

2021 Census Topic Summary 4: Labour market and travel to work

A first look at the results for Suffolk County and Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, compared to England and Wales

The following tables were released on 8th December 2022:

Topic	Table name	Minimum available geography
Labour market	Economic activity status	OA
	Employment history	OA
	Industry	MSOA
	NS-SeC	OA
	Occupation	OA
	Occupation (minor groups)	MSOA
Travel to work	Distance travelled to work	OA
	Hours worked	OA
	Method used to travel to work	OA

NS-SeC = National Statistics Socio-economic classification. The NS-SEC has been constructed to measure the employment relations and conditions of occupations. Conceptually, these are central to showing the structure of socio-economic positions in modern societies and helping to explain variations in social behaviour and other social phenomena

OA = Output Area. This is the smallest geography for which Census data is released. There are 2,527 OAs in Suffolk in 2021, with an average usual resident population of just over 300 people.
LSOA = Lower Super Output Area. All data available at OA level is also available for LSOAs. There are 449 LSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 1,700 people.

MSOA = Middle Super Output Area. There are 90 MSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 8,500 people.

LTLA = Lower Tier Local Authority (District and Borough Council areas)

All data used in this paper were sourced from the 2021 and 2011 ONS Census outputs. Some total counts may differ slightly between indicators.

Labour market

Economic activity status

Table 1: Usual resident population aged 16 and over by economic activity status, Suffolk and England and Wales, 2011 and 2021 Censuses

	Suffolk				England and Wales
	2011	2021	Change	% change	% change
Total (16+ population)	595,261	630,362	35,101	5.9%	6.7%
Economically active (excluding full-time students)	362,478	362,417	-61	0.0%	3.4%
Economically active (excluding full-time students): In employment	343,556	348,104	4,548	1.3%	5.3%
Economically active (excluding full-time students): Unemployed	18,922	14,313	-4,609	-24.4%	-23.6%
Economically active and a full-time student	13,440	10,287	-3,153	-23.5%	-21.2%
Economically inactive	219,343	257,658	38,315	17.5%	14.6%
Economically inactive: Retired	151,346	170,636	19,290	12.7%	8.2%
Economically inactive: Student	17,092	20,597	3,505	20.5%	14.3%
Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	22,359	26,959	4,600	20.6%	29.0%
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	17,268	22,396	5,128	29.7%	13.6%
Economically inactive: Other	11,278	17,070	5,792	51.4%	54.0%

The 2021 Census economic activity tables released in December 2022 separated out full-time students who are economically active from the other variables in the economically active group. To generate comparable figures from the 2011 Census, it has been necessary to subtract outputs from table DC6108EW (Economic activity of full-time students by student accommodation by age) from the table DC6107EW (Economic Activity by sex by age). The Key Statistics tables from 2011 restrict economic activity data to the 16 to 74 age group so cannot be used for this comparison. The economically inactive parts of these tables offer a more straightforward comparison.

Definition: People aged 16 years and over are economically active if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were:

* in employment (an employee or self-employed)

* unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks

* unemployed, but waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted

- These data indicate that the number of people who are economically active but not a full-time student in Suffolk in 2021 remains almost the same as in 2011. There has also been minimal change across England and Wales on average, with the economically active population (excluding full-time students) increasing by 3.4% since the last Census.
- The number of people in employment in Suffolk has increased by 1.3% over the past decade. There was a 5.3% rise nationally.
- There are 24.4% fewer economically active but unemployed (i.e. not in employment but are looking for work) residents in Suffolk in 2021 compared to 2011, a similar fall to that seen

nationally. Just over 14,000 Suffolk residents were unemployed at the time of the 2021 Census.

- The number of people in all economically inactive groups has increased over the past decade.
- There are over 22,000 people who are long-term sick or disabled in Suffolk in 2021, an increase of over 5,000 since 2011. This figure has seen a percentage increase (29.7%) more than double that of England and Wales (13.6%).
- Retired people account for around half of the increase in economically inactive population in Suffolk between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses. There are over 19,000 more retired people living in Suffolk in 2021 than there were in 2011, a rise of 12.7%. Just over 27% of the population aged 16 and over in Suffolk is retired. In England and Wales the equivalent figure is 21.6%.

Districts and Boroughs

Chart 1: Percentage of usual resident population age 16 and over who are economically active and in employment, 2021 Census

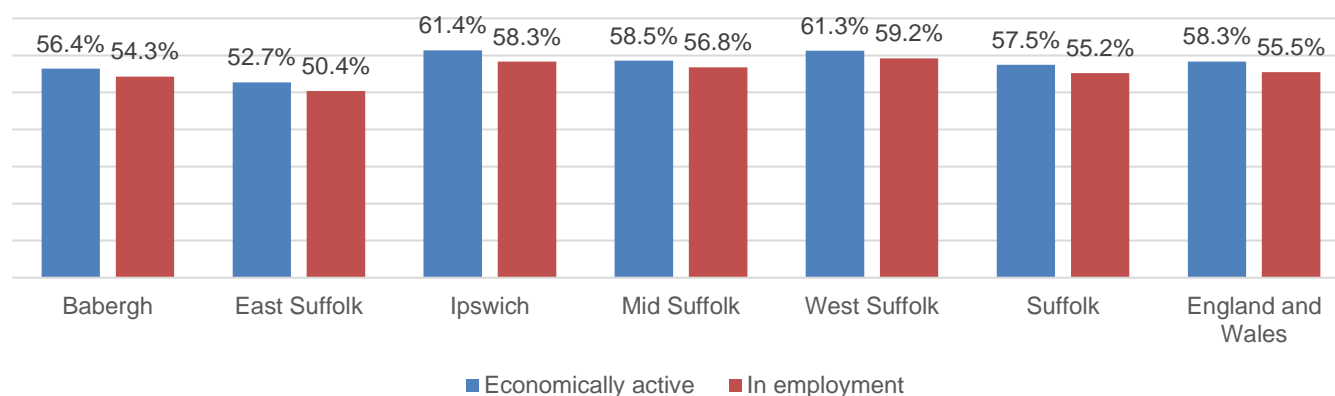
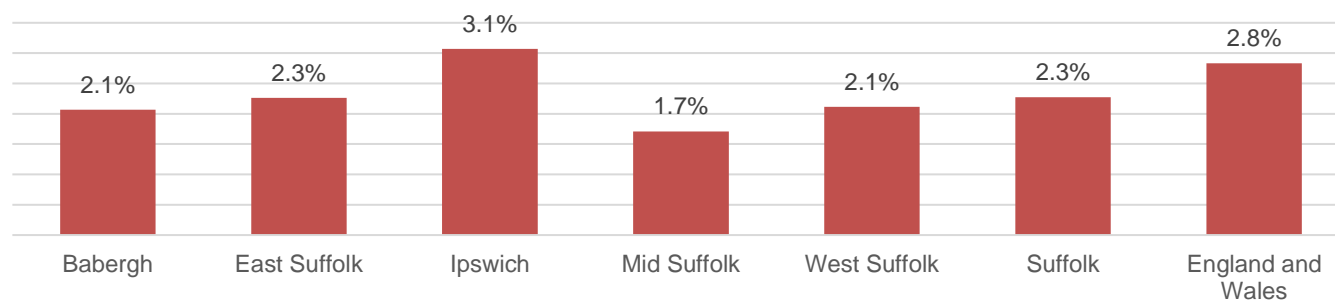
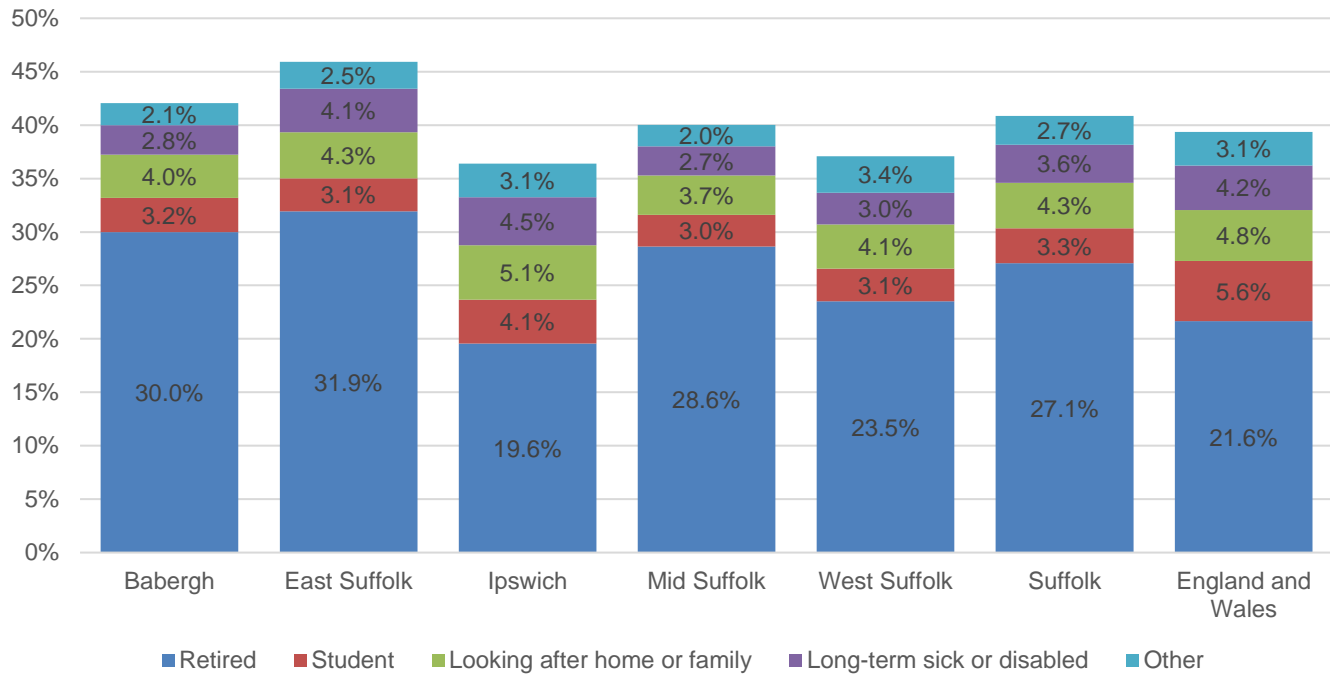


Chart 2: Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over who are economically active and unemployed, 2021 Census



- Ipswich has the highest rates of both overall economic activity and unemployment in Suffolk. Both figures are above the England and Wales average.
- Elsewhere in the county, unemployment is at least half a percentage point below the national average. The lowest unemployment level, in Mid Suffolk, is a full 1.1 percentage points below the England and Wales figure.
- Economic activity levels in Suffolk vary from 52.7% in East Suffolk to 61.4% in Ipswich. The above average proportion of retired people across rural Suffolk means that economic activity in these areas is inevitably going to be lower.

Chart 3: Percentage of usual residents aged 16 and over; economically inactive, 2021 Census



- The largest proportion of the usual resident population that is economically inactive is in East Suffolk (46.1%). Almost a third of the adult population of East Suffolk is retired, ten percentage points higher than the England and Wales average.
- 3 in every 10 adults in Babergh is retired, with a similar figure in Mid Suffolk. The percentage of retirees is higher than the national average in every Suffolk LTLA except Ipswich.
- Ipswich has the smallest economically inactive population; 36.4% in total, followed closely by West Suffolk. Ipswich and West Suffolk have the youngest population profile of Suffolk's LTLAs.
- Less than one in five residents in Ipswich is retired. 4.5% of the 16+ population of Ipswich is economically inactive due to a long-term sickness or disability, the highest level seen across Suffolk and slightly above the national average. Ipswich also has the highest proportion of residents economically inactive due to looking after the home or family.
- The proportion of the population that are students is below the national average across each of Suffolk's LTLAs.

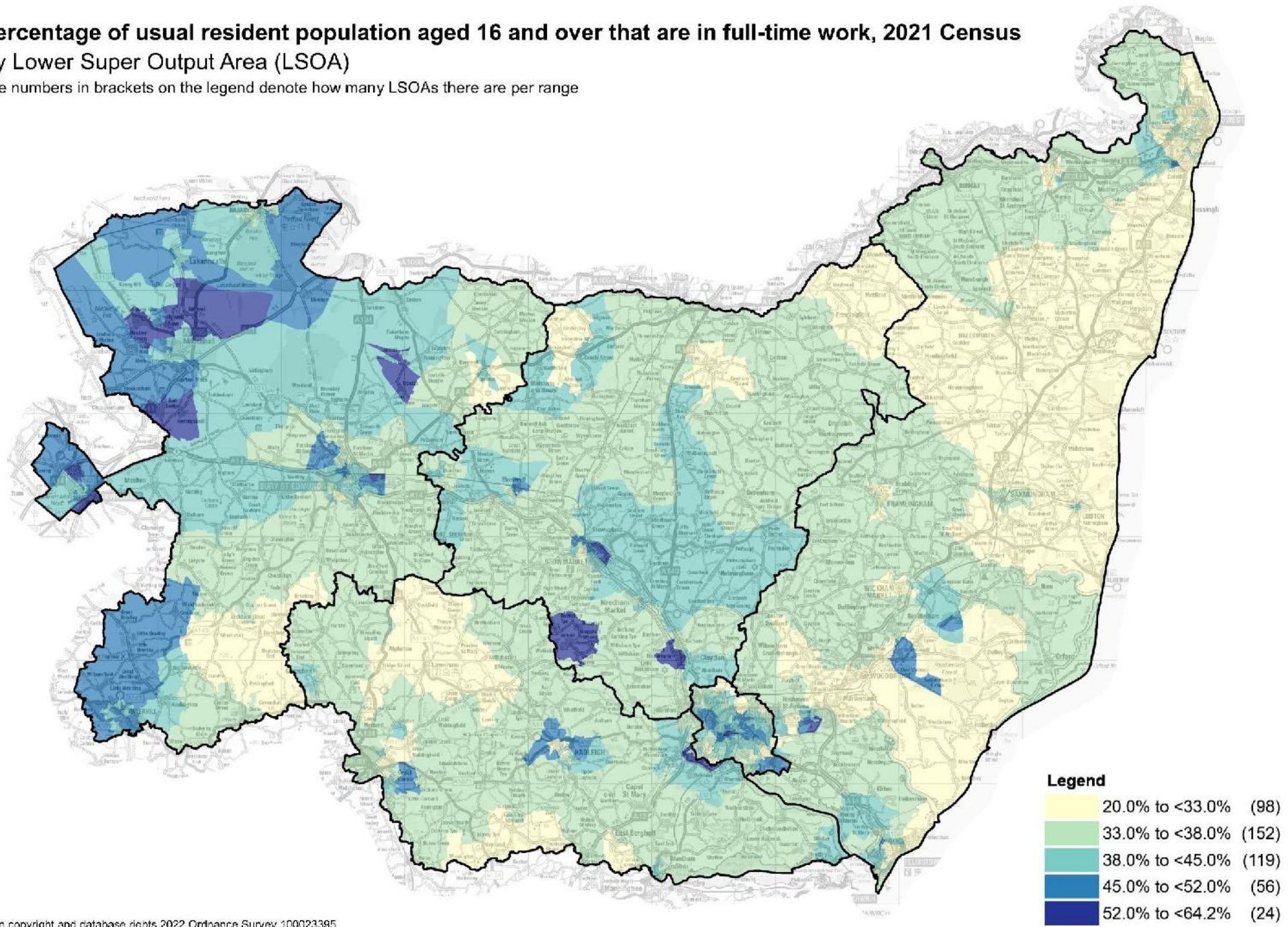
Table 2: Economic activity status, 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		England and Wales
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Total: All usual residents aged 16 years and over	77,378		206,721		111,832		86,305		148,130		630,362		
Economically active (excluding full-time students)	43,629	56.4%	108,895	52.7%	68,620	61.4%	50,524	58.5%	90,755	61.3%	362,417	57.5%	58.3%
Economically active (excluding full-time students): In employment	42,028	54.3%	104,221	50.4%	65,187	58.3%	49,048	56.8%	87,626	59.2%	348,104	55.2%	55.5%
Economically active (excluding full-time students): Unemployed	1,601	2.1%	4,674	2.3%	3,433	3.1%	1,476	1.7%	3,129	2.1%	14,313	2.3%	2.8%
Economically active and a full-time student	1,195	1.5%	2,912	1.4%	2,496	2.2%	1,235	1.4%	2,448	1.7%	10,287	1.6%	2.3%
Economically inactive	32,554	42.1%	94,914	45.9%	40,716	36.4%	34,546	40.0%	54,927	37.1%	257,658	40.9%	39.4%
Economically inactive: Retired	23,205	30.0%	66,009	31.9%	21,884	19.6%	24,707	28.6%	34,831	23.5%	170,636	27.1%	21.6%
Economically inactive: Student	2,473	3.2%	6,415	3.1%	4,594	4.1%	2,574	3.0%	4,541	3.1%	20,597	3.3%	5.6%
Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	3,128	4.0%	8,861	4.3%	5,693	5.1%	3,175	3.7%	6,102	4.1%	26,959	4.3%	4.8%
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	2,138	2.8%	8,477	4.1%	5,033	4.5%	2,352	2.7%	4,395	3.0%	22,396	3.6%	4.2%
Economically inactive: Other	1,610	2.1%	5,152	2.5%	3,512	3.1%	1,738	2.0%	5,058	3.4%	17,070	2.7%	3.1%

Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are in full-time work, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

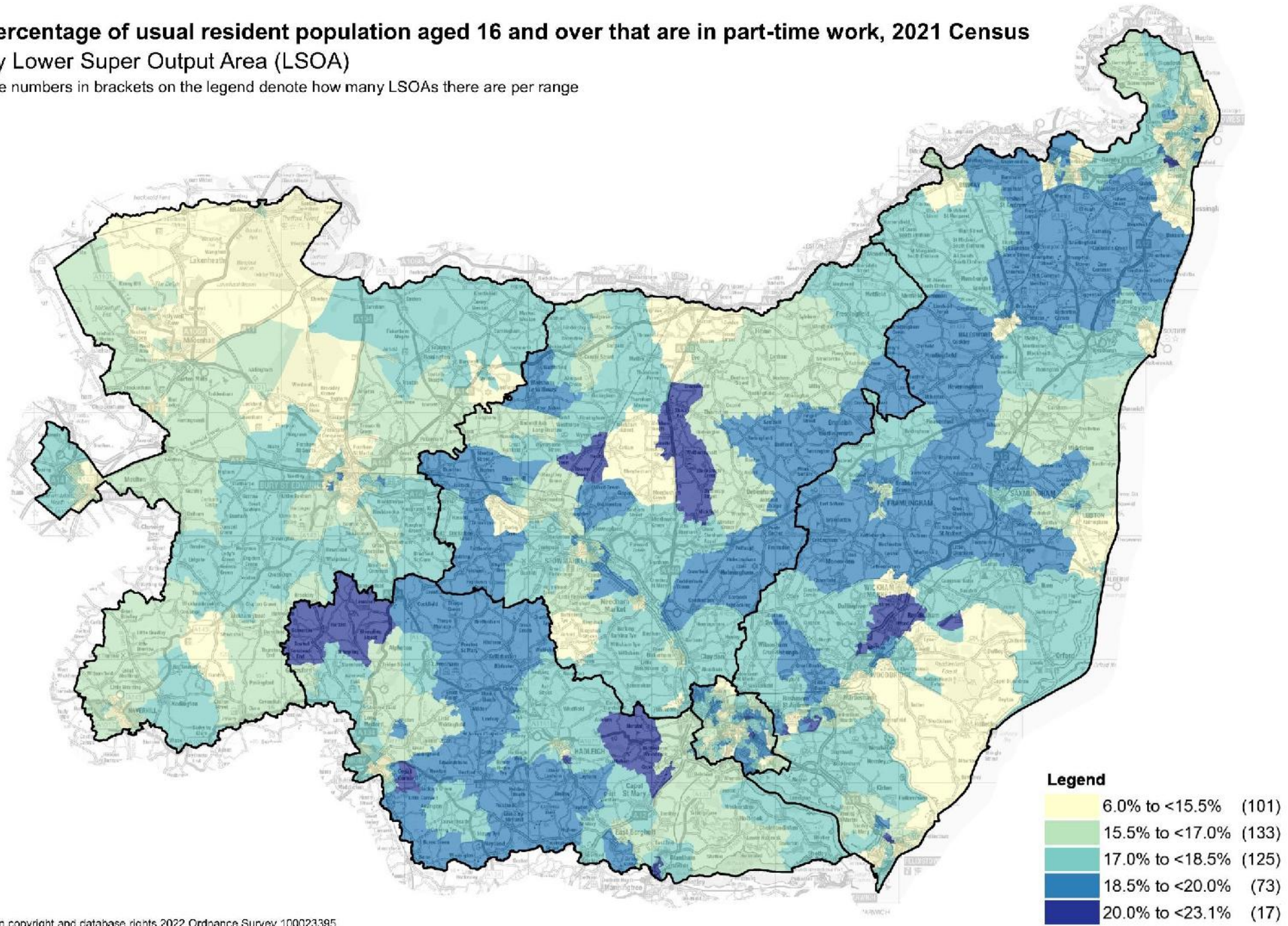
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are in part-time work, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Discussion of maps on pages 6 and 7

- The map on page six shows the percentage of the usual resident population aged 16 and over that were in full-time work the week before the 2021 Census, by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).
- Across Suffolk, between 20% and 64.2% of the 16+ population is in full-time work.
- The highest levels of full-time employment are found in West Suffolk; particularly Newmarket, Red Lodge, the Mildenhall area, Moreton Hall and around RAF Honington.
- In Mid Suffolk, the RAF Wattisham area and parts of Elmswell, Stowmarket and Great Blakenham have particularly high rates of full-time employment among residents.
- Pinewood, the area around Hadleigh, and Great Cornard have the highest concentration of full-time workers in Babergh.
- More than 45% of people aged 16 and over in much of central and south-east Ipswich were working full-time in the week before the 2021 Census.
- Less than 38% of adults were in full-time employment across large parts of East Suffolk at the time of the 2021 Census. Parts of Felixstowe, Kesgrave, the area around Sutton Heath barracks and Carlton Colville have higher rates of full-time work.
- Areas with the highest rates of part-time employment among residents (page seven) do not follow such a clear pattern as the full-time work data, though it should be noted that four of the map colours cover a relatively narrow range of values (15.5% to 23.1%), as there is a smaller variation in rates for this indicator.
- West Suffolk stands out as having relatively low rates of part-time work.

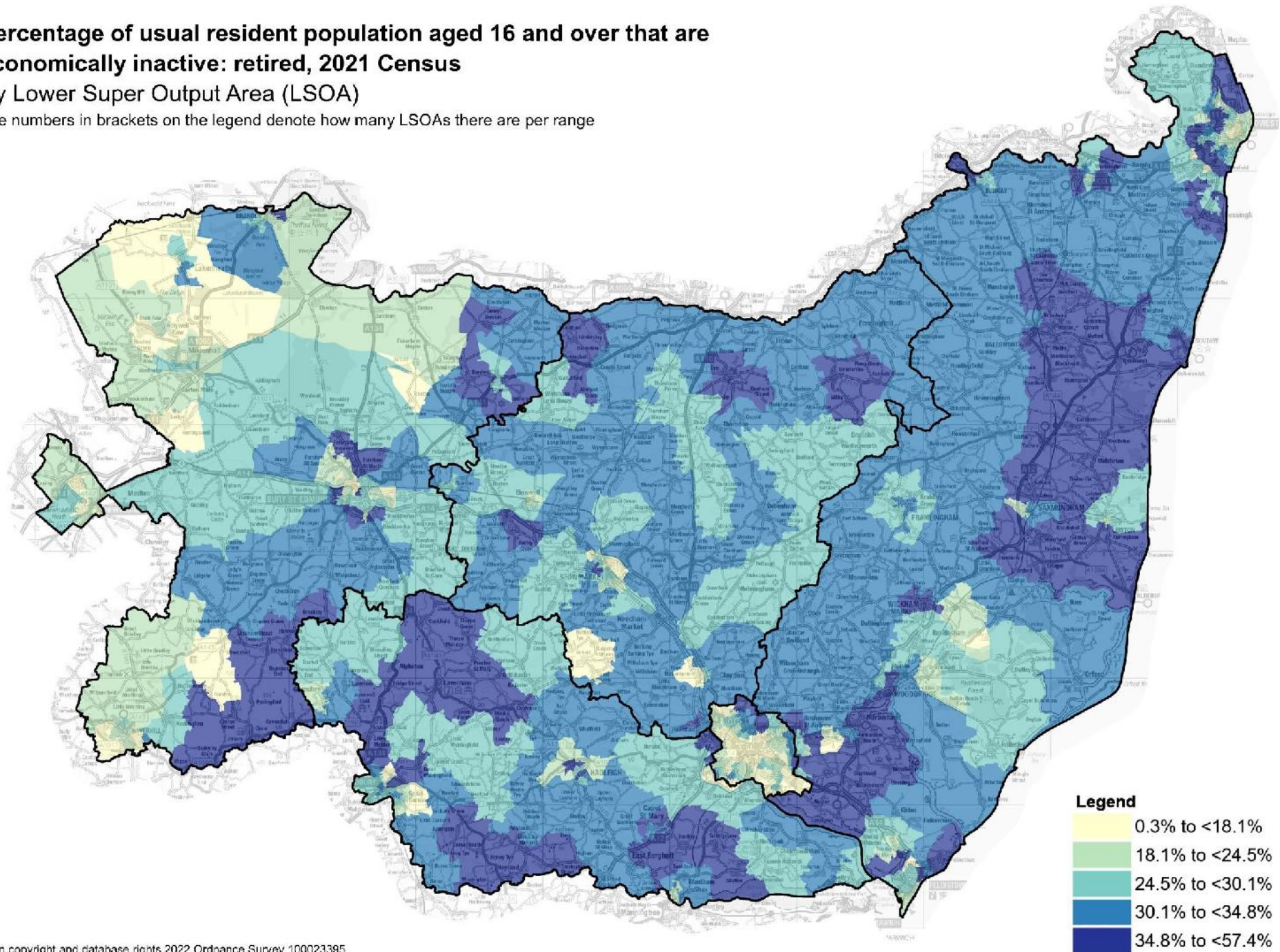
Discussion of maps on pages 9 to 11

- The map on page nine shows the percentage of the resident population aged 16 and over that were retired, and therefore economically inactive, at the time of the 2021 Census.
- More than a third of the 16+ population is retired across large parts of rural Suffolk.
- Our main and market towns tend to have lower levels of retired residents. East Suffolk seems to be the exception to this, with retired people accounting for more than a third of the population of Bungay, Beccles, Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Halesworth and much of Lowestoft.
- The lowest rates of retirees are found in and around Ipswich, around the air force bases in north-west Suffolk and at Wattisham, Haverhill, around HMP High Point and Great Blakenham.
- The map on page ten shows the percentage of the resident population aged 16 and over that were looking after the home or family, and therefore economically inactive, at the time of the 2021 Census.
- No LSOA in Suffolk has more than 10.5% of residents aged 16+ that are looking after the home or family.
- The higher concentrations of people looking after the home or family are in the main towns of Ipswich and Lowestoft, and around Mildenhall.
- Much of rural Suffolk has rates below 4.5%.
- The percentage of the resident population aged 16 and over that were long term sick or disabled, and therefore economically inactive, at the time of the 2021 Census, is shown on page eleven.
- In Suffolk, higher rates of long term sickness and disability are largely concentrated in the main and market towns, particularly Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are economically inactive: retired, 2021 Census

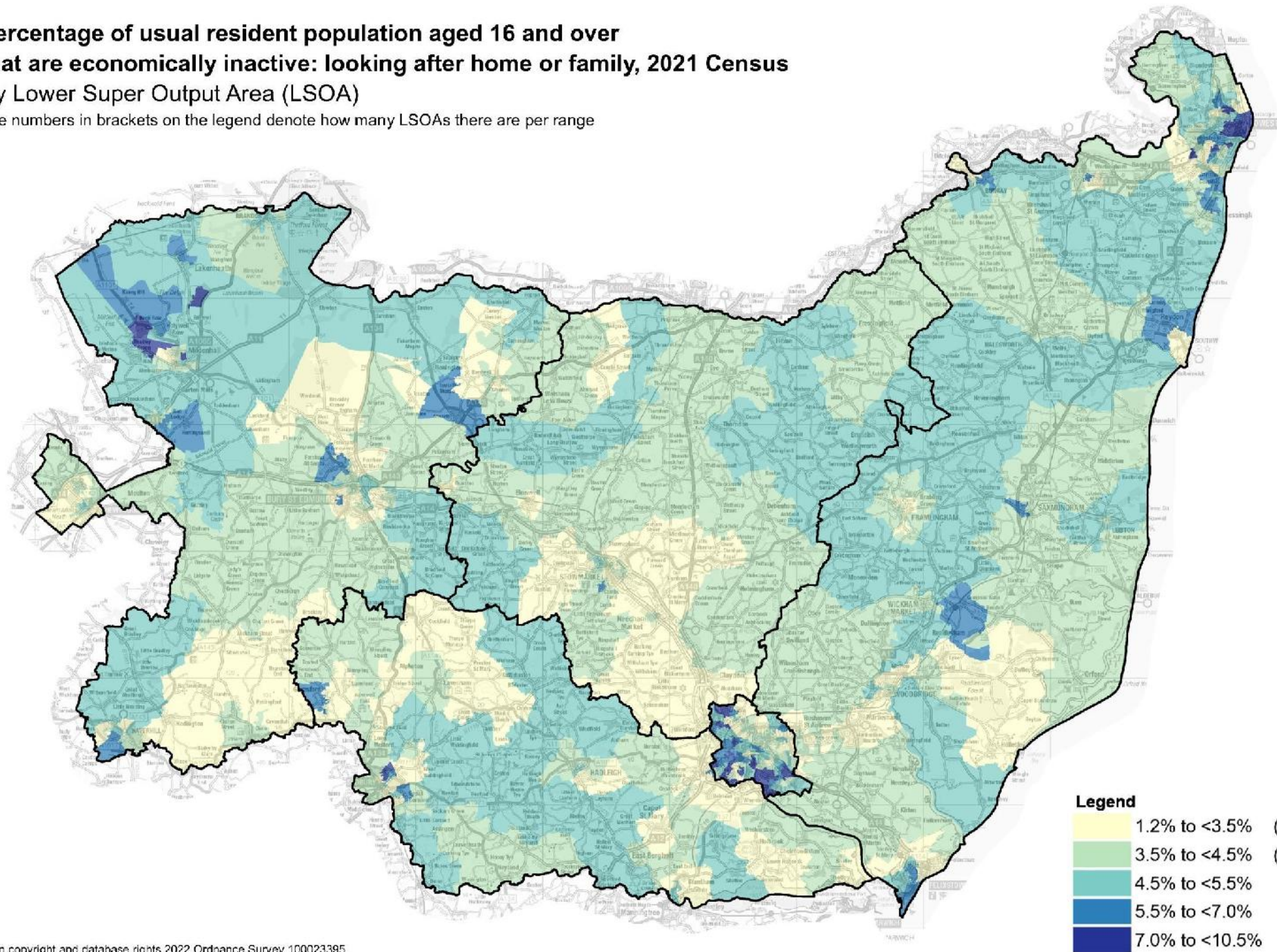
By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are economically inactive: looking after home or family, 2021 Census
By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

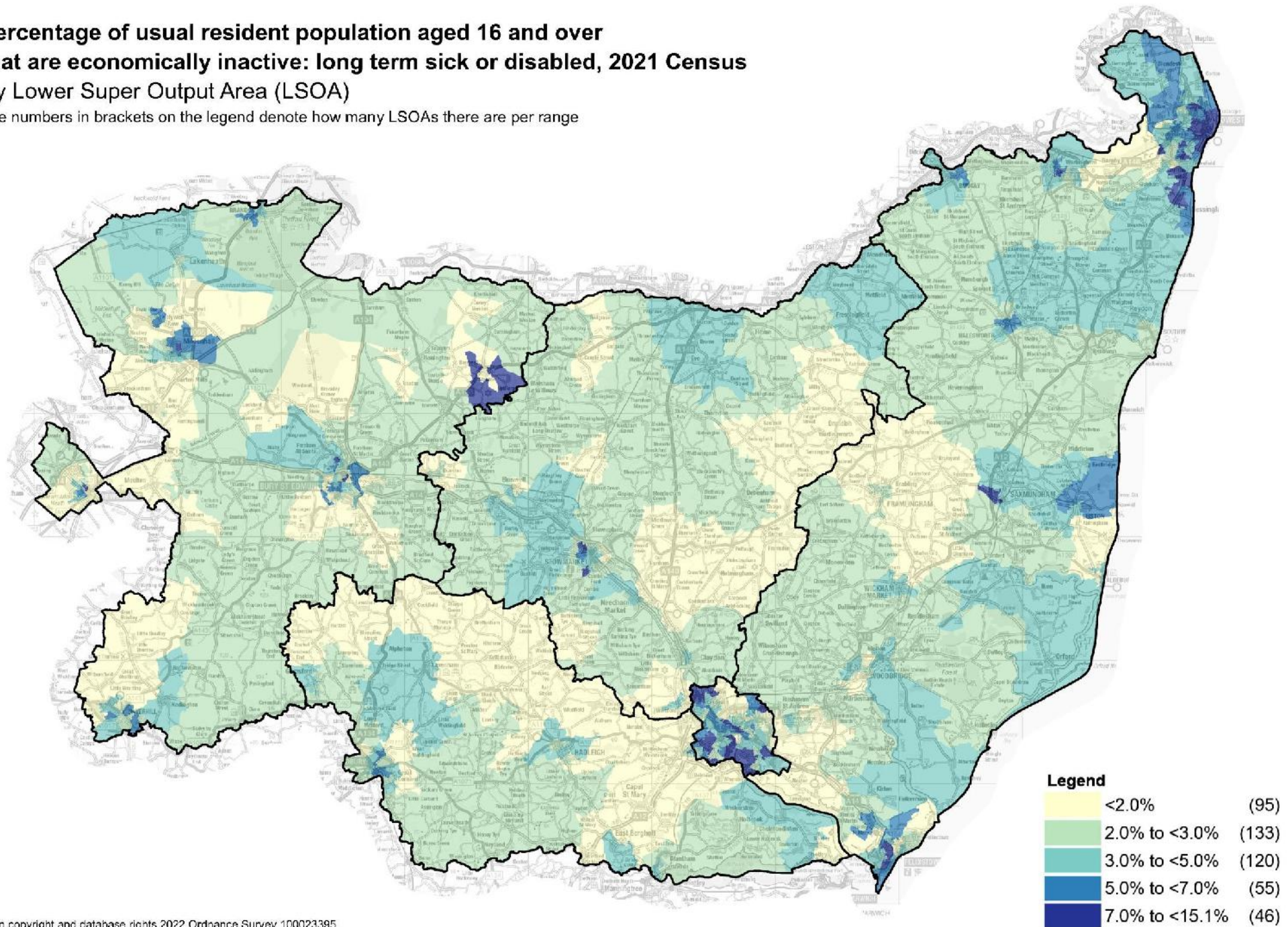
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are economically inactive: long term sick or disabled, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range

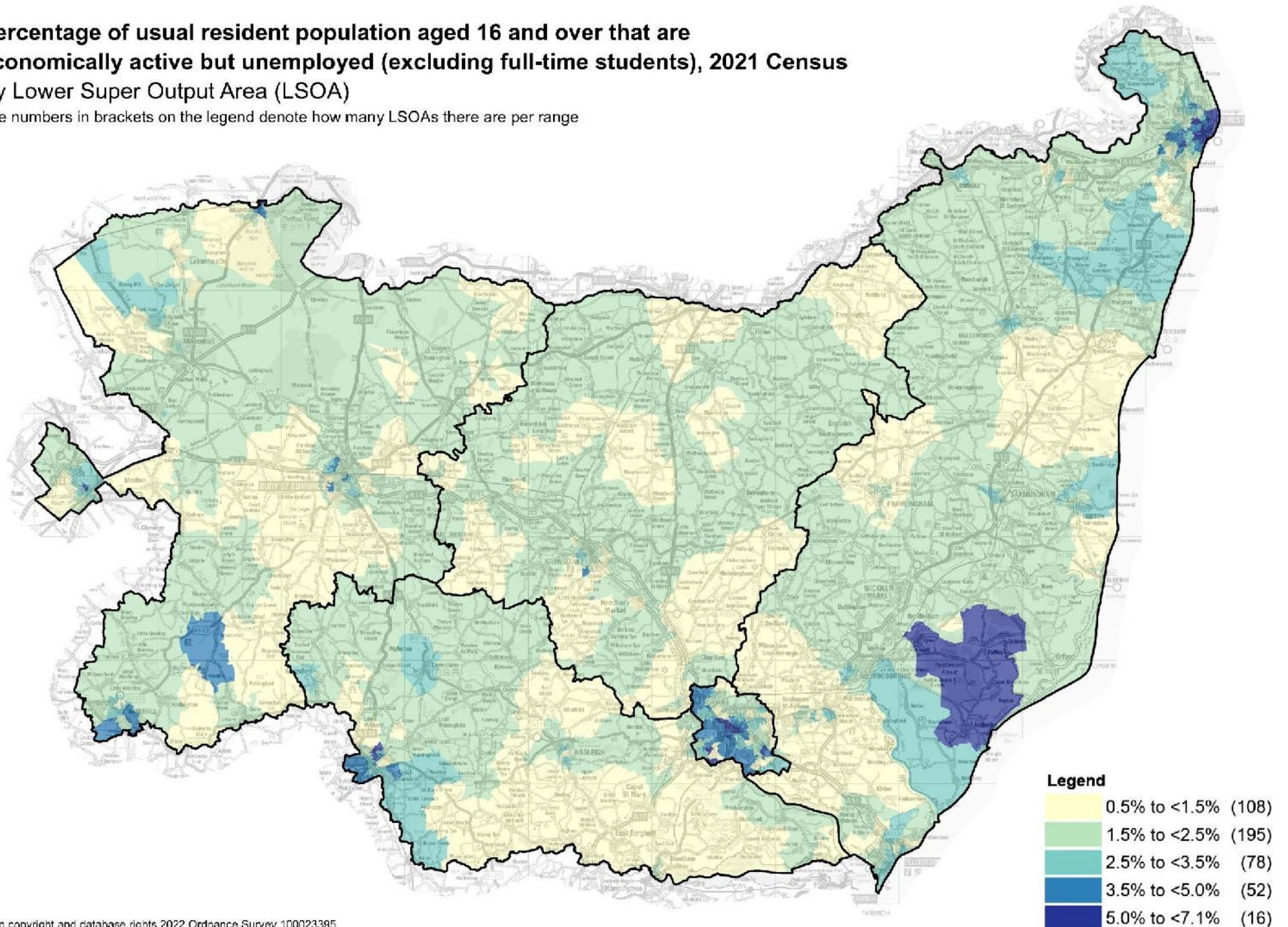


Discussion of maps on pages 13 to 17

- Page 13 shows the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that are unemployed (excluding full-time students) by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).
- In this case, this includes people who are unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks or are waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted.
- The unemployment rate does not exceed 7.1% in any Suffolk LSOA.
- Higher unemployment rates exist in the main towns of Ipswich, Lowestoft, Sudbury and Haverhill, with smaller areas of higher unemployment rates in Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket and Stowmarket. Higher unemployment rates also exist around the prisons at Hollesley bay and High Point. It should be noted that the variation in unemployment rates is quite small. A variation of just 1.2 percentage points can mean the difference between an area being highlighted in the second highest range (3.5% to <5.0%) and the second lowest rate (1.5% to <2.5%).
- More than a third of people in employment were mainly working at or from home at the time of the 2021 Census across much of rural Suffolk (see page 14).
- Levels of home working were lower in the main and market towns in Suffolk. This could be due to a higher percentage of jobs in these areas being in industries less conducive to home working, such as health and care, retail, and manufacturing.
- The maps on pages 15 to 17 show the percentage of people in employment by the distance they travelled to work.
- The highest levels of people travelling less than 5km to work are in and around our main and market towns (page 15). These towns are also major employment centres, offering a higher proportion of people the chance to travel short distances to their place of work than is generally the case in rural areas.
- The draw of major employment centres such as Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft, Sudbury and Haverhill may also be evidenced in the map showing the percentage of people that travel between 5 and 20 kilometres to their place of work (page 16). The towns themselves show lower rates of people travelling this distance, while the surrounding hinterlands show higher rates – more than 30% in many areas of West Suffolk and in some areas surrounding Ipswich.
- More than 19% of workers travel more than 20km to their place of work in about 10% of Suffolk's LSOAs (page 17).
- Higher rates of people taking longer journeys to work are concentrated around Suffolk's western and northern borders. Further data on travel to work origin and destination from the 2021 Census should be released in future, and will show us more about where our key commuting routes are, into and out of Suffolk.

Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over that are economically active but unemployed (excluding full-time students), 2021 Census By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

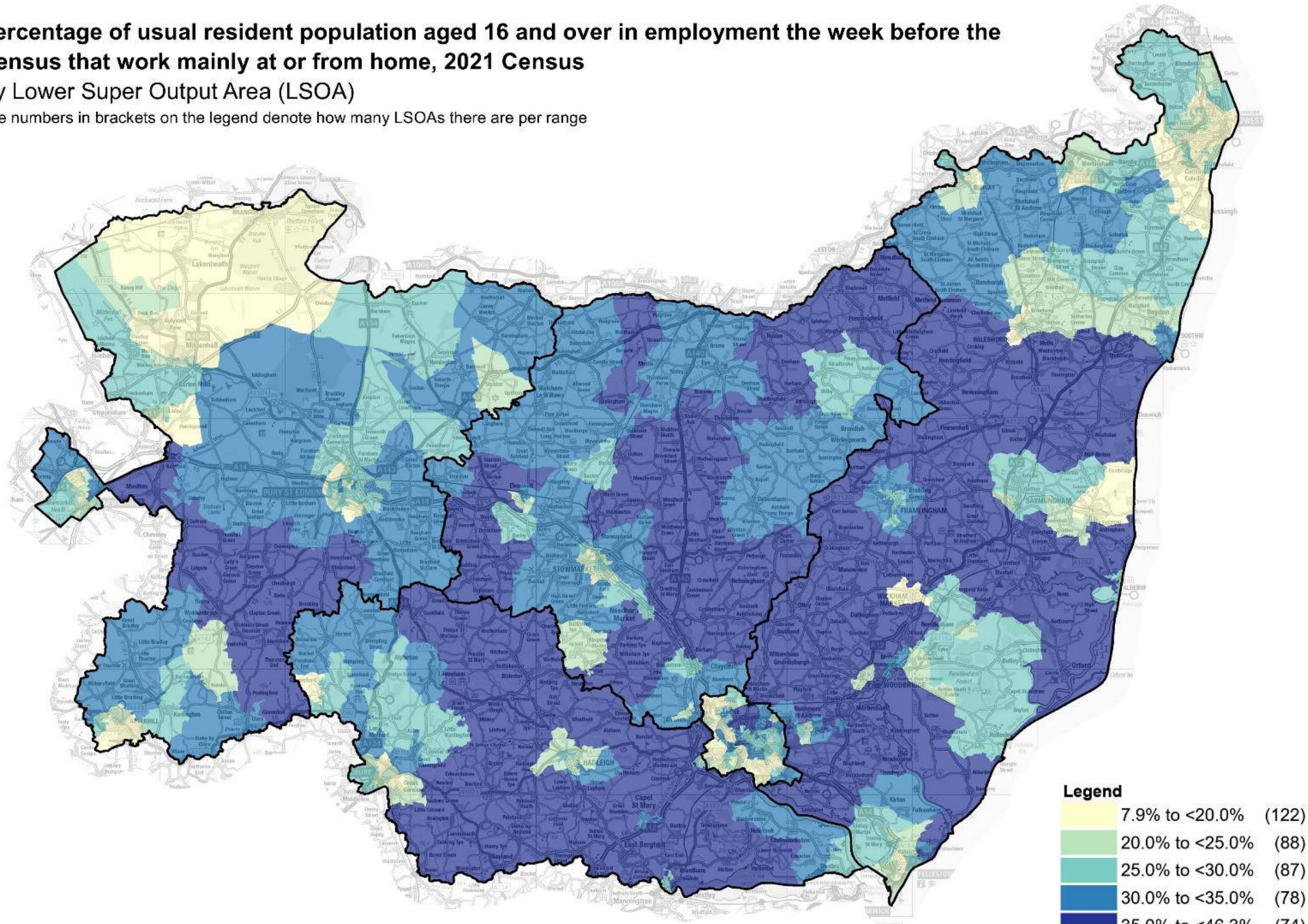
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over in employment the week before the Census that work mainly at or from home, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

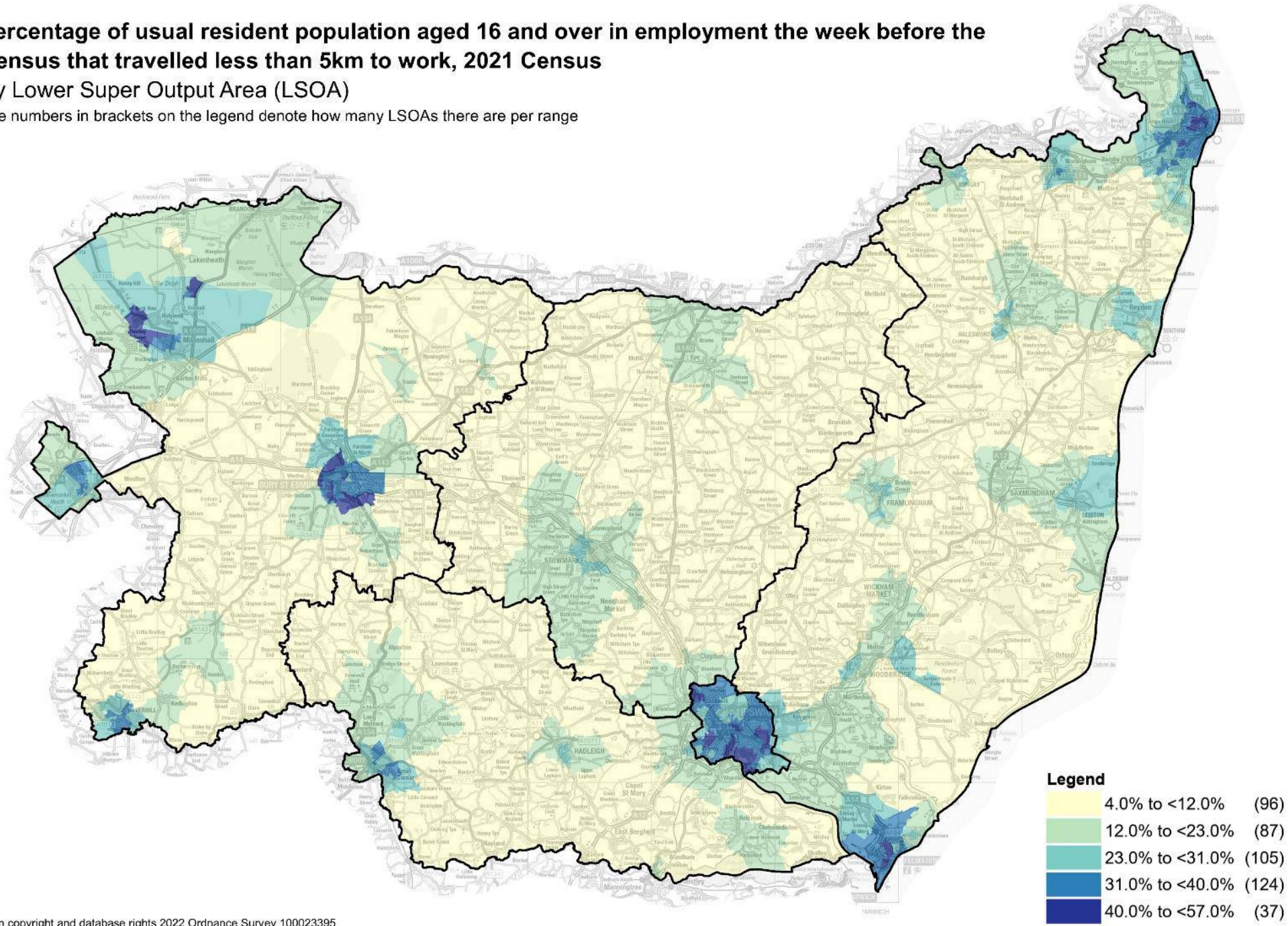
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over in employment the week before the Census that travelled less than 5km to work, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

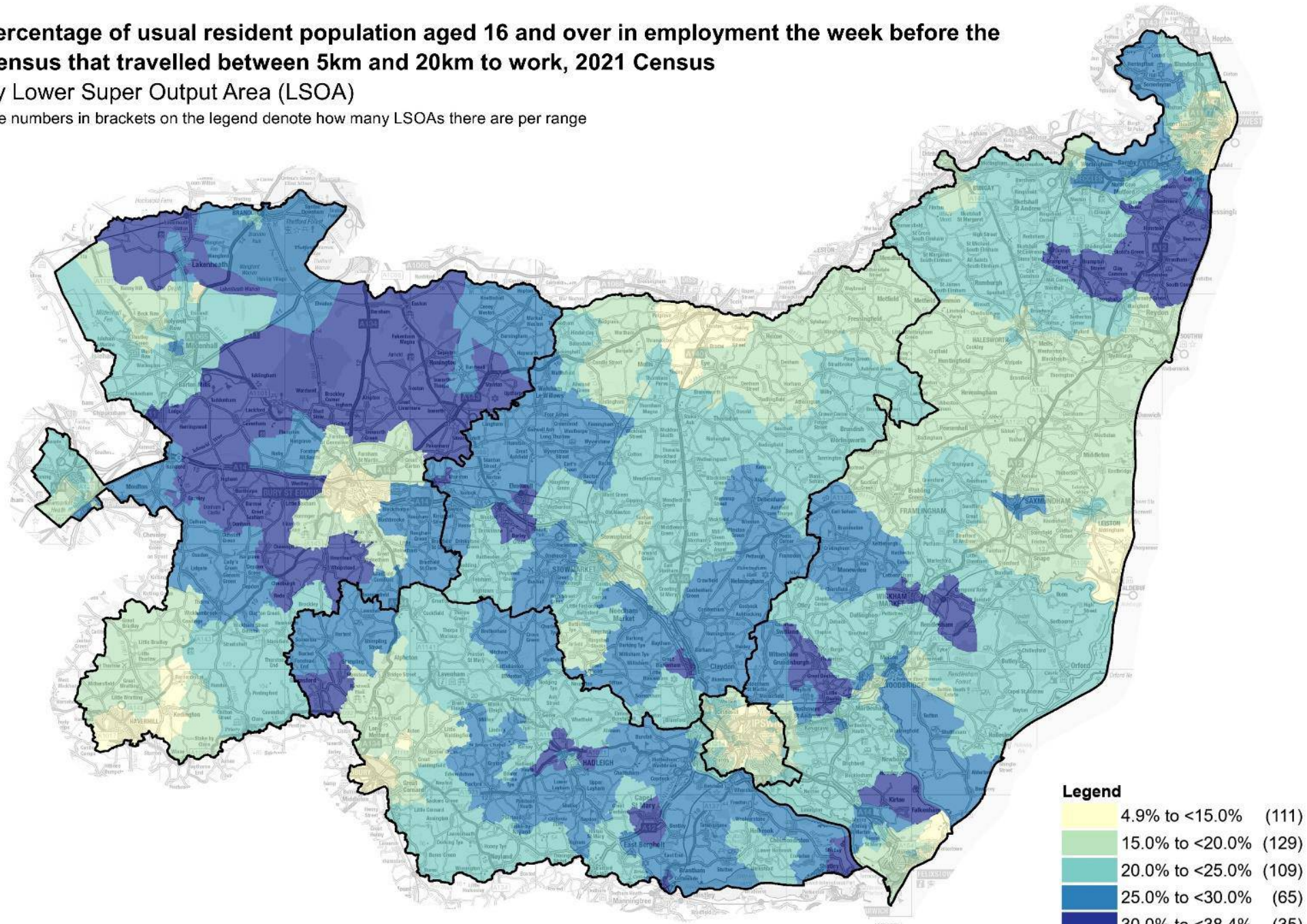
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over in employment the week before the Census that travelled between 5km and 20km to work, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

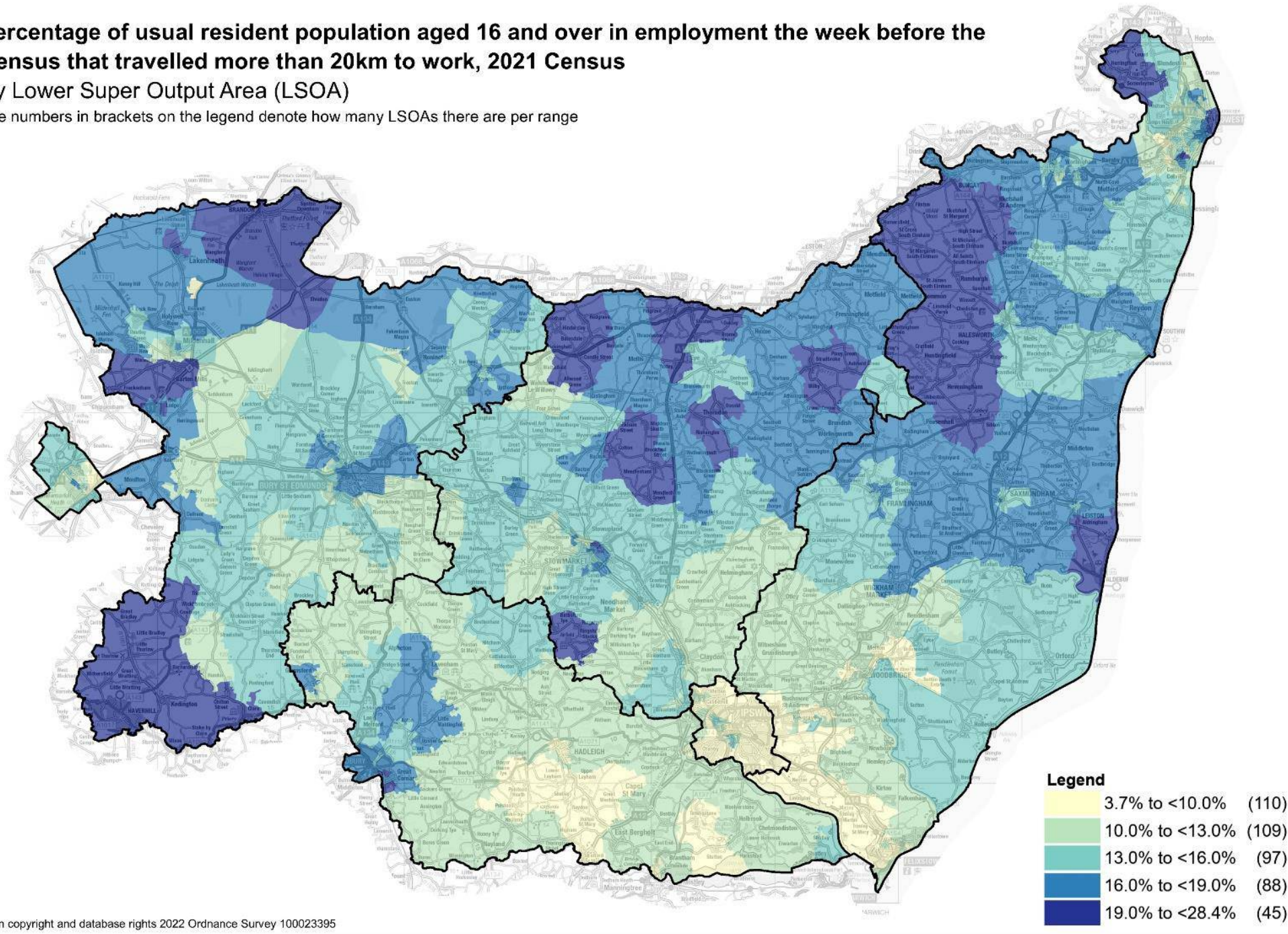
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over in employment the week before the Census that travelled more than 20km to work, 2021 Census

By Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)

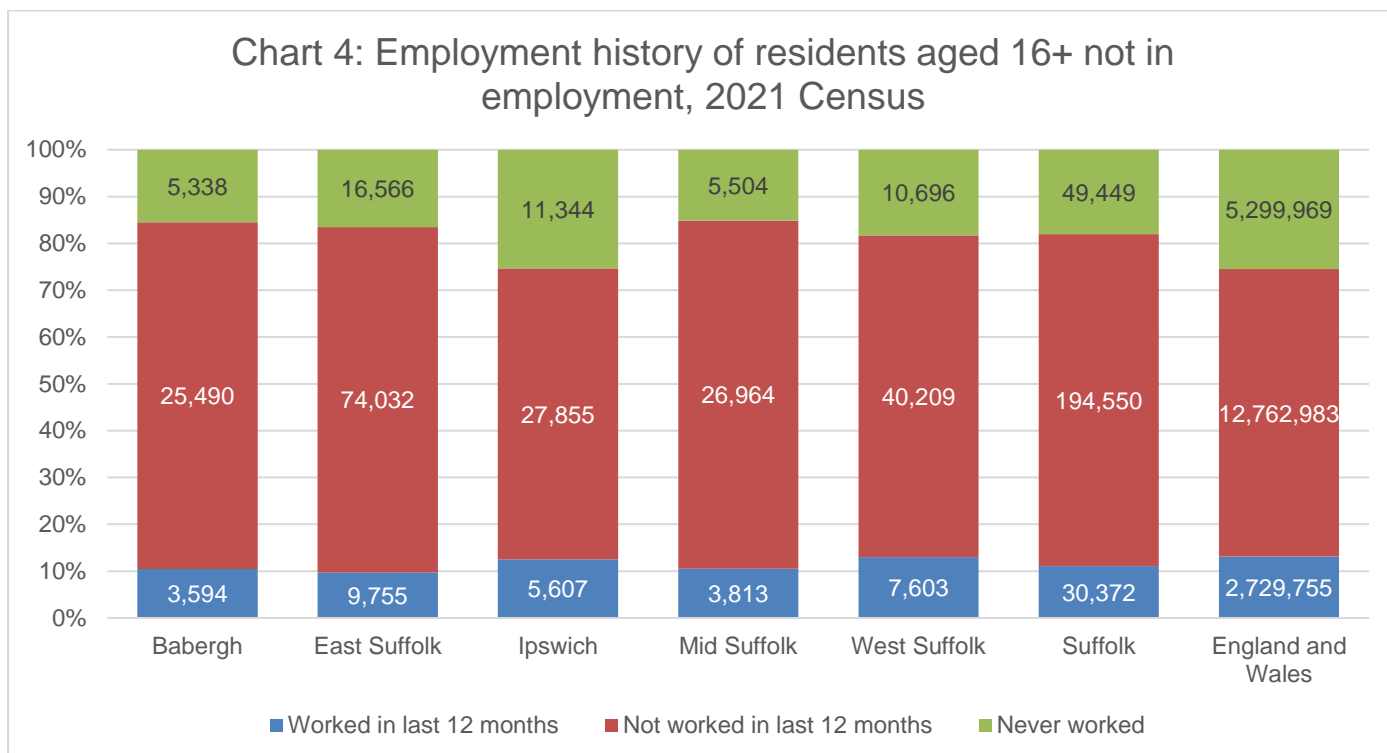
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many LSOAs there are per range



Employment history

This dataset provides Census 2021 estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over in England and Wales who were not in employment on Census Day, 21 March 2021, by whether and when they were last employed. The data therefore includes people who are retired and young people in full-time education, but no age split has been provided at this stage.

There is no comparable data from the 2011 Census.



- Of the 274,371 people aged 16 years and over in Suffolk who were not in employment on Census Day, 11.1% had worked in the last 12 months, 70.9% had not worked in the last 12 months and 18% had never worked.
- Across England and Wales, there was a greater proportion of people who had worked in the last 12 months (13.1%) and never worked (25.5%).
- The breakdown in Ipswich is similar to the national average.
- Babergh, East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk have a larger proportion of people that have not worked in the last 12 months (around 74% in each case) and a smaller percentage of people in the other two categories. East Suffolk in particular has proportionally fewer residents who worked in the last 12 months (9.7%).
- West Suffolk has the highest proportion of people who were not in employment at the time of the Census but had been in work during the previous 12 months of any Suffolk LTLA (13%).

Industry

Table 3: Employment by industry, 2011 and 2021 Censuses

	Suffolk				England and Wales
	2011	2021	Change	% change	% change
All categories: Industry	351,760	355,995	4,235	1.2%	4.7%
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6,463	6,427	-36	-0.6%	4.3%
B Mining and quarrying	712	780	68	9.6%	-8.1%
C Manufacturing	34,598	26,997	-7,601	-22.0%	-13.9%
D Energy	3,048	3,462	414	13.6%	7.0%
E Water and waste management	2,505	2,540	35	1.4%	8.6%
F Construction	29,399	33,916	4,517	15.4%	17.8%
G Wholesale and retail trade; motor repair	56,461	53,994	-2,467	-4.4%	-1.5%
H Transport and storage	21,121	20,791	-330	-1.6%	5.2%
I Accommodation and food services	18,823	16,614	-2,209	-11.7%	-8.2%
J Information and communication	11,211	12,577	1,366	12.2%	21.7%
K Financial and insurance activities	12,500	11,228	-1,272	-10.2%	-8.6%
L Real estate activities	4,400	4,465	65	1.5%	12.0%
M Professional, scientific and technical	18,314	19,762	1,448	7.9%	4.8%
N Administrative and support services	15,853	19,213	3,360	21.2%	12.6%
O Public administration and defence	22,075	22,673	598	2.7%	3.5%
P Education	30,464	30,451	-13	0.0%	4.0%
Q Human health and social work	42,801	51,866	9,065	21.2%	23.2%
R, S, T, U Other	21,012	18,239	-2,773	-13.2%	-4.1%

Some of the industry descriptions above have been shortened to assist the formatting of the table. The full descriptions are listed below:

D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, I Accommodation and food service activities, M Professional, scientific and technical activities, N Administrative and support service activities, O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, Q Human health and social work activities

This dataset provides estimates that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census by industry.

- The number of Suffolk residents who were employed the week before the 2021 Census was 1.2% higher than the equivalent figure in 2011. The England and Wales figure increased by 4.7%.
- Suffolk's working-age population (16-64) has increased by just 0.2% over the same period.
- There have been some significant changes in the composition of different sectors of employment in the county during this period. In many cases, these have followed the national trend, but there are some clear differences as well.
- Human health and social work employment has seen the largest increase in both absolute and percentage terms in Suffolk. There are 9,065 more jobs in this sector among residents in the county in 2021 than there were in 2011, a rise of just over one fifth, similar to the national trend. The sector now accounts for about 1 in 7 jobs among Suffolk residents. This is about the same rate as across England and Wales, despite Suffolk's older age profile.
- Administrative and support service activities has also been an important growth sector for jobs among Suffolk residents, with

- Manufacturing has long been an important employer in Suffolk, with just over 1 in 10 residents in the county classified in this sector in 2011 compared to 1 in 11.2 nationally. The number of people employed in the sector has fallen by more than a fifth in the past decade, compared to a 13.9% drop across England and Wales. Nearly 27,000 people living in Suffolk still work in manufacturing: about 1 in 13.2 residents, slightly higher than the ratio across the country (1 in 13.7).
- In contrast to manufacturing, jobs in construction in Suffolk have increased markedly from 2011 to 2021, rising by 15.4% and now employing nearly 34,000 residents in the county. There are a number of large house building projects and highway infrastructure work in progress in the county at the time of the Census, while in 2011 house building in particular was sluggish in the aftermath of the financial crisis. The trend in Suffolk has been reflected nationally.
- Mining and quarrying employment has risen sharply in Suffolk in percentage terms, contrasting with a fall nationally, but the sector accounts for a very small number of jobs (780 in 2021).
- Over 2,200 fewer Suffolk residents have a job in the accommodation and food services sector in 2021 than in 2011, a drop of 11.7%. It is possible that a significant part of the trend in this sector is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; jobs in this sector across England and Wales also fell by 8.2% between Censuses. Just under 1 in 20 Suffolk residents held a job in this sector in the week leading up to the 2021 Census.
- With the increasing importance of technology in many aspects of everyday life, information and communication is a key growth sector. The number of Suffolk residents employed in the sector has increased by 1,322 (12.2%) between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses. Nationally, jobs in this sector have risen by more than 20%.

Chart 5: Percentage of employment by industrial sector, Suffolk and England and Wales, 2021 Census

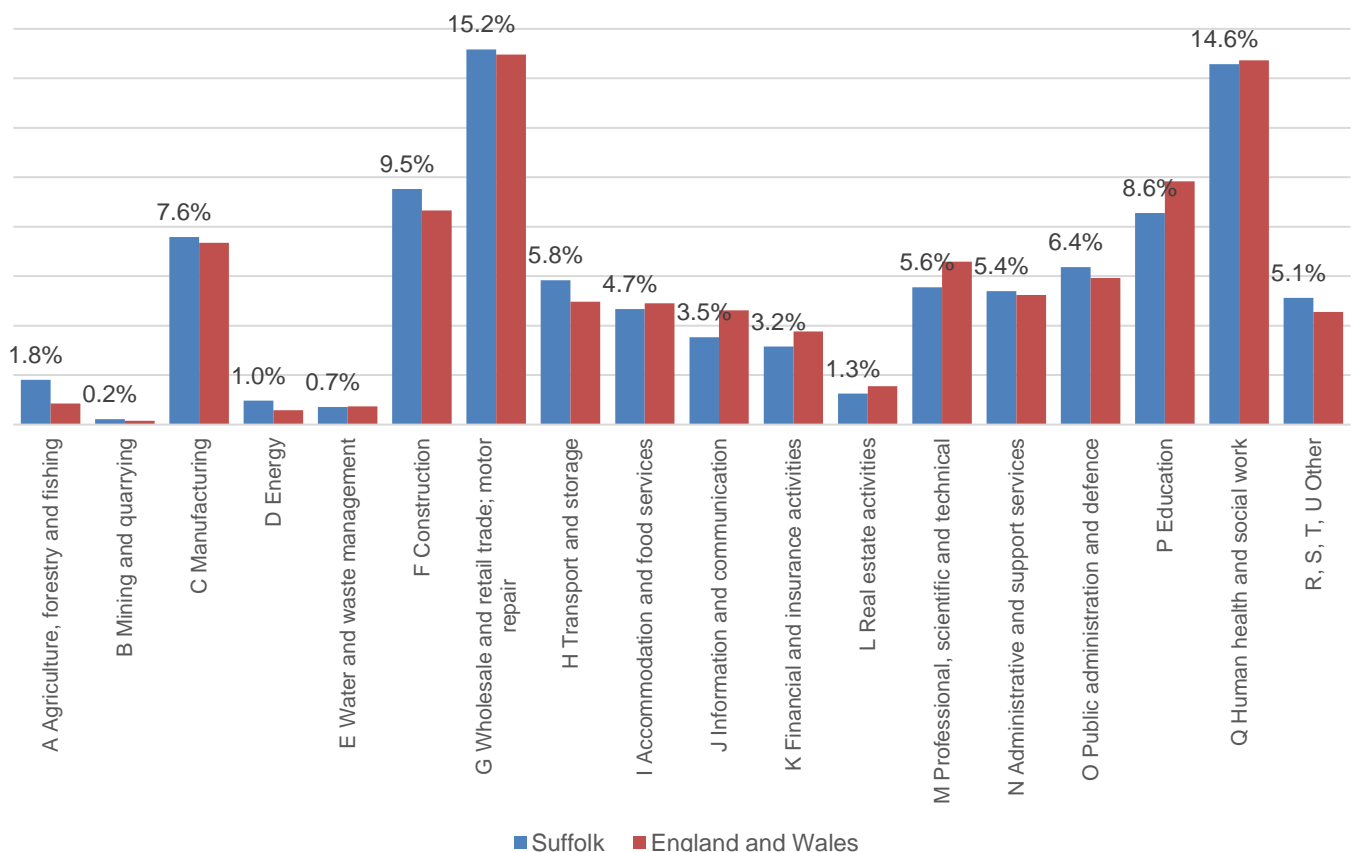
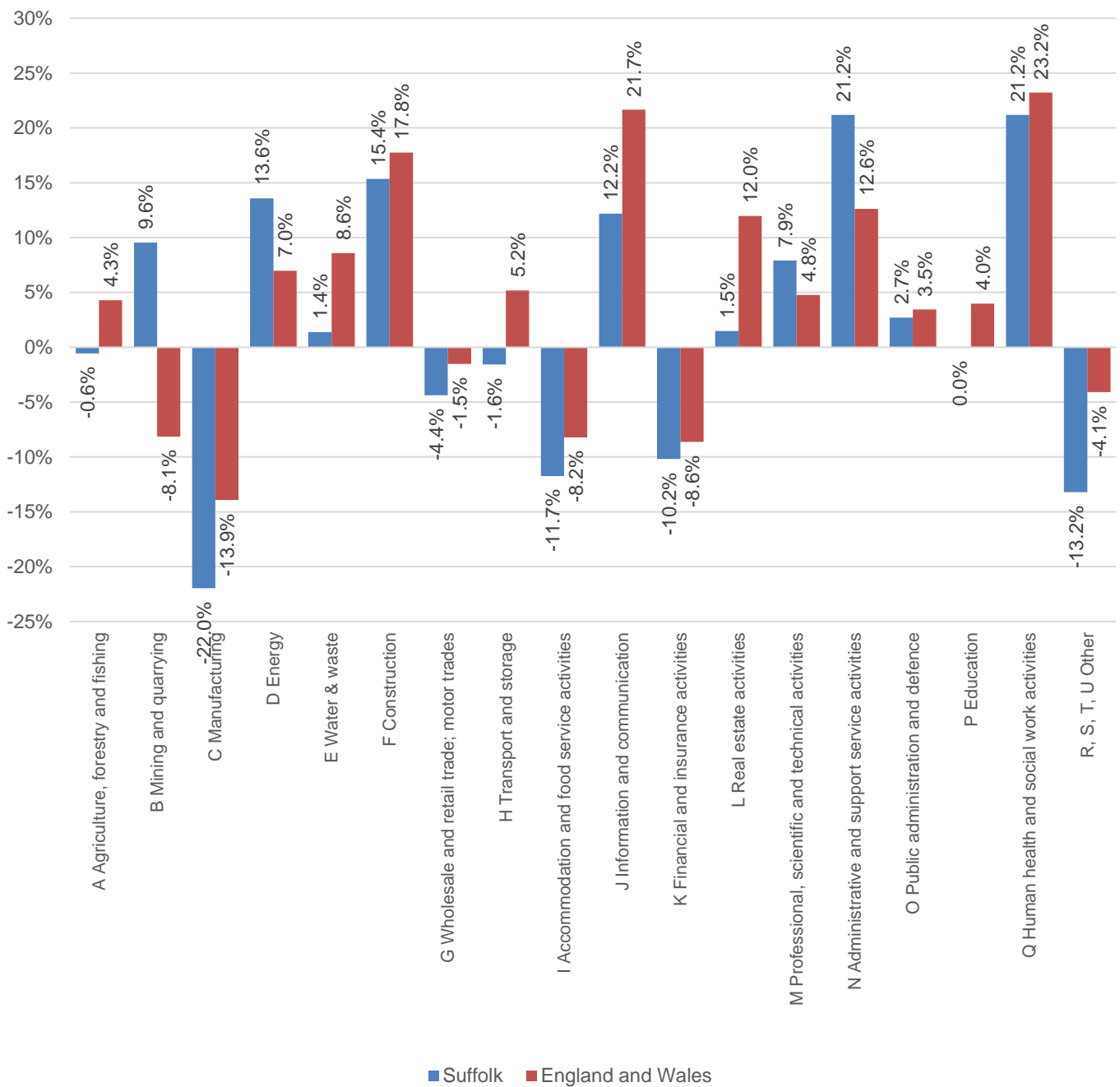
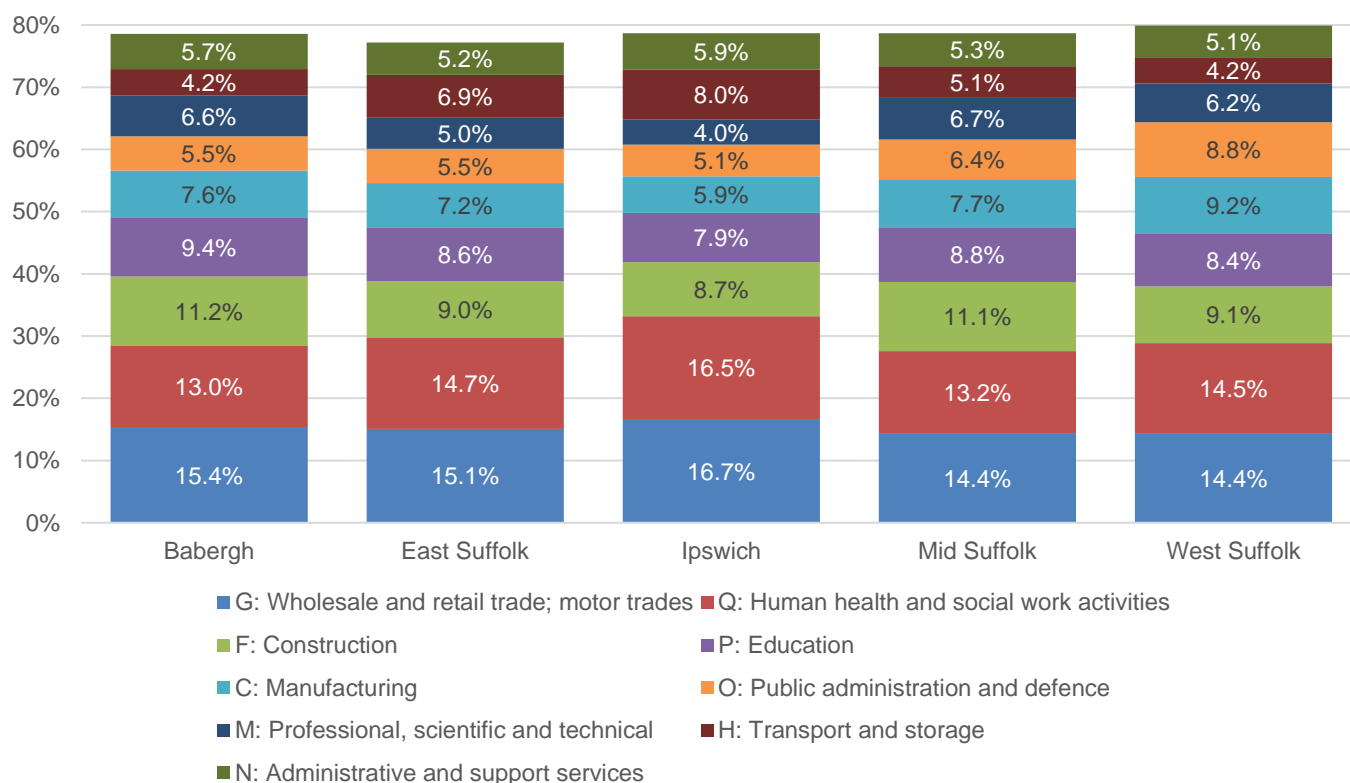


Chart 6: Percentage change in employment by industrial sector in Suffolk and England and Wales, 2011 Census to 2021 Census



Districts and Boroughs

Chart 7: Largest sectors by percentage of total jobs, residents in Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, 2021 Census

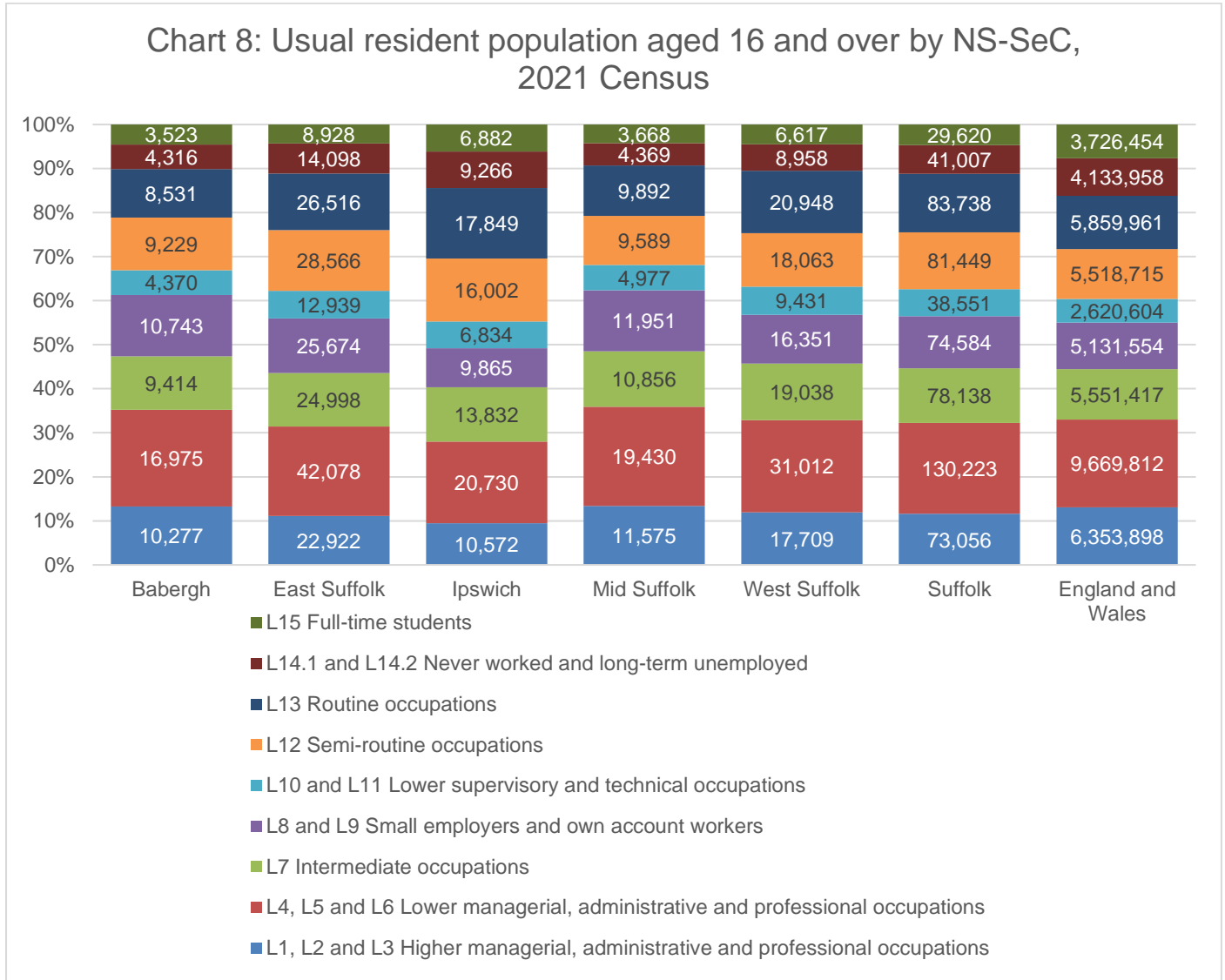


- Nearly 80% of residents are employed in nine of the largest sectors across Suffolk (displayed in the chart above), but there are some variations in the composition of sectors between our Districts and Boroughs.
- These data show employment by resident location, so the differences between sectors and geographical area are not as clear as they would be with data showing workplace location. Large employment hubs such as the Port of Felixstowe would show only in East Suffolk when looking at workplace-based employment figures, whereas workers at the port could live in other locations in Suffolk or even outside the county.
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles is the largest sector in Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich and Mid Suffolk, and second only to human health and social work activities in East Suffolk, by 0.1 percentage points. Human health and social work activities is the second largest sector in the remaining LTLAs.
- Construction account for 1 in 9 jobs among residents of Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and around 1 in 11 elsewhere in the county.
- The percentage of residents with jobs in the education sector ranges from just under 8% in Ipswich to 9.4% in Babergh.
- West Suffolk has a larger percentage of jobs in public administration and defence than other LTLAs (8.8%, the next highest being 6.4% in Mid Suffolk). Many employees of the military bases in the county live in barracks close to the sites; the air force bases at Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Honington being a large influence on the employment figures for West Suffolk.

- The transport and storage sector accounts for 8% of employment among people with jobs in Ipswich, and 6.9% in East Suffolk.

NS-SeC (National Statistics Socio-economic classification)

This variable is derived from the occupation variable. It cannot be compared with the one from the 2011 Census because the classifications in the occupation variable have changed.



The NS-SeC has been constructed to measure the employment relations and conditions of occupations. Conceptually, these are central to showing the structure of socio-economic positions in modern societies and helping to explain variations in social behaviour and other social phenomena.

- L4, L5 and L6 lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations accounts for the largest proportion of residents aged 16+ in all of Suffolk’s Districts and Boroughs, as well as nationwide. More than a fifth of residents in Babergh (21.9%), East Suffolk (20.4%), Mid Suffolk (22.5%) and West Suffolk (20.9%) fall into this group. In Ipswich, the figure of 18.5% is below the national average of 19.9%, but is still the most common NS-SeC grouping.

- A greater proportion of residents in Babergh (13.3%) and Mid Suffolk (13.4%) are classified as L1, L2 and L3 higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations than England and Wales as a whole (13.1%). All other Suffolk LTLAs and the county as a whole have a smaller proportion of residents in this group, with the lowest percentage found in Ipswich (9.5%).
- There is a smaller proportion of people classified as L14.1 and L14.2 never worked and long-term unemployed in each of Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs than the national average of 8.5%. The nearest of any of Suffolk's LTLAs is Ipswich, where 8.3% of the 16+ population falls into this category according to the 2021 Census. The lowest proportion of residents in this group is in Mid Suffolk (5.1%).
- 3 in 10 residents in Ipswich are in the L12 semi-routine occupations and L13 routine occupations NS-SeC groups, the highest proportion of any Suffolk LTLA and 6.5 percentage points above the England and Wales average. About 26% of residents aged 16 and over in East and West Suffolk are also in this group.
- All of Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs have a higher proportion of residents classified in L7 intermediate occupations group than the national average. The England and Wales figure is 11.4%, while Suffolk's values range from 12.1% in East Suffolk to 12.9% in West Suffolk.

Occupation

These data are not comparable with those from the 2011 Census. ONS changed the classification for Census 2021 and combined the categories previously available in the 2011 Census data.

Table 4: Usual resident population aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the 2021 Census by occupation

	Suffolk		England and Wales
	Count	%	%
Total*	355,992		
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	45,027	12.6%	12.8%
2. Professional occupations	59,300	16.7%	20.2%
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	46,804	13.1%	13.2%
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	33,588	9.4%	9.3%
5. Skilled trades occupations	43,328	12.2%	10.3%
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	35,993	10.1%	9.4%
7. Sales and customer service occupations	26,995	7.6%	7.5%
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	27,381	7.7%	7.0%
9. Elementary occupations	37,576	10.6%	10.5%

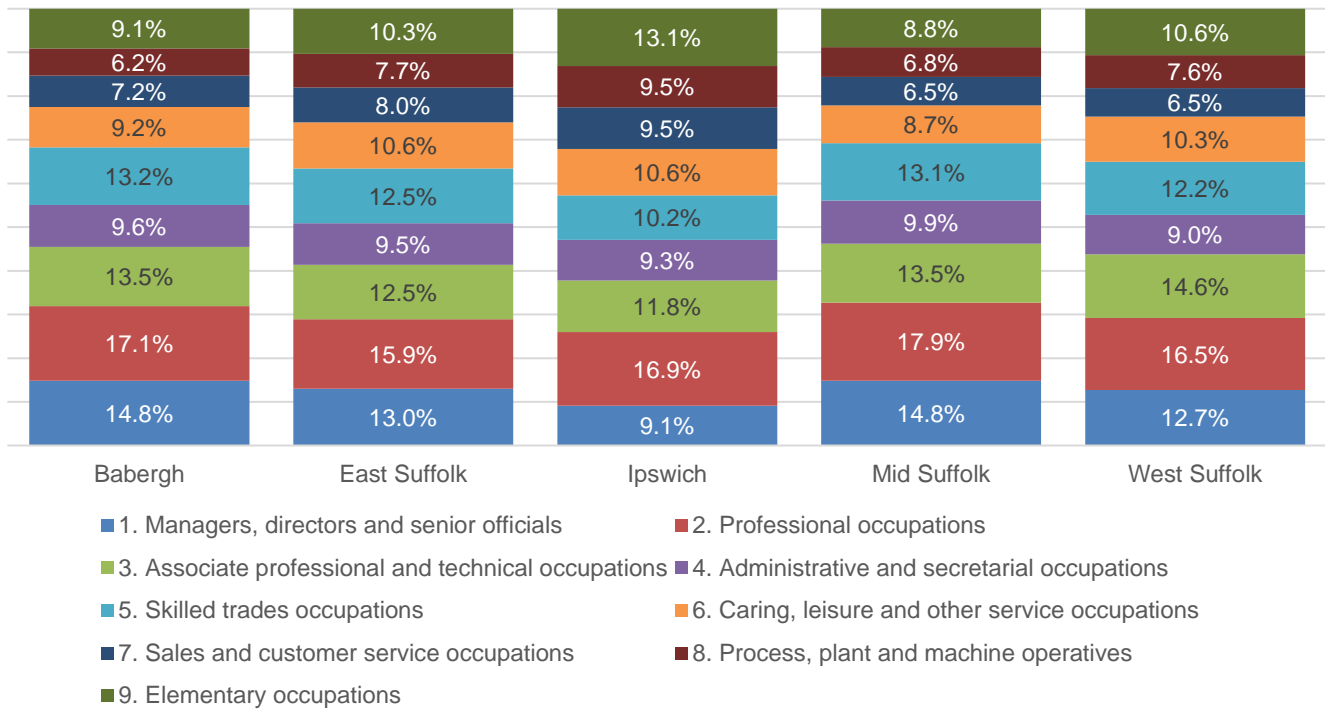
*All usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census

- Suffolk has a similar breakdown of employment occupations as the England and Wales average.
- The largest difference is found in professional occupations, which accounts for 16.7% of Suffolk residents in employment, compared to 20.2% nationally.

- A larger proportion of Suffolk residents are employed in skilled trades occupations, caring, leisure and other service occupations and process, plant and machine operative occupations than the national average.

Districts and Boroughs

Chart 9: Percentage of the usual resident population aged 16 and over in work the week before the 2021 Census by occupation, Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs



- There is more variation in occupation of residents across Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs than found when simply comparing the county overall with the national average.
- The percentage of managers, directors and senior officials among residents in employment varies from 14.8% in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, two percentage points above the national average, to 9.1% in Ipswich.
- Every Suffolk LTLA has a smaller proportion of residents employed in professional occupations than the national average of 20.2%. Professional occupations still account for the largest proportion of roles in all of Suffolk's LTLAs. The largest proportion is in Mid Suffolk (17.9%), with the smallest in East Suffolk (15.9%).
- The proportion of people employed as process, plant and machine operatives ranges from 9.5% in Ipswich to 6.2% in Babergh.

Travel to work

Distance travelled to work

In March 2021, England and Wales was in the middle of a period of lockdown due to the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It was also a time when swathes of the workforce were on furlough, while many others were working from home. ONS gave extra guidance to help people on furlough answer the census questions about work. However, ONS are unable to determine how furloughed people followed the guidance. Therefore, care must be taken when using this data for planning purposes. Read more about specific quality considerations in the [Labour market quality information for Census 2021 methodology by clicking this link](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/methodologies/labourmarketqualityinformationforcensus2021) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/methodologies/labourmarketqualityinformationforcensus2021>

It is difficult to compare this variable with the 2011 Census because Census 2021 took place during a national lockdown. The government advice at the time was for people to work from home (if they can) and avoid public transport, therefore meaningful comparison with 2011 figures is not possible.

Table 5: All usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census by distance travelled to work

	Suffolk		England and Wales
	Count	%	%
Total*	355,990		
Less than 2km (kilometres)	46,681	13.1%	11.0%
2km to less than 5km	38,114	10.7%	12.6%
5km to less than 10km	29,564	8.3%	11.8%
10km to less than 20km	42,276	11.9%	10.5%
20km to less than 30km	22,737	6.4%	4.1%
30km to less than 40km	10,340	2.9%	1.7%
40km to less than 60km	8,227	2.3%	1.3%
60km and over	7,174	2.0%	1.4%
Works mainly from home	94,240	26.5%	31.2%
Other**	56,637	15.9%	14.4%

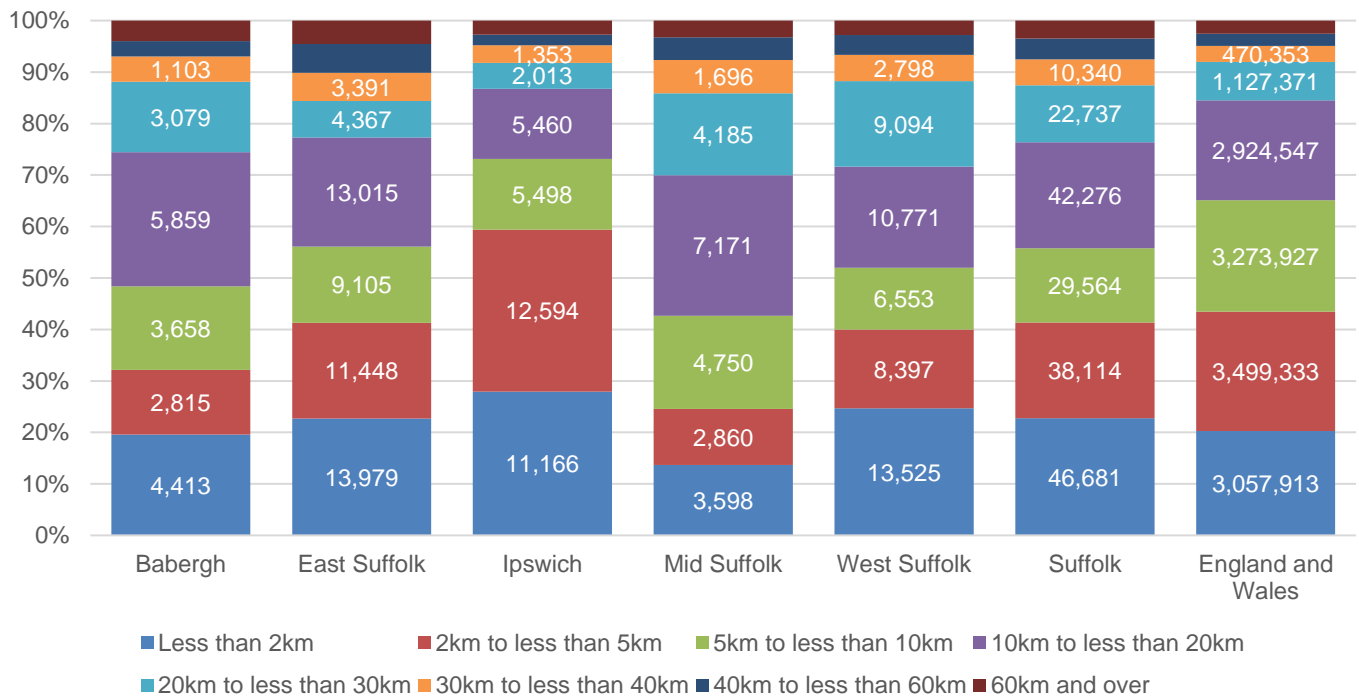
*All usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census

**Works mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK

- Home workers account for more than a quarter of all people in employment in Suffolk the week before the 2021 Census. At this time, just over 94,000 workers in Suffolk were working mainly from home. The proportion of people working mainly at home is lower in Suffolk than across England and Wales as a whole. This could be due to the higher percentage of employees in industrial sectors less suited to home working in our county, such as manufacturing, construction and wholesale and retail trade.
- People working mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place or outside the UK accounts for the next largest proportion of workers both in Suffolk and nationally. While no split between these three options is provided, it is likely that the majority of the 56,637 people who gave this response in Suffolk work in no fixed place.

- There are some small variations in distance travelled to work between Suffolk and the England and Wales average. 13.1% of people in work in Suffolk the week before the Census travelled less than 2km to work, compared to 11% nationally.
- Just under a quarter (24.4%) of workers in England and Wales at this time travelled between 2 and 10km to work, compared to under a fifth (19%) in Suffolk.
- At this point in time, there was a larger proportion of Suffolk workers travelling 20-30km, 30-40km, 40-60km and over 60km than across England and Wales. 13.6% of Suffolk workers travelled more than 20km to work, more than four percentage points above the national figure of 8.4%.

Chart 10: Distance travelled to work (excluding those who work mainly at home or work mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place or outside the UK), 2021 Census



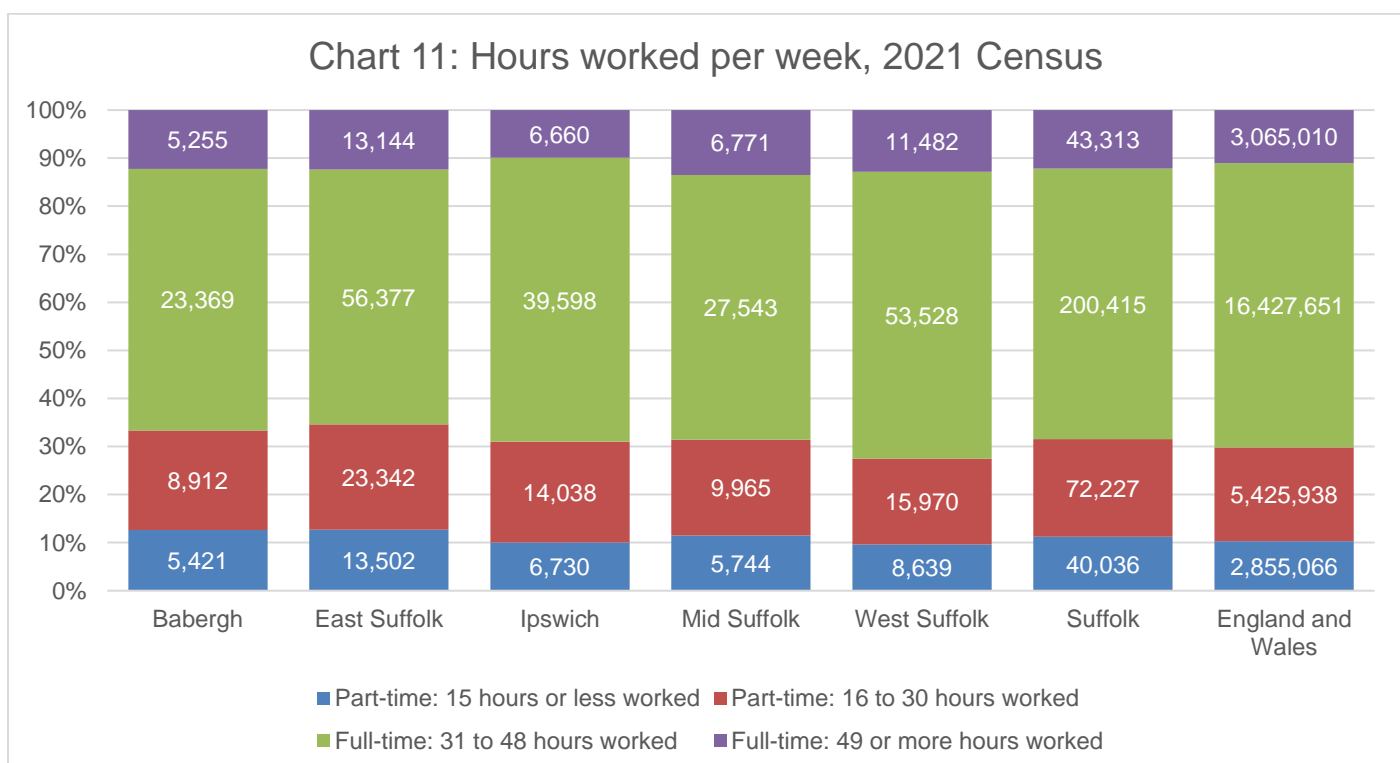
- Of Suffolk residents that travel to a workplace by District and Borough area, the largest percentage travelling more than 10km is in Mid Suffolk. Of the 26,275 Mid Suffolk residents who travel to a workplace, 54% travel more than 1 km (24% in Ipswich, 41% across Suffolk as a whole and 32% nationally). The A14 and A140 cut through Mid Suffolk, and Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Norwich are among the major employment centres that are reachable via these routes for many Mid Suffolk residents but are over 10km away.
- Almost 60% of Ipswich residents that travel to a workplace have a journey of less than 5km, by far the largest proportion of any Suffolk LTLA. The next highest proportion of workers that travel less than 5km is in East Suffolk (41%), followed by West Suffolk (40%), Babergh (32%) and Mid Suffolk (25%).
- Around 10% of East Suffolk residents who need to travel to a workplace take a journey of more than 40km; double the England and Wales average. A larger than average proportion of residents in all of Suffolk's LTLAs travel more than 40km to their workplace, with the exception of Ipswich.

Hours worked

Table 6: Usual resident population aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census by hours worked per week, 2011 and 2021 Censuses

	Suffolk				England and Wales
	2011	2021	Change	% change	% change
Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	38,936	40,036	1,100	2.8%	12.2%
Part-time: 16 to 30 hours worked	69,338	72,227	2,889	4.2%	4.8%
Full-time: 31 to 48 hours worked	192,485	200,415	7,930	4.1%	7.4%
Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	51,001	43,313	-7,688	-15.1%	-12.8%
Total	351,760	355,991	4,231	1.2%	4.7%

- The number of people working 49 hours or more in Suffolk has fallen by 15.1% since the 2011 Census. There has been a similar fall in people working the longest hours across England and Wales (-12.8%).
- There has been only a modest rise (+2.8%) in the number of part-time jobs entailing 15 hours or less per week in Suffolk. This type of work has increased much more strongly nationally (+12.2%). There is no more information in this data about the nature of the part-time work involved, but this could be related to the rise in the “gig economy” which is more prevalent in large towns and cities.
- The number of people working 31-48 hours per week has increased by nearly 8,000 in Suffolk since 2011, a rise of 4.1%. There has been stronger growth in the number of people working these hours in England and Wales (+7.4%).
- Part-time work of 16 to 30 hours per week has increased to a similar extent in Suffolk as across England and Wales as a whole.



- The percentage of residents with jobs in West Suffolk who work full-time is the highest of Suffolk’s LTLAs.

- The largest percentage of part-time workers exists in East Suffolk, but overall there is little variation in hours worked across our Districts and Boroughs.

Method used to travel to work

In March 2021, England and Wales was in the middle of a period of lockdown due to the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic. It was also a time when swathes of the workforce were on furlough, while many others were working from home. ONS therefore considers that the 2021 outputs cannot be meaningfully compared with those from 2011.

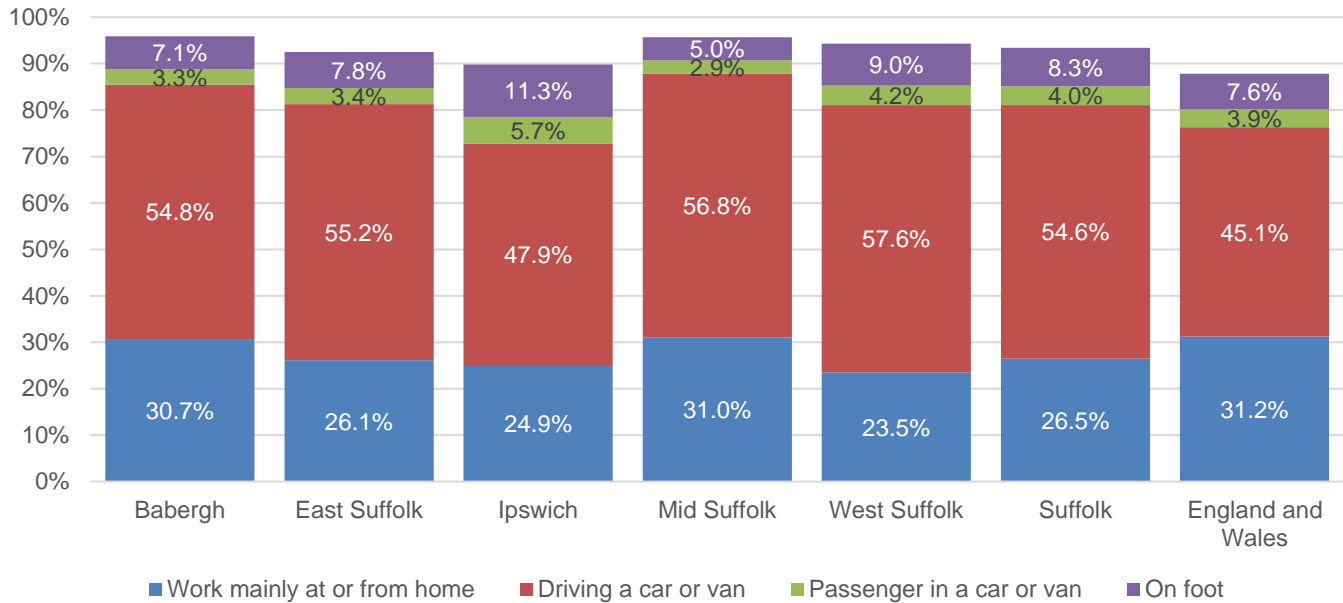
Table 7: Usual resident population aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census by method used to travel to work, 2021 Census

	Suffolk		England and Wales
	Count	%	%
Total*	355,991		
Work mainly at or from home	94,240	26.5%	31.2%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	229	0.1%	1.8%
Train	2,214	0.6%	1.9%
Bus, minibus or coach	5,225	1.5%	4.2%
Taxi	1,240	0.3%	0.7%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	1,883	0.5%	0.5%
Driving a car or van	194,455	54.6%	45.1%
Passenger in a car or van	14,096	4.0%	3.9%
Bicycle	9,133	2.6%	2.0%
On foot	29,473	8.3%	7.6%
Other method of travel to work	3,803	1.1%	1.0%

*All usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the census

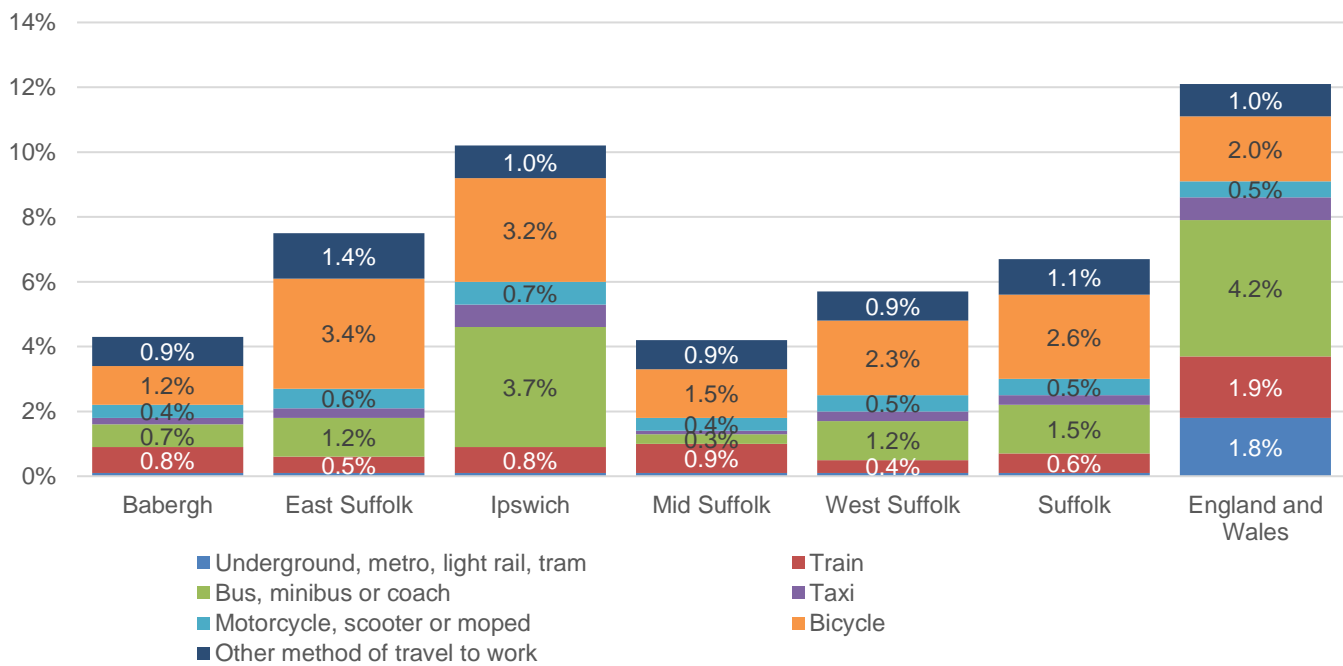
- More than half (54.6%) of Suffolk workers in the week before the 2021 Census travelled to their workplace by car or van. The England and Wales figure is 45.1%. Suffolk's rurality is a likely reason for the higher reliance on car and van transport in the county. A slightly larger proportion of Suffolk workers travel to their place of work as a passenger in a car or van (4%), than in England and Wales (3.9%).
- Alongside a larger proportion of workers travelling less than 2km in Suffolk than seen nationally, a greater proportion of people in the county also travel to work on foot. Almost 30,000 people in Suffolk reached their place of work on foot, 8.3% of all workers, 1.3 percentage points above the England and Wales figure of 7.6%.
- More than 9,000 people travelled to work by bicycle in Suffolk, 2.6% of residents in employment in the county. This represents a larger proportion of workers cycling to work than the national average of 2%.
- Just over 2% of Suffolk residents in work the week before the 2021 Census travelled to work on public transport; 1.5% by bus, minibus or coach, 0.6% by train and 0.1% by underground, metro, light rail or tram; a total of 7,668 people. These forms of transport were more commonly used across England and Wales as a whole, with proportionally three times as many people taking the train and 2.8 times as many travelling by bus, minibus or coach. 1.8% of workers travelled to their job using an underground system, metro, light rail or tram nationally. As none of these latter forms of transport exist in Suffolk or immediately outside the county, it is unsurprising that usage among our residents is low, not least during the coronavirus pandemic.

Chart 12: Percentage of usual residents aged 16+ in employment the week before the Census who work mainly at or from home, travel to work driving a car or van, as a passenger in a car or van or on foot, 2021 Census



- Babergh and Mid Suffolk have the highest rates of home working of Suffolk’s LTLAs (31%), though below the national average in both cases.
- All Districts and Boroughs in Suffolk have higher rates of car or van usage than the national average. 57.6% of workers living in West Suffolk travel to work by car

Chart 13: Percentage of usual residents aged 16+ in employment the week before the Census who travel to work by methods other than car, van or on foot, 2021 Census



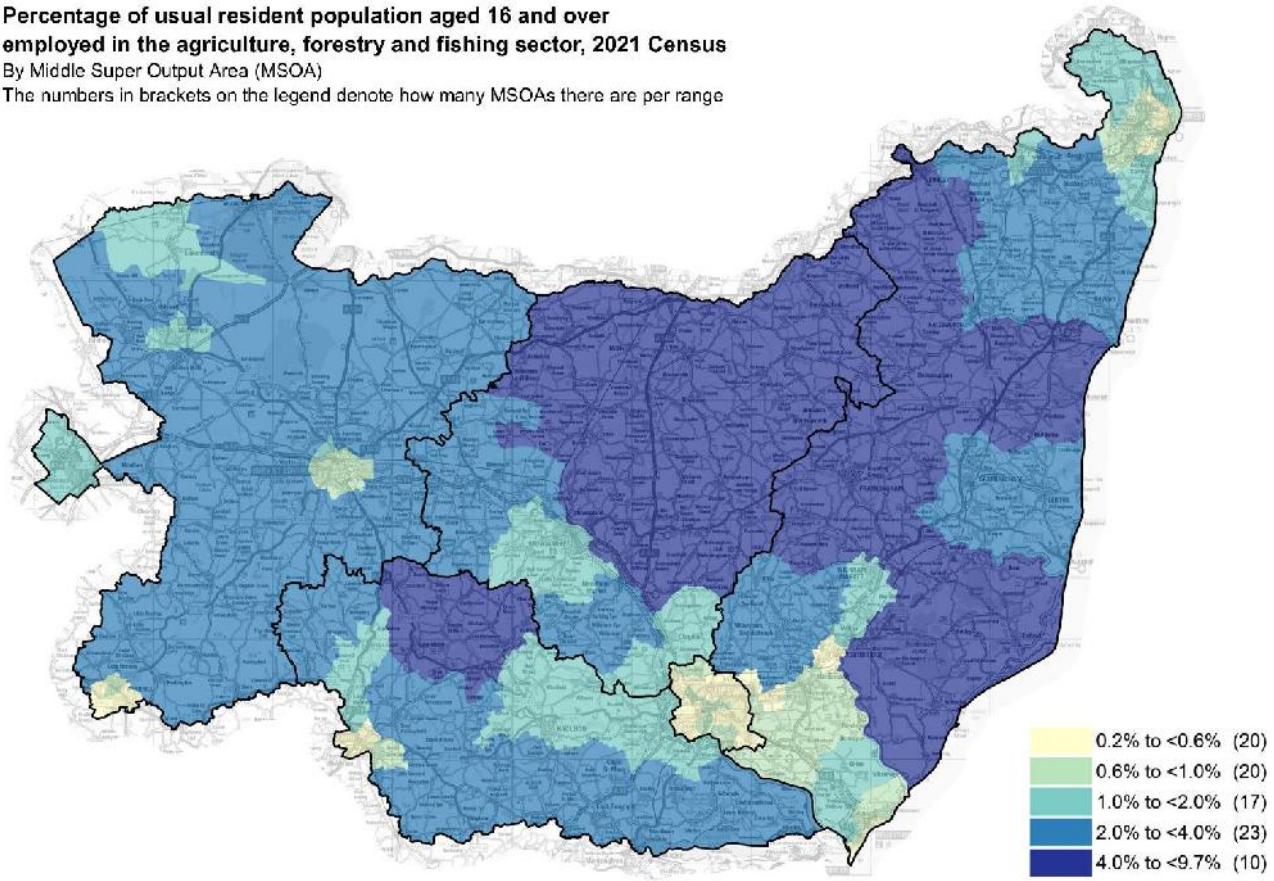
- Methods of travel to work other than car or van or on foot are less common in all of Suffolk's LTLAs than across England and Wales as a whole. Around 10% of people travel to work using other methods in Ipswich, but only just over 4% do so in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.
- Travel to work by bicycle is more common in East Suffolk, Ipswich and West Suffolk than nationally.
- The full breakdown of travel to work methods for our Districts and Boroughs is set out in table 8, below.

Table 8: Usual resident population aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census by method used to travel to work, 2021 Census

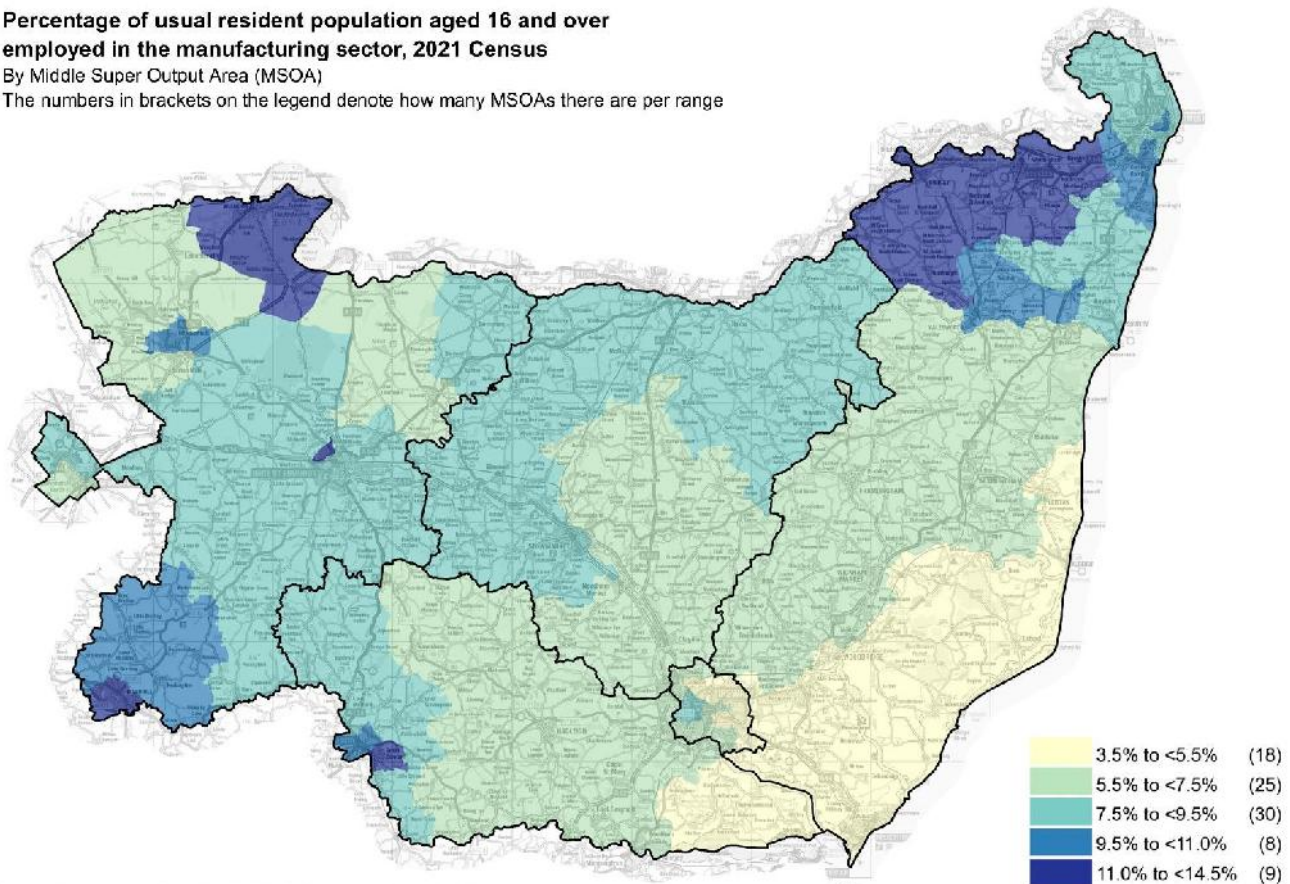
	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total*	42,960		106,365		67,028		50,026		89,623	
Work mainly at or from home	13,171	30.7%	27,774	26.1%	16,664	24.9%	15,527	31.0%	21,104	23.5%
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	32	0.1%	70	0.1%	34	0.1%	28	0.1%	67	0.1%
Train	347	0.8%	512	0.5%	559	0.8%	445	0.9%	353	0.4%
Bus, minibus or coach	282	0.7%	1,237	1.2%	2,478	3.7%	171	0.3%	1,056	1.2%
Taxi	73	0.2%	332	0.3%	461	0.7%	65	0.1%	309	0.3%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	184	0.4%	633	0.6%	451	0.7%	216	0.4%	404	0.5%
Driving a car or van	23,542	54.8%	58,764	55.2%	32,133	47.9%	28,416	56.8%	51,600	57.6%
Passenger in a car or van	1,407	3.3%	3,653	3.4%	3,843	5.7%	1,464	2.9%	3,729	4.2%
Bicycle	499	1.2%	3,663	3.4%	2,141	3.2%	757	1.5%	2,073	2.3%
On foot	3,055	7.1%	8,273	7.8%	7,573	11.3%	2,495	5.0%	8,080	9.0%
Other method of travel to work	368	0.9%	1,454	1.4%	691	1.0%	442	0.9%	848	0.9%

Appendices – employment by industry maps

Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, 2021 Census
By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



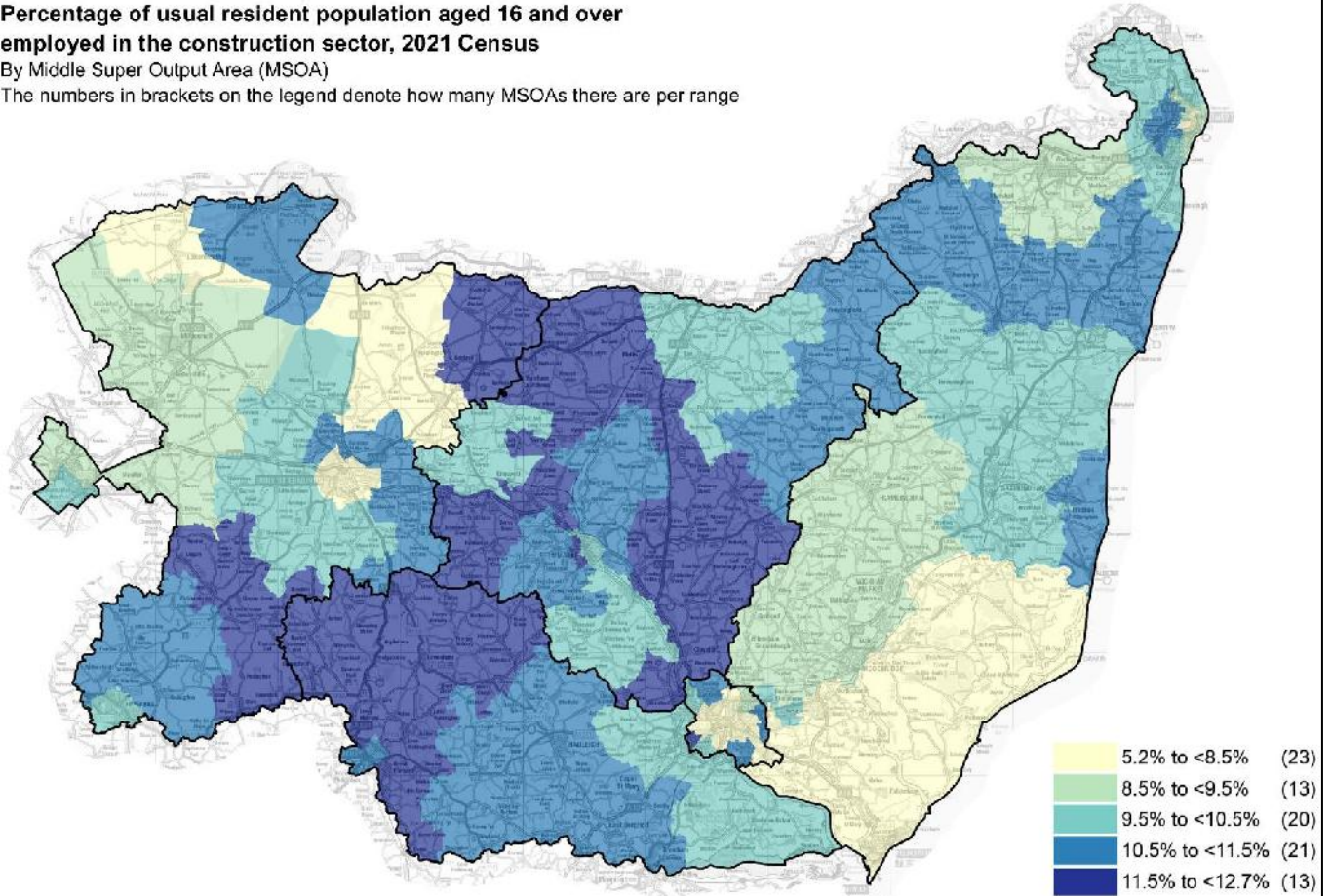
Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the manufacturing sector, 2021 Census
By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the construction sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

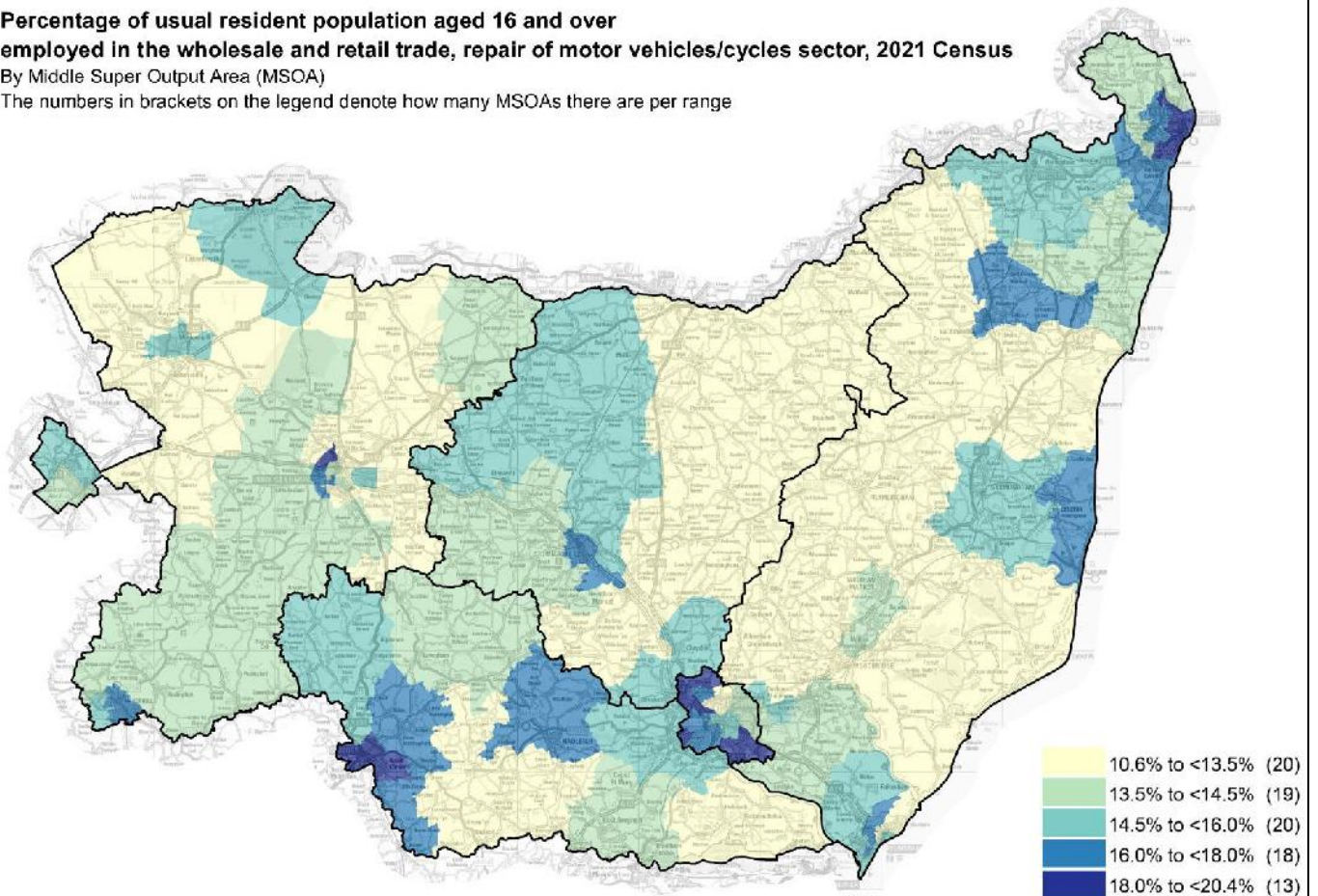
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles/cycles sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

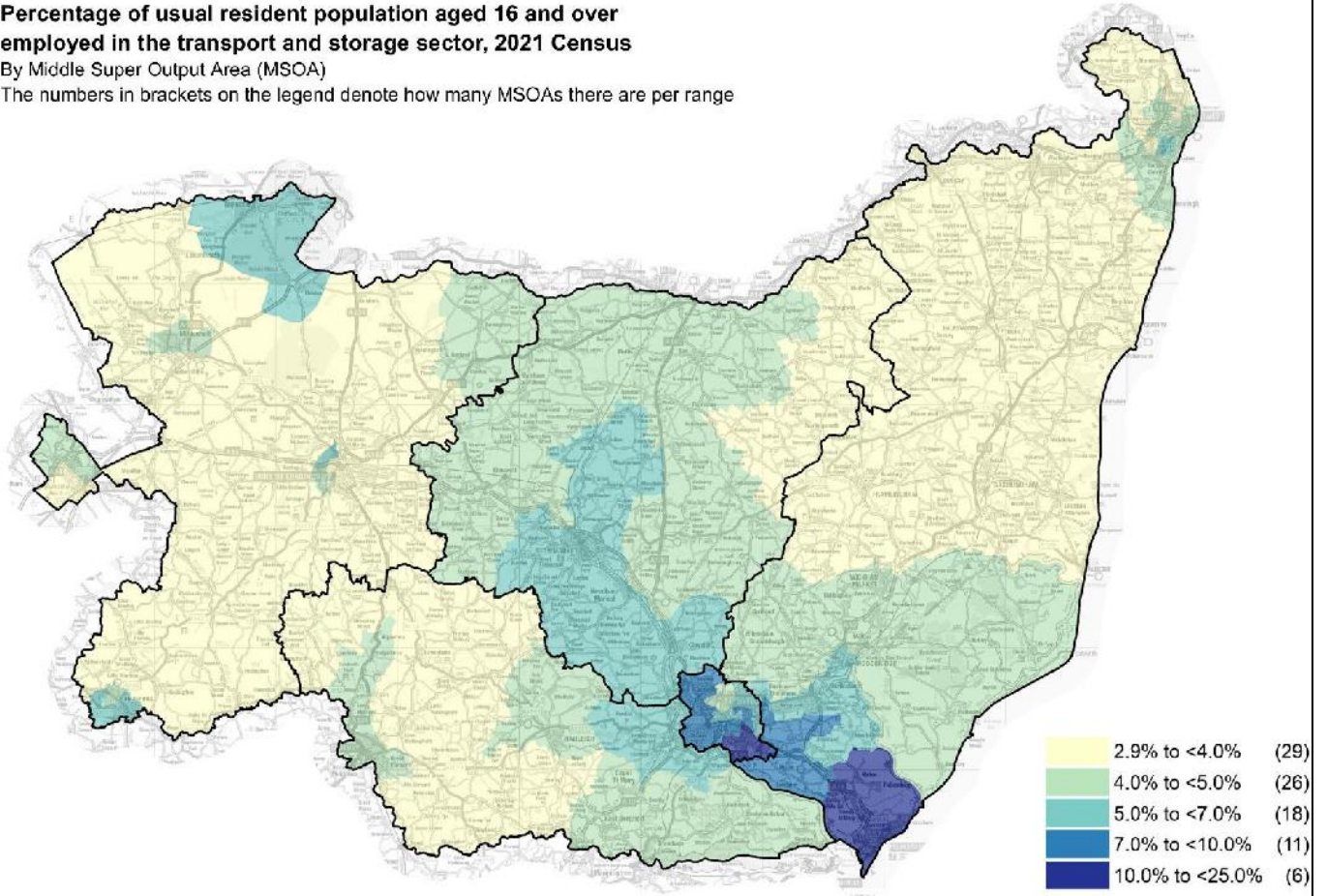
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the transport and storage sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

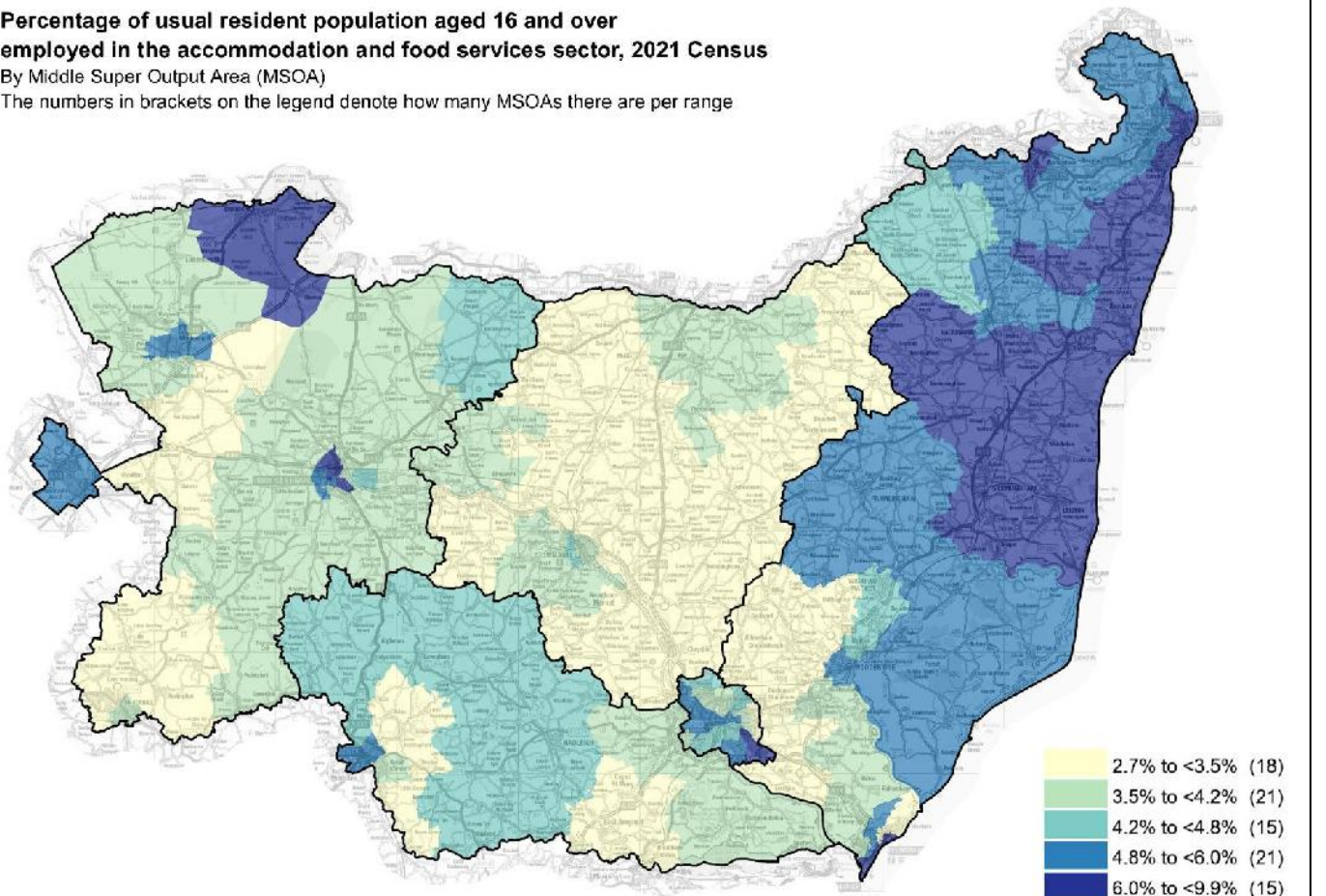
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the accommodation and food services sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

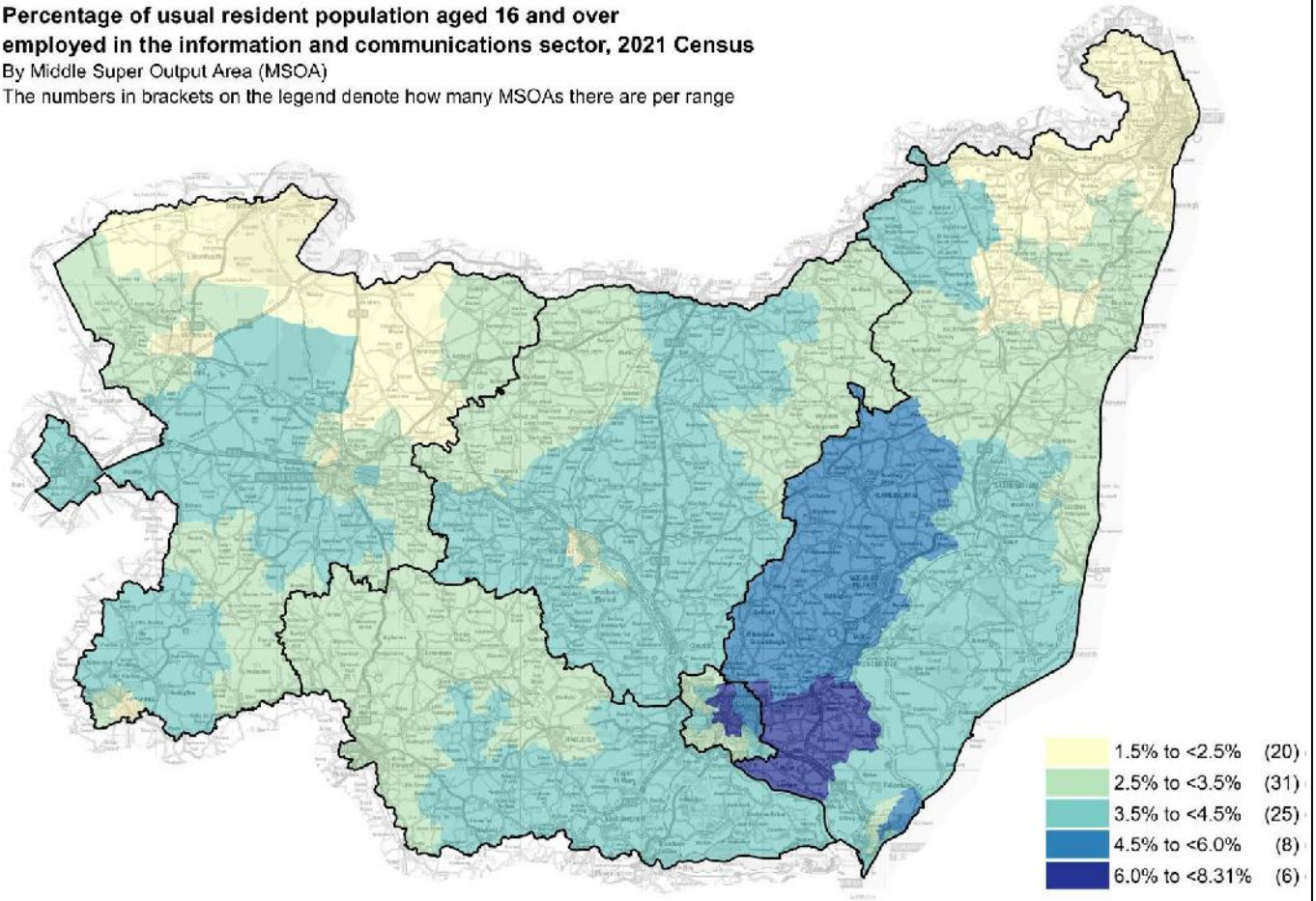
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the information and communications sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

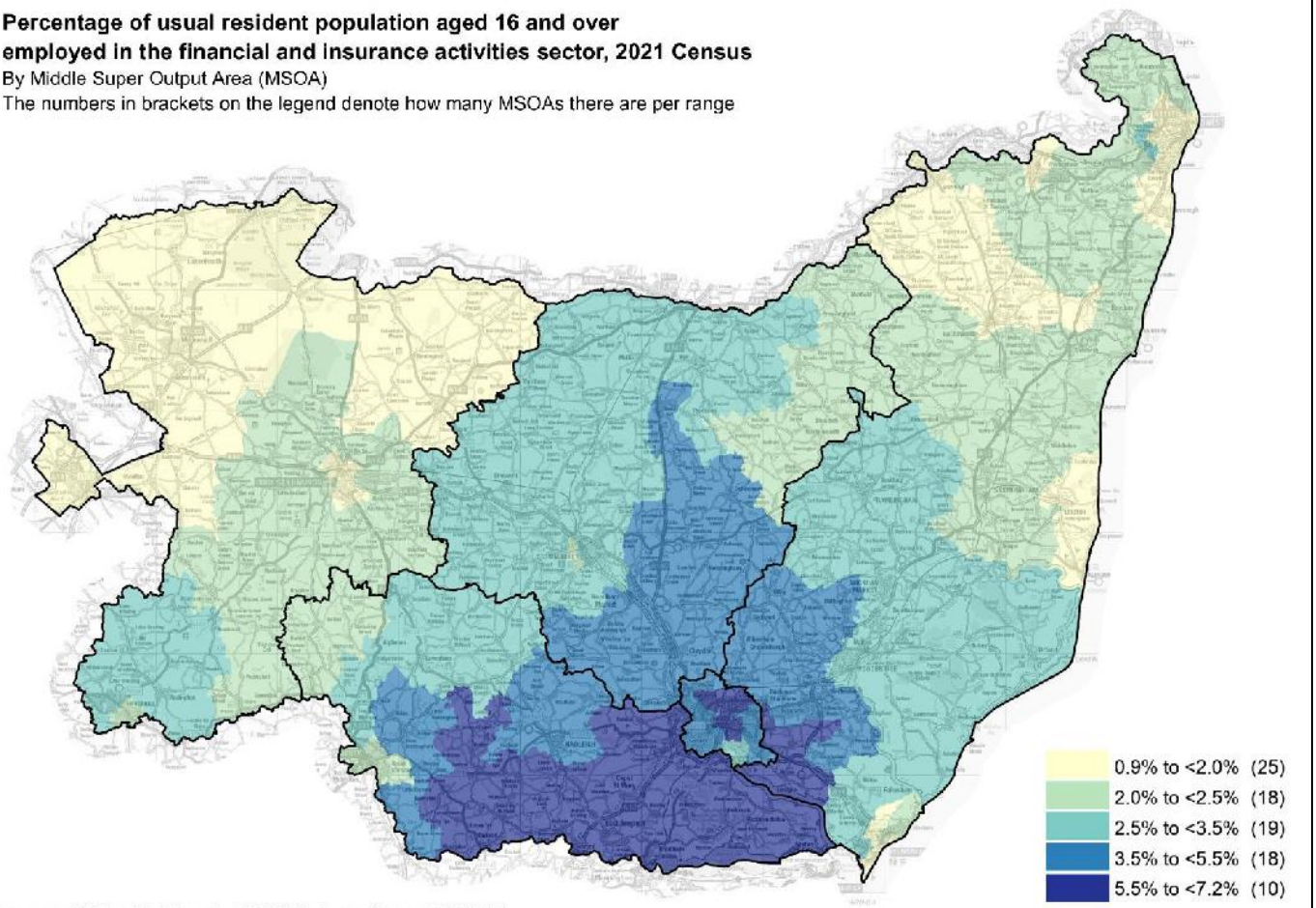
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the financial and insurance activities sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

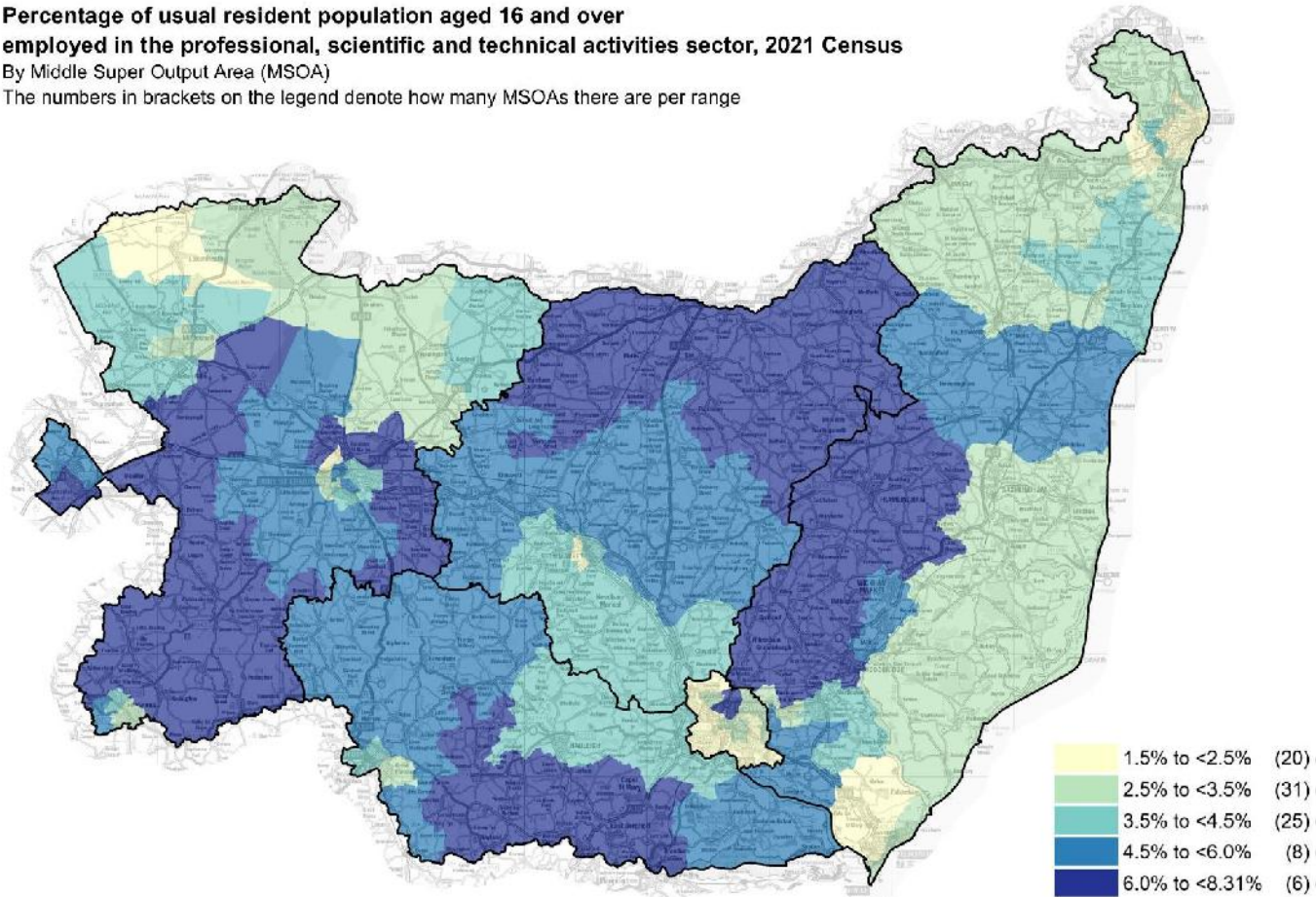
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the professional, scientific and technical activities sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

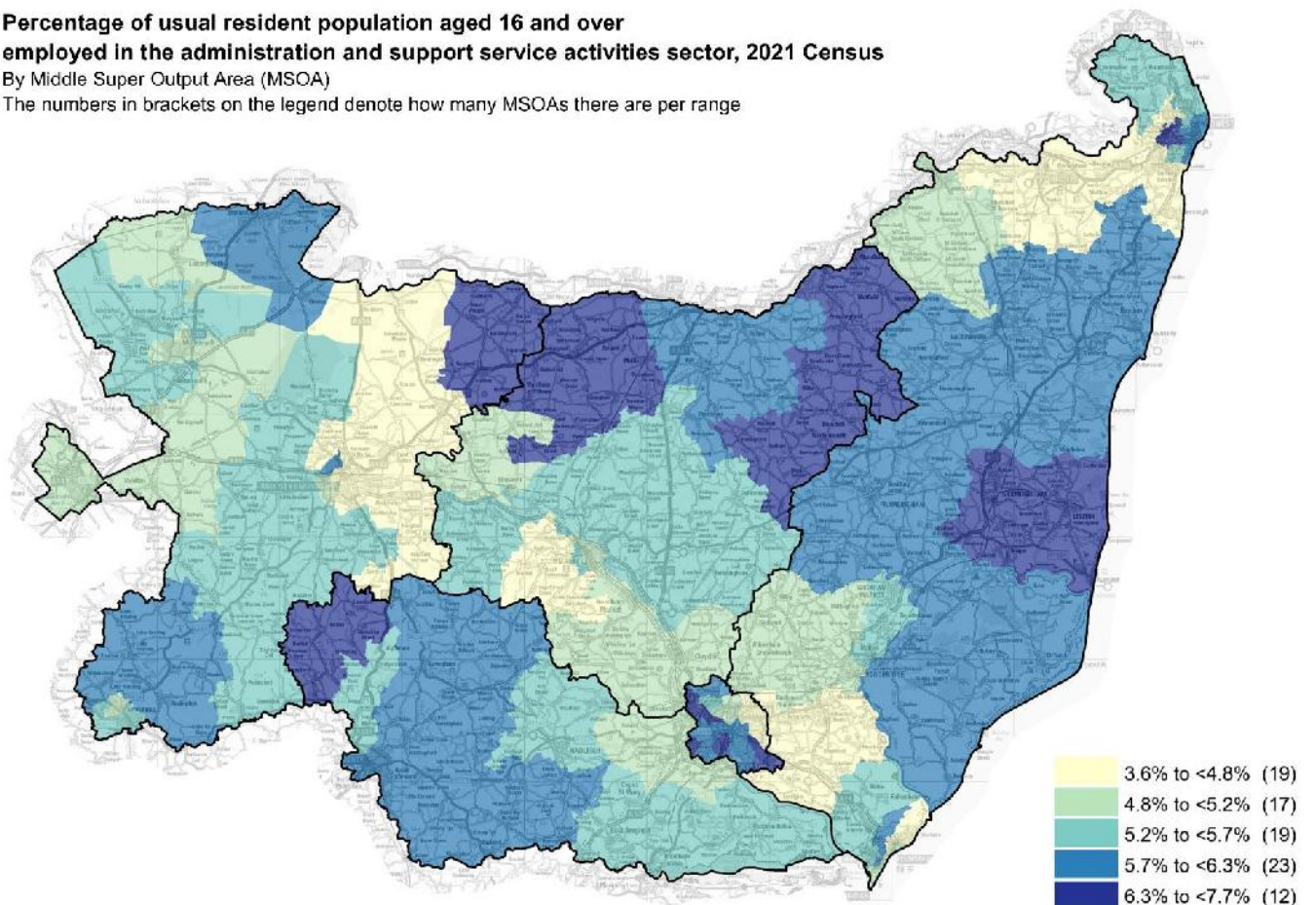
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the administration and support service activities sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

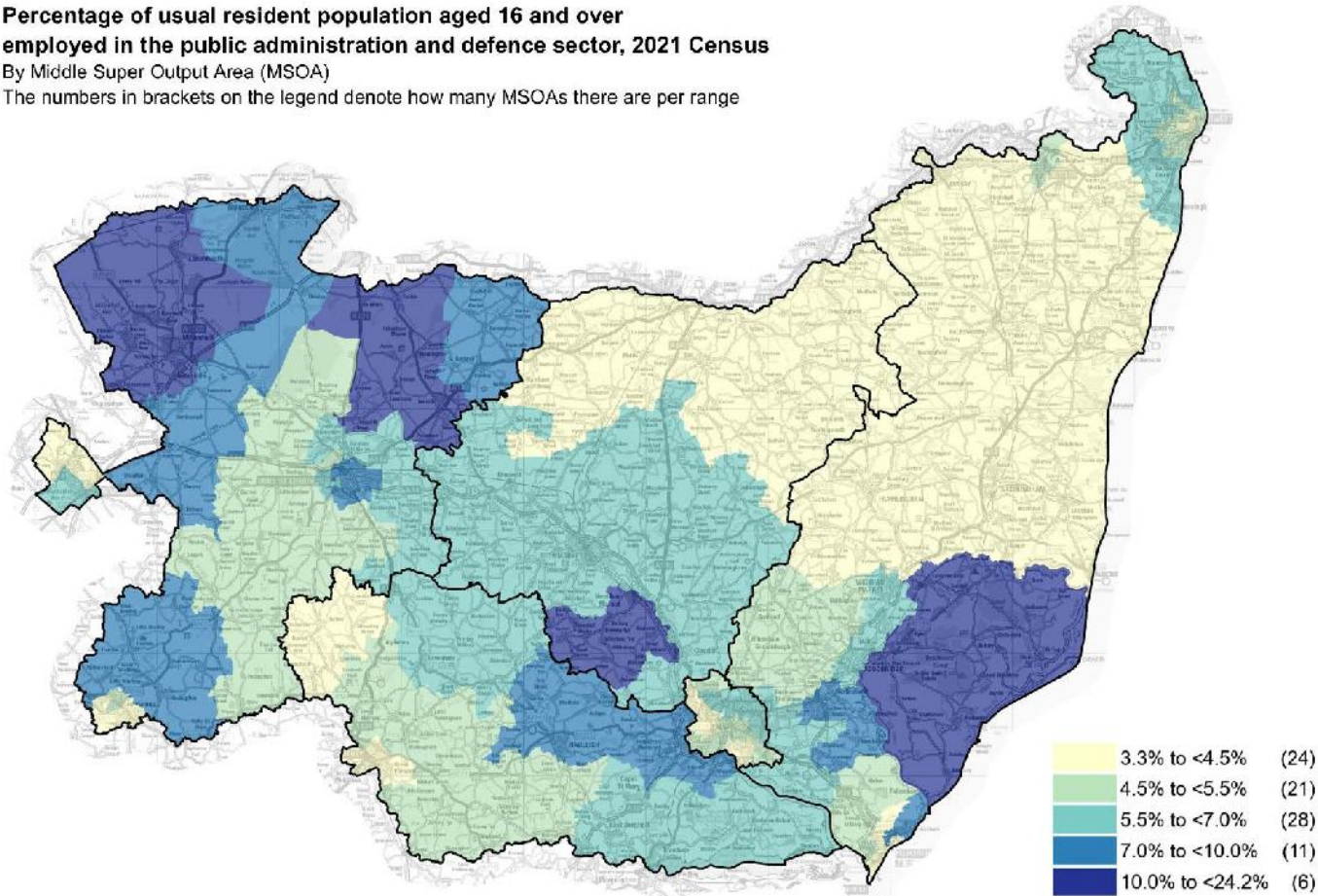
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the public administration and defence sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

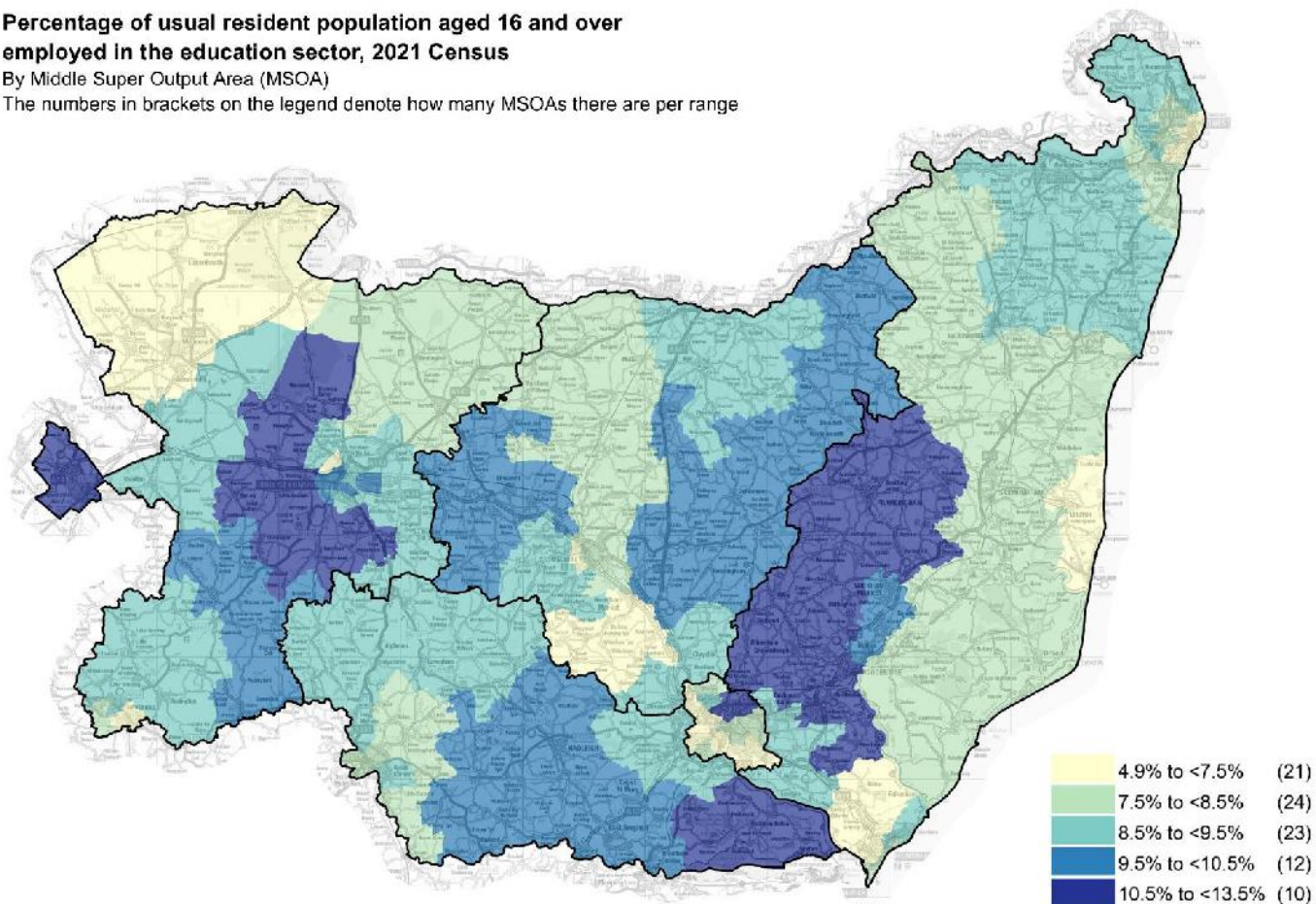
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the education sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

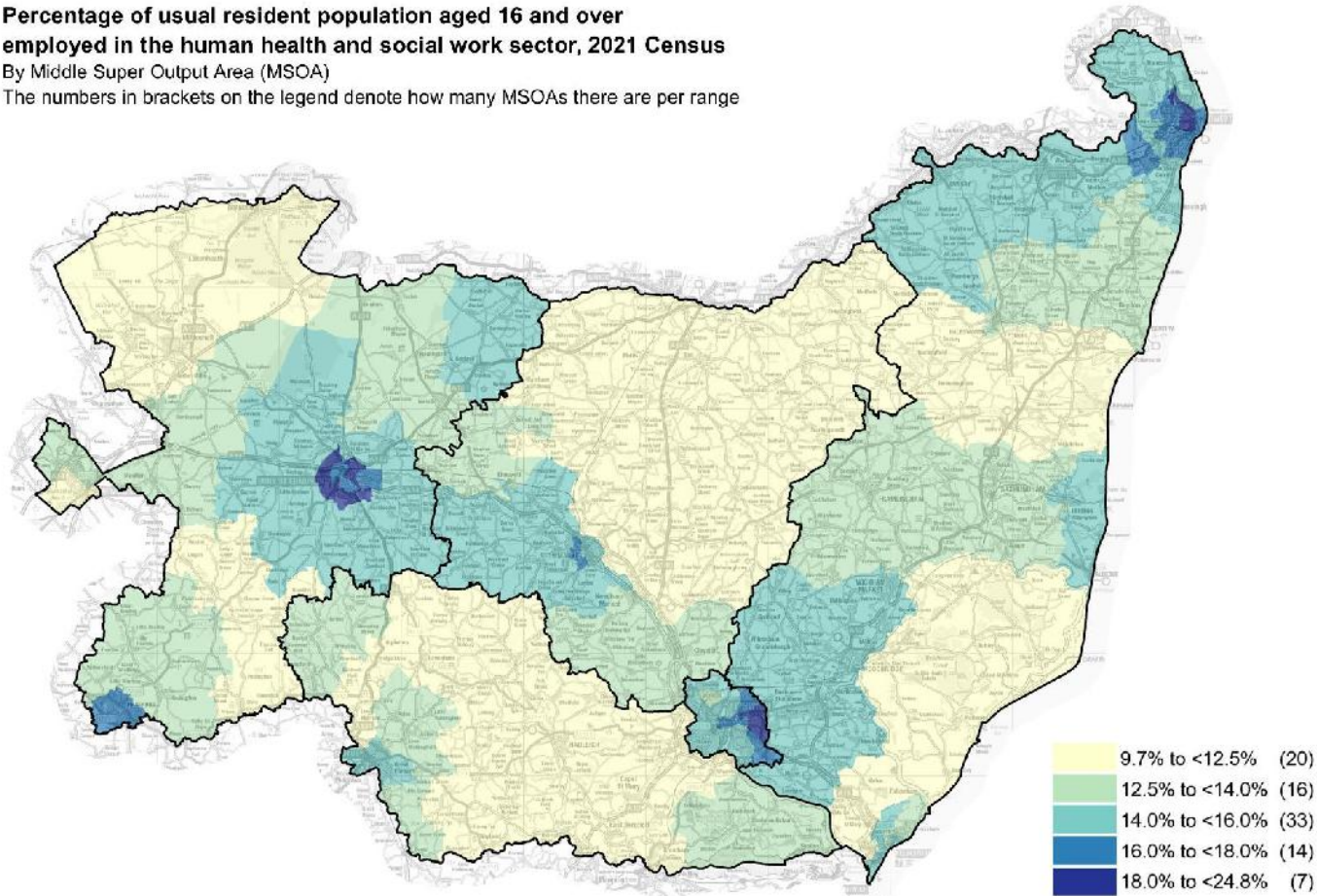
The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range



Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in the human health and social work sector, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range

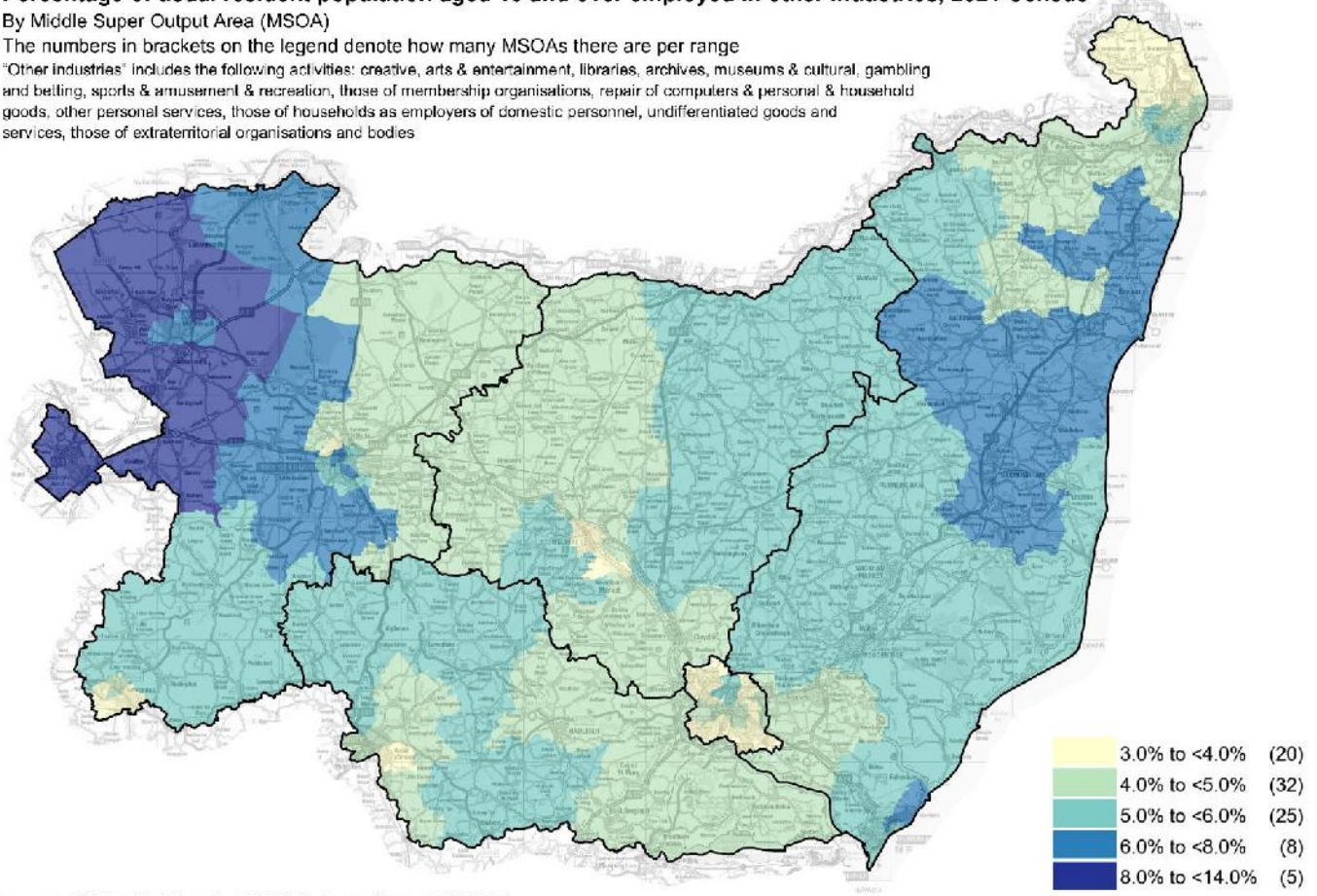


Percentage of usual resident population aged 16 and over employed in other industries, 2021 Census

By Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)

The numbers in brackets on the legend denote how many MSOAs there are per range

'Other industries' includes the following activities: creative, arts & entertainment, libraries, archives, museums & cultural, gambling and betting, sports & amusement & recreation, those of membership organisations, repair of computers & personal & household goods, other personal services, those of households as employers of domestic personnel, undifferentiated goods and services, those of extraterritorial organisations and bodies



Further reading

- All of the 2021 data referenced here is available on the [Office for National Statistics website](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/labourmarketandtraveltoworkcensus2021inenglandandwales) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/labourmarketandtraveltoworkcensus2021inenglandandwales>
- Data from the 2021 Census and previous editions of the Census [can also be found on NOMIS](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>
- 2021 Census data for Suffolk will also be made available on the [Suffolk Observatory](https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/) <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>
- For further information and analysis of some of the topics addressed in this paper, [see the Suffolk Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) on the Healthy Suffolk website](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/index-of-reports) <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/index-of-reports>