

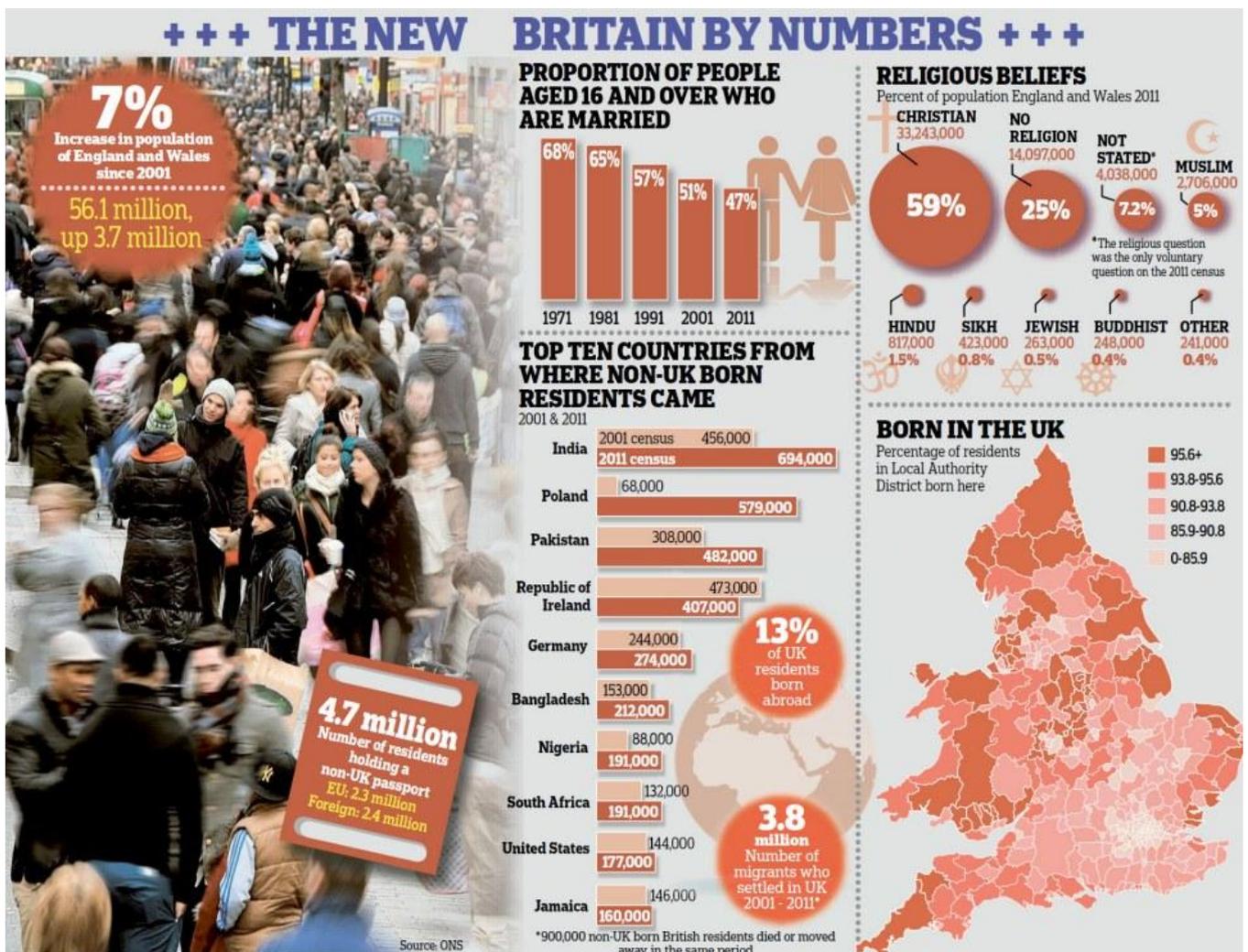
Decade that changed the face of the UK: 4million migrants settle here - and in London less than half of the population is white British

- 7.5million residents of England and Wales were foreign-born in 2011
- Just 44.9 per cent of Londoners are White British, according to census data
- Less than 90 per cent of country is white for the first time ever
- Census data reveal just 59 per cent now call themselves Christian as a quarter say they have no religion and 5 per cent are Muslim
- Home ownership declines but more people have paid off their mortgages
- Marriage rate dips to record low as fewer than half are hitched

By Steve Doughty

Nearly four million immigrants swelled the population of England and Wales over just ten years, the results of the national census revealed yesterday.

The grand survey of Britain, which took place in 2011, uncovers details of a decade of sweeping social change. The figures show 7.5million people who were born abroad were living here last year – of whom more than half have arrived since 2001.



The results from the national headcount provide the clearest picture yet of the impact of immigration on the country over the past few years.

Census officials said they mean that more than 70 per cent of the record rise in the overall population over the past decade is produced by people who migrated into Britain.

More...

- Religion in decline as census figures reveal there are 4million fewer Christians and one in four is now an atheist
- Energy bills to soar AGAIN: As big freeze bites, warning of more pain for every family
- The Royal effect: Harry tops list of 2012's most popular boys' baby names (while mother-to-be Catherine rises 21 places)

Migration was a key factor in a decade of dramatic change in the make-up of the people of the country and in their beliefs, the census showed.

It found that as millions arrived from abroad, traditional pillars of society were crumbling.

The numbers professing to be Christians fell by four million and for the first time ever fewer than half the adult population were married.



Multicultural: The number of immigrants in England and Wales has shot up as the proportion of the population that is white has decreased over the past decade, according to census data

Nearly one in eight families were headed by a mixed race couple or had an ethnic mix of children and adults, and in parts of London fewer than one in five people described themselves as 'white British'.

The overall findings showed that the share of the population who describe themselves as white has fallen to 86 per cent, down from 91 per cent in the previous census in 2001.

Four out of five people in England and Wales, 80 per cent of the population, give their ethnicity as 'white British'. The findings published yesterday followed the initial census results which came out in the summer and showed that the population of England and Wales is now 56.1million.

2M HOMES ARE AN ETHNIC MIX

NEARLY one in eight couples and families are now ethnically mixed, the census shows.

Two million homes are headed by couples from two different ethnic groups or who have family members of a different ethnic background.

The 12 per cent of racially mixed homes is up by 600,000 over a decade, taking the share of mixed homes up from 9 per cent to 12 per cent.

Nearly 1.25million people count themselves as ethnically mixed, up from under a million ten years ago.

The growth in numbers of mixed households appears to indicate a society set on integration and where for very large numbers racial prejudice is something from the past.

6M CARERS GO UNPAID

RISING numbers spend time caring for somebody with an illness or disability, and a growing share of them spend more than half a working week looking after someone else.

One in ten, or 5.8million people, in England and Wales gives unpaid care, the census found, more than a third of them for more than 20 hours a week.

The percentage of those who look after others was the same ten years ago, but the rise in population means there were 600,000 more carers last year than in 2011.

Of these, 2.1million were caring for someone for more than 20 hours a week, 400,000 more than in 2001. And 1.36million spend more than 50 hours a week in caring duties.

7M HAVE PAID OFF MORTGAGE

AROUND 7.2million families do not have a mortgage and own their home outright, the census shows.

It highlights the extraordinary social change triggered by the housing boom, which has made many into property millionaires - but frozen a generation off the housing ladder.

Nearly a third of households, 31 per cent, in England and Wales own their home without owing a penny to a bank or building society. Since the last census in 2001, the number has ballooned from 6.4million to 7.2million, an all-time record.

But over the past decade, the number of households who are renting has rocketed from 1.9million to 3.6million as families are forced to rent because they cannot afford to buy.

10M LIVE WITH ILL HEALTH

JUST over 10million people say their lives are limited by a long-term health problem or by disability. The number is 600,000 more than in the 2001 census, but represents the same 18 per cent share of the population.

Around one in 20 say their health is bad or very bad. The 6 per cent who say they have poor health compares to 13 per cent who reckon their health to be 'fair', and 81 per cent who describe themselves as in good or very good health.

The best health was enjoyed by people in London. Half of all Londoners, 4.1 million people, said their health was very good.

In the North-East, the least healthy region, only 44 per cent of people, 1.1 million, said their health was very good.

Between 2001 and 2011, numbers went up by 3.7million, or 7 per cent.

The £500million census was carried out on March 27 last year and is meant to count everyone in the country. It said 13 per cent of people in the country, 7.5million, were born outside Britain.

'Those born outside the UK represent a stable definition of a migrant,' the census report said.

Of these, 3.8million arrived after 2001, including a high proportion who came from Poland and Eastern Europe after Tony Blair's government allowed free immigration when their countries joined the EU in 2004.

The census report said: 'This means that 71 per cent of the overall population growth in the last decade is accounted for by the non-UK resident population.'

Home Secretary Theresa May is to make a major speech today in which she is expected to claim that the Government is beginning to control immigration levels.

Most recent figures show the key indicator of net migration was down 'significantly' over the most recent 12 months, from 242,000 to 183,000.

The Migration Watch UK think-tank said yesterday: 'This is the clear result of Labour's mass immigration policy which brought nearly four million immigrants to England and Wales in ten years.'

'Immigration on this scale is completely unacceptable to the vast majority of the public and is obviously unsustainable.'

'Nothing could more clearly demonstrate the need to get immigration back under control so as to allow time for integration to occur.'

The nations where most migrants were born are India, Poland and Pakistan, according to the census results. Irish people, who made up the biggest population of those born abroad a decade ago, now rank fourth.

In London, more than half the people in the boroughs of Brent, Newham, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea were born abroad.

Over London as a whole, fewer than half the population, 45 per cent, said they were white British.

However more than nine out of ten people, 91 per cent, describe themselves as at least one of English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.

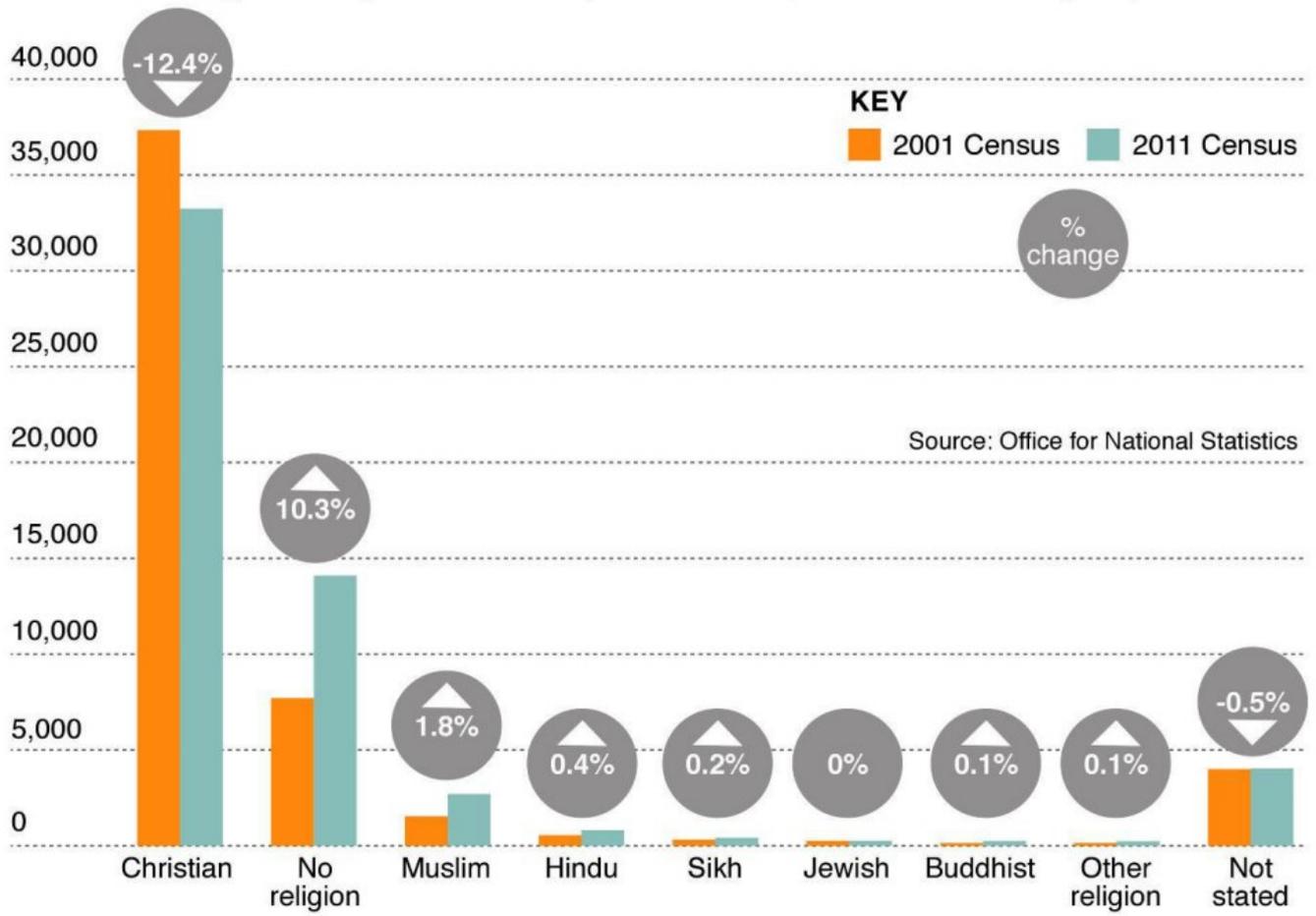
England remains a nation of shopkeepers more than 200 years after the phrase was coined.

The most common job is working in the retail or wholesale trade, with nearly one in six of us employed in supplying and selling goods and services, from supermarket warehouses to motorcycle repair shops.

Health and social work is the second work category, occupying 12.5 per cent of those in work. Education comes next, followed by manufacturing, with 8.9 per cent of those in jobs.

2011 Census Religion

Religion in England and Wales, 2001 and 2011, all usual residents (000s)



Religion: This graph shows how Christianity has been in decline as every other faith grows more popular