

Labour market analysis from the 2011 census

Research & Information Team
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Version:	1.5- approved by KLB
Author:	Lenna Santamaria
Owner:	
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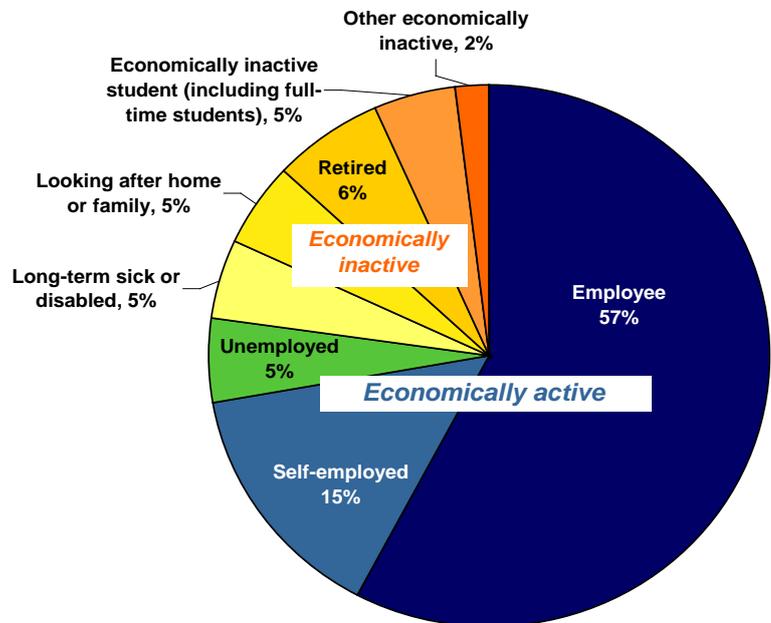
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Executive summary

- In 2011 there were 315,752 working age people (aged 16-64) in East Sussex, of whom 243,831 (77.2%) were economically active, including full-time students. This was marginally higher than the national (England and Wales) average of 76.8%, but lower than the South East average of 79.3% and the average for the SE LEP (South East Local Enterprise Partnership) of 78.3%.
- 57.7% of working age people were employees, and 14.7% were self-employed, considerably higher than the average for England and Wales of 10.4%, the region (11.8%) and the SE LEP (11.9%). At 17.2%, Wealden had the highest self-employment levels of all districts in the SE LEP, and Rother, at 16.7%, the second highest.
- Almost a third of people (31.3%) in employment worked part-time. This was somewhat higher than the South East (27.5%), the SE LEP (28.5%), and the national average (28.2%).
- 72.0% of working age females were economically active compared to 82.7% of males.

Fig 1: Economic activity and inactivity of working age people in East Sussex, 2011

	Number	Percentage
All people age 16-64	315,752	100%
Economically active	243,831	77.2%
Employed	228,409	72.3%
Unemployed	15,422	4.9%
Economically inactive	71,921	22.8%



- Among working age people, employment in the county was dominated by four sectors: Wholesale and retail trades and repair of vehicles (16.0% of all employment); Human health and social work activities (15.6%); Education (10.4%) and Construction (9.5%).
- Unemployment among all working age people stood at 4.9% in 2011, but among young people (including economically active full-time students) aged 16-24, the rate was 11.2%. International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment – the proportion of all economically active people aged over 16 who were unemployed¹ – was 6.1%, compared to a national rate of 7.4%.
- Over a quarter of East Sussex residents aged 16 to 64 were qualified to Level 4 or above (University first or higher degree). This proportion (28.3%) was considerably lower than the average for the South East (32.3%) and slightly lower than the national average (29.7%), but higher than the average for the SE LEP (25.6%).

¹ This includes those people who were out of work (or waiting to start a job), available for work and actively seeking work. It is an internationally comparable definition of unemployment used to calculate the national rate data which is usually published in the media.

1. Economic activity and employment rates

- The economic activity (77.2%) and employment rate (72.3%) were slightly higher than the national but lower than the SE LEP averages.
- Highest rates for activity (79.7%) and employment (76.2%) were found in Wealden.
- Lowest rates for activity were in Rother (74.5%) and Hastings (74.7%).
- But for employment, the rate was lowest in Hastings (67.7%).
- 14.7% of working age people were self-employed, considerably higher than the average for England and Wales of 10.4% and the SE LEP (11.9%).
- At 17.2%, Wealden had the highest self-employment levels of all districts in the SELEP.

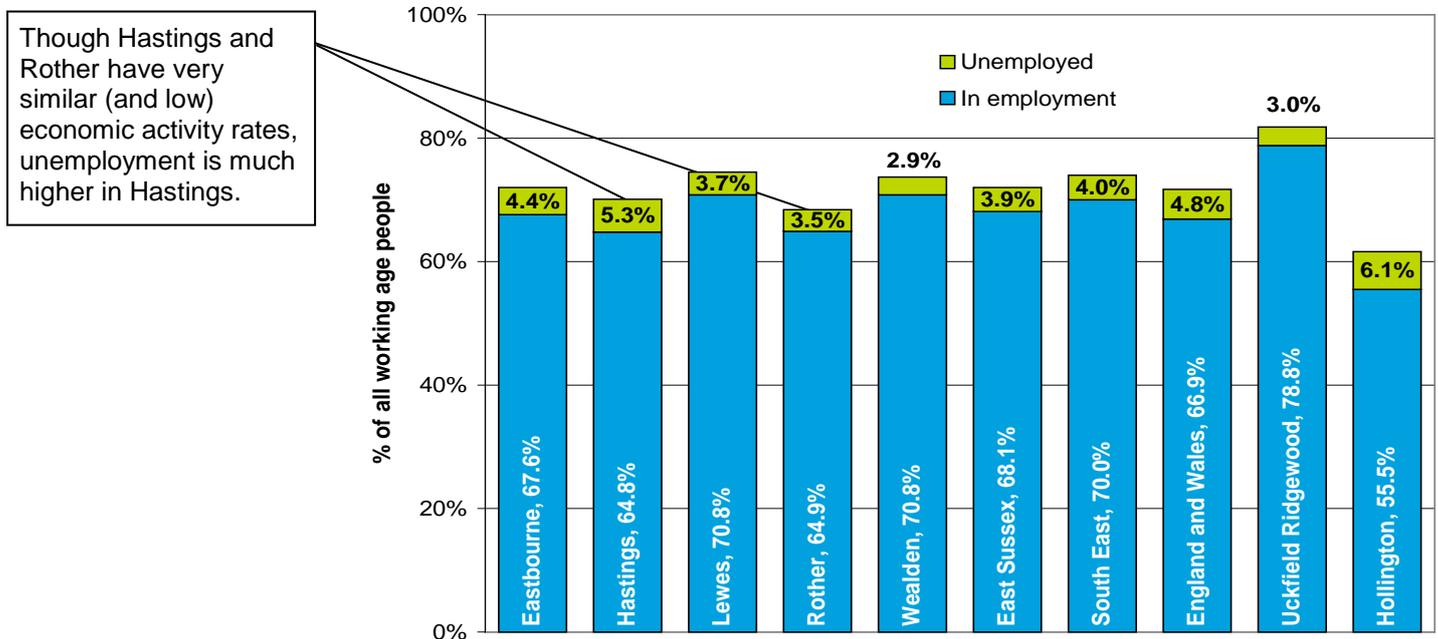
Table 1: Economic activity and inactivity of working age people in 2011

	Economic activity				People in employment		
	All people aged 16-64	All economically active	All economically inactive	Unemployed	All in employment	Full-time	Part-time
Eastbourne	60,388	46,323	14,065	3,440	42,883	29,560	13,323
Hastings	58,087	43,378	14,709	4,062	39,316	27,002	12,314
Lewes	58,380	46,052	12,328	2,618	43,434	29,642	13,792
Rother	50,596	37,695	12,901	2,232	35,463	24,164	11,299
Wealden	88,301	70,383	17,918	3,070	67,313	46,552	20,761
East Sussex	315,752	243,831	71,921	15,422	228,409	156,920	71,489
SE LEP	2,498,635	1,956,399	542,236	133,130	1,823,269	1,304,104	519,165
South East	5,510,646	4,371,726	1,138,920	257,675	4,114,051	2,982,321	1,131,730
Great Britain	36,273,707	27,866,236	8,407,471	2,118,545	25,747,691	18,478,011	7,269,680

- 1.1. Economic activity rates among working age people (aged 16 to 64 – including full-time students) in the county were 77.2% in 2011. This was marginally higher than the national (England and Wales) average of 76.8%, but lower than the South East average of 79.3% and the average for the SE LEP (South East Local Enterprise Partnership) of 78.3%. Rates were highest in Wealden (79.7%) and lowest in Rother (74.5%) and Hastings (74.7%) (see Fig 2).
- 1.2. The top wards for economic activity were in Uckfield – in Uckfield Ridgewood ward, 85% of working age people were economically active, and in Uckfield New Town 84.1%. The lowest rates of economic activity among this age group were seen in Hollington (68.0%) and Sidley (68.4%) wards.

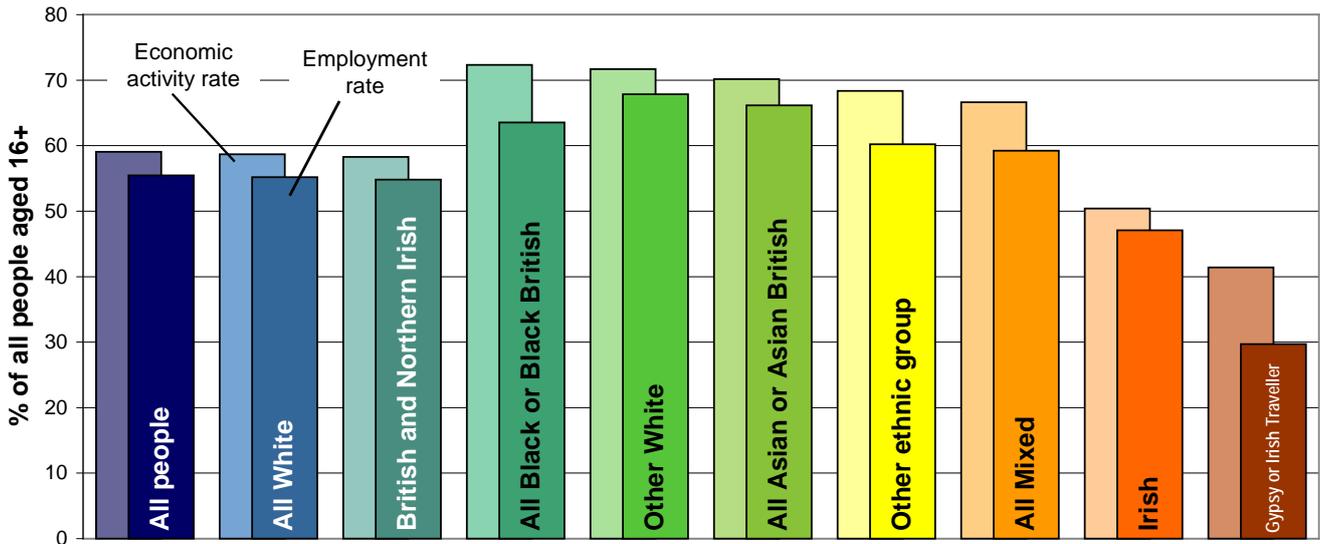
- 1.3. Two thirds (67.5%) of young people aged 16-24 were economically active, including some who were full-time students. A further 25.2% of young people were economically inactive students.

Fig 2: Economic activity and employment rates of working age people, 2011



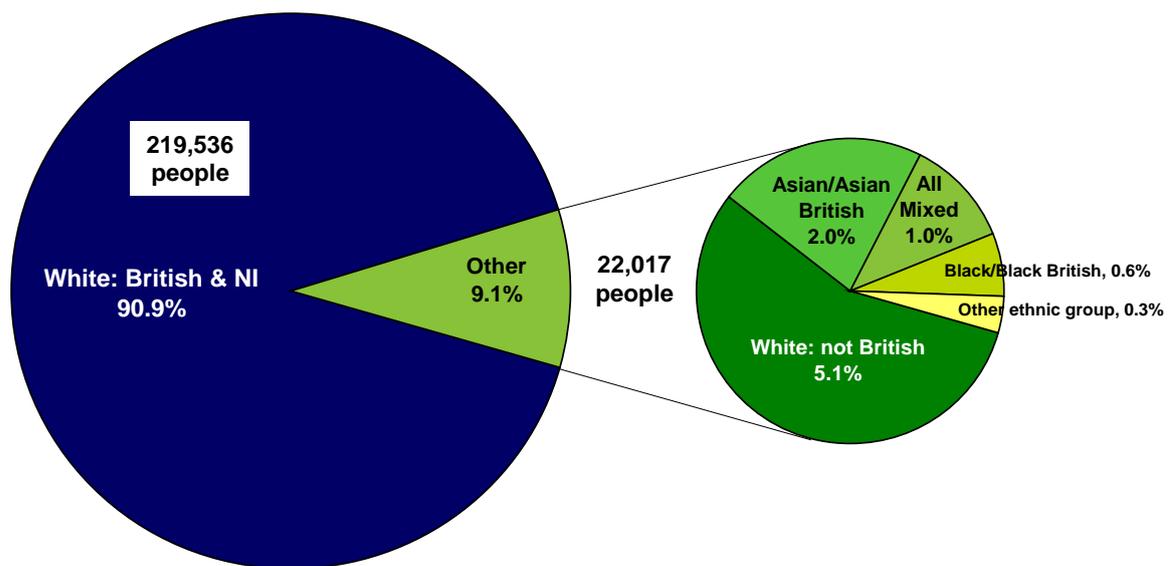
- 1.4. The employment rate among working age people (aged 16-64) in the county was 72.3%, but though this was higher than the national average (71.0%), it was slightly below the average for the SE LEP (73.0%). The employment rate was highest in Wealden (76.2%) but lowest in Hastings (67.7%). At 74.6%, rural areas had a higher employment rate than the county's urban areas (71.5%).
- 1.5. The highest level of employment was found in Uckfield Ridgewood ward, where 82% of the working age population were employed, while the overall rate for Uckfield was 79.5%. The lowest levels of employment were seen in Hollington, with only 59.8% employed, but this ward had the highest levels of economic inactivity due to long-term sickness and disability, with 10.4% of working age people in this category. At 60.9%, Central St Leonards also had a very low employment rate.
- 1.6. 57.7% of working age people were employees, and 14.7% were self-employed, considerably higher than the average for England and Wales of 10.4%, the region (11.8%) and the SE LEP (11.9%). At 17.2%, Wealden had the highest self-employment levels of all districts in the SE LEP, and Rother the second highest (16.7%), but all districts in the county had higher levels of self-employment than the national average. In rural areas of the county, one in five working age people were self-employed (19.8%).
- 1.7. The ward with the highest proportion of self-employed people was Heathfield East, where a quarter of all working age people (24.6%) were self-employed. All of the top 10 wards for self-employment were located in rural wards, and had levels over 22%.
- 1.8. The areas with the lowest levels of self-employment were in our coastal towns, with Hampden Park ward having the lowest proportion of working age people who were self-employed at 8.3%.

Fig 3: Economic activity and employment rates by ethnic group



- 1.9. Economic activity rates and employment rates vary with ethnic group (see Fig 3, above and 4, below). Note that the data on economic activity and ethnic group relates to all people aged 16+. All together, non-White ethnic groups had higher economic activity rates than all White ethnic groups, although the ‘other White’ ethnic group also had a higher economic activity rate. This is partly due to the age profile of other ethnic groups as considerably fewer people in non-White British groups are retired. The employment rate was highest among Other White groups (67.9%) (excluding Irish and Gypsy/travellers) and Asian/Asian British (66.2%), which compared with 54.8% of British and Northern Irish people.
- 1.10. However, except for the Asian/Asian British and Other White ethnic groups, most other ethnic groups had considerably higher levels of unemployment than the White British ethnic group (see more detailed unemployment analysis in Section 10).

Fig 4: Percentage of all people (age 16+) in employment by ethnic group

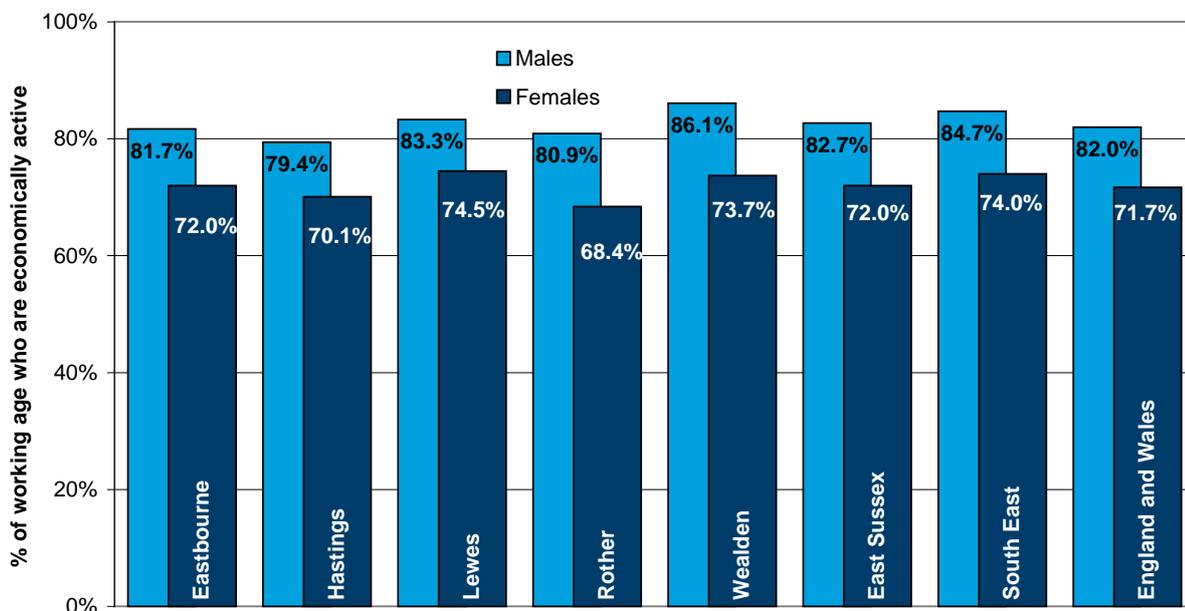


2. Gender and economic activity

- *Males are more economically active (83%) than females (72%).*
- *Employment rates reflect this: males: 77% and females: 68%.*
- *But unemployment rates are higher among men (5.9%) than women (3.9%).*
- *One in five working age males (21%) were self-employed in the county, compared to less than one in ten females (9%).*

- 2.1. 82.7% of working age males were economically active, compared with 72.0% of females. Employment rates reflect this difference at 76.7% for males and 68.1% for females. Unemployment rates were higher for males (5.9%) than females (3.9%).
- 2.2. At district level, Wealden had the highest levels of economic activity among males (86.1%), while Lewes had the highest among females (74.5%). The lowest levels of economic activity among males were found in Hastings (79.4%), but Rother had the lowest activity rates among females (68.4%) (see Fig 5 below). Both districts fall into the lowest 5 districts in the SE LEP, for economic activity rates, for both males and females.

Fig 5: Economic activity rates (working age) by gender, districts



- 2.3. At ward level, the highest levels of economic activity among working age males were seen in Framfield, Crowborough Jarvis Brook and Crowborough North (all 88.8%). However, while Framfield (85.3%) and Crowborough North (84.5%) also had the highest and third highest employment rates for males in the county, in Crowborough

Jarvis Brook, 6.8% of males were unemployed, so the employment rate was somewhat lower at 82.0%.

- 2.4. Among females the highest levels were in Uckfield Ridgewood at 81.9% (it also had the highest economic activity rate for all people). Other wards with high rates among females were Uckfield New Town (80.9%) and Lewes Bridge (79.6). The wards with the highest employment rates for females are the same as those with high economic activity rates.
- 2.5. One in five working age males (20.7%) were self-employed in the county, compared to less than one in ten females (8.9%). Self-employment rates were higher than the national average among both genders. Nearly a quarter of males in Rother (23.8% of working age males) and Wealden (23.7%) were self-employed. At 11%, Wealden had the highest self-employment rate among females. In both Eastbourne and Hastings, rates of self-employment were lower for both males (16.5% and 17.7% respectively) and females (6.2% and 6.6%) than in other districts, but were still higher than, or equal to, the national averages (14.7% for males and 6.2% for females).
- 2.6. Around a third of men were self-employed in several wards: Heathfield East (33.5%), Herstmonceux (32.2%), Chiddingly and East Hoathly (32.1%), and Ditchling and Westmeston (31.9%). The lowest rates of self-employment among males were found in Hampden Park (12.8%), Devonshire (13.6%) and Newhaven Valley (14.3%). Among females, self-employment was less prevalent, with the highest rates found in Forest Row (18.6%), Alfriston (17.6%) and Hartfield (17.5%), and the lowest rates seen in Langney and Hollington (both 3.4%).

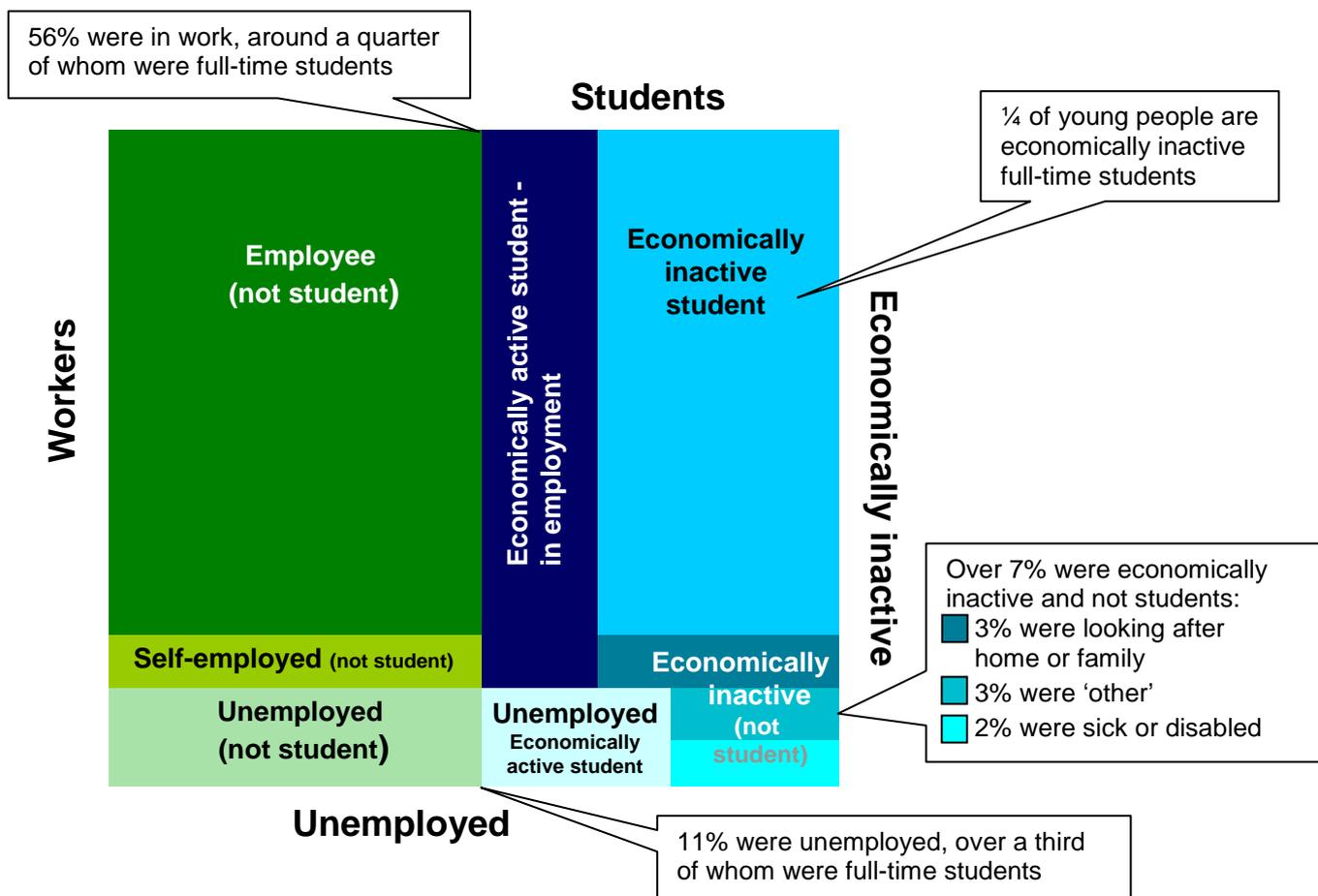
3. Young people and economic activity

- *Two thirds of young people are economically active and 56% were in work of some kind, higher than the national average (51%).*
- *Employment rates for young people were higher than the national rate in all districts.*
- *But at 42% the proportion of young people who were full-time students was lower than the national average (48%), and this was true in all districts except Eastbourne.*
- *One in nine (11% or 5,808) young people were unemployed; a third of these were full-time students who were seeking work.*

- 3.1. Two thirds of young people (68%) aged 16 to 24 were economically active in the county, considerably higher than the national average of 63%. But the county has a smaller proportion of young people who were economically inactive students at 25%, compared to 31% nationally (see Fig 6, below).
- 3.2. Over half of young people (56.3%) were in work of some kind, and around a quarter of these (13% of all young people) were working full-time students. This employment rate compares to a national rate of 50.7%, and varies from 61.0% in Wealden to 52.8% in Hastings.
- 3.3. 11% of young people were unemployed, but over a third of these (4% of all young people) were full-time students who would like to work but currently can't find work. 7% of young people were not in full-time education and were unemployed and actively seeking work (Fig 6). Youth unemployment was particularly high in Hastings, with 14.1% (1,469) young people unemployed. Of these 1,052 (72%) were not in full-time education, accounting for 10.1% of all young people in the borough.
- 3.4. The lowest levels of economic activity among young people were found in Rother (64.7%) and Eastbourne (65.5%), but these districts also had the highest levels of economically inactive full-time students: in Eastbourne 28.3% of young people and in Rother 27.8%. While 66.9% of young people in Hastings were economically active, only 52.8% were in employment, compared to 61.0% of young people in Wealden. And in Hastings, just 22.4% of young people were economically inactive students, and a further 10.7% were inactive for other reasons such as sickness, disability or looking after home/family.
- 3.5. The vast majority of employed young people were working as employees (93% of all those in employment). Just 4% of all young adults were self-employed (7% of those in employment).
- 3.6. Almost half (47.9%) of young people in Eastbourne were full-time students (either economically active or inactive). This compares to a county average of 42.2%, a national average of 47.7%, and 36.7% of young people in Hastings.
- 3.7. A quarter of all young people were full-time students who were not economically active (not working and not actively seeking work). A further 3,747 (7% of) young people were economically inactive and were not studying – these include 855 (2%)

of young people who were long-term sick or disabled, 1,491 (3%) who were looking after home or family, and a further 1,401 (3%) who were inactive for other reasons.

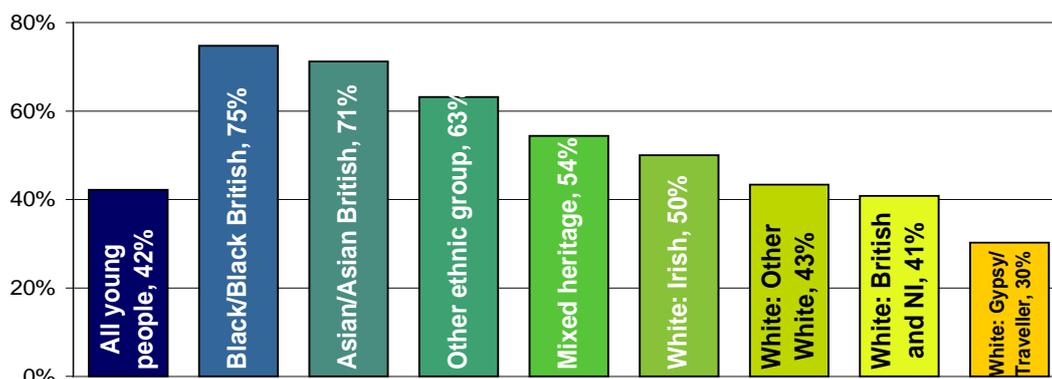
Fig 6: Young people and economic activity



3.8. A larger proportion of young males (69.3%) were economically active than females (65.7%) – but the employment rate for young women (56.8%) was marginally higher than for young men (55.8%). This was reflected in unemployment rates, with 13.5% of young men unemployed, compared to 8.9% of young women. Females were slightly more likely to be students (42.8%) than males (41.6%).

3.9. Altogether 42% of all young people were students, but this varies widely with ethnic group: three-quarters of Black/Black British young people were full-time students and 71% of Asian/Asian British young people (see Fig 6 below).

Fig 6: Percentage of young people in full-time education by ethnic group

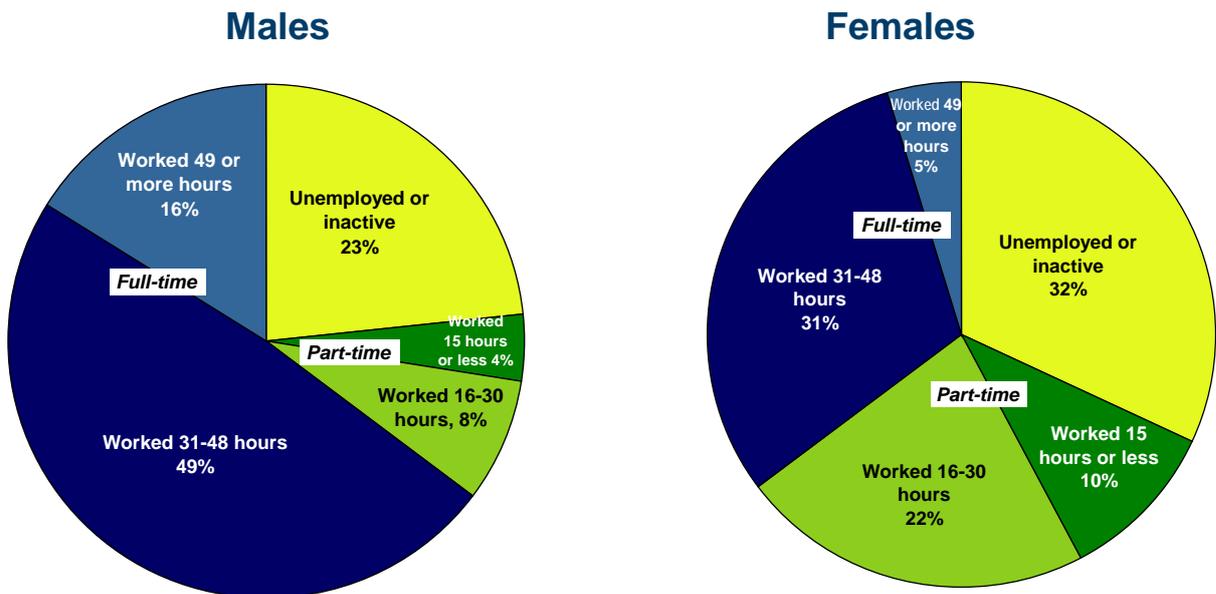


4. Hours worked

- Almost a third of people in employment worked part-time, higher than the national and SE LEP averages.
- Almost half of all working women work part-time, compared to 16% of employed males.
- 14% of all working people work long hours (more than 48 hours per week).
- Self-employed people were more likely to work long hours – a quarter work more than 48 hours per week.

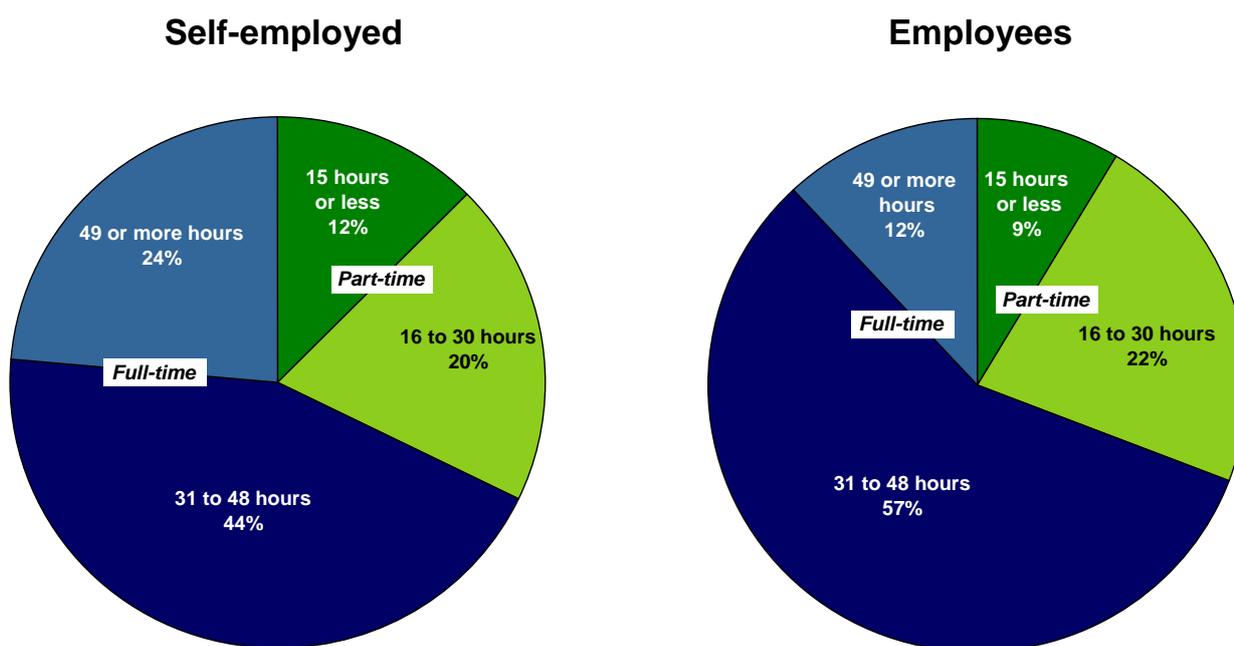
- 4.1. Almost a third (31.3%) of working age people (aged 16-64) who were in employment worked part-time. This was somewhat higher than the South East (27.5%), the SE LEP (28.5%) and the national average (28.2%). Levels of part-time working were high in all districts but highest in Rother (31.9%) and Lewes (31.8%) and lowest in Wealden (30.8%).
- 4.2. As a proportion of all working age people, half (49.7%) were in full-time employment and 22.6% worked part-time. The highest level of full-time employment among all working age people was found in Uckfield New Town (57.5%), and the highest level of part-time working among this age group was seen in Ditchling and Westmeston (26.9%).
- 4.3. Almost half (48%) of all working age females in employment (32% of all working age females) work part-time, compared to just 16% of employed males (12% of all males – see fig 7 below). Wealden had the highest levels of females working part-time, at 50.1% of all working age females in employment, and the lowest levels of males working part-time (13.4%). Eastbourne had the lowest levels of employed females in part-time work (46.5%), but the highest level for males (17.1%).

Fig 7: Hours worked by gender – all people aged 16-64



- 4.4. Looking at the percentage of all employment that was full-time, the highest rates for all people were found in Upperton (74.0%) and Bexhill Central (72.8%). The picture was different for males and females. The highest proportion of employed males working full-time were found in Hellingly (89.2%) and Frant/Withyham (88.9%), while the highest proportion of employed females working full-time were found in Central St Leonards (64.1%) and Upperton (62.5%).
- 4.5. The percentage of working age people in employment who were working long hours (more than 48 hours per week) was 14.2%; this was higher than the national average of 13.3%. In ten wards, all rurally located, more than one in five working people work more than 48 hours per week, and in Heathfield East and Frant/Withyham, more than one in three employed men work more than 48 hours.
- 4.6. The hours worked by people in different types of employment also varied. (Note that data on hours worked by employment status is only available for all people aged over 16, and excludes working full-time students). Self-employed people were more likely to work long hours, with almost a quarter (24%) working over 49 hours per week, compared to just 12% of employees, but they were also most likely to work few hours, with 12% working 15 hours or fewer, compared to 9% of employees.

Fig 8: Hours worked by employment status in East Sussex
(note includes all aged 16+ and excludes employed FT students)



- 4.7. People were more likely to work part-time in certain sectors. Almost half of those (aged over 16) employed in Accommodation and food services were in part-time employment (48%), 45% of those working in Education, and 41% in Health and social work activities. This compares to 33% of all people aged over 16 in employment. Construction workers were the least likely to work part-time, with only 16% working less than 30 hours per week.

5. Industry of employment

- Four industries dominate in East Sussex: Wholesale and retail and repair of motors, Health and social work, Education and Construction.

- More broadly, Public administration, Education and Health combined accounts for almost a third of all employment, and Distribution, hotels and restaurants for a further 22%.

5.1. Looking at working age people aged 16 to 64, four industrial sectors dominate employment in the county: Wholesale and retail trades and repair of vehicles (16.0% of all employment); Human health and social work activities (15.6%); Education (10.4%) and Construction (9.5%) (see Fig 9).

5.2. If we look at broad groups of industries, Public administration, education and health was the largest sector, with 31.6% of employment, which was higher than both the national (28.5%) and the SE LEP (28.1%) averages.

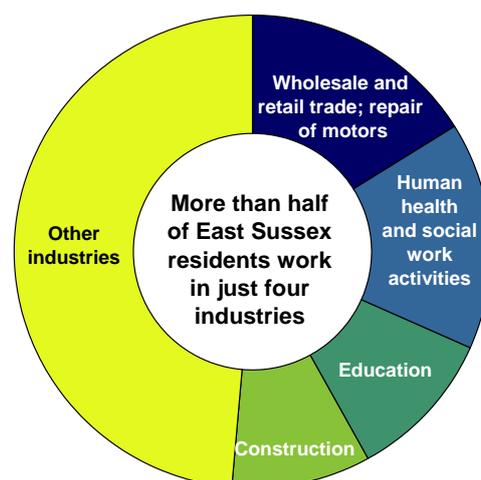
5.3. Hastings (34.9%) and Eastbourne (34.3%) had more than a third of working age people working in these sectors, with almost one in five working age people in the Health sector (18.5% in both boroughs) alone. Hastings and Eastbourne had the second and third highest proportion of people in the Public administration, education and health sectors out of all districts in the SE LEP (behind Canterbury in Kent at 36.6%).

5.4. The second largest broad sector was Distribution, hotels and restaurants (comprising Wholesale and retail sector with Accommodation and food service) with 21.6%, which was around the national average (21.5%) but marginally higher than the SE LEP as a whole (20.9%). In Eastbourne, a quarter (25.8%) of people worked in these sectors, the highest of all districts in the SE LEP, compared to just 19.6% in Lewes.

5.5. At 16.5%, East Sussex had a slightly smaller proportion of people working in the white collar sectors of Finance, real estate, professional and administrative activities than the national average (17.2%), and lower than the SE LEP average (18.6%). In Wealden 19.3% worked in these sectors, but Hastings had the lowest proportion of all districts in the SE LEP at 13.2%.

5.6. There were significant gender differences in some industry sectors with 40.9% of female employment in Health or Education, while these sectors accounted for only 12.2% of male employment. By contrast, a quarter of all male employment was in the Construction or Manufacturing industries, but only 5.4% of females worked in

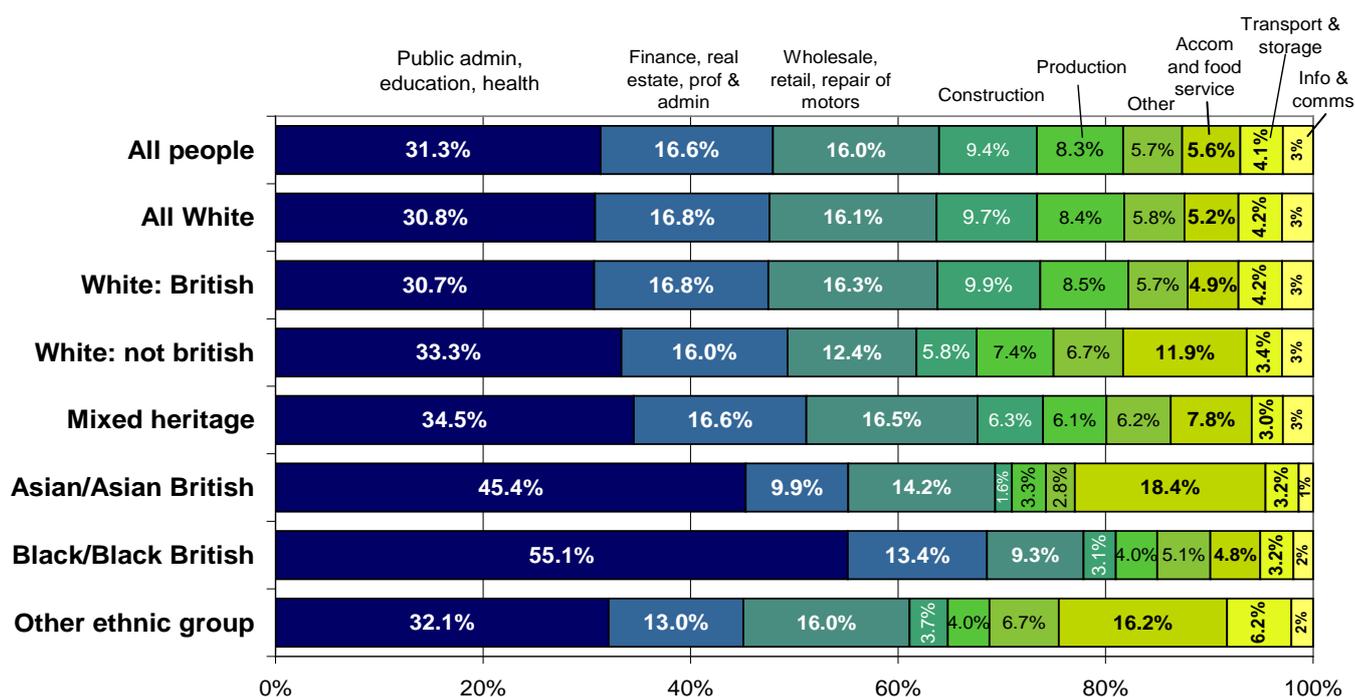
Fig 9: Industry of employment in East Sussex, 2011



these sectors. However, equal proportions of each gender worked in the Distribution, hotels and restaurants sector: 21.8% of males and 21.5% of females.

- 5.7. Industry of employment also varied by ethnic group (note analysis looks at all people aged 16+). Among the White British ethnic group, 31% were employed in Public administration, education and health, but this rose to 55% among the Black/Black British ethnic group and 45% among Asian/Asian British people. The large majority of this work was in the Health and Social care sector, with 37.4% of Asian/Asian British and 42.2% of Black/Black British people working in these sectors, compared with 14.6% of White British workers.

Fig 10: Industry of employment by ethnic group



- 5.8. On the other hand, White British groups had higher proportions working in Wholesale and retail, Construction and Production industries than other ethnicities. The theory that many jobs in construction are now being performed by people from immigrant, and particularly Eastern European, backgrounds is not supported by this evidence. Just 3.2% of construction workers were from the White: not British group. Of the 22,433 construction workers in the county, 21,713 were White: British, compared to just 720 White: other, and 314 from non-White ethnic groups.

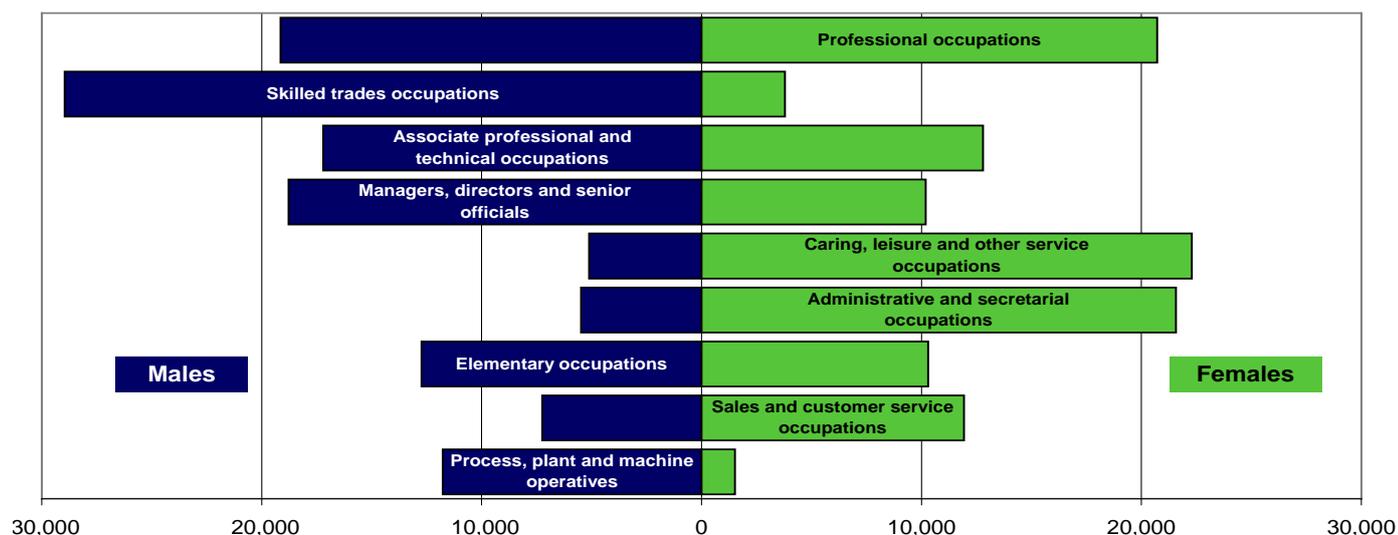
- 5.9. In fact the sector in which a much larger proportion of workers were not White British, was the hotel/catering trade. One in five jobs in the Accommodation and food sector in East Sussex were undertaken by people who were not White British, with one in ten workers being from the White: not British background, and a further 6.6% from an Asian background. Almost a quarter (22.1%) of hotels/catering jobs in Eastbourne were being undertaken by White: not British workers, although this group only comprise 8.4% of the workforce.

6. Occupations

- *East Sussex residents are slightly more likely to be employed as Managers, directors and senior officials, in Skilled trades, or in Caring and leisure occupations than the national average.*
- *Rother had the highest proportion of people in Skilled trades of all districts in the SE LEP.*
- *The distribution of occupations varies widely with age and gender.*

- 6.1. In 2011, 11.8% of East Sussex residents in employment worked as Managers, directors and senior officials. This was slightly higher than the national figure of 10.7% and the SE LEP average of 11.4%, but marginally lower than the 12.2% average in the South East. In Wealden 13.9% were in these occupations, joint fourth highest of all districts in the SE LEP. A further 16.5% were in Professional occupations, lower than both the regional (18.8%) and national (17.5%) figures, but higher than the SE LEP average of 15.5%. The district with the highest proportion in these occupations was Lewes at 17.9%.
- 6.2. The proportions in Skilled trades occupations (13.5%) and Caring and leisure (11.5%) were higher than the national averages (11.4% and 9.4% respectively) and the averages for the SE LEP (12.4% and 9.8%). At 15.2%, Rother had the highest proportion of people in Skilled trades of all districts in the SE LEP. Hastings had the third highest proportion in Caring and leisure in the SE LEP at 13.4%, and Eastbourne the fifth highest (12.4%).
- 6.3. There were 8.0% in Sales and customer service which was marginally lower than the SE LEP as a whole (8.3%), but Eastbourne had the highest proportion working in these occupations, at 10%, of all districts in the SE LEP. 9.6% worked in Elementary occupations, lower than the national figure (11.1%) and the SE LEP (10.3%). Process, plant and machine operatives were also lower than the national and SE LEP averages with 5.4% against a national figure of 7.2% and a SE LEP figure of 6.8%.
- 6.4. More than half (57.6%) of all people aged over 16 and in employment, who worked in Sales and customer service and half of those in Elementary occupations work part-time hours. Managers and those in Skilled trades occupations were most likely to work full-time (83.7% and 82.6% respectively).
- 6.5. Though the distribution of occupations was fairly even amongst all people (see Fig 12), it varies widely with age and gender (see Figs 11 and 12 below). Amongst males of all ages, Skilled trades occupations were most common. But among females three groups were important, Caring and leisure, Administrative and secretarial and Professional occupations. Almost a quarter of young males (23%) were in a Skilled trade, and this varies little with age group, with 22% of working males over 65 also in this occupation group. Among young women however, less than 3% were in Skilled trades and this rises to 5% among the over 65s.

Fig 11: Occupations by gender – number of people in employment

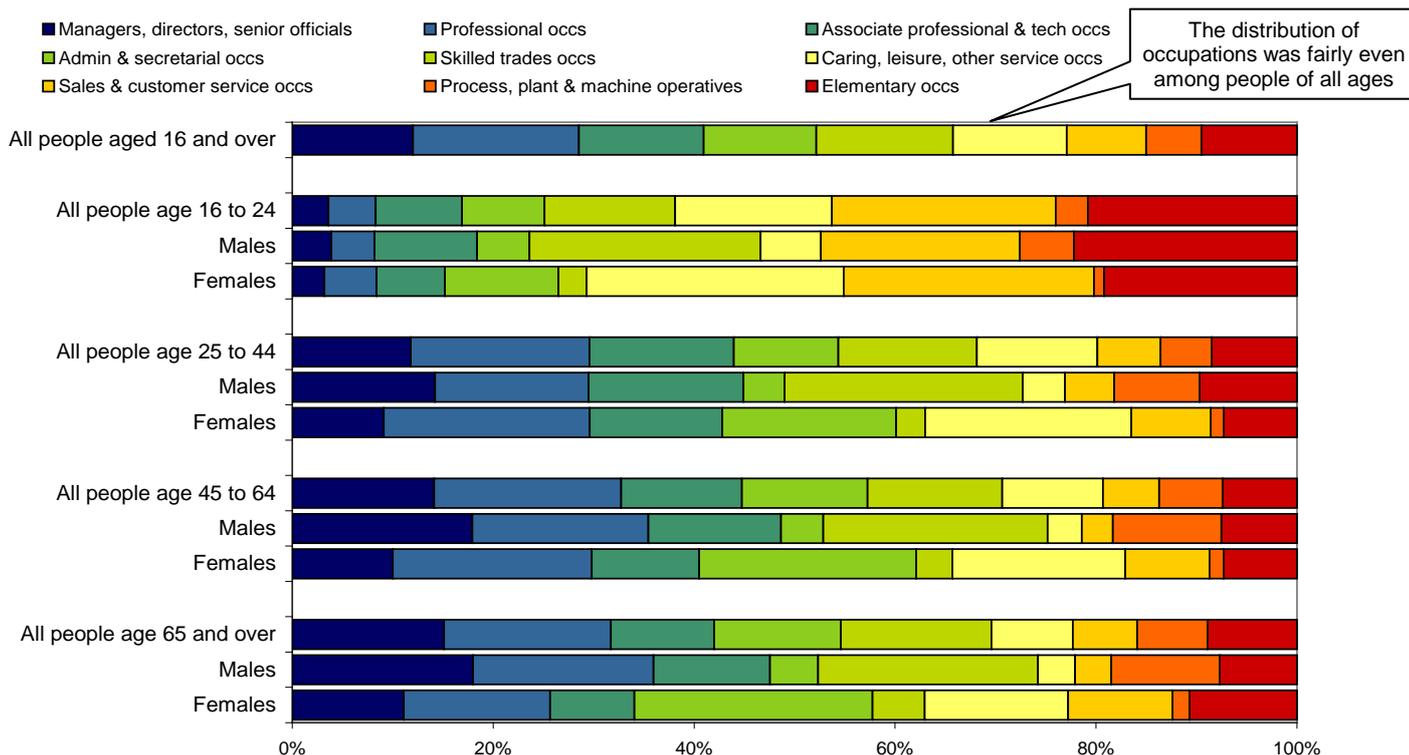


6.6. **Ages 16-24:** Elementary occupations and Sales and customer services seem to predominate in this age group. However, among young females a quarter were involved in Caring and leisure services, and another quarter in Sales and customer services, with a further 19% in Elementary occupations. Among young males only 6% work in Caring and leisure services and one in five in Sales and customer services. 22% work in Elementary occupations. Fewer than one in ten young people work as Managers/senior officials or in Professional occupations, and the level was similar for both genders.

6.7. **Ages 25-44:** The proportion of males and females in the highest two occupation groups combined: Managers, directors and senior officials, and Professional occupations, was the same (30%). However, more men than women were in the Managers/senior officials group (14.2% v 9.1%) and more women in Professional occupations (20.5% v 15.3%). Women in this age group were considerably more likely to be in Caring and leisure (20.5%) than males (4.2%), and Administrative and secretarial (17.3%, males 4.1%), while males predominate in Skilled trades (23.7%, females 2.9%) and to a lesser extent in Process, plant and machine operations (8.5%, females 1.3%). The overall percentage of this middle age group who were working in Sales and customer service (6.3%) was substantially lower than among young people (22.3%).

6.8. **Ages 45-64:** The gender difference in occupations among the older working age group (45-64) was quite pronounced with a substantially larger proportion of males (17.9%) than females (10.0%) in Management/senior roles, and a smaller gender difference in the Professional occupations (19.8% females and 17.5% males), meaning that the combined proportions of males and females in the 'top' two occupations was 35% for males and 30% for females. The largest occupation group among women of this age was Administrative and secretarial (21.6%), and for males was Skilled trades (22.3%).

Fig 12: Occupations by age and gender – percentage of all people in that age group



- 6.9. Among workers over pension age (aged 65 and over) the patterns of differences in gender and occupation become more pronounced. While 36% of pensionable age males in work were Managers, senior officials or in a Professional occupation, only 25.7% of females were. Almost a quarter of working women over 65 were in Administrative and secretarial occupations (23.7%), but the proportion in paid Caring and leisure work was considerably smaller (14.3%) than among younger groups of women – which may reflect the physical demands of this type of work. Among older males, Skilled trades were still the largest group at 21.9%.
- 6.10. Certain occupation groups were considerably more likely to be self-employed (see paragraph 7.5 and Fig 15 below).

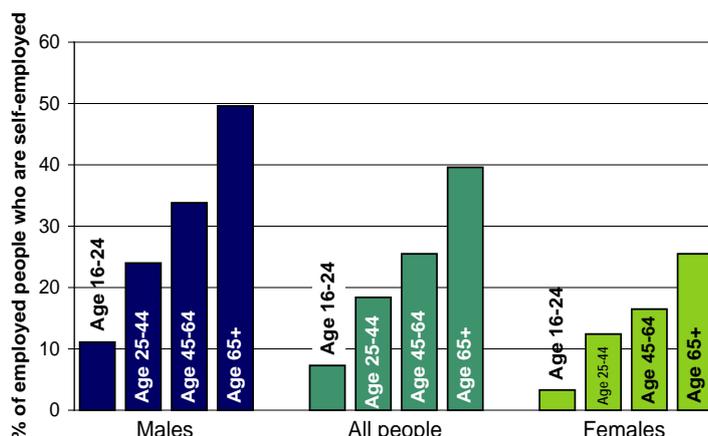
7. Self-employment

- 15% of working age people were self-employed, higher than the averages for the SELEP, region and England and Wales.
- Wealden and Rother have the highest proportion of people in self-employment of all districts and UAs in the SELEP.
- Over half of all people working in construction are self-employed.

7.1. In East Sussex, 46,355 people, 14.7% of all working age people, were self-employed, higher than the regional (11.8%), SE LEP (11.9%) and national averages (10.4%). Wealden (17.2%) and Rother (16.7%) had the highest proportions of working age people who were self-employed of all districts and UAs in the SE LEP.

7.2. Patterns of self-employment vary widely with age and gender. One in five working age males (nearly 32,000) were self-employed (20.7%) compared to just 8.9% of females (14,400). Rates of self-employment were lower among younger people. Just 4.1% of 16-24s were self-employed, rising to 14.9% among those aged 25-44. 18.3% of the oldest working age group (45-64) were self-employed.

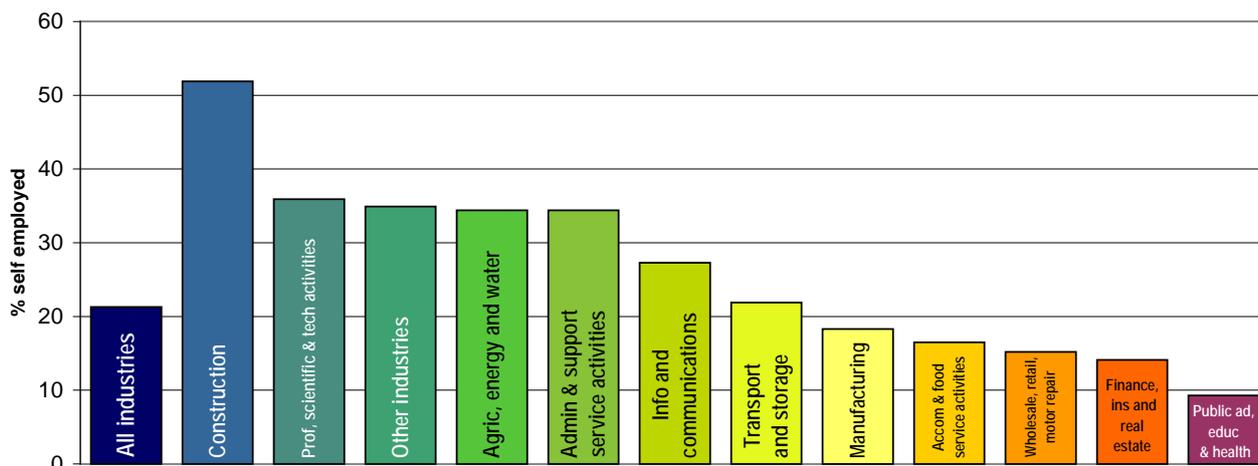
Fig 13: Percentage of working people in self-employment by age group



7.3. Among the over 65s, while only 4.4% of all people (5,211) were self-employed, this accounted for a high proportion of those 13,144 older people who were in employment, with half of all working males in this age group being self-employed, and a quarter of all working females (see Fig 13, right).

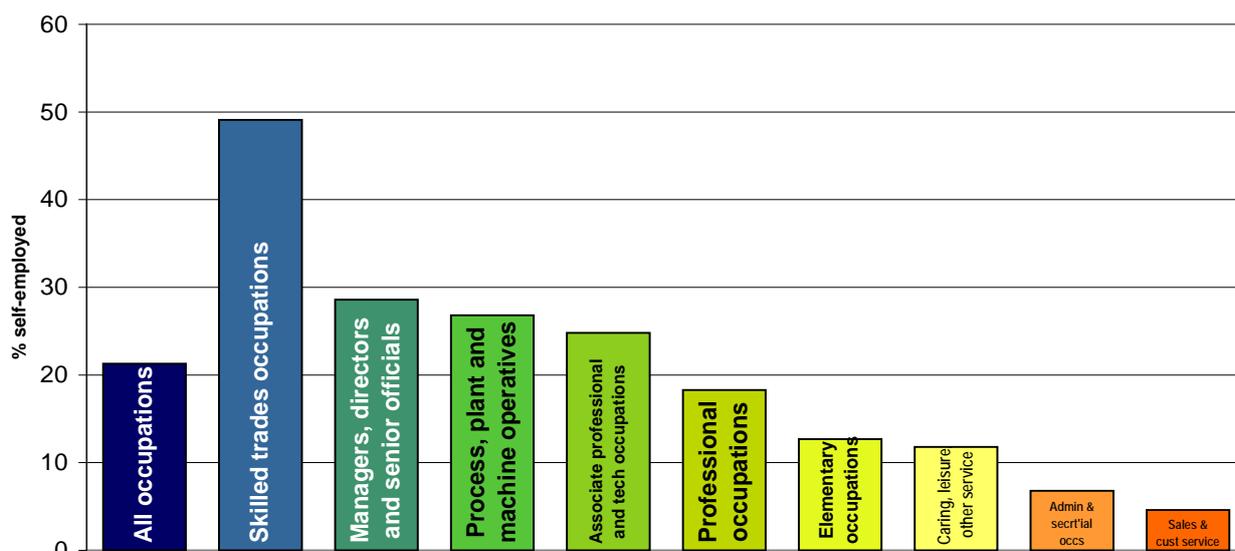
7.4. Self-employment also varies widely with industry. Although 21% of all people aged over 16 in employment were self-employed, over half (52%) of people working in the Construction industry were self-employed, compared to less than one in ten in Public administration, education and health (unsurprisingly), and 14% of people in Finance, insurance and real estate. Around a third of people in Professional, scientific and technical, Agriculture and utilities, Administrative and support services; and Other service industries (includes Arts, entertainments and recreation) were self-employed (see Fig 14 below).

Fig 14: Percentage self-employed by industry



7.5. Certain occupation groups were considerably more likely to be self-employed (see Fig 15 below). Half (49.1%) of all those in Skilled trades were self-employed. This occupation group accounts for almost a third (31.2%) of all self-employment. The occupations where the lowest proportion were self-employed were Sales and customer service (4.6%) and Administrative and secretarial (6.8%).

Fig 15: Percentage self-employed by occupation



7.6. Four out of ten of all self-employed people aged over 16 worked at or from home. Half (51.6%) of all self-employed women worked from home, compared to around a third (35.7%) of self-employed men. See Section 8 below for more discussion of home-working and self-employment.

7.7. Looking at broad ethnic groups, the ‘Other’ ethnic group (i.e. not White, Asian, Black or mixed) were most likely to be self-employed, with over a quarter (27.6%) of working people (aged 16+) in this group being self-employed (233 out of 845 working people who were ‘Other’). At 12.3%, Black/Black British people were the least likely to be self-employed. In more detail, 36.8% of Gypsy/Irish travellers and 28.2% of Arabs were self-employed, compared with 21.4% of White British and Northern Irish people.

8. Home-working

- 30,000 (13.1%) of working age people worked at or from home in East Sussex.
- At 16%, Rother and Wealden had the highest proportion of working age people working from home in the SELEP.
- Three-fifths of home-workers were self-employed.
- A quarter of home-workers worked in Finance, insurance, real estate and administrative sectors.

- 8.1. 30,000 people, or 13.1% of all working age people, work at or from home in East Sussex, with a larger percentage of males in employment working from home (14.4%) than females (11.8%). The proportion of home-workers was higher than the national average (9.8%), the SE LEP (10.2%) and the South East region (11.2%). Rother (15.9%) and Wealden (15.5%) had the highest percentage of home-workers of all districts and UAs in the SE LEP. (Note that data on home-working is only available at district level).
- 8.2. The percentage was higher among older workers aged over 65 with almost a third (30.8% or 2,500 people) working at or from home.
- 8.3. 60.1% of working age home-workers were self-employed. This rises to almost two-thirds of men who work from home (63.2%), compared to 56.1% of women home-workers (see Fig 16).

Fig 16: Home-working, gender and self-employment – all people aged 16+ in employment

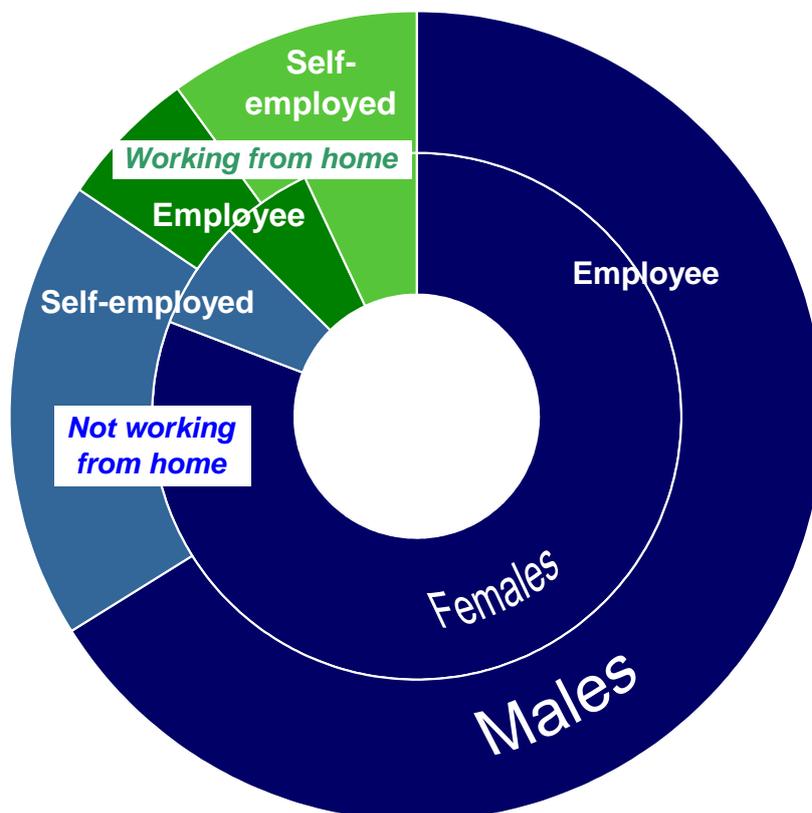
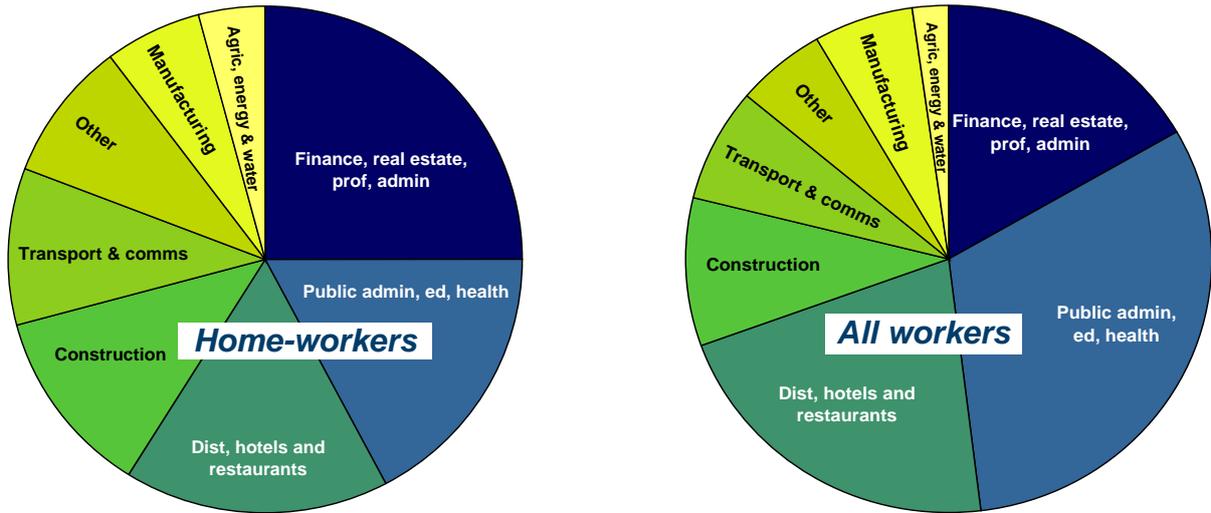
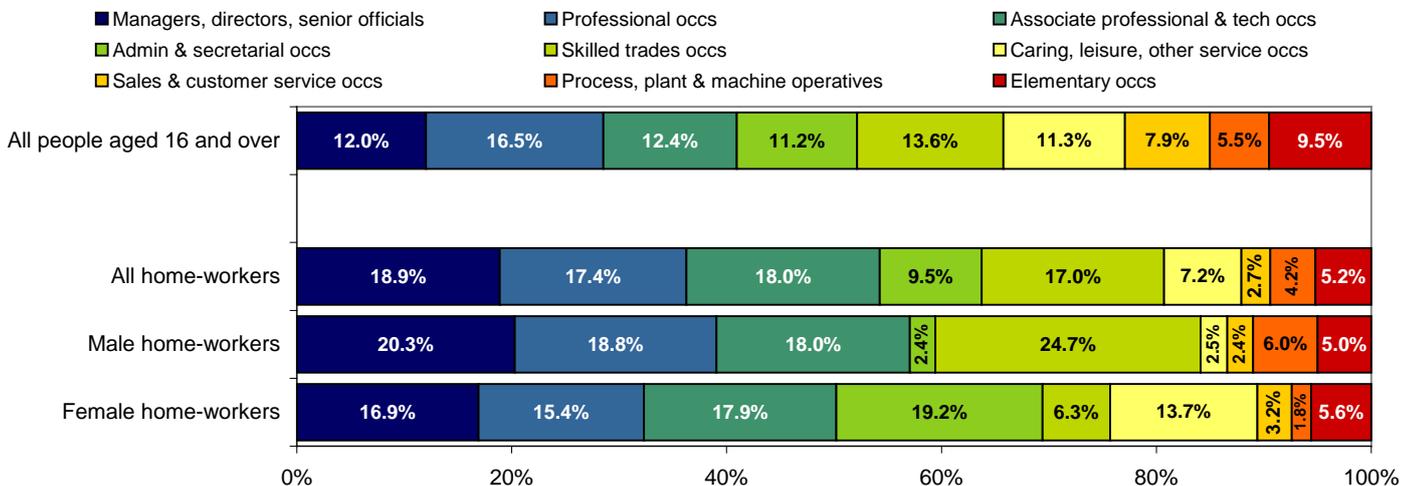


Fig 17: Industry of employment and home-working



- 8.4. A quarter of people working at or from home were in the Finance, real estate, professional and administrative sectors. Among males and females, similar proportions were in these sectors (24.7% of male home workers and 24.5% of females). This corresponds with evidence from the occupations table, with over half of all home-workers in the ‘highest’ occupational groups: 18.9% in Managerial/senior occupations, a further 17.4% in Professional and 18% in Associate professional and technical occupations (see Fig 17).
- 8.5. Other sectors where there was a large difference in the gender of home workers were Public administration, education and health, where 27.3% of female home workers were employed, compared to 9.8% of males, and Construction, where 17.6% of male home workers were employed, compared to 5.7% of females.
- 8.6. 27.3% of home-workers in Wealden worked in the Finance, real estate, professional and administrative sectors, compared to 21.4% in Hastings.
- 8.7. Looking at occupations, a quarter of male home-workers were employed in Skilled trades, whereas only 6.3% of female home-workers were, but this was higher than the 3.3% of all women aged over 16 and in employment who work in a Skilled trade.

Fig 18: Occupations of home-workers in East Sussex, by gender

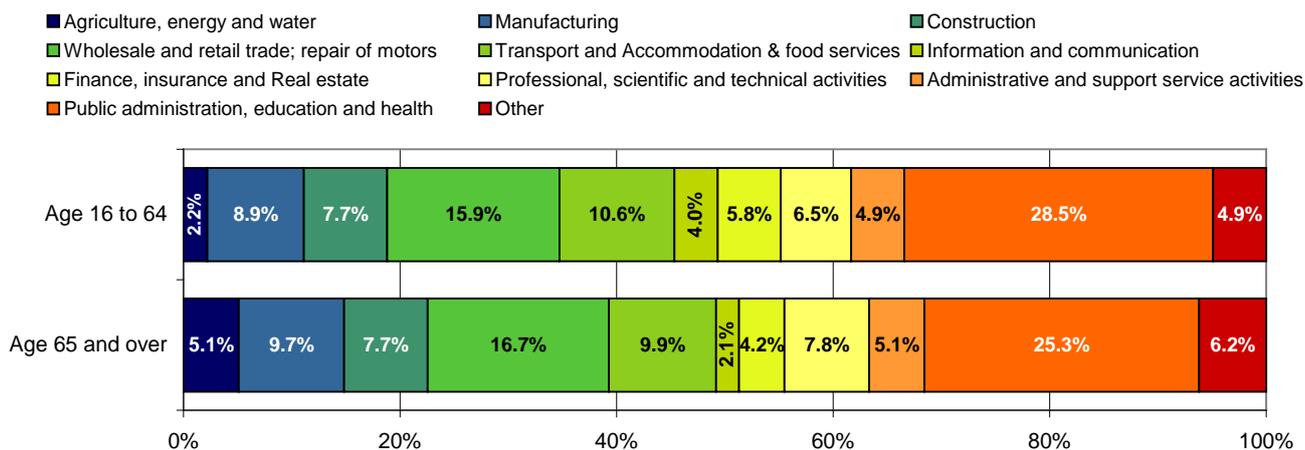


9. Older workers

- *More than 13,000 people over pensionable age are in employment in the county.*
- *Rother and Wealden have the highest proportions of older worker in the SELEP*
- *Older workers mostly work part-time (61%) but almost one in ten work more than 49 hours per week.*
- *Older workers are much more likely to be self-employed.*

- 9.1. There were 13,388 people over pensionable age who were in employment in East Sussex, accounting for 5.4% of all working people. Of these, 2,234 were aged over 74 and 7,730 (59%) were male.
- 9.2. The area with the highest proportion of older people who were in work was Wealden, where 13.0% of people aged over 65 were in employment. Eastbourne has the lowest percentage at 8.6%, which was the third lowest of all districts and UAs in the SE LEP.
- 9.3. As a proportion of all people in employment, Rother had the highest – 6.8% of people in employment in Rother were aged over 65, the highest in the SE LEP, and second highest in the SE LEP was Wealden at 6.2% of all workers.
- 9.4. The majority of these older workers (61.3%) worked part-time, with half of these part-timers working less than 15 hours per week. Almost one in ten older workers worked more than 49 hours per week.
- 9.5. Older workers were more likely to be self-employed. Among the over 65s, half of all working males were self-employed, and a quarter of all working females, compared to just over a quarter (26.9%) of working age males aged 16-64 and 13.1% of females in that age group.
- 9.6. Among older people in employment, the pattern for industry of employment mostly reflects that for younger workers, but with a smaller proportion in Public administration, education and health sectors (25.3% of older workers compared to 28.5% of workers aged 16-64) and a larger proportion in the Agriculture, energy and water sectors (5.1% compared to 2.2%) (see Fig 19).
- 9.7. See paragraph 6.9 and Fig 12 on page 18 for more information about the occupations of older workers.

Fig 19: Industry of employment of older workers in East Sussex



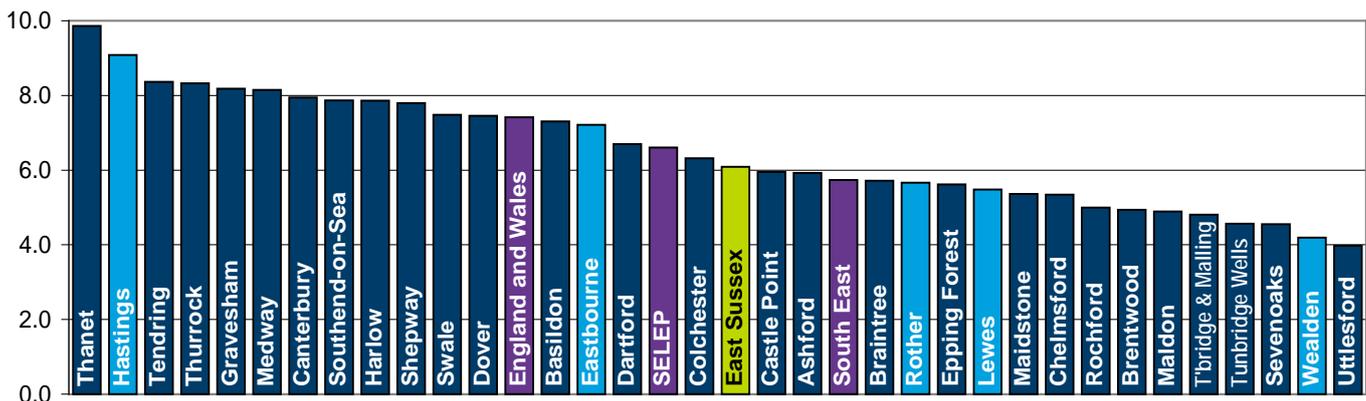
9.8. Overall, older people aged 65+ were considerably less qualified than the working age group. Almost half (46.8%) of all people aged over 65 had no qualifications and just one in five (20.8%) were qualified to Level 4 (compared to 28.3% of the 16 to 64 age group). But in East Sussex, this older age group were better qualified than the national average – 52.9% of people over 65 in England and Wales had no qualifications, and only 17.6% were qualified to Level 4.

10. Unemployment

- 6.1% of economically active people aged over 16 (the ILO rate) were unemployed in East Sussex.
- ILO unemployment was highest in Hastings at 9.1% and lowest in Wealden (4.2%).
- People with low or no qualifications are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as people with Level 4 (degree level) qualifications or with an apprenticeship.
- Unemployment is particularly high in urban areas, especially Hastings.
- Unemployment is higher among young people.

- 10.1. Unemployment among all working age people stood at 4.9% in East Sussex in 2011, but among young people (including economically active full-time students) aged 16-24, the rate was 11.2%. ILO² unemployment – the proportion of all economically active people aged over 16 who are unemployed – was 6.1% in the county, compared to a national rate of 7.4%.
- 10.2. Unemployment in the county was concentrated in urban areas, particularly Hastings. Using the ILO definition, unemployment in Hastings was 9.1%, the second highest rate in the SE LEP and the South East region. Unemployment rates were particularly low in Wealden at 4.2%, and second lowest in the SE LEP area (see Fig 20).

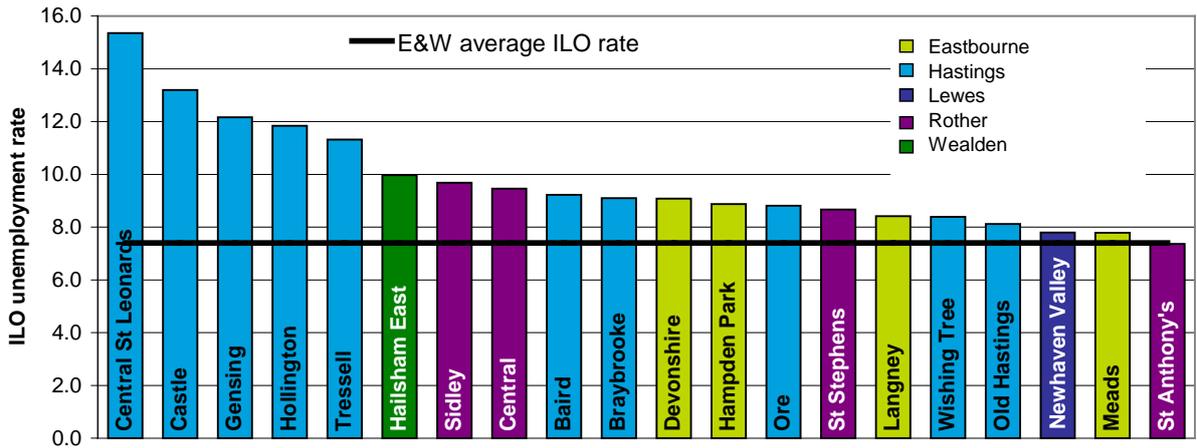
Fig 20: ILO Unemployment in 2011 – SE LEP districts



- 10.3. At ward level, the highest ILO rates were found in Central St Leonards (15.4%), Castle (13.2%) and Gensing (12.2%) (see Fig 21).

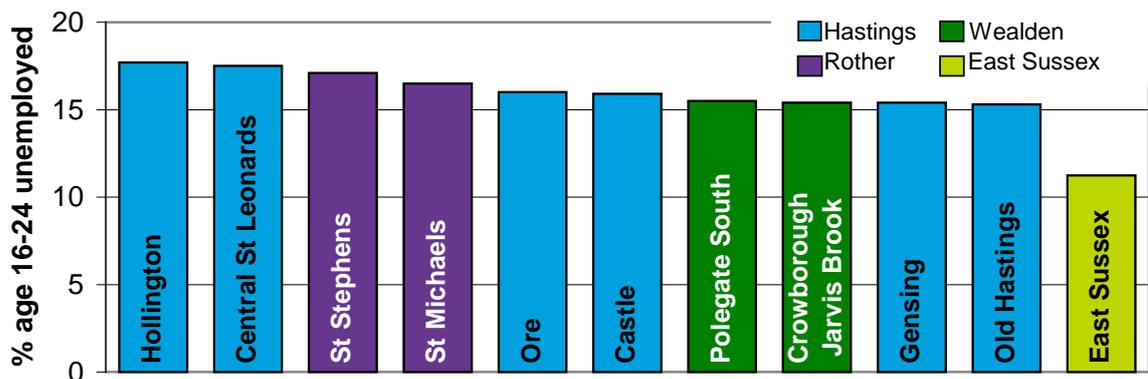
² International Labour Organisation definition – see footnote 1, page 4.

Fig 21: ILO Unemployment in 2011 – highest 20 wards in East Sussex



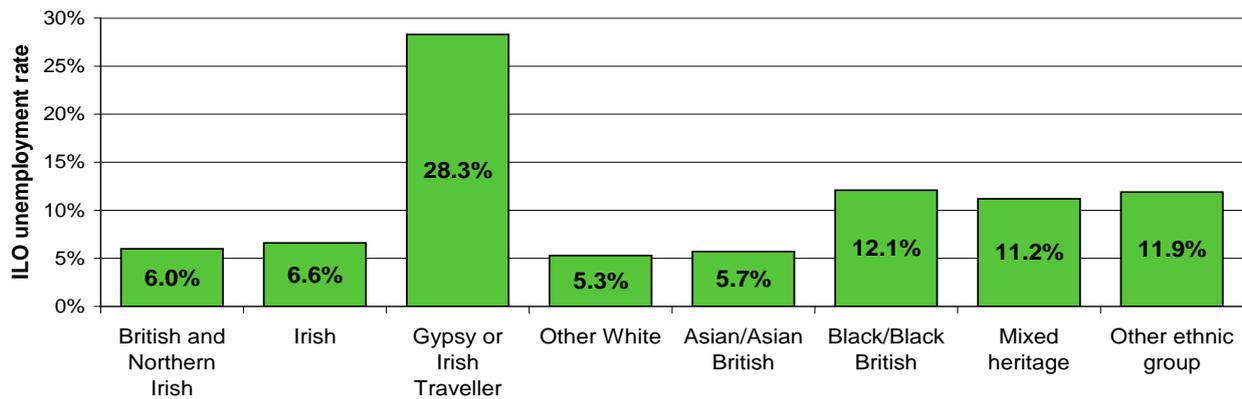
- 10.4. Among young people aged 16-24 (including economically active full-time students), unemployment rates were higher than among all working age people, and the patterns were different than for all working age people, with high rates in some surprising areas. 11.2% of all young people in the county were unemployed, rising to 14.1% of young people in Hastings.
- 10.5. The ward with the highest level of youth unemployment (unemployed as a percentage of all young people) was Hollington (17.7%) closely followed by Central St Leonards (17.5%) (see Fig 22). At 15.4%, Crowborough Jarvis Brook surprisingly also features among the 10 wards with the highest youth unemployment rates in the county, despite having the fifth highest economic activity rate of all wards in the county.

Fig 22: Unemployment rates among young people aged 16-24 in 2011, top 10 wards



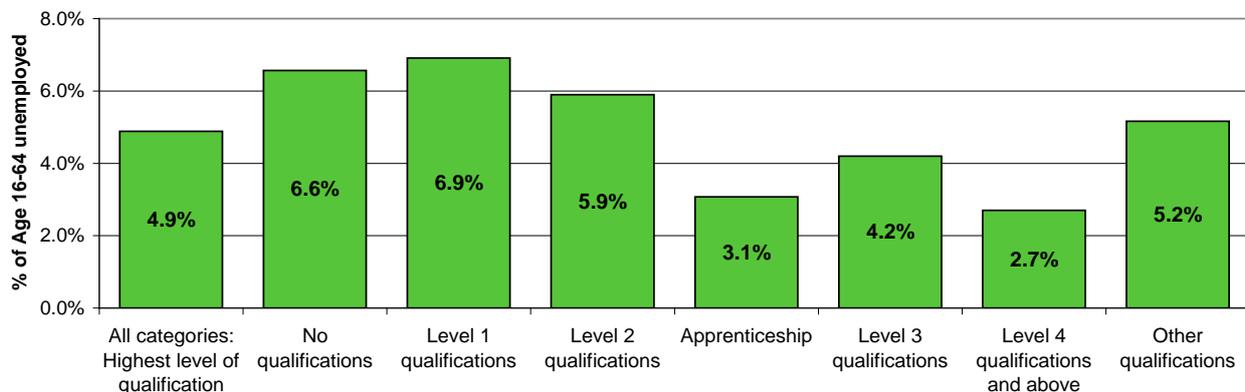
- 10.6. In East Sussex, most non-White British ethnic groups had higher unemployment rates than the White-British group. The exceptions to this were the Asian/Asian British group and the 'other White' group. Among White: British and Northern Irish people, the ILO rate was 6.0%. 'Other White' people had an ILO unemployment rate of 5.3% and the rate for the Asian/Asian British group was 5.7%. However, among other non-White groups, rates were very high. The rate for Black/Black British people was 12.1%, for 'Other ethnic group' 11.9%, and for people of Mixed heritage, 11.2%, and these rates were comparable to rates seen in some of East Sussex's most deprived wards. Very high rates were seen among the Gypsy/Irish traveller group, where more than a quarter (28.3%) of economically active people aged over 16 were unemployed.

Fig 23: Unemployment rates among different ethnic groups



10.7. Looking at the working age (16-64) group, people with lower level qualifications were considerably more likely to be unemployed than those with high level qualifications, but rather surprisingly, unemployment was slightly higher in those with Level 1 qualifications than in the group with no qualifications. Overall, 4.9% of all working age people were unemployed. 6.9% of people qualified to Level 1 were unemployed, compared to 6.6% of those with no qualifications. Those with Level 2 qualifications were also more likely to be unemployed at 5.9% (see Fig 24 below and also Fig 31 on p.35).

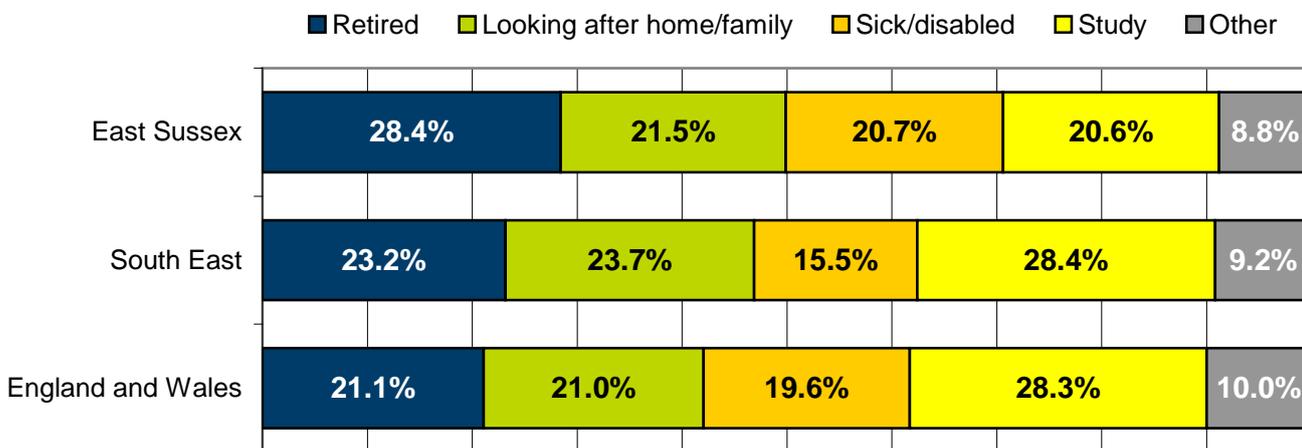
Fig 24: Unemployment by qualifications



11. Economic inactivity

- *Almost a quarter of working age people (almost 72,000) were economically inactive.*
- *Of these, more than a quarter are retired people (aged under 65), a fifth are looking after home or family, and another fifth are sick or disabled.*
- *Nearly a third of economically inactive females were looking after home and family.*
- *In some wards, almost a third of working age people are economically inactive.*

Fig 25: Reasons for economic inactivity

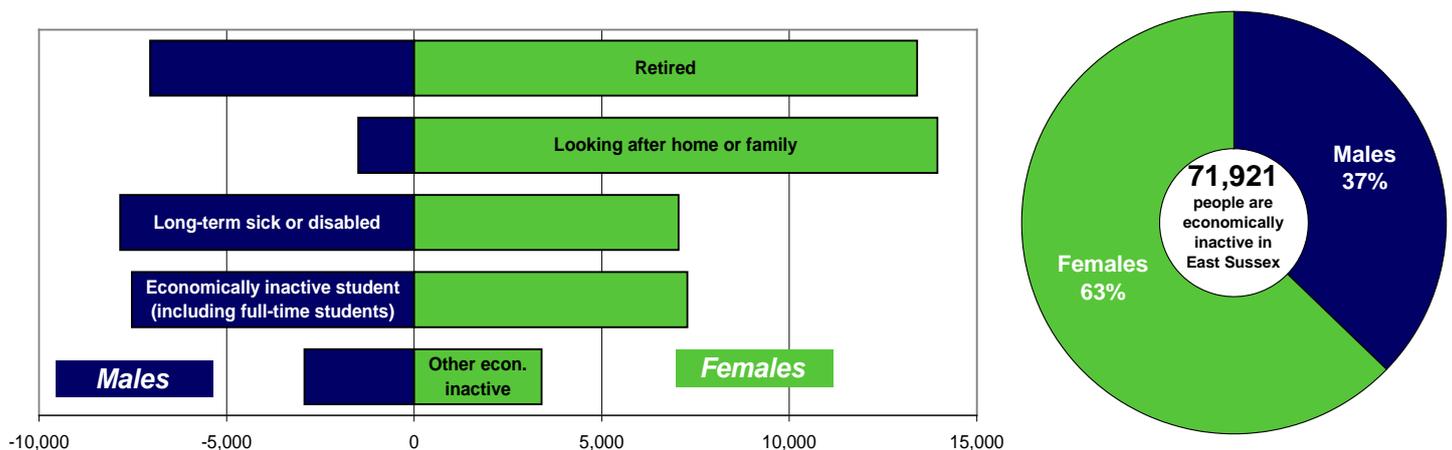


- 11.1. Almost a quarter (22.8%) of working age people (aged 16-64) were economically inactive. Of these, around a fifth were looking after home or family, another fifth were sick or disabled, and a further fifth were in full-time education but not actively seeking work. The largest proportion were retired people under age 65 (28.4%) (see Fig 25).
- 11.2. Rother had the highest proportion of economically inactive working age people in the county at 25.5%, closely followed by Hastings (25.3%), and these were fourth and fifth highest in the SE LEP. But in Rother, 8.6% of all working age people (1/3 of all economically inactive working age people) were retired, compared to 5.4% in Hastings.
- 11.3. Hastings had the highest proportion of working age people who were inactive because they were sick or disabled: 7.3%, which was also the highest rate in the SE LEP. In general East Sussex had lower levels of inactive full-time students (4.7% of all working age people) than the national average (6.6%), but at 6.0%, Eastbourne had the highest proportion of inactive students in the county and third highest in the SE LEP, behind the university towns of Canterbury and Colchester.
- 11.4. The reasons for economic inactivity among working age people depend very much on age and gender. Among females in the 16-64 age group, the most common

reasons for economic inactivity were 'Looking after home and family' (30.9% of all economically inactive or 8.7% of all females) or 'Retired' (29.7% of economically inactive women). Males were most likely to be inactive because they were 'Long-term sick/disabled' (29.2%) or 'Economically inactive full-time student' (28.1%), although over a quarter of economically active men aged 16-64 (26.2%) were retired. Only 5.6% of economically inactive males (1.0% of all working age) were 'looking after home and family'.

- 11.5. In some wards, almost a third of working age people are economically inactive. The highest levels of economic inactivity at ward level were found in Hollington (32.0%), Sidley (31.6%) and Baird (31.4%). These contrasted with the lowest levels of inactivity, found in Uckfield Ridgewood (15.0%) and Uckfield New Town (15.9%).
- 11.6. Looking at economically inactive people, the highest proportion of people who were inactive due to long-term sickness or disability were found in Hollington and Gensing with one in ten (10.4% and 10.3% respectively) people of working age in this group. Sidley and Hailsham East had the highest percentage of people 'looking after home and family' (8.9% and 8.8% respectively) compared to the national average of 4.9%. The highest percentage of people aged 16-64 who were retired were found in two wards in Bexhill: Collington (14.7%) and St Marks (14.6%).
- 11.7. But looking more closely within the gender groups, amongst males the wards with the highest proportion who were long term sick and disabled were Gensing at 12% of all working age males, and Central St Leonards at 11.6%. Baird ward had the highest proportion of males looking after home and family at 2.8%. Among females, 10.7% were long-term sick or disabled in Hollington, the highest in the county, and 9% in both Baird and Wishing Tree. The wards with the highest proportion of females looking after home and family were Hailsham East (14.9%) and Sidley (14.6%), although Wadhurst also appeared in the highest five wards with 13.2% of working age females in this group.

Fig 26: Reasons for economic inactivity of working age people by gender

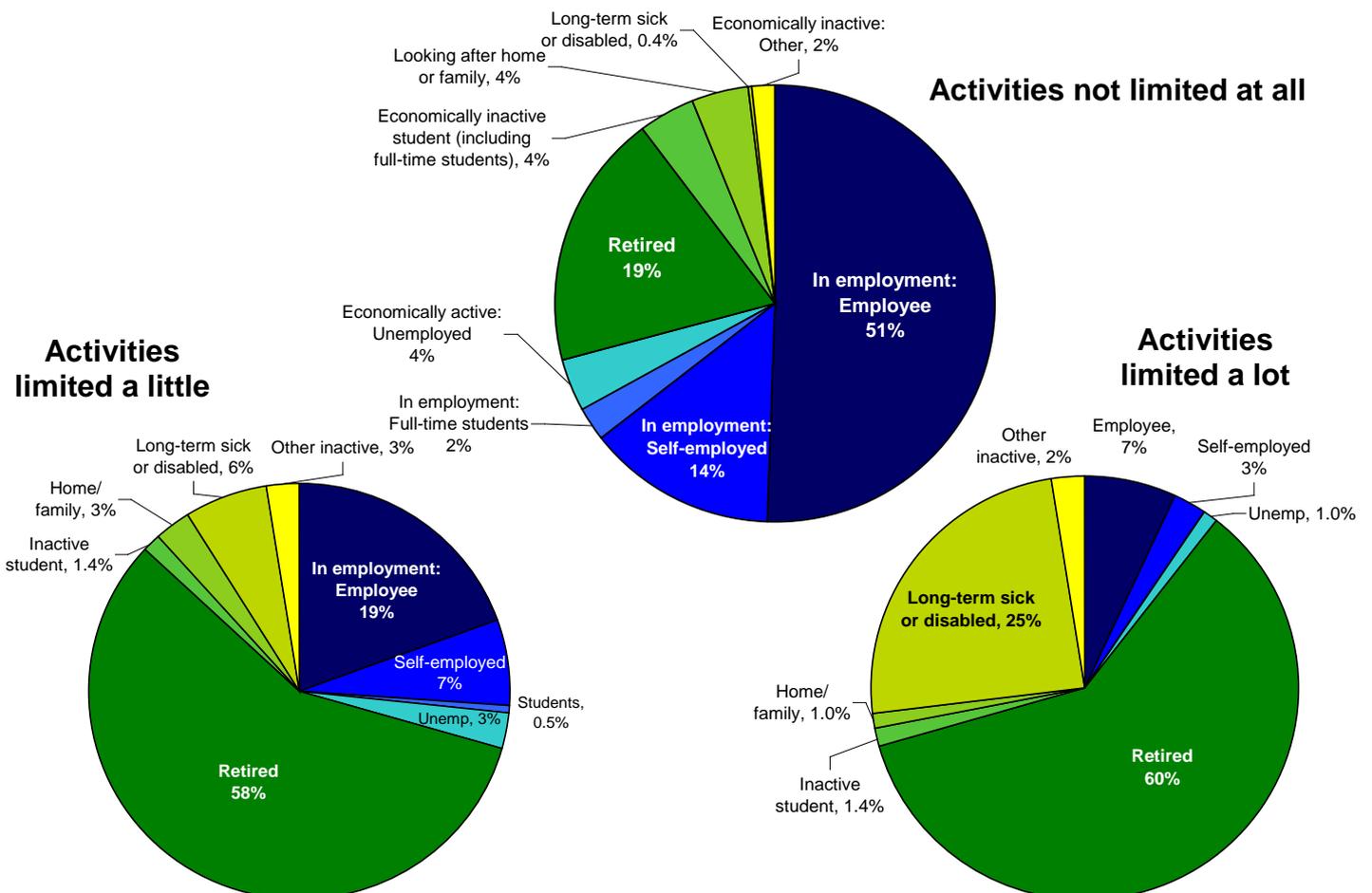


12. Disability and sickness

- *Health problems impact on the ability to participate in the workforce.*
- *Almost a quarter of people aged over 16 had a long term health problem or disability, over 100,000 people.*
- *One in ten people whose activities are limited a lot by their disability were economically active.*
- *13.3% of all unemployed people were sick or disabled, but actively seeking work.*

- 12.1. Nearly a quarter of all people aged over 16 had a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities to some extent, over 100,000 people. For 46,741 people (10.7%) their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, and for a further 56,712 (13.0%), their activities were limited a little.
- 12.2. Health problems impact on the ability to participate in the workforce. Only one in ten people (10.5%) whose day-to-day activities were very limited were economically active (4,900 people) and less than a third (29.5%) of people who said their activities were limited a little (16,703 people) (see Fig 27). Sick and disabled people who were economically active were more likely to be unemployed with 9.1% of those economically active people whose activities were limited a lot, and 9.8% of those limited a little being unemployed but actively seeking work. Out of all unemployed people, 13.3% were sick or disabled (2,086 people out of 15,666).

Fig 27: Economic activity of people who were long-term sick or disabled (aged over 16)



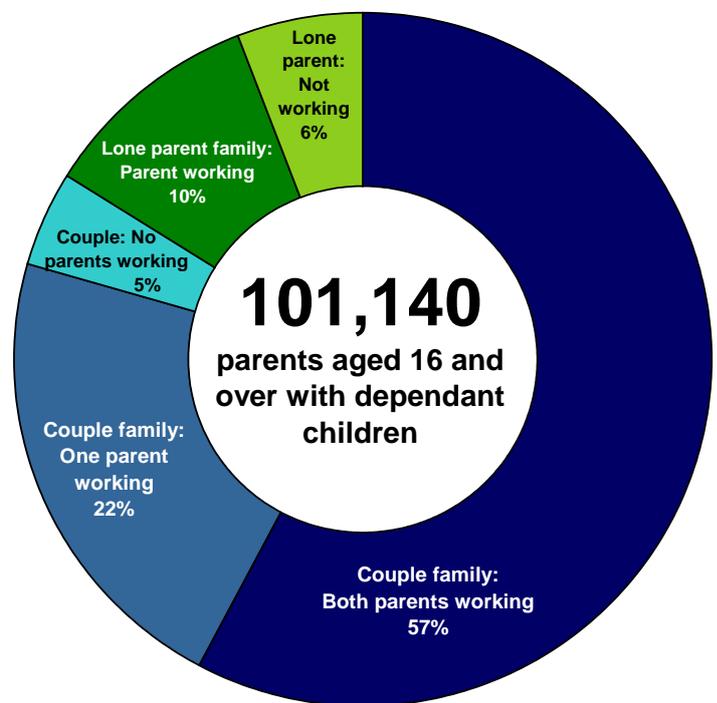
- 12.3. Almost one in five of those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot (around 20,000 people) were in employment. Over a quarter of those whose activities were limited a little were employed (26.6%), and one in ten (9.5%) of those whose activities were limited a lot.
- 12.4. Sick and disabled people who were in work were more likely to be self-employed, with 25.6% of those working people with activities limited a little or a lot (4,988 people) being self-employed, compared to 20.8% of those whose activities were not limited at all.
- 12.5. Of those people whose activities were limited a lot, almost 42,000 (90%) were economically inactive (see Fig 27). Over a quarter of these people (27.4%) were inactive because they were long-term sick or disabled, while another two-thirds were retired. Among those economically active people whose activities were limited a little however, four fifths (81%) were retired, and just 9% were inactive because of long-term health problems.
- 12.6. It is worth noting that while just over a quarter of adults aged 16+ were aged over 65 (27%), more than half (56%) of all adults whose activities were limited in some way were in this age group.

13. Parents of dependent children and economic activity

- *Just over 100,000 people were parents of dependant children and 83% of parents were economically active.*
- *One in eight households with dependant children had no adults in employment, rising to one in five in Hastings.*
- *Nearly three-quarters of all those aged over 16 who said they were 'looking after home and/or family' were parents with dependent children.*

13.1. Just over 100,000 people in the county were parents of dependent children, with almost 85,000 of these in couple families and around 16,000 lone parents. Altogether 83% of parents were economically active, with those in couple families more likely to be economically active (85% of parents in couples) than lone parents (71%). 21% of parents aren't working, either unemployed or economically inactive. This includes 10% of parents in couple families where one parent is working.

Fig 28: Parents and economic activity



13.2. 21% of lone parents where the parent was not working were unemployed. 42% were 'looking after home or family', and 17% were long-term sick or disabled. A further 20% were retired, inactive students or other.

13.3. A similar proportion of people who were in couple families where neither parent worked were unemployed (21%), 34% were 'looking after home or family' and 23% were sick or disabled.

13.4. Nearly three-quarters (70.7%) of all those aged over 16 who said they were 'looking after home and/or family' were parents with dependent children. Of these, 64% were people who were in a couple where the other partner was working, 14% were in a couple family where neither partner worked and 22% were lone parents.

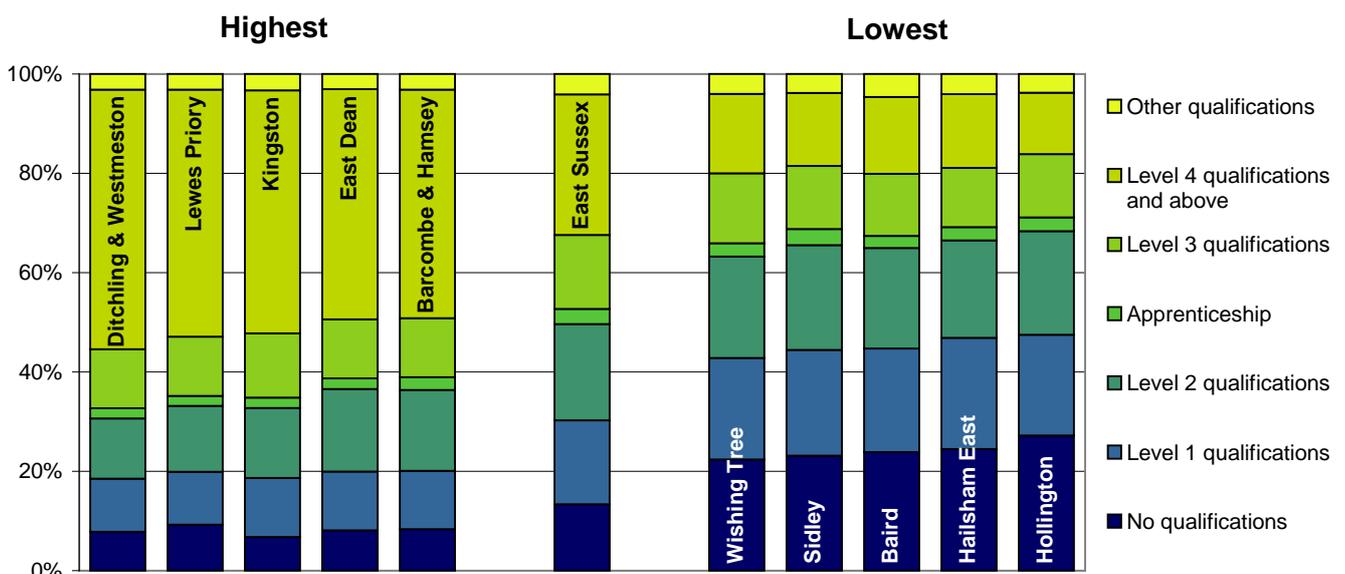
13.5. When looking at households, 12.7% of households with dependant children had no adults in employment. In Hastings, one in five households with dependant children (20.6%) had no adults in employment, which is the highest proportion out of all districts and UAs in the SE LEP.

14. Qualifications of the workforce

- Over a quarter of the working age population were qualified to Level 4, slightly lower than the national average but higher than the average for the SE LEP.
- People in Lewes and Wealden tend to have higher levels of qualification.
- But there are high levels of people with no qualifications Hastings.
- There is evidence of link between economic activity and skill levels – those with apprenticeships are as likely to be in employment as those with Level 4+ qualifications.
- Those with apprenticeships have higher levels of self-employment.

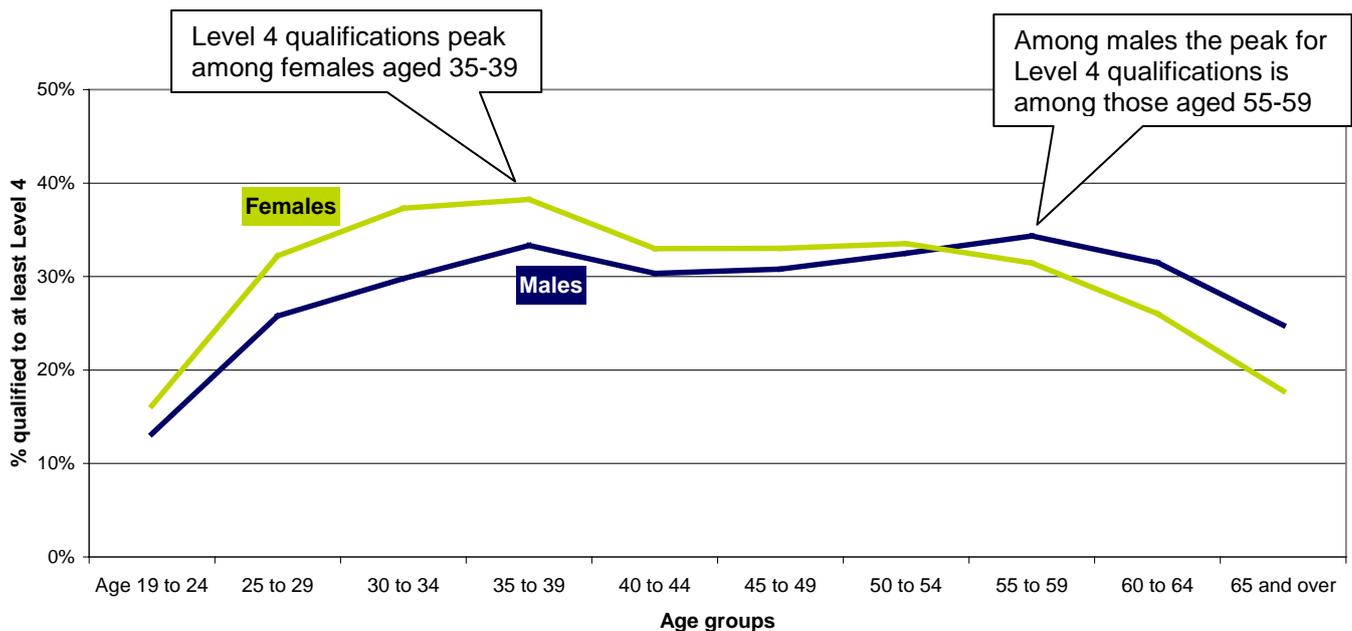
- 14.1. Almost 90,000 people, over a quarter (28.3%) of the working age population aged 16-64, were qualified to Level 4 (university degree level or above), slightly lower than the national average of 29.7%, but higher than the average for the SE LEP of 25.6%. Higher than average levels of qualification were found in Lewes and Wealden, where almost a third (31.8% and 31.5% respectively) were qualified to Level 4.
- 14.2. Ditchling and Westmeston ward has the highest proportion of working age people qualified to Level 4 at 52.3%, with Lewes Priors (49.7%) and Kingston (49.0%) also having highly qualified working age populations (see Fig 29). By contrast, in Hastings a considerably smaller proportion (22.6%) were qualified to Level 4. The wards with the lowest levels of degree educated workforce were Hollington (12.3%), Langney (14.6%) and Sidley (14.7%).

Fig 29: Wards with highest and lowest qualifications among working age people in 2011



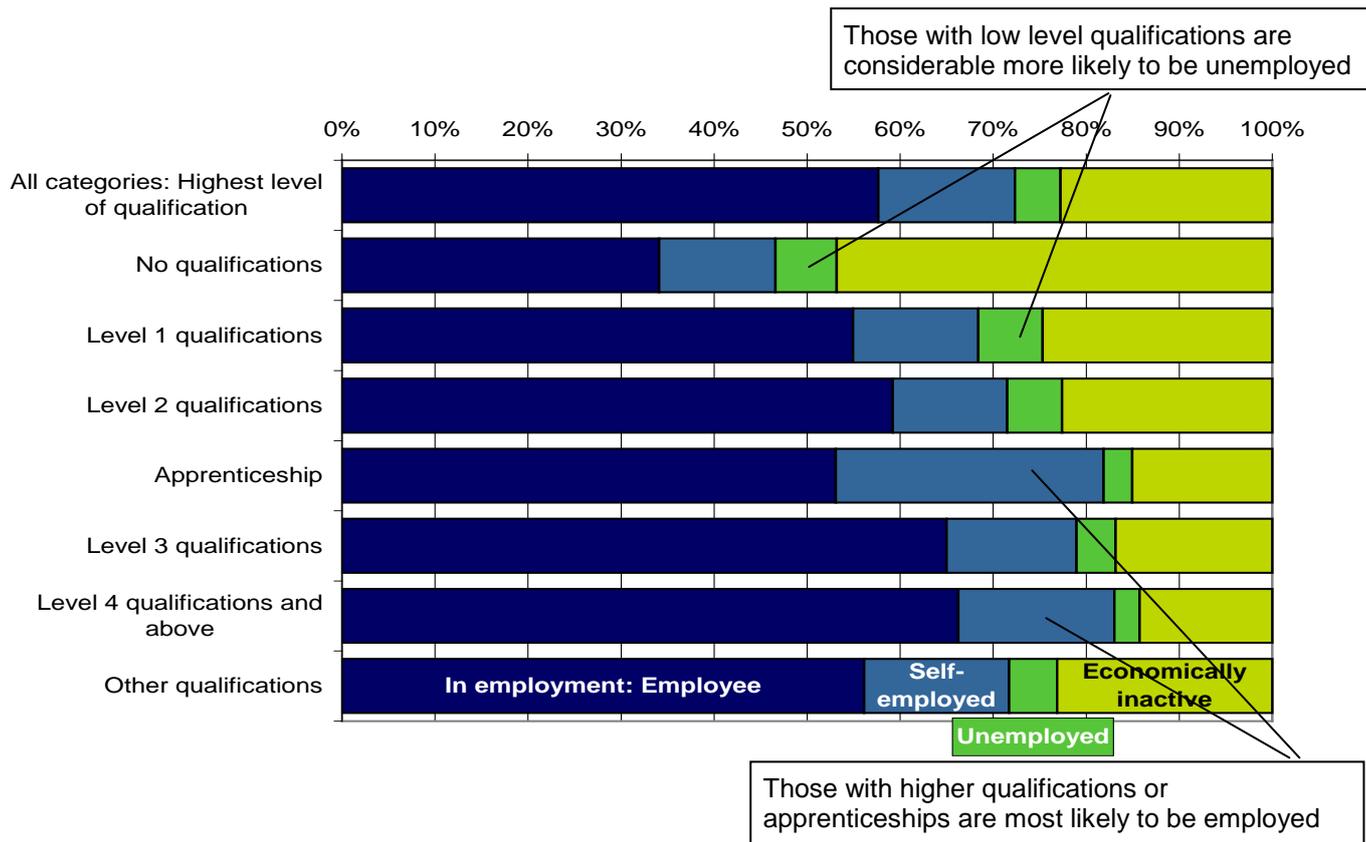
- 14.3. In 2011, 13.4% of working age adults in East Sussex had no qualifications, slightly lower than the national average (15%) and the SE LEP average (14.6%). However at 17.6% in Hastings the proportion with no qualifications was considerably higher than the national and SE LEP averages. Hollington ward has the highest proportion of adults with no qualifications (27.2%), while in Hailsham East, Baird, and Sidley, almost a quarter of working age people had no qualifications (see Fig 29).
- 14.4. Qualifications also vary by gender, with 29.2% of working age females qualified to Level 4, compared to 27.3% of males, and 14% of males having no qualifications, compared to 12.8% of females (the patterns were reversed among older people aged over 65). In Lewes one third of working age women were qualified to at least Level 4, compared to 30.1% of men.
- 14.5. Patterns of qualifications by age and gender show that among younger and middle age groups, more women were qualified to at least Level 4, but among older age groups (aged over 55), more males were qualified to Level 4 (see Fig 30 below). Younger women tend to be more qualified than older women, but the best qualified male age group were in the 55-59 age group, with 34.4% of males of this age group qualified to at least degree level.

Fig 30: Qualifications by age and gender



- 14.6. Employment and economic activity increase with qualifications. Almost half of working age people (aged 16-64) with no qualifications were not economically active (47%) and another 6.6% were unemployed. Amongst those with Level 1 qualifications, a quarter were economically inactive, and another 6.9% were unemployed (see paragraph 10.7 and Fig 23 for more exploration of unemployment and qualifications). On the other hand, 83% of those with Level 4 qualifications were in employment and just 2.7% of them were unemployed. Those with apprenticeships were also very likely to be employed with 82% in employment and 3.1% unemployed. A third of working people with apprenticeships were self-employed, compared to an average of 20% of people in employment.

Fig 31: Qualifications and economic activity of working age people



- 14.7. People working in Professional, scientific and technical sectors were most likely to be qualified to degree level, with 59% holding at least a Level 4 qualification. Almost half (48%) of those working in the Public administration, Education and Health sectors, and Information and communications were qualified to at least Level 4. Just 4.4% in the Public administration, education and health sectors had no qualifications at all, and the proportions were even lower for Finance and real estate (3.6%), Information and communication (3.2%) and Professional, scientific and technical (3.0%)
- 14.8. Looking from a different angle, almost a half (47%) of people qualified to at least Level 4 were working in the public, education and health sector. Almost a quarter of those with no qualifications worked in the Wholesale and retail trades.

Further information

This briefing is based on data from the Detailed Characteristics and Local Characteristics Census 2011 tables on labour market and qualifications released in Autumn/Winter 2013/14 and available on the [Nomis](#) website.

This paper mostly focuses on the working age population aged 16 to 64 and in places includes economically active full-time students, in contrast to earlier Census analyses of the 16-74 age group. For this reason much of the data cannot be compared to 2001 and so change over time has not been explored in this paper. Some of the tables released by ONS give data for different age groupings, such as the economic activity by ethnic group data, which does not give separate data for the 16 to 64 group.

The census is a count of all persons and households in the country and captures detailed information about their characteristics. Managed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the last census was conducted on 27 March 2011 and the previous one on 29 April 2001. The ONS introduced a number of initiatives to increase the census return rate in 2011 including the ability to complete the census form online. Rigorous quality assurance work has been undertaken to ensure that the estimates produced are as accurate as possible.

- For more information about the 2011 Census and methodology [see the ONS website](#). For detailed information about future planned releases of Census data see the [2011 Census Prospectus](#).
- View East Sussex in Figures for more data on [economic activity and inactivity](#), [hours worked](#), [industry of employment](#), [occupations](#) and [qualifications](#) for 2011. There is also a variety of other detailed Census data now available in ESiF.
- For further information on employment, economic activity and qualifications in East Sussex, contact Lenna Santamaría on 01273 481619 or e-mail mariahelena.santamaria@eastsussex.gov.uk. For more information about other census outputs, contact Helen Joslin-Allen on 01273 481346 or email helen.joslin-allen@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Contact details

The Research and Information Team supports the strategic planning activities of the County Council's Communities, Economy and Transport Department. It also provides intelligence to assist with service planning and strategy development across East Sussex generally and manages the East Sussex in Figures (ESiF) data observatory.

ESiF is a web-based information system that contains detailed, up-to-date and reliable information on a very wide range of topics. It is free and very easy to use and puts individual users in control. ESiF lets you specify exactly what data you want to see (for the places and time periods you are interested in) and how you want to view it (as a table, chart or map).

Visit www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk or e-mail esif@eastsussex.gov.uk for more information.