

WMCA Mid-Year 2025 Population Estimates¹

Summary:

- The mid-year 2025 population estimates show there were over 3m residents in the WMCA area. Since the mid-2024 estimates, the population in the WMCA area decreased by 0.1% (-4,412 people); England increased by 0.4% to reach a total of 58.8m residents.
- Components of population change between mid-2024 and mid-2025, shows for the WMCA area that there were 9,606 more births than deaths, net international migration of 22,946 people and an additional 95 people classed as other. However, there was a greater net decrease of 37,059 people from internal migration.
- In mid-2025, the WMCA had a higher proportion of those aged 0-15 years old than nationally (20.7% vs 17.9%) and for those aged 16-64 years old (63.8% vs 63.0%).
- In mid-2025, the median age for the WMCA area was 36.7 years compared to 40.6 years nationally.
- In mid-2025 there were 3,357 people per sq.km in the WMCA area, above the England average of 451.

Full Briefing

Total Population and Components of Change

- The mid-year 2025 population estimates show there were over 3m residents in the WMCA area. Since the mid-2024 estimates, the population in the WMCA area decreased by 0.1% (-4,412 people); England increased by 0.4% to reach a total of 58.8m residents. Compared to five years ago, population in the WMCA area has increased by 3.6% (+105,704), England increased by 4.5%.
- Since mid-2024, the WMCA population decrease can be attributed to females (-5,086 to 1.53m) which was not offset by the small increase in males (+674 to 1.5m). England saw increases for both females and males. In mid-2025, for the WMCA 50.5% of the population were females compared to 51.0% nationally.
- Between mid-2024 and mid-2025, Birmingham, Coventry and Sandwell had a decrease in total population. While Dudley and Solihull increased at a faster rate than nationally (+0.8% and +0.5% respectively).

Trends in total population and the change between mid-2024 and mid-2025:

	Mid-2020	Mid-2021	Mid-2022	Mid-2023	Mid-2024	Mid-2025	Annual Change	Annual % Change
Birmingham	1,148,692	1,143,285	1,153,436	1,169,606	1,182,920	1,176,960	-5,960	-0.5%
Coventry	344,702	344,151	352,215	360,269	368,707	364,766	-3,941	-1.1%
Dudley	322,513	323,591	325,265	327,845	331,239	333,941	2,702	0.8%
Sandwell	341,436	341,895	345,718	349,541	353,270	352,918	-352	-0.1%
Solihull	216,432	216,677	217,722	219,303	220,299	221,449	1,150	0.5%
Walsall	284,578	284,392	286,669	290,545	294,626	295,722	1,096	0.4%
Wolverhampton	263,123	264,260	268,886	275,074	280,541	281,434	893	0.3%
WMCA	2,921,476	2,918,251	2,949,911	2,992,183	3,031,602	3,027,190	-4,412	-0.1%
England	56,325,961	56,554,891	57,189,701	57,990,791	58,607,170	58,834,812	227,642	0.4%

¹ Source: ONS, Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2025, released July 2026

- Across all Combined Authorities, in mid-2025, the WMCA area remains the highest for population, however this is closely followed by Greater Manchester (9,600 resident difference due to Greater Manchester increasing by 17,859 people between mid-2024 and mid-2025). Since mid-2024, the WMCA and West Yorkshire were the only Combined Authorities to experience a decrease (West Yorkshire by 0.04% or -911 people to 2.4m). The highest annual increase was in Lancashire by 1.2% or 18,450 people (to 1.6m).
- Components of population change between mid-2024 and mid-2025, (as seen in the following table) shows for the WMCA area that there were 9,606 more births than deaths, net international migration of 22,946 people and an additional 95 people classed as other. However, there was a greater net decrease of 37,059 people from internal migration.

Components of population change:

	Birmingham	Coventry	Dudley	Sandwell	Solihull	Walsall	Wolverhampton	WMCA
Population 2024	1,182,920	368,707	331,239	353,270	220,299	294,626	280,541	3,031,602
Births	15,117	4,112	3,307	4,523	1,950	3,451	3,429	35,889
Deaths	8,931	3,069	3,421	3,027	2,237	2,916	2,682	26,283
Births - Deaths	6,186	1,043	-114	1,496	-287	535	747	9,606
Internal Migration Inflow	62,818	25,048	15,106	20,176	12,912	15,533	13,464	165,057
Internal Migration Outflow	84,668	33,420	13,439	24,650	11,932	16,813	17,194	202,116
Internal Migration Net	-21,850	-8,372	1,667	-4,474	980	-1,280	-3,730	-37,059
International Migration Inflow	26,920	12,982	2,577	5,722	1,550	3,681	6,539	59,971
International Migration Outflow	17,217	9,601	1,435	3,103	1,112	1,847	2,710	37,025
International Migration Net	9,703	3,381	1,142	2,619	438	1,834	3,829	22,946
Other	1	7	7	7	19	7	47	95
Population 2025	1,176,960	364,766	333,941	352,918	221,449	295,722	281,434	3,027,190

Population by Age Breakdown

- Since mid-2024, there was a decrease in the WMCA population for those aged 0-15 years old (-6,526 to 625,422) and for those aged 16-64 (-2,109 to over 1.9m). While there was an increase in those aged 65 years and over (+4,223 to 471,509). Within the WMCA, Sandwell's decrease in population was only attributed to a decrease in those aged 0-15 years old while for Birmingham and Coventry it was also those aged 16-64 years old.
- In mid-2025, the median age for the WMCA area was 36.7 years, an increase from 36.5 years in mid-2024, similar patterns were seen for England where the median age increased to 40.6 years from 40.4 years. Within the WMCA area for mid-2025, median age varies from 34.1 years in Birmingham to 42.9 years in Solihull.
- In mid-2025, the WMCA still had a higher proportion of those aged 0-15 years old than nationally (20.7% vs 17.9%) and for those aged 16-64 years old (63.8% vs 63.0%). All local authorities in the WMCA had a higher proportion of 0-15 years old than nationally.

Population by age:

	All Ages	Median Age	Aged 0 to 15	% Aged 0 to 15	Aged 16 to 64	% Aged 16 to 64	Aged 65+	% Aged 65+
Birmingham	1,176,960	34.1	249,407	21.2%	771,312	65.5%	156,241	13.3%
Coventry	364,766	35.0	70,825	19.4%	242,238	66.4%	51,703	14.2%
Dudley	333,941	41.4	63,147	18.9%	203,155	60.8%	67,639	20.3%
Sandwell	352,918	36.9	76,819	21.8%	224,606	63.6%	51,493	14.6%
Solihull	221,449	42.9	42,999	19.4%	130,788	59.1%	47,662	21.5%
Walsall	295,722	38.5	62,688	21.2%	181,837	61.5%	51,197	17.3%
Wolverhampton	281,434	37.7	59,537	21.2%	176,323	62.7%	45,574	16.2%
WMCA	3,027,190	36.7	625,422	20.7%	1,930,259	63.8%	471,509	15.6%
England	58,834,812	40.6	10,539,750	17.9%	37,060,671	63.0%	11,234,391	19.1%

- In mid-2025, across all Combined Authorities, the WMCA still had the highest proportion of the population aged 0-15 years old, followed by Greater Manchester by 19.7% down to York & North Yorkshire at 15.2%. The WMCA also had the smallest proportion of the population aged 65 years and over at 15.6%, followed by Greater Manchester at 15.9% up to 24.9% in York & North Yorkshire.

Population density

- In mid-2025 there were 3,357 people per sq.km in the WMCA area, above the England average of 451. Within the WMCA area, figures vary from 1,242 in Solihull to 4,395 in Birmingham.

Population density mid-2024 to mid-2025:

	2024 people per sq. km	2025 people per sq. km
Birmingham	4,418	4,395
Coventry	3,738	3,698
Dudley	3,381	3,408
Sandwell	4,129	4,124
Solihull	1,236	1,242
Walsall	2,833	2,844
Wolverhampton	4,040	4,053
WMCA	3,362	3,357
England	450	451