

Coventry's population estimate 2018

Insight, Coventry City Council, July 2019

Executive Summary

- Coventry's population estimate for mid-2018 was 366,800 residents.
- It is estimated that the population in Coventry increased by 6,600 from mid-2017.

As has been the case in recent years, the annual population increase between mid-2017 and mid-2018 in Coventry was amongst the highest in the UK, Coventry's growth rate is the 14th highest out of all 381 local authority areas.

- Over the last 10 years Coventry's population has grown by a fifth, over 60,000 additional residents. This is the second fastest 10-year growth rate of all local authority areas outside of London.
- While population growth remains high compared to other areas, growth slowed a little in 2018 compared to last year.
- The main factor causing population growth in Coventry is international migration.
- The growth of the city's two universities has been a factor in recent population growth, but by no means the whole story.
- Coventry is a relatively young city and has been becoming younger on average in recent years

Coventry's new population estimate

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published their updated mid-year population estimates on 26th June 2019¹; these estimates are aimed to support service planning, resource allocation and to calculate population rates.

These estimates suggest that there are **366,800 residents of Coventry**. This is **6,600 more people than in 2017** when the population was estimated to be 360,100². This is an increase of 1.8%, compared to the England average growth of 0.6%. Between June 2017 and June 2018 Coventry's population was growing at the 14th fastest rate out of all council areas in the United Kingdom. While Coventry's growth remains high compared to other areas, the growth rate slowed a little in 2017 and it slowed slightly further in 2018³.

The table below shows Coventry's medium term growth since 2000. After a period of population decline at the start of the century, Coventry's recent growth has been faster than national and regional averages. The overall growth rate since 2000 is now higher than the average across England, Coventry's population started to grow significantly in 2007. Over the ten years there has been an estimated increase of more than 60,000 residents. This increase of over a fifth (20.2%) compares to the growth across England overall of 8.0% and is the eighth highest growth rate of all local authorities over this period, the second highest outside of London.

Year	Coventry		England	West Midlands
	Mid-year population estimate	Population change index (2000 = 100, Cumulative % change since 2000)		
2000	303,100	100.0	100.0	100.0
2001	302,800	99.9	100.4	100.2
2002	301,300	99.4	100.9	100.6
2003	300,700	99.2	101.4	101.1
2004	298,200	98.4	102.0	101.5

¹ The data can be accessed on [the ONS website here](#) or on www.nomisweb.co.uk

² Difference due to rounding

³ In 2016 the growth rate was 2.6%, in 2017 it was 2.0%, now in 2018 it is 1.8%.

2005	298,400	98.5	102.8	102.1
2006	300,100	99.0	103.5	102.8
2007	301,400	99.5	104.4	103.5
2008	305,200	100.7	105.2	104.3
2009	307,400	101.4	106.0	104.9
2010	311,700	102.8	106.9	105.6
2011	316,900	104.6	107.9	106.4
2012	322,500	106.4	108.7	107.1
2013	328,400	108.4	109.4	107.7
2014	335,000	110.5	110.3	108.4
2015	344,300	113.6	111.3	109.2
2016	353,200	116.5	112.3	110.3
2017	360,100	118.8	113.0	111.2
2018	366,800	121.0	113.7	112.0

What is causing this growth?

The population size is affected by a number of factors: the number of people being born and dying in the city and the number of people moving in and out of Coventry. The main cause of population growth in Coventry between mid-2017 and mid-2018, as in recent years, was net international immigration – there are more people moving to Coventry from overseas than moving abroad from Coventry. 7,600 of the population increase was a result of net international immigration, 11,000 people inward and 3,400 outward. This is partly a result of increases in the number of overseas students studying at local universities. However, this is not the only source, a significant proportion of international migration to Coventry was by people aged 22-34.

The data also shows that although we have a lot of people moving into the city from other parts of the UK (21,100), this is exceeded by the number of people moving out of Coventry to live elsewhere in the UK (23,400). It also shows that part of the reason for the increase in Coventry's population is that there are more births than deaths (4,400 births and 2,900 deaths in the city between mid-2017 and mid-2018). However, in recent years the number of births has been falling and in 2018 the number of deaths increased. As is the case in England overall, natural change in Coventry is at its lowest level for a number of years.

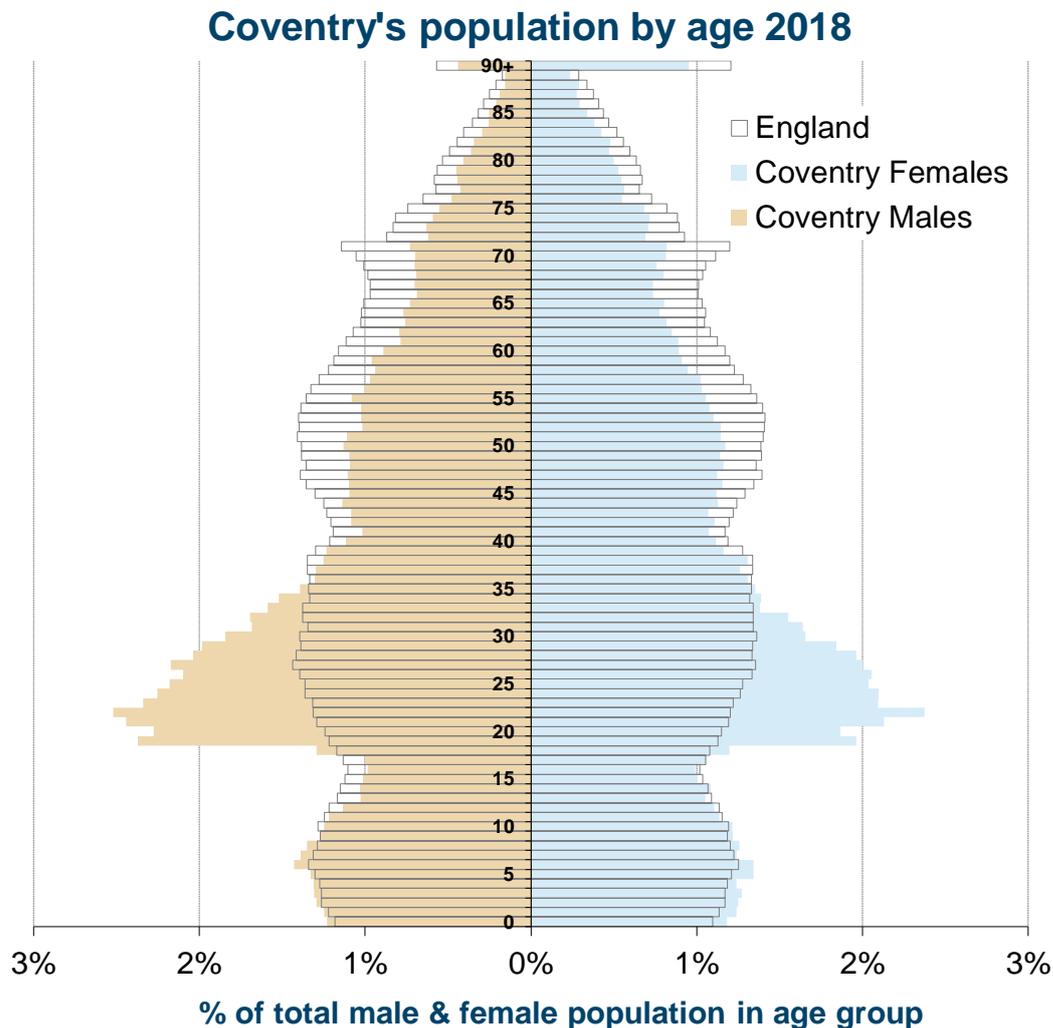
How old are Coventry residents and how is this changing?

Coventry's population has a much younger age profile than England in general – the average age of Coventry's residents is 32.1 years, notably lower than the England average of 39.9 years, and it is falling. This is partly because Coventry is home to two large universities – Coventry is one of the top 20 towns and cities in the UK in terms of the proportion of the population who are students (Census 2011). The student population means there is continually a large population aged 18-24, this age group makes up 14.6% of the population compared to the England average of 8.6%.

Continuing a recent trend, the average age of Coventry's residents reduced between mid-2017 and mid-2018. The population of 0-15 year olds increased by 1.9% (a fifth of all the population growth in 2018 was amongst children), 16-64s increased by 2.1% and older people aged 65 and over by 0.6%. Coventry's population is not currently aging like other places, however ONS population projections suggest that if current demographic trends continue the population of residents aged 65 and over is likely to increase faster than younger age groups in the next 10-15 years.

We can look in more detail at the working age population, which increased by the most. The number of residents aged 18-24 continued to grow, at a rate of 1.3%. This is partly the result of the growing universities, Coventry University in particular has been growing and the number of full-time students enrolled there continued to increase between 2017 and 2018. Most notably however, the 25-34 age group grew by far the most, by 4.7%.

Population Pyramid – Coventry's population by age compared to England



What are the implications for Council services?

In general, at a time when budgets to deliver local services are being cut, growth in the population of Coventry residents could cause an increased demand for services. It should be noted however that some of the recent growth of Coventry has been due to an increasing number of students, who place fewer demands on Council services than the average resident. This is also true of EU migrants. Growth in the number of children in the city is likely to increase the need for school places and other services for children. Additionally, an annually increasing total number of elderly Coventry residents will put greater demand on Adult Social Care services. Further to the growth in total numbers of older residents, the elderly population is projected to start to grow at a faster than rate than the working age population in the future.

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