

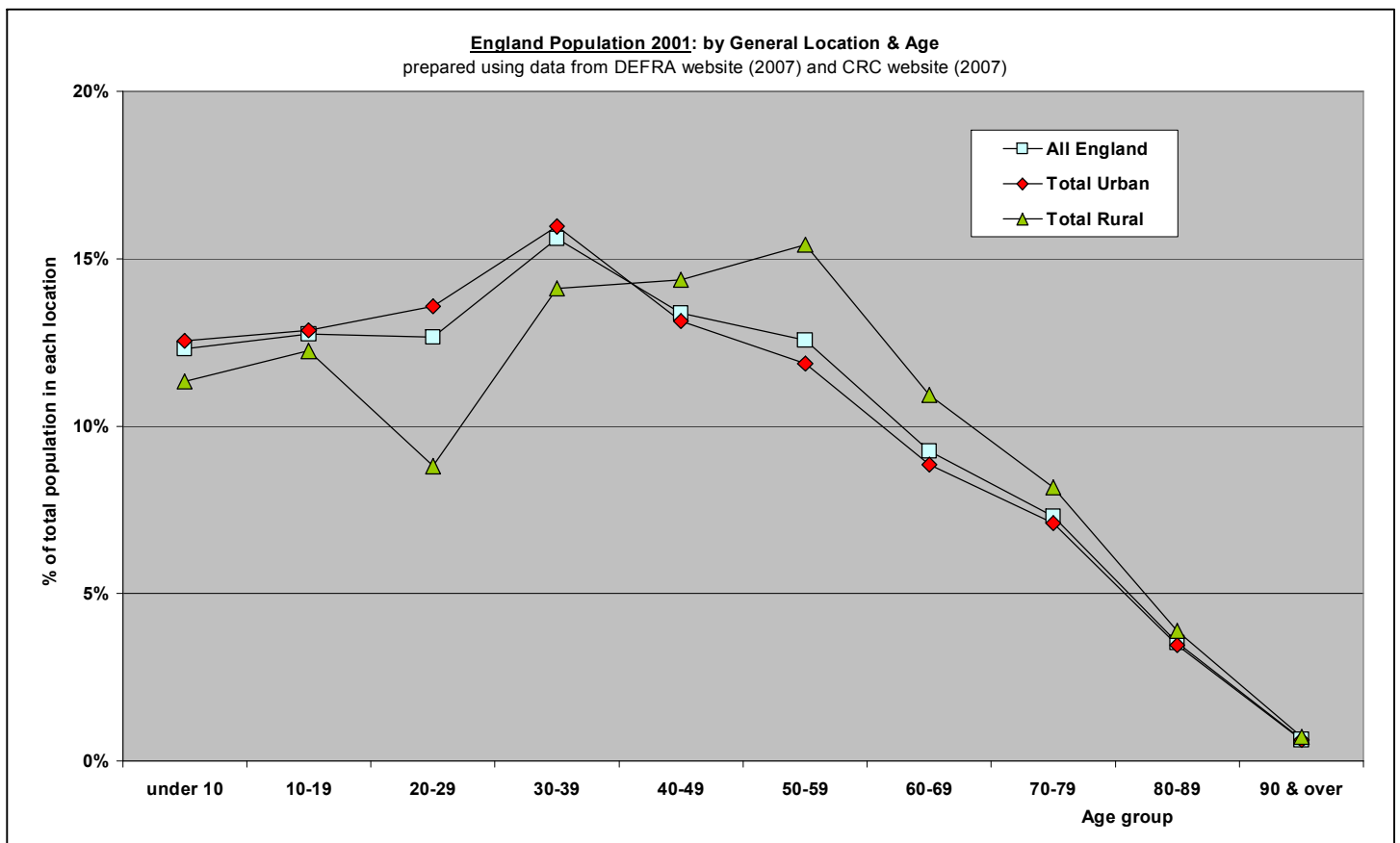
2 RURAL STATISTICS: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: "POPULATION AGE PROFILES"

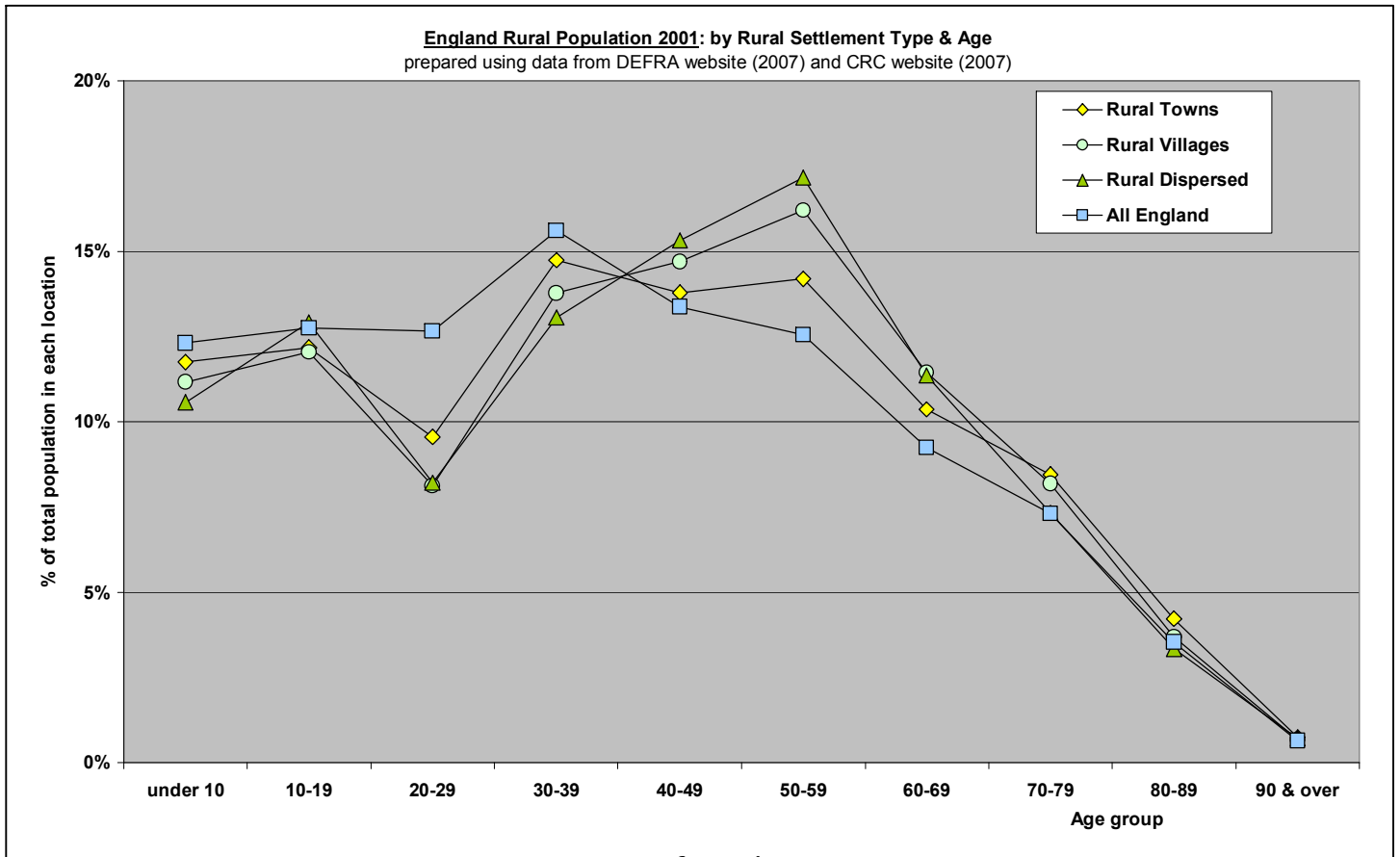
It has been claimed, repeatedly, that one of the major differences between rural and urban England is demographic, and that the most significant part of this at present concerns the age of the populations in both categories. An important way of looking at this is through the so-called "age profile" of the population. This provides a measure of the relative numbers of people in any given location in a chosen range of age-groups.

In the major text of this Section, Unit 2.04 "*The 'Make Up' of - and Changes to - the Rural Population*" [[CLICK HERE](#) -> to access this], a variety of different age-group ranges were used, depending on the underlying source of the data being employed. It is possible to provide a more systematic approach, using information obtained from the 2001 Census. Different organisations have processed the 'raw' information in a variety of ways, but one of the most helpful has been the "Rural Focus" Reports produced by DEFRA. Amongst all the other information they contain, these reports (for both Government Regions of England, and individual Local Authority Districts or Unitary Authorities) give demographic profiles using 10-year age bands. This allows different regions & districts to be compared on the basis of their age profiles. Particularly helpful for our purposes is the fact that all this population data is sub-divided into rural/urban, sparse/less sparse and rural settlement categories.

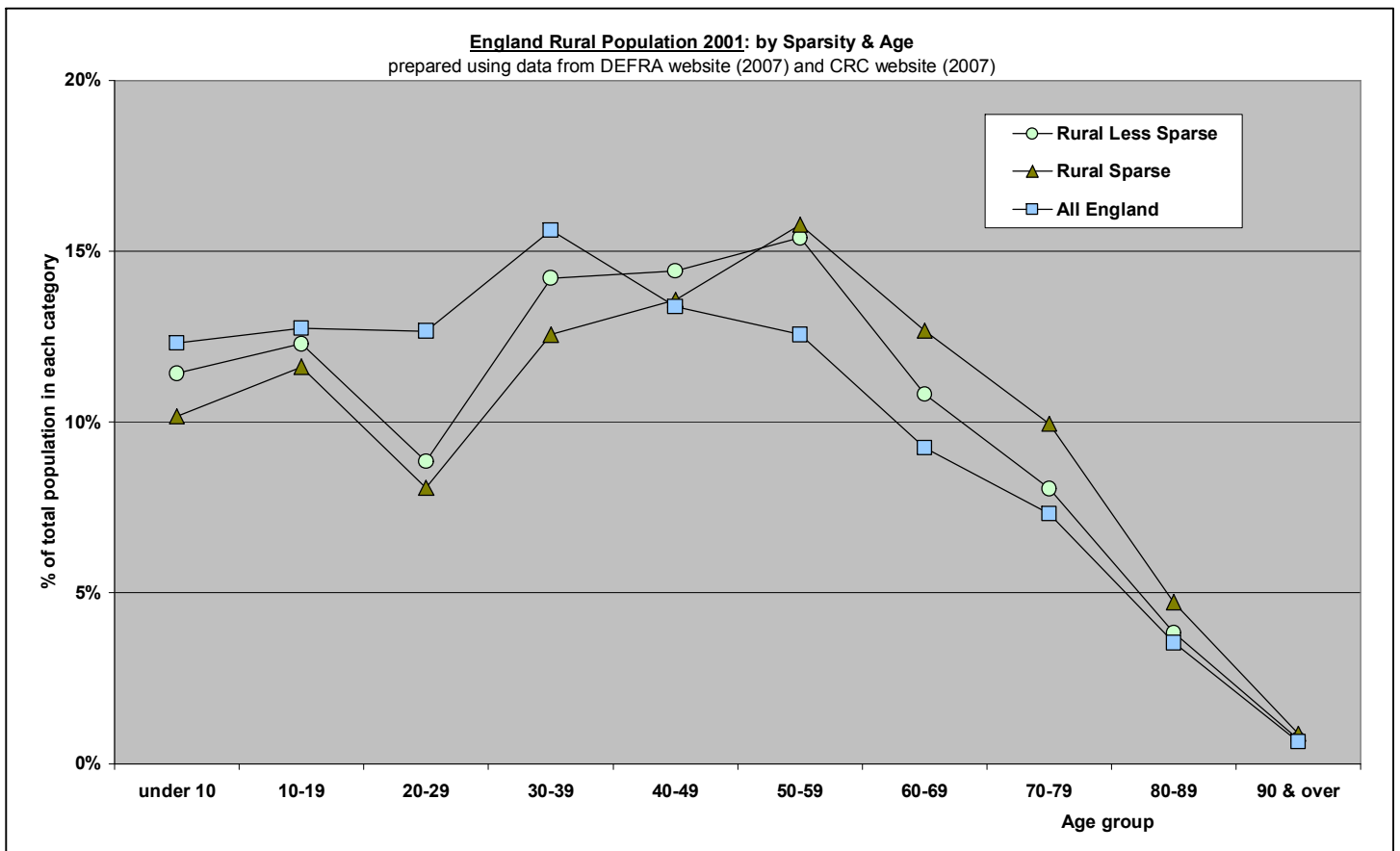
[CLICK HERE](#) -> to reach DEFRA's "Rural Focus" Reports



[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a larger image



[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a larger image



[CLICK HERE](#) -> for a larger image

These three graphs give the results for the overall population of England in 2001, the last year for which there are complete & accurate figures. [The Office for National Statistics

(ONS) does produce a variety of estimates between the decennial censuses (the next one will be in 2011), generally based on a very small but representative sample of the whole population.] Two important points must be born in mind when using these graphs:

- In these charts, and all similar charts that follow (or to which links are provided), it is not *absolute numbers* of the various sub-populations that are being given. In every case, the values are the *percentage in each individual category*. So, if in the first chart, the value for 20-29 year olds in rural England is 8.8% - this age group makes up 8.8% of all *rural* inhabitants.
- The age bands are in so-called 10-year *cohorts*, all the individuals within that age range *on Census Day in 2001* are included in a single group for statistical purposes. It is, therefore, not possible to draw meaningful conclusions about smaller age-range groups; for example school leavers - who range between the ages of 16 and 18/19 in England.

The first graph confirms very clearly what was indicated in the main text; there are substantial, measurable & significant differences of population profile between rural & urban England. Two major differences are:

- The proportion of people in the age range 10-39 is much lower for the rural population than the urban population.
- The proportion of people in the age range 40-69 is considerably higher for the rural population than the urban population.

In both these cases, the differences are *statistically significant*. This means more than just thinking that they are important. It means that (a) the differences are not random variations, and (b) the differences reveal a multiply-repeated pattern; i.e. there are non-trivial reasons for the trends & differences seen. It is not possible, though, on the basis of these graphs alone, to answer questions about these reasons. But any answers that are provided must satisfy the full statistical revealed in the graphs.

The second graph, concerning the population in the three categories of rural settlement, reveal further differences, which are reinforced by the final graph, which compares sparse & less sparse rural populations. Three major features are revealed:

- The proportion of people in the age range 40-59 significantly increases the smaller, more dispersed or isolated the settlement
- This pattern is reversed, but smaller, for population in the age range 20-39
- In the age range 0-49, the proportion of the population in *sparse* areas is significantly less than that in *non-sparse* areas

In two later Appendices, potential reasons for some of these phenomena will be offered and explained, as they almost certainly represent other significant demographic & social trends in England as a whole. This other material is:

Unit1.2 - Appendix 3: "Ageing & the Rural Population"

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to access this

Unit1.2 - Appendix 4: "Migration & the Rural Population"

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to access this

Unit1.2 - Appendix 1b: "Case Study: Highest Rural Population Districts"

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to access this

Population Age profiles like these will be found in many of the other appendices to this Section, as they provide a very useful way of comparing different locations or subsets of the overall population. In particular, the data at district level can be very useful.

These profiles also provide - where earlier data is in the public domain - a way of studying how populations change with time.

All of these aspects are included in other appendices, as already indicated above.

ENGLAND REGIONAL POPULATION AGE PROFILES

All Regions:

Urban Population Profiles compared [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graph

Rural Population Profiles compared [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graph

Individual Regions: (each compared with England overall)

East of England ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

East Midlands ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

North East ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

North West ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

South East ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

South West ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

West Midlands ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

Yorkshire & Humber ALL Profiles [CLICK HERE](#) -> to see graphs

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to the start of this section

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to Unit 2.04:

"The 'Make Up' of - and Changes to - the Rural Population"

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to return to breakdown of Unit 2

[CLICK HERE](#) -> to go to the Project website "Home Page"