

Brighton & Hove JSNA summary July 2025

Population

What does this topic summary cover

- Brighton & Hove latest population estimates (2024)
- Population age structure and distribution (2024)
- Comparison of 2024 estimates with estimates for 2023 and earlier years
- Population groups: gender, migrants and students (other groups are covered in other summaries)
- Population projections (2025)
- Comparisons with the South East and England

New data in this update

This summary uses Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates. In July 2025, the ONS released 2024 population estimates, and in June 2025 the ONS released updated population projections up to 2047.

This report has been updated to include these estimates, [data is available on the ONS website](#).

Why is population important

Population size, structure and composition are crucial elements in identifying, measuring and understanding health and wellbeing.

Data on the population of Brighton & Hove and in different areas of the city is also useful for:

- Calculating rates and averages to describe a local area in terms of its demographic and health characteristics and compare these to the city, other authorities, the South East and England.
- Predicting the number of health conditions in a given area using known rates from other geographies.

Current picture in Brighton & Hove and how we compare



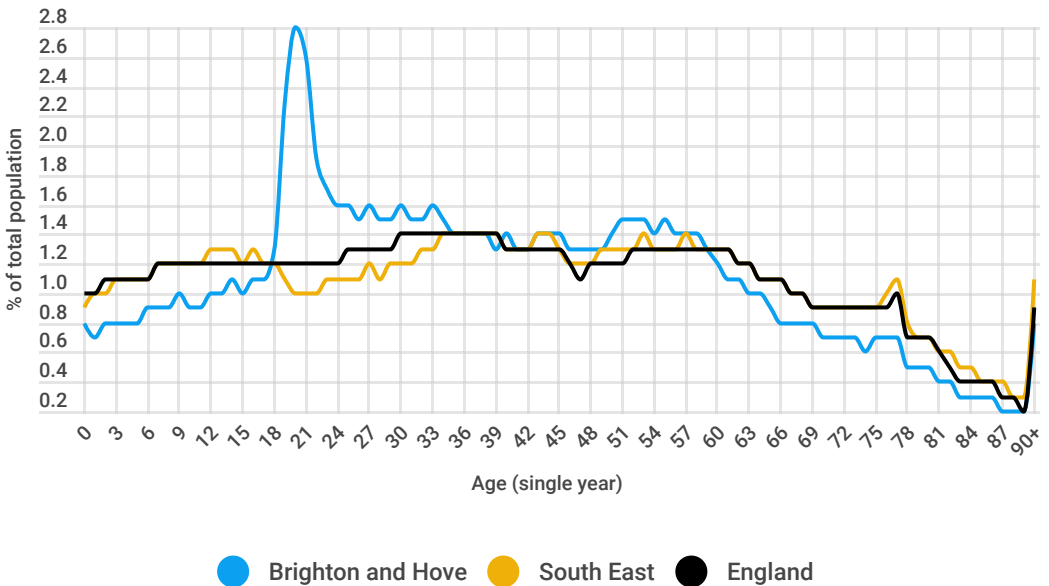
283,870

Estimated number of residents in Brighton & Hove (2024) according to the most recent Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates.



In Brighton & Hove, in 2024, it is estimated that 40,350 people (14%) are aged 0 to 15 years old, more than two thirds (72%, 203,000 people) are age 16 to 64 years old and 40,520 (14%) are aged 65 years and over.

Population profile, Brighton & Hove, South East and England, June 2024.



[Download data](#)

Brighton & Hove has an unusual population profile compared to the South East and England



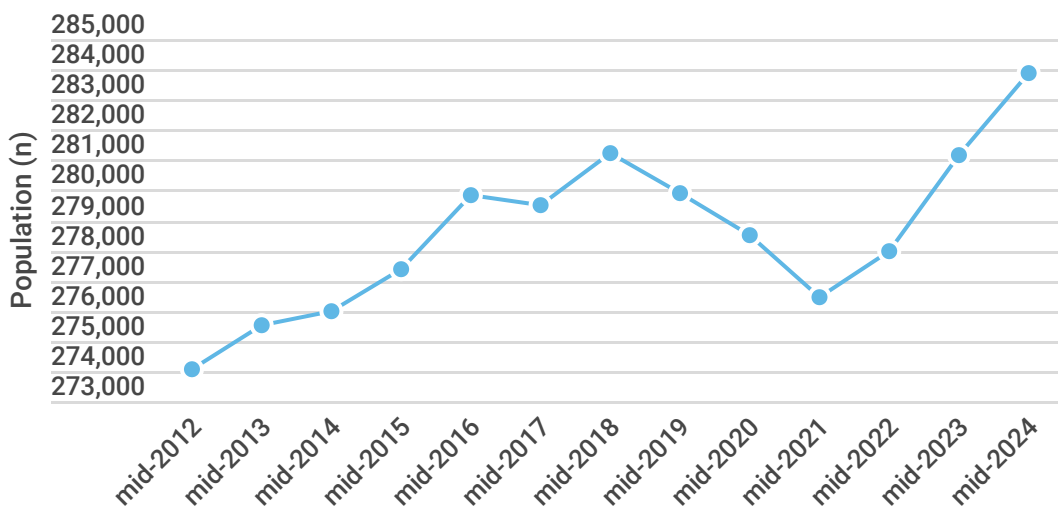
Brighton & Hove has a much higher proportion of people aged 19–31 years (24%, 67,110 people) compared to only 15% in the South East and 17% in England. The difference is most pronounced between the ages 19 to 22 years old. One in ten of Brighton & Hove's total population (10%, 27,250 people) is aged 19 to 22 years old compared to only 4% in the South East and 5% in England.



Brighton & Hove has a lower proportion of children aged 0 to 17 years of age. (16%, 46,610 people) compared to 21% in both the South East and England.

There are also fewer people across all age groups from 60 years old and above. In Brighton & Hove a fifth of the total population (20%, 56,020 people) is aged 60 years old or older compared to 26% in the South East and 25% in England.

ONS mid-year population estimates: Brighton & Hove, 2012 to 2024



Brighton & Hove's resident population changed at varying rates between 2012 and 2024. In 2024, the city's estimated population of 283,870 was 9,819 (3.6%) higher than it was in 2012 and 2,735 (1%) higher than in 2023. The city's resident population now exceeds the ten-year high in 2018 by 2,260 residents.

Brighton & Hove residents aged 20 to 29 make up a significant number of residents (51,900 people, 18%). This is an increase of 3% (1540 people) from 2023. **Beyond the age of 29 the working age population has remained level since 2018**, with the 30 to 64 year old population increasing by just 1.5% (1970 people).

Children aged 0 to 9 years old have seen the largest fall in population. In 2018, there were an estimated 27,250 children aged 0 to 9 years old, by 2024 their numbers had fallen to 23,630. A decrease of 3,620 children (13.3%).

The number of older residents is also falling. In 2018, there were an estimated 11,080 residents aged 80 or older, by 2024 their numbers had fallen to 10,890. A decrease of 190 people (1.7%).

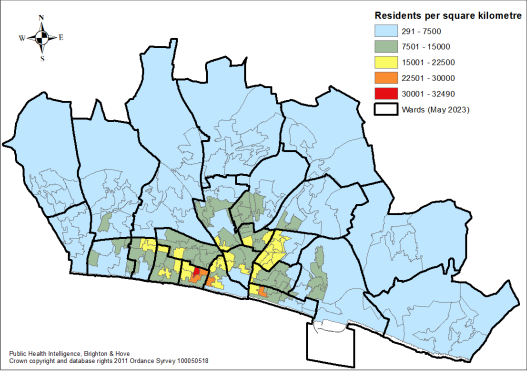
Population growth between 2023 and 2024 is estimated to be the result of inward

international migration. Net international migration over this period was 3,570 people.

There were 90 more births than deaths while net internal migration (between Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK) was -905 people. Net international migration between 2023 and 2024 (3,570 people) is more than double the average net international migration seen between 2019 and 2021 (1,500 people).

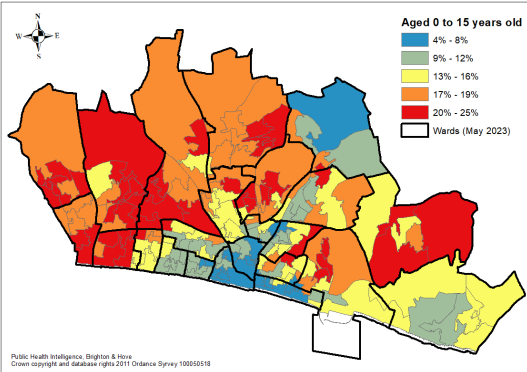


Population density, Brighton & Hove, 2021 Census

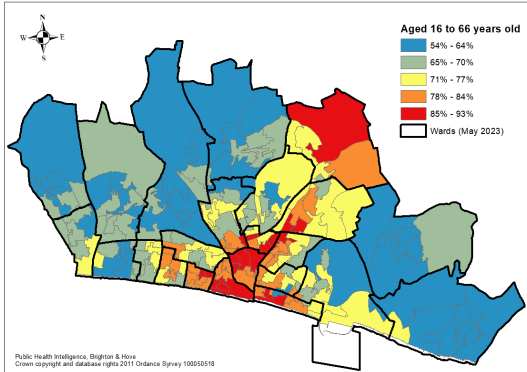


Brighton & Hove contains some of the most densely populated neighbourhoods (LSOAs) in England. According to the 2021 Census, Brighton & Hove has seven neighbourhoods in the 1% most densely populated areas in England. The most densely populated areas of the city are the two neighbourhoods north of Western Road between Montpelier Road and Palmeira Square. Both neighbourhoods are in the top 100 (out of 33,755 LSOAs) most densely populated areas in England.

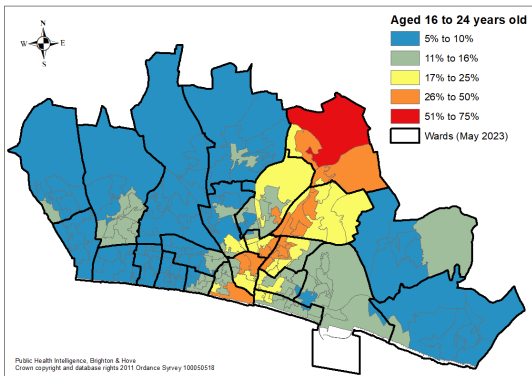
Brighton & Hove population distribution by age group, 2021 Census



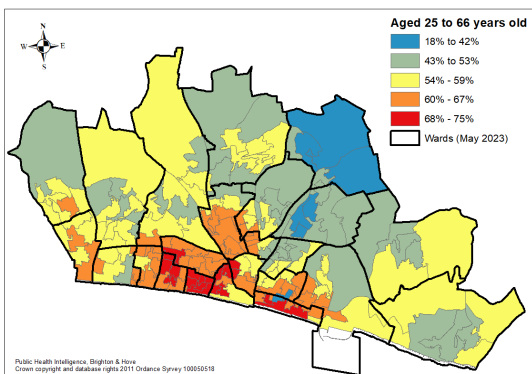
Children aged 0 - 15 years old are concentrated towards the west and north of the city with comparatively fewer children in the central and coastal areas of the city. The highest proportions of children aged 0-15 years old can be found in areas of Whitehawk (25%) and in the areas north of Portland Road on the border of Wish and Westbourne & Poets' Corner wards (25%). To the east of the city there are also significant concentrations of children in Woodingdean ward.



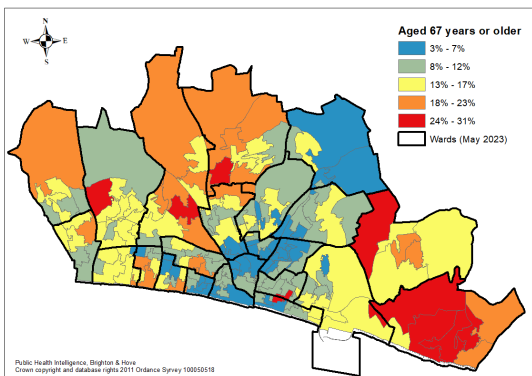
Working age residents (aged 16 – 66 years old) are most concentrated in central wards either side of the Lewes Road and along the central coastal strip. There are proportionally fewer adults of working age in the wards to the east and west. There are three neighbourhoods in the city where more than 90% of residents are of working age: at Falmer, around Lewes Road between the Level and the gyratory, and in Kemptown ward. This compares to locations in Hangleton, Eastern Road and east of Hove Park where less than 60% of residents are of working age.



The concentration of working age adults along the Lewes Road is most notable in adults aged 16 to 24. For a half of neighbourhoods in the city (81 LSOAs, 49%) 10% or fewer residents are aged 16 to 24. This compares to 12 neighbourhoods where more than a third of residents are aged 16 to 24 years old. The highest concentration of 16 to 24 year olds can be found in Falmer / Coldean (75%), Falmer / north Moulsecoomb (50%) and around Lewes Road / Upper Lewes Road (47%). The lowest proportions are found north of Hove station (6%) and along the Kingsway in Hove, Grand Avenue (5%) and west of Hove Street (6%).



Meanwhile working age adults over the age of 24 years olds are concentrated in central coastal areas of the city and in central Hove. The highest proportions of 25 to 66 year olds are found south of Hove station (75%), Seven Dials (74%), Kemptown (74%), north side of Western Road (74%) and Albany Villas (74%). This compares to Falmer (18%), north Moulsecoomb (34%), Coldean (34%) and south Moulsecoomb (35%).



Older people (67 years and older) in Brighton & Hove tend to live to the north and east of the city. The highest proportions of older residents live in locations in Hangleton (31%), Rottingdean & West Saltdean ward (30%) and Eastern Road (30%). This compares to locations around Brighton station, Falmer and Lewes Road where less than 3% of residents are aged 67 or older.

Internal migration (between Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK), year ending June 2021

Resident's arriving and leaving Brighton & Hove, year up to March 2021, Census 2021

	Arrived from	Left to	Net change
West Sussex	2,682	4,468	-1,786
East Sussex	1,752	2,301	-549
London	6,207	3,091	3,116
Rest of UK	8,720	7,196	1,524
Total	19,361	17,056	2,305

 Download data

In the 12 months to March 2021, more people arrived in Brighton & Hove for other areas of the UK than left for other parts of the UK. 19,361 people arrived in Brighton & Hove from other local authorities in the UK. In the same time frame, 17,056 Brighton & Hove residents left the city to other local authorities in the UK.

Most people moving from within the UK to Brighton & Hove do so from West Sussex (2,682 people) or East Sussex (1,752 people). Most arrived from Lewes (969), Adur (617), Mid Sussex (590) and Worthing (441). After Sussex, most people arrived from London: Lambeth (441), Wandsworth (437) and Southwark (408).

Residents leaving Brighton & Hove most often go to West Sussex (4,468 people) or East Sussex (2,301 people). Most people moved to Lewes (1,383), Adur (1,301), Worthing (1,034), Mid Sussex (1,003), and Horsham (491). After Sussex, most people left for Bristol (375) and London: Lambeth (287) and Southwark (262).

Migration



54,343

The city is a destination for migrants (people living or intending to live in the city for 12 months or more) from outside the UK. The 2021 Census estimates that 54,343 residents (20%) were born outside of the UK. This is similar to the 2020 ONS Country of Birth and Nationality statistics (55,000 people, 19%). The city's international migrant population (20%) is significantly higher than seen in both the South East (16%) and England (17%).



23,104

More than two out of five international migrants in the city (43%, 23,104 people) were born in countries now in the EU. This is significantly higher than both the South East (38%) and England (36%). Nearly two thirds of EU migrants in the city (65%, 15,099 people) are from EU member counties who joined the EU before 2004. This is again significantly higher than both the South East (47%) and England (44%).



27,670

Over a half of international migrants in the city (51%, 27,670 people) are from countries outside of Europe. This includes 12,517 people from the Middle East and Asia (23% of all migrants), 7,863 people from Africa and 5,326 people from the Americas and the Caribbean.



1,519

Brighton & Hove is also a destination for short term international migrants (people who move to the UK for a period of 3 to 12 months). According to the 2021 Census there were an estimated 1,519 short term migrants in the city.

Population groups



Brighton & Hove has a relatively even sex distribution until the age of 75 years old. In 2024, there are estimated to be 145,400 female (51%) and 138,470 male (49%) residents in the city. Apart from in the age range 19 to 21 (please see section on students below) there is a relatively even distribution of males and females across all ages up until the age of 75 years old. Similar to the picture seen in England, beyond the age of 75 years old the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 19,500 residents aged 75 or older, of which 57% (11,180 people) are female and 43% (8,320 people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,470 female (67%) to 730 male (33%) residents.



35,885

For the academic year 2023/2024 there were 35,885 students at the University of Sussex (19,220) and University of Brighton (16,665).

This was an decrease of 5.3% (2020 students) compared to 2022/23. In England, there has been a 0.6% decrease in the number of students over the same period. At the University of Sussex and University of Brighton in 2023/24, 58% of students were female (20,725 people) compared to 42% male (14,720 people). It should be noted that not all students at the two universities live in Brighton & Hove. There are also 9,710 Brighton & Hove residents enrolled at a UK higher education institute outside the city.

Population projections



292,790

Projected population in 2032. Up from 278,370 people in 2022.

+5.2%

Compared to 6.4% increase in England.



+30,483

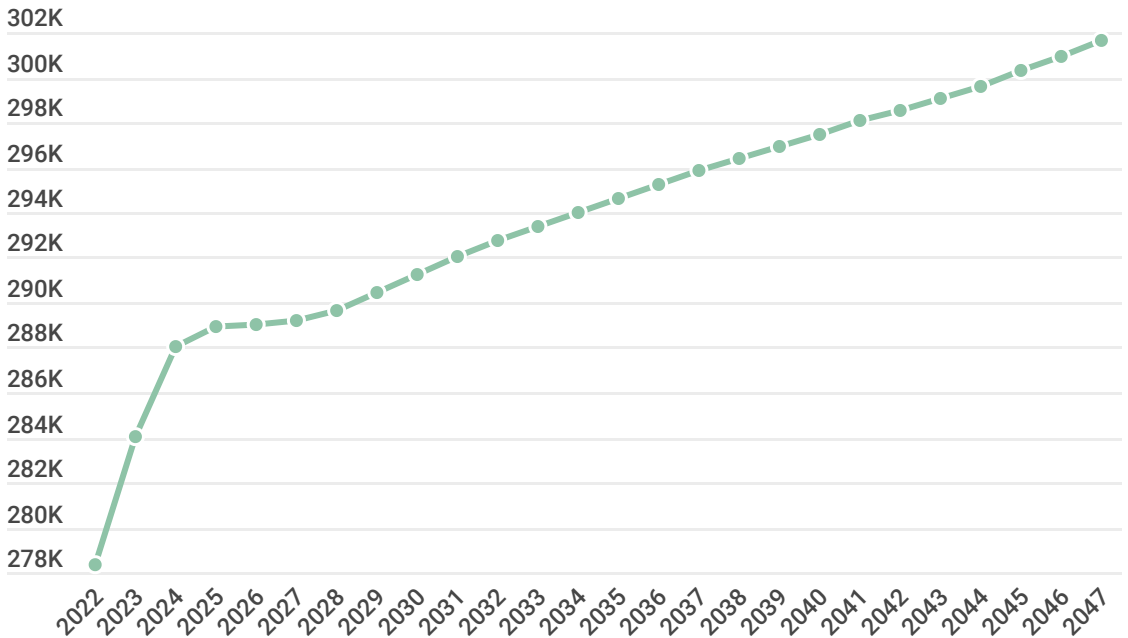
Net international migration. Projected to be the largest factor in the population increase.



38 years

Projected median age. The same as in 2022.

ONS population projections released in June 2025, and based on the 2022 population, estimate a 5% increase (14,420 more people) in the population from 2022 to 2032 and an 8% increase (23,250 more people) from 2022 to 2047.



How will the number of young people change in Brighton and Hove?

In 2032, 15% of people are projected to be aged 18 years and under, down from 18% in 2022.

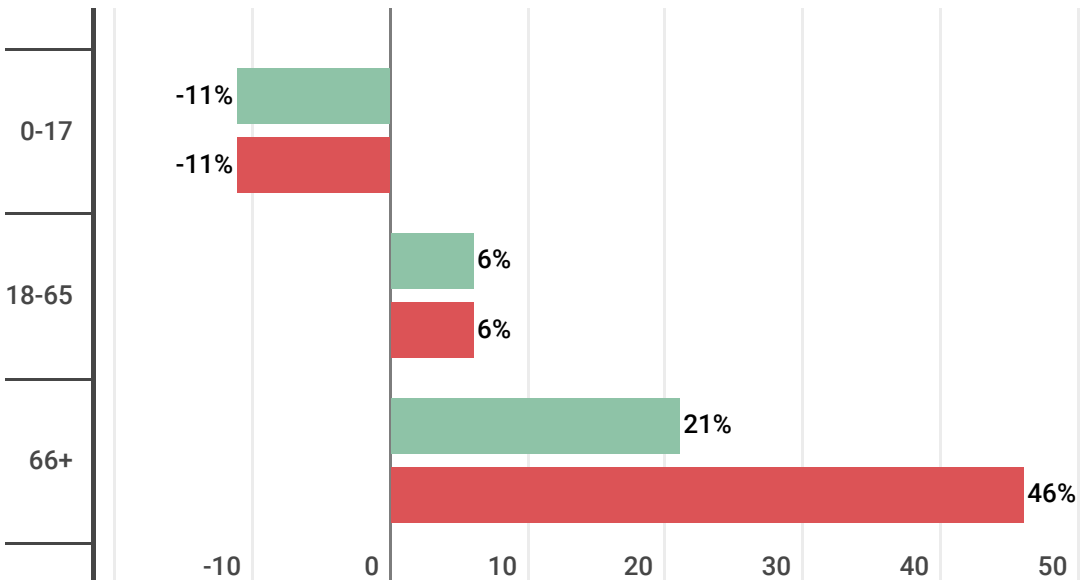
This is below average for England in 2032 (20%).

Looking at the youngest age groups in Brighton and Hove between 2022 and 2032, we can see the share of:

- Infants (aged 0 to 4 years) will stay around the same, at 4%
- Primary school age children (aged 5 to 11 years) will fall from 7% to 5%
- Secondary school age children and sixth-form age (aged 12 to 18 years) will fall from 8% to 6%

Population change by age, between 2022 and 2032 and 2022 and 2047

● 2032 ● 2047



Between 2022 and 2032:

- The largest increase in population is projected to occur in those aged 80 years and above (31% increase, 2,835 more people) and those aged 60-69 years (29% increase, 7,270 more people).
- The largest decrease is projected to occur in those aged 50-59 years (12% decrease, 4,726 fewer people) and those aged 0-9 years (9% decrease, 2,134 fewer people).

Between 2022 and 2047:

- The largest increase in population is projected to occur in those aged 80 years and above (79% increase, 7,188 more people) and those aged 70-79 years (35% increase, 6,209 more people).
- The largest decrease is projected to occur in those aged 10-19 years (15% decrease, 5,080 fewer people) and those aged 50-59 years (5% decrease, 2,010 fewer people).

Population change by age, between 2022 and 2032 and 2022 and 2047

	2022	2032			2047		
	Count	Count	Change	Percentage change	Count	Change	Percentage change
0-9	24283	22149	-2134	-9%	23712	-571	-2%
10-19	32961	30668	-2293	-7%	27881	-5080	-15%
20-29	48727	56959	8232	17%	51508	2781	6%
30-39	40188	42995	2807	7%	46229	6041	15%
40-49	38428	39073	645	2%	41431	3003	8%
50-59	40027	35301	-4726	-12%	38017	-2010	-5%
60-69	25287	32557	7270	29%	29714	4427	18%
70-79	17846	19550	1704	10%	24055	6209	35%
80+	9051	11886	2835	31%	16239	7188	79%

 Download data

Between 2022 and 2032:

· The female population is projected to increase by 5% (6,603 more people) and the male population is projected to increase by 6% (7,817 more people).

Between 2022 and 2047:

· The female population is estimated to increase by 7% (9,992 more people) and the male population by 10% (13,258 more people).

Population change between 2022 and 2032 and 2022 and 2047, males and female

	2022	2032			2047		
	Count	Count	Change	Percentage change	Count	Change	Percentage change
Female	142124	148727	6603	5%	152116	9992	7%
Male	136246	144063	7817	6%	149504	13258	10%

 Download data

What is driving the change – births, deaths and migration

Population change is projected by looking at births and deaths (natural change) and people moving in and out of areas.

Births and deaths

- The number of births in Brighton & Hove has fallen by 29% since 2013, from 2,967 in 2013 to 2,100 in 2022. This is lower than England (52 per 1,000) and the South East (52 per 1,000), and is the lowest of all upper-tier local authorities in England.
- More births than deaths mean that the population is projected to increase by 1,334, with 23,320 births and 21,986 deaths between 2022 and 2032. This means natural change would increase the population in Brighton and Hove by 0.5%, compared with an increase of 0.2% in England.
- Between 2022 and 2047, births per year are projected to increase slightly, from 2,266 in 2023 to 2,573 in 2047.
- The number of deaths is also projected to increase, from 2,268 in 2023 to 2,559 in 2047.

People moving in and out of Brighton & Hove

Of the different population projections which the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish it is recommended to use a migration version which aligns with recent international estimates. The migration component of the projection consists of:

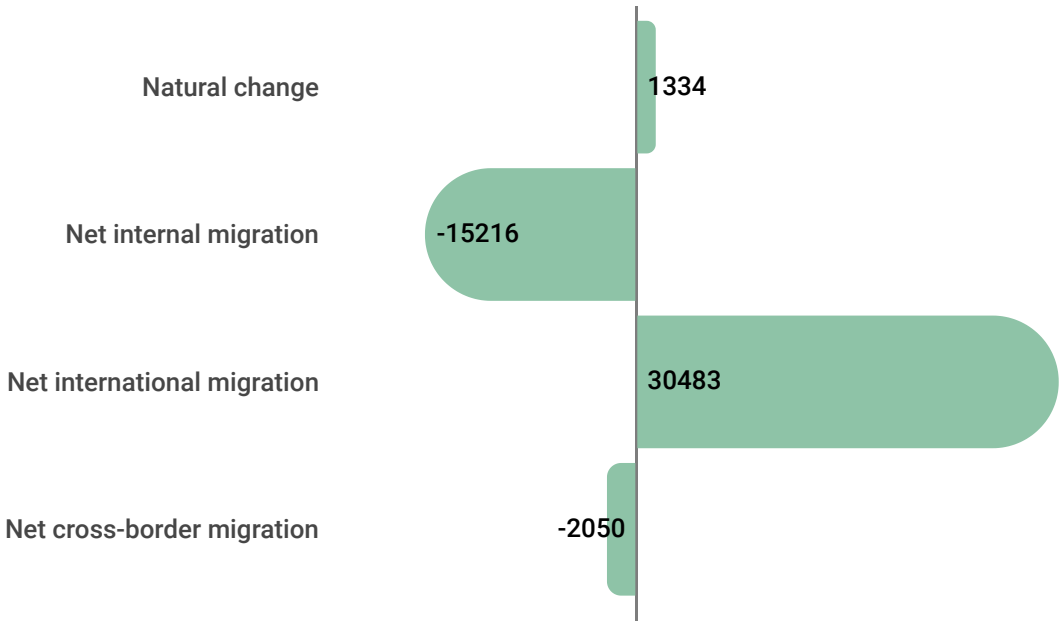
- Cross-border migration (into or out of Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland)
- Internal migration (into or out of other areas of England) and
- International migration (into or out of any other country).

Net internal migration (people moving to and from other local authorities in England) is projected to reduce the population by 15,216, with 262,112 people moving to the area and 277,328 people moving from the area between 2022 and 2032. This would decrease the population in Brighton and Hove by 5.5%.

Net cross-border migration (between UK nations) is projected to reduce the population by 2,050, with 6,627 people moving to the area and 8,677 people moving from the area between 2022 and 2032. This would decrease the population in Brighton and Hove by 0.7%.

Net international migration is projected to increase the population by 30,483, with 63,940 people moving to the area and 33,458 people moving from the area between 2022 and 2032. This would increase the population in Brighton and Hove by 11.0%, compared with an increase of 6.5% in England.

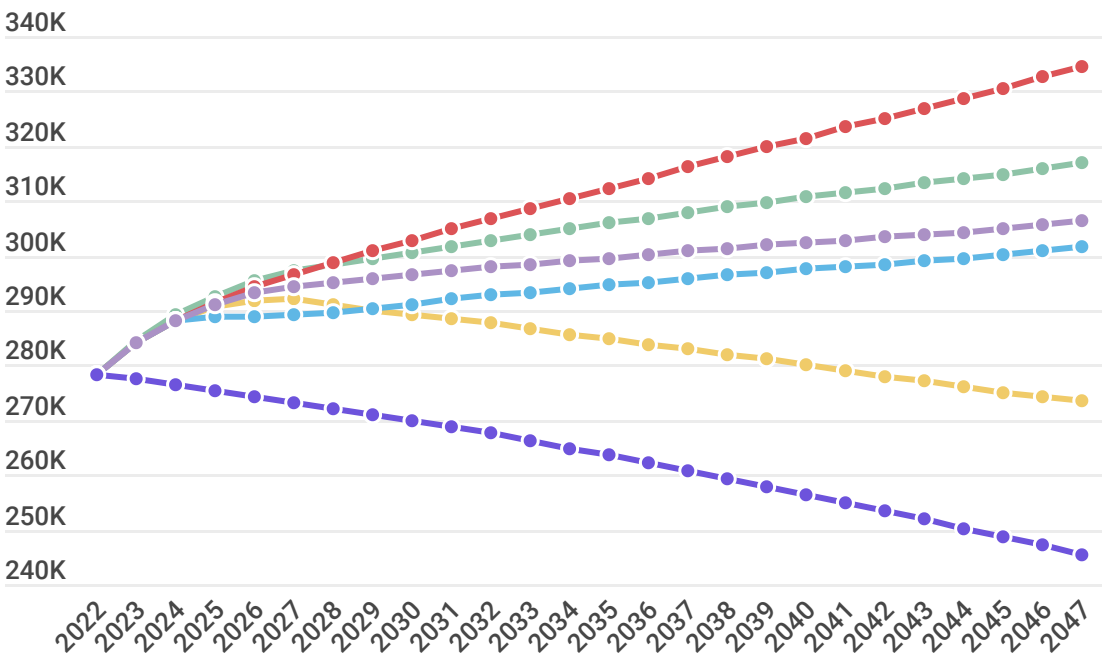
Factors influencing population change, 2022 to 2032



The ONS publish a range of projections under different migration scenarios, showing the large contribution migration can have on the local population size and structure.

Overall population projection by migration scenario, 2022 to 2047

— 10-year migration
 — High migration
 — Low migration
 — Migration category
— Five-year migration
 — Zero net migration

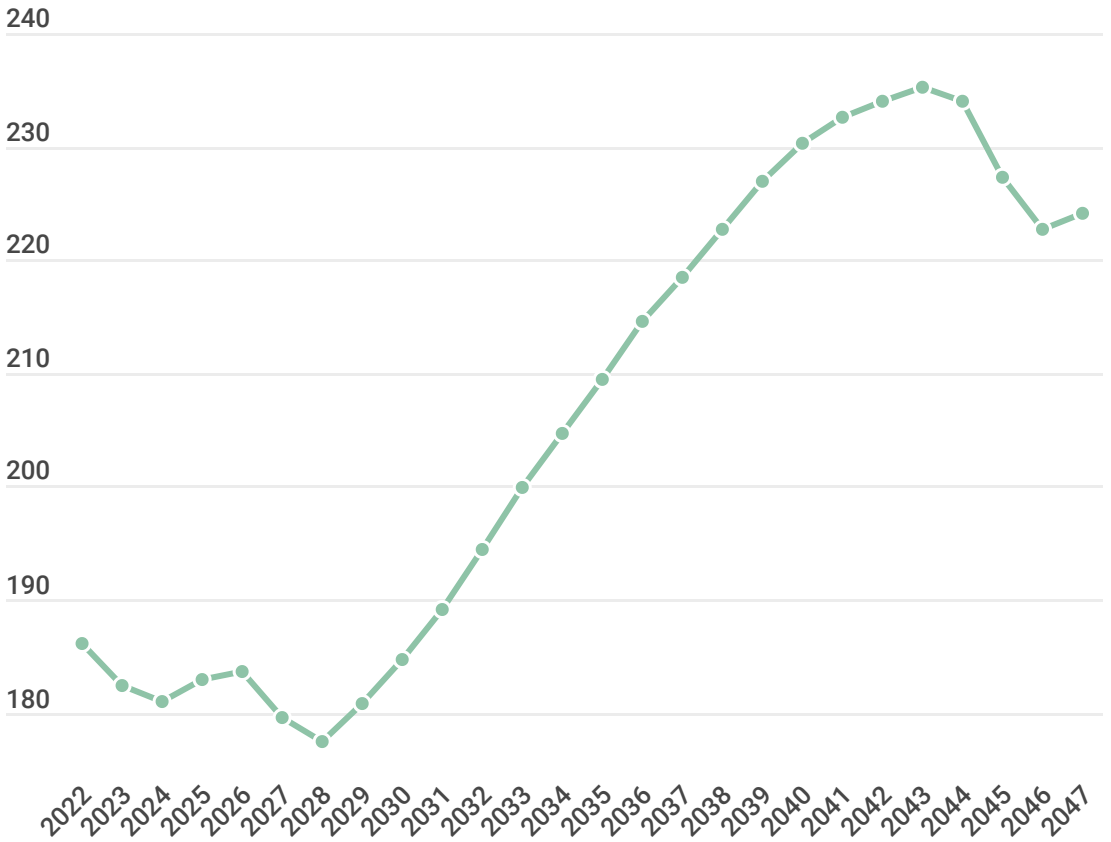


Old-age dependency ratio

Whilst many people aged 66 years or over will not be dependent, the old-age dependency ratio is a measure which shows the proportion of older people (from the state pension age of 66 years) relative to the working-age population (those aged 16-65 years).

In 2022 the dependency ratio was 186 per 1,000 people of working age. This is projected to increase to 224 per 1,000 people of working age in 2047.

Old age dependency ratio, 2022 to 2047





What we don't know

Population projections are based upon assumptions of how the population will change. There could well be factors which mean that these patterns change in unforeseen ways and so projections will always have a degree of uncertainty around them.

Information on the data used

The population referred to in this paper is the 'resident' population. A resident is someone that has lived in an area, or intends to live in an area, for more than 12 months.

Data sources

All data used in this report was accessed from the following websites in July 2025:

- ONS 2021 UK Population Census: Census - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
- ONS population estimates, projection, migration and county of birth figures can be found on the Population and Migration pages of the ONS website <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration>. ONS population estimates are updated annually in June for the previous year. ONS population projections are updated every two years. Country of birth data is updated annually in May for January to December of the previous year. ONS internal migration data is updated annually in June for the previous year.
- Data on the number of students can be found on the Higher Education Statistic agency website <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>. Data is updated annually.

Data rounding

- All ONS population estimates and projections have been rounded to the nearest hundred
- ONS Country of Birth figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand
- Internal migration figures have been rounded to the nearest ten
- Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency have been rounded to the nearest five

Watch this space

To find the latest published and upcoming releases on the changing demographics of the UK, go to the release calendar pages of the ONS website <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releasecalendar>

Other relevant information

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a resource that allows you to find, explore and use a wide range of facts and figures at different geographical levels for Brighton & Hove. Resources include

- [Local Insight](#) which allow you to map key demographic data for the city and produce demographic profiles of local neighbourhoods and other geographies.
- [Profiles and Needs Assessments](#) for different populations and population groups.

Data from the 2021 UK Population Census (and earlier censuses) can be found on [Nomis](#). Also on Nomis are detailed [local labour market profiles](#).

Further reading

[The population and migration](#) pages on the ONS website provide information on the methodologies used to produce their population estimates and projections as well as statistical bulletins about how the population of the UK is changing.