

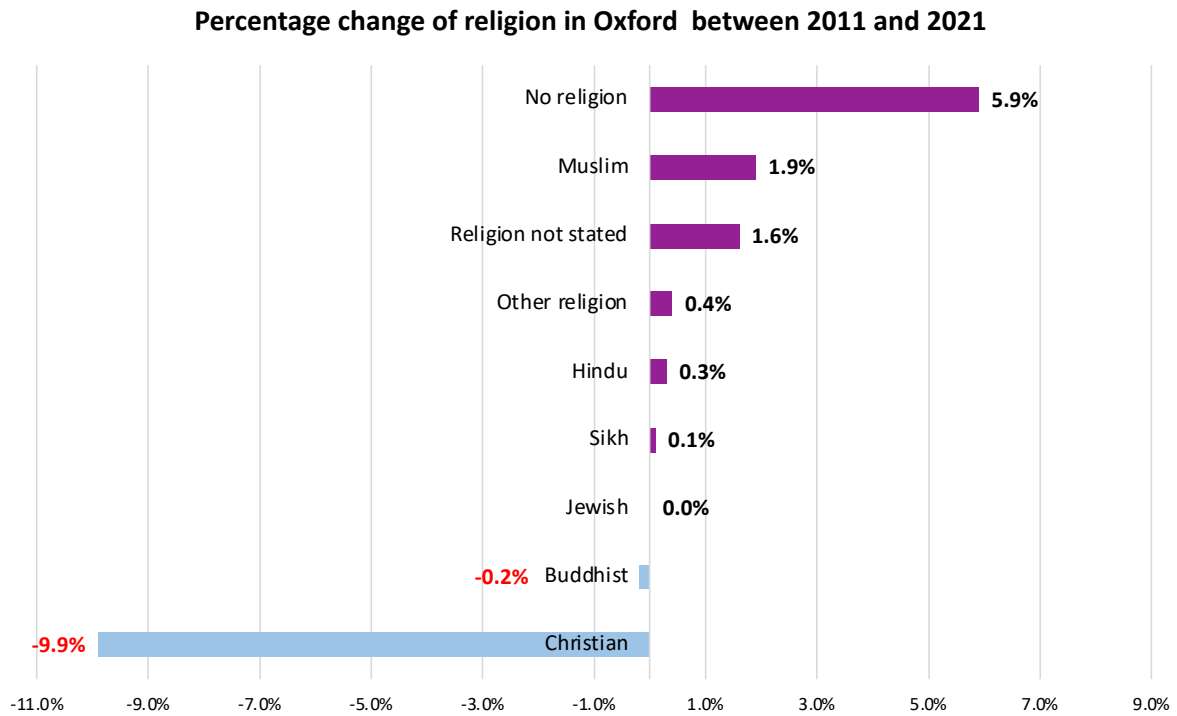
Religion in Oxford

Oxford is a diverse city with regards to religious views and this is seen in the latest Census figures. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released Census 2021 figures on religion at Local Authority level. This summary report will compare figures from Censuses 2021 and 2011. It will also include a comparison between Oxford and the county and national averages. For the first time, Census 2021 provides insights into religious group composition within households that comprise more than one person. For more information on this topic summary, please visit [ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion](#).

Key findings:

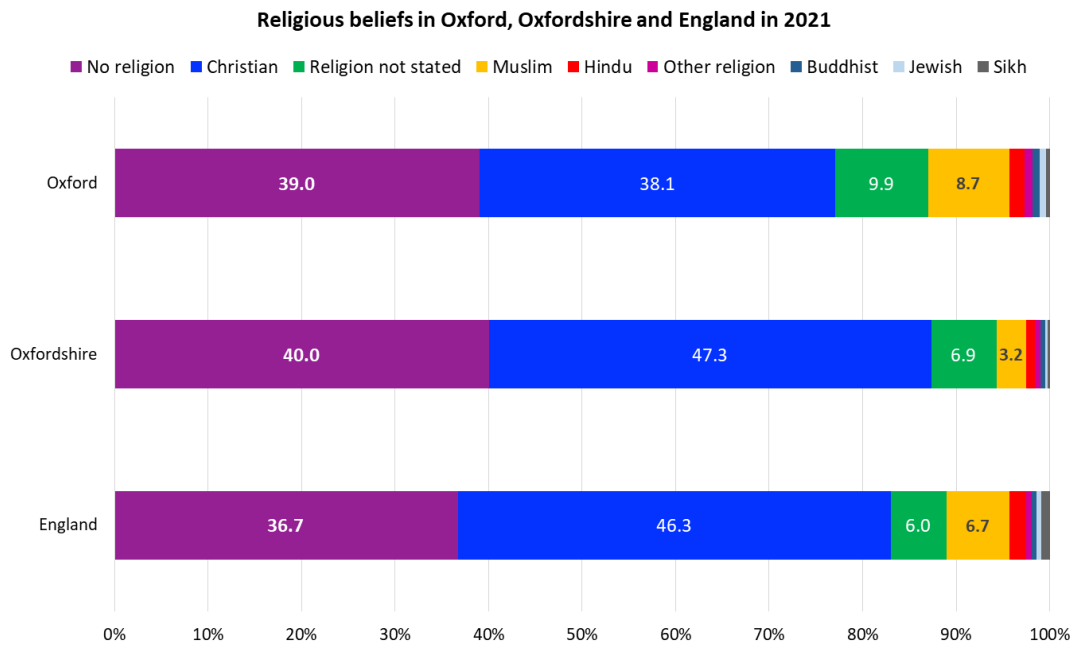
- According to Census 2021, over half of Oxford's population still have a religious belief at 51.1%. This represents a decrease of 7.5% compared to 58.6% in 2011.
- Of those who have a religion in Oxford, the largest proportion is still Christian with 38.1% of the total usual resident population. However, this group has experienced the largest percentage decrease since 2011 (-9.9%).
- The proportion of Christians in Oxford is lower than both Oxfordshire and England averages at 47.3% and 46.3% respectively.
- The largest increase between 2011 and 2021 was recorded in the Muslim group which now makes up 8.7% of the resident population, an increase of 1.9% in relation to the previous census.
- Compared to both county (3.2%) and national (6.7%) figures, Oxford City has a larger proportion of Muslims residents (8.7%).
- The Hindu population has also seen a slight increase (+0.3%), from 1.3% in 2011 to 1.6% in 2021.
- Other religious groups have remained relatively similar to 2011 census figures with very minor changes.
- Residents with no religious beliefs make up 39.0% of the city's total population. This is an increase of 5.9% compared to 2011.
- The proportion of residents with no religion is lower than the Oxfordshire average (40.0%) but higher than the England average (36.7%).
- In terms of multi religious households, the largest group is made up of one person household (29.1%), followed by multi-person household with the same religion which might include people who did not state their religion (28.8%).
- The proportion of households with the same religion is lower than both Oxfordshire and England averages.
- The proportion of households with at least two religions stated is higher than county and national averages.
- Households with no religion (might include not stated) and those where no people stated their religion, are broadly in line with both Oxfordshire and England averages.

Figure 1. Change in religion in Oxford between 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Figure 2. Religion breakdown in 2021 (Oxford, Oxfordshire, and England)



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Figure 3. Multi Religion in Oxford in 2021.

Multi religion households	Oxford	Oxfordshire	England
One-person household	29.1%	27.1%	30.1%
Multi-person household: No people stated their religion	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
Multi-person household: Same religion (at least one person has stated a religion, but the household may include people who did not state their religion)	28.8%	31.2%	33.1%
Multi-person household: No religion (household may include people who did not state their religion)	21.8%	22.2%	20.1%
Multi-person household: Same religion and no religion (household may include people who did not state their religion)	15.4%	16.2%	13.7%
Multi-person household: At least two different religions stated (household may include people with no religion and who did not state their religion)	2.7%	1.3%	1.2%

Sources:

[Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion: Census 2021, ONS, 2022](#)

Produced by:

Business Intelligence Unit

Oxford City Council

November 2022