

Insight

2001 Census



Falkirk Council

No 4 – Ethnicity Report

November 2003

This Insight reports on the ethnicity question from the 2001 Census. **1,491** people from an ethnic minority were counted in the Falkirk Council area – 1% of the total population.

Introduction

This is the fourth in a series of Insights which are being produced to report the results of the 2001 Census for the Falkirk Council area. This covers the ethnic breakdown of the population.

Background

A Census of the population throughout the United Kingdom is taken every ten years. The latest one took place on 29th April 2001. Questions were asked of the whole population on a variety topics including age, gender, economic activity, ethnicity, qualifications, limiting long term illness, housing tenure and car availability. This provides a wealth of detailed information which is available at a very small area level.

Efforts are made to protect confidentiality when the results are published and also to adjust the figures for the small amount of undercounting which is estimated to have taken place. Issues of confidentiality are particularly important in relation to information on ethnicity. Thus, although fourteen main ethnic groups are identified in the Census output, much of the detailed information is only available for five broad categories.

Great care needs to be taken when dealing with the very small numbers in the ethnic minority groups in Falkirk, and in particular care needs to be taken in drawing any conclusions from this report.

Ethnicity in Falkirk

The total population of Falkirk Council area in the 2001 Census was 145,191. Of this figure, 1,491 or 1.03% of the population recorded themselves in an ethnic group other than white. This compares with a total non-white population in Scotland of 101,677

or 2.01%. The equivalent figures for England and Wales are 4,521,050 and 8.69%.

This means that the proportion of the population of Scotland which is from ethnic minorities is about twice that of Falkirk and both have a substantially lower proportion than in England and Wales. However, Falkirk ranks 14th out of the 32 Councils in Scotland in terms of its percentage of non-white population. Only the four cities and East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire have ethnic minority populations above the Scottish average. Glasgow has the largest percentage at 5.5% - well below the England and Wales average.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of the Council area population by ethnic group.

Table 1: 2001 Census ethnicity

| Ethnic group | No. | % |
|--|----------------|--------|
| White Scottish | 135,749 | 93.50% |
| Other white British | 5,902 | 4.06% |
| White Irish | 914 | 0.63% |
| Other White | 1,135 | 0.78% |
| White | 143,700 | 98.97% |
| Indian | 131 | 0.09% |
| Pakistani | 723 | 0.50% |
| Bangladeshi | 13 | 0.01% |
| Other South Asian | 66 | 0.05% |
| Pakistani and other South Asian | 802 | 0.55% |
| Chinese | 177 | 0.12% |
| Caribbean | 32 | 0.02% |
| African | 39 | 0.03% |
| Black Scottish or other Black | 9 | 0.01% |
| Any mixed background | 210 | 0.14% |
| Other ethnic group | 91 | 0.06% |
| Other | 381 | 0.26% |
| Total non-white | 1,491 | 1.03% |
| Total | 145,191 | 100% |

Change since 1991

The 1991 Census was the first to record ethnicity. Although the question and categories were different, some comparisons can be made with 2001. In 1991, 910 people from an ethnic minority were counted, or 0.65% of the total population. Even allowing for an undercount in 1991, this represents an increase of over 500 people, or a 60% increase in numbers over the decade.

Table 2: 1991-2001 change in ethnic minority population

| | 1991 | 2001 | Change | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------|------|
| | | | No | % |
| White | 140,070 | 143,700 | +3,630 | +3% |
| Indian | 102 | 131 | +29 | +28% |
| Pakistani & Bangladeshi | 414 | 736 | +322 | +78% |
| Chinese | 140 | 177 | +37 | +26% |
| Other | 254 | 447 | 193 | +76% |
| Total* | 140,980 | 145,191 | | |

* Note that the total mid year estimate population for 1991 was 142,500, reflecting the adjustment for undercount

Table 2 shows the change in the numbers in each ethnic group since 1991. There is a clear pattern of a small growth in the white population which closely mirrors the change in the total population, as would be expected since the white group is by far the largest. The Chinese and Indian groups have grown by just over 25%, while the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities and other ethnic groups have increased by over 75%.

Comparisons between communities

Because of the small numbers it is difficult to make comparisons between the communities. However, some can be made by looking at percentages.

Table 3 shows the comparison between the white and non-white communities in broad age groups.

Table 3: Ethnicity and age group

| Age group | White | Non-white |
|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 0-15 | 19.4% | 31.9% |
| 16-34 | 24.5% | 33.9% |
| 35-59 | 35.1% | 28.1% |
| 60-74 | 14.1% | 4.4% |
| 75+ | 6.8% | 1.7% |

This shows that the ethnic minority population has a much younger age profile than the population as a whole. Almost two thirds of people from ethnic minorities are under 35, compared to only 44% of the white population. Conversely, very few people from ethnic communities are aged over 60, in comparison to the overall total.

Table 4 shows household types by ethnicity. This pattern reflects the age structure of the population

described above, with more households with children and fewer pensioner households.

Table 4: Ethnicity and household type

| Household type | White | Non-white |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Single person | 31.4% | 26.4% |
| Lone parent | 6.9% | 7.2% |
| Other households with children | 22.3% | 41.3% |
| Pensioner households | 8.5% | 2.4% |
| Other all adult households | 30.9% | 22.7% |

Table 5 details the economic activity patterns of the white and non-white population.

Table 5: Ethnicity and economic activity

| Economic activity | White | Non-white |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Employed full time | 43.3% | 27.3% |
| Employed part time | 11.5% | 8.8% |
| Self employed | 5.1% | 14.3% |
| Unemployed | 3.7% | 5.2% |
| Full time student | 2.3% | 5.2% |
| Total economically active | 66.0% | 60.7% |
| Retired | 14.6% | 4.5% |
| Student | 2.4% | 4.5% |
| Looking after home or family | 5.4% | 10.8% |
| Permanently sick or disabled | 7.9% | 6.1% |
| Other | 3.7% | 9.3% |
| Total economically inactive | 34.0% | 39.3% |

Population aged 16-74 only

There are considerable differences in the patterns of economic activity. Some of these, such as the percentage of students and retired will be related to the different age structures of the population. However, unemployment is higher among the ethnic minority communities and self employment is also much higher.

Table 6: Ethnicity and occupation

| Occupation | White | Non-white |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Managers and senior officials | 11.1% | 28.3% |
| Professionals | 8.1% | 12.2% |
| Associate professional and technical occupations | 14.1% | 6.7% |
| Administrative and technical | 13.2% | 7.2% |
| Skilled trades | 12.5% | 12.8% |
| Personal services | 7.1% | 3.0% |
| Sales and customer services | 8.9% | 16.3% |
| Process plant and machine operatives | 11.6% | 4.3% |
| Elementary occupations | 13.4% | 9.3% |

There are also interesting differences in the patterns of occupations and industry of employment of those working in the week before the Census. These are set out above in Table 6 (occupations) and Table 7 below (industry). The concentration of employment of the ethnic communities in retail and catering is particularly obvious.

Table 7: Ethnicity and industry

| Industry | White | Non-white |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Primary* | 1.6% | 0.6% |
| Manufacturing | 18.3% | 9.4% |
| Utilities | 1.1% | 0.9% |
| Construction | 8.6% | 3.7% |
| Wholesale and retail | 15.9% | 31.9% |
| Hotels and restaurants | 4.5% | 18.5% |
| Transport, storage and communications | 7.0% | 5.7% |
| Finance | 4.8% | 1.9% |
| Other business activities | 9.4% | 7.2% |
| Public administration | 7.4% | 4.1% |
| Education | 5.4% | 2.8% |
| Health and Social work | 11.6% | 8.9% |
| Other | 4.4% | 4.4% |

* Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying

In relation to qualifications, the ethnic minority population has a higher percentage of people aged 16-74 with no qualifications – 58% compared to 34% of the white population. On the other hand, 28% of non-white people have a degree or professional qualification but only 14% of the rest.

Housing tenure of the two communities is set out in Table 8. This shows that more people from the non-white population live in private rented accommodation or live rent free, while fewer rent from the council.

Table 8: Ethnicity and tenure

| Tenure | White | Non-white |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Owner occupied | 60.4% | 57.4% |
| Rented from council | 29.7% | 22.3% |
| Housing Association | 3.5% | 3.5% |
| Private rented or living rent free* | 6.4% | 16.8% |

* Living rent free includes people in both council and housing association properties

Ethnic minority households are more likely to live in overcrowded conditions and have no central heating. 15.9% of households headed by someone from an ethnic minority were overcrowded and 6.3% had no central heating compared to only 8.3% of households headed by a white person which were overcrowded and 2.7% which had no central heating. On the other hand only 25% of houses headed by an ethnic minority person had no car compared to 31% of other households.

The average household size of households headed by someone from an ethnic minority is 3.23 people compared to only 2.28 for households headed by a white person.

The health of the ethnic minority communities is generally better than the rest of the population. Only 7.6% said that their health was not good while 10.5% of the white population were in poor health. Similarly, only 14% of people from an ethnic minority had a limiting long term illness compared to 21.3% of the rest of the people. This may of course be due to the relatively young age of the ethnic minority population, since both poor health and limiting long term illness are much more common in the elderly population.

Ethnic population within Falkirk Council area

While overall the ethnic minority population is around 1% of the total, it does vary across the Council area. Ward 5 – Hallglen has the highest proportion of its population from ethnic minorities at 2.2%. This is followed by Ward 23 – Denny at 1.56% and Ward 15 – Borrowstoun at 1.53%. In 14 wards more than 1% of the population is from an ethnic minority.

Ward 21 – Larbert has the lowest proportion of ethnic minority population at 0.51% and two further wards, Ward 12 – Dundas/Kerse and Ward 13 – Grange and Blackness have less than 0.6% ethnic minority population.

Further information

Further information can be found from the address below or on the GROS website at:
www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

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