

Census Bulletin

Households in West Sussex

Households

The Census gathers information on households including household size, number of rooms, occupancy, accommodation type, tenure, and amenities.

Average Household Size

Between the 2001 and 2011 Census the average number of persons per household in West Sussex has fallen slightly from 2.30 to 2.25, continuing the downward trend in average household size from the 1991 census. An important consequence of this trend is that demand for additional housing grows at a faster rate than the population; the population of West Sussex grew by 7% over the decade while the number of households rose by 11.7%. In 2011 the average household size of England and Wales (E&W) was marginally higher than that of West Sussex, at 2.30 persons per household. There is some variation within the local authorities (LAs) of West Sussex, with lowest average persons per household occurring in Chichester (2.11) and Arun (2.13) and the highest in Crawley (2.45).

Number of Rooms

According to the 2011 Census the average number of rooms per household in E&W was 5.3, slightly lower than in West Sussex (5.4). Worthing (5.0) and Adur (5.1) have the lowest average number of rooms per household, while Horsham (5.8) has the highest, closely followed by Chichester and Mid Sussex, each with 5.7. Since the 2001 census the average number of rooms per household has marginally reduced within West Sussex.

Occupancy Levels

Occupancy ratings give a measure of under occupancy and overcrowding. For example, a value of -1 implies there is one room too few, and so the household is overcrowded. The occupancy rating assumes that every household, including one-person households, requires a minimum of two common rooms (excluding bathrooms).

It would therefore be expected that areas highlighted as having the highest average household size and/or the lowest average number of rooms per households would tend to have a problem with overcrowding, and this does indeed appear to be the case.

Figure 1: Percentage of Households that are overcrowded

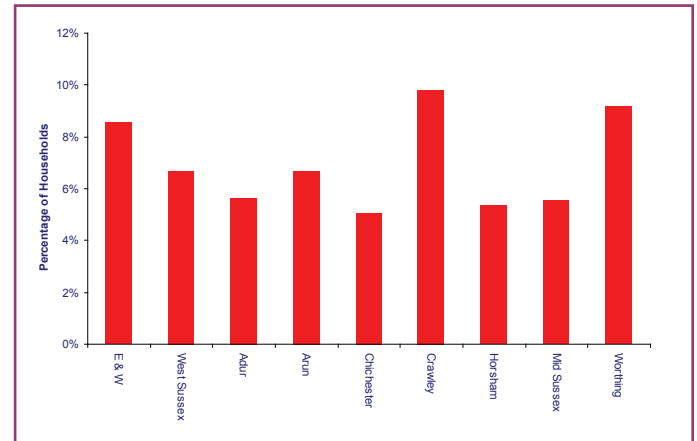
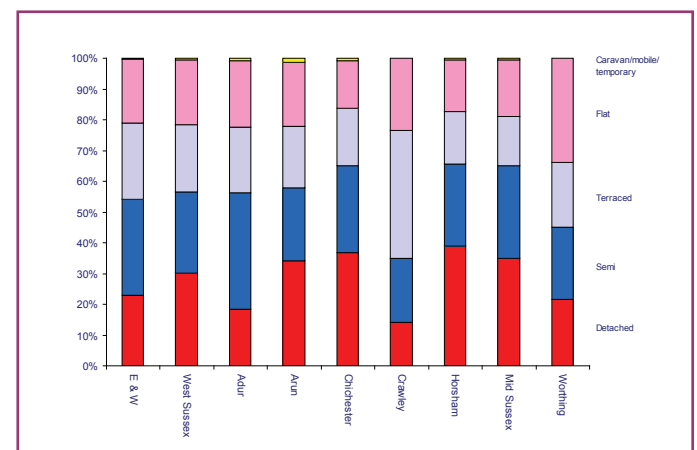


Figure 1 shows that West Sussex has a lower proportion of households that are considered overcrowded than E&W, 7% and 9% respectively. Chichester and Horsham have lower proportions at 5%, but Worthing and Crawley, with 9% and 10% respectively, are the LAs with the highest proportions in the county.

Accommodation Type

Figure 2 shows that the majority of accommodation within West Sussex (78%), compared to 79% in E&W, is a whole house or bungalow. The range within the county is from 66% in Worthing to 84% in Chichester and Horsham. The mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing varies considerably within West Sussex. Within West Sussex, 30% of households live in detached houses, this is well above the E&W average of 23%. Crawley has only 14% while the highest proportions (37% and 39% respectively) are in Chichester and Horsham.

Figure 2: Percentage of all households by accommodation type



West Sussex has a lower proportion of semi-detached and terraced housing (27% and 22% respectively) than E&W (31% and 25% respectively). Crawley has the lowest proportion of semi-detached housing in the county (21%) but by far the highest proportion of terraced housing (42%). Adur, with 38% of households, has the highest proportion of households in semi-detached housing. Mid Sussex has the lowest proportion of terraced housing at 16%.

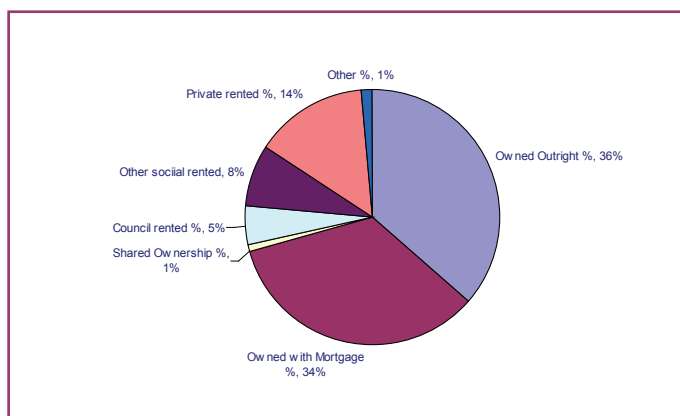
Second Homes

The Census collected information from resident households which included information on those who had a second address in the UK or abroad. Of the 56,075,912 residents in E&W the 2011 census recorded that 4% have a second address within the UK and 1% have a second address abroad. West Sussex has a lower rate of residents with a second address in the UK (3%), with Chichester having the highest rate (5%) and Crawley the lowest (2%). West Sussex has a higher proportion of those with a second address abroad (2%) compared to E&W, with the District/Borough councils in West Sussex having a consistent rate of 1% or 2%.

Tenure

In 1991 the number of households who owned outright their property in West Sussex was 90,679 (31%), in 2001 it had risen to 113,137 (35%) and in 2011 125,729 (36%), indicating that the number of people who have paid off their mortgage over the last 10 years has slowed in comparison to the previous 20 years. This category may have been influenced by the increase in the older age groups in the area who are more likely to have paid off a mortgage. Compared to E&W (31%) levels of outright ownership within West Sussex are above the national average at 36%. Although Crawley showed the highest percentage change in outright property ownership between 1991 and 2001, from 18% to 23%, this trend did not continue, with an outright ownership of 22% in 2011, the lowest in the county. The highest proportion in 2011 was Arun with 43%, a 1% increase from 2001. Figure 3 below shows the breakdown of tenure within West Sussex.

Figure 3: Percentage of all households by tenure in West Sussex



ONS Census tables used: QS418EW, QS407EW, QS408EW, QS412EW, QS402EW, QS106EW, QS405EW, QS415EW.

The proportion of households owning property with a mortgage or loan is slightly higher in West Sussex than in E&W (33% and 34% respectively). These are significantly lower figures than what was recorded in 2001 (41% for West Sussex) and highlights the impact of the recession and the difficulties in obtaining credit experienced within E&W throughout this time period. The proportion of households with shared ownership was 1% or less in all areas.

As West Sussex had a higher proportion of households in the main ownership categories than E&W, it has lower proportions of households renting property than in E&W. 18% of all households in E&W are rented from a council, housing association or registered social landlord compared with 13% in West Sussex; this ranged from just 9% in Arun to 24% in Crawley. The most significant change from 2001 to 2011 is the number of households which are private rented, rising from 8% in 2001 to 14% in 2011. This increase is a result of the lower number of households which are owned with a mortgage or loan, showing a shift from home ownership to private renting for many households across the county.

Household Amenities

The access to household amenities in West Sussex has again improved over the latest inter-censal period. Household amenities include the use of toilet, shower/ bath facilities, whether this is sole or shared use, as well as the presence of central heating. The most noticeable change has been the increased proportion of households with central heating, which has increased from 88% of households in 1991, to 94% in 2001 and now 98% in 2011. Less than 1% of all households in West Sussex are without their own bath/shower and toilet.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of households within West Sussex Local Authorities that are without central heating. West Sussex (2%) as a whole has a lower proportion than E&W (3%). Since 2011 there is a noticeable improvement in the provision of central heating at all geographical levels, with significant improvement in Adur from 10% of houses having no central heating in 2001 to 3% in 2011.

Figure 4: Percentage of households without central heating

