

The different experiences of the United Kingdom's ethnic and religious populations

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Introduction

The United Kingdom is an area of increasing ethnic and religious diversity. The majority of the population are White British, but a pattern of migration since the middle of the 20th century has produced a number of recognisable minority ethnic groups. Many have their own distinct appearance, language, religion and culture.

The 1950s and 1960s were periods of mass immigration from the New Commonwealth countries, in particular the Caribbean, India and Pakistan. Migrants from Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Africa followed. The 1980s onwards witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of asylum seekers.¹ More recently there has been an increase in migration from eastern European countries.

The 1991 Censuses in England, Wales and Scotland presented the first opportunity to accurately measure the size of the ethnic minority populations in Great Britain. Ethnic group data were not collected on the 1991 Census in Northern Ireland. Prior to the 1991 Census, estimates of the size of ethnic groups relied upon survey data or upon using country of birth as a proxy for ethnic group. Estimates from both sources were prone to error. Between 1991 and 2001 Great Britain's ethnic minority population grew from 3.1 million people to 4.6 million. It also increased as a proportion of the population, from 5.6 per cent to 8.1 per cent over the decade. During this period there was growth in each of the ethnic minority populations, particularly in the Black African population which doubled (Figure A.1 overleaf).

Ethnic minority groups are diverse. The original migrants entered the UK speaking a range of languages, adhering to different religious and cultural beliefs, and their socio-economic backgrounds, educational backgrounds and economic resources were often as different from each other as their countries of origin. Some groups have experienced economic success and seen their children make substantial gains in education and employment. Others have found themselves and their children comparatively disadvantaged – both in comparison to the majority White British population and in comparison to other ethnic minority groups.

While the article discusses labour market and educational outcomes of different ethnic and religious populations, other topics are discussed in the Focus on Ethnicity and Focus on Religion online reports see: www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson.

Figures for the United Kingdom are presented where available but due to the lack of directly comparable data for Northern Ireland, data for Great Britain are used to describe each ethnic group.

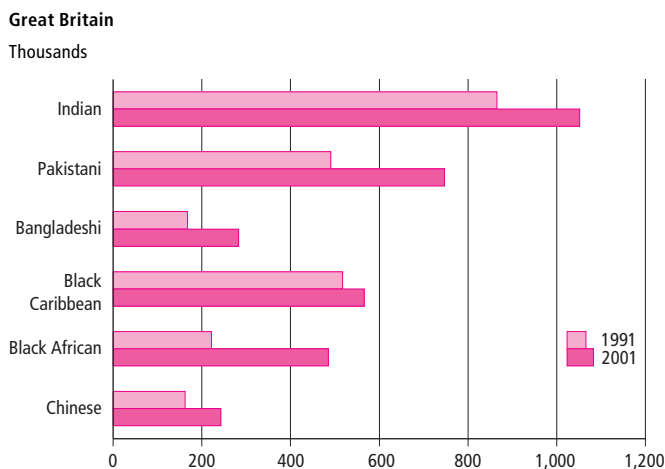
Who, When and Where: Ethnic and religious populations in the UK

The ethnic minority population comprised 8 per cent of the UK population in 2001. Ethnic minority populations are characterised by a number of factors including their particular group characteristics, the younger age structure of their populations and the geographical regions in which they live.

Indians formed the largest ethnic minority group in 2001. They comprised nearly 2 per cent of the UK population (1,053,000 people) but accounted for almost one in four (23 per cent) of the UK ethnic minority population (Table A.2). The next largest group were the Pakistanis, who accounted for 16 per cent of the ethnic minority population, followed by the Black Caribbeans (12 per cent), Black Africans (10 per cent), Bangladeshis (6 per cent) and Chinese (5 per cent).

Most ethnic minority groups in Great Britain have young populations compared with the White British population. The Mixed group are the youngest, half (50 per cent) being under 16 years of age in 2001, followed by the Bangladeshi (38 per cent), Pakistani (35 per cent) and Black African (30 per cent) populations. The Black Caribbean population have the oldest age structure of the non-White groups – 20 per cent were under 16 years of age in 2001 and 11 per cent were over 65 years of age. This distribution was closest to the White British age structure. The White Irish population have the oldest age structure of all ethnic groups, having the smallest proportion of under 16 year olds (6 per cent) and the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over (25 per cent) (see Population chapter; Figure 1.5).

Figure A.1
Growth of the main ethnic minority groups, 1991¹ and 2001



¹ Data for 1991 have been adjusted for census under enumeration.

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census 2001, General Register Office for Scotland; Ethnicity in the 1991 Census: Volume One, Office for National Statistics

Table A.2
Population: by ethnic group, 2001

United Kingdom	Numbers and percentages		
	Total population		Non-White population (percentages)
	Numbers	Percentages	
White	54,153,898	92.1	.
Mixed	677,117	1.2	14.6
Asian or Asian British			
Indian	1,053,411	1.8	22.7
Pakistani	747,285	1.3	16.1
Bangladeshi	283,063	0.5	6.1
Other Asian	247,664	0.4	5.3
All Asian or Asian British	2,331,423	4.0	50.3
Black or Black British			
Black Caribbean	565,876	1.0	12.2
Black African	485,277	0.8	10.5
Other Black	97,585	0.2	2.1
All Black or Black British	1,148,738	2.0	24.8
Chinese	247,403	0.4	5.3
Other ethnic groups	230,615	0.4	5.0
All minority ethnic population	4,635,296	7.9	100.0
All ethnic groups	58,789,194	100.0	.

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census 2001, General Register Office for Scotland; Census 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Although the post-war period is associated with ethnic minority migration, Britain has a long history of White migration prior to the 1950s, including waves of economic migrants from Ireland, and Jewish and other migrants from across Europe. These groups have characteristics that distinguish them from the majority White British population. However, the groups usually considered to make up the UK ethnic minority population are the non-White groups.

In 2001 most of the UK ethnic minority population lived in England (96 per cent), with smaller proportions in Scotland (2 per cent) and Wales (1 per cent), and less than 0.5 per cent living in Northern Ireland. The White population was much more geographically dispersed – 82 per cent lived in England, 9 per cent in Scotland, 5 per cent in Wales and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. Ethnic minority populations were concentrated in certain government office regions. In 2001, 45 per cent of the UK ethnic minority population lived in London, compared with 10 per cent of the White population. Ethnic minority populations were also concentrated in the midlands, 13 per cent living in the West Midland and 6 per cent in the East Midland regions. There were smaller ethnic minority populations in the North West and South East regions (8 per cent in each case) and in the Yorkshire and the Humber region (7 per cent).

There were geographic differences between ethnic minority groups across the United Kingdom, with Black Africans, Black Caribbeans and Bangladeshis being most likely to live in London. More than three quarters of Black Africans (78 per cent), and more than half of Black Caribbeans (61 per cent) and Bangladeshis (54 per cent) lived in London in 2001. This compared with four in ten Indians (41 per cent) and three in ten Chinese (32 per cent). The Pakistani population were more evenly dispersed than many other non-White groups, with similar proportions living in the government office regions of the North West of England (16 per cent), London (19 per cent), Yorkshire and the Humber (20 per cent) and the West Midlands (21 per cent) in 2001. The West Midlands was also home to a large proportion of the Indian (17 per cent), Black Caribbean (15 per cent) and Bangladeshi (11 per cent) populations.

In addition to differences between the main ethnic groups, there is often diversity within groups. The Indian and African populations in particular include a number of distinct groups who originate from different regions, speak different languages, observe different religious practices, and have different socio-economic backgrounds. There is also diversity within the non-specific ethnic group categories such as the 'Other White', 'Other Black', 'Other Asian' and 'Other ethnic group' categories.² The rest of this article discusses some of the diversity within, and differences between, Great Britain's ethnic populations. Ethnicity is not fixed, being both subjective and

evolving, but the groups described are those considered to be the main ethnic groups in Great Britain at the present time.³

White British

Historically Great Britain has been populated by an indigenous White population. In 2001 there were 50 million White British people in Great Britain. The majority shared a common religious background, Great Britain being historically Christian. While most recognised themselves as belonging to the 'White British' ethnic group, their sense of 'national identity' reflected the particular country with which they identified. Respondents to the 2004 Annual Population Survey were asked what they considered their national identities to be, choosing from British, English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish or some other identity. They could choose more than one if they wished. People from the White British group were more likely to describe their national identity as English (58 per cent) rather than British (36 per cent). Nine per cent reported a 'Scottish' national identity and 5 per cent 'Welsh'. In addition the White British population includes people from very different socio-economic backgrounds. Among the working-age White British population in 2001, 30 per cent belonged to a managerial or professional occupation, while 24 per cent belonged to a routine or semi-routine occupation. Experiences and outcomes vary greatly between the different socio-economic occupational groups.

White Irish

Great Britain has a long history of Irish migration following the Irish potato famines in the 19th century. This migration continued throughout the 20th century. Those who came shared a common language and Christian religious background with the White British population. The White Irish population accounted for 691,000 people and 1.2 per cent of Great Britain's population in 2001. They were less geographically concentrated than some of the non-White ethnic groups. About three in ten (32 per cent) lived in the London region and one in ten respectively lived in the South East (12 per cent), the West Midlands (11 per cent), the North West (11 per cent) and the East of England (9 per cent) regions. A further 7 per cent lived in Scotland which was greater than the proportion for the non-White groups (2 per cent). In 2004 White Irish respondents mainly described their national identity as 'Irish', but some also reported an additional identity – 'British' (12 per cent), 'English' (14 per cent), 'Scottish' (3 per cent) and 'Welsh' (1 per cent). The White Irish had a relatively advantaged socio-economic position in 2001, with more than one in three of the working-age population belonging to a managerial or professional occupation (35 per cent) and a smaller proportion belonging to a routine or semi-routine occupation (20 per cent).

Black Caribbean

The 1950s and 1960s were periods of mass migration from the Caribbean in response to labour shortages in Great Britain.⁴ Caribbean migrants differed from many South Asian migrants by often sharing the language and the Christian religious background of the White British population. In 2001 the Black Caribbean population included the second and third generation descendents of the original migrants and accounted for 566,000 people in Great Britain. Six in ten (58 per cent) were born in the UK but the proportion who regarded themselves as British, English, Scottish or Welsh was greater – more than eight out of ten (86 per cent) Black Caribbean respondents reported one of these British identities in 2004. The original migrants came to fill employment gaps in mainly semi-skilled or unskilled manual occupations, but the Black Caribbean group has experienced occupational mobility since the 1950s. Among the working-age population in 2001 the proportion in a managerial or professional occupation (28 per cent) was greater than the proportion belonging to a routine or semi-routine occupation (23 per cent). These proportions were similar to those of the White British ethnic group.

Indians

There has been an Indian presence in the United Kingdom since the 18th century but mass migration from the Indian sub-continent began in the 1950s and 1960s.⁵ The migrant population was made up of many groups, including Sikhs and Hindus from the Punjab region in north west India and Hindus and Muslims from the Gujarat area in the western part of India. They were joined in the 1970s by Indians from East Africa including Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. They had previously migrated to East Africa from India. In 2001 the Indian population was one of the most religiously diverse, including Hindus (45 per cent), Sikhs (29 per cent), Muslims (13 per cent) and Christians (5 per cent). Together with their British-born descendents, they formed the largest ethnic minority group in Great Britain, accounting for 23 per cent of the ethnic minority population. Almost half (46 per cent) had been born in the UK but a greater proportion felt they had a British national identity (75 per cent). Indians had a relatively more advantaged socio-economic position compared with other ethnic groups of South Asian origin (Pakistanis and Bangladeshis). Among the Indian working-age population in 2001, almost three in ten were in a managerial or professional occupation (28 per cent), while two in ten were in a routine or semi-routine occupation (20 per cent).

Pakistanis

Pakistan came into existence in 1947 when the Indian subcontinent was partitioned following independence from British rule.⁶ Mass migration from Pakistan took place from

the 1960s with the arrival of male economic migrants to the UK. It continued through the 1970s and 1980s with wives and children joining their husbands and fathers. By 2001 the Pakistani population accounted for 747,000 people and over half (55 per cent) had been born in the UK. Eight in ten (83 per cent) reported having a British national identity in 2004. The Pakistani population is overwhelmingly Muslim, a characteristic it shares with the Bangladeshi population. Pakistanis have a relatively disadvantaged socio-economic position. In 2001 the proportion of the working-age population in a managerial or professional occupation (14 per cent) was smaller than the proportion in a routine or semi-routine occupation (20 per cent).

Bangladeshis

Bangladesh came into existence in 1971 when it became independent from Pakistan. The majority of the Bangladeshi population originate from one single district, Sylhet, in the north east of Bangladesh. Migration from this region began before the 1960s but increased thereafter. Male economic migrants arrived first and were joined later by their wives and dependents from Bangladesh.⁷ In 2001 the Bangladeshi population accounted for 283,000 people and was considerably smaller than the Indian and Pakistani populations. Bangladeshis, like Pakistanis, are overwhelmingly Muslim. The proportion born in the United Kingdom (46 per cent) was slightly smaller than the proportion of the Pakistani group, due to their later arrival in Great Britain. However in 2004, they were just as likely as the Pakistani or Indian ethnic groups to consider their national identity to be British (82 per cent). Bangladeshis had the most disadvantaged socio-economic position in 2001, with just over one in ten (11 per cent) of the working-age population belonging to a managerial or professional occupation and twice that proportion belonging to a routine or semi-routine occupation (22 per cent).

Black Africans

Black Africans have a long history of small-scale settlement in Great Britain with communities established from the late 1940s onwards in the seaports of Liverpool, Cardiff and London. Since the 1970s, political instability across the African continent has contributed to increased migration.⁸ The 2001 Black African population included people from Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Kenya, as well as their British-born descendents. This range of countries of origin has contributed to the formation of distinct populations within the Black African ethnic group, with different characteristics including religious affiliation and socio-economic background. They include those seeking asylum, students and economic migrants. Seven in ten (69 per cent) were Christian in 2001 and two in ten (20 per cent) were Muslim. The Black African

population in 2001, 485,000 people, was a similar size to the Black Caribbean population, though the proportion born in the UK, 34 per cent, was much smaller than the Black Caribbean or South Asian ethnic groups. The proportion reporting a British national identity was also smaller (53 per cent). The proportion who had a managerial or professional occupation (26 per cent) was greater than the proportion in a routine or semi-routine occupation (18 per cent).

Chinese

The Chinese population has a relatively long history of settlement in Great Britain. Since the late 20th century there has been further growth in the Chinese population due to increasing migration and large numbers of overseas students. The Chinese population in Great Britain was almost a quarter of a million people (243,000) in 2001. Just three in ten (29 per cent) had been born in the United Kingdom but a greater proportion considered their national identity to be British (52 per cent) in 2004. One in five of the working-age population had a managerial or professional occupation (24 per cent), while those in a routine or semi-routine occupation (14 per cent) were the smallest proportion of any ethnic group. The Chinese working-age population included the largest proportion of full-time students (30 per cent) and the largest proportion of small employers or own account workers (13 per cent).

New minority ethnic groups

The last 50 years has seen the emergence of new, British-born, ethnic minority groups. These are the children of inter-ethnic partnerships, primarily partnerships between people from the White British population and people from ethnic minority groups. In 2001 there were 674,000 people from mixed groups in Great Britain. The different mixed groups cannot be identified from the Scotland Census as the ethnic group question provided a single Mixed group category. The more extensive ethnic group question asked in England and Wales identified three distinct mixed groups. The largest was the Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnic group which accounted for almost a quarter of a million people (237,000 people) in England and Wales. The next largest mixed groups were the Mixed White and Asian group (189,000 people) and the Mixed White and African group (79,000 people). The majority of people from a Mixed ethnic group share some things in common such as having a White parent and being born in Great Britain. Their cultural attitudes, socio-economic backgrounds and religion may vary, reflecting to some extent their parentage.

In 2004, 88 per cent of the Mixed group reported having one of the British national identities. They were more likely than any other ethnic minority group to describe themselves as 'English'

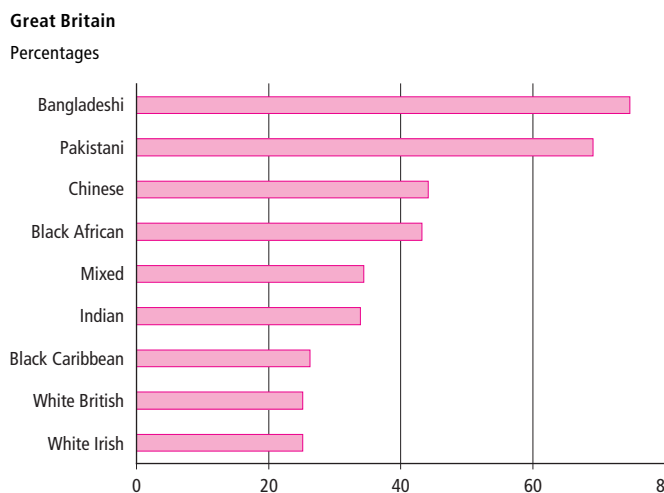
as opposed to 'British'. Thirty seven per cent of the Mixed group described themselves as English compared with no more than 19 per cent in any other ethnic minority group. Many in the ethnic minority population are children and their national identity will have been reported by their parents. People from a Mixed group may feel that they are English to a greater extent than their ethnic minority counterparts but equally White parents may be more likely than ethnic minority parents to describe their children's national identity as English.

Women making choices: households, children and work

Culture and religion are important influences on how women organise their lives. They affect the choices women make when it comes to their role within the family, as mothers and partners, and their activity in the labour market. Women's labour market behaviour may also be affected by their age, structural factors such as the local economy, and the skills they can bring to the labour market.

Bangladeshi and Pakistani women have the highest rates of economic inactivity (for definitions see the labour market glossary on page 51). In 2004, 75 per cent of working-age Bangladeshi women and 69 per cent of working-age Pakistani women were neither working nor seeking work (Figure A.3). The majority were looking after their families within the home. The groups with the next highest economic inactivity rates were Chinese (44 per cent) and Black African (43 per cent) women. Economic inactivity rates were lower for Indian women (34 per cent) than the other South Asian groups, Indian women having

Figure A.3
Economic inactivity rates of women: by ethnic group, 2004¹



¹ January to December. See Appendix, Part 4: Annual Population Survey.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

the same economic inactivity rates as women from the Mixed group (34 per cent). The women least likely to be economically inactive were from White British (25 per cent), White Irish (25 per cent) and Black Caribbean (26 per cent) ethnic groups.

The differences in economic inactivity rates for women reflect a number of factors, including age and life stage. The Pakistani and Bangladeshi female populations are relatively young and they contain a larger proportion of women of child-bearing age. Women from these ethnic groups are more likely to have child-rearing responsibilities than women from other groups. In 2001, 74 per cent of Bangladeshi households contained dependent children, as did 66 per cent of Pakistani households. This compared with half of Indian (50 per cent) and Black African (48 per cent) households. The households least likely to contain dependent children were White British (28 per cent) and White Irish (21 per cent).⁹

Religious or cultural attitudes may also play some part in the differences in economic inactivity rates. The majority of Pakistani and Bangladeshi women and one in five Black African women came from Muslim backgrounds, while White British, White Irish and Black Caribbean women had predominantly Christian backgrounds. Muslim women have the highest rates of economic inactivity. In 2004 almost seven in ten (69 per cent) Muslim women of working age were economically inactive, a rate twice that of Hindu (31 per cent) and Sikh (36 per cent) women. The lowest economic inactivity rates were among Christian women (25 per cent) and women with no religion (28 per cent).

Culture and religion may affect people's views regarding their desired number of children. Between 1979 and 2001, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women expressed a preference for larger families. The average intended number of children for Pakistani and Bangladeshi women was 3.4 and 3.6 respectively, compared with 2.1 for White women of child-bearing age.¹⁰

Differences in the levels of skills and qualifications may also contribute to differences in the economic inactivity rates of different ethnic groups. Women with children have to weigh up the economic advantages of paid work versus the cost of childcare and this will in part depend on the skills they can bring to the labour market. Pakistani and Bangladeshi women have lower educational levels than other women and many additionally may have English language difficulties. These may impact on the viability of seeking paid work outside the home.

Decisions about whether and when to have children, how many children to have and whether to work, are faced by women of all ethnic and religious groups. Women's choices do not occur in isolation but with regard to strongly held and contested views about women's roles. Which path they take will reflect economic realities, as well as cultural influences.

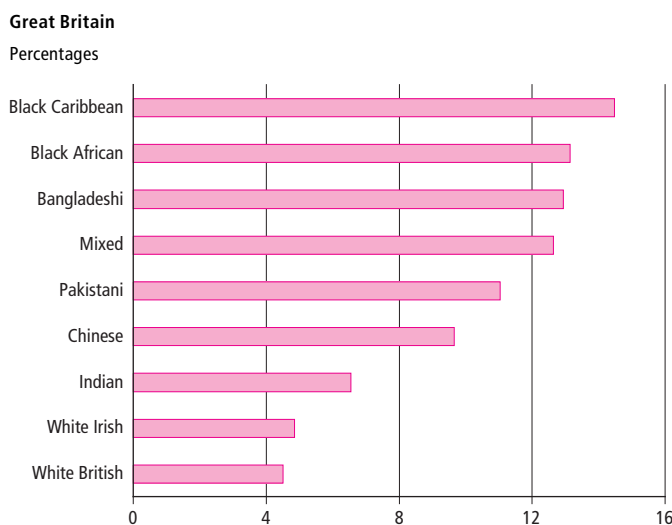
Men at work: ethnicity, unemployment and education

Unemployment rates have traditionally shown variation by ethnic group with all ethnic minority groups experiencing higher unemployment rates than White British people. In 2004 White British and White Irish men had the lowest unemployment rates at 5 per cent (Figure A.4). The highest unemployment rates were among Black Caribbean men (14 per cent) and men from Black African, Mixed and Bangladeshi groups (each 13 per cent). Unemployment rates were slightly lower for Pakistani and Chinese men (11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively). Indian men had the lowest unemployment rates among the ethnic minority groups at 7 per cent – closer to those for White British men. (See also Figure 4.21.)

Differences can also be seen when unemployment rates are compared by religion. In 2004 the unemployment rate among economically active Muslim men (13 per cent) was twice the rate of Sikh (7 per cent) or Hindu (5 per cent) men. Christian and Jewish men had the lowest unemployment rates (4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively). Variations in male unemployment rates are unlikely to reflect religious or cultural attitudes as all ethnic and religious groups emphasise the importance of male economic productivity.

Early migrants may have been disadvantaged by language difficulties, a lack of recognisable qualifications and racial prejudice among the general population, which may in part explain some of the differences in unemployment rates. Over time these differences may be expected to disappear.

Figure A.4
Unemployment rates of men: by ethnic group, 2004¹



¹ January to December. See Appendix, Part 4: Annual Population Survey. People aged 16 and over.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

However, research suggests that they still exist, and that second generation ethnic minorities continue to experience higher unemployment rates than the White British population.¹¹

Ethnic minority groups are concentrated in particular geographic areas and variations in the availability of different types of employment may explain some of the differences in unemployment rates. In general, ethnic minority communities tend to live in urban areas, which have higher unemployment rates. In addition, the decline of manufacturing industries in the midlands and the north of England impacted upon a number of ethnic minority communities.

The differences in unemployment rates may also reflect the younger age of the different populations, unemployment being particularly high among young men. The Mixed, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black African populations have particularly young populations. However, age does not account for all the difference. Indian men have a younger age profile than Black Caribbean men but have lower unemployment rates.

Variations in rates of unemployment may reflect different skills and qualifications each ethnic group brings to the labour market. Among Indian men, who had low unemployment rates in 2004, a relatively high proportion possessed a degree level qualification (30 per cent) and a relatively low proportion had no qualifications (15 per cent) (See Table 3.17). Among Pakistani and Bangladeshi men, who had high rates of unemployment, relatively small proportions possessed a degree level qualification (11 per cent and 15 per cent respectively), while relatively high proportions had no qualifications (29 per cent and 40 per cent respectively). However, qualifications do not fully account for variations in unemployment. Among Black African men, a high proportion (24 per cent) possessed a degree level qualification in 2004 and a small proportion had no qualifications (12 per cent), yet they also had high rates of unemployment. The pattern among Black Caribbean men is also inconsistent. While a small proportion possessed a degree (or equivalent) in 2004 (11 per cent), the proportion with no qualifications (18 per cent) was similar to that for White British men (14 per cent), yet Black Caribbean men had the highest unemployment rates of all groups.

Racial and religious discrimination may also contribute to the higher unemployment rates of many ethnic minority groups. Despite the introduction of the Race Relations Act in 1968, which made it illegal for employers to discriminate on the grounds of race, ethnic or national origins, various studies have suggested that discrimination persists. Studies in 1974, 1982 and 1994 reported the continuing perception among people from non-White groups that they had been refused a job for reasons associated with race or religion.¹² More recently, the Home Office Citizenship Survey reported that perceptions of discrimination persisted in 2003. People from all ethnic

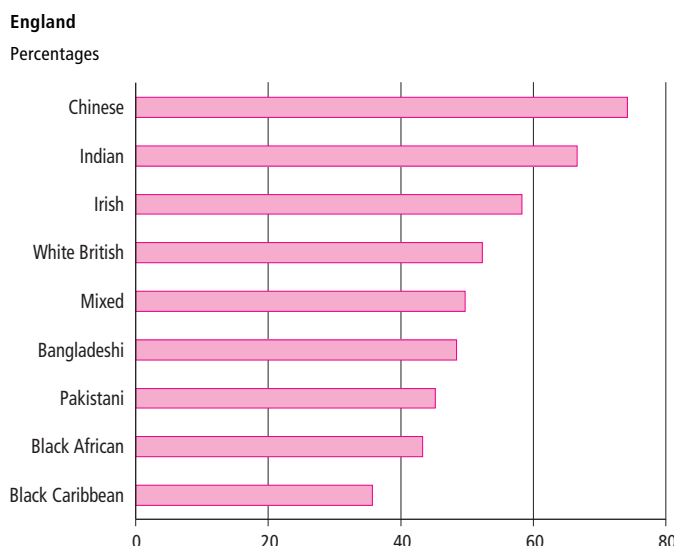
minority groups were more likely than those from White ethnic groups to have been refused a job within the previous five years. Of these, large proportions believed that they had been refused a job because of their race, ranging from 12 per cent of Pakistanis to 35 per cent of Black Africans. The proportions believing they had been refused a job because of their religion were highest for Pakistanis (9 per cent) and Bangladeshis (13 per cent), virtually all being Muslim.¹³

A promising future? Educational attainment among today's young ethnic populations

Over the last decade, all ethnic groups have seen rising educational attainment among the younger populations. This is true for both boys and girls, and is reflected by increasing numbers going on to study in universities and colleges. Between 1992 and 2004 the greatest gains in educational attainment were among the Bangladeshi population who traditionally had the lowest educational qualifications.

The latest GCSE results for all 15 year old pupils in England showed the highest GCSE attainment among Indian and Chinese pupils, with grades higher than those from the White British ethnic group (Figure A.5). Three quarters (74 per cent) of Chinese pupils and 67 per cent of Indian pupils gained five or more grades A* to C at GCSE (or equivalent) in 2004. White Irish (58 per cent) and White British (52 per cent) pupils attained the next highest results. Bangladeshi (48 per cent) pupils had similar attainment levels to White British pupils, followed by Pakistani (45 per cent) and Black African (43 per cent) pupils. The lowest grades were achieved by Black Caribbean pupils (36 per cent), but they have

Figure A.5
Attainment of five or more GCSE grades A* to C or equivalent: by ethnic group, 2004



Source: Department for Education and Skills

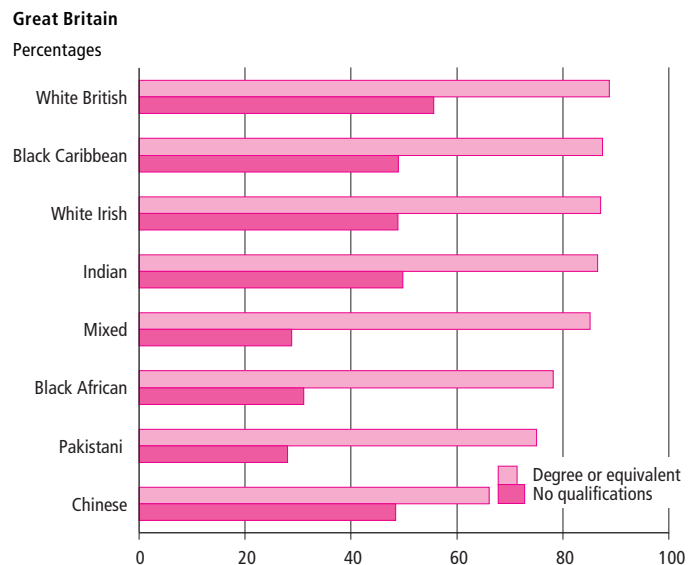
made significant gains in educational attainment over the last decade. The socio-economic position of many Black children accounts in part for their relatively low attainment levels. Overall, pupils from a mixed ethnic group gained similar grades to White British pupils (50 per cent and 52 per cent respectively). There were however variations between the individual mixed groups, reflecting in part their respective parentage. Pupils from the Mixed White and Asian group achieved the highest grades, two thirds (66 per cent) achieving five or more A* to C grades (or equivalent) in 2004. Attainment levels were lower among Mixed White and Black African pupils (47 per cent) and lowest among Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils (40 per cent), these being similar to the grades among the Black African (43 per cent) and Black Caribbean (36 per cent) groups. (See also Table 3.13).

For all ethnic groups, the attainment of higher qualifications increases employment rates, offering greater economic security. People with degree level qualifications were over 30 percentage points more likely than those with no qualifications to be in employment in 2004. Among Pakistanis, whose employment rates were generally among the lowest, there was a difference of 47 percentage points in the employment rates of those with degree level qualifications (75 per cent) and those with no qualifications (28 per cent) (Figure A.6). There were also large differences in the employment rates of those with degree level qualifications and those with no qualifications among people from a Mixed group (56 percentage points) and Black Africans (47 percentage points).

Young British-born ethnic minority populations face fewer barriers to economic success than were faced by their parents, particularly

Figure A.6

Employment rates:¹ by ethnic group² and highest qualification, 2004³



1 All people of working age.

2 The Bangladeshi group are excluded due to a small number of respondents.

3 January to December. See Appendix, Part 4: Annual Population Survey.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

with regard to language and educational barriers. The extent to which they are successful will reflect their socio-economic diversity, and the constraints of the wider society in which they are working, as well as their ethnic and religious diversity.

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