

# Measuring Religious Affiliation in Great Britain: The 2011 Census in Historical and Methodological Context

**CLIVE D. FIELD**

British Religion in Numbers

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## Office for National Statistics omnibus surveys, 2007-09 (means, %)

	Christian	Non-Christian	No religion
What is your religion or belief?	66	10	25
What is your religion?	76	8	17
What is your religion, even if not currently practising?	74	7	19
Do you regard yourself as belonging to a religion?	65	6	29
Which of these best describes you?	70	7	23

**Annual Population Survey/Integrated Household Survey, 2004-12 (%)**  
 'What is your religion, even if you are not currently practising?' (2004-10)  
 'What is your religion?' (2011-12)

	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Non-Christian</b>	<b>No religion</b>
2004-05	78	6	16
2006-07	75	7	18
2008-09	72	8	20
2010-11 Q1-3	70	8	22
2010-11 Q4	64	9	27
2011-12	62	8	29

## Census and sample survey comparisons, c. 2011, slide 1 (%)

	Date	Agency	Christian	Non-Christian	No religion
CENSUS (E&W, adults)					
What is your religion?	2011	ONS	66	8	26
SAMPLE SURVEYS					
Which religion, if any, do you regard yourself as belonging to?	2010	ORB	53	8	39
Which of the following religious groups do you consider yourself to be a member of?	2011	Populus	58	8	35
Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?	2010	YouGov	41	6	53

## Census and sample survey comparisons, c. 2011, slide 2 (%)

	Date	Agency	Christian	Non-Christian	No religion
What is your religion?	2011	YouGov	55	5	40
Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?	2009-10	NatCen	44	7	49
Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?	2010-11	NatCen	45	7	48
What is your religion even if you are not currently practising?	2010	ONS	72	8	21
What is your religion?	2011-12	ONS	64	8	28