

Data and analysis from Census 2021

# How life has changed in Barnet: Census 2021

Barnet's population increased by around 33,000 between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021). This semi-automated article highlights some of the most notable changes among the local population.

Select an alternative area

19 January 2023



How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

# The population reached nearly 390,000

Very satisfied  
Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Barnet increased by 9.2%, from around 356,400 in 2011 to around 389,300 in 2021.

Neutral  
The population here increased by a greater percentage than the overall population of London (7.7%), and by a greater percentage than the overall population of England (up 6.6% since the 2011 Census).  
Somewhat dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied  
In 2021, Barnet was home to around 32.0 people per football pitch-sized piece of land, compared with 29.3 in 2011. This area was among the top 15% most populated English local authority areas at the last census.



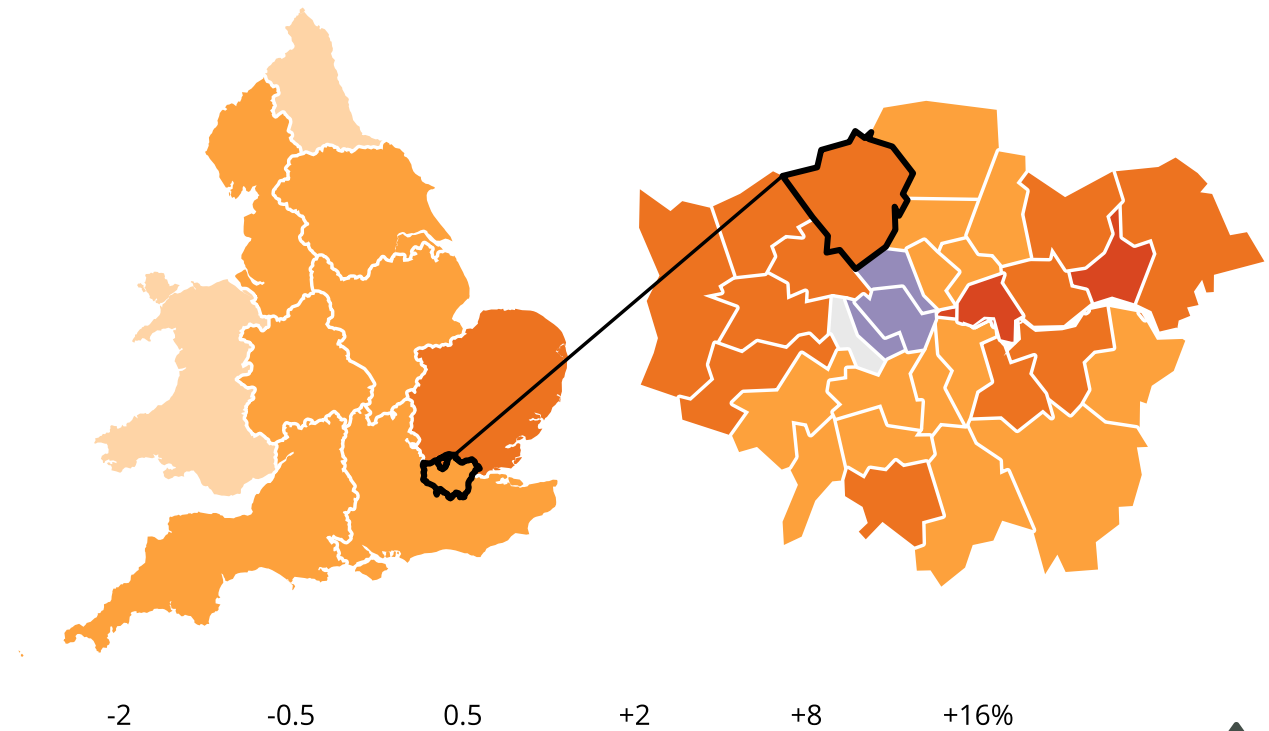
Next

This article generally uses percentages to enable comparisons over time and between areas. The percentage point change is also used to show the difference between the 2011 and 2021 percentages.

## Population growth was higher in Barnet than across London

Percentage population change, Barnet and surrounding areas, 2011 Census to Census 2021

England ▲6.6%      London ▲7.7%      Barnet ▲9.2%



## How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Very satisfied

[Save as image \(PNG <200KB\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/areareportmapstills/E09000003.png) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/areareportmapstills/E09000003.png>)

| [Download the data \(CSV <100KB\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/data/mapdatadownload.csv)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/data/mapdatadownload.csv>) |

[Neutral](#)  
[Show embed code](#)

Somewhat dissatisfied

## An older Barnet

Very dissatisfied

Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of Barnet increased by 10 years from 35 to 37 years of age.



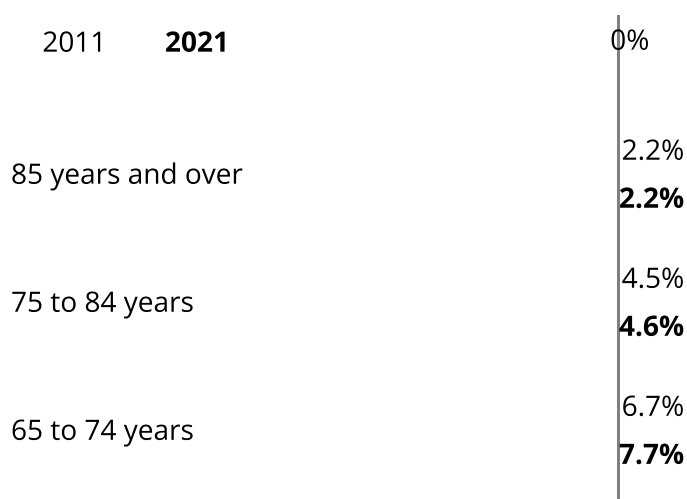
This area had a higher average (median) age than London as a whole in 2021 (35 years) but a lower average (median) age than England (40 years).

The median age is the age of the person in the middle of the group, meaning that one half of the group is younger than that person and the other half is older.

The number of people aged 50 to 64 years rose by just over 12,300 (an increase of 22.3%), while the number of residents between 25 and 34 years fell by around 3,400 (5.5% decrease).

## The share of residents aged between 50 and 64 years increased by 1.9 percentage points between 2011 and 2021

Percentage of usual residents by age group, **Barnet** ▾



## How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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## National identity in Barnet

The percentage of people who did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK fell in Barnet, but rose across England.

In Barnet, the percentage that did not identify with any UK national identity fell from 22.4% in 2011 to 22.0% in 2021, while across England it rose from 8.2% to 10.0%. During the same period, the regional percentage increased from 22.4% to 22.5%.

The percentage of people who identified with a UK and non-UK national identity in Barnet increased from 2.7% to 4.7%, while the percentage of people who identified as "British only" increased from 31.9% to 59.1%. ▲

In Census 2021, "British" was moved to the top response option and this may have influenced how people described their national identity. For further information, please see our [quality report](#)

([https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/methodologies/ethnicgroupnationalidentitylanguageandreligionqualityinformationforcensus2021#:~:text=Other%20ethnic%20group%22-,National%20identity,Ordering%20of%20identity\).](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/methodologies/ethnicgroupnationalidentitylanguageandreligionqualityinformationforcensus2021#:~:text=Other%20ethnic%20group%22-,National%20identity,Ordering%20of%20identity).)

Very satisfied  
Somewhat satisfied  
Neutral  
Somewhat dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied

### The percentage of people who did not identify with at least one UK national identity in Barnet decreased by 0.4 percentage points

Percentage of usual residents by national identity, **Barnet** ▼  
Office for National Statistics

	2011	2021
British only identity	31.9%	<b>59.1%</b>
Welsh only identity	0.3%	<b>0.2%</b>
Welsh and British only identity	0.1%	<b>0.1%</b>
English only identity	35.9%	<b>6.7%</b>
English and British only identity	5.5%	<b>6.5%</b>
Any other combination of only UK identities	1.1%	<b>0.7%</b>
Non-UK identity only	22.4%	<b>22.0%</b>
UK identity and non-UK identity	2.7%	<b>4.7%</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

## Family in Barnet

Very satisfied

The percentage of households including a couple but no children fell here, but rose across London.

Neutral

In Barnet, the percentage of households including a couple without children fell from 13.1% in 2011 to 12.5% in 2021. During the same period, the regional percentage increased from 13.8% to 14.2%.

Very dissatisfied

The percentage of households including a couple with dependent children in Barnet increased from 21.6% to 21.9%, while the percentage of households including a couple with only non-dependent children increased from 6.4% to 7.0%.



### The percentage of households including a couple without children in Barnet decreased by 0.5 percentage points

Percentage of households by household composition, **Barnet** ▾

2011	2021	
		0%
One-person household: Aged 66 years and over (Aged 65 years and over in 2011)	10.6%	<b>10.2%</b>
One-person household: Other	17.3%	<b>17.8%</b>
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: No children	13.1%	<b>12.5%</b>
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: With dependent children	21.6%	<b>21.9%</b>
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: All children non-dependent	6.4%	<b>7.0%</b>
Single-family household: Lone-parent household	11.6%	<b>12.2%</b>



How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

Other household types

19.4%  
18.5%

Very satisfied

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Somewhat satisfied

[Save as image \(PNG <100KB\)](#) | [Save as table \(CSV <100KB\)](#) | [Show embed code](#)

Neutral

## Employment in Barnet

The percentage of people aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time students) who were employed fell in this area, but rose across London.



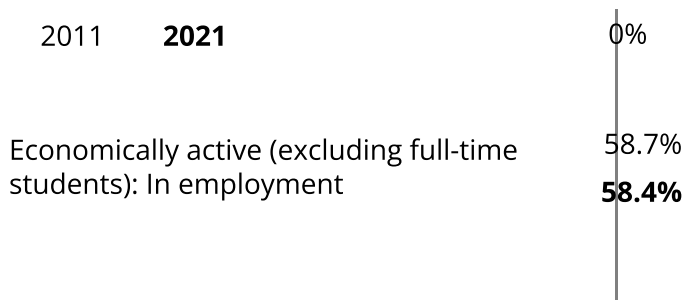
In Barnet, the percentage who were employed fell from 58.7% in 2011 to 58.4% in 2021. During the same period, the regional percentage increased from 58.6% to 59.4%.

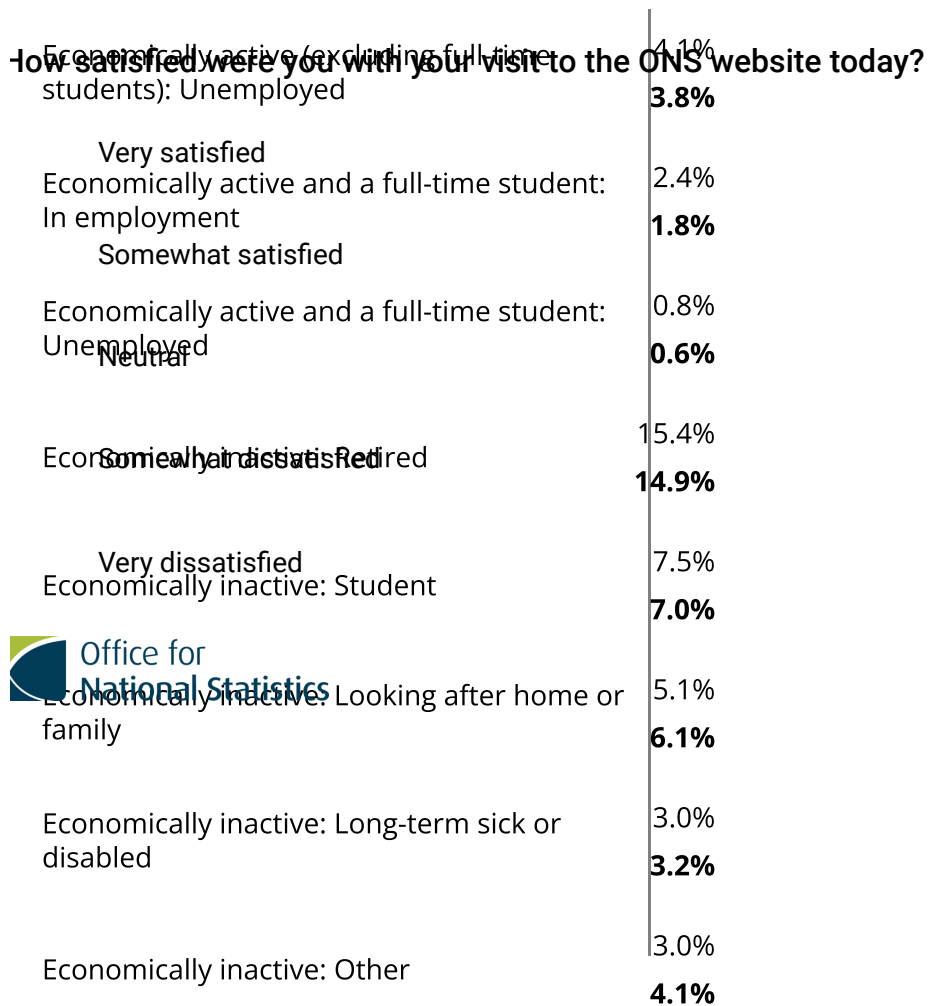
The percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were unemployed (excluding full-time students) in Barnet fell from 4.1% to 3.8%, while the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were retired (economically inactive) decreased from 15.4% to 14.9%.

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of rapid and unparalleled change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market and our ability to measure it.

### The percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were employed (excluding full-time students) in Barnet decreased by 0.4 percentage points

Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over by economic activity status, **Barnet** ▾





Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

[Save as image \(PNG <100KB\)](#) | [Save as table \(CSV <100KB\)](#) | [Show embed code](#)

## More adults worked short hours

In 2021, 12.8% of Barnet residents aged 16 years and over and in employment said they worked 15 hours or less per week. This figure increased from 10.5% in 2011.

This area had Greater London's highest percentage of people aged 16 years and over and in employment who said they usually worked 15 hours or less per week. Enfield had London's next highest percentage of people aged 16 years and over and in employment who said they usually worked 15 hours or less per week (12.5%), while City of London had the region's lowest percentage (7.2%).

Working hours may have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

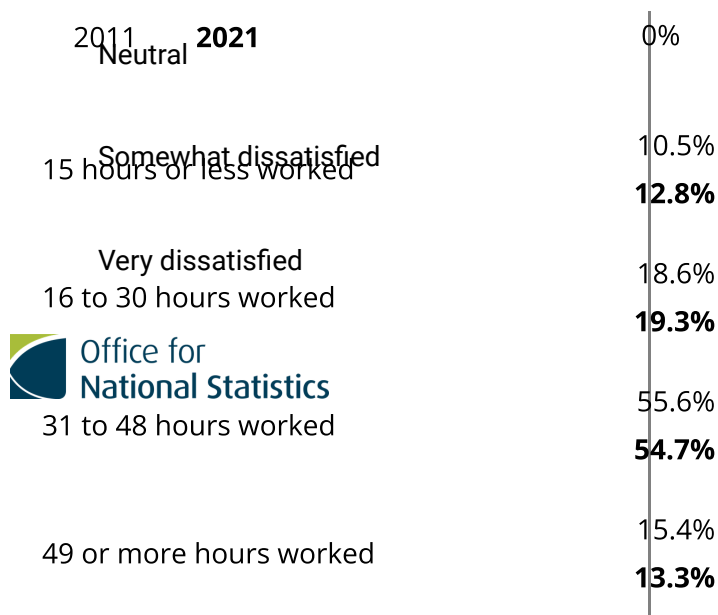


How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

The percentage of adults who worked 15 hours or less in Barnet increased by 2.3

percentage points

Very satisfied  
Somewhat satisfied  
Somewhat dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied  
Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over and in employment by the number of hours worked per week in Barnet



Office for National Statistics

Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

[Save as image \(PNG <100KB\)](#) | [Save as table \(CSV <100KB\)](#) | [Show embed code](#)

## Ethnic groups in Barnet

In 2021, 9.8% of Barnet residents identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group"), up from 4.9% in 2011. The 4.9 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

Across London, the percentage of people from the "Other ethnic groups" ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 3.4% to 6.3%, while across England the percentage increased from 1.0% to 2.2%.

In 2021, 57.7% of people in Barnet identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 64.1% in 2011), while 19.3% identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category (compared with 18.5%



the previous decade)  
How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

Very satisfied  
Somewhat satisfied  
Neutral  
Somewhat dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied

The proportion of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African" category increased from 7.7% in 2011 to 7.9% in 2021.

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

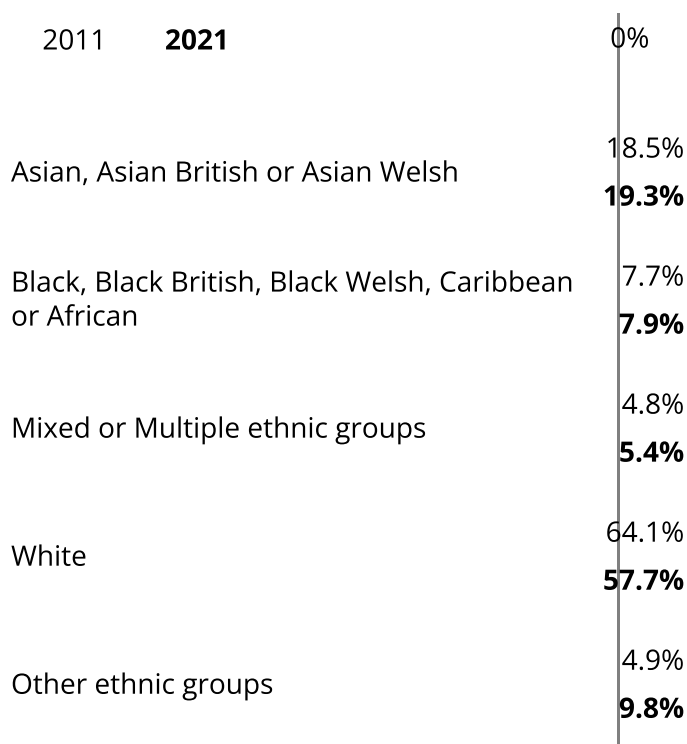


Read the bulletin [Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021).

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>).

### In 2021, 9.8% of usual residents in Barnet identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group")

Percentage of usual residents by ethnic group, **Barnet** ▾



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021



How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

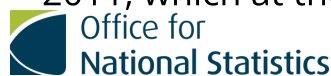
## Barnet residents' country of birth

Very satisfied

In the latest census, around 215,800 Barnet residents said they were born in England. This represented 55.4% of the local population. The figure has risen from just over 211,200 in 2011, which at the time represented 59.3% of Barnet's population.

Somewhat dissatisfied

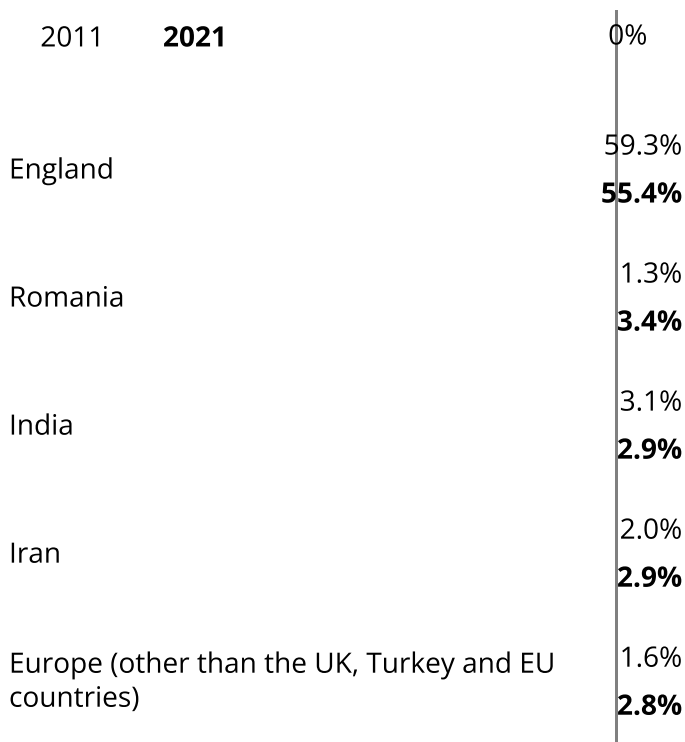
Romania was the next most represented, with just over 13,400 Barnet residents reporting this country of birth (3.4%). This figure was up from just under 4,500 in 2011, which at the time represented 1.3% of the population of Barnet.



The number of Barnet residents born in India rose from around 10,900 in 2011 (3.1% of the local population) to just over 11,300 in 2021 (2.9%).

### In 2021, 55.4% of Barnet residents reported their country of birth as England

Percentage of usual residents by country of birth, **Barnet** ▾



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

#### Notes:

1. This chart shows the five most common countries of birth in Barnet in 2021



2. Please see the data dictionary  
How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?

([https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/census2021dictionary/variablesbytopic/internationalmi](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/census2021dictionary/variablesbytopic/internationalmigrationvariables/census2021/countryofbirth)

Very satisfied  
[grationvariables/census2021/countryofbirth](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/census2021dictionary/variablesbytopic/internationalmigrationvariables/census2021/countryofbirth)) for further detail on country of birth


groupings  
Somewhat satisfied

Neutral

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Somewhat dissatisfied

## Health in Barnet

 In 2021, 51.5% of Barnet residents described their health as "very good", increasing from 46.8% in 2011. Those describing their health as "good" fell from 34.3% to 32.3%. These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

The proportion of Barnet residents describing their health as "very bad" was 1.2% (similar to 2011), while those describing their health as "bad" fell from 4.2% to 3.5%.

These data reflect people's own opinions in describing their overall health on a five point scale, from very good to very bad.

Census 2021 was conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

### The percentage of people in good health in Barnet decreased by 2.0 percentage points

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents by self-reported health, **Barnet** ▾

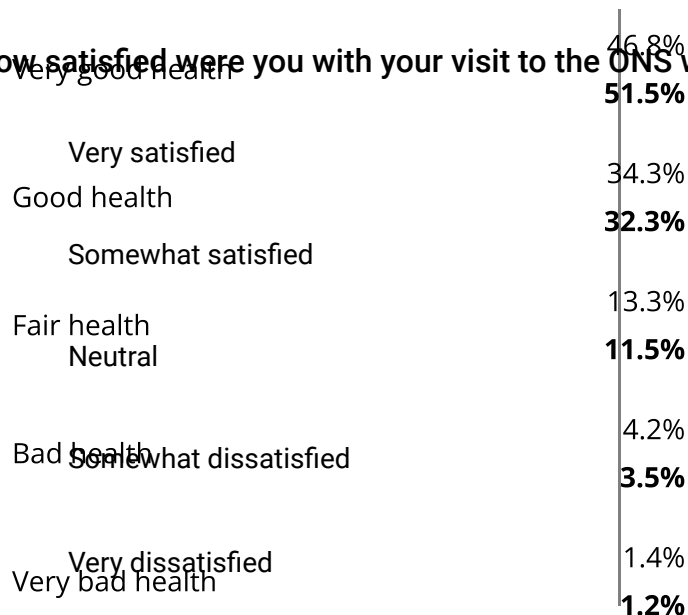
2011

**2021**

0%



## How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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## Rise in private renting

The increase in the percentage of privately-rented homes was greater in Barnet (7.1 percentage points) than in nearby [Hertsmere](#) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000098>) (4.7 percentage points).

In Barnet, the percentage of private renting increased from 25.6% in 2011 to 32.7% in 2021. During the same period, the percentage in nearby Hertsmere increased from 12.5% to 17.3%.

The rate of social renting in Barnet fell from 14.2% to 13.5%, while the rate of home ownership decreased from 57.6% to 52.7%.

### Private renting in Barnet increased by 7.1 percentage points

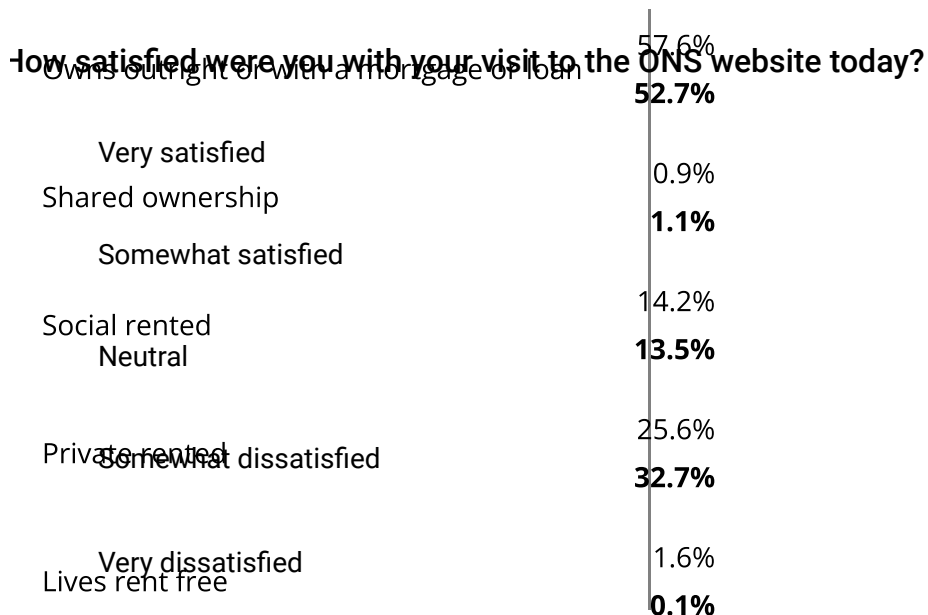
Percentage of households by housing tenure, **Barnet** ▾

2011

2021

0%





Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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## Unpaid care in Barnet

In 2021, 4.5% of Barnet residents (aged five years and over) reported providing up to 19 hours of unpaid care each week. This figure decreased from 7.1% in 2011. These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

This area had Greater London's second highest proportion of people (aged five years and over) providing up to 19 hours of weekly unpaid care. Across the region, only [Bromley](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E09000006>), with 4.6%, had a higher proportion.

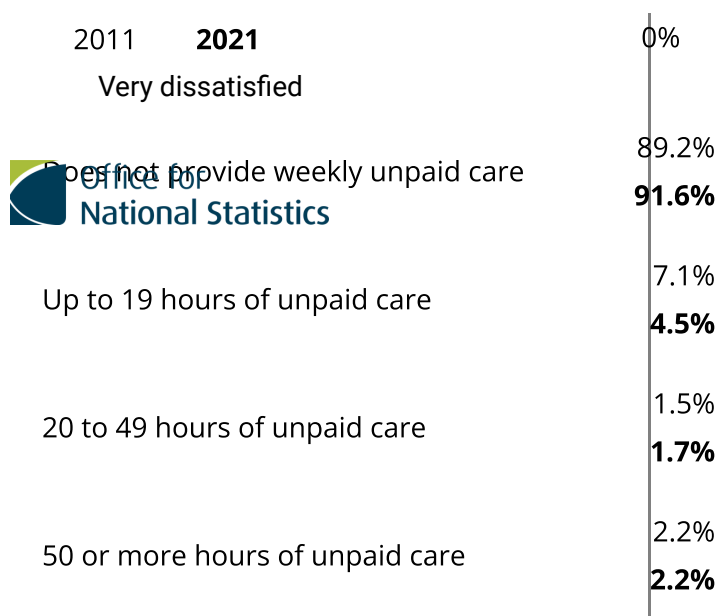
Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and managed their provision of unpaid care, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.▲

Caution should be taken when making comparisons between 2011 and 2021 because of changes in question wording and response options.

Very satisfied

## The percentage of people (aged five years and over) providing up to 19 hours of weekly unpaid care in Barnet decreased by 2.6 percentage points

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents (aged five years and over) by hours per week of unpaid care provision, **Barnet**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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## Religion in Barnet

In 2021, 20.2% of Barnet residents reported having "No religion", up from 16.1% in 2011. The rise of 4.1 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Barnet. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses.

Across London, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 21.0% to 27.1%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%.



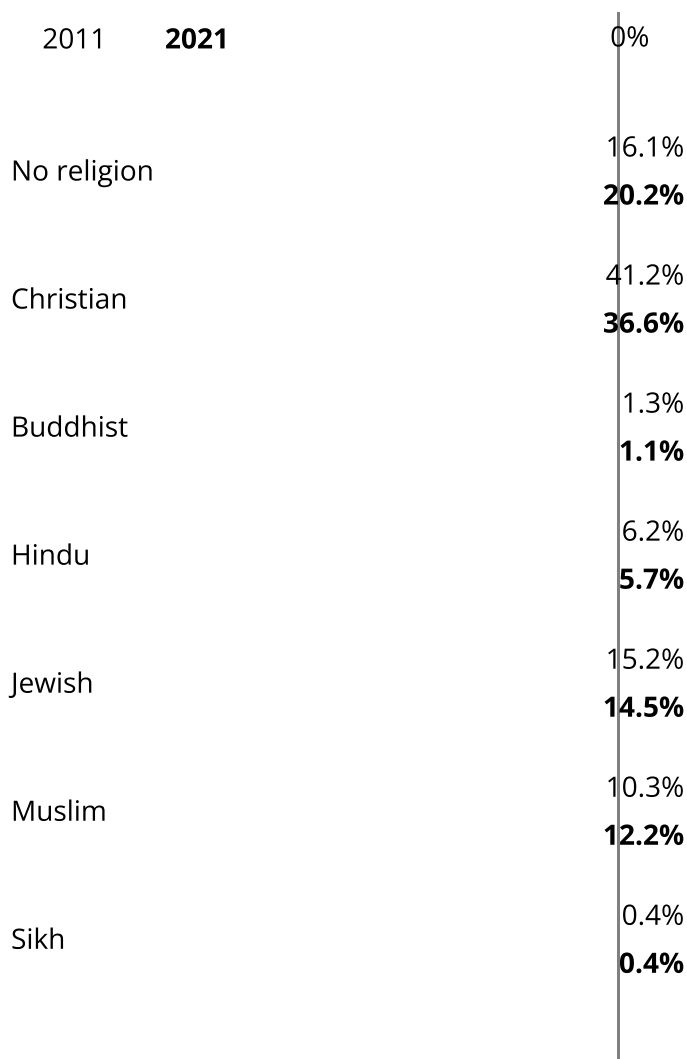
In 2021, 36.6% of people in Barnet described themselves as Christian (down from 41.2%), while 14.5% described themselves as Jewish (down from 15.2% the decade before).

There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.

Read the bulletin [Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021).  
 National Statistics  
 (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/bulletins/religionenglandandwales/census2021>)

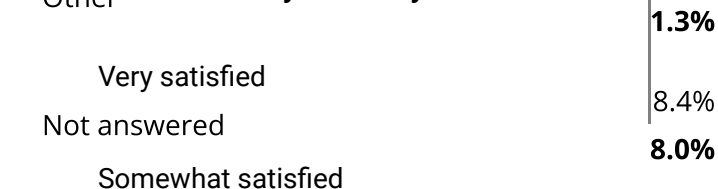
### In 2021, 20.2% of usual residents in Barnet reported having "No religion"

Percentage of usual residents by religion, **Barnet** ▾





How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

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## More adults never married or in a civil partnership



The percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership was greater across England (3.3 percentage points) than in Barnet (1.2 percentage points).

In Barnet, the percentage of adults who had never been married or in a civil partnership increased from 37.2% in 2011 to 38.4% in 2021. During the same period, the percentage across England increased from 34.6% to 37.9%.

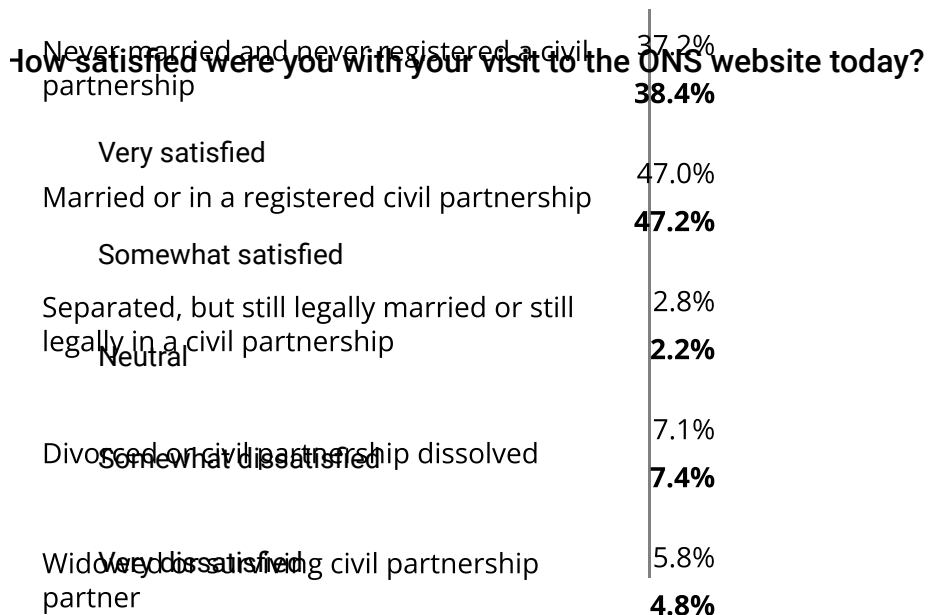
The percentage of adults who were married or in a civil partnership in Barnet increased from 47.0% to 47.2%, while the percentage of adults who had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership increased from 7.1% to 7.4%.

These figures include same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships in 2021, neither of which were legally recognised in England and Wales in 2011. Same-sex marriages have been legally recognised in England and Wales since 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships have been recognised since 2019.

### The percentage of adults who had never married or registered a civil partnership in Barnet increased by 1.2 percentage points

Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over by legal partnership status, **Barnet** ▾





Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

[Save as image \(PNG <100KB\)](#) | [Save as table \(CSV <100KB\)](#) | [Show embed code](#)

## Disability in Barnet

In 2021, 6.4% of Barnet residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 8.1% in 2011. These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

In 2021, just over 1 in 13 people (7.8%) were identified as being disabled and limited a little, compared with 9.1% in 2011. The proportion of Barnet residents who were not disabled increased from 82.8% to 85.8%.

The decrease in the proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot was greater across London (2.3 percentage points, from 9.4% to 7.1%) than in Barnet (1.7 percentage points). Across England, the proportion fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.1% to 7.5%.



Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived their health status and activity limitations, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Very satisfied

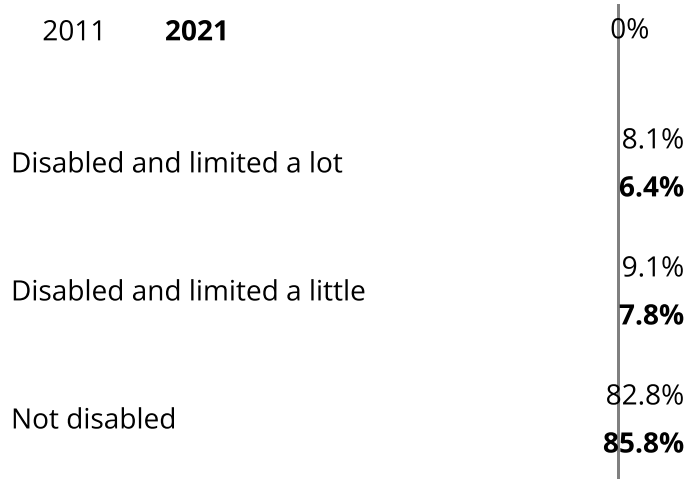
Somewhat satisfied  
Caution should be taken when making comparisons between 2011 and 2021 because of changes in question wording and response options.

Somewhat dissatisfied

**The percentage of people who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot in Barnet decreased by 1.7 percentage points**

Very dissatisfied

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents by long-term health condition or illness,



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

[Save as image \(PNG <100KB\)](#) | [Save as table \(CSV <100KB\)](#) | [Show embed code](#)

## About the data

Census data are adjusted to reflect estimated non-response so that the published results relate to the entire usually resident population as it was on Census Day (21 March 2021).



Those respondents who were on furlough because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic were asked to classify themselves as "temporarily away from work" to ensure they remained in the economically active population.

Very satisfied

Somewhat satisfied  
Neutral  
Students are counted as usually resident at their term-time address even if they were not physically present there on Census Day.

The questions relating to disability differed slightly between 2011 and 2021 to ensure that data were more closely aligned with the definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010). There was also a change to question wording for unpaid care,

Very dissatisfied  
For more information read the [health, disability and unpaid care quality information](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/methodologies/healthdisabilityandunpaidcarequalityinformationforcensus2021) (https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/methodologies/healthdisabilityandunpaidcarequalityinformationforcensus2021).

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout the health, disability and unpaid care sections. They allow for fairer comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. The 2013 European Standard Population is used to standardise proportions.

Percentages and percentage point changes have been individually rounded to one decimal place. This means they may not sum exactly.

Tell us what you think about this publication by [answering a few questions](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RV2Y2P) (https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RV2Y2P).

## Download the data used in this article

[xlsx \(1.5 MB\)](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/data/datadownload.xlsx>)



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## About these articles

Very satisfied

There is an article like this for every local authority district in England and Wales. The articles have been written and semi-automated by our data journalists and are a new publishing format for the Office for National Statistics.

Neutral

Topics are chosen and ordered automatically based on how relevant they are for each area, however all data are checked before publishing.

Very dissatisfied

We have not included topics that were new for Census 2021 or where there is no comparability with the 2011 Census. Read about [how we developed and tested the questions for Census 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/planningforcensus2021/questiondevelopment)



(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/planningforcensus2021/questiondevelopment>).

These articles were first published on 8 December 2022 covering topics such as demography, country of birth, ethnic groups, religion, national identity and economic activity status. They were updated on 19 January 2023 following the release of more data from Census 2021 and now include housing tenure, general health, disability and unpaid care.

## All versions of this article

➤ [Show list of local authorities](#)

## Related links

[Census 2021 topic summaries](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/topicsummaries)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/topicsummaries>)

Supporting information | Released 2 November 2022

What topic summary data for Census 2021 will be available and how to view them.



Census maps (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>)  
~~How satisfied were you with your visit to the ONS website today?~~


Interactive tool | Released 8 December 2022

Very satisfied  
Use our interactive map to find out what people's lives are like across England  
and Wales.  
Somewhat satisfied

How well do you know your area?

Neutral  
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/playthecensus2021quizhowwelldoyouknowyourarea/2022-12-02>).

Very dissatisfied  
Digital Content Article | Released 2 December 2022

 Test your knowledge of where you live with our Census quiz.  
National Statistics

## Contact

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Telephone: +44 1329 44 4972

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