

Westmorland and Furness Annual Population Trends

Incorporating Mid-2022 Estimates (Published November 2023)

Key Points

At Mid-2022:

- *The population of Westmorland and Furness was estimated to be 227,600 persons.*
- *Compared to the national average, Westmorland and Furness and all three former districts (Barrow-in-Furness, Eden and South Lakeland) had older age profiles (lower proportions of younger residents and higher proportions of older residents).*
- *South Lakeland had the 5th smallest proportion of 0-15 year olds nationally.*

Between mid-2021 and mid-2022:

- *The population of Westmorland and Furness increased by 700 persons (+0.3% vs. England +1%).*
- *The populations of Eden and South Lakeland increased (+1% and +0.2% respectively).*
- *The population of Barrow-in-Furness decreased (-0.1%).*
- *Numbers of 0-15 year olds in Westmorland and Furness decreased by 100 (-0.2% vs. England +1%); this was driven wholly by Barrow-in-Furness (-1.1%, 7th greatest decrease nationally, vs. Eden and South Lakeland +0.6% and +0.2%).*
- *Numbers of 16-64 year olds in Westmorland and Furness increased by 100 persons (+0.04% vs. England +0.8%); driven wholly by Eden (+0.9% vs. Barrow-in-Furness and South Lakeland -0.1% and -0.4%).*
- *Numbers of 65+ year olds in Westmorland and Furness increased by 700 persons (+1.2% vs. England +1.5%). All three of Westmorland and Furness's former districts followed this trend.*
- *In Westmorland and Furness there were 1,800 births and 2,700 deaths (a net natural decrease of 900 persons). All three former districts experienced net natural decreases.*
- *Westmorland and Furness's level of net natural decrease peaked in in 2019-20, driven both by an increase in numbers of deaths reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued trends in fewer births.*
- *While the size of net natural decrease in Westmorland and Furness has reduced from the 2019-20 peak, it remains greater than in any other year in the last decade prior to 2019-20.*
- *UK migration resulted in a net increase of 1,200 persons in Westmorland and Furness. Eden and South Lakeland both experienced net increases in population due to UK migration, while Barrow-in-Furness experienced a small decrease.*
- *International migration resulted in a net increase of 400 persons in Westmorland and Furness, with all three former districts experiencing small net increases.*

Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces annual estimates of the resident population of each local authority within England as of the 30th of June each year. These estimates are known as the ‘Mid-Year Estimates’. In November 2023 the ONS released the Mid-2022 Estimates alongside revised estimates for the years from Mid-2011 to Mid-2021 incorporating the findings of the 2021 Census. This briefing provides an analysis of the population trends observed in Westmorland and Furness between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022 based on the November 2023 ONS publication.

Analysis

Total Population

At Mid-2022 the resident population of England was estimated to be 57.1 million persons; an increase of 551,500 persons (+1%) since Mid-2021. The resident population of Westmorland and Furness was estimated to be 227,600 persons at Mid-2022; an increase of 700 persons (+0.3%) since Mid-2021.

Figure 1: Population Estimates: Annual Change:

All Ages

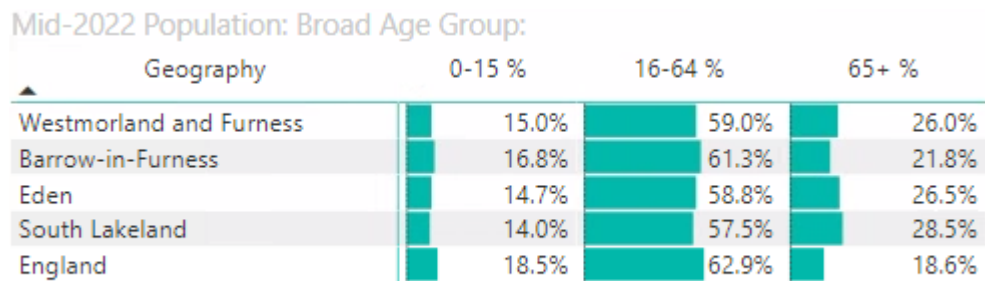
Geography	2021	2022	Numerical Change	% Change
Westmorland and Furness	226.9K	227.6K	0.7K	0.3%
Barrow-in-Furness	67.4K	67.3K	0.0K	-0.1%
Eden	55.0K	55.5K	0.5K	1.0%
South Lakeland	104.6K	104.8K	0.2K	0.2%
England	56,554.9K	57,106.4K	551.5K	1.0%

Figure 1 displays the Mid-2021 and Mid-2022 population estimates for England, Westmorland and Furness and the former districts of Barrow-in-Furness, Eden and South Lakeland (which match the current Westmorland and Furness Locality Board boundaries). Eden and South Lakeland both experienced population increases between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022 (+1% and +0.2% respectively), while Barrow-in-Furness experienced a very slight proportional population decrease (-0.1%).

Population Profile by Age

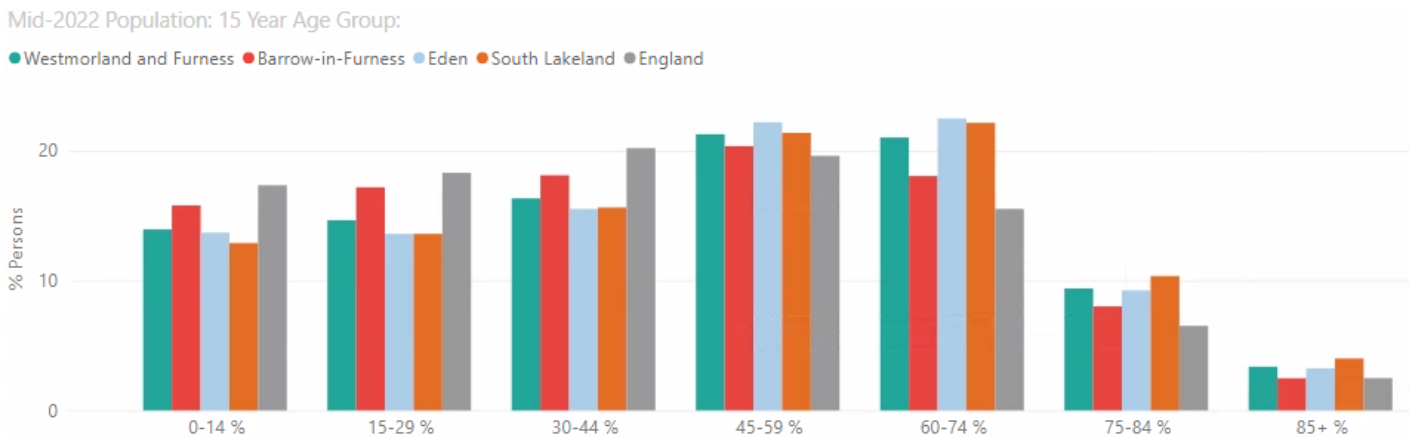
Figure 2 presents the proportion of the population by broad age group for England, Westmorland and Furness and former districts, while figure 3 plots the proportion of the population by 15 year age group for the same areas.

Figure 2: Population Estimates: By Broad Age Group:



Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 3: Population Estimates: By 15 Year Age Group:



Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Compared to the national average, Westmorland and Furness and all three former districts had older age profiles at Mid-2022; with lower proportions of younger residents and higher proportions of older residents. However, there was some variation between the former districts. Barrow-in-Furness had a greater proportion of younger residents than Eden and South Lakeland. Inversely, Eden and South Lakeland had greater proportions of older residents than Barrow-in-Furness. Of all Local Authority Districts (LADs) nationally, South Lakeland had the 5th lowest proportion of 0-15 year olds.

Population Change by Age

Figure 4: Population Estimates: Annual Change: 0-15 Year Olds:

Aged 0-15 Years

Geography	2021	2022	Numerical Change	% Change
Westmorland and Furness	34.2K	34.2K	-0.1K	-0.2%
Barrow-in-Furness	11.5K	11.3K	-0.1K	-1.1%
Eden	8.1K	8.2K	0.0K	0.6%
South Lakeland	14.6K	14.7K	0.0K	0.2%
England	10,467.8K	10,575.3K	107.5K	1.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Between mid-2021 and mid-2022 the number of 0-15 year olds in Westmorland and Furness decreased by 100 persons (-0.2%); nationally this age group increased (+1%). However, district level figures show that the Westmorland and Furness decrease in 0-15 year olds was driven wholly by Barrow-in-Furness (-1.1%), while numbers of 0-15 year olds in Eden and South Lakeland increased slightly (+0.6% and +0.2% respectively). Of all LADs nationally, Barrow-in-Furness had the 7th greatest proportional decrease in 0-15 year olds.

Figure 5: Population Estimates: Annual Change: 16-64 Year Olds:

Aged 16-64 Years

Geography	2021	2022	Numerical Change	% Change
Westmorland and Furness	134.2K	134.2K	0.1K	0.04%
Barrow-in-Furness	41.3K	41.3K	0.0K	-0.07%
Eden	32.3K	32.6K	0.3K	0.92%
South Lakeland	60.5K	60.3K	-0.2K	-0.36%
England	35,618.0K	35,901.2K	283.2K	0.80%

Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Between mid-2021 and mid-2022 the number of 16-64 year olds in Westmorland and Furness increased by 100 persons (+0.04%); nationally this age group increased more substantially (+0.8%). However, again, district level figures show that the Westmorland and Furness increase in 16-64 year olds was driven wholly by one district; with numbers of 16-64 year olds in Eden increasing by +0.9%, while Barrow-in-Furness and South Lakeland experienced decreases of -0.1% and -0.4% respectively.

Figure 6: Population Estimates: Annual Change: 65+ Year Olds:

Aged 65+ Years

Geography	2021	2022	Numerical Change	% Change
Westmorland and Furness	58.6K	59.3K	0.7K	1.2%
Barrow-in-Furness	14.6K	14.7K	0.1K	0.8%
Eden	14.5K	14.7K	0.2K	1.3%
South Lakeland	29.5K	29.9K	0.4K	1.3%
England	10,469.0K	10,629.9K	160.8K	1.5%

Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Between mid-2021 and mid-2022 the number of 65+ year olds in Westmorland and Furness increased by 700 persons (+1.2%); nationally this age group also increased (+1.5%). All three former districts followed this trend, with the greatest proportional increases experienced in Eden and South Lakeland (both +1.3%).

Figure 7 plots the proportional change in population by 15 year age group between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022. Figure 7 demonstrates that the Westmorland and Furness's small increase in working age residents has been driven mainly by increases in 30–44 year olds across all three former districts.

Figure 7: Population Estimates: Annual Change: 15 Year Age Group:

Mid-2021 to 2022 Population Change: 15 Year Age Groups

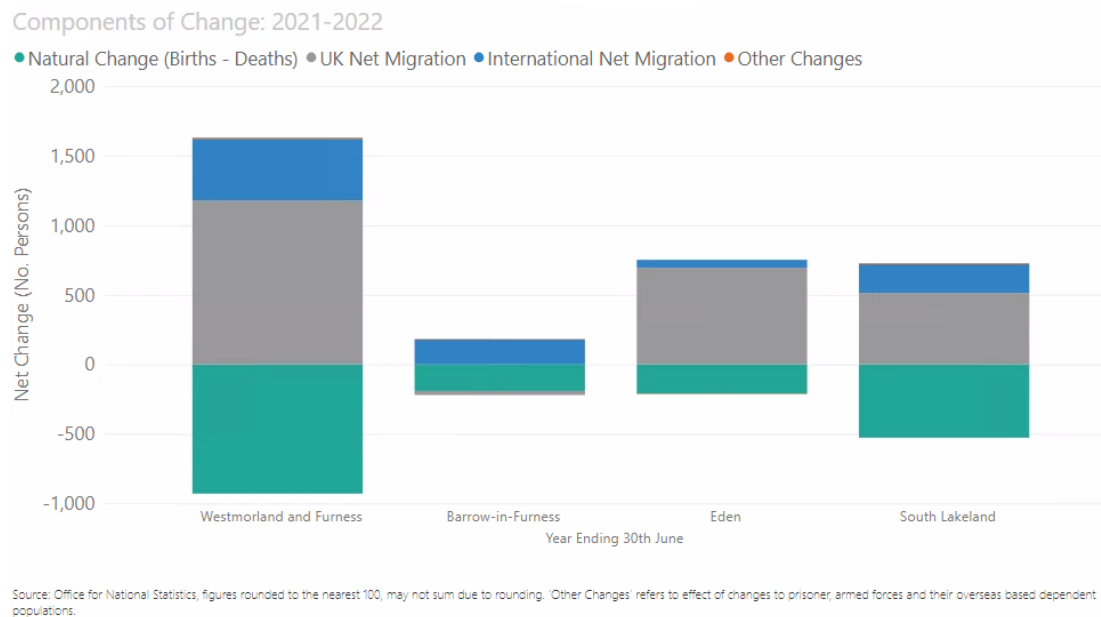


Source: Office for National Statistics, figures rounded to the nearest 100, may not sum due to rounding.

Components of Change

It is the combined effect of changes in numbers of births, deaths and migrants that determine overall population change. These factors are known as the ‘components of change’. Figure 8 examines the net impact of each component of change during the year to mid-2022 for Westmorland and Furness and former districts.

Figure 8: Population Estimates: Annual Change: By Component:



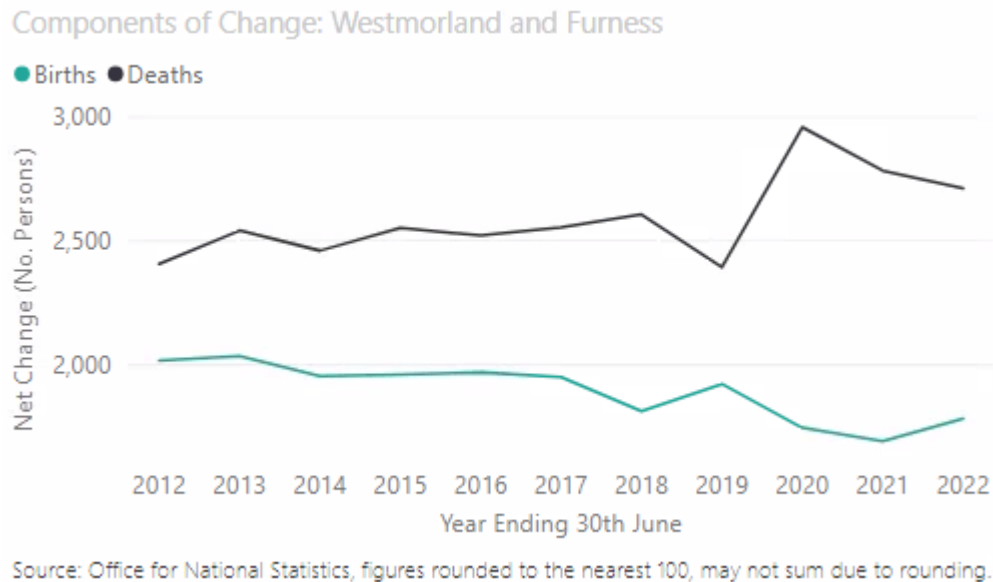
Between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022, in Westmorland and Furness there were 1,800 births and 2,700 deaths; resulting in a net natural decrease of 900 persons. All of Westmorland and Furness’s former districts experienced net natural decreases.

Between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022, UK migration (migration to and from other parts of the UK) resulted in a net increase of 1,200 persons in Westmorland and Furness. Of the former districts, Eden and South Lakeland both experienced net increases in population due to UK migration. However, Barrow-in-Furness experienced a small decrease in population due to UK migration.

Between Mid-2021 and Mid-2022, international migration (migration to and from overseas) resulted in a net increase of 400 persons in Westmorland and Furness. All three former districts experienced small net increases in population due to international migration.

Figure 9 examines natural change in Westmorland and Furness in more detail.

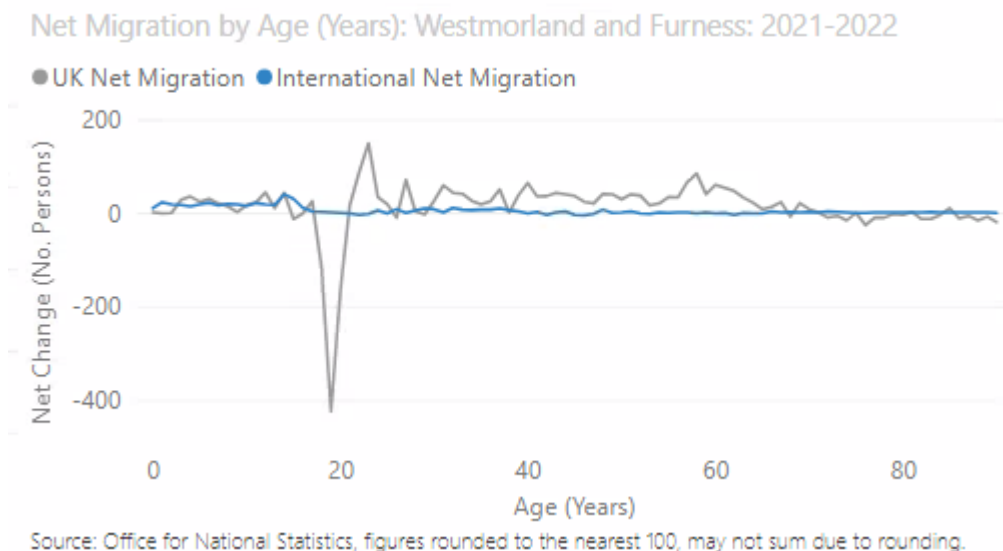
Figure 9: Population Estimates: Natural Change:



Westmorland and Furness has consistently had more deaths than births each year over the last decade. However, this size of this natural decrease peaked in 2019-20; driven by both an increase in numbers of deaths reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and also a continuation of longer term trends in fewer births. While the size of the net natural decrease in Westmorland and Furness have reduced from the 2019-20 peak, it remains greater than any other year in the last decade prior to 2019-20.

Figure 10 examines age profile of Westmorland and Furness's net migration in the year to mid-2022.

Figure 10: Population Estimates: Annual Change: Migration by Age:



Following the trends seen in previous years, there was a large negative net migration of 18-20 year olds moving out from Westmorland and Furness to other parts of the UK during 2021-22, alongside a positive net migration of 21-24 year olds moving into Westmorland and Furness from other parts of the UK.

Further Information

For further population briefings and data, including analysis of longer term population trends and one page local authority and former district population summaries, please visit:

<https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/population/>

Or contact: info@cumbriaobservatory.org.uk