



Joint Strategic Planning Unit



2001 Census Key Statistics

Initial summary of results



GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

2001 Census Key Statistics: Initial summary of results

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The contents of this publication were produced under a contract with the Greater London Authority managed on behalf of the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities by Bryan Lyttle.

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Key Statistics published 13 February 2003

Key Statistics from the 2001 Census were published on 13 February. They consist of 25 tables of univariate counts of a range of characteristics from the 2001 Census. This briefing contains some initial results from the data and will be followed by several more briefings based on the Key Statistics. More detailed analysis will be produced on a wide range of topics with the publication of further 2001 Census data. The current timetable for publication of further data by ONS is on page 6.

Did you know... ?

People

The population of the former county of Berkshire is 800,118. The populations of the Unitary Authorities range from 109,617 in Bracknell Forest to 150,229 in Wokingham.

Almost 12.7 per cent of residents are aged 65 or over compared with 12.4 per cent in 1991. Bracknell Forest had the smallest proportion aged 65+ (10.8 per cent) while Windsor and Maidenhead had the largest proportion (15.4 per cent). Slough had the lowest proportion aged 85+ while Windsor and Maidenhead again had the largest proportion (15.4 per cent).

More than 19,000 people in the former county lived in communal establishments and there were 11,212 students from local households living away from home.

Population change in the former county of Berkshire was a 6.4 per cent increase between 1991 and 2001. The growth was larger in Slough and Bracknell Forest, with 13.0 and 11.7 per cent respectively compared with more modest growth of between 4.1 and 6.5 per cent in West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham. Windsor and Maidenhead shows a very small fall in population of -0.1 per cent.

Households

There are 315,149 households in the former county of Berkshire.

The average household size varies from 2.63 in Slough to 2.39 in Windsor and Maidenhead. Slough has the second largest average household size out of all the 376 local authority districts in England and Wales, second only to the London Borough of Newham. Wokingham came 7th in the national rankings (2.55 persons per household), West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest jointly placed 32nd with 2.46.

Reading and Windsor and Maidenhead were both lower in the national rankings (placed 120 and 140) with average household sizes of 2.4 and 2.39 respectively.

Wokingham has the second largest proportion of married couple households in England and Wales, with nearly half of all households in this category. West Berkshire, Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead all had more than 40 per cent of their households containing a married couple. Slough and Reading both have less than 35 per cent married couple households, with rankings of 303 and 333 out of the 376 local authority districts in England and Wales.

In contrast, Slough and Reading both appear in the top ten local authority districts in the country on the proportion of cohabiting couple households (10.7 and 10.6 per cent). Bracknell Forest also appears in the top 20, 19th with 10.1 per cent. West Berkshire, ranked 54 out of 376, Wokingham, ranked 181, and Windsor and Maidenhead, ranked 233, all had less than 10 per cent.

Wokingham has the 16th lowest proportion of lone parent families with dependent children in England and Wales, with 3.8 per cent of households in this category. Windsor and Maidenhead also ranked very low - 336 out of 376. Reading had the largest proportion of lone parents with dependent children among the six former Berkshire Unitary Authorities, with 5.9 per cent.

More than 30 per cent of households in England and Wales now contain only one person. Wokingham has the second lowest proportion of any district in the country with 22.6 per cent of households containing only one person. The proportion in West Berkshire is also low - 24.5 per cent and ranked 354. Bracknell Forest, Slough, and Windsor and Maidenhead also ranked quite low on one person households, with Reading being the only former Berkshire Unitary Authority falling in the top third of local authority districts - ranked 119 with 30.1 per cent one person households.

Ethnic groups

Slough had the 10th largest proportion of groups other than White in England and Wales - with 63.7 per cent of the population in the White group. This compares with 97.4 per cent White in West Berkshire. Bracknell Forest, Wokingham and Windsor and Maidenhead all had more than 90 per cent in the White group. Reading have almost 87 per cent White.

Slough has the fourth largest proportion of Asians in England and Wales, with Asian here meaning Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi combined. It follows Newham, Tower Hamlets and Leicester and has more than a quarter of its population in the Asian ethnic groups.

Religion

Slough has the largest proportion of Sikhs in England and Wales, with 9.1 per cent of residents stating Sikh as their religion. This is almost 11,000 people.

Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham also appear in the top 50 local authorities based on the size of the Sikh population but in these areas the proportions are just over 1 per cent.

Slough comes 13th in the national rankings on proportion of Hindus in the population with 4.5 per cent. The Hindu population in the other Unitary Authorities in former Berkshire is 1 per cent or less. Slough is also tenth nationally in the proportion of its population who are Muslims, with 13.4 per cent. Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham are all in the top 100 local authorities but all have between 4 and 1 per cent Muslims. Less than 1 per cent of the population of both Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire gave their religion as Muslim. Reading came 30th in the national rankings for Buddhist with 0.5 per cent.

Less than half of 1 per cent of the population in any of the six Unitary Authorities are Jewish, while Reading came 14th nationally in the proportion of residents stating that they had no religion. Reading also came 8th in the national rankings for residents stating their religion as Jedi. This was included in the category for those with no religion.

Country of birth

The country of birth results published so far indicate that all the six Unitary Authorities formerly in Berkshire have relatively low proportions of their population born in the UK. The largest proportion is 93.5 per cent in West Berkshire while the lowest is 76 per cent in Slough.

The proportion born outside the UK but within the EU is largest in Windsor and Maidenhead (4.3 per cent) and lowest in West Berkshire (2.3 per cent).

Slough has the largest proportion born outside the EU, at 20.6 per cent and is ranked 23rd nationally. Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest all appear in the top 75 authorities with between 10.3 and 6.5 per cent of residents born outside the EU.

Economic activity

There are more than 420,000 residents of the former Berkshire aged 16 to 74 in employment.

Bracknell Forest had the second highest percentage in work in England and Wales, at 72.8 per cent. The proportion in work was also very high in West Berkshire (7th at 71.4 per cent) and Wokingham (13th at 70.3 per cent).

The proportions of the population who were retired was relatively low in all six authorities. The largest proportion was 12.8 per cent in Windsor and Maidenhead. The other authorities all had between 9 and 11.3 per cent retired.

The unemployment rates are low, with the highest being 3.4 per cent in Slough. The rates in the other 5 Unitary Authorities are all 2.5 per cent or less. The unemployment rate in Wokingham, at 1.5 per cent, is the fourth lowest in England and Wales.

Travel to work

Bracknell Forest has the largest proportion of residents travelling to work by car, 71.3 per cent. Only Reading has less than two-thirds of residents in employment travelling to work by car.

Reading has the largest proportion of the six unitaries travelling to work by public transport, 18.7 per cent and is ranked 53 in England and Wales. Less than ten per cent of residents travel to work by public transport in the other 5 authorities.

Car ownership

Households in the former county of Berkshire own more than 434,000 cars. The largest number is nearly 92,000 cars owned by households in Wokingham.

Wokingham has the third largest proportion in England and Wales of households owning 2 or more cars or vans. West Berkshire is 20th with 47.1 per cent, Windsor and Maidenhead is 25th with 46 per cent and Bracknell Forest is 34th with 45.1 per cent. Less than a third of households Slough and Reading own 2 or more cars or vans.

Wokingham has the second lowest proportion in England and Wales of households having no car, at 9.2 per cent. The average number of cars per household in Wokingham is 1.6.

Housing

Wokingham has the 9th largest percentage in England and Wales of households in owner occupation, at almost 84 per cent. West Berkshire has just under 75 per cent, with Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest with just under 75 per cent. In Slough and Reading the proportion is around two-thirds.

Reading comes 17th in the national ranking of households sharing or lacking basic amenities, but the proportion is still only 1.1 per cent.

Slough comes 17th in the national ranking for overcrowding with Reading 34th.

Qualifications

Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham both have more than 30 per cent of residents with their highest qualification at degree level or higher. They are ranked 25 and 26 in England and Wales. Reading, Bracknell Forest and West Berkshire all have more than one in five qualified at degree level or higher. Only Slough has less than 20 per cent, at 19.7 per cent.

Health

The 2001 Census had more questions relating to health than the 1991 Census. In addition to the question on limiting long-term illness which was asked in both censuses, there were new questions on general health and provision of unpaid care.

Four of the healthiest districts in England and Wales are in the former county of Berkshire. Wokingham has the lowest incidence of long-term illness in England and Wales with only 10.9 per cent of its population reporting a long-term illness. Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Windsor and Maidenhead are also in the top ten healthiest authorities, while Reading and Slough are not far behind. Slough has the highest level of long-term illness with 14.6 per cent but this is still low in the national rankings, at 319.

The results from the general health question also show the relative good health of people in the former Berkshire. Wokingham has the largest percentage of its population reporting general good health in England and Wales. Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest also feature in the top ten local authorities. More than three quarters of all people in these authorities said they had been in good health in the year before the 2001 Census. Slough and Reading reported the lowest proportions of people in good health, but they still had more than 70 per cent in good health.

The proportions of residents providing unpaid care were very low, probably because of the general good health of the population. Even so, more than 65,000 local people are providing unpaid care for someone outside their own household.

ONS timetable for further 2001 Census output

The timetable for output has been published on the ONS website. Some of the key dates are as follows:

Standard Tables for local authorities - April 2003

Key Statistics for wards - April 2003
Key Statistics for output areas - April 2003
Standard Tables for wards - April/May 2003
Census Area Statistics for output areas and parishes - May 2003
Key Statistics for health authorities - May/June 2003
Standard Tables and Census Area Statistics for health authorities - May/June 2003
UK Parliamentary Constituency Report (containing Profiles, Key Statistics and Census Area Statistics) - June 2003
Postcode sector report (including Profiles, Key Statistics and Census Area Statistics)

Special workplace statistics - target date September 2003
Special migration statistics - target date September 2003
Commissioned tables - target date mid 2003

There are gaps in this timetable as it is intended to indicate the timescale rather than give exact dates for anything except the Key Statistics. Further details will be included in later Census Information Notes.