The East Sussex population is projected to age and the number of one person households will increase in the next 15 years. The number of households is projected to grow faster than the population, as household size decreases.

- The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by more than 55,000 to 607,000 between 2017 and 2032. The number of households is expected to increase by 14.4%, while the population is projected to increase by 10.0%, as average household size declines from 2.22 people per household in 2017, to 2.12 in 2032.

- The over 60s are projected to see the largest increase in numbers over the projection period, 2017-2032, as the population continues to age. This will be exaggerated because those born in the peak of the ‘baby boom’ in the mid-1960s will have reached their late 60s by 2032, and those from the post-war baby boom will reach their 80s.

- 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 2032. All elderly age groups are expected to increase in size (see pyramid below), with the number of very elderly people aged 85 and over expected to increase by 73%, from around 21,800 in 2017 to 37,800 in 2032. In Rother, older people (aged 65+) are expected to make up 39% of the population in 2032 (up from 32% in 2017).

- The model projects that there will be a marginal decline in the working age population (18-64) of 0.7%, from 305,700 to 303,700 people in 2032. The decrease will occur among both younger people aged 20-34, partly due to lower levels of net migration, and among middle-aged people aged 45-54, as the population numbers from the baby-boom in the mid-1960s get older, and are followed by a less numerous generation, because of declining fertility rates since the late 1960s.

**East Sussex population by gender and age-group, 2017 and 2032 - 5 year age groups**

**Actual change in numbers 2017-2032 - 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.
Population and household change and household size by district, 2017-2032

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastbourne</td>
<td>103,251</td>
<td>105,670</td>
<td>2,419</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>46,742</td>
<td>50,230</td>
<td>3,488</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>92,813</td>
<td>97,764</td>
<td>4,951</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>42,482</td>
<td>46,231</td>
<td>3,749</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewes</td>
<td>102,257</td>
<td>112,072</td>
<td>9,815</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>44,176</td>
<td>50,186</td>
<td>6,010</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rother</td>
<td>94,997</td>
<td>103,494</td>
<td>8,497</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>43,115</td>
<td>49,238</td>
<td>6,123</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealden</td>
<td>158,941</td>
<td>188,473</td>
<td>29,532</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>67,524</td>
<td>83,252</td>
<td>15,728</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex</td>
<td>552,259</td>
<td>607,473</td>
<td>55,214</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>244,040</td>
<td>279,137</td>
<td>35,097</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- There is expected to be a slight rise in the number of children and young people aged 0-17 (up 2.4%) although the overall population of women of childbearing age (15 to 45) is expected to decrease slightly (down 0.5%).
- The population is projected to increase in all districts but the largest rise is forecast in Wealden, (18.6%) where substantial new housing development is planned. There will also be significant rises in Lewes (9.6%) and Rother (8.9%), but more moderate increases in Hastings (5.3%) and Eastbourne (2.3%) over the projection period from 2017-2032.
- The overall dependency ratio (the number of dependents for every 100 working age people, aged 16-64) is expected to rise to 92 in 2032, from 74 in 2017. For elderly people, in 2032 there are projected to be 62 people aged 65+ for every 100 of working-age, up from 44 in 2017. This change will be most extreme in Rother where the ratio will rise from 59 in 2017 to 83 in 2032. (Please note coming changes to pension ages).
- The average (median) age of East Sussex residents is forecast to rise to 50 years and 3 months in 2032, from 46 years and 6 months in 2017 as the population continues to age.
- The workforce (economically active people aged 16-74) is expected to increase by 2.9% to about 272,200 people in 2032, but although there is projected to be a 3% fall in younger workers up to age 59, there is expected to be a 42% increase in the labour force 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.

**Dependency ratios:**

How many dependents will there be for every 10 working age people in 2032?

- Eastbourne - 9
- Hastings - 7.5
- Lewes - 8.9
- Rother - 11.2
- Wealden - 9.3
- East Sussex - 9.2
• Over the period 2017-2032, the number of households in East Sussex is projected to increase by 14.4%, faster than the 10.0% growth in population expected 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 2.22 in 2017 to 2.12 in 2032.

• Of all household types, ‘Other’ households, which includes couples without children and other types of adult only households, are expected to increase the most, by 18% by 2032 (see chart), reflecting predicted changes in how people will live, with more shared households and adult children staying with parents.

• Single female households and single male households are also expected to see large increases, of 21% and 20% respectively – but this increase will occur mainly among older households, with little change in the number of single working age households.

• Households with one child are projected to increase by 1.4%, but the number of families with two children is expected to fall slightly, by 1.8%, and those with three or more children will fall by 5.1%, as family sizes continue to shrink and benefit changes targeting larger families take effect.

• The number of older households (aged 65 and over) is forecast to increase by 40% by 2032, while middle aged households (aged 35-64) will barely change in number (up 1%), and the number of households headed by younger people aged 15-34 is expected to fall by 10%, perhaps reflecting the increasing likelihood of young adults remaining at home with their parents.

**Change in number of households by age group, 2017-2032**
Older households aged 65 and over

- While the model suggests that there will be a decline in the overall number of working age (aged 15-64) headed households of 1,500, there are forecast to be nearly 37,000 more households headed by people aged 65 and over by 2032, with more than 25,000 headed by over 75s.

- Nearly half (45%) of these new older households are projected to be made up of a single person, more than 16,300 households, and 11,800 new households are expected to be headed by someone aged 85+.

- There is also projected to be a further 19,800 ‘other’ households headed by older people, which may be made up of couples, or 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 model suggests there will be a 49% rise in the number of households aged 65+.

Number of households in East Sussex, 2017-2032

Increase in older households (65+) 2017-2032 by household type

Number of older households (65+) 2017 and 2032 by district

Among the oldest group (aged 85 and over) single households will see the biggest rise in household numbers.
Children and young people (aged 0 to 17)

2017

106,000

19.2% of total population

2017

+ 2,500 (+2.4%)

2032

108,500

17.9% of total population

2032

By 2032, the proportion of children and young people (aged 0 to 17) in the population will fall to 17.9% of the total.

2017

2032

Aged 0-17

19.2%

Aged 18-64

55.4%

Aged 65+

25.4%

Wealden is the only district in East Sussex likely to see a significant increase in the number of children and young people between 2017 and 2032, although a slight rise is predicted in Lewes. Eastbourne is expected to see a significant fall of 8%, with a smaller fall in Hastings (2%).

Whilst total 0-17 year olds are expected to grow slowly in East Sussex between 2017-2032, there will be a large variation between the districts.

Overall numbers of school-age children (aged 4-15) are expected to rise in the next 15 years. However while secondary numbers are expected to increase significantly (by 9%), primary aged numbers are expected to fall by 2.8%.

The most significant increase will be among Sixth form/FE aged young people, with this group projected to rise by 10.4%.

Projected change in number of children and young people by district, 2017-2032

The district expecting to see the largest increase in the number of school age children is Wealden, where there are projected to be 12% more school age aged 4-15 in 2032 than in 2017.

There is projected to be a slightly higher increase among girls (2.8%) than among boys (2.0%).

Projected population of children and young people by age group, 2017-2032

Projected change in households with children

Number of children by gender, 2017-2032
Working age population (aged 18 to 64)

While the number of working age people in Wealden is predicted to increase by 7.1% in the period 2017-2032, there is forecast to be a significant decline in Eastbourne (down 8.1%) and to a lesser extent Rother (down 4.2%) and Hastings (3.3%). There is expected to be little change (up 0.5%) in Lewes.

The number of households headed by people of working age is set to decrease by 0.9%, slightly faster than the decrease in population as a whole, and comparing to a rise of 40.1% among households headed by older people (aged 65+) over the same period.

Within the working age group, single male households are expected to grow (by 3.4%) but all other household types are projected to decrease in number.

Actual change in labour force numbers by age group and gender, 2017-2032

(.note that the Labour force projections include all economically active people aged up to 74)

While there will be small increases among workers in the 16-24 and 35-44 age groups, numbers in the 25-34 and 45-59 age groups are forecast to fall significantly. However, the size of the labour force aged from 60 to 74 is expected to rise by 42%.
Older population (aged 65 and over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017-2032</th>
<th>2032</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140,500</td>
<td>+ 54,800 (+39%)</td>
<td>195,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25.4% of total population 2017

One quarter of all people were aged 65+ in 2017, but this is forecast to rise to a third (32%) by 2032.

As the older population rises, while there will be little change in the working age population, dependency ratios will rise significantly, with this change being most significant in Rother where there will be 8.2 elderly for every 10 working age people.

Numbers of the eldest group of pensioners (aged 85+) are projected to increase fastest, by 73% over the 15 years, as the postwar baby boomers reaching their mid-80s.

The other older age groups will also increase steeply with 75-84s up 52% and 65-74s up 21% - but 24% of this latter group are expected to be economically active in 2032 as pension ages rise, compared to 19% in 2017.

Population change among older people 2017-2032

Males

90,300 males in 2032

2017: Aged 65+ years
Male 45:55 Female

2032: Aged 65+ years
Male 46:54 Female

Females

105,000 females in 2032

More females than males

In 2017, almost 1/3 of Rother’s population (32%) were aged 65+, ranking third highest in of all districts/UAs in the country. This is expected to increase to 39% by 2032. Only 19% of Hastings population was aged 65+ in 2017, but even here, the proportion is forecast to rise to 26%.

The county’s very elderly population (aged 85+) is expected to increase by 16,000 or 73%, but this change will be most acute among the oldest men with an increase of 107% (8,200) among men and 55% (7,800) among women. The difference is even more pronounced among the oldest group, with 3,000 more males aged 90+ (up 112%) and 2,700 more females (up 45%).
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 2017-based ESCC projections are based on the mid-2017 population estimates released by ONS in June 2018. They also include the latest household formation rates from the 2016-based Household Projections released by ONS in October 2018. With the release of the 2016-based national household projections, there was a change in the way couples and other households were categorised. Couples with no children living by themselves with no others are now grouped with all other households with no dependent children by more than one adult, including family households with adult children or other relatives living with the main householder/s and non-related groups of sharers, who may be couples or single people. All of these types of household are now in the group labelled ‘other households’. 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 2018 because of revisions to the mid-year population estimates, including changes to migration estimates, and revised house-building trajectories provided by the districts and boroughs in April 2019.

The state pension age is currently 65 for both men and women. The state pension age for all people will then increase every few months, reaching 68 by November 2037. In this analysis ‘pensioners’ are assumed to be all those over the age of 65, right up to 2032. Working age is mostly considered to be 16-64, but in the workforce projections, all economically active people up to age 74 are included.

- East Sussex in Figures contains further details and data on population projections, household projections, and workforce projections.
- Read the latest analyses on mid-2017 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.

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).

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