



Latest population projections

At a glance:

- By mid-2032 Bradford's population is projected to grow to 570,100 – an increase of 3.1%
- The median age is projected to increase from 36 years in 2022 to 39 years in 2032
- The older age groups are projected to have the largest percentage increases: the 65+ age group is projected to increase from 15.4% in 2022 to 17.9% in 2032
- The under-19 population is projected to decrease from 27% in 2022 to 23% by 2032

Main findings for Bradford

The latest population projections at a local authority level were published on 24 June 2025 and use data from the mid-2022 population estimates to indicate the possible population size of local authorities.

By mid-2032 the population of Bradford District is projected to grow to 570,100. This is an increase of 3.1% from mid-2022. By 2049 the population is projected to grow to 588,541 - an increase of 6.4%.

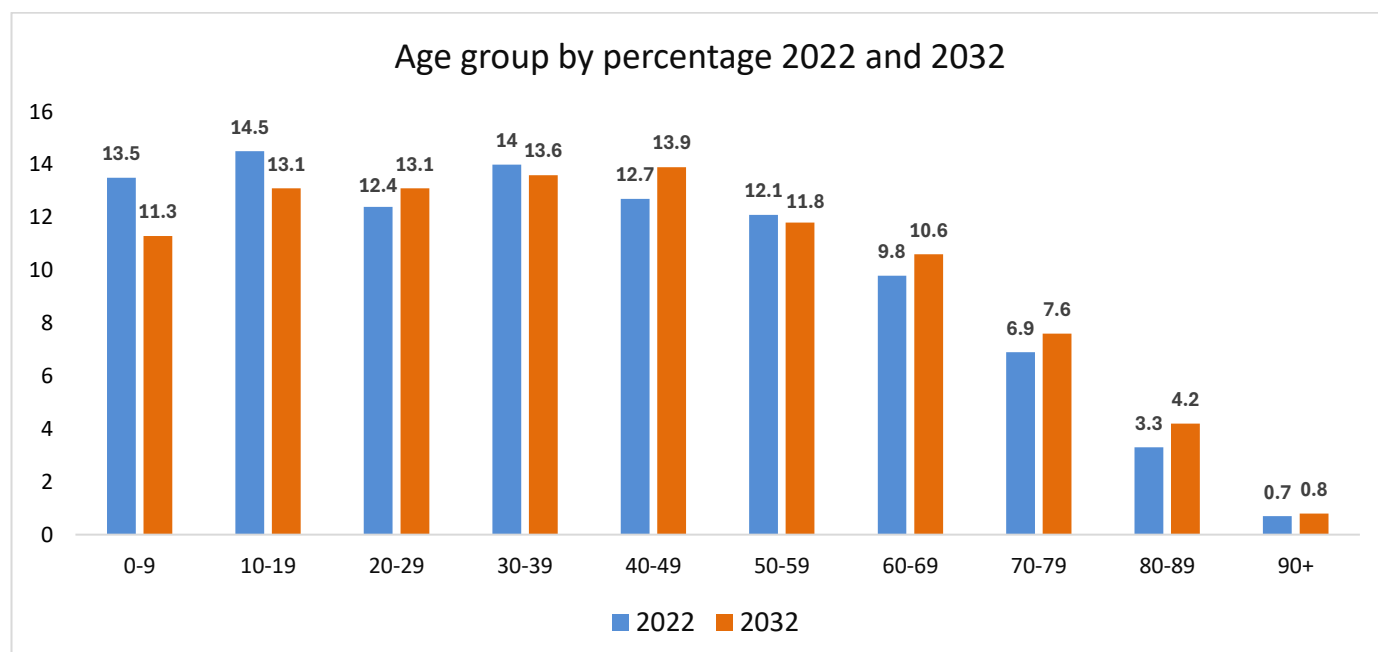
The biggest factor in this population change for Bradford District is net international migration which is estimated to increase the population by 30,896 people – unlike the majority of areas in England where net internal migration (migration from other areas of the UK) is projected to be the biggest factor in population change.

Age profile in Bradford in 2032

In 2032 the median age (where 50% of the population is older and 50% is younger) in Bradford is projected to rise from 36 years in 2022 to 39 years in 2032.

In 2032 the under-19 population will form 23% of the District population (compared with 27% in 2022). This is above average for England in 2032 (20%).

The working age population (people aged 16 years to State Pension age) is projected to stay the same, at around 64%. The older population (people aged 65 and over) is projected to increase from 15.4% in 2022 to 17.9% in 2032.



Bradford compared with other local authorities

Bradford has a lower percentage population increase by 2032 than the other local authorities in West Yorkshire (apart from Calderdale). Wakefield has the highest percentage increase (9.1%) followed by Leeds (8%) and Kirklees (3.9%). Across the country, Birmingham has a projected increase of 3.2% by 2032 and Manchester has a projected increase of 11%. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has the highest population increase with 20.4% followed by South Derbyshire (19.2%) and Stratford-upon-Avon (17.4%).

Leeds has the lowest median age in West Yorkshire at 36 years (no change in 2032) Calderdale's median age is projected to rise from 42 to 44, Kirklees from 39 to 41 and Wakefield 41 to 42. Elsewhere Birmingham's median age is projected to rise from 34 to 35 and Manchester's median age is projected to rise from 30 to 31.

Bradford's components of change

Between 2022 and 2032 Bradford's population is projected to increase by 17,152 people. The number of projected births and deaths is 63,926 births and 50,392 deaths leaving a net figure of 13,534. The number of people moving to live in Bradford from other areas of England is a projected 199,388 and the number of people leaving Bradford for other areas of England is a projected 223,859 leaving a net figure of -24,472. Cross-border migration (between UK nations) is a net 2,807. The number of people moving to live in Bradford from overseas is a projected 58,907 and the projected number of people leaving Bradford for overseas is a projected 28,011 leaving a net figure of 30,896.

2022 population	Projected population changes		2032 population
	Natural change	+13,545	
	Net internal migration	-24,472	
	Net cross-border migration	-2,807	
553,044	Net international migration	+30,896	570,100

These population projections were published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 24 June 2024 and are based on the population at 30 June 2022. The data used in this bulletin uses the migration category variant projection in place of the principal projections, as advised by ONS, as this is a better reflection of short-term population change.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) advises that the projections do not predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour. Projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, particularly for smaller geographies and detailed age and sex breakdowns.

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