

# Rural population and migration

## Mid-year population 2017

- In 2017 the mid-year population estimate (based on Lower Super Output Areas, LSOAs) for England was 55.6 million, of which 9.5 million (17.0 per cent) lived in rural areas and 46.2 million (83.0 per cent) lived in urban areas.
- In 2011 the more detailed Census output area-based rural population was 9.3 million (17.6 per cent) while the mid-year population estimate based on LSOAs was 9.1 million (17.2 per cent). Further explanation can be found in footnote <sup>1</sup>
- In comparing population estimates at LSOA level there was an increase in the rural population from 9.1 million in 2011 (LSOA-based) to 9.5 million in 2017 (LSOA-based), however the proportion of the total population has fallen from 17.2 per cent to 17.0 per cent over the same time period, as the urban population has increased at a faster rate.
- Within rural areas, 0.5 million people lived in sparse settings in 2017.

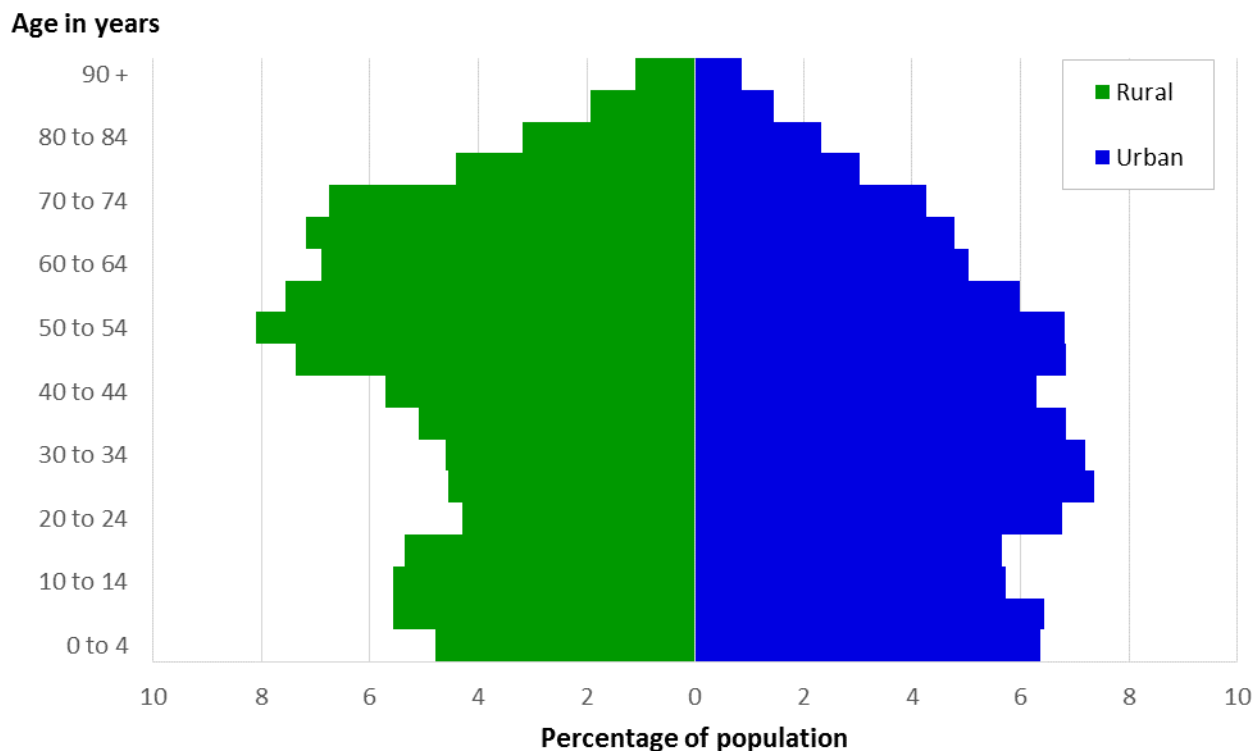
### 2017 Mid-year population estimates

	Population	Proportion (%)
<b>Rural</b>	<b>9,458,100</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Rural town and fringe	5,118,100	9.2
- those in a sparse setting	194,900	0.4
Rural village and hamlet	4,340,000	7.8
- those in a sparse setting	300,800	0.5
<b>Urban</b>	<b>46,161,300</b>	<b>83.0</b>
Urban major conurbation	19,937,000	35.8
Urban minor conurbation	1,995,200	3.6
Urban city and town	24,229,100	43.6
- those in a sparse setting	91,100	0.2
<b>England</b>	<b>55,619,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

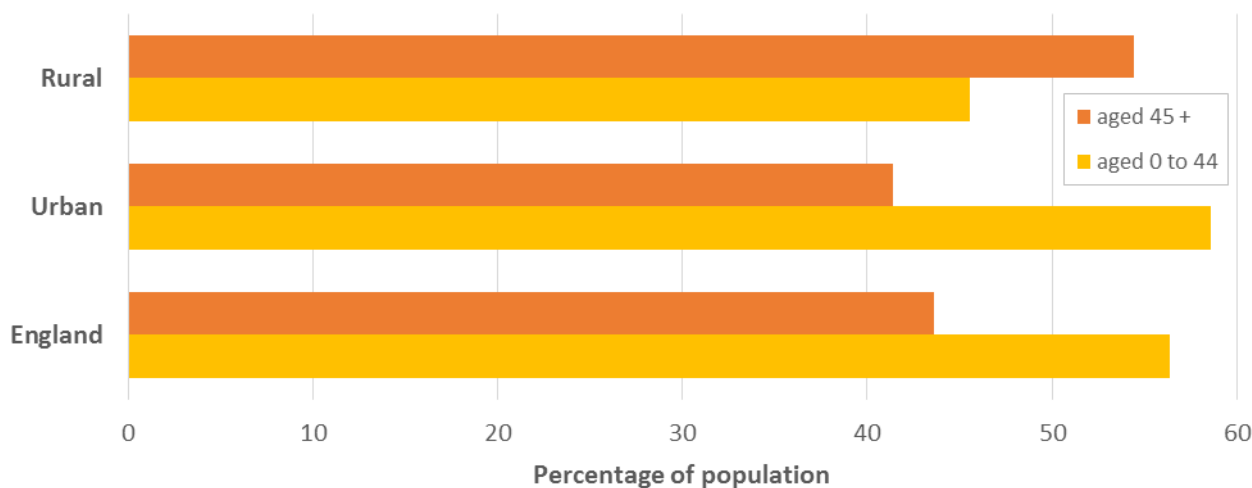
- 9.5 million people, or 17.0 per cent of the population, lived in rural areas in 2017.
- Around 495,700 people, or 0.9 per cent of the population lived in rural settlements in a sparse setting.

# Population by age

Percentage of population within age bands by rural-urban classification (LSOA) in England, 2017



2017 Mid-year population by broad age bands and rural-urban classification (LSOA), England



- The population in rural areas has a higher proportion of older people compared with urban areas. Just over 45 per cent of those living in rural areas are aged below 45 years, compared with almost 60 per cent in urban areas, and overall there are proportionately fewer younger people living in settlements in a sparse area.
- Just over 60 per cent of the population living in rural village and dispersed in a sparse setting are aged 45 years and over.

Age bands as a percentage of total 2017 mid-year population

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-90	90+
Rural	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.4	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.1	5.7	7.4	8.1	7.6	6.9	7.2	6.7	4.4	3.2	1.9	1.1
Rural town and fringe	5.2	5.8	5.6	5.3	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.9	7.3	7.7	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.5	4.3	3.2	2.0	1.1
- those in a sparse setting	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.0	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.6	7.2	5.1	4.0	2.7	1.6
Rural village and dispersed	4.3	5.4	5.6	5.5	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.6	7.5	8.6	8.1	7.3	7.5	7.0	4.4	3.1	1.8	1.0
- those in a sparse setting	3.7	4.6	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.2	4.8	6.9	8.4	8.7	8.5	9.1	8.1	5.2	3.6	2.2	1.2
Urban	6.4	6.4	5.7	5.7	6.8	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.8	6.8	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.3	3.0	2.3	1.5	0.8
Urban major conurbation	6.8	6.7	5.9	5.6	6.8	8.1	8.1	7.5	6.6	6.8	6.6	5.7	4.7	4.2	3.6	2.6	2.0	1.2	0.7
Urban minor conurbation	5.9	6.1	5.5	6.1	8.7	7.7	6.6	6.1	5.7	6.8	6.7	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.1	2.3	1.4	0.8
Urban city and town	6.0	6.3	5.6	5.7	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.9	7.0	6.2	5.4	5.3	4.8	3.3	2.6	1.6	1.0
- those in a sparse setting	4.5	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.6	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.8	6.2	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.9	7.5	5.1	3.9	2.5	1.6
England	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.6	6.3	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.0	6.3	5.4	5.2	4.7	3.3	2.5	1.5	0.9

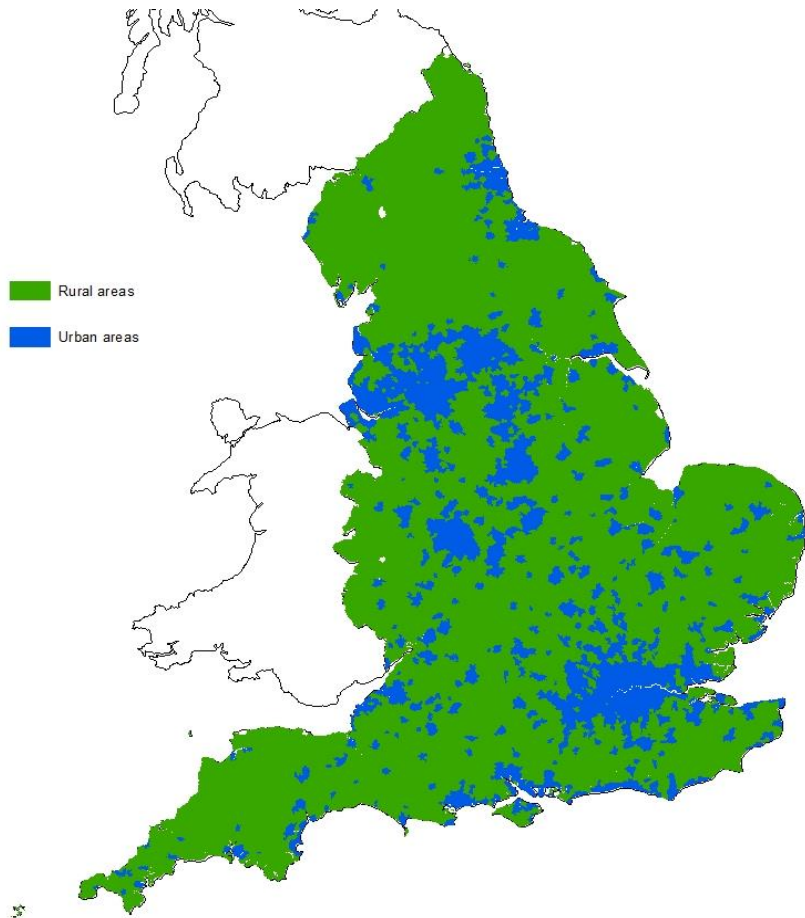
Notes: <sup>1</sup>This analysis uses mid-year population estimates, produced by the ONS. While these indicators are broadly in line with census level population data, there are minor differences relating to the area classifications: Census population data are based on output areas (OAs, approx. 300 people), and mid-year population estimates are based on lower super output areas (LSOAs, approx. 3000 people). The larger the area the more likely it is to contain an urban settlement and be classified as urban. Analysis using LSOAs may slightly under-estimate the rural population.

The estimated resident population of an area includes all those people who usually live there, regardless of nationality. Arriving international migrants are included in the usual resident population if they remain in the UK for at least a year. Emigrants are excluded if they remain outside the UK for at least a year. This is consistent with the United Nations definition of a long-term migrant. Armed forces stationed outside of the UK are excluded. Students are taken to be usually resident at their term time address.

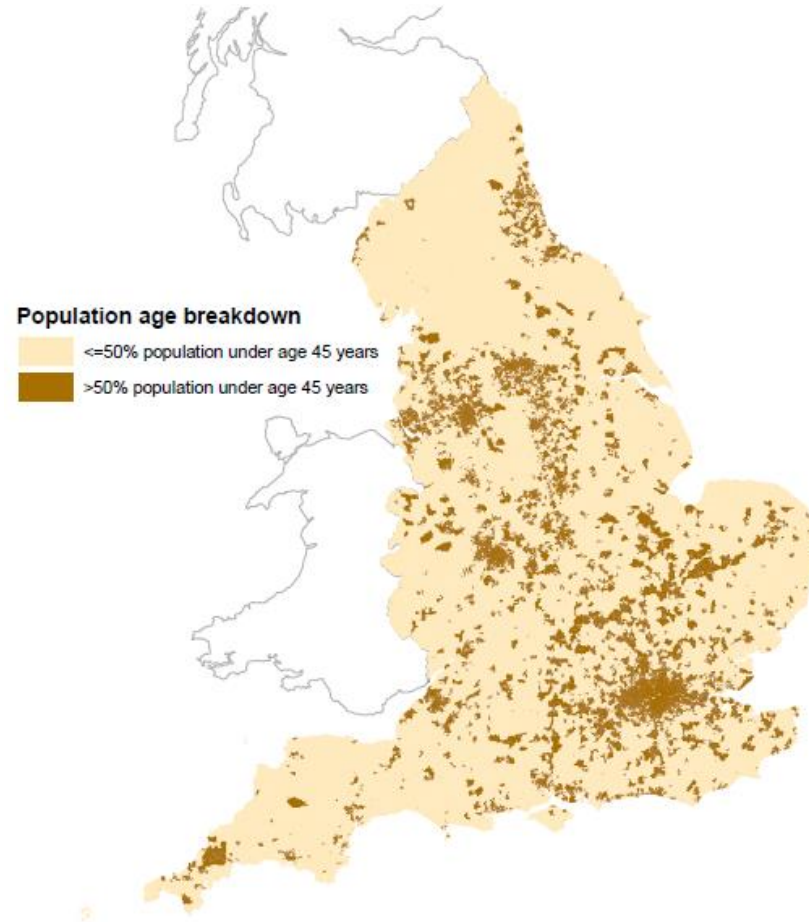
Source: Small Area Population Estimates 2017, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2019. These data use RUC2011.

**Maps showing the close geographic relationship between the rural and urban populations at lower super output area level (LSOA) and areas where the percentage of population of under 45 year olds are most concentrated**

**Lower super output area classification of England (2011)**



**Percentage of population under the age of 45 years (2017)**

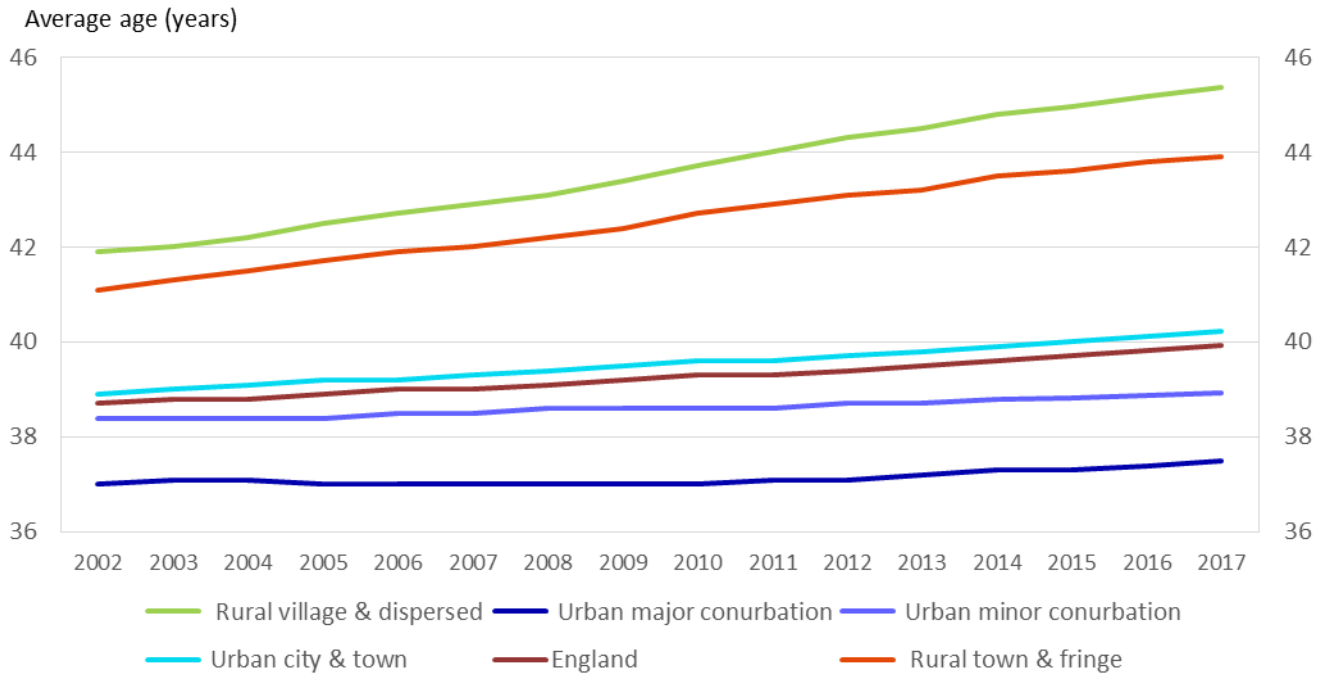


Source: ONS, Defra RUC2011  
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Source: ONS, Defra Mid-year population estimates for 2017 at LSOA level

# Average age of the population

Average age in rural and urban areas in England, 2002 to 2017



The average age in rural areas is higher and has increased faster than in urban areas.

- In 2017, the average age of the population in rural village and dispersed areas was 45.4 years and in rural town and fringe areas it was 43.9 years, compared with the average for England of 39.9 years.
- The average age was lowest in urban major conurbations at 37.5 years.
- The average age in rural areas combined was 44.6 years in 2017, 5.6 years older than in urban areas. The gap in average ages between rural and urban areas widened from 3.4 years in 2002.
- The average age in England increased by 1.2 year between 2002 and 2017, but in rural town and fringe areas it increased by 2.8 years and in rural village and dispersed areas by 3.5 years.

Average age of the population in rural and urban areas in England, 2002 to 2017

	Age in years															
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 <sup>1</sup>	2016 <sup>1</sup>	2017
Rural	41.5	41.6	41.8	42.0	42.2	42.4	42.6	42.9	43.1	43.4	43.6	43.8	44.1	44.2	44.4	44.6
Rural town & fringe	41.1	41.3	41.5	41.7	41.9	42.0	42.2	42.4	42.7	42.9	43.1	43.2	43.5	43.6	43.8	43.9
- those in a sparse setting	43.9	44.0	44.1	44.2	44.3	44.4	44.6	44.8	44.9	45.1	45.4	45.5	45.7	45.9	46.2	46.3
Rural village & dispersed	41.9	42.0	42.2	42.5	42.7	42.9	43.1	43.4	43.7	44.0	44.3	44.5	44.8	45.0	45.2	45.4
- those in a sparse setting	43.9	44.2	44.4	44.7	44.9	45.2	45.4	45.8	46.1	46.4	46.7	47.0	47.3	47.6	47.8	48.0
Urban	38.1	38.2	38.2	38.2	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.4	38.5	38.5	38.6	38.7	38.8	38.9	39.0
Urban major conurbation	37.0	37.1	37.1	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.1	37.1	37.2	37.3	37.3	37.4	37.5
Urban minor conurbation	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.5	38.5	38.6	38.6	38.6	38.6	38.7	38.7	38.8	38.8	38.9	38.9
Urban city & town	38.9	39.0	39.1	39.2	39.2	39.3	39.4	39.5	39.6	39.6	39.7	39.8	39.9	40.0	40.1	40.2
- those in a sparse setting	43.5	43.6	43.8	44.0	44.1	44.4	44.6	44.8	44.8	45.0	45.2	45.3	45.6	45.9	46.2	46.4
England	38.7	38.8	38.8	38.9	39.0	39.0	39.1	39.2	39.3	39.3	39.4	39.5	39.6	39.7	39.8	39.9

<sup>1</sup> In previous Digest editions the 'sparse setting' values were omitted from the overall totals for 'rural town & fringe' and 'rural village & dispersed'. The above table includes the corrected values which are very slightly higher than the original estimates.

Notes:

The average age is based on mid-year population estimates by age at the level of Lower Super Output Areas. The 2011 Rural Urban Classification has been applied to all years to allow comparison. Infants less than one year old are classified as 0 years of age. Those aged 90 or over are classified as being 90 years of age. The averages will be very slight under-estimates as a result and in some case could be up to 0.1 years higher in reality.

For the proportion of the population in each type of area in 2017 see the earlier section.

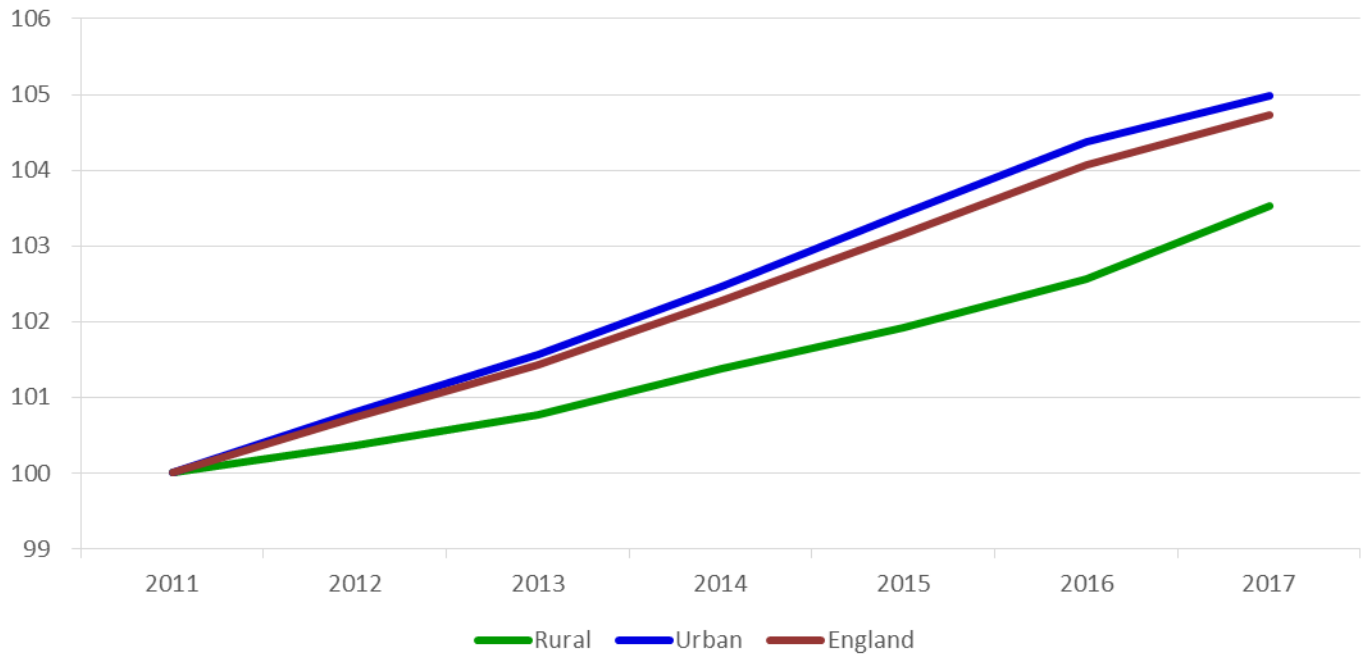
Source: Office for National Statistics and Defra analysis of Lower Super Output Area Mid-Year Population Estimates.

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates)

# Population change

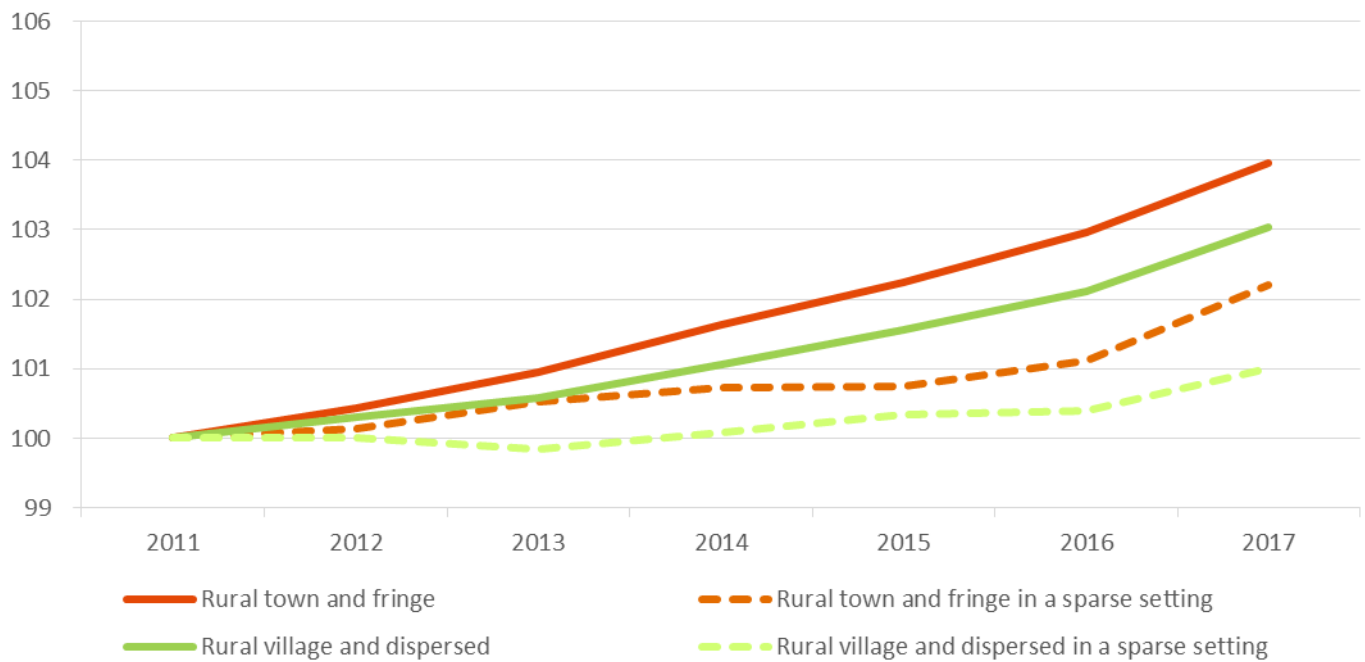
Index of population change, 2011 to 2017

2011 = 100



Index of population change in rural areas, 2011 to 2017

2011 = 100



- Both rural and urban areas have seen an increase in overall population between 2011 and 2017. Rural has increased by 3.5 per cent and urban by 5.0 per cent.
- Within rural areas, the greatest rate of population increase was in *rural town and fringe areas* (4.0 per cent).
- *Rural villages and hamlets in sparse settings* showed the smallest rate of population increase within rural areas (1.0 per cent).

*Index of population change, 2011 to 2017*

2011 = 100

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index
Rural town and fringe	4,923,300	100.0	4,944,500	100.4	4,970,200	101.0	5,004,000	101.6	5,033,600	102.2	5,069,300	103.0	5,118,100	104.0
-those in a sparse setting	190,700	100.0	191,000	100.1	191,700	100.5	192,100	100.7	192,100	100.7	192,800	101.1	194,900	102.2
Rural village and hamlet	4,212,100	100.0	4,224,600	100.3	4,236,200	100.6	4,256,900	101.1	4,277,400	101.5	4,300,900	102.1	4,340,000	103.0
- those in a sparse setting	297,800	100.0	297,800	100.0	297,400	99.8	298,000	100.1	298,800	100.3	299,000	100.4	300,800	101.0
Urban major conurbation	18,890,600	100.0	19,061,100	100.9	19,224,000	101.8	19,415,700	102.8	19,626,100	103.9	19,831,400	105.0	19,937,000	105.5
Urban minor conurbation	1,910,500	100.0	1,924,900	100.8	1,935,400	101.3	1,948,500	102.0	1,963,200	102.8	1,981,400	103.7	1,995,200	104.4
Urban city and town	23,170,600	100.0	23,338,600	100.7	23,499,900	101.4	23,691,500	102.2	23,886,100	103.1	24,085,000	103.9	24,229,100	104.6
- those in a sparse setting	90,600	100.0	90,500	99.9	90,600	100.0	90,400	99.8	90,400	99.7	90,200	99.6	91,100	100.6
Rural	9,135,500	100.0	9,169,100	100.4	9,206,500	100.8	9,260,900	101.4	9,311,000	101.9	9,370,200	102.6	9,458,100	103.5
Urban	43,971,700	100.0	44,324,600	100.8	44,659,400	101.6	45,055,700	102.5	45,475,300	103.4	45,897,800	104.4	46,161,300	105.0
England	53,107,200	100.0	53,493,700	100.7	53,865,800	101.4	54,316,600	102.3	54,786,300	103.2	55,268,100	104.1	55,619,400	104.7



## Population at local authority level

Often statistics have to be compiled at the local authority level, when that is the level of the original data, and the rural urban classification for local authorities is used.

This is different from looking at the population using the more detailed rural-urban classification as it is based on whole local authorities. The whole population in an authority will be attributed to the class assigned to the authority. So an authority that is *mainly rural* or *largely rural* and hence classed as *predominantly rural* will have the whole population counted as being in a *predominantly rural* area, even those living in an urban settlement within that authority, while all those living in a rural area but within an authority classed as *urban with significant rural* or *predominantly urban* will not be counted in the *predominantly rural* figure.

- In 2017, 11.6 million people lived in a *predominantly rural* area, 20.8 per cent of the England population.
- 52 per cent of the population in *predominantly rural* areas are over the age of 44, which is the same as in 2016.
- In comparison, 40 per cent of the population in *predominantly urban* areas are over the age of 44, which is the same as in 2016 as well.
- The population in *predominantly rural* areas has increased by 4.3 per cent between 2011 and 2017, compared with 4.7 per cent for England as a whole and 5.0 per cent in *predominantly urban* areas as well.
- However, it is longer-term comparisons that highlight significant shifts in the age structure. Comparisons have been made between 2001 and 2015 to show this.
- *Predominantly rural* areas have proportionately seen large falls in the population aged 30 to 39 and higher proportional increases in the older population.
- The population aged 65 and over increased by 37 per cent in *predominantly rural* areas between 2001 and 2015, compared with 17 per cent in *predominantly urban* areas.
- *Predominantly rural* areas have seen an increase of 7 per cent in infants (0-4 year olds) compared with a 22 per cent increase in *predominantly urban* areas.

Local Authority index of population change, 2011 to 2017

(2011 = 100)

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index	Population	Index
Mainly Rural	4,737,686	100	4,761,866	100.5	4,785,092	101.0	4,816,726	101.7	4,847,415	102.3	4,879,279	103.0	4,933,358	104.1
Largely Rural	6,351,791	100	6,384,585	100.5	6,419,913	101.1	6,467,543	101.8	6,512,971	102.5	6,566,227	103.4	6,631,319	104.4
Urban with Significant Rural	6,910,518	100	6,948,512	100.5	6,988,497	101.1	7,033,985	101.8	7,079,045	102.4	7,127,258	103.1	7,176,116	103.8
Urban with City and Town	14,089,992	100	14,197,589	100.8	14,298,352	101.5	14,419,523	102.3	14,542,604	103.2	14,669,427	104.1	14,734,262	104.6
Urban with Minor Conurbation	2,105,964	100	2,121,202	100.7	2,131,719	101.2	2,145,523	101.9	2,160,277	102.6	2,178,959	103.5	2,193,712	104.2
Urban with Major Conurbation	18,911,218	100	19,079,975	100.9	19,242,244	101.8	19,433,318	102.8	19,644,015	103.9	19,846,917	104.9	19,950,663	105.5
<b>Predominantly Rural</b>	11,089,477	100	11,146,451	100.5	11,205,005	101.0	11,284,269	101.8	11,360,386	102.4	11,445,506	103.2	11,564,677	104.3
<b>Predominantly Urban</b>	35,107,174	100	35,398,766	100.8	35,672,315	101.6	35,998,364	102.5	36,346,896	103.5	36,695,303	104.5	36,878,637	105.0
<b>England</b>	53,107,169	100	53,493,729	100.7	53,865,817	101.4	54,316,618	102.3	54,786,327	103.2	55,268,067	104.1	55,619,430	104.7

Age bands as a percentage of total 2017 mid-year Local Authority population

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
Mainly Rural	5.0	5.6	5.4	5.3	4.6	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.6	7.2	7.8	7.3	6.6	7.0	6.6	4.3	3.2	2.0	1.2
Largely Rural	5.3	5.9	5.6	5.4	4.9	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.9	7.2	7.6	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.0	4.1	3.0	1.9	1.1
Urban with Significant Rural	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	7.3	7.6	6.8	5.9	6.0	5.6	3.8	2.9	1.8	1.1
Urban with City and Town	6.2	6.4	5.6	5.8	7.3	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.8	6.9	6.1	5.2	5.0	4.5	3.1	2.4	1.5	0.9
Urban with Minor Conurbation	5.8	6.1	5.5	6.0	8.3	7.4	6.4	6.0	5.7	6.8	6.9	6.2	5.3	5.1	4.6	3.2	2.4	1.4	0.8
Urban with Major Conurbation	6.8	6.7	5.9	5.6	6.7	8.1	8.1	7.5	6.6	6.8	6.6	5.7	4.7	4.2	3.6	2.6	2.0	1.2	0.7
<b>Predominantly Rural</b>	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.3	4.7	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.8	7.2	7.7	7.1	6.4	6.7	6.3	4.2	3.1	1.9	1.1
<b>Predominantly Urban</b>	6.5	6.5	5.7	5.7	7.1	7.6	7.5	7.0	6.3	6.8	6.7	5.9	4.9	4.6	4.0	2.9	2.2	1.4	0.8
<b>England</b>	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.6	6.3	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.0	6.3	5.4	5.2	4.7	3.3	2.5	1.5	0.9

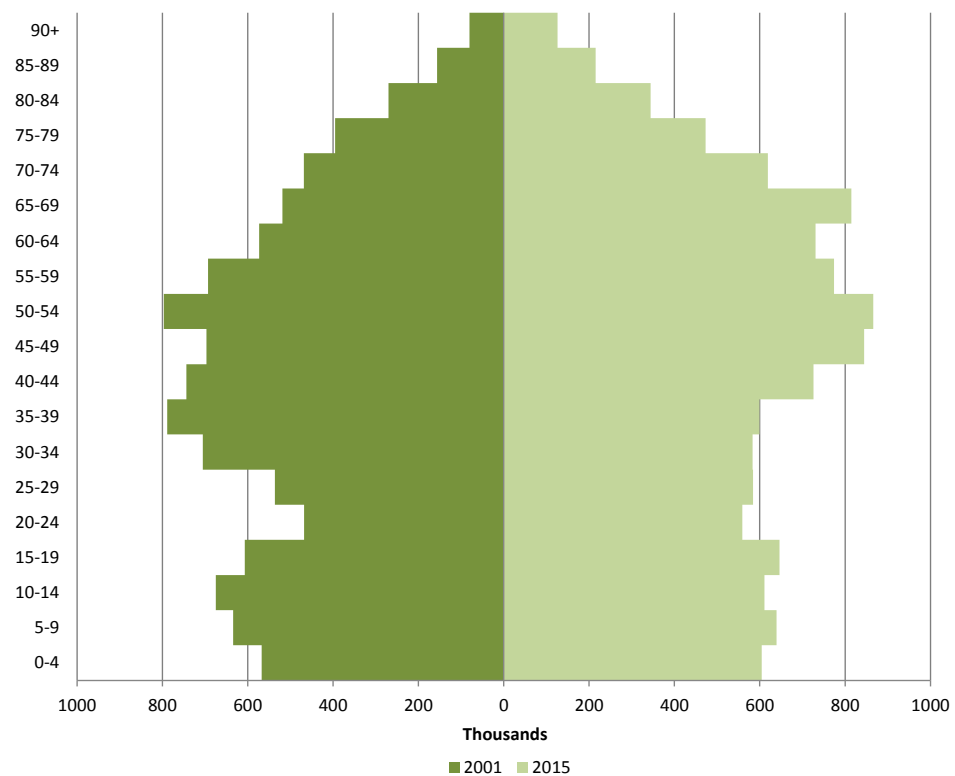
Source: Defra analysis of ONS data – Local Authority Population Estimates for England

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2016/relateddata>

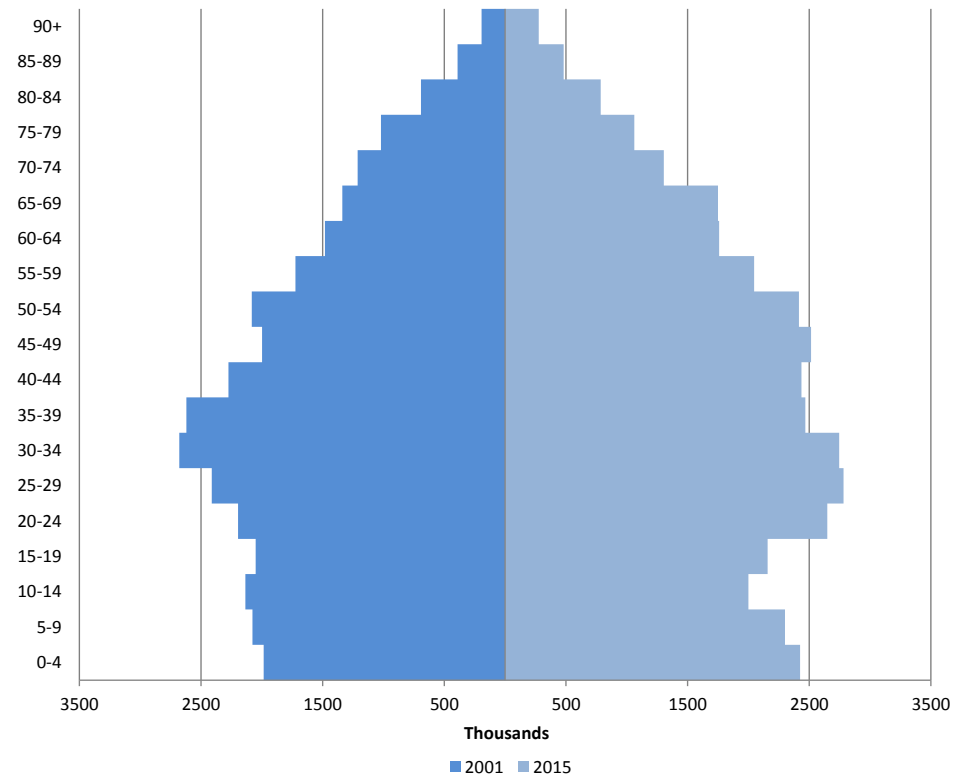
The charts below show longer-term changes in the populations for *predominantly rural* and *predominantly urban* areas, by age band, comparing 2001 and 2015 (not 2016 as above)

*Population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, 2001 and 2015<sup>1</sup>, England  
(scales in the charts differ and so are not directly comparable)*

*Predominantly rural areas*

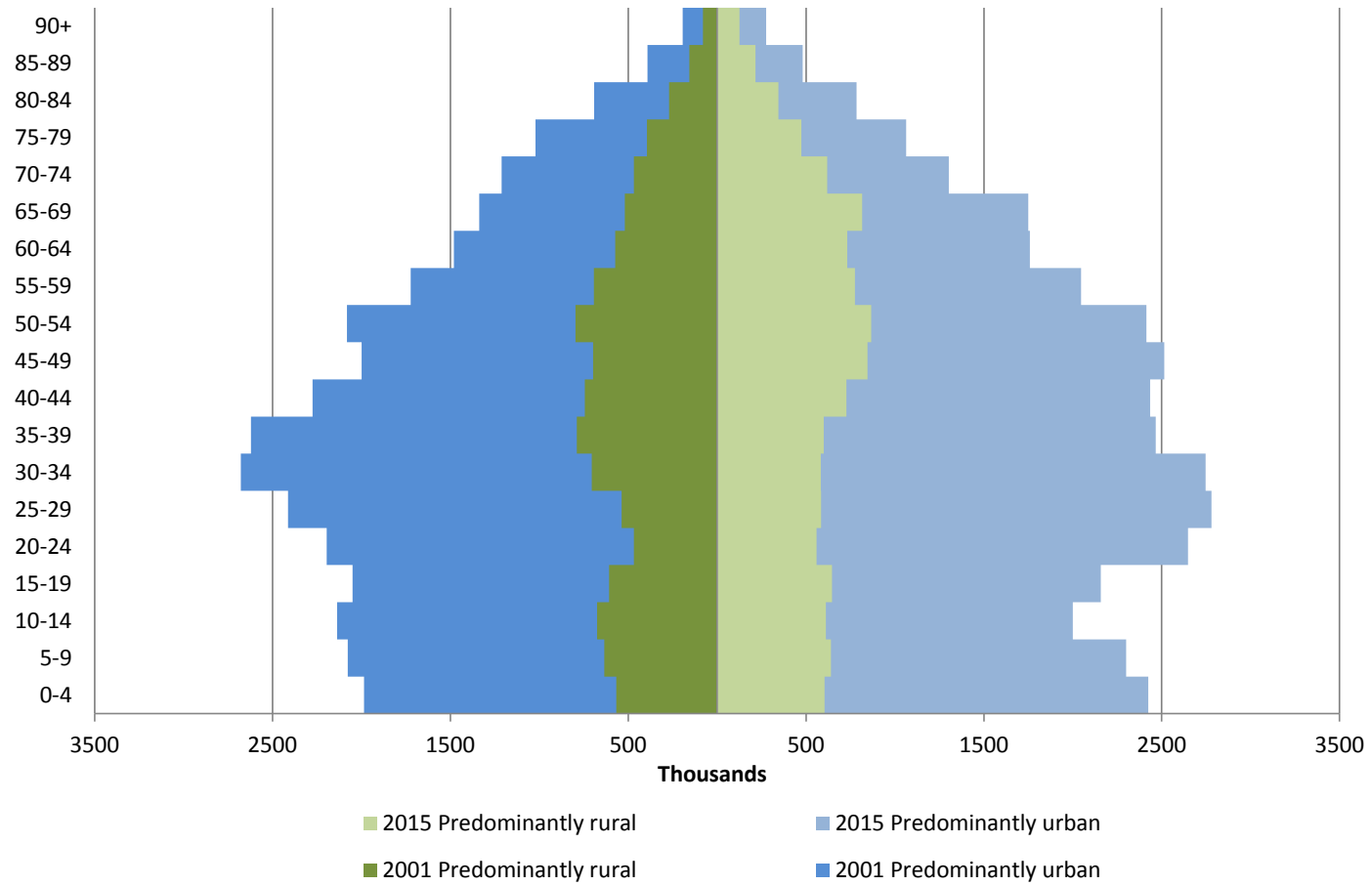


*Predominantly urban areas*



<sup>1</sup> The 2011 rural urban classification has been applied to both years to enable comparison

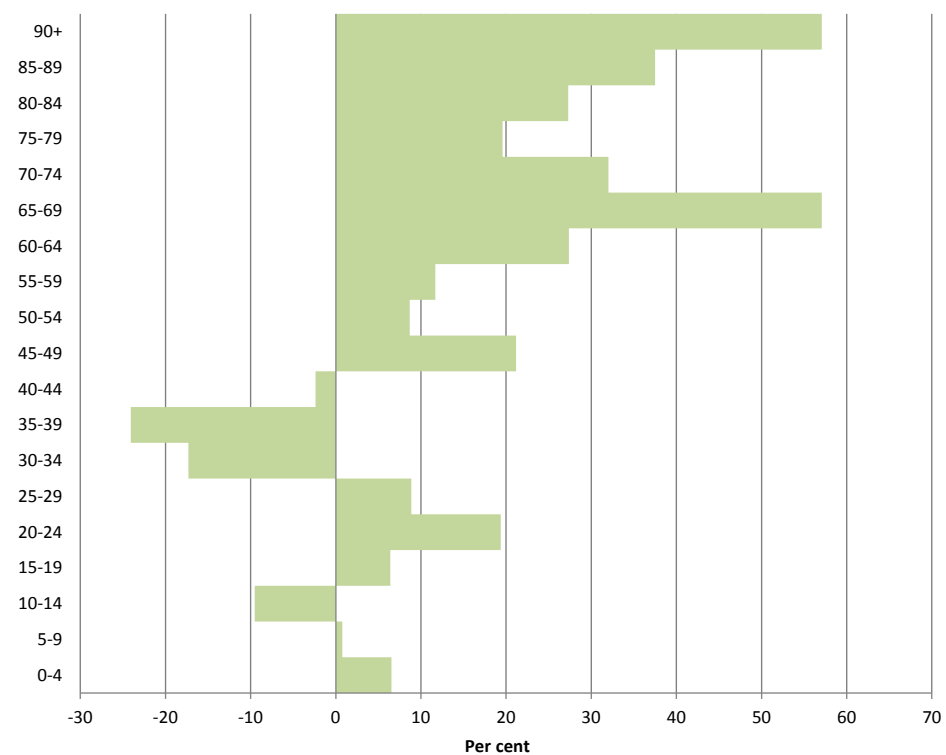
*Population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, 2001 and 2015<sup>2</sup>, England  
(combined chart showing rural and urban at the same scale)*



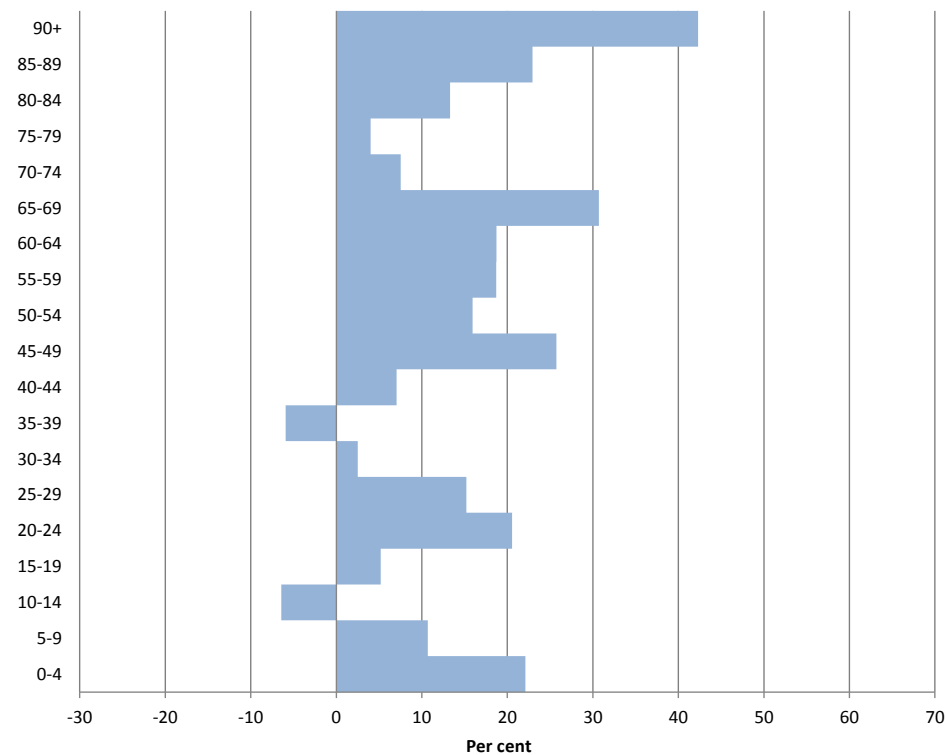
<sup>2</sup> The 2011 rural urban classification has been applied to both years to enable comparison

Percentage change in population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, between 2001 and 2015<sup>3</sup>, England

Predominantly rural areas



Predominantly urban areas



<sup>3</sup> The 2011 rural urban classification has been applied to both years to enable comparison

Population in 2001 and in 2015 by rural urban classification and population change, by age band, in England

		Age bands																		Thousands	
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Total all ages
Predominantly urban	<b>2001</b>	1,986	2,078	2,137	2,051	2,196	2,413	2,679	2,622	2,275	1,999	2,082	1,724	1,481	1,338	1,212	1,021	692	391	194	32,572
Urban with significant rural	<b>2001</b>	371	408	426	387	322	371	466	508	469	433	485	415	341	303	272	228	157	90	46	6,500
Predominantly rural	<b>2001</b>	567	634	675	607	468	537	705	789	744	697	797	693	574	519	469	395	270	156	80	10,378
England	<b>2001</b>	2,924	3,121	3,238	3,045	2,987	3,320	3,851	3,919	3,488	3,129	3,365	2,833	2,395	2,160	1,953	1,645	1,119	638	321	49,450
Predominantly urban	<b>2015</b>	2,425	2,300	1,999	2,158	2,647	2,780	2,746	2,466	2,435	2,514	2,414	2,046	1,759	1,749	1,303	1,062	784	481	276	36,347
Urban with significant rural	<b>2015</b>	405	418	390	410	386	393	398	405	475	531	531	458	415	453	346	269	198	124	73	7,079
Predominantly rural	<b>2015</b>	604	639	611	646	559	584	583	599	726	845	866	774	731	815	619	473	344	215	126	11,360
England	<b>2015</b>	3,435	3,357	3,000	3,213	3,592	3,758	3,728	3,471	3,636	3,889	3,811	3,278	2,905	3,017	2,269	1,804	1,326	820	475	54,786
Predominantly urban	<b>change 2001-2015</b>	439	222	-138	107	451	367	67	-155	160	515	332	322	277	411	91	41	92	90	82	3,775
Urban with significant rural	<b>change 2001-2015</b>	35	9	-36	23	63	23	-68	-103	6	98	45	42	75	150	74	41	42	34	27	579
Predominantly rural	<b>change 2001-2015</b>	37	5	-64	39	91	48	-122	-190	-18	148	69	81	157	296	150	77	74	59	46	982
England	<b>change 2001-2015</b>	511	237	-238	168	606	438	-123	-448	149	760	446	446	509	857	316	160	207	182	154	5,337
Predominantly urban	<b>% change 2001-2015</b>	22	11	-6	5	21	15	3	-6	7	26	16	19	19	31	8	4	13	23	42	12
Urban with significant rural	<b>% change 2001-2015</b>	9	2	-8	6	20	6	-14	-20	1	23	9	10	22	49	27	18	27	37	57	9
Predominantly rural	<b>% change 2001-2015</b>	7	1	-10	6	19	9	-17	-24	-2	21	9	12	27	57	32	20	27	38	57	9
England	<b>% change 2001-2015</b>	17	8	-7	6	20	13	-3	-11	4	24	13	16	21	40	16	10	19	29	48	11

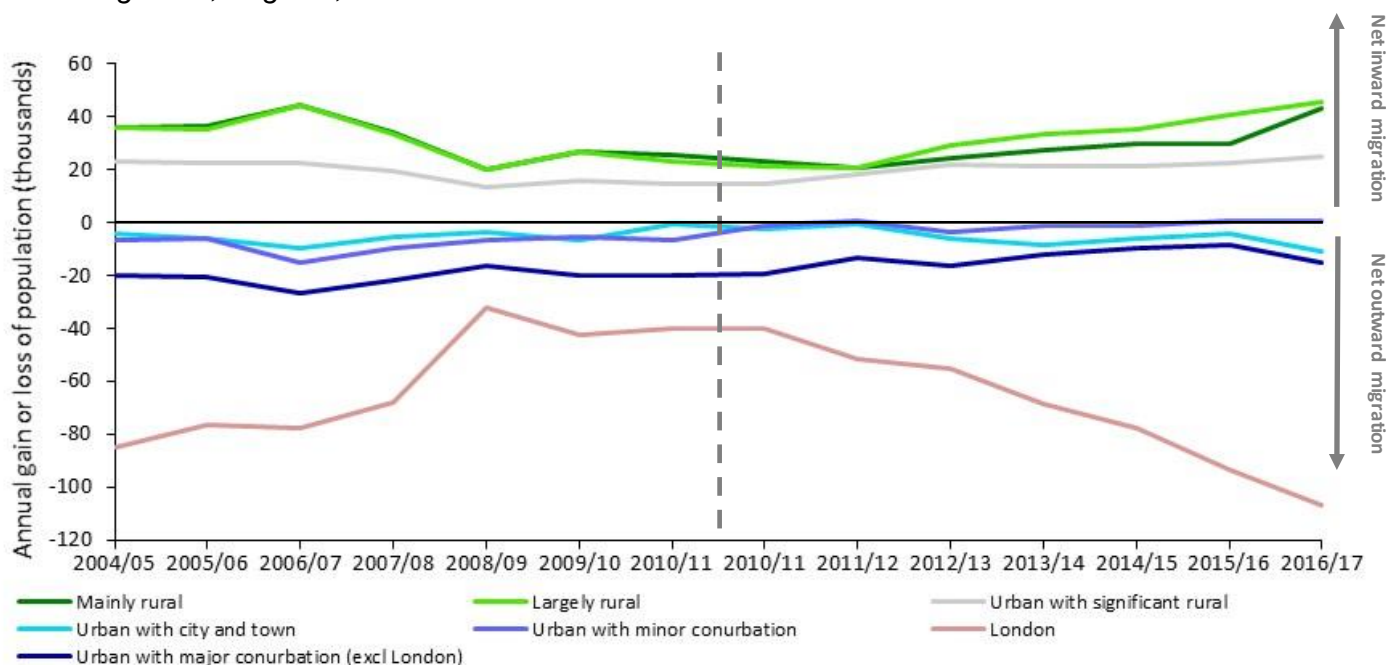
Source: Office for National Statistics and Defra analysis, mid-year population estimates 2001 to 2015 for local authorities, by sex and age, with components of change (published 2016) [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland)

## Internal migration

In the analysis presented below internal migration refers to population migration occurring between local authorities within the UK and the outcome is shown for local authorities in England, including the results of migration to and from the rest of the UK. Migration between the same class of authority will by definition have no net effect on the population for that class and is excluded.

As the analysis is using data for local authority areas, it does not distinguish the type of settlement a migrant has moved to. So in the case of migration to an authority classed as a *predominantly rural* area this could be migration to an urban settlement within that authority. Similarly migration to an authority classed as a *predominantly urban* area could be migration to a rural settlement within that *predominantly urban* area.

Internal migration, England, 2004/05 to 2016/17



Note: The RUC01 for Local Authorities has been applied to all data up to 2009/10. Data for 2010/11 has been classified using both RUC01 and RUC11 to show the comparison. From 2011/12 onwards the RUC11 for Local Authorities has been applied.

- Between 2004/05 and 2008/09 the general trend for internal migration in England was for net migration to *predominantly rural* areas and net migration from *predominantly urban* areas, although the extent of net migration to *predominantly rural* areas was falling.
- Since 2008/09 there has been an increase in the rate of net migration to *predominantly rural* areas.
- In total for *predominantly rural* areas there was net internal migration inwards of 88,400 people in 2016/17. Within that *largely rural* areas saw net internal migration inwards of 45,300 people and *mainly rural* areas saw net internal migration inwards of 43,100 in 2016/17 (which would include migration between these two categories).
- In contrast, in total for *predominantly urban* areas there was net internal migration outwards of 132,100. This included net internal migration outwards from London of 106,600 (including to other *predominantly urban* areas).

Migration arising from internal migration (within the UK), 2004/05 to 2016/17, England

thousands

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Mainly rural	35.8	36.2	44.3	33.8	20.2	26.7	25.3	22.9	20.6	24.6	27.3	29.8	29.5	43.1
Largely rural	35.8	35.4	44.4	33.2	20.0	26.6	23.1	21.2	20.4	29.3	33.3	35.0	40.9	45.3
Urban with significant rural	22.9	22.2	22.3	19.6	13.5	16.0	14.8	14.8	18.0	21.6	21.2	21.0	22.4	25.2
Urban with city and town	-4.0	-6.3	-9.5	-5.4	-3.5	-6.5	-0.8	-2.7	-0.5	-6.3	-8.6	-5.9	-4.2	-10.8
Urban with minor conurbation	-6.9	-6.3	-15.2	-9.6	-6.8	-5.2	-6.6	-1.0	0.5	-3.6	-1.3	-1.2	0.7	0.5
Urban with major conurbation (excl London)	-20.2	-20.4	-26.4	-21.6	-16.6	-20.3	-20.0	-19.5	-13.1	-16.2	-12.4	-9.7	-8.3	-15.1
London	-84.9	-76.7	-77.4	-67.7	-31.9	-42.6	-40.3	-40.3	-51.7	-55.0	-68.6	-77.5	-93.3	-106.6
Predominantly rural	71.7	71.6	88.7	67.0	40.2	53.4	48.3	44.1	41.0	53.8	60.6	64.9	70.5	88.4
Predominantly urban	-116.0	-109.7	-128.5	-104.3	-58.8	-74.6	-67.8	-63.5	-64.8	-81.2	-90.9	-94.3	-105.1	-132.1

Note: The RUC01 for Local Authorities has been applied to all data up to 2009/10. Data for 2010/11 has been classified using both RUC01 and RUC11 to show the comparison. From 2011/12 onwards the RUC11 for Local Authorities has been applied.



The table below provides a matrix of the internal (within UK) migration movements between the different classes of authority in 2016/17.

*Internal (within UK) migration between different classes of authority, 2016/17*

Outward	Inward					thousands
	Predominantly rural	Urban with significant rural	Predominantly urban	Rest of the UK	Total outwards	Net migration
Predominantly rural		74.8	278.1	27.2	380.0	88.4
Urban with significant rural	93.0		192.7	17.0	302.7	25.2
Predominantly urban	352.5	239.6		73.9	666.0	-132.1
Rest of the UK	22.9	13.5	63.2		99.7	18.4
<b>Total inwards</b>	468.5	327.9	534.0	118.1	1448.5	0.0

Note: excludes migration within the same class of authority

*Net internal (within UK) migration between predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas and other classes of authority*

	thousands		thousands
Urban with significant rural	18.2	Predominantly rural	-74.5
Predominantly urban	74.5	Urban with significant rural	-46.9
Rest of the UK	-4.2	Rest of the UK	-10.7
<b>Net migration for predominantly rural areas</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>Net migration for predominantly urban areas</b>	<b>-132.7</b>

- In 2016/17 *predominantly rural* areas saw net migration from *predominantly urban* areas of 74,500 people (352,500 inwards less 278,100 outwards), and from *urban with significant rural* areas of 18,200 people (93,000 inwards less 74,800 outwards). There was a net outward migration from *predominantly rural* areas to the rest of the UK of 4,200 people (22,900 inwards less 27,200 outwards).
- Net inward migration to *predominantly rural* areas in 2016/17 increased the *predominantly rural* population by 0.8 per cent, compared with a 0.4 per cent increase in 2010/11.
- Net outward migration from *predominantly urban* areas in 2016/17 reduced the *predominantly urban* population by 0.4 per cent, compared with a 0.2 per cent reduction in 2010/11.

Notes:

Internal migration is defined as residential moves between local authorities. Moves within a single local authority are excluded, as are international moves into or out of the UK. These statistics are based on a combination of administrative data and represent the best available source of information on internal migration. Further information on the data sources and methods, and their limitations, is available via the ONS internal migration methodology webpage ([www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/internal-migration-methodology/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/internal-migration-methodology/index.html)).

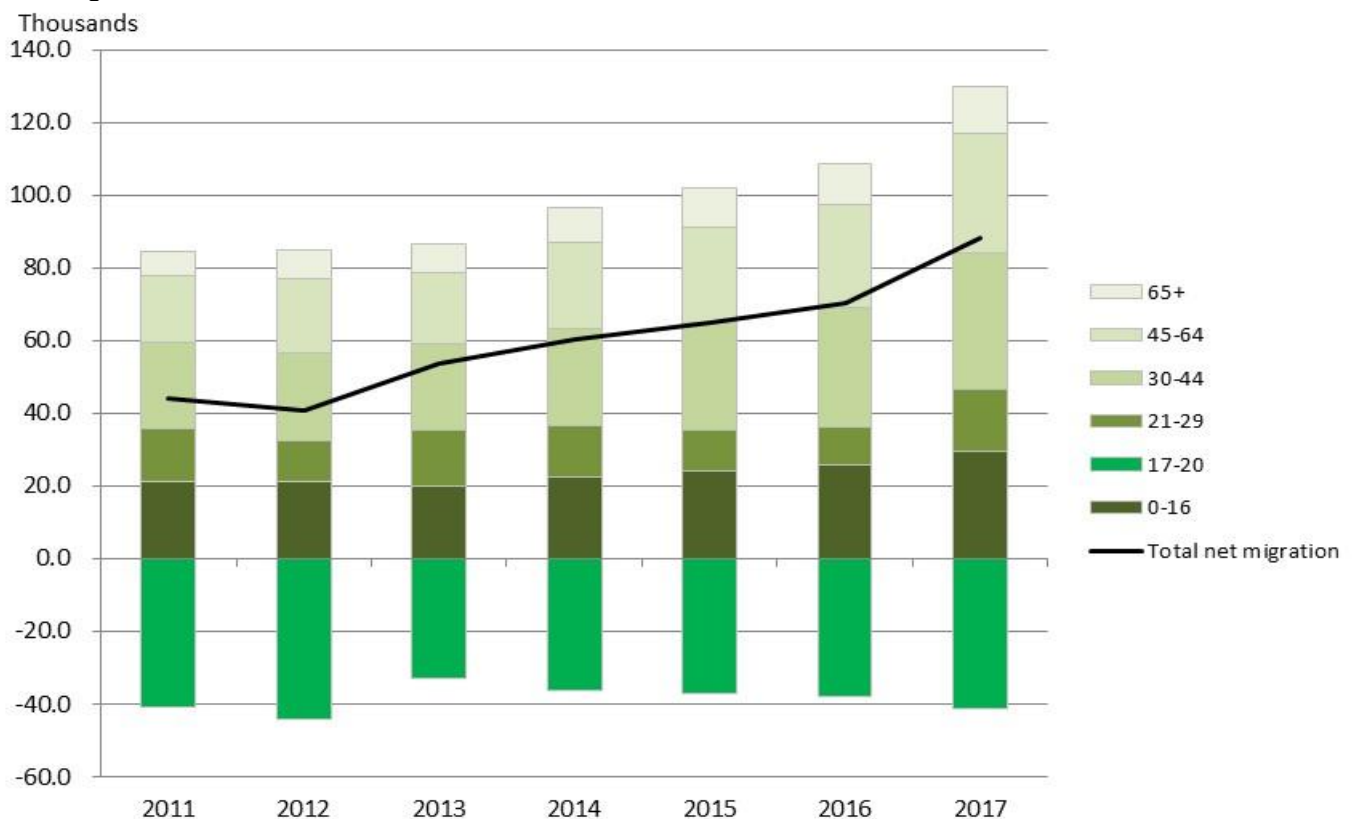
Source: Defra analysis of ONS data - Annual internal Migration within the United Kingdom to June 2017.

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset)

## Internal migration by age

- For some years there has been net internal migration (within the UK) inwards to *predominantly rural areas*. This has been the case across all age bands except for 17 to 20 year olds. In 2016/17 within overall net internal migration inwards to predominantly rural areas of 88,400, there was net internal migration outwards of 17 to 20 years olds of 41,400.
- The pattern of inward migration to *predominantly rural areas* has been consistent from at least 2011 onwards (the earliest year currently analysed by age band).
- Net outward migration of 17 to 20 years olds can be anticipated as these are the ages when students are most likely to move from home for higher education, with the likelihood that higher education establishments will be mostly found in the more urban areas.

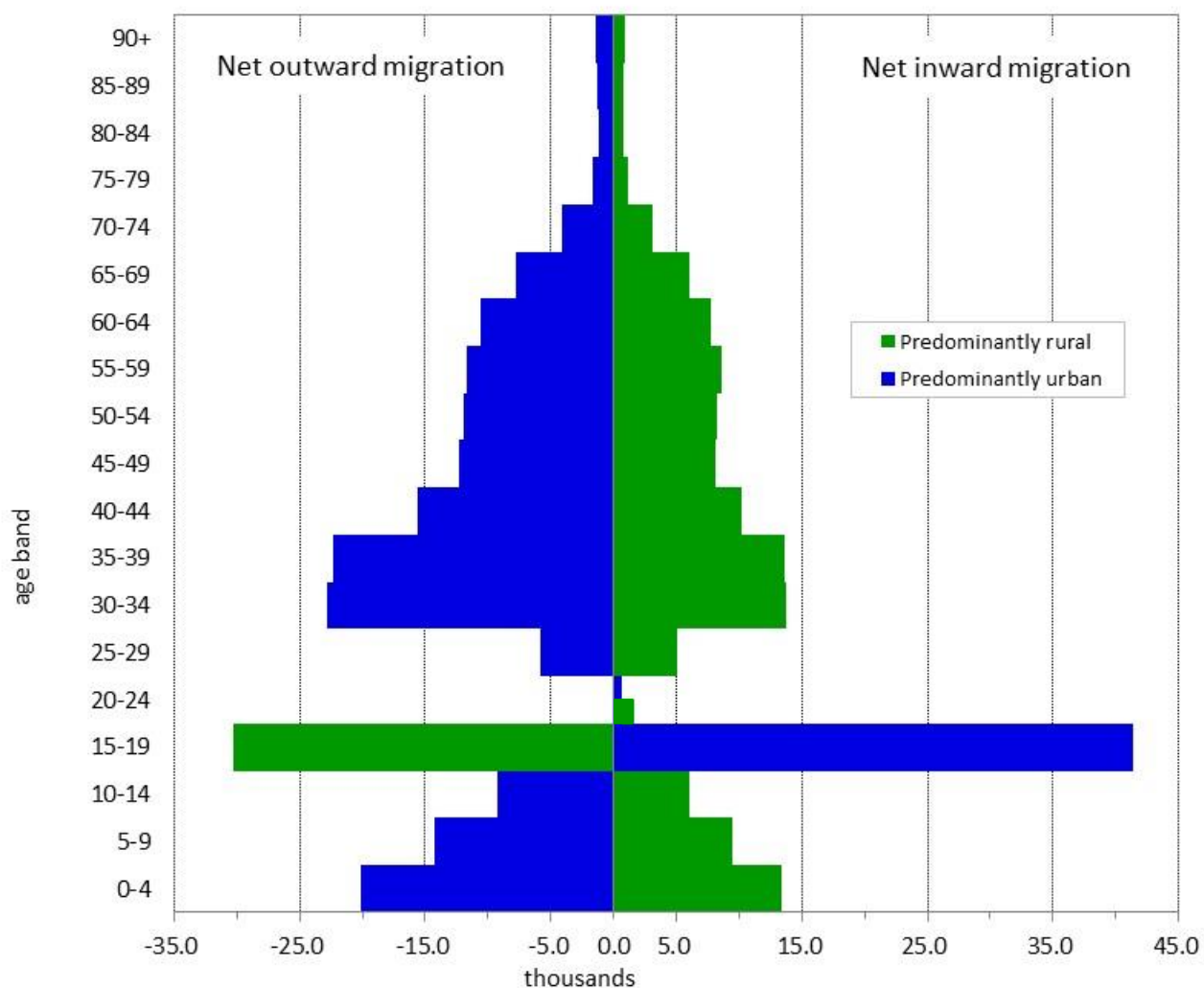
Net internal migration (within UK) to predominantly rural areas by age bands, mid-year 2011 to mid-year 2017, England



Net internal migration (within UK) to predominantly rural areas by age bands, mid-year 2011 to mid-year 2017, England

	0-16	17-20	21-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Total net migration
<b>2011</b>	21.1	-40.7	14.9	23.7	18.3	6.8	44.1
<b>2012</b>	21.3	-44.1	11.0	24.3	20.3	8.1	41.0
<b>2013</b>	19.9	-32.7	15.6	23.8	19.6	7.7	53.8
<b>2014</b>	22.7	-36.1	14.1	26.7	23.6	9.7	60.6
<b>2015</b>	24.3	-37.1	11.0	29.6	26.3	10.8	64.9
<b>2016</b>	26.0	-38.1	10.4	32.5	28.5	11.0	70.5
<b>2017</b>	29.6	-41.4	17.0	37.7	32.7	12.7	88.4

*Net internal (within the UK) migration for predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas, by age band, mid-year 2017, England*



*Net internal (within the UK) migration for predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas, by age band, mid-year 2017, England*

Age band	thousands									
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Predominantly rural	13.3	9.4	6.1	-30.3	1.6	5.1	13.8	13.7	10.2	8.2
Predominantly urban	-20.2	-14.3	-9.2	41.4	0.7	-5.8	-22.8	-22.3	-15.7	-12.3

Age band (continued)										Total net migration
	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	
Predominantly rural	8.3	8.6	7.7	6.1	3.1	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.9	<b>88.4</b>
Predominantly urban	-11.9	-11.7	-10.6	-7.8	-4.1	-1.6	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4	<b>-132.1</b>

- Breaking the migration patterns down to equal 5-year age bands, in 2016/17 there was net outward migration for 15 to 19 year olds from *predominantly rural* areas of 30,300 which would include, as above, students moving elsewhere for higher education. For the 20 to 24 year old age bracket the pattern of movement has switched from net outward migration to net inward migration of 1,600 to *predominantly rural* areas. There was net inward migration for 25 to 29 year olds of around 5,100.
- The largest net inward migration to *predominantly rural* areas for adults occurred for 30-34 year olds (13,800 people), 35 to 39 year olds (13,700 people) and 40 to 44 year olds (10,200 people). Net inward migration for 45 to 49 year olds to 65 to 69 year olds, was between 6,100 and 8,600 people for each five-year age band.
- Migration occurred between *predominantly rural* areas and *urban with significant rural* areas and the rest of the UK, as shown above but the largest net inward migration to *predominantly rural* areas was from *predominantly urban* areas. Not surprisingly, the opposite migration patterns were therefore seen for *predominantly urban* areas. Indeed for most age bands the equivalent opposite net migration was greater, reflecting migration also occurring between *predominantly urban* areas and *urban with significant rural* areas and the rest of the UK, as shown above.

Notes:

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Source: Defra analysis of ONS data - Annual internal Migration within the United Kingdom to June 2017.

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset)