



Babergh

State of the District Report 2023

This is the first State of the District report produced by Babergh District Council. It tells the story of our district through data and insight – including from Census 2021 - across a range of themes spanning the economy, the environment, resident health and wellbeing, community issues and housing.


The State of the District report will be updated on an annual basis to provide continued commentary on the strengths and challenges within Babergh and how these are changing over time.

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Summary

 **92,300** residents and **40,200 households** (Census 2021)

26.6%  of residents aged 65 and over vs 18.4% across England. By 2043, the 65-plus population is expected to account for a third (33.8%) of all residents

Top 3 employment sectors:





- Wholesale and retail
- Manufacturing
- Education

 **31.9%** of 16 to 64-year-olds hold a level 4 (degree-level) qualification or above vs 37.1% in England

Better than average levels of health but challenges remain  Life expectancy at birth:
Females - 85.2 years vs 83.1 in England
Males - 81.6 years vs 79.4 in England

26.1% of adults classed as physically inactive (25.8% across England)

 **85%** of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live

 Median house prices are 10.60 times median annual resident earnings 

 **Rollout of gigabit-capable broadband** | Gigabit-capable broadband coverage: 38.1% vs 77.1% across England (June 2023)

10.3% average tree canopy cover for wards in Babergh

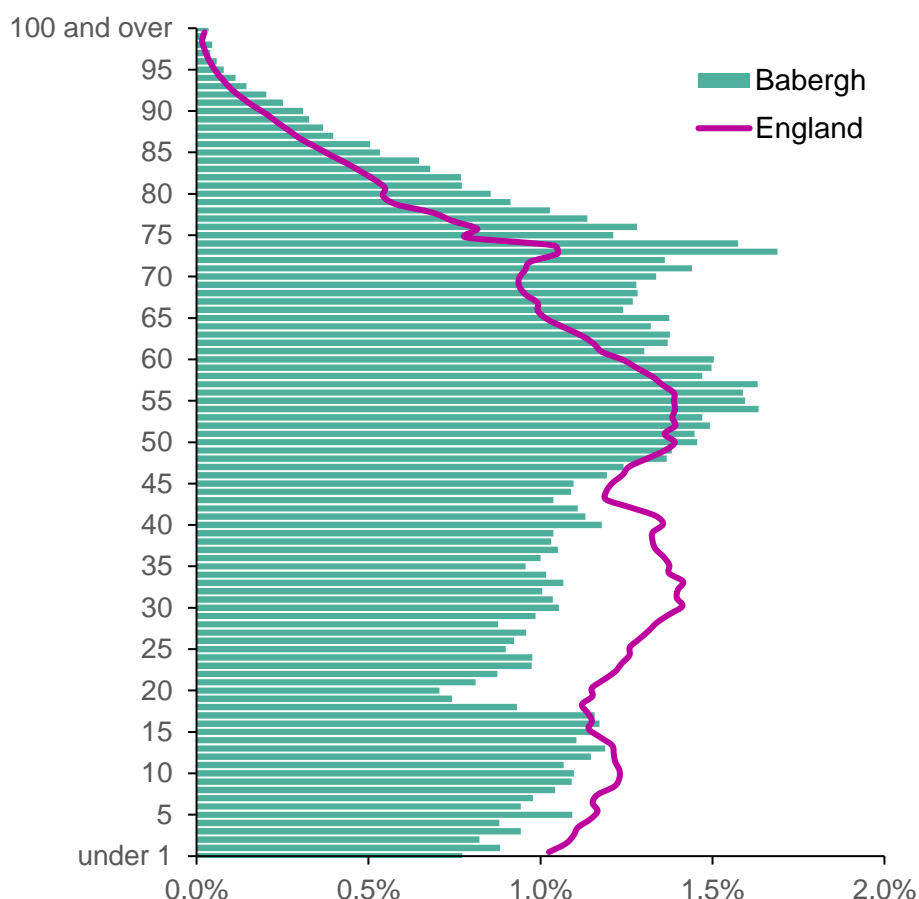


People

Population

- At the latest Census in March 2021, Babergh had 92,300¹ residents, an increase of 5.2% (from 87,700) since 2011.
- Babergh has an older population than the England average (Figure 1), with 26.6% of its residents aged 65 years and over (compared with 18.4% in England and 19.6% in the East of England).
- Over the next twenty years, the total number of residents aged 15-64 and children aged under 15 is expected to remain stable, with population growth (to around 102,000 by 2043) driven by an increase in the number of people aged 65 years and over.
- By 2043, the 65-plus population is expected to account for a third (33.8%) of all residents, well above the projected proportion for England (22.2%).

Figure 1: Population by age (Census 2021)



¹ Rounded to the nearest 100 people.

Population by ward

The Babergh district is divided into 24 electoral wards

- At Census 2021, Great Cornard was Babergh's most populated ward with 9,948 people, followed by Chadacre (6,158) and Long Melford (6,021).
- The least populated ward was Sudbury South East with 2,294 people, followed by Ganges with 2,387.
- All wards apart from Sudbury North East and Sproughton & Pinewood had a higher proportion of residents aged 65-plus than the England average of 18.4%, with some such as Lavenham having nearly double.
- Hadleigh North (21.9%), Sudbury North East (21.7%), Stour (20.0%) and Great Cornard (19.8%) had the highest proportions of children aged 0-15 (Table 1).

Table 1: Ward populations by age (Census 2021)

Electoral Ward	Ward population	Persons aged 0-15 (%)	Persons aged 16-64 (%)	Persons aged 65+ (%)
England average		18.6	63.0	18.4
East of England average		18.7	61.6	19.6
Babergh average		16.2	57.2	26.6
Assington	2,656	12.5	55.8	31.6
Box Vale	2,872	15.7	55.3	29.0
Brantham	2,601	16.6	59.1	24.3
Brett Vale	3,147	14.8	58.2	27.0
Bures St Mary & Nayland	2,865	16.5	53.5	30.0
Capel St Mary	3,109	16.5	52.4	31.0
Chadacre	6,158	16.4	58.0	25.6
Copdock & Washbrook	3,233	14.8	56.6	28.7
East Bergholt	2,728	14.5	55.0	30.5
Ganges	2,387	14.9	60.0	25.1
Great Cornard	9,948	19.8	60.8	19.4
Hadleigh North	2,825	21.9	55.6	22.5
Hadleigh South	5,933	16.4	55.0	28.6
Lavenham	5,254	13.8	52.8	33.3
Long Melford	6,021	14.1	54.4	31.5
North West Cosford	2,678	15.7	58.0	26.3
Orwell	2,513	13.6	54.9	31.5
South East Cosford	2,663	14.7	54.4	30.9
Sproughton & Pinewood	5,843	17.0	65.0	17.9
Stour	3,268	20.0	53.8	26.2
Sudbury North East	3,155	21.7	61.6	16.7
Sudbury North West	5,347	14.4	60.6	25.0
Sudbury South East	2,294	12.9	56.8	30.3
Sudbury South West	2,837	12.8	54.5	32.7

Households, deprivation and digital exclusion

- Between 2011 and 2021, the number of households in Babergh rose from 37,500 to 40,200, an increase of 7.1%. This was broadly in line with the percentage increase seen across Suffolk (7.3%) but above the figure for England (6.2%).
- Household numbers are expected to increase further by around 16% by 2043 (compared with around 13% across Suffolk).
- Of the 40,200 households in Babergh on Census Day, 28.3% were single-person households (with 15.6% single-persons aged 66 and over). This compared with 31.2% of households across Suffolk (with 14.8% single-persons aged 66 and over) and 30.1% across England (with 12.8% single-persons aged 66 and over).
- Babergh falls just within the least deprived third of local authority areas in England.² Although it has no areas within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, several neighbourhoods are within the 40% most deprived nationally; these are predominantly located in and around Sudbury and Great Cornard. Furthermore, as a mainly rural district, Babergh faces a number of geographical barriers related to the physical proximity of local services and employment centres.
- In June 2023, there was 97.2% superfast broadband coverage³ in Babergh, similar to the average for England (97.9%). Gigabit-capable broadband coverage stood at 38.1%, half the England figure of 77.1%.
- Not all residents access or are confident using the internet. One-in-ten retired residents (10%) do not have access, increasing to 17% of residents aged 75 and over. Internet access and confidence is also lower among those with self-reported poor health or disabilities and those living in social rented properties.

² Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019.

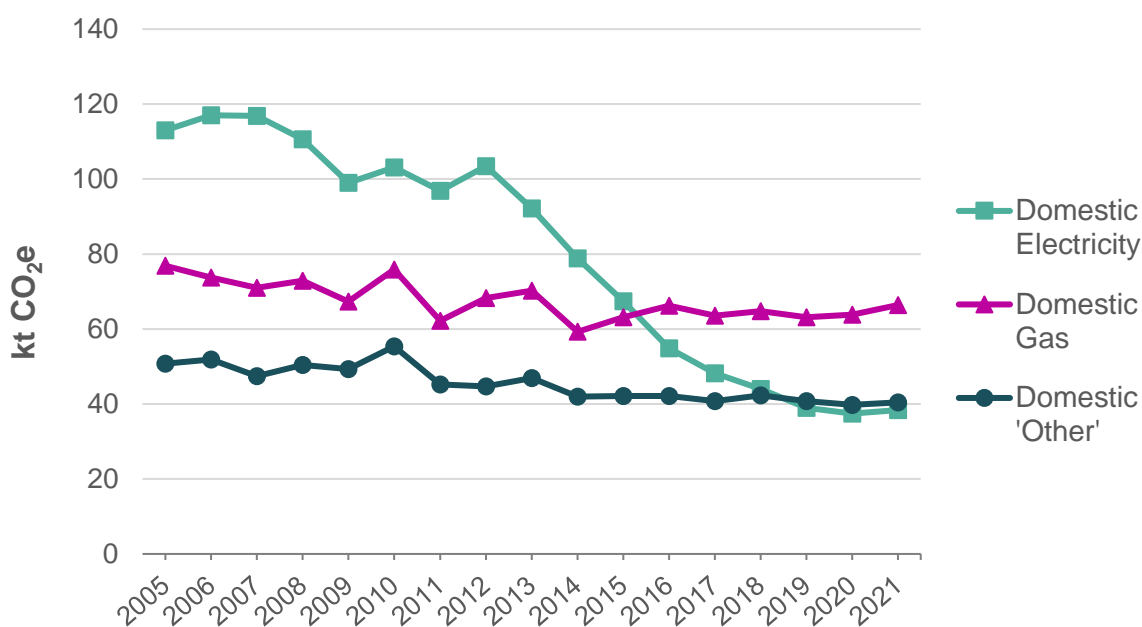
³ Defined as the percentage of residential and business premises that have Superfast Broadband (greater than or equal to 30Mbit/s) coverage from fixed broadband.

Environment and Biodiversity

Greenhouse gas emissions

- In 2021, Babergh accounted for 11.8% of greenhouse gas emissions⁴ in Suffolk.
- Between 2005 and 2021, emissions fell from 899.9 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂e) to 562.4 kt CO₂e, a reduction of 38%. This was similar to the percentage decrease in emissions seen nationally (39%).
- Domestic (or residential) emissions⁵ reduced from 240.7 to 145.2 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent during the same period, driven in particular by a decline in emissions related to domestic electricity (Figure 2).⁶

Figure 2: Domestic greenhouse gas emissions 2005-2021 by energy type (kt CO₂e)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

⁴ The greenhouse gases covered by these statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

⁵ Domestic emissions here represent emissions from energy consumption in and around the home, but not activities by private individuals elsewhere, such as personal travel.

⁶ Supply-side emissions decreases have resulted from changes in the mix of fuels being used for electricity generation (e.g. gas instead of coal), including the growth of renewables. At the same time, domestic demand for electricity has also reduced, due to factors including product energy efficiency regulations and energy-efficient lighting.

- While emissions per capita were in line with the county and regional averages in 2021 (6.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent compared to 6.2 tonnes across Suffolk and 6.0 tonnes across the East of England), this figure was above the England average of 5.5 tonnes.⁷
- Emissions from transport accounted for 39.9% of total greenhouse emissions (excluding net emissions from land use, land use change and forestry) in Babergh in 2021 (Table 2). Domestic emissions were the next highest contributor, responsible for a quarter (25.3%) of emissions in the district.

Table 2: Percentage contribution to total greenhouse gas emissions by sector (excluding land use, land use change and forestry)⁸ (2021)

	Babergh	East of England	England
Transport	39.9%	35.2%	30.5%
Domestic	25.3%	25.6%	25.7%
Industry	16.6%	13.5%	19.7%
Agriculture	12.9%	10.8%	10.0%
Commercial	2.2%	4.4%	4.9%
Waste Management	1.7%	6.9%	5.0%
Public Sector	1.4%	3.6%	4.4%

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

- By the end of 2022, there were 971 plug-in cars registered to owners in Babergh (comprising 586 battery electric, 374 plug-in hybrid and 11 range extended electric cars).⁹ As of April 2023, Babergh had 55 publicly available electric vehicle charging points, including 18 rapid chargers.

Biodiversity

- Babergh has areas which are part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Dedham Vale AONB. The Stour and Orwell estuaries are designated as a Ramsar Site, meaning they are considered wetlands of international importance.
- In addition, there are 51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 17 Local Nature Reserves, 190 County Wildlife Sites (covering 1,758 hectares) and 1,404 hectares of ancient woodland.

⁷ The local authority areas with higher emissions per capita are a mixture of those with large industrial sites and those with relatively low populations compared to the size of the area or the activities that take place there that produce emissions. The latter group are often in more rural areas. Conversely, the areas with the lowest emissions per capita are typically built-up areas with high resident populations.

⁸ The land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector consists of both emissions and removals from forest land, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and harvested wood products. It is the only sector that includes emission removals and therefore can show a net removal of greenhouse gases or a net contribution to emissions. For this reason, it is excluded from the calculations in Table 2.

⁹ Range extended electric vehicles are additionally equipped with a small internal combustion engine to charge the vehicle's battery.

- On average, tree canopy cover for wards in Babergh stands at 10.3%, compared with a ward average of 16.3% for selected wards assessed across England (14.6% for rural wards and 16.7% for urban wards).¹⁰
- The Council has increased the amount of amenity grass it manages as wildflower meadow from 0.15 hectares in 2022 to almost 5 hectares in 2023. This will provide habitat and food for pollinators as well as helping to reduce rainwater run-off and extremes of temperature, therefore increasing climate change resilience.

¹⁰ Based on a total of 6,135 wards assessed in England (4,904 urban wards and 1,231 rural wards) as part of a Forestry Commission UK canopy cover webmap project which aimed to assess the percentage tree canopy cover across wards in the UK (taken from the dataset published by the Forestry Commission on 5th April 2023).

Economy

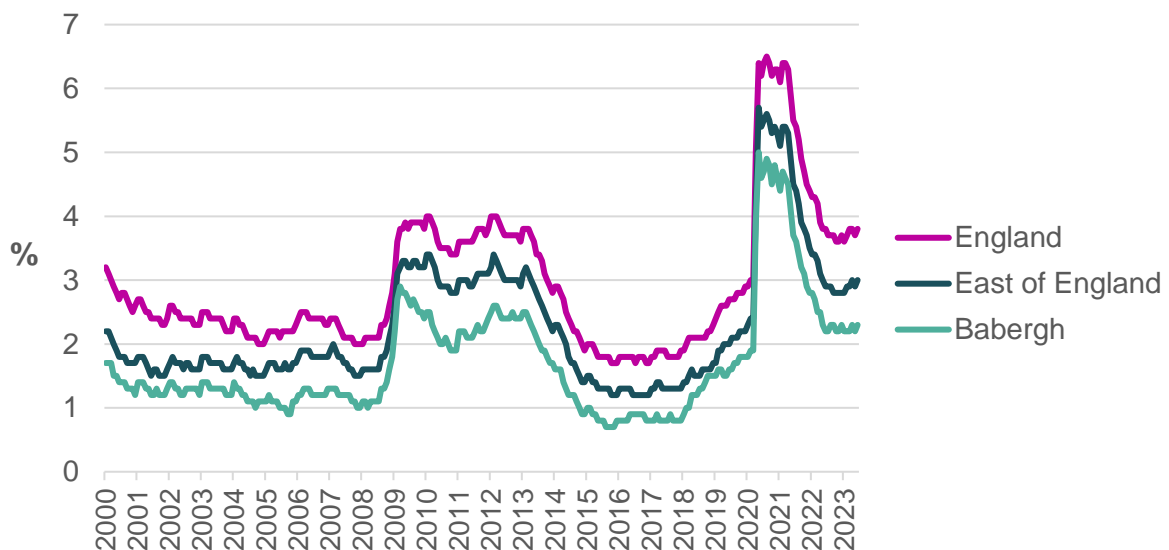
Economic activity

- In the 12 months to December 2022, 76.5% of 16 to 64-year-olds in Babergh were economically active (that is they were either in employment or unemployed), compared with 80.6% across the East of England and 78.7% across England.
- Reasons for not being economically active include long-term or temporary sickness, looking after the home, being a student and taking early retirement.

Out-of-work benefits

- The proportion of Babergh residents claiming out-of-work benefits has historically been below both the regional and national averages (Figure 3). In June 2023, 2.3% of those aged 16-64 in Babergh claimed out-of-work benefits, compared with 3.0% across the East of England and 3.8% across England.
- By age, 3.2% of those aged 18-24, 2.9% of those aged 25-49 and 1.5% of those aged 50-64 were claiming out-of-work benefits in Babergh in June 2023.

Figure 3: Proportion of residents aged 16-64 claiming out-of-work benefits (January 2000 - June 2023)



Source: ONS Claimant count

Employment sectors, pay and productivity

- With 39,000 jobs within the district, Babergh has a jobs density of 0.73, which compares to 0.84 across the East of England and 0.86 in England (based on 2021 data). A jobs density of 1.0 would mean there was one job for every resident aged 16-64 within each geography.¹¹

¹¹ A high jobs density would represent an employment centre, where people commute to for work. A low jobs density would represent an area with fewer jobs, where people would commute from for work.

- A lower proportion of employee jobs¹² in Babergh (62.5%) are full-time (31+ hours per week) compared with the East of England (66.9%) and England (68.4%).
- Most employee jobs are within the private sector; just 11.0% of employee jobs in Babergh were in the public sector in 2021, compared with 17.0% across the East of England and England.
- The top three employment sectors in Babergh are wholesale and retail (accounting for 18.8% of employee jobs in 2021), manufacturing (14.1%), and education (12.5%).¹³
- Accommodation and food is also an important employment sector for Babergh, accounting for 9.4% of all employee jobs in 2021 compared with 6.9% in the East of England and 7.5% in England (Table 3).

Table 3: Employee jobs by industry (2021)

% is a proportion of total employees excluding farm-based agriculture

	Babergh	East of England	England
B: Mining and Quarrying	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
C: Manufacturing	14.1%	7.3%	7.5%
D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%
E: Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
F: Construction	6.2%	5.9%	4.8%
G: Wholesale and Retail Trade	18.8%	15.2%	14.5%
H: Transportation and Storage	3.9%	5.5%	5.2%
I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities	9.4%	6.9%	7.5%
J: Information and Communication	3.1%	4.1%	4.7%
K: Financial and Insurance Activities	1.1%	2.1%	3.7%
L: Real Estate Activities	1.2%	1.7%	1.9%
M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	7.8%	9.2%	9.3%
N: Administrative and Support Service Activities	7.0%	11.8%	9.0%
O: Public Administration and Defence	0.8%	3.4%	4.3%
P: Education	12.5%	9.5%	8.8%
Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities	9.4%	12.2%	13.4%
R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2.8%	2.2%	2.3%
S: Other Service Activities	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey

¹² The number of jobs held by employees. Employee jobs excludes self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces, so this count will be smaller than the total jobs figure. In 2021, Babergh had 32,000 employee jobs.

¹³ Percentages are a proportion of total employee jobs excluding farm-based agriculture.

- With average labour productivity being generally lower in sectors such as accommodation and food service activities, and wholesale and retail trade industries,¹⁴ productivity in Babergh – measured as gross value added (GVA) per hour worked¹⁵ – falls below the county, regional and national averages: £34.30 in Babergh compared with £35.10 across Suffolk, £35.90 in the East of England and £38.90 in England (based on 2021 data).
- Median earnings for full-time employees working in Babergh are also significantly below the regional and national averages (Table 4).

Table 4: Median earnings for full-time employees working in the area, by sex (2022)¹⁶

	Babergh	East of England	England
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full-Time Workers	£ 521.50	£ 632.40	£ 645.60
Male Full-Time Workers	£ 551.80	£ 679.80	£ 689.90
Female Full-Time Workers	£ 432.40	£ 567.00	£ 584.50
Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime			
Full-Time Workers	£ 13.09	£ 15.73	£ 16.41
Male Full-Time Workers	£ 14.18	£ 16.40	£ 17.03
Female Full-Time Workers	£ 11.64	£ 14.68	£ 15.44

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

¹⁴ See for example:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/articles/understandingspatiallabourproductivityintheuk/2019-05-03>

¹⁵ Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector; it is the value of the amount of goods and services that have been produced, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials that are directly attributable to that production.

¹⁶ Full-time is defined as working more than 30 paid hours per week. Estimates are published for all full-time employees and by sex, for male and female full-time employees. Employee earnings data are not published for non-binary or other gender identities. In interpreting differences in pay between male and female employees and across different geographies, it should be noted that the figures do not show differences in rates of pay for comparable jobs, given they are affected by factors such as the proportion of employees in different occupations and sectors (for example, where a higher proportion of females work in occupations such as administration and caring, which tend to offer lower salaries). It should also be noted that the gross weekly pay figures are affected by both hourly rates of pay and the number of hours worked or paid for. Therefore, the hourly pay figures remove the impact of hours worked (for example, where males work, on average, more hours per week than females).

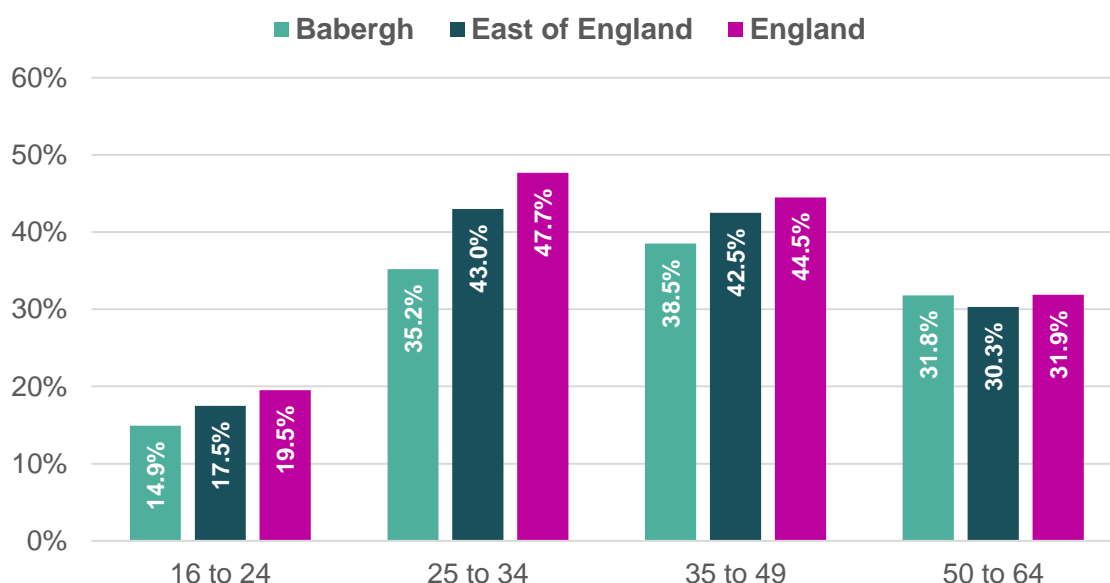
Qualifications

- At Census 2021, 31.9% of 16 to 64-year-olds in Babergh had a level 4 qualification (e.g. degree, NVQ level 4) or above (Table 5). This was below the proportion seen in both the East of England (34.8%) and England (37.1%). As shown by Figure 4, this was driven by a lower proportion of 16 to 49-year-olds with a level 4 qualification or above; the proportion of 50 to 64-year-olds in Babergh with a level 4 qualification or above was in line with the national average.
- At the same time, a lesser proportion of working age residents in Babergh had no qualifications: 9.6% of 16 to 64-year-olds, compared with 11.7% across the East of England and 12.4% across England.

Table 5: Highest level of qualification held by 16 to 64-year-olds (Census 2021)

	Babergh	East of England	England
No qualifications	9.6%	11.7%	12.4%
Level 1 and entry level qualifications	12.0%	11.1%	9.9%
Level 2 qualifications: 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4) / NVQ level 2	18.5%	16.3%	14.8%
Level 3 qualifications: 2 or more A levels / NVQ level 3	21.3%	19.6%	19.5%
Level 4 qualifications or above: degree / NVQ level 4 or above	31.9%	34.8%	37.1%
Other: apprenticeships, vocational or work-related or other qualifications (level not stated/unknown)	6.8%	6.5%	6.3%

Figure 4: Proportion with a Level 4 qualification or above by age group (Census 2021)



Occupation types

- Census 2021 collected information about the occupations of those who were in employment (both as employees and self-employed) (Table 6).¹⁷
- Compared with the regional and national figures, a higher-than-average proportion of Babergh's working residents were employed as managers, directors or senior officials (14.8% versus 12.9% nationally) or in skilled trade occupations (13.2% compared with 10.2% nationally).
- A lower-than-average proportion were employed in professional occupations (17.1% versus 20.3% nationally) or in the lower occupational groups 8-9 (15.3% compared with 17.4% nationally).

Table 6: Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2020) of residents aged 16 years and over in employment (Census 2021)

	Babergh	East of England	England
SOC 2020 Major Group 1-3	45.4%	46.6%	46.4%
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	14.8%	13.7%	12.9%
2. Professional occupations	17.1%	19.6%	20.3%
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	13.5%	13.3%	13.3%
SOC 2020 Major Group 4-5	22.9%	20.5%	19.4%
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.6%	9.8%	9.3%
5. Skilled trades occupations	13.2%	10.7%	10.2%
SOC 2020 Major Group 6-7	16.4%	16.1%	16.7%
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	9.2%	9.1%	9.3%
7. Sales and customer service occupations	7.2%	7.0%	7.5%
SOC 2020 Major Group 8-9	15.3%	16.8%	17.4%
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	6.2%	6.9%	6.9%
9. Elementary occupations	9.1%	9.9%	10.5%

- By ward, Brett Vale (57.9%), Stour (57.9%) and East Bergholt (56.3%) wards had the highest proportions of working residents employed in the higher occupational groups 1-3. In contrast, fewer than 40% of working residents in Sudbury South East, Sudbury North East and Great Cornard wards were employed in in occupation groups 1-3, with over 20% in each employed in the lower occupation groups 8-9 (including 28.1% in Sudbury North East).

¹⁷ Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market topic.

Health and Wellbeing

Life expectancy

- Life expectancy at birth exceeds the national, regional and county averages for both females (85.2 years) and males (81.6 years).
- The difference in life expectancy at birth between the least and most deprived areas in Babergh is 5.5 years for males and 3.1 years for females. This compares with a difference of 9.7 years for males and 7.9 years for females seen nationally.
- A lesser proportion of people aged under 75 in Babergh die from cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, or cancers than regional and England averages.
- Infant mortality rates in Babergh are below both the regional and national averages. For the period 2019-2021, Babergh's infant (under one year old) mortality rate was 2.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with 3.4 across the East of England and 3.9 in England.

Health and risk behaviours

- At the last Census, half of Babergh residents reported being in 'very good health' (49.5%) and 35.0% reported being in 'good health', based on age-standardised data.¹⁸ This was above the national average, where 47.5% of people in England reported 'very good health' and 34.2% 'good health'.
- Certain health behaviours in Babergh are better than the national average. For example, 9.8% of adults smoke, compared with 12.9% regionally and 13.0% nationally, while 40.0% of adults meet the recommended '5-a-day' fruit and vegetable target, above both the regional (34.8%) and national (32.5%) figures.
- However, two-thirds of adults (64.3%) are classified as overweight or obese¹⁹, broadly in line with regional and national data (63.9% across the East of England and 63.8% across England), although the prevalence of overweight (including obesity) among Year 6 children in Babergh is lower (32.6% compared with 35.4% regionally and 37.8% in England).
- Levels of physical activity are also similar to the England average, with 26.1% of adults in Babergh classified as physically inactive²⁰ in the 12 months to November 2022, based on findings from the Active Lives Survey. This compares to 25.3% of adults who are physically inactive across the East of England and 25.8% across England.

¹⁸ Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) allow for fairer comparison between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. Where Babergh's population is older than the national average, this allows for a fairer comparison against the national result.

¹⁹ Based on age-standardised data.

²⁰ Physical inactivity is defined within the Active Lives Survey as doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week.

Mental health and wellbeing

- Residents in Babergh report above-average levels of personal wellbeing. Asked to rate their levels of life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness from 0-10 (where 10 means they feel completely satisfied / worthwhile / happy), respondents to the 2022 Residents Survey gave an average score of:
 - 7.20 for satisfaction with their life (compared with 6.85 across England)
 - 7.54 for feeling that the things they do in their life are worthwhile (7.15 across England)
 - 7.38 for how happy they felt yesterday (6.98 across England)
- When asked about their levels of anxiety (again on a scale of 0-10 but where 10 means they feel completely anxious), residents reported lower than average anxiety (3.45 compared with 3.71 for England).
- People living in rural parts of Babergh tend to report higher levels of personal wellbeing than those in urban areas (Table 7).
- In line with national findings, a number of resident groups tend to report lower levels of wellbeing, including younger adults, those in single adult households, those in social rented accommodation, those who are not working (excluding retired), those who report being in poor health and those with a limiting long-term illness or health condition.

Table 7: Personal wellbeing in Babergh (2022 Babergh Residents Survey)

Mean score out of 10	Babergh total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Satisfaction with life	7.20	6.93	7.31
Things you do in life are worthwhile	7.54	7.15	7.72
Happiness	7.38	7.08	7.51
Anxiety	3.45	3.97	3.21

- In 2021/22, Babergh's rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm was higher than regional and national averages, at 185.0 per 100,000 people compared with 145.0 per 100,000 in the East of England and 163.9 per 100,000 across England.
- Babergh's suicide rate during the period 2019-21 was 7.6 per 100,000 people per year which was lower than the East of England (9.8 per 100,000) and England (10.4 per 100,000).

Community

Local area and community

- The 2022 Babergh Residents Survey found that most residents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (85% were satisfied compared with 76% nationally and 78% in the East of England). Three-quarters (76%) agreed they were proud to live in their local area.
- Residents in rural areas reported higher levels of satisfaction and pride than those in urban areas: 89% of those in rural areas were satisfied with their local area (compared with 76% of those in urban areas) and 82% were proud to live in their local area (compared with 62% in urban areas).
- Seven-in-ten (72%) felt a strong sense of belonging to their local community (compared with 63% nationally and across the East of England), with residents living in rural areas also far more likely to feel a sense of belonging than those living in urban areas (76% versus 61%).
- Most residents said they chat to their neighbours, more than just to say hello, at least once a month (87%); this compares well with national and regional averages (both 72%).
- More than half (59%) agreed that people in their local area work together to improve it. However, just 37% of those in urban areas agreed this was the case, compared with 69% of those in rural areas.

Access to services

- As part of the Residents Survey, just over half of residents (55%) agreed they can access a range of activities in their local community spaces, with similar levels of agreement in both urban and rural areas.
- Around three-fifths agreed that they can access local sport and leisure facilities (63% overall, rising to 72% in urban areas) and that they have opportunities to participate in sport and leisure in the local area (57%).
- When asked about the services within their local area:
 - Around seven-in-ten residents living in rural areas said they live within a 15-20 minute walk from a primary school (71%), grocery store (70%) or park (67%), with responses higher among urban residents (84%, 96% and 91% respectively).
 - Over half of all residents (54%) said they have a GP or health centre within a 15-20 minute walk from their home (77% in urban areas compared with 44% of those in rural areas).
 - Most urban residents said they have a chemist (81%) or library (73%) within a 15-20 minute walk from their home; however, this reduces to 32% and 30% for those living in rural parts of Babergh.

Cost of living and poverty

- Based on the latest available data, 5,831 or 14.3% of households in Babergh were classed as being in fuel poverty in 2021.²¹ Whilst in line with the Suffolk average (14.1%), this was above the average across the East of England (12.3%) and England (13.1%).
- A fifth of households in Babergh use oil heating, with the high upfront capital needed to purchase heating oil making it potentially difficult for lower-income households to heat their homes.²²
- It was estimated that in 2021/22, 4,027 or 22.9% of children in Babergh aged 0-15 were living in poverty, after housing costs.²³ This compared with 23.6% in the East of England and 30.8% in England.
- In June 2023, 5,845 people claimed Universal Credit²⁴ in Babergh, equivalent to 11.0% of people aged 16-65. Nationally, 14.6% of people in England aged 16-65 were claiming Universal Credit in the same period.
- Our partners are seeing the cost-of-living effects on the community. For example, the number of people in Babergh helped with debt enquiries by the Citizens Advice service²⁵ rose from 141 cases in June 2021 to 348 cases in June 2022 and 699 cases in June 2023.

Community safety and crime

- In the 12 months to April 2023, the overall crime rate in Babergh was 52.3 incidents per 1,000 population, based on 4,817 recorded crimes. This compares with a rate of 67.5 per 1,000 across Suffolk, 76.9 per 1,000 across the East of England and 84.4 per 1,000 across England during the same period.
- Babergh's 2022 Residents Survey found that a significant majority of residents (95%) feel safe outside during the day, while 87% feel safe in local parks and open spaces. Seven-in-ten (71%) said they feel safe after dark, although this fell to 52% of residents in urban areas, compared with 80% of those in rural settings.

²¹ A household is considered to be fuel poor if: they are living in a home with an energy efficiency rating below band C and were they to spend the required amount on fuel costs for the home, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

²² Although the average price of heating oil has fallen month-on-month since October 2022, consumers have been exposed to historically high costs during 2022 and early 2023. The national average cost of heating oil peaked at £1,109 per 1,000 litres in June 2022, whilst the cost in October 2022 (£1,016 per 1,000 litres) was almost double the October 2019 cost and £400 more than in October 2021.

²³ Defined as the percentage of children in households with below 60% median income after housing costs.

²⁴ Universal Credit is a single payment to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. It replaces six benefits, commonly referred to as the legacy benefits: Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Income Support; Working Tax Credit; Child Tax Credit; Housing Benefit.

²⁵ The Citizens Advice (CA) service are a network of independent charities offering confidential, impartial advice online, over the phone and in person, for free.

Housing

Heating

- Of the 40,200 households in Babergh, most have central heating (98.9%). Over half of properties (55.1%) use mains gas as a single source of heating, although this is lower than the proportion across Suffolk (61.9%) and England as a whole (74.0%).²⁶
- A higher proportion of properties in Babergh instead use oil as a single source of heating compared with those elsewhere in Suffolk or England (19.6% compared with 13.2% in Suffolk and 3.2% in England), with over half of households using oil in the following wards: Box Vale (59.9%), North West Cosford (53.7%) and Stour (51.5%).
- Electric heating is the third most common type of heating, used by 8.9% of households as a single source of heating, similar to the Suffolk and England averages.

Housing costs

- Babergh's median property price (£333,000 in the twelve months to December 2022) is significantly above the median prices for Suffolk and England (Table 8), and highest of all the Suffolk districts.

Table 8: Median property prices (12 months ending December 2022)

Property type	Babergh	Suffolk	England
All house types	£ 333,000	£ 285,000	£ 286,000
Detached houses	£ 446,500	£ 420,000	£ 435,500
Semi-detached houses	£ 321,000	£ 275,000	£ 270,000
Terraced houses	£ 255,000	£ 228,000	£ 235,000
Flats or maisonettes	£ 165,000	£ 150,000	£ 230,000

Source: ONS House Price Statistics for Small Areas

- Housing affordability ratios are calculated by dividing (median) house prices by (median) gross annual full-time earnings²⁷ to create a ratio. A larger number reflects a less affordable area.
 - In Babergh, based on workplace-based earnings (the earnings of those who work in the district, though they may live elsewhere) house prices were 12.64 times earnings in 2022, compared with 8.91 across Suffolk and 10.08 across the East of England.
 - Looking at residence-based earnings (the earnings of the people who live in the area, though they may work elsewhere) house prices were 10.60 times earnings in 2022, compared with 8.93 across Suffolk and 9.55 across the East of England.

²⁶ Census 2021 separately classified households that had two or more types of central heating, however these were not broken down by energy type. Therefore, some of these households (11.2% in Babergh) could have had gas central heating also.

²⁷ Gross earnings refer to that remuneration received by employees in return for employment before any benefits are added or tax deductions are made (including National Insurance contributions).

- Private rental costs for two and three-bedroom properties in Babergh are broadly in line with the Suffolk average (based on median monthly rent). While median rental costs for four-bedroom properties are £150 per month below the county average, the median monthly rental cost for a one-bed property is £90 more (Table 9).

Table 9: Median monthly private rented costs (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)

Rental type	Babergh	Suffolk	England
1 Bedroom	£ 650	£ 560	£ 725
2 Bedrooms	£ 768	£ 750	£ 800
3 Bedrooms	£ 900	£ 900	£ 900
4 Bedrooms or more	£ 1,200	£ 1,350	£ 1,500

Source: ONS Private rental market summary statistics in England

Tenure

- A higher proportion of households in Babergh own their home outright (43.4%) than across Suffolk (38.6%) or England (32.5%). A further 28.3% own their home but have a mortgage/loan or shared ownership (Table 10).
- While a lower proportion of households rent privately in Babergh (15.0%) compared with Suffolk (18.9%) or England (20.6%), this equates to around 6,000 private-rented households in the district.

Table 10: Household tenure (Census 2021)

Tenure	Babergh	Suffolk	England
Owned outright	43.4%	38.6%	32.5%
Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	28.3%	27.5%	29.8%
Social-rented	13.3%	15.0%	17.1%
Private-rented or lives rent free	15.0%	18.9%	20.6%

Number of bedrooms and occupancy

- Compared with the national average, Babergh has a higher proportion of properties with four or more bedrooms (27.8% compared with 21.1%) and a much lower proportion of properties with only one bedroom - given a lower proportion of flats (Figure 5).
- Occupancy ratings indicate whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded, ideally occupied or under-occupied. This is calculated by comparing the number of bedrooms the household requires (based on its occupants, including the age and sex of any children) to the number of available bedrooms.
- Nearly half of households in Babergh (46.9%) have at least two bedrooms more than required, compared with 35.6% across England. More than six-in-ten households in the Capel St Mary and Brett Vale wards (63.1% and 62.2% respectively) are classified as having at least two bedrooms more than required.

- Just under one-in-five (18.2%) have the ideal number of bedrooms needed for the household, below the England average (Figure 6). Around 600 households in the district (1.5%) are classified as being overcrowded (having fewer bedrooms than required).

Figure 5: Number of bedrooms (Census 2021)

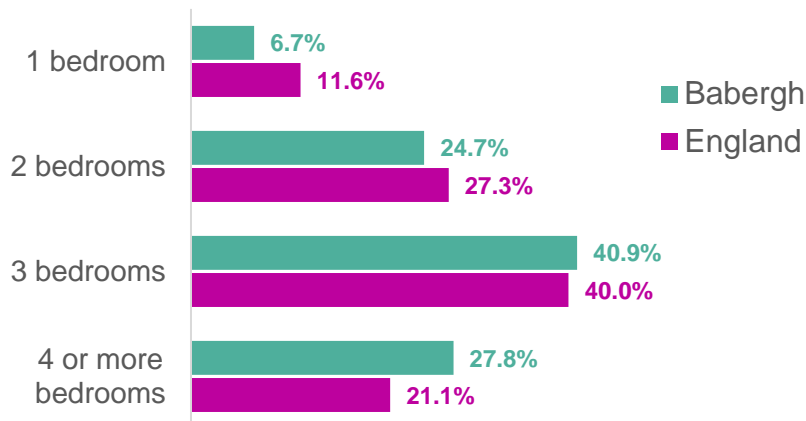
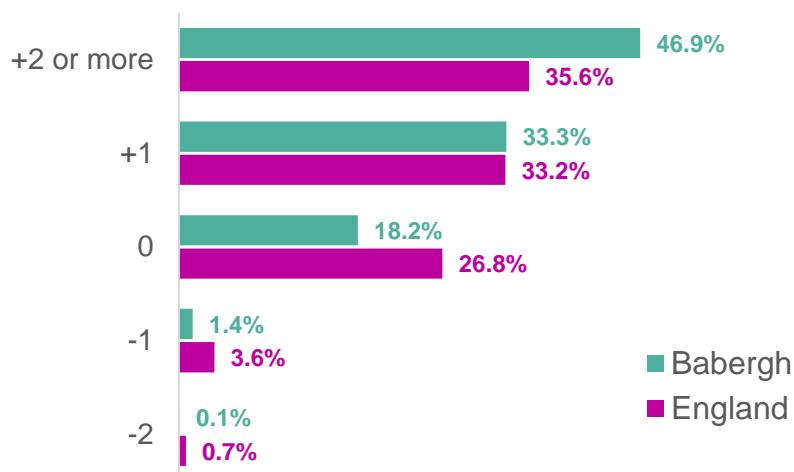


Figure 6: Occupancy rating for bedrooms (Census 2021)



Homelessness

- During the 2021-22 financial year, there were 295 households in Babergh assessed as homeless²⁸, including 105 with dependent children. This was equivalent to 2.2 households per thousand, which was lower than the rates for the East of England (5.1 per 1,000) and England (6.1 per 1,000).

²⁸ Based on those owed a prevention or relief duty following an initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed.

Data sources

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
People	Population	Population by age	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Population projections	2018-based subnational population projections for England	Office for National Statistics
	Population by ward	Population by ward and age	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Households, deprivation and digital exclusion	Number of households / household composition	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Household projections	2018-based household projections for England	Office for National Statistics
		Deprivation	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
		Broadband coverage	Local broadband information	thinkbroadband
Internet usage and confidence	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey 2022	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils		
Environment and Biodiversity	Emissions	Territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates	UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics (2005-2021)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
		Plug-in vehicles	Licensed plug-in vehicles at the end of the quarter by body type, fuel type, keepership and upper and lower tier local authority (Q4 2022)	Department for Transport / Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
		Electric vehicle charging points	Electric vehicle charging device statistics (April 2023)	Department for Transport
	Biodiversity	Wildlife sites and biodiversity designations	Compiled from Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service data, Ramsar Sites Information Service data and internal GIS data (June 2023)	Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Ramsar Sites Information Service, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Tree canopy cover (district)	Treeconomics tree canopy cover assessment of Babergh and Mid Suffolk (2021)	Treeconomics / Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Tree canopy cover (national)	UK ward canopy cover, March 2023 dataset (data collected 2018-22)	Forestry Commission
		Amenity grass managed as wildflower meadow	Internal data	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation	
Economy	Economic activity	Economic activity	Annual Population Survey (2022)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)	
	Out-of-work benefits	Out-of-work benefits claimants	Claimant count	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)	
	Employment sectors, pay and productivity	Jobs density	Jobs density (2021)	Jobs density (2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)
		Employee jobs by full/part-time	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)
		Employee jobs by sector	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	Office for National Statistics
		Employee jobs by industry	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)
		Labour productivity	Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district (2004-2021)	Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district (2004-2021)	Office for National Statistics
		Median earnings (workplace-based)	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2022)	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2022)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via NOMIS)
	Qualifications	Highest level of qualification (16 to 64-year-olds)	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics	
Occupation types	Occupational classification of residents in employment	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics		
Health and Wellbeing	Life expectancy	Life expectancy	Life expectancy data by sex, age and area (2018-2020)	Office for National Statistics	
		Life expectancy inequality	Slope index of inequality (2018-2020)	Office for Health Improvements and Disparities (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)	
		Deaths from cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, or cancers	Under 75 mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases / respiratory diseases / cancer (2021)	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (based on Office for National Statistics source data)	

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
		Infant mortality rates	Infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births (2019-2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
	Health and risk behaviours	Self-reported health	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Proportion of adults that smoke	Annual Population Survey (2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
		Proportion of adults meet the recommended '5-a-day' fruit and vegetable target	Active Lives Survey 2021/22	Sport England (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
		Proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese	Active Lives Survey 2021/22	Sport England (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
		Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) children in Year 6	National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) 2021/2022	NHS Digital (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)
		Levels of physical activity among adults	Active Lives Survey 2021/22	Sport England
	Mental health and wellbeing	Self-reported personal wellbeing (district results)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey 2022	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Self-reported personal wellbeing (national results)	Community Life Survey 2021/22	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
		Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm	Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (age standardised rate, all ages) (2021/22)	Office for Health Improvements and Disparities from data from NHS Digital Hospital Episode Statistics
		Suicide rate	Age-standardised mortality rate from suicide and injury of undetermined intent (2019-2021)	Office for National Statistics (data sourced via OHID Fingertips public health data)

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
Community	Local area and community	Local area satisfaction and pride, community strength and belonging (district results)	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey 2022	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
		Local area satisfaction and pride, community strength and belonging (national results)	Community Life Survey 2021/22	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
	Access to services	Access to services – resident perceptions	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey 2022	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
	Cost of living and poverty	Fuel poverty	Sub-regional fuel poverty 2023 (2021 data)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
		Home heating – use of oil	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Heating oil average price	RPI: Ave price - Heating oil, per 1000 litres (Source dataset: Consumer price inflation time series dataset)	Office for National Statistics
		Children living in poverty after housing costs	Local child poverty indicators – estimates of rates, after housing costs (2021/22)	Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University (produced for the End Child Poverty Coalition)
		Universal Credit claims	People aged 16-65 on Universal Credit (June 2023)	Department for Work and Pensions (data sourced via Suffolk Observatory)
		Number of people helped with debt enquiries by the Citizens Advice service	Suffolk cost of living dashboard	Citizens Advice (CA) Mid Suffolk / Suffolk County Council Public Health & Communities team
	Community safety and crime	Overall crime rate	Number / rate of crimes 12 month rolling count (May 2022 – April 2023)	data.police.uk (data sourced via Suffolk Observatory)
		Perceptions of safety during the day/after dark	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Residents Survey 2022	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

Theme	Section	Measure	Source	Organisation
Housing	Heating	Home heating	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Housing costs	Median property prices	House price statistics for small areas (HPSSAs) (year ending Dec 1995 to year ending Dec 2022)	Office for National Statistics
		Housing affordability ratio (workplace-based earnings)	House price to workplace-based earnings ratio (year ending September 2002 to year ending September 2022)	Office for National Statistics
		Housing affordability ratio (residence-based earnings)	House price to residence-based earnings ratio (year ending September 2002 to year ending September 2022)	Office for National Statistics
		Median private rental costs	Private rental market statistics (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023)	Office for National Statistics
	Tenure	Household tenure	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Number of bedrooms and occupancy	Number of bedrooms	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
		Occupancy rating for bedrooms	Census 2021	Office for National Statistics
	Homelessness	Number of households assessed as homeless	Statutory homelessness: detailed local authority-level tables (April 2021 - March 2022)	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities