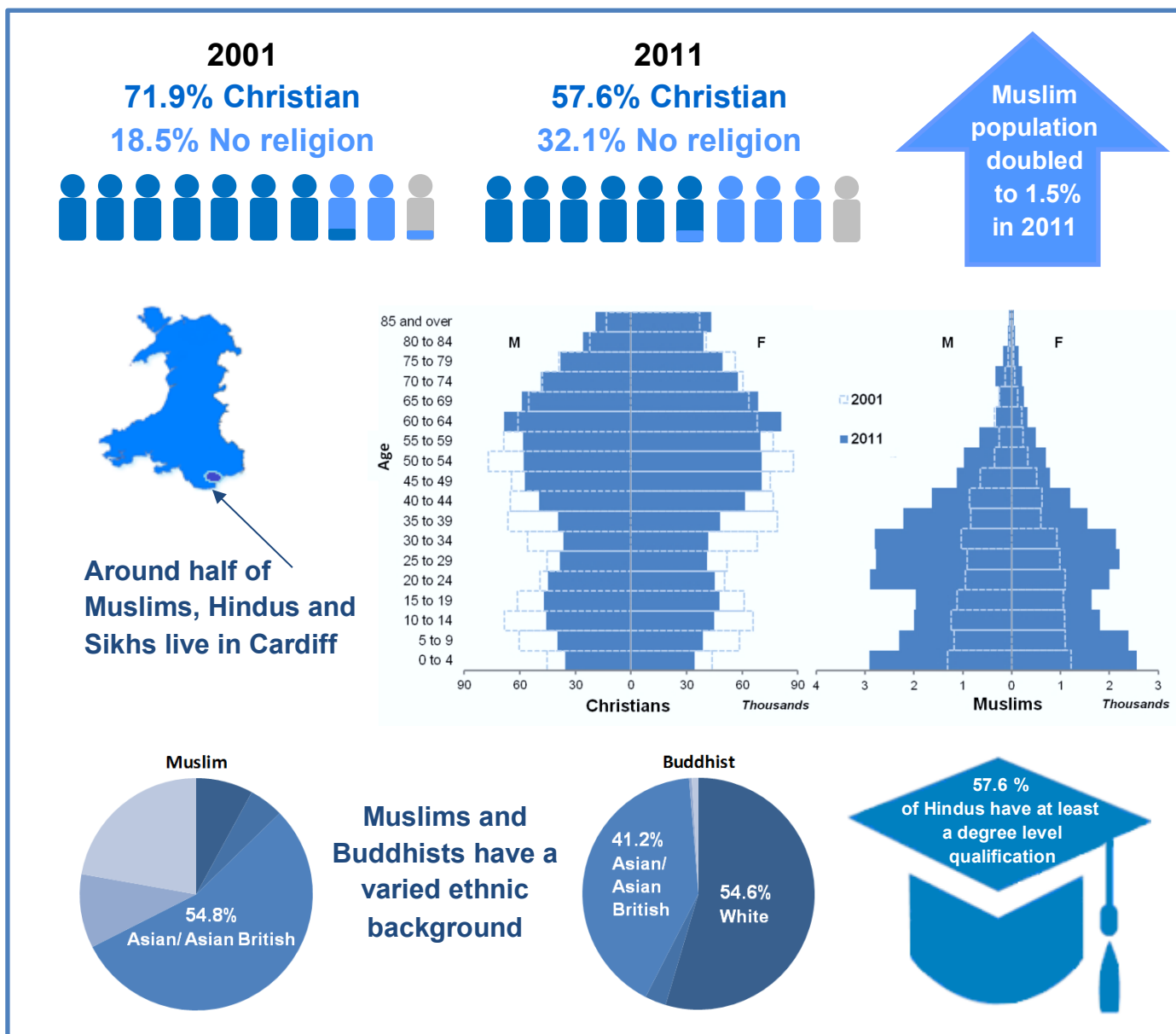


A Statistical Focus on Religion in Wales, 2011 Census: Executive summary



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Introduction

A person's religion is important in defining characteristics of identity. Data on religious affiliation can be combined with ethnic group, national identity and other characteristics to provide a detailed picture of the society we live in and how it is evolving. There are multiple factors which drive changes in religious affiliation including natural growth, migration, changes in willingness to report no religion and awareness of the question.

The statistical bulletin "[A Statistical Focus on Religion in Wales, 2011 Census](#)" is an in depth analysis of the findings of the 2011 Census that concern religious affiliation. It provides an overview and investigation of religion in Wales and explores certain characteristics relating to these religious groups including Ethnicity, National Identity, Country of Birth, Age, Sex, Household Composition, Geographical Distribution, Social Disadvantage, Housing Circumstances, Health, Education and the Labour Market.

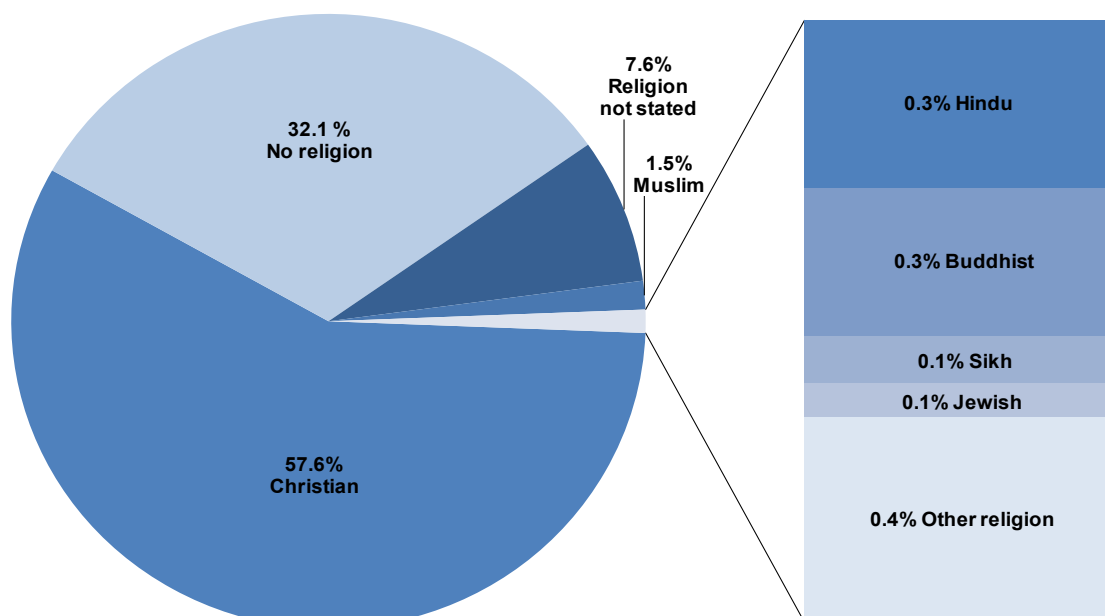
There is a particular focus on Christians, Muslims and those who state they have no religion as these are the groups that are the largest and have altered the most. Where possible, analysis for Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish and all other religious groups have been included but throughout the article these religions have been grouped together to form a group labelled "minority religious groups".

Population Characteristics

- Christianity is still the largest religion in Wales, although the proportion has decreased markedly (14.3 percentage points) since 2001.
- Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist populations have approximately doubled since 2001.
- There has been a considerable increase of 13.6 percentage points in those stating no religion in Wales since 2001.
- These changes were also seen in England, although not as pronounced.

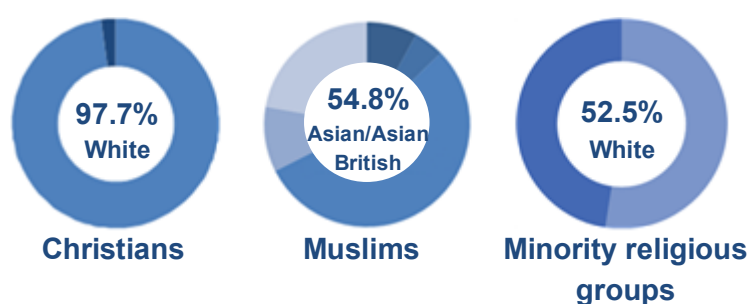
Chart 1: Religious affiliation in Wales, 2011

Percentage of population



Ethnicity

- Over 9 in 10 people in Wales are White (95.6 per cent) with the majority of Christians, those stating no religion and Jewish people stating a White background.
- In contrast, Hindus and Sikhs are predominantly Asian or Asian British.
- Around half of the Buddhist population are Asian or Asian British, with the other half predominantly White.
- Muslims showed the most ethnic variation with just over half of the Muslims in Wales (54.8 per cent) stating an Asian/ Asian British background, and the other half reporting as Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (10.3 per cent), White (7.9 per cent), Mixed/Multiple ethnic group (4.8 per cent) or Other Ethnic group (22.2 per cent).
- Overall, the population of Wales has a higher proportion of people stating a background of White British and a lower proportion of people stating a background of Asian/ Asian British than the English population.



National Identity

The 2011 Census introduced a question on national identity for the first time and Census respondents were allowed to choose more than one national identity.

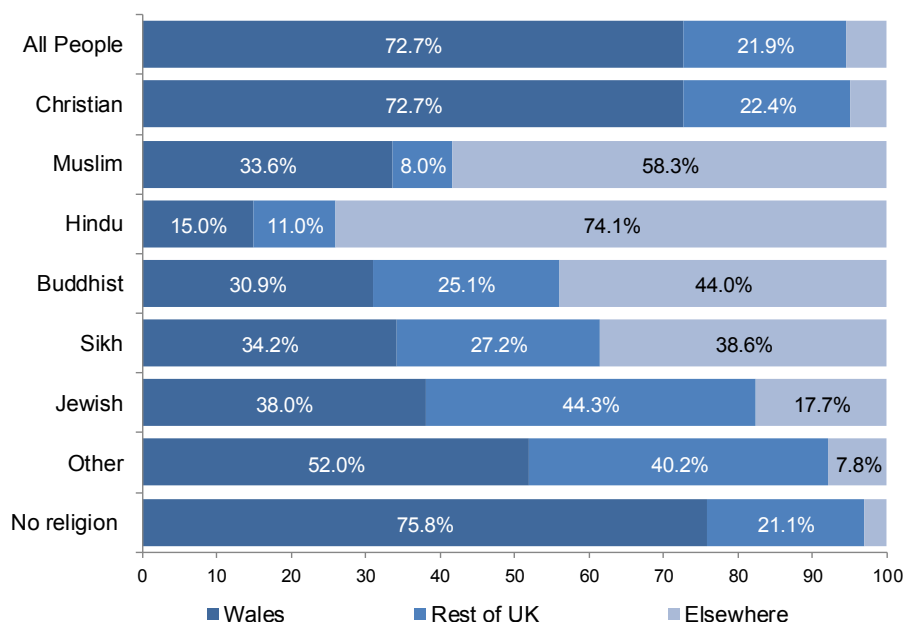
- For Christians, the most common national identity was 'Welsh only', with 58.3 per cent. This is similar to that of the Wales population as a whole.
- In contrast, 45.5 per cent of Muslims gave their national identity as 'British only', compared to only 16.9 per cent of the Wales population and 32.1% gave 'Non-UK' as their national identity (around 10 times the proportion of Wales as a whole).
- Those from minority religious groups such as Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jewish showed a similar pattern to Muslims, with their most common identity also being 'British only' (31.5 per cent). Their next two most common identities were 'Welsh only' and 'Non-UK', with around a quarter of the population choosing each.

Country of Birth

The chart below gives an overview of the main religions in Wales and the proportion of each population that was born in Wales, the rest of the UK or the rest of the world.

Chart 2: Country of Birth by religion in Wales, 2011

Percentage of the population



- The majority of Hindus were born outside the UK, compared with under a half of other minority religious groups.
- Just over half of the Muslim population were born outside the UK and the majority of Christians and those with no religion were born in Wales.

Age Demographics

The 2011 Census also uncovered marked differences in the age demographic of each religious group.

- The Christian population have a higher proportion of people in the older age groups whilst Muslims show a much younger age profile.
- Those stating a minority religion had a high proportion of people in the working age (16-64) category and those with no religion also had a much younger population than average.
- These differences in demography have had a marked effect on the population characteristics, as seen in the chapters such as health and labour market.

Household Composition

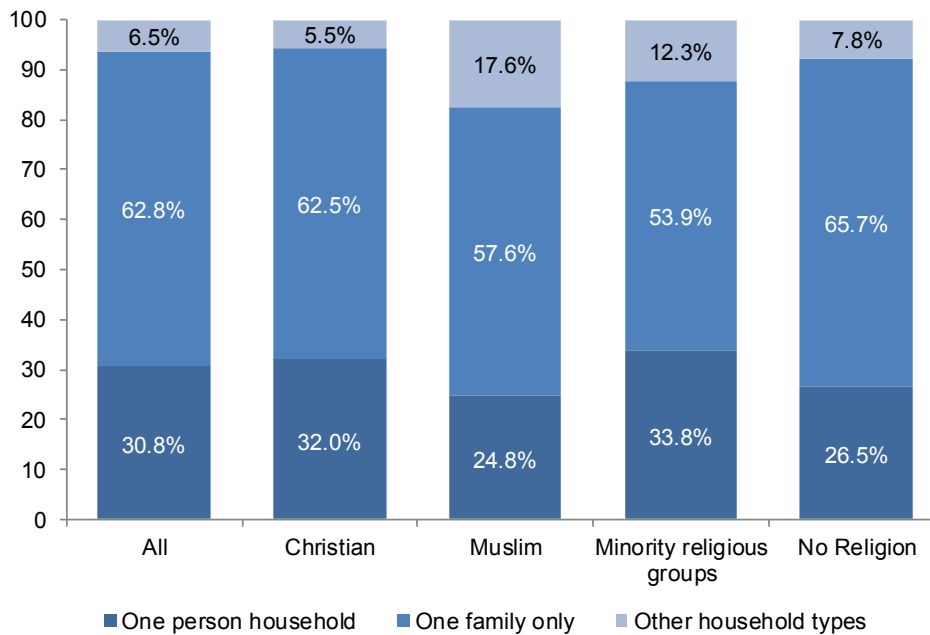
The composition of households for different religious groups also showed variation.

- When comparing across the religious groups, Christians were more likely to live in 'one person households' where the inhabitant was aged 65 or over.
- The Muslim population had a high proportion of households in the 'one family only' category where the household had a 'married or civil partnership couple'; they were also most likely to live in an 'other' household type.

- Those from minority religious groups were most likely of the other groups to live in a 'one person household' whereas those stating no religion were more likely to live in a 'one family household' with a 'lone parent or co-habiting couple'.

Chart 3: Religion by Household Composition, Wales, 2011 ¹

Percentage of households



¹ Other households include: households of more than one family; households comprised of unrelated adults sharing; those including one family and other unrelated adults; all full-time student households; and households in which all occupants are aged 65 and over.

Geographical Distribution

- The geographical distribution of religious groups showed that, consistent with Wales a whole, the local authority with the highest proportion of people was Cardiff. This was particularly evident in the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh populations where around a half of the religious groups' population lived here.
- There was pronounced clustering within some of the religious groups. Christians and those with no religion were shown to be fairly spread out across Wales whereas Muslims and those from minority religious groups had higher proportions of people concentrated into different parts of Wales.
- The LSOA with the highest proportion of Muslims was 'Butetown 1' in Cardiff where 49.1% of people are Muslim. This compares to Muslims making up 1.5 per cent of the whole population.
- Hindus, Sikhs and Jewish people all have 50 per cent of their population in less than tenth of all the LSOAs.

Social Disadvantage

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation ([WIMD](#)) is the Welsh Government’s official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. WIMD 2014 uses Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) as the geographical unit in its analysis. Of the 1909 LSOAs that Wales is divided into, the most deprived 191 are also referred to as the most deprived 10 per cent of LSOAs.

- Muslims (19.4 per cent), Sikhs (14.5 per cent) and people stating no religious affiliation (12.4 per cent) have the highest percentage of people living in LSOAs referred to as the most deprived 10 per cent.

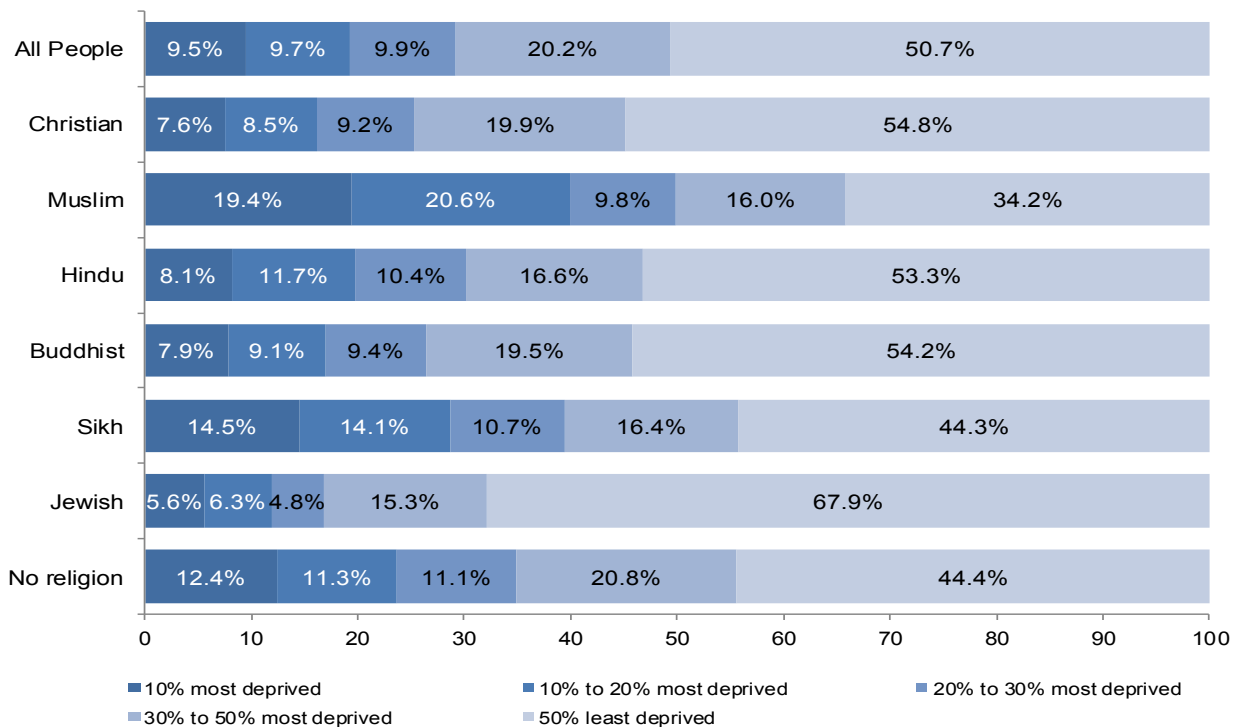


66% of Muslims and 56% of Sikhs and those stating no religion live in the most deprived half of Wales, compared to 32% of Jewish people

- The Jewish population had the highest proportion of people living in the 50 per cent least deprived LSOAs with 67.9 per cent, 17.2 percentage points higher than average and 13.1 percentage points higher than the second highest religion (Christian, 54.8 per cent).
- The Buddhist (54.2 per cent) and Hindu (53.3 per cent) populations also had above average proportions of their population living in the 50 per cent least deprived LSOAs.

Chart 4: Location of religious groups in Wales by WIMD deprivation category, 2011

Percentage of population



Socio-economic Class

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) is an indication of socioeconomic position based on occupation.

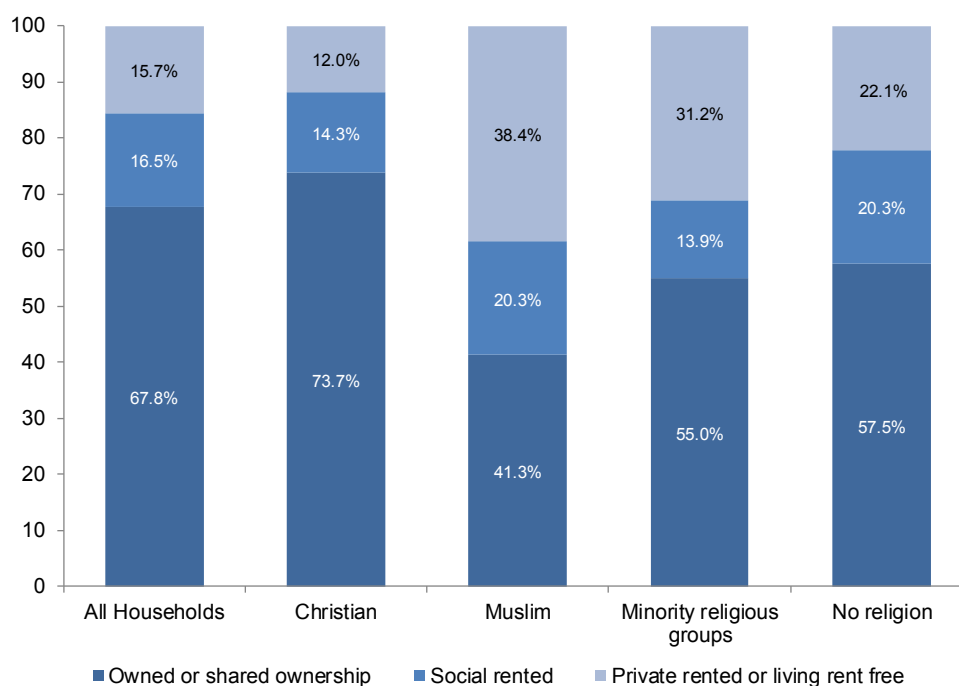
- Christians showed a similar socio-economic classification structure to the population as a whole with the highest proportions of the population in lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (20.8 per cent) and semi routine occupations (16.3 per cent).
- Muslims showed the most difference compared to Wales as a whole with the highest proportions of people in the “never worked and long-term unemployed” (four times the Wales average) and “Not Classified” (three times the Wales average) categories.
- Those from minority religious groups had the highest proportion in the “higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations” category.

Housing Circumstances

This explores the housing circumstances of religious groups in Wales, looking in particular at tenure, overcrowding and accommodation type.

Chart 5: Religion by tenure of accommodation, 2011

Percentage of households



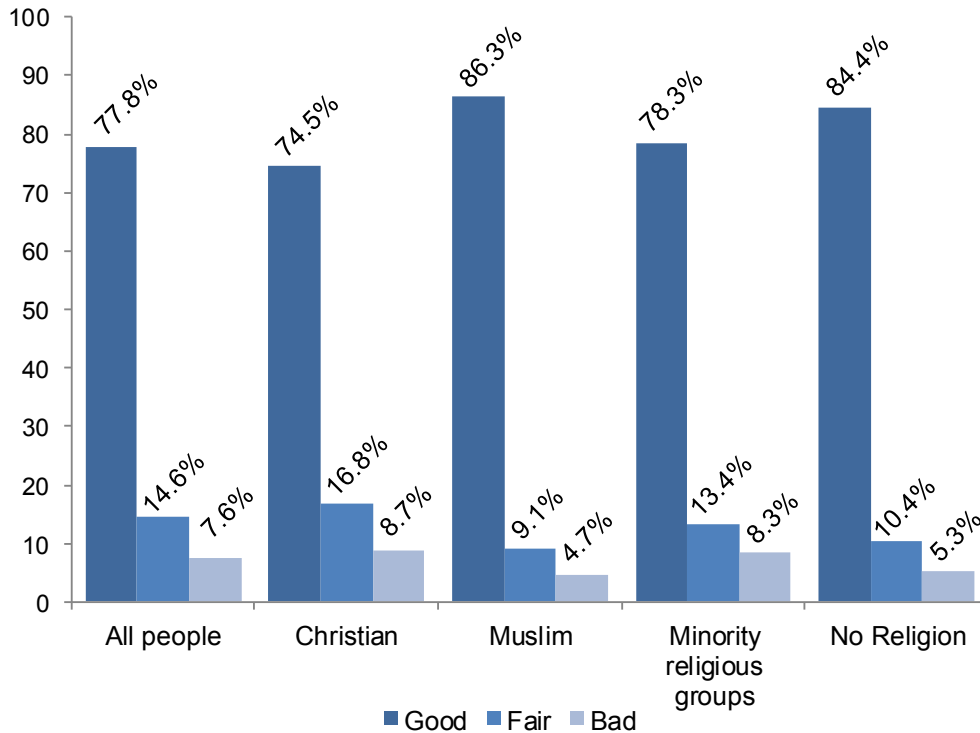
- Christians were most likely to be owner-occupiers (73.7 per cent) whereas Muslims were most likely to be renting (58.7 per cent).
- Over two-thirds of the Jewish and Sikh households were owned or part owned (69.2 and 67.0 per cent respectively).
- Christians were most likely to live in a detached house whereas Muslims had the highest proportions of people in terraced housing or ‘flats or other types of accommodation’.
- People stating no religion were the most likely to live in a semi-detached house.
- The Christian population had the lowest proportion of overcrowded households whereas Muslims had more than four times the proportion of Wales as a whole in overcrowded accommodation.

Health

General Health and long-term limiting illness

Chart 6: General Health by religion, 2011

Percentage of population



The difference in each religions age demographic had an underlying impact when looking at the self reported general health and long-term limiting illness of each population.

- The Christian population as a whole had the lowest proportion in good health and with no long-term limiting illness out of all the religious groups. However, they had amongst the highest proportions of people stating good health or no long-term limiting illness when the population was split by age. It was only the larger numbers of Christians in the older age groups which had comparatively lower rates of good health that bring the overall average down.



9% Christians reported bad health



86% Muslims stated good health

- The opposite pattern was shown in the Muslim population. In both general health and long-term limiting illness, Muslims showed the most positive picture overall with the highest proportion of people stating good health and no long-term limiting illness. When the health of the Muslim population was analysed by age group, the older age groups showed the lowest proportions of good health and long-term limiting illness. These figures were counteracted by the larger numbers of young Muslims with good health and no long-term limiting illnesses to give a higher average overall.

When analysed by gender and religion, there was an interesting variation between those stating no religion and the other religious groups. All of the religions consistently showed a higher proportion of males to females in good health or with no long-term limiting illness and a lower proportion of males to females in bad health or limited a lot by an illness. The opposite pattern was shown for the no religion population for both general health and limiting long-term illness. The gap was also less pronounced for those with no religion.

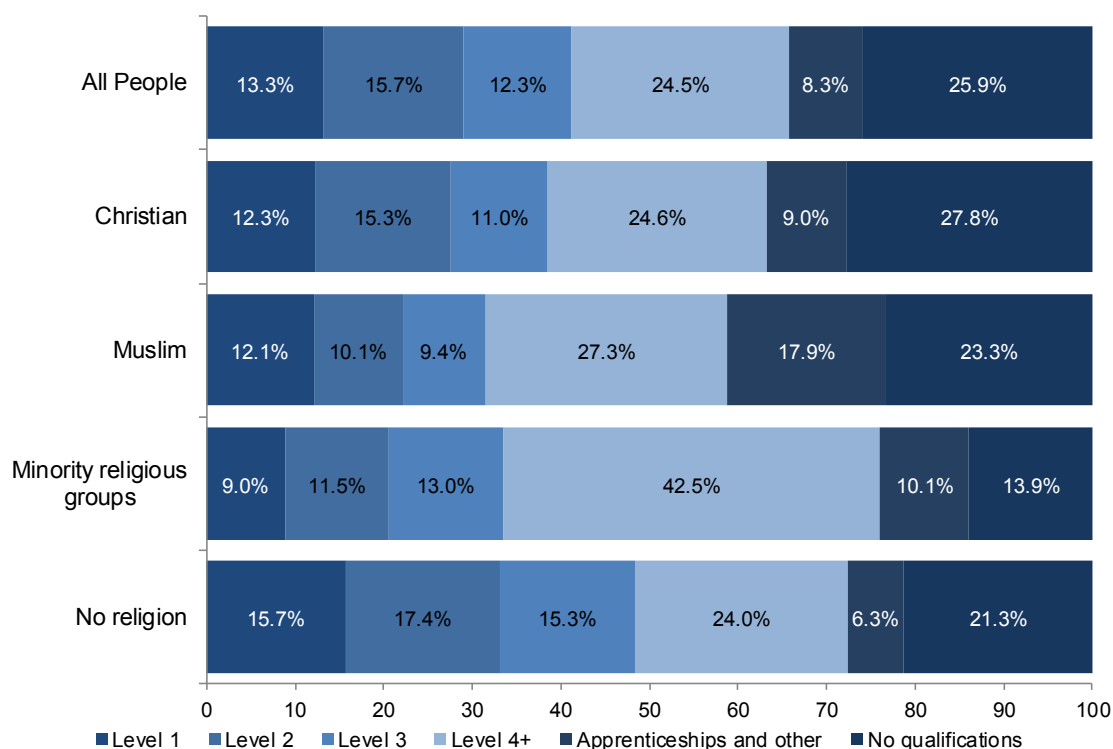
Education

One of the questions in the 2011 Census asked about the respondent's highest level of qualification. The data derived from this allows us to compare the proportions of people with no qualifications and the types of qualifications held by people within each religious group.

Highest level of qualification

Chart 7: Highest qualification, by religion, 2011

Percentage of population aged 16 and over



- Looking at the highest qualifications achieved, those from minority religious groups have the highest proportion of people who have a level 4 or above qualification (degree level). Within the group, Hindus have the highest proportion with 57.6 per cent and Sikhs have the lowest with 28.0 per cent.



58% of Hindus have at least a degree level qualification

- Those stating no religion have the lowest proportion of people with level 4 or above and the highest proportion of people with level 1 qualifications as their highest.

No qualifications

- Overall, 25.9 per cent of all people in Wales have no qualifications.
- When split by age, those over 65 are the age group showing the highest proportion with no qualifications (53.6 per cent) and those aged 16 to 24 showed the lowest proportion with no qualifications (12.0 per cent).
- The pattern of the proportion of people with no qualifications increasing with age is consistent across all the religious groups.
- The Christian population had the highest overall proportion of people with no qualifications (27.8 per cent); this may be due the older age demographic.
- Those stating a minority religious group have the lowest overall proportion of people with no qualifications.

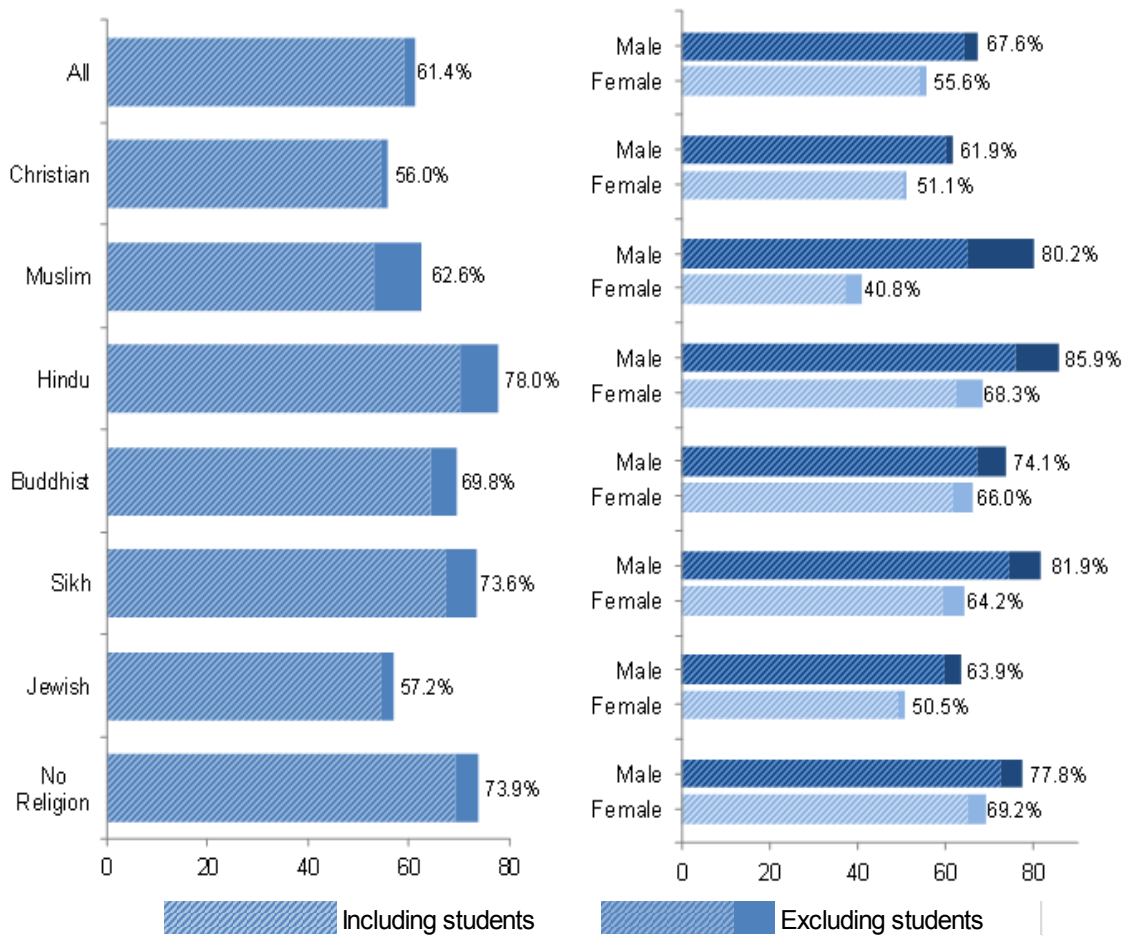
Labour Market

Economic Activity

The economic activity rate of a population is the percentage of people who were active members of the labour market. The Census derived a person’s economic activity through questions on their ‘activity last week’, whether they were employed, actively seeking work, waiting to start a new job and so on. This was combined with the number of hours someone worked and their type of employment to give their economic activity. The following figures are excluding students and include all people 16 and over, including the retired.

Chart 8: Economic Activity rate including and excluding students, by gender and religion

Percentage of population aged 16 and over



- Just over 6 in 10 (61.4 per cent) of people aged 16 or over in Wales are economically active.
- Hindus had the highest proportion of economic activity and Christian people had the lowest rate of economic activity. In all the religions, when economic activity was split by gender, the males had higher rates than females. This was most pronounced in the Muslim population.



39 percentage points difference
between male and female
economic activity in the Muslim
population

- Within the economically active population, Christians had the highest proportion of people who were employees and Sikhs had the lowest. The Sikh population had the highest proportion of people who were self employed whereas people stating no religion had the lowest. Muslims and Hindus had the highest and lowest proportion of unemployment respectively.

Reasons for economic inactivity

Overall, of the 38.6 per cent of people in Wales who are inactive, two-thirds (67.7 per cent) are retired. The next most common reason was 'Long-term sick or disabled' (16.6 per cent), with the rest of the inactive population either looking after home or family (9.9 per cent) or another reason (5.9 per cent).

- There were marked differences between genders in the reasons behind economic inactivity. In particular, those giving 'looking after the home of family' as their reason for inactivity were predominantly female and those who stated they were either long-term sick or disabled were predominantly male. This was especially evident in the Muslim population where females were seven times more likely to be economically inactive because they are looking after home or family than males.
- Of the 620 thousand Christians who were economically inactive, over three-quarters (76.5 per cent) were retired. This is the largest proportion of retirees of all the religions shown and is consistent across both genders.

Industry

The Census asked questions relating to a persons main job. The main activity of their employer or business was used to derive the type of industry they work in.

- In the whole of Wales, the most common industry to work in was 'Wholesale and retail trade, vehicle repair' with around a sixth (15.6 per cent) of the population falling in this category. This is closely followed by the 'human health and social work activities' industry with 14.4 per cent.
- There were stark gender differences in certain industries. For example, 14.4 per cent of all people worked in human health and social work activities but this was made up of 23.7 per cent of females and only 6.0 per cent of males.
- Over half of the Muslim population are categorised as working in their top three industries. These were 'Accommodation and food service activities' (22.0 per cent), 'Wholesale and retail trade, vehicle repair' (17.2 per cent) and 'Human health and social work activities' (14.6 per cent).
- The most common industries in the Christian population are similar to that of Wales with the same top 4 (albeit in a different order). 'Human health and social work activities' was the most common with 15.2 per cent.

Background information and useful links are available in the [Key Quality Information](#) section of the bulletin.

Contact information

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments please e-mail us at: stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk

If you require any further information, contact details are as follows:

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