

How many foreign-born people live in the South East?

A total of 1,211,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 13.5% of the South East's population of 8,951,000 in 2017, which is similar to the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Slough (38.3%) and Oxford (35.8%) with much lower shares in other areas such as Hampshire (9.0%).

Most migrants in the South East are from non-EU countries: 58% in 2017, which is similar to the UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

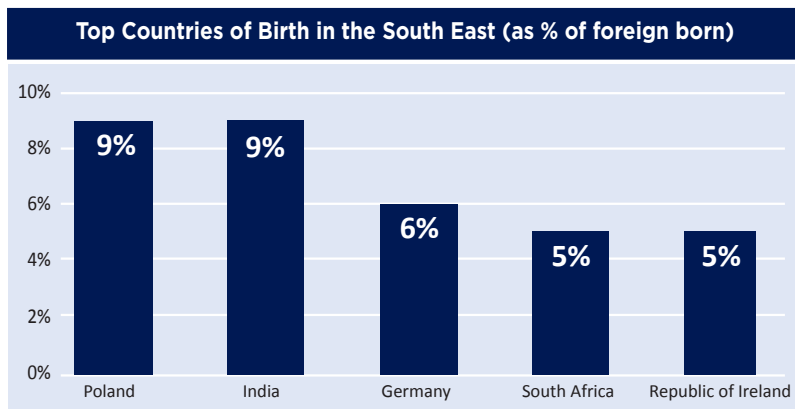
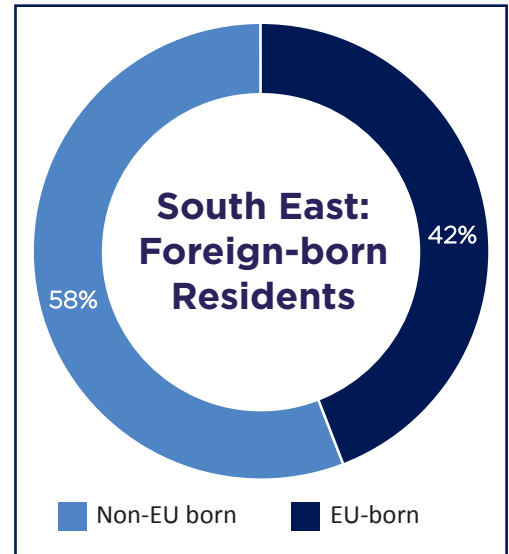
- **509,000 EU-born residents** (6% of the population of South East; 42% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **702,000 non-EU born residents** (8% of the population of South East, 58% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **7,736,000 UK-born residents** (86% of the population of the South East)

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

The top countries of birth in the South East in 2017 were:

- **Poland:** 109,000 or 9% of the region's foreign born
- **India:** 109,000 or 9%
- **Germany:** 72,000 or 6%
- **South Africa:** 62,000 or 5%
- **Ireland:** 57,000 or 5%

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 South East work in?

Approximately 17% of people working in the South East were foreign born in 2017, similar to the UK average of 18%. Around 7% of the South East's workers were from EU countries (331,000 people) and 10% were from non-EU countries (448,000 people).

The top industry employing both EU and non-EU born workers in 2017 was health and social work (42,000 EU-born workers and 79,000 non-EU born workers, who together made up 22% of the industry's workforce). 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 and social work	42,000 (7%)	79,000 (14%)	121,000 (22%)	439,000 (78%)	560,000 (100%)
Retail	34,000 (6%)	50,000 (9%)	85,000 (15%)	475,000 (85%)	560,000 (100%)
Education	25,000 (5%)	50,000 (10%)	76,000 (15%)	429,000 (85%)	505,000 (100%)
Professional, scientific and technical activities	28,000 (8%)	39,000 (10%)	67,000 (18%)	305,000 (82%)	372,000 (100%)
Manufacturing	36,000 (10%)	25,000 (7%)	61,000 (16%)	312,000 (84%)	373,000 (100%)
Information and communication	16,000 (6%)	39,000 (15%)	55,000 (21%)	204,000 (79%)	259,000 (100%)
Construction	27,000 (7%)	23,000 (6%)	50,000 (14%)	310,000 (86%)	360,000 (100%)
Hospitality	26,000 (13%)	23,000 (11%)	49,000 (24%)	150,000 (76%)	199,000 (100%)
Transport and storage	22,000 (9%)	26,000 (11%)	47,000 (21%)	181,000 (79%)	228,000 (100%)
Admin and support	22,000 (10%)	23,000 (11%)	46,000 (21%)	177,000 (79%)	223,000 (100%)
Public admin and defense	13,000 (4%)	19,000 (7%)	32,000 (11%)	251,000 (89%)	283,000 (100%)
Finance	11,000 (6%)	19,000 (10%)	30,000 (16%)	164,000 (84%)	195,000 (100%)
Other industries	30,000 (8%)	32,000 (7%)	62,000 (15%)	382,000 (85%)	443,000 (100%)
All industries	331,000 (7%)	448,000 (7%)	779,000 (14%)	3,780,000 (86%)	4,559,000 (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.