



Bradford District population update

At a glance:

- Bradford's population increased by 2,400 (0.4%) people in the last year to 542,100
- Bradford is the fifth largest authority after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester
- Bradford has the fourth highest percentage of under 18s in England
- Bradford has the highest percentage of under 10s in West Yorkshire
- Bradford has the highest population density in West Yorkshire

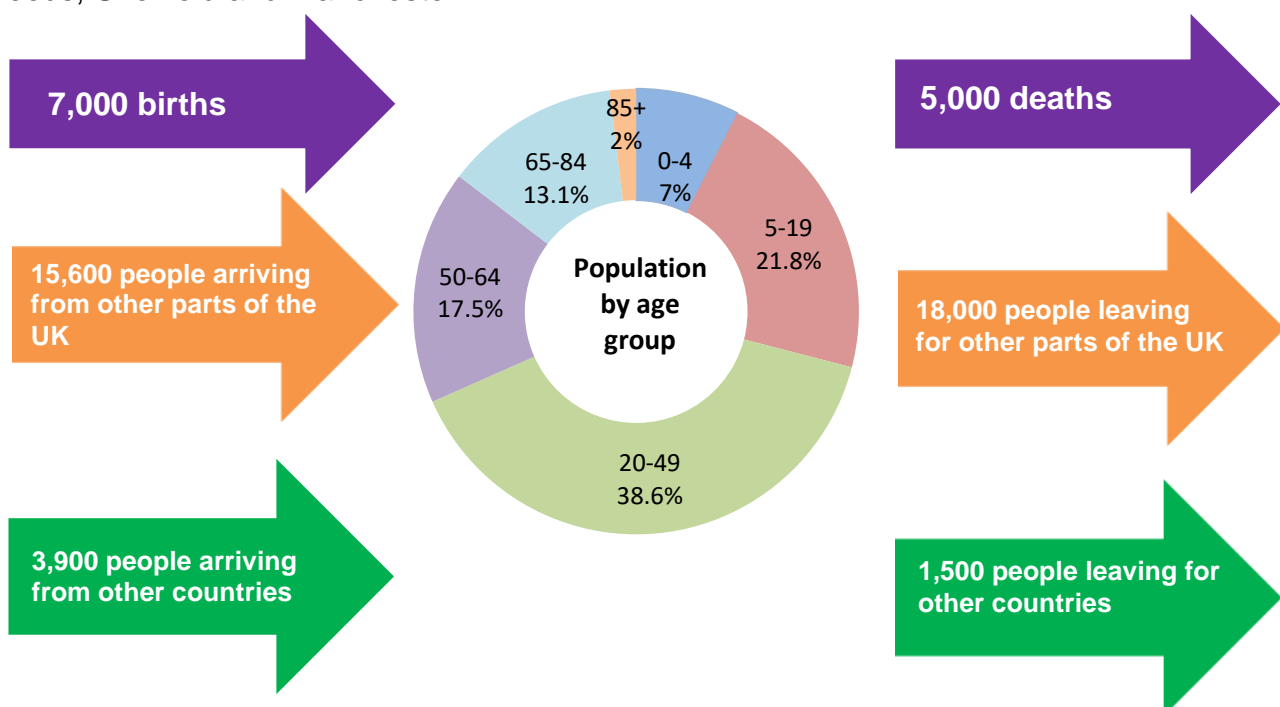
Introduction

The 2020 mid-year population estimates were published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 25 June 2021. The estimates for Bradford District include the people usually resident here and long-term international migrants (people who intend to stay for 12 months or more), but not short-term migrants (who stay or leave for less than 12 months).

Summary

The 2020 mid-year estimate for Bradford's population is 542,100 people, an increase of 2,400 (0.4%) people since the revised June 2019 population total. The population consists of 267,400 men (49%) and 274,700 women (51%).

Bradford is the fifth largest local authority in England in terms of population after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.

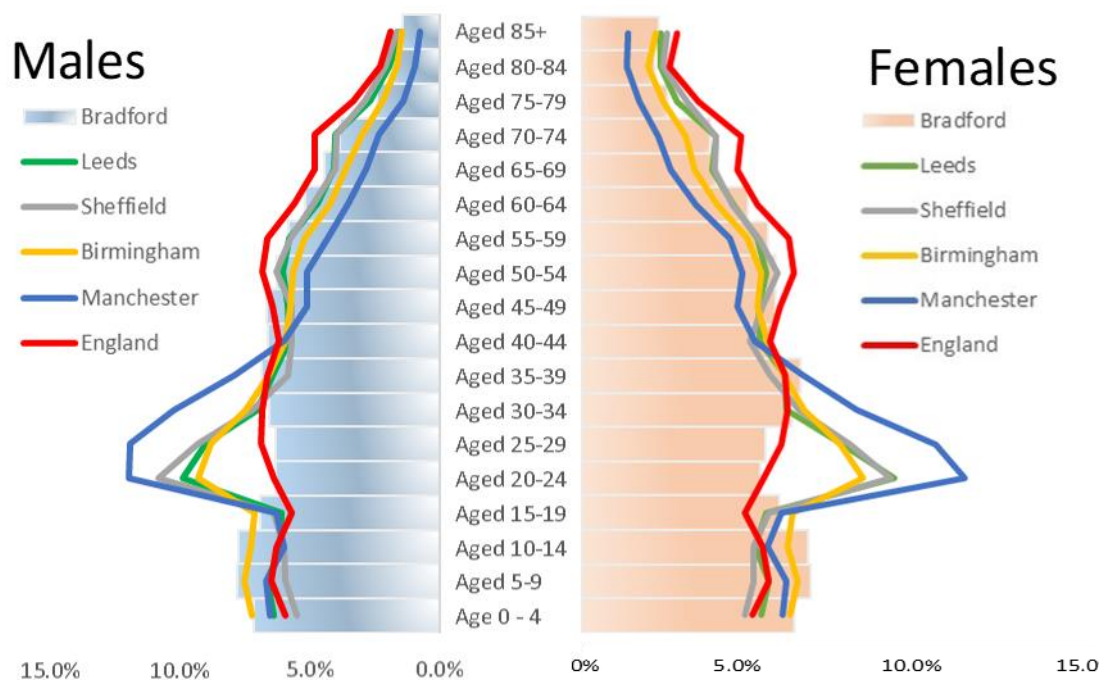


The increase in the District's population is largely due to "natural change" - there have been around 2,000 more births than deaths. The number of people leaving Bradford to live in other parts of the UK is higher than the number of people coming to live here from other parts of the UK. Whereas more people came to live in Bradford from overseas than migrated to another country. The net internal migration was -2,400 and net international migration was 2,400 which can be seen as cancelling each other out.

A large proportion of Bradford's population is dominated by the younger age groups. More than one-quarter (28.8%) of the District's population is aged less than 20 and nearly seven in ten people are aged less than 50. Bradford has the highest percentage of the under 18 population in England after the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Slough Borough Council and Luton Borough Council.

The chart below compares the 2020 mid-year estimates with the estimates for England, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester (each shown as a line).

This shows that Bradford has a larger proportion of children than England, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, but broadly similar to Birmingham. There is a marked difference for teenagers and young adults, but broadly similar proportions for middle aged and old people.

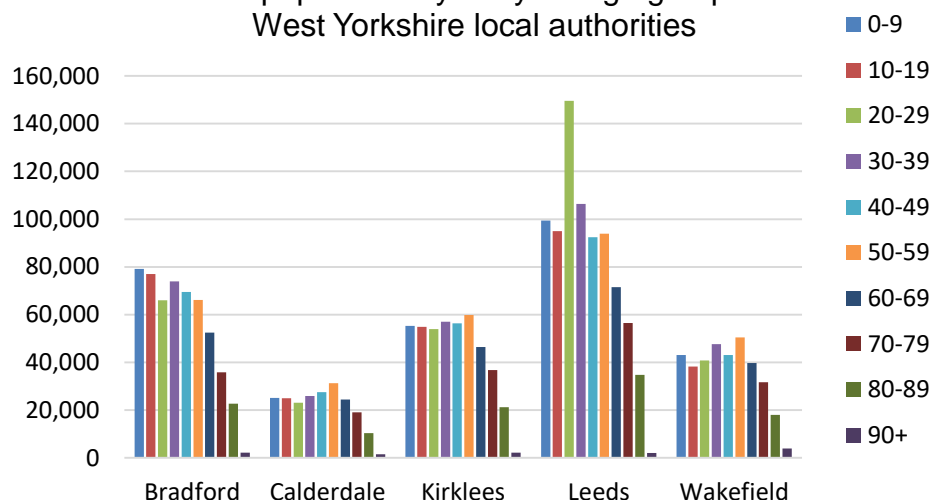


Population change from 2012 to 2020

The District's population has increased by 15,400 (2.9%) since 2012, an annual rate of growth of between 0.3 and 0.5% - this is the smallest increase in West Yorkshire. Wakefield has the largest percentage increase with 6.2%, followed by Leeds with 4.7%. The rate of increase for England over the same period was 5.2%.

The following chart shows that the largest population group for most local authorities in West Yorkshire in 2020 is people aged 50 – 59. Leeds' largest population group is people aged 20 – 29 mainly due to the large student population. Bradford's largest population group comprises children aged 0 – 9.

Total population by ten year age groups -
West Yorkshire local authorities



Within the last ten years the 60 – 69 age group has seen the largest percentage population increase for most local authorities in West Yorkshire. This is followed by increases for the 90+ age group. Interestingly the 10 – 19 and 30 – 39 age groups have seen a decrease for all local authorities, apart from Bradford which has seen an increase.

Median age

The median age is the mid-point where half the population is older and the other half is younger. Bradford’s median age is 36.7 – the second lowest in West Yorkshire after Leeds (35.1) and this is due to the high numbers of young people in both areas. Wakefield, by contrast has the highest median age in West Yorkshire (41.6) and this is higher than both the national figure (40.2) and the regional figure (40.2).

Population density

As the population increases the density (usually measured as the number of people per square kilometre) increases. Bradford has had the highest population density in West Yorkshire since 2004, followed closely by Leeds. Calderdale has the lowest population density in West Yorkshire (less than 39% of the Bradford figure) and the national and regional rates are lower still.

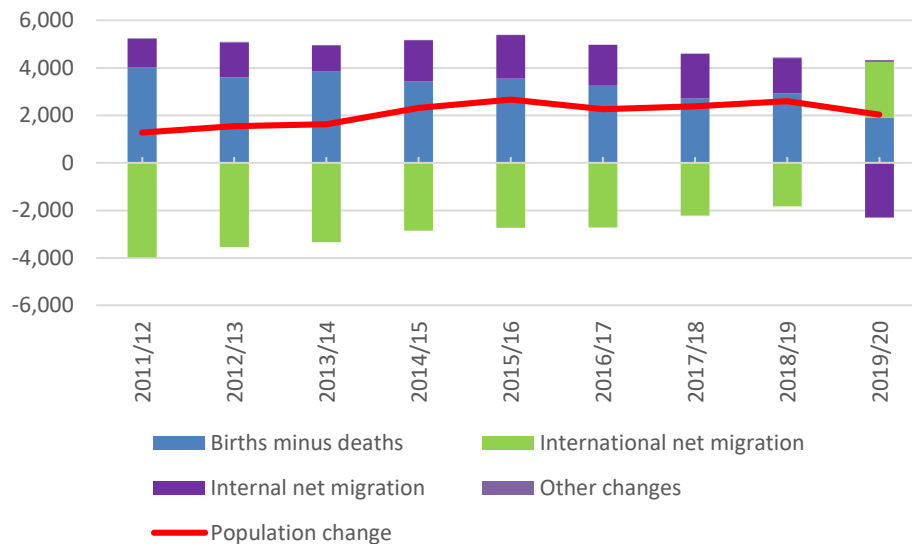
Number of people per square kilometre						
	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2020
Bradford	1,324	1,370	1,415	1,435	1,453	1,480
Calderdale	536	547	558	566	574	581
Kirklees	972	997	1,023	1,047	1,065	1,080
Leeds	1,310	1,338	1,354	1,379	1,416	1,448
Wakefield	938	949	960	974	995	1,038
Yorkshire & Humber	329	335	341	346	352	359
England	385	394	404	413	424	434

Reasons for population change

Increases and decreases in the population are caused by a number of different factors: natural change (the difference between the numbers of births and deaths), migration (both internal – within the UK and international) and “other changes”.

Within the last year there were 2,000 more births than deaths, but broadly similar numbers of people both leaving the District and coming to live here.

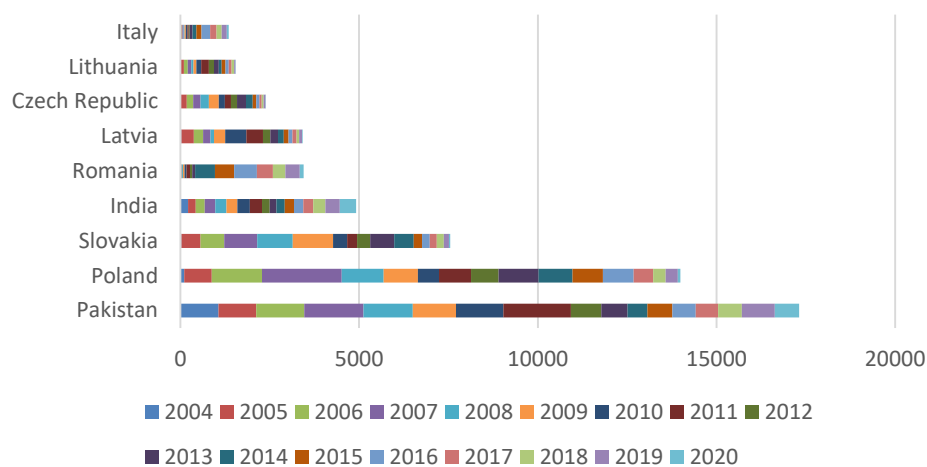
The following chart shows the changes in these different factors over the past 10 years, together with the overall net change in the District's population shown as a red line.



Migrants to Bradford

The Department of Work and Pensions publish figures which show the nationality of people who came to live in the UK and successfully applied for a national insurance number (NINo) in order to work or claim benefits (not including young people under 16 and asylum seekers).

Top nine countries of origin



Since 2004 the highest number of people who have successfully registered to live in Bradford have come from Pakistan followed by Poland.

Opening up the labour market to EU Accession states in 2004 led to a large influx of economic migrants who overtook the number of migrants from India. Within the last year the number of applications from European migrants has decreased. The number of applications from Polish nationals has decreased by more than one-third and the applications from Romanian nationals has decreased by more than 30%. Migrants from Pakistan still comprise the largest number of applicants for NINOs in Bradford.

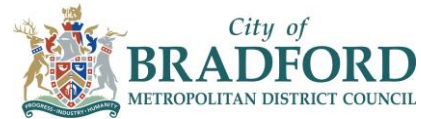
Data sources and further information

A briefing note about the population of Bradford at ward level will be published at the end of November 2021

Source: ONS Population estimates, National Insurance Applications

Link: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity

<https://ubd.bradford.gov.uk>



Contact: catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk

Email: catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk Telephone: 01274 434691

Office of the Chief Executive,

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council,

7th Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN

ubd.bradford.gov.uk

Unless marked otherwise, you are free to use the content of this bulletin in your own work as long as you quote the source.

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print. Please call 01274 434691