

Black Country Mid-Year Population Estimates¹

- ❖ The Black Country population is growing and in 2018 stands at 1.19m residents – a 0.6% increase from 2017.
 - ❖ The Black Country LEP has one of the youngest populations (0 – 15 years old) across all LEPs at 21.2% of the total (second only to Thames Valley).
- The mid-year 2018 population estimates show that there are 1,193,390 residents in the Black Country LEP (BCLEP) area, an increase of 0.6% (+7,292) from the mid-year 2017 population estimate, in line with the England average.
 - Within the BCLEP, Wolverhampton has experienced the highest increase in population, by 0.8% (+2,082) to 262,008 residents. This is followed by Walsall which has seen population increase by 0.7% (+2,085) to 283,378 residents, Sandwell at +0.6% (+1,918) to 327,378 residents, and Dudley had the smallest growth at +0.4% (+1,207) to 320,626 residents.
 - The following table shows the components of population change between mid-2017 and mid-2018. Sandwell had the largest birth to death ratio, with 1,512 more births than deaths, while Dudley had the lowest, with 337 more births than deaths.
 - Sandwell had the largest net loss of internal migration (-1,488 people), followed by Wolverhampton with – 328 people. Dudley and Walsall had a net increase of migration (+475 people and +450 people respectively).
 - Sandwell had the largest increase in net international migration at +1,900 people, while Dudley had the smallest increase, at +363 people.

Figure 1: Components of population change

Area	Estimated Population mid-2017	Births	Deaths	Births minus Deaths	Internal Migration Inflow	Internal Migration Outflow	Internal Migration Net	International Migration Inflow	International Migration Outflow	International Migration Net	Other	Estimated Population mid-2018	Total Change (mid 2017 - mid 2018)	% change (mid 2017 - mid 2018)
Dudley	319,419	3,681	3,344	337	11,764	11,289	475	869	506	363	32	320,626	1,207	0.4%
Sandwell	325,460	4,592	3,080	1,512	15,409	16,897	-1,488	2,787	887	1,900	-6	327,378	1,918	0.6%
Walsall	281,293	3,825	2,908	917	12,630	12,180	450	1,303	594	709	9	283,378	2,085	0.7%
Wolverhampton	259,926	3,428	2,756	672	11,752	12,080	-328	2,876	1,148	1,728	10	262,008	2,082	0.8%
BCLEP	1,186,098	15,526	12,088	3,438	51,555	52,446	-891	7,835	3,135	4,700	45	1,193,390	7,292	0.6%
England	55,619,430	636,776	512,192	124,584	100,459	119,485	-19,026	562,457	308,960	253,497	-1,307	55,977,178	357,748	0.6%

Population by age breakdown

- At the LEP level, the BCLEP is the second highest across all the LEPs for the percentage of people aged 0 – 15 years old, at 21.2%. This share is second only to the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP (21.5%), with the BCLEP above the England average of 19.2%.
- Across all LEPs, BCLEP is the 8th lowest for the percentage of people aged 65 years old and over, at 17.4%, and below the England average of 18.2%
- BCLEP is the 20th highest for the percentage of people aged 16 – 64 years old with 61.4%, below the England average of 62.6%.

¹ Mid-year population estimates are produced with a standard reference date of the 30th June of each year.

- Within the BCLEP, all local authorities are above the England average for the percentage of people aged 0 – 15 years old, and they vary from 19.3% in Dudley to 22.6% in Sandwell.
- In contrast, all Black Country local authorities are below the England average for people aged 16 – 64 years old, varying from 60.3% in Dudley to 62.3% in Sandwell.
- Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are below the England average for people aged 65 years old and over (15.0%, 17.6% and 16.6% respectively), while Dudley is above at 20.3%.

Figure 2: Population by age

	0-15 years old	% 0-15 years old	16-64 years old	% of 16-64 years old	65+ years old	% of 65+ years old
Dudley	62,009	19.3%	193,442	60.3%	65,175	20.3%
Sandwel	74,029	22.6%	204,091	62.3%	49,258	15.0%
Walsall	61,278	21.6%	172,234	60.8%	49,866	17.6%
Wolverhampton	55,471	21.2%	163,091	62.2%	43,446	16.6%
BCLEP	252,787	21.2%	732,858	61.4%	207,745	17.4%
England	10,748,458	19.2%	35,049,467	62.6%	10,179,253	18.2%

Population density

- The mid-year 2018 data shows that there were 3,343 people per sq.km in the BCLEP area, significantly above the England average of 430.
- Within the BCLEP, the people per sq. km varies from 2,725 in Walsall to 3,826 in Sandwell.
- Since the mid-year 2017 estimates, the number of people per sq.km has increased by 0.6% for the BCLEP, slightly below the 0.7% increase for England.

Figure 3: Population density mid-2017 to mid-2018

	2017 people per sq. km	2018 people per sq. km	Change	% Change
Dudley	3,261	3,273	12	0.4%
Sandwell	3,804	3,826	22	0.6%
Walsall	2,705	2,725	20	0.7%
Wolverhampton	3,743	3,773	30	0.8%
BCLEP	3322	3,343	20	0.6%
England	427	430	3	0.7%

Source: ONS, Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2018, June 2019.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2018>