**CENSUS 2021 – ETHNICITY, RELIGION & LANGUAGE**

Data on the following topics is available:

* the ethnic groups people identified with
* the main language people use
* how well people, who do not have English as a main language, could speak English
* how people describe their national identity
* the religious groups people identified with

The key data tables are shown below; data for all the variables in this release can be found [here](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/topicsummaries).

Small area data down to Census Output Area level (areas of approx. 100-150 households) is available for each of the variables; interactive maps can be found [here](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps):

Census data can also be accessed and analysed with the following tools:

* [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)
* [LG Inform Plus (esd.org.uk)](https://home.esd.org.uk/) (RBC is already a subscriber, you just need to register)

**Key headlines:**

* The percentage of residents from ethnic minority groups (including ‘other White’) has now risen to 46.5% from 34.7% in 2011, and compared with 26.5% for England.
* All ethnic groups have increased since 2011 apart from British, Irish and Black Caribbean.
* The percentage of residents with no religion has increased since 2011 (from 30% to 36%).
* Top languages (after English) are Polish, Nepalese, Romanian.
* There has been a significant increase in the number of Romanian speakers since 2011.

**ETHNICITY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Reading 2021 %*** | ***Reading 2011 %*** | ***England 2021 %*** |
| **Asian or Asian British** | **17.7**  |  **13.6**  | **9.6** |
| Bangladeshi | 0.6  |  0.4  | 1.1 |
| Chinese | 1.5  |  1.0  | 0.8 |
| Indian | 6.2  |  4.2  | 3.3 |
| Pakistani | 4.8  |  4.5  | 2.8 |
| Other Asian | 4.6  |  3.5  | 1.7 |
| **Black, Black British, Caribbean or African** | **7.2**  |  **6.7**  | **4.2** |
| African | 4.4  |  3.9  | 2.6 |
| Caribbean | 1.9  |  2.1  | 1.1 |
| Other Black | 0.9  |  0.7  | 0.5 |
| **Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups** | **5.1**  |  **4.0**  | **3.0** |
| White and Asian | 1.2  |  0.9  | 0.8 |
| White and Black African  |  0.7  |  0.5  | 0.4 |
| White and Black Caribbean | 2.0  |  1.7  | 0.9 |
| Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups | 1.2  |  0.8  | 0.8 |
| **White** | **67.2**  |  **74.8**  | **81.0** |
| English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 53.5  |  65.3  | 73.5 |
| Irish | 1.2  |  1.5  | 0.9 |
| Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 0.1  |  0.1  | 0.1 |
| Roma | 0.3  | n/a | 0.2 |
| Other White | 12.1  |  7.9  | 6.3 |
| **Other ethnic group** | **2.8**  |  **1.0**  | **2.2** |
| Arab | 0.7  |  0.4  | 0.6 |
| Any other ethnic group | 2.1  |  0.5  | 1.6 |

**RELIGION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Reading 2021 %*** | ***Reading 2011 %*** | ***England 2021 %*** |
| No religion | 36.3 | 29.5 | 36.7 |
| Christian | 39.6 | 50 | 46.3 |
| Buddhist | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Hindu | 5.0 | 3.6 | 1.8 |
| Jewish | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Muslim | 8.9 | 7.1 | 6.7 |
| Sikh | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Other religion | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Not answered | 6.9 | 7.3 | 6.0 |

**LANGUAGE**

**MAIN LANGUAGE (TOP 20)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Language***  | ***Count 2021*** | ***Count 2011*** |
| English  | 136436 | 126,690 |
| Polish | 4154 | 3,768 |
| Nepalese | 4147 | 2,430 |
| Romanian | 2642 | 194 |
| Urdu | 1520 | 1,790 |
| Portuguese | 1512 | 655 |
| Spanish | 1264 | 585 |
| Italian | 1024 | 450 |
| Arabic | 985 | 600 |
| Panjabi | 968 | 921 |
| Greek | 884 | 348 |
| All other Chinese | 800 | 617 |
| Tamil | 795 | 505 |
| Hindi | 715 | 566 |
| Hungarian | 657 | 287 |
| Bulgarian | 604 | 105 |
| Telugu | 522 | 288 |
| French | 519 | 633 |
| Cantonese Chinese | 513 | 173 |
| Turkish | 510 | 191 |

**PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Reading 2021 %*** | ***Reading 2011 %*** | ***England 2021 %*** |
| % of residents whose main language is English  | 81.1 | 85.5 | 90.8 |
| % of residents whose main language is not English | 18.9 | 14.5 | 9.2 |
| Can speak English very well | 9.2 | 6.8 | 4.0 |
| Can speak English well | 6.6 | 5.7 | 3.3 |
| Cannot speak English well | 2.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Cannot speak English | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 |