

# First results for Devon

The first data from the 2011 Census have been released by the Office for National Statistics. They show an increasing and ageing population both nationally and in Devon.

## The national picture

The figures show that the population of England is **56,597,300**. This is an increase of **3,490,100** – or **6.6%** – over the past ten years. The largest increases have been in **the South East**(an increase of just over **9,300,000** – **7.5%** ) and **London** (a **8,800,000** – **7.7%** increase). In percentage terms the largest increase was **East of England** (up **6,300,000** **8.3%**) followed by the **South West** with an increase of **5,700,000** **7.8%**.

Figure 1 England total population 1801-2021

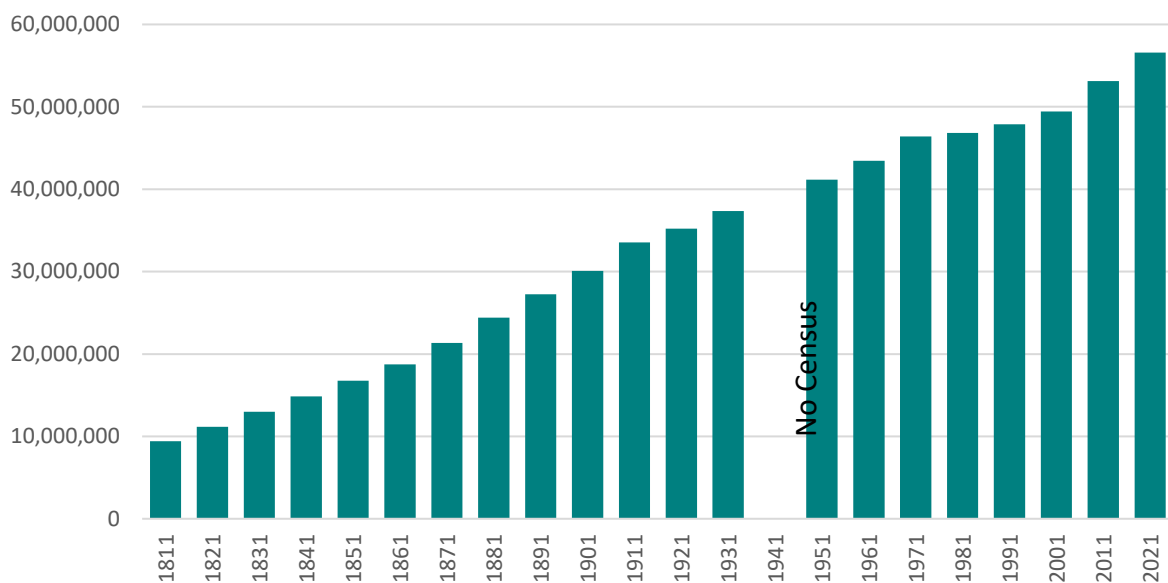
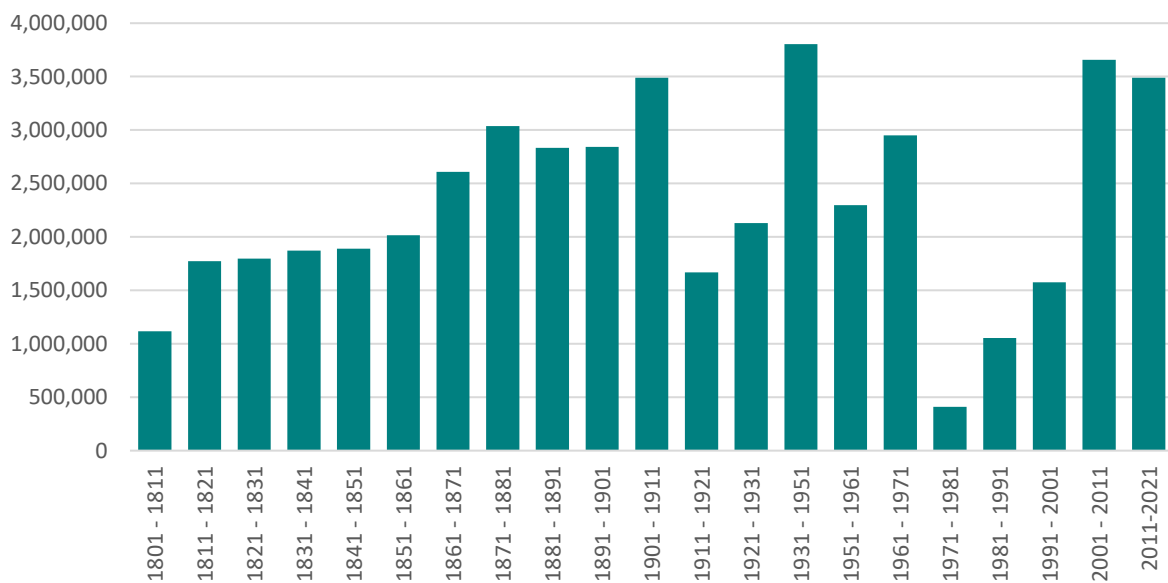
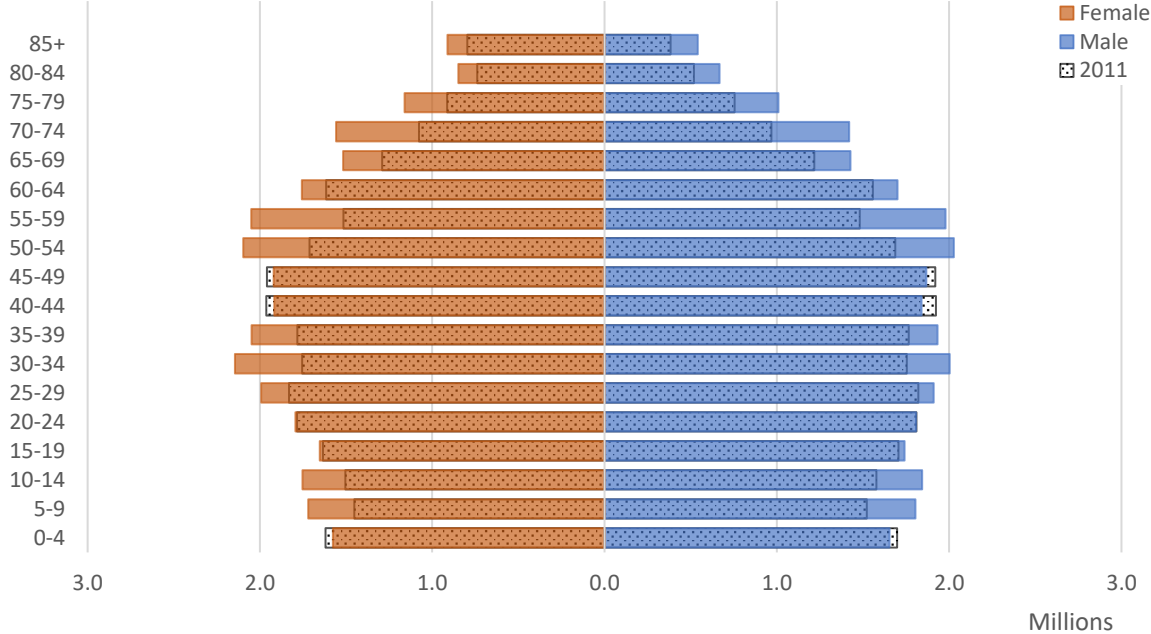


Figure 2 Intercensal population change



The population structure is also ageing. There are now **11.1** million people aged 65 and over, which is **18.6%** of the population. In 2011 the figure stood at 9.2 million, or 16.4%.



### The local picture

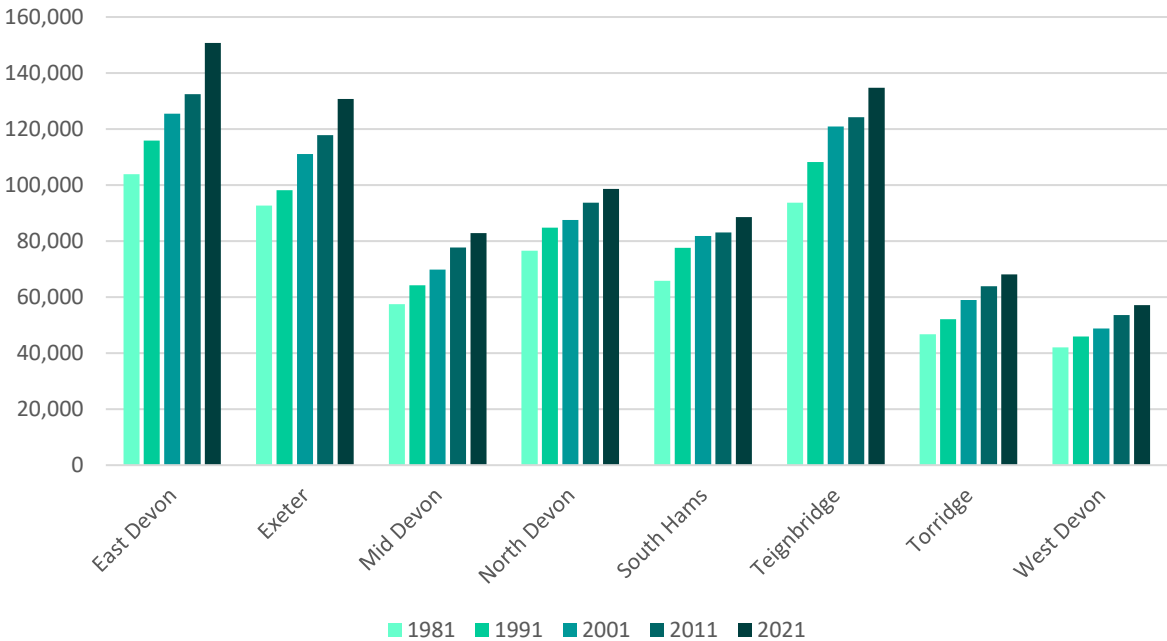
The Census puts the population of Devon at **811,600**. This is up from 746,400 ten years ago – an increase of **65,200** or **8.7%**. The largest increase was **East Devon** which saw an increase of **18,400** people – up **13.9%** from 2011 to **150,800**. **West Devon** saw the smallest increase with **3,600** extra people taking the total to **57,100** – an increase of **6.7%**.

Table 1 Population change 2011 to 2021

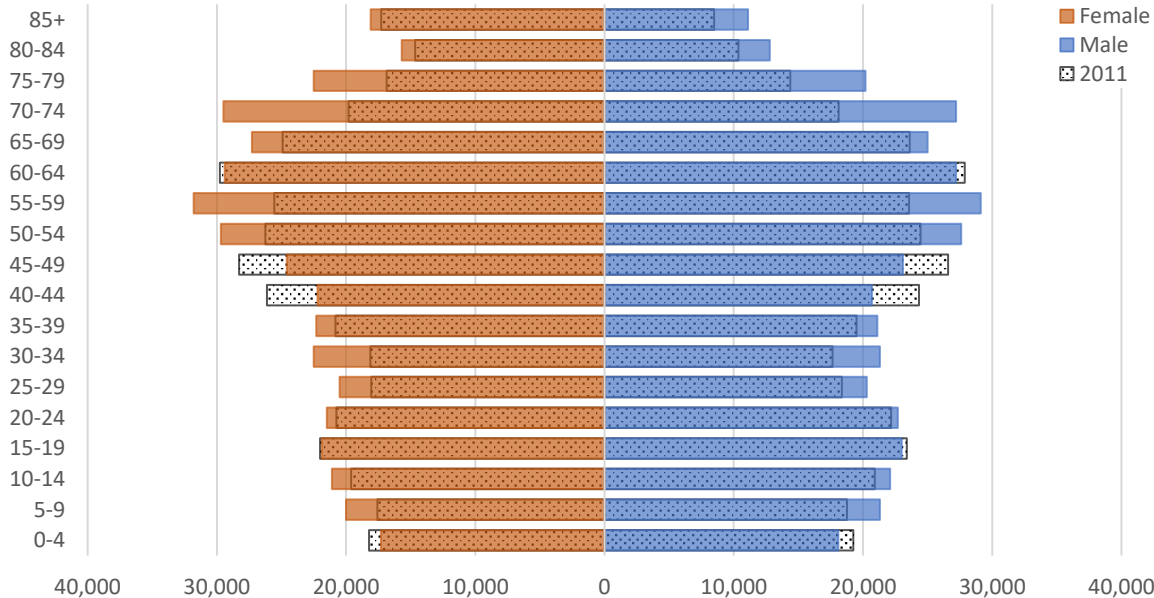
	2011	2021	Change	
East Devon	132,400	150,800	18,400	13.9%
Exeter	117,800	130,800	13,000	11.0%
Mid Devon	77,800	82,800	5,000	6.4%
North Devon	93,600	98,600	5,000	5.3%
South Hams	83,100	88,600	5,500	6.6%
Teignbridge	124,300	134,800	10,500	8.4%
Torrige	63,900	68,100	4,200	6.6%
West Devon	53,500	57,100	3,600	6.7%
Devon	746,400	811,600	65,200	8.7%

The past forty years have seen a steady growth in population across all Devon’s districts. **The change is generally steady except East Devon & Exeter which have accelerated recently?**

Figure 3 Change in total population 1981-2021

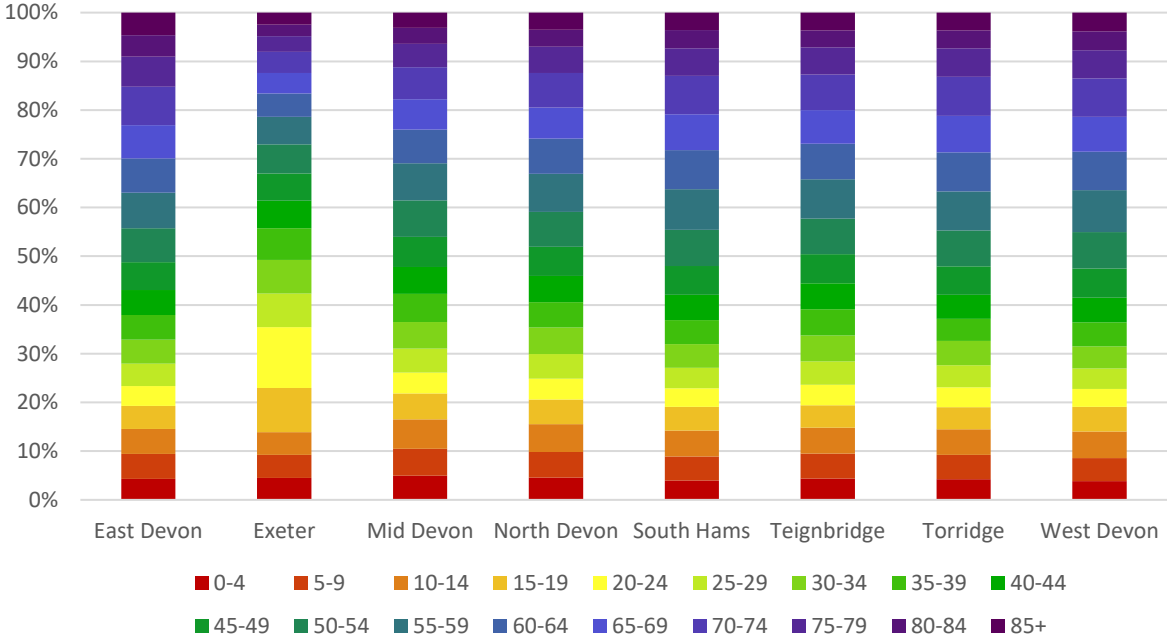


Similar to the national picture there has been an increase in the number of older people living in the county. Since 2011, there are now **40,800** more people aged 65 and over in Devon taking the total number to **209,400** or **25.8%** of the total population. In 2011 the figures were 168,600 (21,100 more) & 22.6%.



The age structure differs significantly between districts with **49%** in Exeter aged under 35 compared to just **32%** in **West Devon**. However, just **17%** of people in Exeter are aged 65 and over compared to **30%** in **East Devon**.

Figure 4 Age structure of district council areas



There has also been a corresponding increase in the number of households in the county. The largest increases were **East Devon** and **Teignbridge**, which saw an increases of **7,700 (13.0%)** and **5,800 (10.7%)** respectively.

Table 2 Household change 2011 to 2021

	2011	2021	Change	
East Devon	59,100	66,800	7,700	13.0%
Exeter	49,200	52,500	3,300	6.7%
Mid Devon	32,800	35,600	2,800	8.5%
North Devon	40,000	43,200	3,200	8.0%
South Hams	36,900	39,300	2,400	6.5%
Teignbridge	54,000	59,800	5,800	10.7%
Torridge	28,000	30,500	2,500	8.9%
West Devon	22,700	24,800	2,100	9.3%
Devon	322,600	352,600	30,000	9.3%

In Devon there are, on average, **2.3** people per household. This compares to **2.41** people in England as a whole. If the average household size in Devon matched the national figure there would be **12,200** fewer households. This relatively small household size may be due to the age structure of the population with more older people living alone, although the full picture won't be known until more data are released later in the year.

**Except in Exeter , East Devon & South Hams, the household size has decreased across all Devon districts between 2011 and 2021.**

Table 3 Change in average household size 2011 to 2021

	2011	2021
East Devon	2.24	2.26
Exeter	2.39	2.49
Mid Devon	2.37	2.33
North Devon	2.34	2.28
South Hams	2.25	2.25
Teignbridge	2.30	2.25
Torridge	2.28	2.24
West Devon	2.36	2.30
Devon	2.31	2.30

The most densely populated district is **Exeter** with **2,783** people per square kilometre. By comparison, the least densely populated district is **West Devon** with 49 people per square kilometre.

Table 4 Population and household density (per ha.)

	Size (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population density	Household density
East Devon	814	185	82
Exeter	47	2,783	1,117
Mid Devon	913	91	39
North Devon	1,086	91	40
South Hams	886	100	44
Teignbridge	674	200	89
Torridge	984	69	31
West Devon	1,160	49	21
Devon	6564	124	54