

Housing & Demographic Changes 1971-2011

The first decennial Census post-1965 took place in 1971. Data from the five Censuses that have occurred between 1971 and 2011 show that a number of housing and demographic changes across Greenwich borough. These include:

Population

- A general population decline between 1971 and 1991
 - § 1971-1981: A population decline of 4,258 people (-2%)
 - § 1981-1991: A population decline of 1,936 people (-0.9%)
- The 2001 Census showed population growth in the borough for the first time since the 1931 Census, with an estimated increase of 9,100 people between 1991 and 2001 (4.4%)
- Despite population decline between 1971 and 1991, the cumulative population has increased from 211,495 in 1971 to 254,557 in 2011 – showing population growth rate of 18.7% (43,062 people)
- The population of Greenwich borough increased by approximately 40,000 between 2001 and 2011 – the largest population growth seen across the borough since 1911-1921 (24,000 people) or 1891-1901 (35,000 people)

Male:Female Ratio

- The 2001 Census showed that the ratio of males to females across the borough was starting to balance
 - § In 1971¹ the ratio of males to females was 48.4% to 51.6%
 - § 1981 showed a male to female ratio of 48.1% to 51.9%
 - § The male to female ratio declined further in 1991, with a split of 47.7% to 52.3%
 - § However, in 2001 the male to female ratio increased slightly to 47.9% to 52.1%
 - § 2011 data showed that this had increased further, with a male to female ratio of 49.6% to 50.4%

¹ It was not possible to locate data on the male and female breakdown of the population from the 1971 Census. As a result, an indicative gender breakdown was generated by acquiring the male and female split from the Country of Birth dataset, and proportionately applying this to the total population figure.

Ethnicity

- Questions on the ethnicity of residents were first asked in the 1991 Census
 - § White population has decreased from 87.3% in 1991 to 62.5% in 2011
 - § Black African population has increased from 1.9% in 1991 to 13.8% in 2011
 - § Those of Other Asian ethnicity has increased from 1.1% in 1991 to 5% in 2011

Household Size

- Average household sizes (AHS) across the borough reflected the increasing population trend. The AHS in 1971 was 2.85, which continued to decline in 1981 (2.65), 1991 (2.42) and 2001 (2.31). The 2011 Census however, showed an increasing AHS of 2.52

Home Ownership

- Between 1971 and 2001 the rate of owner occupancy has continued to increase on a gradual scale from 36.5% to 48.4%. The 2011 Census however, showed the first signs of a decline in owner occupancy rates (43.3%)
- 23.8% of homes were privately rented in 1971 – dropping to 10% in 1981 and stabilising until 2011. This is the point at which the rate almost doubled to 19.8%

Employment

- The employment rate is calculated as the number of those in employment as a proportion of the economically active population
 - § In 1971 the employment rate was 95.1%
 - § The rate dropped dramatically to 76% in 1981
 - § Economic activity rates picked up in 1991 (85.5%) and remained relatively consistent in 2001 (86.6%)
 - § The 2011 Census showed however, that the employment rate had declined from 2001 (83.9%)

Please Note

Because of different questions being asked in each decennial Census, it is very difficult to accurately compare, contrast and measure change consistently over time. Furthermore, it was not possible to attain any thorough data on social class.

Sources: CasWeb UK Census Data 1971-1991, Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census Data 2001-2011 and Greater London Authority Historic Census Population Estimates.