



## Fife results from Scotland's Census 2022

### Religion, Ethnic Group, National Identity, and Language

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Scotland's Census is the official count of every person and household in the country. There has been a census in Scotland every 10 years since 1801, except 1941. The 2021 census in Scotland was moved to 2022 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The answers people give to census questions help build up a picture of the population. Government and other service providers rely on census data to make important decisions.

**This briefing is the first in a series of topic summaries, and provides census information on religion, ethnic group, country of birth, national identity and language. These statistics help to show how Fife's people have changed over the last decade.**

Briefings for the remaining topics will be produced as they are published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) according to the following provisional timetable.

Release Date	Topic
13 June 2024	Armed Forces veterans
27 June 2024	Sexual orientation and trans status or history
August 2024	Demography and migration
August 2024	Housing
September 2024	Education, labour market and travel to work
September 2024	Health, disability and unpaid care
Winter 2024/25	Multivariate census outputs - combining multiple topic variables in the same table. Published at all geographies down to output area

## Religion

For the first time, Census figures show that in 2022 the majority of people in Fife said that they had “No Religion” (61%), increasing from 46% in 2011. This is higher than the Scottish average of 51%.

The Church of Scotland remains the largest religious group in Fife, however it has seen the largest drop in numbers from 31% in 2011 to 19% in 2022. Other Christian religions have also seen a fall in their numbers since 2011. Buddhist, Jewish, and Sikh religions have remained stable, and Hindu and Muslim have increased slightly.

All age groups saw an increase in those saying they had no religion, with older people being more likely to have a religion, and younger age groups having no religion. Males (63%) were more likely to have no religion than females (58%).

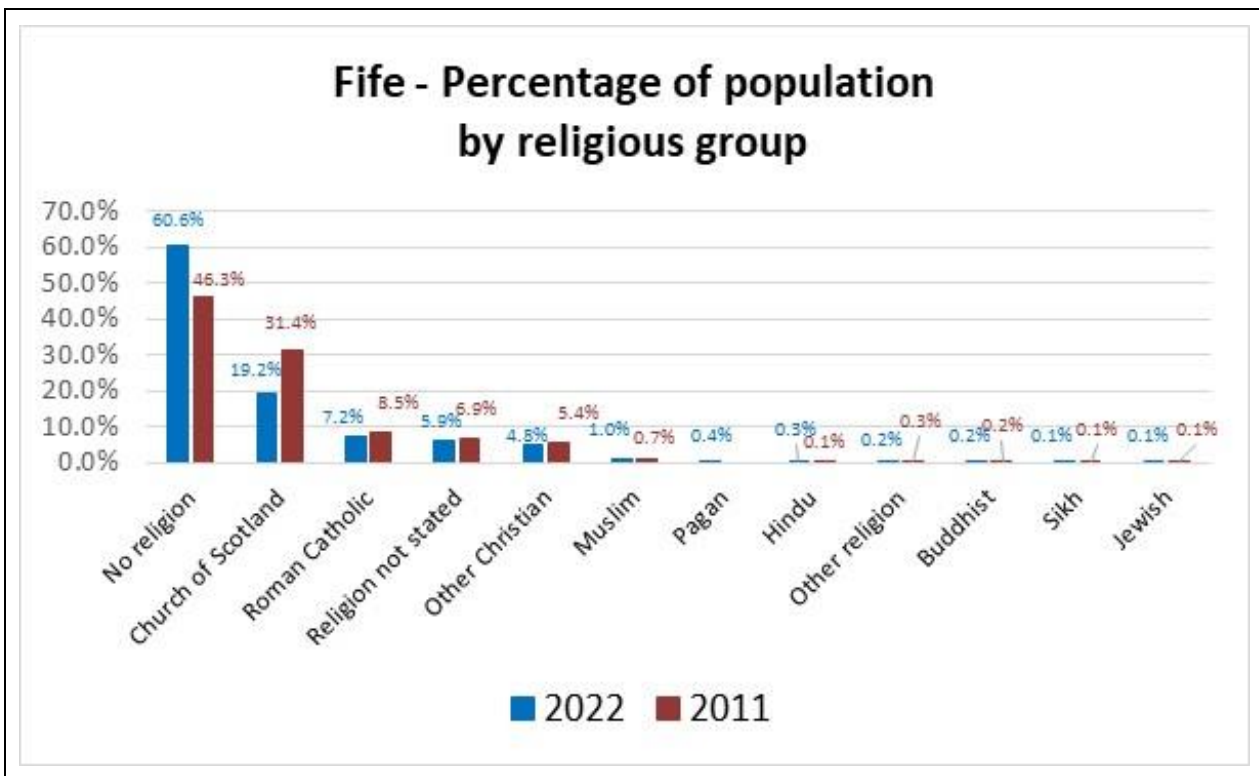


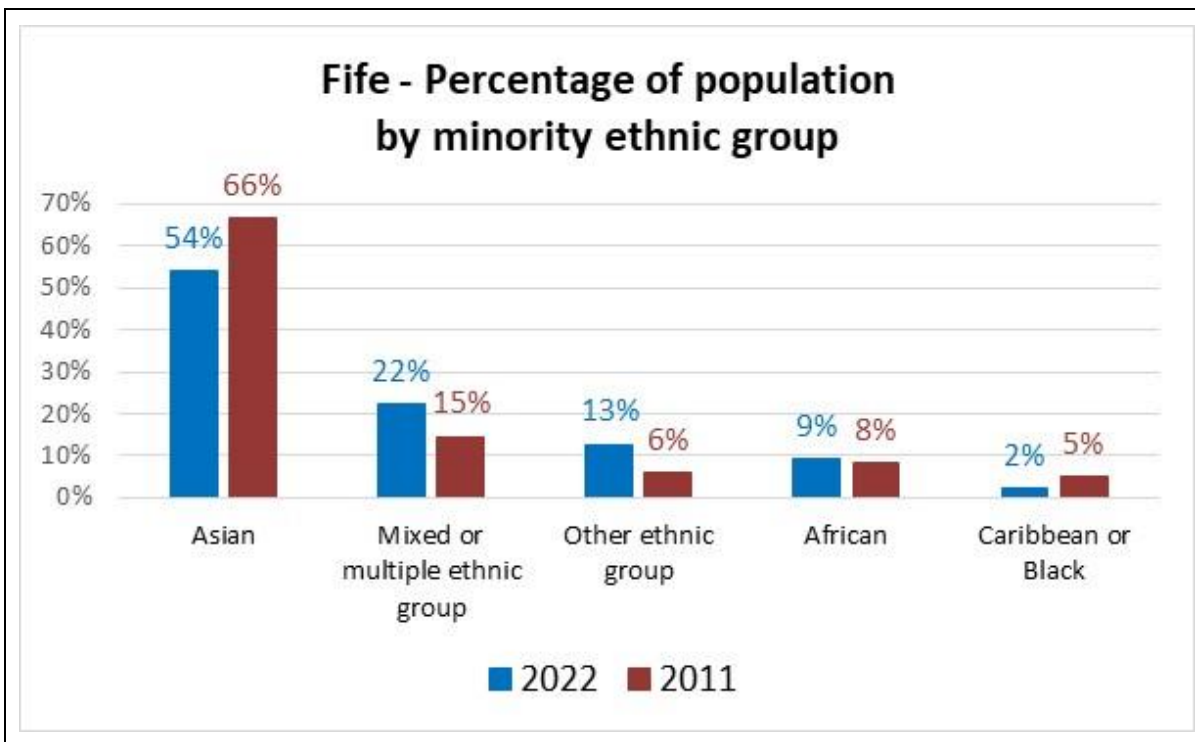
Figure 1. Percentage of Fife’s population by religious group (Census 2022 and 2011)

## Ethnic group

The percentage of people in Fife with a minority ethnic background increased from 2.3% in 2011 to 3.9% in 2022. This is lower than the Scottish average of 12.9%.

The majority of Fife people identified their ethnic group or background as “White” (96.0%), although this has fallen from the previous census from 97.6%. “White Scottish” is the predominant group making up 84.6% of the white population, again falling from 87.8% in 2011.

“Asian” remains the largest ‘Minority ethnic group’ accounting for 2.2% of the population, and increasing from 1.6% in 2011. Minority ethnic groups tend to have higher proportions in younger age groups, with Mixed and Multiple groups, and Asian groups, showing the highest levels, particularly in those aged under 25. Similar levels are seen across males and females.



**Figure 2. Percentage of Fife’s population by minority ethnic group (Census 2022 and 2011)**

### Country of birth

Population change is driven by births, deaths and migration (people moving into or out of Fife). The increase in Fife’s minority ethnic population is partly explained by people moving to Scotland from overseas between 2011 and 2022.

The percentage of people living in Fife that were born outside the UK increased from 2.8% to 4.2% between 2011 and 2022. The National Records of Scotland’s Vital Events tables also show that an increasing share of births in Scotland are to mothers born outside the UK. (Table 3.13, NRS Vital Events Reference Tables 2022).

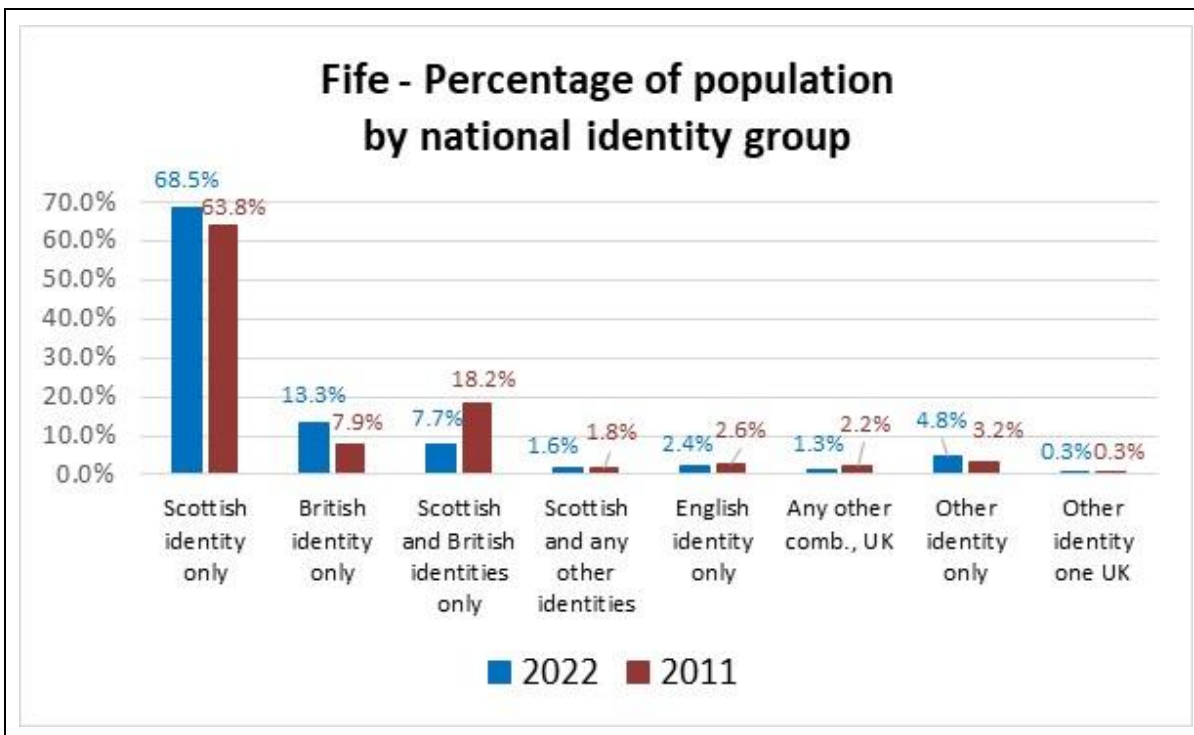
For people that understand, speak, read and write English, the number born outside the UK has increased since 2011, while the overall percentage of people that have good English language skills was similar. In 2022 94.6% of people in Fife said they speak, read and write English, compared to 94.2% in 2011.

### National identity

The percentage of people who said “Scottish” was their only national identity increased from 63.8% in 2011 to 68.5% in 2022, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 65.5%. School aged children (4-17) had the highest levels of Scottish identity, followed by those aged 25-34, with males and females showing similar levels for Scottish identity.

Those who said that their only national identity was British also increased from 7.9% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2022, similar to the Scottish average of 13.9%. Pensioner age groups (65 and over) had the highest levels of British identity, and males and females had similar identities.

Those that felt Scottish and British, decreased from 18.2% in 2011 to 7.7% in 2022, slightly lower than the Scottish average of 8.2%).



**Figure 3. Percentage of Fife’s population by national identity group (Census 2022 and 2011)**

### Gaelic and Scots

Of the people in Fife aged 3 and over, 98.7% had no skills in Gaelic in 2022, a decrease from 99.3% in 2011. This is higher than the Scottish average of 97.5%. There is little variation in age or sex for skills in Gaelic.

With the exception of Na h-Eileanan Siar (57.2%), Highland (8.1%) and Argyll and Bute Councils (6.2%), all other council areas have less than 3% of people aged 3 and over that have some Gaelic skills.

The percentage of people aged 3 and over in Fife with no skills in Scots language has decreased from 57.6% in 2011 to 49.1% in 2022. The highest percentage of people with Scots language was in the north east of Scotland. Younger age groups (under 30) tend to have fewer Scots skills than older age groups, and males and females have similar levels of Scots skills in Fife.

### British Sign Language (BSL)

The 2022 Census included a new question on the use of BSL. Therefore, no comparable data is available for the previous censuses.

For those aged 3 and over in the Fife population, 2.2% of people use British Sign Language (BSL), similar to the Scottish average. The 25-49 age group tend to have the highest use of BSL, and twice as many females use BSL compared with males.

### Census Results

To access Census results, please go to [Scotland's Census \(scotlandscensus.gov.uk\)](https://scotlandscensus.gov.uk)

This will allow you to access census results for 2022, 2011 and 2001.