

Census 2011 Briefing

Ethnicity & National Identity

The 1991 Census was the first census to include a question about ethnic background to monitor equal opportunities /anti-discrimination policies. Over the last two decades England and Wales have become more ethnically diverse, and the task of measuring this diversity means looking at other aspects such as religion, country of birth and national identity as well as ethnicity.

The 2001 Census therefore saw the introduction of the question on religion and country of birth; this was further expanded on in the 2011 Census with the introduction of questions about national identity.

Headlines

- Maidstone is the largest district in Kent with a resident population of 155,143. This grew by 11.7% between 2001 and 2011.
- The largest ethnic group in Maidstone is white. 94.1% of residents belong to this ethnic group while the remaining 5.9% of residents are from a Black Minority Ethnic (BME) group.
- Over 9% of Maidstone residents were born outside of the UK and over 45% have been in the UK for 10 or more year.
- Just over 15% of Maidstone residents do not have a passport.
- Almost 3% of Maidstone households do not have anyone who speaks English (as their main language) living there.
- Over a quarter of Maidstone residents do not follow a religion. Out of the Kent districts Maidstone had the largest proportional increase in residents with no religion.

Ethnicity

The 2011 Census provides us with 18 separate ethnic categories which have been aggregated into 5 broad ethnic groups. These are:

- White
- Mixed/Multiple ethnic group
- Asian/Asian British
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- Other ethnic group

The largest ethnic group in Kent is White. 93.7% of residents belong to this ethnic group whilst the remaining 6.33% of residents are from a Black Minority Ethnic (BME) group. Kent has a higher proportion of people from the white ethnic group than the national figure of 85.4% and the South East figure of 90.7%.

Out of the twelve local authority districts within Kent, Gravesham has the highest number and proportion of residents from a BME group at 17.20% or 17,494,

almost 3% higher than the national proportion and significantly higher than the proportion for the whole of Kent. This is likely to be due to its proximity to the capital (London inner and outer) where the proportion of people from a BME background is much higher, accounting for 40% of the local population.

Dover has the lowest number and proportion of residents from a BME group. 3.32% of Dover's population - 3,708 people - are from a BME group. Overall Maidstone has the fifth largest proportion of people from BME background out of the twelve Kent districts, 5.90%, which is marginally lower than that of Kent as a whole and significantly lower than the figure for all England.

The Asian/Asian British group is the 2nd largest ethnic group after the "White" ethnic group in Kent with a population of 47,614 which equates to 3.3% of the total population of Kent. The same is true at a local level for Maidstone with this group equating to 3.19%. Maidstone's Ghurkha and Nepalese population is the third highest in Kent with 1,371 people after Shepway with 2,179 and Ashford with 1,535.

The breakdown showing the 18 ethnic groups within the census shows that Maidstone and Swale have the highest percentage of people from Gypsy or Irish traveller backgrounds at 0.45%, however the actual figures shows a greater settlement of this population in Maidstone with 838 residents from this ethnic group compared to 730 in Swale.

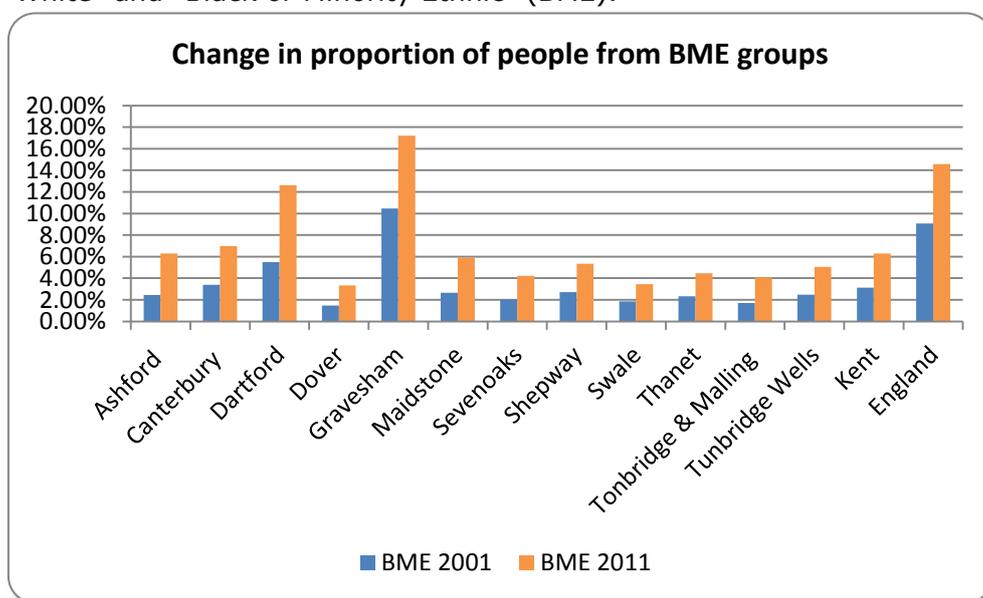
Location	White	Mixed / Multiple ethnic group	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other ethnic group	BME
England	85.42%	2.25%	7.82%	3.48%	1.03%	14.58%
Kent	93.67%	1.51%	3.25%	1.11%	0.46%	6.30%
Ashford	93.70%	1.43%	3.38%	1.17%	0.33%	6.30%
Canterbury	93.04%	1.69%	3.40%	1.28%	0.60%	6.96%
Dartford	87.37%	2.22%	5.96%	3.67%	0.78%	12.63%
Dover	96.68%	0.92%	1.82%	0.35%	0.23%	3.32%
Gravesham	82.80%	2.03%	10.42%	2.84%	1.91%	17.20%
Maidstone	94.10%	1.51%	3.19%	0.89%	0.31%	5.90%
Sevenoaks	95.77%	1.46%	1.81%	0.74%	0.22%	4.23%
Shepway	94.67%	1.17%	3.43%	0.42%	0.31%	5.33%
Swale	96.55%	1.16%	1.10%	1.03%	0.16%	3.45%
Thanet	95.53%	1.63%	1.87%	0.68%	0.29%	4.47%
Tonbridge & Malling	95.92%	1.39%	2.01%	0.35%	0.33%	4.08%
Tunbridge Wells	94.95%	1.65%	2.52%	0.55%	0.33%	5.05%

Ethnicity Change

The 2001 Census presented the population by 16 separate categories which were aggregated into 5 broad ethnic groups. These are:

- White: British; Irish; Other White
- Mixed: White and Black Caribbean; White and Black African; White and Asian; Other Mixed
- Asian / Asian British: Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi; Other Asian
- Black or Black British: Black African; Black Caribbean; Other Black
- Chinese or Other ethnic group: Chinese; Other ethnic groups.

The 2011 Census provides us with 18 separate ethnic categories which have been aggregated into 5 broad ethnic groups (as set out in the ethnicity section). The different categories used in different census years make it difficult to compare results against the previous censuses. In order to provide some comparison we have grouped the individual groups from each of the censuses into two groups: "White" and "Black or Minority Ethnic" (BME).



The graph below shows the proportional increase in people from BME groups between 2001 and 2011. Overall in Kent there has been a decrease in the proportion of people from the white ethnic groups from 98.1% in 2001 to 93.7% in 2011.

With the exception of Gravesham, all the Kent districts saw an increase in people from both white and BME groups between 2001 and 2011. Gravesham was

the only Kent district where there was a decrease and this was within the white groups with 1,471 less people than reported in the previous census. Every other Kent district shows a minimum 2% increase in residents from white groups. Ashford had the largest increase in residents from white groups with a 10.35% (10,366) increase and Sevenoaks the lowest with 2.76% (2,957). Maidstone saw an increase of 7.94% (10,734), the fifth largest increase amongst the Kent districts and significantly above the overall figure of 1.35% for England as a whole.

Location	White		BME		2001-2011 White change		2001-2011 BME Change	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	100,154	110,520	2,507	7,436	10,366	10.35%	4,929	196.61%
Canterbury	130,700	140,620	4,578	10,525	9,920	7.59%	5,947	129.90%
Dartford	81,183	85,070	4,728	12,295	3,887	4.79%	7,567	160.05%
Dover	103,023	107,966	1,543	3,708	4,943	4.80%	2,165	140.31%
Gravesham	85,697	84,226	10,020	17,494	- 1,471	-1.72%	7,474	74.59%
Maidstone	135,262	145,996	3,686	9,147	10,734	7.94%	5,461	148.16%
Sevenoaks	107,072	110,029	2,233	4,864	2,957	2.76%	2,631	117.82%
Shepway	93,633	102,215	2,605	5,754	8,582	9.17%	3,149	120.88%
Swale	120,516	131,155	2,285	4,680	10,639	8.83%	2,395	104.81%
Thanet	123,770	128,194	2,932	5,992	4,424	3.57%	3,060	104.37%
Tonbridge & Malling	105,714	115,872	1,847	4,933	10,158	9.61%	3,086	167.08%
Tunbridge Wells	101,460	109,239	2,570	5,810	7,779	7.67%	3,240	126.07%
Kent	1,288,184	1,371,102	41,534	92,638	82,918	6.44%	51,104	123.04%
England	44,679,361	45,281,142	4,459,470	7,731,314	601,781	1.35%	3,271,844	73.37%

There was a rise in residents from BME groups in all the Kent districts; overall in Kent this group increased by 123.04%. On a district level, as with white groups, Ashford had the largest increase in residents from BME groups at 196.61% (4,929). This is not surprising as although Maidstone saw the biggest net increase in population, increasing by 16,300 or 11.8%. Ashford had the largest percentage increase in population growth with a 14.9% increase which equates to 15,300 residents. Gravesham was the only Kent district that saw a decrease in people from white backgrounds at -1.72%, proximity to London is thought to be a factor. All the other Kent districts saw an increase of over 100% in their BME populations; Maidstone had the fourth largest increase in people from BME groups, over 20% higher than the Kent actual and twice that of the England actual.

Country of Birth

In 2011 just over 1.3 million of Kent's residents were born within the UK. This equates to 90.86% of the total population and is a higher proportion than the all England figure of 85.38%.

The profile of country of birth for both Canterbury and Gravesham is closest to that of England, Gravesham's profile can be explained by its proximity to London and Canterbury is the only Kent district that has a well established university, which could influence the profile.

Within the Kent local authority districts, Swale has the highest proportion of population born in England with 92.5% of residents having been born here. This equates to a total of 125,642 people. Maidstone has the highest number of residents who were born in England with

Location	Born in UK	Born in Europe	Born outside Europe
Ashford	90.71%	3.36%	5.93%
Canterbury	89.04%	4.43%	6.52%
Dartford	88.72%	3.91%	7.37%
Dover	92.69%	3.47%	3.85%
Gravesham	85.94%	5.35%	8.71%
Maidstone	90.72%	3.87%	5.41%
Sevenoaks	91.84%	3.03%	5.13%
Shepway	90.75%	3.73%	5.52%
Swale	94.26%	2.96%	2.77%
Thanet	91.41%	4.56%	4.03%
Tonbridge & Malling	93.15%	2.51%	4.34%
Tunbridge Wells	90.06%	3.99%	5.95%
Kent	90.86%	3.76%	5.38%
England	85.38%	4.61%	10.01%

137,398 (88.6%). Dover has the highest proportion of Scottish and Welsh residents whilst Canterbury has the highest proportion of residents from Northern Ireland.

Gravesham has the highest proportion of population born outside Europe with 8.71% of residents having not been born here. This equates to a total of 8,858 people. However; Canterbury has the highest number of residents who were born outside Europe with 9,862 (6.5%). Canterbury also has the highest proportion of residents from countries which became part of the EU prior to March 2001 with 2.2% of residents having been born there, equating to a total of 3,311 people.

3.3% of Gravesham residents were born in countries which became part of the EU after April 2001. This is equal to 3,770 people and is the highest number and proportion in Kent.

Maidstone has the fourth highest percentage of residents from EU countries that became part of the EU between April 2001 and March 2011.

Country of Birth Change

Changes in the number of countries which belong to the European Union (EU) between 2001 and 2011 mean that a direct comparison is not possible for the EU between censuses. To compare these years two categories have been created: 'Other EU' which includes all member countries at March 2001 and 'Other' countries which includes UK not otherwise stated and accession countries April 2001-March 2011 as well as other countries of the world.

In Maidstone the percentage of residents born in 'other' countries has more than doubled since 2001, with the actual number of people increasing from 4,608 to 11,489. This equates to a 14.9% increase, the second highest after Dartford amongst the Kent districts. The number of people born in Scotland and Wales has decreased slightly in Maidstone and Kent; this is a trend that has been identified across England, while there has been little change (less than 50 people) in the numbers of people born in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Maidstone residents Area of birth	2001	2011
England	92.04%	88.56%
Other countries	3.32%	7.41%
Scotland	1.35%	1.07%
Other EU (March 2001)	1.34%	1.36%
Wales	1.05%	0.77%
Republic Ireland	0.56%	0.52%
Northern Ireland	0.34%	0.31%

Length of residency in the UK

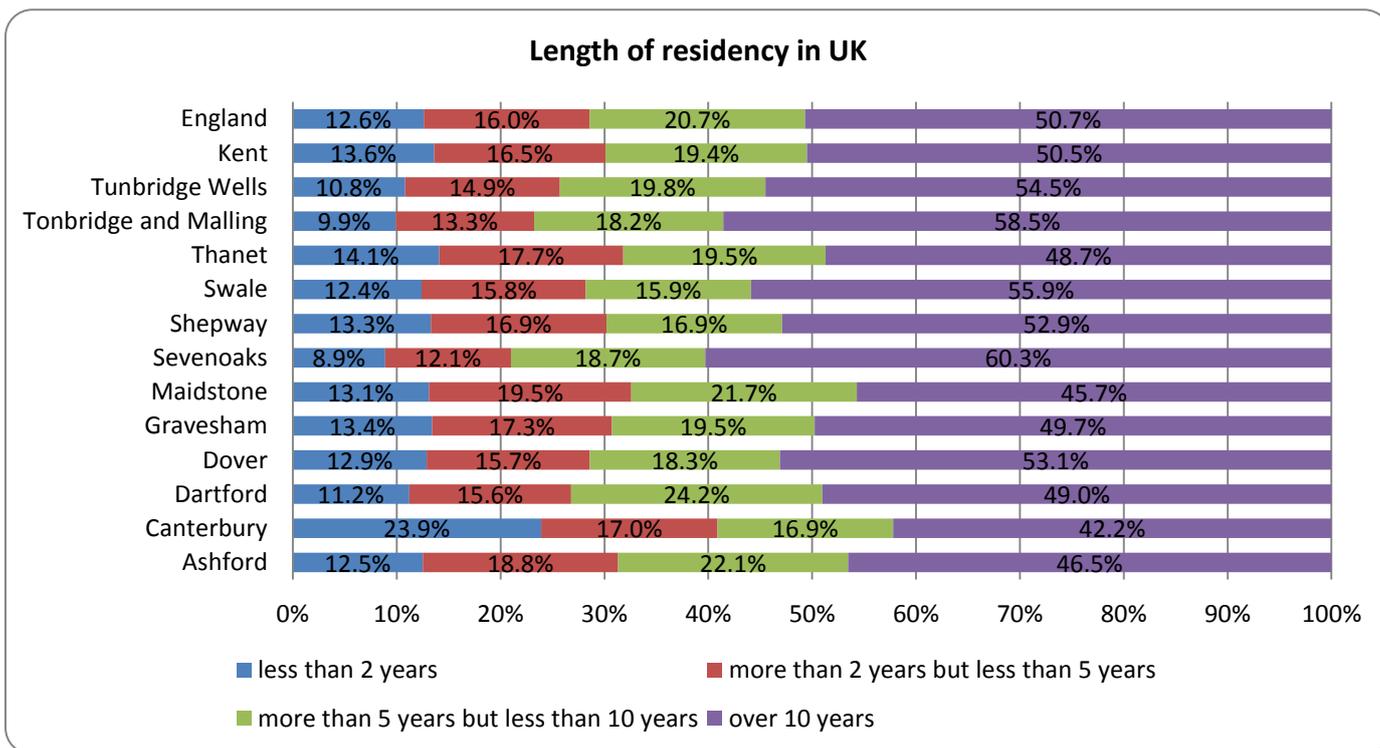
The 2011 census was the first time that specific questions were included for people born outside of the UK. It is expected that further information will be released during 2013 that will allow deeper analysis of the data. As 2011 was the first year that this question was asked no comparative data is currently available.

The numbers of residents who were not born in the UK are grouped into four categories. Those who have been resident for 2 years or less; resident for more than 2 years but less than 5 years; more than 5 years but less than 10 years; and those who have been resident for 10 years or longer.

In 2011 in Kent, almost 9.1% (133,752) of residents were born outside the United Kingdom. The majority of these (50.5%) have lived in the UK for 10 years or more.

There are some significant variances amongst the Kent districts. Canterbury has the highest number and proportion of people who were not born in the UK and have been resident for less than 2 years with a total of 3,952 people, which is equal to 23.9%. Canterbury has a large university campus and

out of the Kent districts had the third highest proportion of residents born outside of the UK. The fact that Canterbury also has the smallest proportion of residents born outside the UK that have been resident here for more than 5 years does suggest that foreign students contribute significantly to this figure as in the UK university courses last on average between 3 and 5 years. While Sevenoaks has the highest proportion of migrant population who have lived in the UK over 10 years at 60.3% or 5,650, unsurprisingly Gravesham, having the largest BME population, has the highest actual number of migrant residents who have been in the UK for over 10 years with 7,112 or 49.7%.



Maidstone’s migrant population is broadly in line with that for England & Kent with a marginally higher proportion having lived in the UK for less than 10 years at 54% compared to 49% for England and Kent. Maidstone has the third lowest proportion of migrants who have lived in the UK for 10 years or more at 45.7%.

Year of arrival in the UK

As with length of residence the 2011 Census was the first time that the question on year of arrival was included for people born outside of the UK, therefore no comparative data is available. To make the data easier to assess it has been split into 10 year groupings.

The number and proportion of migrants has increased steadily over the years. Just under half of Kent’s migrant population of 133,752 people arrived before the year 2001 whilst just over half, 50.3%, arrived in the past decade. This pattern is similar to the national and regional figures.

The table shows that Canterbury has the highest proportion of migrants that arrived in 2001 or later. Between 1971 and 2000 Sevenoaks had the highest proportion of new migrants; however from 2001 they have had the lowest proportion of new migrants out of all the Kent districts at 40.5%.

Year of Arrival	pre 1941	1941-1950	1951-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2011
Ashford	1.33%	2.86%	5.15%	8.04%	7.00%	6.80%	14.42%	54.40%
Canterbury	1.12%	2.82%	4.84%	6.21%	6.11%	6.38%	14.16%	58.36%
Dartford	0.49%	2.10%	4.20%	8.59%	8.54%	8.55%	15.62%	51.91%
Dover	1.84%	3.98%	6.65%	9.81%	8.63%	6.67%	14.69%	47.73%
Gravesham	0.39%	1.35%	4.47%	12.43%	8.56%	7.60%	14.21%	50.99%
Maidstone	1.27%	2.56%	5.27%	7.86%	7.26%	6.95%	13.70%	55.13%
Sevenoaks	1.65%	3.77%	6.88%	9.07%	9.38%	10.0%	18.75%	40.50%
Shepway	1.94%	4.11%	7.10%	9.07%	7.73%	7.32%	14.99%	47.74%
Swale	1.33%	3.62%	7.74%	10.44%	8.63%	9.02%	14.38%	44.85%
Thanet	1.19%	3.76%	7.36%	8.55%	7.38%	6.77%	13.10%	51.89%
Tonbridge and Malling	1.34%	3.23%	6.77%	10.43%	9.18%	9.20%	17.52%	42.34%
Tunbridge Wells	1.70%	2.93%	5.10%	8.92%	8.68%	9.34%	17.23%	46.11%

Maidstone has had the second highest proportion of new migrants since 2001 out of the twelve Kent districts, significantly over the Kent average of 49.40%, whereas in all previous years Maidstone migrant population has been below the Kent average. Between 1971 and 2000 Maidstone had the third smallest proportion of new migrants arriving out of twelve Kent districts.

Age at arrival in the UK

The majority of Kent's migrant population (126,821) were aged 44 and younger when they arrived in the UK. 60,282 Kent migrant residents were aged 0-19 when they arrived in the UK, this is equivalent to 45% of the total migrant population in Kent. The second largest proportion of migrant's 31.2% or 41,682 residents arrived here between the ages of 25 to 44. It is likely that people from these two age groups arrived together as families.

	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-44 years	45-59 years	60-64 years	65 years and over
Kent	16.43%	8.41%	7.06%	13.17%	18.58%	14.47%	16.70%	4.01%	0.49%	0.68%
Ashford	16.22%	8.87%	7.16%	11.02%	16.45%	14.57%	18.74%	5.19%	0.75%	1.04%
Canterbury	13.66%	7.59%	7.28%	23.44%	18.75%	12.37%	12.88%	3.19%	0.38%	0.48%
Dartford	12.95%	6.95%	5.84%	12.30%	21.69%	17.56%	18.50%	3.34%	0.32%	0.56%
Dover	21.73%	9.59%	7.55%	10.46%	16.00%	12.89%	15.91%	4.55%	0.55%	0.76%
Gravesham	11.80%	7.92%	8.17%	14.38%	20.99%	15.26%	16.80%	3.61%	0.41%	0.66%
Maidstone	14.70%	7.63%	5.85%	12.63%	22.02%	15.54%	16.25%	4.16%	0.52%	0.69%
Sevenoaks	20.34%	8.79%	6.51%	9.79%	15.28%	15.31%	19.15%	3.84%	0.39%	0.59%
Shepway	17.85%	9.12%	7.93%	13.05%	16.64%	12.23%	16.57%	4.88%	0.82%	0.90%
Swale	18.43%	8.82%	5.90%	11.45%	20.63%	14.86%	15.52%	3.63%	0.32%	0.44%
Thanet	17.01%	9.40%	8.09%	11.62%	16.97%	13.60%	17.28%	4.54%	0.76%	0.73%
Tonbridge and Malling	22.17%	9.26%	6.88%	9.80%	16.29%	13.44%	17.41%	3.60%	0.35%	0.81%
Tunbridge Wells	17.64%	8.45%	7.18%	10.37%	18.22%	15.83%	17.32%	4.04%	0.36%	0.59%
England	12.51%	7.44%	6.99%	13.36%	20.82%	16.95%	17.39%	3.52%	0.41%	0.61%

Within the Kent districts Maidstone has the largest proportion of migrants who arrived in the UK between the ages of 20-24 years at 22.02% or 3,171. Canterbury has the largest proportion of 18-24 years; this group makes up 32.3% (5,350) of Canterbury's migrant population, reflecting the high student population in this area.

Type of passport held

The 2011 Census included a question about passports. People were asked if they held either a UK, Irish, or Other passport. In the case of "Other" they were asked to write in what type of passport they held. Those people who hold more than one passport were asked to tick all that applied. There was also an option for those who do not hold a passport. The results will be used to estimate the country of citizenship of respondents, and can also be used to calculate what proportion of the population who are eligible to vote actually register to do so.

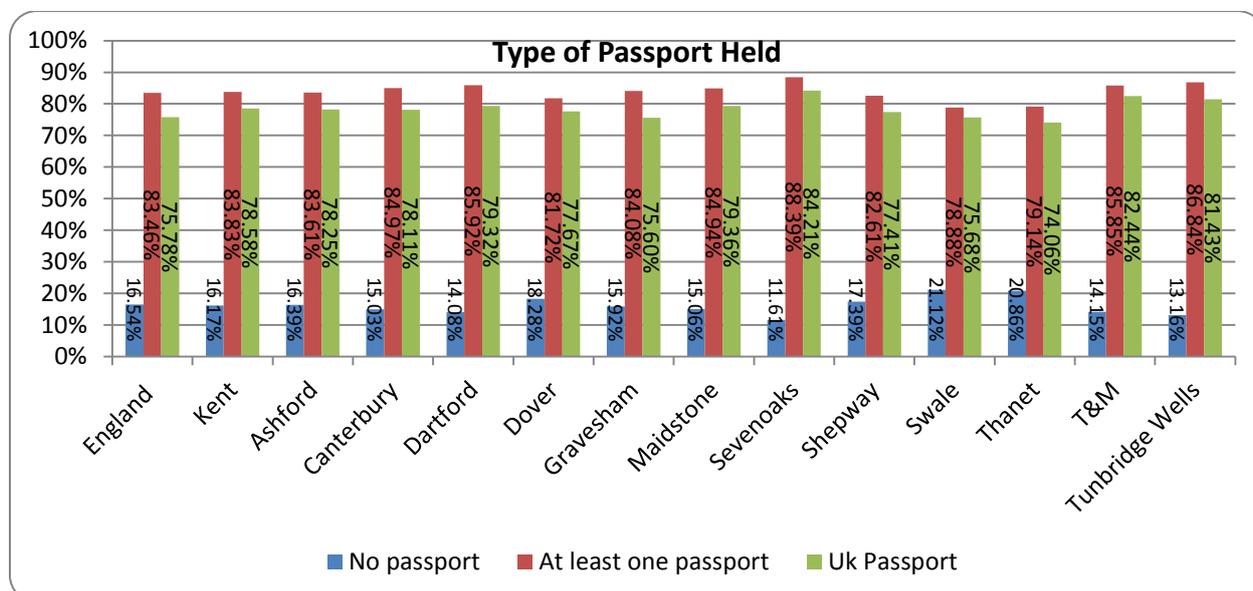
Just over 1.2 million Kent residents hold at least one passport. This accounts for 83.83% of the total population. This is slightly higher than the overall proportion in England of 83.46% but lower than that of the South East region which is 85.9%.

Sevenoaks has the highest proportion of residents that hold a UK passport and the highest proportion of residents with at least one passport at 84.21% and 88.39% respectively. Thanet has the lowest proportion of residents with a UK passport at 74.06%, the Kent average is 78.42%. Swale has the lowest proportion of those with at least one passport at 78.88%, notably lower than the Kent average of 83.87%.

Swale has the highest proportion and of residents without a passport at 21.1% (28,685), significantly higher than the proportion for England as a whole (16.54%) and the Kent average of 16.09%. Sevenoaks has the lowest at 11.61%.

Swale has the highest proportion of residents without a passport at 21.1% (28,685), significantly higher than the proportion for England as a whole (16.54%) and the Kent average of 16.09%.

Maidstone has 23,361 (15.06%) residents without passports, the 5th lowest proportion out of the Kent districts. The majority of Maidstone residents hold at least one passport (84.94%) this is the 6th highest proportion for Kent.



Household Language

In 2011, for the first time, the national census asked a question about household language.

Out of the twelve Kent districts Gravesham has the highest proportion of people where no one in the household speaks English at 4.97%, this is higher than the proportion for England as a whole. Maidstone has the third highest proportion amongst the Kent districts at 2.95% (1,871), 1.5% less than the proportion for England as a whole.

Swale has the greatest proportion of people where everyone in the household aged 16 or over speaks English as their main language at 96.99%. Tonbridge and Malling has the lowest proportion of households where no one in the household speaks English as their main language at 1.11%, Swale has the third lowest (1.44%) after Sevenoaks (1.20%).

Dartford and Gravesham have the same proportion of households where no aged 16 or over speaks English as a main language but at least one person aged 3-15 years does, the highest proportion out of the Kent districts at 0.77% (actual 310 and 312 respectively).

	Everyone aged 16 or over in household have English as main language	At least one but not all people aged 16 and over in household have English as a main language	No people aged 16 and over in household but at least one person aged 3 to 15 has English as a main language	No people in household have English as a main language
ENGLAND	90.89%	3.85%	0.81%	4.44%
Kent	94.87%	2.28%	0.38%	2.47%
Ashford	94.92%	2.04%	0.44%	2.60%
Canterbury	93.97%	3.06%	0.34%	2.64%
Dartford	93.41%	2.52%	0.77%	3.30%
Dover	96.37%	1.55%	0.25%	1.83%
Gravesham	89.65%	4.61%	0.77%	4.97%
Maidstone	94.49%	2.17%	0.40%	2.95%
Sevenoaks	96.44%	2.08%	0.28%	1.20%
Shepway	95.05%	1.89%	0.31%	2.75%
Swale	96.99%	1.37%	0.19%	1.44%
Thanet	95.01%	1.76%	0.39%	2.85%
Tonbridge and Malling	96.71%	1.94%	0.24%	1.11%
Tunbridge Wells	94.37%	2.89%	0.34%	2.40%

Religion

The religion question was the only voluntary question on the 2011 Census questionnaire and 7.30% of Kent residents did not answer the question. This is slightly higher than the England figure of 7.18%. In Maidstone 7.12% of residents (11,043) did not answer this question. Tunbridge Wells had the highest proportion of people not answering the question at 7.95% (9,152) and Gravesham the lowest at 6.29% (6,395).

Christianity is the largest religion in Kent (62.52%). Sevenoaks has the highest proportion of Christian residents out of the twelve Kent districts with 65.43% and Canterbury has the lowest at 60.29%. The proportion of Christian residents in Kent is higher than the proportion for England as a whole. Maidstone has a slightly higher proportion (62.90%) of residents that are Christian than the overall proportion for Kent.

The second highest proportion of residents in Kent answering this question stated no religion, 26.75%. Swale has the highest proportion of residents stating no religion at 28.78% which equates to 39,087 residents. The proportion of Maidstone residents that stated no religion is the same as the proportion for Kent as a whole.

The second most popular religion in Kent is Muslim at 5.02% or 13,932. Gravesham has the highest proportion of Muslims with 1.9% of the population stating that they were Muslim which equates to 1,894 people (this is the third largest population group in this district). Sikhism accounts for the 2nd largest proportion of Gravesham residents with 7.61% which is equal to 7,743 people.

	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Religion not stated
ENGLAND	59.38%	0.45%	1.52%	0.49%	5.02%	0.79%	0.43%	24.74%	7.18%
Kent	62.52%	0.46%	0.75%	0.12%	0.95%	0.72%	0.42%	26.75%	7.30%
Ashford	62.95%	0.68%	1.09%	0.10%	0.86%	0.08%	0.37%	26.27%	7.61%
Canterbury	60.29%	0.58%	0.70%	0.18%	1.22%	0.16%	0.50%	28.53%	7.85%
Dartford	60.64%	0.39%	1.59%	0.09%	1.61%	1.58%	0.33%	27.20%	6.56%
Dover	64.06%	0.47%	0.61%	0.09%	0.47%	0.04%	0.47%	26.01%	7.78%
Gravesham	60.84%	0.33%	0.93%	0.05%	1.86%	7.61%	0.60%	21.49%	6.29%
Maidstone	62.90%	0.58%	0.96%	0.11%	1.09%	0.11%	0.39%	26.75%	7.12%
Sevenoaks	65.43%	0.32%	0.34%	0.17%	0.52%	0.16%	0.30%	25.19%	7.58%
Shepway	63.33%	0.89%	1.44%	0.07%	0.74%	0.03%	0.47%	26.47%	7.57%
Swale	62.97%	0.20%	0.27%	0.07%	0.58%	0.12%	0.37%	28.78%	6.65%
Thanet	61.44%	0.37%	0.48%	0.20%	0.92%	0.07%	0.51%	28.60%	7.41%
Tonbridge and Malling	63.67%	0.37%	0.45%	0.10%	0.62%	0.14%	0.34%	27.31%	7.00%
Tunbridge Wells	62.93%	0.39%	0.40%	0.20%	1.08%	0.05%	0.38%	26.62%	7.95%

Religion Change

Between 2001 and 2011 all of the Kent districts saw a decrease in the proportion of residents that are Christian. Thanet had both the largest actual decrease in numbers (-10,775) and proportional decrease (-11.56%). Ashford had the lowest proportional change at -5.39% (-4234) but Dartford had the lowest actual number of residents leaving this group at -3,911 (-6.21%).

There were increases in all districts in Kent for Buddhism, Hinduism and Muslim. The largest proportional rise in Buddhism was in Ashford, where there was a 361.5% increase in this group, growing from 174 in 2001 to 803 in 2011. Thanet had the lowest proportional increase in Buddhists at 45.7%. Five of the Kent districts saw increases in this group of at least 170% compared to the 2001 census data, Maidstone was one of these authorities with an increase of 187.86% or 588 residents.

Swale had the lowest proportional and actual increase in Hinduism at 48.39% (120); Swale also has the lowest proportion of residents that are Hindu out of the Kent districts. The largest increase in this group in actual numbers and proportion was Ashford at 381.95% increase (1,016). Dartford which has the largest overall proportion of Hindus out of the Kent districts had the second largest actual increase with 898 residents. Nine of the Kent districts saw increases of over 100% in Hinduism; Maidstone was among these with an increase of 123.69% or 825 residents.

Gravesham had the highest proportional and actual increase in residents that are Muslim at 148.23% and 1,131 respectively. Gravesham also has the highest proportion of residents overall in this group out of the Kent districts. While Sevenoaks had the lowest proportional increase in residents in this group at 59.15% (223), Dover had the lowest actual increase in residents that are Muslim at 213 (69.16%). Dover has the smallest proportion of Muslims out of the Kent districts. Seven of the Kent districts saw increases of at least 100% and the remaining five districts had at least a 60% increase. Maidstone had the third largest increase in this group at 130.51% and the fourth largest increase in actual numbers with 954 residents.

All of the Kent districts except Thanet had an increase in the proportion of Sikh residents. Thanet's Sikh population remained at 94 residents between 2001 and 2011. The highest proportional increase was in Tonbridge and Malling at 134.72% or an additional 97 residents. Overall the increases in this group were much lower than those for Buddhism, Hindu and Muslim ranging from 17.33% to 134.72% with an average proportional increase amongst the Kent district of 50.52%. Maidstone saw an increase in this group of 26 residents which equates to a 17.33% increase in residents in this group.

In Kent the Jewish Community grew by 5.6%; unlike the other major religions there was no definable trend amongst the districts with seven districts showing a decrease in residents that are Jewish and the remaining five showing an increase in this group. The largest actual increase in residents that are Jewish was in Tunbridge Wells with 57 (32.6%), however the biggest proportional increase was seen by Dartford with an increase of 43.3% (26). In Maidstone Jewish residents decreased by -1.8% (-3).

Maidstone was the only Kent district that had a decrease in residents that say they are of other religion with a decline of -14.88% for this group which is equal to -107 residents. In this category the increases range from 135.8% or an additional 349 residents for Gravesham to 19.18% increase and an additional 56 residents in Sevenoaks.

All of the Kent districts saw an increase (of at least 80%) in residents that state they have no religion. Maidstone had the highest increase in residents in this group, both proportionally and in actual numbers, with a 108.3% increase compared to 2001 which is equal to 21,577 residents. Sevenoaks had the lowest proportional increase, at 83.5% increase or an additional 13,168 in this group, while Gravesham had the lowest increase in actual numbers, with an additional 10,358 residents which equates to a 90.04% increase.

Tunbridge Wells saw the largest increase in the proportion of people who did not answer the question on religion. This group saw a 18.8% increase compared to 2001 which equates to 1,447 residents. Maidstone also saw an increase in this group with an additional 782 residents not responding to the question which is equal to an increase of 7.62% within this group.

	Christian				Buddhist				Hindu			
	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change
Ashford	78,487	74,253	-4,234	-5.39%	174	803	629	361.49%	266	1,282	1,016	381.95%
Canterbury	99,127	91,122	-8,005	-8.08%	509	880	371	72.89%	511	1,055	544	106.46%
Dartford	62,956	59,045	-3,911	-6.21%	207	382	175	84.54%	649	1,547	898	138.37%
Dover	80,093	71,541	-8,552	-10.68%	178	523	345	193.82%	159	682	523	328.93%
Gravesham	69,204	61,891	-7,313	-10.57%	236	333	97	41.10%	602	942	340	56.48%
Maidstone	106,025	97,578	-8,447	-7.97%	313	901	588	187.86%	667	1,492	825	123.69%
Sevenoaks	84,185	75,169	-9,016	-10.71%	217	367	150	69.12%	217	385	168	77.42%
Shepway	72,591	67,296	-5,295	-7.29%	213	962	749	351.64%	1,001	1,551	550	54.95%
Swale	93,192	85,535	-7,657	-8.22%	164	275	111	67.68%	248	368	120	48.39%
Thanet	93,222	82,447	-10,775	-11.56%	337	491	154	45.70%	247	639	392	158.70%
Tonbridge and Malling	81,891	76,920	-4,971	-6.07%	159	441	282	177.36%	173	539	366	211.56%
Tunbridge Wells	78,051	72,403	-5,648	-7.24%	274	444	170	62.04%	201	461	260	129.35%
	Jewish				Muslim				Sikh			
	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change
Ashford	123	116	-7	-5.7%	578	1,019	441	76.30%	72	95	23	31.94%
Canterbury	222	267	45	20.3%	868	1,838	970	111.75%	126	245	119	94.44%
Dartford	60	86	26	43.3%	597	1,566	969	162.31%	943	1,543	600	63.63%
Dover	78	97	19	24.4%	308	521	213	69.16%	41	50	9	21.95%
Gravesham	56	54	-2	-3.6%	763	1,894	1,131	148.23%	6,379	7,743	1,364	21.38%
Maidstone	166	163	-3	-1.8%	731	1,685	954	130.51%	150	176	26	17.33%
Sevenoaks	163	196	33	20.2%	377	600	223	59.15%	101	180	79	78.22%
Shepway	107	78	-29	-27.1%	338	796	458	135.50%	21	34	13	61.90%
Swale	103	93	-10	-9.7%	448	792	344	76.79%	112	158	46	41.07%
Thanet	306	273	-33	-10.8%	621	1,230	609	98.07%	94	94	0	0.00%
Tonbridge and Malling	124	122	-2	-1.6%	326	750	424	130.06%	72	169	97	134.72%
Tunbridge Wells	175	232	57	32.6%	590	1,241	651	110.34%	43	58	15	34.88%
	Other religion				No Religion				Religion not stated			
	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change	2001	2011	no. change	% change
Ashford	307	432	125	40.72%	15,016	30,984	15,968	106.34%	7,638	8,972	1,334	17.47%
Canterbury	562	760	198	35.23%	22,540	43,117	20,577	91.29%	10,813	11,861	1,048	9.69%
Dartford	188	319	131	69.68%	12,931	26,486	13,555	104.83%	7,380	6,391	-989	-13.40%
Dover	288	525	237	82.29%	14,823	29,047	14,224	95.96%	8,598	8,688	90	1.05%
Gravesham	257	606	349	135.80%	11,504	21,862	10,358	90.04%	6,716	6,395	-321	-4.78%
Maidstone	719	612	-107	-14.88%	19,916	41,493	21,577	108.34%	10,261	11,043	782	7.62%
Sevenoaks	292	348	56	19.18%	15,771	28,939	13,168	83.50%	7,982	8,709	727	9.11%
Shepway	314	506	192	61.15%	14,077	28,575	14,498	102.99%	7,576	8,171	595	7.85%
Swale	340	499	159	46.76%	18,888	39,087	20,199	106.94%	9,306	9,028	-278	-2.99%
Thanet	417	690	273	65.47%	20,094	38,383	18,289	91.02%	11,364	9,939	-1,425	-12.54%
Tonbridge and Malling	255	412	157	61.57%	16,141	32,996	16,855	104.42%	8,420	8,456	36	0.43%
Tunbridge Wells	327	436	109	33.33%	16,664	30,622	13,958	83.76%	7,705	9,152	1,447	18.78%