

Census 2021: Household change between 2011 and 2021



census
2021

The 2021 Census was taken on 21st March 2021.

Further information from the 2021 Census will be released in Autumn/Winter 2022.

Further Information

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[Facts and figures about Kent](#)

This bulletin presents the first results for Kent from the 2021 Census as published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 28th June 2022

Headlines

- The 2021 Census shows the number of households in England with at least one resident is 23,435,700. This figure is up by 1,372,300 (6.2%) between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census.
- The South East region has the most households at 3,807,900. Households in the South East increased by 252,400 between 2011 and 2021 which is equal to a 7.1% increase.
- Kent has the most households within the South East at 648,400. Households in Kent increased by 42,800 between 2011 and 2021 which is equal to a 7.1% increase.
- The 2021 Census shows there were 111,500 households in Medway Unitary Authority. This is up by 5,300 since 2011 which is equal to a 5.0% increase.

Introduction

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales at a specific point in time. A national census has been conducted every decade since 1801, except for 1941.

Census day was on 21st March 2021 and was the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones, or tablets.

Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across England and Wales. Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding will be spent on services like transport, education, and health – on cycle routes, schools, and dental surgeries.

Information from the census is also important in helping lots of other people and organisations do their work. Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand their customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use census data. It provides important information on population diversity, allowing organisations to know whether they are meeting their responsibilities and triggering action where necessary.

The census included questions about sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there was a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools, and new transport routes. That is why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Results will be made available in stages with the initial figures for occupied households, presented here, being amongst the first to be released on 28th June 2022.

All personal records from the Census forms will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

Households: National and Regional

The first results from the 2021 Census only provide us with the number of households. The definition of a household is at least one usual resident living alone; or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address, who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

A group of short-term residents living together or a group of visitors staying at an address is not classified as a household. The total number of physical dwellings will be released in autumn/winter 2022-2023.

The 2021 Census shows the number of households in England with at least one resident is 23,435,700. This figure is up by 1,372,300 (6.2%) between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census.

The South East region has the most occupied households at 3,807,900. This figure is up by 252,400 between 2011 and 2021, the highest increase in absolute terms of all the regions, equal to a 7.1% increase.

The highest regional percentage increase in was in the East of England where the number of occupied households increased by 8.5% or 205,700.

The North East has the smallest number of occupied households at 1,175,700. This region also experienced the smallest increases in population in both absolute and percentage terms between the 2001 and 2011 Census and the 2011 and 2021 Census.

See Table 1 and Chart 1 for details

Table 1: Total households in England and the regions: 2001,2011 and 2021 census

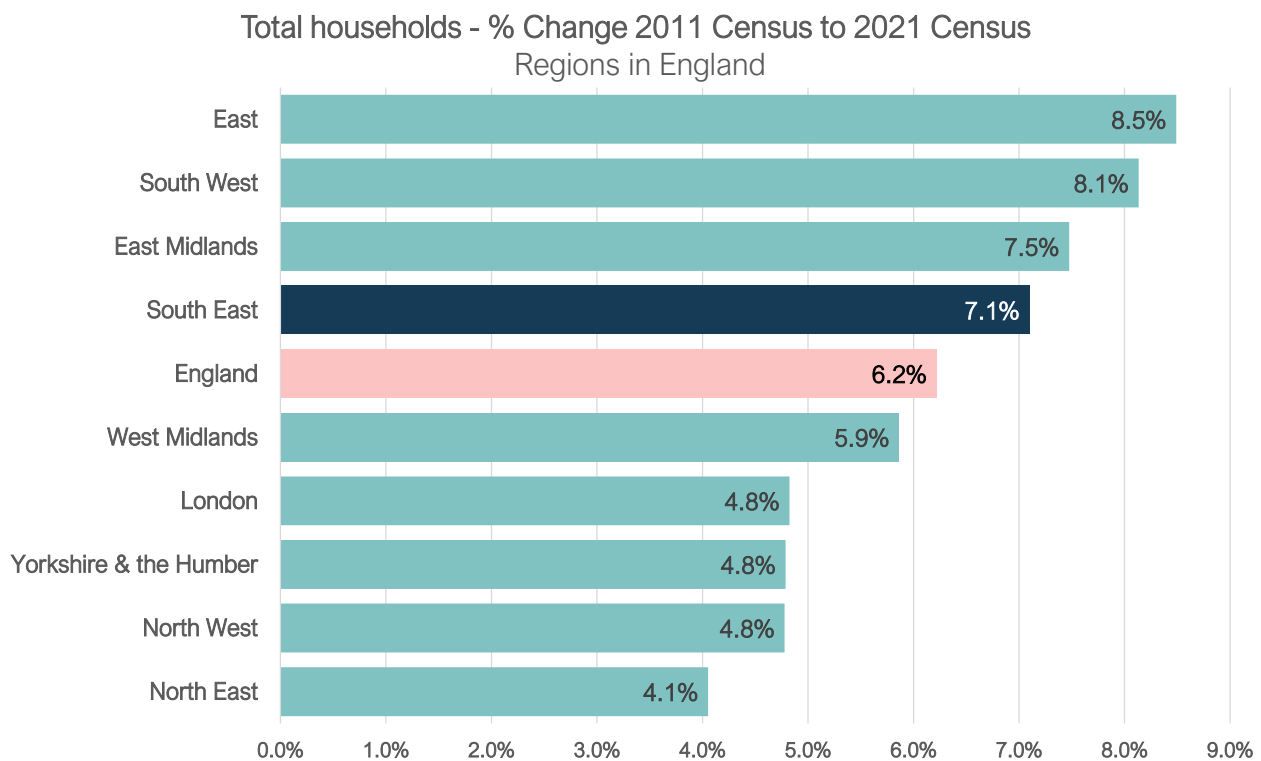
Change in total households 2001-2011-2021: Regions & England							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
England	20,451,400	22,063,400	23,435,700	1,612,000	7.9%	1,372,300	6.2%
North East	1,066,300	1,129,900	1,175,700	63,600	6.0%	45,800	4.1%
North West	2,812,800	3,009,600	3,153,400	196,800	7.0%	143,800	4.8%
Yorkshire & the Humber	2,064,700	2,224,100	2,330,600	159,400	7.7%	106,500	4.8%
East Midlands	1,732,500	1,895,600	2,037,300	163,100	9.4%	141,700	7.5%
West Midlands	2,153,700	2,294,900	2,429,500	141,200	6.6%	134,600	5.9%
East	2,232,000	2,423,000	2,628,700	191,000	8.6%	205,700	8.5%
London	3,016,000	3,266,200	3,423,800	250,200	8.3%	157,600	4.8%
South East	3,287,500	3,555,500	3,807,900	268,000	8.2%	252,400	7.1%
South West	2,086,000	2,264,600	2,448,800	178,600	8.6%	184,200	8.1%

Source: 2001 and 2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales - supplementary figures part 2, published 24 July 2012

2021 Census first results, published 28 June 2022: The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 1: Percentage household change between 2011 and 2021



Source: 2021 Census 1st release 28 June 2022 and 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Total Households in the South East

South East Counties

NOTE: In this bulletin “Kent” refers to the Kent County Council area which excludes Medway

Of the South East counties, Kent has the most households at 648,400. Households in Kent increased by 42,800 between 2011 and 2021 which is the highest absolute increase of all the counties in the region, equal to a 7.1% increase and is

The highest percentage increase in households was in Oxfordshire where the number of households increased by 29,200 or 11.3%.

See Table 2 and Chart 2 for details.

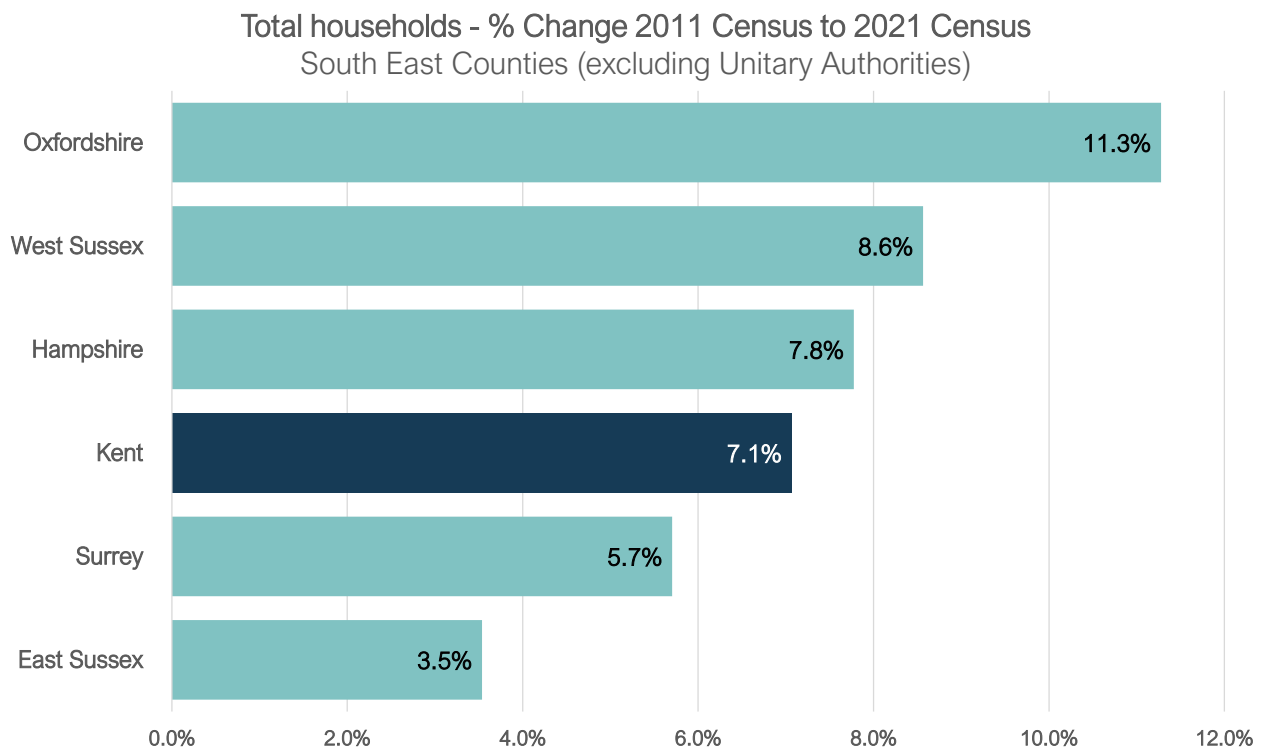
Table 2: Total households in the South East Counties: 2001,2011 and 2021 census

Total household change: South East Region							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
East Sussex	214,600	231,900	240,100	17,300	8.1%	8,200	3.5%
Hampshire	502,700	545,300	587,700	42,600	8.5%	42,400	7.8%
Kent	546,700	605,600	648,400	58,900	10.8%	42,800	7.1%
Oxfordshire	241,200	258,900	288,100	17,700	7.3%	29,200	11.3%
Surrey	433,200	455,800	481,800	22,600	5.2%	26,000	5.7%
West Sussex	320,900	345,600	375,200	24,700	7.7%	29,600	8.6%

Source: 2001 and 2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales - supplementary figures part 2, published 24 July 2012
2021 Census first results, published 28 June 2022: The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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Chart 2: Percentage household change in the South East Counties: 2011 to 2021



Source: 2021 Census 1st release 28 June 2022 and 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

South East Unitary Authorities

Buckinghamshire has the most households within the South East at 220,300, and saw the highest increase in absolute terms where households increased by 19,600 between 2011 and 2021. This accounts for a 9.8% increase.

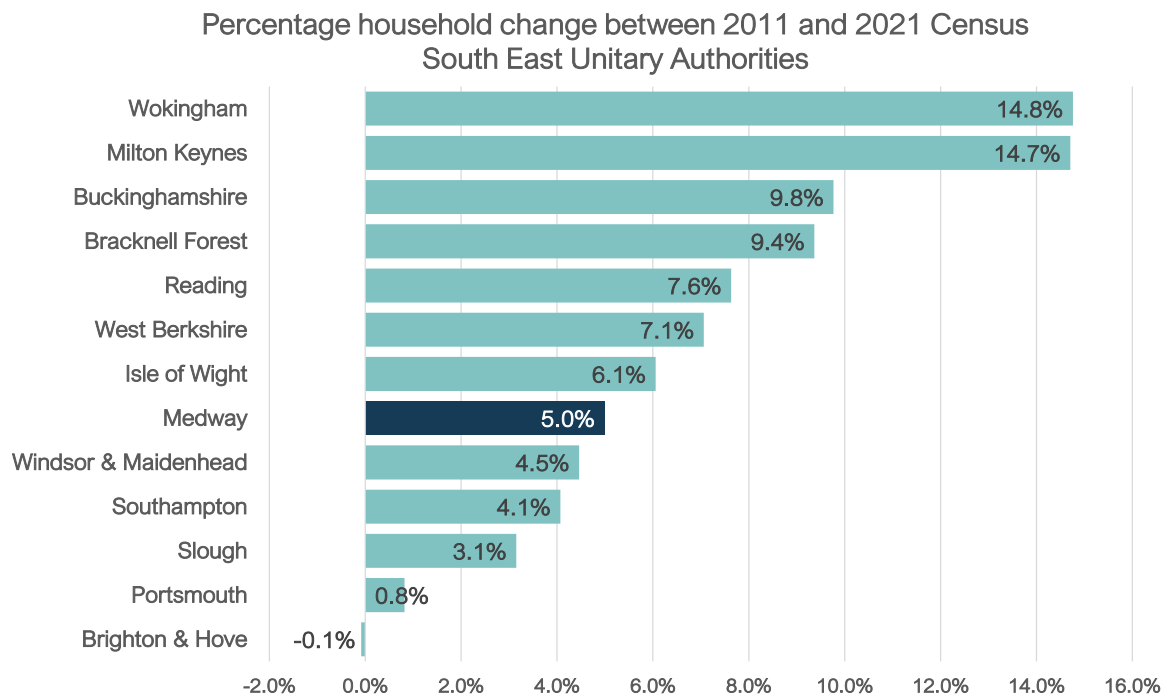
Wokingham and Milton Keynes saw the highest percentage increases in households between 2011 and 2021 with 14.8% and 14.7% (or 8,900 and 14,500 households). Brighton & Hove is the only unitary authority in the South East to have seen a slight reduction in households between 2011 and 2021. See Table 3 and Chart 3 for details.

Table 3: Total households in the South East Unitary Authorities: 2001,2011 and 2021 census

Total household change: South East Unitary Authorities							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
Bracknell Forest	43,400	45,900	50,200	2,500	5.8%	4,300	9.4%
Brighton & Hove	114,500	121,500	121,400	7,000	6.1%	-100	-0.1%
Buckinghamshire	188,100	200,700	220,300	12,600	6.7%	19,600	9.8%
Isle of Wight	57,500	61,100	64,800	3,600	6.3%	3,700	6.1%
Medway	99,600	106,200	111,500	6,600	6.6%	5,300	5.0%
Milton Keynes	83,400	98,600	113,100	15,200	18.2%	14,500	14.7%
Portsmouth	78,700	85,500	86,200	6,800	8.6%	700	0.8%
Reading	57,900	62,900	67,700	5,000	8.6%	4,800	7.6%
Slough	45,000	50,800	52,400	5,800	12.9%	1,600	3.1%
Southampton	91,200	98,300	102,300	7,100	7.8%	4,000	4.1%
West Berkshire	57,400	62,300	66,700	4,900	8.5%	4,400	7.1%
Windsor & Maidenhead	54,300	58,300	60,900	4,000	7.4%	2,600	4.5%
Wokingham	57,300	60,300	69,200	3,000	5.2%	8,900	14.8%

Source: 2001 and 2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales - supplementary figures part 2, published 24 July 2012
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Chart 3: Household change in the South East Unitary Authorities: 2011 to 2021



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Kent Local Authorities

In 2021 Maidstone had the most households in Kent at 71,200. Maidstone's households account for 11.0% of all households in Kent.

Maidstone also experienced the highest increase in absolute terms in households with an increase of 7,800 between 2011 and 2021. This is the largest increase of all twelve local authorities in Kent and equates to a 12.3% increase.

Dartford saw the highest percentage increase in households at 14.0% or 5,600. Folkestone & Hythe experienced the smallest increase in households between the 2011 and 2021 Census, rising by 900 or a 1.9% increase.

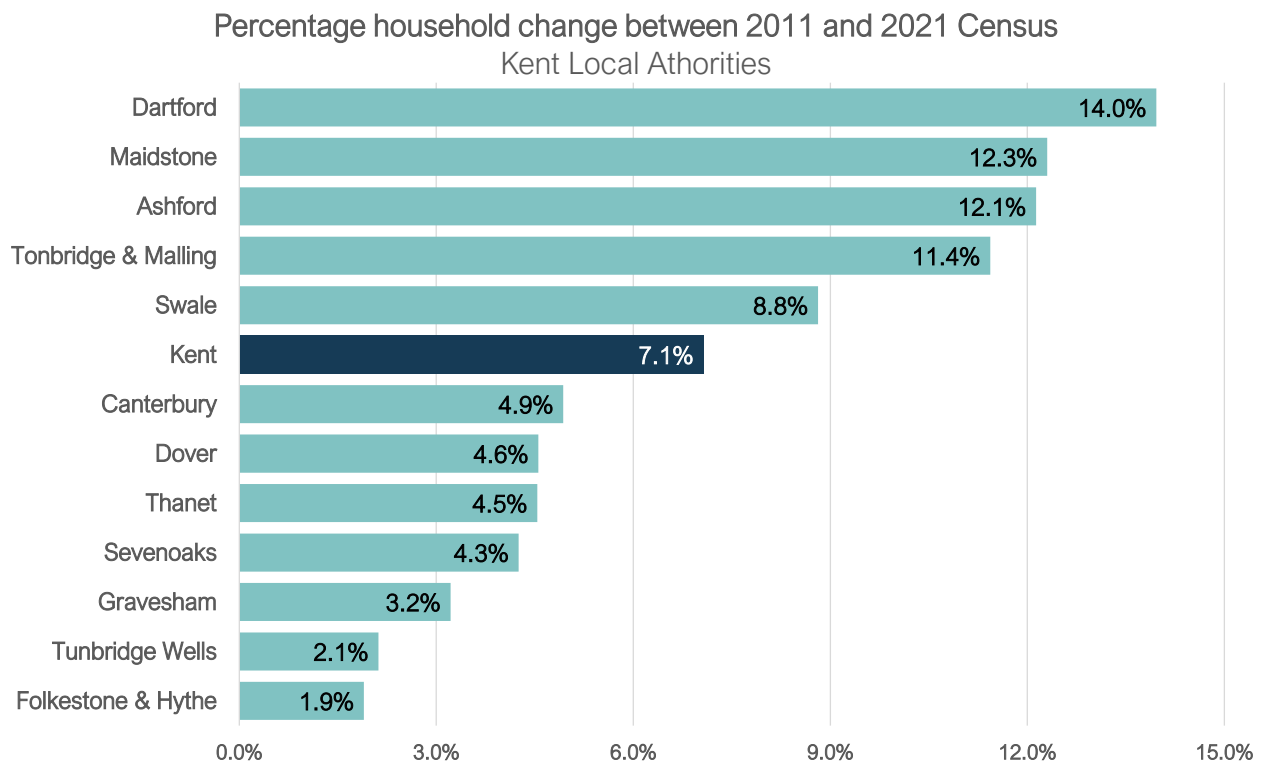
Gravesham has the fewest households at 41,700 accounting for 6.4% of the total households in Kent. See Table 4 and Charts 4 and 5 for details

Table 4: Total population change in Kent local authorities

Total households: Kent and local authorities							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
Kent	546,700	605,600	648,400	58,900	10.8%	42,800	7.1%
Ashford	41,500	47,800	53,600	6,300	15.2%	5,800	12.1%
Canterbury	55,600	60,800	63,800	5,200	9.4%	3,000	4.9%
Dartford	35,200	40,100	45,700	4,900	13.9%	5,600	14.0%
Dover	44,300	48,300	50,500	4,000	9.0%	2,200	4.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	41,200	47,400	48,300	6,200	15.0%	900	1.9%
Gravesham	38,300	40,400	41,700	2,100	5.5%	1,300	3.2%
Maidstone	56,500	63,400	71,200	6,900	12.2%	7,800	12.3%
Sevenoaks	44,400	47,000	49,000	2,600	5.9%	2,000	4.3%
Swale	49,300	55,600	60,500	6,300	12.8%	4,900	8.8%
Thanet	55,200	59,500	62,200	4,300	7.8%	2,700	4.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	42,700	48,100	53,600	5,400	12.6%	5,500	11.4%
Tunbridge Wells	42,700	47,200	48,200	4,500	10.5%	1,000	2.1%

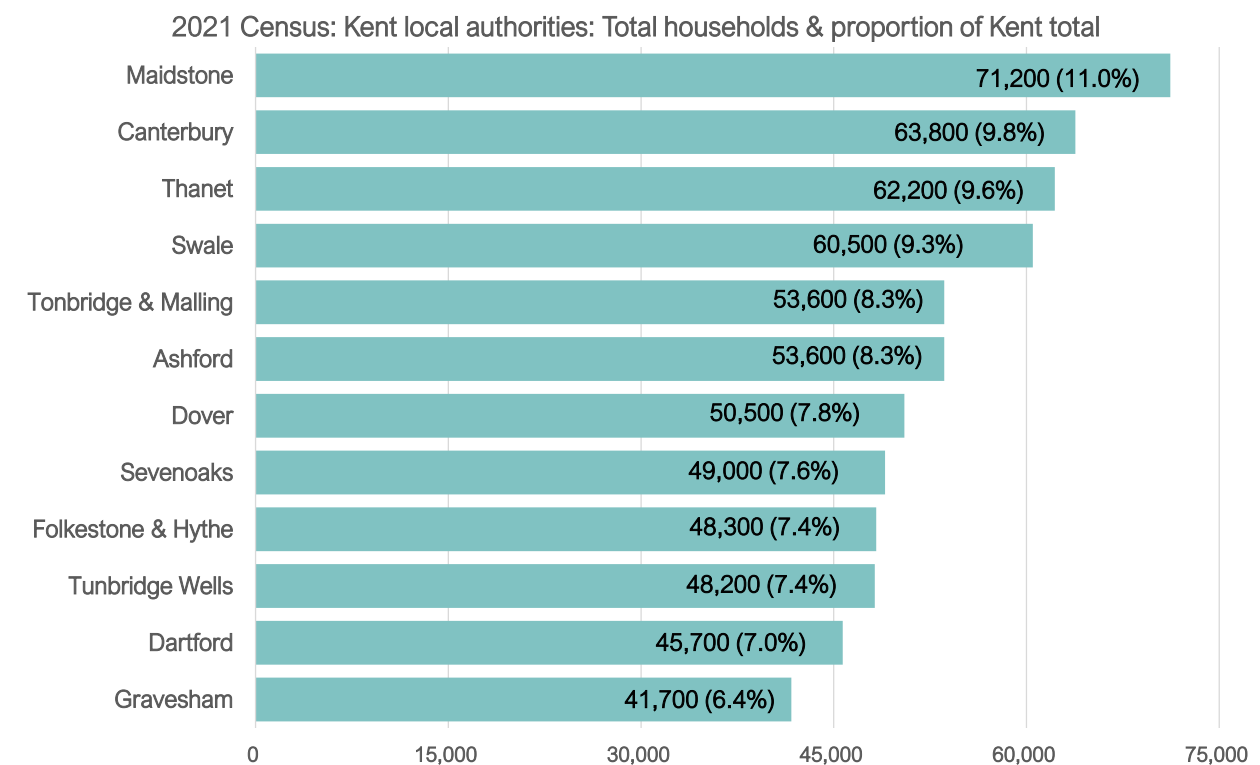
Source: 2001 and 2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales - supplementary figures part 2, published 24 July 2012
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 Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4: Kent local authorities: household change between 2011 to 2021



Source: 2021 Census 1st release 28 June 2022 and 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Chart 5: Kent local authorities: total households and proportion of Kent total



Source: 2021 Census 1st release 28 June 2022 and 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Related documents

Further information about the 2021 Census can be found on the [Kent Population and census](#) web pages

These include information about:

- Population
- Population change
- Population forecasts
- Census