



Wakefield State of the District: Population

Selection: Wakefield

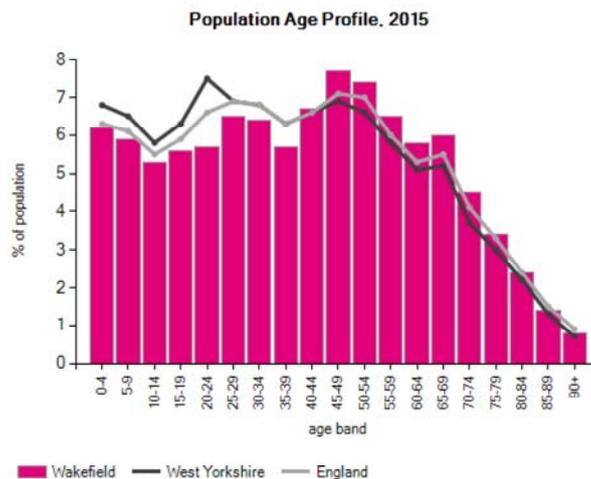
General information on the size and age of the population; ethnicity and language; population change; population projections; household structure; and area satisfaction.

Population Size and Age Profile

The current size of the population in **Wakefield** is **333,759 people (mid-2015)**.

As is typical nationally, the Wakefield age profile shows the effect of baby-boom years of the 1950s and 1960s. Overall numbers are projected to keep on increasing, albeit more slowly than elsewhere in the region, with improved life expectancy resulting in a greater proportion of the population being made up of older people.

When compared with many other metropolitan districts, Wakefield's age profile has a smaller than average proportion of people in the 18-24 age-band (8%). This reflects the absence of any sizeable university presence within the district. In Leeds, a large university city, around 13% of people are aged 18-24, for example.



Source: Office for National Statistics.

Ethnicity and Language

Wakefield has a relatively small but growing ethnic minority population. In 2001, 3.3% of population defined their ethnicity as other than White British; by the 2011 Census this proportion had increased to 7.2%. The largest minority ethnic group is now 'Other White', while the largest group born outside the UK are people born in Poland.

Ethnicity and Language

Wakefield district has become more ethnically diverse over the past 10 years. In 2001, the district's ethnic population represented just 3.3% of the total population, but the 2011 Census shows this has risen to 7.2%. This proportion, though, is much lower than the England average of 20.2%.

A large part of the district increase in the ethnic minority population has been due to immigration from Eastern Europe, particularly from Poland. There has also been continued immigration from South Asia, and a small but growing number of people immigrating from Africa.

The ethnic mix for this area is shown in the table below.

Population by Ethnicity (% of total population)			
	Wakefield	West Yorkshire	England
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	92.8% (302331 people)	78.5%	79.8%
White: Irish	0.3% (908 people)	0.7%	1.0%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1% (302 people)	0.1%	0.1%
White: Other White	2.3% (7416 people)	2.6%	4.6%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean	0.3% (1087 people)	0.9%	0.8%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African	0.1% (368 people)	0.2%	0.3%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian	0.3% (894 people)	0.7%	0.6%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	0.2% (579 people)	0.3%	0.5%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0.5% (1540 people)	2.4%	2.6%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1.5% (4896 people)	8.5%	2.1%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.0% (32 people)	0.7%	0.8%
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	0.3% (853 people)	0.5%	0.7%
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	0.4% (1177 people)	1.0%	1.6%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	0.6% (1955 people)	1.1%	1.8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean (% of total population)	0.1% (326 people)	0.7%	1.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black (% of total population)	0.1% (231 people)	0.3%	0.5%
Other ethnic group: Arab (% of total population)	0.1% (382 people)	0.4%	0.4%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	0.2% (560 people)	0.5%	0.6%

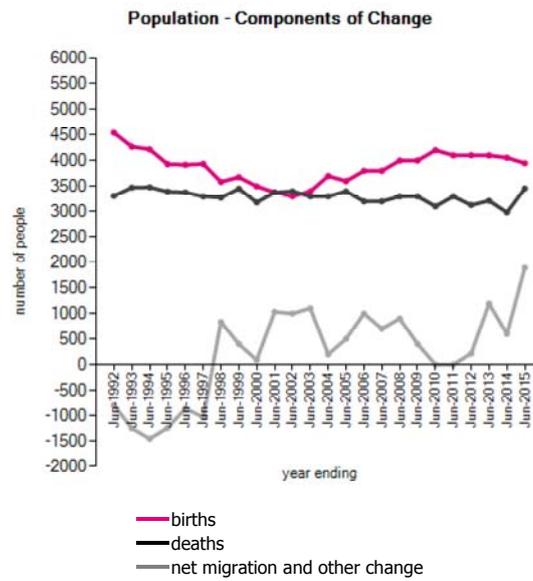
Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

As a consequence of increasing ethnic diversity there are now many languages spoken within the district. For just over 11,000 residents, English is not the main language spoken. At the time of the 2011 Census the most common non-English main languages were Polish (4,194 people); Panjabi (889 people); Urdu (809 people); Latvian (409 people); Lithuanian (344 people); and Welsh (268 people).

Population Change

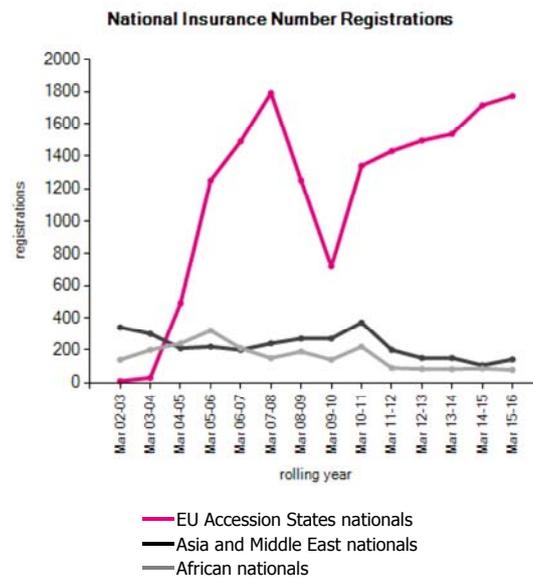
Between 1991 and 2001 the number of deaths per year remained fairly constant, but there was a steady decline in births. Population growth would have ceased had it not been for an increase in net migration.

The number of births started to increase again in 2003, but this growth has now slowed and there was a small drop in births in 2015 compared to the previous year. At the same time as the increase in births there has been a continued, slow downward trend in deaths, although between 2014 and 2015 the number of deaths rose 16%. International migration has also been an important factor in population growth. Without it the population as a whole would have decreased by 3.5% - with it, the population has grown by 4.5%. Furthermore, the age profile of international migrants has enabled the working age population to grow by 2.0% over the past 10 years. Without this migration, the working age population would have decreased by 6.8%.



Registrations for National Insurance numbers by adult overseas nationals in Wakefield shows the large increase in immigration from the EU Accession states from 2004 onwards. This flow of migrant workers, principally from Poland, slowed during the economic downturn but has risen again to around 1,900 registrations in 2014/15.

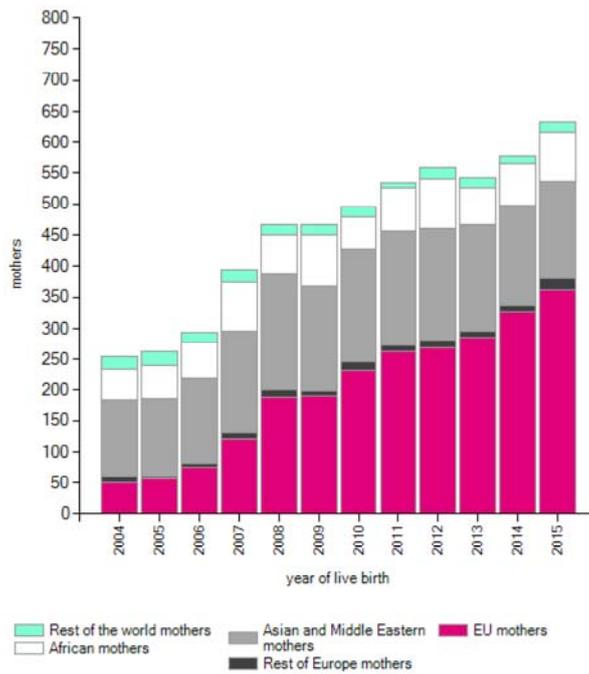
Immigration of workers from Asia, the Middle East and Africa has slowed since changes to immigration policy came into effect in 2011. The number of people who have migrated in to Wakefield for work and subsequently returned to their country of origin is not known.



Although some of the younger migrants to Wakefield only stay for short periods, an increasing number are staying longer and having families. Of the live births in 2004, only 51 of the mothers had themselves been born outside the UK. In 2013 this number had increased to 286 mothers. The large majority of these mothers are from the new EU Accession States, e.g. Poland and Lithuania.



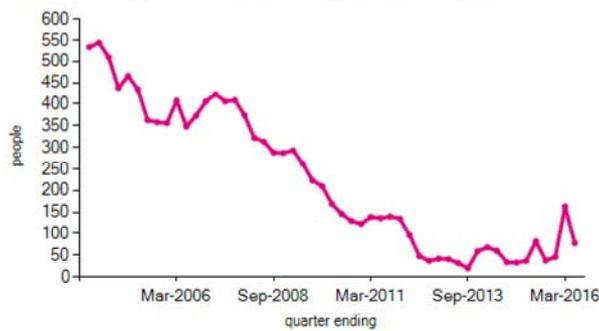
Mother's Country of Origin



Source: Office for National Statistics.

The number of adult asylum seekers receiving subsistence and/or accommodation support has fallen markedly in recent years. In **Jun-2016** there were **78** asylum seekers receiving support, down from 565 people at the beginning of 2003. These numbers exclude unaccompanied children and people in initial, short-term accommodation, such as Angel Lodge.

Asylum Seekers Receiving Section 95 Support



Source: Home Office

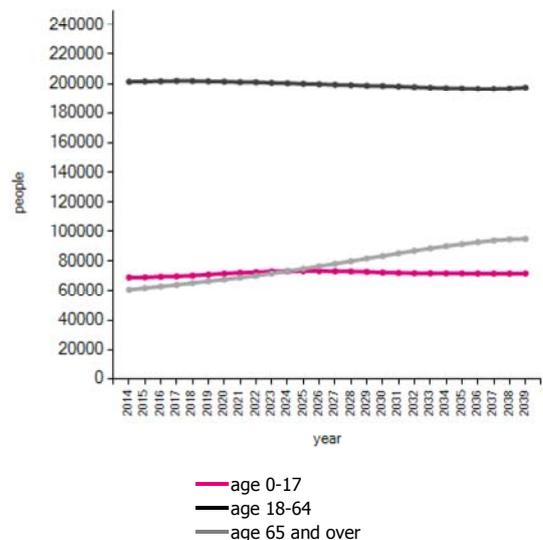
Population Projections

The district's population is projected to grow to around 350,000 by 2026 and to around 360,000 by 2036. Concentrating on the next ten years (2016 to 2026), the number of people aged 0-17 is projected to increase by 5.4% and the number of people aged 18 to 64 (the usual working age population) is projected to reduce in size by 1%.

The largest projected changes, however, are among the older population. The number of people ages 65 to 79 is projected to increase by 16% and the number of people aged 80 or over is projected to increase by 38%.

The overall population growth over the next ten years is 4.5%, lower than the increase projected for England as a whole (7.1%). The projected growth of the older age groups in Wakefield is similar to that being projected for England as a whole.

Population Projections (2014 based)



Source: ONS

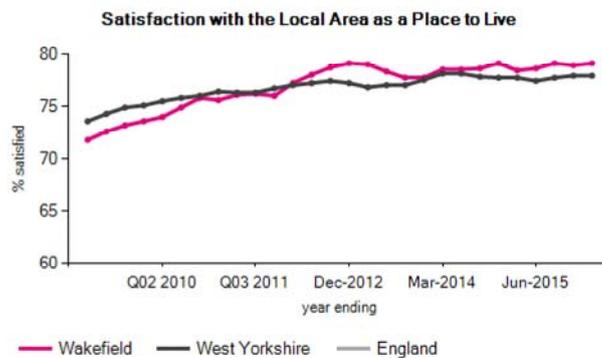
Household Structure

The average size of a household is now 2.3 persons, down from 2.8 persons 30 years ago. This has been driven, in part, by more single persons households - now 30% of all households compared to 22% in 1981. There has also been an increase in the proportion of households with dependent children and a lone parent - up from 5% of households with dependent children in 1981, to 26% in 2011.



Satisfaction with the Local Area

In the 12 months to **Mar-2016**, **79.1%** of people were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared to **77.9%** across West Yorkshire as a whole. Satisfaction with the local area as place to live has improved gradually over the past six years.



Source: Office of the PCC

