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Regional ethnic diversity

Published 22 December 2022

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1. Main facts and figures

- according to the 2021 Census, London was the most ethnically diverse region in England and Wales
- out of all regions, London had the smallest percentage of people who identified as white British, and the North East and Wales had the largest percentage
- more white people lived in the South East than anywhere else, and more people from the black, Asian, mixed and 'other' ethnic groups lived in London than anywhere else
- Newham in London was the most ethnically diverse of all local authorities in England and Wales

Related content

[Population of England and Wales \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/population-of-england-and-wales/latest\)](#)

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2. Things you need to know

What the data measures

The data measures the ethnic diversity of England and Wales by region and local authority.

Census data includes people in around 25 million private households. It also includes communal establishments, such as care homes and university halls of residence.

Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place.

Read more about the [2021 Census \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/census\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census).

Not included in the data

The data does not include households that did not answer the question about ethnicity.

97% of people completed the Census.

The data has been adjusted to take into account people and households who were not counted or counted incorrectly.

The ethnic groups used in the data

This data uses the [standardised list of 19 ethnic groups \(https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnic-groups\)](https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnic-groups) that were developed for the 2021 Census.

The ethnic groups used in the 2021 Census were slightly different from the [2011 Census ethnic groups \(https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnic-groups#2011-census\)](https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnic-groups#2011-census).

There were 2 changes in 2021 – the ‘Roma’ group was added under the ‘white’ ethnic group, and people could write their own response under the ‘black African’ ethnic group.

Methodology

Read the [detailed methodology document \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/qualityandmethodologyinformationqmiforcensus2021\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/qualityandmethodologyinformationqmiforcensus2021) for this data.

You can find confidence intervals for the data in the [interactive tools showing the quality and quality assurance \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/measuresshowingthequalityofcensus2021estimates\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/measuresshowingthequalityofcensus2021estimates).

In the data file

See [download the data](#) for additional local authority data, including:

- the ethnic breakdowns in each local authority
- the percentage of each ethnic group that lives there

3. Areas of England and Wales by ethnicity

Location: England and Wales

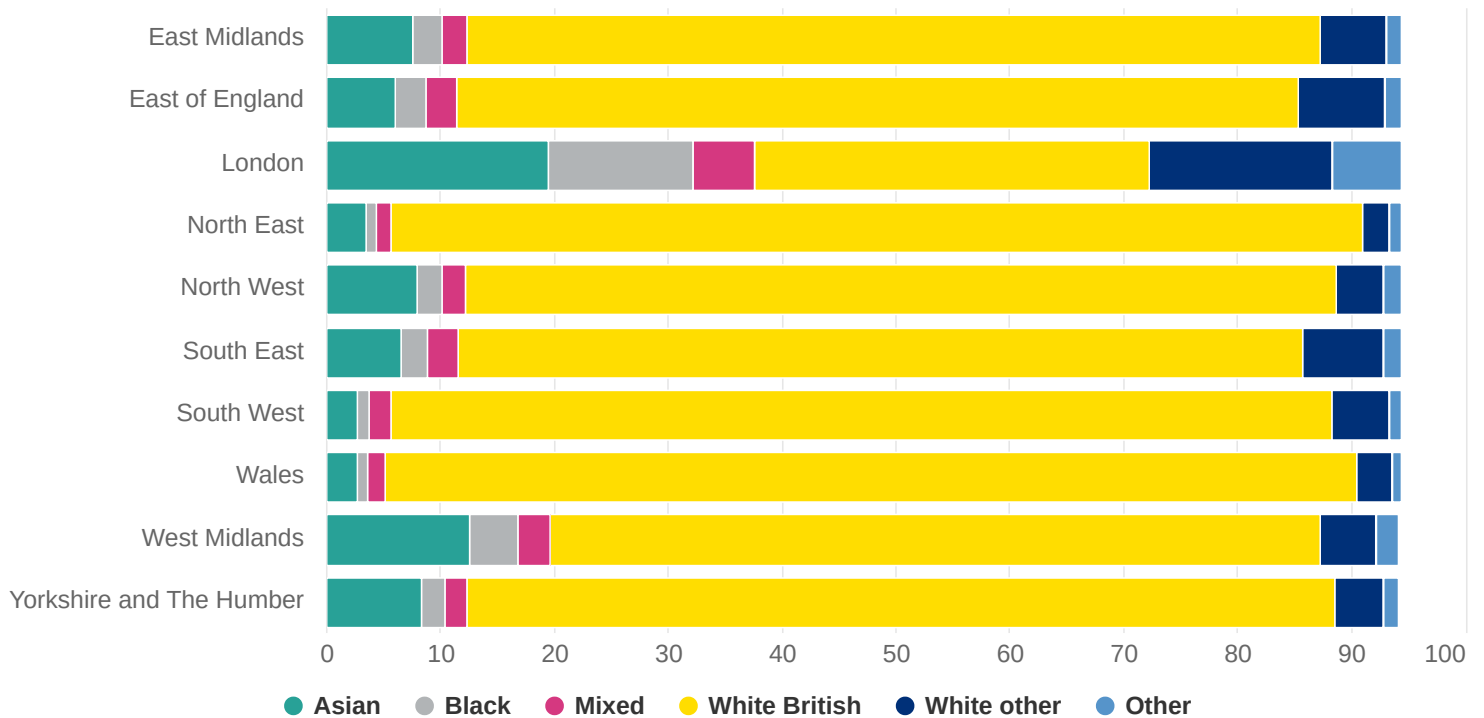
Time period: 2021

Source:

[England and Wales 2021 Census](#)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

Areas of England and Wales by ethnicity



[Download chart \(PNG\)](#)

Areas of England and Wales by ethnicity

Geography ▾	Asian ▾	Black ▾	Mixed ▾	White British ▾	White other ▾	Other ▾
	%	%	%	%	%	%
East Midlands	8.0	2.7	2.4	79.6	6.1	1.3
East of England	6.4	2.9	2.8	78.5	8.0	1.4
London	20.7	13.5	5.7	36.8	17.0	6.3
North East	3.7	1.0	1.3	90.6	2.5	1.0
North West	8.4	2.3	2.2	81.2	4.4	1.5
South East	7.0	2.4	2.8	78.8	7.5	1.5
South West	2.8	1.2	2.0	87.8	5.3	0.9
Wales	2.9	0.9	1.6	90.6	3.3	0.9
West Midlands	13.3	4.5	3.0	71.8	5.2	2.1
Yorkshire and The Humber	8.9	2.1	2.1	80.9	4.5	1.4

Summary

2021 Census data for England and Wales shows that:

- the most ethnically diverse region was London – 46.2% of residents identified with Asian, black, mixed or ‘other’ ethnic groups, and a further 17.0% with white ethnic minorities
- the least ethnically diverse region was the North East – 7.0% of residents identified with Asian, black, mixed or ‘other’ ethnic groups, and a further 2.4% with white ethnic minorities
- out of all regions, the North East and Wales had the highest percentage of people who identified as white British (both 90.6%) – London had the lowest (36.8%)
- London (20.7%) and the West Midlands (13.3%) had the highest percentage of people who identified as Asian – the South West (2.8%) and Wales (2.9%) had the lowest
- London (13.5%) and the West Midlands (4.5%) had the highest percentage of people who identified as black – the North East (1.0%) and Wales (0.9%) had the lowest
- London (5.7%) and the West Midlands (3.0%) had the highest percentage of people with mixed ethnicity – the North East (1.3%) and Wales (1.6%) had the lowest

4. Ethnic groups by region

Location: England and Wales

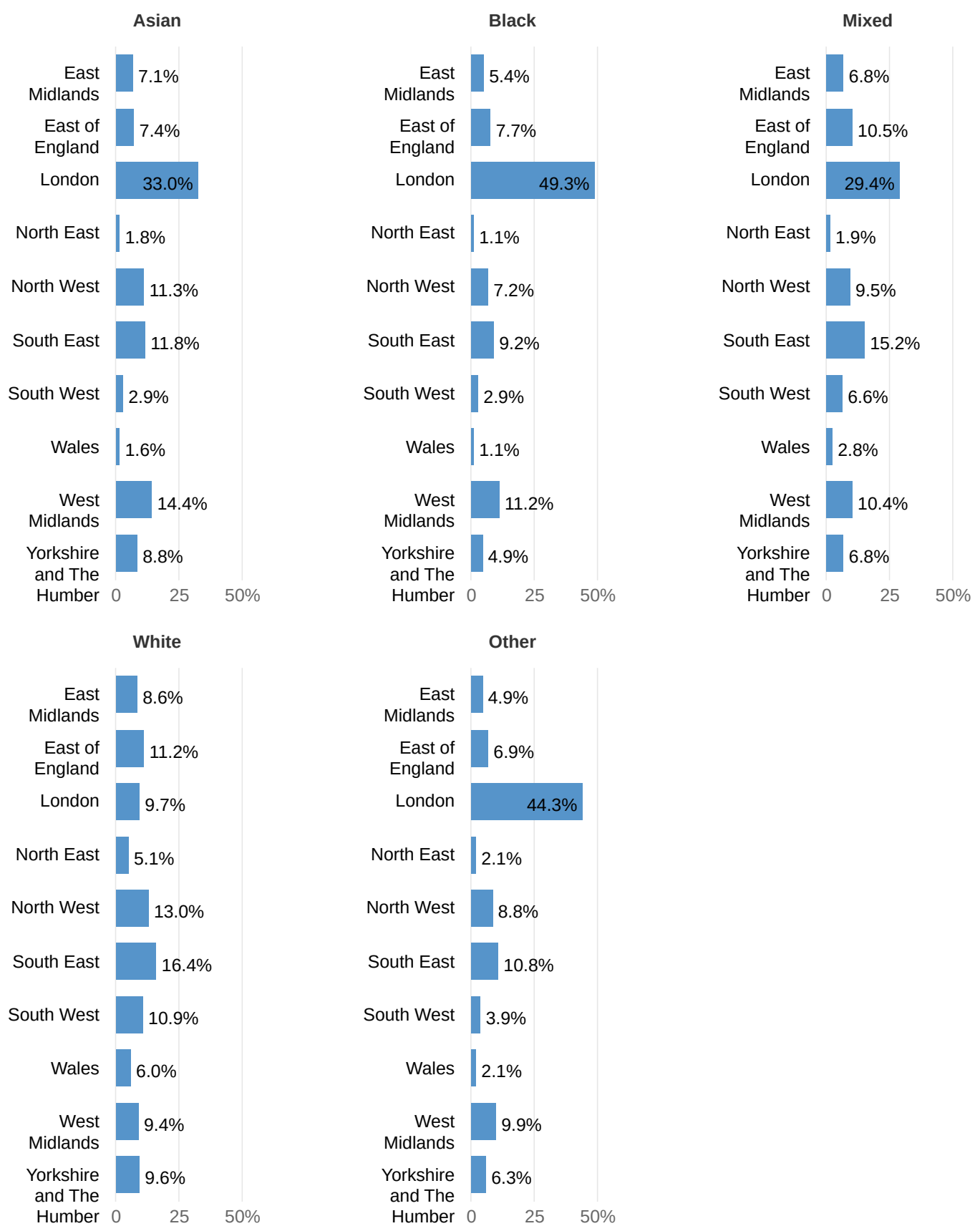
Time period: 2021

Source:

[England and Wales 2021 Census](#)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

Ethnic groups by area



Ethnic groups by area

Ethnicity ▾	All ▾	East Midlands ▾	East of England ▾	London ▾	North East ▾	North West ▾	South East ▾	South West ▾	Wales ▾	West Midlands ▾	Yorkshire and The Humber ▾
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All	100.0	8.2	10.6	14.8	4.4	12.4	15.6	9.6	5.2	10.0	9.2
Asian	100.0	7.1	7.4	33.0	1.8	11.3	11.8	2.9	1.6	14.4	8.8
Bangladeshi	100.0	3.3	7.9	49.9	2.5	9.4	6.2	1.9	2.4	12.0	4.5

	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Chinese	100.0	5.2	8.6	33.1	3.2	12.1	14.4	5.9	3.2	7.5	6.6	
Indian	100.0	12.3	7.3	35.2	1.2	7.5	13.0	3.2	1.1	14.8	4.4	
Pakistani	100.0	4.5	6.3	18.3	1.7	19.1	9.2	1.1	1.1	20.1	18.7	
Asian other	100.0	4.8	8.3	41.2	1.8	6.6	16.4	4.5	2.1	9.1	5.2	
Black	100.0	5.4	7.7	49.3	1.1	7.2	9.2	2.9	1.1	11.2	4.9	
Black African	100.0	5.6	8.0	46.8	1.5	8.5	10.1	2.9	1.3	9.8	5.4	
Black Caribbean	100.0	4.9	6.7	55.4	0.3	4.2	7.0	2.8	0.6	14.5	3.6	
Black other	100.0	5.4	8.2	49.0	1.0	7.2	9.2	3.0	1.3	11.0	4.7	
Mixed	100.0	6.8	10.5	29.4	1.9	9.5	15.2	6.6	2.8	10.4	6.8	
Mixed White/Asian	100.0	6.3	10.5	25.6	2.6	9.8	18.0	7.2	2.9	9.5	7.6	
Mixed White/Black African	100.0	5.7	11.0	31.0	2.6	12.0	15.5	6.3	3.2	6.4	6.3	
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	100.0	9.0	10.1	25.8	1.1	9.2	12.1	6.5	2.7	15.8	7.7	
Mixed other	100.0	5.5	10.5	36.5	1.8	8.2	15.4	6.5	2.7	7.4	5.4	
White	100.0	8.6	11.2	9.7	5.1	13.0	16.4	10.9	6.0	9.4	9.6	
Gypsy/Irish Traveller	100.0	6.8	13.2	10.4	3.9	8.5	24.7	9.4	5.2	9.2	8.7	
Roma	100.0	7.1	9.6	37.3	2.4	7.3	12.7	5.7	1.8	6.7	9.4	
White British	100.0	8.8	11.2	7.3	5.4	13.6	16.5	11.3	6.3	9.6	10.0	
White Irish	100.0	5.3	11.4	30.8	1.7	12.1	15.4	6.2	2.6	9.4	5.0	
White other	100.0	7.0	11.7	35.2	1.4	6.9	16.0	7.0	2.3	6.8	5.7	
Other	100.0	4.9	6.9	44.3	2.1	8.8	10.8	3.9	2.1	9.9	6.3	
Arab	100.0	4.0	4.7	42.1	3.1	13.2	8.9	3.1	3.5	9.6	7.7	
Any other	100.0	5.3	7.6	45.1	1.7	7.2	11.5	4.2	1.6	10.0	5.8	

[Download table data \(CSV\) \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/ethnic-groups-by-region-table.csv\)](#) [Source data \(CSV\) \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/ethnic-groups-by-region.csv\)](#)

Summary

2021 Census data shows that:

- people living in London and the South East made up 30.4% of the total population of England and Wales
- the North East (4.4%) and Wales (5.2%) had the smallest percentages of the population out of all regions
- out of all regions, more white people lived in the South East (16.4%) and the North West (13.0%) than anywhere else, although people who identified with white minority groups were more likely to live in London – 30.8% of white Irish people, and 35.2% of people in the white ‘other’ ethnic group lived in London
- 49.3% of black people, 33.0% of Asian people, 29.4% of people with mixed ethnicity, and 44.3% of people from the ‘other’ ethnic group lived in London
- 14.4% of Asian people and 11.2% of black people lived in the West Midlands
- 20.1% of people in the Pakistani ethnic group lived in the West Midlands, 19.1% in the North West, and 18.7% in Yorkshire and the Humber

5. Ethnic diversity by local authority

Location: England and Wales

Time period: 2021

Source:

[England and Wales 2021 Census](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>)

Most and least diverse local authorities in England and Wales

Local Authority ↕	Size of White population	
	% ↕	Position ↕
Newham	30.8	1
Brent	34.6	2
Redbridge	34.8	3
Slough	36.0	4
Harrow	36.5	5
Tower Hamlets	39.4	6
Leicester	40.9	7
Ealing	43.2	8
Hounslow	44.1	9
Barking and Dagenham	44.9	10
Mid Devon	97.8	323

	Size of White population	
Hambleton	97.9	324
Copeland	98.0	325
Staffordshire Moorlands	98.0	326
North Norfolk	98.1	327
Eden	98.1	328
Isle of Anglesey	98.1	329
Ryedale	98.2	330
Torridge	98.2	331
Allerdale	98.5	332

[Download table data \(CSV\) \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/ethnic-diversity-by-local-authority-table.csv\)](#) [Source data \(CSV\) \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/ethnic-diversity-by-local-authority.csv\)](#)

Summary

'Ethnic diversity' here refers to the percentage of the population that is not from the white ethnic group in each local authority.

The data shows that:

- out of all local authorities, Newham in London was the most ethnically diverse, with people from the Asian, black, mixed and 'other' ethnic groups making up 69.2% of the population
- 8 out of the 10 most ethnically diverse local authorities were in London
- outside London, Slough was the most ethnically diverse local authority, with people from the Asian, black, mixed and 'other' ethnic groups making up 64.0% of the population
- of the 10 local authorities where white people made up the highest percentage of the population, 3 were in the North West, 2 were in Yorkshire and the Humber, and 2 were in the South West
- Allerdale in the North West was the least ethnically diverse out of all local authorities, with white people making up 98.5% of the population – they made up 98.2% of the population in both Torridge and Ryedale

6. Data sources

Source

[England and Wales 2021 Census](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021)
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>)

Type of data

Survey data

Type of statistic

National Statistics

Publication frequency
10 years

Purpose of data source

The Census takes place every 10 years. Census data gives the government the information it needs to plan and run public services. It is also used as a benchmark for other statistical estimates, and can help illustrate differences between various groups in the population.

7. Download the data

[Population by ethnicity and region 2021 - Spreadsheet \(csv\) 47 KB \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/population-by-ethnicity-and-region-2021.csv\)](#)

This file contains the following variables: Measure, Source, Time, Geography, Geography_code, Ethnicity, Ethnicity_type, Regional, Population, Ethnic Population, Total Ethnic Population, Value1, Value1_type, Value2, Value2_type

[Population by ethnicity and Local Authority 2021 - Spreadsheet \(csv\) 1 MB \(/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest/downloads/population-by-ethnicity-and-local-authority-2021.csv\)](#)

This file contains the following variables: Measure, Source, Time, Geography, Geography_code, Ethnicity, Ethnicity_type, Regional, Population, Ethnic Population, Total Ethnic Population, Value1, Value1_type, Value2, Value2_type

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Publication release date:

22 December 2022

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From:

Office for National Statistics

Previous edition:

11 July 2019 (/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/1.5)

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