

Topic summary : Ethnicity and related themes :
ethnic group, country of birth, national identity, age
and year of arrival in the UK, religion, languages

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Planning Information, Planning and Building Standards,
Services for Communities, The City of Edinburgh Council

• EDINBURGH •
YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR CAPITAL

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(formerly General Register Office Scotland)*

*Whilst reasonable care has been taken in the analysis and presentation of this data, the
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*Detailed Census results together with further information on definitions, methodologies etc.
are available from the 'Scotland's Census 2011' web site :*

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/>

2011 Census :
Topic Summary : Ethnicity and related themes

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Introduction

1. This report summarises key characteristics and trends for Edinburgh in respect of ethnic composition and related diversity topics as revealed by the newly released findings from the 2011 Census.
2. It concentrates on city level data and examines the main changes which have occurred since the last Census in 2001. It also compares Edinburgh with other cities and local authorities both in Scotland and England and Wales.
3. Note that local level characteristics and variations between different parts of Edinburgh will be identified in a separate report setting out 'profiles' for localities within the city.
4. The main findings are set out below under the following headings:
 - country of birth
 - national identity
 - ethnic group
 - age and year of arrival in the UK
 - religion
 - languages

Summary : key findings

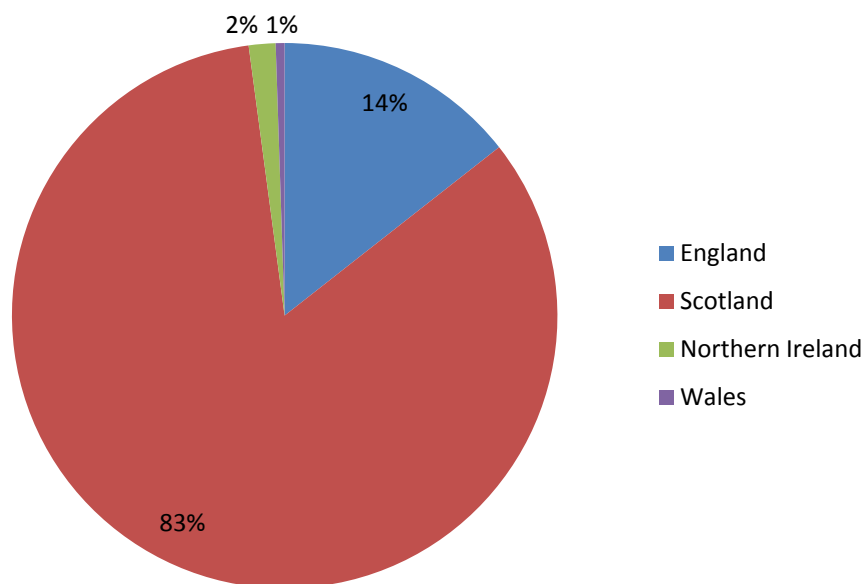
5. In common with most other parts of Scotland, Edinburgh has become more ethnically diverse since the last Census took place in 2001. The non-White population has grown from 18,300 to 39,500. The proportion of the city's total population has more than doubled, from 4.0% to 8.2%, although this is still small compared to many other larger cities across the UK.
6. The White population who are not Scottish, British or Irish also increased over the last decade from 18,400 to 37,400, or from 4.1% to 7.9% of the total population. Poles alone now account for 2.6%.
7. Growth in the non-White population has mainly been in the Asian communities, with the Chinese overtaking Pakistanis since 2001 to become the largest sub-group.
8. Mirroring the increasing ethnic diversity, the proportion of Edinburgh's population who were born in the UK fell from 92% to 84% between 2001 and 2011, while the proportion born in Scotland fell from 78% to 70%.
9. The proportion born outside the UK (15.9%) is more than double the Scottish average (7.0%), but is only moderately above the average for England & Wales (13.4%), where many cities have a higher proportion born overseas.

10. Countries accounting for the largest number of Edinburgh citizens born overseas are: Poland (11,700), India (4,900), Republic of Ireland (4,700), China (4,100 + 1,600 from Hong Kong), USA (3,700), Germany (3,500), Pakistan (2,500), Australia (2,100), France (2,000) Spain (2,000), South Africa (1,800) and Canada (1,800).
11. 47% of the non-UK born population in Edinburgh is of European origin, which is amongst the highest for any city in the UK. Although the number of people born in the EU Accession countries (in particular Poland) has increased dramatically over the last decade, they are still exceeded by people who were born in the longer-standing EU member states. The strong linkages with 'old' Europe, as well as the newer EU members are a distinctive characteristic of Edinburgh, shared with a few English cities such as London, Oxford, Cambridge and Brighton.
12. The total number of Edinburgh citizens who were born in Europe outwith the UK has more than doubled since 2001. The number born in south and east Asia has also more than doubled.
13. Edinburgh residents consider themselves to be less 'Scottish' and more 'British' than most other areas of Scotland.
14. Edinburgh residents who have moved to the UK since 1941 were mainly in the younger age groups when they arrived, a high proportion being of working age. The busiest period of in-migration has been since 2000.
15. The number of Edinburgh residents who say they belong to a Christian faith has declined since 2001 and, at 43% of the population, is now exceeded by the number who say they have no religion (45%).
16. Those professing to belong to the Church of Scotland have declined by 27%, while the number of Roman Catholics has grown by 19%, almost certainly accounted for by Polish in-migration.
17. While there have been slight increases in some other religions, notably Muslims and Buddhists, Edinburgh residents are generally less religious than they used to be, and indeed Edinburgh now has one of the most secular populations of any major city in the UK.
18. 8,600 people in Edinburgh, or 1.9% of the population aged 3 or older, are unable to speak English well or at all. Just over 1,000 of these are recorded as having no skills in English at all – speaking, reading, writing or understanding.
19. 13% of the city's population speak a language other than English at home, at least part of the time. Polish is a second language for 2.4% of the population.
20. The number of people who are able to speak Gaelic in Edinburgh has changed very little since 2001 (at 0.7%), although Gaelic skills have increased among younger people and declined in the older age groups

Country of birth

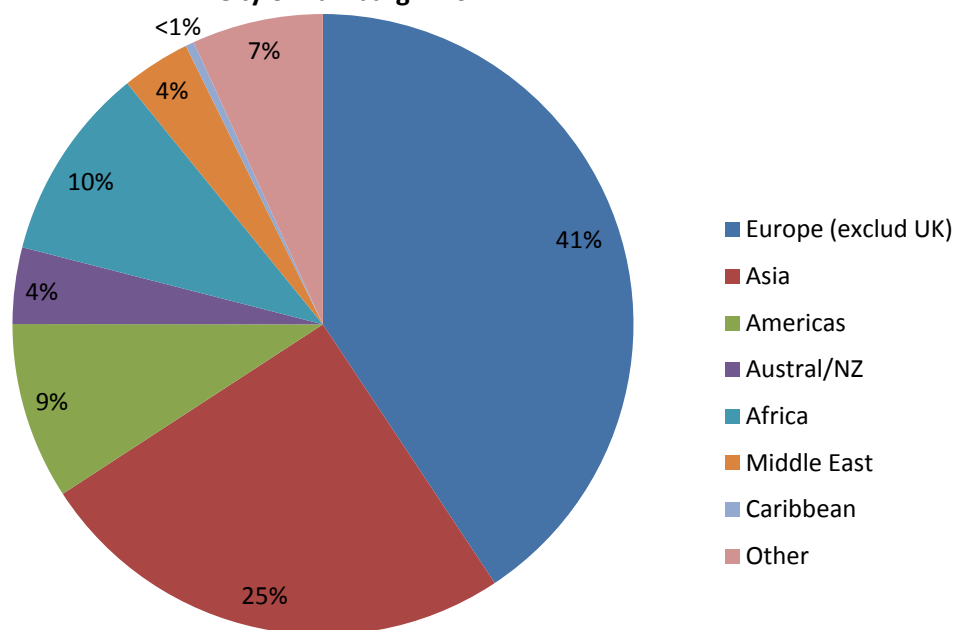
21. Information on country of birth provides an insight into migrants and their characteristics, including estimates of the numbers of people from different countries.
22. 401,000 people in Edinburgh were born within the UK. The proportion born in the UK has fallen from 92% in 2001 to 84% in 2011, and is well below the Scottish average of 93%. Similarly the proportion born in Scotland has fallen from 78% to 70% - the lowest figure for any of the four largest Scottish cities (cf. Dundee the highest at 84%). 12% of the city's population was born in England, 1.3% in Northern Ireland and 0.4% in Wales.
23. Of those Edinburgh residents born in the UK, 335,000 or 83% were born in Scotland, 14% in England, 1.6% in Northern Ireland and 0.5% in Wales. Since 2001, the proportion born in Scotland has fallen by around 1% while the proportion born in England has grown by a similar amount (see Fig 1, Table 1).
24. 76,000 or 16% of the total population in Edinburgh were born outside the UK, the equivalent figure for Scotland being 7%. This compares with 37,000 or 8% in 2001 i.e. almost double. (see Fig 2, Table 2). The highest proportions of people born outside the UK were recorded in Scotland's largest cities. Like Edinburgh, Aberdeen has approximately 16% followed by Glasgow (12%) and Dundee (9%).

**Fig 1: Composition of UK-born population
City of Edinburgh 2011**



	2011	% of UK	2001	% of UK	% change
Scotland	334,626	83.5 %	348,931	84.9 %	- 1.4 %
England	57,725	14.4 %	54,447	13.2 %	+ 1.2 %
Northern Ireland	6,363	1.6 %	5,607	1.4 %	+ 0.2 %
Wales	2,118	0.5 %	2,069	0.5 %	+ 0.0 %

**Fig 2: Composition of Non-UK Born Population (main areas of World)
City of Edinburgh 2011**



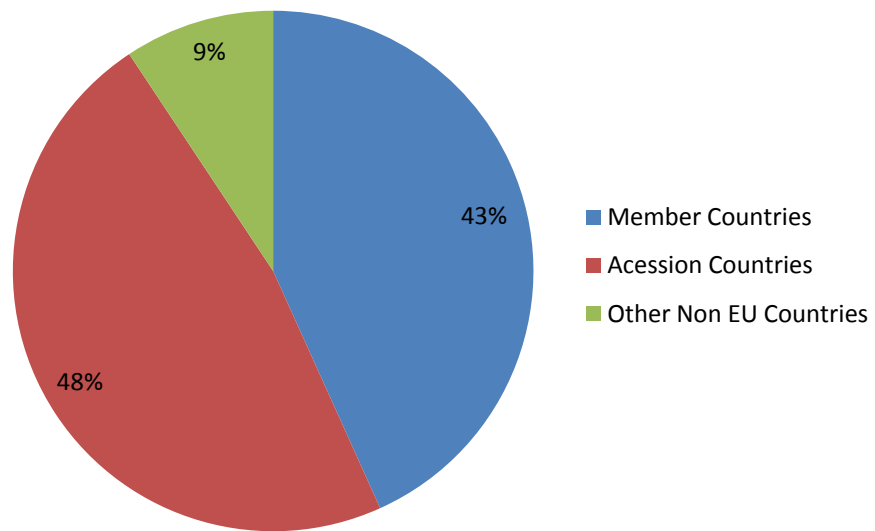
	2011	% of non -UK	2001	% of non -UK	% change
Europe (excl. UK)	35,782	47.3 %	15,131	40.4 %	+ 6.9 %
Asia excl. Mid. East	19,040	25.2 %	8,778	23.5 %	+ 1.7 %
Africa	7,684	10.2 %	4,355	11.6 %	- 1.4 %
Americas + Caribbean	7,301	9.6 %	4,533	12.1 %	- 2.5 %
Australia / N Zealand	3,010	4.0 %	2,984	8.0 %	- 4.0 %
Middle East	2,706	3.6 %	1,388	3.7 %	- 0.1 %
Elsewhere	175	0.2 %	251	0.7 %	- 0.5 %
Total	75,698	100.0 %	37,420	100.0%	

25. Some 35,800 people or 47% of those Edinburgh residents born outside the UK originate from other European countries (including the Republic of Ireland and other EU member states and Accession countries). Approximately 19,000 people or roughly a quarter were born in Asia (see Fig 2, Table 2). The

number of European-born and Asian-born residents both more than doubled between 2001 and 2011

26. Focussing on those born in Europe, some 14,600 or 41% were born in the EU 'Accession countries' which comprise the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia (see Fig 3, Table 3). 3.1% of the total population of Edinburgh were born in one these countries. Aberdeen is the only other authority in Scotland to have a higher proportion born in the Accession countries (4.2%).

**Fig 3: Composition of Non -UK Population (Europe)
City of Edinburgh 2011**

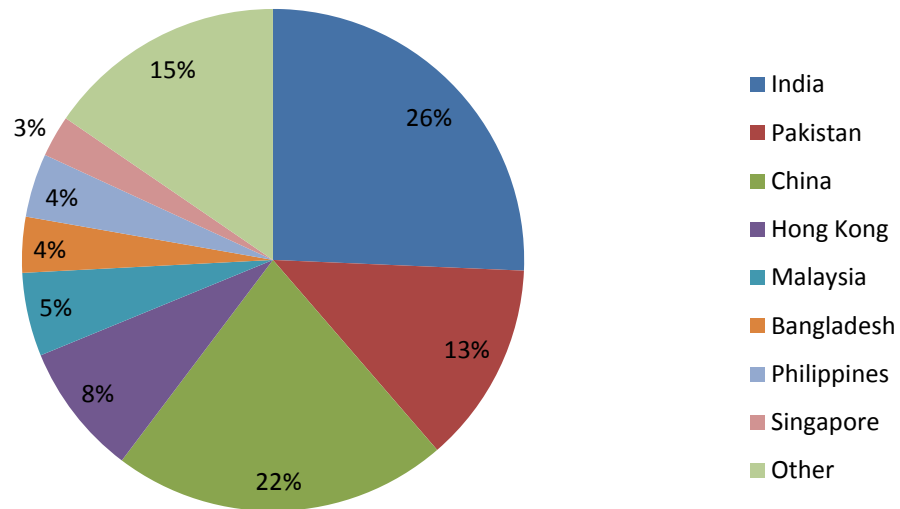


	2011	% of total born in Europe	2001	% of total born in Europe	% change
Europe Total (excl. UK)	35,782	100.0 %	15,131	100.0 %	
EU Accession Countries	14,601	40.8 %	n/a	n/a	
EU 2001 Member States ^(*)	18,057	50.5 %	12,248	80.9 %	- 30.4 %
Europe other	3,124	8.7 %	n/a	n/a	
Germany	3,526	9.9 %	2,760	18.2 %	- 8.3 %
Spain	2,011	5.6 %	1,058	7.0 %	- 1.4 %
France	2,039	5.7 %	1,412	9.3 %	- 3.6 %
Italy	1,716	4.8 %	1,257	8.3 %	- 4.0 %
Netherlands	731	2.0 %	440	2.9 %	- 0.9 %
Greece	992	2.8 %	575	3.8 %	- 1.0 %
Poland	11,651	32.6 %	416	2.7 %	+ 29.9 %
Ireland	4,743	13.3 %	3,324	22.0%	- 8.7 %

(*1) n.b. Republic of Ireland included in 2001 EU Member States

27. Note that there is no comparative data on the Accession countries for 2001 as they did not formally become part of the EU until 2004. However, information is available for persons born in Poland, and this confirms the dramatic increase in the number of Edinburgh residents originating from here, rising from just 416 in 2001 to 11,651 in 2011. 2.4% of the city's residents were born in Poland – higher than anywhere else in Scotland apart from Aberdeen (at 2.9%). Poles now comprise nearly one-third of European-born Edinburgh residents, and over 15% of all those born outside the UK (thus comprising the highest proportion for any individual country outside the UK).
28. After Poland, the European countries contributing the largest numbers of births in Edinburgh are the Republic of Ireland (4,700 persons), Germany (3,500), France (2,000) and Spain (2,000).
29. A substantial 18,000 people or just over half the European total originated from the countries which were EU members in 2001. (*n.b the total for the rest of Europe excludes the UK but includes the Republic of Ireland*). Although the longer-standing EU member states now account for a smaller share than they did in 2001, nevertheless the number born in these countries has continued to grow in absolute terms. As Table 3 shows, there are still more Edinburgh residents who were born in the 2001 member states than the Accession countries. Indeed the strong linkages with 'old' Europe are a distinctive feature of Edinburgh, with Edinburgh having a higher proportion of residents born in these countries compared with most other cities in the UK. (The main exceptions are London, Oxford, Cambridge and Brighton).
30. Some 19,000 people who live in Edinburgh were born in south or east Asia (*n.b. this excludes the Middle East*). Of this total some 4,900 or a little over a quarter were born in India, 4,100 (22%) in China and 2,500 (13%) in Pakistan (see Fig 4, Table 4). Along with Poland, the Republic of Ireland, USA and Germany, these countries are among the largest individual contributors in terms of non-UK births.
31. The biggest increases since 2001 have been in the numbers born in India and China, which have each grown by over 3,000 (see Table 4). The total number of Edinburgh residents who were born in south or east Asia has more than doubled since 2001.

**Fig 4: Composition of Non-UK Born Population (Asia)
City of Edinburgh 2011**



**Table 4 : Country of Birth : Non-UK-born population : selected Asian countries
2001-2011, City of Edinburgh**

	2011	% born in Asia	2001	% born in Asia	% Change
Asia Total (excl. Mid East)	19,040	100.0 %	8,778	100.0 %	
China	4,118	21.6 %	978	11.1 %	+ 10.5 %
Hong Kong	1,622	8.5 %	1,416	16.1 %	- 7.6 %
India	4,888	25.6 %	1,733	19.7 %	+ 5.9 %
Pakistan	2,472	12.9 %	1,663	18.9 %	- 6.0 %
Bangladesh	683	3.5 %	370	4.2 %	- 0.7 %
Malaysia	1,025	5.3 %	545	6.2 %	- 0.9 %
Singapore	510	2.6 %	465	5.3 %	- 2.7 %

32. In Scotland, only Glasgow has more people born in south and east Asia than Edinburgh. However, compared with many cities in England and Wales, the proportion of the total population born in India (1.0%) and Pakistan (0.5%) is not particularly high. For example Bradford, Birmingham, Manchester, Derby and Nottingham all record more than 2% of their population as being born in Pakistan. The proportion born in China or Hong Kong is perhaps more noteworthy – a combined 1.2% of Edinburgh’s total population, which is higher than most other UK cities with some notable exceptions such as Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester. In absolute terms, Edinburgh has a higher number of Chinese or HK born residents than any other UK city apart from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

33. Other groups born outside the UK in Edinburgh (shown in Fig 2) include:
- Over 7,000 born in African countries (10% of non-UK births or 1.6% of the total population);
 - Nearly 7,000 (9% of non-UK births) in the Americas. With the notable exception of Inner London, Edinburgh has a higher number of people born in the USA (over 3,700) than any other city in the UK.
 - 3,000 (3.9% of non-UK births) in Australia and New Zealand. There have been decreases in the proportion of people born in both Australia and New Zealand since 2001, although the actual numbers have increased marginally.
 - Nearly 3,000 (3.5%) in the Middle East which includes Iran and Iraq.

National Identity

34. The 2011 Census included an additional question on national identity to complement the ethnic group question. This was to allow people to express their sense of 'Scottishness' without confusing this with the concept of 'ethnicity'.
35. 70% of the population of Edinburgh feel that they have some Scottish identity i.e. 'Scottish' only, 'Scottish' and 'British' only or Scottish and other. Edinburgh is the least 'Scottish' local authority area in Scotland, with only 49% of the population describing themselves as Scottish only. Aberdeen ranks second, with 55%, while Dundee is the most Scottish of the four largest cities. (see Figs 5 and 6). Generally speaking, the least 'Scottish' authorities tend to be located towards the east of the country and the most 'Scottish' further west.
36. 11.4% of the population of Edinburgh consider themselves to be 'British'. Of the 32 local authorities in Scotland, only Shetland Islands and Argyll & Bute have slightly higher proportions, at 11.6% each (see Fig 7). Once again, there is an east / west split, with the most 'British' local authorities tending to be on the east side of the country.

Fig 5: Least 'Scottish' Local Authorities in Scotland

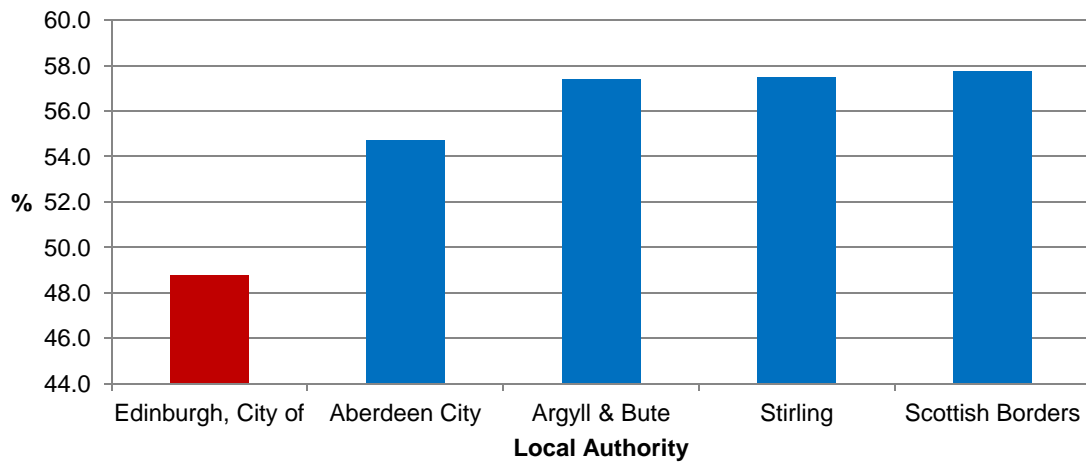
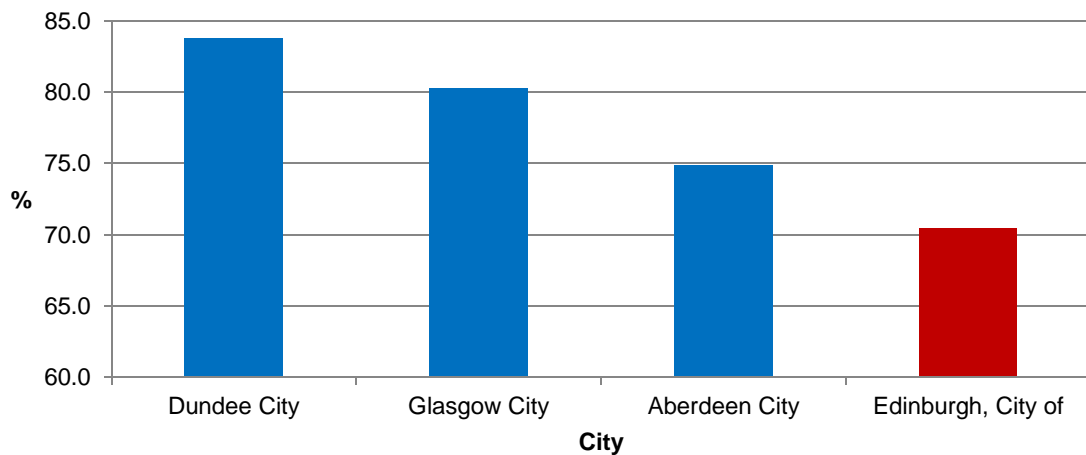


Fig 6: Most 'Scottish' Cities in Scotland



37. 2.6% of the population of Edinburgh class themselves as 'English' only which was slightly higher than the Scotland figure of 2.3%. 12 local authorities have higher percentages than Edinburgh, these being distributed throughout Scotland with no clear geographical pattern. Edinburgh is the second most 'English' city in Scotland, behind Stirling, while Glasgow is the least 'English' city (see Fig 8).
38. 11% of people in Edinburgh did not consider themselves to be 'Scottish', 'British' or from the UK at all. The local authorities with the highest proportion in this category in Scotland were all cities, Edinburgh having the second highest proportion behind Aberdeen (at 12%).

Fig 7: Most 'British' local authorities in Scotland

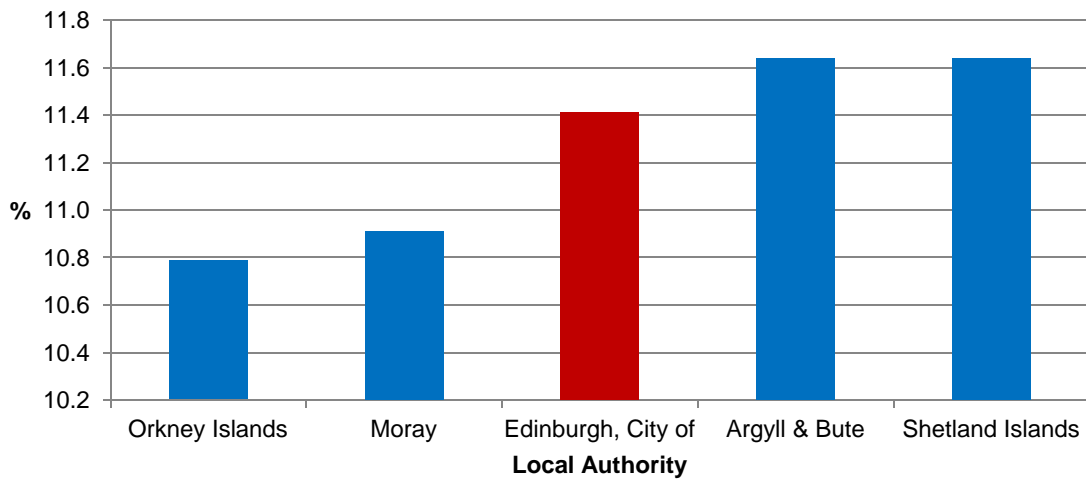


Fig 8: Most 'English' Cities in Scotland



Ethnic group

39. In the 2011 Census, new tick boxes were provided for 'English', 'Welsh', 'Northern Irish' and 'British', replacing the single category 'British' in the 2001 Census. New categories were also introduced for 'Gypsy / Traveller' and for 'Polish'. The 'Mixed' category in the 2001 Census has been re-termed 'Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups'. The 'Black' category has been expanded and is now referred to as 'African, Caribbean or Black'. Finally, a new tick box was included under 'other ethnic groups' for people who describe themselves as 'Arab'.

40. 92% of the total population of Edinburgh (437,000 people) are 'White' i.e. White British, White Irish, White Gypsy / Traveller or White Other. This is below the Scottish average of 96%. Within this group, 70% describe themselves as White Scottish and 12% as White British (see Table 5).

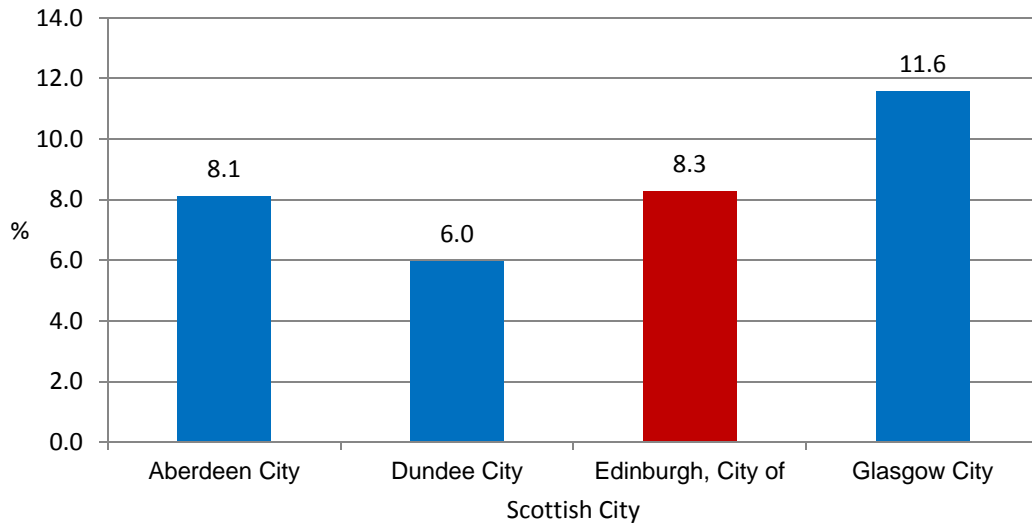
Table 5 : Main Ethnic Groups 2001 – 2011, City of Edinburgh					
	2011	% of Total	2001	% of Total	% Change
White					
Scottish	334,987	70.2 %	354,053	78.9 %	- 8.7 %
Other British	56,132	11.7 %	51,407	11.4 %	- 0.4 %
Irish	8,603	1.8 %	6,470	1.4 %	+ 0.4 %
Other White	37,445	7.9 %	18,439	4.1 %	+ 3.8 %
Total White	437,167	91.7 %	430,369	95.9 %	- 4.2 %
Non white					
Asian	26,264	5.5 %	11,600	2.5 %	+ 3.0 %
African	4,474	0.9 %	1,285	0.2 %	+ 0.7 %
Caribbean / Black	1,031	0.2 %	292(*)	< 0.1 %	+ 0.1 %
Mixed / Multiple	4,087	0.8 %	2,776(**)	0.6 %	+ 0.2 %
Other non-White	3,603	0.8 %	2,302	0.5 %	+ 0.3 %
Total Non White	39,459	8.2 %	18,255	4.0 %	+ 4.2 %
TOTAL	476,626	100.0 %	448,624	100.0 %	

(*) Caribbean as opposed to Caribbean Black

(**) Previously 'Mixed'

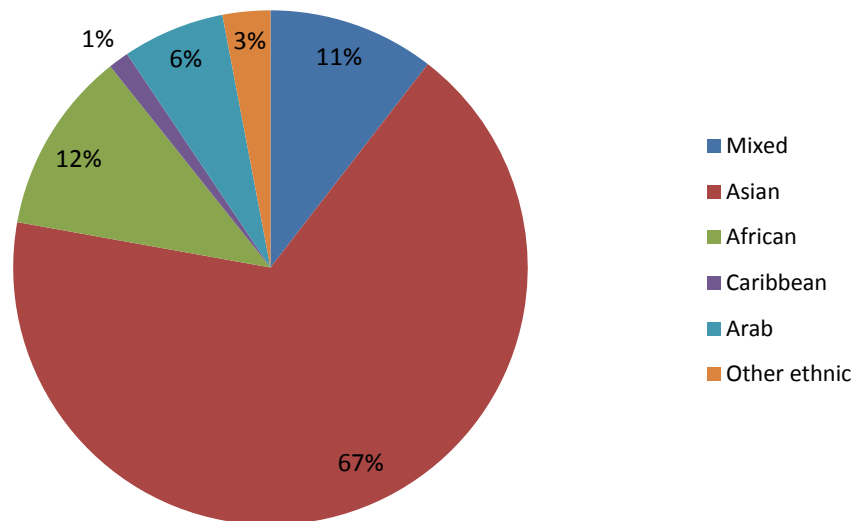
41. Within the 'White Other' category, some 13,000 people or 2.7 % of the city's total population are Polish. (cf. the 11,700 or 2.4% who were born in Poland – see para. 27). Only Aberdeen has a higher proportion of Poles, at 3.2%. Edinburgh is home to approximately one fifth of Scotland's Polish community.
42. 8,000 people, or 1.8% of Edinburgh's total population are 'White Irish' (see Table 5). This is only slightly below the figure for Glasgow, where this group comprises 1.9%.
43. Finally under the 'White Other' heading, there are 476 Gypsies / Travellers who comprise 0.1% of the total population in Edinburgh. Most local authority areas in Scotland have only a very small proportion of Gypsies / Travellers (or none at all), the highest proportion being just 0.3% in Perth and Kinross.
44. Edinburgh's 'White' population has grown by nearly 7,000 since 2001. However, as Table 5 shows, in proportion to the total population it has declined from 96% of the population to 92%.
45. 39,000 people or 8% of Edinburgh's population class themselves as Non-White – an increase from 4% in 2001 and nearly twice the current Scottish average of 4% (see Table 5). The proportion in Edinburgh is similar to that in Aberdeen, but Glasgow has a considerably larger Non-White component at nearly 12% (see Fig 9).

Fig:9 Non-'white' as a % of total population in Scotland's main cities



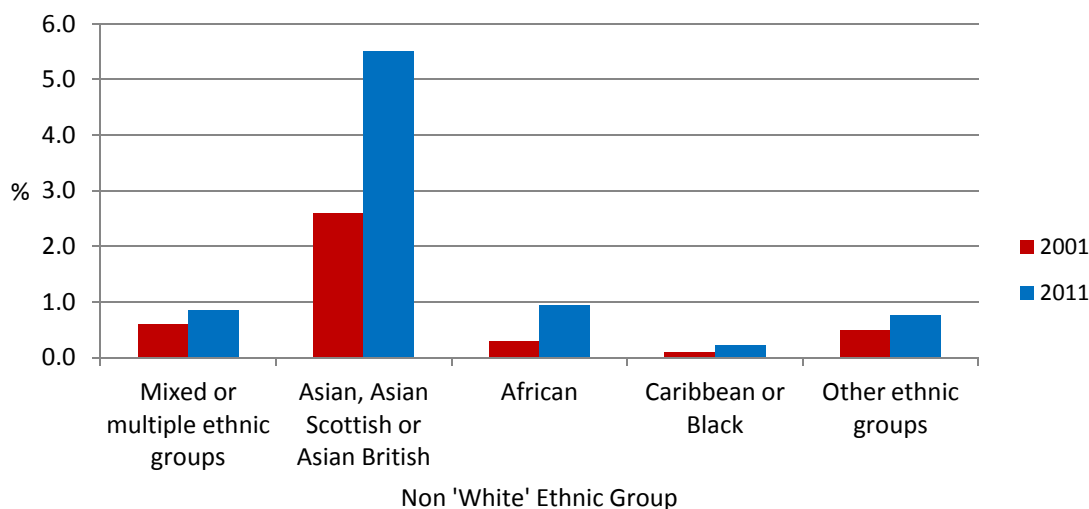
46. Of the Non-White population, the largest group by far are Asian, totalling 26,000 people. These account for two thirds of the Non-White total (see Fig 10) or 5% of the city's total population. In Scotland, only Glasgow has a higher proportion of Asians than Edinburgh (the highest in Scotland) at 8.1%. Edinburgh now has 18% of the country's Asian population.

Fig 10: Component Non-White ethnic groups City of Edinburgh 2011



47. While there has been growth in all the component Non-White ethnic groups since 2001, the most significant has been in the number of Asians (see Fig 11).

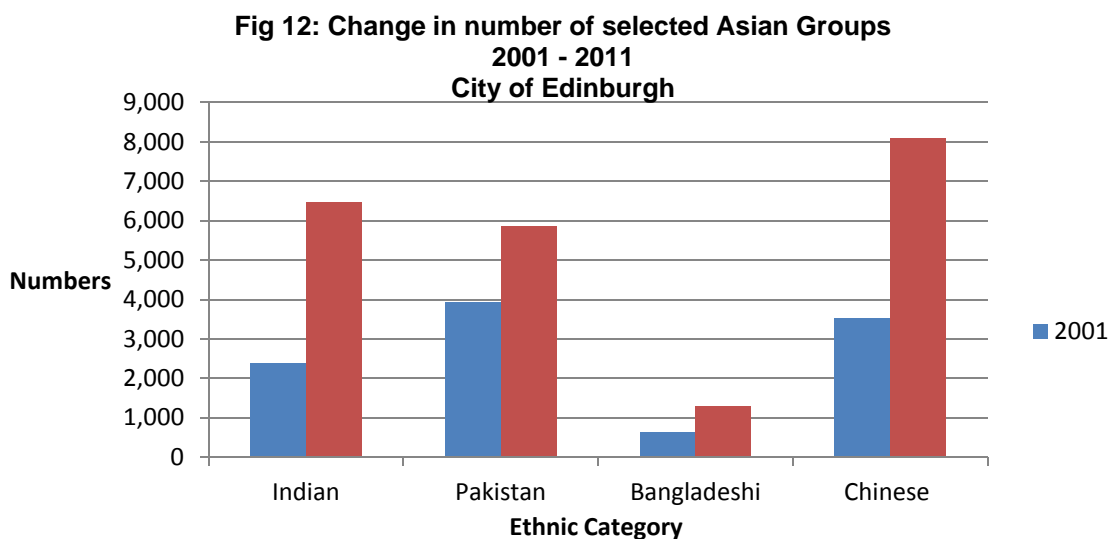
**Fig 11: Change in Non-White ethnic groups as % of total population
City of Edinburgh 2011**



	2011	% of Asian	2001	% of Asian	% Change
Chinese	8,076	30.7	3,532	30.4	+0.3
Indian	6,470	24.6	2,384	20.5	+4.1
Pakistani	5,858	22.3	3,928	33.8	-11.5
Bangladeshi	1,277	4.8	636	5.4	-0.6

48. Within the Asian population, the Chinese are now the largest sub-group, with nearly 8,100 people, amounting to about 1.7% of the city's total population (see Table 6). The mix of Asian groups has changed since 2001, when Pakistanis formed the largest element. As Table 6 and Fig 12 show, they are now outnumbered by both Chinese and Indians. The city's Indian population amounts to nearly 6,500 (1.4% of the total population), while there are some 5,900 Pakistanis (1.2% of the total population).
49. Edinburgh is home to 24% of Scotland's Chinese population, 20% of the Indian population, and 12% of Scottish Pakistanis. Glasgow has a larger share of all these groups, with 32% of the total Chinese, 26% of Indians, and 45% of all Pakistanis.
50. As described previously for country of birth, several English cities have higher proportions of Asian ethnic groups than Edinburgh. This is particularly the case in relation to Indians and Pakistanis, although Edinburgh ranks relatively highly in respect of its Chinese population. Edinburgh has the 5th largest Chinese community of any city in the UK after London, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow.

51. Although they account for only 1,300 people or 0.3% of the city's population, Edinburgh has the highest number and proportion of Bangladeshis in Scotland. However, once again, Bangladeshis form a much larger component of the population in several English cities.
52. In proportionate terms all Asian ethnic groups have grown significantly since 2001, with the number of Indians increasing by 171%, Chinese by 129%, Bangladeshis by 101%, and Pakistanis by 49%. However, as described already, the Chinese have now become the largest group (Fig 12).

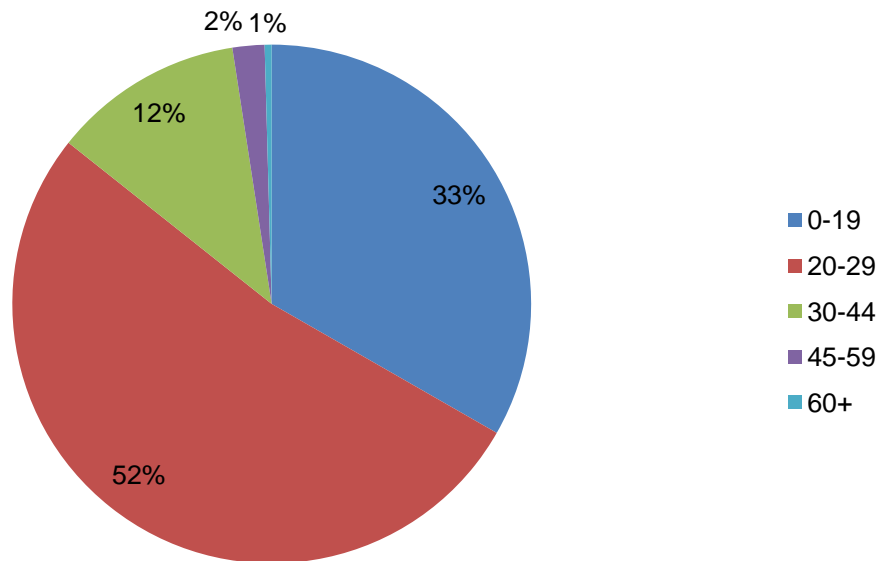


53. Of the other Non-White ethnic groups referred to in Table 5:
- over 4,000 (0.9%) are of African origin, nearly a four-fold increase since 2001
 - 4,000 (0.8%) are from mixed or multiple ethnic groups, two thirds higher than in 2001
 - 1,000 or 0.5% are Arab, comprising 27% of the total Arab population in Scotland.

Age and Year of Arrival in the UK

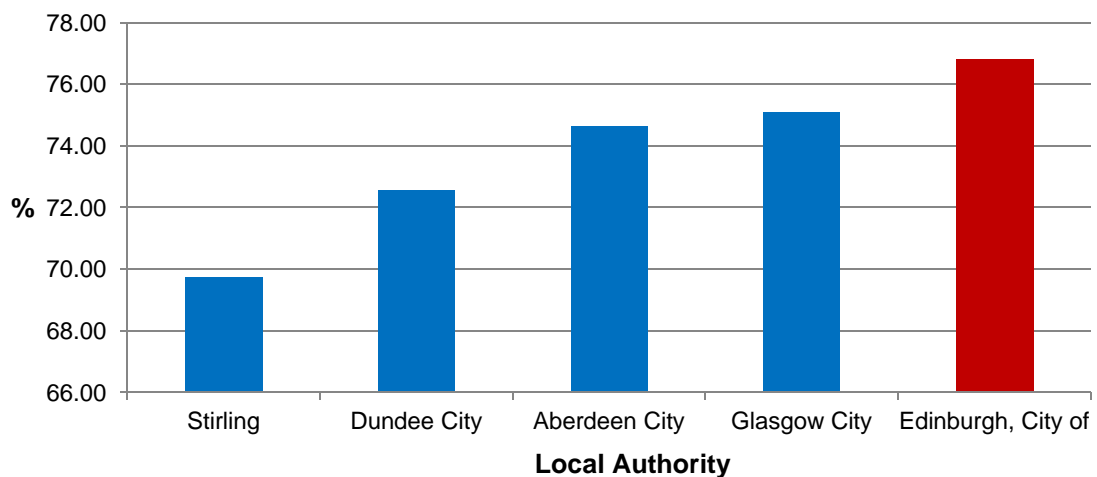
54. 75,700 people living in Edinburgh have come to the UK from abroad and settled in Edinburgh since 1941. The vast majority (63,000 or 85%) were aged 29 or younger when they arrived in the UK (see Fig 13).

**Fig 13: Age of in-migrants on arrival in the UK
City of Edinburgh (2011)**



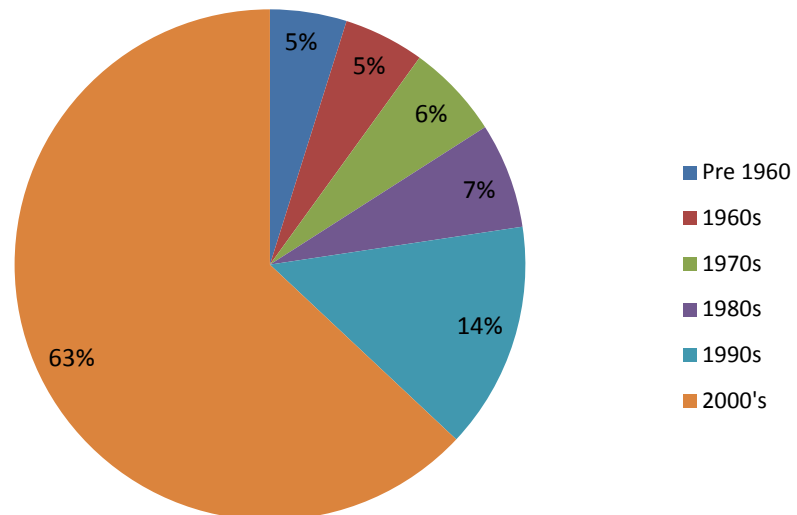
55. Over three quarters of those who came to Edinburgh from abroad were of working age (16-64 year old age group). This was the highest proportion for any local authority area in Scotland (see Fig 14).

**Fig 14: Working age as % of total in-migrants to UK
Scottish cities (2011)**



56. As can be seen in Figure 15, the 2000s were by far the most active decade (post WWII) in terms of the number of new international migrants arriving in the UK. 2010 and 2011 were also very busy years for new arrivals, although these are not shown in the decadal analysis in Fig. 15.

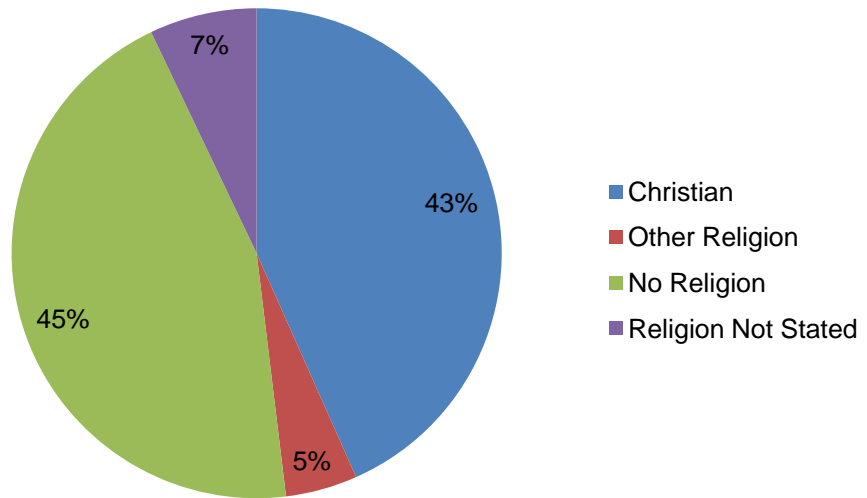
**Fig 15: Period of Arrival in the UK
City of Edinburgh 2011**



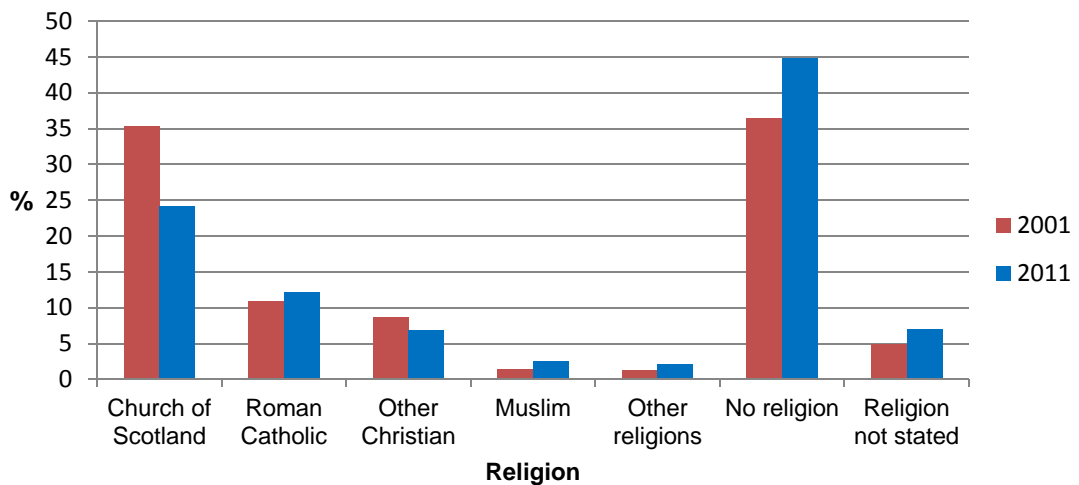
Religion

57. The 2001 Census question on religious upbringing was omitted from the 2011 Census, leaving one question on current religion. 206,000 people or 43% of Edinburgh's population consider themselves to be Christian (i.e. Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic or other Christian religion (Fig. 16)) compared with 54% for Scotland as a whole. Since 2001 the number of Christians has fallen by 40,000 (16%) in Edinburgh and by 444,000 (13%) in Scotland.
58. 116,000 people or nearly a quarter of the population of Edinburgh consider themselves to be Church of Scotland, a fall of 27% since 2001 (see Fig 17). The main Scottish cities have similar proportions (see Fig 18).

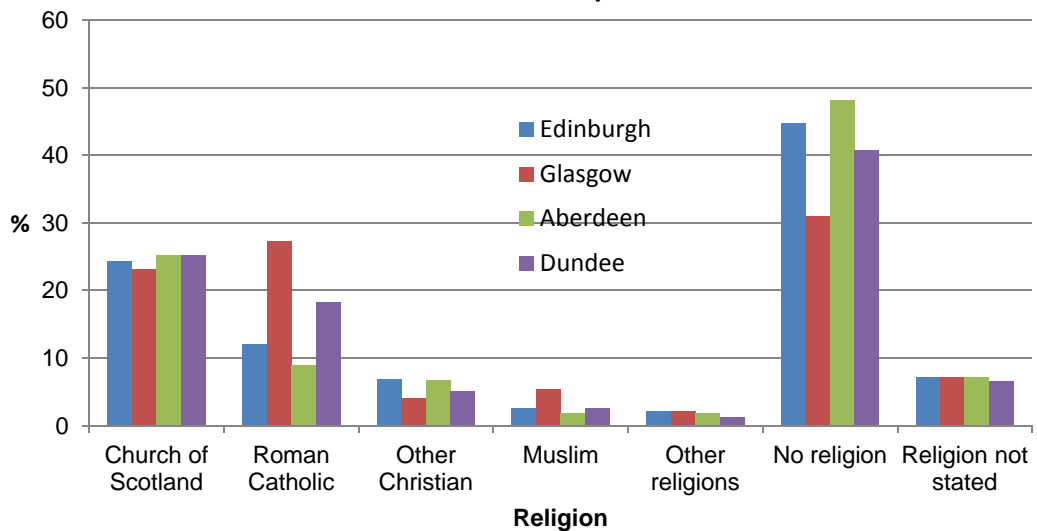
**Fig 16: Current Religion - summary
City of Edinburgh (2011)**



**Fig 17: Current religion - trends 2001-2011
City of Edinburgh**



**Fig 18: Current Religion 2011 -
Scottish Cities Comparison**



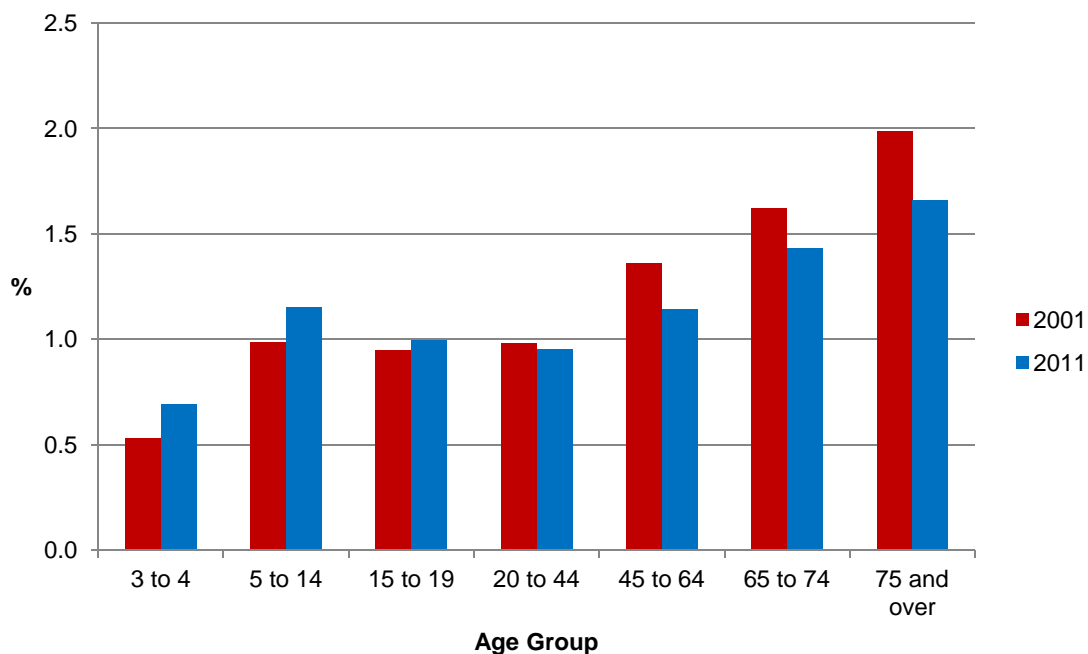
59. While the overall number of Christians has declined, the number of Roman Catholics in Edinburgh has grown from 48,700 in 2001 to 57,900 in 2011, rising from 10.9% to 12.1% of the total population (see Fig 17). The proportion of Roman Catholics remains below the Scottish average (16%) and well below the figures for Dundee (18%) and Glasgow (27%) (see Fig. 18). However, in contrast with Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee have both seen a 2 percentage point reduction in the proportion of Roman Catholics, while the proportion across Scotland has remained unchanged.
60. Edinburgh and Aberdeen have amongst the lowest proportions of Christians of all the major cities in the UK (compare Edinburgh's 43% and Aberdeen's 41% with 71% in Liverpool and the England & Wales average of 59%).
61. 23,000 people or nearly 5% of Edinburgh's population practice non-Christian religions. Approximately half of these are Muslim, comprising 2.6% of the population. Although it has grown since 2001, the proportion of Muslims is still relatively low in Edinburgh compared with other cities in Scotland and England. Glasgow has the highest proportion of the Scottish cities (double that of Edinburgh at 5.4% - see Fig 18), while the proportions in Bradford, Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester and Inner London range from 25% to 10%.
62. Since 2001 there have been small increases in the proportion of Bhuddists, Jews and Sikhs.
63. The number of people who have no religion In Edinburgh is now 214,000, having increased by 30% since 2001. There are now more people in Edinburgh who profess no religion than those who hold to Christian beliefs (45% of the population compared with 43%). With the exception of Aberdeen, Edinburgh has a higher proportion with no religious conviction than any other major city in the UK.

Languages

64. In the 2011 Census, questions on English and use of other languages, including Scots and British Sign Language were included for the first time.
65. Just over 3,000 people or 0.69% of the population say they can speak Gaelic in Edinburgh, although only 800 (0.2%) actually do so at home. The number of Gaelic speakers in the city has remained more or less the same as in 2001. Of the larger Scottish cities, Glasgow (1.03%) and Aberdeen (0.76%) have higher proportions than Edinburgh.
66. Across Scotland as a whole, while there have been falls in the proportion of adult Gaelic speakers (in particular those of retirement age) since 2001, the number of speakers among school age children has increased (see Fig 19).

- 67. Edinburgh has the second highest incidence of Polish being spoken as a second language in Scotland : 2.4% compared with 1% across Scotland as a whole. The highest level is recorded in Aberdeen (2.9%).
- 68. 8,600 people, or 1.9% of Edinburgh’s population aged 3 or older, are unable to speak English well or at all. The four largest cities all compare poorly with the Scottish average of 1.4%, with Glasgow having the highest proportion at 2.7%.
- 69. Just over 1,000 people aged 3+ in Edinburgh are recorded as having no skills in English at all – speaking, reading, writing or understanding. 13% speak a language other than English at home, at least part of the time. This is similar to the figures for Glasgow and Aberdeen, but above the Scottish average of 7%

Fig 19: Gaelic Speakers in Scotland 2001 and 2011



- 70. 21% of people in Edinburgh say they can speak Scots – one of the lowest rates in Scotland (cf. 45% or higher in Aberdeenshire, Shetland and Moray, and Scottish average of 30%).
- 71. 0.22% of the population use British Sign Language at home in Edinburgh which is slightly below the Scottish average of 0.24%. North Ayrshire has the highest proportion (0.36%); Orkney Islands the lowest (0.12%).