

2018 Population Projections

Introduction

The 2018 sub-national population projections were published on 24th March 2020. They were based on the 2018 mid-year estimates, demographic observations and assumptions based on local migration, fertility and mortality trends. The projections help to inform local policy and planning in public services and other areas. They do not attempt to predict the impact that future policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors may have on demographic behaviour. The projections are usually updated every 2 years, however, there will not be a 2020 base projection. The next projection will take place following the 2021 Census, so the results may help inform the new projections.

National results

Table 1 shows the UK population increasing by 3 million (4.5%) to 69.4 million by 2028. The projected growth to 2028 varies substantially between the four nations of the UK: England's population is projected to grow 5.0% over this period, for Northern Ireland the figure is 3.7%, while for Scotland and Wales the figures are 1.8% and 0.6% respectively. The national statistician comments:

"The UK population is projected to grow by 3 million people by 2028. This assumes migration will have a greater impact on the size of the population than the combination of births and deaths. Although migration declines at first and the number of births is stable, the number of deaths is projected to grow as those born in the baby boom after World War Two reach older ages....."

Country	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043
United Kingdom	66,435.6	68,138.3	69,397.4	70,468.3	71,446.8	72,418.0
Great Britain	64,553.9	66,212.8	67,445.7	68,500.8	69,468.2	70,428.8
England and Wales	59,115.8	60,717.3	61,908.6	62,937.9	63,895.0	64,853.9
England	55,977.2	57,557.5	58,751.7	59,792.0	60,766.3	61,744.1
Scotland	5,438.1	5,495.6	5,537.1	5,562.9	5,573.2	5,574.8
Wales	3,138.6	3,159.7	3,156.9	3,145.9	3,128.8	3,109.8
Northern Ireland	1,881.6	1,925.4	1,951.8	1,967.5	1,978.6	1,989.2

Source: ONS, Crown Copyright 2020

Regional results

Table 2 shows population projections for England and the regions over the next 25 years. All regions show growth to 2043. Rates of growth are lower than the English average (10.3%) in the South East and northern regions. The North East shows least growth at 4.1%, while the most rapid growth is expected in the East Midlands (14.3%).

Table 2: 2018-based sub-national population projections for England and the regions

Region	2018	2023	2028	thousands		
				2033	2039	2043
England	55,977.2	57,557.5	58,751.7	59,792.0	60,961.8	61,744.1
North East	2,657.9	2,693.1	2,719.2	2,738.8	2,753.2	2,767.1
North West	7,292.1	7,453.8	7,581.2	7,694.0	7,801.7	7,912.6
Yorkshire and The Humber	5,479.6	5,587.6	5,674.2	5,750.4	5,819.6	5,890.4
West Midlands	5,900.8	6,098.0	6,263.0	6,415.8	6,562.4	6,708.2
East	6,201.2	6,378.4	6,512.4	6,623.5	6,728.4	6,839.4
London	8,908.1	9,188.3	9,342.1	9,493.9	9,658.5	9,814.0
South East	9,133.6	9,366.8	9,538.9	9,675.6	9,799.8	9,933.8
South West	5,599.7	5,806.9	5,982.7	6,131.6	6,261.5	6,387.8
East Midlands	4,804.1	4,984.6	5,138.0	5,268.3	5,381.3	5,490.8

Figures may not add due to rounding

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

Core cities

Table 3 shows population growth for 8 English core cities over the next ten years and next twenty years. Population is projected to increase for all the 8 English Core cities, but most are expected to show growth rates below the English average. Between 2018 and 2028 Newcastle (2.9%) is expected to show the least growth, followed by Leeds (3.2%) and Birmingham (3.9%), while Bristol (6.5%) is expected to show the strongest growth.

Table 3: 2018 sub-national population projections for English Core cities (thousands)

Core city	2018	2028	2038	2018 - 2028		2018 - 2038	
				thousands	percent	thousands	percent
				England	55,977.2	58,751.7	60,766.3
Birmingham	1,141.4	1,186.0	1,230.0	45	3.9	89	7.8
Bristol, City of	463.4	493.4	521.0	30	6.5	58	12.4
Leeds	789.2	814.4	834.3	25	3.2	45	5.7
Liverpool	494.8	525.3	548.6	31	6.2	54	10.9
Manchester	547.6	569.6	590.3	22	4.0	43	7.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	300.2	308.9	314.8	9	2.9	15	4.9
Nottingham	331.1	344.2	353.7	13	4.0	23	6.8
Sheffield	582.5	612.4	638.0	30	5.1	55	9.5

Figures may not add due to rounding

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

West Midlands Metropolitan area and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

The population in the West Midland Metropolitan area is expected to increase by 167,300 (5.7%) to 3,227,600 in 2028.

The West Midland's metropolitan area's population projection to 2028 exceeds the English average. Coventry stands out as showing the strongest population growth compared with its metropolitan neighbours. Birmingham's growth is below that of all West Midland's metropolitan authorities.

Table 4: West Midland's metropolitan area

West Midlands MET	2018	2028	2038	2018 - 2028		2018 - 2038	
				thousands	percent	thousands	percent
England	55,977,200	58,751,700	60,766,300	2,774,500	5.0	4,789,100	7.9
Birmingham	1,141,400	1,186,000	1,230,000	44,600	3.9	88,600	7.2
Coventry	366,800	412,100	443,800	45,300	12.4	77,100	17.4
Dudley	320,600	334,100	347,100	13,500	4.2	26,500	7.6
Sandwell	327,400	344,900	360,500	17,600	5.4	33,100	9.2
Solihull	214,900	228,000	239,400	13,100	6.1	24,500	10.2
Walsall	283,400	301,300	317,000	17,900	6.3	33,700	10.6
Wolverhampton	262,000	277,300	289,700	15,300	5.8	27,700	9.6
West Midlands MET	2,916,500	3,083,800	3,227,600	167,300	5.7	311,200	9.6

Figures may not add due to rounding

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

Population in the LEP area is expected to increase by 88,300 by 2028 (4.3%), below the England average of 5%. Tamworth was the only LA within the LEP where the population is expected to decrease over the projection period. Bromsgrove (8.7%) is expected to show the strongest growth to 2028 followed by Cannock Chase (6.6%) and Solihull (6.1%).

Table 5: Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP

Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	2018	2028	2038	2018 - 2028		2018 - 2038	
				thousands	percent	thousands	percent
England	55,977,200	58,751,700	60,766,300	2,774,500	5.0	4,789,100	8.6
GBS LEP	2,040,300	2,128,600	2,210,000	88,300	4.3	169,700	8.3
Birmingham	1,141,400	1,186,000	1,230,000	44,600	3.9	88,600	7.8
Cannock Chase	100,100	106,700	112,300	6,600	6.6	12,200	12.2
East Staffordshire	118,600	125,600	131,400	7,000	5.9	12,800	10.8
Lichfield	104,000	107,700	111,100	3,800	3.7	7,100	6.8
Tamworth	76,700	75,900	76,000	-800	-1.0	-700	-0.9
Bromsgrove	98,700	107,200	113,800	8,600	8.7	15,100	15.3
Redditch	85,000	85,100	85,600	100	0.1	600	0.7
Solihull	214,900	228,000	239,400	13,100	6.1	24,500	11.4
Wyre Forrest	101,100	106,300	110,400	5,200	5.1	9,300	9.2

Figures may not add due to rounding

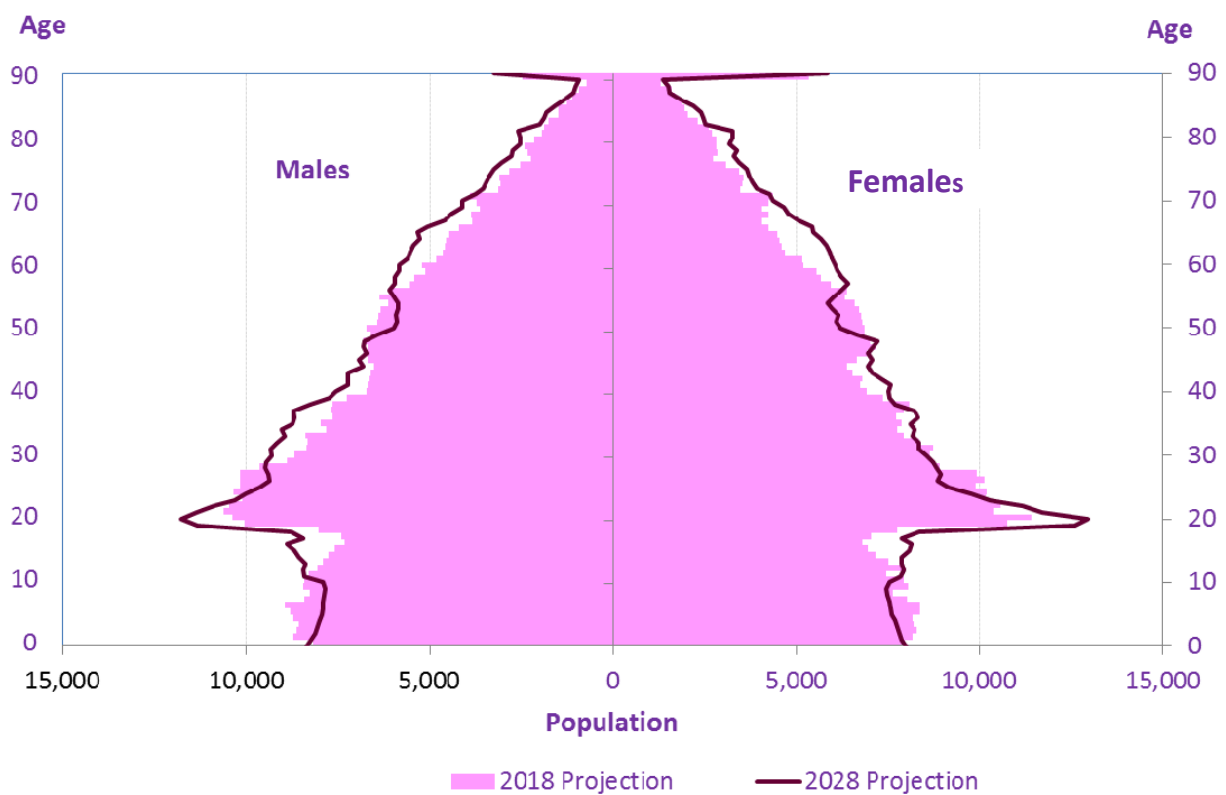
Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

Birmingham

If recent trends continue the population of Birmingham is projected to grow from 1,141,400 in 2018 to 1,186,000 (3.9%) in 2028 and to 1,230,000 (7.8%) in 2038.

Figure 1 shows what the age structure in 2028 is likely to look like compared with 2018. Birmingham has a young age structure with relatively high proportions of young people and lower proportions of older people. The bulge around the early twenties represents Birmingham’s large student population. The spike at the top right-side of the pyramid illustrates greater female longevity. The 2028 pyramid’s base shows the effect of declining birth rates. It also shows large increases of those in their 60s, due to high birth rates in the 1960s. There is a decrease of those in their 50’s due to the decline of birth rates in the 1970’s.

Figure 1: Birmingham age pyramid – 2018 compared with 2028



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

Broad age groups

Table 6: 2018 population projections for Birmingham broad age groups

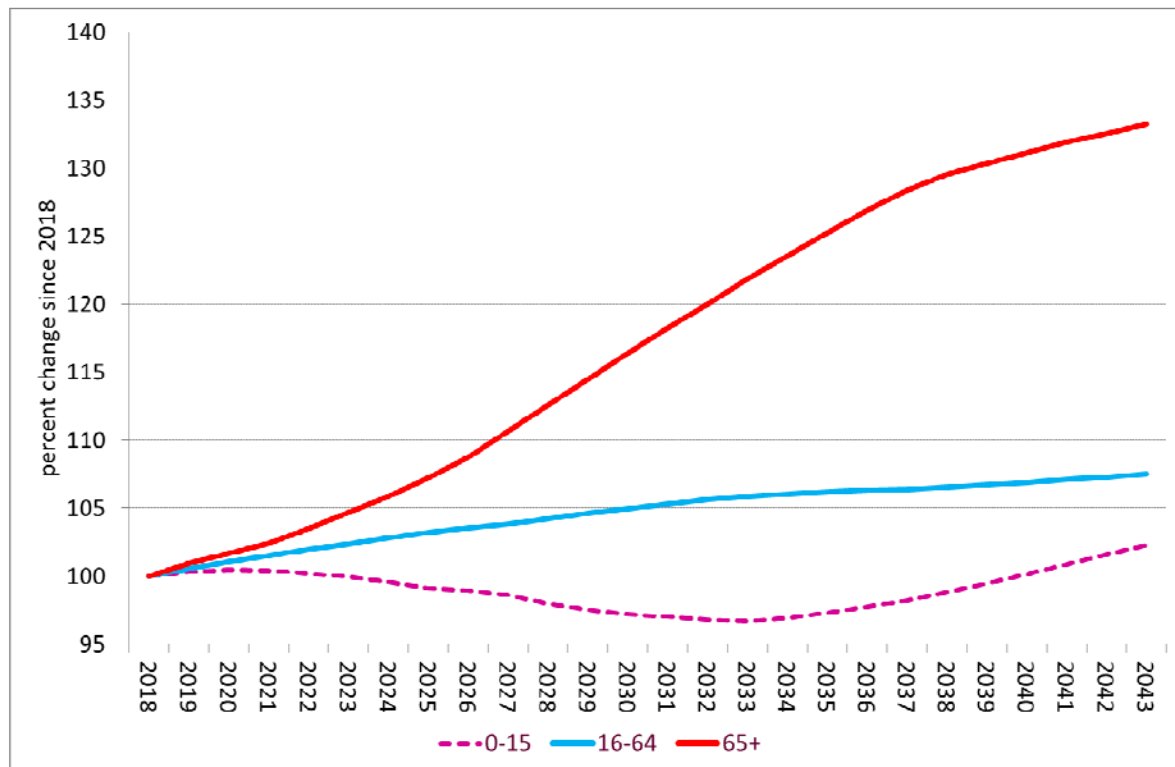
Age group	Base year	Projection year		2018-2028		2018-2038	
	2018	2028	2038	number	percent	number	percent
Children (0 to 15)	259,800	254,600	256,800	-5,200	-2.0	-3,000	-1.2
Working age (16 to 64)	733,600	764,800	781,600	31,200	4.3	48,000	6.5
Pensioner (65+)	147,900	166,600	191,600	18,600	12.6	43,700	29.5
Birmingham	1,141,400	1,186,000	1,230,000	44,600	3.9	88,600	7.8

Figures may not add due to rounding

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

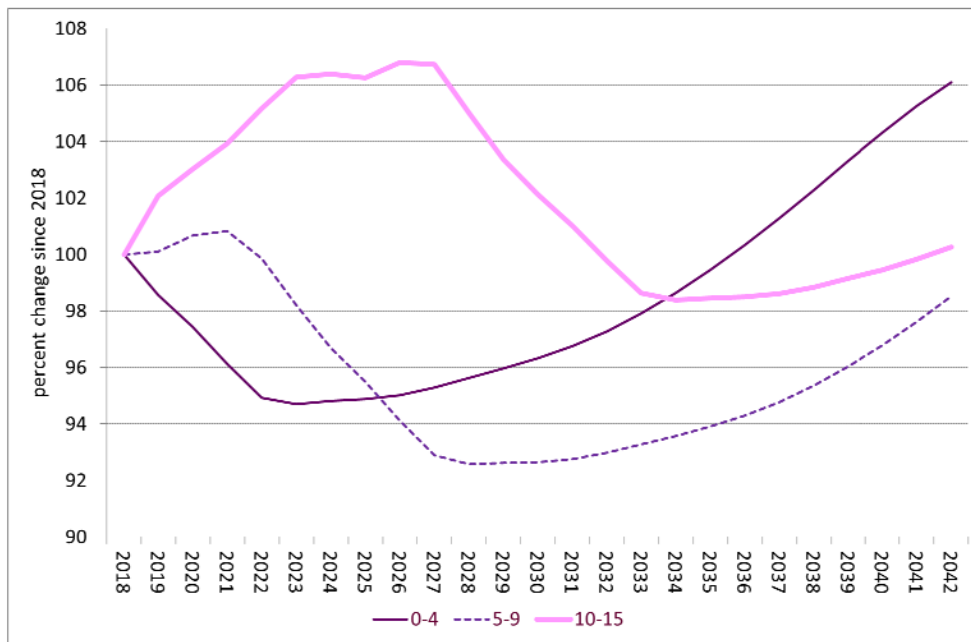
Table 6 shows that the greatest percentage growth is projected in the over 65's: up 12.6% in 2028 rising to 29.5% in 2038. The table also shows that the number of children is expected to decline. Figure 2 illustrates projected growth rates for children, working age and pensioner populations.

Figure 2: Population by broad ages, percentage change in Birmingham 2018 to 2043



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

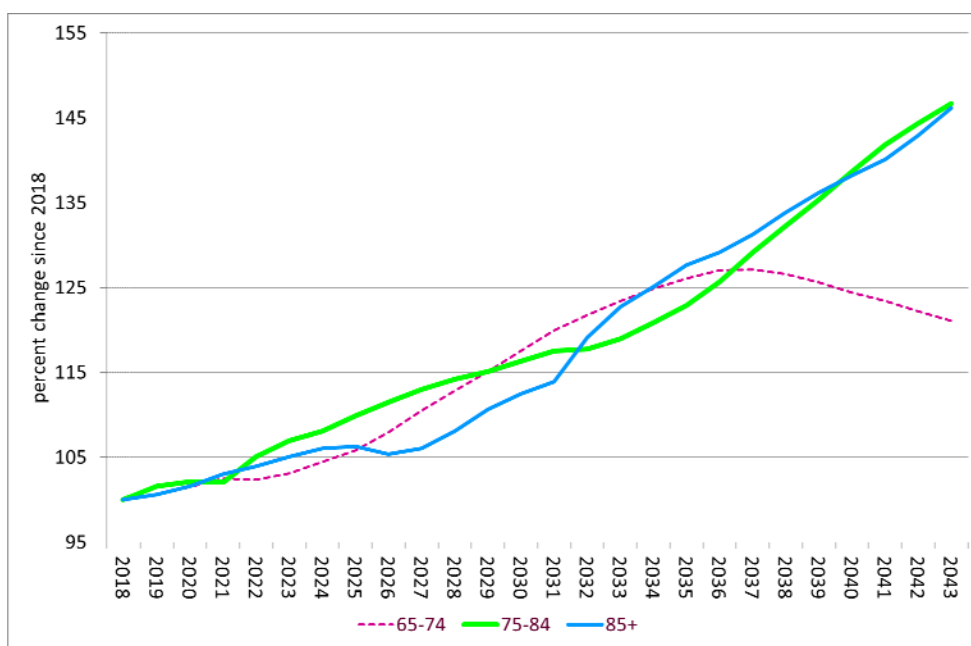
Figure 3: Child population in Birmingham 0 – 15 years



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

Figure 3 shows that the number of preschool children is expected to decline over the next five years and then begin to return to the levels of 2018 by around 2036. Numbers of 5 to 9 year olds are expected to be in decline for longer than pre-schoolers and are not expected to return to former levels in this projection period. In contrast the number of older children is expected to increase to around 2027 followed by a period of decline to 2034. Figure 4 shows that substantial growth is expected among all the pensioner age groups, with pensioners under 85 showing the most marked growth to 2028. Strong growth for those aged 75 years or more is expected to continue into the next decade, however, numbers of pensioners who are under 75 years will start to decline from the mid-2030s due to the lower birth rates of the 1970s.

Figure 4: People in Birmingham age 65 years and over



Components of change

Over the next 10 years Birmingham's population is expected to grow by to 1,186,000 an increase of 3.9% (44,600).

Table 7, figure 5 and figure 6 show how observed and projected births, deaths and migration affect the size of Birmingham's population. Following increased fertility rates since the start of the century, more recent years are showing a downward trend. Deaths have been in decline for many years, however, numbers of deaths have generally increased since 2012. Nevertheless the projections show that natural growth will continue to have a great impact on population growth. Although net international migration has been high, the longstanding trend of Birmingham residents leaving to live in other areas in the metropolitan area continues, therefore reducing the impact of international migration. Natural growth is expected to add 79,400 to Birmingham's population between 2018 and 2028. While net international migration is expected to add 59,200 to Birmingham's population, 93,200 of Birmingham residents will leave to live elsewhere in the UK. Therefore the total expected population change 2018 to 2028 is 44,600 (3.9%).

Table 7: Components of change

start end	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038
	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043
start population	1,039,000	1,092,200	1,141,400	1,165,800	1,186,000	1,208,400	1,230,000
Natural change	births	87,200	84,400	81,200	82,200	84,200	88,000
	deaths	-41,300	-42,600	-41,800	-42,200	-42,700	-43,600
	net	45,900	41,900	39,400	40,000	41,500	44,300
Internal migration	in	197,800	230,100	257,600	263,300	272,700	275,700
	out	-223,900	-262,300	-305,000	-309,200	-317,900	-324,500
	net	-26,000	-32,200	-47,400	-45,900	-45,200	-48,800
International migration	in	66,200	77,500	71,800	64,000	63,600	63,600
	out	-39,800	-37,900	-39,400	-37,300	-37,100	-37,100
	net	26,400	39,600	32,400	26,800	26,500	26,500
overall net migration	300	7,400	-15,000	-19,100	-18,700	-22,300	-24,900
special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
other changes	0	-100	0	0	0	0	0
UPC	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
population change	53,200	49,200	24,400	20,200	22,400	21,700	21,700
End population	1,092,200	1,141,400	1,165,800	1,186,000	1,208,400	1,230,000	1,251,700

Notes: Unexplained Population Change (UPC) – this is the unexplained difference between the 2001 rolled forward population estimates and the 2011 population Census.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

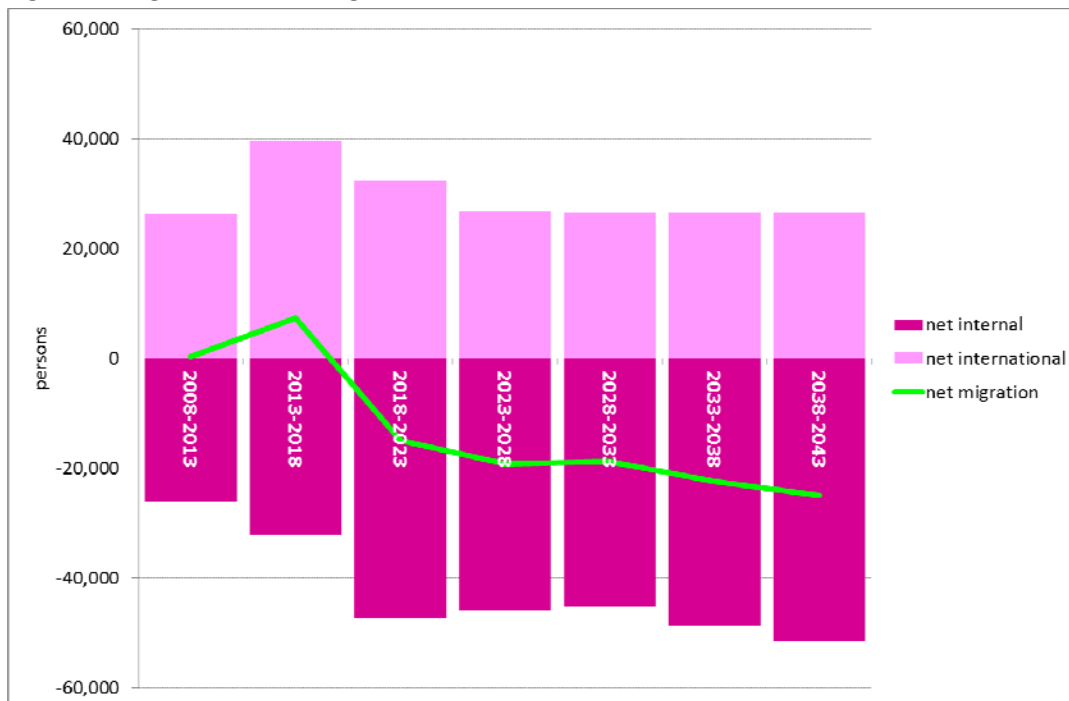
Planning & Regeneration, www.birmingham.gov.uk/census, brenda.henry@birmingham.gov.uk, 0121 303 4208

Figure 5: Births and Deaths 2001 to 2043



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

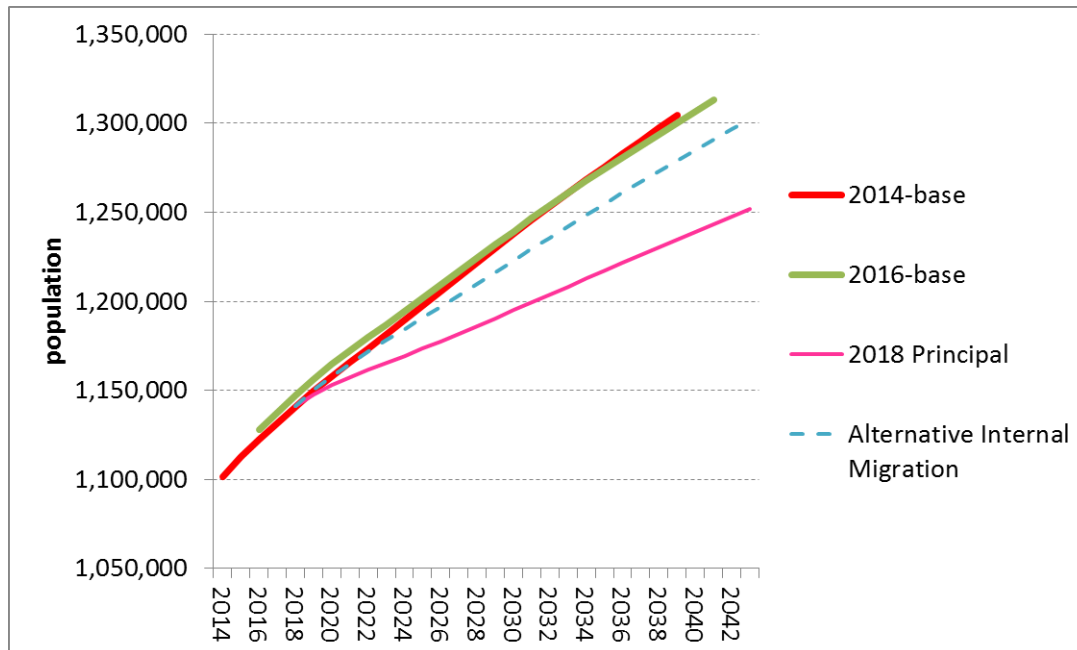
Figure 6: Migration in Birmingham 2002-2043



Source: Office for National Statistics,, Crown Copyright 2020

Comparison with previous projections

Figure 7: Comparison with previous projections – Birmingham



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown copyright 2020

Figure 7 displays the comparison between the 2018 population projection and previous projections. Differences are expected between previous projections, these are usually due to changes in trends relating to births deaths and migration. The 2018 principal projection is lower than the 2016 and 2014 base. In part this difference is also due to a change in calculating the internal migration estimates¹. The internal migration projection alternative² is closer to the previous projections. ONS states:

“The decision to use two-year averages for internal migration in the 2018-based population projections was because analysis conducted by the ONS showed the new methods used for the years ending mid-2017 and mid-2018 were more accurate and robust at picking up moves. There is a chance that using only two years of data will create unusual averages for local authorities experiencing abnormal migration patterns over this short period. However, we decided that although there may be risks associated with this change, the general increase in accuracy outweighs any impacts on individual local authorities”.

The 2018 projection provides information about the potential size and age structure of the population. They will also be used to inform the 208-base household projections. The projections become increasingly uncertain the further that they are carried out in the future due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. They do not attempt to predict the impact of future government or local policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors that may influence demographic behaviour.

¹ The higher education leaver’s methodology (HELM) was introduced in mid-2017 to create a more accurate picture of movements for people leaving higher education. There are only 2 years of data available using the new method, therefore 2018 projections were produced using a two-year average for internal migration.

² The alternative migration variant uses a five-year internal migration average where the new methodology is applied using data for years ending mid-2017 and mid-2018 and the previous methodology for the years ending mid-2014 to year ending mid-2016.

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Table 8: 2018 Population projections – Birmingham

(thousands)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043
0-4	83.5	82.3	81.4	80.3	79.3	79.1	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.6	79.9	80.2	80.5	80.8	81.3	81.8	82.4	83.1	83.8	84.6	85.4	86.3	87.1	87.9	88.6	89.2
5-9	83.4	83.4	83.9	84.0	83.2	81.9	80.6	79.6	78.5	77.4	77.2	77.2	77.2	77.3	77.5	77.8	78.0	78.3	78.6	79.0	79.5	80.0	80.7	81.4	82.1	82.9
10-14	78.4	79.9	80.3	80.6	82.0	82.4	82.5	82.8	82.9	82.1	80.8	79.6	78.6	77.5	76.5	76.2	76.2	76.3	76.4	76.6	76.9	77.1	77.4	77.8	78.3	78.3
15-19	79.7	80.6	81.2	82.5	84.2	86.2	87.7	88.5	89.2	90.7	91.1	91.5	92.0	92.2	91.1	89.8	88.6	87.6	86.3	85.2	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.6	84.7	84.9
20-24	104.6	104.3	104.7	104.2	103.4	103.1	103.2	103.7	105.4	107.6	110.2	112.3	113.8	115.1	117.1	117.8	118.0	118.1	118.0	116.8	115.4	113.8	112.4	110.9	109.7	109.0
25-29	96.6	98.2	98.4	97.5	96.5	95.7	94.9	94.6	93.7	92.5	91.9	91.7	92.1	93.5	95.6	98.0	99.8	101.4	102.8	104.4	105.0	105.3	105.5	105.3	104.3	103.1
30-34	83.0	83.8	84.8	86.7	88.2	89.2	90.2	90.0	89.0	88.2	87.4	86.7	86.2	85.3	84.1	83.4	83.3	83.6	84.9	86.9	89.1	90.8	92.3	93.6	95.1	95.7
35-39	77.1	77.0	76.5	76.5	77.0	77.2	77.9	78.7	80.2	81.3	82.0	82.7	82.4	81.6	80.8	80.2	79.5	79.0	78.0	76.9	76.3	76.1	76.4	77.6	79.4	81.5
40-44	66.6	67.4	69.0	70.2	71.1	72.2	72.2	71.9	71.9	72.3	72.5	73.2	73.9	75.1	76.1	76.7	77.2	76.9	76.1	75.4	74.8	74.2	73.7	72.8	71.7	71.1
45-49	68.3	67.1	65.8	64.8	63.7	63.1	63.9	65.3	66.5	67.4	68.6	68.7	68.4	68.4	68.8	69.1	69.7	70.3	71.5	72.4	72.8	73.3	73.0	72.2	71.6	71.0
50-54	65.7	65.8	65.8	65.8	65.6	64.8	63.7	62.5	61.4	60.3	59.8	60.4	61.8	63.0	63.9	65.1	65.2	65.0	65.0	65.4	65.7	66.3	66.9	67.9	68.7	69.1
55-59	58.4	59.6	60.8	61.6	61.6	61.8	61.8	61.8	61.8	61.6	60.9	59.8	58.6	57.6	56.6	56.1	56.7	58.1	59.1	60.1	61.2	61.3	61.2	61.3	61.6	61.9
60-64	48.0	48.7	49.8	51.0	52.6	53.9	55.0	56.1	56.9	56.9	57.1	57.2	57.2	57.2	57.1	56.4	55.4	54.3	53.3	52.4	51.9	52.6	53.8	54.8	55.8	56.8
65-69	41.1	41.6	41.7	42.2	42.8	43.4	44.1	45.0	46.2	47.6	48.9	49.9	50.9	51.7	51.8	52.0	52.1	52.1	52.1	52.0	51.4	50.5	49.6	48.7	47.9	47.5
70-74	36.1	36.2	36.7	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.6	36.7	37.2	37.7	38.3	39.0	39.8	40.9	42.2	43.4	44.4	45.3	46.0	46.1	46.4	46.5	46.5	46.6	46.5	46.0
75-79	27.3	27.7	28.2	28.8	30.3	31.0	31.1	31.6	31.8	31.2	31.2	31.6	31.7	32.1	32.7	33.2	33.8	34.6	35.6	36.8	37.9	38.8	39.7	40.3	40.5	40.8
80-84	21.7	22.1	21.9	21.2	21.1	21.4	21.9	22.3	22.8	24.1	24.7	24.9	25.3	25.5	25.1	25.1	25.4	25.6	25.9	26.4	26.9	27.5	28.3	29.1	30.2	31.1
85-89	13.9	13.9	13.9	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.5	14.4	14.1	14.0	14.3	14.8	15.1	15.5	16.5	17.0	17.1	17.4	17.6	17.4	17.5	17.7	17.9	18.2	18.6	19.1
90+	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.6	10.0	10.2	10.4	11.1	11.6	11.8	12.1	12.2	12.4	12.7
All ages	1,414	1,417.6	1,528	1,573	1,615	1,655	1,695	1,734	1,775	1,818	1,860	1,904	1,949	1,995	2,040	2,084	2,127	2,172	2,215	2,258	2,300	2,343	2,386	2,430	2,474	2,517
Broad ages																										
0 to 15	259.8	260.6	261.0	260.9	260.3	259.7	258.7	257.6	257.1	256.2	254.6	253.4	252.6	252.0	251.5	251.2	251.8	252.8	253.9	255.2	256.8	258.5	260.2	262.1	263.9	265.8
16-64	733.6	737.6	741.3	744.8	748.1	751.0	754.1	757.1	759.5	761.8	764.8	767.6	770.1	772.6	775.0	776.9	778.1	779.0	779.8	780.7	781.6	782.9	784.4	785.7	787.3	788.8
65+	147.9	149.4	150.5	151.6	153.1	154.9	156.7	158.7	160.9	163.7	166.6	169.3	172.2	174.9	177.6	180.3	182.8	185.3	187.7	189.9	191.6	192.9	194.0	195.2	196.1	197.1
	1,414	1,417.6	1,528	1,573	1,615	1,655	1,695	1,734	1,775	1,818	1,860	1,904	1,949	1,995	2,040	2,084	2,127	2,172	2,215	2,258	2,300	2,343	2,386	2,430	2,474	2,517

Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2020

