



2011 Census Digest: Religion

About this 2011 Census Digest

The 2011 Census question on religion was the only voluntary question on the questionnaire and 2011 data is considered by Office for National Statistics to be fully comparable to 2001 data.

Comparisons to 2001 Census

Comparison of Number of Persons in Shropshire, regionally and nationally in 2001 and 2011

	Shropshire Unitary Authority*		Telford and Wrekin Unitary Authority		West Midlands Region		England		England and Wales	
	No. (2001)	No. (2011)	No. (2001)	No. (2011)	No. (2001)	No. (2011)	No. (2001)	No. (2011)	No. (2001)	No. (2011)
All Categories	283,173	306,129	158,325	166,641	5,267,308	5,601,847	49,138,831	53,012,456	52,041,916	56,075,912
Christian	226,351	210,268	117,573	102,892	3,823,235	3,373,450	35,251,244	31,479,876	37,338,486	33,243,175
Buddhist	447	792	418	398	9,760	16,649	139,046	238,626	144,453	247,743
Hindu	192	378	641	872	56,668	72,247	546,982	806,199	552,421	816,633
Jewish	117	127	64	78	4,977	4,621	257,671	261,282	259,927	263,346
Muslim	589	989	2,030	3,019	216,184	376,152	1,524,887	2,660,116	1,546,626	2,706,066
Sikh	153	256	1,831	2,118	103,870	133,681	327,343	420,196	329,358	423,158
Other Religion	630	1,113	349	692	10,895	25,654	143,811	227,825	150,720	240,530
No Religion	34,650	69,725	23,866	45,599	647,718	1,230,910	7,171,332	13,114,232	7,709,267	14,097,229
Religion not stated	20,044	22,481	11,553	10,973	394,001	368,483	3,776,515	3,804,104	4,010,658	4,038,032

Source: Table KS07, 2001 Census and KS209EW, 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2014.

- In 2011, there were increases in Shropshire in the number of people who identified themselves as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh or as another religion.
- Between 2001 and 2011, there was a -7.1% decrease in the number of people who have identified themselves as Christian in Shropshire (-16,083 people).

Comparison of 2001 and 2011 Percentage of Persons in Shropshire, regionally and nationally

	Shropshire Unitary Authority*		Telford and Wrekin Unitary Authority		West Midlands Region		England		England and Wales	
	% 2001	% 2011	% 2001	% 2011	% 2001	% 2011	% 2001	% 2011	% 2001	% 2011
Christian	79.9	68.7	74.3	61.7	72.6	60.2	71.7	59.4	71.8	59.3
Buddhist	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4
Hindu	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5
Jewish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Muslim	0.2	0.3	1.3	1.8	4.1	6.7	3.1	5.0	3.0	4.8
Sikh	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.3	2.0	2.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8
Other Religion	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
No Religion	12.2	22.8	15.1	27.4	12.3	22.0	14.6	24.7	14.8	25.1
Religion not stated	7.1	7.3	7.3	6.6	7.5	6.6	7.7	7.2	7.7	7.2

Source: KS07, 2001 Census and KS209EW, 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2014. *2001 Census figures are for Shropshire County, which became a Unitary Authority in 2009.

Within Shropshire, between 2001 and 2011:

- There was a significant decrease in the percentage of people who said they were Christians (from 79.9% to 68.7%). Shropshire still had a higher percentage of Christians than regionally and nationally.
- There was a significant percentage increase in people stating that they had no religion (from 12.2% to 22.8%). In 2011, the county had a higher percentage of people in this category than regionally (22.0%), although the figure was below the national average.
- There were increases in the percentage of people who answered Buddhist (0.2% in 2001 to 0.3% in 2011), Muslim (0.2% to 0.3%) and Other Religion (0.2% to 0.4%).
- The percentage of people who did not state their religion increased slightly in the County, from 7.1% in 2001 to 7.3% in 2011. Regionally and nationally, there was a decrease in the percentage of people selecting this category.

Further Analysis of 2011 Census Data

Other Religion

In 2011, 1,113 people in Shropshire were a member of a religion in the Other Religion category:

- The largest religion within the Other Religions category in Shropshire was Pagan, with 30.8% of people (343 people) within the Other Religions category being a member; the religion represented 0.1% of the number of people in all categories.
- The next largest religions within the category were Mixed Religion and Spiritualist, both having 167 people (or 15% each of people within the Other Religions category), or 0.1% of people in all categories.

No Religion

In the 2011 Census, 69,725 people in Shropshire gave a response that placed them within the No Religion category. This made the category the second largest category in Shropshire, following Christian. In 2001, this category also had the second largest amount of people, however the number of people being placed within the category increased significantly in 2011 (by 35,075 people, more than double the category's total in the 2001 Census). It is possible in the 2011

Census to look in more detail at the groups that are included within the No Religion category and the number of people within Shropshire, regionally and nationally that have identified themselves within them.

2011 Census responses in the No Religion category in Shropshire, regionally and nationally

	Shropshire Unitary Authority		Telford and Wrekin Unitary Authority	West Midlands Region	England	England and Wales
	Number of Persons	% of All Categories	% of All Categories	% of All Categories	% of All Categories	% of All Categories
No Religion - Total	69,725	22.8	27.4	22.0	24.7	25.1
No religion	68,401	22.3	26.9	21.6	24.3	24.7
Agnostic	161	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Atheist	131	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Free Thinker	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heavy Metal	27	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Humanist	123	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jedi Knight	878	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Realist	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Table QS210EW, 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2014.

- The majority of people within the No Religion category in Shropshire in 2011 were classed as having no religion (68,401 people or 22.3% of all categories).
- The next largest groups within the category in Shropshire were Jedi Knight (878 people or 0.3% of all categories), Agnostic (161 people or 0.1% of all categories) and Atheist (131 people).

Notes on the 2011 Census information

Religion: This is a person's current religion, or if the person does not have a religion, 'no religion'. No determination is made about whether a person was a practicing member of a religion. Unlike other census questions where missing answers are imputed, this question was voluntary, and where no answer was provided the response is categorised as 'Not stated'.

Usual resident: The main population base for outputs from the 2011 Census is the usual resident population as at Census Day (27th March 2011). Although the population base for enumeration included non-UK short-term residents, this population is analysed separately and is not included in the main outputs from the 2011 Census. All outputs, unless specified, are produced using only usual residents of the UK. For 2011 Census purposes, a usual resident of the UK is anyone who, on census day, was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.

Source: Table QS210EW, 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2014.

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