

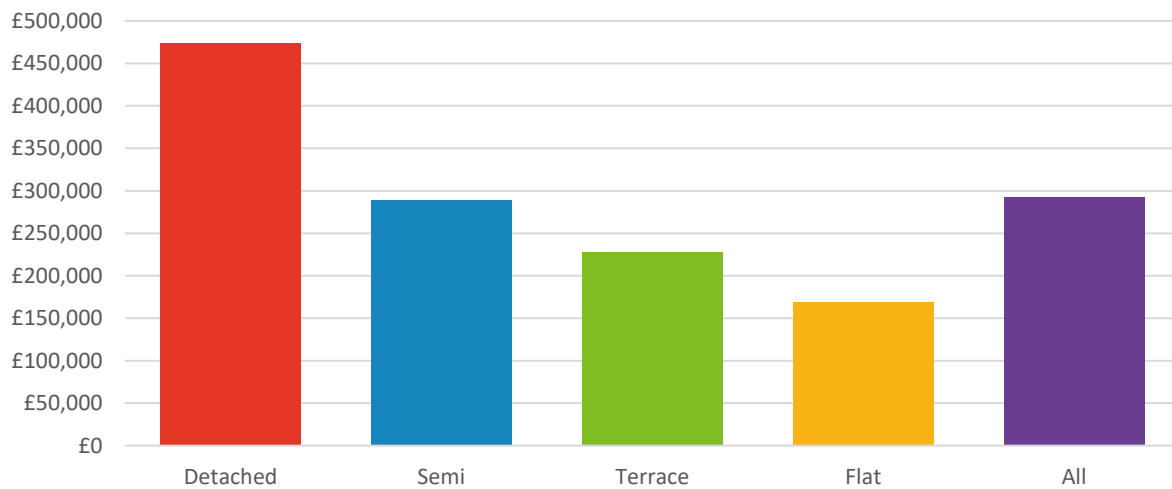
Bedford



Residential Analysts

1. Affordability

Average house prices

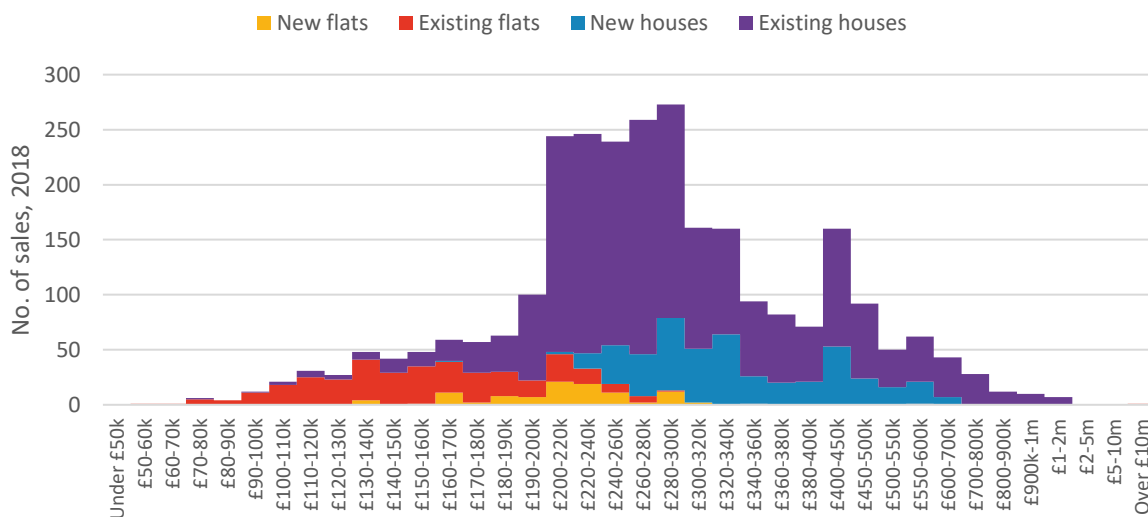


Source: HM Land Registry Price Paid Data

The average house price in Bedford in 2018 was £293,000. The median ratio of house prices to local earnings is 9.4. This is higher than the England average of 8.0, suggesting high house prices are likely to be an issue.

According to 2016 ONS data, the average price per square metre was £2,630 with the average price per bedroom £57,654 - the corresponding national average figures were £2,463 and £55,087.

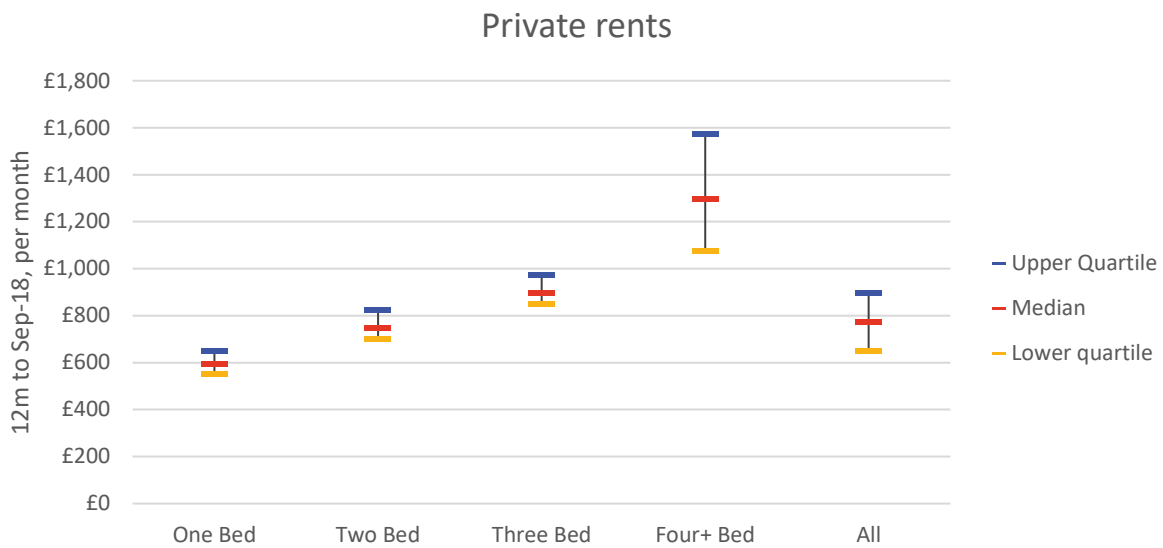
Sales distribution by house price



Source: HM Land Registry Price Paid Data

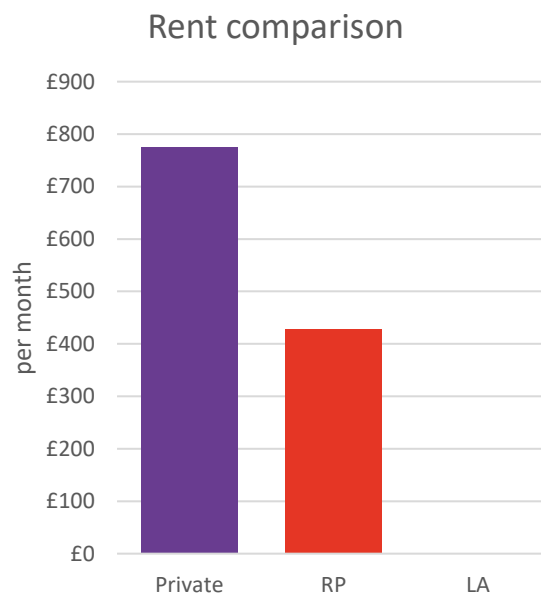
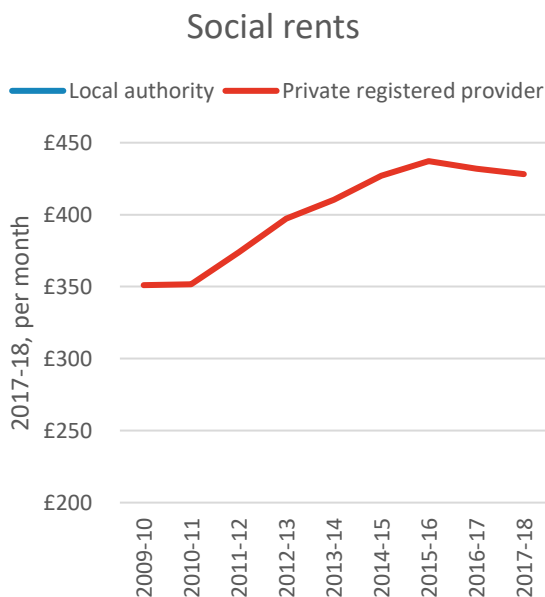
New homes made up 19.7% of the total 2,814 sales recorded by the Land Registry in 2018. 15.5% of total sales were flats, and 63.3% were under £300,000. By comparison, 66.0% of transactions nationally were under £300,000.

1. Affordability



Source: VOA Private Rental Market Statistics

Private rents in Bedford in the 12 months to September 2018 ranged from £550 per month for a lower quartile one bed to £1,575 for an upper quartile four (or more) bed property. The overall median private rent was £775, which is higher than the England average of £690, suggesting high private rents are likely to be a problem.

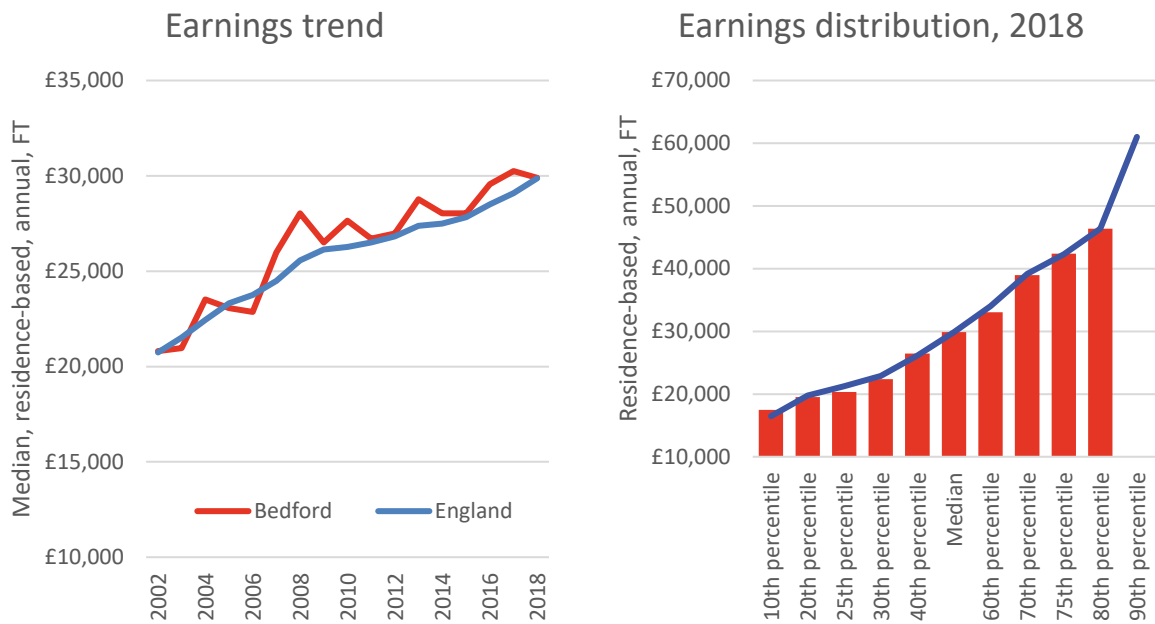


Source: MHCLG Live Tables on Rents, Lettings and Tenancies; VOA Private Rental Market Statistics

Social rents are approximately 55% of private rents in Bedford. Average social rents have increased 7.8% over the past five years, compared with 9.3% at national level.

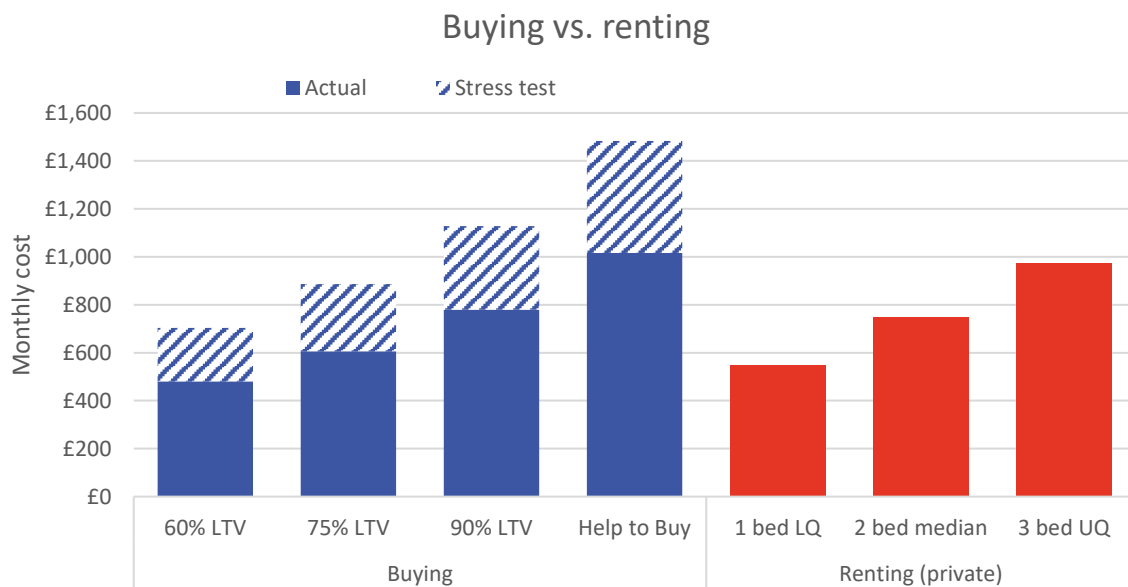
Note: Social rents based on simple average of RP and local authority stock, or RPs only where no local authority stock (e.g. LSVT).

1. Affordability



Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

The median full-time earnings in Bedford were £29,890 in 2018, compared to £29,869 in England. Half of local full-time workers earn between the lower quartile of £20,358 and the upper quartile of £42,374, compared to national figures of £21,273 and £42,285.

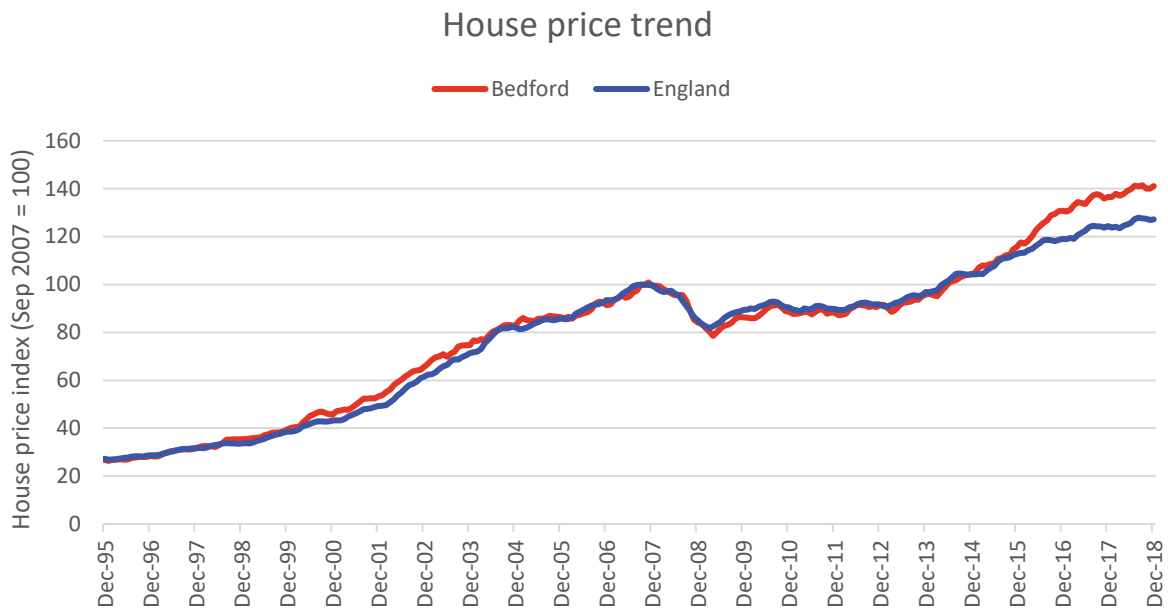


Source: HM Land Registry Price Paid Data; VOA Private Rental Market Statistics; Bank of England

This chart shows a simple comparison of initial mortgage costs and rents for a range of scenarios to represent potential FTB decisions.

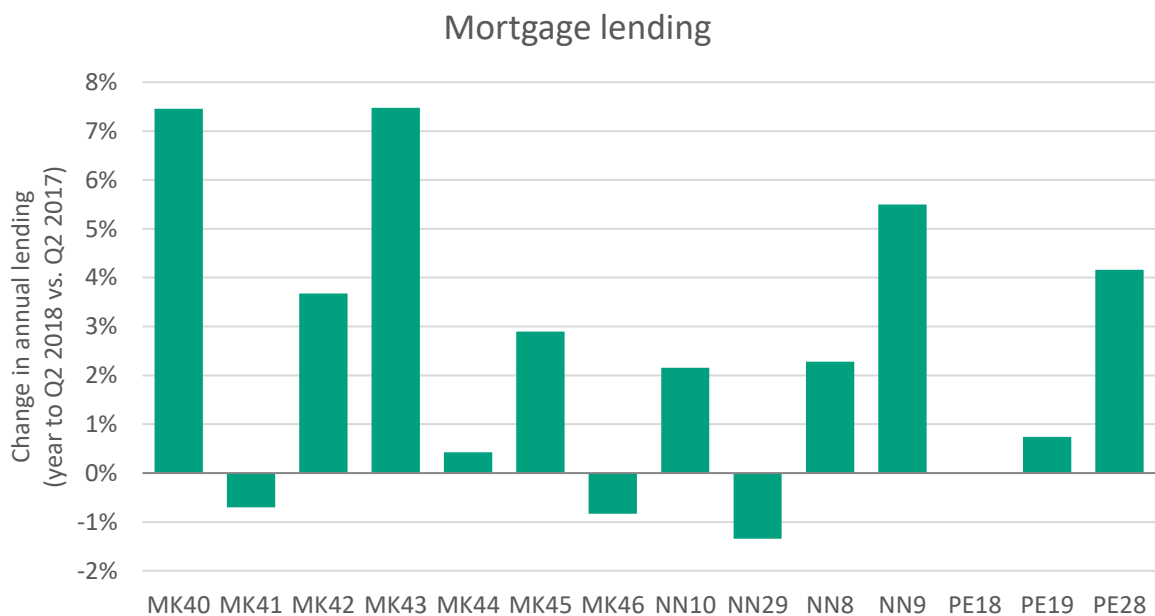
Note: Buying scenarios based on average terraced house value (flat in London), lower of £600k (HTB limit) or average new build for HTB, and includes +3% mortgage rate stress test.

1. Affordability



Source: HM Land Registry UK House Price Index

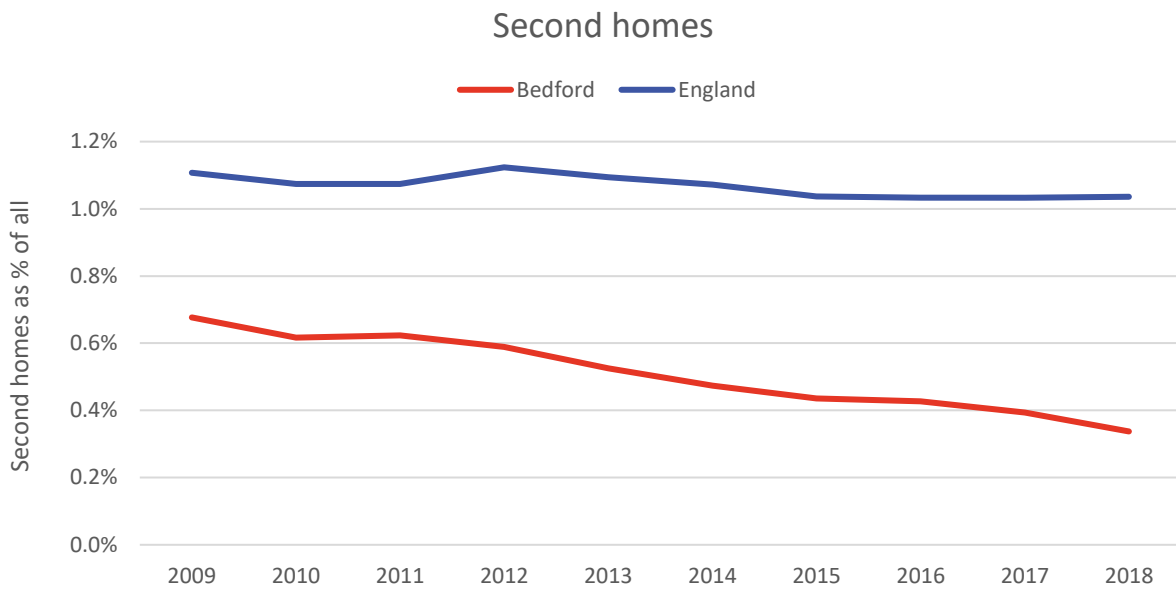
House prices in Bedford in December 2018 are higher than their 2007/08 peak by 39.9%, compared with England at +27.3%. This suggests that rapid house price growth through the current cycle is likely to be a significant local problem. Values in 2018 increased by 3.3% annually. An indicative rental yield (based on ave 2 bed rent vs. ave flat sales value) for Bedford is 5.3%, compared with 3.4% nationally.



Source: UK Finance

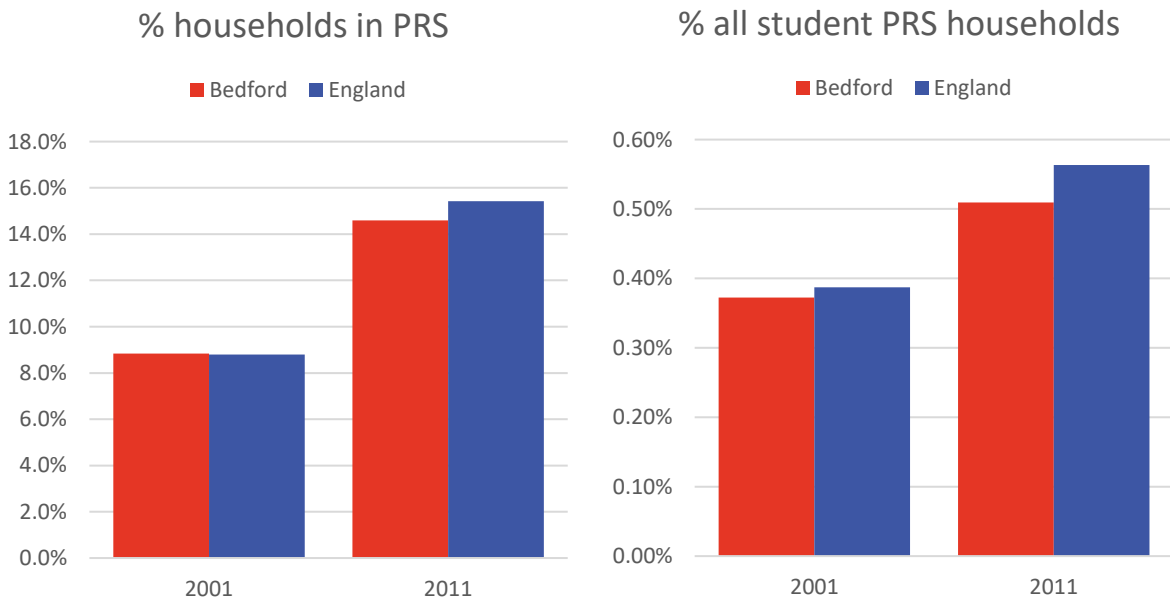
This chart shows the change in mortgage lending across the postcode districts in Bedford. The total volume of lending in the 12 months to Q2 2018 was £7,691 million, compared with £7,460 million a year earlier, a change of +3.1%.

1. Affordability



Source: Council Tax Base

0.3% of residential properties in Bedford were recorded as second homes in 2018 according to Council Tax Base data. This is significantly lower than the England average, suggesting high levels of second home ownership are unlikely to be a problem, though other sources should be considered.

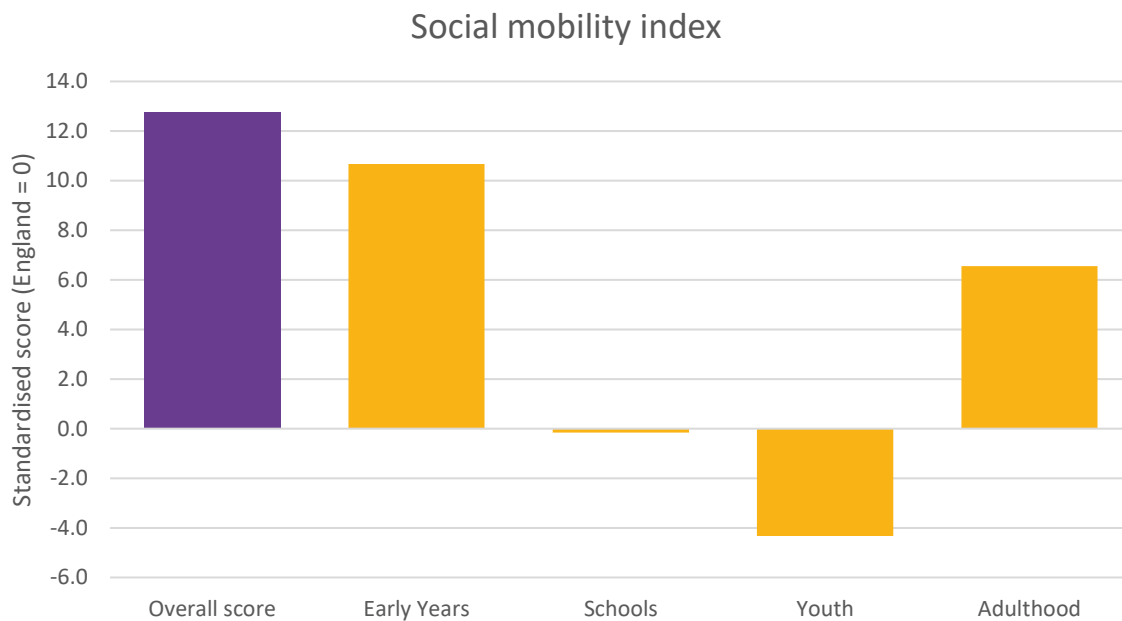


Source: 2001 and 2011 Census

14.6% of households in Bedford were rented privately according to the 2011 Census, compared to 8.8% in 2001. The England average changed from 8.8% to 15.4% over the same period.

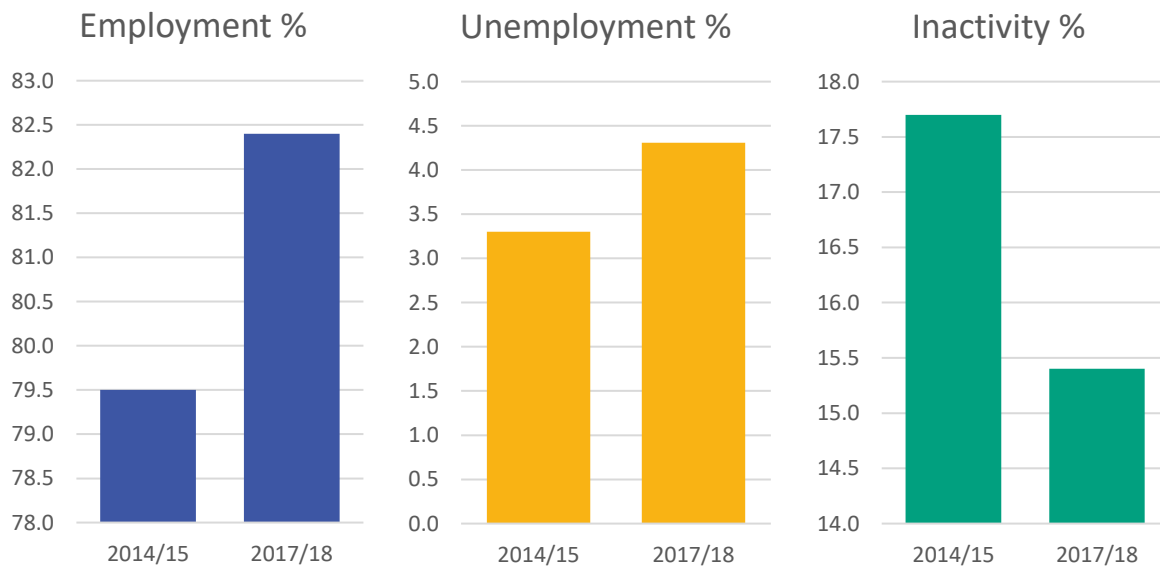
3.5% of the PRS households in Bedford comprised only students in 2011, compared with 3.7% in England, suggesting students are not a significant part of the local PRS market.

1. Affordability



Source: Social Mobility Index

Bedford received an overall standardised score of 12.8 in the 2017 Social Mobility Index, compared to the England average of zero. Bedford ranks as 109/324 for overall score across all English local authorities for which data is available. Local house price affordability could be a further barrier to social mobility in this area.

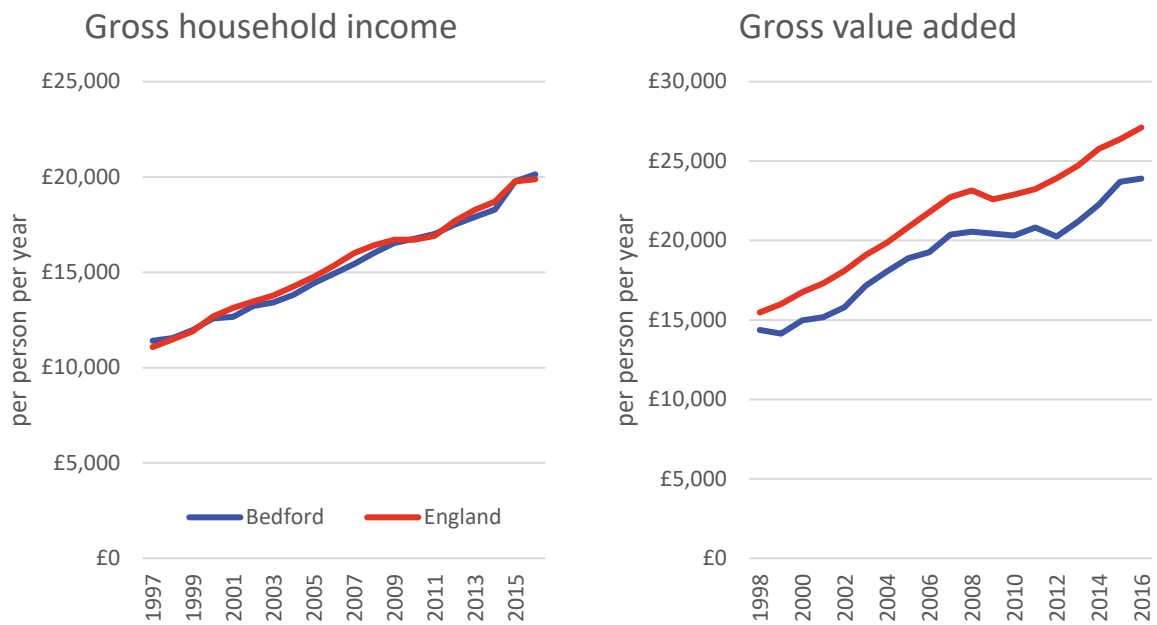


Source: ONS Local Labour Market Indicators

Employment in Bedford changed from 79.5% in 2014/15 to 82.4% in 2017/18; unemployment changed from 3.3% to 4.3%; and economic inactivity changed from 17.7% to 15.4%.

By comparison, employment in England changed from 73.6% in 2014/15 to 75.3% in 2017/18; unemployment changed from 5.3% to 4.2%; and economic inactivity changed from 22.2% to 21.3%.

1. Affordability

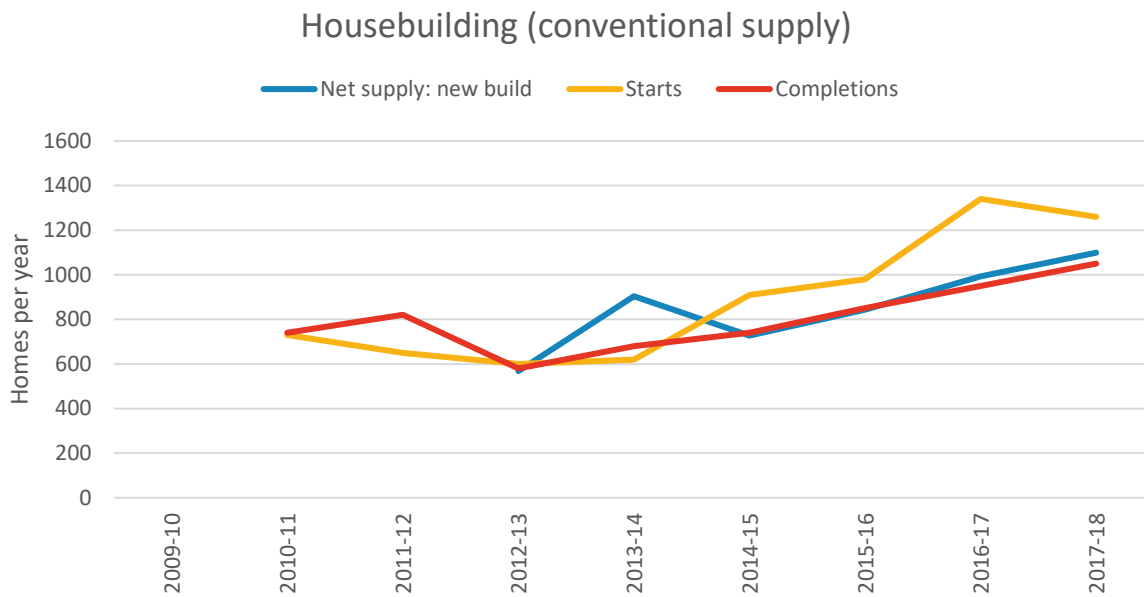


Source: ONS Regional Accounts

Gross domestic household income in Bedford was £20,136 per person per year in 2016, compared with £14,935 in 2006. By comparison the figure for England changed from £15,349 to £19,878 over the same period. Based on this measure, Bedford is an area of typical affluence.

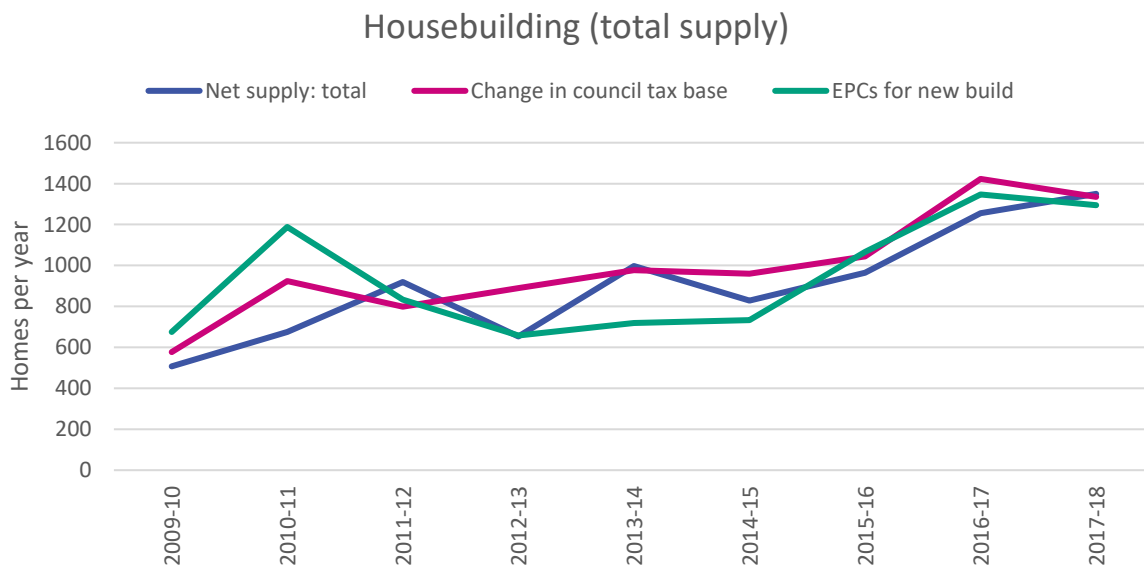
Gross value added at district level was £23,895 per person per year in 2016, compared with £19,268 a decade earlier. By comparison the figure for England changed from £21,773 to £27,108 over the same period.

2. Availability



Source: MHCLG Live Tables 253a and 122

The measures of 'conventional' housebuilding for Bedford are shown in this chart. The 'official' MHCLG supply figures for 2017-18 recorded 1,099 new build completions (excluding any conversions or change of use). Over the same period 1,050 completions were recorded in the 'unofficial' quarterly data, along with 1,260 starts.



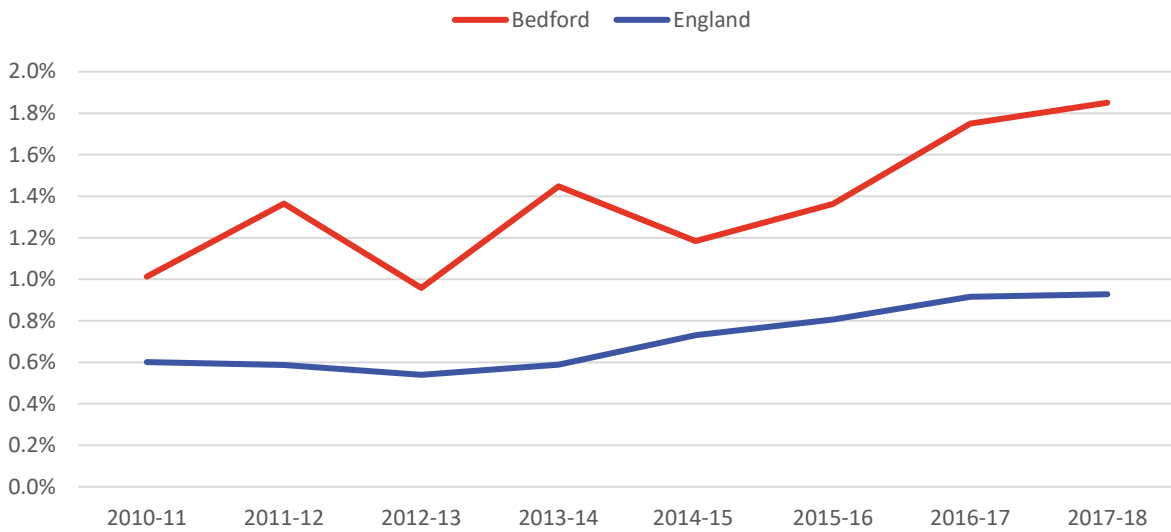
Source: MHCLG Live Table 122; MHCLG Live tables on Energy Performance of Buildings Certificates; Council Tax Base

This chart shows total supply for Bedford. The 'official' MHCLG supply figures for 2017-18 recorded 1,350 net new homes in total (including conversions and change of use, and after demolitions), and the Council Tax Base changed by +1,336 homes in the same period.

EPCs issued for new homes are used as a lead indicator of supply and can often be used to estimate net supply: 1,448 were recorded in the 2018 calendar year in Bedford.

2. Availability

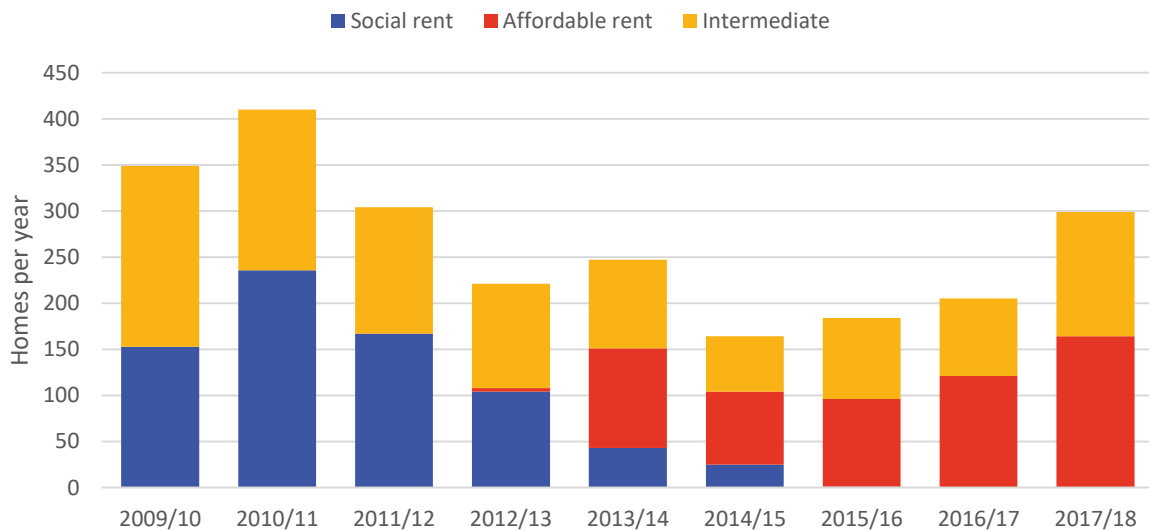
Net additions as % of stock



Source: MHCLG Live Tables 100 and 122

The net new supply in Bedford increased the existing housing stock by 1.9% in 2017/18. This is much higher than the England average of 0.9%, suggesting the level of local supply is unlikely to be an issue. Note that the Government's national target of 300,000 homes per year is equivalent to 1.3%.

Affordable delivery

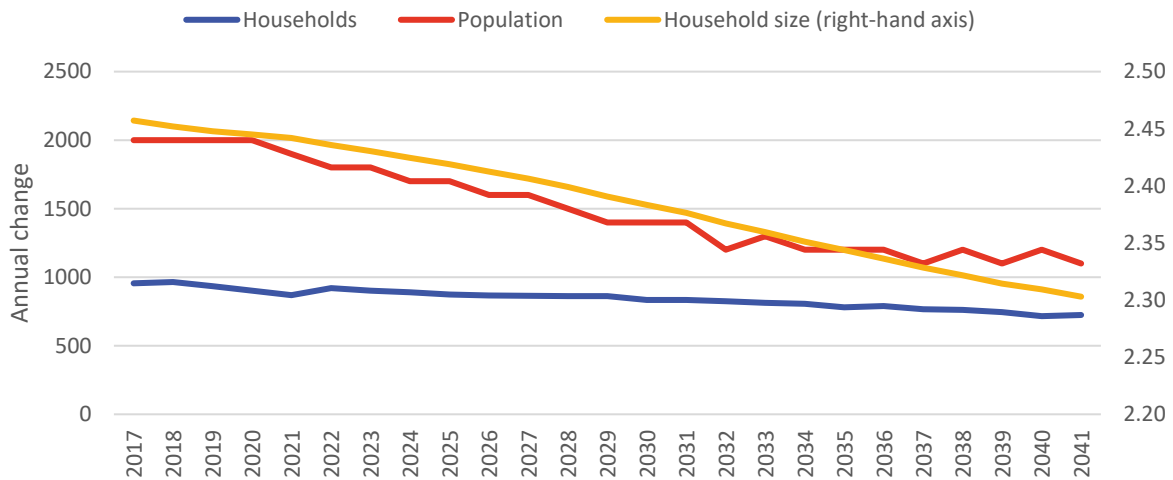


Source: MHCLG Live Tables 1006C, 1006aC and 1007C

The previous analysis in this section covers delivery of all tenures / by all types of developer. This chart shows only delivery of affordable housing. In Bedford 299 new affordable homes were completed in 2017/18: 0 for social rent, 164 for affordable rent and 135 intermediate affordable homes.

2. Availability

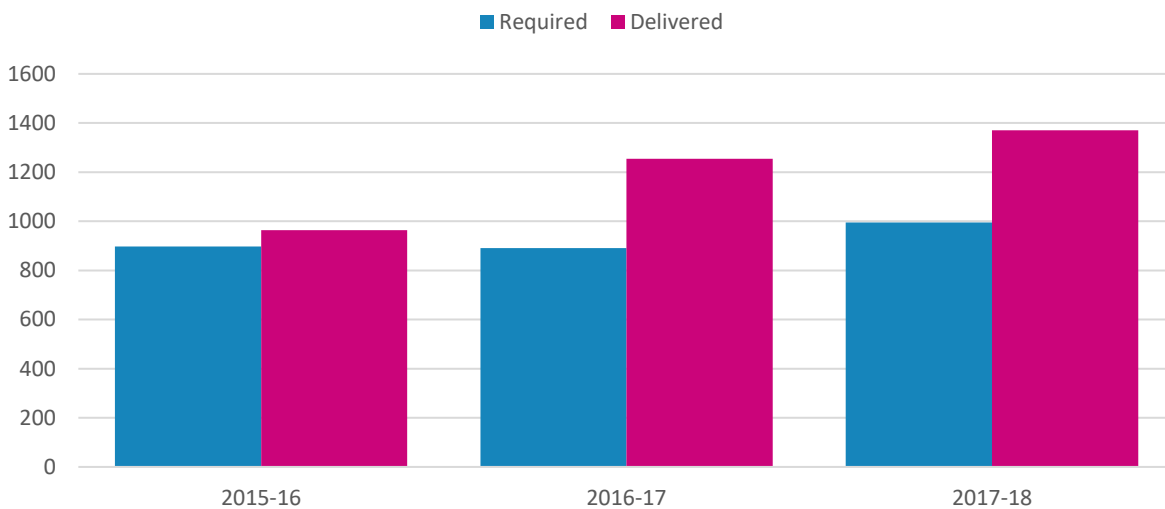
Household and population projections



Source: ONS 2016-based Sub-national Population and Household Projections

Population growth in Bedford is set to average 1,436 people per year from 2020 to 2041, with projected average annual household growth of 828 households over the same period. The average household size in 2020 is projected to be 2.44, and 2.30 in 2041.

Housing delivery test

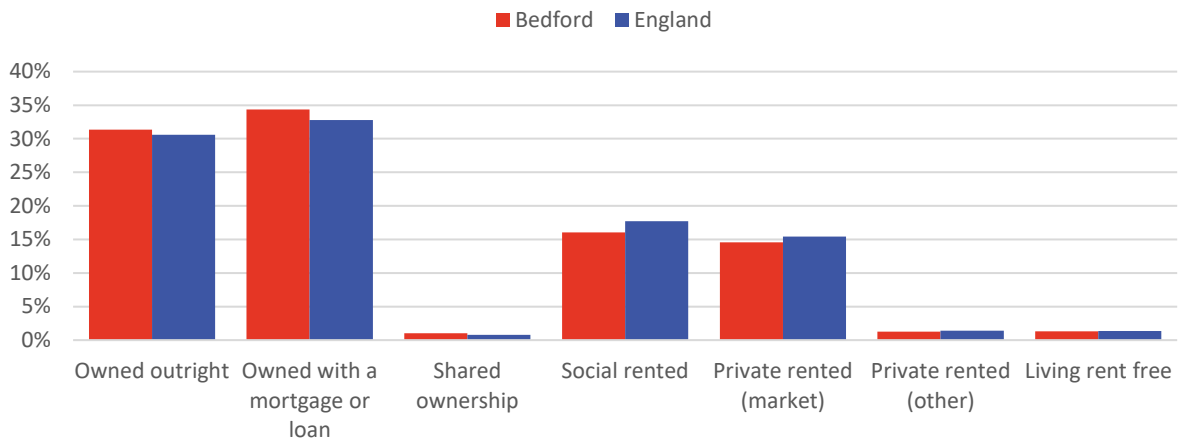


Source: MHCLG Housing Delivery Test 2018 Measurement

The most recent figures show that Bedford delivered more new homes than required by the MHCLG Housing Delivery Test. 3,590 net new homes were supplied over the past three full years, compared with the 2,784 required. The result of the test is that no action is required.

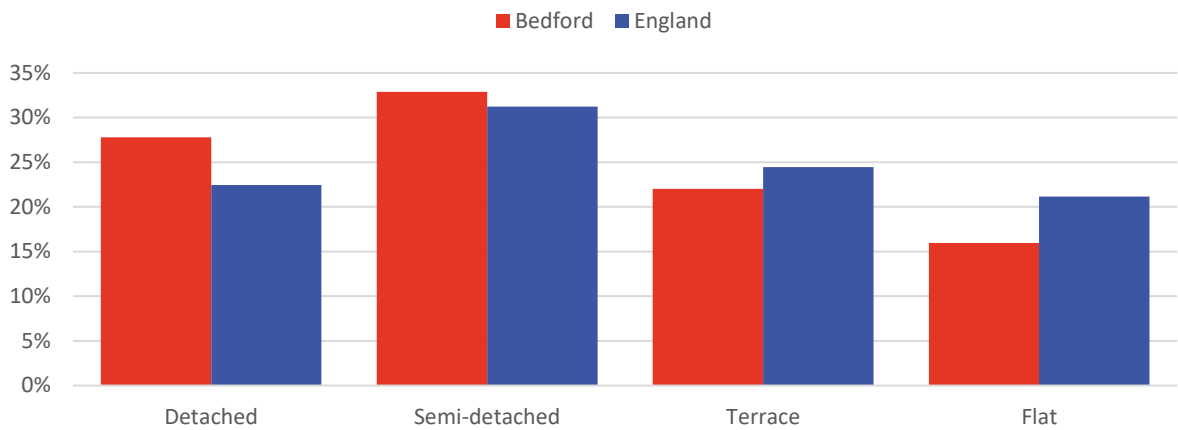
2. Availability

Tenure



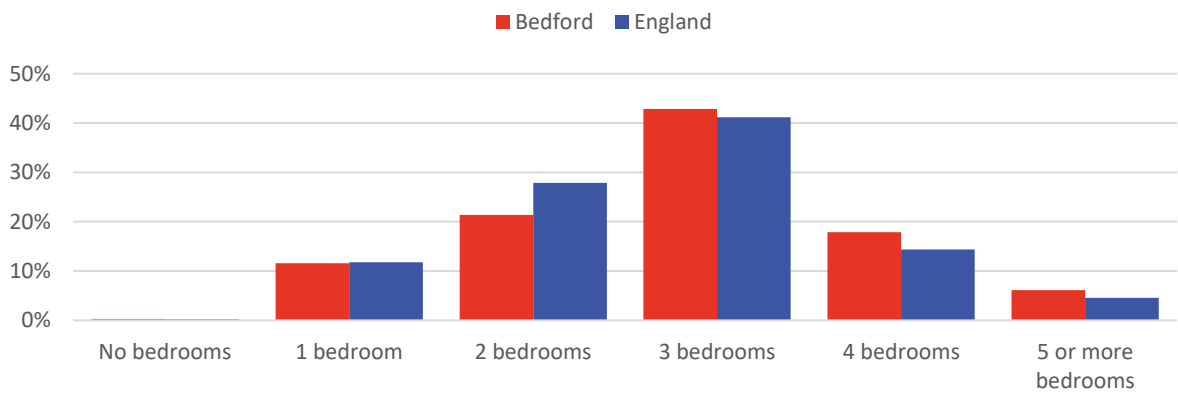
Source: 2011 Census

Property type



Source: 2011 Census

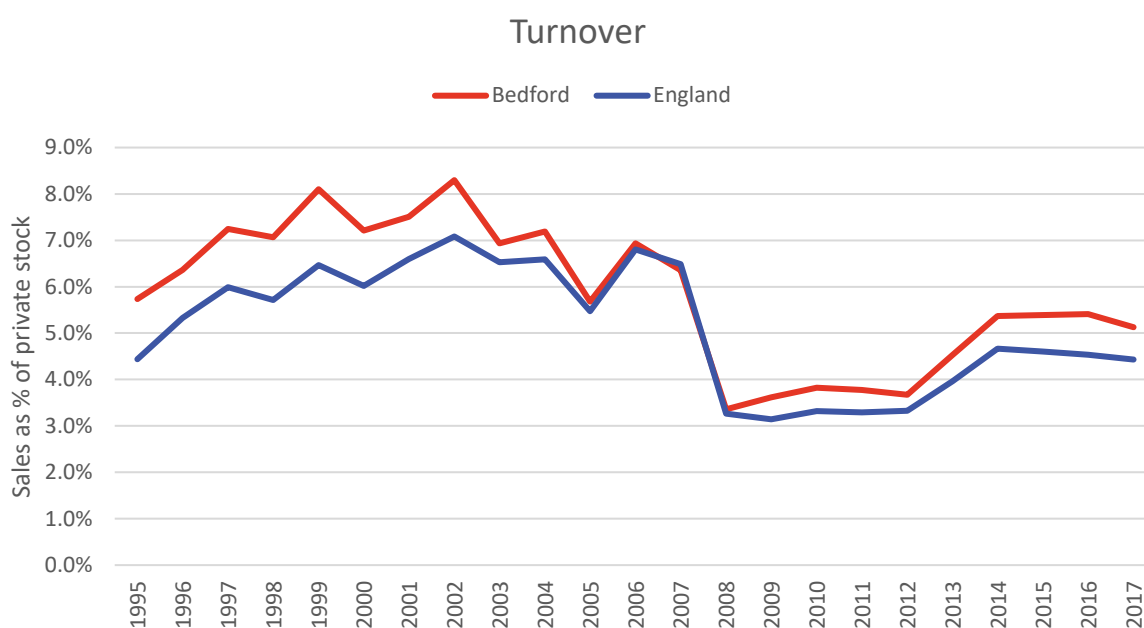
Number of bedrooms



Source: 2011 Census

These three charts show property characteristics for Bedford from the 2011 Census, compared to the national averages.

2. Availability

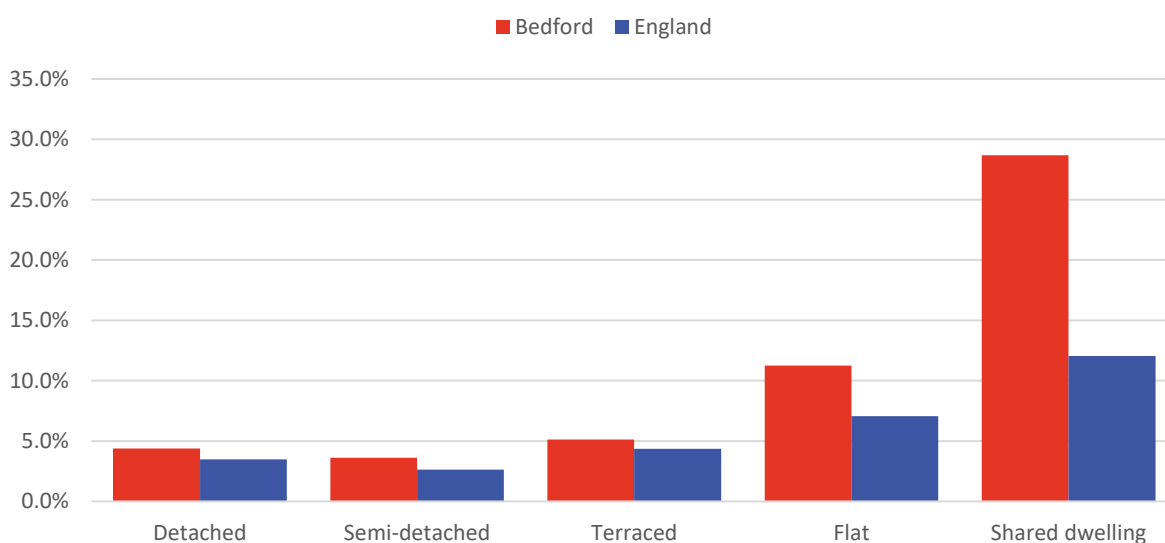


Source: HM Land Registry Price Paid Data

Turnover in Bedford was 5.1% in 2017 (the latest year with full data). This is significantly lower than the average before the global financial crisis (turnover from 2001-05 averaged 7.1%). For comparison turnover in England was 4.4% in 2017.

Note that the above analysis includes both standard Land Registry 'A' data and additional 'B' data (which covers reposessions, mortgaged buy-to-let and corporate transactions). In Bedford in 2017 there were 253 'B' sales, 8.1% of the total.

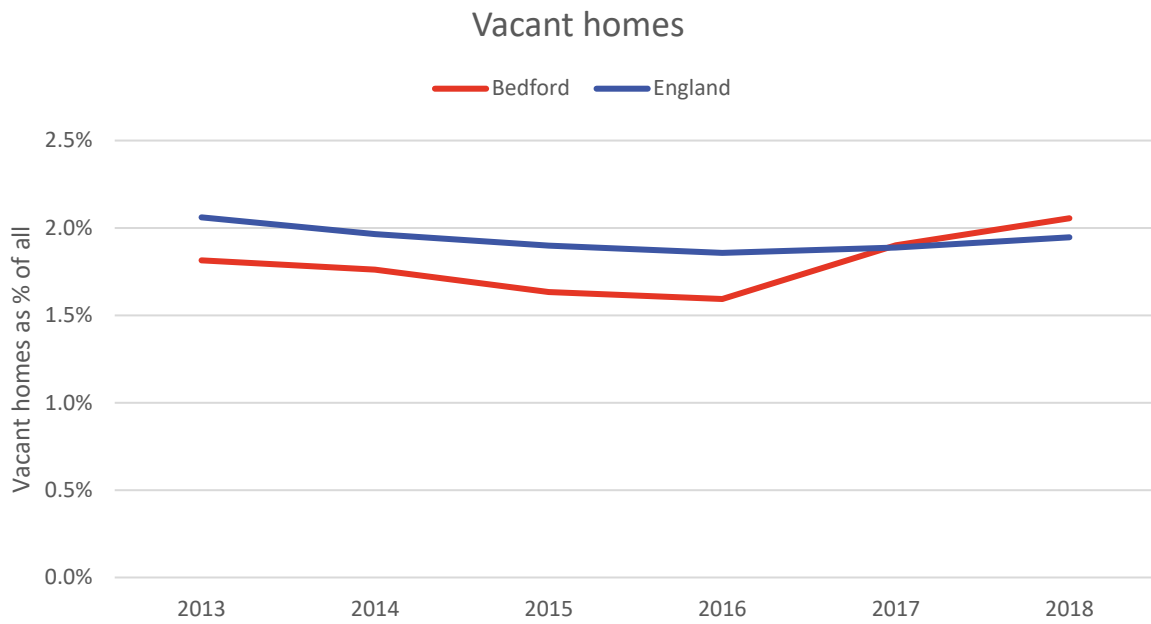
Homes with no usual residents



Source: 2011 Census

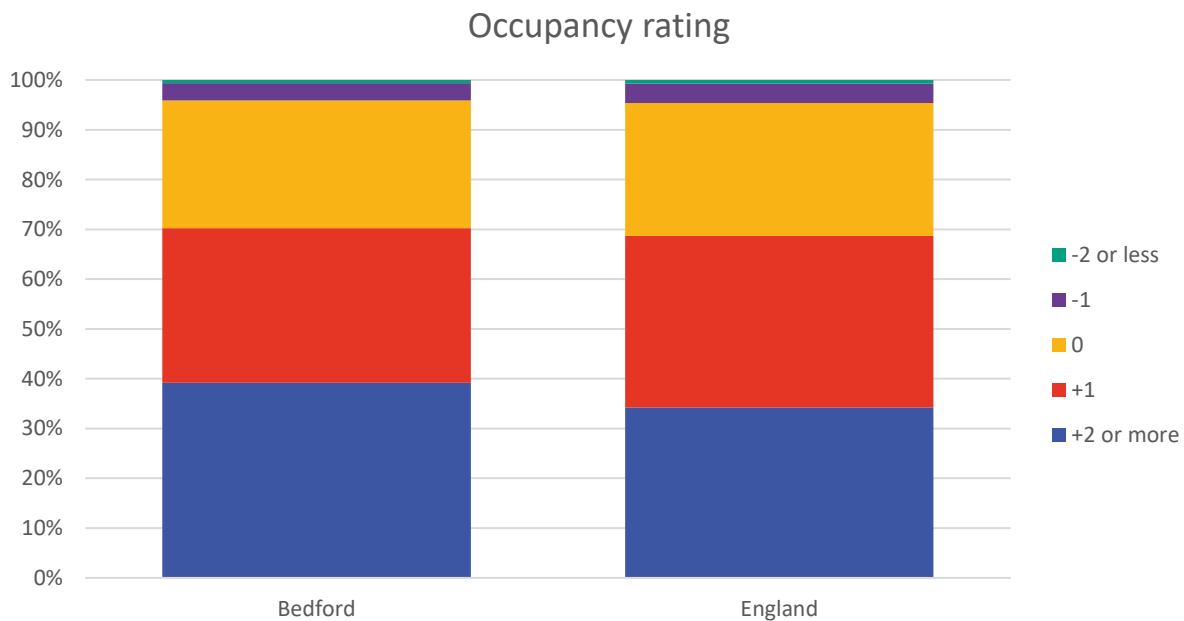
The proportion of homes with no usual residents in Bedford was 5.7% according to the 2011 Census. This level is significantly higher than the England average of 4.3%.

2. Availability



Source: Council Tax Base

2.1% of residential properties in Bedford were recorded as vacant in 2018 according to Council Tax Base data. This is approximately the same as the England average, suggesting high levels of vacant homes may be a problem.

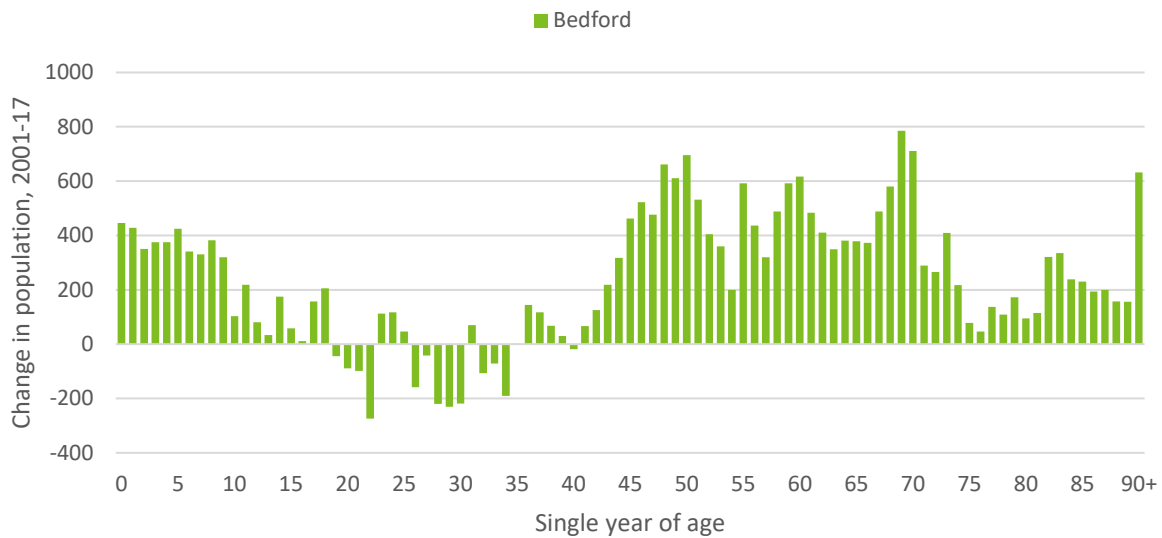


Source: 2011 Census

39.2% of homes in Bedford had two or more spare bedroom, according to the 2011 Census. This is higher than the England average, suggesting the distribution of housing is likely to be a problem.

2. Availability

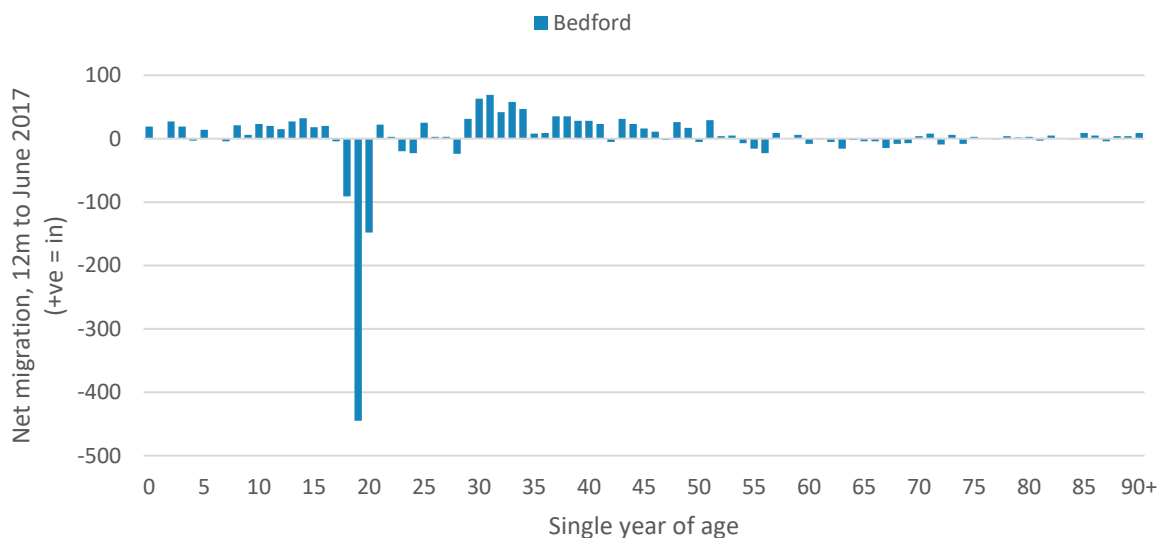
Population change by age, 2001-17



Source: ONS Population Estimates

Overall, the population of Bedford grew between 2001 and 2017, changing by +14.7%. Overall growth at national level over the same period was +12.5%. By age, the largest single contribution to growth was from 69 year olds.

Net migration by age

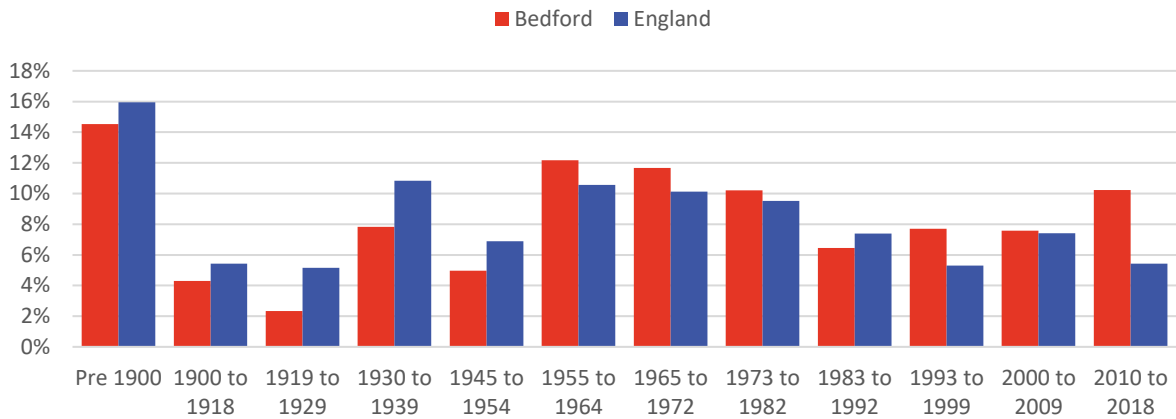


Source: ONS Local Area Migration Indicators

The overall population in Bedford changed by +0.3% due to migration in the 12 months to June 2017: +0.1% from domestic sources and +0.2% from international. By age, the largest single contribution to growth was from 31 year olds.

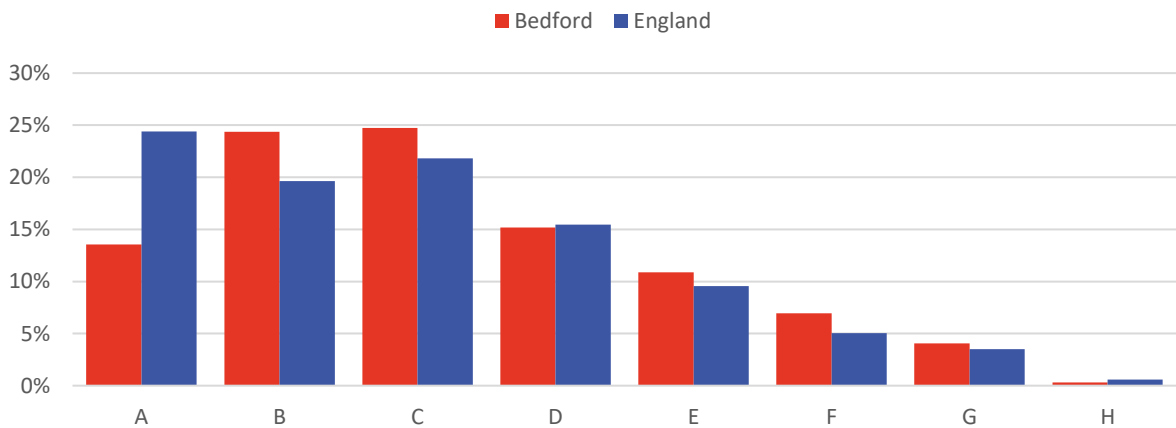
3. Suitability

Age of housing stock



Source: Council Tax Base

Council Tax band



Source: Council Tax Base

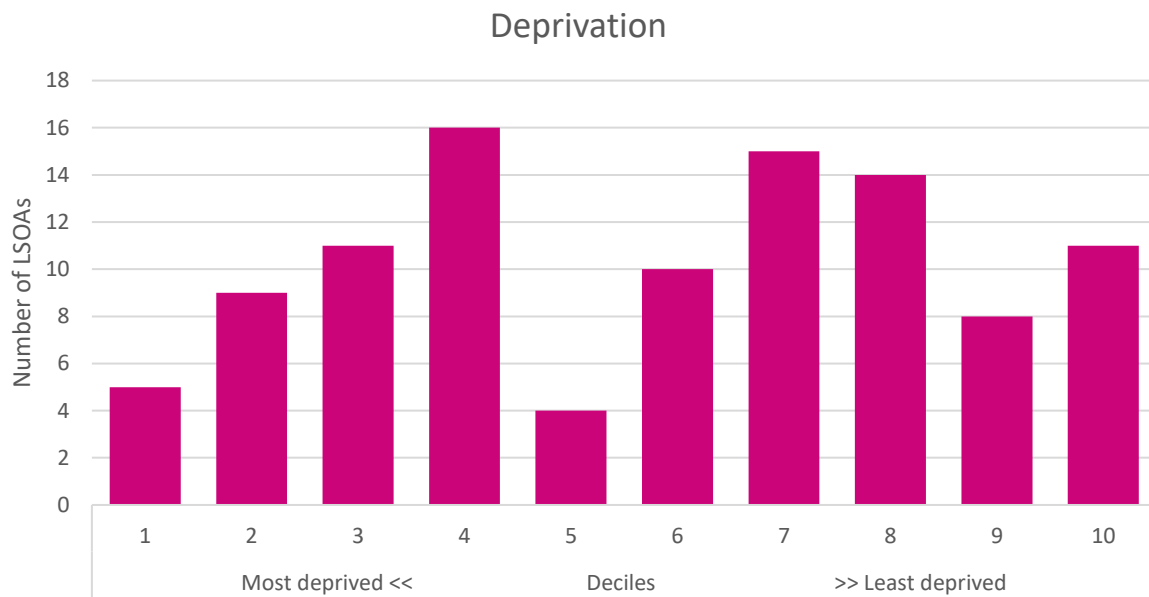
EPC rating



Source: Council Tax Base

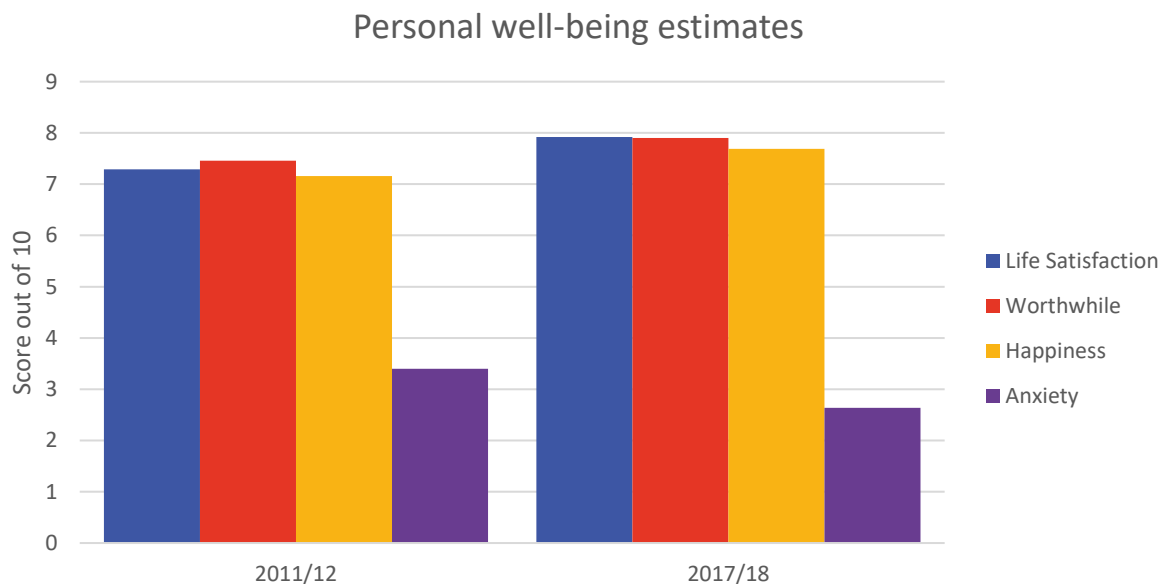
These three charts show property characteristics for Bedford from the 2018 Council Tax Base, compared to the national averages.

3. Suitability



Source: 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

24% of the LSOAs in Bedford are in the three most deprived deciles, based on the 2015 indices of multiple deprivation. This suggests it is an area of low relative deprivation (the national average is 30%).



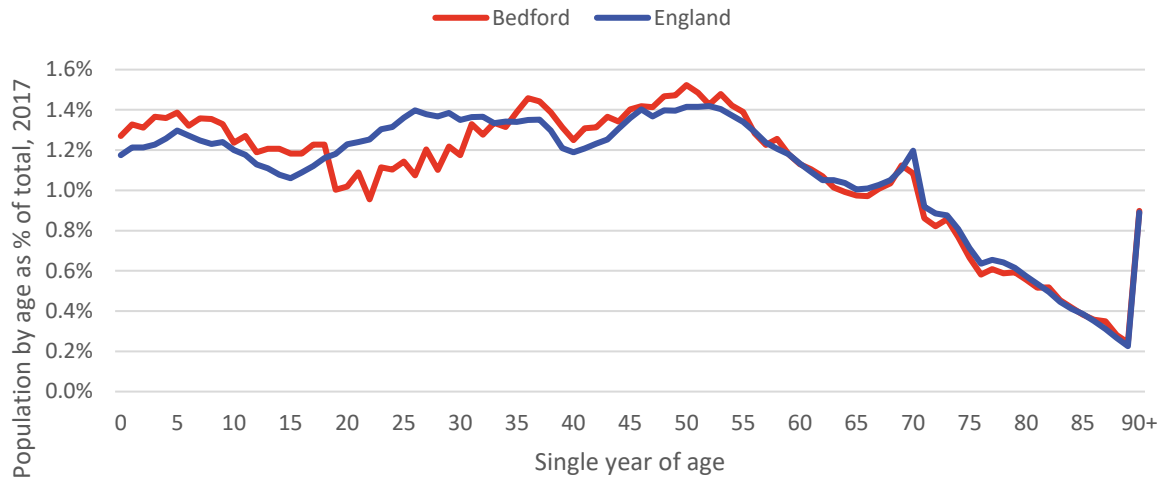
Source: Annual Population Survey (Headline estimates of personal well-being)

Residents of Bedford scored their life satisfaction at 7.92 out of 10 on average in 2017/18, compared to the England average of 7.68. The corresponding figures for 2011/12 were 7.29 and 7.41 respectively.

Over all four categories combined, local people have higher than average levels of well-being in 2017/18, compared to the national figures.

3. Suitability

Population structure

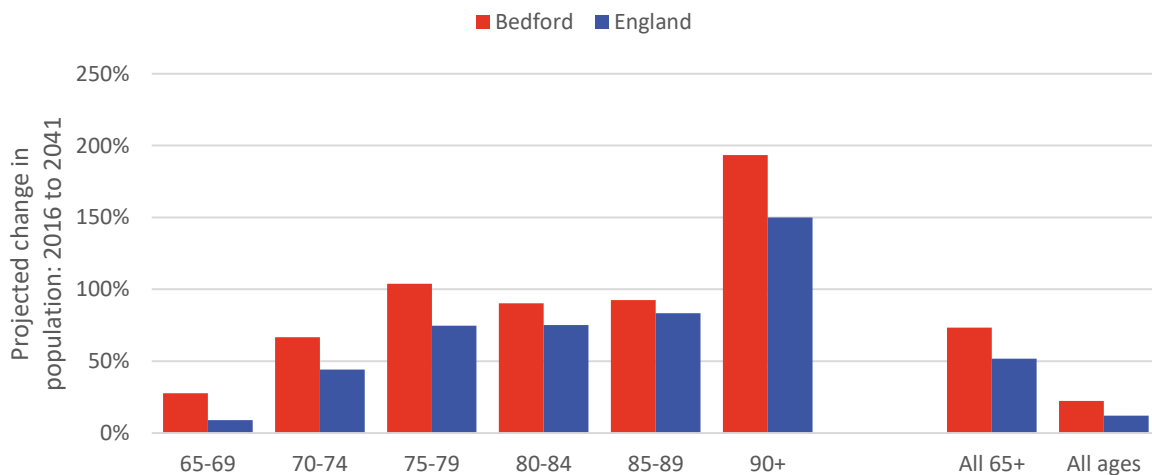


Source: ONS Population Estimates

The population structure of Bedford comprised 7.5% aged 18 to 24, 51.9% aged 25 to 64, and 17.5% aged 65 and over in 2017. The corresponding figures for England were 8.7%, 51.9% and 18.0%.

This suggests that the local population may include a lower than average level of students, along with an average level of older people.

Population growth: older people

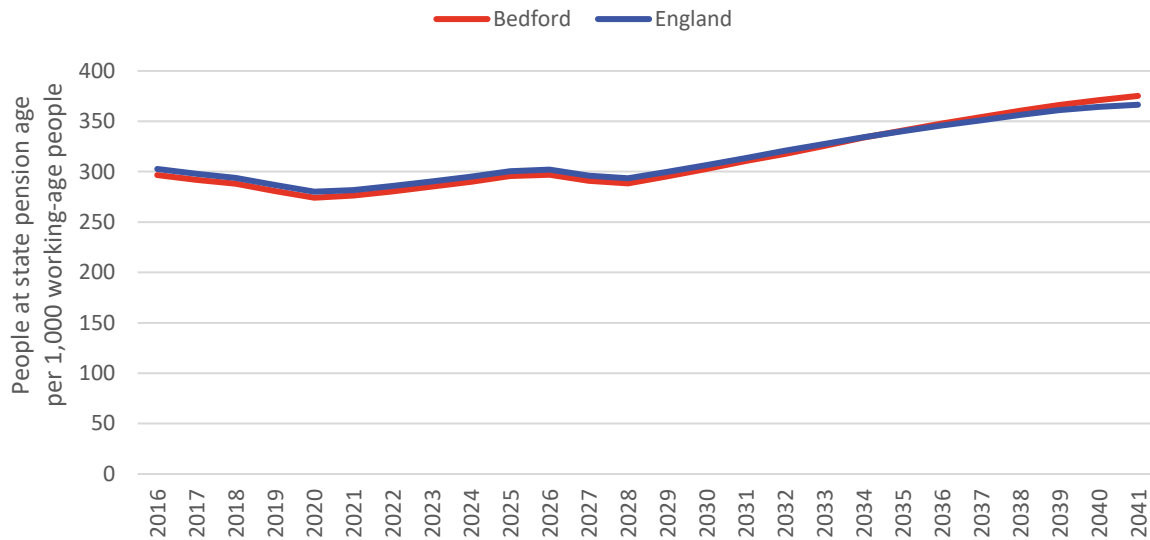


Source: ONS 2016-based Population Projections

The 65 and over population of Bedford is expected to grow by 73.4% from 2017 to 2041, according to the latest ONS population projections. This is compared to an overall population change of +22.3%. The corresponding national figures are growth of 51.7% and 12.1% respectively.

3. Suitability

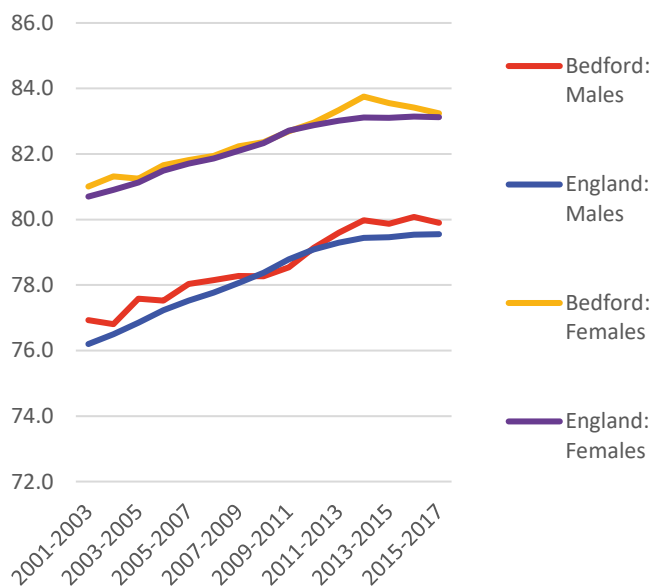
Old age dependency ratio



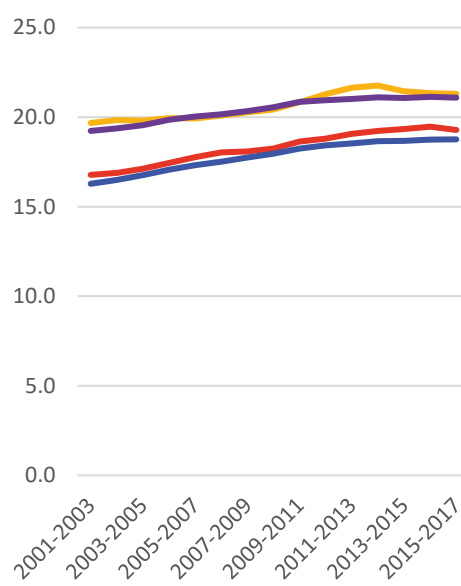
Source: ONS Old Age Dependency Ratios

In Bedford in 2019 there are expected to be 280.8 people of state pension age for every 1,000 working-age people, compared to an average of 286.8 at national level. By 2041 these rates are projected to reach 375.2 and 366.4 respectively.

Life expectancy at birth



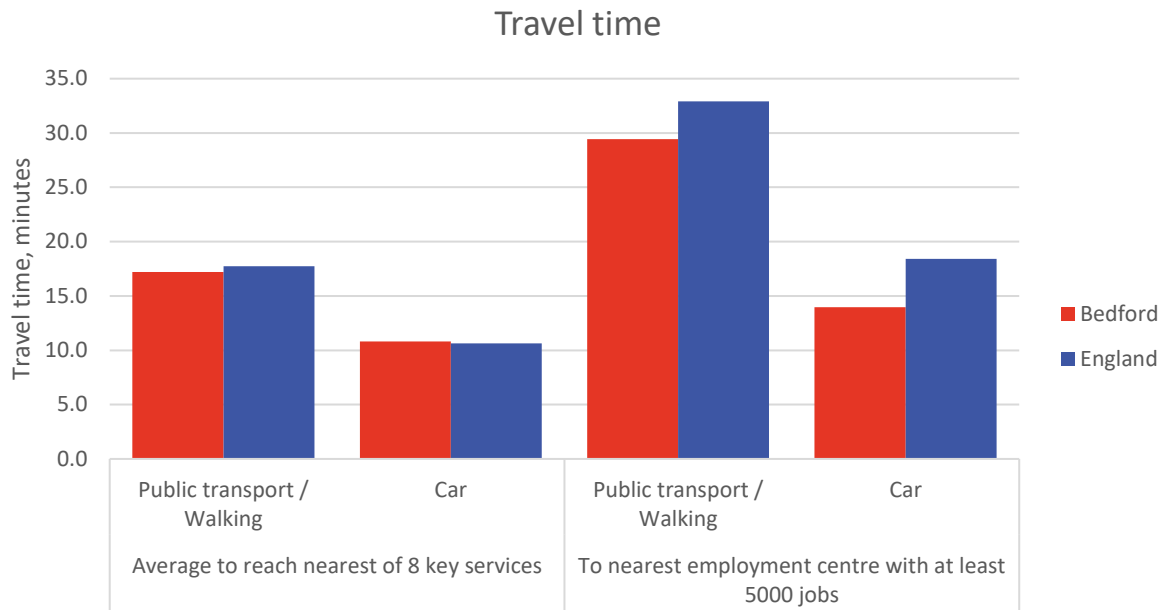
Life expectancy at age 65



Source: ONS Life expectancy at birth and age 65

The average life expectancy for people born in 2015-17 in Bedford is 79.9 years for men and 83.2 years for women. The equivalent national figures are 79.6 and 83.1 respectively.

3. Suitability



Source: DfT Journey Time Statistics

Bedford has about average public transport connectivity compared to the national figures, with an average travel time to reach the nearest 8 key services of 17.2 minutes (England average = 17.7).