

# Population Estimates by Ethnic Group 2002 – 2009

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**Coverage:** England and Wales    **Theme:** Population

New population estimates by ethnic group for England and Wales indicate that the majority White British group has stayed constant in size between 2001 and 2009 while the population belonging to other groups has risen by around 2.5 million to 9.1 million over the period – about one in six of the population.

The estimates released today update the estimates for 2002 to 2007 previously published in February 2010 (previously published estimates for 2001 remain unchanged) and provide new estimates for 2008 and 2009. Published tables include estimates of each ethnic group broken down by age and sex for local authorities in England and Wales, and for Primary Care Organisations and Strategic Health Authorities in England.

The estimates are consistent with the benchmark mid-year population estimates published by ONS. Though they rely on some assumptions made in statistical models, the estimates by ethnic group provide a level of detail which is not available from survey results. Researchers, local authorities, health authorities and other public and private sector organisations use the estimates to gain an up-to-date picture of the ethnic composition of local populations and to monitor diversity and anti-discrimination programmes.

## Growth within different ethnic groups

A summary of the estimates for 2001 and 2009 is shown in Table 1 below. It shows that the majority White British group has stayed the same size over the period, with positive natural change (the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths) being counter-balanced by net out-migration and other changes (see Note 7). With the White British group static in size, overall population growth averaging 0.6 percent per year is the result of growth of the Non-‘White British’ group averaging 4.1 percent each year.

**Table 1: Population Growth by Ethnic Group: England and Wales: 2001 – 2009**  
*Thousands and percentages*

| Ethnic group                     | Mid-2001 population | Natural change | Net Migration and Other changes | Mid-2009 population | Average annual percentage growth |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>All Groups</b>                | <b>52,360.0</b>     | <b>1,093.8</b> | <b>1,355.3</b>                  | <b>54,809.1</b>     | <b>0.6%</b>                      |
| White: British                   | 45,718.9            | 359.9          | -396.7                          | 45,682.1            | 0.0%                             |
| White: Irish                     | 646.6               | -51.3          | -21.1                           | 574.2               | -1.5%                            |
| White: Other White               | 1,379.7             | 38.6           | 514.3                           | 1,932.6             | 4.3%                             |
| Mixed: White and Black Caribbean | 240.4               | 72.8           | -2.6                            | 310.6               | 3.3%                             |
| Mixed: White and Black African   | 80.7                | 35.6           | 15.5                            | 131.8               | 6.3%                             |
| Mixed: White and Asian           | 192.3               | 82.8           | 26.5                            | 301.6               | 5.8%                             |
| Mixed: Other Mixed               | 158.6               | 61.8           | 22.2                            | 242.6               | 5.5%                             |
| Asian: Indian                    | 1,053.9             | 88.8           | 291.5                           | 1,434.2             | 3.9%                             |
| Asian: Pakistani                 | 728.4               | 138.4          | 140.6                           | 1,007.4             | 4.1%                             |
| Asian: Bangladeshi               | 287.0               | 55.5           | 49.7                            | 392.2               | 4.0%                             |
| Other Asian                      | 247.3               | 35.5           | 102.9                           | 385.7               | 5.7%                             |
| Black Caribbean                  | 572.4               | 22.3           | 20.5                            | 615.2               | 0.9%                             |
| Black African                    | 494.9               | 89.5           | 214.4                           | 798.8               | 6.2%                             |
| Other Black                      | 98.1                | 21.9           | 6.1                             | 126.1               | 3.2%                             |
| Chinese                          | 233.3               | 22.6           | 195.6                           | 451.5               | 8.6%                             |
| Other                            | 227.6               | 19.1           | 175.9                           | 422.6               | 8.0%                             |
| <b>Non-‘White British’</b>       | <b>6,641.2</b>      | <b>733.9</b>   | <b>1,752.0</b>                  | <b>9,127.1</b>      | <b>4.1%</b>                      |

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

This overall growth of the Non-‘White British’ part of the population encompasses a range of different patterns of growth for individual ethnic groups.

The White Irish group is the only non-‘White British’ group to decrease in size over the period. This is due to a combination of a number of factors – a relatively old population tending to increase the number of deaths and decrease the number of births, a tendency for White Irish mothers to have

children who are classified (by their parents) as White British, and net emigration of the group from England and Wales.

The Other White group shows the largest absolute growth – of 553,000 – over the period. This is strongly driven by net international migration, particularly of people born elsewhere in Europe though there is also a substantial net inflow of people from the Old Commonwealth countries of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

The relatively small Mixed groups show strong average growth of between 3.3 percent and 6.3 percent per year. Growth of these groups is largely driven by so-called ‘heteroethnic infancies’ – that is, a child having a different ethnic group to its mother.

The four Asian groups show broadly similar growth rates. However, whilst growth of the Asian: Indian and Other: Asian groups is primarily due to net migration, the Asian: Pakistani and Asian: Bangladeshi groups show a very high relative rate of increase due to natural change. This is partly attributable to young age profiles – associated with a high number of births and a low number of deaths – and also to higher than average estimated fertility rates.

The Black Caribbean group shows a relatively slow growth rate of 0.9 percent per year. Stronger growth of 6.2 percent per year for the Black African group is attributable both to natural change and to net international migration, in particular of people from African Commonwealth countries, and from citizens of African countries – notably, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo – seeking asylum.

The Chinese group is estimated to have the highest growth rate of any of the ethnic groups, growing an estimated 8.6 percent per year. The largest single factor in average annual growth of 8.0 percent for the Other Ethnic Group category is net migration of people from the Philippines.

## Patterns of growth within England and Wales

Table 2 shows geographical patterns of growth for areas within England and Wales.

While the proportion of the population that is non-‘White British’ remains much higher in London than in other parts of England and Wales, this proportion has stayed level in London between 2001 and 2009, while it has risen substantially in other areas – more than doubling in the North East and the South West.

**Table 2: Population Growth by Ethnic Group: Geographical Patterns**

*Percentages and thousands*

|                             | Percentage of<br>mid-2001<br>population that is<br>not 'White British' | Percentage of<br>mid-2009<br>population that is<br>not 'White British' | Increase in<br>population | Increase in Non-<br>'White British'<br>population |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---|
| <b>England and Wales</b>    | <b>12.7%</b>   | <b>16.7%</b>   | <b>2,449.1</b>            | <b>2,485.9</b>                                    |
| <b>England</b>              | <b>13.2%</b>   | <b>17.2%</b>   | <b>2,360.0</b>            | <b>2,392.5</b>                                    |
| North East                  | 3.7%   | 7.6%   | 44.2                      | 101.7   |
| North West                  | 8.0%   | 11.6%  | 124.9                     | 256.9   |
| Yorkshire and<br>The Humber | 8.4%   | 13.2%  | 281.5                     | 276.6   |
| East Midlands               | 8.8%   | 13.0%  | 261.6                     | 210.4   |
| West Midlands               | 14.0%  | 17.6%  | 150.4                     | 218.0   |
| East of England             | 8.7%   | 14.8%  | 366.1                     | 386.9   |
| London                      | 40.4%  | 40.5%  | 431.2                     | 180.5   |
| South East                  | 8.8%   | 14.3%  | 412.3                     | 497.1   |
| South West                  | 4.7%   | 9.5%   | 287.8                     | 264.4   |
| <b>Wales</b>                | <b>4.0%</b>  | <b>7.0%</b>  | <b>89.1</b>               | <b>93.5</b>                                       |

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Table 3 illustrates the role of international and internal migration in these patterns of growth. While London is estimated to account for about 28 percent of the net inflow of Non-‘White British’ migration, this is outweighed by the net flow of more than 600,000 non-‘White British’ migrants who, it is estimated, left London for elsewhere in England and Wales over the period. This substantial flow reflects several effects. Firstly, since London is much more ethnically diverse than other regions, it would be expected, all other things being equal, that balanced migration flows would lead to a net migration of Non-‘White British’ from London to other regions. Secondly, internal migration is not balanced with respect to London, with an average of around 77,000 more people moving from London to other parts of England and Wales each year than move in the opposite direction. Thirdly, the generally younger age-profile of non-‘White British’ groups means they are likely to be disproportionately represented in internal migration flows (the likelihood of someone moving within England and Wales decreases as they age beyond their mid-twenties).

While the stability of the proportion of London's population that is non-'White British' can thus be broadly ascribed to net international migration of those groups being offset by migration to other parts of England and Wales, the increase in that proportion in other areas is a combination of natural change, net international migration, and migration from London reinforced by net international emigration of White British.

**Table 3: Patterns of International and Internal Migration: 2001–2009**

|                                    | <i>Thousands</i>        |                    |                            |                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
|                                    | <i>White British</i>    |                    | <i>Non-'White British'</i> |                    |
|                                    | International migration | Internal migration | International migration    | Internal migration |
| London                             | 54.8                    | -15.9              | 504.9                      | -602.6             |
| England and Wales excluding London | -415.5                  | 15.9               | 1274.7                     | 602.6              |

At the level of the individual local authority, notable concentrations include Leicester (highest proportion of Asian: Indian at 19 percent); and Bradford (where 13 percent are Asian Pakistani). 21 percent of Tower Hamlets population is estimated as Asian: Bangladeshi – with the next highest proportion being 8 percent in neighbouring Newham (while Tower Hamlets makes up only 0.4 percent of the population of England and Wales it is estimated to contain more than 12 percent of the Asian: Bangladeshi group).

The proportion of the population that is Black Caribbean is highest in some London local authorities (led by Lewisham with 9 percent) and in Birmingham, with the highest proportions of Black Africans also being found in London (and, in particular, Inner London).

## Comparing the Estimates with Survey Results

These estimates can be compared with the results of the Annual Population Survey (APS). While the results of the APS may not be as reliable for small areas or small population groups, they have the advantages of not relying on statistical modelling assumptions, and being based solely on that year's data (so any errors in one year are not carried forward to the results for next year).

Table 4 shows the population proportions, and the estimated growth rates, for broad ethnic groups from the two different sources (broad ethnic groups are used as the more detailed group classification is not available for the 2001 APS results).

**Table 4: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (PEEGs) and Annual Population Survey: England and Wales (see Note 8)**

|                        | Percentage of population: 2009 |       | Average annual growth rates: 2001–2009 |       |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
|                        | APS                            | PEEGs | APS                                    | PEEGs |
| White                  | 87.9%                          | 87.9% | 0.1%                                   | 0.1%  |
| Mixed                  | 1.3%                           | 1.8%  | 4.7%                                   | 4.9%  |
| Asian or Asian British | 5.9%                           | 5.9%  | 4.7%                                   | 4.2%  |
| Black or Black British | 2.9%                           | 2.8%  | 3.4%                                   | 3.5%  |
| Chinese                | 0.4%                           | 0.8%  | 3.8%                                   | 8.6%  |
| Other ethnic group     | 1.6%                           | 0.8%  | 13.7%                                  | 8.0%  |

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Several caveats should be borne in mind in comparing the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group with the APS. Firstly, the APS results are subject to sampling error (see Note 9), and the effect of these is increased when calculating growth rates from two such estimates. Secondly, the population covered by the APS is slightly different to that covered by the Estimates (see Note 10). Thirdly, the process for collecting data in the APS is different from that used for most of the data used in the Estimates. Fourthly, the methodology for the estimates is itself subject to possible inaccuracies (see *Using the Estimates* overleaf). Each of these factors could cause differences between the APS results and the Estimates.

Table 4 suggests a generally good correspondence between estimates derived from the two data sources. There is an interesting difference in estimates for the smaller groups, with the APS results suggesting a smaller Mixed group than shown in the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group while the estimates imply faster growth of the Chinese group, but slower growth of the 'Other' group, than suggested by the APS. These differences may be purely attributable to sampling error (which would have a greater relative influence on results for these smaller groups than the larger groups) or may be caused by a combination of the various other factors noted in this section.

Whilst similar APS results are available for Scotland, there are no population estimates by ethnic group similar to those discussed here produced for Scotland or Northern Ireland. Deriving international comparisons of populations by ethnic group is very difficult as ethnic group classifications vary between countries, and many countries do not collect, or even forbid the collection of, the necessary data (see Note 11).

## Using the Estimates

These estimates are useful in being much more up to date than the 2001 Census and in being able to provide more detail than is possible with survey-based estimates. However, the user should be aware of some caveats when using the estimates.

Firstly, the estimates will reflect any inaccuracies in the data on which they are based. These include the 2001 Census, the Local Authority Mid-Year Population Estimates, and the estimates of international and within-UK migration published by ONS.

Secondly, the statistical models used to produce the estimates rely on assumptions, often based on the 2001 Census. For example, the ethnic composition of international migration is estimated by combining up-to-date estimates of country of birth of migrants with 2001 Census data relating country of birth to ethnic group. The reliability of assumptions based on the 2001 Census can be expected to decrease over time and this should be particularly borne in mind when using estimates for the later part of the inter-censal period.

Thirdly, the method of calculating the estimates means that any error in a year's estimate will be 'rolled forward' to subsequent years. These compounded errors can only be corrected when the estimates are re-based on to the 2011 Census results.

Detailed information on these points is available in the Methodology document published as part of this release.

Additional information on sources of uncertainty is provided in the Quality and Methodology Information (QMI) document available from this link: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/quality-and-methodology-information-for-population-estimates-by-ethnic-group.pdf>

For these reasons, whilst the estimates are likely to reflect broad changes in the size of each ethnic group at the national level, and provide the most reliable available update of the 2001 Census results for local authority districts, they should not be relied on to be accurate to the level of detail, of ethnic group or geography, provided in the tables. Estimates for the latter part of the decade should be treated with particular caution due to the reliance on assumptions based on 2001 Census data.

## Background Notes

- Status of the Estimates:** The Population Estimates by Ethnic Group were first published in January 2006 and have been published each year since then. The estimates are experimental statistics. This means that they have not yet been shown to meet the quality criteria for National Statistics, but are being published to involve users in the development of the methodology and to help build quality at an early stage. ONS expects to put forward the estimates for assessment for National Statistics status once the estimates and the methodology used to produce them have been quality assured against the results of the 2011 Census.
- Methodology:** The estimates are produced using the cohort–component approach used in the local authority mid-year population estimates. This involves updating the base year’s population with estimated births, deaths and migration. Since ethnic group is not collected on the standard data sets used to produce population estimates, the ethnic composition of these components of population change is estimated using proxy information (for example on country of birth of migrant) or assumptions derived from the 2001 Census. The estimated ethnic composition is then applied to that particular flow as estimated in the local authority estimates. A detailed description of the methodology is published on the ONS website at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/pop-ests/population-estimates-by-ethnic-group/population-estimates-by-ethnic-group-methodology.pdf>
- Ethnic Group Classification.** The ethnic group classification used here is the National Statistics Classification of ethnic groups used in the 2001 Census for England and Wales. For ease of presentation, the names of some groups have been shortened in Table 1. Full names are shown in Table 5 below. This classification is being superseded following the 2011 Census. ONS will shortly publish updated guidance on ethnic group classifications.
- Revisions:** This is Release 8 of the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group. It provides new estimates for 2008 and 2009 together with revised estimates for 2002 to 2007. The previous estimates for those years were published in February 2010 (unrevised estimates for 2001 which were published at that time are still available alongside the new estimates for later years).

The main reason for revising the estimates was to ensure consistency with the local authority mid-year population estimates which were themselves revised in June 2010 as a result of the new methods arising from the Improving Migration and Population Statistics programme. In addition, the revised estimates by ethnic group take into account more up-to-date data, where this is available, and better integrate the estimates for areas in Wales into the main production system.

The revisions were pre-announced on the ONS website, the Neighbourhood Statistics website and on the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub. The effect of the revisions at the England and Wales level is summarised in Table 5 overleaf. Changes to internal and international

migration estimates used in the local authority mid-year population estimates mean that revisions can be proportionately much greater for individual local authorities.

To avoid confusion, tables published as part of the previous release have been removed from the ONS website but can be obtained by contacting the PEEG team at [epe@ons.gov.uk](mailto:epe@ons.gov.uk).

**Table 5: Revisions to Estimates by Ethnic Group: England and Wales: 2007**

|   | <i>Thousands and percentages</i> |                 |                        |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
|   | Release<br>7                     | Release<br>8    | Percentage<br>Revision |
| <b>All Groups</b>                       | <b>54,072.0</b>                  | <b>54,082.3</b> | <b>0.0%</b>            |
| White: British                          | 45,559.9                         | 45,573.8        | 0.0%                   |
| White: Irish                            | 586.0                            | 588.6           | 0.4%                   |
| White: Other White                      | 1,830.6                          | 1,807.4         | -1.3%                  |
| Mixed: White and Black Caribbean        | 290.6                            | 291.9           | 0.4%                   |
| Mixed: White and Black African          | 117.6                            | 117.3           | -0.3%                  |
| Mixed: White and Asian                  | 268.0                            | 268.5           | 0.2%                   |
| Mixed: Other Mixed                      | 217.6                            | 217.0           | -0.3%                  |
| Asian or Asian British: Indian          | 1,329.6                          | 1,335.0         | 0.4%                   |
| Asian or Asian British: Pakistani       | 916.7                            | 930.6           | 1.5%                   |
| Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi     | 360.4                            | 363.5           | 0.9%                   |
| Asian or Asian British: Other Asian     | 344.1                            | 348.2           | 1.2%                   |
| Black or Black British: Black Caribbean | 602.9                            | 605.2           | 0.4%                   |
| Black or Black British: Black African   | 736.6                            | 734.6           | -0.3%                  |
| Black or Black British: Other Black     | 118.5                            | 118.5           | 0.0%                   |
| Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese  | 408.8                            | 404.8           | -1.0%                  |
| Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other    | 384.1                            | 377.5           | -1.7%                  |

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

5. Results for Wales published here are also published as a Statistical Briefing by the Welsh Assembly Government, and are available on their website <http://wales.gov.uk/>.
6. Tables and supporting information are available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at [www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk) and on the ONS website at: [Population Estimates by Ethnic Group](#).
7. *Table 1: Net migration and other changes* includes international migration, migration to and from Scotland and Northern Ireland, changes in the size of the Armed Forces and Prisoner populations and small changes caused by constraining to the local authority mid-year populations. In practice, the substantial majority of this component will be international migration.
8. Table 4 presents Annual Population Survey (APS) results for Jan to Dec 2009 compared with Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (the precursor of the APS) results for 2001.

9. Sampling error is a measure of the likely variability in any survey-based estimate due to chance differences between the sample and the population as a whole. More information is provided in a Summary Quality Report for the APS available at [www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/quality/qual-info-economic-social-and-bus-stats/quality-reports-for-social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-the-annual-population-survey.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/quality/qual-info-economic-social-and-bus-stats/quality-reports-for-social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-the-annual-population-survey.pdf)
10. The Population Estimates by Ethnic Group uses the conventional population definition of all people who are usually resident in an area. The Annual Population Survey is slightly different as it excludes, broadly, people living in communal establishments. More information is provided in the Summary Quality Report linked in Note 9.
11. Such figures are not collected by Eurostat (see <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/help/faq> ). Information from the 2010 US Census is available through <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/index.php> (*An Overview: Race and Hispanic Origin and the 2010 Census*), but these figures are based on a substantially different classification from that used here.
12. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.
13. ONS will launch its new website on 28 August 2011, postponed from the original date of 30 April 2011. The new website will improve the way users can access our statistics but many existing bookmarks and links will no longer work and users will need to update them. Find out more at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/what-we-do/programmes-projects/web-development/index.html>.

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