



**TOPIC: ETHNICITY & RELIGION**

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The national Census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The last Census Day was on 21 March 2021. On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, ONS released a topic summary providing detail on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion.

This briefing focuses on analysis of **Ethnicity and Religion in Birmingham**. Other themes are analysed in subsequent briefing notes, and an interactive census dashboard is available on the **Birmingham City Observatory**.

## KEY HEADLINES:

### ETHNICITY:

- The Birmingham population is split 51.4% (588,314) "Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)" and 48.6% (556,608) "White (overall)" in 2021, compared to 42.1% (451,409) "Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)" and 57.9% (621,636) "White (overall)" in 2011.
- The % increases and decreases in population across ethnic groups are:
  - "White (overall)" which decreased from 57.9% (621,636) in 2011 to 48.6% (556,608) in 2021.
  - "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (overall)" which increased from 26.6% (285,640) in 2011 to 31.0% (355,384) in 2021.
  - "Other ethnic group (overall)" which increased from 2.0% in 2011 to 4.5% in 2021.
  - "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (overall)" which increased from 8.9% (96,360) in 2011 to 10.9% (125,760) in 2021.
  - "Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (overall)" which increased from 4.4% (47,605) in 2011 to 4.8% (55,205) in 2021.
  - "Other ethnic group (overall)" increased from 2.0% (21,804) in 2011, to 4.5% (51,965) in 2021.
- The "White (overall)" population is the largest ethnic group in 2021 but has decreased by 9.3 percentage points since the 2011 Census.
- The next most common ethnic group was "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh," this saw an increase from 26.6% (285,640) in 2011, to 31.0% (355,384) in 2021.
- Birmingham has a higher proportion of "Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)" compared to all other Core Cities in England & Wales and compared to the other Local Authorities in the West Midlands.

### RELIGION:

*(The religion question is voluntary in the census. In the census data, religion refers to a person's religious affiliation. In Birmingham, 6.0% of the population declined to answer the question in 2021, and 7.0% declined to answer in 2011).*

- 69.8% (798,734) of the Birmingham population have a religious affiliation in 2021, compared to 74.2% (796,138) in 2011.
- "Christianity" was the most common response, with 34.0% (389,406) of the population describing themselves as "Christian" in 2021, compared to 46.1% (494,358) in 2011, a decrease of 12.1% by percentage points. This is similar to national trends, where the proportion of "Christians" has declined by 13.0 percentage points.
- "Muslim" was the second most common response, increasing by 8.1 percentage points, from 21.8% (234,411) in 2011, to 29.9% (341,811) who described themselves as "Muslim" in 2021.
- 24.1% (276,327) state they have "No religion" in 2021 compared to 19.3% (206,821) in 2011. For both Core Cities and the wider West Midlands, Birmingham has the lowest proportion of those with "No religion".





## KEY FINDINGS:

### ETHNICITY:

- The “White (overall)” ethnic group, remains the largest ethnic group in Birmingham, and has seen a decrease from 57.9% (621,636) in 2011, to 48.6% (556,608) in 2021.
- The second most common ethnic group was “Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (overall)” which increased from 26.6% (285,640) in 2011, to 31.0% (355,384) in 2021.
- The third most common ethnic group was “Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (overall)” which increased from 8.9% (96,360) in 2011, to 10.9% (125,760) in 2021.
- “Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (overall)” increased from 4.4% (47,605) in 2011, to 4.8% (55,205) in 2021.
- “Other ethnic group (overall)” increased from 2.0% (21,804) in 2011, to 4.5% (51,965) in 2021.

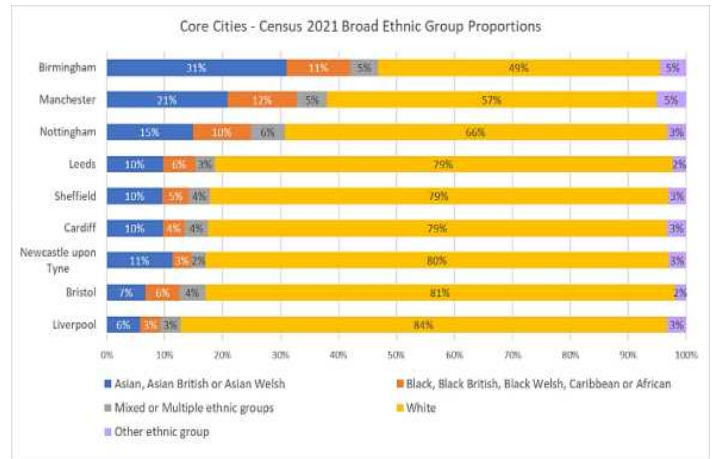
### RELIGION:

- “Christianity” was the most common response, decreasing from 46.1% (494,358) in 2011, to 34.0% (389,406) in 2021.
- “Muslim” was the second most common response, increasing from 21.8% (234,411) in 2011, to 29.9% (341,811) in 2021.
- “No religion” was the third most common response, increasing from 19.3% (206,821) in 2011, to 24.1% (276,327) in 2021.
- Those describing themselves as “Sikh” has remained similar from 3.0% (32,376) in 2011, to 2.9% (33,126) in 2021.
- Those describing themselves as “Hindu” has remained similar from 2.1% (22,362) in 2011, to 1.9% (21,997) in 2021.
- Those describing themselves as “Buddhist” has remained similar from 0.4% (4780) in 2011, to 0.4% (4340) in 2021.
- Those describing themselves as “Jewish” has remained similar from 0.2% (2205) in 2011, to 0.1% (1687) in 2021.
- Those describing themselves as “Other religion” has remained similar from 0.5% (5646) in 2011, to 0.6% (6367) in 2021.

## COMPARISON:

### Comparison against other Core Cities and Local Authorities in the West Midlands (Ethnicity):

Birmingham is the only Core City to have more than half of the population identify as “Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)” out of all English & Welsh Core Cities at 51.4% (see table to the right). Manchester has the second highest population of “Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)” population at 38.0%, with 57.0% of the population identifying as “White (overall)”. Liverpool has the highest “White (overall)” population at 84.0%, with 12.0% identifying as “Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)”.



Similar to Core Cities, Birmingham has the highest population identifying as “Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (overall)” out of all West Midlands local authorities at 47.0%, closely followed by Sandwell at 39.0%. Dudley has the largest “White (overall)” population at 85.0%.

### Comparison against other Core Cities and Local Authorities in the West Midlands (Religion):

Birmingham has the highest proportion of people who describe themselves as having a religion (69.8%). For both Core Cities and West Midlands local authorities, Birmingham has the highest proportion of “Muslims” (29.9%). Within Core Cities (see table to the right), Birmingham has the second lowest proportion of “Christians” (34.0%) next to Bristol (32.2%). Within Birmingham, “Christians” are still the largest overall religious affiliation.

