

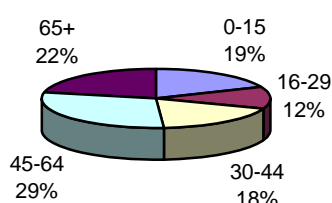
WEALDEN ECONOMIC FACTS AND FIGURES

General statistics ¹	
Area size	837 sq km / 323 sq miles
Proportion of area rural (%) ²	93.1%
Households ³	62,700
Population Estimate Mid 2007 ⁴	143,761
Population density per hectare	1.7
Household income	£37,425

Wealden is the largest of the East Sussex districts and boroughs with 28% of the total population of the County. Wealden is classified as one of the most rural district's in England (DEFRA) The population is estimated at 143,761⁴ comprising 62,700³ households. Half of the population live in the five market towns; Crowborough, Hailsham, Heathfield, Polegate and Uckfield which range in size from 7,500 to 20000 with the rest of the population living in the many villages and hamlets.

Population estimates in Wealden

In comparison to the South East, Wealden has average levels of young people up to the age of 14, significant fewer residents in the 15-44 age range and a significant above average population of pensionable age.



All ages	143,761 ⁴	Wealden (%)	England & Wales (%)
0-15	26,765	19	19
16-29	17,300	12	19
30-44	26,277	18	22
45-64	42,087	29	25
65+	31,332	22	16

Unemployment in Wealden

In March 2009 1,689 Wealden residents claimed job seekers allowance - 2.1% of the district's working population. Claimant numbers continue to increase in Wealden faster than elsewhere in the county, more affluent areas have been affected most. The average JSA level is low compared to the East Sussex average of 3.6. These figures are expected to increase during 2009.

	East Sussex	Wealden	Rother	Eastbourne	Hastings	Lewes
Economic activity rate ⁵	81.0 %	83.2 %	79%	80.4%	77%	83.7%
Employment rate ⁶	77.6 %	79.6 %	75.3%	75.8%	72.3%	83.7%
Unemployment rate ⁷	4.5 %	3.3 %	4.5%	5.8%	7.6%	4.0%
Total JSA Claimants (Mar 2009) ⁸	10,255	1,689	1,507	2,383	2942	1734
JSA %	3.6%	2.1%	3.3%	4.4%	5.7%	3.3%

Business in Wealden

Wealden had 8,200⁹ businesses in 2007. Small and micro businesses form a fundamental part of the Wealden economy with 80% of businesses in Wealden employing less than 4 people. Close links to London in the north of the district bring significant commuting, 45.89% of the workforce commutes outside the district.¹⁰

¹ All data is sourced from www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk unless otherwise stated

² DEFRA 2005 Rural Definition and Local Authority Classification

³ ESIF (2007) ESCC Household Projections Trend Based, by type, 2007

⁴ ONS 2007 mid year estimates sourced from www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk

⁵ ONS 2004-2008 Annual Population Survey/labour force survey March 2008

⁶ ONS 2004-2008 Annual Population Survey/labour force survey March 2008

⁷ ESIF 2008 model based estimates: ONS

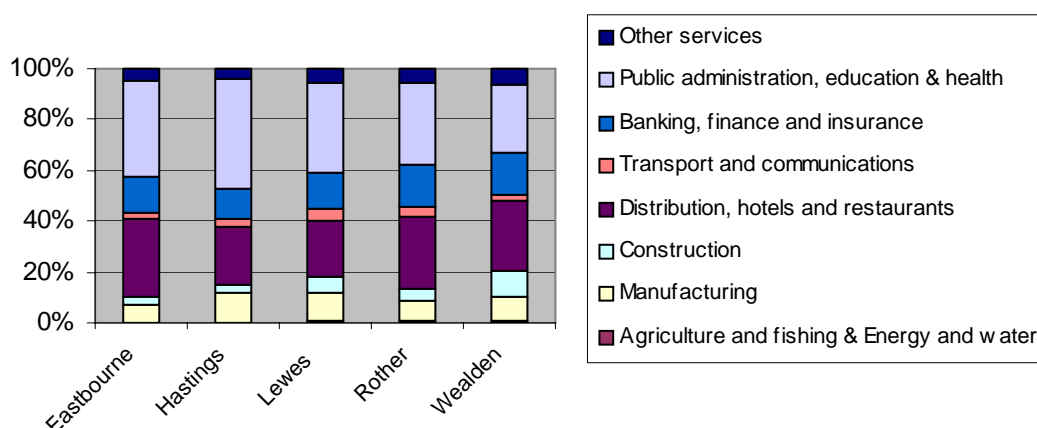
⁸ Nomis February 2009

⁹ Annual Business Inquiry 2007, ONS

¹⁰ 2001 Census

Employment by Sector

The distribution, hotel and restaurant sector is the most dominant of all sectors comprising 26.5%, followed by the Public Administration, Education and Health sectors with 25.3% of the workforce. Employment in construction is strong in Wealden providing 10.5% of work in the district.



Residence and Workplace wages ¹¹

Despite an outward appearance of affluence, there exists disparities between residence based wages and workplace wages which highlights the relationship between residents that commute out of Wealden to work, receiving higher wages compared to the wages offered by local businesses.

Average (median) earnings, residence-based, 2006-2008 - districts	
Gross weekly earnings (£s)	All people
East Sussex	£379
Hastings	£331
Eastbourne	£361
Rother	£375
Wealden	£417
Lewes	£420

Average (median) earnings workplace-based, 2006-2008 - districts	
Gross weekly earnings (£s)	All people
East Sussex	£340
Rother	£307
Hastings	£330
Lewes	£332
Wealden	£342
Eastbourne	£386

Productivity in Wealden

Economic growth is driven by increasing the number of people in employment and by improving the productivity of employees and sectors within an economy. The table below provides analysis of the productivity in Wealden by looking at Gross Value Added (GVA) yield now and in the future. The forecasted GVA was made before the credit crunch which should be considered against the projected figures. Wealden the largest and most affluent district in East Sussex, contributed the greatest share of GVA in 2005 to the East Sussex economy and is forecasted to grow over the next few years.

Gross Value Added (GVA) contribution by District 2001-2007¹²

GVA (district)	(£million)	2002 %	2002	2005 %	2005	2008 %	2008
Wealden	1210.47	28.46%	1371.19	29.11%	1490.37	29.33%	1639.48
Hastings	706.28	16.60%	766.86	16.28%	822.07	16.18%	891.90
Rother	631.20	14.84%	710.89	15.09%	770.27	15.16%	843.19
Lewes	877.49	20.63%	921.28	19.56%	989.37	19.47%	1069.96
Eastbourne	828.34	19.47%	940.86	19.97%	1008.80	19.85%	1090.37
East Sussex	4253.78	100.00%	4711.08	100.00	5080.88	100.00%	5534.90

¹¹ ESIF: Average (median) earnings, residence-based, 2006-2008 - districts

¹² East Sussex Economic Study 2007 Experian 2005