

The classification of ethnic groups in the Labour Force Survey

Update for July 2002

LFS data, recoded on the basis of the new interim ethnicity classification, were first released in February 2002. LFS estimates have since been regrossed to take account of more up-to-date population estimates. The ethnicity data included in this page have therefore been updated to take account of the changes resulting from regrossing. An article, describing the effects of the latest regrossing, was published in the May 2002 edition of Labour Market Trends: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/downloads/regrossing.pdf

Introduction

The recommended output classification of ethnic groups for National Statistics data sources was changed to be broadly in line with the 2001 Census. From Spring 2001, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) introduced new questions on ethnicity in line with this new classification. The new classification has two levels. Level 1 is a broad classification into 5 main ethnic groups - White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese, and Other. Level 2 nests within Level 1 and provides a finer classification. From Spring 2001, the LFS asks an initial question to collect Level 1, with supplementary questions used to arrive at Level 2 of the classification. More general information on the National Statistics interim standard classification of ethnic groups can be found on the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/themes/compendia_reference/articles/ns_ethnic_classification.asp

No comparison should be made between the old and new ethnic classifications in the LFS, because not only are the categories different but, the questions and coding of answers underlying the data are also very different.

The table on page 5 shows LFS estimates for level 2 of the interim standard classification for Spring 2002, consistent with the LFS data published on 17 July 2002. The table on page 6 shows regrossed estimates for Spring 2001, also at level 2 of the classification. To aid users in the interpretation of these estimates, the tables on pages 7-8 show the sampling error for each cell for the Spring 2001 data. Estimates for Summer & Autumn 2001 are available on the website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=9005&More=N>

The remainder of this note gives information on sample errors for these data, the methodology for the imputation of missing cases affecting the spring data and information on the production of historical time-series for the new ethnicity data.

Sampling Variability of LFS ethnicity data

It should be noted that the LFS is a sample survey, so the data are subject to sampling error. Estimates based on smaller subgroups tend to have larger relative sampling errors, although sampling errors also depend on the way the sample and population are distributed. With LFS data, figures below a threshold of 10,000 (around 30 cases) are not normally published, as the estimates are considered to be too unreliable.

Sampling errors can be used to test for statistically significant differences in the estimates between groups and over time. They can also be used to construct confidence intervals. A 95 per cent confidence interval is the range of values contained within approximately two standard errors either side of the estimate. If the survey were repeated many times, the 95 per cent confidence interval would in the long run be expected to contain the true value on 95 per cent of these occasions. For further information on sampling errors see the Labour Force User Guide, volume 1, "LFS Background and Methodology, 2001" http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LFSUGvol1.pdf

To aid users in the interpretation of these results, tables showing the sampling error for each cell, for Spring 2001 data are also provided. The size of these errors should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Quality issues for Spring 2001 data

For spring 2001 data (table shown on page 6) some missing ethnicity cases were imputed. This section describes the reason and the methodology employed to impute the data missing data.

In normal circumstances information from LFS respondents in one quarter is brought forward to the next quarter, where respondents could not be contacted in the later quarter. With the introduction of new questions it is not possible to carry over the ethnicity questions for these imputed cases. These imputed cases represent around 2.6 million people aged 16 and over (5.6 per cent of the total population aged 16 and over).

The known characteristics of the imputed cases were examined using data from the winter quarter. This analysis showed that the imputed group contained a smaller proportion of white people, a higher proportion of men and a higher proportion of people aged under 25; they were more likely to be employed and less likely to be economically inactive than the rest of the respondents in that quarter. It was considered that this was misleading for those wishing to use these data and further work was commissioned to correct for these missing cases.

Methodology

The work to correct for the quality issues in the spring 2001 files can be separated into four stages: augmentation, re-coding, model development and imputation.

1. Augmentation. Spring 2001 ethnicity data (questions Eth01 to EthBI) were augmented with data collected in Summer 2001. That is, in cases where ethnicity was missing in Spring, but for which a response was recorded in Summer, data was fed-back to repopulate the Spring 2001 data set.

2. Re-coding. 'Other' type responses recorded verbatim were re-coded according to a provisional census coding schema. This code was used in conjunction with the response at Eth01 to derive a new 6 pt classification for each case. Some adjustment was needed to the outcomes to reflect the differences in questionnaire design between the Census and the LFS.

3. Modelling. Using adult cases where both new (Spring 2001) and old (Winter 200/01) ethnicity was present, a predictive model for new ethnicity was devised. Taking old ethnicity as the best predictor of new ethnicity, an exhaustive chaid analysis using AnswerTree further identified tenure, age and number of children in the family unit, as variables to be included in the model for some of the old ethnic groups. These breakdowns determined the imputation classes to be used in the hot-decking process.

4. Imputation. The remaining cases of missing new adult ethnicity were imputed using Stata. A method of hot-decking imputation which randomly selects a donor case from within an imputation class was employed to populate the missing ethnic group values. This process was repeated five times to produce five replicate datasets to investigate the amount the final distribution of ethnic groups varies according to the imputation process.

The table below shows ethnicity of donor cases (n=75118) and imputed cases (n=3129) for each imputation. It demonstrates that the amount of variation due to the imputation process was very small.

Ethnic Group	First replicate (%)	Second replicate (%)	Third replicate (%)	Fourth replicate (%)	Fifth replicate (%)
White	94.82	94.81	94.81	94.82	94.82
Mixed	0.4	0.41	0.41	0.42	0.4
Asian	2.71	2.71	2.71	2.7	2.71
Black	1.5	1.5	1.49	1.49	1.5
Chinese	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Other	0.32	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.32

Historic data

The new ethnic group classification is currently only available for Spring - Autumn 2001, and Spring 2002. Data for Winter 2001/02 are expected to be released later in the summer. No direct comparison can be made at any level with the old classification. However the importance of historic data is appreciated. Therefore the table below has been provided to assist in understanding the relationship between the old and new classifications.

This table compares the answers given to the new Level 1 ethnic group question to those for the old classification for respondents who were interviewed in both the winter and spring quarters. The old classification used in publications was available on micro datasets in a derived variable called Ethcen. This was based on different categories to the new classification; it also included some recoding of "other" answers in line with the 1991 Census coding frame. ONS would advise against using the table below to produce any historic data on the new classification, since (being based on a subset of cases) it could introduce a bias to the resulting data.

Relationship between new and old ethnic group data – aged 16 and over

Respondents classification based on old categories – ETHCEN for winter 2000	Respondents classification based on new categories - ETH01 for spring 2001 – (per cent)						Total
	1 White	2 Mixed	3 Asian or Asian British	4 Black or Black British	5 Chinese	6 Other ethnic group	
0 White	99.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	100
1 Black – Caribbean	2.2	1.4	-	95.2	-	1.2	100
2 Black – African	0.2	0.3	0.9	93.2	-	5.3	100
3 Black – Other(non-mixed)	6.3	1.1	2.8	89.0	-	0.8	100
4 Black – Mixed	2.0	85.1	-	8.2	-	4.6	100
5 Indian	0.2	0.5	98.3	0.2	-	0.8	100
6 Pakistani	0.6	0.5	98.7	-	-	0.2	100
7 Bangladeshi	-	-	99.4	-	-	0.6	100
8 Chinese	0.5	1.6	0.6	-	95.8	1.5	100
9 Other - Asian(non-mixed)	-	0.3	89.6	0.6	0.7	8.8	100
10 Other - Other(non-mixed)	8.2	1.9	11.8	3.0	-	75.0	100
11 Other – Mixed	4.6	79.2	8.6	-	0.7	6.9	100
Total	94.0	0.5	3.1	1.6	0.3	0.5	100

-'-' indicates no relationship was observed

Next steps

ONS has been involved in a project to produce backcast estimates of LFS data based on the new ethnicity classification, for periods back to Spring 1997. A Labour Market Trends Article, presenting the results of this project will be published later in the summer.

Further information

Please contact Alyson Whitmarsh: Alyson.Whitmarsh@ons.gov.uk

Economic activity by ethnic group - Spring 2002^{1,2}

United Kingdom (thousands - not seasonally adjusted)

	In employment			ILO	Total	Econ.	All aged	Econ. activity		
				unemployed	econ.active	inactive	16 & over	rate (%)	Employ.	ILO
	Employees	Self-employed	Total					16-59/64	rate (%)	unemp. rate (%)
ALL										
White	23,481	3,024	26,696	1,314	28,010	16,173	44,184	79.6	75.8	4.7
British ³	22,040	2,816	25,031	1,215	26,247	15,102	41,348	80.0	76.2	4.6
Other white ³	814	124	943	57	1,001	548	1,548	75.6	71.2	5.7
All ethnic minority groups	1,490	207	1,713	205	1,918	1,230	3,148	65.4	58.3	10.7
Mixed	119	10	129	22	152	69	220	71.8	61.1	14.7
White and Black Caribbean	57	*	63	*	71	30	101	73.4	64.5	*
White and Black African	19	*	20	*	25	*	34	73.5	59.2	*
White and Asian	30	*	32	*	40	19	58	71.5	57.4	*
Other Mixed	12	*	14	*	15	*	26	62.7	58.7	*
Asian or Asian British	732	117	857	88	945	660	1,605	63.4	57.5	9.3
Indian	403	62	469	31	500	267	767	71.4	67.0	6.2
Pakistani	156	39	196	27	224	222	446	53.6	47.0	12.2
Bangladeshi	53	*	58	18	76	99	175	46.8	35.5	24.2
Other Asian	118	12	133	11	144	72	216	69.1	63.9	7.7
Black or Black British	438	37	480	70	551	309	859	69.6	60.6	12.8
Black Caribbean	236	26	264	34	298	157	455	73.9	65.3	11.4
Black African	176	10	189	32	221	139	360	63.9	54.5	14.6
Other Black	26	*	27	*	31	12	43	76.0	65.7	*
Chinese	67	20	90	*	92	62	154	62.3	60.4	*
Other ethnic group	132	24	157	22	178	131	309	61.1	53.5	12.3
MALE										
White	12,283	2,243	14,613	807	15,420	6,214	21,634	84.4	79.9	5.2
British ³	11,541	2,087	13,708	745	14,453	5,808	20,261	84.7	80.3	5.2
Other white ³	420	84	506	36	541	208	750	81.9	76.4	6.6
All ethnic minority groups	824	156	988	127	1,115	473	1,588	74.8	66.2	11.4
Mixed	57	*	63	12	75	24	99	78.2	65.7	16.1
White and Black Caribbean	25	*	28	*	31	*	39	81.7	72.0	*
White and Black African	11	*	12	*	14	*	18	80.7	67.9	*
White and Asian	14	*	15	*	20	*	27	78.5	60.4	*
Other Mixed	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	*	*	*
Asian or Asian British	437	93	534	57	591	238	829	76.0	68.6	9.6
Indian	224	43	268	16	284	105	388	78.0	73.6	5.5
Pakistani	103	36	139	17	156	72	228	73.7	65.4	11.1
Bangladeshi	40	*	44	15	59	33	92	69.3	51.3	26.0
Other Asian	70	10	82	*	91	29	119	78.6	71.7	*
Black or Black British	222	25	250	42	292	128	420	75.7	64.7	14.5
Black Caribbean	114	19	134	22	156	72	228	77.9	66.7	14.3
Black African	97	*	105	18	122	52	174	72.8	62.1	14.6
Other Black	11	*	11	*	13	*	17	77.3	65.0	*
Chinese	35	13	49	*	50	25	75	68.8	67.5	*
Other ethnic group	74	18	92	15	106	59	165	67.4	58.1	13.7
FEMALE										
White	11,198	781	12,083	507	12,591	9,959	22,550	74.2	71.2	4.0
British ³	10,499	728	11,323	470	11,794	9,293	21,087	74.8	71.7	4.0
Other white ³	394	39	438	22	459	339	798	69.1	65.9	4.7
All ethnic minority groups	665	52	725	78	804	757	1,560	55.5	50.0	9.7
Mixed	63	*	66	10	77	44	121	66.4	57.3	13.4
White and Black Caribbean	32	*	35	*	40	22	62	67.9	59.6	*
White and Black African	*	*	*	*	10	*	16	65.1	*	*
White and Asian	16	*	16	*	19	12	31	65.2	54.7	*
Other Mixed	*	*	*	*	*	*	12	*	*	*
Asian or Asian British	295	24	323	31	354	423	777	49.5	45.2	8.7
Indian	180	19	201	15	216	162	378	64.3	59.8	7.1
Pakistani	54	*	58	10	67	151	218	32.8	27.9	14.7
Bangladeshi	14	*	14	*	16	66	82	21.4	17.7	*
Other Asian	48	*	51	*	53	44	97	56.9	53.9	*
Black or Black British	216	12	230	28	258	181	439	63.7	56.6	10.9
Black Caribbean	122	*	130	12	142	85	227	69.8	64.0	8.2
Black African	79	*	84	14	98	88	186	55.3	47.1	14.5
Other Black	15	*	16	*	18	*	26	75.0	66.2	*
Chinese	33	*	41	*	43	37	79	58.8	53.3	*
Other ethnic group	59	*	65	*	72	72	144	53.6	48.1	*

¹ This table uses the National Statistics interim standard classification of ethnic groups. These data have had "Other" specified answers re-coded into the appropriate category according to the 2001 Census of Population schema. Data for periods prior to this used the old classification. No comparison should be made between the two classifications, because not only are the categories different but the questions and coding of answers underlying the data are also very different.

² This table does not include people who did not state their ethnic group.

³ These data are presented for Great Britain only and exclude Northern Ireland. Detailed level ethnicity questions are not asked of the White group in Northern Ireland. The sub categories British and Other White will therefore not sum to the White total.

* Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

Economic activity by ethnic group - Spring 2001^{1,2}

United Kingdom (thousands - not seasonally adjusted)

	In employment			ILO	Total	Econ.	All aged	Econ. activity		
	Employees	Self-employed	Total	unemployed	econ.active	inactive	16 & over	rate (%)	Employ.	ILO
				rate (%)	rate (%)	rate (%)	16-59/64	all 16+		
ALL										
White	23,456	2,968	26,659	1,217	27,877	16,250	44,127	79.4	75.9	4.4
British ³	22,075	2,770	25,054	1,124	26,177	15,195	41,373	79.9	76.4	4.3
Other white ³	778	111	898	48	946	532	1,478	74.2	70.4	5.1
All ethnic minority groups	1,340	204	1,563	195	1,759	1,181	2,940	64.7	57.4	11.1
Mixed	122	11	134	17	151	78	230	70.0	62.1	11.2
White and Black Caribbean	60	*	68	*	77	34	111	73.5	64.6	*
White and Black African	15	*	16	*	17	*	24	72.7	68.3	*
White and Asian	41	*	44	*	47	31	78	65.4	60.8	*
Other Mixed	*	*	*	*	*	*	16	*	*	*
Asian or Asian British	637	132	780	92	872	655	1,527	62.0	55.4	10.6
Indian	377	63	444	31	475	257	732	71.0	66.3	6.6
Pakistani	126	41	171	35	206	230	436	51.1	42.3	17.1
Bangladeshi	48	11	61	13	74	90	164	48.7	40.0	18.1
Other Asian	86	17	104	12	117	76	193	64.7	57.8	10.6
Black or Black British	435	32	472	70	543	293	835	71.0	61.7	12.9
Black Caribbean	238	18	257	37	294	160	454	74.9	65.2	12.6
Black African	176	12	192	30	222	117	339	67.2	57.9	13.6
Other Black	21	*	23	*	26	15	42	66.4	59.3	*
Chinese	55	16	72	*	78	65	143	58.1	53.9	*
Other ethnic group	91	13	105	10	115	90	205	58.4	53.0	9.1
MALE										
White	12,357	2,184	14,668	746	15,414	6,194	21,608	84.5	80.3	4.8
British ³	11,641	2,042	13,793	693	14,486	5,815	20,301	84.7	80.7	4.8
Other white ³	400	70	475	22	498	191	689	80.9	77.2	4.5
All ethnic minority groups	718	162	893	118	1,011	438	1,449	74.8	66.1	11.7
Mixed	62	*	72	*	81	27	108	78.9	69.7	*
White and Black Caribbean	30	*	37	*	41	11	52	83.5	74.5	*
White and Black African	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	*	*	*
White and Asian	21	*	24	*	27	13	40	69.5	62.1	*
Other Mixed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian or Asian British	371	109	487	59	547	231	778	75.5	67.3	10.8
Indian	204	48	255	18	272	92	364	80.7	75.4	6.5
Pakistani	80	37	119	23	143	76	218	70.2	58.7	16.4
Bangladeshi	36	11	48	11	59	30	89	70.9	58.5	18.0
Other Asian	51	13	65	*	73	33	106	72.8	65.5	*
Black or Black British	202	24	229	39	268	113	381	77.2	65.8	14.6
Black Caribbean	103	14	118	21	139	66	205	79.1	67.1	14.9
Black African	90	*	101	16	117	41	158	75.5	65.0	13.8
Other Black	*	*	10	*	12	*	18	74.2	61.1	*
Chinese	28	11	39	*	43	30	73	61.4	56.4	*
Other ethnic group	55	10	65	*	72	37	110	67.5	60.8	*
FEMALE										
White	11,099	784	11,991	471	12,463	10,056	22,519	73.9	71.0	3.8
British ³	10,434	728	11,261	431	11,692	9,380	21,072	74.5	71.7	3.7
Other white ³	378	41	422	26	448	341	789	67.9	64.0	5.8
All ethnic minority groups	622	42	671	77	748	743	1,491	54.6	48.8	10.3
Mixed	60	*	63	*	70	51	122	62.0	55.3	*
White and Black Caribbean	30	*	31	*	36	22	59	65.0	56.0	*
White and Black African	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	*	*	*
White and Asian	20	*	20	*	20	18	38	60.6	59.2	*
Other Mixed	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	*	*	*
Asian or Asian British	266	23	292	33	325	424	749	47.6	42.6	10.2
Indian	173	14	189	13	202	166	368	61.1	57.0	6.6
Pakistani	46	*	52	12	63	154	218	31.6	25.6	18.6
Bangladeshi	12	*	13	*	16	60	75	22.3	18.2	*
Other Asian	35	*	39	*	44	44	88	54.6	48.1	*
Black or Black British	233	*	243	31	274	180	454	65.8	58.2	11.3
Black Caribbean	135	*	139	16	156	94	250	71.4	63.7	10.5
Black African	86	*	91	14	105	76	181	59.8	51.7	13.5
Other Black	13	*	13	*	14	10	24	60.6	57.9	*
Chinese	27	*	33	*	35	35	70	54.4	51.1	*
Other ethnic group	35	*	39	*	43	53	96	47.4	43.5	*

¹ This table uses the National Statistics interim standard classification of ethnic groups. These data have had "Other" specified answers re-coded into the appropriate category according to the 2001 Census of Population schema. Data for periods prior to this used the old classification. No comparison should be made between the two classifications, because not only are the categories different but the questions and coding of answers underlying the data are also very different.

² This table does not include people who did not state their ethnic group.

³ These data are presented for Great Britain only and exclude Northern Ireland. Detailed level ethnicity questions are not asked of the White group in Northern Ireland. The sub categories British and Other White will therefore not sum to the White total.

* Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

Standard Errors for economic activity by ethnic group (levels)^{1,2} - Spring 2001

United Kingdom (thousands - not seasonally adjusted)

	In employment	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error (%)	ILO unemployed	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error (%)	Economically inactive	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error (%)
ALL									
White	26,659	70	0.3	1,217	24	2.0	16,250	58	0.4
British ³	25,054	70	0.3	1,124	23	2.1	15,195	57	0.4
Other white ³	898	24	2.7	48	5	10.8	532	19	3.6
All ethnic minority groups	1,563	33	2.1	195	11	5.5	1,181	30	2.5
Mixed	134	9	6.8	17	3	18.8	78	7	8.8
White and Black Caribbean	68	7	9.7	(9)	2	24.8	34	4	12.6
White and Black African	16	3	19.6	(1)	1	70.8	(7)	2	27.1
White and Asian	44	5	12.0	(3)	1	41.9	31	5	14.7
Other Mixed	(6)	2	28.2	(3)	2	46.7	(6)	2	30.3
Asian or Asian British	780	25	3.2	92	7	8.0	655	23	3.5
Indian	444	20	4.4	31	4	13.0	257	14	5.5
Pakistani	171	11	6.7	35	5	13.0	230	14	6.2
Bangladeshi	61	7	12.0	13	3	21.5	90	10	10.7
Other Asian	104	9	8.6	12	3	25.2	76	8	10.4
Black or Black British	472	19	4.0	70	6	9.1	293	15	5.2
Black Caribbean	257	13	5.2	37	4	12.1	160	10	6.4
Black African	192	13	6.6	30	4	14.6	117	11	9.3
Other Black	23	4	15.8	(3)	1	44.9	15	3	22.4
Chinese	72	7	10.2	(6)	2	30.5	65	8	13.0
Other ethnic group	105	9	8.6	10	3	25.1	90	9	10.3
MALE									
White	14,668	43	0.3	746	19	2.5	6,194	35	0.6
British ³	13,793	44	0.3	693	18	2.7	5,815	34	0.6
Other white ³	475	17	3.5	22	3	15.5	191	11	5.5
All ethnic minority groups	893	22	2.5	118	8	7.2	438	17	3.8
Mixed	72	7	9.8	(9)	2	25.3	27	4	15.7
White and Black Caribbean	37	5	13.9	(4)	1	34.3	11	3	23.1
White and Black African	(9)	2	27.4	-	-	-	(1)	1	70.6
White and Asian	24	4	16.7	(3)	1	45.9	13	3	23.9
Other Mixed	(2)	1	57.9	(2)	1	59.9	(1)	1	58.7
Asian or Asian British	487	17	3.5	59	6	9.9	231	12	5.2
Indian	255	13	4.9	18	3	17.5	92	7	7.9
Pakistani	119	9	7.1	23	4	15.2	76	7	9.5
Bangladeshi	48	6	13.1	11	3	24.7	30	5	16.3
Other Asian	65	7	10.5	(7)	2	30.8	33	5	15.6
Black or Black British	229	12	5.1	39	5	12.3	113	8	7.3
Black Caribbean	118	8	6.9	21	3	16.4	66	6	8.9
Black African	101	8	7.8	16	3	20.0	41	5	13.2
Other Black	10	3	25.1	(2)	1	50.2	(5)	2	36.5
Chinese	39	5	12.5	(3)	1	37.9	30	6	18.8
Other ethnic group	65	7	10.2	(7)	2	32.4	37	6	15.1
FEMALE									
White	11,991	45	0.4	471	14	3.1	10,056	41	0.4
British ³	11,261	45	0.4	431	14	3.2	9,380	40	0.4
Other white ³	422	15	3.4	26	4	14.5	341	14	4.0
All ethnic minority groups	671	19	2.8	77	6	8.2	743	20	2.7
Mixed	63	6	8.8	(8)	2	28.0	51	5	10.1
White and Black Caribbean	31	4	12.4	(5)	2	35.5	22	3	14.5
White and Black African	(7)	2	27.4	(1)	1	70.8	(6)	2	29.3
White and Asian	20	3	15.5	-	-	-	18	3	18.2
Other Mixed	(5)	1	32.1	(1)	1	71.5	(5)	2	32.0
Asian or Asian British	292	13	4.3	33	4	12.3	424	15	3.6
Indian	189	10	5.4	13	2	18.8	166	10	5.9
Pakistani	52	5	10.4	12	3	21.6	154	10	6.2
Bangladeshi	13	3	22.6	(3)	1	41.1	60	6	10.0
Other Asian	39	4	11.3	(5)	2	35.2	44	5	11.5
Black or Black British	243	12	4.8	31	4	12.7	180	10	5.8
Black Caribbean	139	9	6.1	16	3	17.8	94	7	7.5
Black African	91	8	8.3	14	3	18.9	76	8	10.0
Other Black	13	3	20.0	1	1	99.8	10	3	25.6
Chinese	33	4	12.2	(2)	1	51.1	35	5	13.0
Other ethnic group	39	5	12.2	(3)	1	37.8	53	6	10.8

¹ This table uses the National Statistics interim standard classification of ethnic groups. These data have had "Other" specified answers re-coded into the appropriate category according to the 2001 Census of Population schema. Data for periods prior to this used the old classification. No comparison should be made between the two classifications, because not only are the categories different but the questions and coding of answers underlying the data are also very different.

² This table does not include people who did not state their ethnic group.

³ These data are presented for Great Britain only and exclude Northern Ireland. Detailed level ethnicity questions are not asked of the White group in Northern Ireland. The sub categories British and Other White will therefore not sum to the White total.

() Figures in brackets are below the normal threshold for which ONS would consider sufficiently reliable to publish. They are shown on this occasion to give users a clearer understanding of the new classification.

Standard Errors for economic activity by ethnic group (rates)^{1,2} - Spring 2001

United Kingdom (percent - not seasonally adjusted)

	Economic activity rate ²			Employment rate ²			ILO unemp. rate ²		
	16-59/64	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error	16-59/64	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error	all 16+	Standard Error	Relative Stand. Error
ALL									
White	79.4	0.2	0.2	75.9	0.2	0.2	4.4	0.1	2.1
British ³	79.9	0.2	0.2	76.4	0.2	0.2	4.3	0.1	2.1
Other white ³	74.2	1.0	1.4	70.4	1.1	1.5	5.1	0.5	10.6
All ethnic minority groups	64.7	0.7	1.1	57.4	0.8	1.3	11.1	0.6	5.2
Mixed	70.0	2.3	3.3	62.1	2.4	3.8	11.2	1.9	17.2
White and Black Caribbean	73.5	3.0	4.1	64.6	3.4	5.2	(12.1)	2.8	22.9
White and Black African	72.7	6.7	9.2	68.3	7.0	10.2	(6.0)	4.1	68.9
White and Asian	65.4	4.3	6.5	60.8	4.2	6.9	(7.0)	2.8	39.2
Other Mixed	(61.8)	9.5	15.3	(40.5)	9.3	22.9	(34.4)	12.3	35.8
Asian or Asian British	62.0	1.0	1.6	55.4	1.1	1.9	10.6	0.8	7.5
Indian	71.0	1.3	1.8	66.3	1.4	2.1	6.6	0.8	12.2
Pakistani	51.1	1.8	3.5	42.3	1.8	4.3	17.1	2.0	11.5
Bangladeshi	48.7	3.1	6.3	40.0	3.2	8.0	18.1	3.5	19.4
Other Asian	64.7	2.7	4.2	57.8	3.2	5.6	10.6	2.5	23.5
Black or Black British	71.0	1.4	2.0	61.7	1.5	2.4	12.9	1.1	8.3
Black Caribbean	74.9	1.7	2.3	65.2	1.9	2.9	12.6	1.4	11.0
Black African	67.2	2.4	3.5	57.9	2.4	4.2	13.6	1.8	13.3
Other Black	66.4	5.8	8.8	59.3	5.8	9.8	(10.8)	4.5	41.8
Chinese	58.1	3.8	6.5	53.9	3.7	6.8	(7.2)	2.0	28.3
Other ethnic group	58.4	3.1	5.3	53.0	3.1	5.9	9.1	2.2	23.7
MALE									
White	84.5	0.2	0.2	80.3	0.2	0.2	4.8	0.1	2.5
British ³	84.7	0.2	0.2	80.7	0.2	0.3	4.8	0.1	2.7
Other white ³	80.9	1.3	1.6	77.2	1.4	1.8	4.5	0.7	15.2
All ethnic minority groups	74.8	1.0	1.3	66.1	1.0	1.6	11.7	0.8	6.7
Mixed	78.9	3.3	4.1	69.7	3.6	5.1	(11.6)	2.7	23.6
White and Black Caribbean	83.5	4.0	4.7	74.5	4.7	6.3	(10.6)	3.5	33.0
White and Black African	(95.3)	4.7	4.9	(95.3)	4.7	4.9	-	-	-
White and Asian	69.5	6.3	9.1	62.1	6.3	10.2	(10.7)	4.5	42.4
Other Mixed	(71.9)	14.6	20.3	(30.6)	15.3	50.0	(57.4)	20.4	35.5
Asian or Asian British	75.5	1.3	1.7	67.3	1.4	2.0	10.8	1.0	9.2
Indian	80.7	1.5	1.9	75.4	1.7	2.3	6.5	1.1	16.7
Pakistani	70.2	2.5	3.6	58.7	2.7	4.6	16.4	2.3	13.9
Bangladeshi	70.9	4.5	6.3	58.5	4.6	7.8	18.0	4.0	21.9
Other Asian	72.8	3.8	5.3	65.5	4.3	6.5	(9.9)	2.9	29.2
Black or Black British	77.2	1.8	2.3	65.8	2.0	3.0	14.6	1.7	11.3
Black Caribbean	79.1	2.3	2.9	67.1	2.6	3.9	14.9	2.3	15.1
Black African	75.5	2.8	3.7	65.0	3.0	4.7	13.8	2.5	18.3
Other Black	74.2	9.0	12.2	61.1	9.7	15.9	(17.7)	8.2	46.2
Chinese	61.4	5.4	8.8	56.4	5.3	9.4	(8.1)	2.9	35.4
Other ethnic group	67.5	4.0	5.9	60.8	4.1	6.8	(9.7)	2.9	29.8
FEMALE									
White	73.9	0.2	0.3	71.0	0.2	0.3	3.8	0.1	3.2
British ³	74.5	0.2	0.3	71.7	0.3	0.3	3.7	0.1	3.3
Other white ³	67.9	1.4	2.1	64.0	1.4	2.3	5.8	0.8	13.9
All ethnic minority groups	54.6	1.0	1.8	48.8	1.0	2.0	10.3	0.8	7.8
Mixed	62.0	3.2	5.1	55.3	3.2	5.8	(10.8)	2.8	26.2
White and Black Caribbean	65.0	4.3	6.7	56.0	4.6	8.2	(13.8)	4.5	32.4
White and Black African	(57.1)	9.8	17.1	(49.7)	9.8	19.7	(12.9)	8.5	66.1
White and Asian	60.6	6.0	9.9	59.2	6.0	10.1	(2.3)	2.3	98.7
Other Mixed	(56.4)	11.0	19.5	(45.8)	11.0	24.0	(18.7)	11.9	63.6
Asian or Asian British	47.6	1.3	2.8	42.6	1.4	3.2	10.2	1.2	11.8
Indian	61.1	1.9	3.1	57.0	2.0	3.4	6.6	1.2	18.3
Pakistani	31.6	2.3	7.4	25.6	2.2	8.7	18.6	3.6	19.3
Bangladeshi	22.3	3.6	16.1	18.2	3.5	19.2	(18.5)	7.1	38.3
Other Asian	54.6	3.8	6.9	48.1	4.0	8.4	(11.7)	3.8	32.2
Black or Black British	65.8	1.8	2.7	58.2	1.8	3.1	11.3	1.4	11.9
Black Caribbean	71.4	2.3	3.2	63.7	2.4	3.7	10.5	1.7	16.4
Black African	59.8	3.0	5.0	51.7	3.0	5.8	13.5	2.4	17.7
Other Black	60.6	7.8	12.9	57.9	7.9	13.6	(4.4)	4.3	97.3
Chinese	54.4	4.4	8.0	51.1	4.3	8.4	(6.1)	3.0	48.8
Other ethnic group	47.4	4.0	8.5	43.5	4.0	9.2	(8.0)	2.9	36.6

¹ This table uses the National Statistics interim standard classification of ethnic groups. These data have had "Other" specified answers re-coded into the appropriate category according to the 2001 Census of Population schema. Data for periods prior to this used the old classification. No comparison should be made between the two classifications, because not only are the categories different but the questions and coding of answers underlying the data are also very different.

² The calculation of standard errors for rates does not include people who did not state their ethnic group.

³ These data are presented for Great Britain only and exclude Northern Ireland. Detailed level ethnicity questions are not asked of the White group in Northern Ireland.

() Rates in brackets are calculated using figures which are below the normal threshold for which ONS would consider sufficiently reliable to publish. They are shown on this occasion to give users a clearer understanding of the new classification.