

East Lothian Partnership

East Lothian by Numbers

A Statistical Profile of East Lothian

1. Population and Demography

September 2022

Population & Demography

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Population & Demography

East Lothian has the 20th largest population out of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The population is projected to increase at the second highest rate in Scotland to 2028. This change is due to a positive net migration, with the majority of arrivals coming from within Scotland

Population growth and demographic change is likely to generate different needs and pressures within communities. For example, increasing numbers of houses that are suitable for older people living alone will have to be provided.



Summary:

- The population of East Lothian was estimated to be 109,580 in 2021.
- East Lothian has a higher proportion of older and younger people than the Scottish average.
- The NRS 2018 based population based projections show an overall 7.2% increase in East Lothian to 113,403 in 2028, the second highest in Scotland. This increase is due to a positive net migration.
- The NRS 2018 based population based projections show a decrease of 0 to 15 years in 2028, with the working age population projected to increase at the joint second highest rate in Scotland, and the pension age projected to increase at the highest rate in Scotland.
- However NRS projections do not take into account local policy, and the Education department's figures show an increase in school roll pupils to 2028.
- A fertility rate of 2.1 is required to sustain a population. The East Lothian rate declined from 2.01 in 2011 to 1.54 in 2020, with the Scottish rate also declining over the last 10 years from 1.69 to 1.29.
- The 2018 based household projections show that the number of households in East Lothian is projected to increase by 10.5% between 2018 and 2028, higher than the national increase of 4.9%.
- 1 person households are projected to increase by 14.3% between 2018 and 2028, this is the largest increase of all household types, largely due to an ageing population, and the longer life expectancy of females.
- The number of households in which the head of the household is aged 75 and over is anticipated to increase by 35.2% to 2028.

Estimates

The total population of East Lothian was estimated to be 109,580 in 2021. This is an increase of 8.0% since 2011, compared to a 3.1% increase across Scotland.

Fig 1.1 shows the population segmented by age group for East Lothian and Scotland. East Lothian has a working age (aged 16-64) population of 68,272 people (62.3% of the total population).

East Lothian is estimated to have a higher proportion of 0-15 and 65 and over age groups and a lower percentage of 16 to 64 year olds, when compared to Scotland.

Figure 1.1: Estimated population by age group (Nation Records of Scotland).

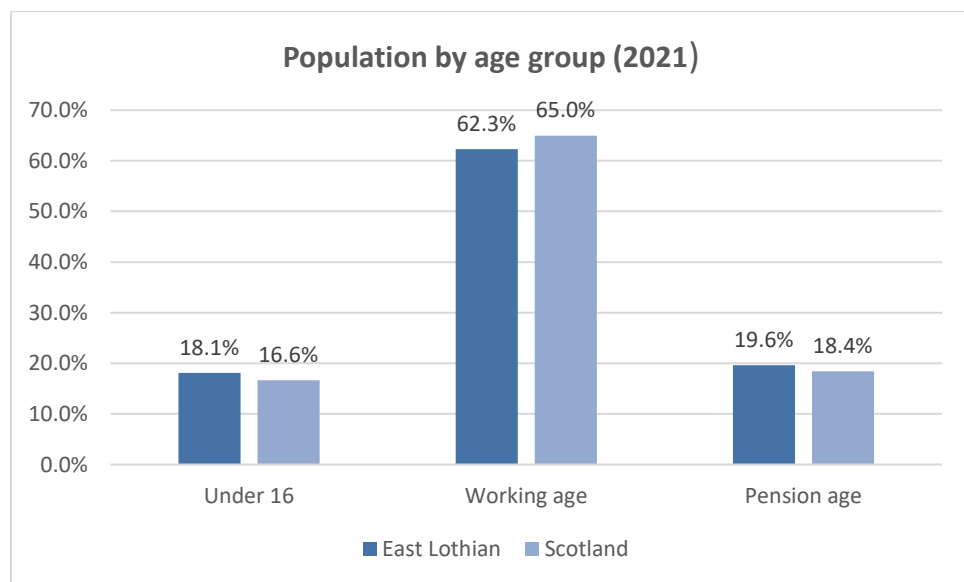
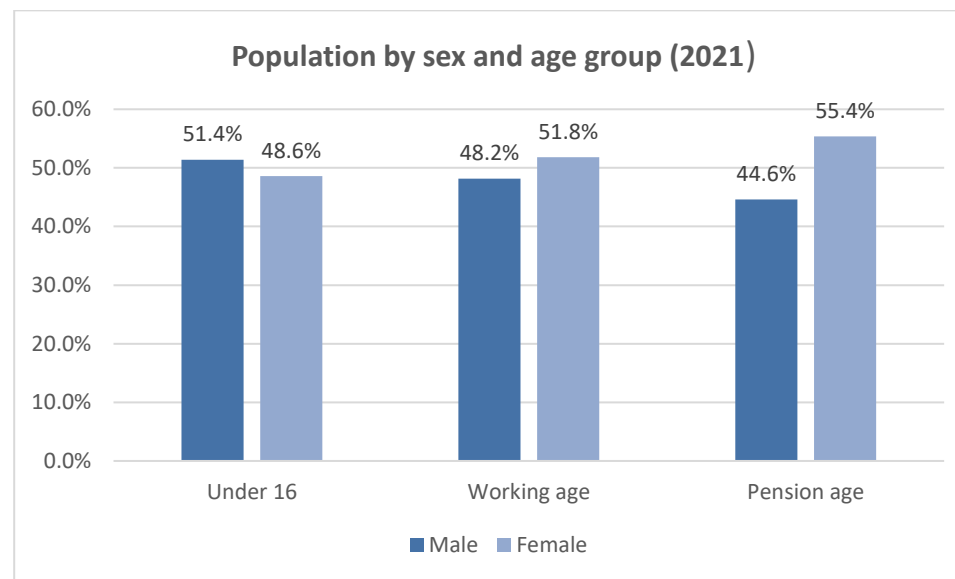


Figure 1.2 compares age groups by sex for East Lothian.

Overall 52% (56,936) of the population were female and 48.1% (52,644) were male. 51.4% of the 0-15 age group were males, females were in the majority for the 16 to 64, and 65 and over age groups at 51.8% and 55.4% respectively.

Figure 1.2: East Lothian population structure by sex and age group (National Records Scotland).



In 2021 the population density in East Lothian was 161 persons per km² compared to 153 persons per km² in 2016. The Scottish density has risen from 69 to 70 per km² over the same period.

Growth and Projections

Fig 1.3 shows the mid-year population estimate increase between 2011 and 2020. East Lothian’s population is estimated to have increased by 7,980 (8.0%) over this time period, compared to 3.2% across Scotland. This was the 3rd highest increase in Scotland, behind Midlothian and Edinburgh.

Figure 1.3: Mid-year population estimates 2011 to 2020 (NRS)

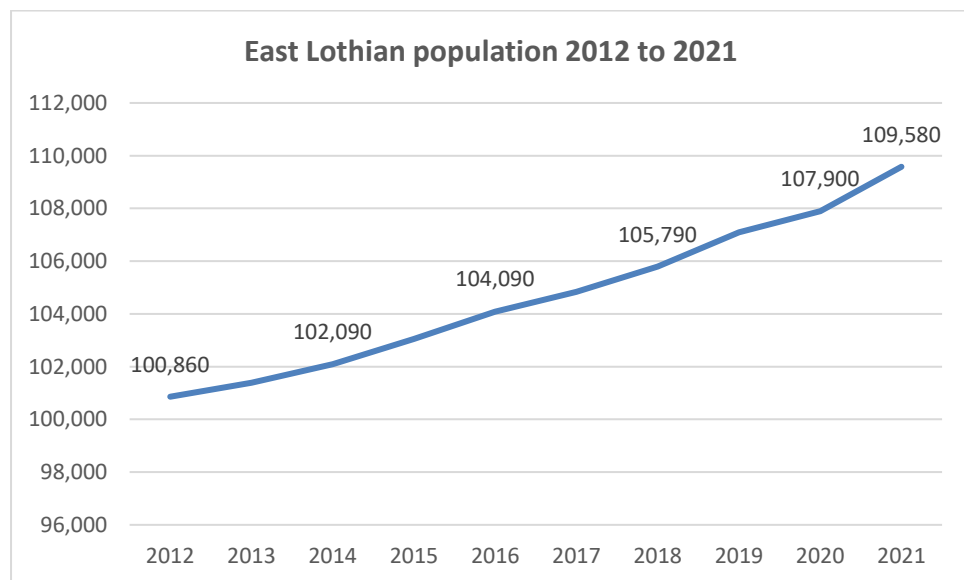


Figure 1.4 & 1.5 show the 2018 based population based projections (2018 to 2028). The population of East Lothian is projected to increase overall by 7.2%, the 2nd highest increase in Scotland. These NRS projections do not take into account local policy such as housing developments.

The 0 to 15 year old age group is projected to decrease by 1.8%, with Scotland decreasing by 6.0%.

East Lothian’s working age population is projected to increase by 8.6% to 2028, the joint second highest in Scotland (Midlothian is the highest 16.1%, Edinburgh 8.6%).

Pension age and over in East Lothian, the 2018 based population based projection shows an increase to 2028 of 10.9%, the highest increase in Scotland.

Figure 1.4: Population projection, 2018 to 2028 (NRS)

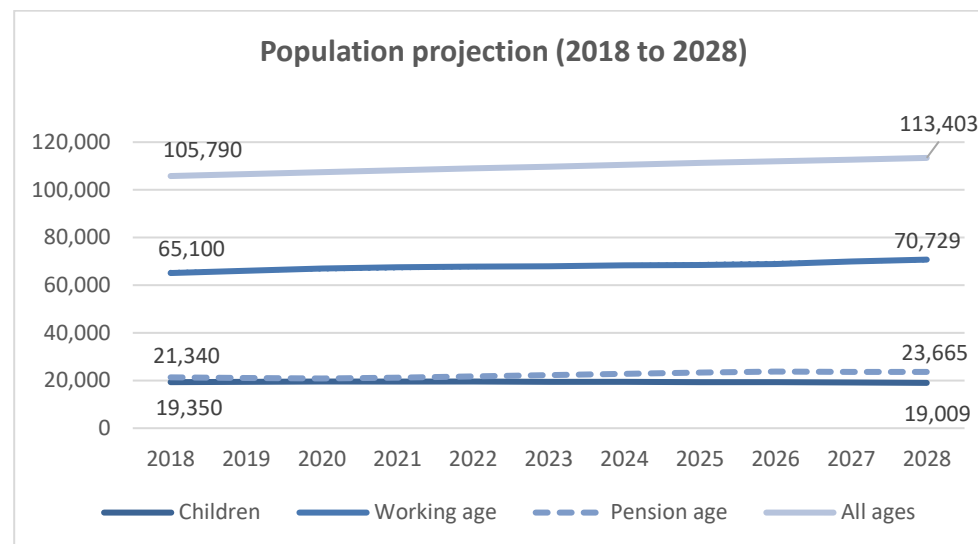


Figure 1.5: Percentage population change, 2018 to 2028 (NRS).

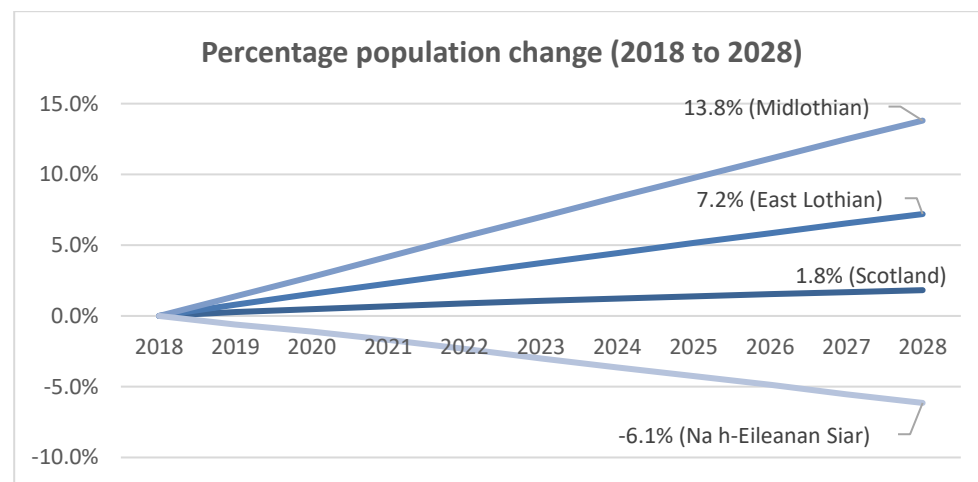
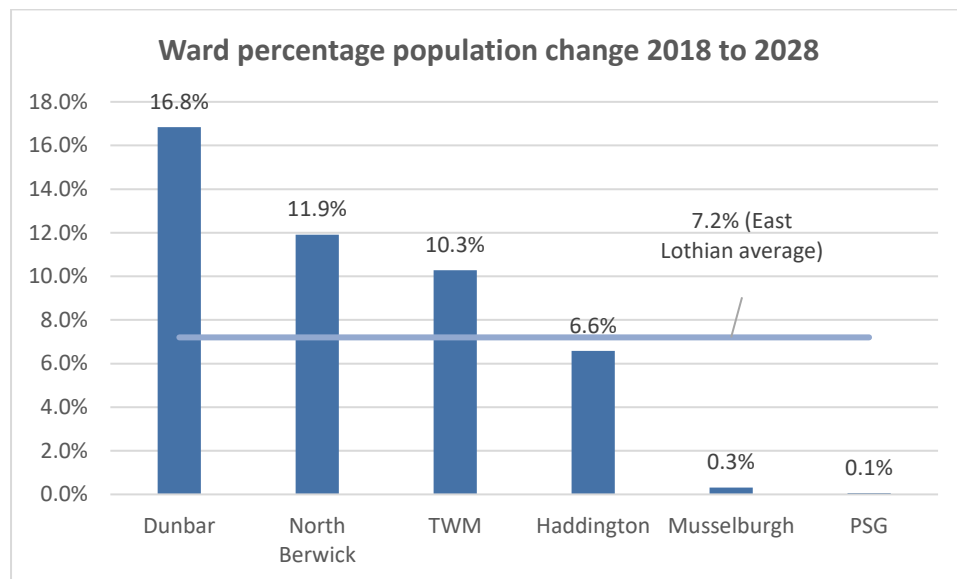


Fig 1.6 shows the projected population change by ward for all ages. The largest increase is in Dunbar (16.8%), with the lowest in PSG (0.1%).

Figure 1.6: Projected ward population change 2018 to 2028 (Improvement Service)



Young People

Figure 1.7 shows the projected population change by age group in East Lothian and Scotland for the period 2018-2028. Although the overall population is projected to increase, the 0 to 15 age group is projected to decrease by 1.8% in East Lothian compared to 6% across Scotland.

Figure 1.7: Population percentage changes by age group, 2018-2028 (NRS)

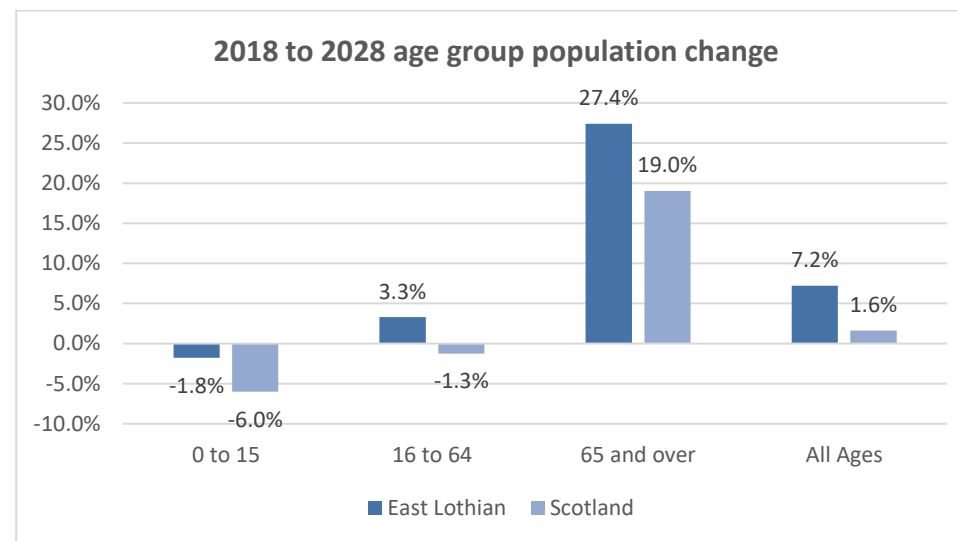


Figure 1.8 shows the Education service projections for P1 to S6 pupils by schools cluster, compared to the 5 to 17 year old NRS projections by ward. The NRS 2018 based projections show a 2.2% increase across East Lothian, whilst the Education Service 2020 census roll figures show a 17.1% increase.

Figure 1.9 shows that the overall population across East Lothian for 16 to 24 year olds, is projected to increase by 6.7% compared to a 0.9% decrease across Scotland. There is a wide range of change between wards, with Dunbar projected to increase by 33% compared to a 9.5% decrease in Musselburgh.

Figure 1.8: NRS % change (2018 to 2028) for 5 to 17 year olds/ELC Education Service % change (2020 census roll to 2028/29) for P1 to S6 pupils

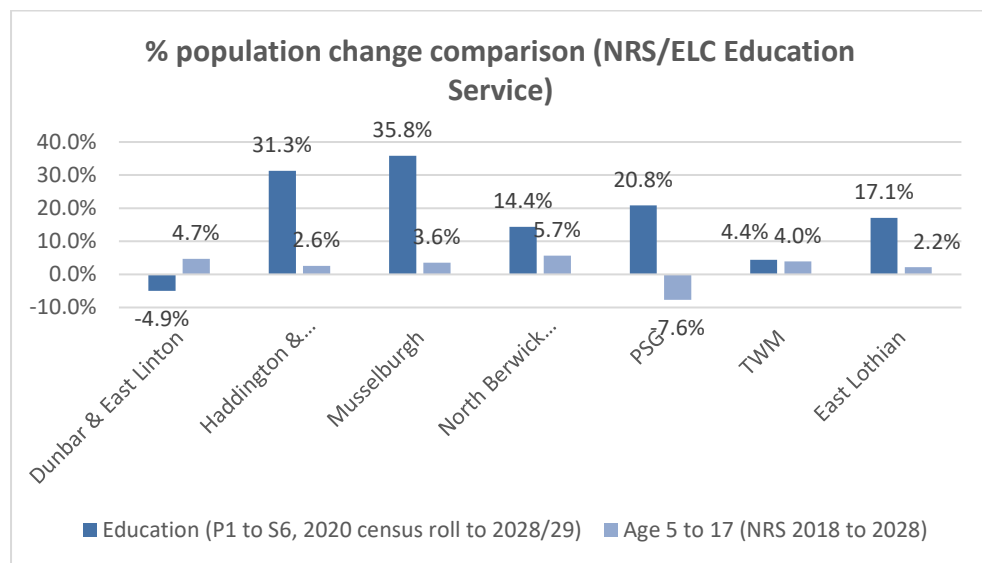
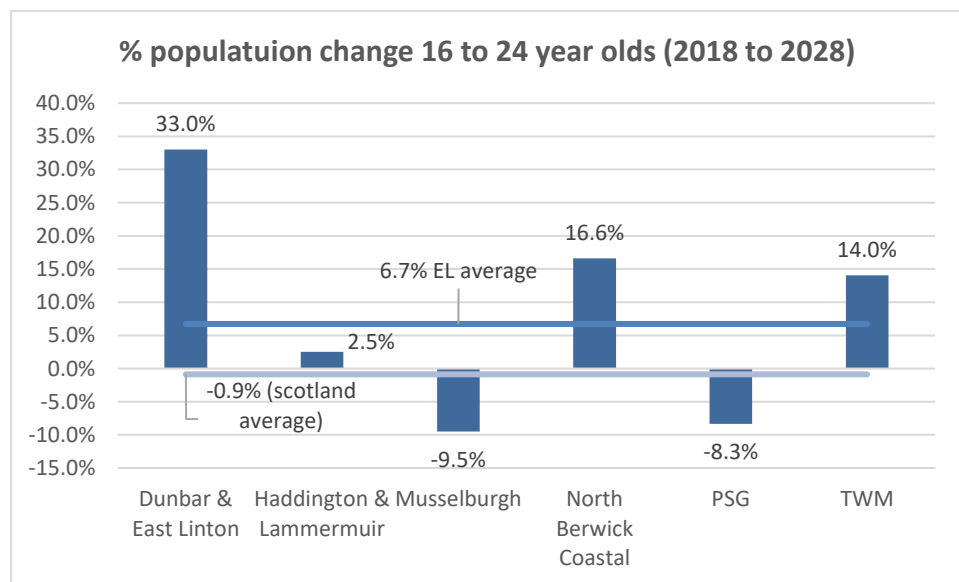


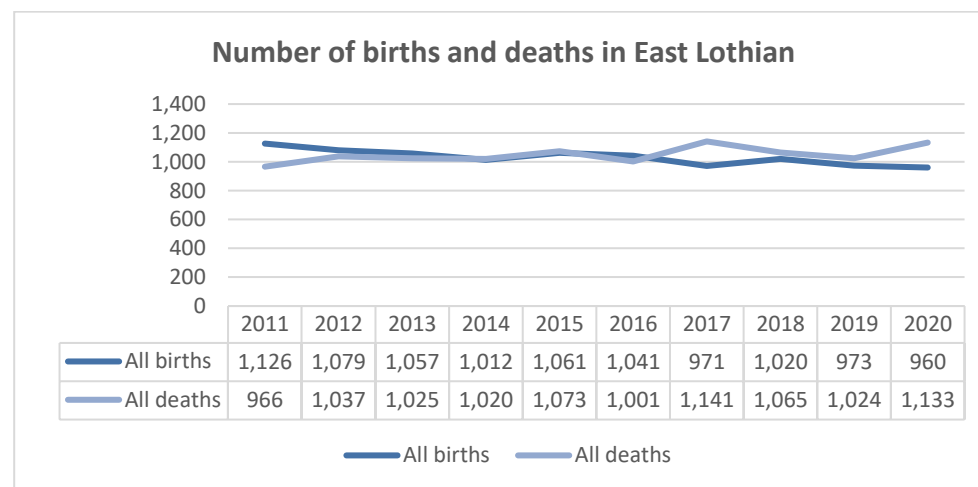
Figure 1.9: Percentage population change 2018 to 2028 for 16 to 24 year olds (NRS)



Births and Deaths

Fig 1.10 compares the number of births and deaths in East Lothian between 2011 and 2020. The number of births has been greater than the number of deaths, with the exception of 2014. The natural population increase is not enough to account for the increasing population in East Lothian which can largely be attributed to migration into the area.

Figure 1.10: Number of births and number of deaths in East Lothian (NRS).

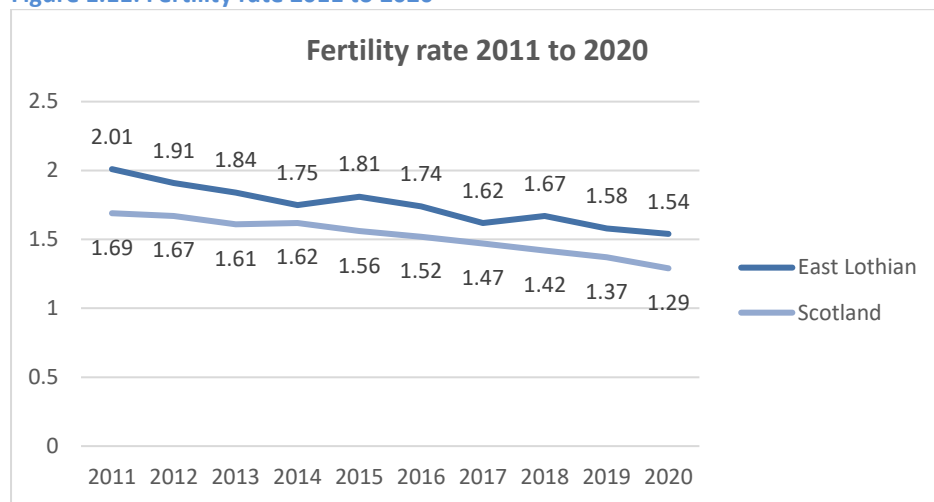


Fertility rate

A fertility rate of 2.1 is required to sustain a population. Figure 1.11 shows that the East Lothian rate has declined from 2.01 in 2011 to 1.54 in 2020, with the Scottish rate also declining over the last 10 years from 1.69 to 1.29.

Scotland has the lowest fertility rate in the UK (England & Wales 1.58, (2020), Northern Ireland 1.82 (2019)). The low fertility rate is reflected across the developed world, the EU had a 2018 rate of 1.55.

Figure 1.11: Fertility rate 2011 to 2020



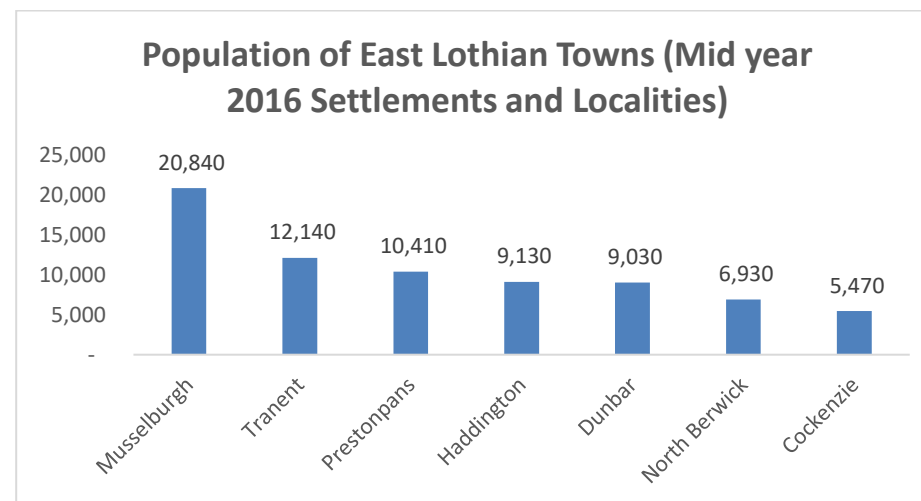
Towns and Settlements

Figure 1.12 shows the populations of East Lothian’s main towns.

The larger towns tend to be in the west of East Lothian, Musselburgh has the largest population. Tranent, Prestonpans and Cockenzie are also found in the west of the county. Dunbar, Haddington and North Berwick are the main towns out with this area.

Land has been safeguarded for 1600 new houses at Blindwells, and 197 new homes were approved by East Lothian Council in September 2021.

Figure 1.12: Population of the main towns in East Lothian (NRS Mid year population estimates, settlements and localities 2016).

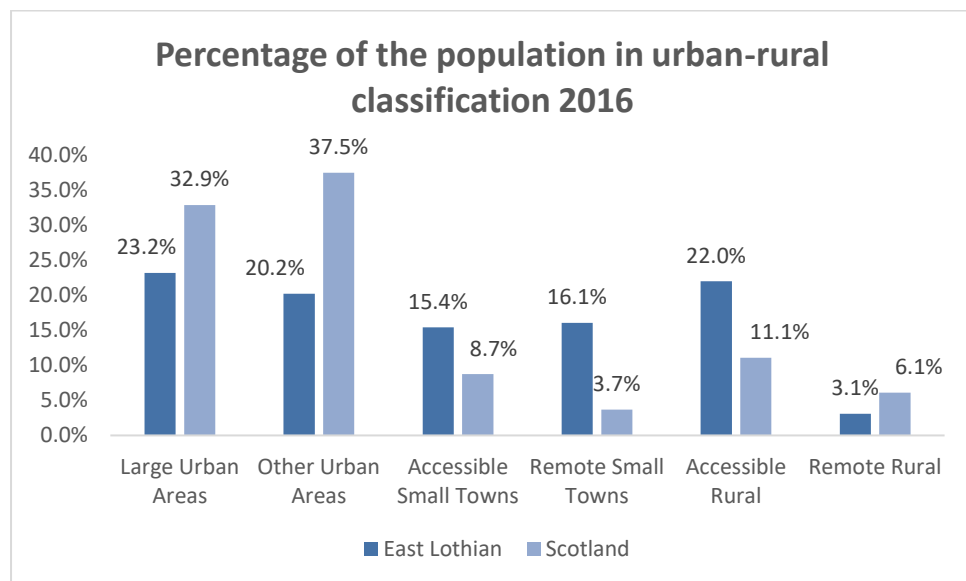


Whilst the majority of East Lothian’s residents stay in the more urbanised west of the area, the population is more evenly split by urban-rural classification. 70.4% of the population of Scotland live in large urban towns or other urban areas; only 43.4% of East Lothian live in similar urban landscapes.

Figure 1.13 shows that 23.2% of East Lothian’s population live in large urban areas – notably Musselburgh. Other urban areas account for 20.2% of the population.

Accessible rural towns on the other hand make up the largest proportion of urban-rural settlement classification at 22% and feature in every ward in East Lothian.

Figure 1.13: Percentage of the population in urban-rural classification settlements (Scottish govt. urban rural classification 2016).



Households

In 2020, the number of households in East Lothian was estimated at 47,482. This was 1.5% higher than the previous year, compared to a national increase of 0.5%.

Figure 1.14 shows the 2018 based household projections. In East Lothian the number of households is projected to increase by 10.5% between 2018 and 2028, higher than the national increase of 4.9%.

Figure 1.14: Household estimates and projections in East Lothian 2018 to 2028(NRS).

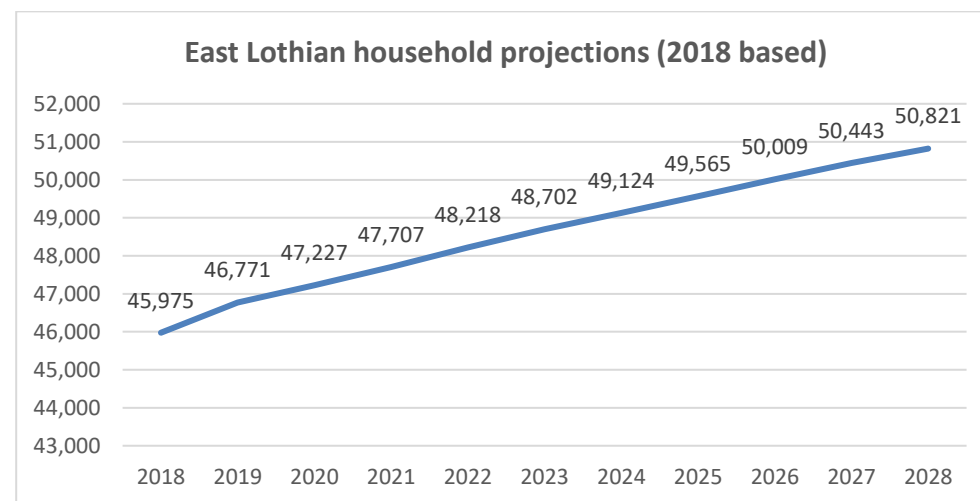


Figure 1.15 shows the population projection by household type. 1 person households are projected to increase by 14.3% between 2018 and 2028, this is the largest increase of all household types, largely due to an ageing population, and the longer life expectancy of females.

2 adults are projected to increase by, 13.2%, 3 plus adults by 2.2%, 2 adults with children by 5% and 1 adult with children by 7.8%.

Figure 1.15: Household projections, East Lothian by household type 2018-28 (NRS).

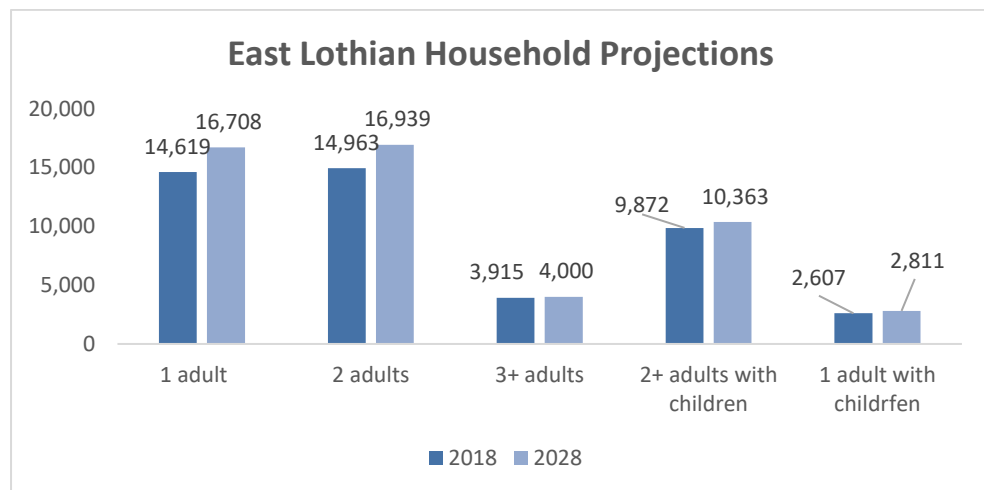
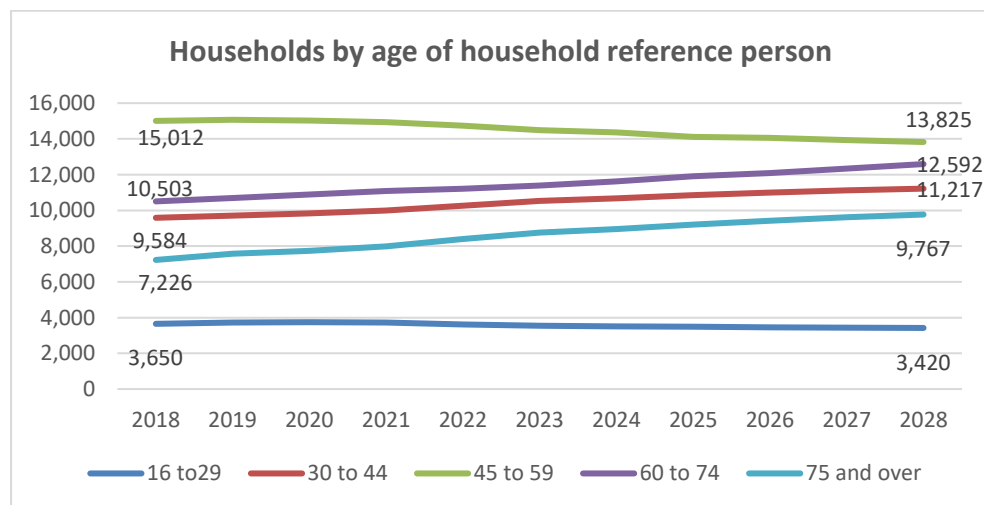


Figure 1.16 shows the projected change in households between 2018 and 2028 by the age of the head of household. The number of households in which the head of the household is aged 75 and over is anticipated to increase by 35.2% from 7,226 to 9,767.

Figure 1.16: East Lothian household projections by age 2012-37 (NRS)



Ethnicity

Table 1.2: Population by major ethnic group in East Lothian 2011 (Census 2011).

	White	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	African	Caribbean or Black	Other ethnic groups
East Lothian	98,011	363	955	179	107	102

Table 1.3: Major ethnic groups as a percentage of total population in East Lothian and Scotland 2011 (Census 2011).

	White	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	African	Caribbean or Black	Other ethnic groups
East Lothian	98.3	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Scotland	96.0	0.4	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.3

Table 1.2 shows the number of people from different ethnic groups living in East Lothian. Table 1.3 displays the ethnic groups as a percentage of the total population and provides a comparison between East Lothian and Scotland. 98.3% of the population of East Lothian are White in comparison to 96.2% of the population of Scotland. Black and minority ethnic (BME) groups form a lower proportion of the population of East Lothian than Scotland as a whole.

The Asian population is the largest minority ethnic group increasing from 0.8% of the population in 2001 to 1% in 2011. East Lothian has also seen a change in white ethnic profile with 0.8% per cent of the population recorded their ethnic group as White: Polish. This is a substantial increase since 2001. Figure 1.17 shows a breakdown of BME groups in East Lothian by percentage and total number. Asian groups account for over half (56.0%), with mixed or multiple groups following on 21.3%.

Figure 1.17: Percentage breakdown of black, minority, ethnic groups in East Lothian, as well as the number within each group (Census 2011).

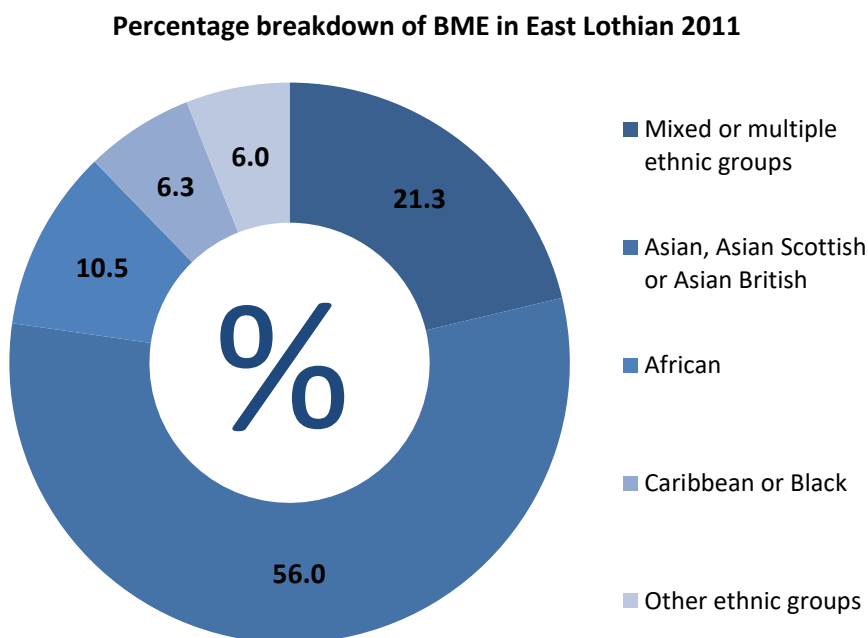


Figure 1.18 shows the proportion of black minority ethnic groups spread in each of the six areas in East Lothian. Musselburgh has the highest proportion of BME groups (2.8% of the population), although this is far below the figure for the Lothians and Scotland.

Figure 1.18: Proportion of black, minority ethnic groups in East Lothian areas (Census 2011).

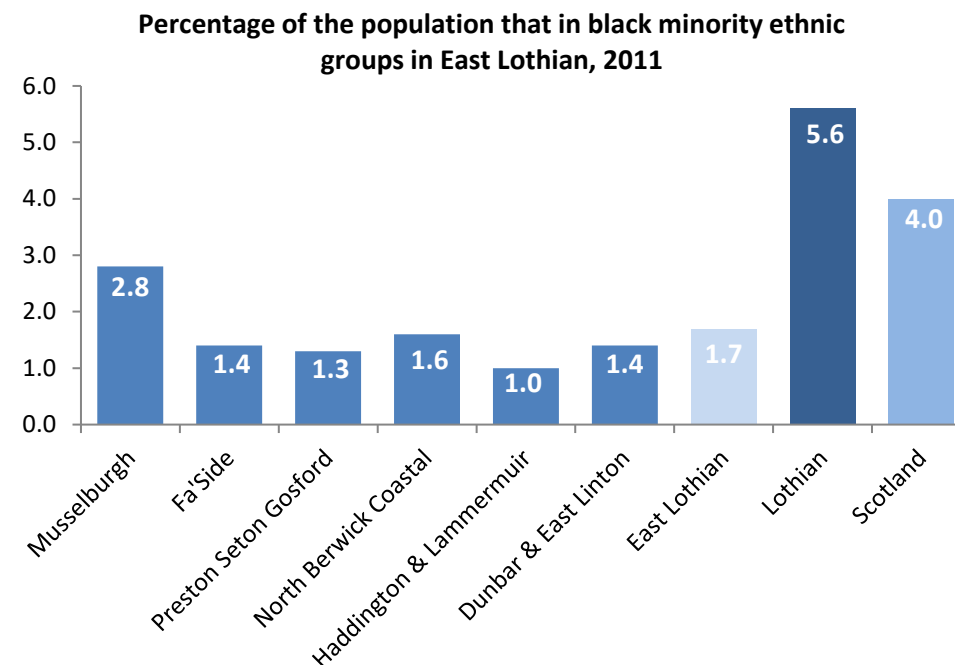
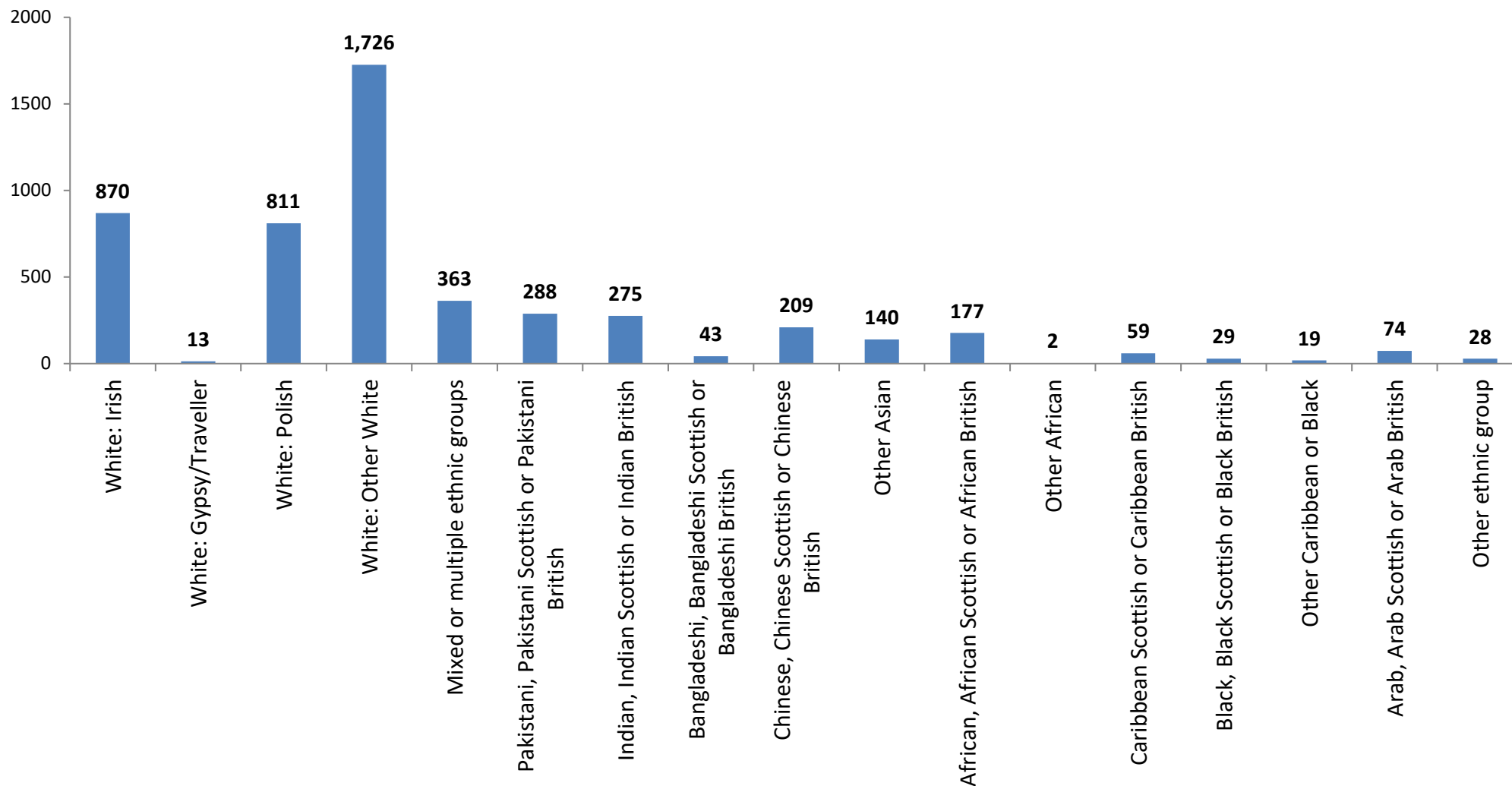


Figure 1.19 provides a detailed breakdown of the number of people living in East Lothian that are from ethnic groups other than 'White Scottish' or 'White British'. The largest minority ethnic groups in East Lothian are 'White Irish', 'White Polish' and 'Other White' (i.e. people that describe themselves as white, but not Scottish, British, Irish or Polish).

Figure 1.19: Non-UK ethnic groups by number in East Lothian in 2011 (Census 2011).

Non-UK ethnic groups, numbers, East Lothian, 2011



Migration and Nationality

Figure 1.20 shows the total net migration in East Lothian. East Lothian has seen positive net flow of migration into the area. This migration showed a 10 year peak in 2018/19 when 1,270 more people arrived than left East Lothian. This figure was 970 in 2019/20, this equates to a net migration rate of 9.0 per 1,000 population, which was the highest rate in Scotland.

Figure 1.20. Migration in East Lothian (NRS).

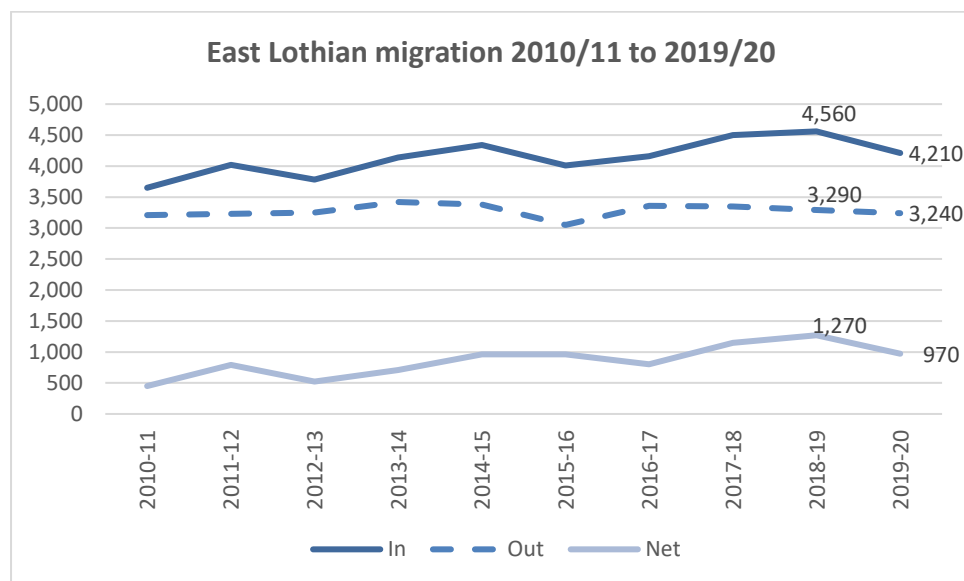
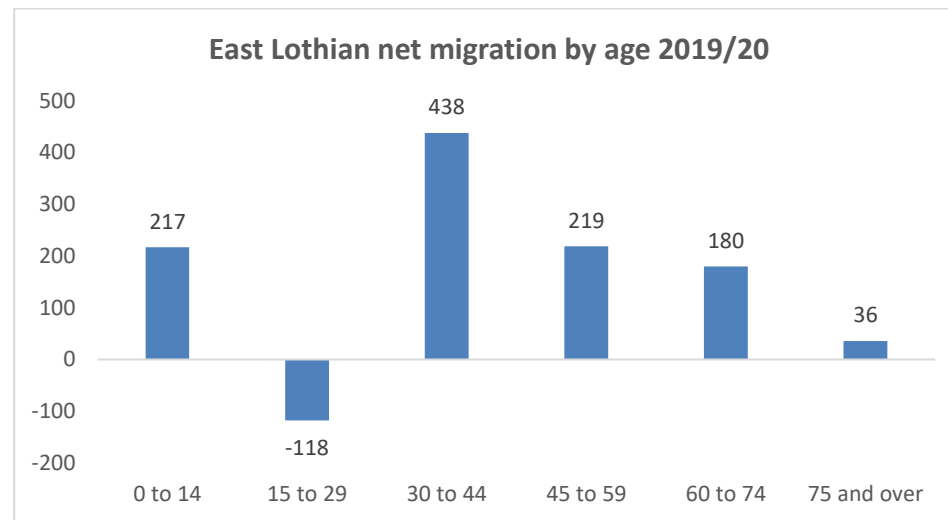


Figure 1.21 shows that the 30 to 44 age group accounts for the largest net migration into East Lothian. The 15 to 29 age group shows that 118 more young people left East Lothian than came in.

Figure 1.21. Net migration in East Lothian 2019/20 (NRS).



Between 28th August 2018 and 30th June 2022, 4,730 East Lothian residents applied to remain in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme. Figure 1.22 shows the breakdown by nationality of the applicants, with Poland and Bulgaria accounting for over half of all applications. Figures below 10 were withheld for Cyprus, Iceland, Luxembourg and Slovenia. In September 2022 there were 54 Ukrainian families (110 people) in East Lothian.

Figure 1.22: EU Settlement Scheme by applicant nationality (GOV.UK)

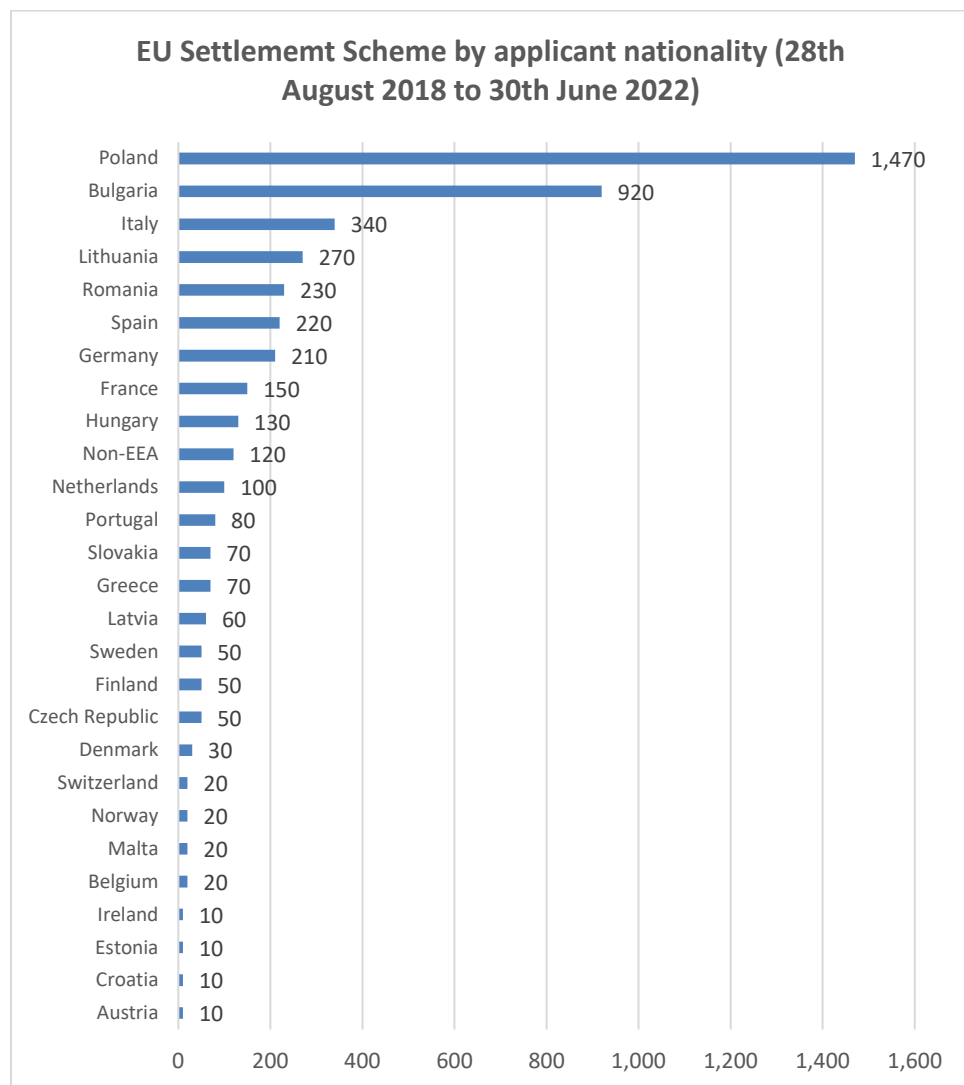


Table 1.4 highlights the number of National Insurance Numbers allocated to overseas nationals by the Department of Work and Pensions in East Lothian.

Table 1.4: Number of NI Number allocations to overseas nationals in East Lothian (Statxplore).

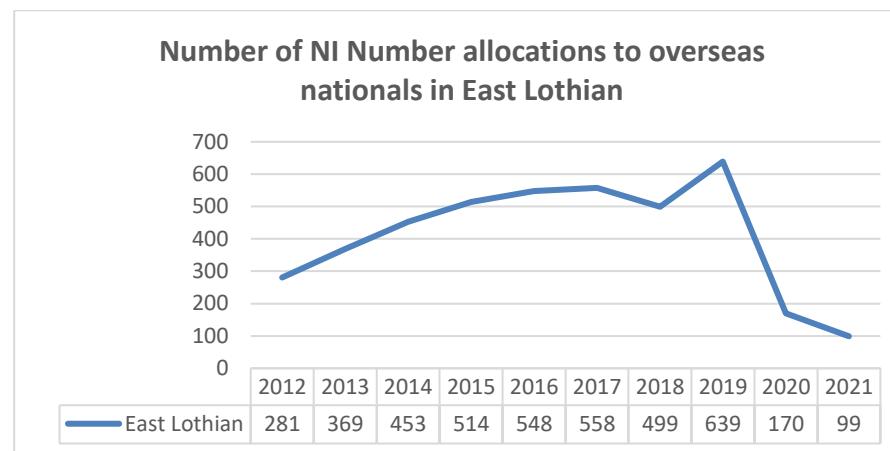


Figure 1.23 shows the number of people moving into, and out of, East Lothian. The majority of migration both in and out of East Lothian occurs within Scotland.

Figure 1.23: Number of people migrating to and from East Lothian by location (NRS).

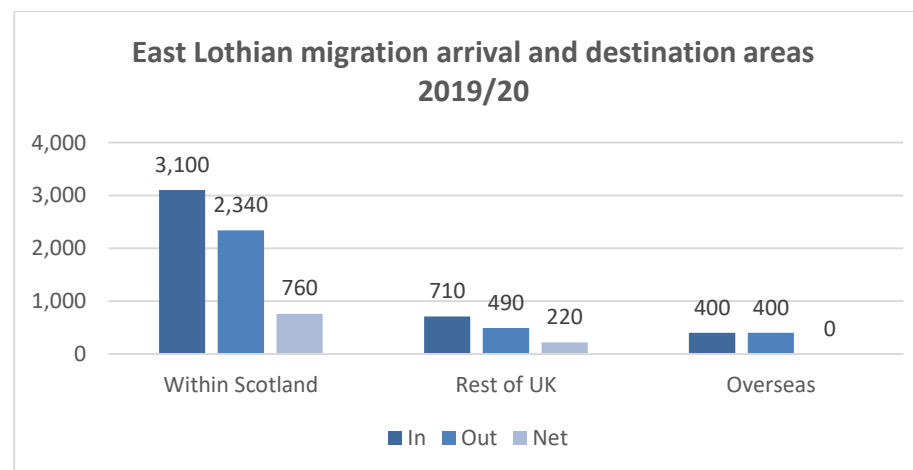
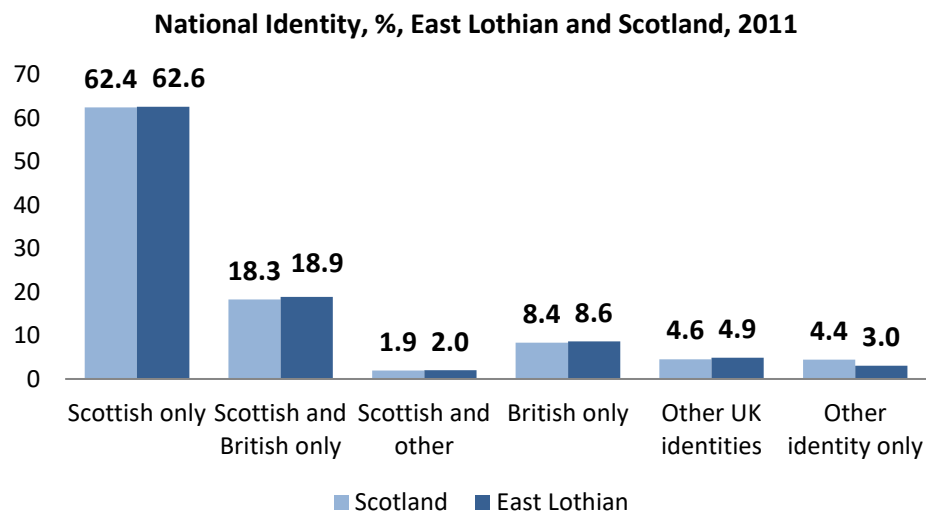


Figure 1.24 displays the percentage proportion of people that identify with a range of national identities. The breakdown in East Lothian is similar to that for Scotland. ‘Scottish only’ is highest amongst 0-29 year olds representing 67.3% of responses, and lowest amongst 65 years old and over at 58.5%.

Figure 1.24: National identity as a percentage of total responses in East Lothian and Scotland, 2011 (Census 2011).



Language

Table 1.5 shows the proportion of the population that are proficient in English. 0.8% of the population of East Lothian do not speak English well and a further 0.1% do not speak English at all. Table 1.6 shows the total number of people in East Lothian that use a language other than English when at home.

Table 1.5: Proficiency in English as a percentage of total population in East Lothian and Scotland (Census 2011).

	Speaks well or very well	Does not speak well	Does not speak at all
East Lothian	99.0%	0.8%	0.1%
Scotland	98.6%	1.2%	0.2%

Table 1.6: Number of people using a language other than English at home, East Lothian, 2011 (Census 2011).

	Scottish Gaelic	British Sign Language	Polish	Scots	Other
East Lothian	58	182	710	714	2,627

30.1% or 28,970 people in East Lothian identified that they can speak Scots. This is in line with the percentage for Scotland as a whole. However, only 0.4% identified that they could speak Scottish Gaelic, below the Scotland figure of 1.1%. Less people report using Scottish Gaelic or Scots in the home.

Religion & Faith

Figure 1.25: Religion as a percentage of total population in East Lothian and Scotland, 2011 (Census 2011).

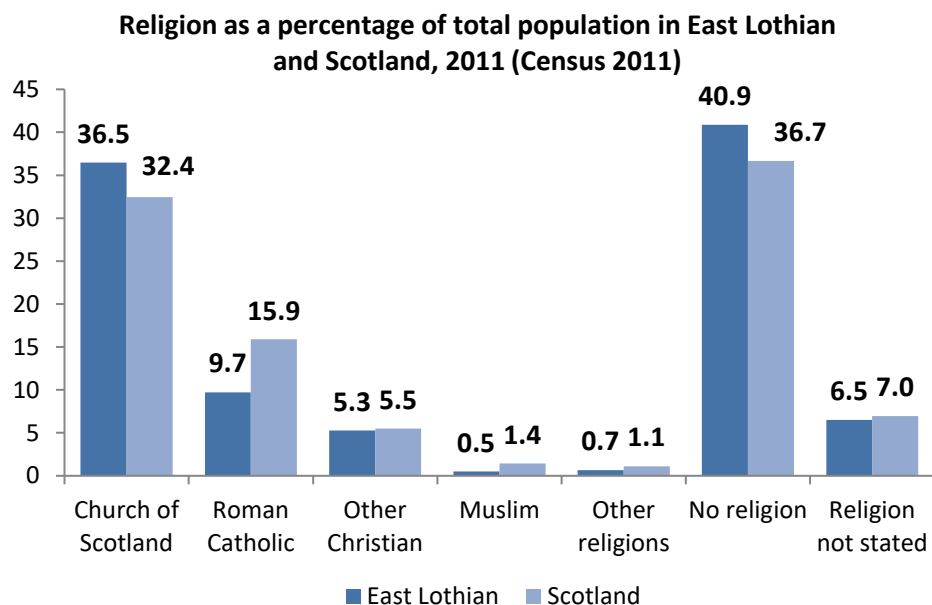


Figure 1.25 shows the proportion of people in East Lothian by religion. Over half (53.8%) of the population of Scotland stated their religion as Christian - a decrease of 11 percentage points since 2001. 36.7 per cent of people stated that they had no religion - an increase of nine percentage points since 2001. East Lothian has a higher percentage of people with no religion than Scotland

Collectively people of Christian faiths comprise 51.5% of the East Lothian’s population. The percentage of the population stating their religion as Church of Scotland fell by 11.4% to 36.5% of the population. The Roman Catholic population remained steady with a very slight increase to 9.7%. 0.5% stated their religion as Muslim – double the percentage in 2001.

In 2011, 51,326 people in East Lothian identified as being of a Christian religion or faith. Significant other religions included: 176 Buddhist; 119 Jewish; 508 Muslim; 65 Sikh; and 256 belonging to another religion or faith not stated. Those stating they had no religion and those that did not state a religion were 40,740 and 6,485 respectively.

East Lothian has seen a larger drop in the proportion of people identifying as Christian than Scotland as a whole. However, East Lothian has also seen a smaller increase in the proportion of people identifying as having no religion than Scotland and the Lothian region. Table 1.7 breaks down the changes in religious identification between the 2001 and 2011 census dates.

Table 1.7: Percentage point change of religious identification in 2001 and 2011 (Census 2001; Census 2011).

Religion, Faith or Belief	East Lothian	Lothian	Scotland
Church of Scotland	-11.46	-10.83	-9.96
Roman Catholic	0.22	0.87	0.00
Other Christian	-1.58	-1.53	-1.31
Buddhist	0.10	0.15	0.11
Hindu	0.09	0.37	0.20
Jewish	-0.02	0.00	-0.02
Muslim	0.28	0.77	0.61
Sikh	0.05	0.04	0.04
Another	-0.21	-0.57	-0.24
None	7.80	9.02	9.11
No Answer	0.83	1.70	1.46

Sources

In preparing this profile every attempt has been made to use the most recent information publically available for each theme. The information has come from a variety of external sources as well as internal council services. Sources include:

Census 2011 www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Mid year population estimates 2021 [Mid-2021 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/mid-2021-population-estimates)

Small Area mid year populations estimates 2020 [Small Area Population Estimates \(2011 Data Zone based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/small-area-population-estimates)

Population Projections 2018 based [Population Projections for Scottish Areas \(2018-based\) | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/population-projections)

NRS Local Authority Profile June 2021 version [East Lothian Council Area Profile \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/east-lothian-council-area-profile)

NRS Migration [Total Migration to or from Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/migration)

Statxpire: number of NI Number allocations to overseas nationals
[Stat-Xpire - Log in \(dwp.gov.uk\)](https://www.dwp.gov.uk/statxpire)

EU Settlement Scheme by nationality of applicant
[EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, June 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics)

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