290 | 4.7 | 6.0 |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 5,230 | 4.7 | 5.6 |
| Administrative and support service activities | 5,060 | 4.5 | 4.9 |
| Other | 4,430 | 3.9 | 5.0 |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 4,000 | 3.6 | 6.6 |
| Financial and insurance activities | 3,460 | 3.1 | 4.3 |
| Information and communication | 1,940 | 1.7 | 4.0 |
| Real estate activities | 1,630 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | 1,280 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply | 550 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 130 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Mining and quarrying | 60 | 0.1 | 0.2 |

† rounded to nearest 10

The wholesale and retail trade is the largest employer of the 16 to 74 age group in Walsall, and accounts for almost one in five of those in employment. This is also the largest employment industry in England and Wales overall, although the proportion employed nationally is smaller (15.9%).

The industries preceded by an asterisk are those where Walsall has a higher proportion of employees than nationally (of 1 percentage point or more), which as well as wholesale & retail includes construction and transport & storage. However, the most significant of these is manufacturing, which employs nearly one in seven of Walsall’s employees compared with only around one in 11 in England and Wales. This results in an extra 6,290 manufacturing employees in the borough than would be seen under the average national proportion.

Conversely, employment in a number of service sectors is under-represented in Walsall compared with nationally, including professional, scientific & technical activities; information & communication; public administration; finance & insurance; and accommodation & food.

Employment in health & social work, education and real estate is broadly in line with England and Wales averages.

Occupation

A person's occupation relates to their 'main job' (in which they usually work the most hours) and is derived from either their job title or details they provided of the activities involved in their job.

Table 8: Occupation of usually employed residents aged 16-74

| Occupation (<i>asterisk where Walsall has greater than national proportion</i>) | Walsall Number† | Walsall % | E & W % |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| * Skilled trades occupations | 15,370 | 13.7 | 11.5 |
| * Elementary occupations | 14,640 | 13.0 | 11.1 |
| Professional occupations | 14,170 | 12.6 | 17.4 |
| Administrative and secretarial occupations | 13,100 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| * Process, plant and machine operatives | 12,170 | 10.8 | 7.2 |
| Caring, leisure and other service occupations | 11,100 | 9.9 | 9.4 |
| Associate professional and technical occupations | 11,070 | 9.9 | 12.7 |
| Sales and customer service occupations | 10,480 | 9.3 | 8.4 |
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 10,170 | 9.1 | 10.8 |

† rounded to nearest 10

Walsall residents are employed across all different types of occupation. The greatest number work in skilled trades occupations, accounting for 13.7% of those who are economically active and higher than the 11.5% across England and Wales overall.

The second largest occupation group in the borough is elementary occupations – again representing a much higher proportion than nationally. Process, plant and machine operatives make up the other occupation group in which Walsall residents are over-represented.

Conversely, Walsall has a lot fewer residents employed in professional occupations (which make up the largest group nationally) and fewer in associate professional & technical occupations. Managers, directors and senior officials make up the smallest occupation group amongst Walsall residents, again below national levels.