

Population projections, 2014 to 2039

Summary

The latest population projections cover the period from 2014 to 2039 and are supplied as unrounded single year of age counts for females, males and persons. The results are available for the 14 Lancashire local authorities and the six clinical commissioning groups that cover the county.

For the Lancashire-14 area, a 4.5% increase is projected over the 25-year period, resulting in an expected population total of 1.538 million by 2039. For the Lancashire-12 area, the percentage increase is projected to be higher at 5.9%, with the number expected to reach 1.254 million. The estimated increases for both areas are lower than the average for the North West (8.2%) as a whole, and well below the expected increase for England of 16.5%.

In contrast to the national trend, Hyndburn, Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool are predicted to see small population decreases between 2014 and 2039. Chorley is the only Lancashire authority with a projected increase higher than the North West or England average.

Analysis by age shows that, for the next ten years, the number of children aged 0 to 15 will rise and thereafter the number will decline. The working age population is predicted to start to decline within 5 years and the older population are predicted to continue to increase, with more falling into the over 85 bracket each year as life expectancy increases over the period.

In comparison to the population estimates produced in 2012, the 2014 population estimates have slightly upwardly revised the figure for the Lancashire-12 area (+0.59%) but downwardly revised the figures for the two unitary areas, leading to a corresponding small downward revision in the projection population of the Lancashire-14 area (-0.28%) between 2014 and 2039.

Introduction

The sub-national population projections highlighted in this article use past trends as the basis from which to derive future projections. They provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population if recent demographic trends continue. It is important to state that population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, and particularly so for smaller geographic areas and at single years of age. The Office for National Statistics advises that data should be aggregated to at least five-year age groups if quoted in any publication, presentation or documentation to improve accuracy and robustness.

The latest set of projections published by [Office for National Statistics](#) cover the 25-year period from 2014 to 2039, and are based on the mid-2014 population estimates. This article includes a snapshot of the Lancashire results by local authority and clinical commissioning group areas.

Sub-national population projections are used for local area resource allocation and planning and policy making in a number of areas such as health and education.

National perspective

Table 1 draws attention to the percentage changes expected at the regional level between 2014 and 2039. The 8.2% increase for the North West, the second lowest, is less than half of the England average (16.5%), which is underpinned by the particularly high projected increase for London of 28.5%. This trend is seen at both the 5 year and 10 year periods as well.

Table 1. Population Projections: England and the Regions

Area	2014	2019	2024	2039	% change, number of years from 2014		
					5	10	25
North West	7,132,991	7,275,838	7,409,124	7,719,677	2.0	3.9	8.2
North East	2,618,710	2,661,050	2,700,631	2,795,865	1.6	3.1	6.8
Yorkshire and The Humber	5,360,027	5,491,391	5,608,923	5,908,106	2.5	4.6	10.2
East Midlands	4,637,413	4,798,049	4,950,206	5,338,728	3.5	6.7	15.1
West Midlands	5,713,284	5,887,867	6,052,439	6,486,090	3.1	5.9	13.5
East	6,018,383	6,288,617	6,554,334	7,237,577	4.5	8.9	20.3
London	8,538,689	9,196,512	9,707,963	10,975,551	7.7	13.7	28.5
South East	8,873,818	9,242,890	9,596,169	10,508,430	4.2	8.1	18.4
South West	5,423,303	5,624,109	5,816,497	6,311,495	3.7	7.3	16.4
England	54,316,618	56,466,323	58,396,286	63,281,519	4.0	7.5	16.5

Source [Office for National Statistics](#)

The Lancashire perspective

Table 2 has figures for both the Lancashire -12 and Lancashire-14 areas. The latter includes Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool unitary authorities whilst the former excludes these two areas. For Lancashire-14, a 4.4% increase is projected over the 25-year period, resulting in an expected population total of 1.537 million by 2039. For Lancashire-12, the percentage increase is projected to be higher at 5.8%, with the number expected to reach 1.253 million. The estimated increases for both areas are lower than the average for the North West as a whole, and well below the expected increase for England.

Table 2. Population projections, Lancashire local authorities

Area	2014	2019	2024	2039	% change, number of years from 2014			Rank out of 326 authorities ¹
					5	10	25	
Burnley	87,291	87,329	87,443	87,263	0.04	0.17	-0.03	11
Chorley	111,607	117,211	122,311	131,885	5.02	9.59	18.17	214
Fylde	77,042	78,666	80,515	84,194	2.11	4.51	9.28	81
Hyndburn	80,208	79,665	79,361	78,273	-0.68	-1.06	-2.41	5
Lancaster	141,277	144,945	147,505	154,455	2.60	4.41	9.33	84
Pendle	89,840	90,623	91,257	91,700	0.87	1.58	2.07	15
Preston	140,452	142,007	142,549	145,588	1.11	1.49	3.66	26
Ribble Valley	58,091	58,865	59,794	61,331	1.33	2.93	5.58	41
Rossendale	69,168	70,705	72,257	74,907	2.22	4.47	8.30	67
South Ribble	109,077	109,854	110,958	112,687	0.71	1.72	3.31	22
West Lancashire	111,940	112,944	113,855	116,381	0.90	1.71	3.97	31
Wyre	108,742	110,258	112,154	115,838	1.39	3.14	6.53	52
Lancashire-12	1,184,735	1,203,070	1,219,958	1,254,503	1.55	2.97	5.89	
Blackburn with Darwen	146,743	146,162	145,675	144,045	-0.40	-0.73	-1.84	6
Blackpool	140,501	139,300	138,885	139,847	-0.86	-1.15	-0.47	8
Lancashire-14	1,471,979	1,488,531	1,504,518	1,538,395	1.12	2.21	4.51	

Source [Office for National Statistics](#)

¹ Where the authority ranked 326 had the highest projected rate of population increase. A small number of authorities occupying the lowest ranks are expected to record decrease in their population totals.

Table 2 also shows the district population projections at the 5, 10 and 25 year marks. Only nine local authorities in England are projected to decline, four of those nine are in the Lancashire-14 area: Burnley, Hyndburn, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen. Hyndburn has the 5th lowest growth of any district in England, with a predicted decline of 2.41%. Twelve of the districts are in the bottom 25% for growth over the 25 years of the projections, only Chorley is above the England average for growth.

Clinical Commissioning Group areas

The population projections have also been published for NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The CCGs are responsible for purchasing health care services for their local communities, and include local GP practices that together form areas that may or may not be compatible local government boundaries. Table 3 has links to the websites for each CCG in Lancashire that provide details of the practices in each area, and their roles and responsibilities.

The East Lancashire CCG covers a large area and is by far the largest CCG in the county by population. It is ranked 7th out of 237 CCGs for growth. The 12.7% increase in population projected for the Chorley and South Ribble CCG area is well above the average for the Lancashire 12-district area but is still below the England figure of 16.2%.

Table 3. Population projections for Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Areas

Area	2014 (000)	2019 (000)	2024 (000)	2039 (000)	% change, number of years from 2014			Rank out of 237 CCGs ¹
					5	10	25	
<u>Blackburn with Darwen</u> CCG ²	146.7	146.2	145.7	144.0	-0.34	-0.68	-1.84	2
<u>Blackpool</u> CCG ²	140.5	139.3	138.9	139.8	-0.85	-1.14	-0.50	3
<u>Chorley and South Ribble</u> CCG	170.7	176.6	182.2	192.3	3.46	6.74	12.65	91
<u>East Lancashire</u> CCG	373.2	375.6	378.4	381.4	0.64	1.39	2.20	7
<u>Fylde & Wyre</u> CCG	166.8	169.7	173.1	179.9	1.74	3.78	7.85	49
<u>Greater Preston</u> CCG	201.8	204.0	205.4	209.9	1.09	1.78	4.01	18
<u>Lancashire North</u> CCG	160.3	164.2	167.1	174.6	2.43	4.24	8.92	58
<u>West Lancashire</u> CCG ²	111.9	112.9	113.9	116.4	0.89	1.79	4.02	20

Source Office for National Statistics

¹ Where the CCG ranked 237 had the highest projected rate of population increase.

² Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and West Lancashire CCGs have population numbers that are the same as the local authorities.

An interactive atlas showing the projections by age groups for each CCG is available to [view here](#).

Projections by age group

Table 4 shows the population projections split into three groups: children, working age and pension age. For the next ten years, the number of children aged 0 to 15 will rise and thereafter the number will decline. The working age population is predicted to start to decline within 5 years and the older population are predicted to continue to increase, with more falling into the over 85 bracket each year.

Table 4. Population Projections by children, working age and pension age, Lancashire-12 area, 2014-2039

Age	2014	2019	2024	2039	% change, number of years from 2014		
					5	10	25
Aged 0 to 15	216,206	222,412	223,735	215,370	2.87	3.48	-0.39
Aged 16 to 64	735,600	728,556	722,565	696,052	-0.96	-1.77	-5.38
Aged 65+	232,929	252,101	273,657	343,079	8.23	17.49	47.29

Source NOMIS

Table 5 details the total population projections by five-year age-groups (from 0-85 years) for the Lancashire-12 area. The increase in children for the next ten years is predominantly in the 10-14 age group. It is clear that not only is the population ageing but that the proportion in the older age groups (70+) is forecast to increase at a faster rate than those in younger age groups in both the short, medium and long-term. In 2014, 20% of the Lancashire-12 population are aged 65+, by 2024, that is predicted to rise to 22% and by 2039 it is predicted to rise to 27%.

Table 5. Population Projections by broad age-group, Lancashire-12 area, 2014-2039

Age	2014	2019	2024	2039	% change, number of years from 2014		
					5	10	25
Age 0 - 4	69,066	66,988	66,944	65,152	-3.01	-3.07	-5.67
Aged 5-9	69,138	71,294	69,023	66,583	3.12	-0.17	-3.70
Aged 10-14	64,270	70,857	73,057	69,337	10.25	13.67	7.88
Aged 15-19	72,259	67,062	73,620	74,125	-7.19	1.88	2.58
Aged 20-24	81,401	74,790	69,138	77,060	-8.12	-15.06	-5.33
Aged 25-29	70,556	74,388	68,129	72,141	5.43	-3.44	2.25
Aged 30-34	68,215	70,799	73,690	69,020	3.79	8.03	1.18
Aged 35-39	64,437	69,475	71,665	64,009	7.82	11.22	-0.66
Aged 40-44	78,193	65,216	70,261	69,689	-16.60	-10.14	-10.88
Aged 45-49	86,446	78,226	65,392	75,523	-9.51	-24.36	-12.64
Aged 50-54	84,221	85,968	77,952	72,923	2.07	-7.44	-13.41
Aged 55-59	73,838	83,458	85,354	70,863	13.03	15.60	-4.03
Aged 60-64	69,766	72,441	82,069	64,992	3.83	17.63	-6.84
Aged 65-69	74,128	67,061	69,998	74,965	-9.53	-5.57	1.13
Aged 70-74	54,766	69,011	62,964	77,964	26.01	14.97	42.36
Aged 75-79	43,585	48,459	61,899	69,343	11.18	42.02	59.10
Aged 80-84	31,103	35,004	39,936	51,858	12.54	28.40	66.73
Aged 85+	29,347	32,564	38,857	68,947	10.96	32.41	134.94

Source NOMIS

An interactive dashboard showing the age group graphs for both labour market and 5-year age groups is available to [view here](#).

Comparison of Population Projections

Table 6 compares the 2012 population projections with the 2014 population projections for 2019, 2024 and 2037. The rate of change (decline or growth) has been reduced in Hyndburn, Pendle, Preston, Rossendale, South Ribble and the two unitary areas and increased in the other areas. This has resulted in a small net increase in the population projected for the Lancashire-12 area and a small net decrease in the population in the Lancashire-14 area.

Table 6. Comparison of the 2012 and 2014 population projections

Area	2019			2024			2037		
	2012 projection	2014 projection	Perc. Change	2012 projection	2014 projection	Perc. Change	2012 projection	2014 projection	Perc. Change
Burnley	87,028	87,329	0.35	87,100	87,443	0.39	86,900	87,265	0.42
Chorley	115,132	117,211	1.81	119,000	122,311	2.78	125,400	130,933	4.41
Fylde	77,961	78,666	0.90	79,700	80,515	1.02	82,700	83,841	1.38
Hyndburn	79,910	79,665	-0.31	79,900	79,361	-0.68	79,500	78,373	-1.42
Lancaster	141,587	144,945	2.37	143,400	147,505	2.86	148,000	153,843	3.95
Pendle	91,532	90,623	-0.99	92,700	91,257	-1.56	94,200	91,656	-2.70
Preston	141,560	142,007	0.32	142,300	142,549	0.18	145,500	145,205	-0.20
Ribble Valley	58,652	58,865	0.36	59,600	59,794	0.33	61,000	61,221	0.36
Rossendale	70,970	70,705	-0.37	72,800	72,257	-0.75	75,500	74,632	-1.15
South Ribble	112,105	109,854	-2.01	114,300	110,958	-2.92	117,400	112,520	-4.16
West Lancashire	111,320	112,944	1.46	111,700	113,855	1.93	112,500	116,171	3.26
Wyre	110,061	110,258	0.18	112,000	112,154	0.14	115,200	115,500	0.26
Lancashire-12	1,197,817	1,203,070	0.44	1,214,400	1,219,958	0.46	1,243,800	1,251,159	0.59
Blackburn with Darwen	149,413	146,162	-2.18	150,500	145,675	-3.21	152,000	144,166	-5.15
Blackpool	141,487	139,300	-1.55	141,800	138,885	-2.06	143,500	139,591	-2.72
Lancashire-14	1,488,717	1,488,531	-0.01	1,506,700	1,504,518	-0.14	1,539,300	1,534,917	-0.28

Source Office for National Statistics