Internal migration

Bolton

Who is moving?

The ONS releases **annual internal migration** data for England & Wales[1]

It looks at:

- **how many** people are moving house **in & out of Bolton**
- **Where** they are moving **from & to**
- **Who** is moving, in terms of their **age & gender**

It doesn't look at:

- Moves **within Bolton**
- **Which parts of Bolton** people are moving from or to

This is an important part of **how our population structure changes** as

- People are born & die
- People move around the UK
- People move to & from other countries

It can also help us understand expectations for **housing & other facilities & infrastructure**

Overview[1]

The number of **people moving into Bolton** from elsewhere in the UK **increased** 2014-2024

- Still, in 2024 slightly more people left Bolton than moved in

In **2024**, from elsewhere in the UK:

- **13,502** people moved **into Bolton**
- **13,612** people moved **out of Bolton**
- **Total movement** of 27,114 people **9%** of the 2024 population of 310,058[2]
- A **net loss** of **110 people** **0.4%** of the population

In **2014**, from elsewhere in the UK:

- **10,284** people moved **into Bolton**
- **12,100** people moved **out of Bolton**
- **Total movement** of 22,384 people **8%** of the 2014 population of 283,212
- A **net loss** of **1,816 people** **0.6%** of the population

Age[1]

Overall in **2024**, Bolton net

- **Lost** people aged: **11-19, 40-44, 50+**
- **Gained** people aged: **0-10, 20-39, 45-49**

Overall in **2014**, Bolton net

- **Gained** those aged **20-24**
- **Lost** people in **all other age groups**

In 2024 **females aged 20-29** were **more likely** to **move both in & out** of Bolton than males

- **Female**: 2,539 moved into Bolton, 2,190 moved out. **Total movement** of **27%** of the 17,939 female population
- **Male**: 2,026 moved into Bolton, 1,767 moved out. **Total movement** of **20%** of the 19,319 male population

Age 2024[1]

- Those **aged 16-19** were most likely to move **away from Bolton**
- Those **aged 20-24 and 25-29** were most likely to **move to Bolton**

Age 16-19

- 639 people of this age moved into Bolton, 1,081 moved away
- **Tota movement** of 1,720 people **10%** of Bolton's 16,035 16-19 residents
- A **net loss** of 442 people: **3%** of Bolton's residents of this age
- Most likely to move to: **Liverpool**

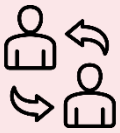
Age 20-29

- 4,565 people of this age moved into Bolton, 3,957 moved away
- **Total movement** of 8,522 people **23%** of Bolton's 37,058 20-29 residents
- A **net gain** of 608 people: **2%** of Bolton's residents of this age
- Most likely to move from: **Manchester, Salford**

Internal migration

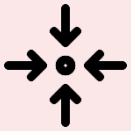
Bolton

Places 2024[1]



Top overall movement to & from Bolton:

- **Salford** (2,694 people)
- **Wigan** (2,457 people)
- **Manchester** (2,328 people)
- **Bury** (1,864 people)



Top places people moved **from** to Bolton:

- **Salford** (1,648 people)
- **Manchester** (1,100 people)
- **Bury** (973 people)
- **Wigan** (973 people)



Top places people moved **to** from Bolton:

- **Wigan** (1,483 people)
- **Salford** (1,046 people)
- **Chorley** (841 people)



The top **net changes** were:

- **Manchester** (**gain** of 914 people)
- **Chorley** (**loss** of 635 people)
- **Salford** (**gain** of 603 people)

Places 2024 & 2014[1]



The places with the **greatest movement** to & from Bolton were **similar** in 2014 & 2024

- Salford; Wigan; Manchester; Bury; Blackburn with Darwen; Chorley; Liverpool



Between 2014- 2024 there's been a **notable increase** in the numbers of people moving into Bolton **from Manchester, & Salford**

- **Manchester**
  2014: 7% of all moves, **52%** moved **out**
  2024: 9% of all moves, **70%** moved **in**
- **Salford**
  2014: 7% of all moves, **53%** moved **in**
  2024: 10% of all moves, **61%** moved **in**)



An increased proportion **left** Bolton **for Wigan, Blackburn with Darwen, & Chorley**

- Proportion of movers **leaving Bolton:**
- **Wigan:** 2014: **55%;** 2024: **60%**
- **Blackburn with Darwen**
  2014: **53%;** 2024: **66%**
- **Chorley:** 2014: **72%**; 2024: **80%**

References

March 2026

[1] ONS (2025). Internal migration in England and Wales Internal migration in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics
[2] ONS (2025). Estimates of the population for England and Wales. Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics

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