

# Demographic projections . . . in brief

Dwelling-led demographic projections: housing figures provided by the districts and boroughs as at April 2018.

May 2018

**The East Sussex population is projected to age and the number of one person households, especially single male households, is set to increase. Households and dwellings are projected to grow at a faster rate than the population, as household size decreases.**

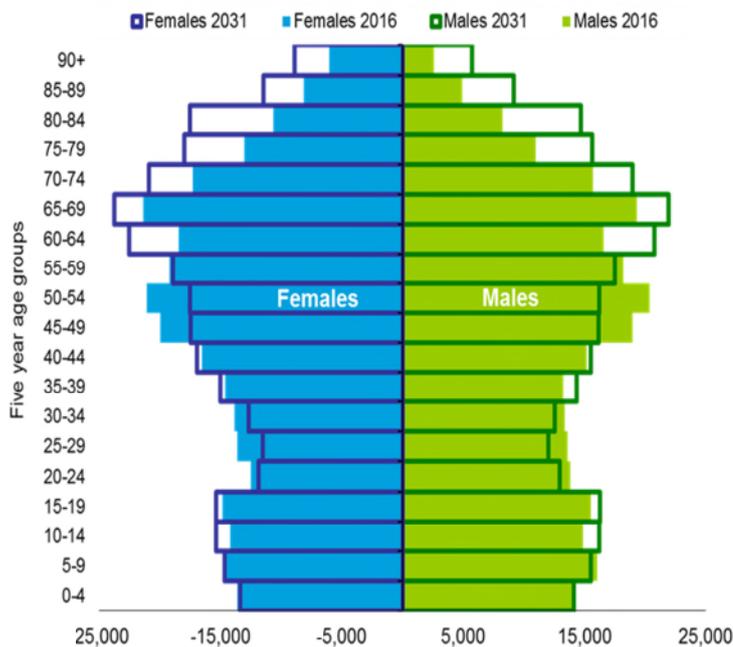
- The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by nearly 41,000 to 590,000 between 2016 and 2031. The number of households is expected to increase by 12.1%, while the population is projected to increase by 7.4%, as household size decreases from 2.25 people per household, to 2.15.
- Population growth over the forecast period 2016-2031 is projected to be mostly among the over 60s as the population continues to age, especially those people born during the baby booms of the 1950s and 1960s.
- The over 65s now represent a quarter of the county's population and are projected to make up nearly a third of all people by 2031. All elderly age groups are expected to increase in size, with the number of very elderly people aged 85 and over expected to increase by 63%, from around 21,700 in 2016 to 35,300 in 2031. In Rother, older people (aged 65+) are expected to make up 38% of the population in 2031 (up from 31% in 2016).
- The model projects that there will be a decline in the working age population (18-64) of over 4% to 295,000 people in 2031. This decrease will occur among both younger people aged 25-34, partly due to lower levels of net migration, and among middle-aged people aged 45-54, due to a decline in fertility rates after the baby booms.

**41,000**  
more people  
between  
**2016 and 2031**

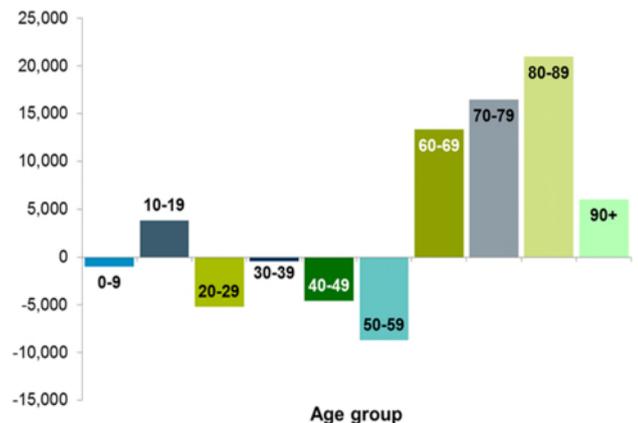
**16,000**  
fewer people aged  
under 60

**57,000**  
more people aged  
60 and over

## East Sussex population by gender and age group, 2016 and 2031 - 5 year age groups



## Actual change in numbers 2016-2031 10 year age groups



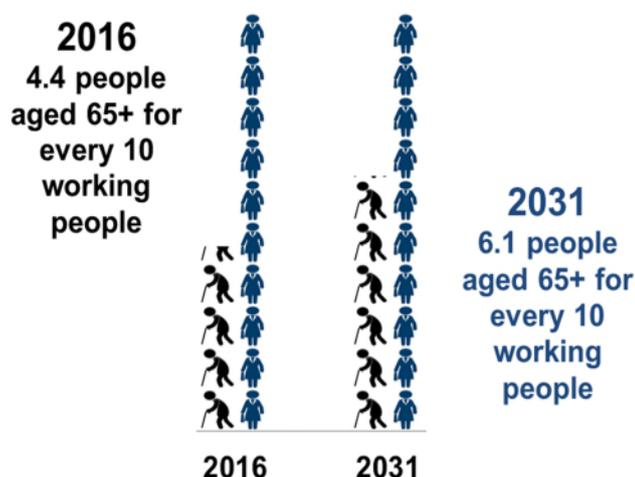
Note: Each bar represents a 5-year age group and its length shows the number of people in that age group  
[easSussex.gov.uk](http://easSussex.gov.uk)



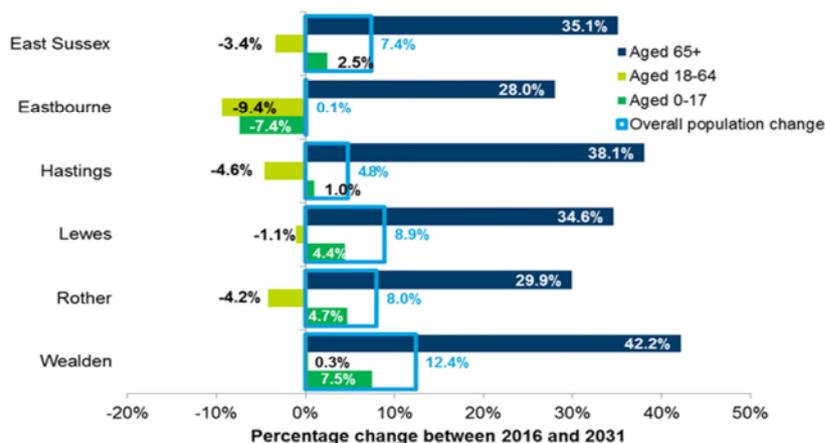
## Population and household change and household size by district, 2016-2031

	Population				Households				Household size	
	2016	2031	Change 2016-31	% change 2016-31	2016	2031	Change 2016-31	% change 2016-31	2016	2031
Eastbourne	103,003	103,153	150	0.1	47,281	49,747	2,466	5.2	2.25	2.15
Hastings	92,903	97,323	4,420	4.8	42,838	46,349	3,511	8.2	2.18	2.07
Lewes	101,631	110,680	9,049	8.9	44,336	50,112	5,776	13.0	2.17	2.10
Rother	93,966	101,501	7,535	8.0	42,947	48,612	5,665	13.2	2.29	2.21
Wealden	158,054	177,632	19,578	12.4	67,389	79,482	12,093	17.9	2.19	2.09
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>549,557</b>	<b>590,289</b>	<b>40,732</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>244,791</b>	<b>274,302</b>	<b>29,511</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>2.23</b>

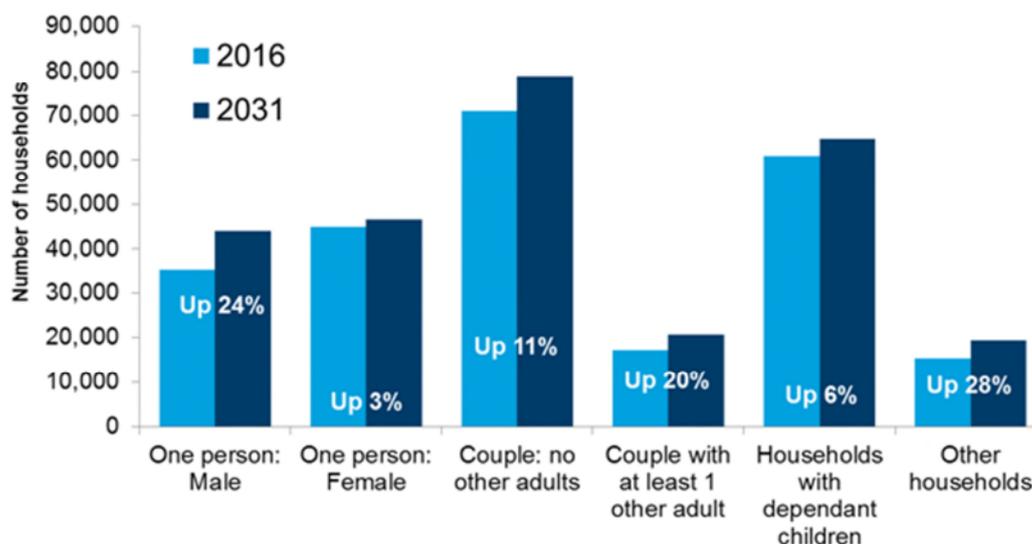
- There is expected to be a slight rise in the number of children and young people aged 0-17 although the overall population of women of childbearing age (15 to 45) is expected to decline.
- The population is projected to increase in Wealden by 12.4%, Lewes by 8.9%, Rother by 8.0%, and Hastings by 4.8%, but in Eastbourne the population is expected to see little change over the projection period from 2016-2031.
- The overall dependency ratio (the number of dependents for every 100 working age people, aged 16-64) is expected to rise to 92 in 2031, from 73 in 2016. For elderly people, in 2031 there is projected to be 61 people aged 65+ for every 100 of working-age, up from 44 in 2016. This change will be most extreme in Rother where the ratio will rise from 58 to 79 in 2031. (Please note coming changes to pension ages).
- The average (median) age of East Sussex residents is forecast to rise to 49 years and 8 months in 2031, from 46 years and 2 months in 2016 as the population continues to age.
- The workforce (economically active people aged 16-74) is expected to increase slightly by 1.7% to about 271,100 people in 2031, but although there is projected to be an 6% fall in younger working age people up to age 59, there is expected to be a 51% increase in workers aged 60-74, reflecting changes to pension ages and increasing female participation in the workforce as well as rising numbers of older people due to the aging of the baby boom generations. The workforce aged 60-74 comprised 44% women in 2016, but they are projected to make up 49% of this group of workers in 2031.



## Population change by broad age group, 2016-2031

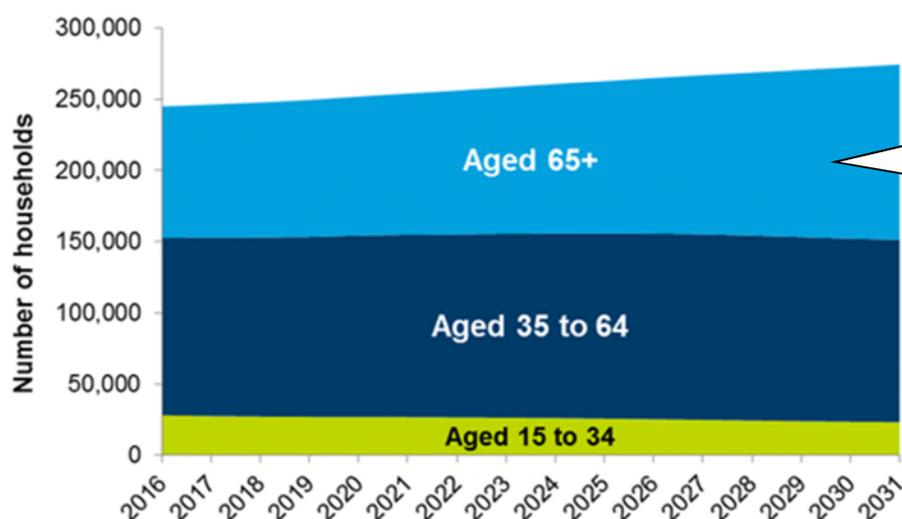


## East Sussex households by type, 2016 and 2031



- Over the period 2016-2031, the number of households in East Sussex is likely to increase by 12.1%, which is considerably faster than the expected growth of the population of 7.4% for the same period. This is mainly due to the fact that the average number of people living in each household (household size) is expected to fall from 2.25 in 2016 to 2.15 in 2031.
- Of all household types, 'Other' households (not single people or family households, with or without children) are expected to increase the most, by 28% by 2031 (see chart above). Single male households are also expected to see a large increase of 24%, and couples with no dependent children living with one or more other adults (up 20%), reflecting predicted changes in how people will live, with more shared households and adult children staying with parents.
- Households with one child are projected to increase by 16%. The number of families with two children is expected to show little change, and those with three or more children will fall by 9%, as family sizes continue to shrink and benefit changes targeting larger families take effect.
- The number of older households (aged 65 and over) is projected to increase by 34% by 2031, while middle aged households (aged 35-64) will barely change in number (up 3%), and the number of households headed by younger people aged 15-34 is expected to fall by 17%, perhaps reflecting the increasing likelihood of young adults remaining at home with their parents.

## Change in number of households by age group, 2016-2031



The number of households led by someone aged 65+ (123,000) will be nearly the same as the number aged 35-64 (128,000) by 2031

## Older households aged 65 and over

- While there is expected to be a decline in the overall number of working age (aged 15-64) headed households of 1,400, there are projected to be nearly 31,000 more households headed by people aged 65 and over by 2031, with more than 25,000 headed by over 75s.
- Over a quarter of these new older households are projected to be made up of a single person, more than 8,200 households, and 4,400 new households are expected to be headed by someone aged 85+.
- There is also projected to be a further 2,700 'other' older households which may be made up of friends or family members sharing a dwelling.
- There are forecast to be many more older households in all districts, but the largest increase, both in numerical and percentage terms is expected to be in Wealden, where the forecast suggests there will be a 42% rise in the number of households aged 65+.



**31,000** more

households headed by older people  
(aged 65+) by 2031

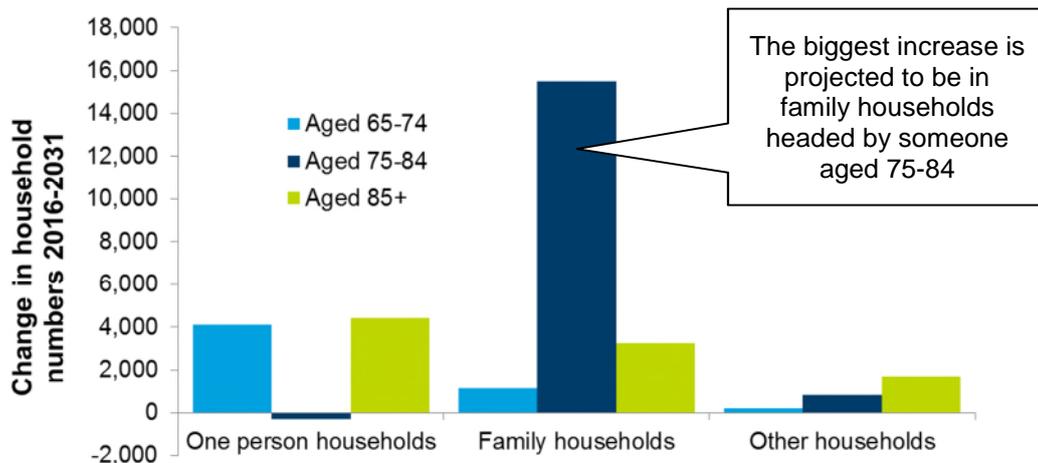
Made up of

**5,500** aged 65 to 74

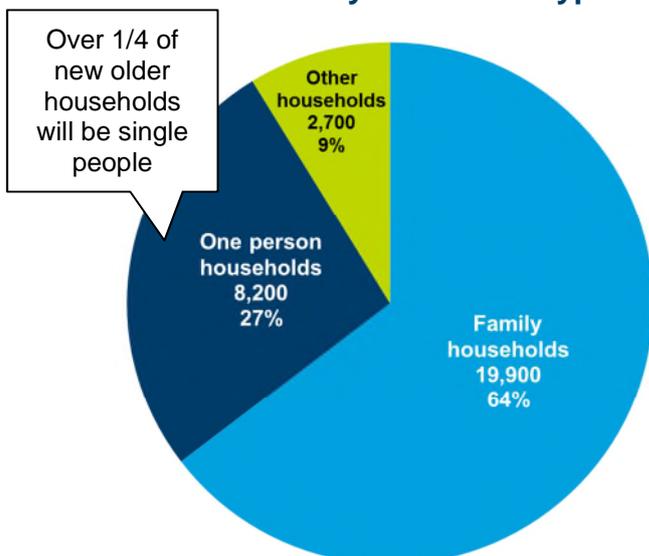
**16,100** aged 75 to 84

**9,400** aged 85 and over

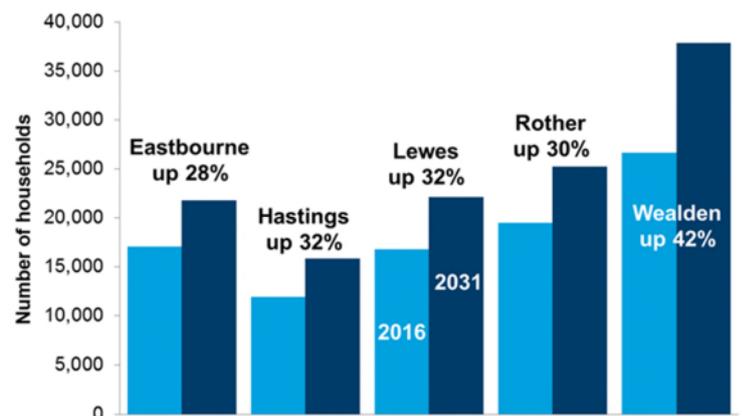
### Changes to the number of older households (65+) by household type and age group, 2016-2031



### Increase in older households (65+) 2016-2031 by household type



### Number of older households (65+) 2016 and 2031 by district



## Further information

The demographic projections are produced by the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Research and Information Team, Chief Executive's Office, at county and district levels, using the POPGROUP model. The model is based on a 'cohort component method', where the starting point is an existing estimate of the population which is projected forward taking account of the impact of births, deaths and migration (internal and international) as well as the number of extra dwellings being planned for the future ('dwellings-led'). Assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration trends are derived from recent historical evidence, whereas the latest housing provision figures are provided by districts and boroughs giving estimated trajectories for when housing will be built.

The latest 2016-based ESCC projections are based on the mid-2016 population estimates released by ONS in March 2018. These substantially revised the previous population estimates from 2012-2016 using a revised methodology for estimating migration. They also include the latest household formation rates from the 2014-based Households Projections released by DCLG (now MHCLG) in July 2016. Data from the 2011 Census has also been used in the model regarding the household/dwelling conversion rates and economic activity rates.

These projections differ from previous ESCC projections released in May 2017 because of revisions to the mid-year population estimates (see above), including changes to migration estimates, and revised house-building trajectories provided by the districts and boroughs.

The state pension age is currently 65 for men and 64 for women. The latter will equalise at 65 for men and women in November 2018. The state pension age for all people will then increase every few months, reaching 68 by November 2037.

- East Sussex in Figures contains further details and data on [population projections](#), [household projections](#), and [workforce projections](#).
- Read the latest analyses on [mid-2016 population estimates](#) and [migration](#) produced by the Research and Information Team.
- For further information about demographic projections for East Sussex, please contact Lenna Santamaría on 01273 481619 or email [mariahelena.santamaria@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:mariahelena.santamaria@eastsussex.gov.uk).

## Contact details

The Research and Information Team, Chief Executive's Office 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.

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

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