

Census 2021 Results: *Labour Market and Travel to Work*

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Children and Adults Department

March 2023

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This profile presents key findings on labour market and travel to work in Southwark at the time of the 2021 Census

BACKGROUND

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

- The last census was conducted on Sunday 21 March 2021, and collected information on a range of themes, including:

Demography & Migration	Ethnicity, Identity, Language & Religion	Health & Disability	Housing
Work & Travel	Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity	Education	UK Armed Forces Veterans

- Results of the census are being released in a phased manner:
 - 28 June 2022: Headline population figures for local authorities
 - Phase 1 - Autumn-Winter 2022: Topic profiles for census themes
 - Phase 2 - Spring 2023: More detailed data becomes available

This profile focuses on **economic activity, travel to work, industry and occupation** in the borough, and forms part of a suite of documents that profile the Southwark results of the 2021 Census. Further profiles will be released later in 2023 as new data becomes available.

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Southwark has a high proportion economically active residents compared to the rest of London and England

KEY HEADLINES

- At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 180,000 economically active people in Southwark aged 16+, equivalent to 71% percent of the population aged 16+ .
- 92% of those who were economically active in Southwark were in employment. This represents 65% of the population aged 16+.
- Since 2011, there has been an slight decrease in the economically active population in Southwark and an increase in the economically inactive population i.e. those out of work and not looking for employment.
- 60% of residents in employment worked in industries related to finance, real estate, professional industries, administration, public administration, education or health.
- **The 2021 Census took place during the COVID-19 pandemic when national lockdown measures and associated restrictions, as well as the furlough scheme were in place. These will have affected data across the labour market and travel to work topics presented in this bulletin.**

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Southwark has a larger proportion of economically active residents compared to London or England

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

At the time of the Census, 180,000 residents of Southwark were economically active, equivalent to 71% of the population aged 16 years or over.

- Those who are economically active include both people in employment, and people who were unemployed but either seeking work or waiting to start a job already obtained.
- Of the 16+ population in Southwark, 65% were employed, 6% were economically active but unemployed and 29% were economically inactive.
- Southwark had higher levels of economic activity compared to London and England.
- The proportion of economically inactive residents increased across Southwark, London and England between 2011 and 2021.

Those on furlough at the time of the 2021 Census are included in the economically active population as they were considered to be temporarily away from work.

Figure 1: Economic activity across Southwark, London and England between 2011 and 2021, as proportions of the population aged 16+



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

At the time of the 2021 Census Southwark had an employment rate comparable to London or England

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

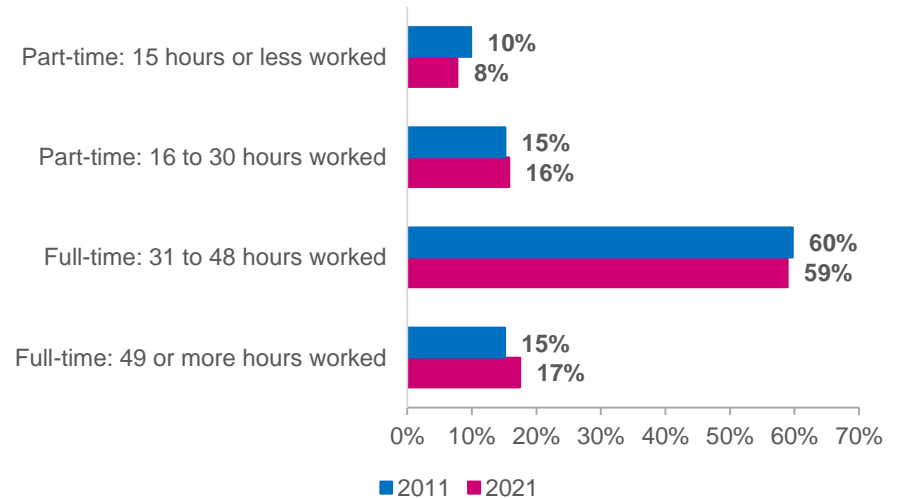
At the time of the 2021 Census, 92% of economically active residents were in employment.

- 17% of those in employment were self-employed, similar to the England average but slightly below the London average of 20%.
- 4% of those in employment were also full time students.
- Of those in employment, a quarter (25%) worked part-time, comparable to 2011.
- Part time employment in Southwark was similar to London, but lower than England where 30% of people in employment worked part-time.
- 17% of those in employment worked 49 or more hours per week.

Figure 2: Percentage of the economically active population who were in employment in Southwark, London and England 2021



Figure 3: Hours worked by Southwark residents in 2011 and 2021



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

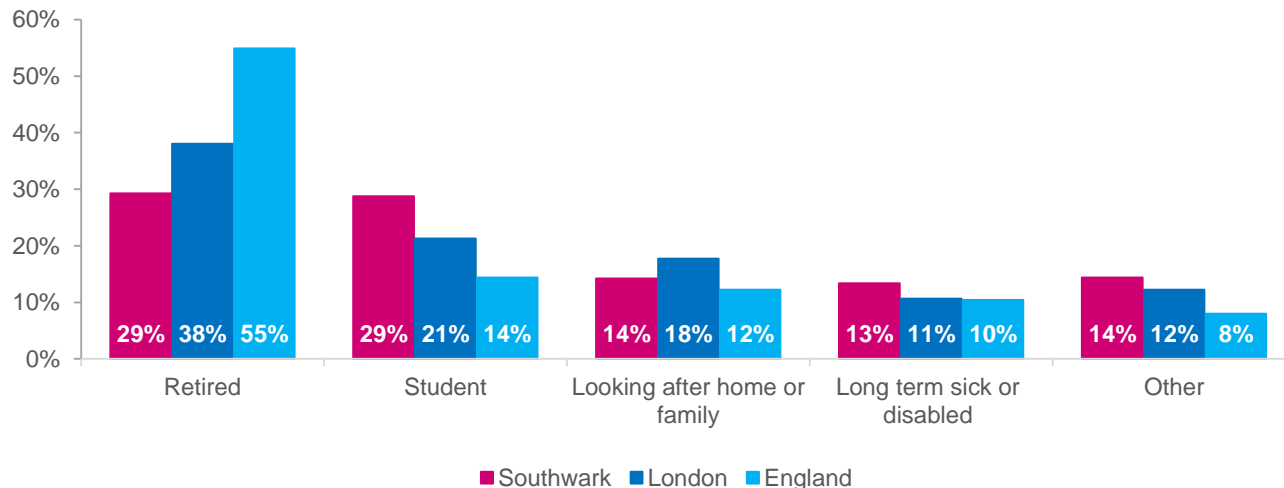
The majority of the economically inactive population are residents who are retired or students

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Over half (58%) of the economically inactive population in Southwark at the time of the 2021 Census were residents who were retired or students.

- Economically inactive are defined as those who did not have a job at the time of the Census, and had not looked for work between 22 February and 21 March 2021, or could not start work within two weeks.
- 74,900 (29%) of Southwark residents in 2021 were economically inactive. This is lower than the proportion across London (34%), and England (39%).
- Southwark has a relatively young population, and a smaller proportion of the economically inactive are retired (29%) compared to London (38%) or England (55%).
- A further 29% of the economically inactive were students, compared to London (21%) or England (14%).

Figure 4: Reasons for economic inactivity across Southwark, London and England, as a proportion of the economically inactive population, 2021



Reference

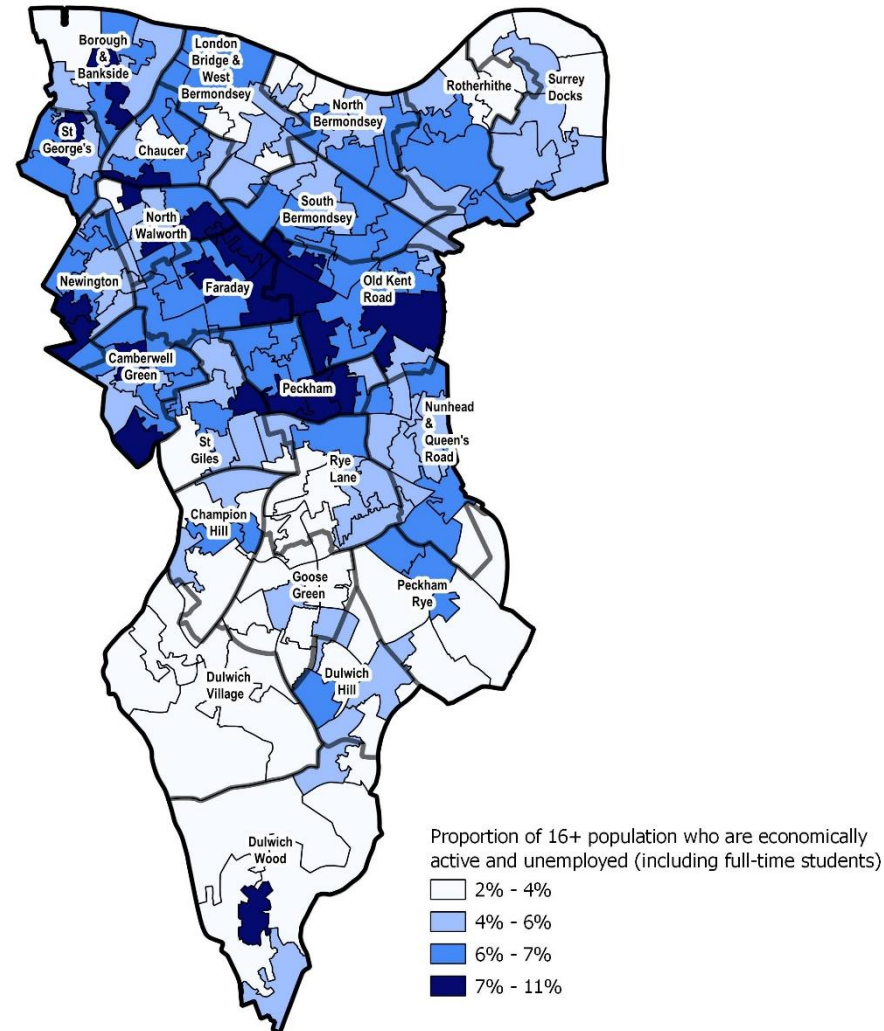
1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

In some neighbourhoods, up to 11% of residents were unemployed but actively looking for work

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

At the time of the 2021 Census, 6% of Southwark residents were unemployed, but available to work or waiting to start a job already secured; though this percentage varied across the borough.

- Areas with a higher proportion of residents who were unemployed included the central of the borough: around Faraday, Peckham and Old Kent Road; plus the Kingswood area of Dulwich.



Reference

- Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

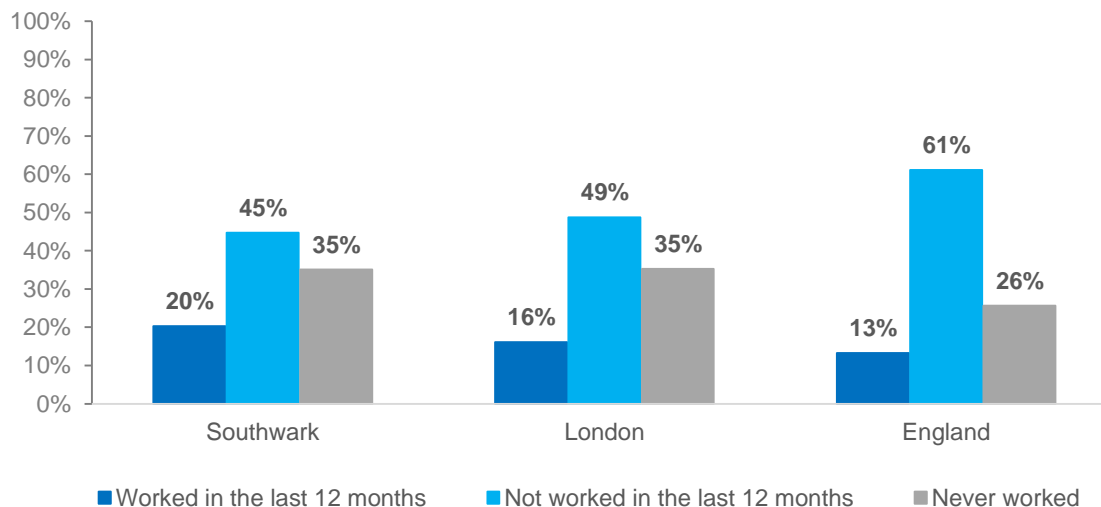
Of those in Southwark who were not in employment, 20% had worked in the 12 months before the Census

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The 20% of those not in employment, who had worked in the past 12 months, represented over 18,000 residents in Southwark.

- Of those who were not in employment at the time of the Census, over 39,800 residents (45%) had not worked in the last 12 months.
- One-third (35%) of those not in employment had never worked, equivalent to 31,300 residents.
- Since 2011 there has been a small increase in the proportion of those not in employment who have never worked (from 32% to 35%), representing an increase of 3,200 residents. This is reflected across London and at a national level.

Figure 5: Employment history, as a proportion of those who are not in employment, Southwark, London and England 2021



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

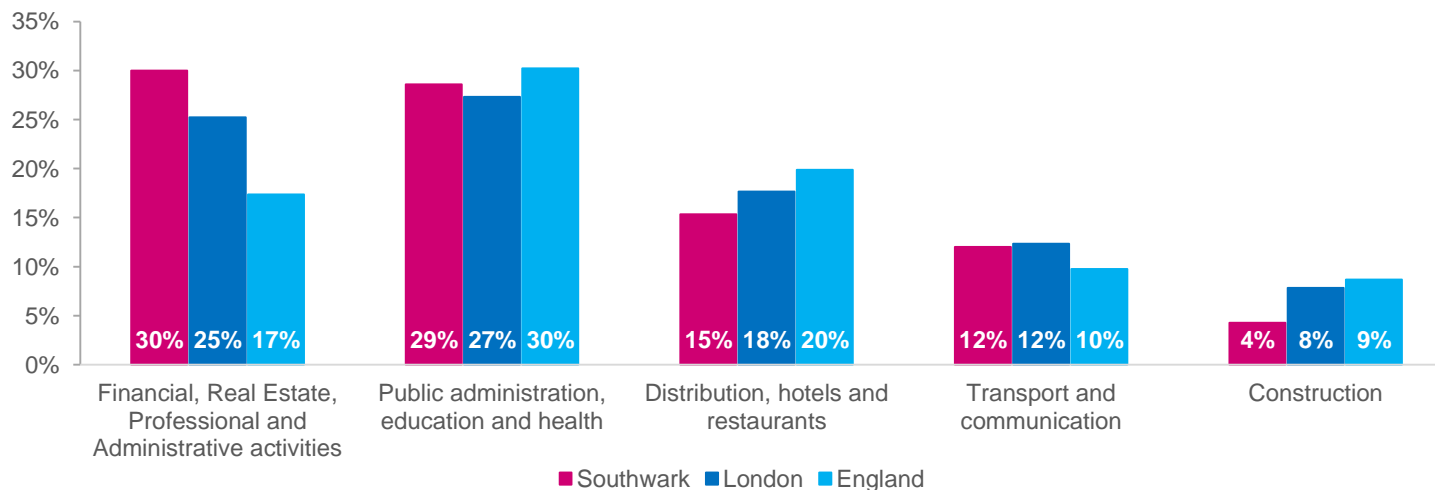
In 2021, 60% of Southwark residents worked in industries related to finance, administration, education or health

INDUSTRY

In 2021, 50,000 residents worked for financial, real estate, professional and administrative industries, a further 48,000 worked in public administration, education and health.

- The industry in which people worked can be split into three tiers: broad categories, mid-level categories and specific industries. The top 5 broad categories in Southwark are shown in the figure below.
- These were also the most common broad categories across London.
- Fewer Southwark residents worked in distribution (including retail); hotels and restaurants and in construction than the London and England average.
- The proportion of Southwark residents working in each industry category has remained largely unchanged since 2011.

Figure 6: Industry of employment of residents of Southwark, London and England, shown as the proportion of employed residents working in each category



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

At the time of the census, 14% of residents in employment worked in human health and social work industries

INDUSTRY

Of the mid-level industry categories, shown in the figures below, health and social work was the most common, employing 24,000 Southwark residents. Over 22,000 residents worked in professional scientific and technical activities, the next most common industry.

- The top three specific industries which Southwark residents worked for were health, education and retail.
- Since 2011 there has been a 2.5% increase in those working in health and social work, equivalent to nearly 6,000 residents.
- There has been a decrease in those working in financial and insurance activities since 2011.

Figure 7: Top 5 industries of employment for residents of Southwark, London and England, 2021

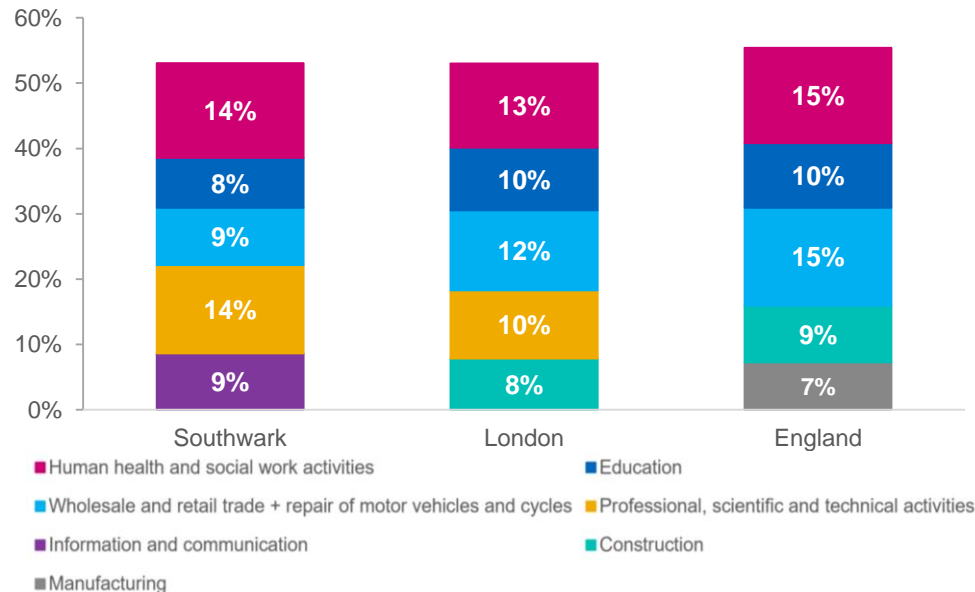
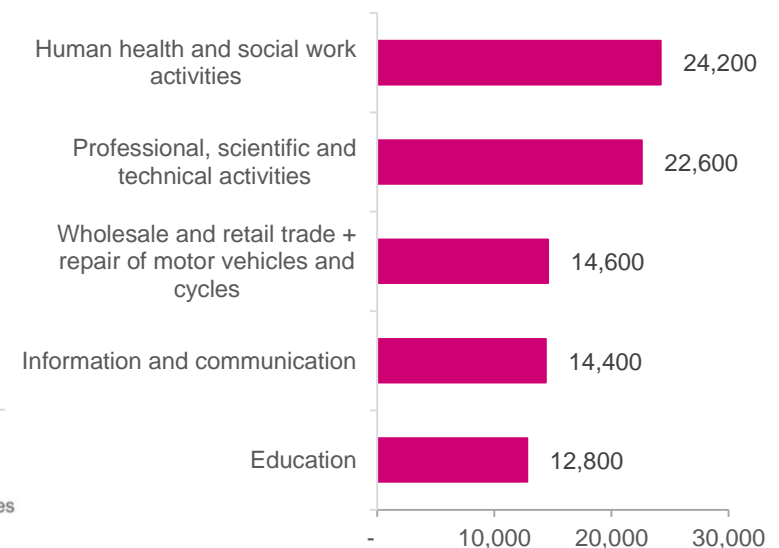


Figure 8: Top 5 industries of employment for residents of Southwark 2021



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

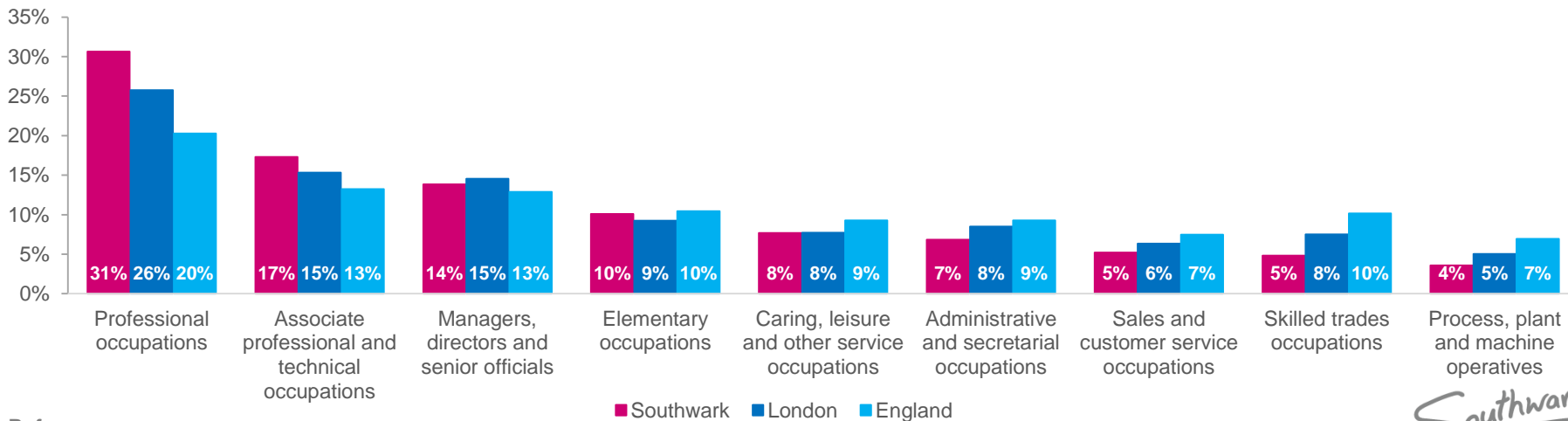
At the time of the 2021 Census 31% of those in employment had professional occupations

OCCUPATION

Occupation refers to people's specific roles within their industry; at the time of the 2021 Census, 31% of Southwark's employed population (51,000 residents) were working in professional occupations.

- The professional occupations category includes professions such as teaching, IT professionals, nursing and midwifery.
- The next most common category, associate professional and technical occupations, includes roles such as sales, marketing, artistic, literary, media, welfare and housing associate professionals.
- Compared to London and England, Southwark had lower proportions of its population in skilled trades occupations.
- The Census also had 104 specific occupations, the three most common in Southwark were: functional managers and directors (6% of working population); elementary cleaning occupations (4%) and business, research and administrative professionals (4%).

Figure 9: Proportion of residents of Southwark, London and England working in each of the major occupation categories (%)



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

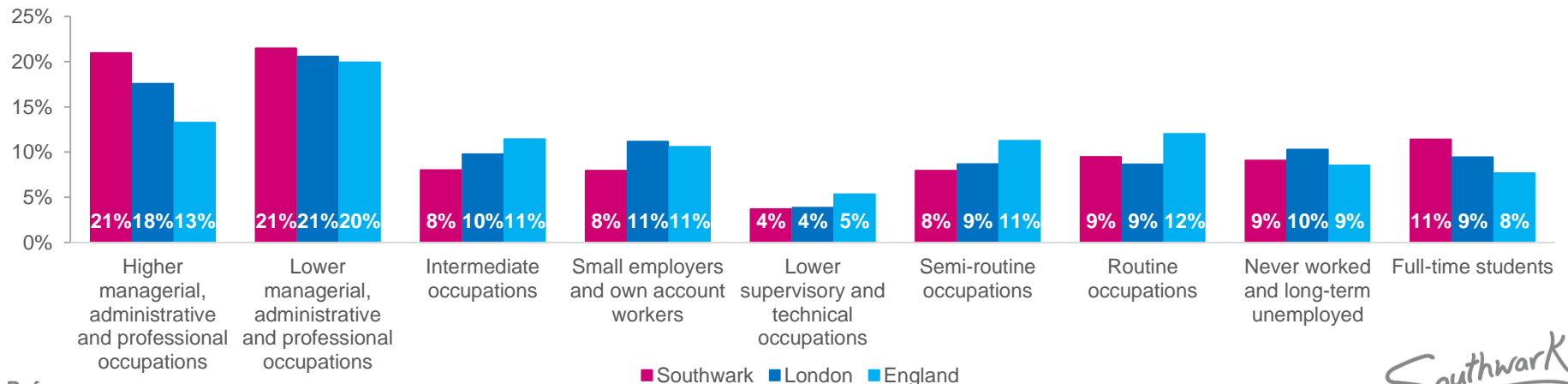
Southwark has a high proportion of residents in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION

The NS-SEC (National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification) is an ONS classification that indicates a person's socio-economic position, based on their response to questions on economic activity, occupation and employment history.

- 21% of Southwark's residents aged 16+ worked in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations compared to 18% across London and 13% across England.
- A further 21% of residents were classified in the lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations category.
- Southwark had a lower proportion of residents working in intermediate occupations, small employers, semi-routine or routine occupations compared to England.
- Unlike the previous question on job history, the category 'never worked and long-term unemployed' in the NS-SEC only includes those who have never worked or been out of work for an extended period, but would wish to be in work and are available to work.

Figure 10: Proportion of residents of Southwark, London and England classified by NS-SEC (%)



Reference

- Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

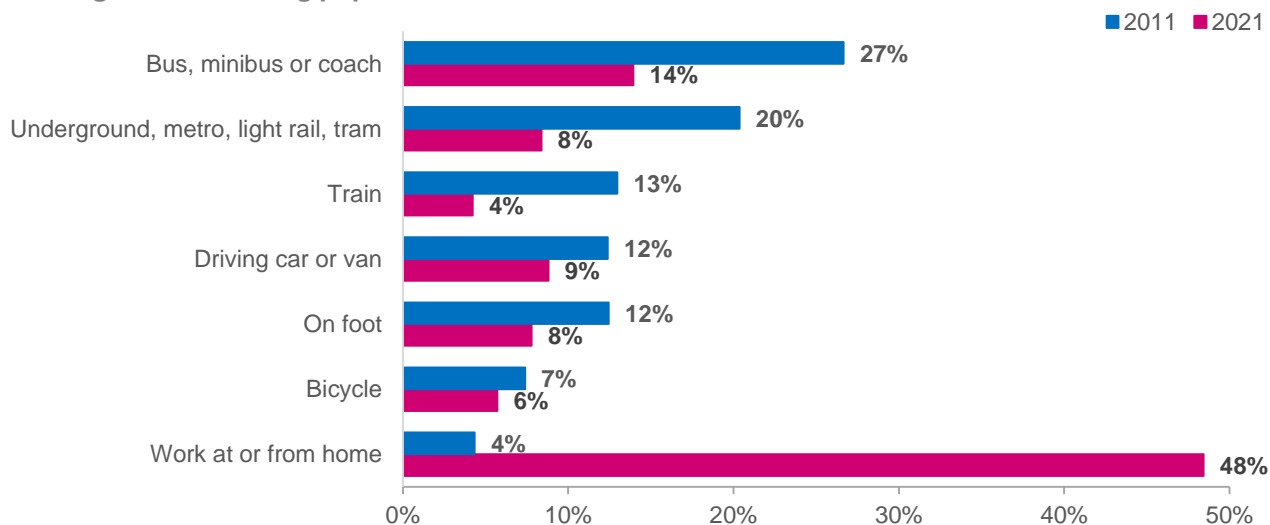
The 2021 Census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many residents were working from home

TRAVEL TO WORK

Other than work from or at home, bus was the most popular mode of transport to work for Southwark residents in both 2011 and 2021.

- In 2011, just 6,400 people (4% of those in employment) worked mainly at or from home. This contrasts substantially with 2021 where half (48%) of Southwark residents worked mainly at or from home. This is likely a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
- The next most common method of travel to work of Southwark residents was by bus, minibus or coach, with 23,300 (14%) of residents using one of these.
- 14% of working residents travelled between 2-5km, equivalent to 34% of those who travelled to get to work.

Figure 11: Method of travel to work for Southwark residents, 2011 and 2021, as a percentage of the working population



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

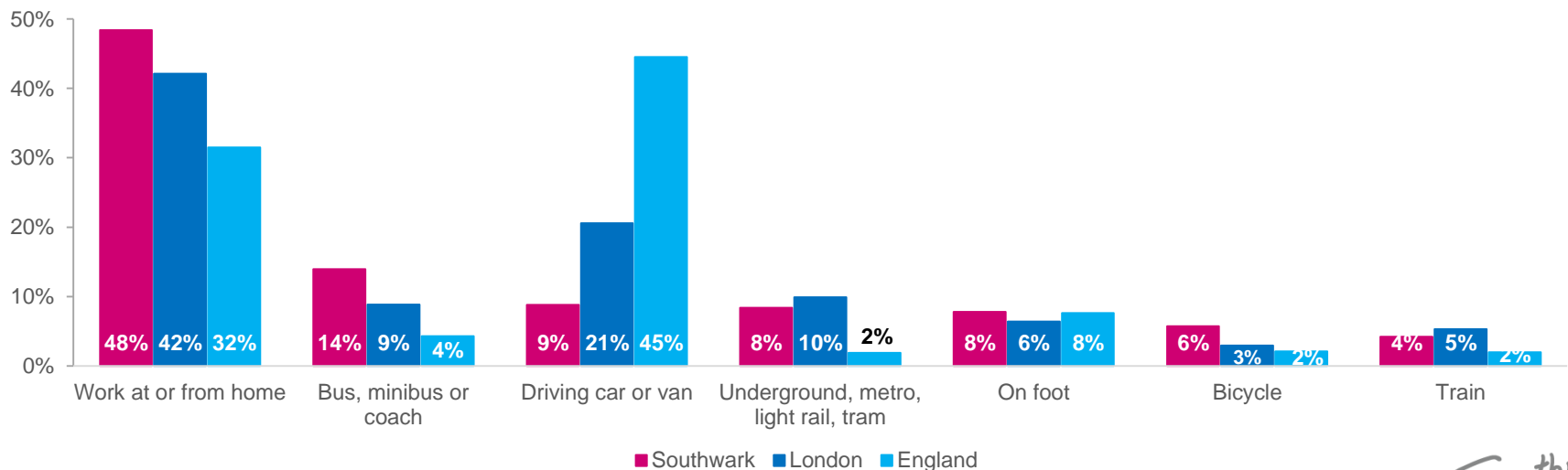
Working at or from home was more common in London than across England as a whole

TRAVEL TO WORK

At the time of the 2021 Census, 48% of Southwark residents in employment were working from home, slightly higher than the average across London of 42% and substantially higher than the proportion across England (32%).

- These proportions will likely have changed significantly since, as the Census was taken in March 2021 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and many people will likely have since returned to offices and workplace.
- More Southwark residents travelled by bicycle or on foot compared to the London and England average.
- Of the Southwark residents who did travel to work, the average distance travelled was 7km; lower than the London average of 9km, possibly due to Southwark being an inner London borough.

Figure 12: Method of travel to work for Southwark, London and England residents, each as a proportion of the working population (%)



Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Results from the 2021 Census will have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Appendix

- Many businesses were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to many people losing their jobs or being put on the furlough scheme. Guidance was provided by ONS for people on furlough to help answer the questions but it is unknown how furloughed people followed this guidance.
- Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected employment, the industries people worked in and the occupations which they held.
- Data on travel to work was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as many people were working at or from home. This is likely to have changed since the Census was taken, as lockdown measures have lifted and many people are returning to workplaces separate from their homes.
- Census definitions of economic activity and labour market definitions differ from those used in the Labour Force Survey, so results are not directly comparable between the two datasets.

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

The 2021 Census included data on people's occupations, split into groups with the following definitions

Appendix

- Managers, directors and senior officials (minor groups including production managers and directors; managers and directors in retail and wholesale; chief executives and senior officials)
- Professional occupations (minor groups including teaching and other educational professionals; information technology professionals; nursing and midwifery professionals)
- Associate professional and technical occupations (minor groups including sales, marketing and related associate professionals; artistic, literary and media occupations; welfare and housing associate professionals)
- Administrative and secretarial occupations (minor groups including secretarial and related occupations; administrative occupations in finance)
- Skilled trades occupations (minor groups including construction and building trades; food preparation and hospitality trades; agricultural and related trades)
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations (minor groups including caring personal services; teaching and childcare support occupations; hairdressers and related services)
- Sales and customer service occupations (minor groups including sales assistants and retail cashiers; customer service occupations)
- Process, plant and machine operatives (minor groups including road transport drivers; process operatives)
- Elementary occupations (minor groups including elementary cleaning occupations; elementary storage occupations)

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/jsna

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