

Update CIS2012-08

2011 Census Snapshot: Religion

December 2012

Introduction

On 11th December 2012 ONS released the second results from the 2011 Census for England & Wales. This Census Snapshot covers religion.

A question on religion was first included in the 2001 Census. The 2011 Census contained a voluntary question on religion allowing those who chose to answer the question to either select or specify their religion, or to state that they were of 'no religion'.

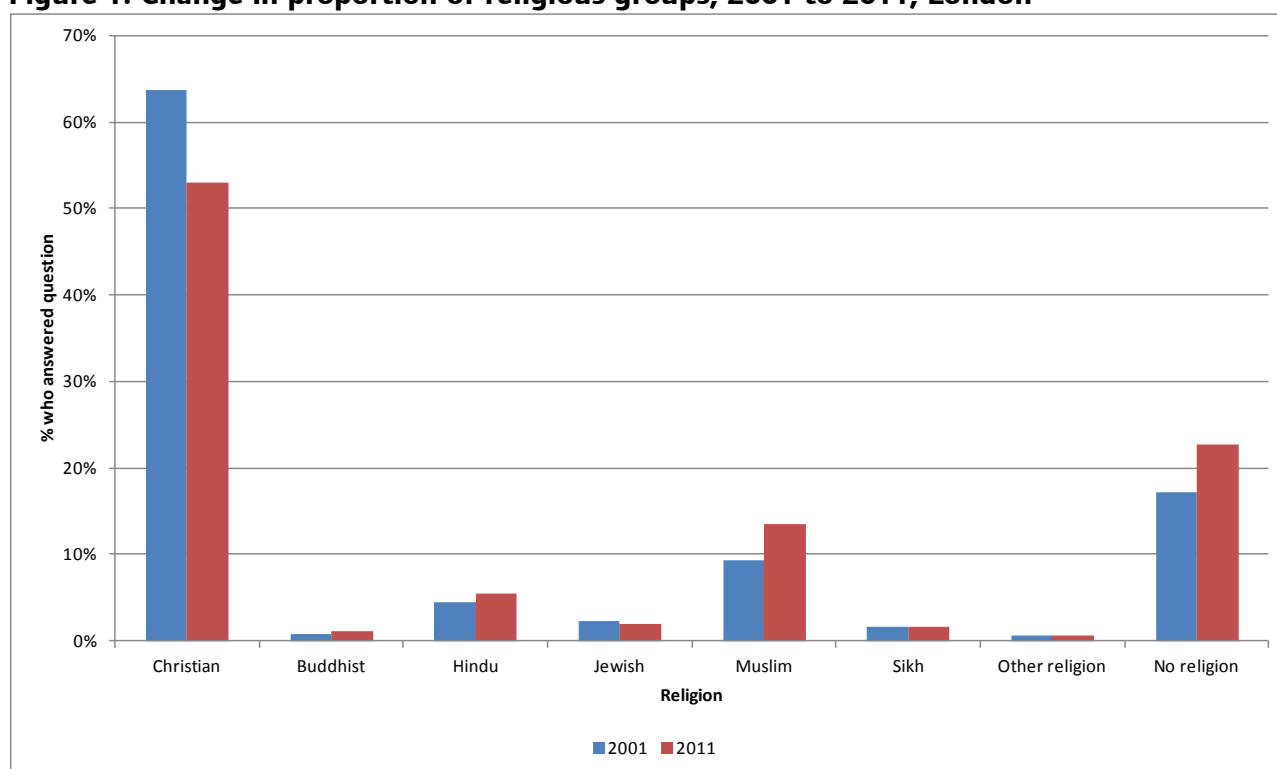
A total of 7,481,202 people in London answered the question with 22.7 per cent stating that they were of 'no religion'. This had risen from 17.3 per cent in 2001.

London

In 2011, 52.9 per cent gave Christianity as their religion equating to nearly 4 million people. As was the case in 2001, Christianity forms the largest religion in the capital. However, the percentage of London's population that classify themselves as Christian has fallen from 63.8 per cent in 2001. In number terms, this equates to a drop of nearly 218,200 people.

The second most common religion in London is Islam with 13.5 per cent of Londoners (for the first time over 1 million people) identifying themselves as Muslim. This is a rise from 9.3 per cent in 2001 when only 607,100 Londoners gave Islam as their religion.

5.5 per cent of Londoners are Hindu (411,000 people) followed by 2 per cent being Jewish (148.6 thousand people). Sikhs make up 1.7 per cent (126,000) of London's population with Buddhists at 1.1 per cent (82,000). 0.6 per cent gave a religion other than one of the six options listed.

Figure 1: Change in proportion of religious groups, 2001 to 2011, London

Source: Office for National Statistics

Within London, there is variation between the boroughs with regards to religion. In 19 of London's authorities over half of those who stated a religion identified as Christian. This is a considerable difference when compared to 2001 when more than half of people in all London authorities gave Christianity as their religion. In 2011 only Havering's population was more than 70 per cent Christian compared to seven boroughs in 2001. Even Havering has experienced a considerable fall in the number of Christians from 82.6 per cent in 2001 to 70.3 per cent in 2011.

Islam has seen the largest overall increase in people between 2001 and 2011 with Tower Hamlets having the largest Muslim proportion in England & Wales (40.8 per cent) followed by Newham (34.2 per cent) and Redbridge (24.9 per cent). More than 10 per cent of the population in 19 London boroughs classify themselves as Muslim. This is a rise from 11 boroughs in 2001.

Harrow has the highest proportion of Hindus in London (26.9 per cent). This is followed by Brent (19.1 per cent) and Redbridge (12.1 per cent).

16.6 per cent of Barnet's population identify themselves as Jewish. Other boroughs with high Jewish populations are Hackney (7 per cent), Harrow (4.7 per cent) and Redbridge (3.9 per cent).

Hounslow has the biggest proportion of Sikhs out of all London boroughs with 9.6 per cent. This is followed by Ealing (8.5 per cent), Hillingdon (7.1 per cent) and Redbridge (6.7 per cent).

No London borough has more than 1.8 per cent of its population classified as Buddhist.

Overall, this shows Redbridge to be a very diverse borough in terms of religion as it has relatively high proportions of its population in all six main religious groups, bar Buddhism.

Table 1: Religious groups, 2001 to 2011, London

	Census 2001			Census 2011			Comparison 2001 to 2011		
	No.	%	% in London	No.	%	% in London	No.	%	% in London
All groups	7,172,091	100	13.8	8,173,941	100	14.6	+1,001,850	-	+0.8
Christian	4,176,175	58.2	11.2	3,957,984	48.4	11.9	-218,191	-5.2	+0.7
Buddhist	54,297	0.8	37.6	82,026	1.0	33.1	+27,729	+51.5	-4.5
Hindu	291,977	4.1	52.9	411,291	5.0	50.4	+119,314	+40.9	-2.5
Jewish	149,789	2.1	57.6	148,602	1.8	56.4	-1,187	-0.8	-1.2
Muslim	607,083	8.5	39.3	1,012,823	12.4	37.4	+405,740	+66.8	-2.4
Sikh	104,230	1.5	31.6	126,134	1.5	29.8	+21,094	+21.0	-1.8
Other religion	36,558	0.5	24.3	47,970	0.6	19.9	+11,412	+31.2	-4.4
No religion	1,130,616	15.8	14.7	1,694,372	20.7	12.0	+563,756	+49.9	-2.7
Not answered	621,366	8.7	15.5	692,739	8.5	17.2	+71,373	+11.5	+1.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

As shown in Table 1 over half of England & Wales's Hindu and Jewish population live in London; 50.4 per cent and 56.4 per cent respectively. Both these religions have seen a decline in the proportion that live in the capital since 2001. Despite the overall fall in the number of Christians in London, the proportion of the England & Wales total living in the capital has risen by 0.7 per cent.

Outside London a number of authorities including Unitary Authorities (UA) have a high proportion of their population classifying themselves as of a religion other than Christianity.

Bradford has the highest proportion of Muslims of all authorities in England & Wales with 33.8 per cent. This is followed by Blackburn with Darwen UA (33.5 per cent) and Luton UA (31.8 per cent). The large metropolitan areas of Manchester and Birmingham also have high proportions of Muslims; 23.3 per cent and 29.4 per cent respectively. Slough UA (28.3 per cent), Leicester UA (26.0 per cent), Oldham (22.6 per cent) and Rochdale (18.5 per cent) also have higher proportions of people classifying themselves as Muslim than London.

Leicester UA has the highest proportion of Hindus outside of London with 21.2 per cent of its population stating Hinduism as their religion. This is followed by Oadby & Wigston in Leicestershire (12.9 per cent).

19.6 per cent of the population in Hertsmere is Jewish; the highest proportion for an authority outside of London. For Sikhism, the highest proportion in England & Wales is in Slough UA (12.9 per cent) followed by Wolverhampton (12.4 per cent) and Sandwell (11.6 per cent), the latter two both being in the West Midlands.

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