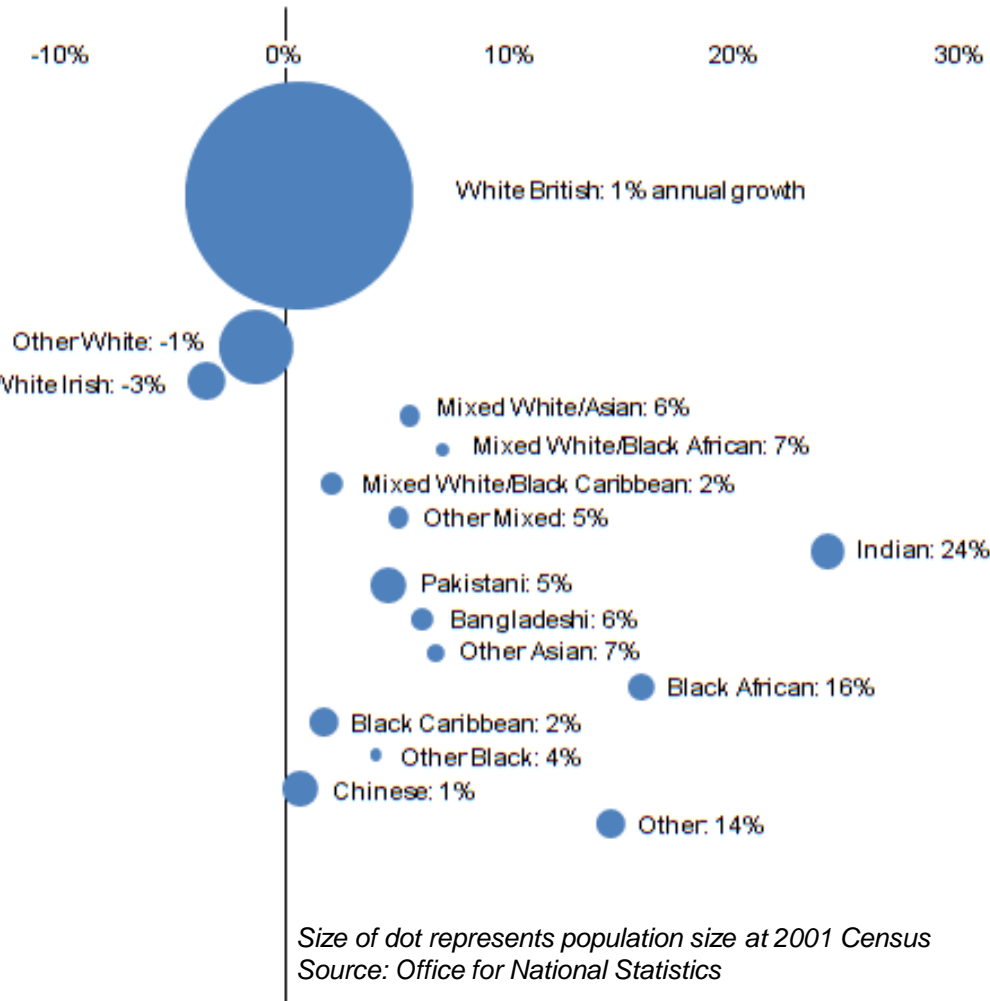


Estimated population growth in ethnic groups

Average annual population growth 2001-2009 by ethnic group, Oxford



The Office for National Statistics estimates that Oxford's total population has grown at a rapid 1.4% a year since 2001. New experimental estimates suggest that the rate of population growth has varied considerably in different ethnic groups. These estimates should be treated with caution however – they have 'experimental' status because estimating the population by ethnic group is fraught with difficulty.

Some of these figures mirror national trends. The White Irish population is decreasing because it is a relatively old population. Growth in the mixed ethnic groups is driven by the birth of children with parents from different ethnic groups. The relatively strong growth of the Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups is largely due to a young age profile leading to fewer deaths and more births.

The estimates for Oxford suggest that there has been very strong growth in the number of people from Indian and Black African ethnic groups. While national estimates too suggest strong growth in these groups due to immigration, the level of growth shown here is surprising and may be an overestimate. Likewise the reduction in Oxford's relatively large Other White population is surprising given what we might expect from a buoyant university population and increased migration from Poland and other eastern European countries. We await the results of the 2011 Census for a more definitive view of these changes.

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