

Statistical bulletin

Births by parents' country of birth, England and Wales: 2023

Annual statistics on live births including countries of birth for non-UK-born mothers and fathers.

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Next release:
To be announced

Notice

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Following the Health and Social Care Statistical Outputs consultation commissioned by the Health and Social Care Statistics Leadership Forum, we are improving some of our statistical products, so they are more coherent and efficient. Additionally, we are ensuring that our resources are deployed in producing statistics for maximum possible benefit.

Full details of changes to this product, and our other health and social care products, are available in the Health and Social Care Statistical Outputs Consultation Response. We welcome user feedback on our releases. Please use the contact details on individual publication web pages to share feedback.

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1 . Main points

In 2023:

- 31.8% of all live births were to non-UK-born mothers in England and Wales (an increase from 30.3% in 2022); this continues a general increase in the percentage of live births to non-UK-born mothers.
- 37.3% of live births were to parents where either one or both were born outside the UK, increasing from 35.8% in 2022.
- India remained the most common country of birth for non-UK-born mothers and fathers, with Pakistan remaining second.
- London remained the region with the greatest proportion of births to parents where either one or both were born outside of the UK (67.4% of live births).
- Wales and the North East of England had the lowest proportions of births to parents where either one or both were born outside of the UK (17.5% and 20.5% of live births, respectively).
- The proportion of births to parents where either one or both were born outside the UK has been increasing across all regions.
- The proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK generally increases with the age group of the mother, from 15.8% of live births to mothers aged under 20 years, to 53.9% of live births to mothers aged 45 years and over.

2 . Live births to non-UK-born parents by geography

Figure 1: Percentage of live births where either one or both parents were born outside of the UK by local authority district, England and Wales, 2016 to 2023

Notes

1. Figures are based on mothers' usual area of residence, based on boundaries as of August 2024.

3 . Data on births

[Births by parents' country of birth, England and Wales](#)

Dataset | Released 8 November 2024

Annual data on live births in England and Wales by parents' country of birth.

Please filter our explorable datasets for births in England and Wales, including:

- our [Live births in England and Wales: birth rates down to local authority areas \(2013 onwards\) dataset](#)
- our [Live births in England and Wales by sex and characteristics of mother: national and regional \(2013 onwards\) dataset](#)
- our [Live births in England and Wales by characteristics of mother and father \(2013 onwards\) dataset](#)
- our [Live births in England and Wales down to local authority local area \(2013 onwards\) dataset](#)
- our [Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas \(2013 onwards\) dataset](#)

4 . Glossary

Country of birth

The country in which a person was born.

Live birth

A baby showing signs of life at birth.

A more complete glossary is available in our [User guide to birth statistics](#).

5 . Data sources and quality

These data are birth registrations for live births occurring in each calendar year, plus a small number of late registrations from the previous year.

Birth statistics represent births that occur and are then registered in England and Wales. Figures are derived from information recorded when live births and stillbirths are registered as part of civil registration, which is a legal requirement. Figures include mothers and fathers whose usual residence is outside England and Wales. These data represent the most complete data source available.

The registration of births is a service carried out by the Local Registration Service in partnership with the General Register Office (GRO), in England and Wales. Birth registration is linked to the NHS birth notification within the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to obtain the age of the mother, where this was missing on the birth registration. It also enables the analysis of further characteristics such as birthweight, ethnicity of the baby and gestation of live births.

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in April 2012. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in [the Code of Practice for Statistics](#) and should be labelled "accredited official statistics".

Country of birth of each parent

The country of birth of each parent for children born in England and Wales has been recorded at birth registration since April 1969. The details for country of birth groupings can be found in our [Parents' country of birth dataset](#), on the country code listings tab. Birthplace does not necessarily equate to ethnic group and does not imply that someone is a long-term international migrant. More information can be found in our [Guidance on using country of birth, nationality, and passports held data](#).

Public consultation and our data

The ONS, together with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, and UK Health Security Agency conducted a [public consultation into health statistics](#), which closed in March 2024. This consultation collected views on how these organisations' health statistics are used, including a proposal to combine and reformat the ONS's annual birth statistics, and improve three publications:

- our [Births in England and Wales bulletin](#)
- our [Birth characteristics in England and Wales bulletin](#)
- our [Births by parents' country of birth, England and Wales bulletin](#)

The ONS, Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, and UK Health Security Agency will publish a full response to the consultation, summarising feedback on all proposals, later this year. Further improvements will be made in future releases.

More quality and methodology information

More quality and methodology information on the strengths, limitations and accuracy of the data is available in our [Births Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\)](#).

Our [User guide to birth statistics](#) provides further information on data quality, legislation and procedures relating to births, and includes a glossary of terms.

6 . Related links

[Births in England and Wales: 2023](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 October 2024

Annual live births, stillbirths, maternities, and fertility rates in England and Wales by factors including parent age, ethnicity, deprivation, gestational age, and birthweight.

[Explorable datasets for births in England and Wales](#)

Datasets (Nomis) | Updated as new data become available
Datasets on life events in England and Wales.

[Baby names in England and Wales: 2022](#)

Dataset | Released 17 May 2024

Most popular first names for baby boys and girls in 2022, using birth registration data.

[Births in Northern Ireland](#)

Web page | Updated as new data become available

Births statistics from 1887 onwards and baby names statistics from 1997 onwards for Northern Ireland.

[Births in Scotland](#)

Web page | Updated as new data become available

Birth statistics from the National Records of Scotland.

[User guide to birth statistics](#)

Methodology | Released 28 October 2024

Supporting information for birth statistics, which present figures on births that occur and are then registered in England and Wales. Figures are based on information collected at birth registration.

7 . Cite this statistical release

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 8 November 2024, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [Births by parents' country of birth, England and Wales: 2023](#)

