

Nationalities

For centuries people from overseas have settled in the UK, either to escape political or religious persecution or in search of better economic opportunities. As a result, the UK has a significant multicultural population.

The Labor Force Survey estimated that over the period 2001-02, around 4.5 million people in Great Britain (8%) described themselves as belonging to an ethnic group other than 'White'. In general, minority ethnic groups tend to have a younger age profile than the White population, reflecting past immigration and fertility patterns.

Population by ethnic group, 2001-02¹, UK

| | Number of people | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | % | in millions |
| White | 92.2 | 53.0 |
| Asian or Asian British | | |
| Indian | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Pakistani | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Bangladeshi | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Other Asian background | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| All Asian groups | 4.0 | 2.3 |
| Black or Black British | | |
| Caribbean | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| African | 0.9 | 0.5 |
| Other Black background | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| All Black groups | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| Mixed | 0.9 | 0.5 |
| Chinese | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Other ethnic groups | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| All ethnic groups² | 100.0 | 57.5 |

¹ Population living in private households. Four quarter average: spring 2001 to winter 2001/02.

² Includes those who did not state their ethnic group.

Source: Labor Force Survey, Office for National Statistics. Taken from UK 2003, London: The Stationery Office.