

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2025/26

Births

Nationally, the story of births is one of decreases and record lows, with the total number of births continuing the fall. Fertility rates have been decreasing in all age groups.

The number of births in Bristol gradually increased from the year 2000 onwards, reaching a peak of 6,781 births per annum in 2012 (calendar year). Since then births in Bristol and nationally have fallen gradually to the end of 2023. In 2024 (calendar year), however, the number of births increased for the first time since 2012. In 2024, there were 4,981 live births, a small increase of 210 since 2023, though still lower than any year since 2003.

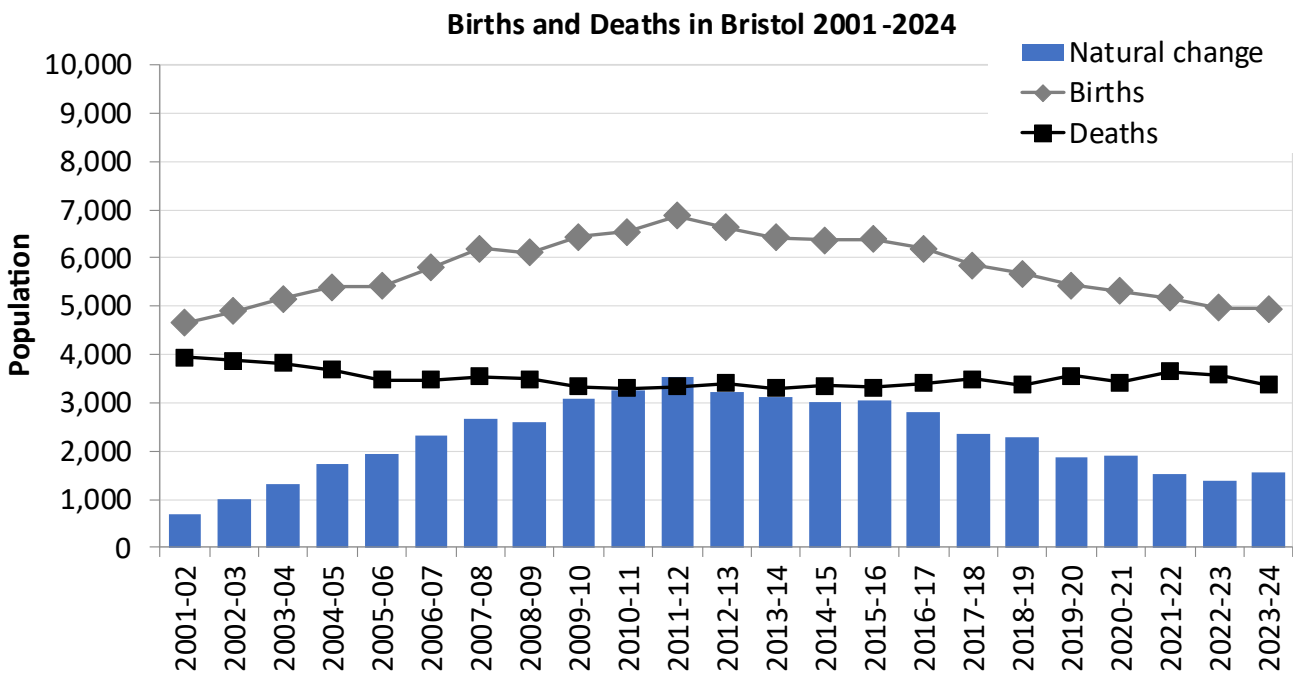


Figure 1: Births and Deaths in Bristol mid-2001 to mid-2024

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

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for England and Wales dropped to 1.41 children per woman in 2024, its lowest level since records began in 1938. The Total Fertility Rate in Bristol in 2024 was 1.15 children per woman, up from 1.13 in 2023. The average age of mothers at childbirth in England and Wales in 2024 was 31.0 years. The average age of mothers in Bristol is older than nationally at 33.3 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 34.7% in 2024. 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 2010 to 2024

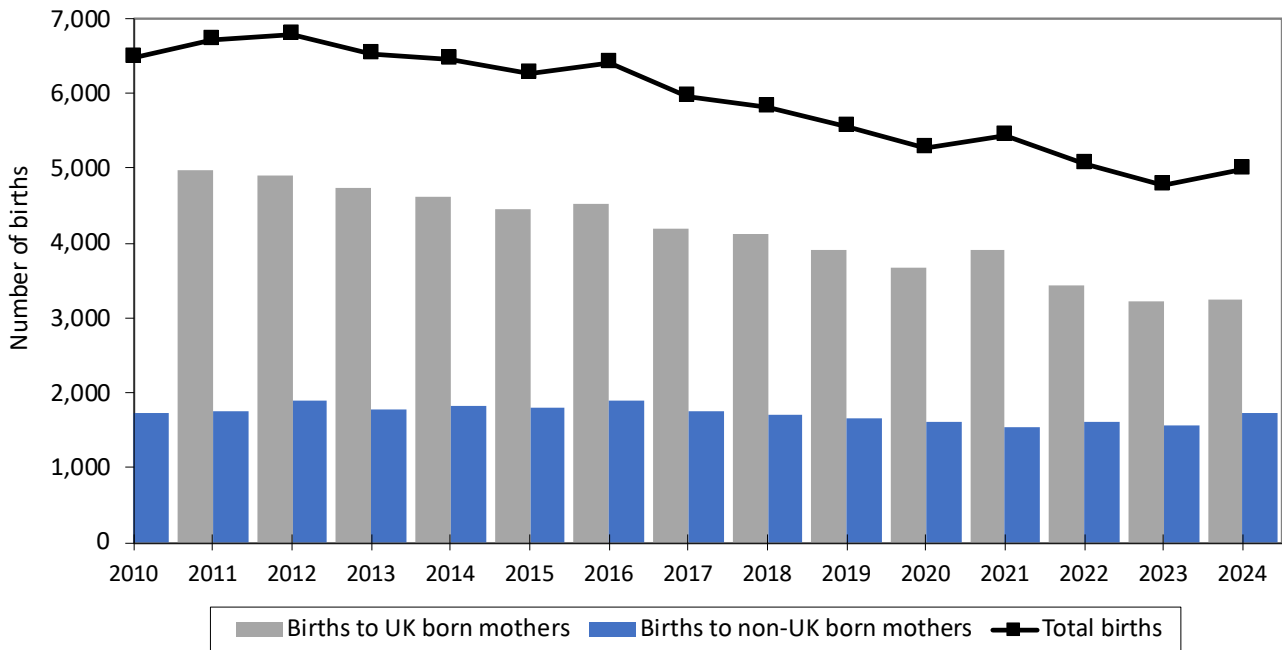


Figure 2: Live births by mother's country of birth Bristol 2010-24
Source: ONS Annual District Birth data by calendar year

The recent fall in births and small increase in 2024 are seen across the city (Figure 3).

Live births by ICB Locality 2014 to 2024

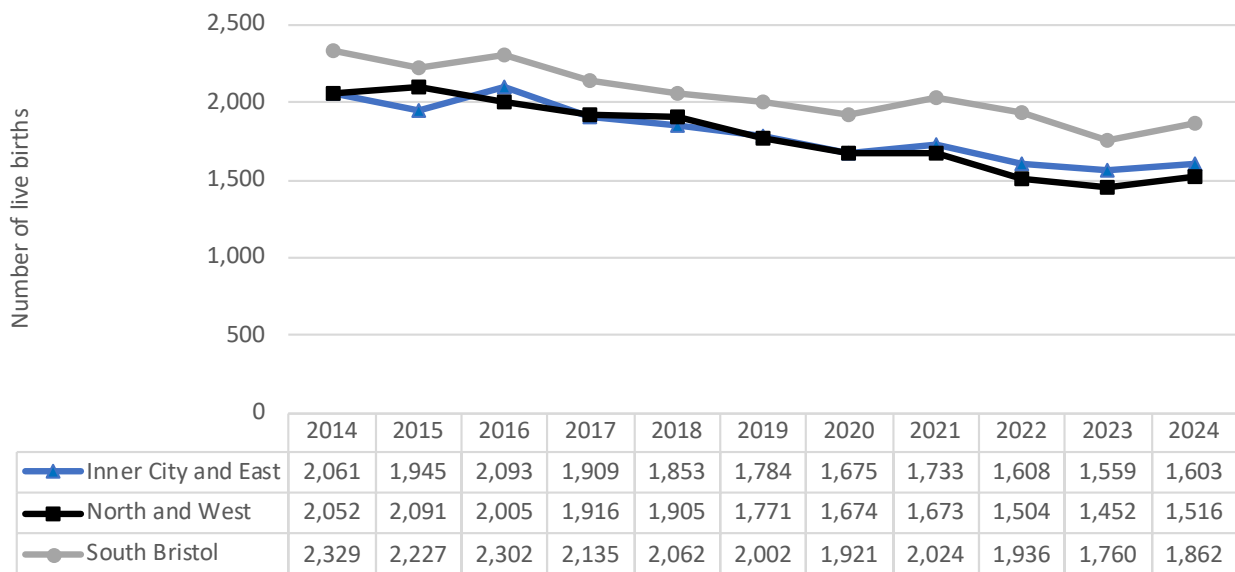


Figure 3: Live births by ICB Locality 2014 to 2024
Source: ONS Vital Statistics by calendar year

Statistics are also available on the country of birth of the mother. Figure 4 shows the number of live births in Bristol since 2014 for the top six countries (not including UK born mothers).

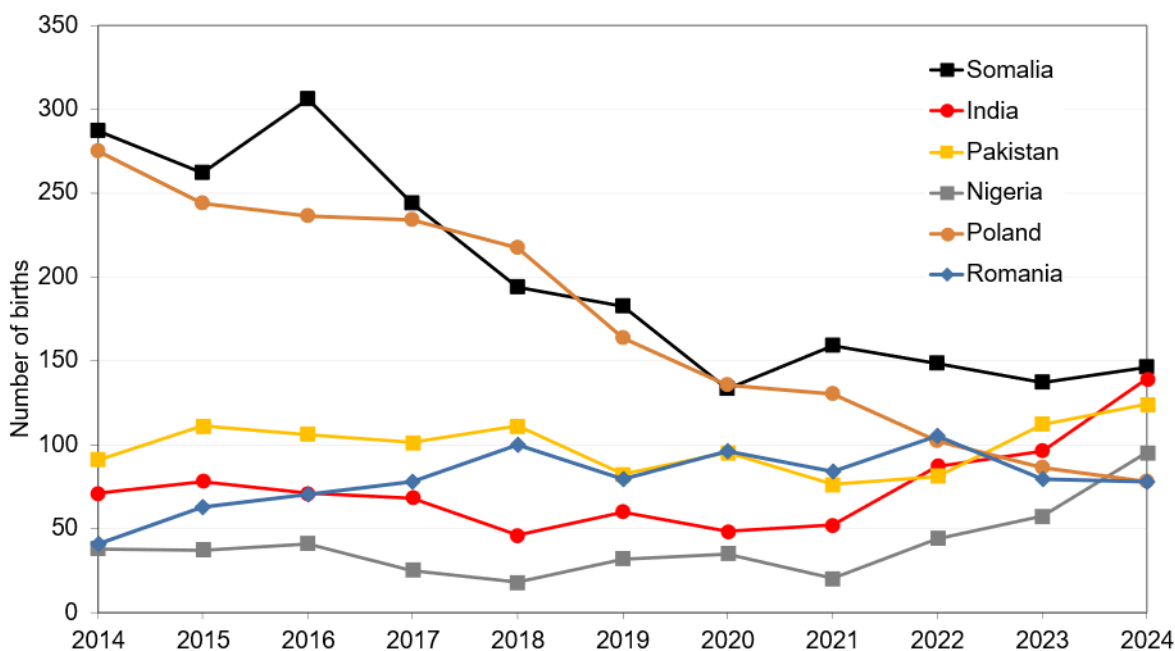


Figure 4: Births to non-UK born mothers in Bristol 2014-2024 - Six highest countries of birth
 Source: Public Health, Bristol City Council based on NHS Digital birth registrations data

Births to Somalia-born mothers are the highest of all non-UK countries but continue to fall as this group of migrants gets older. Births to Poland-born mothers are also declining, whilst births to Romanian-born mothers have remained fairly stable since 2018.

Mirroring the changing population trends in the years since 2021, births to Indian, Pakistani, and Nigerian-born mothers have risen for the last three years.

The six countries shown in figure 3 clearly reflect the change from mainly EU migrants coming to Bristol up until 2021 to now mainly non-EU migrants who have come to Bristol to study or work and start families.

Components of population change

In Bristol, there are more live births than deaths each year resulting in an increase in the population due to natural change (Figure 1). Over the last decade (2014-2024) in Bristol, there were a total of 56,300 births and 34,500 deaths, resulting in a population increase of 21,800 due to natural change alone. Natural change accounted for under half (43%) of the total population change in Bristol over the decade.

In the 12 months to mid-2024 however, net international migration was the largest component of population change in Bristol with natural change accounting for just a fifth (20%) of the population change in Bristol. For the third consecutive year since 2021, net international

migration increased and is now more than 6 times higher than natural change (births minus deaths) and the highest levels of net international migration seen in more than two decades.

In the 12 months to mid-2024, there were 15,400 international in-migrants and 5,400 international out-migrants, a net gain of 10,100 people. The majority of the change can be seen in people aged 18-39 years, with this age group accounting for 70% of the overall net gain due to international migration.

Looking at internal migration (ie moves to and from surrounding areas and other parts of the UK), for the last four years, the long-term trend of little net change annually due to internal migration has changed, with more people now moving out of Bristol than moving into Bristol from surrounding areas and other parts of the UK. The 12 months to mid-2024 saw a net loss of 3,600 people.

All age groups saw a net loss of people except 18-20 year olds, where there was a net gain. The largest losses due to net internal migration were in the 30-44 year age group and young children, suggesting that people with young families are moving out of the Bristol local authority area.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Bristol City Council population [Population of Bristol](#)
- NOMIS Life Events <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

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Date next update due: Summer 2026

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