

# Census 2021: Total population change between 2011 and 2021

**census**  
2021

The 2021 Census was taken on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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

## Further Information

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

## Headlines

- The 2021 Census shows the total population of England is 56,489,800. England's population grew by 3,477,300 people (6.6%) between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census.
- The South East region is the most populous region at 9,278,100. The population in the South East grew by 643,300 people between 2011 and 2021 which is equal to a 7.5% increase.
- Kent is the most populous county within the South East at 1,576,100. The population in Kent grew by 112,400 people between 2011 and 2021 which is equal to a 7.7% increase.
- The 2021 Census population for Medway Unitary Authority's is 279,800. This is up by 15,900 since 2011 which equates to a 6% 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 total population, presented here, being the first to be released on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

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

## Total Population: National and Regional

The 2021 Census shows the total population of England at 56,489,800. England's population grew by 3,477,300 people (6.6%) between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census.

The South East region is the most populous region at 9,278,100. The population in the South East grew by 643,300 people between 2011 and 2021, the highest increase in absolute terms of all the regions, equal to a 7.5% increase.

The highest regional percentage increase in population was in the East of England where the population grew by 487,500 or 8.3%

The North East has the smallest population at 2,647,100. This region also experienced the smallest increase in population between the 2001 and 2011 Census and the 2011 and 2021 Census.

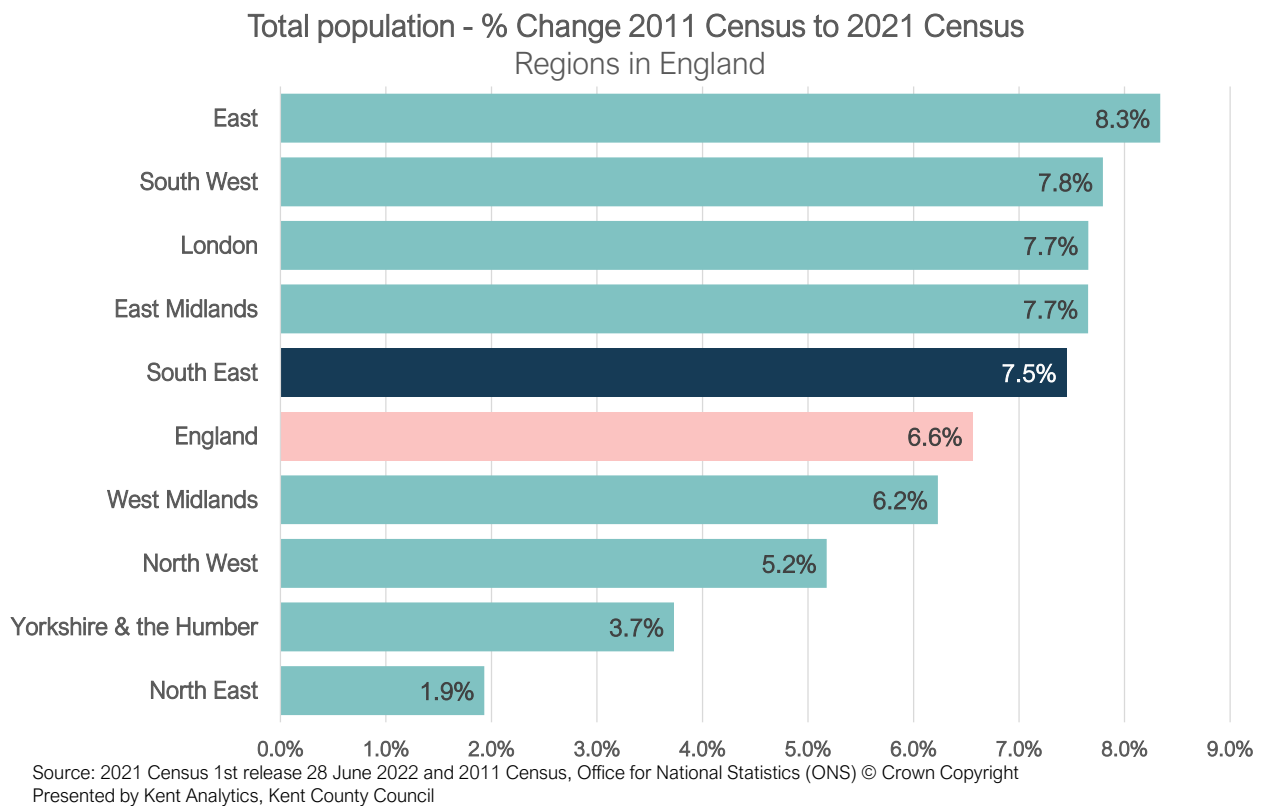
**Table 1: Total population in England and the regions: 2001,2011 and 2021 census**

Total population change: Regions & England							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>England</b>	<b>49,138,800</b>	<b>53,012,500</b>	<b>56,489,800</b>	<b>3,873,700</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>3,477,300</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
East	5,388,100	5,847,000	6,334,500	458,900	8.5%	487,500	8.3%
East Midlands	4,172,200	4,533,200	4,880,200	361,000	8.7%	347,000	7.7%
London	7,172,100	8,173,900	8,799,800	1,001,800	14.0%	625,900	7.7%
North East	2,515,400	2,596,900	2,647,100	81,500	3.2%	50,200	1.9%
North West	6,729,800	7,052,200	7,417,300	322,400	4.8%	365,100	5.2%
<b>South East</b>	<b>8,000,600</b>	<b>8,634,800</b>	<b>9,278,100</b>	<b>634,200</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>643,300</b>	<b>7.5%</b>
South West	4,928,400	5,288,900	5,701,200	360,500	7.3%	412,300	7.8%
West Midlands	5,267,300	5,601,800	5,950,800	334,500	6.4%	349,000	6.2%
Yorkshire & the Humber	4,964,800	5,283,700	5,480,800	318,900	6.4%	197,100	3.7%

Source: 2021 Census ,1st Release 28 June 2022; 2011 Census, 1st Release - July 2012; 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright  
All numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages are calculated using rounded numbers.

Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Chart 1: Percentage population change between 2011 and 2021



## Total Population in the South East

### South East Counties

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

Kent is the most populous county within the South East at 1,576,100. The population in Kent grew by 112,400 people which is a 7.7% increase in percentage terms and is the largest increase in absolute (numbers) terms of all the counties in the region. The highest percentage increase in population was in Oxfordshire where the population grew by 71,500 or 10.9%.

East Sussex has the smallest population at 545,800. This county also experienced the smallest increase in population between the 2011 and 2021 Census. See Table 2 and Chart 2 for details.

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

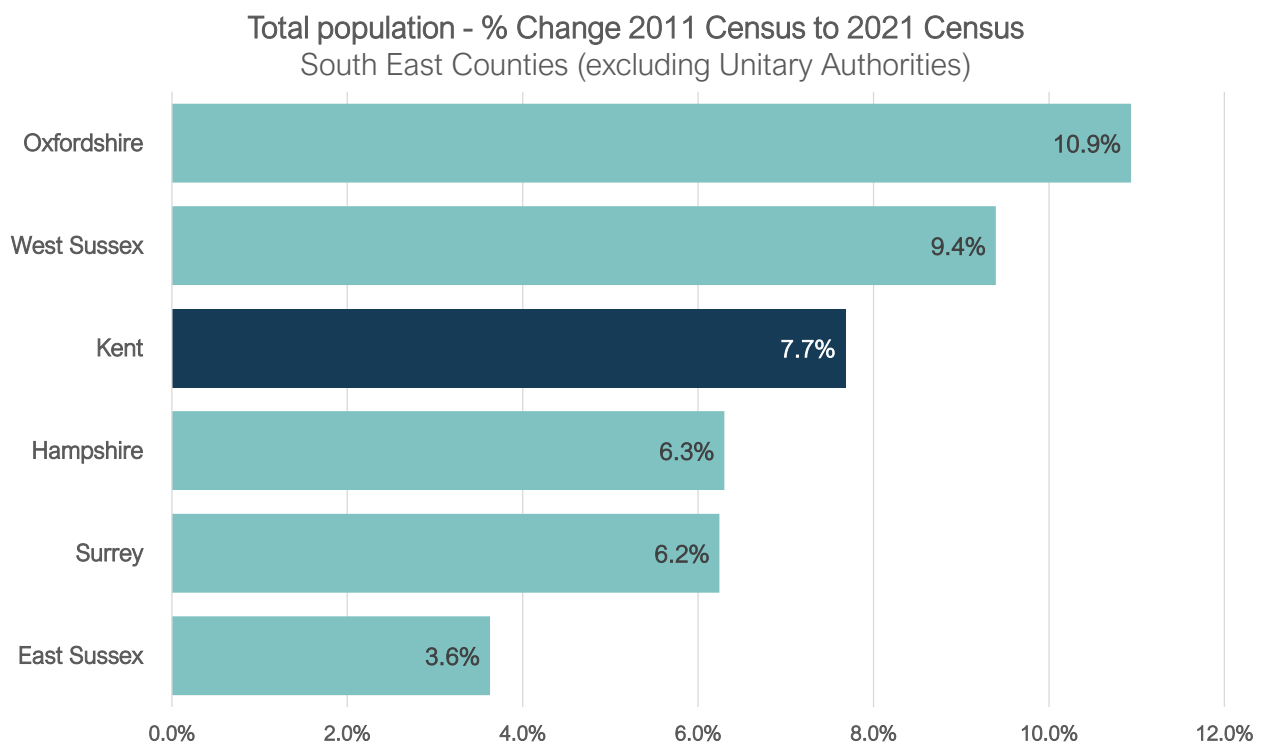
Total population change: South East Region							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021	
				Number	%	Number	%
East Sussex	492,300	526,700	545,800	34,400	7.0%	19,100	3.6%
Hampshire	1,240,100	1,317,800	1,400,800	77,700	6.3%	83,000	6.3%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>1,329,700</b>	<b>1,463,700</b>	<b>1,576,100</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>112,400</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Oxfordshire	605,500	653,800	725,300	48,300	8.0%	71,500	10.9%
Surrey	1,059,000	1,132,400	1,203,100	73,400	6.9%	70,700	6.2%
West Sussex	753,600	806,900	882,700	53,300	7.1%	75,800	9.4%

Source: 2021 Census, 1st Release 28 June 2022; 2011 Census, 1st Release - July 2012; 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

All numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages are calculated using rounded numbers.

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**Chart 2: Percentage population 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 is the most populous Unitary Authority within the South East at 553,100. Buckinghamshire saw the highest increase in absolute terms where the population rose by 47,800 between 2011 and 2021; a 9.5% increase.

Milton Keynes saw the highest percentage increase between 2011 and 2021 with 15.4% or 38,200 people.

Brighton & Hove, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth are all showing modest increases between the 2011 and 2021 Census, of 1.4%-1.5%. See Table 3 and Chart 3 for details.

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

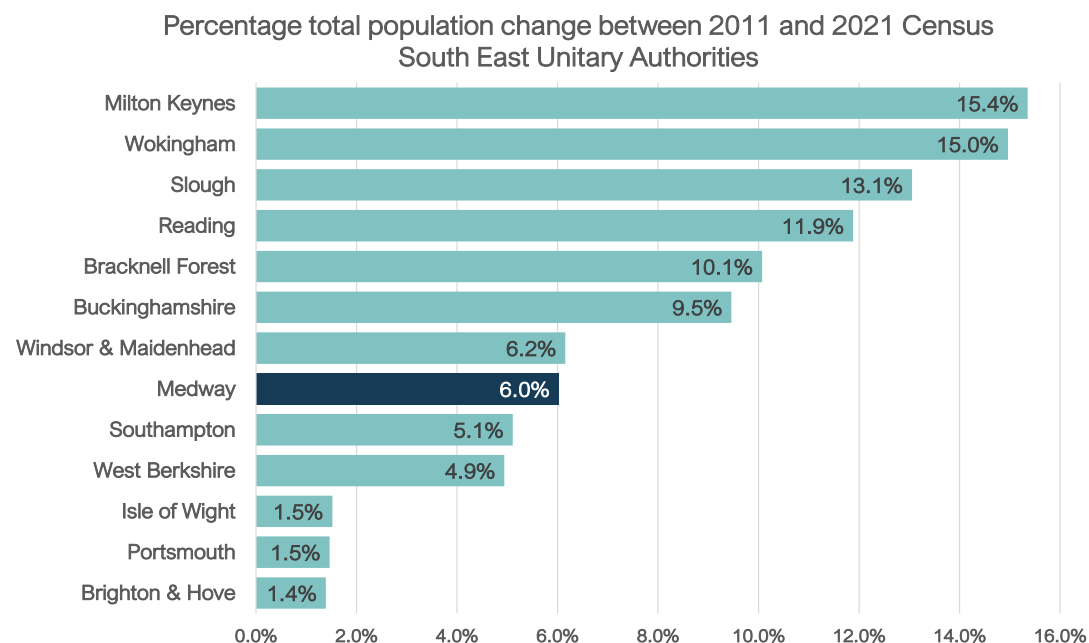
Total population change: South East Unitary Authorities							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
Bracknell Forest	109,600	113,200	124,600	3,600	3.3%	11,400	10.1%
Brighton & Hove	247,800	273,400	277,200	25,600	10.3%	3,800	1.4%
Buckinghamshire	479,000	505,300	553,100	26,300	5.5%	47,800	9.5%
Isle of Wight	132,700	138,300	140,400	5,600	4.2%	2,100	1.5%
<b>Medway</b>	<b>249,500</b>	<b>263,900</b>	<b>279,800</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Milton Keynes	207,100	248,800	287,000	41,700	20.1%	38,200	15.4%
Portsmouth	186,700	205,100	208,100	18,400	9.9%	3,000	1.5%
Reading	143,100	155,700	174,200	12,600	8.8%	18,500	11.9%
Slough	119,100	140,200	158,500	21,100	17.7%	18,300	13.1%
Southampton	217,400	236,900	249,000	19,500	9.0%	12,100	5.1%
West Berkshire	144,500	153,800	161,400	9,300	6.4%	7,600	4.9%
Windsor & Maidenhead	133,600	144,600	153,500	11,000	8.2%	8,900	6.2%
Wokingham	150,200	154,400	177,500	4,200	2.8%	23,100	15.0%

Source: 2021 Census ,1st Release 28 June 2022; 2011 Census, 1st Release - July 2012; 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Chart 3: Population change in the South East Unitary Authorities: 2011 to 2021**



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

## Kent Local Authorities

In 2021 Maidstone was the most populous local authority within Kent at 175,800. Maidstone's population accounts for 11.2% of the total population of Kent.

Maidstone also experienced the highest increase in absolute terms in total population where the population rose by 20,600 between 2011 and 2021. This is the largest increase of all twelve local authorities in Kent and equates to a 13.3% increase.

Dartford saw the highest percentage total population increase with 19.9% or 19,400 people. Tunbridge Wells experienced the smallest increase in population between the 2011 and 2021 Census, rising by 300 people or a 0.3% increase.

Gravesham has the smallest population at 106,900 which accounts for 6.8% of the total population of Kent. See Table 4 and Charts 4 and 5 for details.

**Table 4: Total population change in Kent local authorities**

Total population change: Kent and local authorities							
	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/2021 Change	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>1,329,700</b>	<b>1,463,700</b>	<b>1,576,100</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>112,400</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Ashford	102,700	118,000	132,700	15,300	14.9%	14,700	12.5%
Canterbury	135,300	151,200	157,400	15,900	11.8%	6,200	4.1%
Dartford	85,900	97,400	116,800	11,500	13.4%	19,400	19.9%
Dover	104,600	111,700	116,400	7,100	6.8%	4,700	4.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	96,200	108,000	109,800	11,800	12.3%	1,800	1.7%
Gravesham	95,700	101,700	106,900	6,000	6.3%	5,200	5.1%
Maidstone	138,900	155,200	175,800	16,300	11.7%	20,600	13.3%
Sevenoaks	109,300	114,900	120,500	5,600	5.1%	5,600	4.9%
Swale	122,800	135,800	151,700	13,000	10.6%	15,900	11.7%
Thanet	126,700	134,200	140,600	7,500	5.9%	6,400	4.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	107,600	120,800	132,200	13,200	12.3%	11,400	9.4%
Tunbridge Wells	104,000	115,000	115,300	11,000	10.6%	300	0.3%

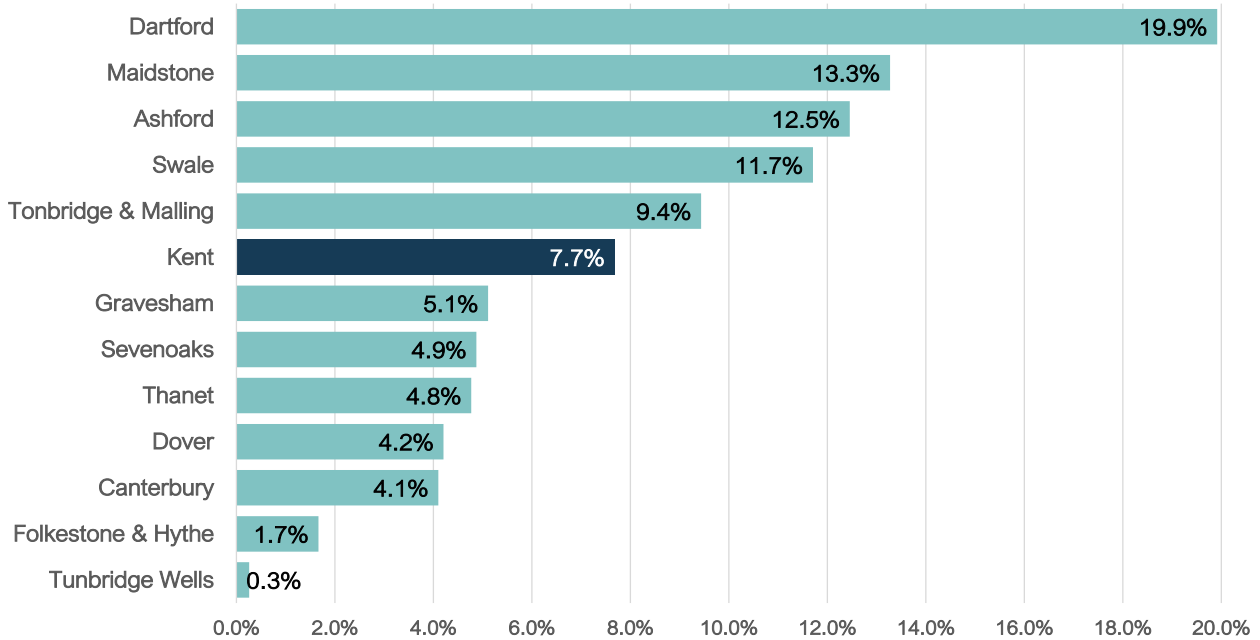
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### Chart 4: Kent local authorities: population change between 2011 to 2021

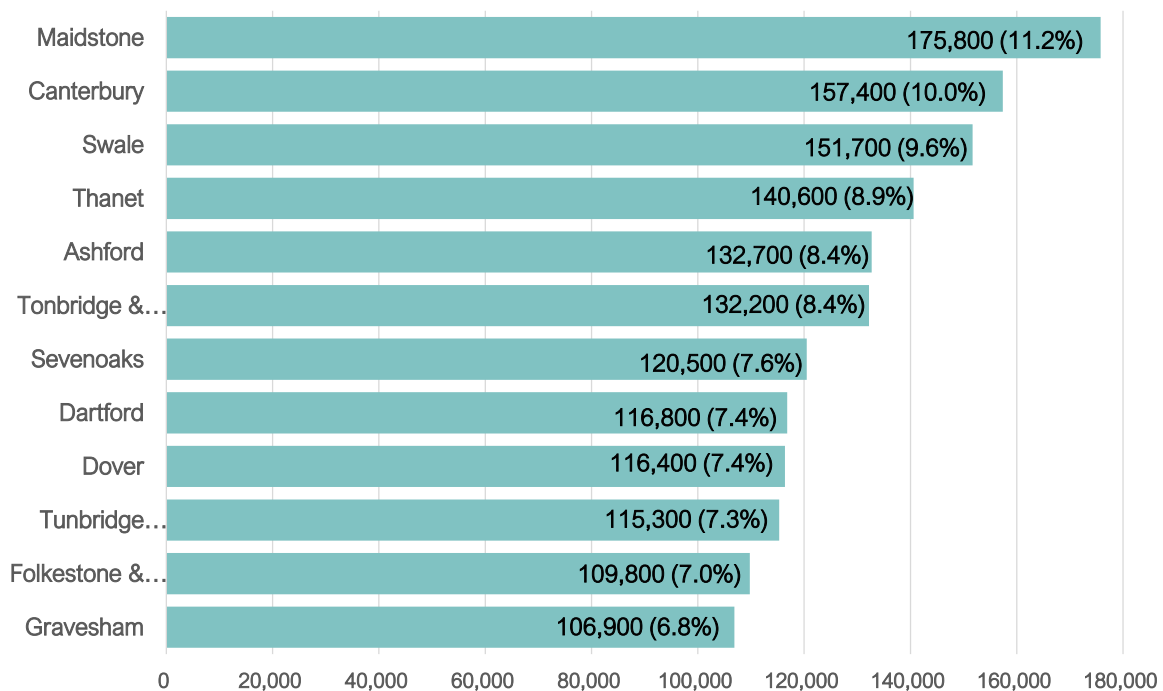
Percentage total population change between 2011 and 2021 Census  
Kent Local Authorities



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

### Chart 5: Kent local authorities: total population and proportion of Kent population

2021 Census: Kent local authorities: Total population & 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