

1.0 The national picture

In recent years the BME population of the UK has been steadily rising. The 1991 Census estimated that the BME population accounted for 5.5% of the total population of the United Kingdom, which rose over the next decade to an estimated proportion of 13.0% in the 2001 Census (including White Irish and Other White groups), with just over one in ten people being in a non-White ethnic group. Although this increase can partly be explained by the inclusion of the 'Mixed' ethnicity Census category for the first time in 2001, it also reflects a real rise in the number of people from different ethnic backgrounds in our increasingly diverse society.

Table 1.1 White British compared to all other ethnic groups regionally

Source: 2001 Census, S101

	All People	White British	%	Other ethnic group	%
ENGLAND	49,138,831	42,747,136	87.0%	6,391,695	13.0%
London	7,172,091	4,287,861	59.8%	2,884,230	40.2%
West Midlands	5,267,303	4,537,892	86.2%	729,411	13.8%
East Midlands	4,172,173	3,807,731	91.3%	364,442	8.7%
South East	8,000,645	7,304,678	91.3%	695,967	8.7%
East	5,388,139	4,927,343	91.4%	460,796	8.6%
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,964,833	4,551,394	91.7%	413,439	8.3%
North West	6,729,766	6,203,043	92.2%	526,723	7.8%
South West	4,928,433	4,701,602	95.4%	226,831	4.6%
North East	2,515,438	2,425,592	96.4%	89,846	3.6%

As can be seen from Table 1.1, London has by far the largest proportion of BME residents (which for the purposes of this report includes all people falling into ethnic categories other than White British). 8.6% of the East of England resident population is in a BME group, which accounts for just over 7% of all BME residents in England.

Table 1.2 Ethnic composition of the Eastern Region and England

Source: 2001 Census, S101

	Eastern Region	%	England	%
ALL PEOPLE	5,388,136.00	100.0%	49,138,831.00	100.0%
White British	4,927,343.00	91.4%	42,747,136.00	87.0%
White Irish	61,208.00	1.1%	624,115.00	1.3%
White Other	136,452.00	2.5%	1,308,110.00	2.7%
White and Black Caribbean	19,882.00	0.4%	231,424.00	0.5%
White and Black African	6,107.00	0.1%	76,498.00	0.2%
White and Asian	17,385.00	0.3%	184,014.00	0.4%
Other Mixed	14,608.00	0.3%	151,437.00	0.3%
Indian	51,035.00	0.9%	1,028,546.00	2.1%
Pakistani	38,790.00	0.7%	706,539.00	1.4%
Bangladeshi	18,503.00	0.3%	275,394.00	0.6%
Other Asian or Asian British	13,424.00	0.2%	237,810.00	0.5%
Black Caribbean	26,199.00	0.5%	561,246.00	1.1%
Black African	16,966.00	0.3%	475,938.00	1.0%
Other Black or Black British	5,297.00	0.1%	95,324.00	0.2%
Chinese	20,385.00	0.4%	220,681.00	0.4%
Other Ethnic Group	14,552.00	0.3%	214,619.00	0.4%

As table 1.2 illustrates, the Eastern Region has somewhat smaller proportions of all groups other than White British groups than England as a whole. The Asian or Asian British and Black or Black British groups are particularly under-represented in the East, with less than half the proportions present in the country overall residing here. Interestingly however, the proportion of

Chinese residents in the East of England is similar to the UK proportion of this group.

2.0 The regional picture

Table 2.1 Resident population of the East of England by ethnic group and local authority

Source: 2001 Census, S101

	Bedfordshire (%)	Cambs (%)	Essex (%)	Hertfordshire (%)	Norfolk (%)	Suffolk (%)	Peterborough (%)	Luton UA (%)	Southend-On-Sea (%)	Thurrock UA (%)
ALL PEOPLE	381,541 100.0%	552,653 100.0%	1,310,837 100.0%	1,033,970 100.0%	796,707 100.0%	668,548 100.0%	156,072 100.0%	184,356 100.0%	160,244 100.0%	143,136 100.0%
White British	339,127 88.9%	502,876 91.0%	1,238,799 94.5%	917,848 88.8%	766,664 96.2%	626,741 93.7%	133,751 85.7%	119,793 65.0%	148,912 92.9%	132,832 92.8%
White Irish	5,154 1.4%	4,902 0.9%	11,763 0.9%	17,836 1.7%	4,043 0.5%	4,107 0.6%	1,697 1.1%	8,569 4.6%	1,617 1.0%	1,515 1.1%
Other White	11,694 3.1%	22,386 4.1%	22,414 1.7%	32,959 3.2%	13,980 1.8%	19,257 2.9%	4,553 2.9%	4,204 2.3%	2,952 1.8%	2,050 1.4%
White and Black Caribbean	2,196 0.6%	1,318 0.2%	3,574 0.3%	4,549 0.4%	1,198 0.2%	2,627 0.4%	953 0.6%	2,412 1.3%	523 0.3%	539 0.4%
White and Black African	403 0.1%	652 0.1%	1,167 0.1%	1,390 0.1%	625 0.1%	884 0.1%	208 0.1%	389 0.2%	234 0.1%	151 0.1%
White and Asian	1,392 0.4%	1,941 0.4%	3,621 0.3%	4,644 0.4%	1,491 0.2%	1,560 0.2%	683 0.4%	1,055 0.6%	605 0.4%	377 0.3%
Other Mixed	1,039 0.3%	1,801 0.3%	2,864 0.2%	3,472 0.3%	1,467 0.2%	1,988 0.3%	446 0.3%	866 0.5%	405 0.3%	262 0.2%
Indian	7,809 2.0%	3,619 0.7%	6,869 0.5%	16,226 1.6%	1,419 0.2%	1,595 0.2%	2,875 1.8%	7,538 4.1%	1,225 0.8%	1,857 1.3%
Pakistani	2,541 0.7%	1,310 0.2%	1,961 0.1%	7,172 0.7%	442 0.1%	480 0.1%	6,980 4.5%	17,012 9.2%	694 0.4%	188 0.1%
Bangladeshi	2,084 0.5%	1,270 0.2%	1,605 0.1%	3,248 0.3%	340 0.0%	1,189 0.2%	118 0.1%	7,639 4.1%	453 0.3%	548 0.4%
Other Asian	1,050 0.3%	1,127 0.2%	2,705 0.2%	4,259 0.4%	644 0.1%	641 0.1%	895 0.6%	1,487 0.8%	331 0.2%	273 0.2%
Black Caribbean	3,441 0.9%	1,285 0.2%	2,791 0.2%	6,197 0.6%	542 0.1%	2,297 0.3%	1,116 0.7%	7,651 4.2%	300 0.2%	580 0.4%
Black African	1,113 0.3%	1,366 0.2%	2,703 0.2%	4,769 0.5%	717 0.1%	834 0.1%	551 0.4%	3,204 1.7%	734 0.5%	964 0.7%
Other Black	424 0.1%	578 0.1%	623 0.0%	895 0.1%	302 0.0%	1,189 0.2%	260 0.2%	826 0.4%	69 0.0%	115 0.1%
Chinese	1,249 0.3%	3,666 0.7%	4,528 0.3%	5,051 0.5%	1,399 0.2%	1,511 0.2%	534 0.3%	1,091 0.6%	800 0.5%	543 0.4%
Other Ethnic Group	825 0.2%	2,556 0.5%	2,850 0.2%	3,455 0.3%	1,434 0.2%	1,648 0.2%	452 0.3%	620 0.3%	390 0.2%	342 0.2%

There is a large variation from the average proportion of residents from an ethnic group other than White British (8.6%) across the Eastern Region, ranging from just 3.8% in Norfolk to 35.0% in Luton (UA). More than one in every ten people in Peterborough (UA), Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire belong to a BME group. The proportions of BME residents are slightly lower throughout the rest of the region, with Cambridgeshire having a slightly greater proportion than average (9.0%), although more than half the BME group in this area is composed of White residents from non-British groups. The remaining counties/unitary authorities have much smaller proportions of BME residents. Much of this regional variation can be attributed to the relative rural/urban classification of a region. The Countryside Agency (2003) classified English

districts as either rural or urban². In this classification: all of Norfolk is classified as rural except for Norwich and Great Yarmouth; all of Suffolk is classified as rural except for Ipswich; all of Bedfordshire is classified as rural except for Luton³; all of Cambridgeshire is classified as rural except for Cambridge and Peterborough; all of Essex is classified as urban except for Braintree, Maldon, Tendring and Uttlesford; and the only rural district in Hertfordshire is East Hertfordshire.

Table 2.2 Top 20 districts with the highest proportion of non-White British residents

Source: Census 2001, KS06

Rank	District	%	non-White British	Rank	District	%	non-White British
1	Luton UA	35.0%	64,578	11	North Hertfordshire	10.6%	12,450
2	Forest Heath	23.6%	13,082	12	Broxbourne	9.8%	8,518
3	Cambridge	21.5%	23,391	13	Ipswich	9.2%	10,760
4	Watford	20.9%	16,644	14	Epping Forest	8.8%	10,599
5	Bedford	19.2%	28,444	15	Stevenage	8.5%	6,790
6	Peterborough UA	14.3%	22,310	16	Dacorum	8.3%	11,473
7	Hertsmere	13.8%	13,067	17	Harlow	8.3%	6,507
8	St. Albans	13.1%	16,958	18	Brentwood	7.3%	5,020
9	Three Rivers	12.9%	10,674	19	Thurrock UA	7.2%	10,296
10	Welwyn Hatfield	11.2%	10,937	20	Colchester	7.1%	11,067

As might be expected, many of the top 20 districts with the highest proportion of residents from ethnic groups other than White British are large towns or cities, and few, with the exception of Forest Heath and Bedford, are in areas classified as rural. Urban areas typically attract a higher proportion of migrants due to their greater economic potential. Cities such as Cambridge also attract a large number of foreign students and academics, and the presence of armed forces in certain areas can account for large concentrations of some ethnic groups.

Table 2.3 Ethnic composition of the top 5 districts

Source: Census 2001, S101

	East (%)		Luton (%)		Forest Heath (%)		Cambridge (%)		Watford (%)		Bedford (%)	
ALL PEOPLE	5,388,136	100.0%	184,356	100.0%	55,532	100.0%	108,861	100.0%	79,714	100.0%	147,925	100.0%
White British	4,927,343	91.4%	119,793	65.0%	42,428	76.4%	85,472	78.5%	63,082	79.1%	119,467	80.8%
White Irish	61,208	1.1%	8,569	4.6%	648	1.2%	1,708	1.6%	2,305	2.9%	2,084	1.4%
White Other	136,452	2.5%	4,204	2.3%	9,073	16.3%	10,185	9.4%	3,142	3.9%	7,107	4.8%
White and Black Caribbean	19,882	0.4%	2,412	1.3%	166	0.3%	453	0.4%	546	0.7%	1,454	1.0%
White and Black African	6,107	0.1%	389	0.2%	321	0.6%	214	0.2%	181	0.2%	191	0.1%
White and Asian	17,385	0.3%	1,055	0.6%	321	0.6%	735	0.7%	558	0.7%	747	0.5%
Other Mixed	14,608	0.3%	866	0.5%	550	1.0%	740	0.7%	373	0.5%	531	0.4%
Indian	51,035	0.9%	7,538	4.1%	94	0.2%	1,947	1.8%	1,886	2.4%	6,335	4.3%
Pakistani	38,790	0.7%	17,012	9.2%	122	0.2%	506	0.5%	3,707	4.7%	2,353	1.6%
Bangladeshi	18,503	0.3%	7,639	4.1%	39	0.1%	976	0.9%	215	0.3%	2,023	1.4%
Other Asian	13,424	0.2%	1,487	0.8%	68	0.1%	647	0.6%	733	0.9%	743	0.5%
Black Caribbean	26,199	0.5%	7,651	4.2%	138	0.2%	552	0.5%	1,164	1.5%	2,773	1.9%
Black African	16,966	0.3%	3,204	1.7%	206	0.4%	779	0.7%	784	1.0%	735	0.5%
Other Black	5,297	0.1%	826	0.4%	702	1.3%	135	0.1%	177	0.2%	338	0.2%
Chinese	20,385	0.4%	1,091	0.6%	85	0.2%	2,325	2.1%	457	0.6%	617	0.4%
Other Ethnic Group	14,552	0.3%	620	0.3%	571	1.0%	1,487	1.4%	404	0.5%	427	0.3%

² For further information about this classification see CRN – 86, 2004

³ Bedford itself is not rural, but the district as a whole is classified as such due to the large surrounding rural areas

Table 2.3 shows in greater detail the ethnic composition of the five districts with the largest proportion of residents from ethnic groups other than White British. Luton has markedly more residents from BME groups (35%) than any other district in the East of England. Compared to the regional average, it has a notably larger Asian population, particularly the Pakistani community, with Indians and Bangladeshis also present in higher proportions. There is also a sizeable Black African population. Interestingly, there is not a particularly large increase in the proportion of residents from any of the Mixed heritage groups when compared to the regional figure and in fact, a slightly smaller proportion of Luton residents fall into the Other White category.

Forest Heath has a very large Other White population (16.3%) and a much larger proportion of Other Black residents (1.3%) compared to the regional average. There are also slightly higher proportions of some of the Mixed groups, however many of the other ethnic groups are present in similar or lower proportions to those of the region and the numbers involved are very small. The presence of American armed forces accounts for much of the ethnic variation seen in this district.

21.5% of the population of Cambridge belong to ethnic groups other than White British. There is a large elevation in the numbers of residents from Other White, Chinese and Other Ethnic Groups, which is likely to reflect the large student and academic population. While most Asian groups are present in Cambridge in higher proportions than in the Region as a whole, there is actually a smaller proportion of Pakistani residents.

20.9% of the population of Watford, Hertfordshire is from an ethnic group other than White British. Both Black Africans and Black Caribbeans are present at three times the proportion of the region as a whole. Pakistanis are also over-represented, though not to the same degree as in Luton. There is also a greater proportion of members of both the White Irish and Other White groups.

Just over 20% of Bedford's population is not from the White British ethnic category, with Other White groups and Indians being present in the highest proportions. Most of the other groups are present in similar proportions to that of the region with slight over-representation of the Asian groups and Black Caribbeans.

Table 2.4 Top 10 districts with the lowest proportion of non-White British residents

Source: Census 2001, S101

Rank	District	County	% non-White British	non-White British	% non-White
1	North Norfolk	Norfolk	2.2%	2,184	0.8%
2	Broadland	Norfolk	2.6%	3,092	1.2%
3	Waveney	Suffolk	2.6%	2,974	1.2%
4	Mid Suffolk	Suffolk	2.7%	2,313	1.0%
5	South Norfolk	Norfolk	2.8%	3,111	1.1%
6	Great Yarmouth	Norfolk	3.0%	2,685	1.4%
7	Fenland	Cambs	3.1%	2,608	1.4%
8	Rochford	Essex	3.2%	2,528	1.7%
9	Tendring	Essex	3.2%	4,477	1.3%
10	Maldon	Essex	3.2%	1,927	1.4%

The majority of the areas in the ten districts with the lowest proportion of non-White British residents are rural, with a sparsely distributed population. The exceptions to this are Great Yarmouth and Rochford, which are classified as urban. Of these districts, almost half are within Norfolk and in fact, of Norfolk's seven districts four are in the top six areas with the lowest proportion of residents from groups other than White British.

It can also be seen from Table 2.4 that within these districts, the proportion of residents that are categorised as belonging any non-White ethnic group is even smaller, ranging from 1.7% in Rochford to 0.8% in North Norfolk.

It is important to remember throughout the report that the Eastern Region has many contrasts. Despite having urban centres such as Luton where the proportion of non-White British residents is almost three times the national average and comparable to London, there are also vast, rural, sparsely populated areas with very little ethnic variation. Factors such the presence of foreign students and armed forces are also pertinent in certain areas of the region but absent in others. It must be noted therefore, that although this report will report on regional data due to small numbers preventing broad generalisation in some areas, this is necessarily an average.