

Luton's Population

2021 Census headline figures

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2021 Census population figure

The first batch of data from the 2021 Census were published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the 28 June. Figures for population by age and gender and a household count have been released. More detailed figures will be published in the autumn and winter.

- The population of Luton is 225,300, which is an increase of 22,200 people since the last Census. This is an 11 per cent increase in population. Nationally the population increased by 6 per cent over the last decade.
- Luton's population is made up of 112,900 males and 112,400 females.
- Luton has a population density of 52 people per hectare which is greater than some London boroughs.
- Luton has a younger than average population.
- The 0 to 14 year age group grew by 12 per cent, the 15 to 64 age group grew by 11 per cent and those aged 65 and over grew by 11 per cent between 2011 and 2021.
- The age group of 55 to 59 year olds and 90 and above both had growth of over 30 per cent between 2011 and 2021 with the number of 25 to 29 year olds falling by 12 per cent.
- There are 78,900 households in Luton, an increase of 6 per cent between 2011 and 2021. In comparison population growth was 11 per cent indicating that Luton is getting more overcrowded.

Table 1: Luton population by age, 2021

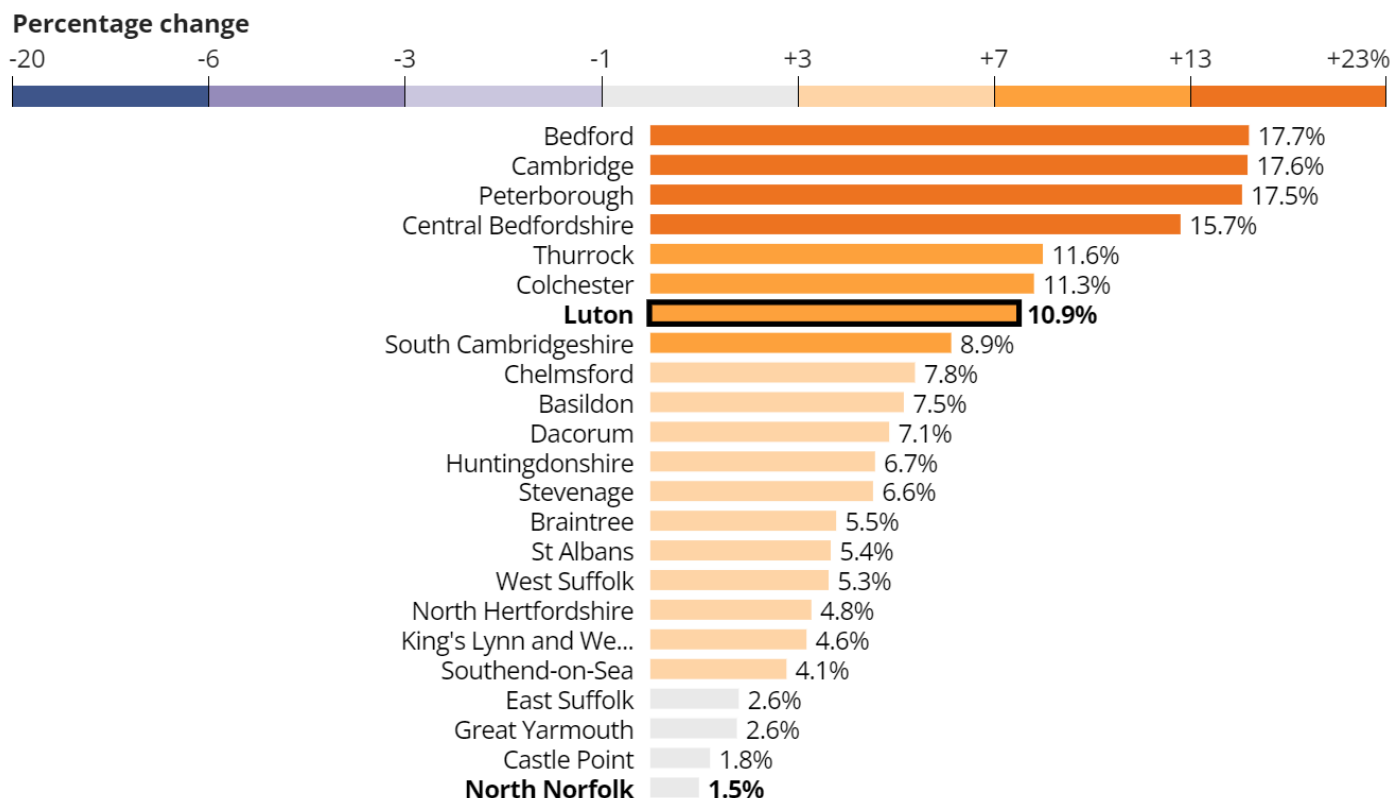
All ages	Male	Female	Total	Luton % Population	England % Population
0 – 4	8,200	7,800	16,000	7.1%	5.4%
5 – 9	8,600	8,100	16,700	7.4%	5.9%
10 – 14	8,600	8,200	16,700	7.4%	6.0%
15 – 19	7,800	7,200	15,100	6.7%	5.7%
20 – 24	8,000	7,600	15,600	6.9%	6.0%
25 – 29	8,100	8,400	16,500	7.3%	6.6%
30 – 34	8,600	9,200	17,900	7.9%	7.0%
35 – 39	8,600	9,100	17,700	7.8%	6.7%
40 – 44	8,400	8,100	16,500	7.3%	6.3%
45 – 49	7,400	6,700	14,100	6.3%	6.4%
50 – 54	7,200	6,600	13,800	6.1%	6.9%
55 – 59	6,300	6,100	12,400	5.5%	6.7%
60 – 64	5,100	4,900	10,000	4.4%	5.8%
65 – 69	3,900	3,900	7,800	3.5%	4.9%
70 – 74	3,000	3,300	6,400	2.8%	5.0%
75 – 79	2,100	2,600	4,800	2.1%	3.6%
80 – 84	1,700	2,200	3,900	1.7%	2.5%
85 – 89	1,000	1,500	2,400	1.1%	1.5%
90 and over	400	800	1,200	0.5%	0.9%
Total	112,900	112,400	225,300		

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics, components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

In Luton, the population increased by 10.9 per cent, from 203,200 in 2011 to 225,300 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6 per cent), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800. Tower Hamlets saw the largest percentage growth in England of 22.2 per cent with Dartford the next biggest at 20 per cent.

Kensington and Chelsea saw their population decrease by 9.6 per cent with other large areas such as Sunderland, Gateshead Swansea, Camden and Westminster also seeing population decline between 2011 and 2021.

Figure 1: Population change of selected local authority areas in the East of England between 2011 and 2021

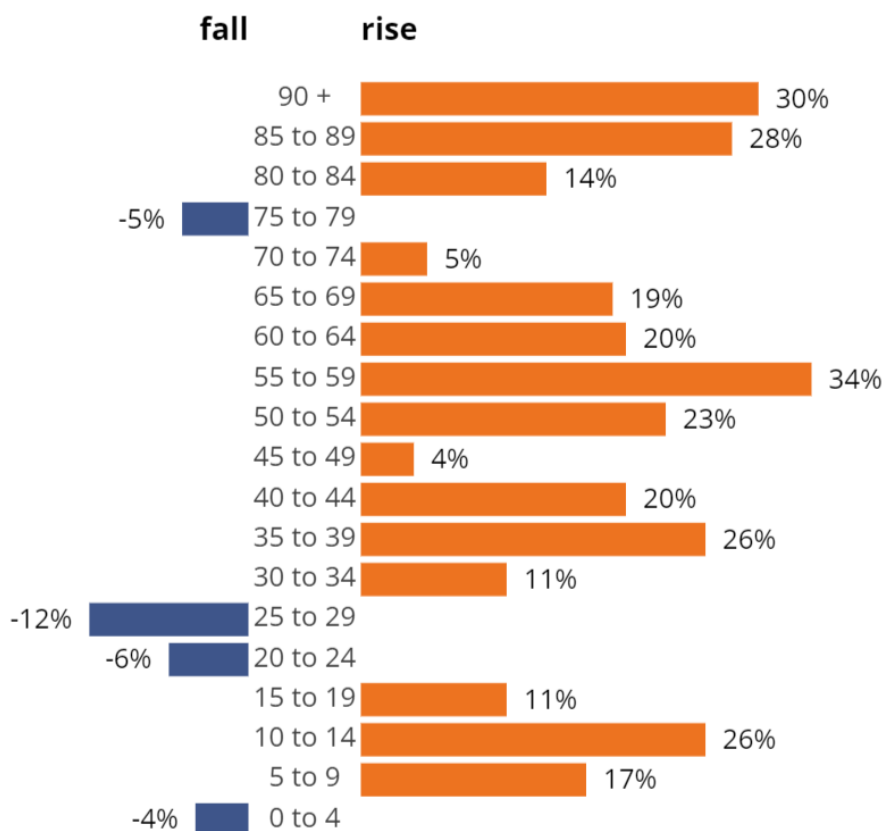


Source: Data & graphic, 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

At 10.9 per cent, Luton's population increase is higher than the increase for the East of England (8.3 per cent). Regionally the largest population increases have been seen in Bedford and Cambridge, where the populations have grown by 17.7 per cent and 17.6 per cent, respectively.

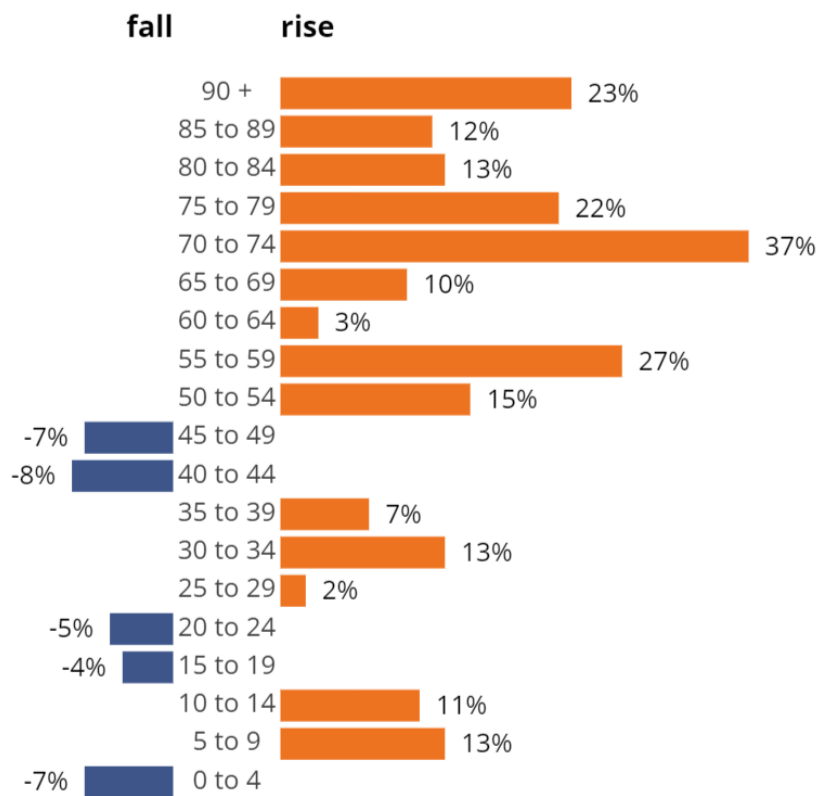
At the other end of the scale coastal areas in the East of England region saw the slowest population growth with North Norfolk increasing by just 1.5 per cent.

Figure 2: Population percentage change by age group in Luton 2011 to 2021



Source: Data & graphic, 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

Figure 3: Population percentage change by age group in England 2011-2021

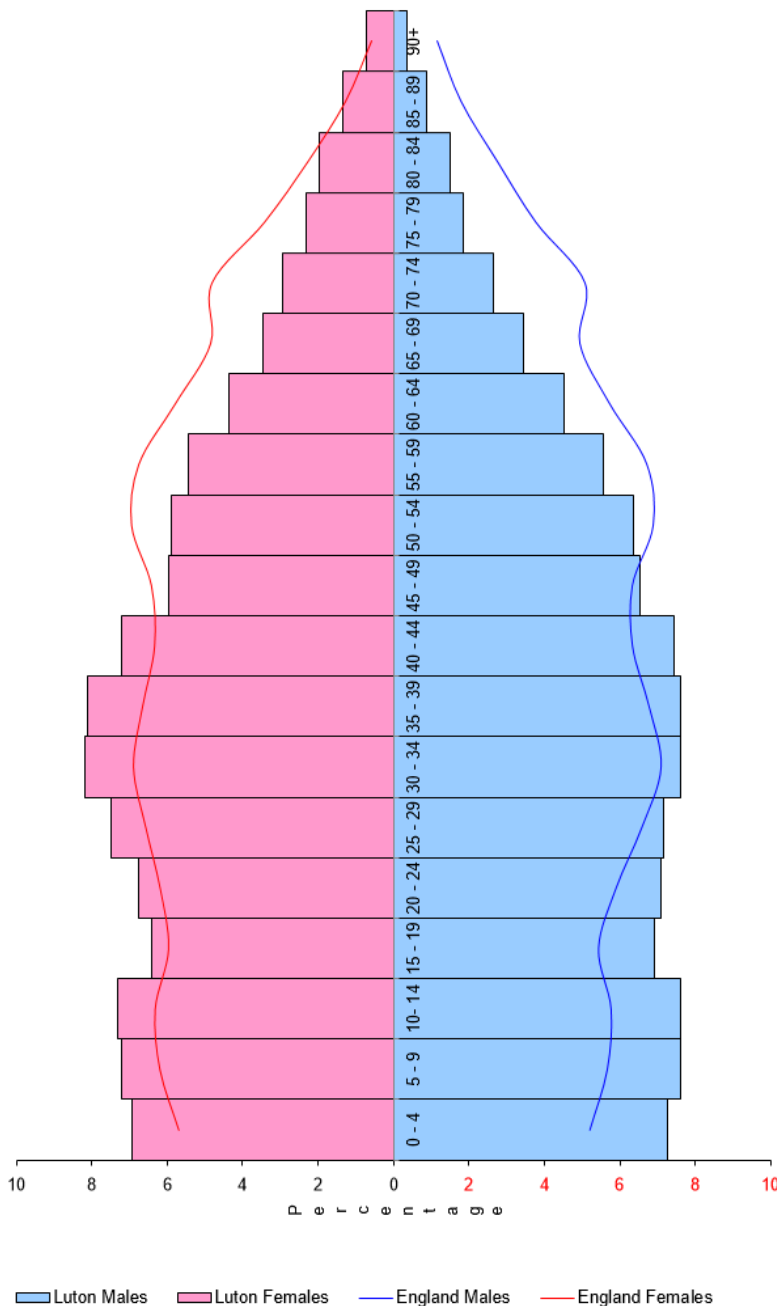


Source: Data & graphic, 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

Since 2011, in Luton there has been an increase of 12.2 per cent in children aged under 15 years, an increase of 10.6 per cent in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 11.0 per cent in people aged 65 years and over. In comparison nationally there has been an increase of 4.8 per cent in children aged under 15 years, an increase of 3.6 per cent in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 19.1 per cent in people aged 65 years and above.

In Luton the 55 to 59 and over 90 age groups had population growth above 30 per cent over the last decade. There was a 12 per cent decrease in the 25 to 29 age group.

Figure 4: Percentage of Luton and England’s population by age, 2021

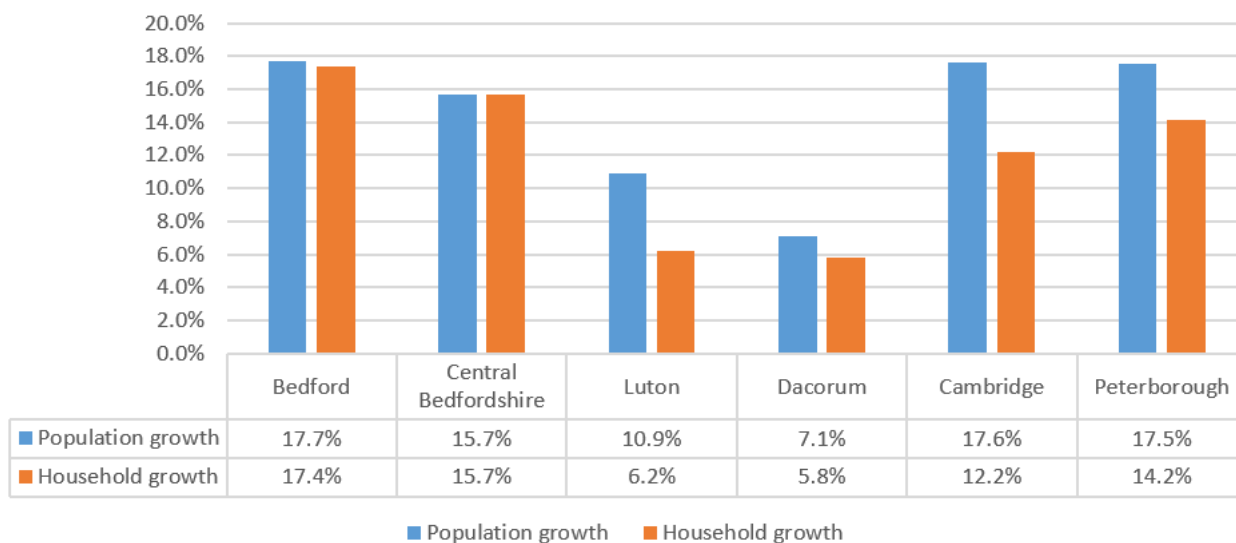


Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

Table 1 and figure 4 show that Luton’s population is younger than average, with a higher proportion of younger people than nationally and a lower proportion of older people. The under 15 age group account for 21.9 per cent of the Luton population compared with 17.4 per cent nationally. The 15 to 64 age group account for 66.3 per cent of the Luton, a similar proportion to the national figure (64.2 per cent). The 65

and over age group represents 11.8 per cent of the Luton population compared with 18.4 per cent nationally.

Figure 5: Population and household growth 2011-21 in Luton and selected Eastern areas:



Source: 2011 & 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

The number of households in Luton grew from 74,300 to 78,900 between 2011 and 2021, a growth rate of 6.2 per cent. The total population growth in Luton was 10.9 per cent which indicates that household overcrowding in Luton is increasing. Neighbouring authorities Bedford and Central Bedfordshire had population growth of 17.7 per cent and 15.7 per cent with household growth of 17.4 per cent and 15.7 per cent respectively.

A link to the 2021 Census data can be found below:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/initialfindingsfromthe2021censusinenglandandwales>

This is the first batch of data released by the ONS from the 2021 Census. More detailed data will be published over the next year starting in the autumn and the publication timetable can be found in the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans>