

How many foreign-born people live in the East of England?

A total of 741,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 12.1% of the East of England's population of 6,102,000 in 2017, compared to a UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born made up the largest shares of the population in Luton (32.4%) and Cambridge (30.0%) in 2017, with much lower shares in areas such as Basildon (6.5%) and Norfolk (9.0%).

Most migrants in the East of England are from non-EU countries: 55% in 2017, which is lower than the UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

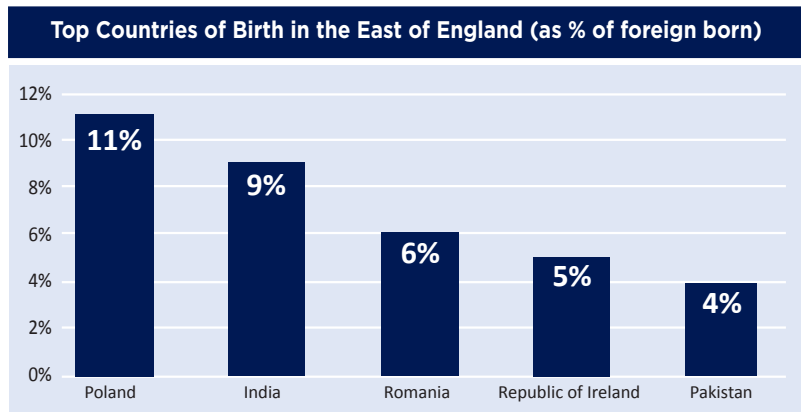
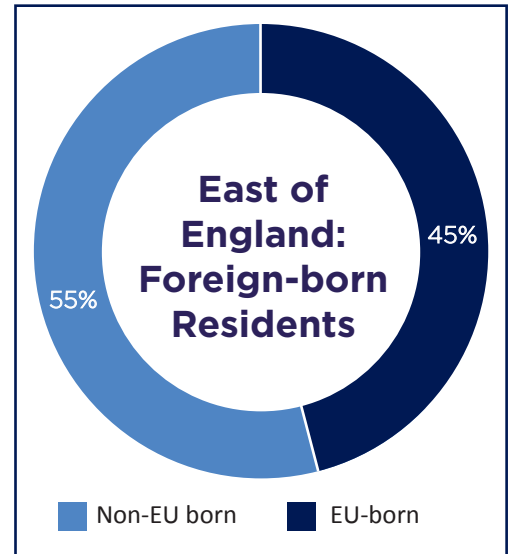
- **331,000 EU-born residents** (5% of the region's population; 45% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **410,000 non-EU born residents** (7% of the region's population, 55% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **5,361,000 UK-born residents** (88% of the region's population)

What are the top countries of birth for migrants in the East of England?

Top countries of birth in the East of England in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 83,000 or 11%
- **India:** 63,000 or 9%
- **Romania:** 43,000 or 6%
- **Ireland:** 38,000 or 5%
- **Pakistan:** 31,000 or 4%

All these countries are also among the top countries of origin for the UK as a whole.



UK's top 10 countries of birth	Percent of UK's foreign born
Poland	10%
India	9%
Pakistan	6%
Romania	4%
Republic of Ireland	4%
Germany	3%
Bangladesh	3%
Italy	2%
South Africa	2%
China	2%

What industries do foreign-born workers in the East of England work in?

Approximately 16% of people working in the East of England were foreign born in 2017, lower than the UK average of 18%. About 7% were born in EU countries (223,000 workers) and 9% in non-EU countries (258,000 workers).

The top industry grouping employing both EU and non-EU migrants was health, education and public administration (41,000 EU-born workers and 95,000 non-EU born workers). These figures exclude seasonal agricultural work, which is not captured in the official data..

Industry in 2017	EU born	Non-EU born	Non-UK born	UK born	Total
Health, education and public administration	41,000 (5%)	95,000 (11%)	136,000 (16%)	722,000 (84%)	858,000 (100%)
Professional services, finance and admin	36,000 (7%)	44,000 (8%)	80,000 (15%)	462,000 (85%)	542,000 (100%)
Retail	29,000 (7%)	32,000 (8%)	61,000 (15%)	353,000 (85%)	414,000 (100%)
Manufacturing	39,000 (14%)	16,000 (6%)	55,000 (20%)	218,000 (80%)	273,000 (100%)
Transport and IT	23,000 (8%)	30,000 (11%)	53,000 (19%)	221,000 (81%)	274,000 (100%)
Hospitality	22,000 (14%)	16,000 (10%)	38,000 (24%)	120,000 (76%)	157,000 (100%)
Construction	23,000 (9%)	11,000 (4%)	34,000 (13%)	230,000 (87%)	263,000 (100%)
Other industries	11,000 (5%)	14,000 (6%)	26,000 (10%)	225,000 (90%)	251,000 (100%)
All industries	223,000 (7%)	258,000 (9%)	481,000 (16%)	2,550,000 (84%)	3,031,000 (100%)

All data in these profiles come from Migration Observatory analysis of the Office of National Statistics' Annual Population Survey (APS) for 2017. The APS is a survey of private households has important limitations. The estimates come with margins of error, which means that small differences between figures presented may not be statistically significant – especially where the estimate itself is relatively small. The APS excludes some people, such as residents of communal establishments like hostels, and other groups may be undercounted due to survey non-response. The data do not include seasonal workers, and therefore do not provide reliable figures for agriculture in particular. Note on industry definitions: the 'retail' industry includes wholesale and repair of motor vehicles.