



# Research Facts

July 2011

Fact Sheet 03

## SANDWELL: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

### About Sandwell

Sandwell is a metropolitan Borough which was formed in 1974, and is one of seven authorities that make up the West Midlands conurbation. The Sandwell Borough comprises six towns - Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

### Population trends

Sandwell has a population of 292,800<sup>1</sup> (June 2010). The population of the area fell considerably during the 1960's until the early 2000's. However, this trend has now been reversed and a small population growth is apparent. It is projected to rise by 1,500 per year to 2033<sup>2</sup>. The age distribution over the last 5 years (2005-2010)<sup>3</sup> has seen the largest proportional increase in those aged 90+

(23.5%), although the numbers are small (+400). The largest numerical increase has been in the 0-4 age group (+3,500, 18.6%). The biggest falls have been in the 30-34, 35-39 and 10-14 age groups. Within the Borough for this time period, there was an overall increase of 5,700 people.

### Ethnicity

Sandwell is a diverse borough, with 23.3% (and growing) of the population from black and minority (BME) ethnic groups. The borough is becoming more ethnically diverse and the make-up of its population is changing. In ten years between 1991 and 2001, the BME population increased by 6% to 20%, with the rate of growth being most pronounced amongst the Asian communities. The most recent ethnicity estimates (June 2009) in Sandwell are as follows<sup>4</sup>:

Ethnicity	Population (June 2009)	Total as a % of Population
White: British	214,900	73.8%
White: Irish	2,500	0.9%
Other: White	5,800	2%
Mixed: White and Black Caribb	4,300	1.5%
Mixed: White and Black African	500	0.2%
Mixed: White and Asian	2,000	0.7%
Mixed: Other	1,300	0.4%
Asian: Indian	23,800	8.2%
Asian: Pakistani	11,900	4.1%
Asian: Bangladeshi	4,200	1.4%
Other: Asian	3,200	1.1%
Black: Caribbean	8,900	3.1%
Black: African	3,700	1.3%
Other: Black	1,000	0.3%
Chinese	1,700	0.6%
Other	1,400	0.5%
<b>All groups</b>	<b>291,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Health

In absolute terms health in Sandwell is improving over time, though at a slower rate than the country as a whole. Life expectancy in Sandwell is 74.9 for men and 80.7 for women, compared to the national (England) figures of 78.25 and 82.31 years respectively<sup>5</sup>. The 2001 census found that 22% of all Sandwell residents (more than 60,000<sup>6</sup>) had a long term illness, health problem or a disability which limited their daily activities or work. The highest levels of long term illness are amongst white and Caribbean population groups. Lower levels amongst other groups reflect younger population profiles.

## Economy

The proportion of jobs in manufacturing fell to 20.7% in 2008. This compares to a national figure of 9.4%. In Sandwell 22.7% of jobs are in Public administration, education and health, compared with 26.4% in England<sup>7</sup>. Sandwell has a slightly higher proportion of people employed in larger workplaces (200+ employees) compared to England as a whole, a higher proportion in medium sized workplaces (25-199 employees) and a smaller proportion in smaller workplaces (less than 25 employees).

In Sandwell 13,285 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) at May 2011, which accounts for 7.2% of the local working population (aged 16-64)<sup>8</sup>. The table below shows that Sandwell has higher JSA claimants' rates by comparison with regional and national levels. It also has higher overall unemployment (including those not claiming benefit) and lower economic activity rates<sup>9</sup>.

Key Employment Statistics (period)	Sandwell	West Midlands	Great Britain
JSA Claimant Rates (May 11)	7.2%	4.7%	3.7%
Unemployment Rates (July 09- June 10)	15.0%	9.1%	7.9%
Economic Activity Rates (July 09- June 10)	70.8%	75.2%	76.4%

## Deprivation

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010 shows Sandwell's average deprivation score as ranked 12th most deprived local authority in England, out of a total of 326. Previous IMD results for this measure show that Sandwell's position has deteriorated relative to other districts in England. Sandwell was 16th most deprived local authority in 2004 and 14th in 2007<sup>10</sup>.

## Housing

In March 2009, Sandwell had approximately 126,000 dwellings, of which 24% are council housing, 5% registered social housing and 71% in the private sector. This

compares to the local authority averages across England which are 8%, 10% and 82% respectively<sup>11</sup>.

From 2001-2003 Sandwell went through an intense period of demolition. In recent years Sandwell has compensated for earlier demolition and provided 1146 net additional homes in 2007/08, this is an increase from 241 in 2002/03<sup>12</sup>. In addition, Sandwell has increased the number of affordable homes built or acquired per year from a five year low of 31 homes in 2003/04 to 137 in 2006/07<sup>13</sup>. In 2009, Sandwell had the most affordable housing in the private sector across Birmingham and the Black Country, with an average house price of 99,548<sup>14</sup>.

## Environment

Sandwell has an area of 8,600ha and is at the centre of both the motorway network and local conurbation, meaning there is heavy traffic crossing the borough. Sandwell has the highest proportion of its area given to parks and open spaces of any of the West Midlands Metropolitan Districts: 15.2% compared to an average of 10.6% in the West Midlands county area. Sandwell's open spaces are mainly comprised by the Sandwell valley and the Rowley Hills<sup>15</sup>.

## Reference

<sup>1</sup> ONS - Mid-2010 Population Estimates: Quinary age groups and sex for local authorities in the United Kingdom (2011).

<sup>2</sup> ONS 2008-based Subnational Population Projections by sex and quinary age. Local authorities and higher administrative areas within East Midlands, West Midlands and the East GORs. 2008-2033 (June 2009).

<sup>3</sup> ONS Revised Population Estimates, Mid 2005 and Mid 2010: Quinary age groups and sex for local authorities in the United Kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> ONS Estimated resident population by ethnic group and sex, mid-2009 (experimental statistics) (2011).

<sup>5</sup> The NHS Information Centre for health and social care (April 2010)

<sup>6</sup> Census 2001 Profiles: Sandwell (2001)

<sup>7</sup> ONS Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis: Employee Jobs, 2008, Standard Industrial Classification 2007

<sup>8</sup> ONS Claimant Count with Rates and Proportions: Total JSA Claimants from NOMIS

<sup>9</sup> ONS Annual Population Survey: Unemployment and Economic Activity Rates from NOMIS

<sup>10</sup> Communities and Neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Renewal Indices of Deprivation (2010)

<sup>11</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government: Housing / Housing Research and Statistics / Overview of Stock, Vacants, Conversions and Demolitions (2009).

<sup>12</sup> State of Sandwell Report (2009).

<sup>13</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government: Housing / Housing Research and Statistics / Affordable Housing Supply (2007).

<sup>14</sup> Land Registry (2009).

<sup>15</sup> Sandwell MBC / Sandwell Partnership: 'Better, Smarter, Healthier, Stronger, Safer, Brighter' (2005).