

Scotland's Census Results 2022

East Ayrshire

Scotland's Census is the official count of the country's population, conducted every ten years by National Records of Scotland (NRS). It gathers detailed information about people living in Scotland, including their age, gender, ethnicity, education, employment and household composition. This data is used by government, councils and other organisations to plan services like health, education, housing, and transport, ensuring that resources are allocated based on population needs. It's a key source for understanding trends over time.

The most recent census in Scotland was held in 2022. The 2022 Census was originally scheduled for 2021; however it was postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Census took place between 28th February and 1st June 2022. The results of Scotland's Census offer a detailed and accurate snapshot of the Scottish nation.

**Direct access to the Census results can be found at [Home | Scotland's Census](#)
(scotlandscensus.gov.uk)**

Data specifically relating to Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion in East Ayrshire can be accessed [here](#)

Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion

Ethnic Groups in East Ayrshire

Scotland's Census asked people to choose the option that best described their ethnic group or background. Respondents were able to select 'Scottish' or 'Other British' within the White category. 'Minority ethnic group' is used here to refer to all other ethnic groups. This includes some ethnic groups that were in the White category on the census form such as Irish, Polish, Gypsy/Traveller, Roma and Showman/Showwoman.

In 2022, 3.9% of respondents for East Ayrshire identified as belonging to an ethnic minority group. This is an increase from 2.4% in 2011. Nationally, we also see an increase, with 12.9% of the Scottish population identifying as belonging to an ethnic minority group, compared to 8.2% in 2011.

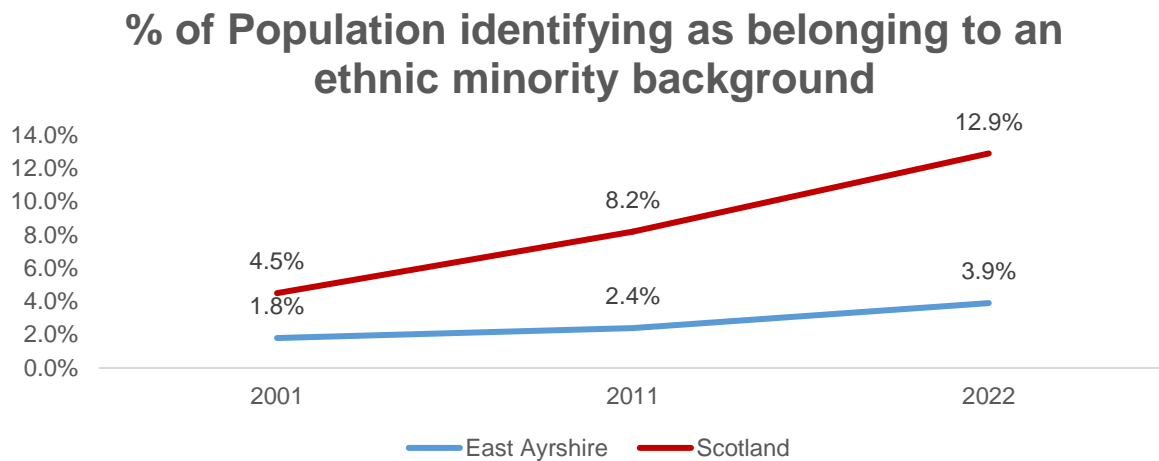


Figure 1: Percentage of population identifying with an ethnic minority background

East Ayrshire is predominantly White Scottish, with 89.7% of the population identifying as such in 2022. In the minority group population, the biggest increase since 2011 was seen in the Mixed or Multiple ethnicities group whose population more than doubled, followed by a significant rise in the Polish community.

The breakdown of ethnicities within the ethnic minority group population in 2011 and 2022 is demonstrated in Figure 2.

East Ayrshire - % Breakdown of ethnic minority group population

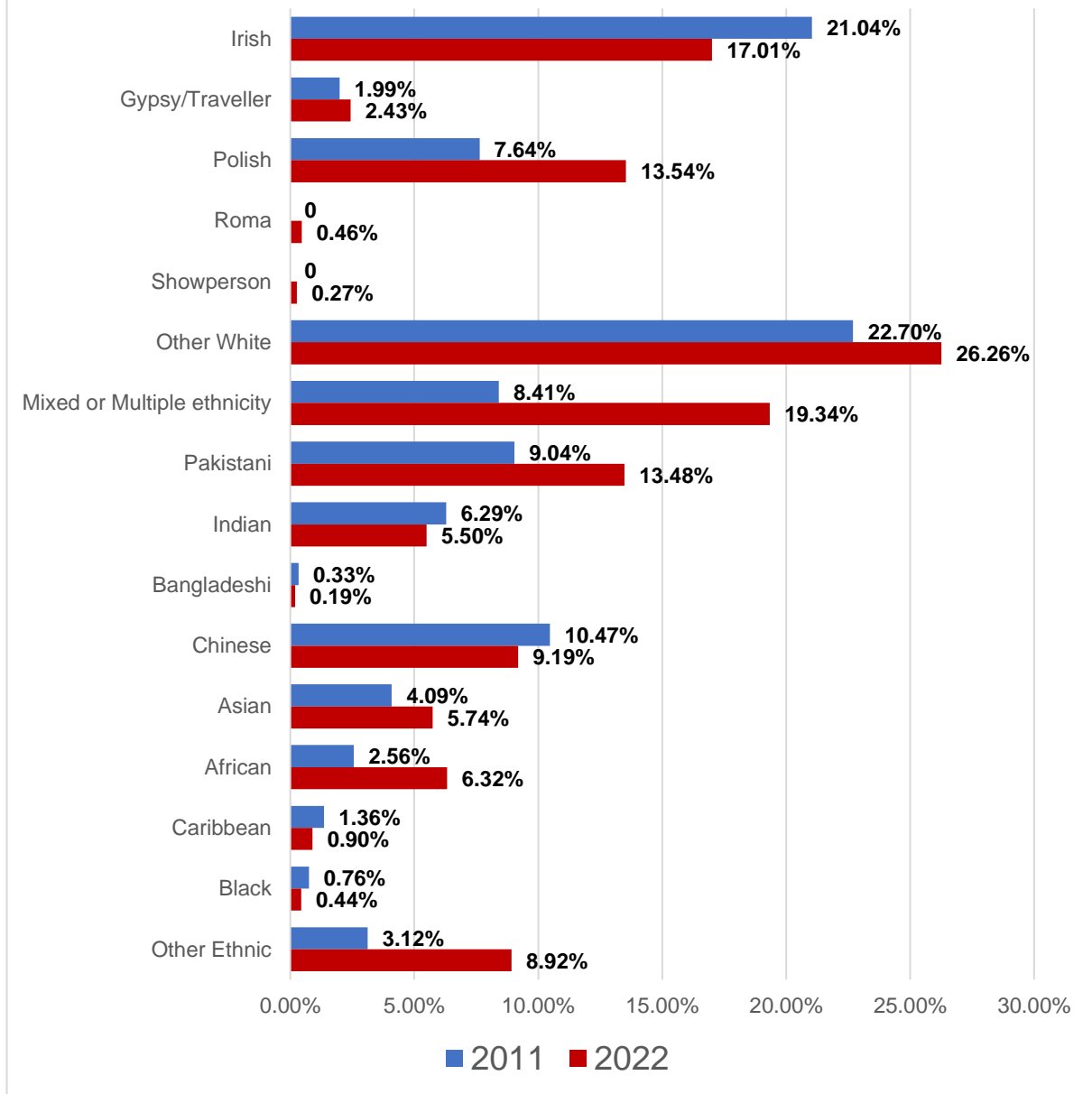


Figure 2: Percentage breakdown of ethnic minority group population

Country of Birth

In 2022, 89.8% of the population in East Ayrshire were born in Scotland, 7% were born in the rest of the UK, 1.4% were born in Europe and 1.8% were born in the rest of the world.

Of the population that identified as being born in Europe, the highest number were born in Poland (406 people), Germany (349 people) and the Republic of Ireland (244 people). Of the population that identified as being born in the rest of the world, the highest number were born in South Africa (257 people), Pakistan (230 people) and United States of America (167) people.

The number of people born in Scotland in East Ayrshire has dropped since the 2011 census, and the number of people born in other parts of the UK and in the rest of the world has increased. We also see this trend reflected nationally.

Figure 3 shows the population of East Ayrshire and where they were born, according to both the 2011 and 2022 census results.

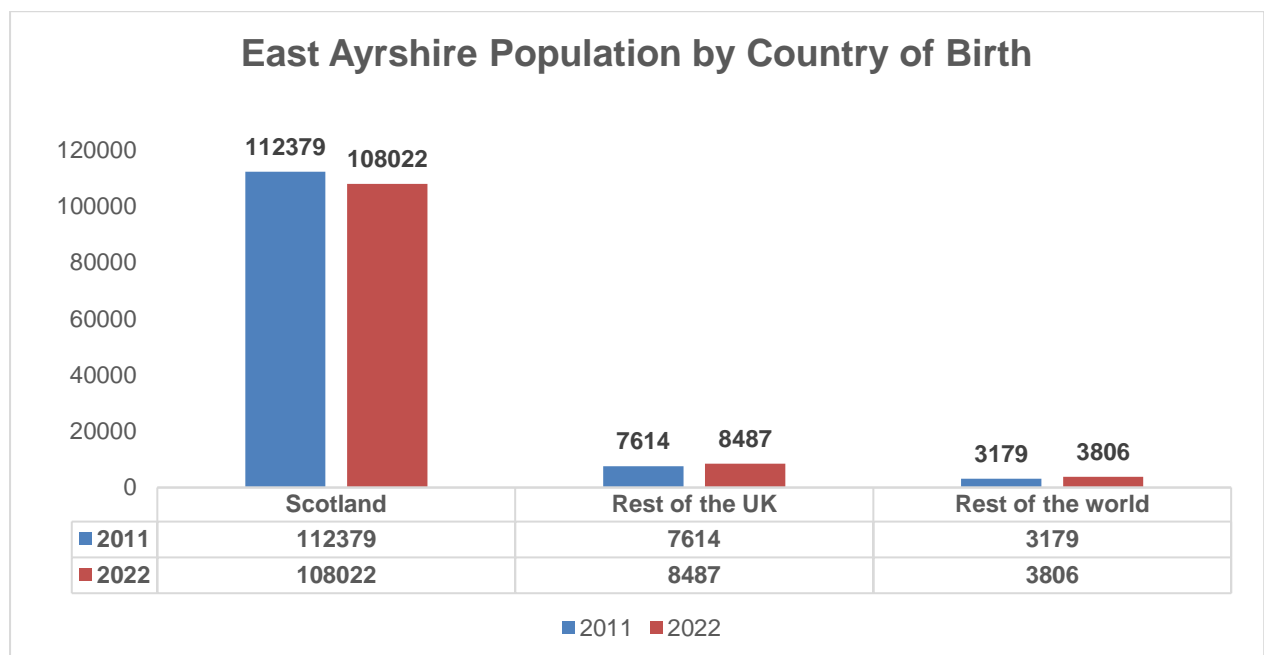


Figure 3: Number of people in East Ayrshire by where they were born (Census 2011. Census 2022)

National Identity

The number of people in East Ayrshire who identify as Scottish identity only has increased, from 70.5% of the population in 2011 to 75.2% in 2022. The number of people who identify as British identity only has more than doubled since the 2011 census, shifting from 5.7% of the population to 11.6% in 2022. The same movement was seen in the national census results.

The most notable movement was seen in those who identify as both Scottish and British, which saw a 58.5% decrease since 2011.

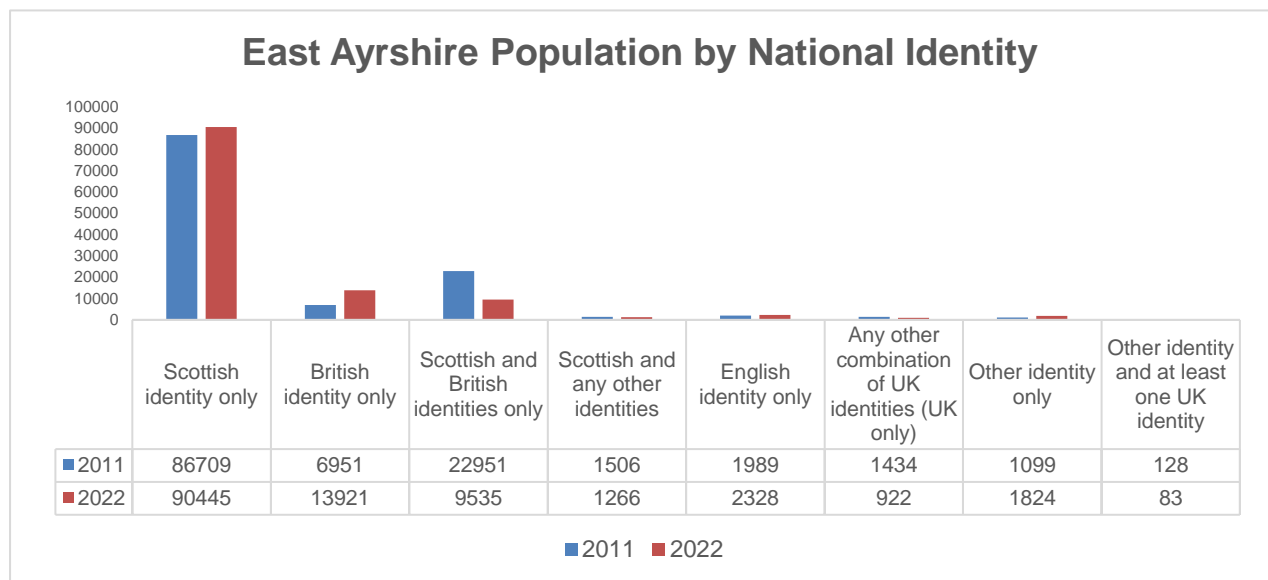


Figure 4: Population by national identity (Census 2011, Census 2022)

Gaelic and Scots

To fully understand respondent's language abilities, several options were available (e.g understanding only, speaks only etc) in the census.

The 2022 Census found that 1.4% (1601) of the East Ayrshire population aged over three years could understand Gaelic to some degree. This was an increase of 640 people in comparison to the previous Census results.

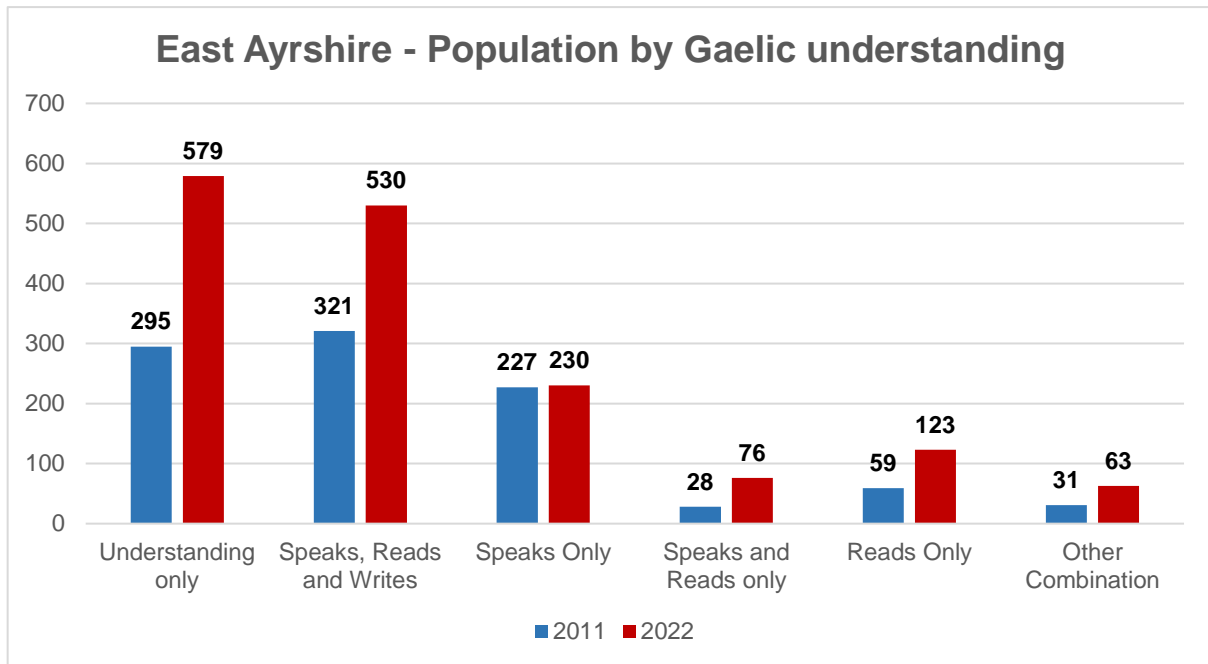


Figure 5: Population by different understandings of Gaelic (Census 2022)

In 2022, there were 65748 (56.2%) of those aged three and above understanding Scots to some degree, an increase of 11546 from 2011.

In East Ayrshire, there has been a significant increase of 11660 people who understand Scots since 2011. However, there has also been a decrease of 2277 (5.9%) in people who can specifically speak, read and write Scots.

The understanding of Scots and Gaelic in East Ayrshire follows a similar trend to that seen at national level.

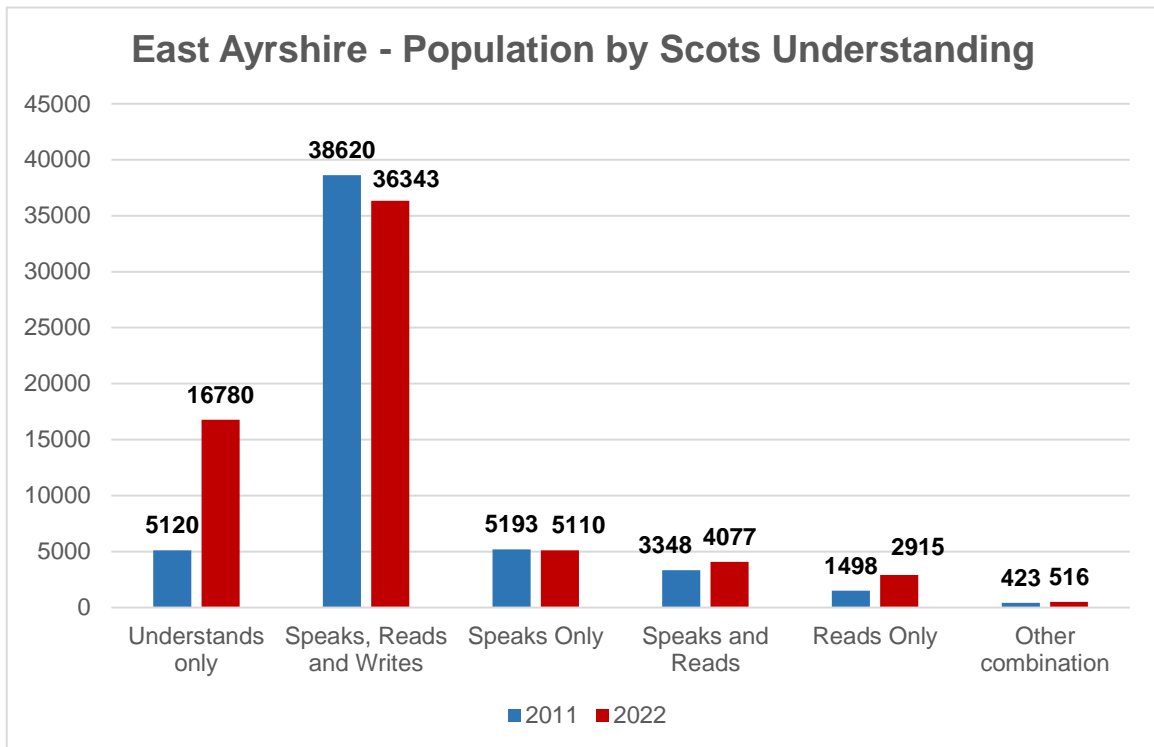


Figure 6: Population by different understanding of Scots (Census 2022)

British Sign Language

The census included a new question on the use of BSL in 2022. This means we do not have comparable data for previous censuses. The new question asked whether people can use BSL. In the previous census, information on BSL use was only collected through the question “Do you use a language other than English at home?”.

In East Ayrshire, 2.6% of people aged three and over use BSL according to the 2022 census results. Within this population, 70% of BSL users are female and 30% are male. The same pattern is seen on a national level.

Census results resulting to the Labour Market indicate that females make up a larger proportion of the workforce in education and health and social work industries, so this is likely to influence the number of female BSL users.

Religion

Scotland's Census asked people what religion they belong to. This was a voluntary question, first used in 2001. In 2022 5.5% of people in East Ayrshire did not answer the religion question. Percentages are calculated using the overall population, not just those who answered the religion question.

In East Ayrshire's 2022 census, over half of the population (54.8% or 66000 people) reported no religious affiliation, an increase from 37.2% in 2011. Nationally, 51.1% of Scots identified as non-religious, up from 36.7% in 2011.

At the same time, the number of people identifying with the Church of Scotland has seen a significant decrease. In East Ayrshire, 26.7% of the population identified with the Church of Scotland in 2022, down from 41.5% in 2011. Despite this, the Church of Scotland remained the largest religious group. Roman Catholics (8.1%), other Christian denominations (3.3%), and Muslims (0.6%) followed.

Figure 7 shows the number of people in East Ayrshire and their religious affiliations, demonstrating the changes between the 2011 and 2022 census.

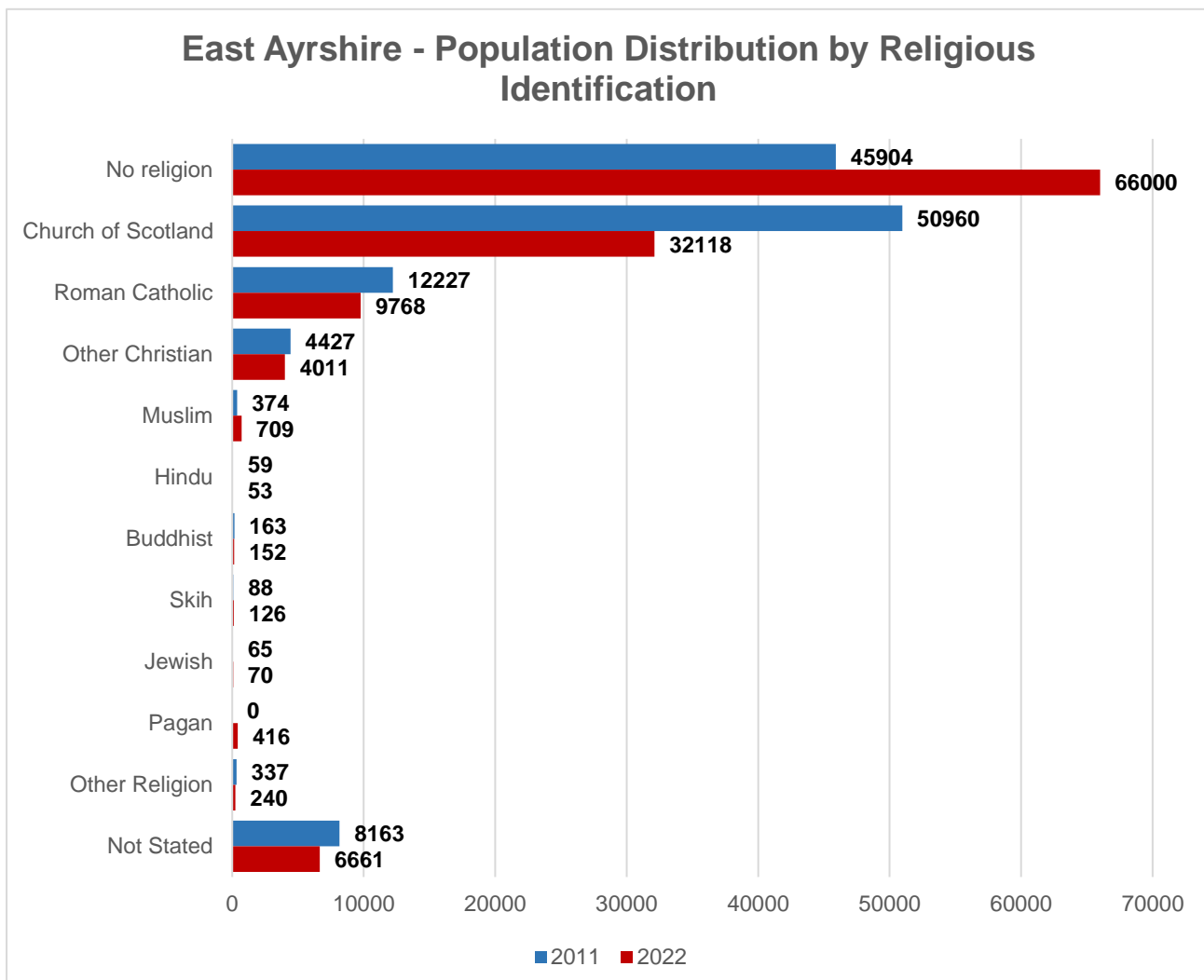


Figure 7: Population Distribution by Religious Identification (Census 2011, 2022)



This data provides invaluable insights into the changing demographics and cultural composition of East Ayrshire, helping to guide future policies and ensure inclusive community planning.

For further information on this topic, please visit [Scotland's Census](https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk).

For questions around this data, please contact kara.heron@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

For questions around East Ayrshire's work on Population and Demography, please contact amy.fraser@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.