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MEASURES OF IMMIGRANT STOCKS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Submitted by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom*

I. Introduction

1. The major variables used in the UK when analysing the origin and ancestry of the population are (i) country of birth, and (ii) ethnicity. Unlike most ECE countries, citizenship is not recorded in UK Censuses¹. This paper provides an outline of the UK data requirements and sources on immigrant stocks and ethnicity, presents some recent findings, and outlines plans for future work.

II. Data requirements within the UK

2. There is a need in the UK for comprehensive data by ethnicity at both the national and local levels in order to build up a picture of ethnic groups over time and promote equal opportunities. In addition, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 gives public authorities a general duty to promote race equality.

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¹ Separate Censuses are conducted in England and Wales (by the Office for National Statistics), Scotland (by the General Register Office for Scotland) and Northern Ireland (by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency). There is, however, much co-ordination between the three organisations to ensure consistency of outputs at the UK level.

3. Ethnicity is a multi-faceted and changing phenomenon, and various ways of measuring ethnic groups are available and have been used in the past. For many years, the only statistics regularly available in the UK were based on people's country of birth. This became increasingly less relevant when used on its own to specify ethnicity as subsequent generations were born within the UK, and as time goes on, measures including parents' country of birth to indicate second generation migrants also become less useful.

4. An alternative approach of using nationality as the principal criterion has not been adopted in the UK, as migrants do not cease to be minorities once they have qualified for citizenship. In addition, the nationality laws associated with Britain's former colonies are far too complex for nationality to be useful as a criterion on its own.

5. A question on ethnicity was first asked in the 1991 Census². This question was further developed for the 2001 Census to include categories for people of mixed race, and this classification, as shown in Table 1 below, is now used as the standard for National Statistics outputs.

Table 1: National Statistics classification for presenting ethnic group data

ETHNIC GROUP	
<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>
WHITE	WHITE or WHITE British Irish Other White background
MIXED	MIXED White and Black Caribbean White and Black African White and Asian Other Mixed background
ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH	ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Other Asian background
BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH	BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH Caribbean African Other Black background
CHINESE OR OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	CHINESE OR OTHER ETHNIC GROUP Chinese Other ethnic group

² An ethnicity question was not asked in Northern Ireland until 2001.

III. UK Data Sources

6. As mentioned in the introduction, the variables relating to immigrant stocks included in the UK Censuses are (i) country of birth, and (ii) ethnicity. However, a recent National Statistics Quality Review on International Migration Statistics has recommended that the inclusion of questions on (a) nationality/citizenship and, (b) year of entry to the UK, be considered for the Census in 2011.

7. A greater range of variables on immigrant stocks is included in the major UK household surveys. The Labour Force Survey includes questions on both nationality and year of last entry to the UK in addition to country of residence 3 months and 12 months before survey, country of birth and ethnicity, The General Household Survey includes questions on parents' countries of birth.

IV. Recent results for the UK

Ethnicity

8. The results of the 2001 Census estimated that 7.9 per cent (4.6 million people) of the UK population belonged to non-White ethnic groups. The breakdown of the UK population by ethnic group is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: UK Population by Ethnic Group, April 2001

	Total population		Non-White population
	(Numbers)	(%)	(%)
White	54,153,898	92.1	
Mixed	677,117	1.2	14.6
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 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
Any 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	

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

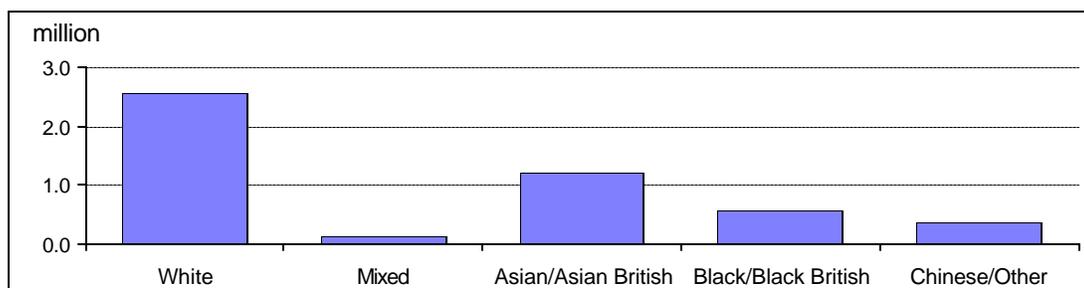
9. Around half of the non-White population in 2001 were of Asian origin and a further quarter were Black. Indians represented the largest single ethnic group, accounting for over 20% of the minority ethnic population.

Country of birth

10. The results of the 2001 Census estimated that 8.3 per cent of the UK population (or 4.9 million people) were born outside the UK. This proportion is almost double the proportion in 1951 (4.2 per cent).

11. Just over half (53 per cent) of the UK overseas-born population in 2001 were of White origin, compared to 96 per cent of the UK-born population. The breakdown of the overseas population by ethnic group is shown in Figure 1 below.

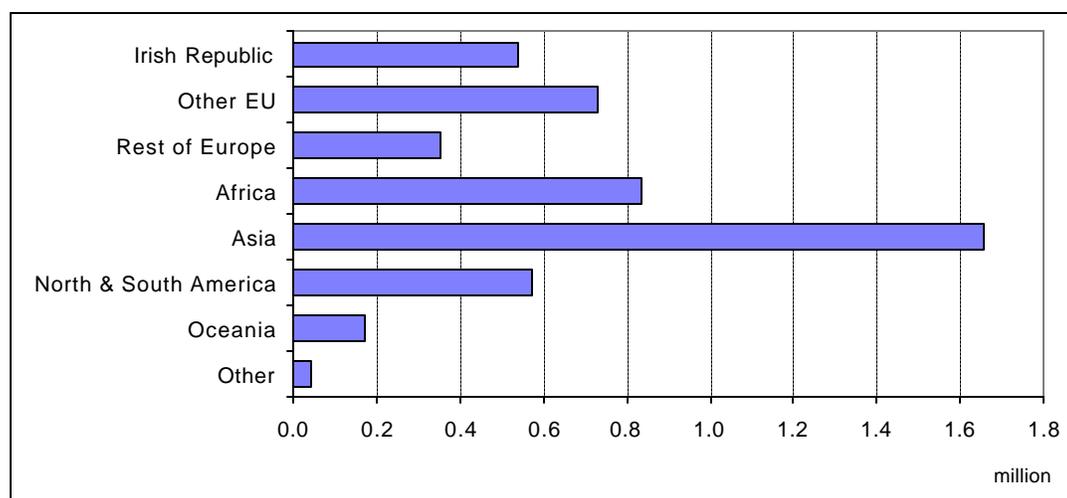
Figure 1: Overseas-born population by Ethnic Group, April 2001



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

12. Figure 2 below shows the regions of origin for the UK overseas-born population in 2001. Over half a million people (11 per cent) were born in the Irish Republic, whilst a further 730,000 people (15 per cent) were born in the other 13 EU countries in 2001. Just over a third (1.7 million) of those born overseas originated from Asia.

Figure 2: Overseas-born by major country of birth groups, April 2001



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

Parents' countries of birth

13. In addition to the almost 5 million people born overseas, the General Household Survey³ for 2001 indicates that a further 5.6 million people born in the UK had either one parent born overseas (3.4 million) or both parents born overseas (2.2 million). This breakdown is shown in Table 3 below.

³ The General Household Survey covers Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) only.

Table 3: Second generation migrant population of Great Britain, 2001

Parents' country of birth	Number	%
Second generation migrants:	5,565,000	10.6
One parent born outside UK	3,379,000	6.4
Both parents born outside UK	2,186,000	4.2
Both parents born in the UK	46,814,000	89.0
Missing data for one or both parents	199,000	0.4
All people born in the United Kingdom	52,578,000	100.0

Source: General Household Survey, 2001

V. Future work

14. In September 2003 ONS published a comprehensive report reviewing the UK's international migration statistics, see www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp. Among the recommendations of that review were:

- conducting work to reconcile stock and flow data on the UK's international migrants, and
- investigation of data and methods to periodically estimate the stock of unauthorised migrants in the UK.

The recommendations of the review are currently being taken forward.

15. While comparability over time and across data sources is always a goal, ethnicity classifications need to change over time to reflect changes in society and cultural developments. ONS recently published a guide for users and producers of ethnic group statistics based on the revised categories used for the 2001 Census, see www.statistics.gov.uk/about/ethnic_group_statistics/downloads/ethnic_group_statistics.pdf. A full user consultation will begin in May 2005 for classifications to be used for the 2011 Census of England and Wales.
