

Scotland's Census 2022 – Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

Aberdeenshire

On 21 May 2024 data from the 2022 Census was published on [ethnic group, national identity, language and religion](#). These statistics show how Scotland, its people and its culture are changing. This report highlights some of the main results for Aberdeenshire. All data is available to download from [Scotland's Census website](#).

Religion

In 2022, 59% of people in Aberdeenshire said they had no religion, up from 43% at the time of the last census in 2011. This change was seen across Scotland with 51% of people now saying that they do not have a religion. The rise was accompanied by a fall in the number of people who said they were Christian, with a large drop in those belonging to the Church of Scotland in Aberdeenshire from 36% in 2011 to 23% in 2022. There were increases in all the main non-Christian religions although these still represent a small minority in Aberdeenshire.

Figure 1: Percentage of Aberdeenshire Population by Religious Group, 2011 - 2022

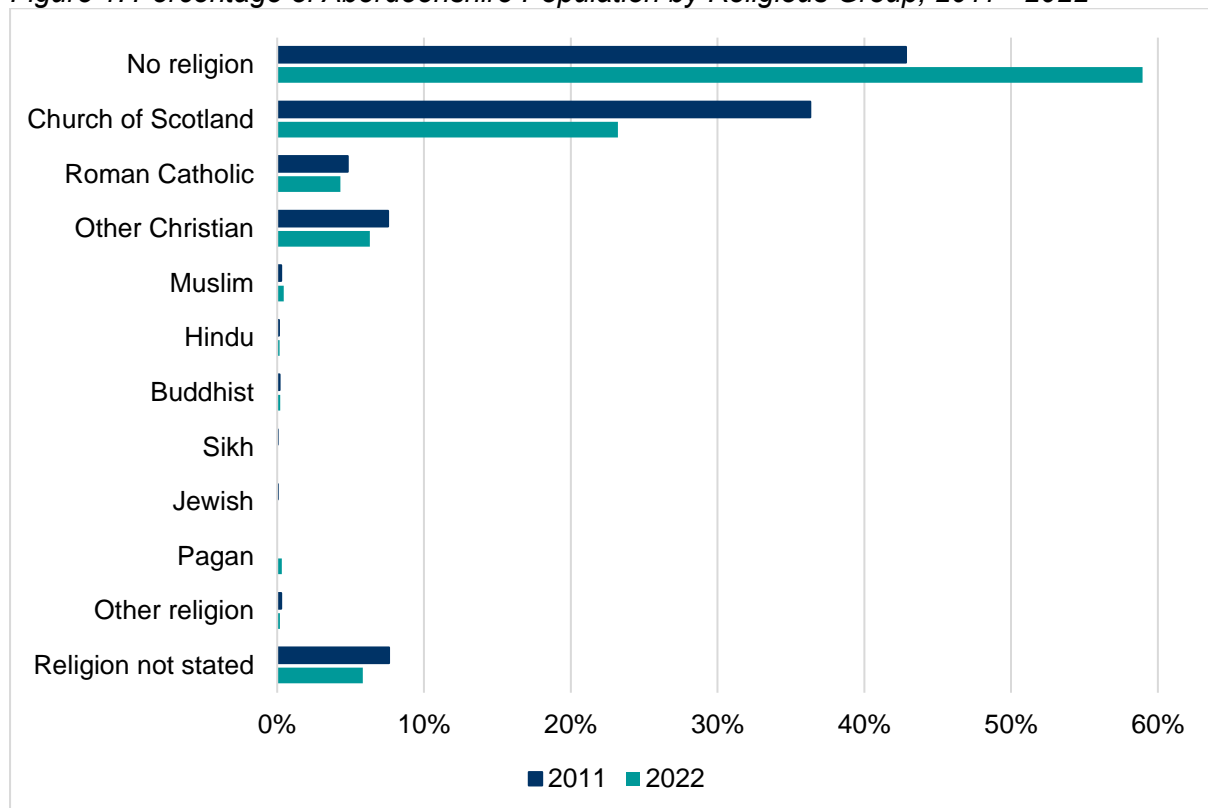


Table 1: Numbers and percentages of Aberdeenshire population by religious group, 2011-2022

Religion	2011 Count	2022 Count	2011 Percentage	2022 Percentage
No religion	108,376	155,494	42.8%	59.0%
Church of Scotland	91,888	61,218	36.3%	23.2%
Roman Catholic	12,136	11,343	4.8%	4.3%
Other Christian	19,101	16,637	7.6%	6.3%
Muslim	691	1,172	0.3%	0.4%
Hindu	282	446	0.1%	0.2%
Buddhist	437	520	0.2%	0.2%
Sikh	51	66	0.0%	0.0%
Jewish	71	96	0.0%	0.0%
Pagan	-	833	0.0%	0.3%
Other religion	676	493	0.3%	0.2%
Religion not stated	19,264	15,405	7.6%	5.8%

Ethnic Group

In Aberdeenshire in 2022, 97% of the population were white, a higher percentage than in Scotland (93%). Most people in this category described themselves as White Scottish (80%) or White British (12%). The next largest ethnic group was Asian/Asian Scottish/Asian British at 1%.

There has been an increase in the number of people in minority ethnic groups¹ from 5% in 2011 to 8% in 2022. Figure 2 shows that many of these groups have seen an increase since the last Census.

¹ Includes some ethnic groups in the White category on the Census form such as Irish, Polish, Gypsy/Traveller.

Figure 2: Percentage of Aberdeenshire Population by Minority Ethnic Group, 2011 - 2022

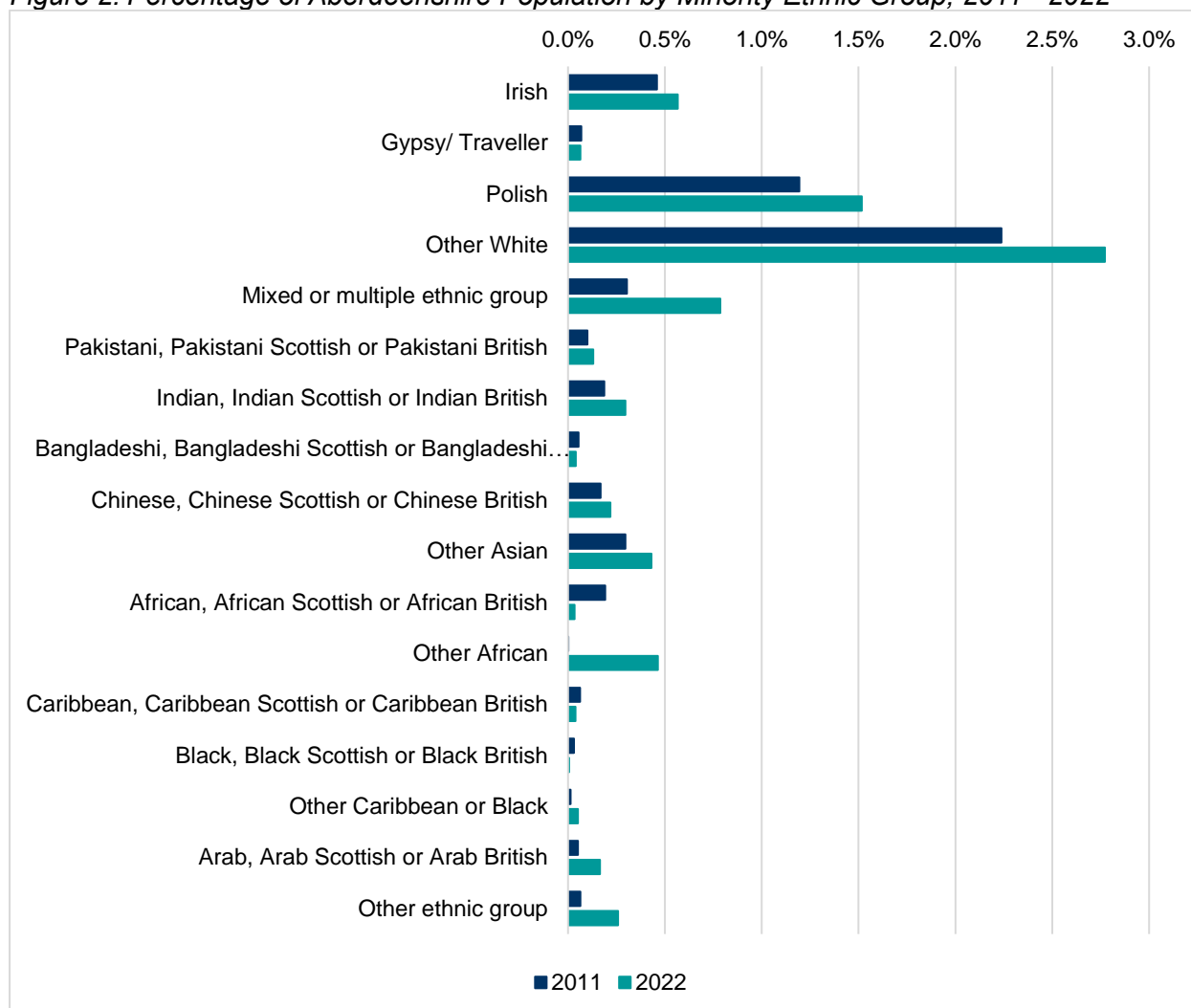


Table 2: Numbers and percentages of minority ethnic groups in Aberdeenshire, 2011-2022

Ethnic Group	2011 Count	2011 Percentage	2022 Count	2022 Percentage
Irish	1,162	0.5%	1,493	0.6%
Gypsy/ Traveller	175	0.1%	169	0.1%
Polish	3,020	1.2%	3,998	1.5%
Other White	5,661	2.2%	7,312	2.8%
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	771	0.3%	2,074	0.8%
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	253	0.1%	343	0.1%
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British	473	0.2%	783	0.3%
Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British	138	0.1%	106	0.0%
Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British	424	0.2%	575	0.2%
Other Asian	749	0.3%	1135	0.4%

Ethnic Group	2011 Count	2011 Percentage	2022 Count	2022 Percentage
African, African Scottish or African British	487	0.2%	88	0.0%
Other African	3	0.0%	1224	0.5%
Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	159	0.1%	100	0.0%
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	76	0.0%	16	0.0%
Other Caribbean or Black	34	0.0%	137	0.1%
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	131	0.1%	436	0.2%
Other ethnic group	163	0.1%	682	0.3%

Country of Birth

In Aberdeenshire, 93% of the population were born in the UK, just slightly lower than in 2011 (94%). 80% of Aberdeenshire's population were born in Scotland. A further 4% were born in Europe outside the UK, up from 3% in 2011, with the remaining 3% born in other parts of the world. Although the numbers of people born outside Europe are very small, it is noted that there were some increases in the 2022 figures compared with 2011. For example, there was an increase of 85% in people born in the Middle East (from 364 in 2011 to 672 in 2022) and 51% from Africa (1,489 to 2,255).

Figure 3: Percentage of Aberdeenshire population by Country of Birth, 2011-2022

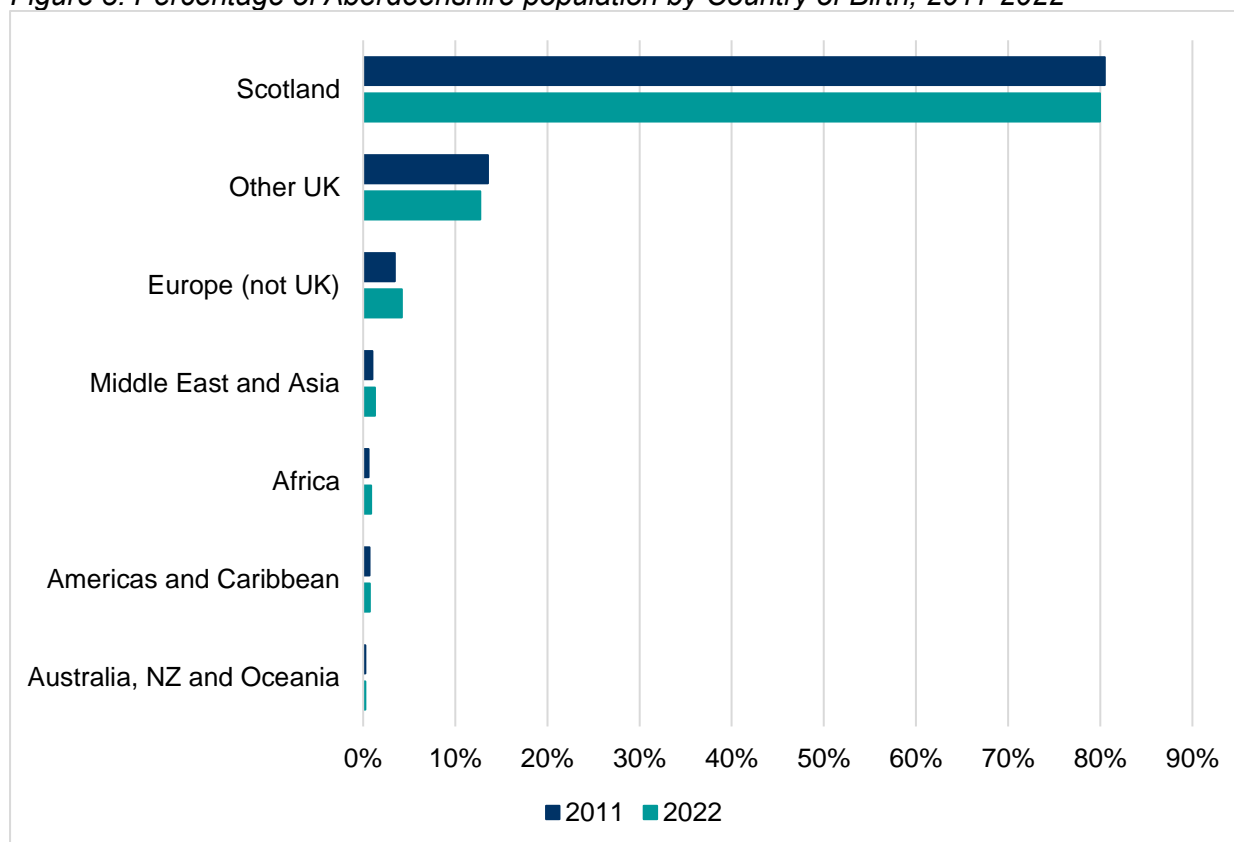


Table 3: Numbers and percentages of Aberdeenshire population by Country of Birth, 2011-2022

Country of Birth	2011 Count	2011 Percentage	2022 Count	2022 Percentage
Scotland	203,656	80.5%	210,926	80.0%
Other UK	34,270	13.5%	33,499	12.7%
Europe (not UK)	8,679	3.4%	11,037	4.2%
Africa	1,489	0.6%	2,255	0.9%
Middle East and Asia	2,499	1.0%	3,415	1.3%
Americas and Caribbean	1,784	0.7%	1,928	0.7%
Australia, NZ and Oceania	596	0.2%	663	0.3%

National Identity

66% of Aberdeenshire’s population said their national identity was Scottish, 15% British, and 9% both British and Scottish. There were more people identifying as only Scottish or British than in 2011, and fewer with both Scottish and British identity. The proportion of people with only a non UK identity increased slightly from 2011 to 2022 but remains quite small at 4%.

Figure 4: Percentage of Aberdeenshire Population by National Identity, 2011-2022

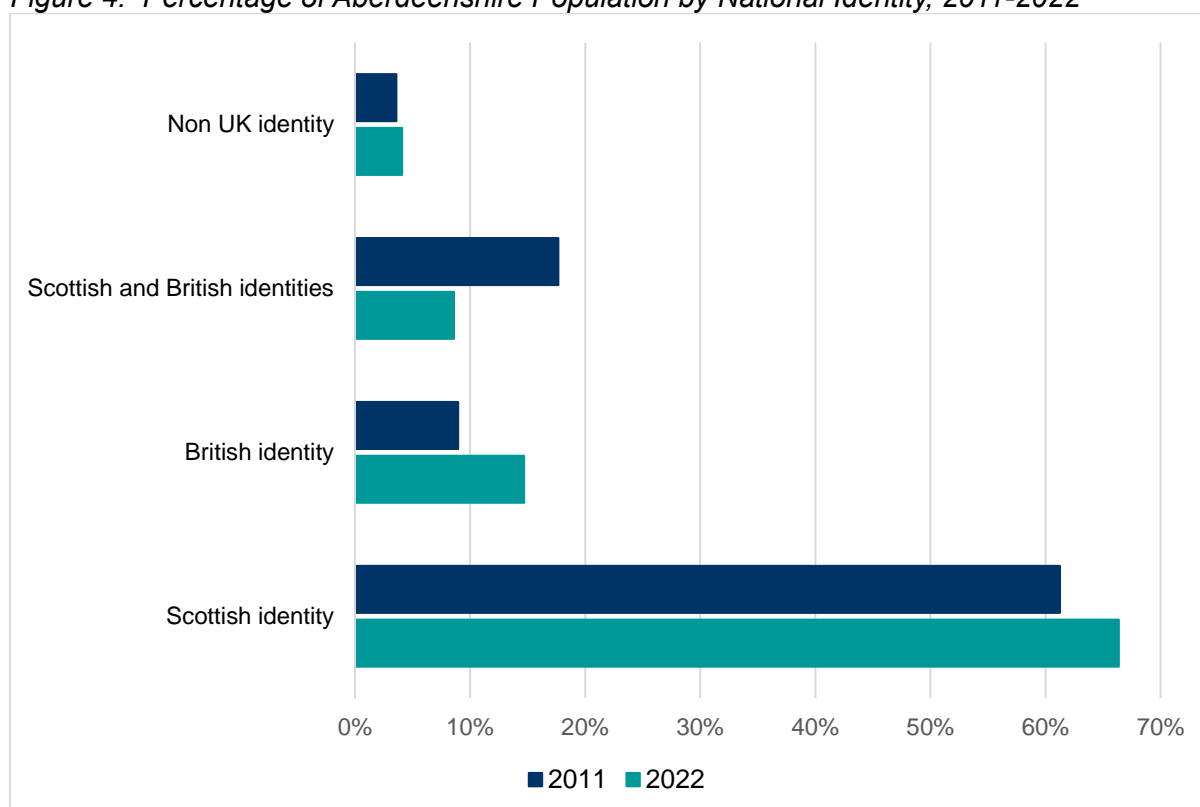


Table 4: Numbers and percentages of Aberdeenshire population by National Identity, 2011-2022

National Identity	2011 Count	2011 Percentage	2022 Count	2022 Percentage
Scottish identity	155,007	61.3%	175,047	66.4%
British identity	22,674	9.0%	38,773	14.7%
Scottish and British identities	44,690	17.7%	22,701	8.6%
Scottish and any other identities	4,829	1.9%	4,383	1.7%
English identity	9,134	3.6%	7,919	3.0%
Any other combination of UK identities	6,888	2.7%	3,493	1.3%
Other (Non UK) identity	9,144	3.6%	10,813	4.1%
Other identity and at least one UK identity	607	0.2%	594	0.2%

Language

In 2022 64% of Aberdeenshire's population said they had some skills in Scots² (one or more of understanding, speaking, reading, writing). This was the highest percentage in Scotland and was also an increase since 2011 when the proportion was 58%.

96% of Aberdeenshire's population in 2022 said English was their main language, slightly higher than the Scottish proportion of 94%. 1,428 people in Aberdeenshire said Scots was their main language, 61 said British Sign Language and 8,364 (3%) said it was another language.

Report produced by the Planning Information & Delivery Team, Aberdeenshire Council. For more information, please contact statistics@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or visit [Scotland's Census 2022](https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk) website.

² The [Scots language category](#) includes Doric and other local dialects.