

East Sussex Migration Briefing

Migration data from 2021 Census: Headline Findings

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have now released further data from the 2021 Census for England and Wales giving details of how many people have moved into the county from England, Wales, the rest of the UK and overseas, and where people have moved out of East Sussex, where in England and Wales they went (no outbound data to the rest of the UK or overseas is available). The data looks at where people lived 12 months before the Census. The data have been published with details about the characteristics of those who moved including their area/country of origin.

Most of the data examined here concerns moves into and out of East Sussex county, and focusses on moves within England, rather than moves between districts or between MSOAs within the county, in order to properly investigate migration patterns.

The 2021 Census 2021 place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the migration topic. Readers are further advised that due to statistical disclosure control measures applied by the ONS and the impact of rounding, there may be small differences between estimated numbers contained in this and other Census briefings and analysis (see page 17 of this briefing for further details).

- In 2021, 18,610 people moved into East Sussex from other parts of the UK, of whom 18,280 moved from England and 330 moved from other countries of the UK, including 180 who moved from Wales.
- 14,500 people moved out of East Sussex to other parts of England, and 390 moved to Wales (there is no data yet for moves to Scotland and Northern Ireland).

- So, there was net positive internal migration from England and Wales of +3,570 in the 12 months to March 2021, with +3,780 from England alone, but net loss of 210 to Wales. While there were +3,700 from London, and +1,800 net moves from the rest of the South East, there was a net loss of 1,710 to the rest of England.
- While there was net positive migration from England among the under 16 age group (+860), and among those aged over 25 (+5,210), with the largest net in-flow from those aged 35 to 44 (+1,850), there was a net out-flow of people aged 16-24 (-2,350).
- Within the county there were 32,610 moves, with 24,360 people moving from one district of East Sussex to another and 8,260 people moving within the district where they already live. We have focussed in this analysis on the characteristics of people who moved in or out of the county.
- 2,950 usual residents (0.5% of the total population) moved into East Sussex from outside the UK in the 12 months prior to the Census being taken, down from 3,620 (0.7% of the population) in 2011.
- Of these 2,950 international arrivals, only 1,340 said that they intended to stay more than 12 months.

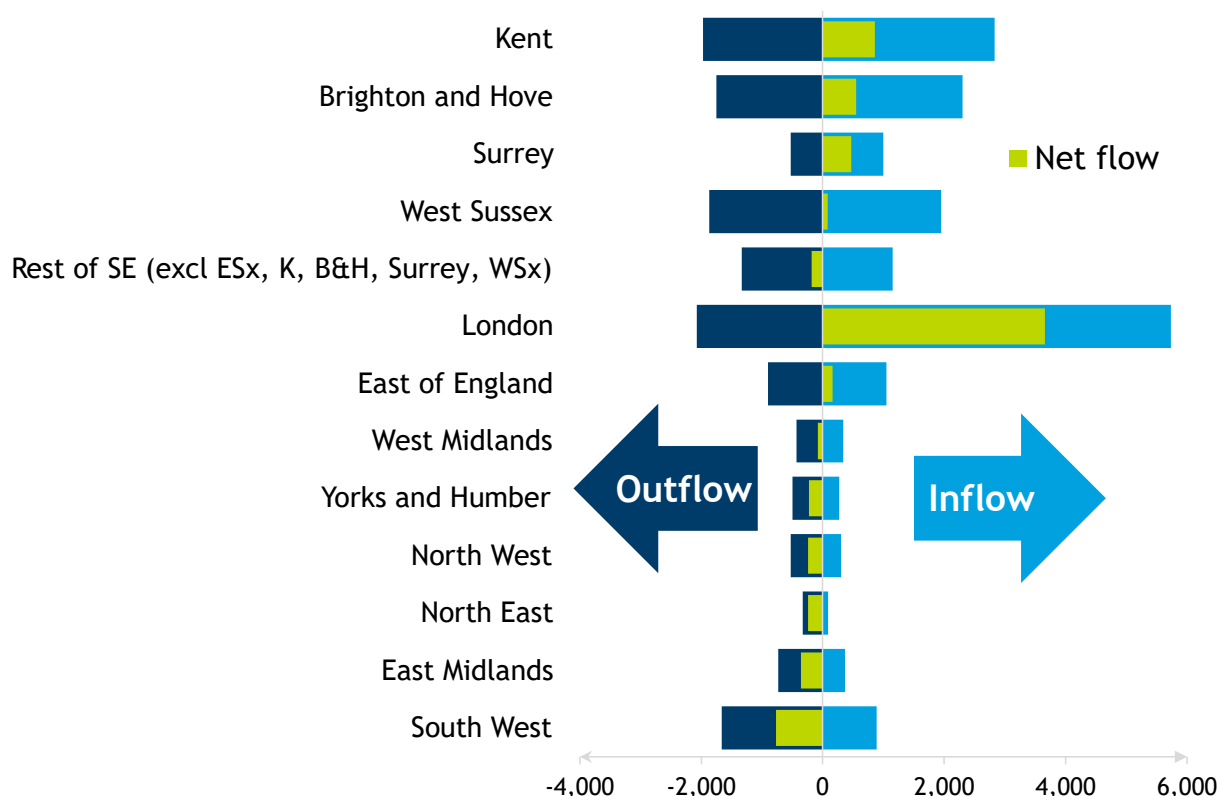
Migration into and out of East Sussex

Internal migration from within the UK

18,610 people moved into East Sussex from other parts of the UK, of whom 18,280 moved from England and 330 moved from other countries of the UK. This included 180 who moved from Wales. The region that provided the largest in-flow was the South East, with +9,230 people moving into the county - however this was heavily dominated by people from neighbouring counties: Kent (+2,830), Brighton and Hove (+2,300), West Sussex (+1,950) and Surrey (+1,000). The region with the next largest in-flow was London, from where +5,730 moved into the county. Within London, the boroughs seeing the largest in-flows to East Sussex were Bromley (530), Croydon (510) and Wandsworth (400).

14,500 people moved out of East Sussex to other parts of England, and 390 moved to Wales (there is no data yet for moves to Scotland and Northern Ireland). Out-flows from the county were dominated by moves to the rest of the South East (-7,450), again dominated by neighbouring counties/unitary authorities: out to Kent (-1,970), West Sussex (-1,870), Brighton and Hove (-1,750), and to a lesser extent Surrey (-530). London also saw a significant out-flow from the county (-2,070). The South West was the region which saw the next largest out-flow, with 1,660 people moving there, dominated by 310 moves to Devon.

Fig 1. Migration to and from East Sussex by location in England



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

In terms of net flows (in-flow minus out-flow), however, London saw the biggest net in-flow of 3,660 people, whereas the rest of the South East (excluding East Sussex) saw a net in-flow of 1,770. From the South East, the largest net flows were from Kent (860), Brighton and Hove (550) and Surrey (470), with a net flow of only 80 from West Sussex, and a net out-flow of 180 to the rest of the South East. The only other

region which saw a net in-flow was the East of England (160) and all other regions in England saw net out-flows, the largest being 770 to the South West region.

Table showing total moves to and from districts in East Sussex

	Total moves within East Sussex	Net moves between districts in East Sussex	Net moves to/from rest of South East	Net moves to/from London	Net moves to/from rest of England
Eastbourne	7,580	-210	250	460	-120
Hastings	6,370	-550	30	850	-190
Lewes	5,010	-280	470	630	-530
Rother	4,990	500	230	720	-290
Wealden	8,670	540	830	1,040	-610
EAST SUSSEX	32,610		1,800	3,700	-1,710

Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

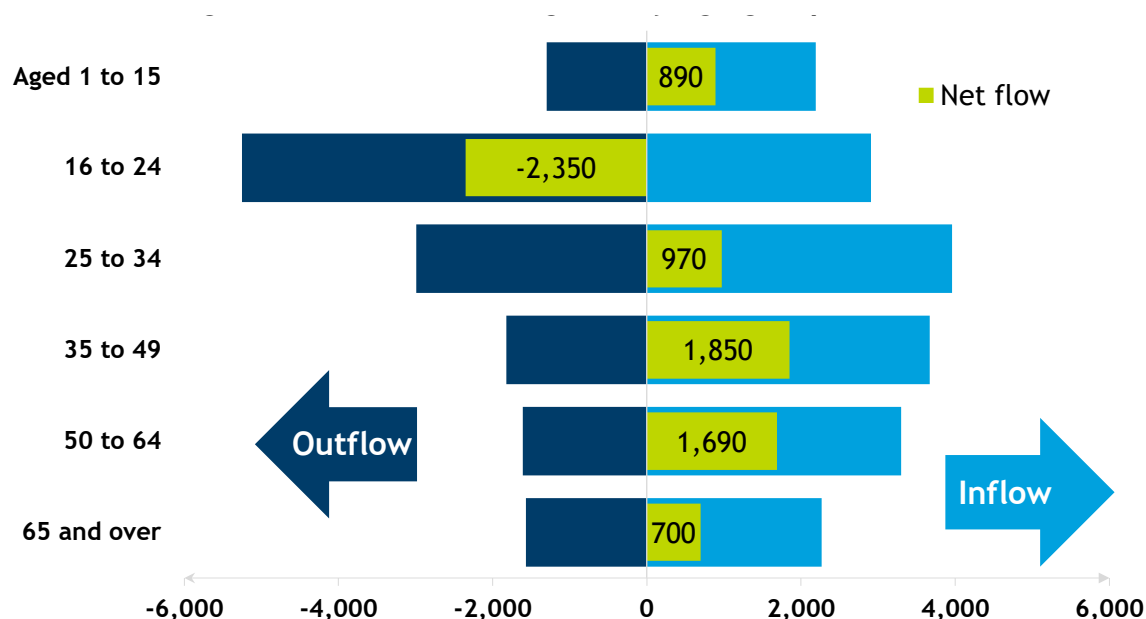
Age and sex

Table showing migrants to and from East Sussex by age group

	In migration from England	Out migration from England	Net flow
Aged 1 to 15	2,190	1,300	890
16 to 24	2,910	5,250	-2,350
25 to 34	3,960	2,990	970
35 to 49	3,670	1,820	1,850
50 to 64	3,300	1,610	1,690
65 and over	2,270	1,570	700
All ages (1+)	18,300	14,550	3,750

In 2021, there were net in-flows from England to East Sussex among all age groups except those aged 16-24, which saw a net out-flow of 2,290 people over the 12 months to 21 March 2021. The largest net flow was among those aged 35-49, with a net flow 1,870 people in that age group. The second largest group were in the 50-64 age group (+1,690).

Fig.2 Migration to and from England by age group - East Sussex



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Table showing migrants to and from East Sussex by age and sex

	Female	Male	All people	% Female
Aged 1 to 15	470	420	890	52.5%
16 to 24	-1,310	-1,040	-2,350	55.7%
25 to 34	600	370	970	61.9%
35 to 49	990	860	1,850	53.5%
50 to 64	910	780	1,690	53.7%
65 and over	360	340	700	51.3%
All ages (1+)	2,010	1,740	3,750	53.7%

54% of the net in-flow of migrants from the rest of England were women, with a higher proportion (61%) of those in the 25-34 age group being female. In the districts, 60% of net migrants to Hastings were female, with Rother seeing 51% of net migration from males.

When looking at net flows by location and age, there were net out-flows to all other locations in England among the 16-24 age groups, with the region outside the South East seeing the largest net out-flow of the 16-24 group being the South West -460 people, and a net flow of -1,330 young people aged 16-24 to all the regions of the UK outside the South East and London.

Among other age groups, London saw large net in-flows from the 25-34 age group (720), the 35-49 age group (1,200) and the 50-54 age group (970). There was also a net flow of 500 of those aged 65 and over.

Brighton and Hove saw the second highest number of net in-flows of people aged 35-49 (280) but Kent saw the second highest numbers of those aged 25-34 (180), 50-64 (300) and 65+ (140).

Table showing net flows to districts of East Sussex from England (from outside the county), by age group

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex
Aged 1 to 15	90	60	240	80	420	890
Aged 16 to 24	-140	-230	-650	-360	-970	-2,350
Aged 25 to 34	160	220	100	120	370	970
Aged 35 to 49	130	320	460	240	700	1,850
Aged 50 to 64	230	270	250	450	480	1,690
Aged 65 +	150	70	120	110	250	700
All ages	610	720	540	640	1,250	3,750

Net flows were not evenly distributed across the districts by age. Wealden saw the largest net outflow of people aged 16-24 of -970, and Lewes the second largest (-650).

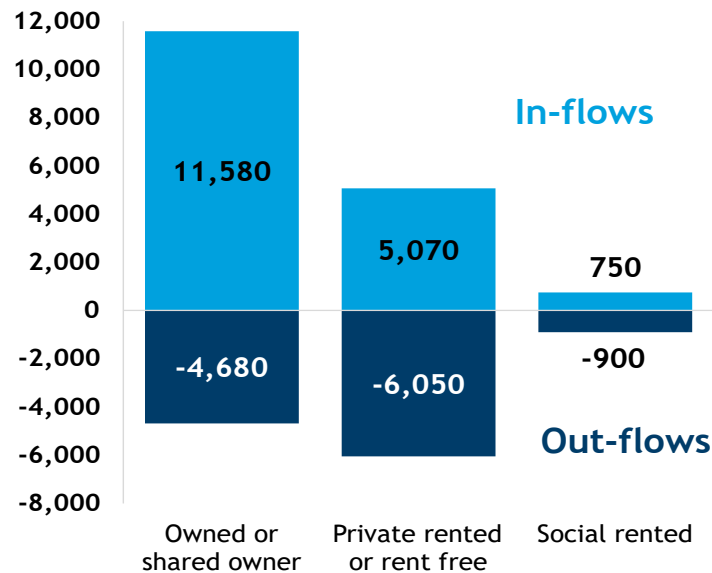
Tenure

The data on tenure includes only the population who live in households, and so the totals are somewhat different to the data for all people who moved within England over the 12 months to March 2021. When we look at the household population, there were 17,400 in moves from England, and 11,620 out moves from East Sussex to the rest of England, so that gives inward net migration in the tenure table of 5,770, which is around 2,000 more than the total number of net moves. This implies that around 900 in-moves, and around 2,900 more out-moves involved people who live in communal establishments.

Overall, two thirds of the 17,400 people who moved into East Sussex were owner occupiers (67% or 11,580), with only 29% (5,070) being private renters (or rent free) and just 4% (750) moving into social rented housing. On the other hand, while 40% of the 11,620 people moving away from the county were owners (4,680), 52% were private renters (6,050) and 8% were social tenants (900).

Overall, 69% of people who live in households in the county are owner occupiers, 20% are private renters and 11% are social renters. So while the proportion of those who moved in reflected the existing population of owner occupiers, the proportion of people who were private tenants moving into the county was considerably higher than the existing proportion of tenants (29% v 20%) and the proportion of Social renters moving in was much lower (4% v 11%).

Fig.3 In- and out-flows from East Sussex to England, by tenure



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

When we look at net migration from England, while there was a net in-flow of 6,900 owner-occupiers, there were net losses of 980 private renters and 150 social tenants to other parts of England.

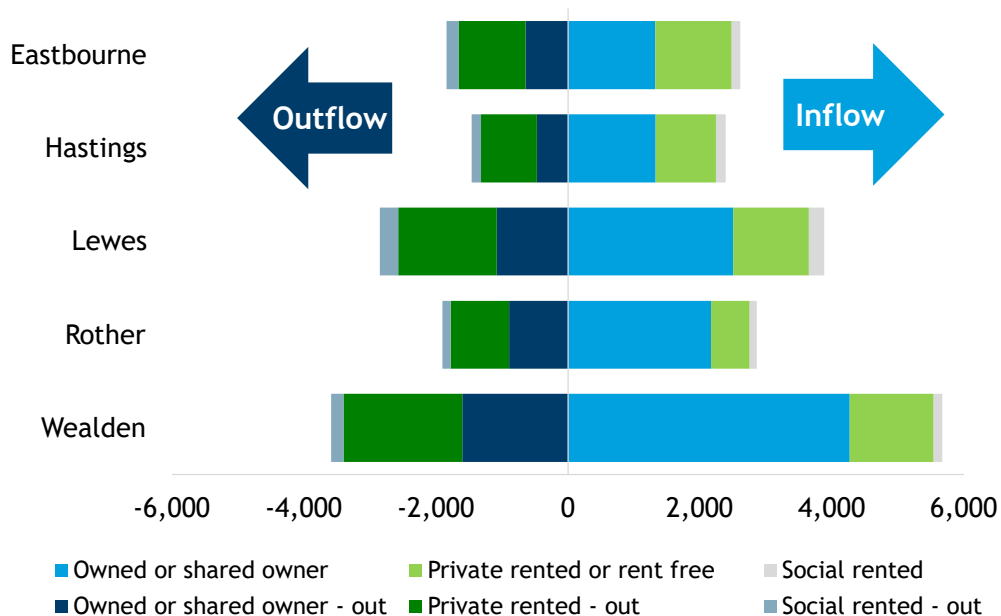
The areas with the biggest in and out-flows outside the county were London and the rest of the South East. London saw the biggest net flows of people in households, with a total of 3,840 net moves, but the vast majority of net moves were owners - there was a net flow of 3,490 owner-occupiers, compared with 350 private renters and just 10 social renters.

From the rest of the South East there was a net flow of 2,470 overall, but while there was a positive net flow of 3,130 owners, there were net losses of 610 private renters and 60 social tenants to the rest of the region.

The picture was not even across the districts. There were positive net moves of people in households to all districts, with Wealden seeing the largest numbers of in moves (5,670) and out moves (3,580), and a net flow of +2,090. Owners dominated in all districts with 2,660 owner in-migrants to Wealden and 1,420 to Lewes. But only Eastbourne and Hastings saw small net in-flows of private tenants (Eastbourne +140,

Hastings +60) all the other districts saw net losses, with the largest seen in Wealden (-530).

Fig.4 In- and out flows to England, by tenure and district



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Ethnic group

In 2021 there 18,270 migrants into East Sussex from within England, of whom 90% (16,440) were in the “White” ethnic group, 3.8% (700) were in the “Mixed or Multiple ethnic group” and 3.2% (580) were in the “Asian or Asian British” ethnic group. Only 20 migrants arrived from the rest of the UK (outside England) who were not in the White ethnic group.

However, there were 14,490 moves out of the county to the rest of England, of whom 88% were White, 4.5% (660) were Asian or Asian British and 3.9% (560) were of Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups. This means that when we look at net moves, the vast majority (97%), and a higher proportion than the population as a whole (94%), were in the White ethnic group. There was a net out-flow of people who were Asian/Asian

British (-80), only 80 net arrivals of people of Black/Black British heritage, and 130 net arrivals of people of Mixed or multiple ethnic groups.

Table showing net migration from England into East Sussex by ethnic group

	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex
White	620	710	460	650	1,190	3,640
Asian or Asian British	-10	-90	50	-20	-10	-80
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	0	20	10	20	30	80
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0	50	10	20	60	130
Other ethnic group	0	-10	20	0	-10	0
Total net migrants from England	600	680	560	670	1,260	3,780

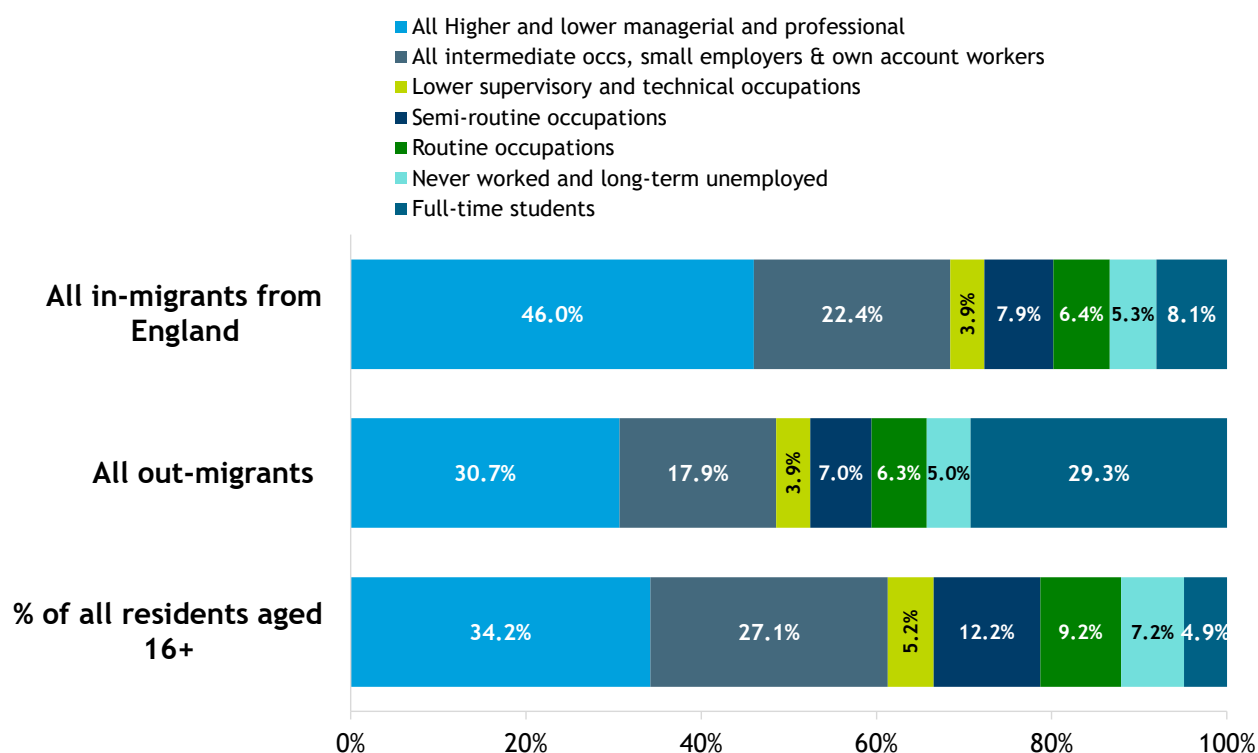
Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)

The data on Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC) is available for all usual residents aged 16 and over. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) indicates a person's socio-economic position based on their occupation and other job characteristics. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification. NS-SEC categories are assigned based on a person's occupation, whether employed, self-employed, or supervising other employees. Full-time students are recorded in the "full-time students" category regardless of whether they are economically active.

In 2021, out of a total of 16,100 people aged 16+ who moved into East Sussex, 46.0% (4,050 people) were in higher and lower managerial and professional occupations, compared to 34.2% of the adult population in the county. By contrast out of 13,200

out-migrants, only 30.7% fell into this category, but a similar proportion (29.3% or 3,869) were full-time students, reflecting the age profile of migration seen above.

Fig.5 In- and out-flows to East Sussex from England, by socio-economic group (NS-SEC)



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Small area detail

Data in this section only looks at moves to and from areas within England beyond the county of East Sussex. Within the county there were 32,610 moves, with 24,360 people moving from one district of East Sussex to another and 8,260 people moving within the district where they already live. We have focussed in this analysis on the characteristics of people who moved in or out of the county.

There were some moves to and from all middle layer super output areas (MSOAs) in the county. Some areas saw large volumes of moves, and others much smaller flows, and this was spread across the districts. In terms of net flows (in-moves minus out-

moves), Eastbourne 012 (covering the Meads area) saw the largest number of net arrivals (260), followed by Wealden 012 (Hailsham North, Alfriston and East Dean) with 210, and Hastings 011 (Central St Leonards) with 200. (note all data in tables is rounded to the nearest ten so some flows may not sum to the gross/net flows).

Table showing top 10 areas for net arrivals

MSOA name	MSOA HoC name*	Total net arrivals	In-flow	Out-flow	Gross flows
Eastbourne 012	Meads	260	460	200	660
Wealden 018	Hailsham North, Alfriston & East Dean	210	510	300	810
Hastings 011	Central St Leonards	200	490	290	780
Eastbourne 011	King Edward's Parade	180	450	260	710
Wealden 006	Crowborough South East	170	350	190	540
Rother 009	Collington, Cooden & Little Common	160	340	190	530
Lewes 010	Peacehaven East	130	390	260	660
Hastings 007	Old Hastings	120	240	120	350
Eastbourne 014	Sovereign Harbour	120	240	120	360
Rother 004	Rye & Winchelsea	120	340	220	560

*HoC name refers to the House of Commons library name for the area covered by each MSOA (middle layer super output area), which gives an indication of that MSOA's location. The areas are not the same as the wards (pre- or post 2019) of the same name.

The areas that saw the biggest net out-flows were also broadly spread, but the size of net out-flows were smaller: Wealden 001 (Forest Row and Coleman's Hatch) saw a net out-flow of 90, Eastbourne 004 (Hampden Park South) 40, and Eastbourne 007 saw a net out-flow of 30.

Table showing top 10 areas for net out-flows

MSOA name	MSOA HoC name*	Total net arrivals	In-flow	Out-flow	Gross flows
Wealden 001	Forest Row & Coleman's Hatch	-90	370	460	830
Eastbourne 004	Hampden Park South	-40	120	160	280
Eastbourne 007	Roselands	-30	190	220	410
Lewes 009	Newhaven West	-30	150	170	320
Wealden 007	Chelwood & Nutley	-20	260	280	550
Eastbourne 002	Hampden Park North	-20	80	100	170
Lewes 001	Chailey, Newick & Barcombe	-10	310	330	640
Eastbourne 003	Langney East	-10	100	110	200
Hastings 001	Ashdown	-10	170	180	340
Lewes 006	East Saltdean & Telscombe Cliffs	-10	350	360	720

*see previous page for explanation

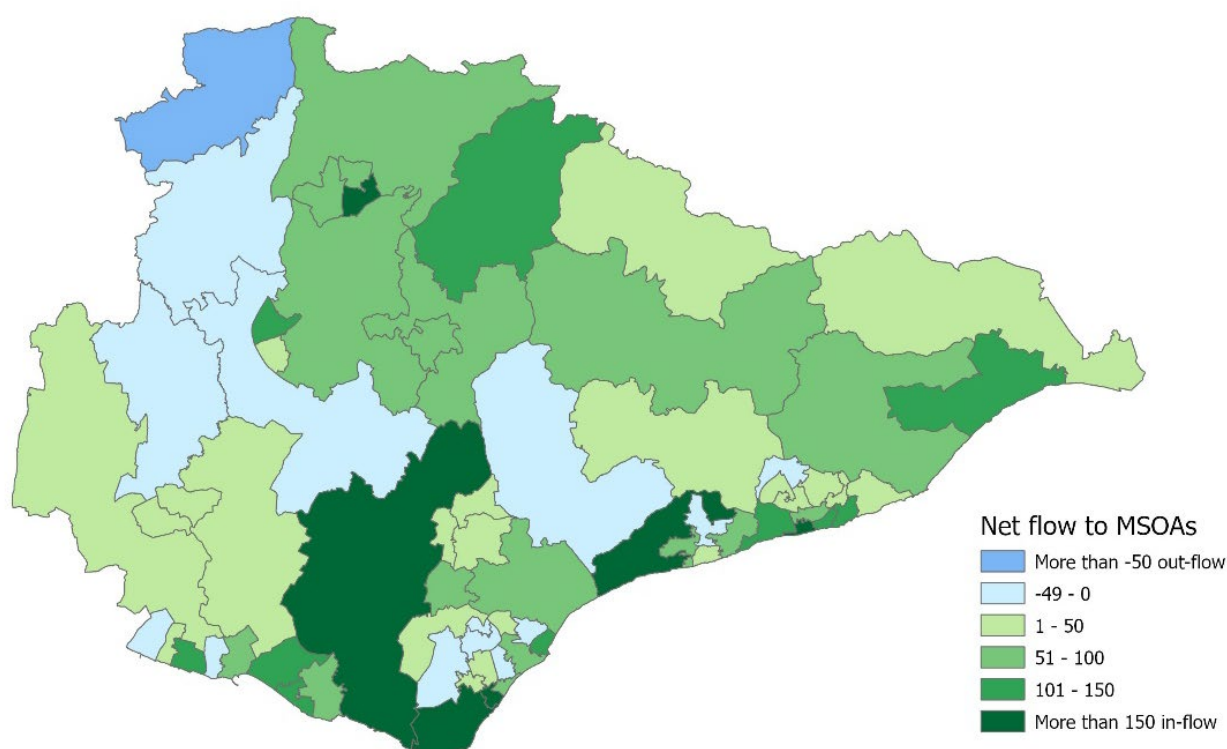
However, when we look at in- and out-flows separately, Lewes 002 (Wivelsfield Green, Ditchling & Rodmell) saw the largest in-flow, with 600 arrivals, but also the largest out-flow of 580, giving a net flow of only 20, but the biggest gross flow (in-moves plus out-moves, indicating population churn) of 1,180, of all MSOAs. Nearly half of these moves were to and from West Sussex (240 in-moves and 260 out-moves).

Wealden 005 (Mayfield and Wadhurst) saw the second highest level of in-flow (530 people) and fourth highest out-flow (420) giving the second highest gross flow of 950, but only 110 net flow. 190 people moved in to Wealden 005 from Kent, and 150 people moved out to this neighbouring county. London saw 180 in-moves to Wealden 005 and 90 people moved to London.

The third highest in-flow was seen in Wealden 018 (Hailsham North, Alfriston & East Dean) which saw 510 in moves, and with 300 out-flows, had the second largest overall net flow of 210. In-movers came from London (150), West Sussex (90) and Kent (60), and the biggest out-flows were to the South West region (60) and West Sussex (50).

Hastings 011 (Central St Leonards) saw the fourth highest in-flow (490), and with only 290 out moves, saw the third highest net flow of 200, with in-moves from London (300), dominating moves to the area, contrasting with just 80 out-moves to London. This was by far the highest volume of in-moves from London, with Wealden 005 second (180), Hastings 008 (Braybrooke & Bohemia), Rother 004 (Rye & Winchelsea) and Lewes 003 (Lewes Central & East) joint third (160 in-moves from London each).

Fig.6 Map showing net migration flows to East Sussex in the year to March 2021, by MSOA



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

When we look at other places with significant out-flows, only Wealden 001 (Forest Row & Coleman’s Hatch) saw a large volume of out-moves (460) and a smaller in-flow

(370), resulting in a net loss of 90. West Sussex (130), London, and the South West region (both 60) saw the largest out-flows from Wealden 001.

International in-Migration

When looking at international migration, it is worth remembering that the Census in March 2021 took place a year after the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and many of the in-moves from abroad that took place in the previous 12 months included UK nationals who had been travelling, or those who were studying or working abroad who decided to return to their home and/or family.

2,950 usual residents (0.5% of the total population) moved into East Sussex from outside the UK in the 12 months prior to the Census being taken, down from 3,620 (0.7% of the population) in 2011.

Of these 2,950 international arrivals, only 1,340 said that they intended to stay more than 12 months.

42% of arrivals (1,240) to East Sussex came from Europe, 27% were from Asia (760), 14% from the Americas (400) and 11% from Africa (320).

Table showing in migration from overseas to districts of East Sussex, by continent of origin

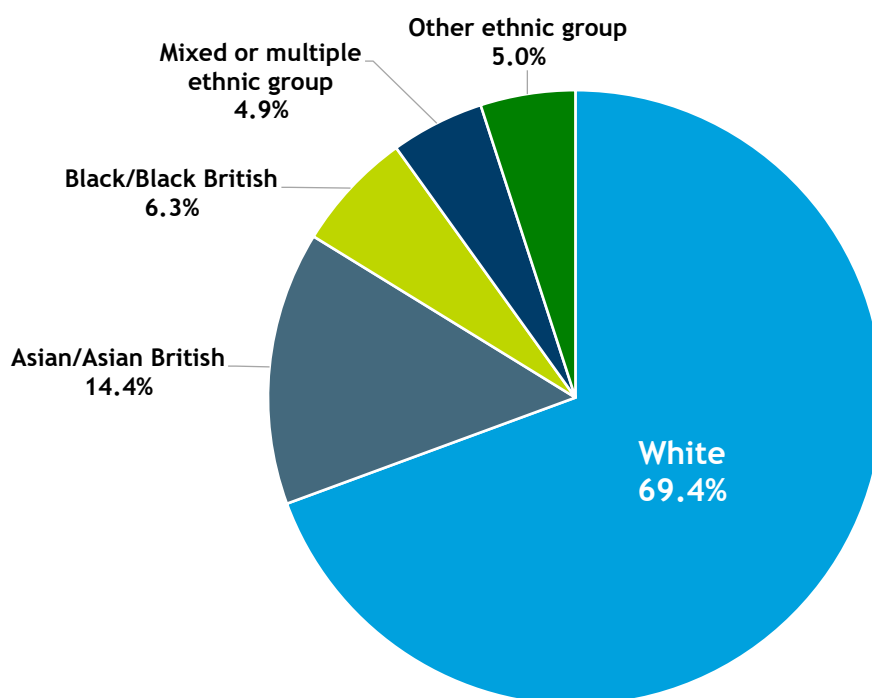
	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes	Rother	Wealden	East Sussex
Europe	360	240	190	200	260	1,240
Asia	220	160	120	110	150	760
Americas	80	60	80	70	110	400
Africa	90	80	40	40	70	320
Oceania and Antarctica	50	30	40	20	90	230
Total outside UK	790	570	460	440	680	2,950

Of the 1,240 arrivals from Europe, two thirds (810) were from EU countries who were members before 2001, 21% (260) were from newer EU countries, and 13% (160) were from European countries outside the EU. The individual country which saw the highest number of arrivals was Spain, with 220 people.

Migration from Asia to East Sussex was not dominated by any one region - 29% of the 750 arrivals from Asia were from Southern Asia, 26% from South East Asia, 24% from the Middle East and 22% from Central and East Asia.

Two thirds of the 400 arrivals from the Americas came from North America, with around half (190) being from the United States.

Fig.7 Arrivals from overseas to East Sussex in the 12 months to March 2021, by ethnic group



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

When we look at the ethnic group of arrivals from overseas in the 12 months before the Census, over two-thirds (69%) were in the “white” ethnic group, 14% from the

Asian or Asian British ethnic group, 6% Black/Black British, 5% Mixed or multiple ethnic group and 5% form another ethnic group.

It is not possible to use the census to look at out-flows to overseas destinations, or flows to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

For context, the 2021 Census showed around 53,820 residents (9.9%) of East Sussex were born outside the UK, an increase of 10,970 (25.6%) since 2011.

Limitations and mitigations

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces census data for a range of different output geographies. This includes census statistics for small areas/neighbourhoods right up to statistics for large administrative units. When added together, detailed census results for smaller areas may not exactly match the same data for larger areas. This is because the ONS uses statistical disclosure control methods which swap very small numbers between areas, and/or add small changes to some counts (cell key perturbation). For example, they might change a count of four to a three or a five, to make sure that it is impossible to identify specific individuals. This means that data for small areas may not sum to the totals for higher geographical levels.

For this reason, in any discussion of the census results, we have chosen to round numbers to the nearest 10. Where percentages have been provided, these are based on unrounded numbers. Tables published in this report and on East Sussex in Figures website contain unrounded data as supplied by the ONS, but come with the caveat that individual numbers and totals may vary slightly between tables depending on the selected output geography, as detailed above.

Census statistics are estimates rather than counts, and therefore have measures of uncertainty associated with them. As with all self-completion questionnaires, some forms will have contained incorrect, incomplete, or missing information about a person or household. While the ONS takes numerous steps to correct and minimise possible sources of error, as described in their [Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) Report](#), no census is perfect.

Further Information

For more information about the census data visit the [ONS website](#). The ONS have also produced an [Origin-destination data explorer](#) which allows you to explore different migration flow data from the 2021 Census. The data for the origin and destination of migrants in the year before the Census is available from Nomis. For queries specifically relating to East Sussex, please contact the Research and Intelligence Team via email at esif@eastsussex.gov.uk.

For more information about the characteristics of international migrants into East Sussex please see our International Migration briefing on ESiF.

Full methodology and definitions can be found in the ONS' publication.

The Research and Intelligence Team, Governance Services, provides demographic and socio-economic data, intelligence and insight to support East Sussex County Council and other East Sussex Partners. The Team also manages East Sussex in Figures (ESiF), the Local Information System for East Sussex. Visit www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk for more information.