

UK BME Population

The size of the ethnic minority population in the UK is considerable. At the time of the last census in 2011, 13 per cent of the UK population, equivalent to around 8.1 million people, identified themselves as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic¹.

The greatest concentration of ethnic minority populations is centred on London; UK 2011 census data estimated that as many as 3.286 million people in the capital were from non-white ethnic backgrounds. The West Midlands region had the second highest ethnic minority population outside of the capital, with 968,178 people from non-white backgrounds².

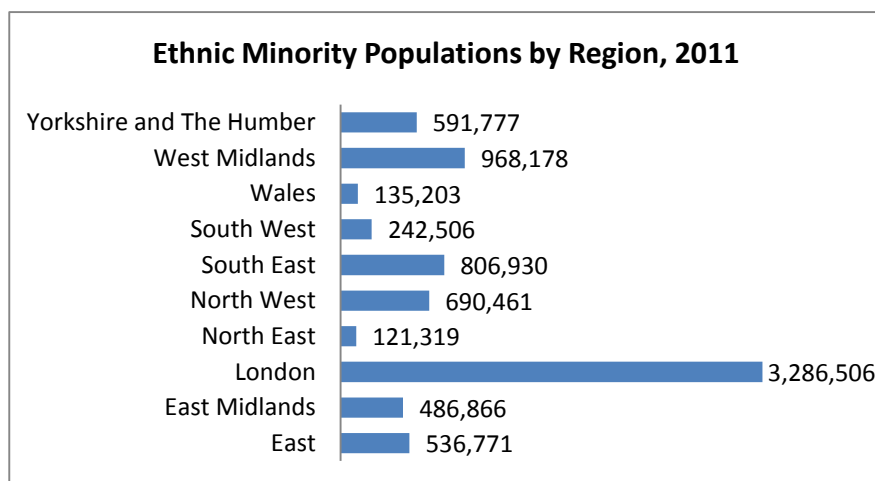


Figure 1 Ethnic Minority Populations by Region, Office for National Statistics, 2011.

Using 2011 census data it has also been possible to identify non-white ethnic group resident populations by postcode areas. Birmingham had the highest resident ethnic minority population per UK postcode area, with 573,470 ethnic minority residents. Five London postcode areas were within the top-10 highest ethnic population by postcode. Collectively, the London East, South East, North and South West and North West postcode areas had an ethnic population of 1,825,758 people. Outside of the London area, Manchester had the eight-highest ethnic minority population with 235,044 ethnic minority residents, followed by Leicester with 219,629³.

Diversity Population Clusters

- Indian / British Indian: An estimated 1,412,958 people in the UK are Indian or British Indian minority ethnic, 122,039 of which live in Leicester, which has the UK’s largest Indian population by area.
- Pakistani / British Pakistani: As of 2011 the UK had a Pakistani population of 1,123,511 Pakistanis, of which 164,441 live in the city of Birmingham.
- Bangladeshi / British Bangladeshi: 447,201 people in the UK have a Bangladeshi ethnic background. The largest Bangladeshi community is in East London, with 128,000 Bangladeshi residents.
- Black African / Black British African: 989,628 black Africans were resident in the UK at the time of the last census in 2011, the largest group of which live within South East London, which has 135,210 Black African residents.
- Black Caribbean 594,825 Black Caribbean people are resident in the UK. The largest black Caribbean population centre is also in South East London, which has 135,210 black Caribbean residents.

¹ Office for National Statistics (2013) *2011 Census: Key Statistics and Quick Statistics for Local Authorities in the United Kingdom*

² Office for National Statistics (2011a) *QS211EW - Ethnic group (detailed)*

³ Office for National Statistics (2011b) *QS211EW - Ethnic group (detailed)*

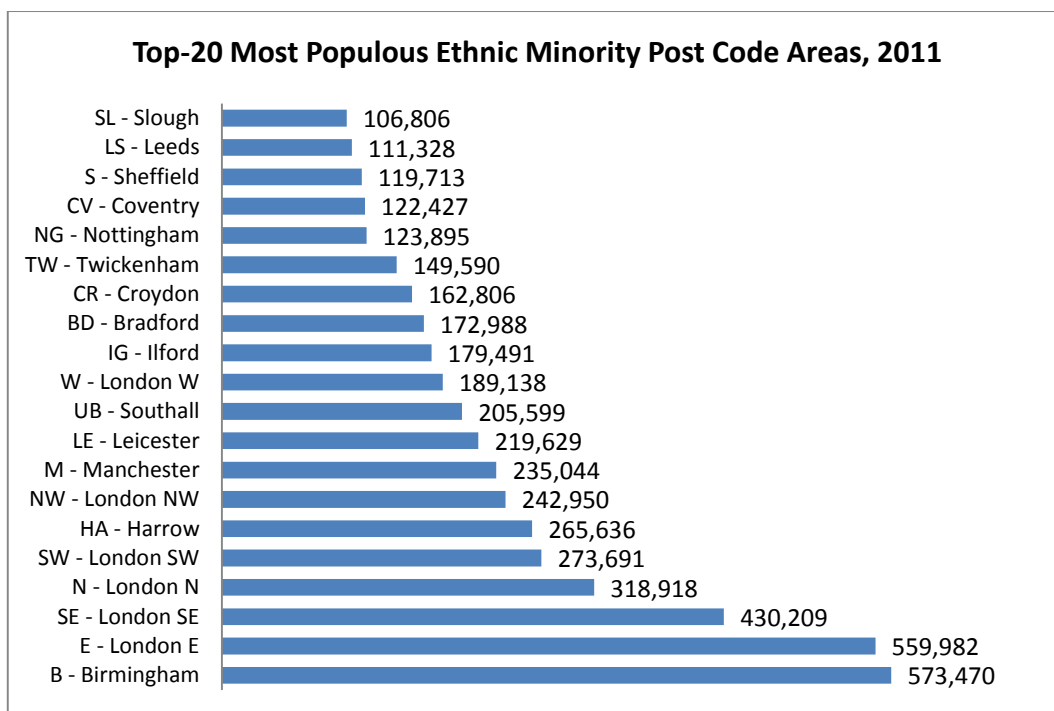


Figure 2 Top-20 Most Populous Ethnic Minority Post Code Areas, Office for National Statistics, 2011

Community, Social and Civic Engagement

The results of the Community Life Survey conducted in 2014/15 provide a detailed breakdown of ethnic minority engagement in community life:

- It is estimated that 28% of ethnic groups are actively involved in civic participation, including participating in public demonstrations or contacting an elected representative; this compared to 30% for white ethnic groups.
- Around 13% of ethnic groups have participated in civic consultations, including attending public meetings, questionnaires and discussion groups compared to 18% for white groups.
- A higher proportion of ethnic minority groups are engaged in formal volunteering compared to white ethnic groups. Around 45% of ethnic minorities volunteered for a club, group or organisation, compared to 42% from white groups.
- 70% of ethnic minority groups have made contributions to charities within the past month. This compared to 74% from white groups⁴.

Religious Engagement

The results of the UK Citizenship Survey conducted in 2009 indicated that Muslim communities were the most active religious group in terms of participation. It is estimated that 80% of Muslim communities actively participated in religious activities. This compared to 70% of Hindus, and around 65% of Sikhs and Buddhists and 20% of Christians⁵.

⁴ Cabinet Office (2015) *Community Life Survey 2014-2015: Data*.

⁵ Seddon (2011) *Lifestyles and Social Participation*.

Geographic Religious Clusters

- Muslim: The Muslim community is the second largest religious group after Christian communities. An estimated 2,706,066 people declared their faith as Muslim in the 2011 census. The largest Muslim population group live in Birmingham, which has 267,511 Muslim residents.
- Buddhist: There are 247,743 Buddhists in the UK, of which 13,502 live in South East London. 13,502.
- Hindu: 816,633, Harrow: 109,289
- Sikh: 423,158 people identified their religion as Sikh. The largest Sikh community is in Birmingham, which has a Sikh population of 61,540.⁶

Religion and Ethnicity

- In 2011 80.3% (6,323,896) of ethnic minorities in the UK identified with some form of religion.
- Of the 33,243,175 Christians in the UK in 2011 a total 2,423,991 (7.3%) are from ethnic minority groups; around half of which (1,288,371) are from Black backgrounds.
- Hinduism is the most diverse religion; 99% (804,607) of UK Hindus are from ethnic groups⁷.

Ethnic Minority Businesses

Minority ethnic group-led businesses include any business entity in which at least 50% of the directors, partners or those that manage the day-to-day running of the business are from ethnic minority groups.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimate that 6.0% of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are minority ethnic led, equivalent to about 300,000 SMEs. In 2014, these ethnic minority SMEs contributed around £30billion in gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy.⁸

BAME Media Channels

- Newspaper publisher and online news provider 'The Voice' is the UK's biggest selling newspaper aimed at black ethnic minority communities. The Voice has an estimated circulation of between 20,000 and 25,000 and purchased by one-in-ten of London's black ethnic population⁹.
- TV news broadcaster NDTV is a 24-hour Indian-English news channel aimed at the UK Indian Diaspora communities. The channel has average daily reach of 55,000 and weekly reach of 165,000 people¹⁰.
- Several public service and commercial radio stations cater for specific ethnic communities. BBC Asian Network UK has an estimated weekly audience reach of 563,000 (as of December 2015). The BBC's urban music station BBC1Xtra, whose primary audience demographic is young ethnic groups aged between 15 and 30 has a reported weekly audience reach of 982,000 people. Capital Xtra, the UK's first commercial black music radio station, has a weekly audience reach of 1,168,000, primarily concentrated within the London area.¹¹

⁶ Office for National Statistics (2011c) *QS210EW - Religion (detailed)*.

⁷ Sedghi (2013) UK Census: Religion by Age, Ethnicity and Country of Birth, The Guardian.

⁸ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (2015) *Contribution of women-led and MEG-led businesses to the UK non-financial economy*.

⁹ Jury (2010) *Is the Voice in the Wilderness?* London, Independent.

¹⁰ BARB (2016) *Weekly Viewing Summary – February 21st to February 28th 2016*.

¹¹ RAJAR (2016) *Quarterly Listening - All Individuals 15+ for period ending December 2015*.

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