

Rural population and migration

Mid-year population 2018

- In 2018 the mid-year population estimate (based on Lower Super Output Areas, LSOAs) for England was 56.0 million, of which 9.5 million (17.0 per cent) lived in rural areas and 46.4 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 ¹
- 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 2018 (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 2018.

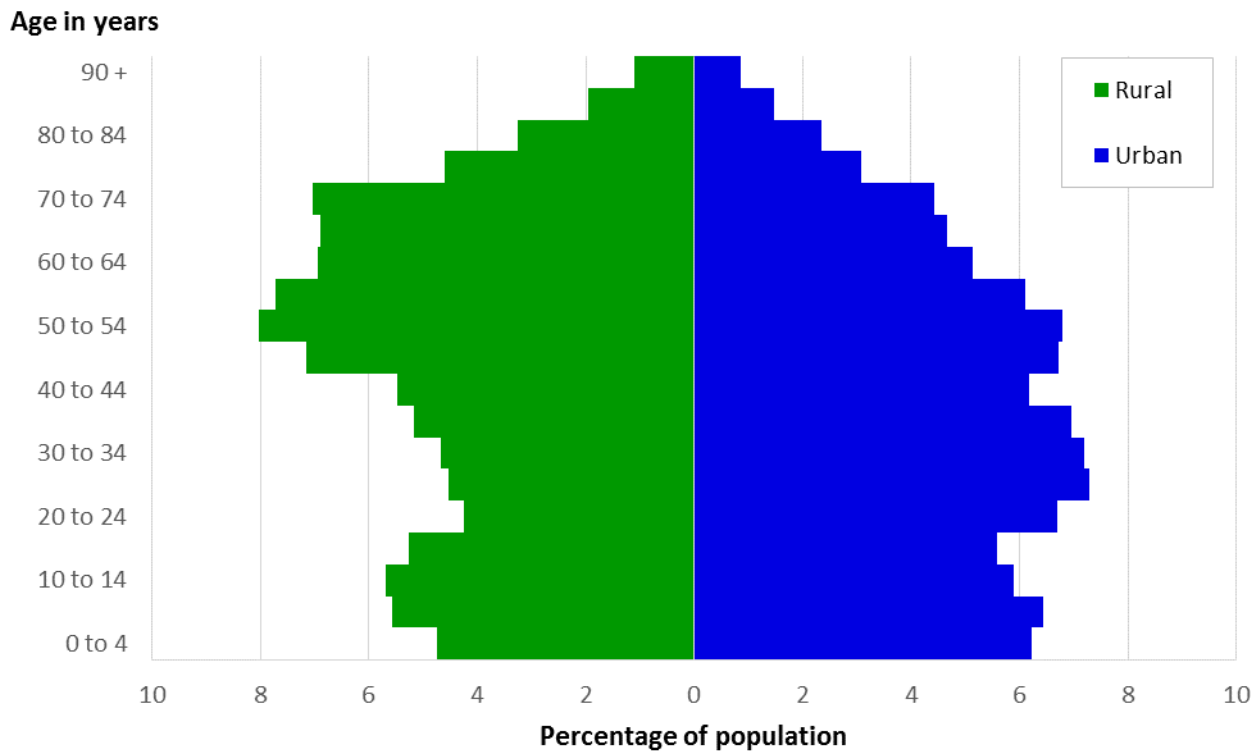
2018 Mid-year population estimates

| | Population | Proportion (%) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Rural | 9,529,700 | 17.0 |
| Rural town and fringe | 5,158,400 | 9.2 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 196,200 | 0.4 |
| Rural village and hamlet | 4,371,300 | 7.8 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 302,200 | 0.5 |
| Urban | 46,447,500 | 83.0 |
| Urban major conurbation | 20,078,100 | 35.9 |
| Urban minor conurbation | 2,008,300 | 3.6 |
| Urban city and town | 24,361,100 | 43.5 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 91,200 | 0.2 |
| England | 55,977,200 | 100.0 |

- 9.5 million people, or 17.0 per cent of the population, lived in rural areas in 2018.
- Around 498,400 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, 2018



- The population in rural areas has a higher proportion of older people compared with urban areas.
- In 2018, the peak age group in rural areas is 50 to 54 with 8.0 per cent of the rural population, while the peak age group in urban areas is 25 to 29 with 7.3 per cent of the urban population.

Age bands as a percentage of total 2018 mid-year population

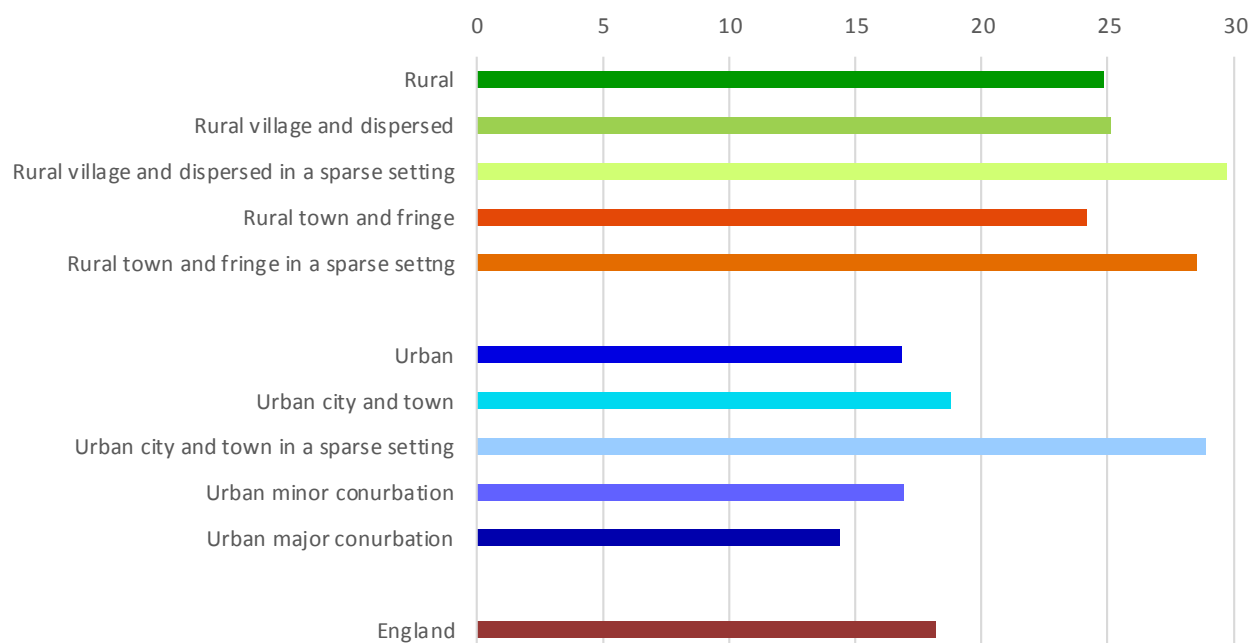
| | 0 - 4 | 5 - 9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-90 | 90+ |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Rural | 4.7 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Rural town and fringe | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 2.8 | 1.6 |
| Rural village and dispersed | 4.3 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 7.3 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 1.9 | 1.0 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 3.7 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 6.7 | 8.3 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 5.4 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Urban | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 0.8 |
| Urban major conurbation | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Urban minor conurbation | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| Urban city and town | 5.9 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 4.4 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 6.0 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 1.6 |
| England | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0.9 |

Notes: ¹This 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 2018, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2019. These data use RUC2011.

Percentage of population aged 65 and over by rural-urban classification (LSOA) in England, 2018



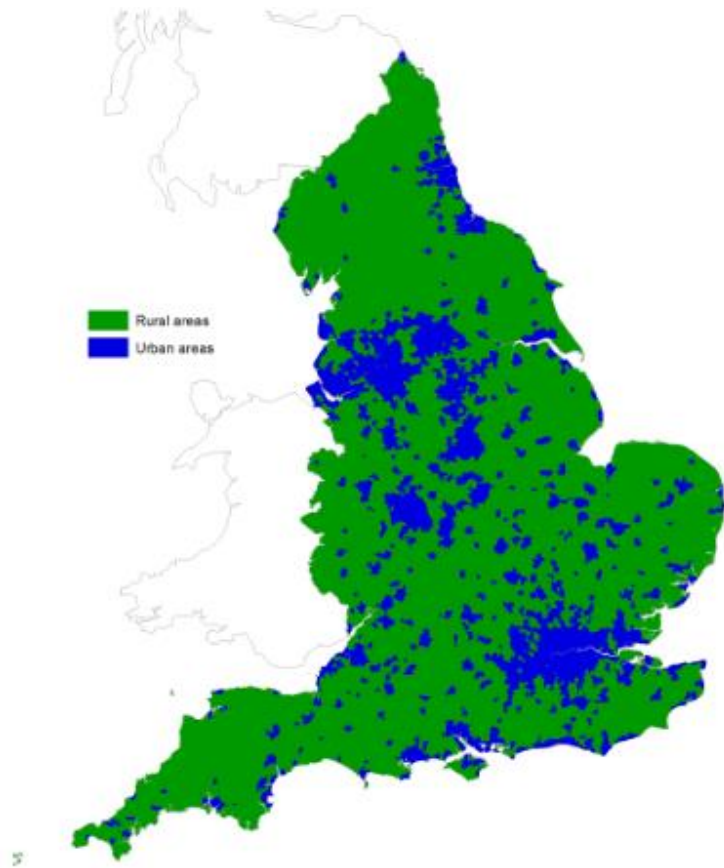
- The rural population has a higher proportion of those aged 65 and over, at 24.8 per cent, compared with the urban population where 16.8 per cent are 65 and over.
- The population of areas in a sparse setting have the highest proportion of those aged 65 and over, in particular rural village and dispersed in a sparse setting with 29.7 per cent of the population aged 65 and over.

Population aged 65 and over as a percentage of total 2018 mid-year population

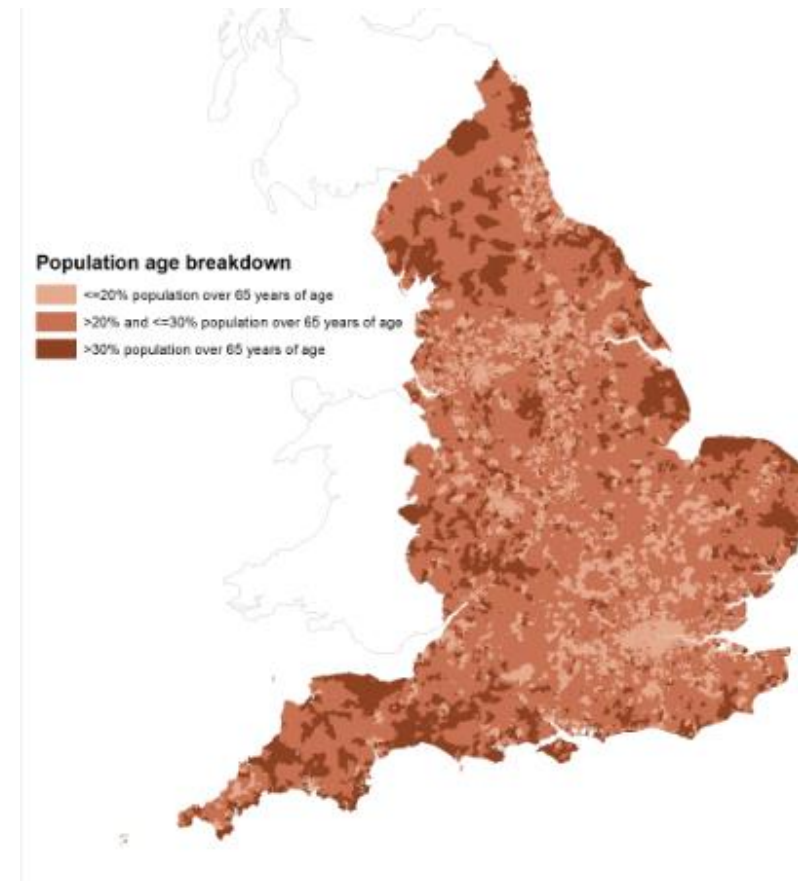
| | Population | Population aged 65 and over | Proportion (%) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Rural | 9,529,700 | 2,366,400 | 24.8 |
| Rural town and fringe | 5,158,400 | 1,198,100 | 24.1 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 196,200 | 56,000 | 28.5 |
| Rural village and hamlet | 4,371,300 | 1,022,600 | 25.1 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 302,200 | 89,800 | 29.7 |
| Urban | 46,447,500 | 7,812,800 | 16.8 |
| Urban major conurbation | 20,078,100 | 2,888,800 | 14.4 |
| Urban minor conurbation | 2,008,300 | 340,000 | 16.9 |
| Urban city and town | 24,361,100 | 4,557,700 | 18.8 |
| - those in a sparse setting | 91,200 | 26,300 | 28.9 |
| England | 55,977,200 | 10,179,300 | 18.2 |

Maps showing the geographic relationship between the rural and urban populations at lower super output area level (LSOA) and areas where the percentage of population of over 65 year olds are most concentrated

Lower super output area classification of England (2011)



Percentage of population over the age of 65 years (2018)



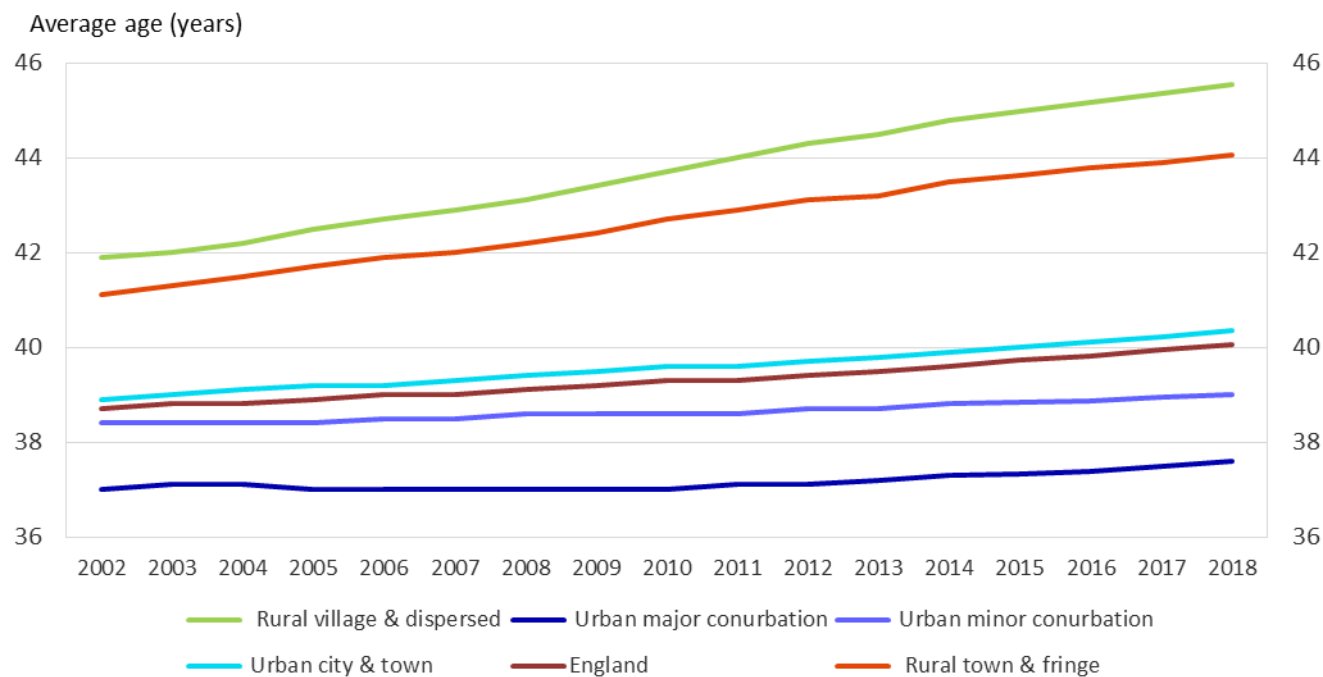
Source: ONS, Defra RUC2011

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2019 Defra No. 10002286

Source: ONS, Defra Mid-year population estimates for 2018 at LSOA level

Average age of the population

Average age in rural and urban areas in England, 2002 to 2018



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

- In 2018, the average age of the population in rural village and dispersed areas was 45.5 years and in rural town and fringe areas it was 44.0 years, compared with the average for England of 40.1 years.
- The average age was lowest in urban major conurbations at 37.6 years.
- The average age in rural areas combined was 44.7 years in 2018, 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 1.4 year between 2002 and 2018, but in rural town and fringe areas it increased by 2.9 years and in rural village and dispersed areas by 3.6 years.

Average age of the population in rural and urban areas in England, 2002 to 2018

| | Age in years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------|------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 ¹ | 2016 ¹ | 2017 | 2018 |
| 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 | 44.7 |
| 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 | 44.0 |
| - those in a sparse | 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 | 46.5 |
| 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 | 45.5 |
| - those in a sparse | 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 | 48.2 |
| 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 | 39.1 |
| Urban major | 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 | 37.6 |
| Urban minor | 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 | 39.0 |
| 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 | 40.3 |
| - those in a sparse | 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 | 46.6 |
| 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 | 40.1 |

¹ 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 2018 see the earlier section.

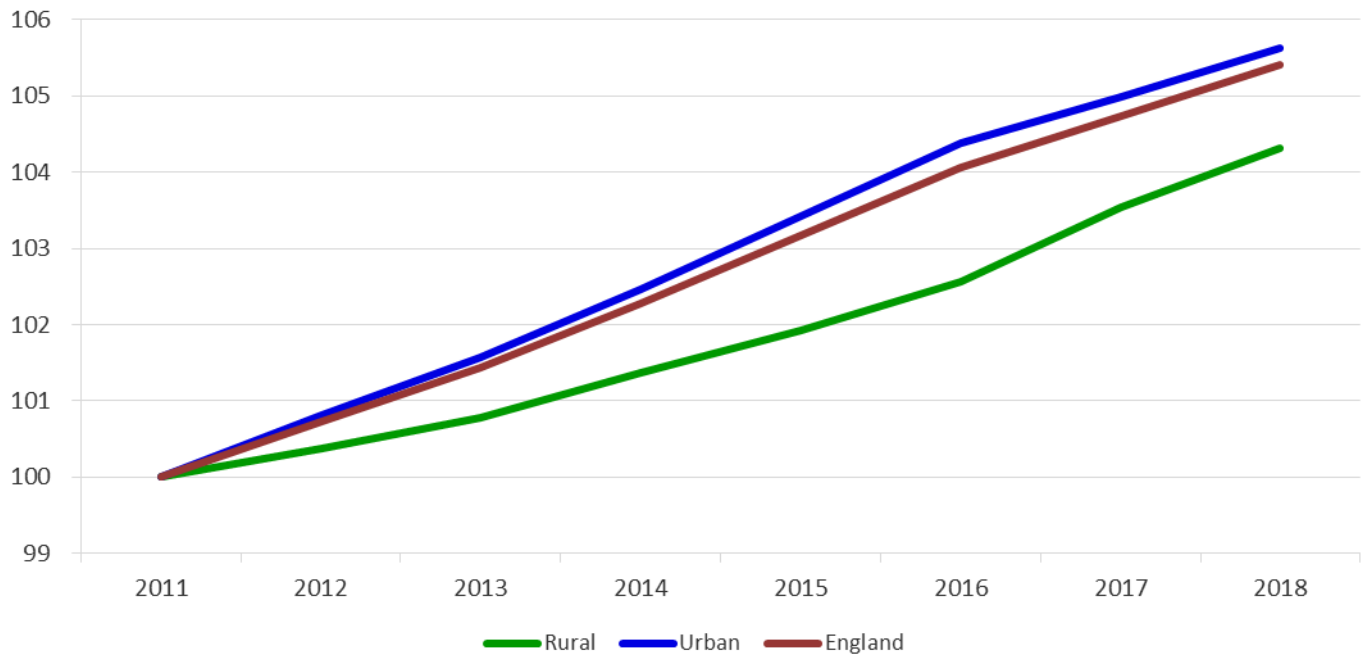
Source: Office for National Statistics and Defra analysis of Lower Super Output Area Mid-Year Population Estimates.

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/lowersuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates

Population change

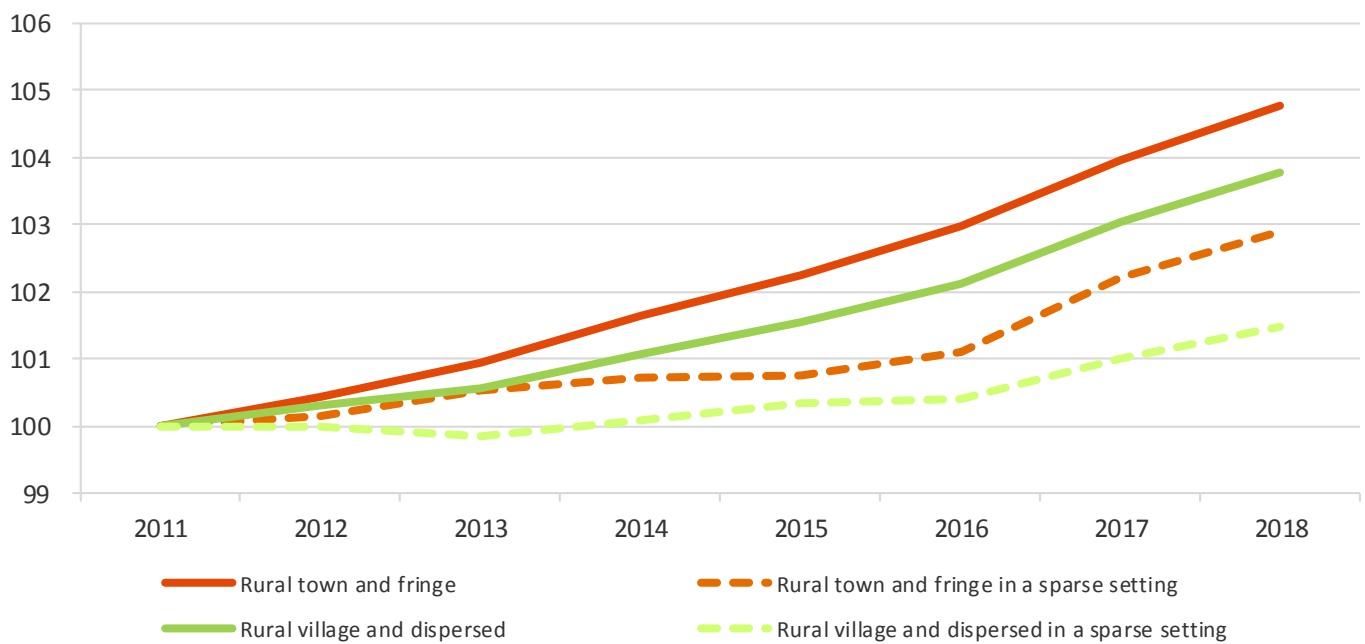
Index of population change, 2011 to 2018

2011 = 100



Index of population change in rural areas, 2011 to 2018

2011 = 100



- Both rural and urban areas have seen an increase in overall population between 2011 and 2018. Rural has increased by 4.3 per cent and urban by 5.6 per cent.
- Within rural areas, the greatest rate of population increase was in *rural town and fringe areas* (4.8 per cent).
- *Rural villages and hamlets in sparse settings* showed the smallest rate of population increase within rural areas (1.5 per cent).

Index of population change, 2011 to 2018

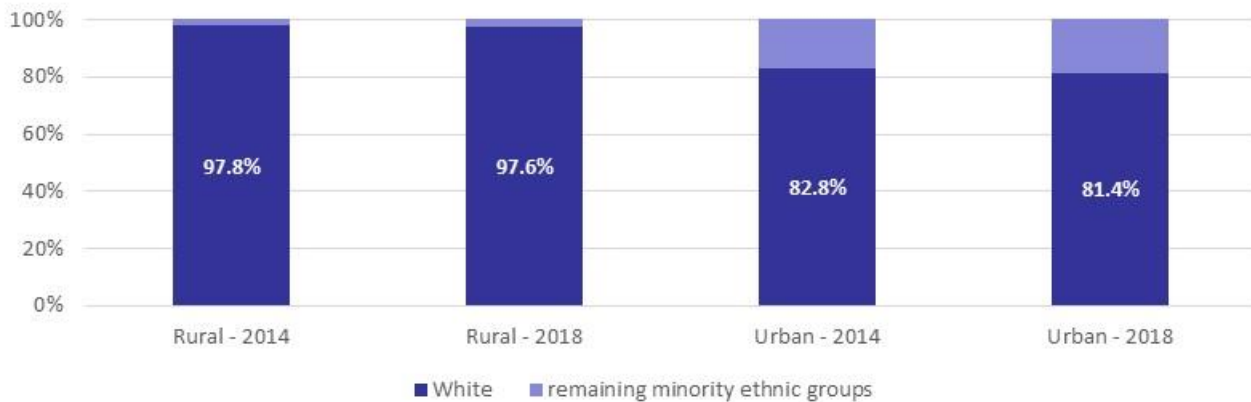
2011 = 100

| | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| | Population | Index | 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 | 5,158,400 | 104.8 |
| 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 | 196,200 | 102.9 |
| 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 | 4,371,300 | 103.8 |
| 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 | 302,200 | 101.5 |
| 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 | 20,078,100 | 106.3 |
| 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 | 2,008,300 | 105.1 |
| 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 | 24,361,100 | 105.1 |
| 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 | 91,200 | 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 | 9,529,700 | 104.3 |
| 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 | 46,447,500 | 105.6 |
| 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 | 55,977,200 | 105.4 |

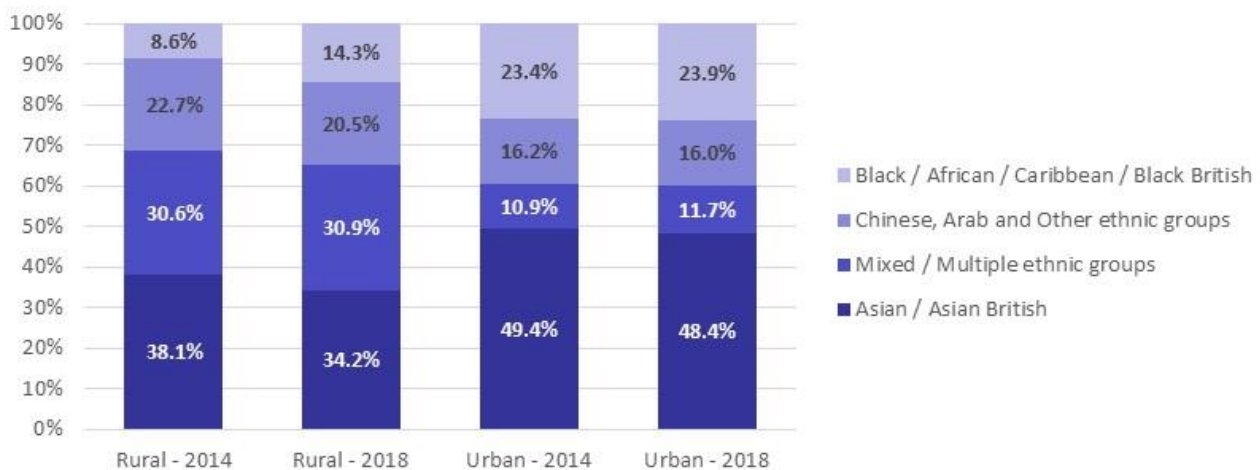
Ethnicity

- Overall, *white* is the majority ethnic group in both rural and urban areas, however urban areas are more ethnically diverse than rural areas.
- In 2018, the *white ethnic* group accounted for 97.6 per cent of the rural population, compared with 81.4 per cent in urban areas.
- The proportion of *minority ethnic* groups has risen slightly over the last 5 years in both rural and urban areas, rising by 0.3 and 1.4 percentage points respectively since 2014.
- Diversity of *minority ethnic* groups differs between rural and urban areas. The *Asian ethnic* group is the second largest group in both rural and urban areas, however in rural areas proportionally more of the *minority ethnic* group population are of *mixed race* and *Chinese, Arab and other* origin than in the *minority ethnic* group population in urban areas, while urban areas have a proportionally greater *black, African, Caribbean or black British* population in the *minority ethnic* group population.

Ethnic groups as a percentage of population in rural and urban areas, England, 2014 and 2018



Detail for all minority ethnic group population in rural and urban areas, England, 2014 & 2018



Ethnic groups in England, numbers and percentage of population in rural and urban areas, 2014 and 2018

| | Rural | | | | Urban | | | |
|---|-----------|------|-----------|------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | 2014 | | 2018 | | 2014 | | 2018 | |
| | Pop. | % | Pop. | % | Pop. | % | Pop. | % |
| White | 9,270,700 | 97.8 | 9,496,500 | 97.6 | 36,497,800 | 82.8 | 37,034,600 | 81.4 |
| Remaining minority ethnic groups, of which: | 206,100 | 2.2 | 238,300 | 2.4 | 7,595,700 | 17.2 | 8,470,900 | 18.6 |
| Asian / Asian British | 78,600 | 38.1 | 81,600 | 34.2 | 3,755,900 | 49.4 | 4,096,600 | 48.4 |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups | 63,000 | 30.6 | 73,600 | 30.9 | 829,600 | 10.9 | 991,400 | 11.7 |
| Chinese, Arab and Other ethnic groups | 46,700 | 22.7 | 48,900 | 20.5 | 1,233,300 | 16.2 | 1,355,100 | 16.0 |
| Black / African Caribbean / Black British | 17,800 | 8.6 | 34,200 | 14.3 | 1,776,900 | 23.4 | 2,027,900 | 23.9 |
| Total population | 9,476,800 | | 9,734,900 | | 44,093,400 | | 45,505,600 | |

- Ethnic diversity decreases the more sparsely populated the area is. In 2018 *minority ethnic* groups accounted for 1.2 per cent of those in rural areas in a sparse setting and 0.5 per cent of those in urban sparse areas.

Percentage of population by ethnicity and detailed settlement type, England, 2018

| | White | Asian | Mixed / Multiple | Chinese, Arab & Other | Black |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Rural | 97.6% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.5% | 0.4% |
| - those in a sparse setting | 98.8% | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Rural town and fringe | 97.1% | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.6% | 0.5% |
| Rural village and hamlet | 97.9% | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.5% | 0.3% |
| Urban | 81.4% | 9.0% | 2.2% | 3.0% | 4.5% |
| - those in a sparse setting | 99.5% | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Urban major conurbation | 70.7% | 13.8% | 3.0% | 4.7% | 7.7% |
| Urban minor conurbation | 87.2% | 4.6% | 2.4% | 2.5% | 3.4% |
| Urban city and town | 89.8% | 5.4% | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.8% |
| England | 84.2% | 7.6% | 1.9% | 2.5% | 3.7% |

.. Data suppressed as proportions too low to be reliable for individual ethnic groups

Source: Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey, via Annual Business Inquiry (abi2@ons.gov.uk).

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, as defined by April 2020 Local Authority boundaries.

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 2018, 11.7 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 2017.
- In comparison, 40 per cent of the population in *predominantly urban* areas are over the age of 44, which is the same as in 2017 as well.
- The population in *predominantly rural* areas has increased by 5.1 per cent between 2011 and 2018, compared with 5.4 per cent for England as a whole and 5.7 per cent in *predominantly urban* areas.
- 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 2018 (Population in '000s)

(2011 = 100)

| | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index | Pop. | Index |
| Mainly Rural | 4,738 | 100 | 4,762 | 100.5 | 4,785 | 101.0 | 4,817 | 101.7 | 4,847 | 102.3 | 4,879 | 103.0 | 4,933 | 104.1 | 4,972 | 105.0 |
| Largely Rural | 6,352 | 100 | 6,385 | 100.5 | 6,420 | 101.1 | 6,468 | 101.8 | 6,513 | 102.5 | 6,566 | 103.4 | 6,631 | 104.4 | 6,680 | 105.2 |
| Urban with Significant Rural | 6,911 | 100 | 6,949 | 100.5 | 6,988 | 101.1 | 7,034 | 101.8 | 7,079 | 102.4 | 7,127 | 103.1 | 7,176 | 103.8 | 7,223 | 104.5 |
| Urban with City and Town | 14,090 | 100 | 14,198 | 100.8 | 14,298 | 101.5 | 14,420 | 102.3 | 14,543 | 103.2 | 14,669 | 104.1 | 14,734 | 104.6 | 14,805 | 105.1 |
| Urban with Minor Conurbation | 2,106 | 100 | 2,121 | 100.7 | 2,132 | 101.2 | 2,146 | 101.9 | 2,160 | 102.6 | 2,179 | 103.5 | 2,194 | 104.2 | 2,207 | 104.8 |
| Urban with Major Conurbation | 18,911 | 100 | 19,080 | 100.9 | 19,242 | 101.8 | 19,433 | 102.8 | 19,644 | 103.9 | 19,847 | 104.9 | 19,951 | 105.5 | 20,090 | 106.2 |
| Predominantly Rural | 11,089 | 100 | 11,146 | 100.5 | 11,205 | 101.0 | 11,284 | 101.8 | 11,360 | 102.4 | 11,446 | 103.2 | 11,565 | 104.3 | 11,652 | 105.1 |
| Predominantly Urban | 35,107 | 100 | 35,399 | 100.8 | 35,672 | 101.6 | 35,998 | 102.5 | 36,347 | 103.5 | 36,695 | 104.5 | 36,879 | 105.0 | 37,102 | 105.7 |
| England | 53,107 | 100 | 53,494 | 100.7 | 53,866 | 101.4 | 54,317 | 102.3 | 54,786 | 103.2 | 55,268 | 104.1 | 55,619 | 104.7 | 55,977 | 105.4 |

Age bands as a percentage of total 2018 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 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
| Largely Rural | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Urban with Significant Rural | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| Urban with City and Town | 6.0 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 0.9 |
| Urban with Minor Conurbation | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0.8 |
| Urban with Major Conurbation | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Predominantly Rural | 5.1 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 7.0 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| Predominantly Urban | 6.4 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| England | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0.9 |

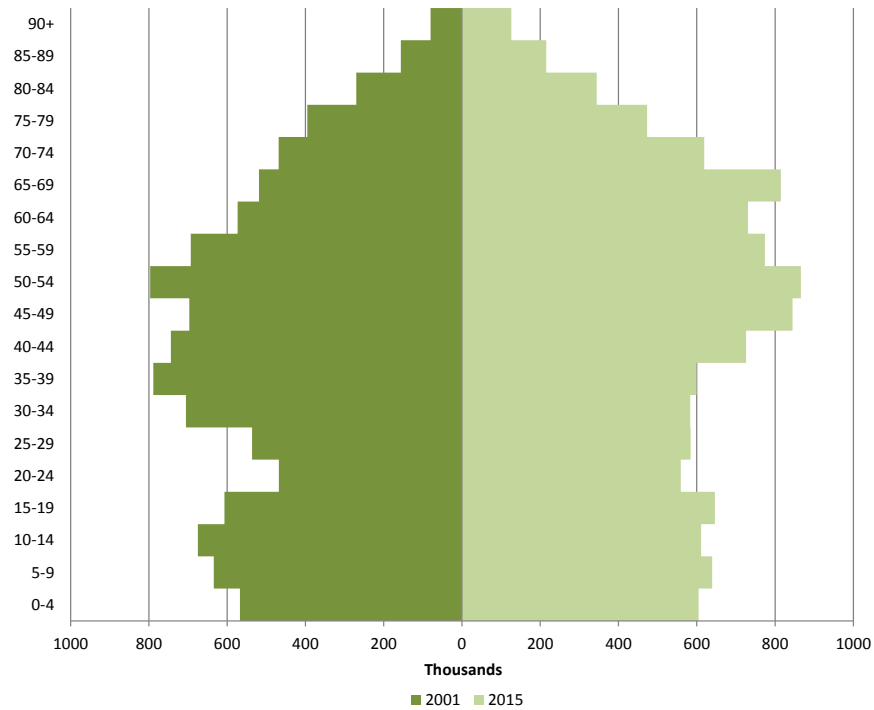
Source: Defra analysis of ONS data – Local Authority Population Estimates for England

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland

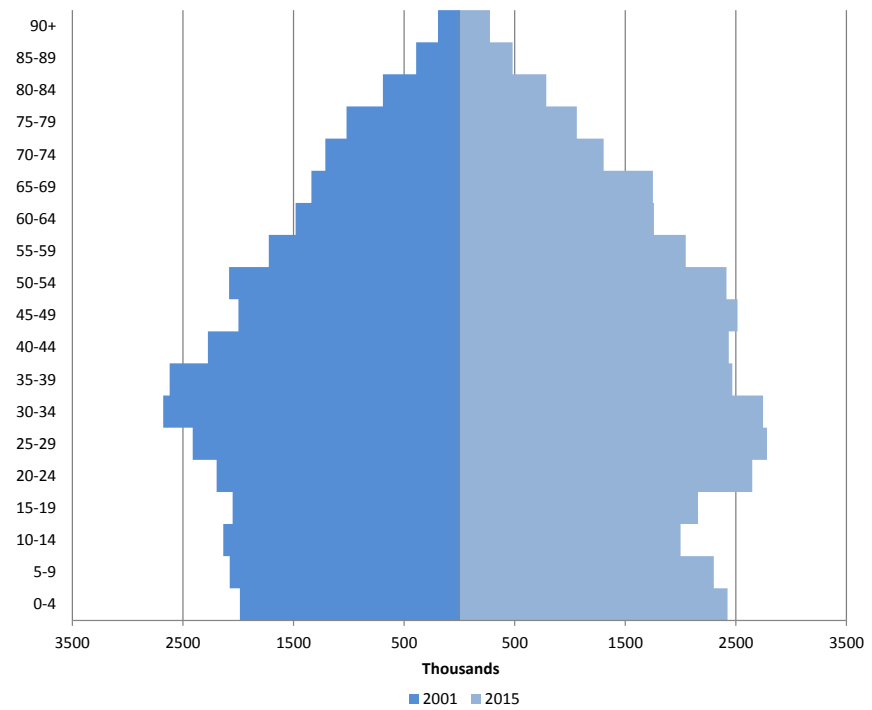
The charts below show longer-term changes in the populations for *predominantly rural* and *predominantly urban* areas, by age band, comparing 2001 and 2015 (not 2019 as above)

*Population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, 2001 and 2015¹, England
(scales in the charts differ and so are not directly comparable)*

Predominantly rural areas



Predominantly urban areas



¹ The 2011 rural urban classification has been applied to both years to enable comparison

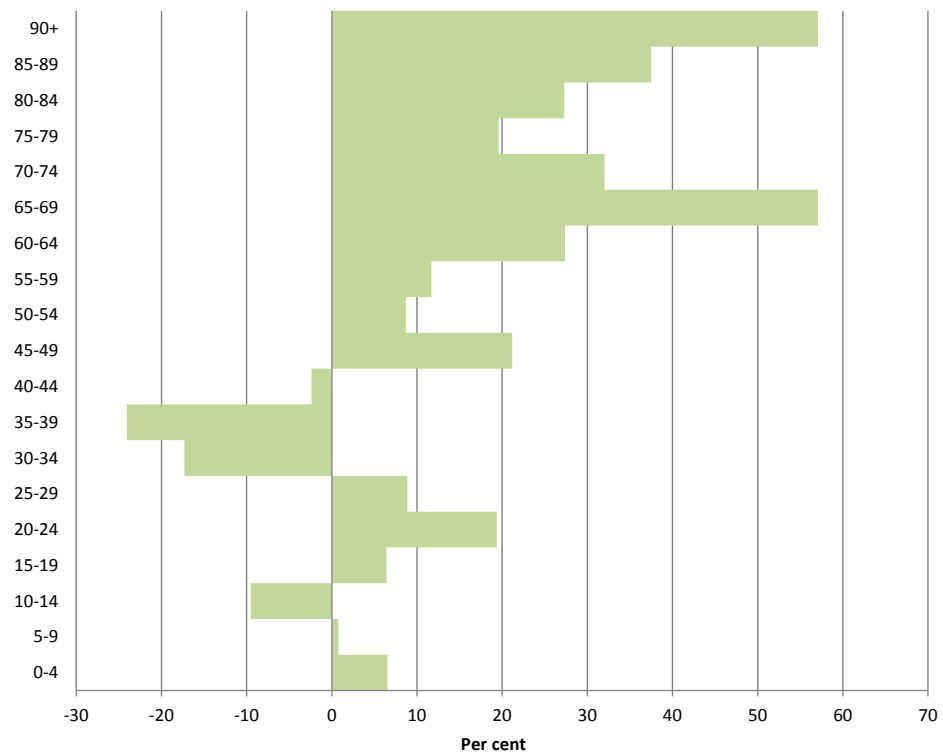
Population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, 2001 and 2015², England
 (combined chart showing rural and urban at the same scale)



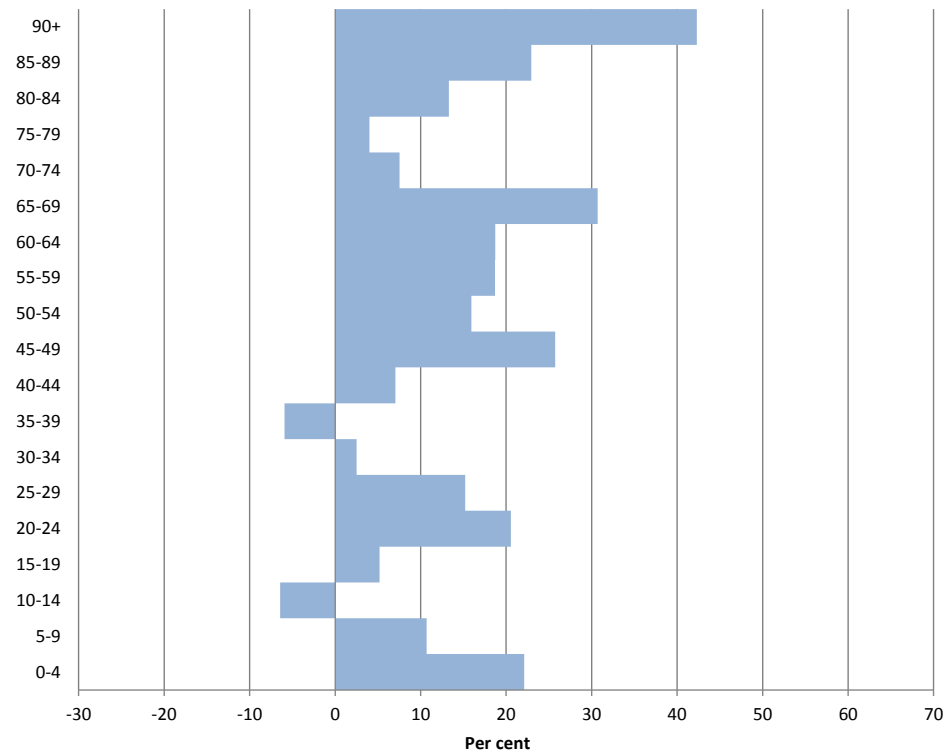
² The 2011 rural urban classification has been applied to both years to enable comparison

Percentage change in population in predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas by age bands, between 2001 and 2015³, England

Predominantly rural areas



Predominantly urban areas



³ 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 | 2001 | 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 | 2001 | 371 | 408 | 426 | 387 | 322 | 371 | 466 | 508 | 469 | 433 | 485 | 415 | 341 | 303 | 272 | 228 | 157 | 90 | 46 | 6,500 |
| Predominantly rural | 2001 | 567 | 634 | 675 | 607 | 468 | 537 | 705 | 789 | 744 | 697 | 797 | 693 | 574 | 519 | 469 | 395 | 270 | 156 | 80 | 10,378 |
| England | 2001 | 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 | 2015 | 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 | 2015 | 405 | 418 | 390 | 410 | 386 | 393 | 398 | 405 | 475 | 531 | 531 | 458 | 415 | 453 | 346 | 269 | 198 | 124 | 73 | 7,079 |
| Predominantly rural | 2015 | 604 | 639 | 611 | 646 | 559 | 584 | 583 | 599 | 726 | 845 | 866 | 774 | 731 | 815 | 619 | 473 | 344 | 215 | 126 | 11,360 |
| England | 2015 | 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 | change 2001-2015 | 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 | change 2001-2015 | 35 | 9 | -36 | 23 | 63 | 23 | -68 | -103 | 6 | 98 | 45 | 42 | 75 | 150 | 74 | 41 | 42 | 34 | 27 | 579 |
| Predominantly rural | change 2001-2015 | 37 | 5 | -64 | 39 | 91 | 48 | -122 | -190 | -18 | 148 | 69 | 81 | 157 | 296 | 150 | 77 | 74 | 59 | 46 | 982 |
| England | change 2001-2015 | 511 | 237 | -238 | 168 | 606 | 438 | -123 | -448 | 149 | 760 | 446 | 446 | 509 | 857 | 316 | 160 | 207 | 182 | 154 | 5,337 |
| Predominantly urban | % change 2001-2015 | 22 | 11 | -6 | 5 | 21 | 15 | 3 | -6 | 7 | 26 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 31 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 23 | 42 | 12 |
| Urban with significant rural | % change 2001-2015 | 9 | 2 | -8 | 6 | 20 | 6 | -14 | -20 | 1 | 23 | 9 | 10 | 22 | 49 | 27 | 18 | 27 | 37 | 57 | 9 |
| Predominantly rural | % change 2001-2015 | 7 | 1 | -10 | 6 | 19 | 9 | -17 | -24 | -2 | 21 | 9 | 12 | 27 | 57 | 32 | 20 | 27 | 38 | 57 | 9 |
| England | % change 2001-2015 | 17 | 8 | -7 | 6 | 20 | 13 | -3 | -11 | 4 | 24 | 13 | 16 | 21 | 40 | 16 | 10 | 19 | 29 | 48 | 11 |

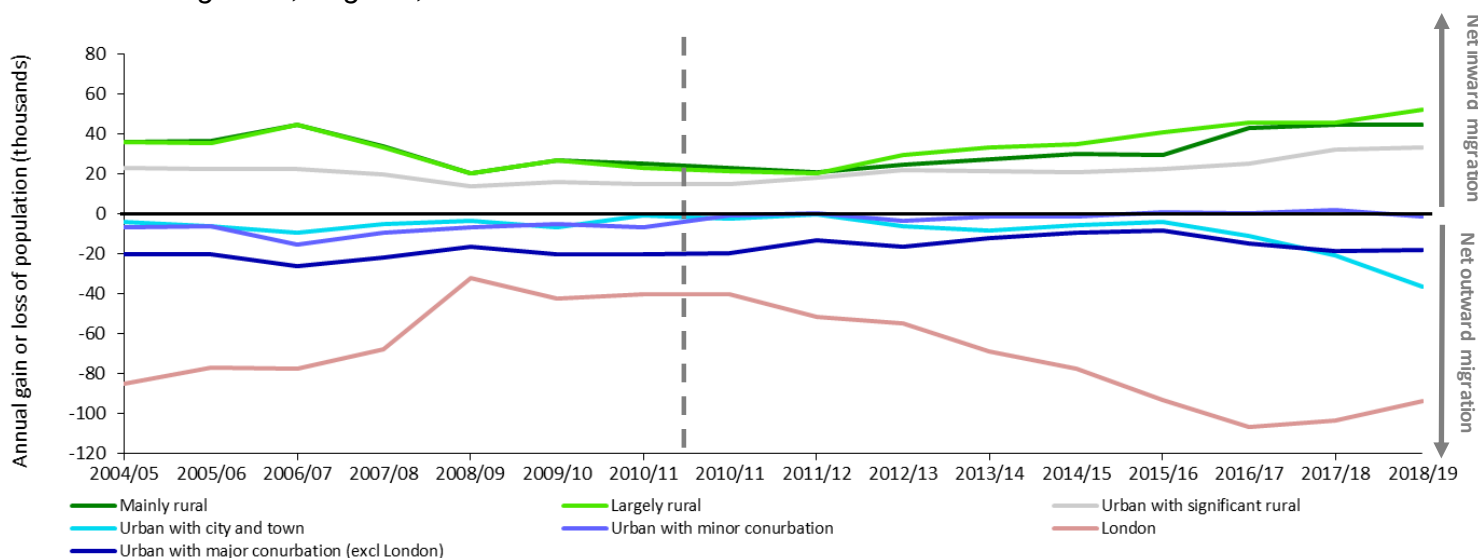
Source: Office for National Statistics and Defra analysis, mid-year population estimates 2001 to 2015 for local authorities, by sex and age, with components of change (published 2016)
www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland

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 2018/19



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.
- For 2018/19 in *predominantly rural* areas there was net internal migration inwards of 96,700 people. Within that *largely rural* areas saw net internal migration inwards of 52,300 people and *mainly rural* areas saw net internal migration inwards of 44,400 in 2018/19 (which would include migration between these two categories).
- In contrast, for *predominantly urban* areas there was net internal migration outwards of 149,700. This included net internal migration outwards from London of 93,600 (including to other *predominantly urban* areas).

Migration arising from internal migration (within the UK), 2004/05 to 2018/19, 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 | 17/18 | 18/19 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 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 | 44.4 | 44.4 |
| 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 | 45.4 | 52.3 |
| 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 | 32.0 | 33.0 |
| 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 | -21.0 | -36.4 |
| 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 | 2.0 | -1.3 |
| 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 | -18.6 | -18.3 |
| 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 | -103.2 | -93.6 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 89.8 | 96.7 |
| 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 | -140.9 | -149.7 |

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 2018/19.

Internal (within UK) migration between different classes of authority, 2018/19

| Outward | Inward | | | | Total outwards | Net migration |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Predominantly rural | Urban with significant rural | Predominantly urban | Rest of the UK | | |
| Predominantly rural | | 72.5 | 286.4 | 27.7 | 386.6 | -96.7 |
| Urban with significant rural | 89.5 | | 196.4 | 17.1 | 303.0 | -33.0 |
| Predominantly urban | 370.7 | 249.7 | | 77.7 | 698.1 | 149.7 |
| Rest of the UK | 23.1 | 13.7 | 65.6 | | 102.4 | -20.0 |
| Total inwards | 483.3 | 336.0 | 548.4 | 122.4 | | 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 | 17.0 | Predominantly rural | -84.3 |
| Predominantly urban | 84.3 | Urban with significant rural | -53.4 |
| Rest of the UK | -4.6 | Rest of the UK | -12.0 |
| Net migration for predominantly rural areas | 96.7 | Net migration for predominantly urban areas | -149.7 |

- In 2018/19 *predominantly rural* areas saw net migration from *predominantly urban* areas of 84,300 people (370,700 inwards less 286,400 outwards), and from *urban with significant rural* areas of 17,000 people (89,500 inwards less 72,500 outwards). There was a net outward migration from *predominantly rural* areas to the rest of the UK of 4,600 people (23,100 inwards less 27,700 outwards).
- Net inward migration to *predominantly rural* areas in 2018/19 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 2018/19 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).

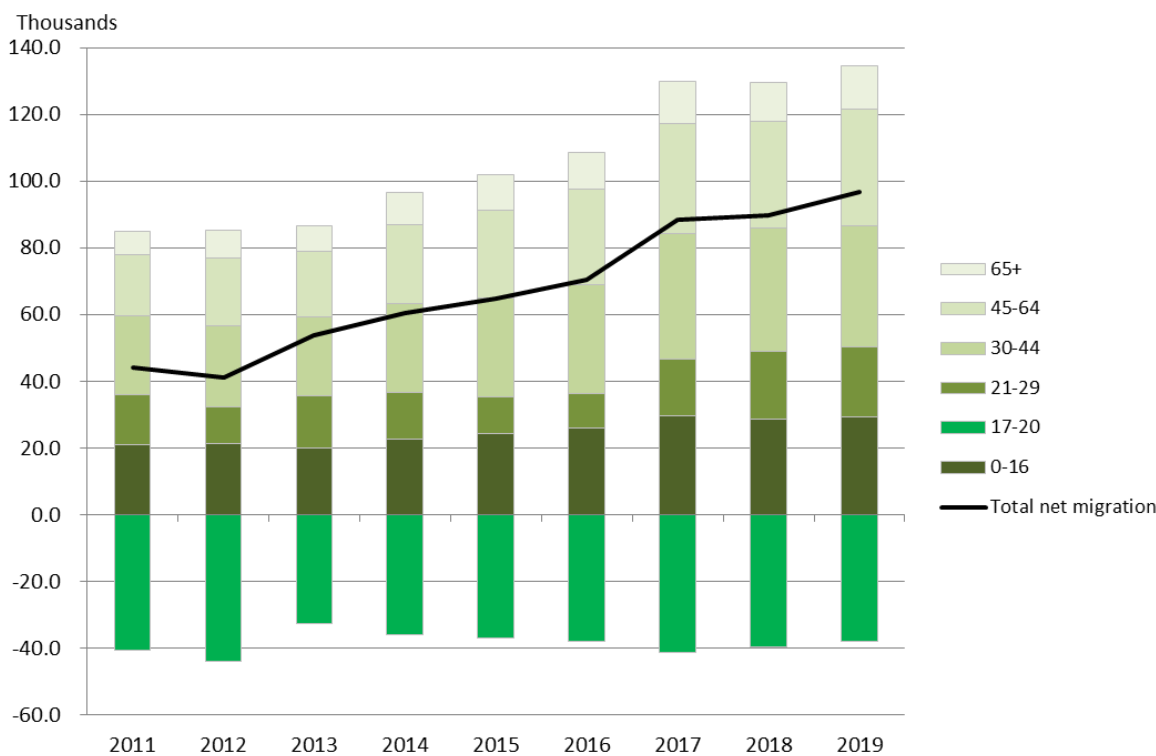
Source: Defra analysis of ONS data - Annual internal Migration within the United Kingdom to June 2019.

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 2018/19 within the overall net internal migration to predominantly rural areas of 96,700, there was net internal migration outwards of 17 to 20 years olds of 38,000.
- 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.

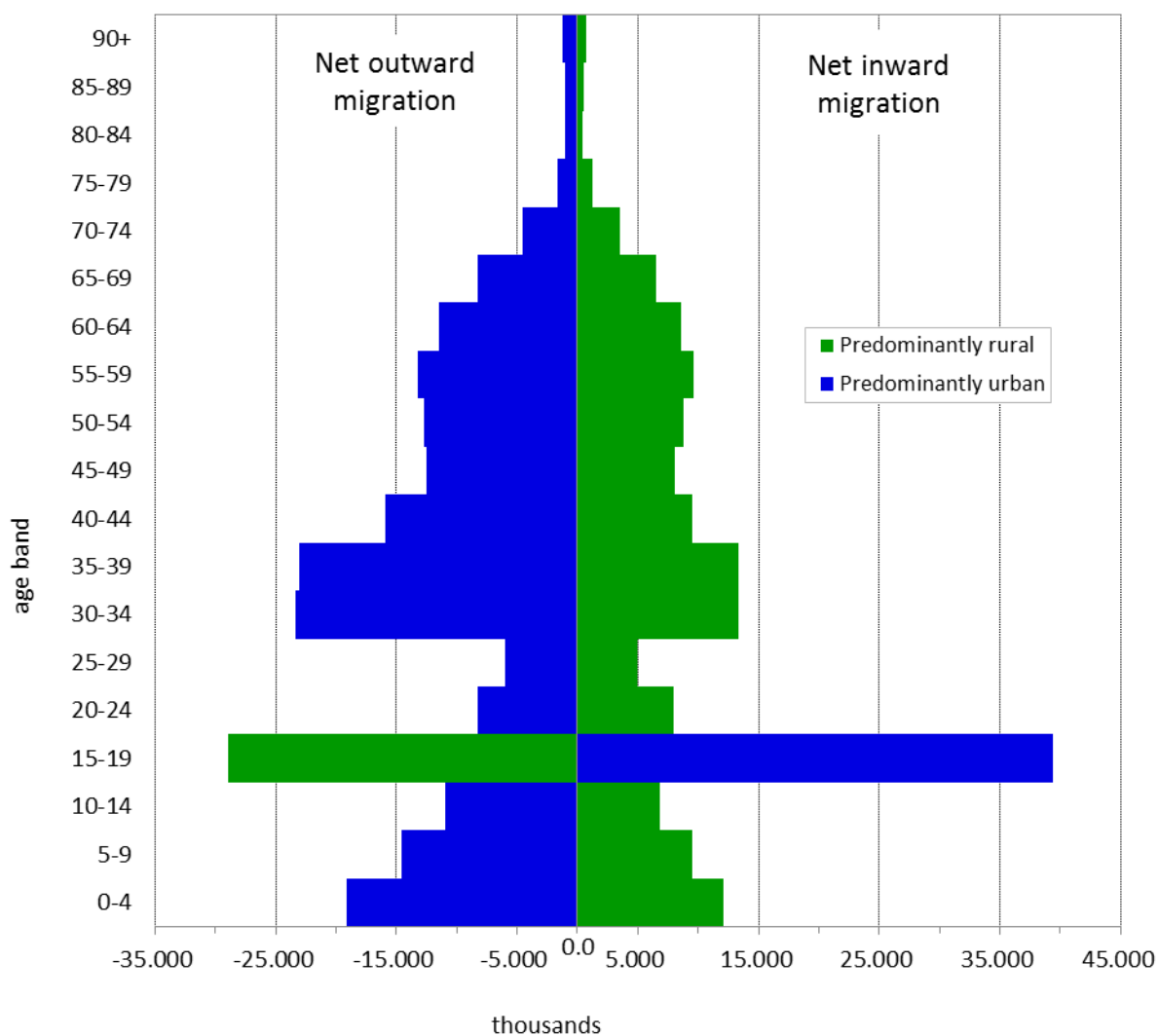
Net internal migration (within UK) to predominantly rural areas by age bands, mid-year 2011 to mid-year 2019, England



Net internal migration (within UK) to predominantly rural areas by age bands, mid-year 2011 to mid-year 2019, England

| | 0-16 | 17-20 | 21-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+ | Total net migration |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|
| 2011 | 21.1 | -40.7 | 14.9 | 23.7 | 18.3 | 6.8 | 44.1 |
| 2012 | 21.3 | -44.1 | 11.0 | 24.3 | 20.3 | 8.1 | 41.0 |
| 2013 | 19.9 | -32.7 | 15.6 | 23.8 | 19.6 | 7.7 | 53.8 |
| 2014 | 22.7 | -36.1 | 14.1 | 26.7 | 23.6 | 9.7 | 60.6 |
| 2015 | 24.3 | -37.1 | 11.0 | 29.6 | 26.3 | 10.8 | 64.9 |
| 2016 | 26.0 | -38.1 | 10.4 | 32.5 | 28.5 | 11.0 | 70.5 |
| 2017 | 29.6 | -41.4 | 17.0 | 37.7 | 32.7 | 12.7 | 88.4 |
| 2018 | 28.7 | -39.6 | 20.1 | 37.0 | 32.1 | 11.6 | 89.8 |
| 2019 | 29.2 | -38.0 | 21.2 | 36.2 | 35.1 | 13.0 | 96.7 |

Net internal (within the UK) migration for predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas, by age band, mid-year 2019, England



Net internal (within the UK) migration for predominantly rural and predominantly urban areas, by age band, mid-year 2019, 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 | 12.1 | 9.5 | 6.9 | -29.0 | 7.9 | 5.0 | 13.4 | 13.3 | 9.5 | 8.1 |
| Predominantly urban | -19.1 | -14.6 | -10.9 | 39.5 | -8.3 | -6.0 | -23.4 | -23.1 | -16.0 | -12.5 |

| Age band (continued) | thousands | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|
| | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-89 | 90+ | Total net migration |
| Predominantly rural | 8.8 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 3.5 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 96.7 |
| Predominantly urban | -12.8 | -13.3 | -11.5 | -8.3 | -4.5 | -1.6 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -149.7 |

- Breaking the migration patterns down to equal 5-year age bands, in 2018/19 there was net outward migration for 15 to 19 year olds from *predominantly rural* areas of 29,000 which would include, as above, students moving elsewhere for higher education. For the 20 to 24 year old age bracket the pattern of movement reverts to net inward migration of 7,900 to *predominantly rural* areas. There was net inward migration for 25 to 29 year olds of around 5,000.
- The largest net inward migration to *predominantly rural* areas for adults occurred for 30-34 year olds (13,400 people) and 35 to 39 year olds (13,300 people). Net inward migration for the age bands from 40 to 44 year olds - 65 to 69 year olds, was between 6,500 and 9,600 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, 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.

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).

Source: Defra analysis of ONS data - Annual internal Migration within the United Kingdom to June 2019.

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset