



## Article

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# Who are the 'Other' ethnic groups?

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Social and Welfare

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## 1 Introduction

### The census ethnic group classification

The 2001 Census in England and Wales included a question on ethnic group. The question presented respondents with 16 tick boxes and asked them to select just one ethnic group. The 16 tick boxes were grouped under five sub-headings describing major categories: White; Mixed; Asian or Asian British; Black or Black British; and Chinese or Other ethnic group. Each of these main groups included an 'Other' tick box: Other White; Other Mixed; Other Asian; Other Black; and Other Ethnic Group. Respondents ticking these 'Other' boxes were requested to "please write in" their ethnic group.

Most people ticked one of the 11 boxes for a specific ethnic group, with White British being the most frequently ticked, as expected. Of the remainder, most ticked another of the specific ethnic group categories, for example Indian, Pakistani, Black Caribbean or Black African. However, some people did choose to tick the 'Other' categories and, in most cases, to write in their ethnic group. Many wrote in a description which could be fitted into one of the specific ethnic group categories, and these were recorded as such. For example, people ticking Other White and writing in "English" were recoded into the White British group. Those whose write-in descriptions could not be classified to a specific group, together with those who ticked one of the 'Other' boxes but did not write in any description, formed the bulk of the groups presented in census outputs as Other White, Other Mixed, Other Asian, Other Black, and Other Ethnic Group<sup>i</sup>.

### What is an ethnic group?

Although presented in an ethnic group classification, the people forming the 'Other' groups may share none of the attributes that define an 'ethnic group':

*"An ethnic group is a collectivity within a larger population having real or putative common ancestry, memories of a shared past, and a cultural focus upon one or more symbolic elements which define the group's identity, such as kinship, religion, language, shared territory, nationality or physical appearance. Members of an ethnic group are conscious of belonging to an ethnic group".<sup>ii</sup>*

Each of the 'Other' groups is comprised of people with a diverse range of countries of birth, languages and religions. Because of the heterogeneity of these groups, relatively little is known about the people who comprise them.

In addition, the Other Mixed, Other Asian, Other Ethnic and Other Black groups are relatively small. It is therefore difficult to obtain sufficient numbers from survey data to explore their characteristics, and consequently they are often not discussed in research reports. Where results about them are shown in reports, it is often difficult to interpret them, knowing little about the people who make up these groups.

## Analysing the 'Other' groups

The Census is one of the few sources of data which produces sufficient numbers in these smaller groups to enable reliable analysis of their characteristics and socio-economic conditions. This article uses data from the Census in England and Wales in 2001 to explore some of the key demographic and socio-economic characteristics of these groups. We examine their main countries of birth, their age, sex and religious profiles, self-described identity, and their labour market experiences. In addition, we explore the amount of variation within each of the groups, focusing in particular upon variation by country of birth.

We profile four of the 'Other' groups in England and Wales<sup>iii</sup> – the Other White, Other Asian, Other Black and Other Ethnic groups. These groups together made up 4.0 per cent of the population of England and Wales in 2001. By far the largest of them was the Other White group, which accounted for 2.6 per cent of the population of England and Wales and 2.8 per cent of the majority White population (Table 1.1).

The remaining 'Other' groups were much smaller. Separately, none accounted for more than 0.5 per cent of the population of England and Wales. The largest of them was the Other Asian group, comprising just 0.5 per cent of the general population but accounting for one in ten (11 per cent) of the total Asian population in England and Wales (Table 1.1).

The Other Black group was less than half the size of the Other Asian group and accounted for just 0.2 per cent of the general population. They nevertheless constituted almost one in ten (8 per cent) of the Black population as a whole, including Black Caribbean and Black African.

**Table 1.1** Population by ethnic group (England and Wales, 2001)

	Number	Percentage of general population	Percentage of major category
<b>White</b>	47,520,866	91.3	100.0
British	45,533,741	87.5	95.8
Irish	641,804	1.2	1.4
Other White	1,345,321	2.6	2.8
<b>Mixed</b>	661,034	1.3	100.0
White and Black Caribbean	237,420	0.5	35.9
White and Black African	78,911	0.2	11.9
White and Asian	189,015	0.4	28.6
Other Mixed	155,688	0.3	23.6
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	2,273,737	4.4	100.0
Indian	1,036,807	2.0	45.6
Pakistani	714,826	1.4	31.4
Bangladeshi	280,830	0.5	12.4
Other Asian	241,274	0.5	10.6
<b>Black or Black British</b>	1,139,577	2.2	100.0
Black Caribbean	563,843	1.1	49.5
Black African	479,665	0.9	42.1
Other Black	96,069	0.2	8.4
<b>Chinese or other ethnic groups</b>	446,702	0.9	100.0
Chinese	226,948	0.4	50.8
Other ethnic group	219,754	0.4	49.2
<b>All ethnic groups</b>	52,041,916	100.0	100.0

Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

The Other Mixed group accounted for 0.3 per cent of the general population and 24 per cent of the total Mixed group, which includes Mixed White and Black Caribbean, Mixed White and Black African and Mixed White and Asian. The four Mixed ethnic group categories were included for the first time on the 2001 Census in England and Wales. Their numbers are relatively small and where data are presented the individual mixed groups are often combined into one 'Mixed' ethnic group. Little is known therefore about the specific Mixed groups and even less about the Other Mixed group. We do not analyse the Other Mixed group in this article. However, analysis will be included in the forthcoming Focus on Ethnicity & Religion report<sup>iv</sup> which will examine all four Mixed ethnic groups in detail.

## Purpose of this article

The aim of this article is to inform users of census data about the people who make up these four 'Other' groups so that they can better understand results for these groups as presented in census outputs.

This article looks at four 'Other' groups in turn, omitting the Other Mixed group, identifying the main groups *within* them and looking at the differences and similarities between these smaller *groups within groups*. For example, when looking at the people who make up the Other White group we contrast the experiences of Other Whites from Australia, France, Turkey, South Africa, Poland – all comprising distinct ethnic populations within the Other White group.

We do not make comparisons between the different Other groups, for example comparing the Other White group with the Other Asian group. Nor do we make comparisons between the 'Other' groups and the main ethnic group categories that they tend to be grouped alongside. For example, we do not compare the Other Black group with the Black Caribbean or Black African groups. Comparisons of these groups have been published previously within the Focus On Ethnicity and Identity overview series. ([www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/ethnicity/](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/ethnicity/))

Can these findings be applied to other non-census data sources?

The people who make up the census 'Other' groups are not necessarily the same as those who make up these groups in other data sources. It should be remembered that census data undergo extensive data cleaning processes before outputs are published. Most survey and administrative data sources will not have undergone the same processes. For the 2001 Census in England and Wales the ethnic group responses of 'Other' were re-classified to one of the specific ethnic group categories, where possible. The Other White group in particular originally included many people who wrote in 'English'. These people were ultimately classified as White British in census outputs. In most survey and administrative data sources however, these people will remain included within the 'Other White' group.

The following analyses describe the Other groups as presented in output from the 2001 Census in England and Wales. Some caution is therefore advisable when comparing these findings to those for the Other groups from data which have been collected by other sources.

## 2 The 'Other White' category

### Country of birth

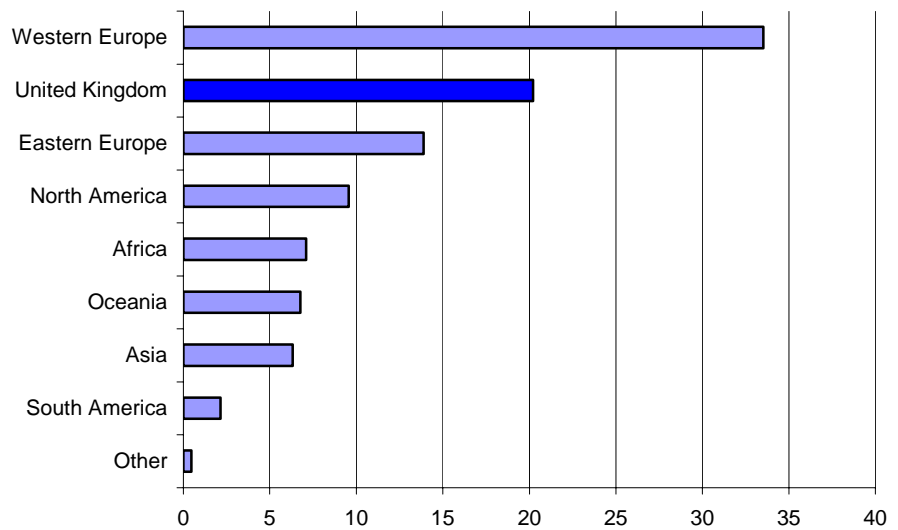
#### FOUR OUT OF FIVE 'OTHER WHITES' WERE BORN OVERSEAS

In 2001, there were 1.3 million people in the Other White ethnic group in England and Wales. Four out of five (80 per cent) were born overseas. A third were born in a Western European country other than the UK (34 per cent). One in seven (14 per cent) were born in an Eastern European country (Figure 2.1).

Outside of Europe, the main places of birth were North America (10 per cent), Africa (7 per cent), Oceania (7 per cent) and Asia (6 per cent).

**Figure 2.1** Region of birth of Other White group (England and Wales, 2001)

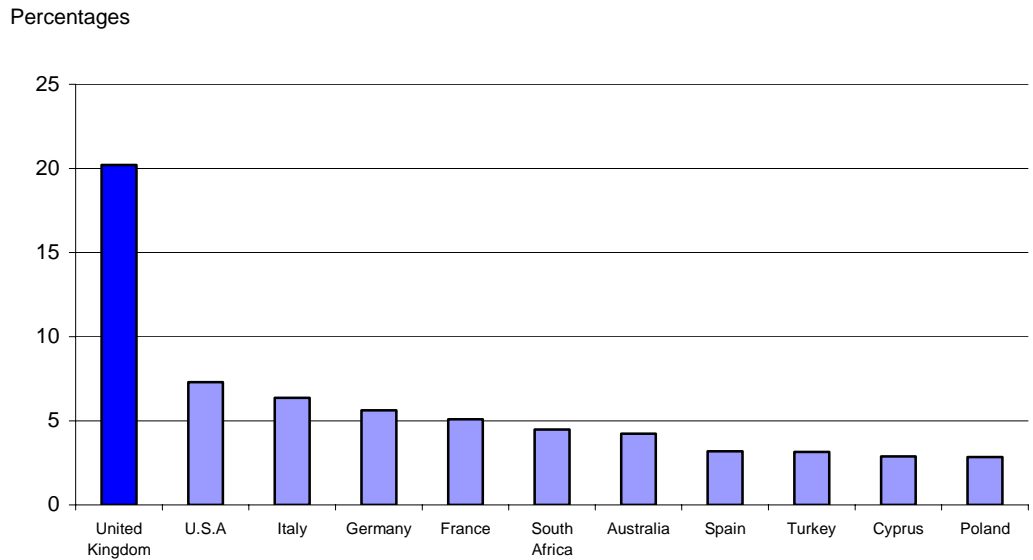
#### Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

After the UK, the largest single countries of birth of Other Whites (Figure 2.2) were the U.S.A (7 per cent), followed by Italy (6 per cent), Germany (6 per cent) and France (5 per cent). The main Eastern European countries of birth were Turkey (3 per cent) and Poland (3 per cent).

**Figure 2.2** Main countries of birth of Other White group (England and Wales, 2001)



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

The proportion born in a former Yugoslavian country, including Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia was 3 per cent.

As noted above, the 2001 Census form allowed respondents ticking 'Other' to specify their ethnic group in a write-in text box. In the majority of cases (71 per cent) a write-in answer was provided. The majority of write-in answers detailed a European country. A European country was also the most common write-in description for 'Other Whites' who were born in the UK. In most households, the ethnicity of children will be provided by whoever is completing the form, usually their parents. Those born in the UK, but classified as 'Other White' rather than White British, may be the children of overseas-born parents.

### Age and sex

#### NINE IN TEN AUSTRALIANS WERE OF WORKING AGE

The majority of the Other White group were working age adults. Just one in seven (14 per cent) of the Other White group were aged under 16 and just 10 per cent were over 65 years of age.

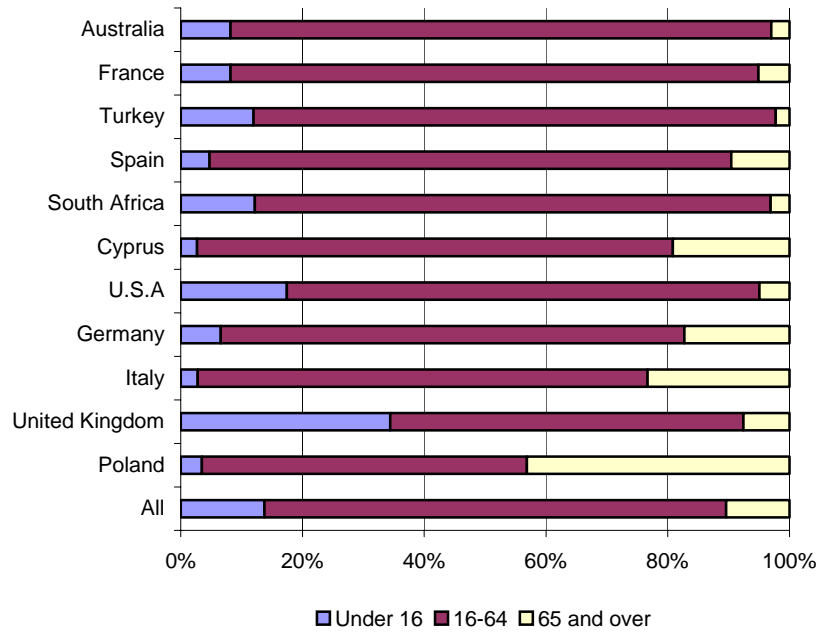
However, the age profile differed according to country of birth (Figure 2.3). A very high proportion of those born in Australia were working age adults (89 per cent), as were most of those born in France (87 per cent).



Those born in the UK were relatively young, a third (34 per cent) being aged under 16 years. The proportion of over 65 year olds was relatively high among Other Whites from Poland (43 per cent), Italy (23 per cent) and Cyprus (19 per cent).

**Figure 2.3** Age profile for selected countries of birth of Other White group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages

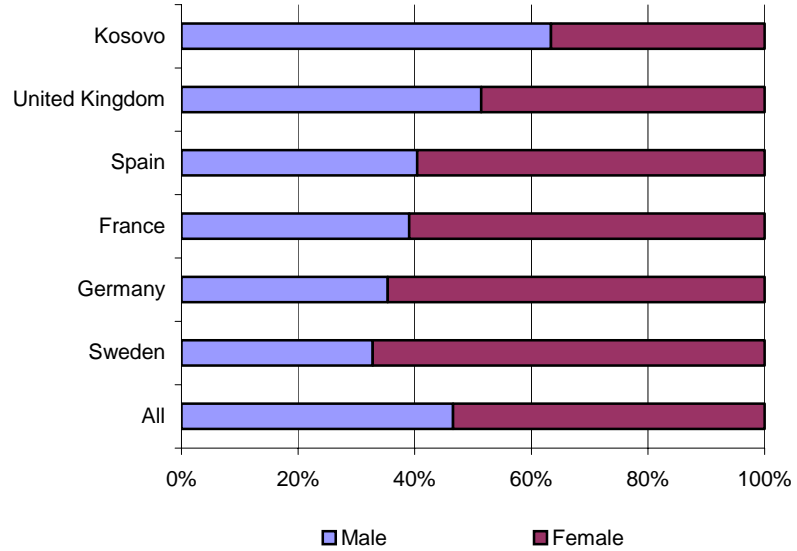


Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

Overall, the Other White group was slightly more likely to be female (53 per cent) but there were variations by country of birth (Figure 2.4). Among Other Whites born in Sweden and Germany, around two thirds were women (67 per cent and 65 per cent), whereas among those born in Kosovo, just under two thirds (63 per cent) were men.

**Figure 2.4** Proportions male and female for selected countries of birth of Other White group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

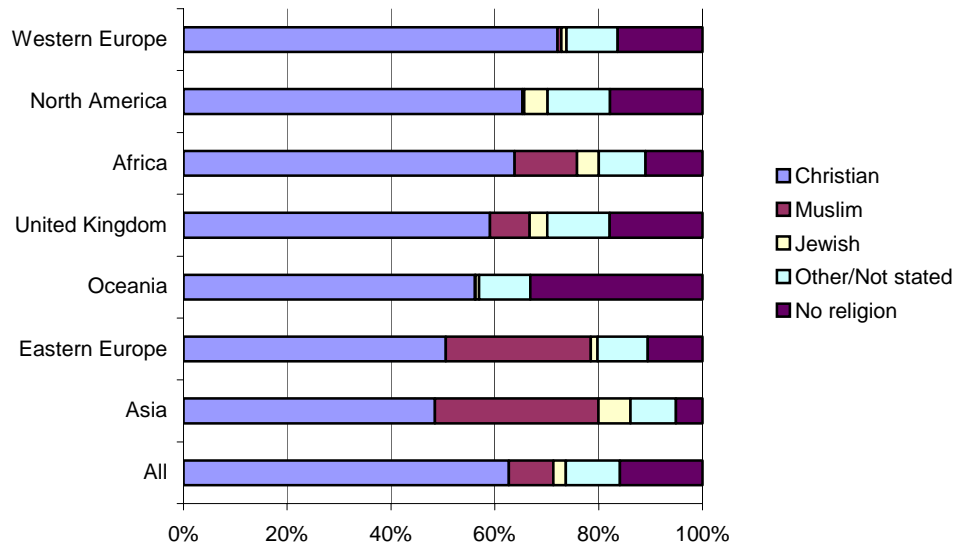
## Religion

### TWO IN THREE 'OTHER WHITES' WERE CHRISTIAN

Figure 2.5 shows the majority of Other White people were Christian (63 per cent) or had no religion (16 per cent). One in ten (9 per cent) were Muslim and one in 50 (2 per cent) were Jewish. Again, the pattern varied according to country of birth, with the proportion being Christian increasing to 72 per cent among those born in Western Europe and the proportion being Muslim increasing to 28 per cent among those from Eastern Europe, including Turkey.

**Figure 2.5** Religion of Other White group by main region of birth (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Unemployment and economic inactivity

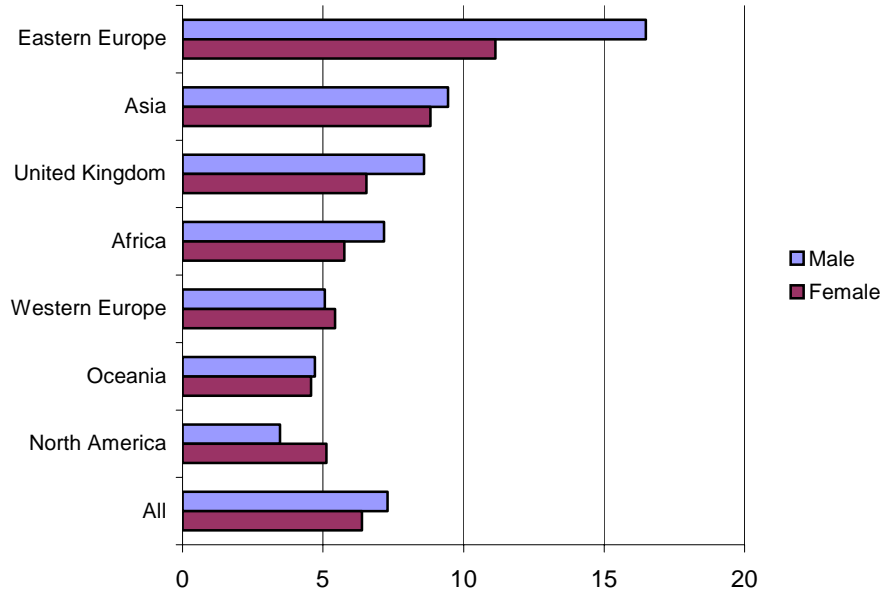
### UNEMPLOYMENT WAS HIGHEST AMONG EASTERN EUROPEANS

Unemployment rates<sup>v</sup> for the Other White group overall were 7 per cent among men and 6 per cent among women but there were variations according to country of birth.

Figure 2.6 shows that unemployment rates were highest among whites born in Eastern Europe (16 per cent for men and 11 per cent for women). Other Whites born in the UK had slightly higher unemployment rates (9 per cent for men and 7 per cent for women) than their counterparts born in North America, Oceania and Western Europe (around 5 per cent for men and women). Among those born in North America, women's unemployment rates (5 per cent) were slightly higher than those for men (3 per cent).

**Figure 2.6** Unemployment rates for Other Whites by main region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

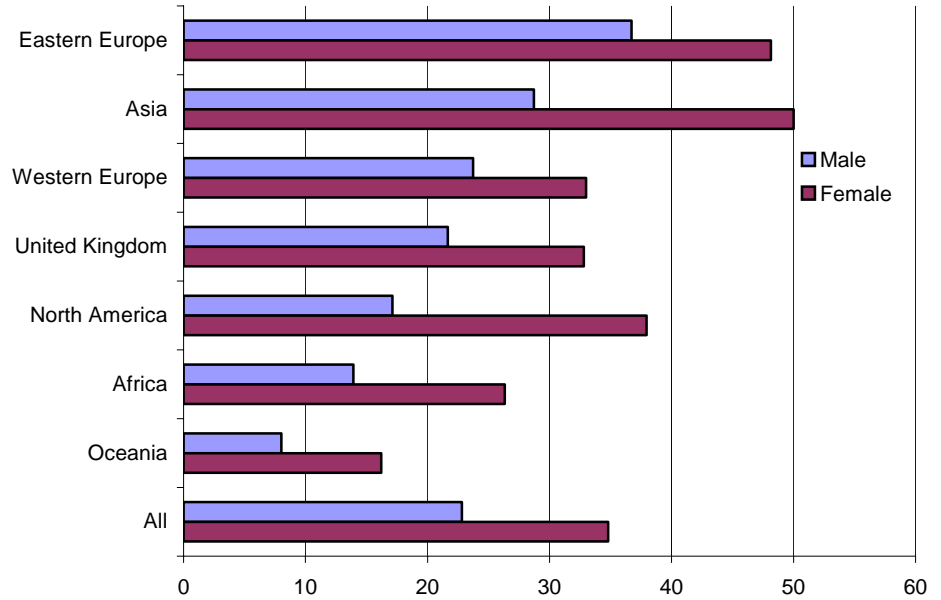
About one in four Other White men (23 per cent) and one in three women (35 per cent) was economically inactive<sup>vi</sup> in 2001. As with unemployment, there were variations by country of birth (Figure 2.7).

Women tend to have higher rates of economic inactivity in all groups, reflecting childrearing responsibilities. The highest economic inactivity rates among Other White women were for women born in Asia (50 per cent) and Eastern Europe (48 per cent). The lowest economic inactivity rates were among white women from Africa (26 per cent) and Oceania (16 per cent).

The pattern was similar among men. Those from Eastern Europe had the highest economic inactivity rates (37 per cent), followed by men from Asia (29 per cent). The lowest economic inactivity rates were among white men from North America (17 per cent), Africa (14 per cent) and Oceania (8 per cent).

**Figure 2.7** Economic inactivity of Other White group by region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Socio-economic group

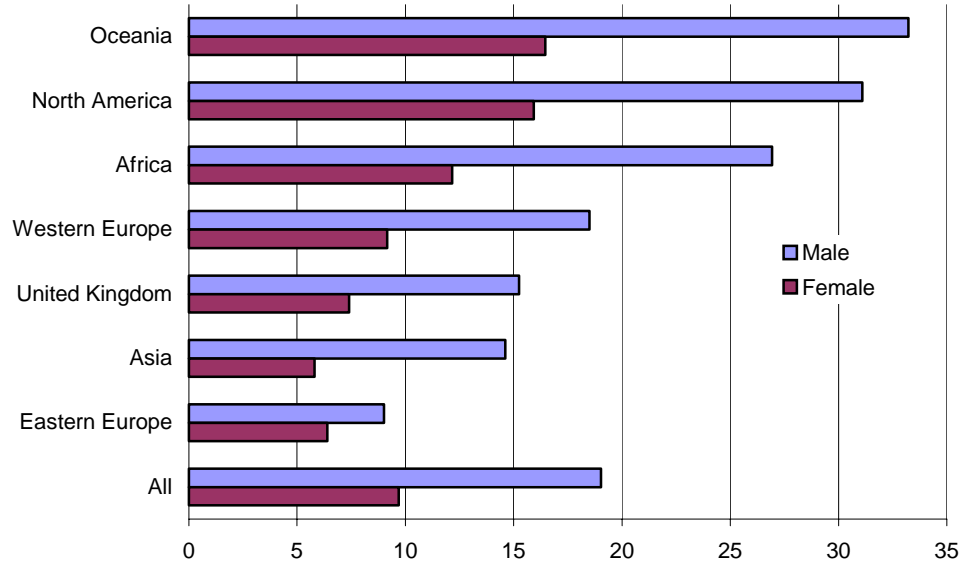
#### HIGHEST SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS FOR OCEANIANS AND NORTH AMERICANS

A high proportion of men from the Other White group belonged to a higher socio-economic group, about one in five men (20 per cent) belonging to either a 'higher managerial' or 'higher professional' socio-economic group (Figure 2.8).

Men born in Oceania and North America were the most likely to belong to a higher socio-economic group (33 per cent and 31 per cent respectively). Among Other White men from Eastern Europe, just 8 per cent belonged to one of these groups. Women were generally less likely than men to belong to a higher socio-economic group but the differentiation by region of birth showed the same pattern.

**Figure 2.8** Other White group belonging to a Higher Managerial or Professional Socio-Economic Group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

### 3 The 'Other Asian' category

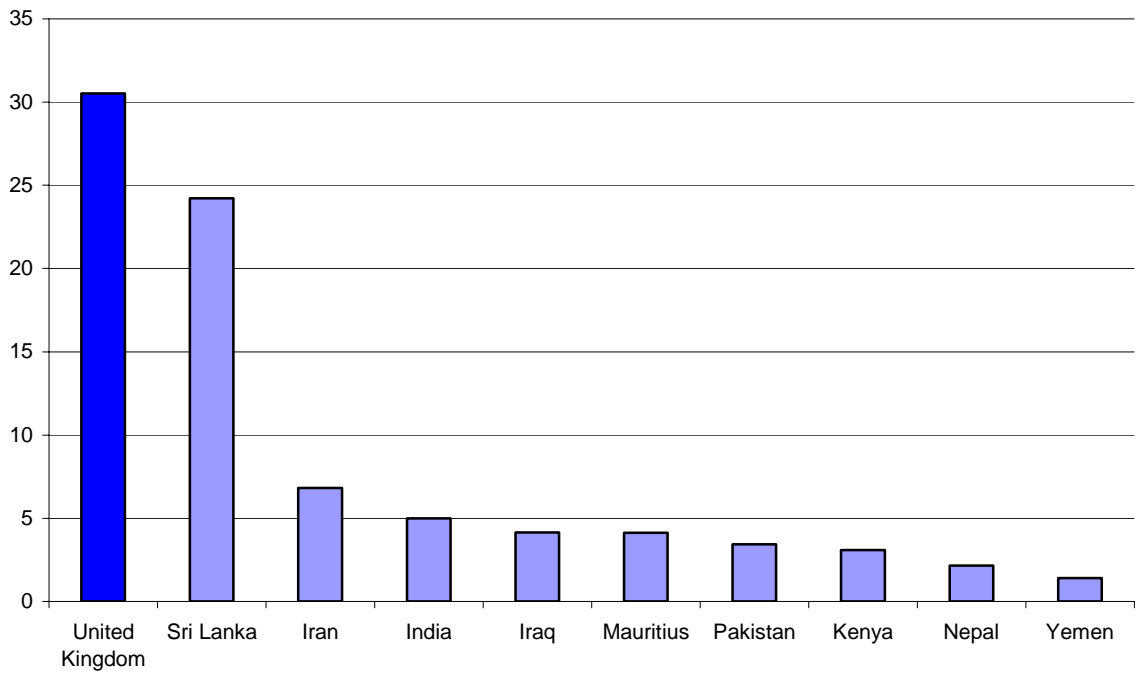
#### Country of birth

#### ONE IN FOUR 'OTHER ASIANS' WERE BORN IN SRI LANKA

In 2001 there were 240,000 people in the Other Asian ethnic group, making up less than 1 per cent of the population of England and Wales. Figure 3.1 shows their main countries of birth were United Kingdom (31 per cent) and Sri Lanka (24 per cent).

**Figure 3.1** Main countries of birth of Other Asian group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages

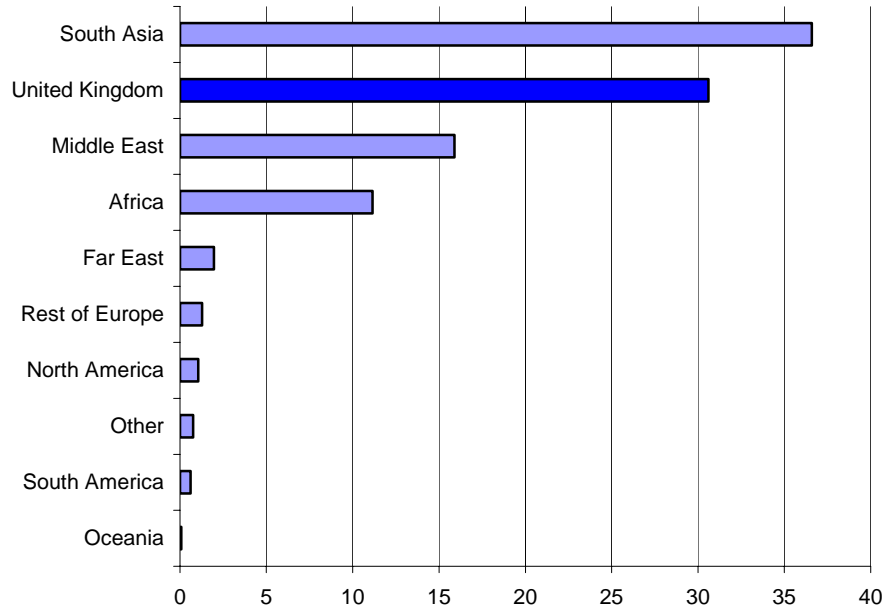


Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

About one in six (16 per cent) came from a Middle Eastern country, predominantly Iran (7 per cent) and Iraq (4 per cent). One in ten (11 per cent) were born in an African country (Figure 3.2).

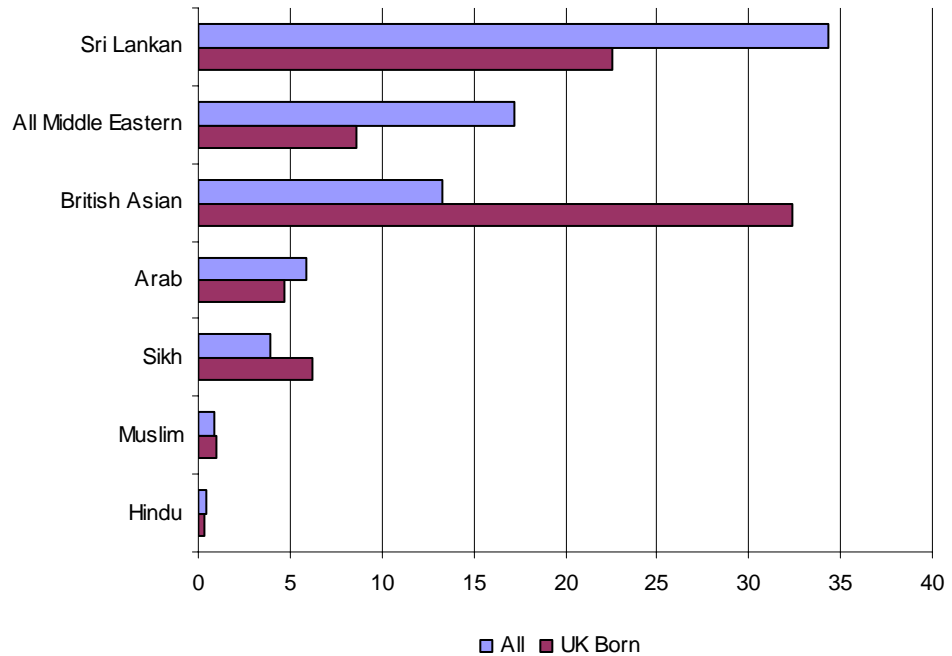
**Figure 3.2** Region of birth of Other Asian group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages

**Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics**

Ethnic group was specified in a write-in text box by four out of five in the Other Asian group (81 per cent). Of these, the write-in answers largely reflected country of birth (Figure 3.3): one in three (34 per cent) specifying Sri Lankan; about one in six (17 per cent) specifying a Middle-eastern country and about one in twenty (6 per cent) specified as 'Arab'. For about one in seven (13 per cent), the description 'British Asian' was written-in. A religious description was provided in one in twenty (5 per cent) cases – 4 per cent being described as 'Sikh', 1 per cent as 'Muslim' and less than 0.5 per cent as 'Hindu'. The 2001 census also included a question on religion and the number of Sikhs (329,328), Muslims (1,546,626) and Hindus (552,421) in England and Wales was considerably greater than the minority within the Other Asian group whose ethnicity was described in religious terms.



**Figure 3.3** Main write-in answers<sup>vii</sup> for the Other Asian group (England and Wales, 2001)

Among Other Asians born in the UK, however, the most common write-in description was Asian British or Asian English. One in three (32 per cent) write-in descriptions for 'Other Asians' born in the UK specified a British Asian identity. The majority of these are most likely second or third generation descendents of people from the main South Asian groups. The 1991 census revealed that many second and third generation Asians wanted to record their British identity rather than their ethnic ancestry. In recognition of this, the 2001 census ethnic group question included the sub-heading Asian or Asian British, but respondents were not offered a category to tick as Asian British. Some chose to select Other Asian and write in 'British Asian'. In other cases, parents from Asian groups born outside the UK may have described their British-born children as 'British Asian' rather than ascribing them the ethnic groups Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

After British Asian, the most common write-in answer for UK-born Other Asians was Sri Lankan (23 per cent), and a further 9 per cent described a Middle-eastern country. These ethnic descriptions probably reflect the country of birth of their parents and may have been written in by themselves or, in the case of children, by their parents.

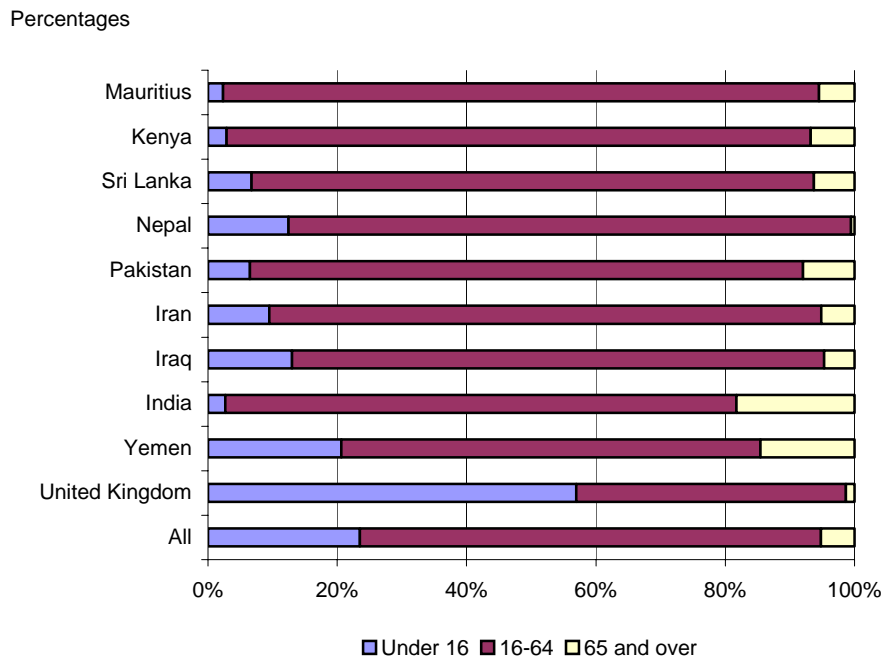
### Age and sex

**SEVEN IN TEN 'OTHER ASIANS' WERE OF WORKING AGE**

Seven in ten Other Asians (71 per cent) were of working age (aged 16 to 64 years) in 2001. Around a quarter (24 per cent) were under 16 years of age, and 5 per cent were 65 years or over (Figure 3.4).

The size of the working age population was very different for those born in the UK and those born elsewhere. Among Other Asians born in the UK, just four in ten (42 per cent) were of working age, compared with more than eight in ten of other Asians born in Mauritius (92 per cent), Kenya (90 per cent), Sri Lanka (87 per cent), Nepal (87 per cent), Pakistan (86 per cent), Iran (85 per cent) and Iraq (82 per cent). Among those born in the United Kingdom, almost six in ten (57 per cent) were aged under 16 years in 2001.

**Figure 3.4** Age profile of Other Asian group by main countries of birth (England and Wales, 2001)

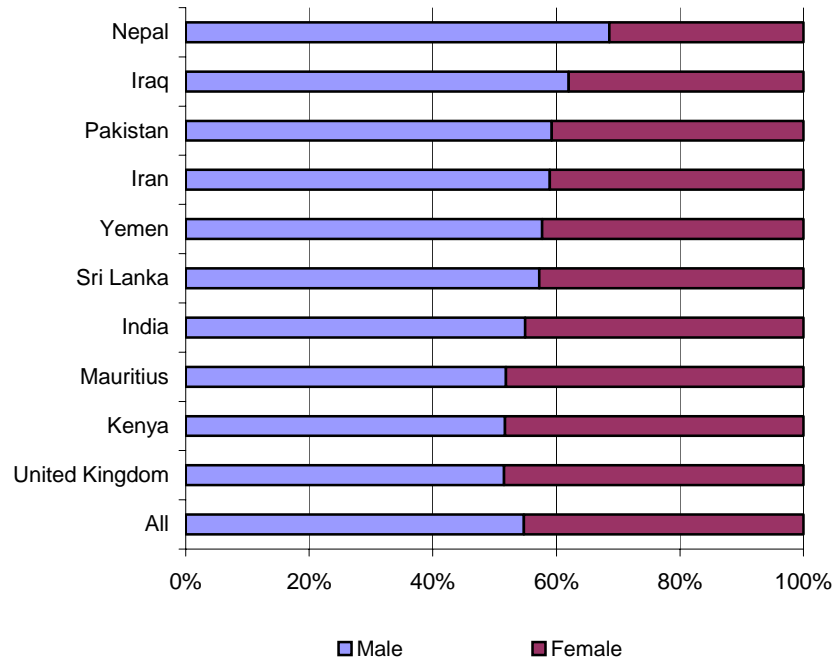


Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

Men formed the majority of the Other Asian group (55 per cent) but the gender difference was greater among those born in Nepal and Iraq, where 69 per cent and 62 per cent respectively were men (Figure 3.5). The gender imbalance was smaller among Other Asians born in the UK or Kenya, in both cases 52 per cent were men and 48 per cent women.

**Figure 3.5** Proportion male and female for selected countries of birth of Other Asian group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

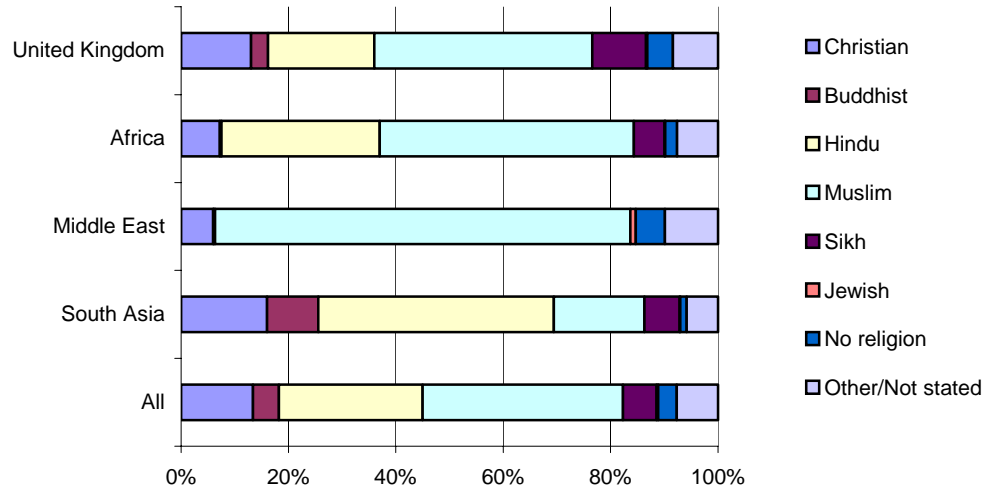
## Religion

### MUSLIMS WERE THE LARGEST RELIGIOUS GROUP AMONG 'OTHER ASIANS'

Muslims were the largest religious group, accounting for 37 per cent of Other Asians in England and Wales (Figure 3.6), followed by Hindus (27 per cent) and Christians (13 per cent). Three quarters of those born in the Middle East were Muslim (77 per cent) and 44 per cent of those from South Asia were Hindu. Among Other Asians born in the UK, 41 per cent were Muslim, 20 per cent were Hindu and 10 per cent were Sikh. Just 3 per cent of the Other Asian group had no religion.

**Figure 3.6** Religion of Other Asian group by selected region of birth (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Unemployment and economic inactivity

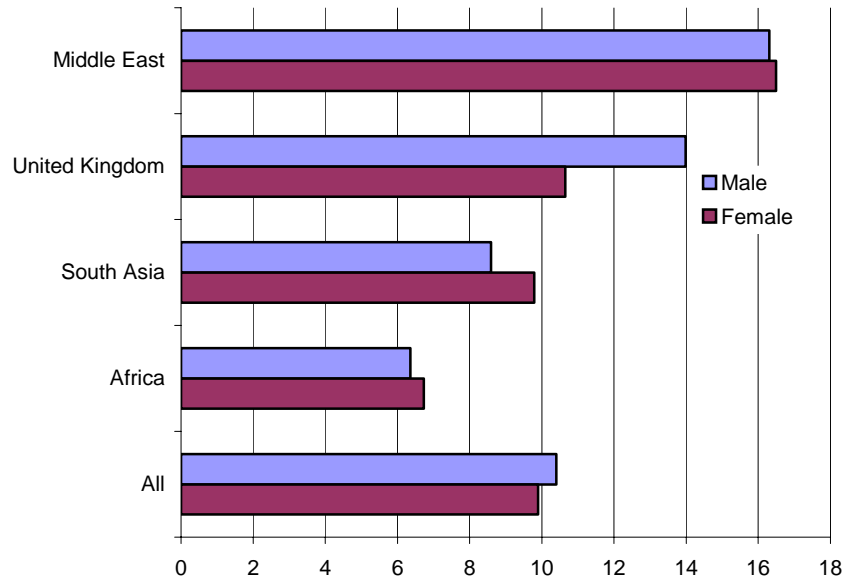
### ONE IN TEN 'OTHER ASIANS' WERE UNEMPLOYED

One in ten (10 per cent) of men and women in the Other Asian group was unemployed in 2001, a rate approximately twice that of the general population in England and Wales. However, rates differed according to country of birth (Figure 3.7).

The unemployment rate was highest among Other Asians born in the Middle East - 16 per cent for both men and women. The unemployment rate for Other Asians born in the UK was also relatively high for both men (14 per cent) and women (11 per cent) but this group had a young age profile and unemployment tends to be highest among the young. The lowest unemployment rates were among Other Asians from Africa – 6 per cent among men and 7 per cent among women.

**Figure 3.7** Unemployment rates of Other Asian group by main regions of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

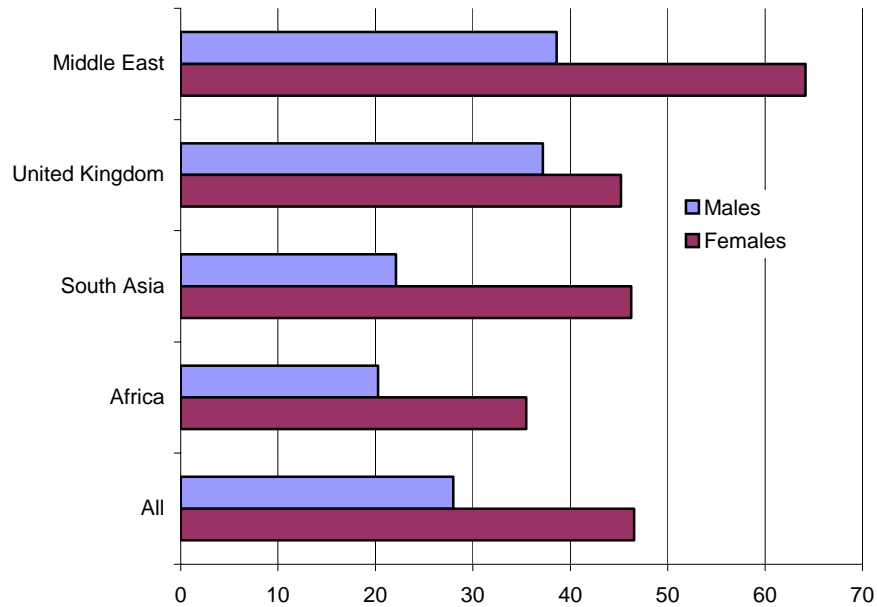
In 2001, 28 per cent of working age men and 47 per cent of working age women in the Other Asian group in England and Wales were economically inactive, although the rate varied according to country of birth (Figure 3.8).

The highest economic inactivity rates were found among women born in the Middle East (64 per cent). Economic inactivity rates were also relatively high among women born in South Asia (46 per cent) and the UK (45 per cent). Other Asian women born in Africa had the lowest inactivity rates (35 per cent)

Economic inactivity rates are generally lower among men. Men from the Middle East and those born in the UK had the highest male inactivity rates, 39 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. Other Asian men from South Asia (22 per cent) and Africa (20 per cent) had considerably lower rates.

**Figure 3.8** Economic inactivity rates of Other Asian group by main regions of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

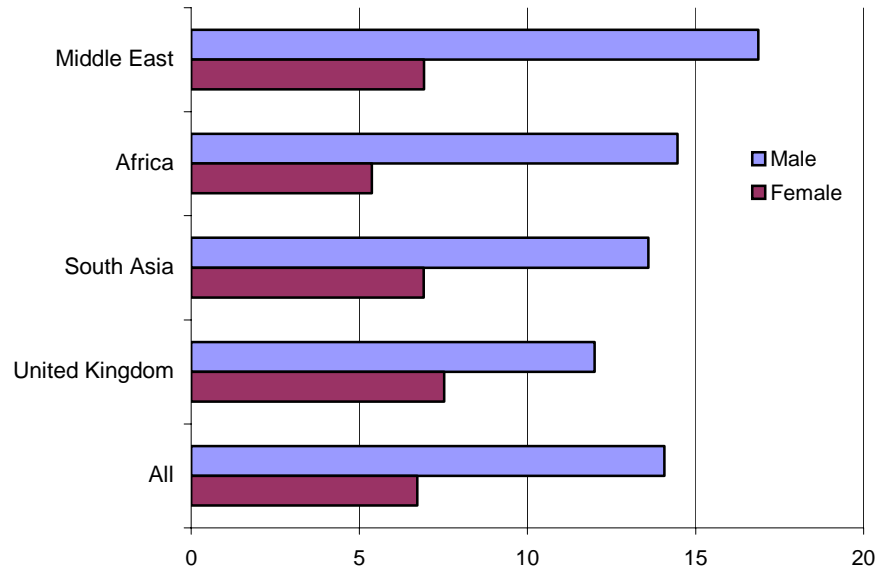
### Socio-economic group

#### ONE IN SEVEN 'OTHER ASIAN' MEN WAS IN THE HIGHEST SOCIO ECONOMIC GROUP

One in seven men from the Other Asian ethnic group belonged to the Higher Managerial or Professional socio-economic group in England and Wales in 2001 (14 per cent), twice the rate of women from this group (7 per cent). There were similar rates among men and women born in different regions, ranging from 17 per cent of men born in the Middle East to 12 per cent of those born in the UK. Among women, those born in the UK had the highest rates (8 per cent), compared with 5 per cent of those born in Africa.

**Figure 3.9** Other Asians belonging to a Higher Managerial or Professional socio-economic group, by main regions of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## 4 The 'Other Black' category

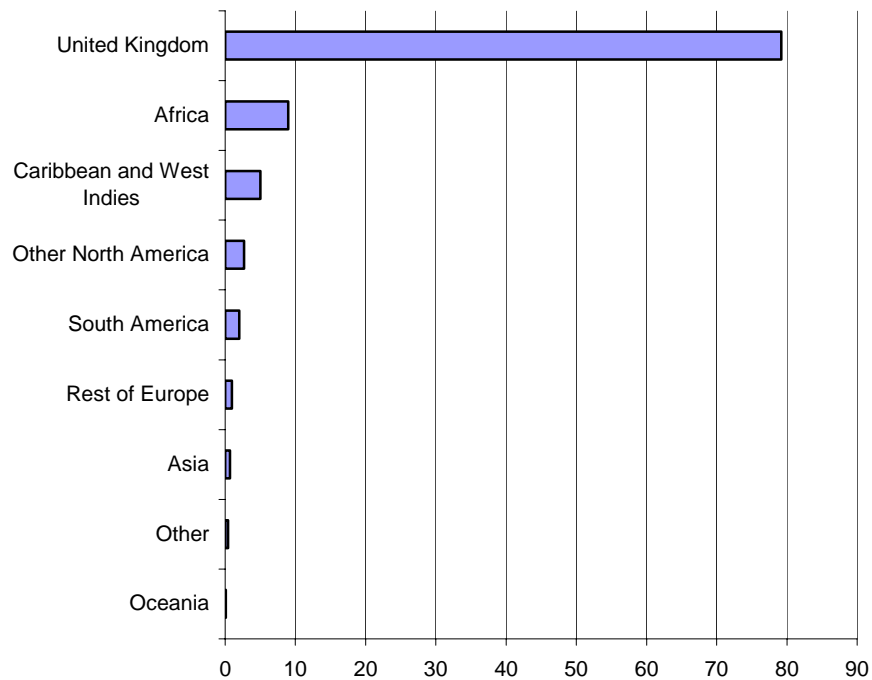
### Country of birth

#### EIGHT IN TEN 'OTHER BLACKS' WERE BORN IN THE UK

In 2001, there were 96,000 people in the Other Black group in England and Wales. Eight out of ten people (79 per cent) in this group were born in the UK, with almost one in ten (9 per cent) born in Africa and one in twenty (5 per cent) born in the Caribbean and West Indies (Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1** Region of birth of Other Black group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



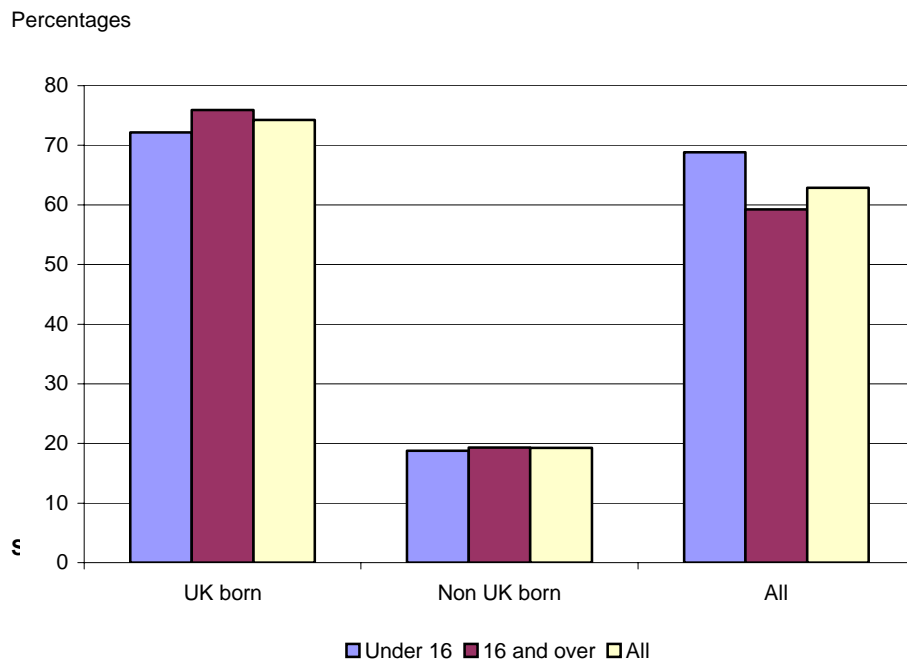
Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

For more than eight in ten (84 per cent) of those in the Other Black group, an ethnic group description was specified in the text box on the census form. The majority (63 per cent) specified a 'Black British' ethnic identity (Figure 4.2). A further 13 per cent were coded to a 'Black Mixed' group, indicating mixed ethnicity where both or all ethnicities described are from different black groups.



A 'Black British' identity was even stronger among Other Blacks born in the UK. Three quarters (74 per cent) of the Other Black group born in the UK specified a 'Black British' identity. The proportion was similar for those over 16 years old (75 per cent) and those under 16 (72 per cent), most of whom will have had their ethnic identity written in by a parent.

**Figure 4.2** Other Blacks who wrote in a British identity by UK/non UK born by age (England and Wales, 2001)



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Age and sex

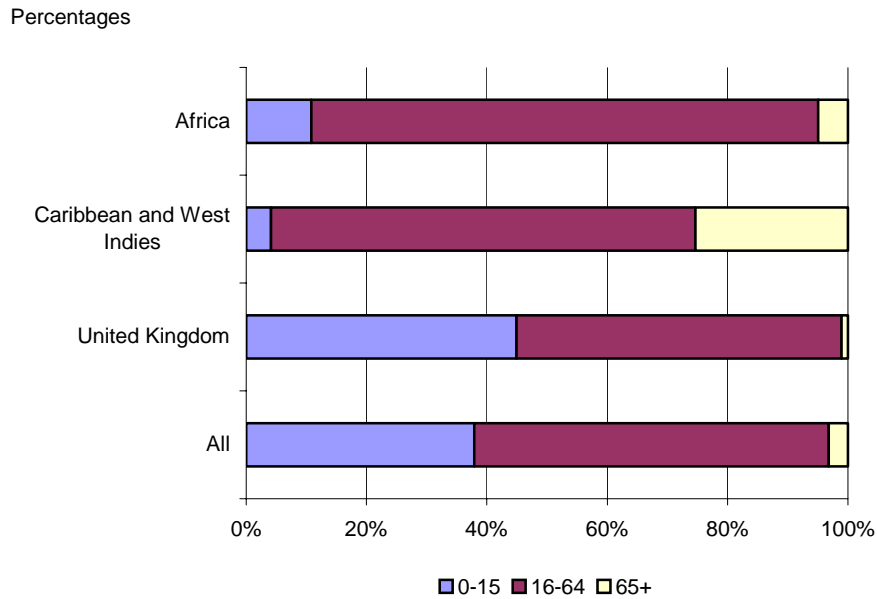
### FOUR IN TEN 'OTHER BLACKS' WERE AGED UNDER 16

Six in ten (59 per cent) of the Other Black group were of working age (aged 16 to 64 years). The remainder were mostly under 16 years of age (38 per cent). Very few were aged over 65 years (3 per cent). However, the pattern varied considerably by country of birth (Figure 4.3).

The majority of those born in Africa were of working age (84 per cent) as were 70 per cent of those born in the Caribbean and West Indies. Those born in the UK had the smallest proportion of people of working age (54 per cent) and the largest proportion of under 16

year olds (45 per cent). Those born in the Caribbean and West Indies had the oldest age profile, one in four (25 per cent) being over 65 years of age in 2001.

**Figure 4.3** Age profile of Other Black group by main region of birth (England and Wales, 2001)



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

Women slightly outnumbered men in the Other Black group, accounting for 52 per cent of the Other Black group in 2001.

## Religion

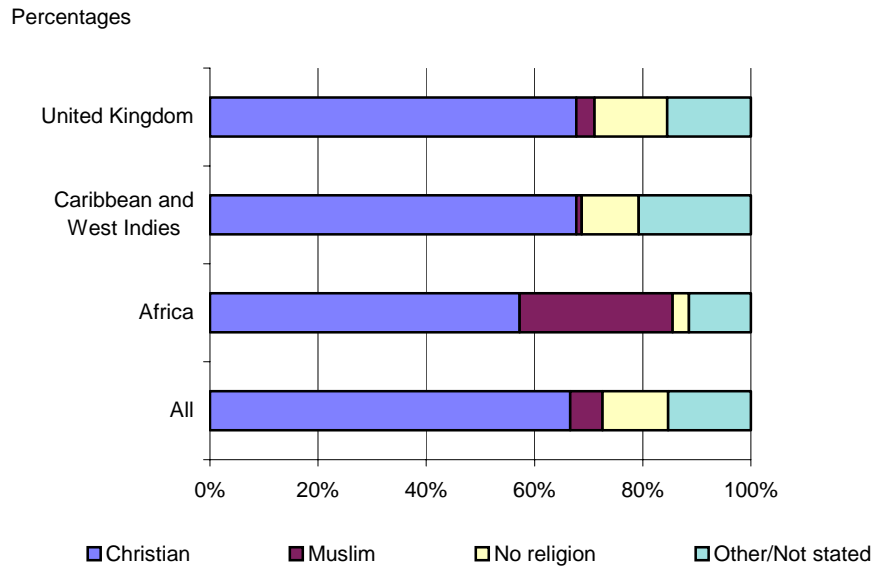
### MAJORITY OF 'OTHER BLACKS' WERE CHRISTIAN

Overall, two thirds (67 per cent) of the Other Black group were Christian and 6 per cent were Muslim. A further 12 per cent had no religion and the same proportion (15 per cent) chose not to state their religion (Figure 4.4).

The proportion of Christians was exactly the same among those born in the UK (68 per cent) and those born in the Caribbean and West Indies (68 per cent). The proportion of Christians was smaller among those born in Africa (57 per cent). About three in ten Other

Black people from Africa were Muslim (28 per cent), compared with 3 per cent of their UK born counterparts and 1 per cent of those from the Caribbean and West Indies.

**Figure 4.4** Religion of Other Black group by selected region of birth (England and Wales, 2001)



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Unemployment and economic inactivity

### ONE IN FIVE 'OTHER BLACK' MEN WAS UNEMPLOYED

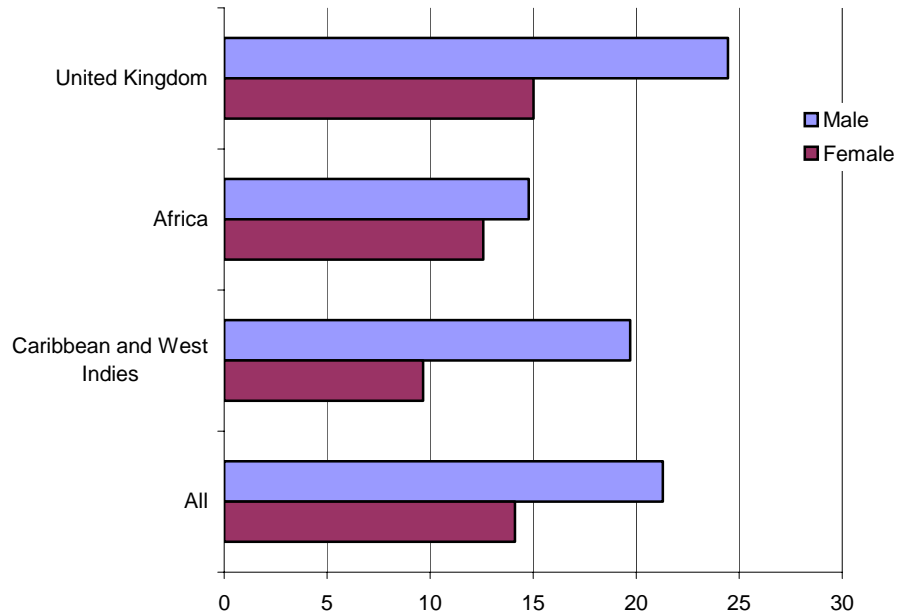
One in five Other Black men (21 per cent) and one in seven women (14 per cent) were unemployed in 2001 (Figure 4.5).

Among men, the highest unemployment rates were among those born in the UK (24 per cent), followed by those born in the Caribbean and West Indies (20 per cent). Those born in Africa had lower unemployment rates (15 per cent).

The geographic pattern was different among women. The highest unemployment rates were among women born in the UK (15 per cent) and Africa (13 per cent). Women born in the Caribbean and West Indies had the lowest unemployment rates in the Other Black group (10 per cent).

**Figure 4.5** Unemployment rates of Other Blacks by main region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

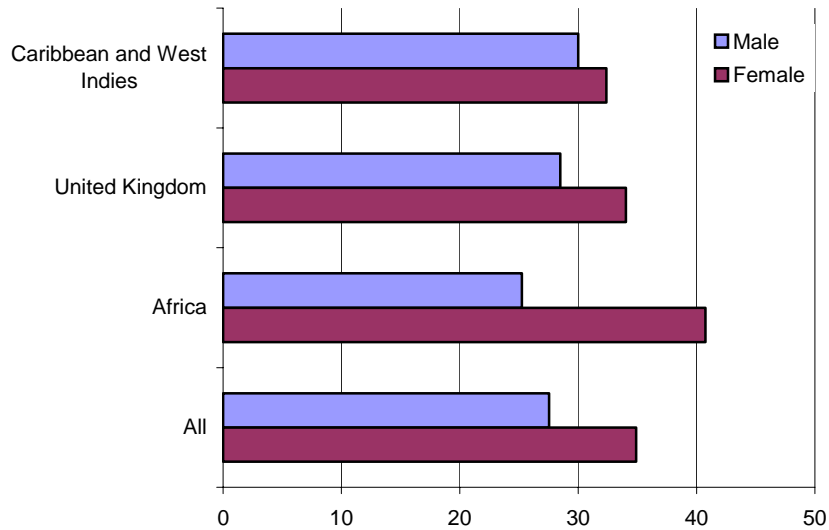
Overall, 35 per cent of working age women and 28 per cent of men in the Other Black group were economically inactive in England and Wales in 2001 (Figure 4.6).

Among women, those from Africa had the highest inactivity rates (41 per cent). Women born in the UK and the Caribbean and West Indies had similar rates (34 per cent and 32 per cent respectively).

The pattern was different among men. The highest rates were among men born in the Caribbean and West Indies (30 per cent) and the UK (28 per cent). Inactivity rates were lower among Other Black men born in Africa (25 per cent).

**Figure 4.6** Economic inactivity rates of Other Blacks by main regions of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

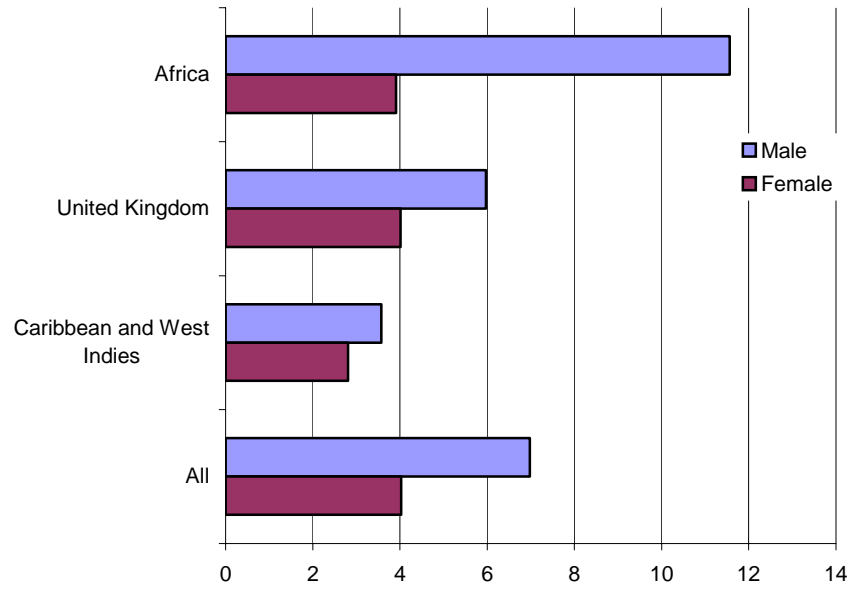
### Socio-economic group

#### AFRICANS WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO BE IN HIGHEST SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

Only one in fourteen men (7 per cent) and one in twenty five women (4 per cent) from the Other Black group were in the highest socio-economic group in England and Wales in 2001 (Figure 4.7). There were differences according to country of birth, especially among men. Those born in Africa were three times more likely than men born in the Caribbean and West Indies to be in the highest group (12 per cent compared with 4 per cent respectively), and almost twice as likely as those born in the UK (6 per cent). While there was less variability among women, the Caribbean and West Indies born group again had the lowest proportion (3 per cent) in the highest socio-economic group.

**Figure 4.7** Other Black group belonging to a Higher Managerial or Professional socio-economic group by main region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## 5 The 'Other ethnic group' category

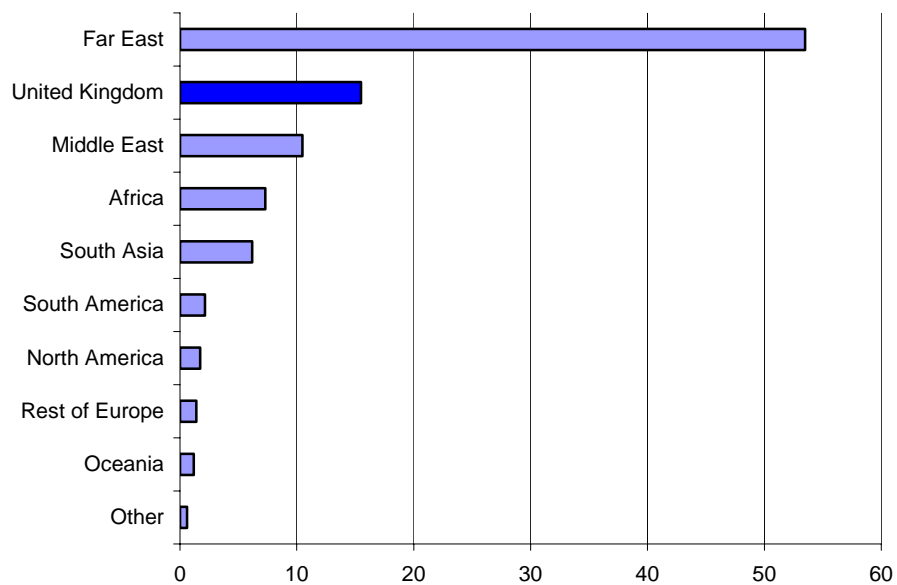
### Country of birth

#### IN THE 'OTHER ETHNIC' CATEGORY OVER HALF WERE BORN IN THE FAR EAST

In 2001, there were 220,000 people in the 'Other ethnic group' category in England and Wales. Over half (53 per cent) were born in the Far East (Figure 5.1), in particular the Philippines (15 per cent), Japan (15 per cent), Thailand (5 per cent) and Vietnam (5 per cent) (Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.1** Region of birth of Other Ethnic group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

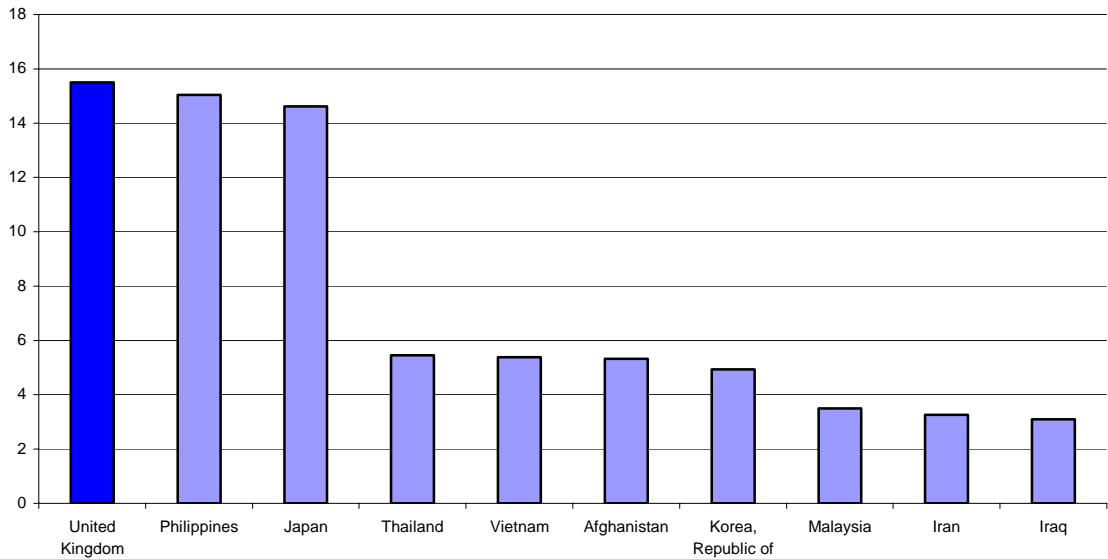
A further 16 per cent were born in the UK and 10 per cent were born in a Middle Eastern country, including Iran (3 per cent) and Iraq (3 per cent).

Seven per cent were born in an African country, 2 per cent from Egypt and 1 per cent respectively from Mauritius, Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

A further 6 per cent were born in a South Asian country, predominantly Afghanistan (5 per cent).

**Figure 5.2** Main Countries of birth of Other Ethnic group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



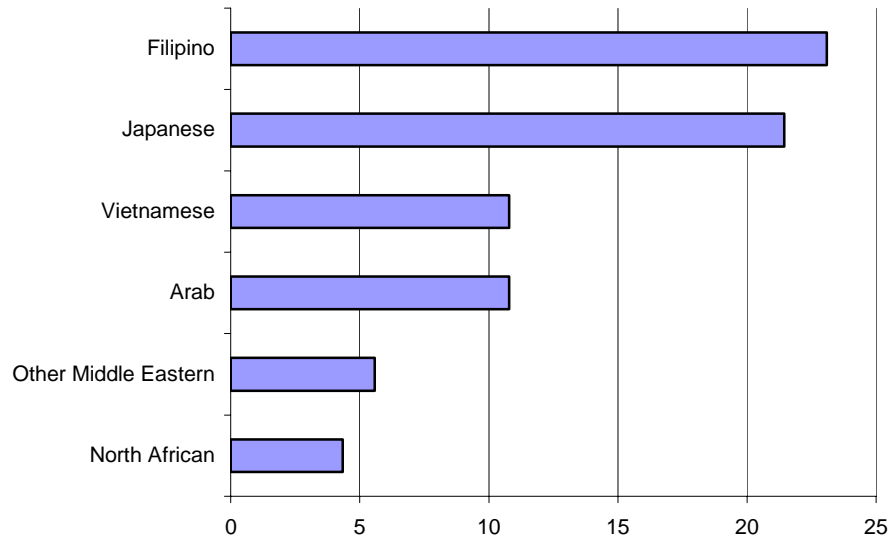
Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

The written-in descriptions of the Other Ethnic group reflected the main countries of birth, although one in four (26 per cent) chose not to write any description. Figure 5.3 shows that, where a description was given, the main write-in descriptions were Filipino (23 per cent), Japanese (21 per cent), Vietnamese (11 per cent), Arab (11 per cent), Middle Eastern (6 per cent), and North African (4 per cent).



**Figure 5.3** Main write-in answers<sup>vii</sup> for the Other Ethnic group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Age and sex

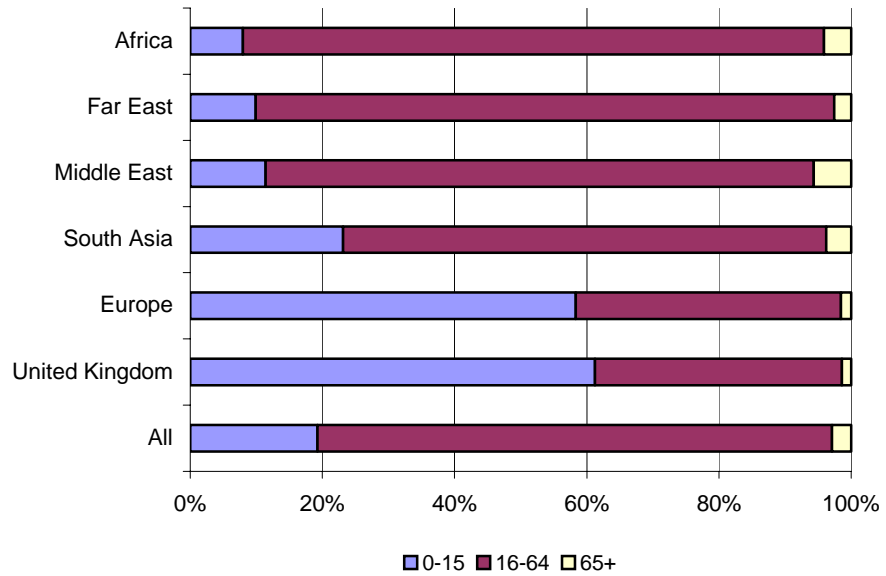
#### EIGHT IN TEN OF THE 'OTHER ETHNIC GROUP' WERE OF WORKING AGE

Eight in ten (78 per cent) of the Other Ethnic group were of working age (aged 16 to 64 years). The remainder were mostly under 16 years (19 per cent). Only 3 per cent of the Other Ethnic group were over 65 years old.

Those born in the UK and elsewhere in Europe had the youngest age profile (Figure 5.2), more than half (61 per cent and 58 per cent respectively) being aged less than 16 years. Those born in Africa were older, with just one in twelve (8 per cent) aged under 16 years in 2001.

**Figure 5.4** Age profile of Other Ethnic group by main regions of birth (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages

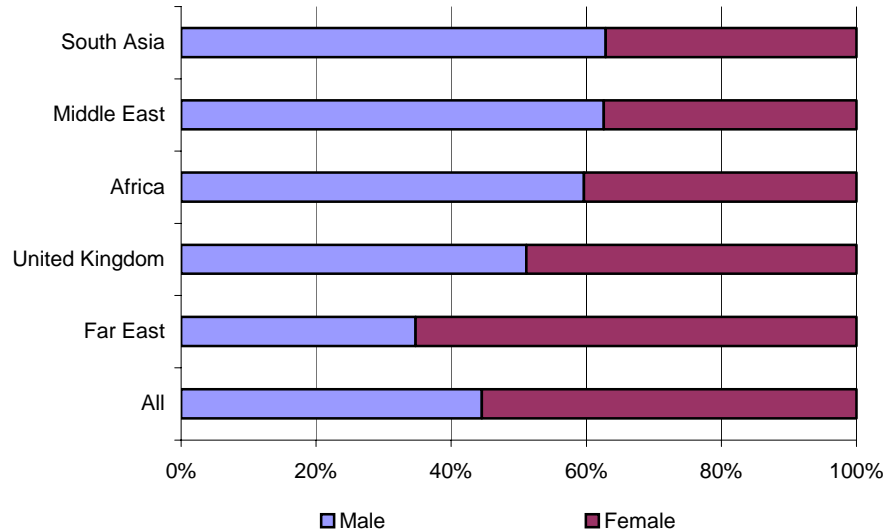


Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

There were more women in the Other Ethnic group than men (55 per cent compared with 45 per cent) but again there were differences according to place of birth (Figure 5.5). Around two thirds of those born in the Far East were women (65 per cent), whereas almost two thirds (63 per cent) of those born in South Asia and the Middle East were men.

**Figure 5.5** Proportions male and female for selected regions of birth of the Other ethnic group (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Religion

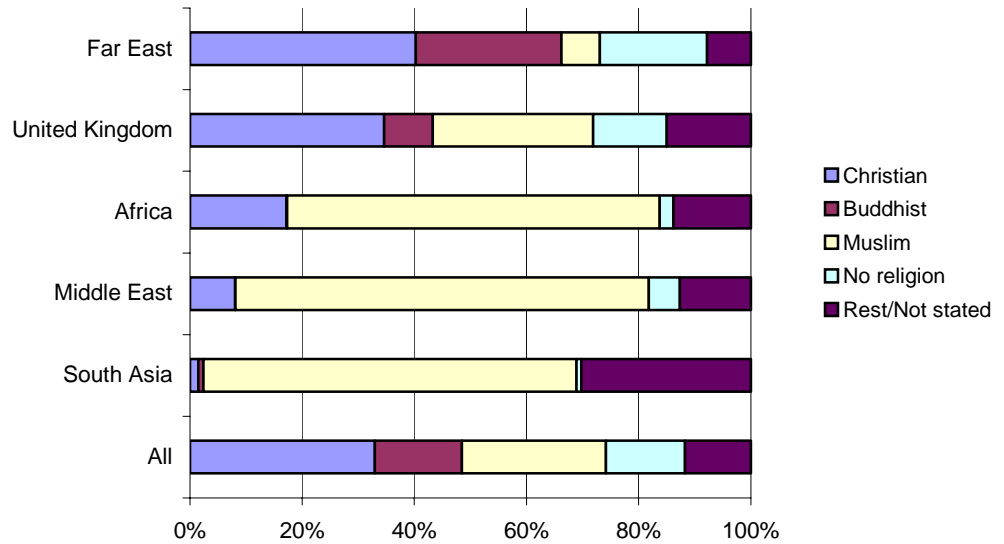
### ONE IN THREE IN THE 'OTHER ETHNIC' CATEGORY WERE CHRISTIAN

People in the 'Other ethnic group' category were largely found in one of three religions (Figure 5.6): Christians (33 per cent); Muslims (26 per cent); and Buddhists (15 per cent); with 14 per cent having no religion. Three quarters of those born in the Middle East were Muslim (74 per cent), as were two thirds of those from Africa (66 per cent) and South Asia (67 per cent).

Buddhism was most common religion among those born in the Far East, one in four (26 per cent) being Buddhist in 2001.

**Figure 5.6** Religion of Other Ethnic group by main regions of birth (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

## Unemployment and economic inactivity

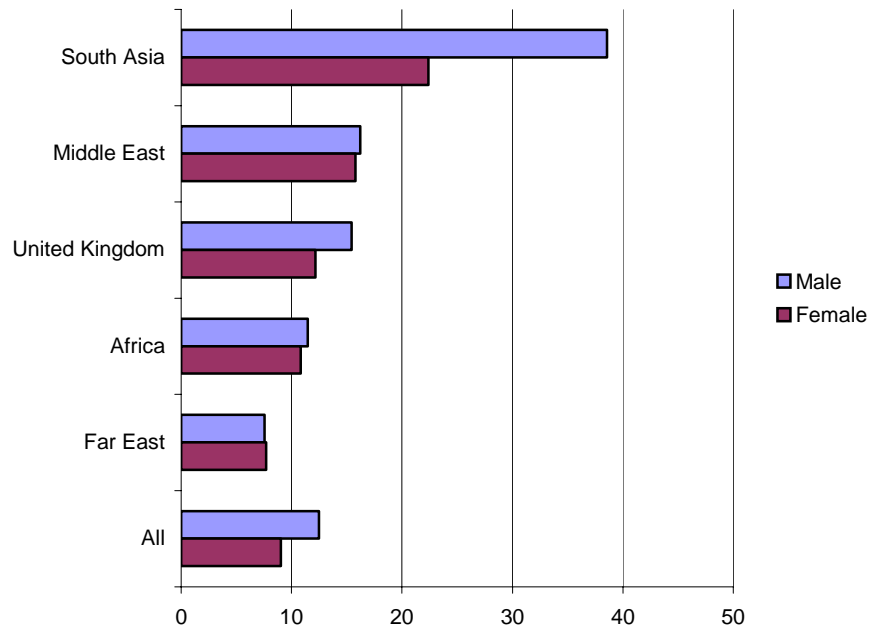
### FOUR IN TEN SOUTH ASIANS IN THE 'OTHER ETHNIC' CATEGORY WERE UNEMPLOYED

In 2001, 12 per cent of men in the 'Other ethnic group' category were unemployed, as were 9 per cent of women (Figure 5.7).

The highest unemployment rates were among those born in South Asia. Almost four in ten South Asian men (39 per cent) and two in ten women (22 per cent) were unemployed in 2001. Rates were lower among men and women from the Middle East (16 per cent), the UK (15 per cent and 12 per cent) and Africa (11 per cent). The lowest rates were among men and women born in the Far East, with 8 per cent unemployed in 2001.

**Figure 5.7** Unemployment rates of Other Ethnic group by main regions of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, office for National Statistics

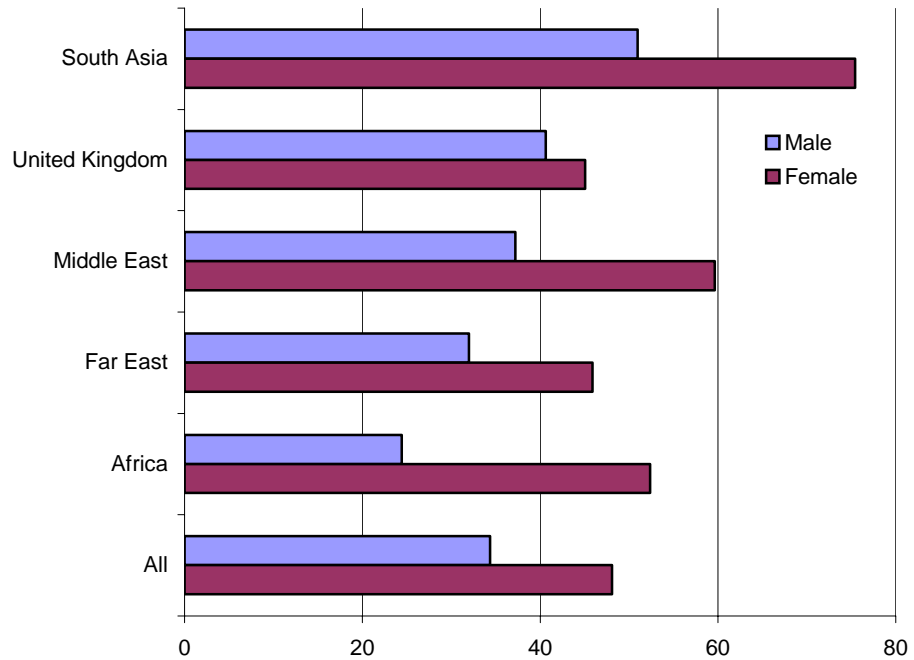
Around a third of working age men (34 per cent) and half of working age women (48 per cent) from the Other Ethnic group were economically inactive in England and Wales in 2001 (Figure 5.8). Again there were variations by country of birth.

Among women in the 'Other ethnic group' category, South Asians had the highest economic inactivity rates. Three in four South Asian women (75 per cent) were economically inactive in 2001. Women from a Middle Eastern country had the next highest inactivity rates (60 per cent), followed by women from an African country (52 per cent). The lowest female inactivity rates were among women born in the Far East (46 per cent) and the UK (45 per cent).

Among men, South Asians again had the highest inactivity rates (51 per cent), followed by men born in the UK (41 per cent), the Middle East (37 per cent) and the Far East (32 per cent). The lowest economic inactivity rates were among men from an African country, with 24 per cent being inactive in 2001.

**Figure 5.8** Economic inactivity rates of Other Ethnic group by main region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

### Socio-economic group

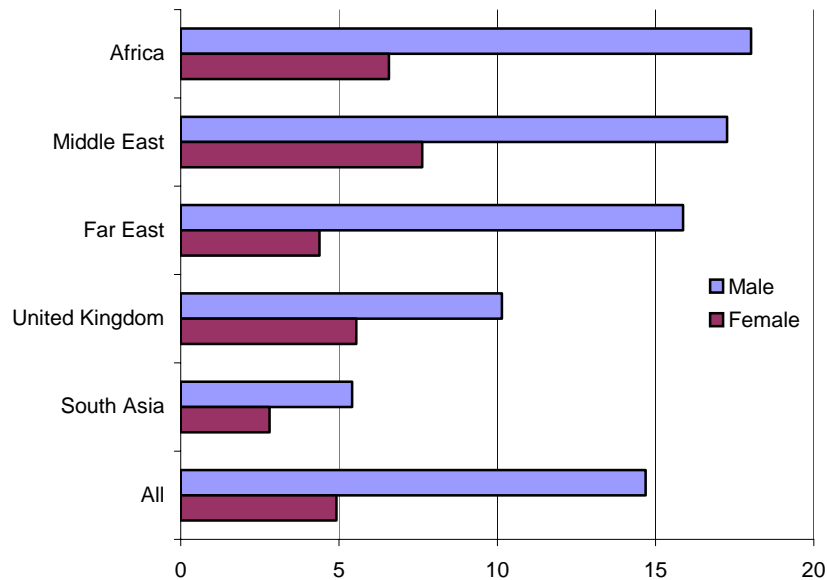
#### ONE IN SEVEN MEN WAS IN THE HIGHEST SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

One in seven men (15 per cent) in the Other Ethnic group were in the highest socio-economic group (higher managerial and professional group), a rate three times greater than the rate for women (5 per cent) (Figure 5.9).

Almost one in five men born in Africa (18 per cent) and the Middle East (17 per cent) were in the highest socio-economic group, compared with only one in ten men born in the UK (10 per cent) and one in twenty born in South Asia (5 per cent). There was less variability among women in the Other Ethnic group; 8 per cent of those born in the Middle East were in the highest socio-economic group, compared with only 3 per cent of those born in South Asia.

**Figure 5.9** Other Ethnic group belonging to the Higher Managerial and Professional socio-economic group by main region of birth and sex (England and Wales, 2001)

Percentages



Source: 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

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## References

<sup>i</sup> The 'Other' groups also included people who: ticked more than one box; and/or wrote in a description in more than one part of the form; or wrote in under one of the 'Other' groups and were subsequently recoded to another of the 'Other' groups. For example, someone ticking Other White and writing "Black British" would be recoded to Other Black, retaining their write-in description.

<sup>ii</sup> Bulmer, M. (1996) "The ethnic group question in the 1991 Census of Population", "Ethnicity in the 1991 Census of Population", Eds. Coleman, D and Salt, J. HMSO, p35.

<sup>iii</sup> Scotland and Northern Ireland are not included in census analyses within this article. Scotland also collected data on the four Other ethnic groups in their 2001 census, excluding Other Mixed. Northern Ireland collected data only for the Other Black group and Other Ethnic group but a category for Other Asian was created post-census. There was

no category for Other White in Northern Ireland. Respondents from Scotland and Northern

Ireland accounted for less than five per cent of the total people belonging to any of the 'other' ethnic groups in the United Kingdom.

<sup>iv</sup> Focus on Ethnicity and Religion is planned for publication in Spring 2006.

<sup>v</sup> The unemployment rate is based on the ILO definition as a percentage of all economically active.

<sup>vi</sup> Economic inactivity rates are for people neither in employment nor unemployed, expressed as a proportion of the working age population (aged 16 to 59 among women and 16-64 among men). The 'inactive' include those looking after a home or retired or those permanently unable to work.

<sup>vii</sup> Base for main write in answers excludes those who ticked the respective 'Other' categories but did not specify an ethnic group.

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