



2011 CENSUS RESULTS (ENGLAND AND WALES): INITIAL INSIGHTS ABOUT THE UK JEWISH POPULATION

12 DECEMBER 2012

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Background

The 2011 UK Census was held on 27th March 2011 and the first results on religion for England & Wales were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) yesterday.¹

The census included a question on religion for only the second time and therefore this is the first occasion on which we have been in a position to chart change in the Jewish population from one census to another.

As in 2001, the question was voluntary. It asked: 'What is your religion?' with 'Jewish' listed as one of the response options.

We are extremely fortunate as a community to benefit from national census data. Previously, in 2001, it provided us with a wealth of valuable information about the Jewish population which could not have been gathered in any other way and has since been used by a significant number of Jewish charities and communal bodies to plan service and welfare provision.

The full set of census data will be released in stages over the coming months. JPR will spearhead the data analysis and produce a number of focused reports for various sectors in the Jewish community. JPR will also be running a National Jewish Community Study (NJCS) in early 2013, and in which most major communal organisations are involved. This will provide additional data on the community that are not covered by the census. Together, these two resources will place the community in a very strong, data-rich position with huge potential to contribute towards planning and policy decision-making in the community over the coming years.

Yesterday's census release comprises religion counts for each of the 348 local authority areas in England and Wales which, in 2001, accounted for the vast majority of Britain's Jews (97.5%).

¹ Note that these data do not include figures for Northern Ireland or Scotland. Data for Northern Ireland are expected to be released next month. Those for Scotland will not be available until summer 2013.

2011 Census Results

National overview

The 2011 census enumerated 263,346 Jews in England and Wales. This represents a slight increase of 3,419 over the ten years since the 2001 census; in percentage terms this is an increase of 1.3%. This means that around 1 in 200 people in England and Wales identified as Jewish.

Assuming that Jews are as likely or unlikely to choose not to respond to the voluntary religion question as the general population (which JPR surveys suggest is the case), then we infer that there are an additional 21,000 Jewish people in England and Wales and therefore the adjusted Jewish population total for England and Wales for 2011 is 284,000. Applying this same logic to the 2001 census data means the percentage increase is 0.8%.²

In summary, the population has remained static over the ten year period. However this belies a far more complex picture due to high birth rates among the Orthodox (especially the *haredim*), but also low birth rates and ageing in the rest of the population, as well as a degree of assimilation.

Jews represent 0.5% of the total population in England and Wales—the same proportion as in 2001. Among other response options to the religion question, the largest proportionate increase was for ‘No religion’ responses (which increased by 83% since 2001) and the largest decrease was for ‘Christian’ (which fell by 11% since 2001). All other major religious groups have significantly increased their numbers since 2001 (Muslims by 75%, Buddhists by 71%, Hindus by 48%, and Sikhs by 28%).

Religions by group, 2011 v 2001

Religion response	2011		2001	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Christian	33,243,175	59.3	37,338,486	71.8
Muslim	2,706,066	4.8	1,546,626	3.0
Hindu	816,633	1.5	552,421	1.1
Sikh	423,158	0.8	329,358	0.6
Jewish	263,346	0.5	259,927	0.5
Buddhist	247,743	0.4	144,453	0.3
Other religions	240,530	0.4	150,720	0.3
No religion	14,097,229	25.1	7,709,267	14.8
Religion not stated	4,038,032	7.2	4,010,658	7.7
Total	56,075,912	100.0	52,041,916	100.00

A remarkable picture of dynamic change

Although the Jewish picture overall is static, examination of the data at a more localised level reveals a remarkable scene of dynamic change in the British Jewish population since

² The adjusted figure is 283,778 based on a non-response level of 7.20% (i.e. $263,346 / (1 - 0.072)$). Similarly, for 2001 data, the adjusted figure is 281,642 based on a non-response level of 7.71% (i.e. $259,927 / (1 - 0.0771)$).

2001. Overall, 144 out of 348 districts experienced an increase in Jewish population size, compared with 195 that experienced a decrease.

Jewish people were enumerated in every single one of the 348 Local Authority Districts in England and Wales attesting to a far-reaching geographic diversity of the Jewish population.

Nevertheless, London and its immediately adjacent areas³ account for 65.3% of the total Jewish population. This tells us paradoxically that on the national scale, Jews are both dispersed and concentrated. This is most likely due to religious Jews choosing to cluster together and less religious Jews choosing to spread out.

As in 2001, the place with the largest Jewish population was Barnet in north London, where one in seven people identified as Jewish. The 2011 data show that Barnet has a population of 54,084 Jews, compared to 46,686 in 2001. This represents a substantial increase of 15.8%. Barnet now accounts for one in five (20.5%) of all Jews in England and Wales. This considerable growth – an increase of 7,398 people – is likely to be a result of both natural increase (i.e. an excess of births over deaths) as well as the migration of Jews into the borough from other suburbs.

Greater Manchester also experienced a similar in level of growth, from 21,732 to 25,013; an increase of 15.1%. Within Greater Manchester, Salford and Bury both saw significant increases (by 2,508 and 1,378 Jews respectively). Conversely, the city of Manchester itself lost 463 Jews, and Stockport lost 314.

The table below summarises the top ten ‘most Jewish’ locations in England and Wales and the change in their Jewish populations over the last ten years. These districts account for over half of all Jews in England and Wales.

The top ten ‘most Jewish’ locations, 2011 v 2001

Area	2011		2001		Change since 2001
	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	
Barnet	54,084	1	46,686	1	+15.8%
Hackney	15,477	2	10,732	5	+44.2%
Hertsmere	14,293	3	10,712	6	+33.4%
Harrow	10,538	4	13,112	3	-19.6%
Bury	10,302	5	8,924	7	+15.4%
Redbridge	10,213	6	14,796	2	-31.0%
Camden	9,823	7	11,153	4	-11.9%
Salford	7,687	8	5,179	13	+48.4%
Haringey	7,643	9	5,724	11	+33.5%
Westminster	7,237	10	7,732	9	-6.4%

The difference between the top ten locations in 2011 and the top ten locations in 2001 reveals some extraordinary changes in the Jewish community over the last decade. Most revealingly, the top ten now include Salford in Greater Manchester and Haringey in north London. Missing from the top ten are Leeds (down from 8th to 11th) and Brent (down from 10th to 13th). Similarly, dramatic movements have occurred within the table. Redbridge was

³ The area covered by the Greater London Authority, plus the neighbouring districts of Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers, Watford (all in Hertfordshire), Epping Forest (Essex) and Elmbridge (Surrey) recorded a total of 171,960 Jews in 2011, compared to 168,955 in 2001.



ranked 2nd in 2001 and is now 6th – its population has decreased by almost one-third in a decade. By contrast, Hackney, ranked 5th in 2001 is now 2nd and increased its Jewish population by almost half.

The picture this paints is of two very different demographic processes taking place among Britain's Jews. On the one hand, it shows us that areas with large numbers of Orthodox Jews are growing expeditiously, a conclusion which is further bolstered by the dramatic increase of Gateshead's Jewish population (up 92%).

On the other hand, areas in the regional Jewish periphery and in the urban periphery of London that contain mostly non-Orthodox Jews are experiencing substantial contraction. There appears to be one important exception, and that is the very strong growth in Hertfordshire, whose Jewish population has increased from 16,885 in 2001 to 21,345 in 2011 (an increase of 26.4%). In particular, significant increases occurred in Hertsmere, St Albans, Watford and Welwyn Hatfield. This continues the well documented story of Jewish urban migration from London's East End out to the more affluent and spacious hinterland over the last century.

Summary

Four important points arise from this initial investigation of religion data for England and Wales from the 2011 Census:

- Overall, the Jewish population has remained static, but this stability conceals a complex picture of change at the local level;
- Substantial growth has occurred in Hackney, Haringey, Salford, Gateshead, and, to a lesser extent, Barnet and Bury, areas which contain large populations of Orthodox Jews;
- Strong population growth in Hertfordshire confirms it as a new major British Jewish population centre;
- Considerable population decreases have occurred in many of the major provincial communities, notably Leeds, as well as the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Brent.