

Census 2021 first release: Rounded population and household estimates at Local Authority level

Research and Intelligence

28 June 2022

Executive Summary

- The population of West Yorkshire is now 2.35 million, an increase of 125,900 (6%) from 2.23 million in 2011, and an increase of 330,000 (16%) since 1981.
- In the last decade the West Yorkshire population has grown at a similar rate to the England average (6% vs 7%), and changes to the age distribution are broadly similar.
- West Yorkshire has a greater share of young people compared to England overall; 18.8% are under 15 (vs 17.4% in England) and 38.4% are under 30 (vs 35.7% in England).
- Out of all the Local Authorities in England, Bradford has the 4th highest proportion of under 15's (21.4%).
- Within West Yorkshire, Wakefield and Leeds have recorded the greatest population growth in the last decade (8%), whilst Calderdale has seen the least (1%).
- The West Yorkshire population increased at a similar rate to Greater Manchester and the West Midlands (6-7%), notably faster than neighbouring South Yorkshire (2%).
- West Yorkshire has a dependency ratio of 55%, an increase of 4 percentage points since 2011, which is similar to England as a whole. A growth in dependency ratio means a relatively smaller working age population are supporting a growing dependent population.
- West Yorkshire has a population density of 1,159 people per km² making it the 4th most densely populated Combined Authority area; 2.7 times more densely populated than England as a whole.
- The number of households in West Yorkshire has increased from 922,400 to 973,000, a 6% increase, in line with the national average.

Introduction

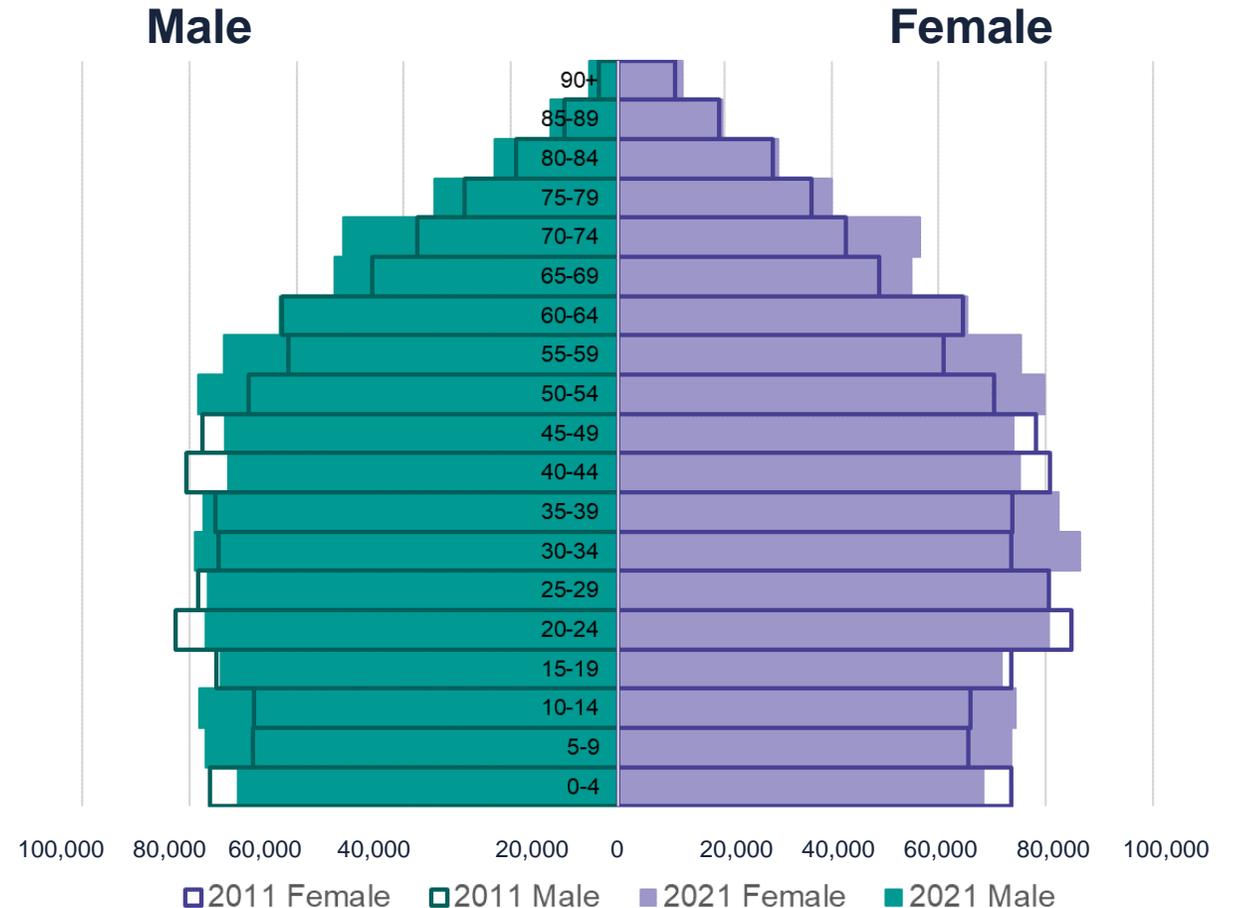
- The 2021 Census took place on 21st March 2021.
- The Census data are collected and published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and National Statistics status by the Office for Statistics Regulation.
- This pack provides a West Yorkshire summary of the first release of data published on 28th June 2022 covering population and household estimates for England and Wales by Local Authority Area, rounded to the nearest 100.
- The Census 2021 first results included five datasets:
 - usual resident¹ population by sex
 - usual resident population by 5-year age group
 - usual resident population by sex and 5-year age group
 - usual resident population density
 - number of households²

*1. **Usual resident** is defined as anyone who on Census Day, 21 March 2021 was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.*

*2. **A household** is defined as one person living alone, a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area. A household must have at least one usual resident at the address. A group of short-term residents living together or a group of visitors staying at an address is not classified as a household.*

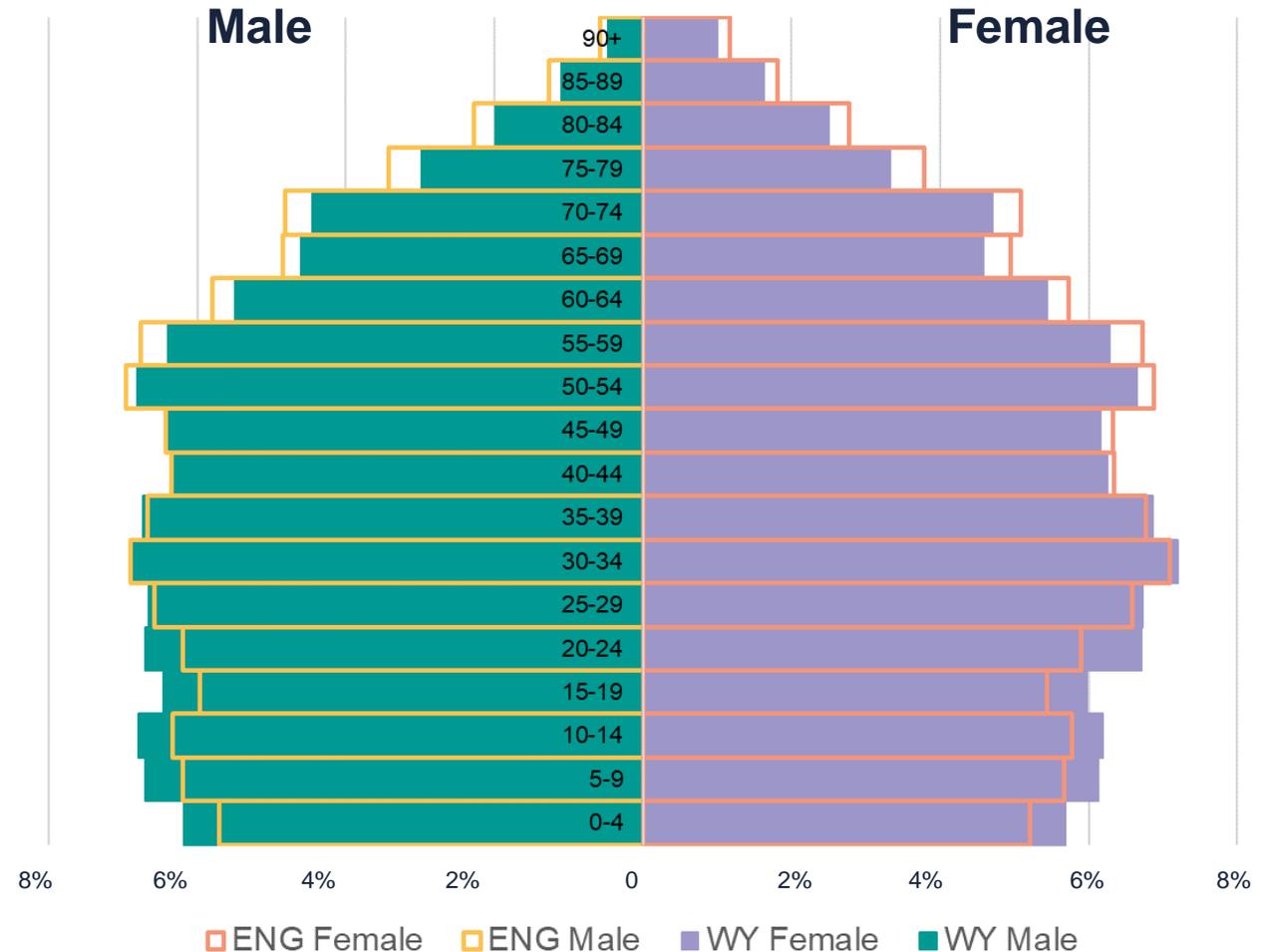
Population - West Yorkshire

- The population pyramid (right) shows population by sex for 5-year age bands and the change between 2021 and 2011 (the last census).
- The population of West Yorkshire is now 2.35 million.
- The population of West Yorkshire increased by 125,900 (6%) between 2011 and 2021 compared to a 7% rise in England as a whole
- The population of West Yorkshire increased by 330,000 (16%) between 1981 and 2021 compared to a 23% rise in England as a whole.
- Since 2011:
 - The population under 15 grew by 6%
 - The population aged 65 and over grew by 19%
 - The population under 5 fell by 7%



Population – West Yorkshire vs England

- The population pyramid (right) shows the difference in the relative size of the 2021 population by sex for 5-year age bands for West Yorkshire and England.
- West Yorkshire has proportionally more young people than England
- 18.8% of the population of West Yorkshire is under 15 compared to 17.4% of the England population
- 38.4% of the population of West Yorkshire is under 30 compared to 35.7% of the England population
- 16.7% of the population of West Yorkshire is 65 and over compared to 18.4% of the England population



Population – West Yorkshire vs England change between 2011 & 2021

- The chart (right) shows the change in the size of the population in each 5-year age band between 2021 and 2011 for West Yorkshire and England.
- The West Yorkshire population has grown by 6% compared to a 7% growth in the England population between 2011 and 2021.
- The 0-14 year old population in West Yorkshire has grown by 6% compared to a 5% growth in England as a whole.
- The under 5 population of both West Yorkshire and England has fallen by 7%.
- The over 65 population of West Yorkshire grew by 19% compared to 20% in England as a whole.

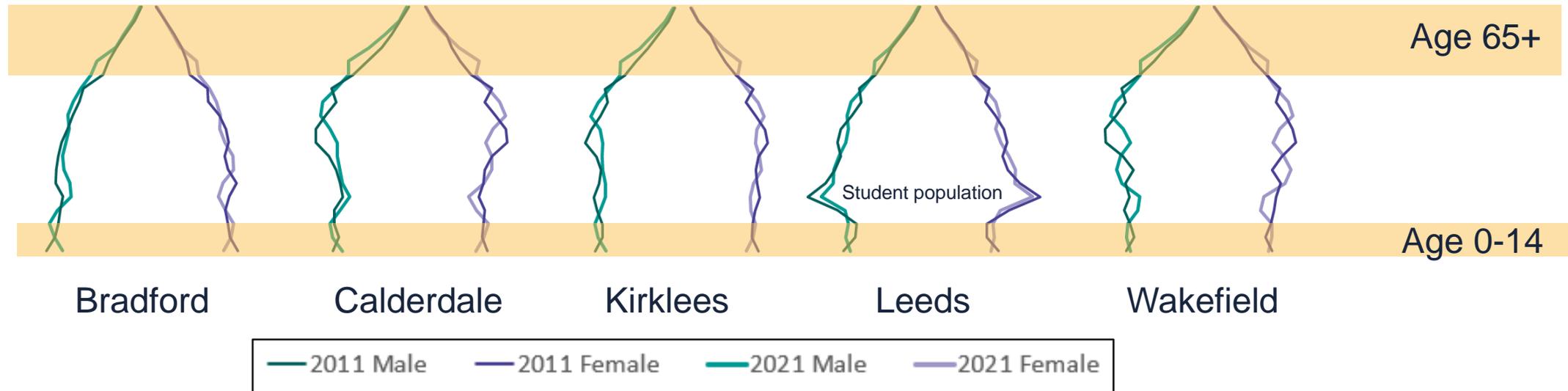
Age	West Yorkshire	England
90+	22.4%	23.4%
85-89	11.5%	12.3%
80-84	10.4%	13.4%
75-79	14.3%	22.1%
70-74	34.6%	36.8%
65-69	14.0%	10.3%
60-64	0.9%	2.6%
55-59	21.7%	27.0%
50-54	13.4%	14.9%
45-49	-5.3%	-7.1%
40-44	-8.3%	-7.9%
35-39	7.4%	6.9%
30-34	11.6%	12.6%
25-29	-1.1%	1.8%
20-24	-5.9%	-5.0%
15-19	-1.7%	-3.6%
10-14	13.9%	10.8%
5-9	12.6%	12.6%
0-4	-7.0%	-7.3%

Population – West Yorkshire vs District headline changes 2011 & 2021

- The table/chart (below) shows the absolute and relative change in population size for broad age groups for each West Yorkshire district.
- In absolute terms Leeds has contributed most to the population increase in West Yorkshire over the last decade (+60,600), but in relative terms both Wakefield and Leeds have recorded the greatest relative increase (8.4% and 8.1% respectively).
- Both Leeds and Wakefield’s under 15 populations grew (by 10.7% and 12.5% respectively) whilst other West Yorkshire districts saw little change.
- Both Calderdale and Kirklees recorded a slight decline in their working age population, whilst all districts saw considerable growth in their 65 and over populations.

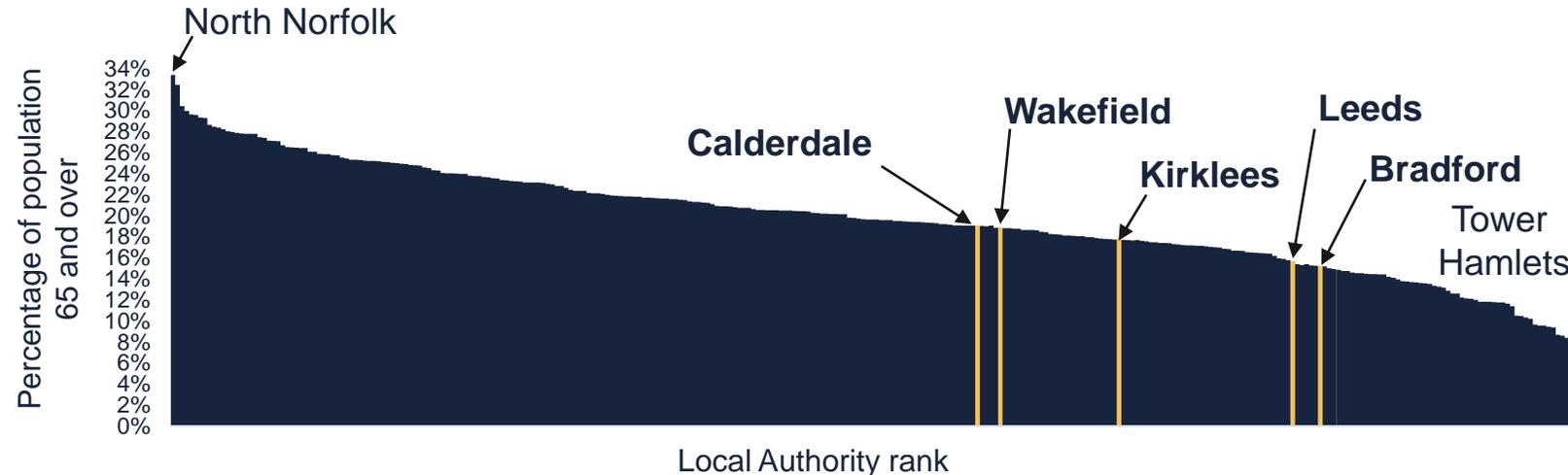
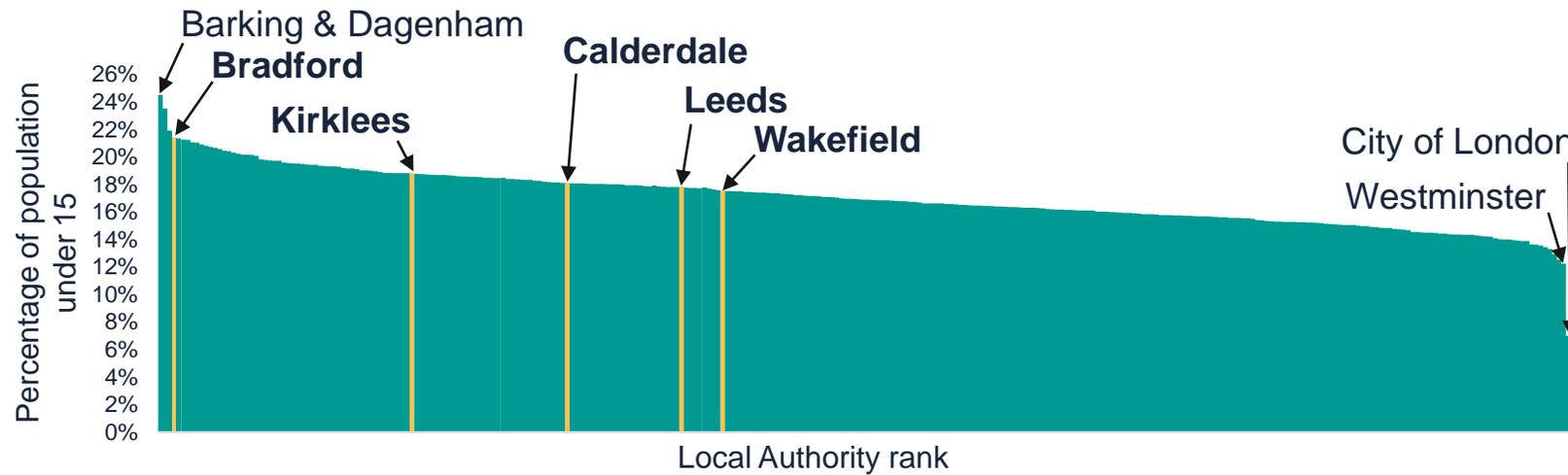
	0-14 change			15-64 change			65+ change			Total change		
Bradford	2,100	1.8%		8,500	2.5%		13,600	19.6%		24,200	4.6%	
Calderdale	100	0.3%		- 4,200	-3.1%		6,800	21.0%		2,700	1.3%	
Kirklees	700	0.9%		- 2,500	-0.9%		12,800	20.0%		11,000	2.6%	
Leeds	16,100	12.5%		27,300	5.3%		17,200	15.7%		60,600	8.1%	
Wakefield	6,000	10.7%		10,000	4.7%		11,400	20.7%		27,400	8.4%	
West Yorkshire	25,000	6.0%		39,100	2.6%		61,800	18.7%		125,900	5.7%	

Population – West Yorkshire vs Districts



- The population pyramids (above) show the relative change in shape of the age structure for each West Yorkshire district between 2011 and 2021.
- Bradford has the youngest population of the districts of West Yorkshire with 21.4% of its population under the age of 15 years
- Calderdale has had the oldest population with 19% of its population over the age of 64
- Leeds has had the largest percentage growth in its young population with an increase of 13% in those aged 0-14 years
- Calderdale has had the largest percentage growth in its older population with an increase of 21% in those aged over 64 years

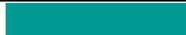
Population – West Yorkshire districts under 15 & over 65 population rank with all Local Authorities



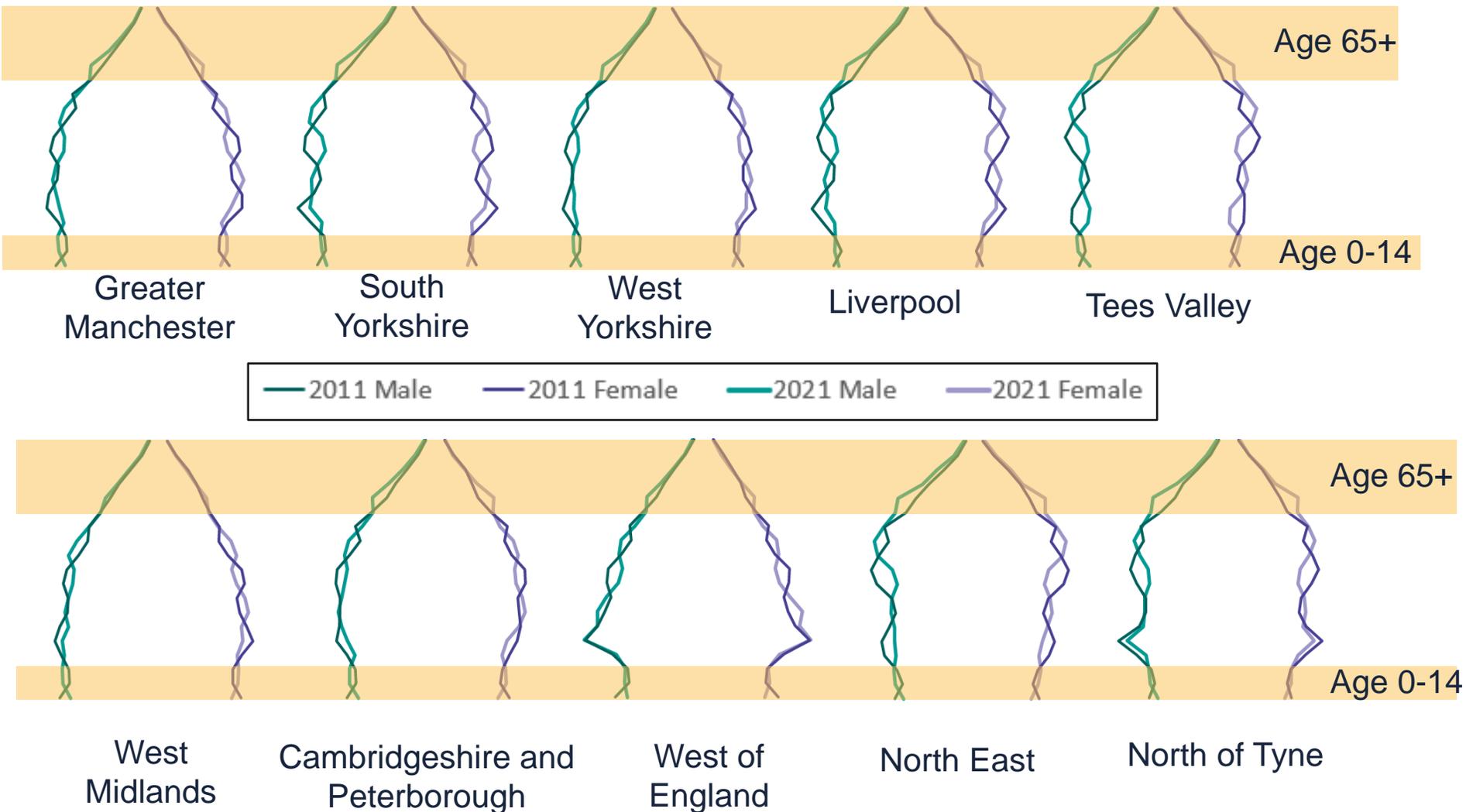
- The charts show the relative difference in population size for under 15's (top) and over 65's (bottom) for each Local Authority in England ranked from high to low.
- Bradford has the 4th highest proportion of under 15's in England (21.4%), behind Barking and Dagenham, Slough & Luton.
- All West Yorkshire districts fall within the top 40% of Local Authorities with the greatest share of under 15 population.
- Within West Yorkshire, Calderdale has the greatest share of the population aged 65 and over (19.0%), whilst Bradford has the lowest (15.2%).

Population – West Yorkshire vs Combined Authorities change between 2011 & 2021

- The table/chart (below) shows the absolute and relative change in population size for each of the 10 Combined Authority areas.
- Greater Manchester has had the largest absolute population increase since 2011.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has had the largest percentage population increase since 2021.

Combined Authority	Absolute change	Percentage change	
Greater Manchester	185,500	7%	
South Yorkshire	31,100	2%	
West Yorkshire	125,900	6%	
Liverpool City Region	45,000	3%	
Tees Valley	13,900	2%	
West Midlands	184,100	7%	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	89,600	11%	
West of England	89,800	10%	
North East	3,600	0%	
North of Tyne	32,200	4%	

Population – West Yorkshire vs Combined Authorities change between 2011 & 2021



- The West Midlands has the youngest population of the Combined Authorities with 20% of its population under the age of 15 years.
- The North East has the oldest population with 21% of its population over the age of 64.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has had the largest percentage growth in its young population with an increase of 11% in those aged 0-14 years.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has had the largest percentage growth in its older population with an increase of 26% in those aged over 64 years.

Population - Dependency Ratio

The dependency ratio is the ratio of those who aren't of working age (as a proxy for those who aren't economically active¹) to those who are. It is calculated as the population aged 0-14, added to the population aged 65 and over, divided by the population aged 15-64. The dependency ratio is important because it shows the balance of net consumers to producers. i.e. Those who are economically inactive tend to be bigger recipients of government spending (e.g. education, pensions and healthcare) versus those who are economically active, who will pay more tax. An increasing dependency ratio means there will be a relatively smaller working age population supporting a growing dependent population.

	2011	2021	Change		2011	2021	Change		
Bradford	55%	58%	3%		Greater Manchester	50%	54%	4%	
Calderdale	52%	59%	7%		South Yorkshire	51%	56%	4%	
Kirklees	52%	58%	5%		West Yorkshire	51%	55%	4%	
Leeds	46%	50%	4%		Liverpool City Region	51%	56%	5%	
Wakefield	52%	57%	5%		Tees Valley	53%	61%	8%	
England	52%	56%	4%		West Midlands	54%	55%	1%	
					Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	50%	54%	5%	
					West of England	48%	48%	0%	
					North East	51%	59%	8%	
					North of Tyne	50%	57%	7%	

- West Yorkshire has a dependency ratio of 55%, similar to England as a whole.
- Leeds has a lower dependency ratio compared to the rest of West Yorkshire. Calderdale's dependency ratio has increased faster than the national average.

1. Its important to note that the dependency ratio only considers age when determining whether a person is economically active. Other factors may determine if a person is economically active aside from age including status as a student, illness or disability, stay-at-home parents, early retirement, and long-term unemployed. Additionally, some people choose to continue working beyond age 64.

Population – Population Density

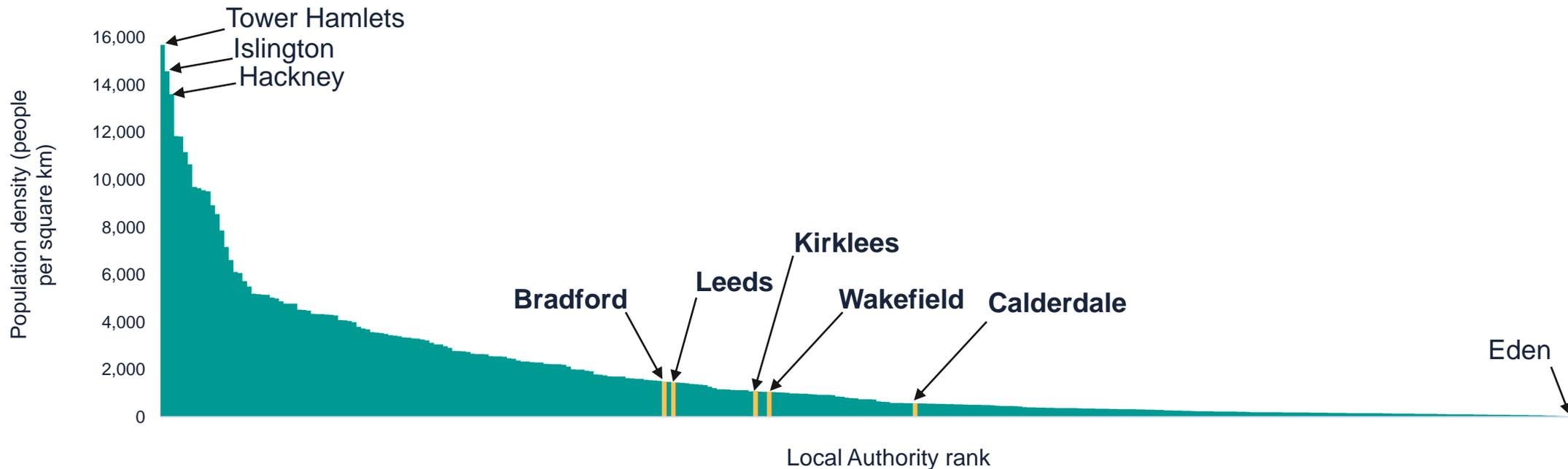
- West Yorkshire has a population density of 1,159 people per km² making it the 4th most densely populated Combined Authority area.
- West Yorkshire is 2.7 times more densely populated than England as a whole.
- Within West Yorkshire, Bradford is the most densely populated district, whilst neighbouring Calderdale is the least densely populated.
- Within West Yorkshire, Leeds and Wakefield’s population density has increased the most in the last decade.

Population Density (Number of persons per Km ²)	2011	2021	Change
Bradford	1,426	1,491	5%
Calderdale	560	568	1%
Kirklees	1,034	1,061	3%
Leeds	1,362	1,472	8%
Wakefield	962	1,043	8%
England	407	434	7%

Population Density (Number of persons per Km ²)	2011	2021	Change
West Midlands	3,035	3,238	7%
Greater Manchester	2,102	2,248	7%
Liverpool City Region	2,081	2,143	3%
West Yorkshire	1,097	1,159	6%
West of England	910	1,004	10%
South Yorkshire	866	886	2%
Tees Valley	835	853	2%
North East	442	444	0%
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	237	264	11%
North of Tyne	153	159	4%

Population – Population Density Local Authority Comparisons

- The chart (below) shows the difference in population density for each Local Authority, ranked from high to low.
- The West Yorkshire Districts occupy spaces between the 36th and 54th percentile for population density.
- London boroughs are the most densely populated districts in England. For context Tower Hamlets has a population density more than 13 times the West Yorkshire average.



Households – West Yorkshire

- The number of households in West Yorkshire increased by 5% in the last decade, compared to 6% in England.
- The number of households increased the most in Wakefield (9%) and compared to 2% in Calderdale.
- Out of all the Combined Authorities in England, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recorded the greatest increase (11%).

	2011	2021	Change	
Bradford	199,300	209,900	5%	
Calderdale	88,600	90,500	2%	
Kirklees	173,500	178,000	3%	
Leeds	320,600	341,500	7%	
Wakefield	140,400	153,100	9%	
England	22,063,400	23,435,700	6%	

Combined Authority	2011	2021	Change	
Greater Manchester	1,128,300	1,178,100	4%	
South Yorkshire	565,400	587,500	4%	
West Yorkshire	922,400	973,000	5%	
Liverpool City Region	655,300	677,000	3%	
Tees Valley	283,100	295,500	4%	
West Midlands	1,086,800	1,131,700	4%	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	325,200	362,100	11%	
West of England	363,700	388,900	7%	
North East	500,000	514,300	3%	
North of Tyne	347,000	365,900	5%	

Future releases

ONS will release data in phases. Phase 1 includes this initial release as well as topic summaries, comprising mainly univariate data grouped by similar theme, over the Autumn / Winter with publications every 2-3 weeks. A provisional calendar will be published by ONS on 22 July 2022. They propose to cover these topics in the following order:

- Demography and migration (19 Tables)
- Ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion (16 Tables)
- Health, disability, and unpaid care (4 Tables)
- Housing (17 Tables)
- Labour market and travel to work (10 Tables)
- Sexual orientation and gender identity (2 Tables)
- Education (2 Tables)
- UK armed forces veterans (4 Tables)

Phase 2 will include the release of multivariate data for the usual resident population base between winter 2022 to early 2023. Finally, phase 3 will include data on alternative population bases, small populations, detailed migration and origin-destination data.