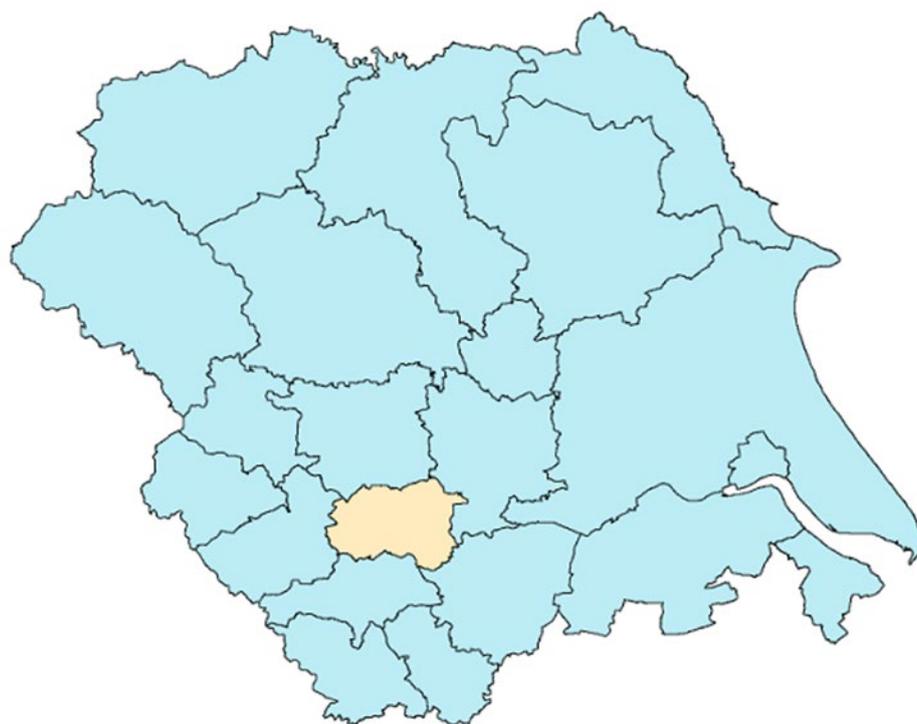


Wakefield

Local Migration Profile 2020 Summary Document



This document summarises the main migration trends and latest data that we can access for Wakefield. You are welcome to share this document publicly.

The full Local Migration Profile document contains information about data sources and is available at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/statistics.



Migration Yorkshire
Strategic leadership, local support

Summary of migration trends in Wakefield

Overall population change

The **local population** was estimated at 348,300 people in 2019 [the 'mid year estimate']; an increase in the population estimate of around 3,300 people [1.0%] since 2018.

Population change is affected by natural change [births and deaths] and migration [internally within the UK and internationally]. Population growth in Wakefield has, for the last few years, been driven by internal migration [i.e. people who moved to Wakefield from another part of the UK] although international migration and natural change also contribute.

New arrivals

Different measures of immigration suggest that between 1,100 – 1,900 new **long-term immigrants** [expected to stay more than a year] arrived in Wakefield in 2019. The official estimate from the Office for National Statistics [ONS] gives the lower figure in this range.

Net migration to Wakefield was around 420 in 2019 – a decrease compared to the previous year.

Around 480 **short-term migrants** visited Wakefield in 2017 to work or study for up to 12 months; there was a 60/40 split between short term workers and students.

Reasons for migration

Work

The overall number of **new migrant workers** arriving in Wakefield in 2019 was 1,850; and increase of around 220 compared with the previous year, caused by a fall in accession arrivals and increases from other world regions. The greatest change in individual nationalities was a decrease in the number of Polish arrivals [almost 100 fewer than the previous year].

- The number of new migrant **workers from EU accession countries** fell to around 980 arrivals in 2019.
- The level of **workers from non-accession countries** rose sharply in 2019, with around 830 arrivals, an increase of around 350 compared with the previous year, with Portuguese arrivals topping this group.

Poland remains the top country of origin overall with 561 arrivals. Romania is in second place with 209 arrivals, followed by Portugal, Pakistan and Spain with around 80 arrivals each.

Study

While there are no higher education institutions in Wakefield that accept **international students**, there may be international students registering at further education colleges and independent schools [see Education section below].

Protection

Some **asylum seekers** are housed and supported here through the Home Office dispersal system. Published Home Office figures show that at the end of December 2020, 204 people were being supported in Wakefield while awaiting a decision on their claim [known as Section 95 support]: 186 people were being accommodated, and there were 18 people receiving subsistence-only support i.e. no accommodation. This figure does not include the cohort in initial accommodation awaiting dispersal accommodation across the region.

There were fewer than 20 **unaccompanied asylum seeking children** [UASC] being looked after by the local authority at the end of March 2020. These are children who are in the UK without family and have claimed asylum in their own right. They are separate to the dispersal system for asylum seekers described above.

Those granted protection by the Home Office may then stay in the area as **refugees**. Other groups of refugees are resettled directly from another country, for example, through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme [VPRS] and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme [VCRS]; seven resettled refugees arrived in Wakefield during the past year through these programmes [January – December 2020].

Indicators of diversity

The diversity of Wakefield's population is suggested by several longer-term indicators:

- 6% of Wakefield's population is not British, below the Yorkshire and Humber regional average of 7%.
- 7% of the community was born outside the UK, below the 10% Yorkshire and Humber average; just over half of these are from the EU.
- Around 5,400 pupils at school in Wakefield have a first language that is not English. This is equivalent to 11% of primary pupils and 8% of secondary pupils; both figures are small increases on the previous year but remain lower than the Yorkshire and Humber averages of 18% and 14% respectively.
- Just 5 in every 1,000 new GP registrations are made by people who previously lived abroad, compared with an average of 10 across Yorkshire and Humber.
- The general fertility rate in Wakefield continues to fall but remains slightly above the average for Yorkshire and Humber, both below the 'replacement level'. Births to mothers themselves born outside the UK are lower than the regional average of 21%. This rate is increasing over time, reaching 17% of all new births in Wakefield in 2019.

Further indicators of migration

Research

Migration Yorkshire has an online database of migration reports covering Yorkshire and the Humber, with the option of filtering results by migrant group, theme, topic and place. Search the database at www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/researchdatabase.

Employers

A number of organisations in the region can employ migrants from outside the EU under the Points Based System – including skilled workers [Tier 2] and temporary workers [Tier 5]. Full details of the registered employers in your area can be downloaded from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers

Education

A number of educational institutions in the region are registered to sponsor migrant students from outside the EU under Tier 4 of the Points Based System. Full details at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students

Acknowledgements

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Migration Yorkshire is a local authority-led regional migration partnership for Yorkshire and Humber, hosted by Leeds City Council. Migration Yorkshire works with national government, local government, and others to ensure that Yorkshire and Humber can deal with, and benefit from, migration.

Migration Yorkshire

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