

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

Births

Nationally, the story of births is one of decreases and record lows, with the total number of births continuing to fall.

The number of births in Bristol gradually increased from the year 2001, reaching a peak of 6,781 births per annum in 2012 (calendar year). Since then births in Bristol have declined following the national trend, except for brief increases in the calendar years 2016, 2021 and 2024. Births fell again in 2025 to 4,934 live births in total.

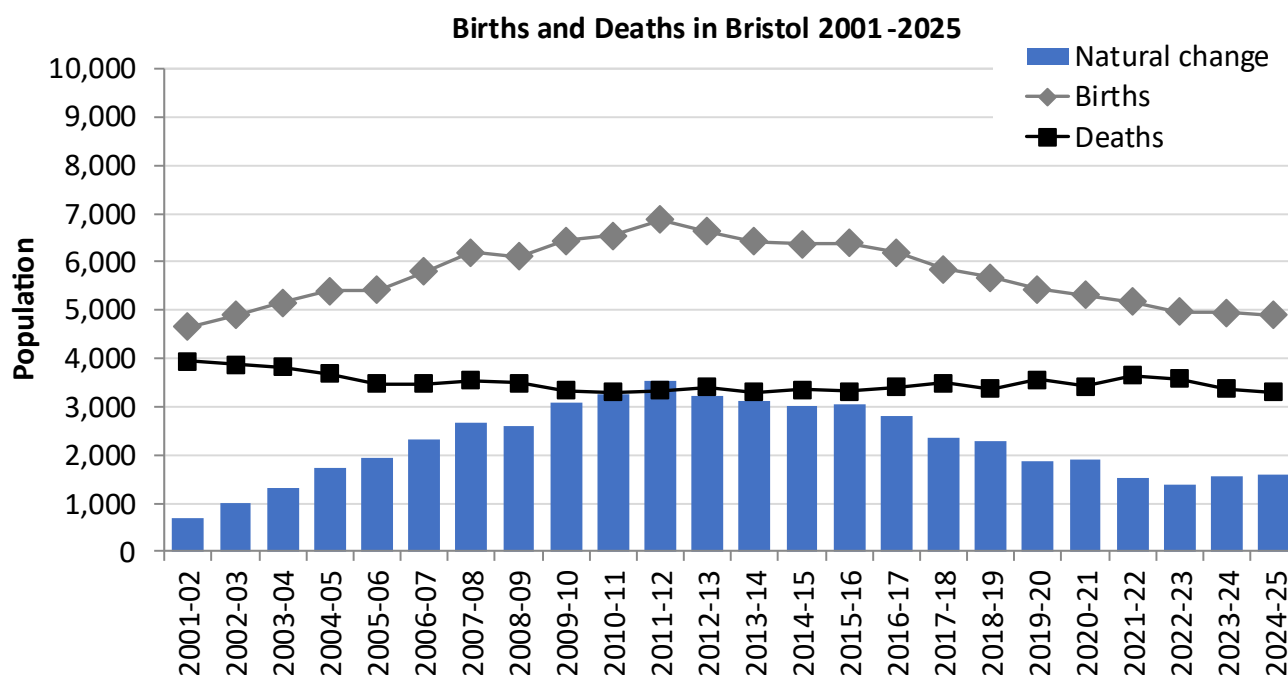


Figure 1: Births and Deaths in Bristol mid-2001 to mid-2025

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates licensed under the Open Government Licence.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for England and Wales dropped to 1.39 children per woman in 2025, its lowest level since records began in 1938. The Total Fertility Rate in Bristol in 2025 was 1.15 children per woman, unchanged from 2024. The average age of mothers at childbirth in England and Wales in 2025 was 31.1 years. The average age of mothers in Bristol is older than nationally at 33.4 years.

Changes in total fertility rate are driven mainly by women born in the UK as they make up the majority of the population of childbearing age (see Figure 2). However, non-UK born women made up an increasing share of the population, which also acted to push fertility rates upwards. The percentage of live births in Bristol to non-UK born mothers has increased from 13% in 2001 to 34.4% in 2025. In 2021, the Total Fertility Rate for non-UK born women in England and Wales was estimated to be 2.03 children per woman, compared to 1.54 for women born in the UK.

Live births by mother's country of birth Bristol 2015 to 2025

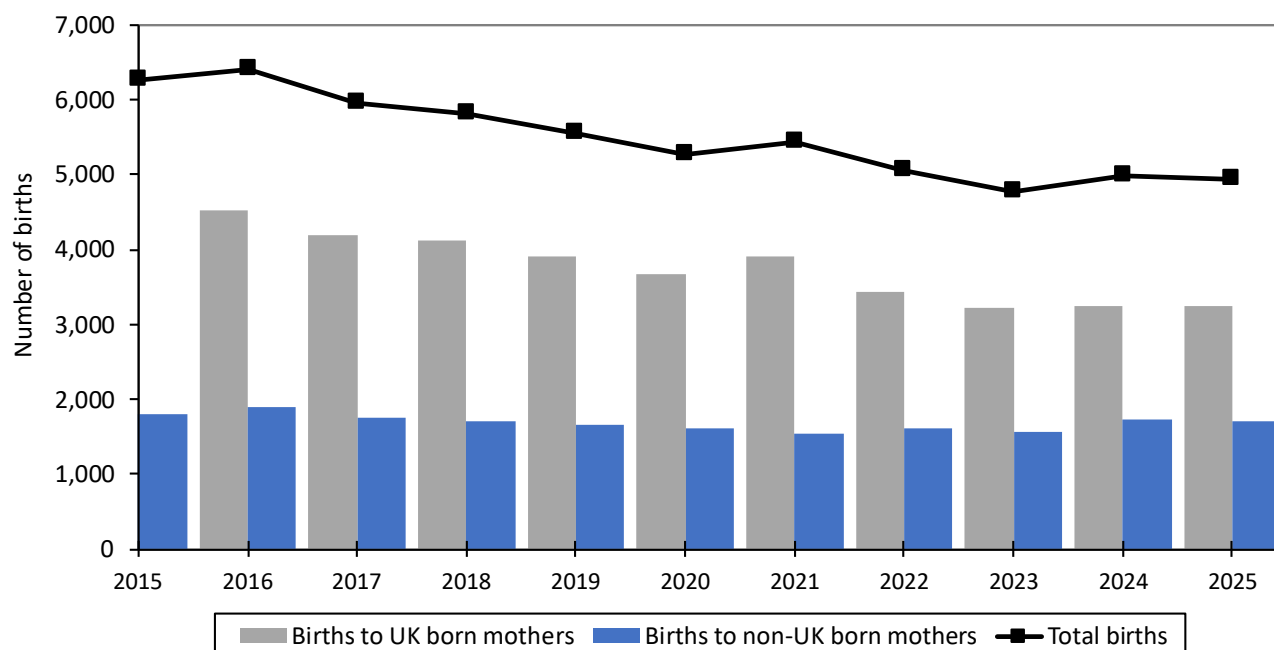


Figure 2: Live births by mother's country of birth Bristol 2015-25
Source: ONS Annual District Birth data by calendar year

The continuing fall in births is seen across the city (Figure 3).

Live births by ICB Locality 2015 to 2025

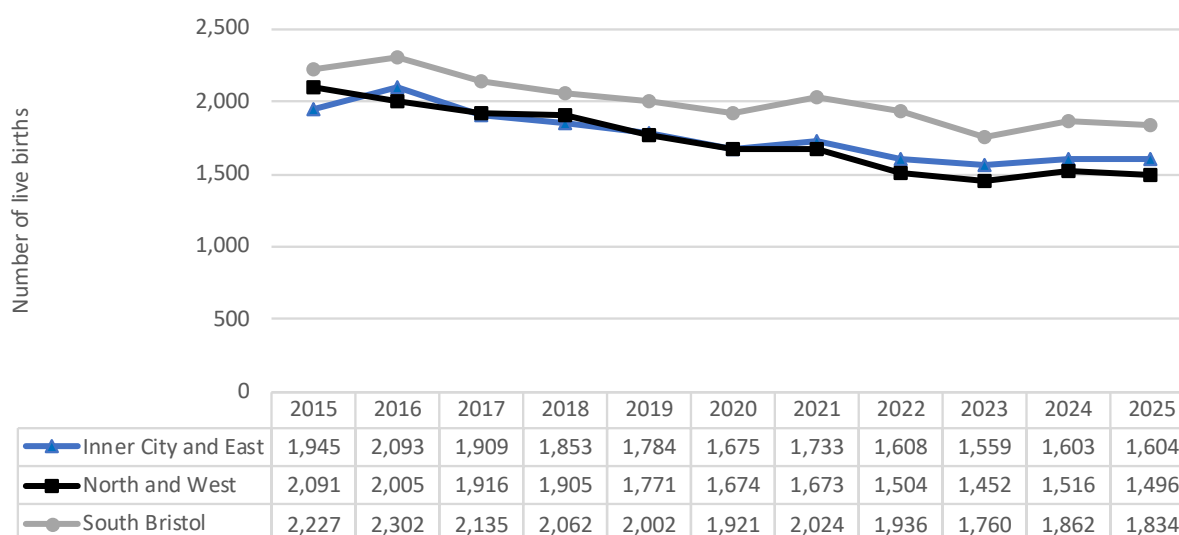


Figure 3: Live births by ICB Locality 2015 to 2025
Source: ONS Vital Statistics by calendar year

Statistics are also available on the country of birth of the mother. Figure 4 shows the number of live births in Bristol since 2015 for the top six countries (not including UK born mothers).

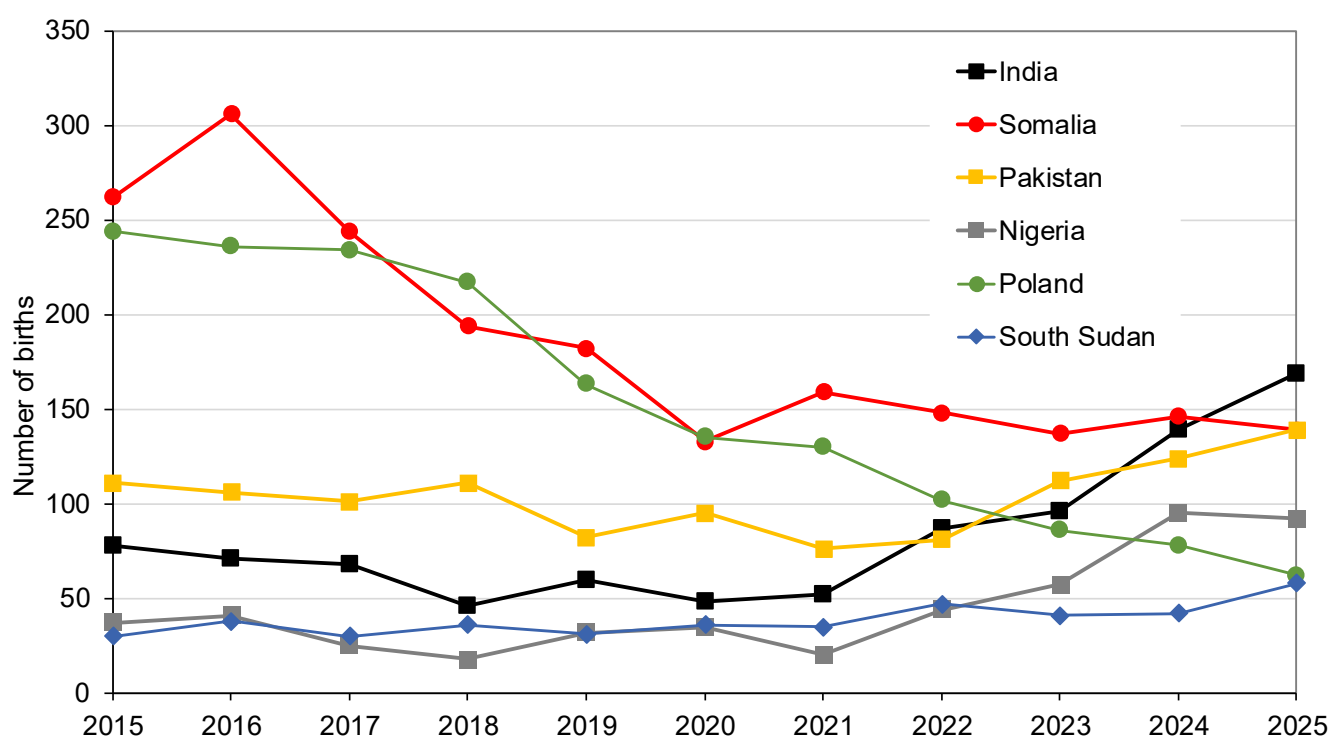


Figure 4: Births to non-UK born mothers in Bristol 2015-2025 - Six highest countries of birth
Source: Public Health, Bristol City Council based on NHS Digital birth registrations data

Mirroring the changing population trends in the years since 2021, births to Indian, Pakistani, and Nigerian-born mothers have risen for the last four years, whilst births to Somalia-born and Poland-born mothers are declining.

The six countries shown in figure 4 clearly reflect the change from mainly EU migrants coming to Bristol up until 2021 to now mainly migrants from outside the EU who have come to Bristol to study or work and have since started families.

Further data / links / consultations:

The Population of Bristol report <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/population>

Population-related JSNA Profiles include:

1. JSNA - Population Profile
2. JSNA – Population Projections
3. JSNA - Migration

NOMIS Life Events <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

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