West Midlands Futures

Demographic dividend, diversity and dilemmas:

Population change in the WMCA area April 2025

> West Midlands Combined Authority

Research and Insights





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Executive summary

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) area, comprising seven metropolitan districts, is characterised by one of Europe's youngest and most ethnically diverse populations. This report investigates the dynamics of population change and projections within the WMCA area. It outlines historical population trends and future projections, providing an evidence base to inform the *West Midlands Futures* work.

The population projections show that our population is set to grow significantly over the next twenty years. Indeed, the growth in our population from 2021 to 2043 will be equivalent to welcoming in the current population of the city of Leicester (368,581).

By creating the right conditions, the city-region can harness the potential of its young population over the next 10-15 years, and the expected ageing demographic over the longer term.

West Midlands Combined Authority

Background

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) area, made up of the seven metropolitan districts of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, is home to one of Europe's youngest and most ethnically diverse population. In Birmingham, some 28% of the population is under the age of 20, and 36% is under the age of 25. Its youthful population is expected to continue to rise over the next decade; and peak in the next 10-15 years; before being outpaced by the over 65s. This is the case not only in Birmingham, but right across all seven districts of the West Midlands metropolitan area.

The United Nations Population Fund notes that places "with the greatest demographic opportunity for development are those entering a period in which the working-age population has good health, quality education, decent employment and a lower proportion of young dependents. Smaller numbers of children per household generally lead to larger investments per child, more freedom for women to enter the formal workforce and more household savings for old age. When this happens, the national economic payoff can be substantial. This is a demographic dividend."¹

As home to amongst the UK's largest young population, a highly educated, healthy workforce with fewer than average young or old dependents should enable the WMCA area to benefit from a "demographic dividend" whereby its economic performance takes off. However, this is not currently the case. Consequently, the WMCA is interested in understanding how to create the conditions so that it can benefit from a demographic dividend – and, as the population matures, how the WMCA area may deal with the impact and opportunities of an ageing population.

Consequently, the WMCA is interested in:

- **Population change**: how has the population of the WMCA area changed over the past decades?
- **Population projections:** how is the population of the WMCA area expected to change in the coming decades?

The intention is that this provides an evidence base towards the *West Midlands Futures* work, by which the potential impacts of these changes on our economy, in particular, our labour market, and on wider society at large can be explored and considered in further detail.

¹ United Nations Population Fund (2025) Demographic dividend <u>https://www.unfpa.org/demographic-dividend</u>

Evidence base

How has the WMCA area population changed over the past decades?

The WMCA's latest population estimate, as of 2023, is 2,980,936 people. This has increased by 2.1% from 2,918,251 on census day 2021; which has in turn increased from 2,739,733 on census day 2011 (up 6.5%) and 2,568,015 on census day 2001 (up 6.7%).²

Area	2001	2011	2021	2023
Birmingham	984,642	1,074,283	1,143,285	1,166,049
Coventry	302,804	316,915	344,151	360,702
Dudley	305,052	313,261	323,591	326,680
Sandwell	284,594	309,042	341,895	347,551
Solihull	199,574	206,856	216,677	218,793
Walsall	253,333	269,524	284,392	288,736
Wolverhampton	238,016	249,852	264,260	272,425
WMCA	2,568,015	2,739,733	2,918,251	2,980,936
West Midlands Region	5,280,727	5,608,667	5,956,226	6,085,687

Between 2001 and 2023, the population in the WMCA has grown by 16%, slightly higher than the regional growth of 15%. The population has grown quickest in Sandwell (22%), Coventry (19%) and Birmingham (18%); and more slowly in Walsall and Wolverhampton (both 14%), Solihull (10%) and Dudley (7%).

	Change from 2001-2011	Change from 2011-2021	Change from 2021-2023
Birmingham	9.1%	6.4%	2.0%
Coventry	4.7%	8.6%	4.8%
Dudley	2.7%	3.3%	1.0%
Sandwell	8.6%	10.6%	1.7%
Solihull	3.6%	4.7%	1.0%
Walsall	6.4%	5.5%	1.5%
Wolverhampton	5.0%	5.8%	3.1%
WMCA	6.7%	6.5%	2.1%
West Midlands Region	6.2%	6.2%	2.2%

Note that these figures depend on census population, as well as population estimates which provide an indication of population change in-between the census years.

In 2020, concerns about Coventry's population estimates figures³ identified some challenges that the ONS faced: particularly, in how the ONS dealt with cities with large student populations and the challenges with the quality of internal and international

² Office for National Statistics (2024) ONS mid-year population estimates for multiple years via LGInform+ data tool

https://developertools.esd.org.uk/data?value.valueType=raw&metricType=3281&area=E47000007%3ALA %2CE47000007%2CE12000005&period=latest%3A23&rowGrouping=area

³ Office for Statistical Regulation (2021) Review of population estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics <u>https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/review-of-population-estimates-and-projections-produced-by-the-office-for-national-statistics/pages/2/</u>

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migration data. The ONS has since taken steps to address these issues, and continue to communicate⁴ the work it is doing as it moves towards population estimates based on administrative data⁵. The subsequent difference between the 2016-based and 2018-based population projections for Coventry and the census 2021 population figure for 2021, however, did validate some long-standing concerns⁶ about the accuracy of the figures. The ONS is now working on a new dynamic population model which will provide near real-time estimates of population size⁷.

While the differences in figures in Coventry were particularly egregious, this is not unique to Coventry, as across the WMCA area, there are areas with higher-than-average levels of migration, transient and international communities, and large numbers of internal and international migration from students studying in our universities. However, given that 2021 census is relatively recent, the effect is likely to be smaller than it was by 2019/2020.

⁶ ONS (2022) Internal OSR correspondence regarding OSR investigation into Mid Year Estimates and Projections for Coventry

https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/internalosrcorrespondenceregardingosrinvestigationintomidyearestimatesandprojectionsforcoventry

⁷ ONS (2022) Dynamic population model for England and Wales: July 2022

⁴ ONS (2021) Ensuring our population statistics meet the needs of everyone <u>https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2021/07/29/ensuring-our-population-statistics-meet-the-needs-of-everyone/</u>

⁵ ONS (2024) Admin-based population estimates: local authority case studies, England and Wales, mid-2023

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/internation/inte

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/dynamicpopulationmodelforenglandandwales/2022-07-14

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How has the diversity of the city-region changed over time?

According to the 2021 Census, out of the 19 ethnic groups, white British people made up the largest percentage of the population (74.4%) followed by white 'other' (6.2%) and Indian (3.1%). Between 2011 and 2021, the percentage of people in the white British ethnic group went down from 80.5% to 74.4%; while the biggest increase were seen in the white 'other' ethnic group, from 4.4% to 6.2%.

Data on ethnicity in the census is available in table KS006 for Census 2001⁸, QS211EW for Census 2011⁹, and TS022 for Census 2021¹⁰.





Between 2001 and 2021, there was a 12% decrease in the population identifying as "White". There was an absolute decline from 2,043,231 people in 2001 to 1,793,173

⁸ NomisWeb (2001) Ethnic group 2001 Census Table KS006 <u>https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2001/ks006</u>

⁹ NomisWeb (2011) Ethnic group 2011 Census Table QS211EW https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs211ew

¹⁰ NomisWeb (2021) Ethnic group 2021 Census Table TS022 <u>https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts022</u>

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people by 2021. The biggest increase is in the "Other" ethnic group, from 10,082 in 2001 to 101,435 by 2021, an increase of 906%.

In terms of specific ethnic groups, some of the biggest percentage growth has been in the Black African population, from 10,000 people in 2001, to 55,557 by 2011, and 126,041 by 2021; a growth of 1,160%. Between 2011 and 2021, while the overall population grew by 7%, there has been a 7% decrease in the White population, and a 141% in the Other ethnic group. The biggest percentage increases are in the Other (182%), Black African (127% growth) and the White Other (73%) groups.

Further detail on how the WMCA population will change over time by ethnic group is set out in the appendix entitled *Population change* on page 19.

How might the WMCA area population change in the future?

The main source of information available are the ONS 2018-based subnational population projections for local authorities. The 2018-based subnational population projections (SNPPs) were published on 24 March 2020, before the latest census in 2021. The next release is expected in February to March 2025, and this will reflect and incorporate the 2021 census data and rebased population data¹¹.

A number of different projections¹² are produced, all covering the period 2018 to 2043:

- The principal projections, from the 2018-based edition of this dataset;
- An alternative, 2018 based **10-year migration variant** edition;
- A high international migration variant edition;
- A low international migration variant edition; and
- An alternative internal migration variant edition.

Importantly, SNPPs only considers observed data – they are *projections* and are **not** *forecasts*. For example, if a particular place has seen a big increase in the available housing stock during the last five years, the SNPP projections for that particular place might not be realistic if that increase does not persist. Similarly, the SNPPs do not consider things such as plans that a local authority might have to build 30,000 in the next decade.

¹¹ ONS (2020) Population projections for local authorities

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojection s/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2

¹² ONS (2021) Variant national population projections for the UK and subnational population projections and household projections for England: user guide

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojection s/methodologies/variantnationalpopulationprojectionsfortheukandsubnationalpopulationprojectionsan dhouseholdprojectionsforenglanduserguide

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Alternative sources of population data

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is one place where they produce their own population estimates, the modelled population backseries¹³, building upon the ONS's mid-year population estimates. While the GLA publishes this series for all local authority areas, their London data is augmented with household data, household formation rates, and small area migration flows – and early indications suggest that the backseries by and large aligns with the emerging ONS dynamic population model. As the name suggests, the backseries is looking backwards – it is not a forecasting model.

The GLA produces its own estimates because the choice of estimates can have a huge impact on our understanding of past trends¹⁴. For instance, our understanding of people's health and wellbeing as measured through life expectancy, or our economic prosperity as measured through labour productivity per capita are all dependent on denominator figures that are derived from population figures.

The devolved administration in Scotland¹⁵ and Wales¹⁶ also produce their own population estimates.

Alternative population projections are available – for example, the Oxford Economics Model¹⁷ builds on the ONS population projections by making a different set of assumptions; whereas the ONS figures projects forward from existing trends assuming long-term net international migration of 340,000 per year from 2028 onwards (and 205,000 at the moment), the Oxford Economics has assumed an average figure of 150,000; and takes into account employment rate forecasts; for instance, if employment rate is falling rather quickly in an area, it assumes that people would be less likely to migrate to an area, given that they are unlikely to secure jobs there.

There are other, administrative sources of data by which population figures can be derived – but none of these are fit for purpose. For example, local authorities have information about voter registration¹⁸ (but this does not cover people not eligible to vote) and about Council Tax¹⁹ (but these are household-level rather than population level); while NHS will have information about patients registered at GP registrations²⁰ (but

¹⁴ Greater London Authority (2023) Comparison of available population estimates https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/comparison-of-available-population-estimates

¹⁸ ONS (2022) Electoral statistics, UK: December 2021

information/publications/statistical/patients-registered-at-a-gp-practice

¹³ Greater London Authority (2023) Modelled population backseries

https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/modelled-population-backseries?q=modelled

¹⁵ National Records of Scotland (2024) Mid-2023 population estimates

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/mid-2023-population-estimates/ ¹⁶ Welsh Government (2025) National population projections: 2022-based

https://www.gov.wales/national-population-projections-2022-based

¹⁷ Oxford Economics (2023) Midlands Economic Forecasting Model Technical Report December 2023 (Unpublished)

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration/bulletins/

 ¹⁹ MHCLG (2025) Council Tax statistics <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics</u>
 ²⁰ NHS (2025) Patients Registered at a GP Practice <u>https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-</u>

typically, these over-estimate population as people who have moved out of area and/or abroad do not typically deregister from a practice).

What may be some of the impact of our changing population?

The WMCA shared its findings with heads of research, insights and intelligence across the seven local authorities for comment. Local authorities expressed specific interest in understanding the impacts on:

- adult social care as a result of the projected future increases in elderly population;
- the impact of migration and refugee resettlement schemes; and
- the interplay between demographics and skills; for instance, whether WMCA are projected to be attracting or losing skilled people, which would be important in relation to understanding GVA per capita, and in targeting future skills provision.

In particular, refugee resettlement schemes have had a disproportionate impact on local demographics in parts of the WMCA area. In Solihull, Hongkongers with British Nationality (Overseas) status resettling have been especially significant and are showing up in local administrative operational and service delivery data (e.g. school placement planning). This does not seem to have been reflected in official figures such as in the 2021 census population data – as much of the migration happened after the census day (consequently making the 2018-based projections, and census 2021 figures unreliable as a basis to project future populations). Consequently, understanding the impact of these schemes on our future demography (both in terms of age profile and ethnicity) are essential, as is making sure that future projections capturing the impact of such schemes.

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Population projections

The following sets out the ONS population projections for the WMCA area. The principal and the variant projections were combined using Microsoft Power Query enabling the five projections to be displayed in one chart and table, using Microsoft Power BI.

Principal projections

The following table sets out the **principal projections** in selected years (2018, 2030, 2035, 2043), with the census 2021 population and the population estimate for 2023 published 15 July 2024²¹.

Place	2018	2021	2023	2030	2035	2043	2021 Census	2023 Estimate
WMCA	2,916,458	2,976,057	3,009,000	3,113,260	3,185,049	3,298,614	2,919,654	2,980,936
Birmingham	1,141,374	1,157,285	1,165,531	1,194,894	1,217,164	1,251,689	1,144,919	1,166,049
Coventry	366,785	383,820	392,539	419,366	435,501	456,405	345,324	360,702
Dudley	320,626	325,147	327,914	336,516	342,824	354,730	323,488	326,680
Sandwell	327,378	333,731	337,366	347,891	355,488	369,065	341,832	347,551
Solihull	214,909	219,139	221,879	230,362	235,927	245,342	216,240	218,793
Walsall	283,378	289,405	293,095	304,384	312,180	325,281	284,124	288,736
Wolverhampton	262,008	267,530	270,677	279,846	285,965	296,102	263,727	272,425
West Midlands Region	5,900,757	6,024,811	6,097,976	6,325,594	6,474,685	6,708,180	5,950,757	6,085,687
England	55,977,178	56,989,570	57,557,521	59,181,798	60,183,914	61,744,098	56,490,048	57,690,323

By and large, the 2018-based population projections are within approximate 1% of the census and population estimates – with the exception of Coventry, where there is a variation of around 10% between the 2018-based projection and the 2021 census population figure; and to a lesser extent, Sandwell, where the projections around 2.4% lower.

The population projections show that our population is set to grow significantly over the next twenty years. Indeed, the growth in our population from the 2021 population to the 2043 principal projection (3,298,614) – a growth of around 380,000 people – will be equivalent to welcoming in the current population of the city of Leicester (368,581).

In developmental economics, typically a consideration of *demographic dividend* will consider the impact of improved healthcare and reduced mortality resulting in families facing fewer births (and hence, a lower dependency ratio), a bulge in the working aged population (typically defined as the population aged 15 to 64) – before the improvement in healthcare leading to longer lifespans and hence, an increase in older people (and, a resulting increase in the dependency ratio).

In the case of a developed economy like England's, this does not apply in quite the same way. In the WMCA area, just under 30% of the WMCA area working aged

²¹ ONS (2024) Estimates of the population for England and Wales

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/ datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales

population are students²². Many of these will be young people continuing in some form of education, employment and training.

Consequently, a decision was taken to look at projections for the following age groups:

- All ages
- Under 20s dependent population
- Aged 15-34 'core' emergent workforce population
- Aged 20-64 'core' working aged population
- Aged 65 and over dependent population

WMCA projections

All ages



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Low International Migration Variant	2,971,869	2,998,394	3,066,126	3,108,415	3,171,933

Assumptions in population growth are based on a five-year trend in local fertility rates. Up to the 2018-based SNPPs, fertility has been declining for a number of years; and the level of international migration became an increasingly important driver of population growth. It is also important to recognise the interconnectivity between migration and fertility, with increase in migration expected to indirectly increase population growth through births because of increases in the number of women. Consequently, population is expected to grow under all models, with the level of international migration and changes in fertility rates having a huge impact on the rate of growth.

Over the life course, people are more likely to migrate (whether internally, within the UK, or internationally) as younger adults. Hence, the 65 and over age group is less sensitive to migration and this is seen in differences in the *variant* projections.





Under 20s are expected to peak and then stall by the late 2020s/early 2030s; but expected to grow once again in the 2040s.



Aged 15 to 34



The emergent workforce population is expected to continue to increase, and peak by 2041, which should be an opportunity for the region over the 2020s and 2030s.

Aged 20 to 64



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The overall working aged population is expected to grow under all scenarios, but the rate of growth is highly dependent on international migration.

Aged 65 and over



By far the fastest growing segment of the population will be the over 65s.

A more in-depth comparison setting out population projections for each local authority area is set out in the appendix entitled



Population projections by WMCA local authorities on page 44 onwards; as well as the National and regional population projections, and technical information relating to the Power Query M functions and Power BI Model used for this report.

Comparisons to other city-regions and strategic authority areas

The following sets out how the changes in the WMCA area population compares to other combined authority city-regions.

The overall WMCA population is projected to grow by over 380,000 people between 2021 and 2043, a growth of 11.5%. This is joint second with South Yorkshire; only West of England is expected to grow faster (14%).

	Nomis 2021 all	Principal Projection 2035	Principal Projection 2043	Growth 2021-	Growth % 2021-	Growth 2021-	Growth % 2021-
	ages	all ages	all ages	2035 all ages	2035	2043 all ages	2043
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	897,217	914,614	934,531	17,397	1.9%	37,314	4.0%
East Midlands	2,204,080	2,400,159	2,470,912	196,079	8.2%	266,832	10.8%
Greater London	8,804,769	9,559,243	9,814,027	754,474	7.9%	1,009,258	10.3%
Greater Manchester	2,869,531	3,011,171	3,097,333	141,640	4.7%	227,802	7.4%
Liverpool City Region	1,552,288	1,647,684	1,683,262	95,396	5.8%	130,974	7.8%
North East	1,969,128	2,063,029	2,083,308	93,901	4.6%	114,180	5.5%
South Yorkshire	1,374,792	1,511,302	1,553,548	136,510	9.0%	178,756	11.5%
Tees Valley	678,365	681,899	683,833	3,534	0.5%	5,468	0.8%
West Midlands	2,918,251	3,185,049	3,298,614	266,798	8.4%	380,363	11.5%
West of England	954,590	1,063,185	1,110,010	108,595	10.2%	155,420	14.0%
West Yorkshire	2,350,407	2,456,592	2,509,379	106,185	4.3%	158,972	6.3%
York and North Yorkshire	820,478	857,956	868,117	37,478	4.4%	47,639	5.5%

In terms of the working-aged population, the West Midlands is projected to grow by 236,000 people, or 11.3%. Only West of England is expected to grow faster (13%). In terms of the number of people, only London is expected to welcome more people (337,000). In contrast, Greater Manchester's projected increase of 118,000 is barely half of the increase projected for the West Midlands.

		Principal	Principal				
	Nomis 2021	Projection 2035	Projection 2043	Growth 2021-	Growth % 2021-	Growth 2021-	Growth % 2021-
	aged 16-64	aged 15-64	aged 15-64	2035	2035	2043	2043
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	571,300	557,336	555,864	- 13,964	-2.5%	- 15,436	-2.8%
East Midlands	1,378,000	1,455,411	1,480,952	77,411	5.3%	102,952	7.0%
Greater London	6,062,210	6,406,379	6,399,534	344,169	5.4%	337,324	5.3%
Greater Manchester	1,828,900	1,912,256	1,946,882	83,356	4.4%	117,982	6.1%
Liverpool City Region	977,600	1,003,753	1,021,603	26,153	2.6%	44,003	4.3%
North East	1,221,400	1,233,269	1,245,835	11,869	1.0%	24,435	2.0%
South Yorkshire	866,600	941,918	961,148	75,318	8.0%	94,548	9.8%
Tees Valley	414,000	401,764	398,928	- 12,236	-3.0%	- 15,072	-3.8%
West Midlands	1,844,300	2,032,817	2,080,203	188,517	9.3%	235,903	11.3%
West of England	634,100	702,190	728,740	68,090	9.7%	94,640	13.0%
West Yorkshire	1,485,600	1,526,185	1,534,202	40,585	2.7%	48,602	3.2%
York and North Yorkshire	496,600	486,163	483,707	- 10,437	-2.1%	- 12,893	-2.7%



Next steps

As part of the development of the West Midlands Theory of Growth and West Midlands Futures Green Paper, issues around our population and demographics will be explored in further detail to better understand the potential impacts of these changes on our economy, in particular, our labour market, and on wider society at large. By creating the right conditions, the city-region can harness the potential of its young population over the next 10-15 years, and the expected ageing demographic over the longer term.

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Appendices

Population change

The following sets out the number and percentage change in population from 2001 to 2011 and to 2021.

All usual residents



Year 💌



• The WMCA saw a consistent rate of population growth of around 7% between both 2001-2011, and 2011-2021.



- However, the rate of population growth is different between our local authorities, with Birmingham, Coventry, and Sandwell seeing above average growth rates, and Dudley, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton seeing below average growth rates.
- National data suggests net migration under the post-Brexit regime in 2021 and 2022 is significantly higher than in the 2000s or 2010s. This data does not capture the increase post-Brexit.

Asian/Asian British





• As a percentage, Solihull saw the highest increase in its Asian/Asian British population; however the greatest rate of growth was in 2001-2011, and it has slowed considerably in 2011-2021.



Asian Bangladeshi



- Across the WMCA area, the Asian Bangladeshi population has more than doubled in-between 2001 and 2021.
- The growth in Solihull's Asian Bangladeshi population is highest of the seven mets with the highest rate of growth seen between 2001-2011.







- The percentage of residents who are of Asian Chinese ethnicity has doubled between 2001 and 2021. The rate of growth is higher in 2001 to 2011 than between 2011 and 2021, with the exception of Solihull where the rate of growth has accelerated in 2011 and 2021.
- There are data limitations as the Census data does not capture the impact of the increase in British National (Overseas) population which is mostly post-2021. It is, however, unclear whether they will self-identify as Asian-Chinese or Asian-Other.



Asian Indian



- Across the WMCA area, the Asian Indian ethnicity population has increased.
- The growth in Solihull's Asian Indian population is highest of the seven mets with the highest rate of growth seen between 2001-2011.







• Across the WMCA area, the growth in the Asian Other ethnicity population is mostly in 2001 to 2011, with a much smaller increase in 2011 to 2021. However, even that much smaller increase, at 13%, is larger than the overall population increase (7%).



Asian Pakistani



- Across the WMCA area, the Asian Pakistani ethnicity population has increased. This is especially true in Solihull.
- The growth in Solihull's Asian Pakistani population is mostly in 2001 to 2011, however even between 2011 and 2021, it has more than doubled.



Black/Black British



• The Black/Black British population has increased most in Coventry and Walsall.



Black African



• The Black African ethnicity population has seen significant increases in all areas – a 1,160% increase across the WMCA area.



Black Caribbean



- Overall, the Black Caribbean ethnicity population has seen below average increases.
- There are changes in the Black Caribbean population, with decreases in Birmingham, below-average increase in Coventry and Wolverhampton; larger increases in Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull and Walsall.



Black Other



• The Black Other ethnicity population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – however this is almost entirely explained in the 2001-2011 period, with a much smaller rate of increase in 2011-2021.



Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups



• The Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – but the rate of growth has slowed in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.







• The Mixed Other ethnicity population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – but the rate of growth has slowed in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.



Mixed White and Asian





93%

79% 246% 76%

36%

139%

19% 125% 74%

31%

128%

61%

60% 158%

779

77%

213%

2021 compared to 2001-2011.

49%

33%

98%

0%

% change 2011-2021

■% change 2001-2021

77%

17%

108%

Research and Insights

Mixed White and Black African



• The Mixed White and Asian ethnicity population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – but the rate of growth has slowed in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.



Mixed White and Black Caribbean



• The Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnicity population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – but the rate of growth has slowed in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.



Other Any other ethnic group



The Other Any other ethnic group population has increased notably everywhere, with the highest percentage increases in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.







• Data on the Arab ethnicity population was collected only in 2011 and 2021 census. Previously, this was collected as "Any other ethnic group". There has been an increase everywhere.



Other ethnic group



• The Other ethnic group population has increased above the average population increase in 2001-2021 – but the rate of growth has slowed in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.







• The White ethnic group population has decreased in the WMCA area – and the rate of decrease has sped up in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.

Research and Insights

White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British



• The White British ethnicity population has decreased in the WMCA area – and the rate of decrease has sped up in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.

Research and Insights

White Gypsy or Irish Traveller



• Data on the White Gypsy or Irish ethnicity population was collected only in 2011 and 2021 census. Previously, this was collected as "Any other ethnic group". There has been an increase everywhere.







• The White Irish ethnicity population has decreased in the WMCA area – although the rate of decrease has slowed down in 2011-2021 compared to 2001-2011.



133% 84%

328%

47%

107%

204%

347%

47%

559%

■% change 2001-2011

% change 2011-2021
 % change 2001-2021

Local Authority 🔻

99%

58%

215%

Research and Insights

White Other



20% 75% 110% 127%

154%

476%

117%

73%

276%

112%

93%

310%

42



White Roma

Ethnic group $ egreen Free Provide Pro$									
2000									
2000									
1800									
1600									
1400									
1200									
1000									
800									
600									
400					•				
200									
200					•				
0					202	1			
Birmingham					183	3			
Coventry					111	6			
Dudley	_				194	ļ.			
Sandwell					375)			
					57)			
	n				451	1			
Year 🔻									
Ethnic Group 📲 Sum of Value 120%									
100%									
80%									
60%									% change 👻
									 % change 2001-2011 % change 2011-2021
40%									■ % change 2001-2021
20%									
007									
0% Birm	ingham	Coventry	Dudley	Sandwell	Solihull	Walsall	Wolverhampton	WMCA	
Change 2011-2021									
Local Authority									

• Data on the White Roma ethnicity population was only collected in 2021, and previous years comparisons are not available.

Population projections by WMCA local authorities

An interactive version of the Power BI report can be found at <u>https://sichunlam.github.io/population/</u>.

Birmingham projections

All ages



Microsoft Power BI

< 2 of 4 >

Birmingham	2018	2021	2023	2030	2035	2043
Census and		1,144,919	1,166,049			
Population Estimates						
10 Year Migration		1,162,967	1,175,148	1,216,553	1,245,807	1,289,680
Variant						
Alternative Internal		1,165,087	1,178,187	1,222,833	1,254,681	1,302,192
Migration Variant						
Principal projections	1,141,374	1,157,285	1,165,531	1,194,894	1,217,164	1,251,689
High International		1,159,378	1,170,753	1,217,294	1,252,636	1,308,470
Migration Variant						
Low International		1,155,192	1,160,285	1,172,473	1,181,671	1,194,888
Migration Variant						

There is a divergence between the principal projections and the high and low international migration variants for Birmingham.





Birmingham's under 20s population is expected to remain stagnant or even decrease over 2025-2035, potentially creating a situation with a lower dependency ratio. This is, however, dependent on the level of international migration.

Aged 15 to 34



The emergent workforce population is expected to peak by 2041.





The working aged population is expected to grow throughout the 2020s to 2040s, under most scenarios except one of low international migration.

Aged 65 and over



However, the fastest growth in population is also the over 65s dependent population.



Coventry projections

All ages



Coventry's census population in 2021 and population estimate for 2023 are much lower than the projections using the 2018-based model, so the projections for Coventry should be treated with caution.





Coventry's under 20s dependent population is expected to grow more slowly in the mid 2020s to mid 2040s than it has done so previously.

Aged 15 to 34







Aged 65 and over





Dudley projections

All ages



Dudley	2018	2021	2023	2030	2035	2043
Census and		323,488	326,680			
Population Estimates						
10 Year Migration		323,056	324,380	328,069	330,985	337,794
Variant						
Alternative Internal		323,922	325,890	331,882	336,490	346,030
Migration Variant						
Principal projections	320,626	325,147	327,914	336,516	342,824	354,730
High International		325,274	328,263	338,560	346,662	362,128
Migration Variant						
Low International		325,021	327,563	334,467	338,977	347,317
Migration Variant						



Under 20s



Aged 15 to 34





Aged 20 to 64



Aged 65 and over



Under every scenario, Dudley's over 65s population is expected to grow rapidly.



Sandwell projections

Migration Variant

Migration Variant

All ages



333,442

336,609

344,110

348,949

357,606





Sandwell's population of under 20s is likely to peak by 2025, before growing again in the 2040s.

Aged 15 to 34







Its working aged population will be dependent on the level of migration.





Its over 65s population is expected to grow rapidly under all scenarios.



Solihull projections

All ages



Sounuu	2018	2021	2023	2030	2035	2043
Census and		216,240	218,793			
Population Estimates						
10 Year Migration		218,056	220,070	226,294	230,400	237,753
Variant						
Alternative Internal		218,237	220,463	227,704	232,738	241,691
Migration Variant						
Principal projections	214,909	219,139	221,879	230,362	235,927	245,342
High International		219,244	222,179	232,242	239,541	252,383
Migration Variant						
Low International		219,034	221,579	228,480	232,308	238,295
Migration Variant						





Aged 15 to 34





Aged 20 to 64



Aged 65 and over





Walsall projections

All ages



Census and		284,124	288,736			
Population Estimates						
10 Year Migration		287,798	290,384	298,218	303,893	314,186
Variant						
Alternative Internal		289,389	293,065	304,431	312,383	325,985
Migration Variant						
Principal projections	283,378	289,405	293,095	304,384	312,180	325,281
High International		289,571	293,542	306,822	316,608	333,526
Migration Variant						
Low International		289,239	292,647	301,941	307,744	317,025
Migration Variant						





Aged 15 to 34





\bigcirc Demographic and Diversity: 2018-Based Subnational Population Projections (link) Opulation by Year and Projection Place Projection • 10 Year Migration Variant • Alternative Internal Migration Variant • Default Projections • High International Migration Va... • Low International Mig. ∧ ■ West Midlands 185,000 \sim ∩ ■ West Midlands Birmingham 180,000 Coventry Dudley Sandwell Solihull 175.000 Walsall U Wolverhampton pulation $\scriptstyle{\scriptstyle asymp \sim}$ \Box Yorkshire and The Humber 170.000 Age group 20-24 25-29 165,000 30-34 35-39 40-44 160,000 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 2030 **Year** 2035 + 142% 🖸 Microsoft Power BI < 2 of 4 > f У 🖪 🙁 💉

Aged 65 and over





Wolverhampton projections

All ages



10 Year Migration						
Variant		265,876	267,962	273,950	278,284	285,935
Alternative Internal						
Migration Variant		267,339	270,375	279,305	285,364	295,514
Principal projections	262,008	267,530	270,677	279,846	285,965	296,102
High International						
Migration Variant		267,873	271,544	283,733	292,302	306,619
Low International						
Migration Variant		267,186	269,805	275,953	279,622	285,577



\bigcirc Demographic and Diversity: 2018-Based Subnational Population Projections (link) Population by Year and Projection Place Projection • 10 Year Migration Variant • Alternative Internal Migration Variant • Default Projections • High International Migration Va... • Low Inter national Mig ^ ■ West Midlands \sim ^ ■ West Midlands Birmingham 74,000 Coventry Dudley Sandwell Solihull U Walsall 72,000 Wolverhampton unitelui ✓ ☐ Yorkshire and The Humber Age group Select all 00-04 05-09 10-14 15-19 20-24 25-29 68,000 30-34 35-39 2015 2035 2040 2045 2030 Year 40-44 + 142% 🖸 < 2 of 4 > Microsoft Power BI

Wolverhampton's population of under 20s is expected to peak by around 2027, before growing again in the 2040s.

Aged 15 to 34





Aged 20 to 64



Aged 65 and over





National and regional population projections

West Midlands Region, all ages



England, all ages



Research and Insights

Power Query M functions

Power Query M functions were used to combine and transform the dataset into long flat tables with unique identifiers developed so that data can be merged correctly.

Power Query M functions: Principal projections

let

Source

Excel.Workbook(Web.Contents("https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationp rojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2/2018based/table2.xls"), null, true),

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in

#"Added Custom1"

Power Query M functions: 10 Year Migration Variant

let

Source = Excel.Workbook(Web.Contents("https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationp rojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2/2018based10yearmigrationvariant/table217032020155604.xls"), null, true),

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Research and Insights

#"Unpivoted Other Columns" = Table.UnpivotOtherColumns(#"Changed Type1", {"AGE GROUP", "AREA", "CODE"}, "Attribute", "Value"),

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in

#"Added Custom1"

Power Query M functions: High International Migration Variant

let

Source :

Excel.Workbook(Web.Contents("https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationp rojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2/2018basedhighinternationalmigrationvariant/table21.xls"), null, true),

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in

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Power Query M functions: Low International Migration Variant

let

Source = Excel.Workbook(Web.Contents("https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationp rojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2/2018basedlowinternationalmigrationvariant/table22.xls"), null, true),

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in

#"Added Custom1"

Alternative Internal Migration Variant

let

Source =

 $\label{eq:scel.workbook} (\ensuremath{Web.Contents("https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2/2018basedalternativeinternalmigrationvariant/table23.xls"), null, true),$

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in

#"Added Custom1"

Combining the Variants

The five variants were joined up to create a long flat table.

let

Source = Table.Combine({#"2018snpp principal projections", #"2018snpp 10-year migration variant", #"2018snpp high international migration variant", #"2018snpp low international migration variant", #"2018snpp alternative internal migration variant"}),

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in

#"Replaced Value1"



Power BI Model

In addition to the 2018-based subnational population projections, the 2021-based interim projections for the United Kingdom and the GLA modelled population backseries were also brought in. These are then combined with *geographies.csv*, a long flat table representation of the UK. The projections are joined to the geographies in a star schema with one-to-many relationships as set out below:



