



How many foreign-born people live in the West Midlands?

A total of 784,000 people born in other countries made up an estimated 13.6% of the West Midlands's population of 5,751,000 in 2017, which is similar to the UK average of 14.4%.

The foreign born make up the largest share of the population in Birmingham (23.9%) and Coventry (24.1%) with much lower shares in other areas such as Shropshire (4.9%) and Staffordshire (6.7%).

Most migrants in the West Midlands are from non-EU countries: 63% in 2017, similar to the UK average of 61%. In 2017 there were:

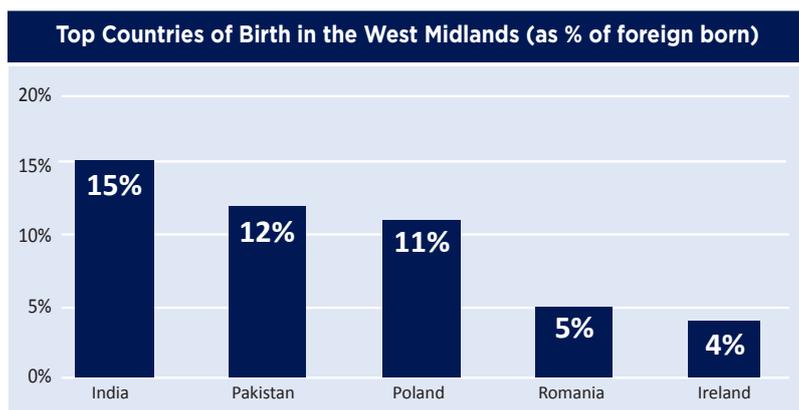
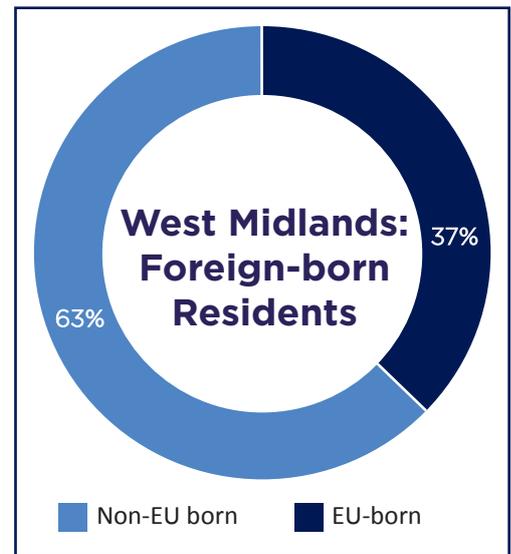
- **292,000 EU-born residents** (5% of the population of West Midlands; 37% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **492,000 non-EU born residents** (9% of the population of West Midlands, 63% of the region's foreign-born residents)
- **4,965,000 UK-born residents** (86% of the region's population)

What are the top countries of birth for migrants in the West Midlands?

Top countries of birth in the West Midlands in 2017 were:

- **India:** 114,000 or 15% of the region's foreign-born residents
- **Pakistan:** 96,000 or 12%
- **Poland:** 85,000 or 11%
- **Romania:** 38,000 or 5%
- **Ireland:** 35,000 or 4%

All these countries are also among the top countries of origin for the UK as a whole.



UK's top 10 countries of birth	Percent of UK's foreign born
Poland	10%
India	9%
Pakistan	6%
Romania	4%
Republic of Ireland	4%
Germany	3%
Bangladesh	3%
Italy	2%
South Africa	2%
China	2%

What industries do foreign-born workers in the West Midlands work in?

Approximately 15% of people working in the West Midlands in 2017 were foreign born, compared to a UK average of 18%. About 7% were born in EU countries (174,000 workers) and 9% in non-EU countries (239,000 workers).

The top industry employing EU migrants was manufacturing (39,000 EU-born workers) and the top industry employing non-EU migrants was health and social work (47,000 non-EU born workers). These figures exclude seasonal agricultural work, which is not captured in the official data.

Industry in 2017	EU born	Non-EU born	Non-UK born	UK born	Total
Manufacturing	39,000 (12%)	28,000 (8%)	67,000 (20%)	273,000 (80%)	340,000 (100%)
Health and social work	16,000 (4%)	47,000 (13%)	63,000 (18%)	296,000 (82%)	360,000 (100%)
Retail	33,000 (9%)	28,000 (8%)	62,000 (17%)	306,000 (83%)	368,000 (100%)
Transport and storage	19,000 (13%)	24,000 (17%)	44,000 (30%)	105,000 (69%)	149,000 (100%)
Hospitality	19,000 (13%)	23,000 (17%)	42,000 (30%)	95,000 (69%)	137,000 (100%)
Other industries	29,000 (3%)	61,000 (6%)	90,000 (9%)	840,000 (91%)	929,000 (100%)
All industries	174,000 (7%)	239,000 (9%)	413,000 (15%)	2,252,000 (84%)	2,665,000 (100%)

All data in these profiles come from Migration Observatory analysis of the Office of National Statistics' Annual Population Survey (APS) for 2017. The APS is a survey of private households has important limitations. The estimates come with margins of error, which means that small differences between figures presented may not be statistically significant – especially where the estimate itself is relatively small. The APS excludes some people, such as residents of communal establishments like hostels, and other groups may be undercounted due to survey non-response. The data do not include seasonal workers, and therefore do not provide reliable figures for agriculture in particular. Note on industry definitions: the 'retail' industry includes wholesale and repair of motor vehicles.