

MID-2020 POPULATION ESTIMATES

Birmingham Demographic Brief 2021/1

Summary

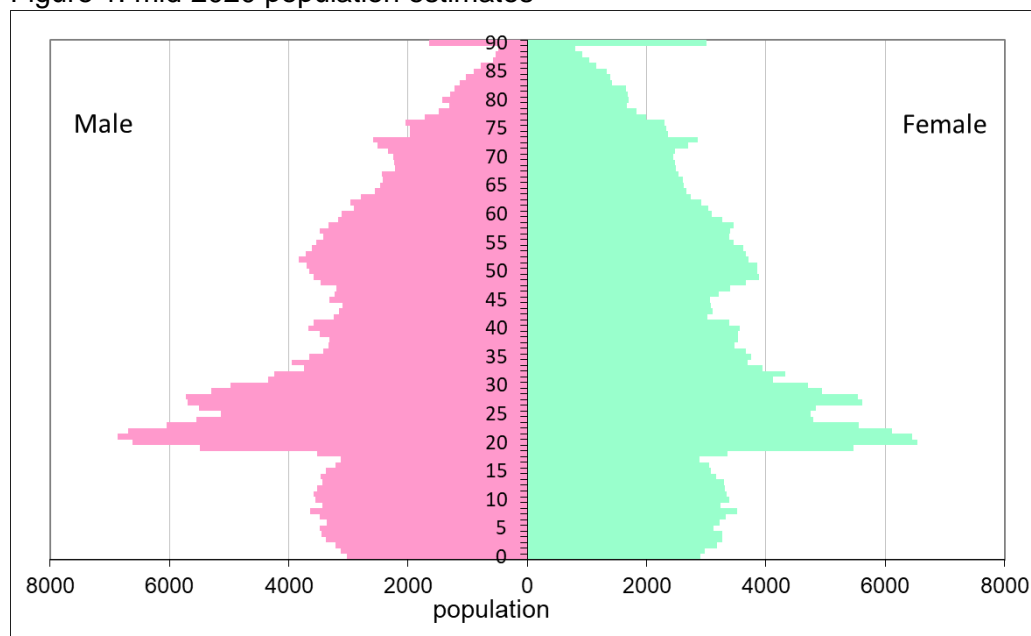
There were estimated to be 1,140,500 people living in Birmingham mid-2020, this is a decline of -0.1% (-1,300) compared with mid-2019. This is a break in the pattern of year on year population growth since the start of the millennium. Natural change was down on the previous year, due to a combination of decreasing fertility rates and an increase in mortality rates. Deaths, at 9,883 increased by 16% compared with the average of the previous five years (8,511). Births were down -8% and there were -6% less internal migration moves compared with previous years.

Mid-2020 Population estimates

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates that Birmingham's resident population was 1,140,500 in 2020. This is a decrease of 79,500 (7.5%) since 2010 and -1,300 (-0.1%) since 2019. This is the first year on year decrease following the rapid population growth since the start of the millennium. Decreasing fertility rates, changes to international migration policies and increased mortality rates, have contributed to more modest growth of recent years. Deaths were up 16% in 2020 compared with an average of the previous 5 years. The size of the older population and excess winter deaths affect mortality rates. In addition, these estimates were influenced by the first wave of the COVID 19 pandemic, there were 4,260 deaths registered between March and June 2020 and almost 30% (1,120) stated COVID 19 as the main cause of death.

Age structure

Figure 1: mid-2020 population estimates



Source: ONS, mid-2021 population estimates, Crown Copyright

Figure 1 is an age pyramid of Birmingham's population.

Each line in the pyramid represents a single year of age of population. The size and make-up of the population is determined by births, deaths and migration that have taken place in previous years.

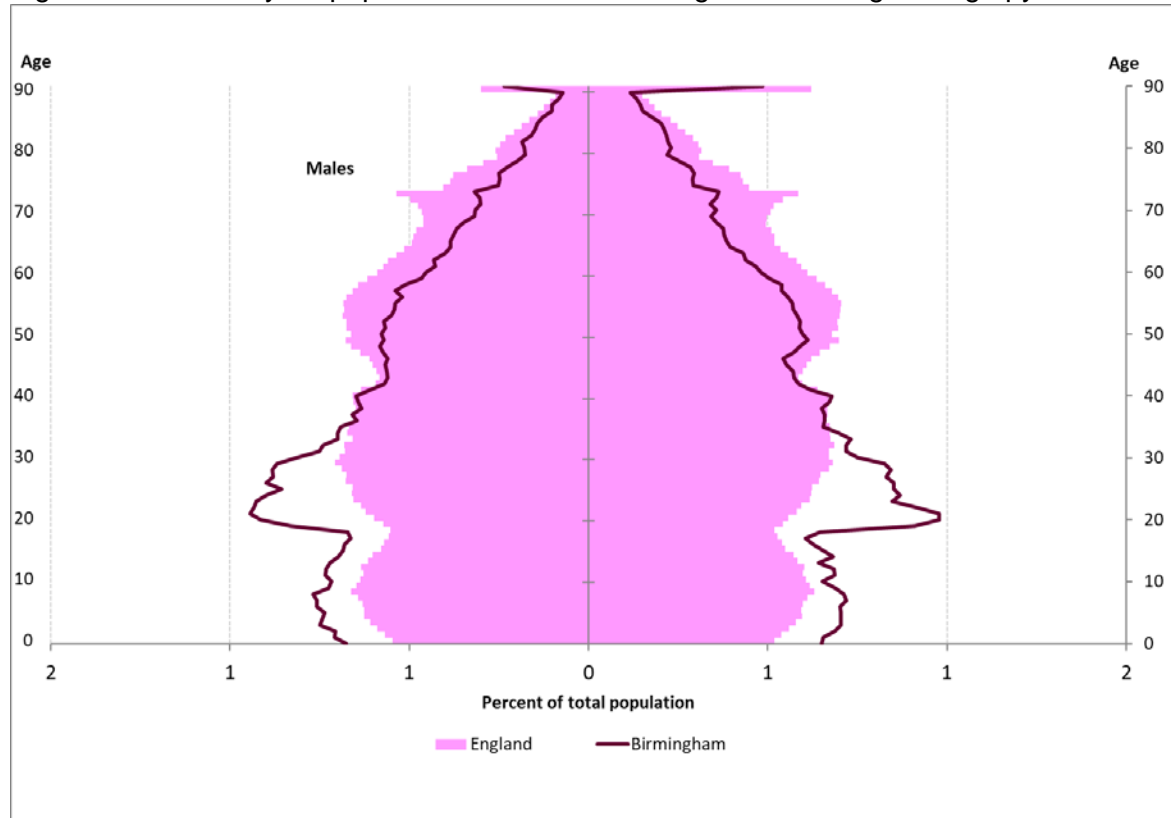
It shows that there are fewer people in the older age groups than in the younger, illustrating Birmingham's young age structure.

It shows the differences between the sexes – mid-2020 estimates show that there are more males than females in the younger age groups up to mid-30's (except for student ages). The remaining age groups generally show more females than males. The difference most marked in the oldest age groups, reflecting greater female longevity.

The bulge around early 20's is due to students coming to the city's universities and is also influenced by international migration.

The narrowing at the bottom of the pyramid reflects the recent decline in fertility.

Figure 2: 2020 mid-year population estimate - Birmingham and England age pyramid



Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 2 shows a comparison between England and Birmingham age pyramids. Birmingham has a youthful age profile, having a greater proportion of children and younger adults than the national average. Table 1 compares broad age groups - child, working age and pensioners. It also includes a comparison with the West Midlands region (WMR). Birmingham's age profile is also younger than the region, having a greater proportion of children, 22.5% compared with 19.6% in the region and 19.2% in England. Also, the proportion of pensioners in Birmingham (13.1%) is over 5 percentage points lower than the regional (18.7%) and England averages (18.5%).

Table 1: Broad age structure, 2020

	England number	England percent	WMR number	WMR percent	Birmingham number	Birmingham percent
0-15	10,852,200	19.2	1,170,600	19.6	257,100	22.5
16-64	35,233,900	62.3	3,678,300	61.7	734,000	64.4
65+	10,464,000	18.5	1,113,000	18.7	149,400	13.1
All	56,550,100	100.0	5,961,900	100.0	1,140,500	100.0

Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Core cities

There are 8 English core cities, Birmingham (1,140,500) is the largest followed by Leeds (798,800). Birmingham (7.5%) ranks 7th for population growth since 2010, only Leeds (6.9%) experienced less growth. Manchester ranked 1st with growth of 12.8%. Birmingham is the only core city where the population fell between 2019 and 2020.

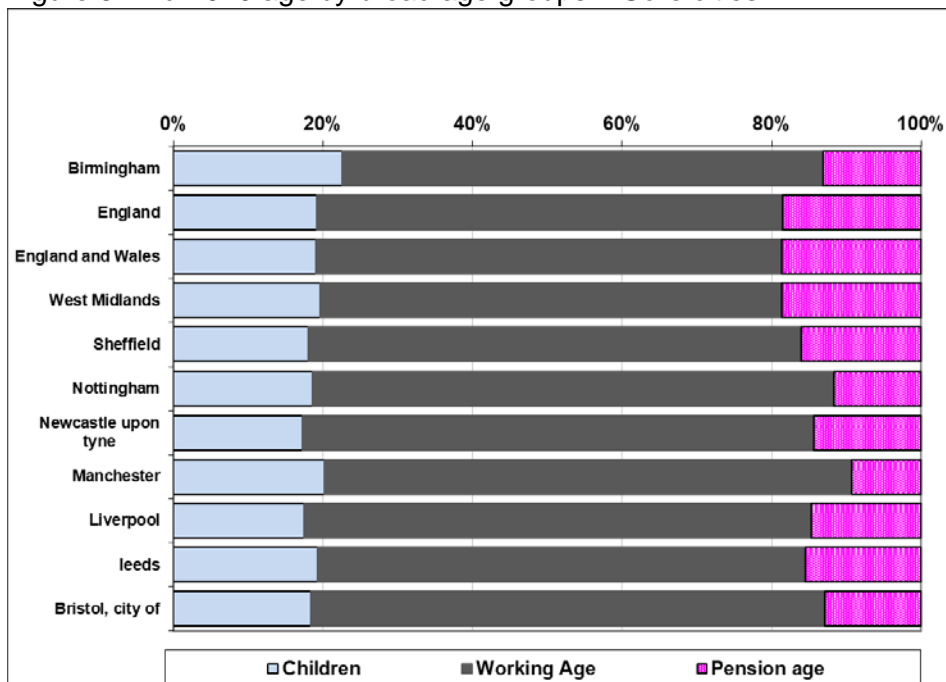
Table 2: Population change – Core cities

	2020	2019	2019-2020 change percent	2010	2010-2020 change percent
Birmingham	1,140,500	1,141,800	-0.1	1,061,100	7.5
Bristol	465,900	459,300	1.4	423,000	10.1
leeds	798,800	793,100	0.7	747,600	6.9
Liverpool	500,500	498,000	0.5	461,400	8.5
Manchester	555,700	552,900	0.5	492,600	12.8
Newcastle	306,800	302,800	1.3	276,700	10.9
Nottingham	337,100	329,200	2.4	299,800	12.5
Sheffield	589,200	584,900	0.7	544,600	8.2

Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 3 shows Birmingham's age structure compared with other core cities, Birmingham has the greatest proportion of children (22.5%), Newcastle (17.3%) the least. The only other English core cities above the national average for proportion of children are Manchester (20.2%) and Leeds (19.3%). At 64.4% Birmingham ranked bottom for the proportion of working age population. Manchester ranked top with 70.5%. All core cities were below England average for the proportion of pensioners, Sheffield (16.1%) ranked highest of the core cities and the Manchester (9.3%) the lowest.

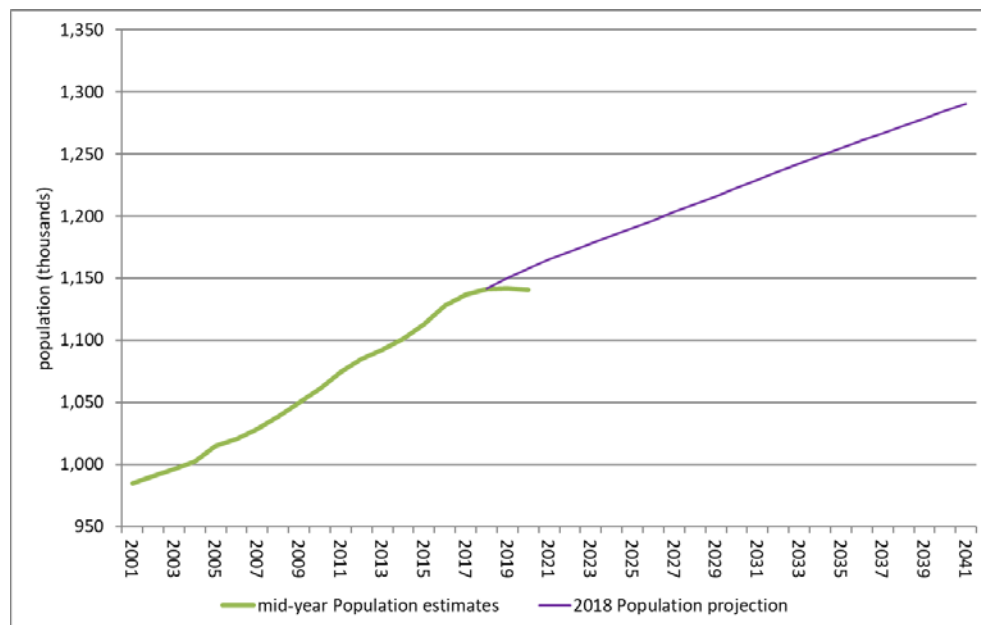
Figure 3: mid-2020 age by broad age groups – Core cities



Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Population change

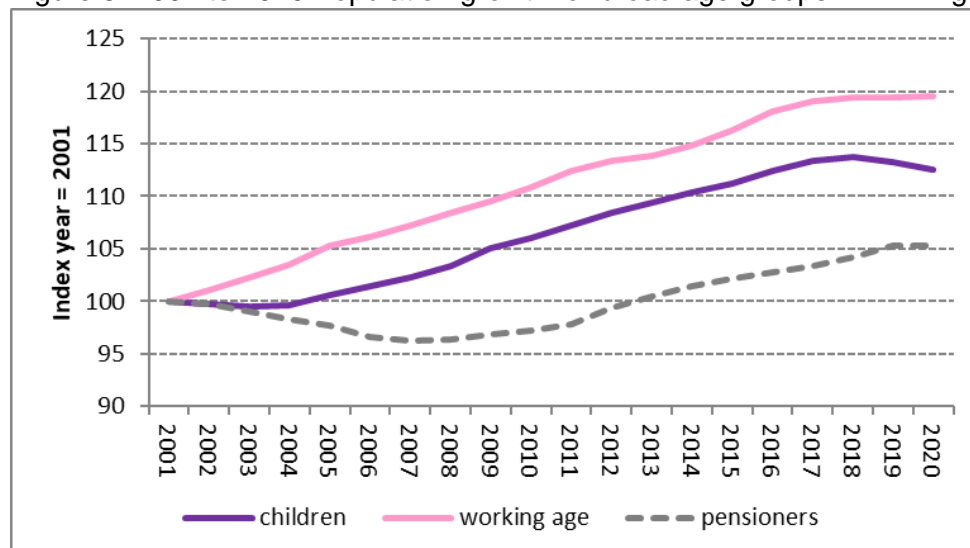
Figure 4: mid-year population change, 2001 to 2041



Source: ONS mid-2020 population estimates, 2018-base population projections, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 4 shows a time series of population estimates and 2018 projections. The chart shows rapid growth from the start of the millennium to more modest growth of recent years. It also includes a decline in population between 2019 and 2020. A comparison between the 2018 projection base and population estimate shows early indications that the projections may be too high.

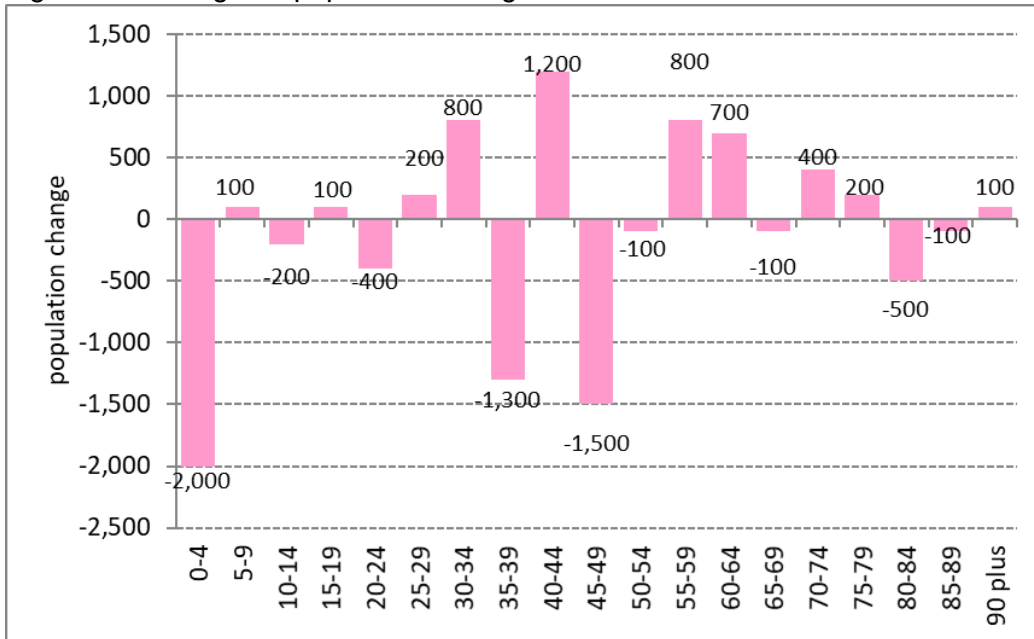
Figure 5: 2001 to 2020 Population growth for broad age groups in Birmingham



Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 5 shows that population growth was strongest for the working age population, also a steady decline for pensioners until 2009, thereafter consistent year on year increase to 2020. There has been consistent growth in the number of children however the last few years reflect the slowing trend. Figures 6 and 7 shows population change for detailed age groups .

Figure 6: Birmingham population change 2019 to 2020

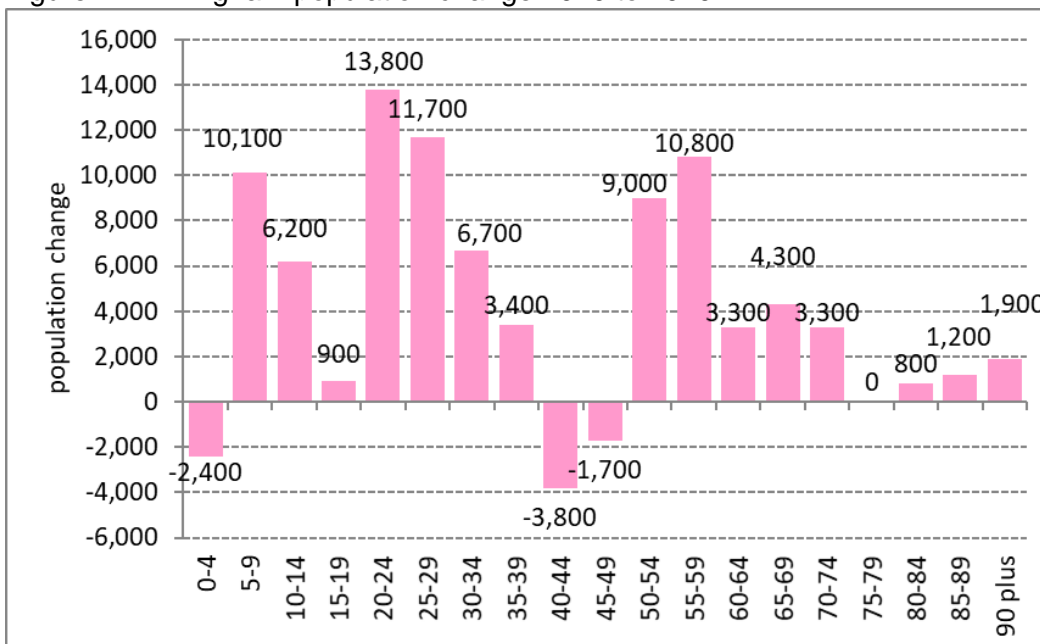


Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 6 shows population change 2019 to 2020 by five-year age groups. Pre-school (-2,000), late 30's (-1,300) and late 40's (-1,500) age groups showed the greatest losses in population. Growth was strongest for those aged 40 to 44 (1,200), early 30's (800) and late 50's (800).

Figure 7 shows that between 2010 and 2020 Birmingham's population increased by around 79,500 (7.5%). There were increases for all five-year age groups except for people in their 40's. Growth was strongest for the 20's age group. The increase in Birmingham's population is due to natural change (more births than deaths) and international migration, although the trend of losing Birmingham residents to surrounding areas continues.

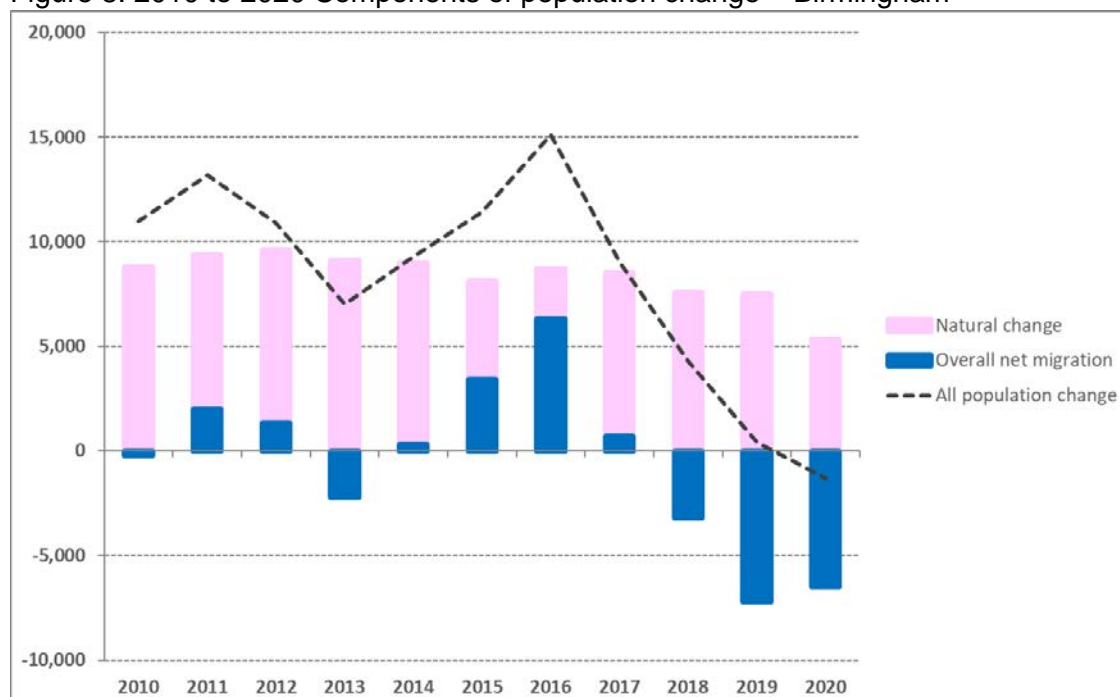
Figure 7: Birmingham population change 2010 to 2020



Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Components of population change

Figure 8: 2010 to 2020 Components of population change – Birmingham



Source: ONS, mid-2020 population estimates, Crown Copyright 2021

Table 3: 2010 to 2020 Components of population change – Birmingham

start	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
end	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Start population	1,050,100	1,061,100	1,074,300	1,085,200	1,092,200	1,101,500	1,113,000	1,128,100	1,137,100	1,141,400	1,141,800
Natural change:births	17,055	17,479	17,636	17,533	17,231	16,829	17,163	17,017	16,186	15,706	15,208
Natural change:deaths	8,288	8,107	8,028	8,436	8,235	8,718	8,466	8,521	8,623	8,227	9,883
Natural change:net	8,767	9,372	9,608	9,097	8,996	8,111	8,697	8,496	7,563	7,479	5,325
Internal migration:in	38,300	38,000	42,300	40,800	42,500	42,900	43,300	51,100	50,300	52,000	46,100
Internal migration:out	44,900	43,600	45,500	46,500	47,600	47,400	47,800	58,800	60,700	63,500	59,500
Internal migration:net	-6,600	-5,500	-3,200	-5,600	-5,100	-4,500	-4,500	-7,600	-10,400	-11,600	-13,400
International migration:in	13,300	16,100	11,700	12,000	13,700	15,800	17,700	14,200	16,100	16,500	17,500
International migration:out	6,900	8,600	7,200	8,600	8,300	7,900	6,900	5,900	9,000	12,100	10,600
International migration:net	6,400	7,500	4,500	3,400	5,400	7,900	10,800	8,300	7,200	4,400	6,900
Overall net migration	-200	2,000	1,300	-2,200	300	3,400	6,300	700	-3,200	-7,200	-6,500
Special changes	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	-100	100	-200
Other changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
Unexplained population change (UPC)	2,500	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All population change	11,000	13,200	10,900	7,000	9,300	11,400	15,100	9,000	4,300	400	-1,300
End population	1,061,100	1,074,300	1,085,200	1,092,200	1,101,500	1,113,000	1,128,100	1,137,100	1,141,400	1,141,800	1,140,500

Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2021

Figure 8 shows the components of population change in Birmingham since 2010 - 2020. In all years, natural change and international migration has added to the population, despite this 2019 – 2020 showed a modest population loss. More people move away from Birmingham than migrate inwards from elsewhere in the UK, continuing a longstanding trend of out migration. Table 2 provides a more detailed breakdown, it shows that over the past decade net migration to Birmingham for people living overseas averaged 6,600 per year. This compares with a loss of -7,100 people per year migrating to other parts of the UK and an additional 8,300 people on average from natural change. Overall, resulting in an average population growth of 7,900 per year.

Coronavirus and the impact on population estimate

These population estimates reflect the population at June 30th 2020 towards the end of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period between March and June 2020, the UK was in lockdown for much of the time and these restrictions had direct impacts on population change at both the national and subnational level. Events that affected the components of population change and that feed into the population estimates include:

- a “first wave” of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic occurred during the period up to June 2020
- moving home within the UK became more difficult from 23 March 2020, however, many moves for study had already occurred before the pandemic
- international immigration became more difficult, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advising against overseas travel from 17 March 2020
- areas with the other populations we measure, such as prisoners or members of armed forces, had fewer people joining those populations in the months up to June 2020

ONS was not able to estimate international migration using the usual methods, this affected the period between March and June 2020. International migration was modelled using available data sources, as more information becomes available there is a chance the methods could be updated and the estimates revised.

A population estimate from the Census of population is due to be published in Spring 2022, this will be followed by Mid-2021 population estimates in the autumn and later on a revised set of population estimates between 2012 and 2020.

Transport & Connectivity
Inclusive growth Directorate
www.birmingham.gov.uk/census
brenda.henry@birmingham.gov.uk
0121 303 4208