

Census 2021

Demographics Summary for London

GX Data & Visuals

2026

Key Findings

Population

- In 2021, London had 8.8 million usual residents, making it the second most populous region in England behind the South East.

Age

- London had a higher proportion of residents under 50, including 1.6 million aged 25 to 34 years (18.1%), and a lower proportion aged 65 and over (11.9%) compared with the England average.

Age dependency ratio

- London had the lowest age dependency ratio of all regions in 2021, at 45.2 dependents per 100 working-age residents.

Sex

- In 2021, females accounted for 51.5% of London's population, the highest proportion among English regions.

Ethnicity

- The largest ethnic group in London was White (53.8%), followed by Asian (22.1%) and Black (15.9%), with all minority groups more highly represented than in other regions.
- Within London, the proportion of minority ethnic groups ranged from 19.5% in Richmond upon Thames to 69.2% in Newham.
- Asian populations were highest in Redbridge (47.3%) and Harrow (45.2%), Black populations in Lewisham (26.8%) and Southwark (25.1%), Mixed populations in Lambeth and Lewisham (both 8.1%), and Other populations in Westminster (13.5%) and Enfield (12.1%).

Religion

- London had the lowest proportion of Christians in England (40.7%) and the lowest proportion with no religion (27.1%), with higher representation of Muslim (15%) and Hindu (5.1%) populations than elsewhere.

English proficiency

- In 2021, 4% of London's usual residents could not speak English well or at all, the highest proportion among English regions.

Country of birth

- Only 59.4% of London residents were born in the UK, compared with 82.6% in England overall, with Europe (15.5%) and the Middle East and Asia (13%) being the most common regions of birth for non-UK residents.
- Among residents whose main language is not English, 12.9% of those born in the Middle East and Asia could not speak English well or at all, followed by 9.4% of European-born residents.

Age

Figure 1. Population by age group, regions, 2021

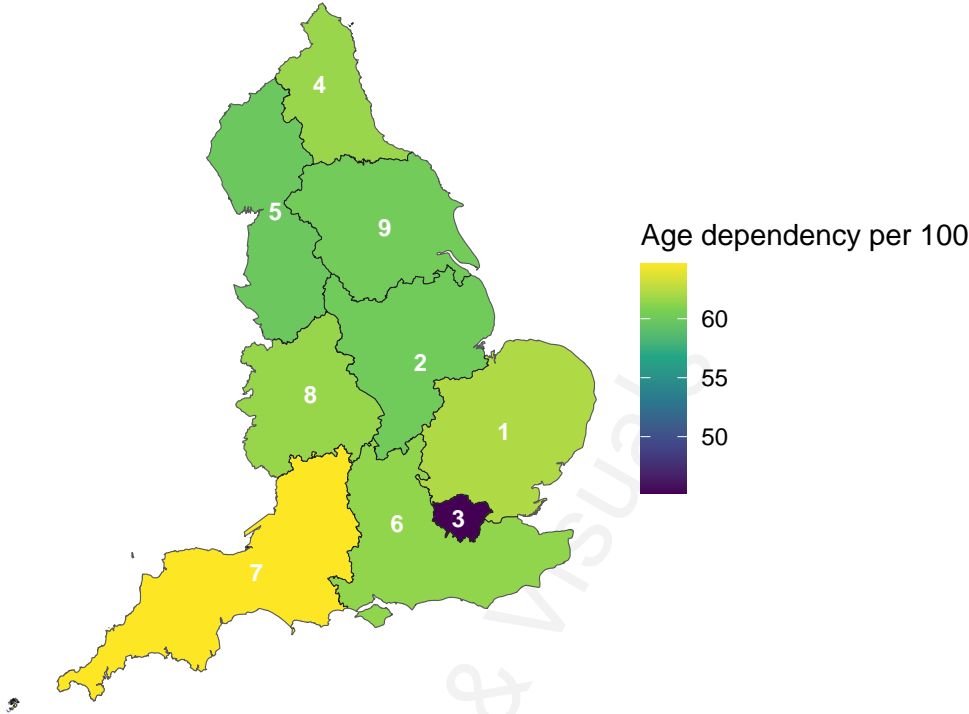
Region	Aged 15 years and under	Aged 16 to 24 years	Aged 25 to 34 years	Aged 35 to 49 years	Aged 50 to 64 years	Aged 65 years and over
East Midlands	882,016 (18.1%)	538,516 (11.0%)	620,298 (12.7%)	908,665 (18.6%)	978,770 (20.1%)	951,768 (19.5%)
East of England	1,186,781 (18.7%)	613,438 (9.7%)	812,338 (12.8%)	1,234,529 (19.5%)	1,244,823 (19.6%)	1,243,124 (19.6%)
London	1,695,745 (19.3%)	978,731 (11.1%)	1,594,894 (18.1%)	1,996,944 (22.7%)	1,489,993 (16.9%)	1,043,423 (11.9%)
North East	468,064 (17.7%)	284,150 (10.7%)	328,703 (12.4%)	474,573 (17.9%)	550,952 (20.8%)	540,560 (20.4%)
North West	1,391,748 (18.8%)	798,029 (10.8%)	982,757 (13.2%)	1,388,771 (18.7%)	1,469,769 (19.8%)	1,386,311 (18.7%)
South East	1,723,481 (18.6%)	933,581 (10.1%)	1,149,554 (12.4%)	1,826,829 (19.7%)	1,840,371 (19.8%)	1,804,255 (19.4%)
South West	965,337 (16.9%)	585,645 (10.3%)	688,115 (12.1%)	1,022,786 (17.9%)	1,165,688 (20.4%)	1,273,626 (22.3%)
West Midlands	1,149,436 (19.3%)	649,582 (10.9%)	772,928 (13.0%)	1,113,735 (18.7%)	1,147,837 (19.3%)	1,117,236 (18.8%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,020,501 (18.6%)	607,548 (11.1%)	718,220 (13.1%)	1,011,553 (18.5%)	1,081,962 (19.7%)	1,040,995 (19.0%)
England	10,483,109 (18.6%)	5,989,220 (10.6%)	7,667,807 (13.6%)	10,978,385 (19.4%)	10,970,165 (19.4%)	10,401,298 (18.4%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, there were 56.5 million usual residents in England of which 8.8 million were usual residents in London. London was the second most populous region behind the South East region with 9.3 million usual residents.

In London, there was a higher proportion of all age groups below 50+ compared to the England average. In London, there were 1.6 million usual residents aged 25 to 34 years (18.1%) which is the highest proportion among all England regions and higher than the England average of 13.6%. In London, there were 1.04 million residents aged 65 years and over (11.9%) which is the lowest proportion among all England regions and lower than the England average of 18.4%.

Figure 2. Population by age dependency per 100, regions, 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021

Map ID	Region Name
1	East
2	East Midlands
3	London
4	North East
5	North West
6	South East
7	South West
8	West Midlands
9	Yorkshire and The Humber

The age dependency ratio describes pressure on the workforce by comparing the proportion of dependents (0 to 15 years and 65 years and over) relative to the working age population (16 to 64 years). This figure is given as a rate of dependents per 100 working age population.

In 2021, London had the lowest age dependency ratio among all regions (45.2 per 100). This was driven largely by the relatively low proportion of its population aged 65 years and over. In comparison, the highest age dependency ratio was seen in the South East region (64.7 per 100).

Sex

Figure 3. Population by sex, regions, 2021

Region	Female	Male
East Midlands	2,477,859 (50.8%)	2,402,174 (49.2%)
East of England	3,228,072 (51.0%)	3,106,961 (49.0%)
London	4,531,626 (51.5%)	4,268,104 (48.5%)
North East	1,353,635 (51.1%)	1,293,367 (48.9%)
North West	3,777,254 (50.9%)	3,640,131 (49.1%)
South East	4,738,849 (51.1%)	4,539,222 (48.9%)
South West	2,911,554 (51.1%)	2,789,643 (48.9%)
West Midlands	3,023,196 (50.8%)	2,927,558 (49.2%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,791,692 (50.9%)	2,689,087 (49.1%)
England	28,833,737 (51.0%)	27,656,247 (49.0%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, there were 28.8 million (51%) usual residents in England that were female. This trend of a slightly higher female population was present across all regions, with London having the highest proportion of 51.5%.

Ethnicity

Figure 4. Population by ethnic group, regions, 2021

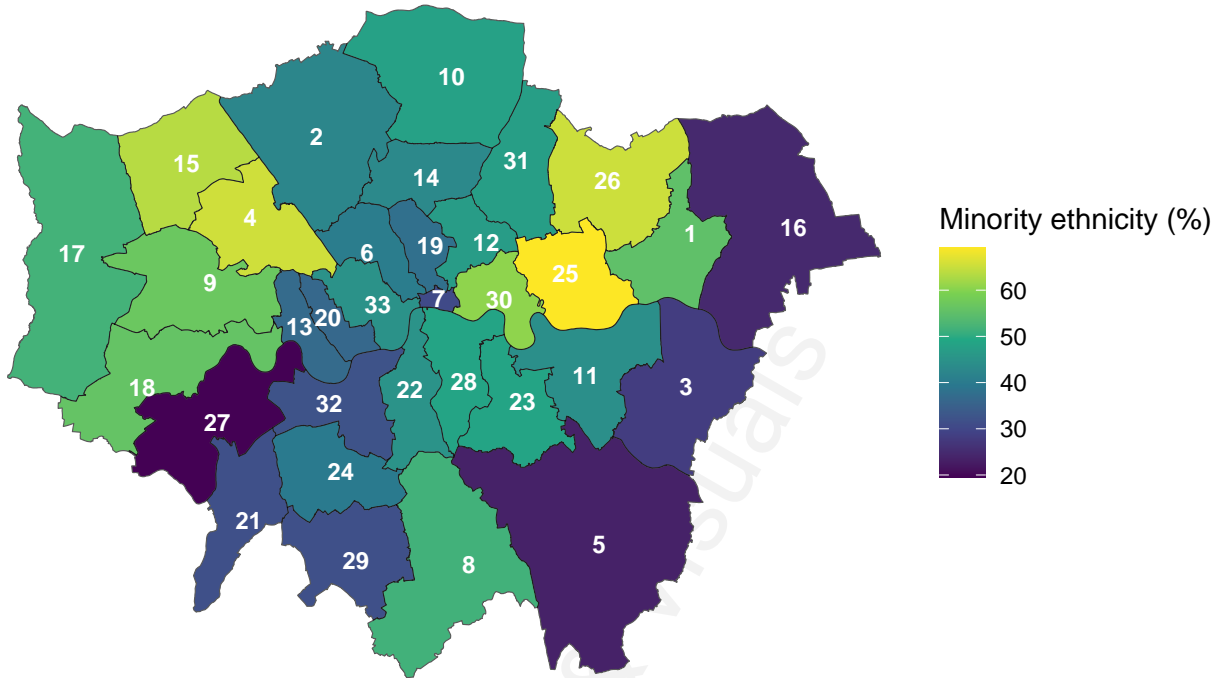
Region	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
East Midlands	421,890 (8.6%)	190,737 (3.9%)	25,708 (0.5%)	61,936 (1.3%)	4,179,762 (85.7%)
East of England	457,312 (7.2%)	264,267 (4.2%)	48,880 (0.8%)	86,217 (1.4%)	5,478,357 (86.5%)
London	1,942,822 (22.1%)	1,398,279 (15.9%)	170,683 (1.9%)	556,774 (6.3%)	4,731,172 (53.8%)
North East	110,529 (4.2%)	38,810 (1.5%)	8,596 (0.3%)	26,346 (1.0%)	2,462,721 (93.0%)
North West	670,522 (9.0%)	250,885 (3.4%)	38,427 (0.5%)	110,151 (1.5%)	6,347,400 (85.6%)
South East	738,644 (8.0%)	322,319 (3.5%)	72,041 (0.8%)	135,695 (1.5%)	8,009,372 (86.3%)
South West	194,148 (3.4%)	118,476 (2.1%)	30,256 (0.5%)	48,702 (0.9%)	5,309,615 (93.1%)
West Midlands	840,743 (14.1%)	366,219 (6.2%)	34,540 (0.6%)	124,226 (2.1%)	4,585,026 (77.0%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	523,927 (9.6%)	172,587 (3.1%)	25,195 (0.5%)	79,092 (1.4%)	4,679,978 (85.4%)
England	5,900,537 (10.4%)	3,122,579 (5.5%)	454,326 (0.8%)	1,229,139 (2.2%)	45,783,403 (81.0%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, the largest ethnic group in England were White (81%).

In London, the White ethnic group accounted for 53.8% of the population, the second largest ethnic group were Asian (22.1%) followed by Black (15.9%), Other (6.3%) and Mixed (1.9%). London has the highest proportion of all broad ethnic groups compared to all other regions in England.

Figure 5. Minority ethnic populations by London local authority, 2021



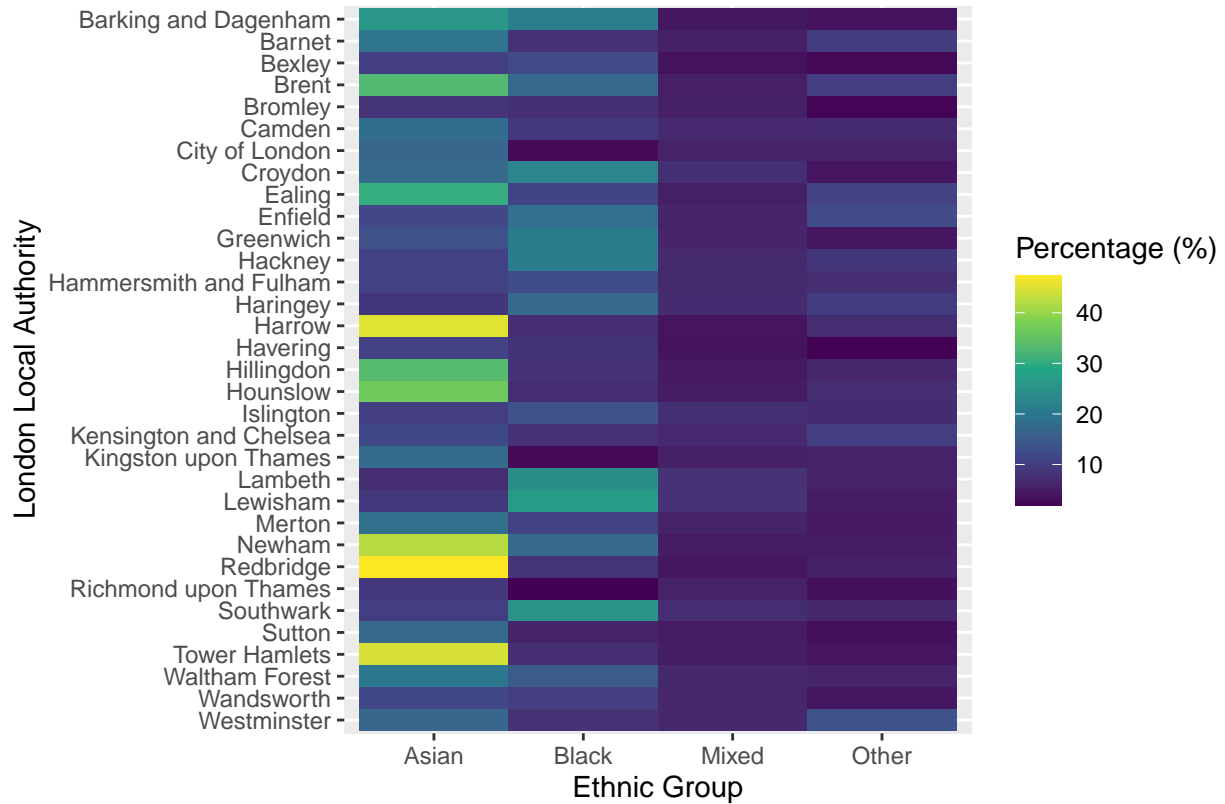
Source: ONS, Census 2021

Map ID	Local Authority Name	Map ID	Local Authority Name
1	Barking and Dagenham	18	Hounslow
2	Barnet	19	Islington
3	Bexley	20	Kensington and Chelsea
4	Brent	21	Kingston upon Thames
5	Bromley	22	Lambeth
6	Camden	23	Lewisham
7	City of London	24	Merton
8	Croydon	25	Newham
9	Ealing	26	Redbridge
10	Enfield	27	Richmond upon Thames
11	Greenwich	28	Southwark
12	Hackney	29	Sutton
13	Hammersmith and Fulham	30	Tower Hamlets
14	Haringey	31	Waltham Forest
15	Harrow	32	Wandsworth
16	Havering	33	Westminster
17	Hillingdon	NA	NA

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

The proportion of minority ethnic groups varies significantly across London local authorities. The lowest was observed in Richmond upon Thames (19.5) which is still slightly higher than the England average of 19%. The highest was observed in Newham (69.2%) followed by Brent (65.4%) and Redbridge (65.2%).

Figure 6. Minority ethnic groups by London local authority, 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021

The proportion of broad ethnic groups also varied significantly across London local authorities. The figure above demonstrates that certain ethnic groups have particularly high proportions among some local authorities.

The highest broad ethnic group in any one local authority is Asian in Redbridge (47.3%) followed by Asian in Harrow (45.2%). The top 8 proportion of an ethnic group in any one local authority are Asian. The highest Black population was observed in Lewisham (26.8%) followed by Southwark (25.1%). The highest Mixed ethnic group was observed in Lambeth and Lewisham (both 8.1%). The highest ethnic groups described as 'other' were observed in Westminster (13.5%) and Enfield (12.1%).

Religion

Figure 7. Population by religion, regions, 2021

Region	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	No religion	Not answered	Other religion	Sikh
East Midlands	14,512 (0.3%)	2,214,160 (45.4%)	120,346 (2.5%)	4,305 (0.1%)	210,758 (4.3%)	1,950,348 (40.0%)	286,831 (5.9%)	24,824 (0.5%)	53,949 (1.1%)
East of England	26,806 (0.4%)	2,955,059 (46.6%)	86,625 (1.4%)	42,008 (0.7%)	234,755 (3.7%)	2,544,503 (40.2%)	384,616 (6.1%)	36,374 (0.6%)	24,287 (0.4%)
London	77,419 (0.9%)	3,577,674 (40.7%)	453,029 (5.1%)	145,458 (1.7%)	1,318,753 (15.0%)	2,380,421 (27.1%)	615,664 (7.0%)	86,750 (1.0%)	144,562 (1.6%)
North East	7,023 (0.3%)	1,343,961 (50.8%)	10,917 (0.4%)	4,378 (0.2%)	72,104 (2.7%)	1,058,126 (40.0%)	133,337 (5.0%)	9,947 (0.4%)	7,209 (0.3%)
North West	23,022 (0.3%)	3,895,776 (52.5%)	49,756 (0.7%)	33,287 (0.4%)	563,107 (7.6%)	2,419,621 (32.6%)	392,865 (5.3%)	28,103 (0.4%)	11,848 (0.2%)
South East	54,432 (0.6%)	4,313,319 (46.5%)	154,736 (1.7%)	18,693 (0.2%)	309,074 (3.3%)	3,733,101 (40.2%)	566,274 (6.1%)	54,098 (0.6%)	74,344 (0.8%)
South West	24,586 (0.4%)	2,635,888 (46.2%)	27,747 (0.5%)	7,379 (0.1%)	80,158 (1.4%)	2,513,362 (44.1%)	367,719 (6.4%)	36,894 (0.6%)	7,464 (0.1%)
West Midlands	18,807 (0.3%)	2,770,547 (46.6%)	88,114 (1.5%)	4,395 (0.1%)	569,953 (9.6%)	1,955,025 (32.9%)	339,723 (5.7%)	31,794 (0.5%)	172,396 (2.9%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	15,810 (0.3%)	2,461,524 (44.9%)	29,245 (0.5%)	9,346 (0.2%)	442,528 (8.1%)	2,161,188 (39.4%)	313,479 (5.7%)	23,632 (0.4%)	24,027 (0.4%)
England	262,417 (0.5%)	26,167,908 (46.3%)	1,020,515 (1.8%)	269,249 (0.5%)	3,801,190 (6.7%)	20,715,695 (36.7%)	3,400,508 (6.0%)	332,416 (0.6%)	520,086 (0.9%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, the largest religion identified among usual residents was Christian with 26.2 million (46.3%), while 20.7 million (36.7%) usual residents did not describe themselves as religious.

In contrast, London had the lowest proportion of Christians of all England regions (40.7%) and the lowest proportion of usual residents not identifying with any religion (27.1%). All other religious identities had a higher proportion of representation in London, with those identifying as Muslim (15%) and Hindu (5.1%) having the highest proportions in London and relative to England.

English Proficiency

Figure 8. Population by English speaking proficiency, regions, 2021

Region	Main language is English	Speaks English very well or well	Cannot speak English well or at all	Does not apply
East Midlands	4,340,514 (88.9%)	301,116 (6.2%)	91,301 (1.9%)	147,122 (3.0%)
East of England	5,676,749 (89.6%)	375,765 (5.9%)	78,619 (1.2%)	203,944 (3.2%)
London	6,650,974 (75.6%)	1,476,689 (16.8%)	354,996 (4.0%)	317,066 (3.6%)
North East	2,478,462 (93.6%)	70,919 (2.7%)	20,071 (0.8%)	77,561 (2.9%)
North West	6,697,980 (90.3%)	363,217 (4.9%)	117,171 (1.6%)	239,026 (3.2%)
South East	8,340,940 (89.9%)	551,279 (5.9%)	97,611 (1.1%)	288,236 (3.1%)
South West	5,287,114 (92.7%)	216,301 (3.8%)	38,082 (0.7%)	159,690 (2.8%)
West Midlands	5,235,731 (88.0%)	390,456 (6.6%)	128,165 (2.2%)	196,405 (3.3%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	4,943,717 (90.2%)	269,996 (4.9%)	92,161 (1.7%)	174,908 (3.2%)
England	49,652,181 (87.9%)	4,015,738 (7.1%)	1,018,177 (1.8%)	1,803,958 (3.2%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, 1 million (1.8%) of usual residents could not speak English well or at all in England.

This proportion was highest in London (4%) among all England regions.

Place of Birth

Figure 8. Population by place of birth, regions, 2021

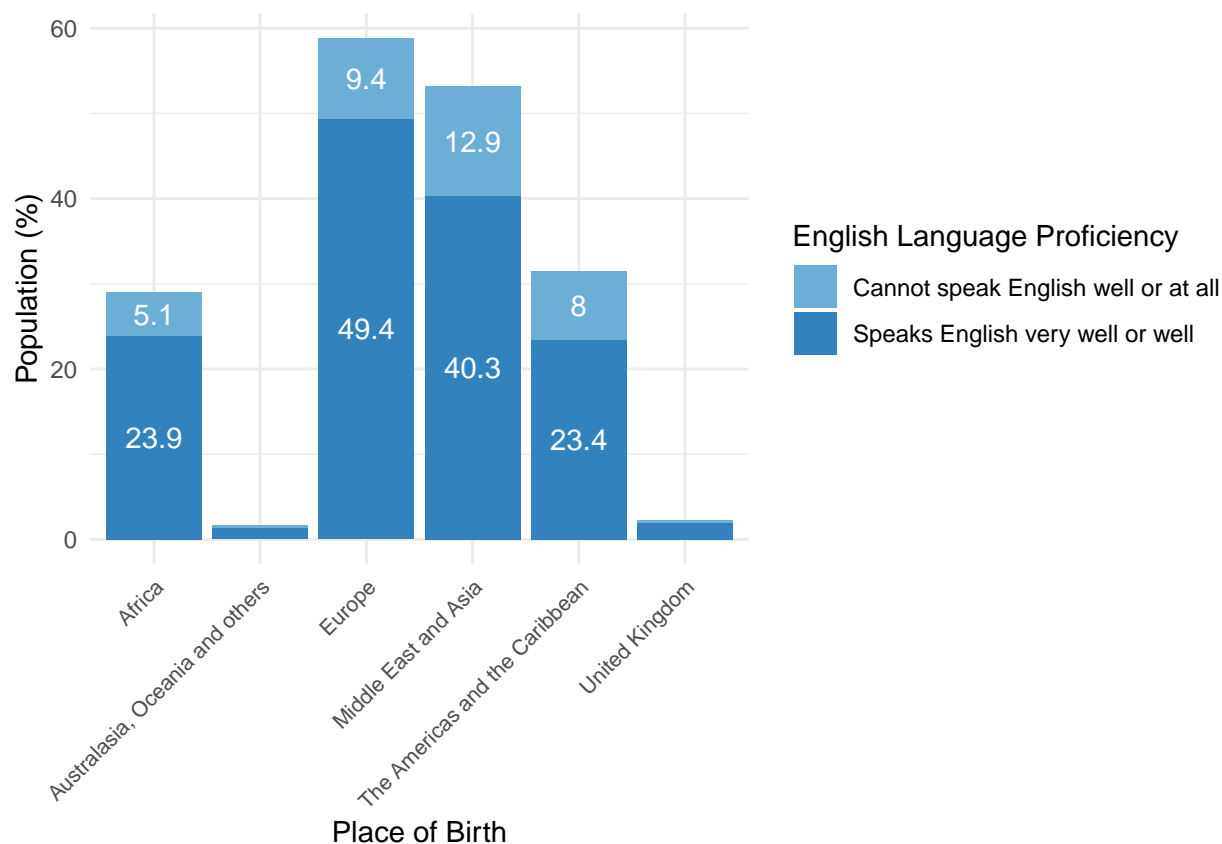
Region	Africa	Australasia, Oceania and others	Europe	Middle East and Asia	The Americas and the Caribbean	United Kingdom
East Midlands	109,306 (2.2%)	7,142 (0.1%)	309,872 (6.3%)	209,919 (4.3%)	33,140 (0.7%)	4,210,674 (86.3%)
East of England	138,135 (2.2%)	16,260 (0.3%)	463,296 (7.3%)	247,818 (3.9%)	78,863 (1.2%)	5,390,705 (85.1%)
London	625,365 (7.1%)	64,838 (0.7%)	1,366,427 (15.5%)	1,146,246 (13.0%)	372,866 (4.2%)	5,223,983 (59.4%)
North East	26,486 (1.0%)	2,995 (0.1%)	68,554 (2.6%)	71,694 (2.7%)	9,416 (0.4%)	2,467,868 (93.2%)
North West	129,053 (1.7%)	10,187 (0.1%)	333,172 (4.5%)	347,987 (4.7%)	45,000 (0.6%)	6,551,995 (88.3%)
South East	235,199 (2.5%)	35,395 (0.4%)	626,839 (6.8%)	450,867 (4.9%)	113,818 (1.2%)	7,815,948 (84.2%)
South West	78,514 (1.4%)	17,780 (0.3%)	289,401 (5.1%)	143,566 (2.5%)	52,430 (0.9%)	5,119,496 (89.8%)
West Midlands	132,505 (2.2%)	7,703 (0.1%)	325,604 (5.5%)	382,279 (6.4%)	54,347 (0.9%)	5,048,319 (84.8%)
Yorkshire and The Humber	83,647 (1.5%)	7,820 (0.1%)	259,356 (4.7%)	241,324 (4.4%)	30,123 (0.5%)	4,858,512 (88.6%)
England	1,558,210 (2.8%)	170,120 (0.3%)	4,042,521 (7.2%)	3,241,700 (5.7%)	790,003 (1.4%)	46,687,500 (82.6%)

Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

In 2021, 46.7 million (82.6%) of usual resident were born in the United Kingdom.

In contrast, London had 5.2 million (59.4%) of usual residents born in the United Kingdom. The most common region of birth for non-UK born residents in London was Europe (15.5%) followed by the Middle East and Asia (13%).

Figure 12. Population by place of birth and English speaking proficiency, 2021



Looking at specifically those whose main language is not English and excluding those for whom it does not apply, usual resident born in the Middle East and Asia have the highest proportion who cannot speak English well or at all (12.9%) followed by those born in Europe (9.4%) and the Americas and the Caribbean (8%).