

# JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

## Births

The number of births in Bristol gradually increased from the year 2000 onwards, reaching a peak of 6,800 births per annum in 2012 (calendar year). Since then births in Bristol have fallen gradually. In 2022 (calendar year) the number of births fell to 5,048, a fall of 26% since the peak in 2012 and the lowest number since 2003. This fall in births remains in line with the recent trend of decreasing live births observed before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

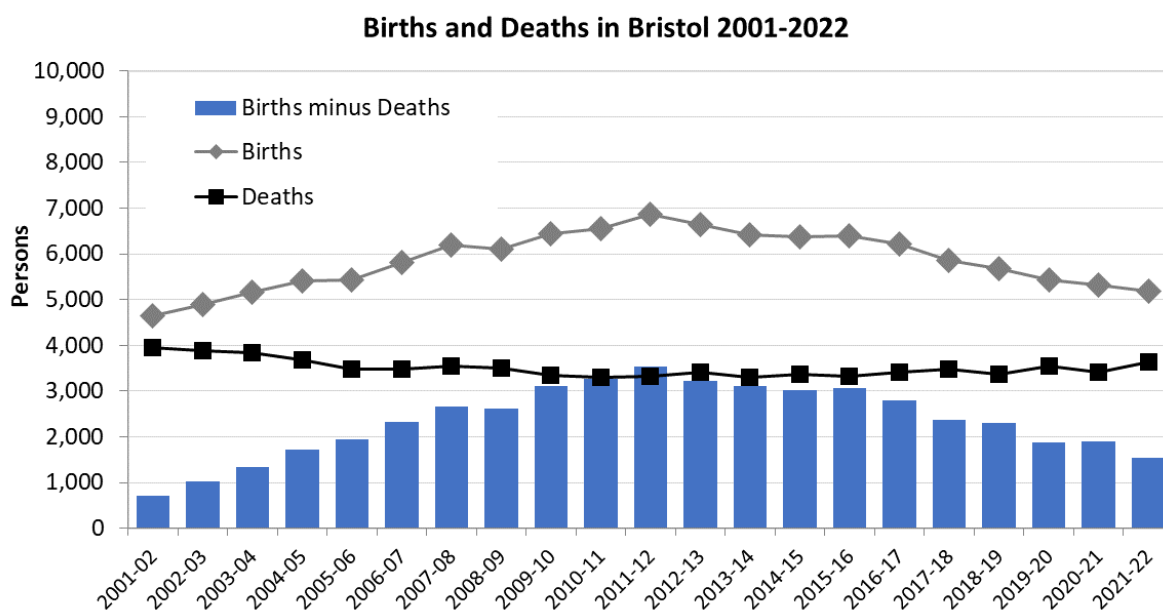


Figure 1: Births and Deaths in Bristol mid-2001 to mid-2022

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

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, including for women aged 40 years and over for the first time since 2013. Fertility rates for those aged 40 years and over had generally been increasing since the late 1970s.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for England and Wales in 2021 was 1.55 children per woman, the lowest since records began in 1938. The Total Fertility Rate in Bristol in 2021 was 1.32 children per woman, down from 1.35 in 2020. The average age of mothers at childbirth in England and Wales in 2021 was 30.9 years. The average age of mothers in Bristol is older than nationally at 32.8 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 (Figure 2). However, non-UK born women make up an increasing share of the population, which also acts to push fertility rates upwards. The percentage of births in Bristol to non-UK born mothers has increased from 13% in 2001 to 31.7% in 2022. 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.

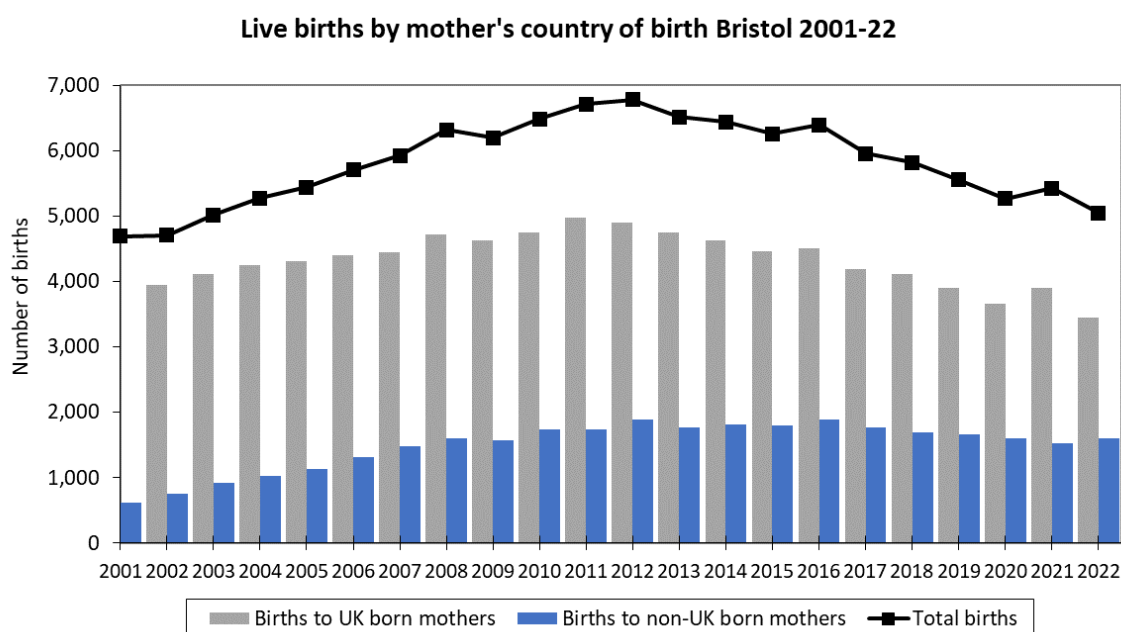


Figure 2: Live births by mother's country of birth Bristol 2001-22

Source: ONS Annual District Birth data by calendar year

The recent fall in births is seen across the city. All ICB Localities are following the recent downward trend in the number of live births per annum up to the year 2020, although there was a small increase in live births in 2021 in both Inner City and East and East and South Bristol (Figure 3).

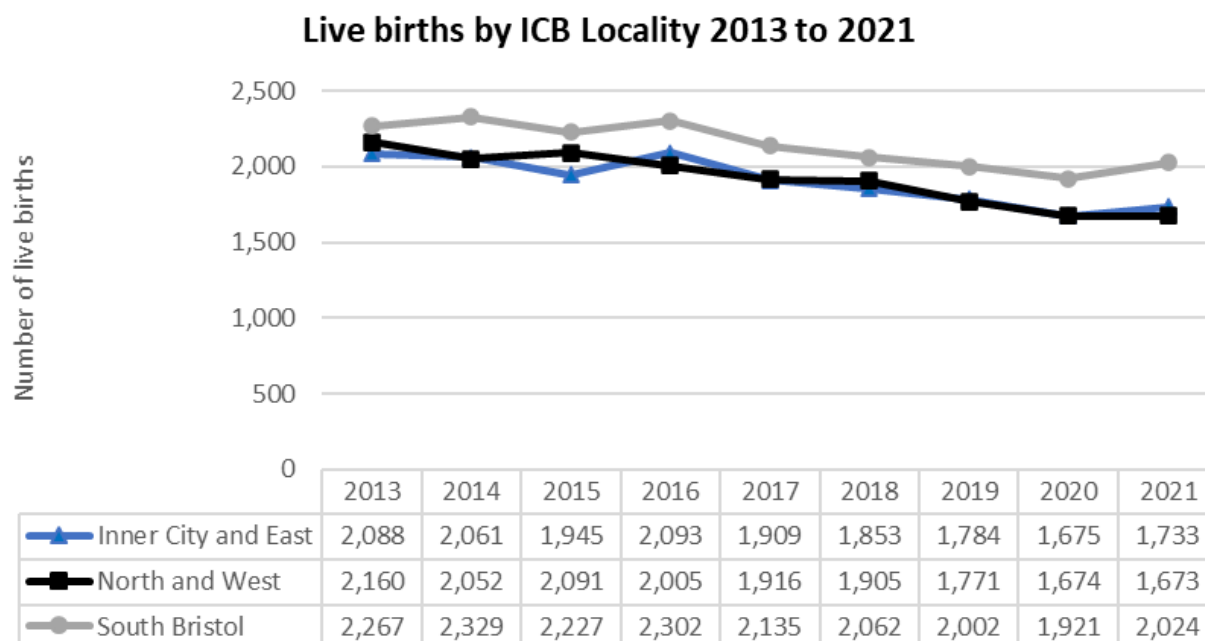


Figure 3: Live births by ICB Locality 2013 to 2021

Source: ONS Vital Statistics by calendar year

## 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 (ie births minus deaths) (Figure 1). Over the last decade (2012-2022), there were a total of 59,500 births and 34,300 deaths, resulting in a population increase of 25,200 due to natural change alone. Natural change accounts for just over half (55%) of the total population change in Bristol over the decade.

In the 12 months to mid-2022 however, natural change accounted for just 20% (+1,500) of the population change in Bristol. The majority of the population change was due to net international migration into the Bristol local authority area from outside of the UK (+7,200), together with a small net loss of people from Bristol to other parts of the UK (-1,000).

## Further data / links / consultations:

- Bristol City Council population <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/population>
- NOMIS Life Events <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

**Date updated:** January 2024

**Date next update due:** August 2024

**Contact details:** [research@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:research@bristol.gov.uk)