

Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion, Census 2021

Ethnic Group

81.7% of usual residents in England and Wales identified their ethnic group within the high-level 'White' category – within this, 74.4% identified as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.

The next most common high-level ethnic group was 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh', accounting for 9.3% of the overall population.

'White: Other White' category accounted for 6.2% which was the largest increase from the previous census in 2011 from 4.4%. This included 'White: Polish' (1.0%) and 'White: Romanian' (0.6%).

'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African' accounted for 2.5% and 'other ethnic group: any other ethnic group' accounted for 1.66%.

10.1% of households consisted of members identifying with two or more different ethnic groups, an increase from 8.7% in 2011.

Within Lincolnshire and Greater Lincolnshire, there was a lower proportion of people identifying as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African when compared to the UK. Only 0.6% of people identified in this category in both Lincolnshire and Greater Lincolnshire, compared to 2.5% nationally.

Within Boston, 19.4% (n=13,698) of people identified as being 'White: Other White', which is higher than the national average of 6.2%. In South Holland this rate was 11.3% (n=10,764), also higher than the national average. This reflects the high number of Eastern European migrants living and working the Boston and South Holland districts.

	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh		Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African		White: Other White		Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Boston	74.5	52,540	2.1	1,443	0.7	467	19.4	13,697	1.4	1,015
East Lindsey	95.6	136,036	0.9	1,134	0.2	292	1.7	2,414	1.0	1,484
Lincoln	82.7	85,891	3.3	3,347	1.4	1,466	8.5	8,818	1.4	2,068
North Kesteven	96.0	111,304	1.0	1,160	0.4	818	2.4	2,830	1.2	1,368
South Kesteven	90.5	129,741	1.8	2,529	0.7	875	4.8	6,822	1.0	1,951
South Holland	84.4	80,244	1.3	1,176	0.5	517	11.3	10,764	1.3	1,225
West Lindsey	94.5	89,964	1.2	1,136	0.3	388	1.8	1,691	1.1	1,081
Lincolnshire	89.2	685,720	1.6	11,925	0.6	4,823	6.1	47,036	1.3	10,192
North East Lincolnshire	92.6	145,362	1.6	2,437	0.5	846	3.3	5,156	1.0	1,617
North Lincolnshire	88.7	150,554	3.3	5,622	0.5	820	5.0	8,548	1.1	1,820
Greater Lincolnshire	89.6	981,636	1.8	19,984	0.6	6,489	5.5	60,740	1.2	13,629

National Identity

In 2021, 90.3% of usual residents identified with at least one national identity – this includes English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, and British.

Those reporting a non-UK identity accounted for 9.7% of the overall population, with Polish (1.0%) being the most common option, and Romanian (0.8%) the second most common. Other common non-UK identities included Indian (0.6%), Irish (0.5%) and Italian (0.5%).

2.0% of people identified with at least one UK and non-UK identity.

In Lincolnshire, Boston had the greatest proportion (20.9%) of people identifying as being ‘a non-UK identity only’ and consequently the lowest proportion (77.7%) of people identifying as ‘one or more UK identity only’.

East Lindsey has the greatest proportion (97.4%) of people identifying as ‘one or more UK identity only’.

District	One or more UK identity only		A UK identity and a non-UK identity		A non-UK identity only	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Boston	77.7	54,774	1.4	984	20.9	14,747
East Lindsey	97.4	138,633	0.6	795	2.0	2,868
Lincoln	87.4	90,761	1.7	1,741	10.9	11,312
North Kesteven	96.4	113,869	0.8	933	2.8	3,269
South Kesteven	93.8	134,527	1.2	1,718	5.0	7,158
South Holland	87.2	82,982	1.2	1,097	11.6	11,044
West Lindsey	97.1	92,354	0.7	622	2.3	2,177
Lincolnshire	92.1	707,900	0.9	7,890	6.8	52,575
North East Lincolnshire	95.3	149,555	0.6	961	4.1	6,452
North Lincolnshire	92.7	157,349	0.8	1,370	6.5	10,961
Greater Lincolnshire	92.7	1,014,804	0.9	10,221	6.4	69,988

Language

Nationally 91.1% of usual residents, aged three and over, had English (or Welsh in Wales) as a main language. A further 7.1% were proficient in English but did not speak it as their main language.

Other common main languages were Polish (1.1%), Romanian (0.8%), Panjabi (0.5%) and Urdu (0.5%). The largest increase was for people who specified Romanian as a main language.

In Lincolnshire, the local authority reporting the highest percentage of people with Polish as a main language was Boston (5.7%). For those speaking English as a second language, Polish was the most spoken first language in all districts.

Other languages in the top ten main languages in Greater Lincolnshire included Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati and Italian.

District	People who speak English as a main Language	
	%	Number
Boston	79.29	54,259
East Lindsey	98.50	136,945
Lincoln	90.23	90,922
North Kesteven	97.99	112,662
South Kesteven	95.71	133,578
South Holland	88.74	81,955
West Lindsey	98.42	91,185
Lincolnshire	91.29	701,506
North East Lincolnshire	96.13	146,176
North Lincolnshire	93.61	154,264
Greater Lincolnshire	91.50	1,001,946

People who did not report English as a main language were asked to report how well they could speak English – Nationally, 43.2% could speak English very well. 35.8% could speak English well, 17.1% could not speak English well and 3.1% could not speak English at all.

All household members speak the same main language in 63.8% of households. In 1.9% of households, the main language differed between generations. In 2.2% of households, language differed in partnerships.

The district with the greatest number of people unable to speak English was Boston (5.2%), the lowest was west Lindsey (1.4%). In Lincolnshire of those speaking English as a second language, West Lindsey also had the highest number of people able to speak English very well (52.8%) and Boston had the lowest proportion of people able to speak English very well (29.6%), closely followed by South Holland (30.9%). Interestingly though, despite its relatively low percentage of people able to speak English very well, South Holland had one of the lowest proportions of people unable to speak English at all (2.9%).

District	Can Speak English Very Well		Can Speak English Well		Cannot Speak English Well		Cannot Speak English	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Boston	29.6	4,188	38.6	5,472	26.7	3,779	5.2	732
East Lindsey	40.0	836	37.6	785	19.3	402	3.1	65
Lincoln	38.4	3,777	40.3	3,964	18.3	1,805	3.0	295
North Kesteven	46.4	1,070	34.4	794	15.9	366	3.3	76
South Kesteven	41.9	2,506	40.8	2,442	14.8	886	2.5	148
South Holland	30.9	3,212	43.3	4,495	22.9	2,380	2.9	304
West Lindsey	52.8	768	33.1	481	12.7	185	1.4	21
Lincolnshire	35.4	16,357	39.9	18,433	21.2	9,803	3.5	1,641
North East Lincolnshire	33.4	1,962	42.5	2,504	21.9	1,287	2.2	131
North Lincolnshire	46.4	3,354	34.4	4,419	15.9	2,396	3.3	354
Greater Lincolnshire	34.8	21,853	40.4	25,356	21.5	13,486	3.4	2,126

Religion

This question was voluntary, 94% of people answered the question.

For the first time in a census, less than half the population (46.2%) described themselves as Christian. No religion was the second most common response at 37.2%.

Other common responses included Muslim (6.5%), Hindu (1.7%), Jewish (0.5%), Sikh (0.9%) and Buddhist (0.5%). Non-religious groups represented included Agnostic, Atheist and Humanist.

Within Lincolnshire, a higher proportion than the national average identified as Christian, with all Lincolnshire districts except Lincoln (42.3%) having a majority Christian population. All the districts across Greater Lincolnshire had a lower than national average number of people identifying as Muslim, North Lincolnshire had the highest proportion of Muslims at 2.5% (n=4,201).

District	Christian		No Religion		Muslim		Other		Not Answered	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Boston	59.8	42,171	31.3	22,034	1.4	967	1.1	757	6.5	4,573
East Lindsey	53.9	76,661	38.8	55,197	0.3	690	1.0	1,382	6.0	8,602
Lincoln	42.3	43,898	47.1	48,940	1.8	1,896	1.7	1,777	7.0	7,302
North Kesteven	53.5	63,147	39.5	46,641	0.4	529	1.0	1,163	5.6	6,594
South Kesteven	54.8	78,626	37.5	53,837	0.5	731	1.4	2,046	5.7	8,165
South Holland	58.9	56,024	33.0	31,438	0.5	448	1.0	985	6.5	6,228
West Lindsey	54.7	52,061	38.0	36,111	0.4	383	1.2	1,167	5.7	5,430
Lincolnshire	53.7	412,588	38.3	294,198	0.7	5,644	1.2	9,277	6.1	46,894
North East Lincolnshire	45.3	71,063	46.5	73,008	1.2	1,922	1.1	1,757	5.9	9,218
North Lincolnshire	52.1	65,581	38.6	88,455	2.5	4,201	1.2	2,053	5.5	9,390
Greater Lincolnshire	47.6	495,232	43.8	455,661	1.1	11,767	1.3	13,087	6.3	65,502