

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Population

- Waltham Forest has a relatively young population with the 43% of the population being between 20 and 44
- Waltham Forest had a mid year total population estimate of 223,230 for June 2002
- Waltham Forest has a diverse population with large populations of white (64.5%), Asian or Asian British Pakistani (7.92%) and both Black or Black British African and Caribbean (8.15% and 5.78% respectively)

Deprivation

- Waltham Forest (according to the 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation) is ranked 12th most deprived borough in London and 47th out the total 354 LA's in the country, (with 1 being the most deprived)
- The most deprived wards are located in the centre and south of the borough, these include SOA's in Hoe Street, Cathall, Markhouse, Wood Street, Cann Hall, Leyton, and Higham Hill wards. However there are some deprived areas in the north of the borough including Valley, Hatch Lane and Larkwood.

Unemployment

- The Annual Labour Force Survey (March 2002 to February 2003) states unemployment in Waltham Forest is 6.4% of the economically active population
- Ward based statistics from the Census 2001 information are less recent than the Annual Labour Survey Data
- The unemployment rate for men is considerably higher than for women but women are less likely to claim unemployment benefits according to ONS claimant rates April 2004
- The highest rates of unemployment claimants are men from 16-24 and 35-44 (9% and 8.5% respectively) and Women 16-19 (8.4%) according to the GLA December 2003 survey
- The ethnic groups with the lowest unemployment rates are White British, Irish and Chinese
- The ethnic groups with the highest unemployment rates are mixed White and Black African and Mixed White and Black Caribbean (with 14.45% and 12.22% unemployment respectively), Pakistani (13.70%) Black African (13.06%) and Other Black (12.80%).
- Of the total unemployed those with limiting long-term illness account for 12.13% (with 63.86% being male and 36.14% being female). A total of 12.85% of the total population with limiting long-term illness are unemployed (2001 Census data)
- Total unemployment is highest in Lea Bridge and Leyton and the lowest rates are in Chingford Green, therefore unemployment is generally higher in the south of the borough i.e. Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone

Employment

- According to the 2001 Census, and the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), the hotel and restaurant, public administration and education and health sectors are the main employment sectors in the borough
- The employment rate has fallen since 2000
- There are more women working part-time and overall less women working than men
- A comparison of Waltham Forest with Great Britain employment by gender shows that there are less males in full-time employment and more in part-time employment than the GB average and there are more females in full-time employment and less in part-time employment than the GB average
- Using information from the London Borough of Waltham Forest Workplace Report (both residents who live and work in Waltham Forest and non-residents who live elsewhere but work in Waltham Forest) it can be seen that it is the younger population (especially the 25-34 age group) that are travelling out of the borough to work
- The number of workers travelling out of the borough to work is substantially higher than those travelling into the borough to work or those who both live and work in Waltham Forest
- The largest outflow of workers by occupation is professional/ technical and administrative/ secretarial workers. There is a net loss to Waltham Forest in every occupation group
- Local workers make up the largest proportion of workers in all industries, apart from electricity and gas, public administration and manufacturing, where inflow workers form a larger percentage of the industry population.
- The key sectors attracting Waltham Forest residents to commute outside the borough are business, real estate and renting; wholesale, retail and car repairs; health and social work and manufacturing industries.
- The flow of workers into the Borough is predominantly to jobs in the in wholesale, retail and car repair, health and social work and manufacturing sectors.

Levels of Car ownership

- The Census 2001 showed that 27.5% of the Waltham Forest population travel to work by Underground, or light rail and 32.9% travel to work by car or van
- Households in the South of the borough are less likely to have a car than in the North
- The percentage of non-car owners has increased since the 1991 Census from 35% in Cathall and Leyton in 1991 to 50% in 2001

Qualifications and skills

- 34.5% of the population of Waltham Forest have no qualifications, this is however below the UK average of 35.8%
- There is a strong positive correlation between having no qualifications and unemployment and a strong negative correlation between higher level (NVQ level 4 and equivalent or above) and employment
- There doesn't appear to be a geographical pattern to the distribution of skilled and unskilled residents with Leytonstone and Hoe Street having the highest percentages and Valley and Larkwood the lowest
- Chingford Green and Highams Park and Hale End have lower numbers of higher qualified residents; the highly deprived ward of Hoe Street has the highest number of higher qualified residents