



**Westmorland and Furness**  
**Population Trends Briefing**  
**Incorporating Mid-2025 Estimates**  
**(Published July 2026)**

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## **Aim**

To present the population trends observed in Westmorland and Furness and consider the factors driving these trends; based on Mid-2025 Population Estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

## **Key Points**

*The population is growing:*

- *At Mid-2025 the population of Westmorland and Furness was estimated to be 231,300 persons.*
- *Westmorland and Furness's population has increased by 6,800 persons over the last decade (+3% vs. England +7.3%), and 1,500 persons in the most recent year (+0.6% vs England +0.4%); the first time since the available time series began in 2002 that annual population growth in Westmorland and Furness has exceeded the national rate.*

*The population is ageing:*

- *Westmorland and Furness has an older age profile than the national average, with a lower proportion of younger residents and a higher proportion of older residents, ranking in the bottom 10% of Local Authorities for % of 0-15 year olds and the top 10% for % of residents aged 65+.*
- *Numbers of 0-15 year olds in Westmorland and Furness have decreased by 4.7% over the last decade (England +2%), with a decrease of 0.8% in the most recent year (England -0.9%).*
- *Numbers of 16-64 year olds in Westmorland and Furness have increased by 0.7% over the last decade (England +6.5%), with an increase of 0.3% in the most recent year (England 0.3%).*
- *Numbers of residents aged 65+ years in Westmorland and Furness increased by 13.5% over the last decade (England +16.3%), with an increase of 2.2% in the most recent year (England +2%).*



*The population is experiencing natural decline and migration is driving population growth:*

- *Westmorland and Furness has consistently had more deaths than births every year over the last decade, with the size of this natural decrease becoming more pronounced over time; resulting in a net natural decrease of 8,900 persons between 2015 and 2025, and a net natural decrease of 900 persons in 2024-25.*
- *Internal migration (to and from other parts of the UK) has resulted in a net increase of 12,100 persons in Westmorland and Furness since 2015 and a net increase of 2,100 persons in 2024-25.*
- *International migration (to and from overseas) has resulted in a smaller net increase of 2,800 persons in Westmorland and Furness since 2015, and a net increase of 300 persons in 2024-25.*
- *Westmorland and Furness experiences a notably large net loss of 18-20 year olds moving out from the area to other parts of the UK, although this is balanced by net inflows of working age adults aged 21+ years moving into Westmorland and Furness from other parts of the UK.*

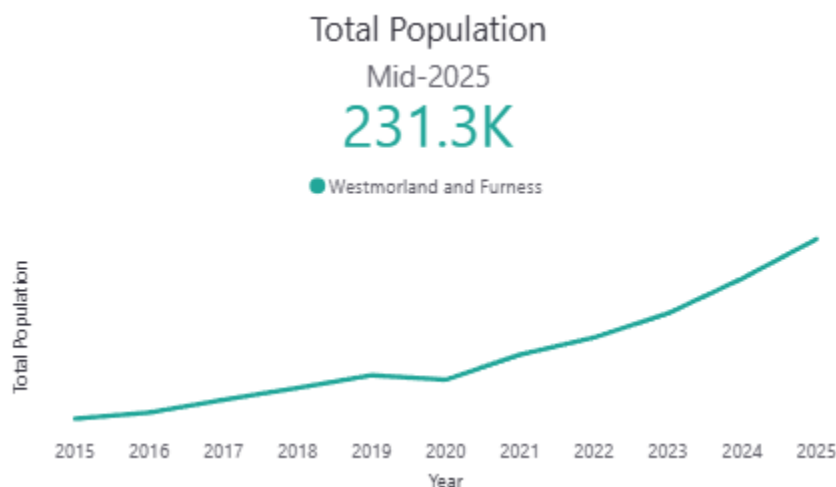
## Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces annual estimates of the resident population of each local authority within England as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June each year. These estimates are known as the 'Mid-Year Estimates'. In July 2026 the ONS released the Mid-2025 Estimates. This briefing provides an analysis of the population trends observed in Westmorland and Furness based on these estimates.

## Analysis

### The population is growing:

Figure 1: Mid-2015 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

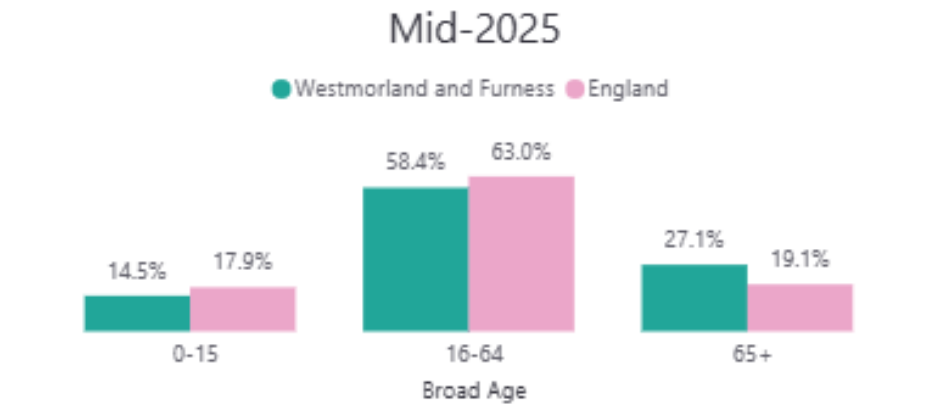


At Mid-2025 the resident population of Westmorland and Furness was estimated to be 231,300 persons. Over the last decade (Mid-2015 to Mid-2025), Westmorland and Furness's population has increased by 6,800 persons (+3%); this is a smaller proportional increase than the national average (England +7.3%).

In the most recent year (Mid-2024 to Mid-2025), the population of Westmorland and Furness has increased by 1,500 persons (+0.6%); this is a greater proportional increase than the national average (England +0.4%) and is the first time since the available time series for Westmorland and Furness began in 2002 that annual population growth in Westmorland and Furness has exceeded the national rate.

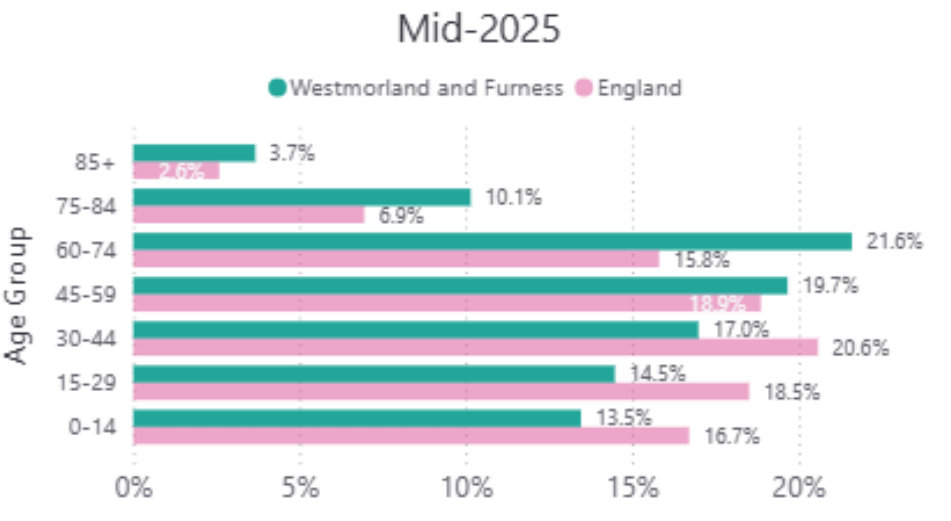
**The population is ageing:**

Figure 2: Mid-2025 Population Estimates: Population Profile by Broad Age Group:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 3: Mid-2025 :Population Estimates: Population Profile by 15-Year Age Group:



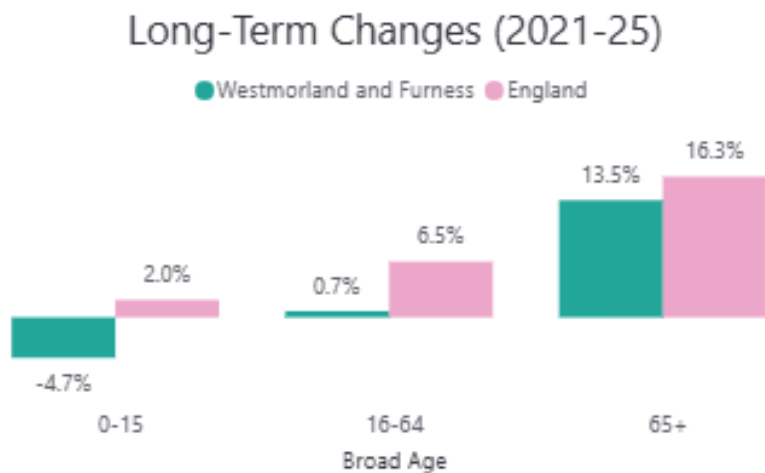
Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.



When compared to the national average, Westmorland and Furness has an older age profile; with a lower proportion of younger residents and a higher proportion of older residents.

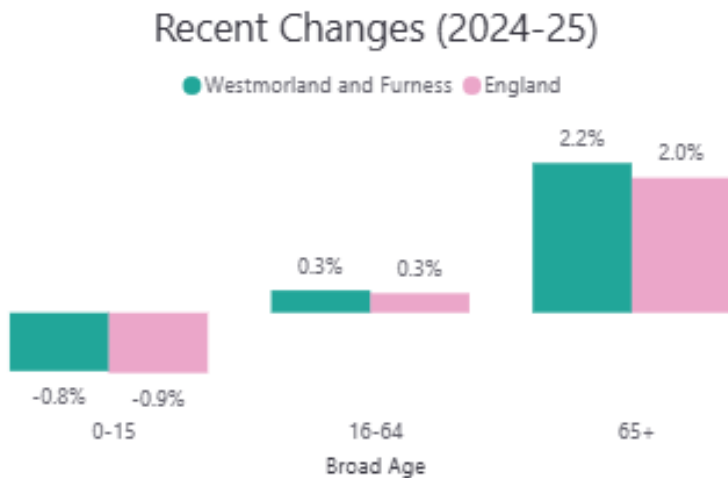
When compared to the 296 Local Authorities (LAs) in England, Westmorland and Furness is within the bottom 10% of LAs for the proportion of 0-15 year olds (7<sup>th</sup> percentile) and the top 10% of LAs for the proportion of residents aged 65+ (91<sup>st</sup> percentile).

Figure 4: Mid-2015 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates: % Change by Broad Age:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 5: Mid-2024 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates: % Change by Broad Age:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.



Over the last decade, numbers of 0-15 year olds decreased by 1,600 persons in Westmorland and Furness (-4.7%), this contrasts with the national average, with an increasing of 2% for England. In the most recent year, numbers of 0-15 year olds decreased by similar proportions for both Westmorland and Furness and England (-0.8% and -0.9% respectively).

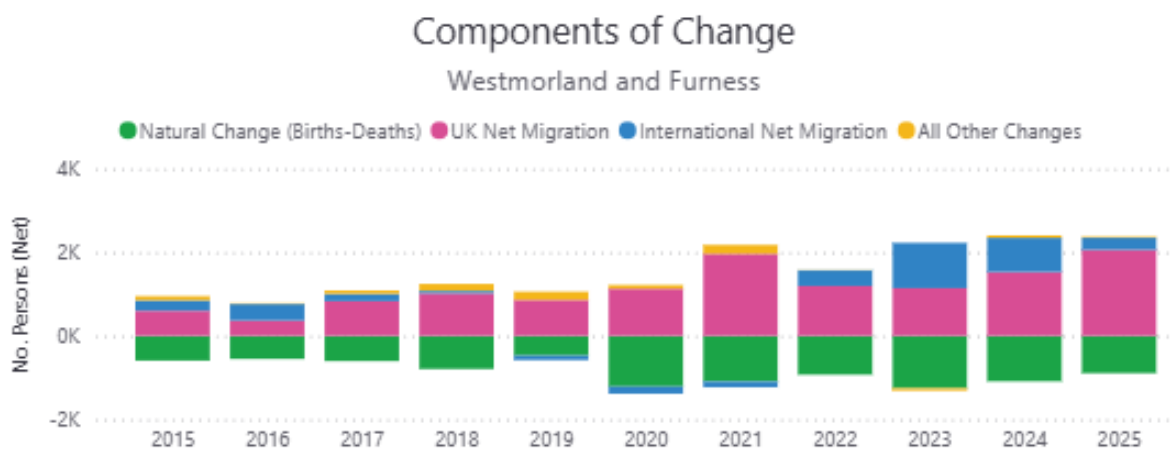
Over the last decade, numbers of 16-64 year olds increased by 1,000 persons in Westmorland and Furness (+0.7%), this compares to a much bigger national increase of 6.5% for England. In the most recent year, numbers of 16-64 year olds increased by 0.3% for both Westmorland and Furness and England.

Over the last decade, numbers of residents aged 65+ years increased by 7,500 persons in Westmorland and Furness (+13.5%), this compares to a slightly bigger national increase of 16.3% for England. In the most recent year, numbers of residents aged 65+ years increased by 2.2% in Westmorland and Furness, with England experiencing a similar increase of 2%.

### The population is experiencing natural decline and migration is driving population growth:

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 6: Mid-2015 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates: Components of Change:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

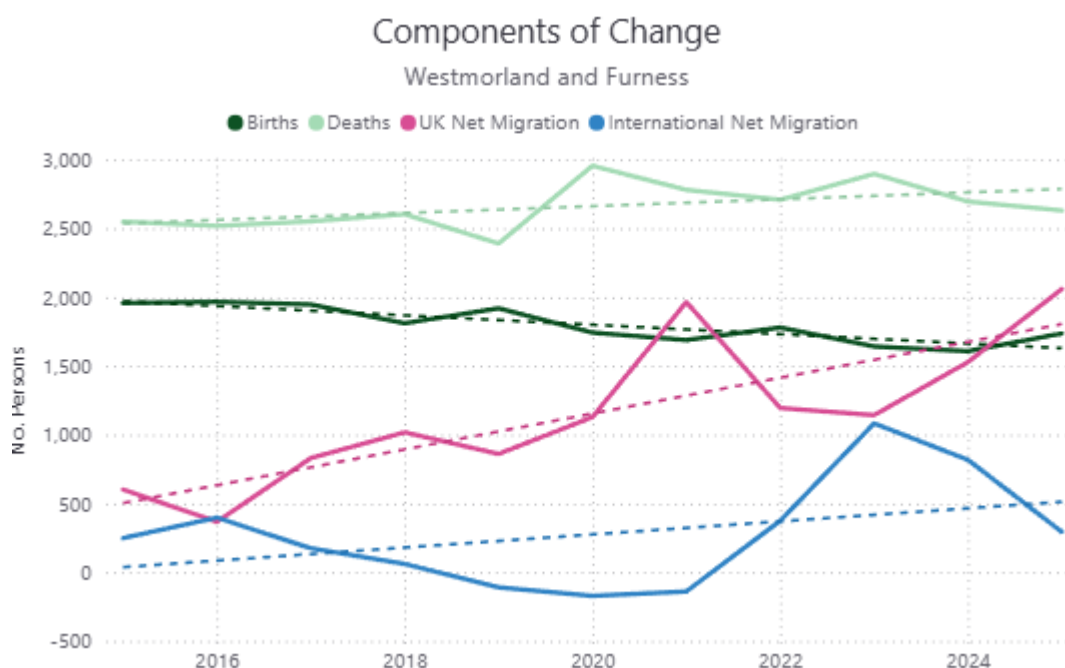
The green bars in figure 6 show the net impact of natural change (births minus deaths). Between Mid-2015 and Mid-2025, Westmorland and Furness's natural change was negative. This shows that there were more deaths than births. Over the last decade, there were 17,800 births in Westmorland and Furness and 26,700 deaths resulting in a net natural decrease of 8,900 persons. In the most recent year, Westmorland and Furness experienced 1,700 births and 2,600 deaths resulting in a net natural decrease of 900 persons.



The pink bars in figure 6 show the net impact of internal migration (to and from other parts of the UK). Over the last decade, 92,900 persons moved into Westmorland and Furness from other parts of the UK and 80,800 persons moved out from Westmorland and Furness to other parts of the UK, resulting in a net increase of 12,100 persons. In the most recent year, 9,900 persons moved into Westmorland and Furness from other parts of the UK and 7,800 persons moved out from Westmorland and Furness to other parts of the UK, resulting in a net increase of 2,100 persons.

Finally, the blue bars in figure 6 show the net impact of international migration (to and from overseas). Over the last decade, 11,000 persons moved in to Westmorland and Furness from overseas and 8,200 persons moved out from Westmorland and Furness to overseas; resulting in a net increase of 2,800 persons. In the most recent year, 1,200 persons moved into Westmorland and Furness from overseas and 900 persons moved out from Westmorland and Furness to overseas; resulting in a net increase of 300 persons.

Figure 7: Mid-2015 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates: Components of Change: Detail:

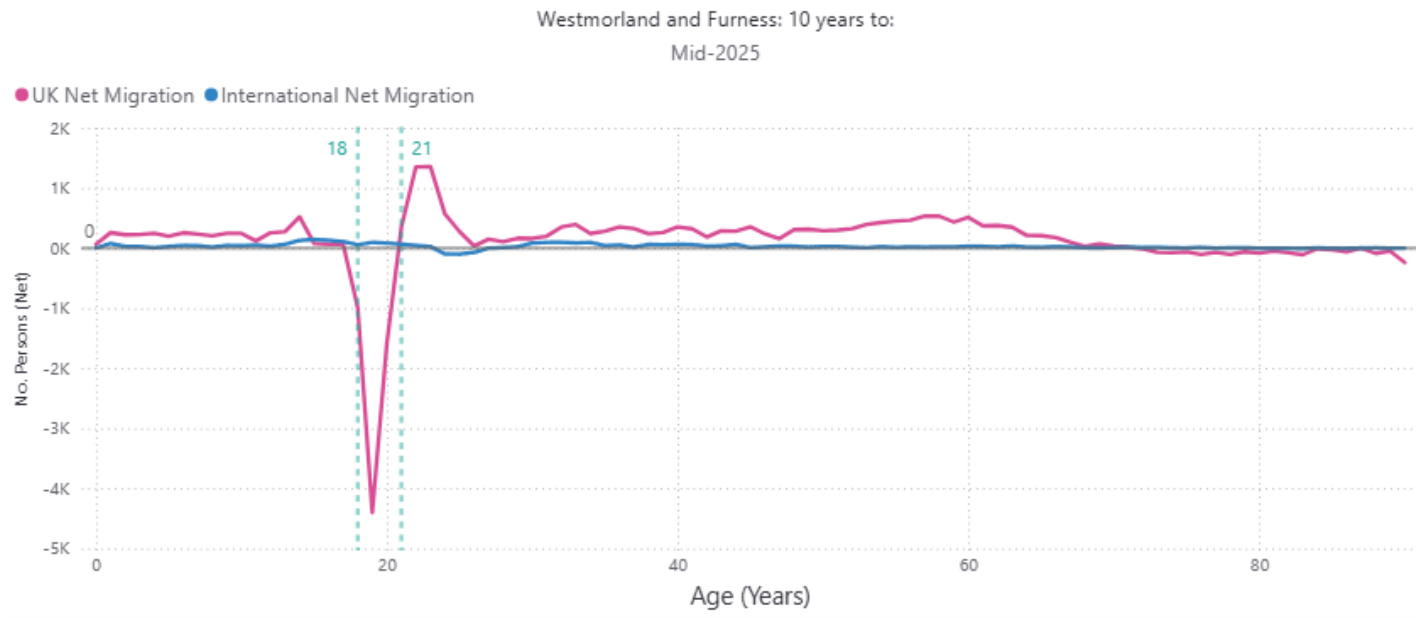


Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Westmorland and Furness has consistently had more deaths than births every year over the last decade, with the size of this natural decrease becoming more pronounced in more recent years. However, at the same time, Net Migration, particularly from other parts of the UK, has increased to offset natural decline and drive population growth.



Figure 8: Mid-2015 to Mid-2025 Population Estimates: Net Migration by Age:



Source: Office for National Statistics: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Westmorland and Furness experiences a notably large net loss of 18-20 year olds moving out from the area to other parts of the UK, although this is balanced by net inflows of working age adults aged 21+ years moving into Westmorland and Furness from other parts of the UK.

### Further Information

For further population briefings and data, please also visit: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/population/>

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