



# Bradford District population update

## At a glance:

- Bradford's population increased by 4,800 (0.9%) people in the last year to 547,000
- Bradford is the fifth largest authority after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester
- Bradford has the fourth highest percentage of people under the age of 16 in England
- Bradford has the largest percentage of children under the age of 10 and young people aged under 16 in West Yorkshire
- Bradford has the lowest median age and the highest population density in West Yorkshire

## Introduction

The 2021 mid-year population estimates were published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 21 December 2022. These population estimates update the 2021 Census population estimates. 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 2021 mid-year estimate for Bradford's population is 547,000 people, an increase of 4,800 (0.9%) people since the June 2020 population total and an increase of 600 people since the Census carried out at the end of March 2021. The population is 51.5% female and 48.5% male.

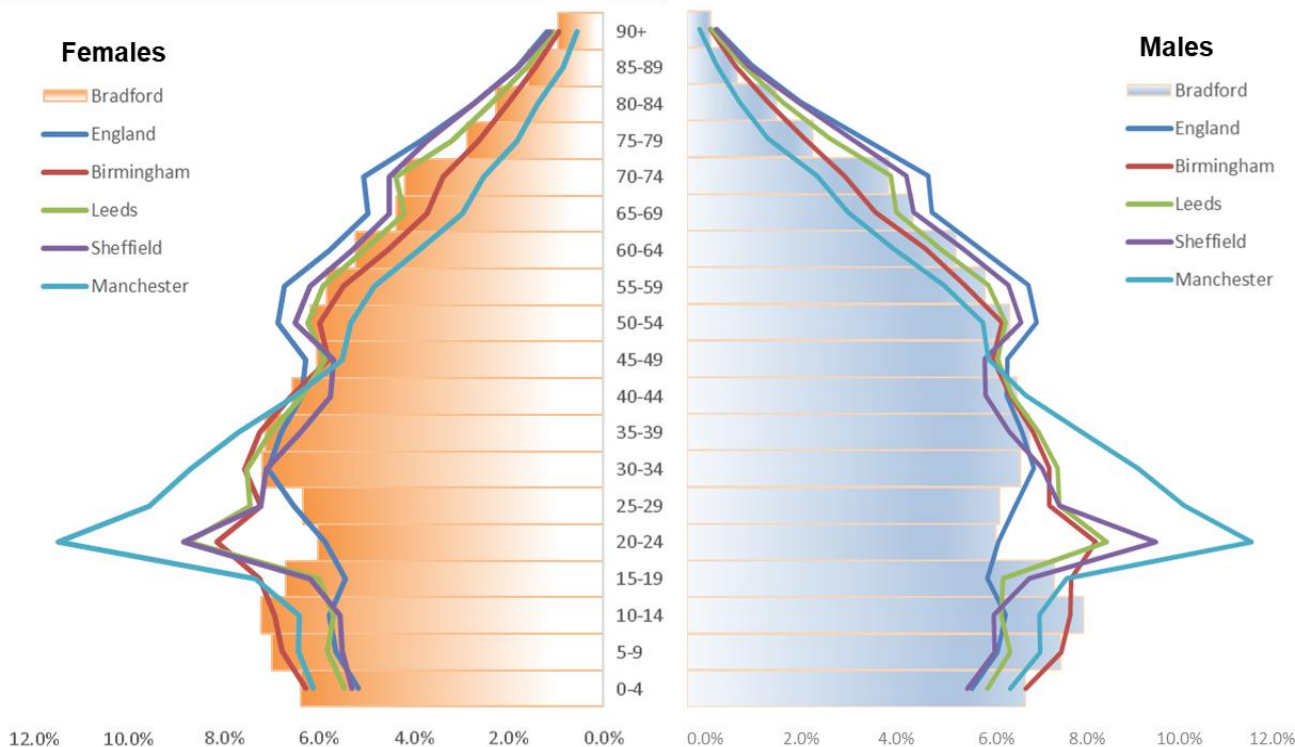
Bradford is the fifth largest local authority in England in terms of population after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.

Bradford has the highest population density (1,493 people per square kilometre) and the lowest median age (36.7 years) in West Yorkshire. Bradford also has the highest percentage of young people under the age of 16 in West Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire local authorities	Population density	Median age	Total population	Age 0 - 15	Age 16 - 64	Age 65 - 84	Age 85+
Bradford	1,493	36.7	547,000	22.8%	62.0%	13.2%	2.0%
Calderdale	568	42.4	206,800	19.3%	61.6%	16.8%	2.3%
Kirklees	1,061	40.0	433,400	20.0%	62.2%	15.7%	2.2%
Leeds	1,466	36.8	809,000	18.9%	65.3%	13.6%	2.2%
Wakefield	1,045	41.4	353,800	18.6%	62.4%	16.8%	2.2%

The chart below compares the 2021 mid-year estimates for Bradford (shown as a bar chart for both males and females) with the estimates for England, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester (each shown as a line).

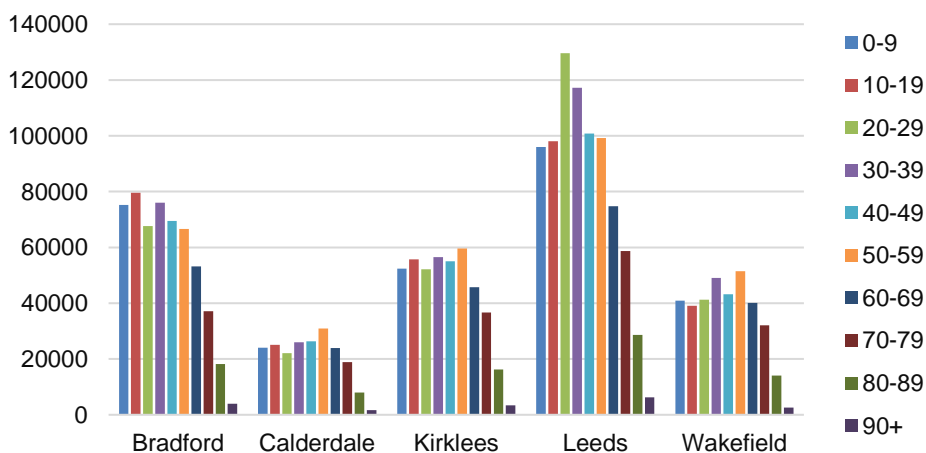
This shows that Bradford has a larger proportion of children than England, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, but broadly similar to Birmingham. There is a marked difference for teenagers and young adults, but broadly similar proportions for middle aged and older people.



## Population change from 2011 to 2021

The District's population has increased by 23,900 (4.6%) since 2011 and 16.2% since 2001. Bradford had the highest percentage increase between 2001 and 2021 and the second highest increase in West Yorkshire, after Leeds, between 2011 and 2021.

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 lowest in West Yorkshire, due to the high numbers of young people in the district. Calderdale, by contrast has the highest median age in West Yorkshire (42.4) and this is higher than both the national figure (40.5) and the regional figure (40.7).

## 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 (38% of the Bradford figure) and the national and regional rates are lower still.

Number of people per square kilometre						
	2004	2007	2011	2013	2016	2021
Bradford	1,324	1,370	1,428	1,435	1,453	1,493
Calderdale	536	547	561	566	574	568
Kirklees	972	997	1,035	1,047	1,065	1,061
Leeds	1,310	1,338	1,361	1,379	1,416	1,466
Wakefield	938	949	964	974	995	1,045
Yorkshire & Humber	329	335	343	346	352	356
England	385	394	408	413	424	434

## Data sources and further information

A briefing note about the population of Bradford at ward level will be published in Spring 2023

Source: ONS Population estimates

Link: [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity)

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

Contact: [catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk)

Email: [catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.colborn@bradford.gov.uk)

**Office of the Chief Executive,**

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council,

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Britannia House, Broadway, Bradford BD1 1HX

[ubd.bradford.gov.uk](http://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

