

Oldham in Profile



Data Insight & Intelligence Team
Strategy and Performance Service

Oldham in Profile - Introduction

Oldham in Profile:

Oldham in Profile is intended to be a comprehensive but easy-to-read overview of several key factors of Oldham.

You are welcome to quote or copy sections from this dashboard but please acknowledge sources where possible.

We intend to update Oldham in Profile on an annual basis and will look to make further improvements to this dashboard in the future.

More detailed reports can be found by clicking the following links:

- [Ward Profiles](#)
- [District Profiles](#)
- [Neighbourhood Insight Hub](#)
- [Labour Market Report](#)

For further information or to report errors/suggestions please email StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham in Profile Page Navigation

Data Insight & Intelligence Team
Strategy and Performance Service

Oldham in Profile - Population



Population:

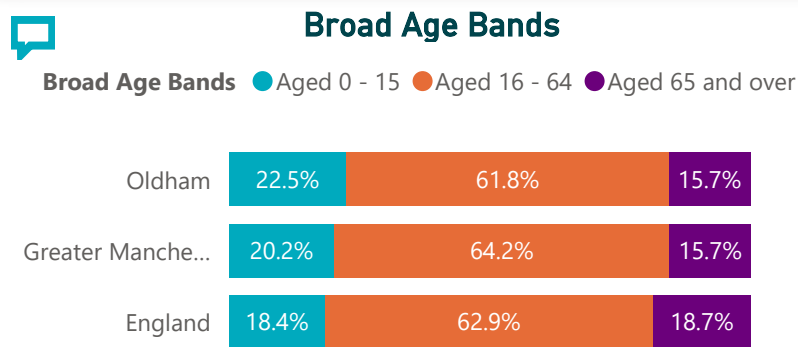
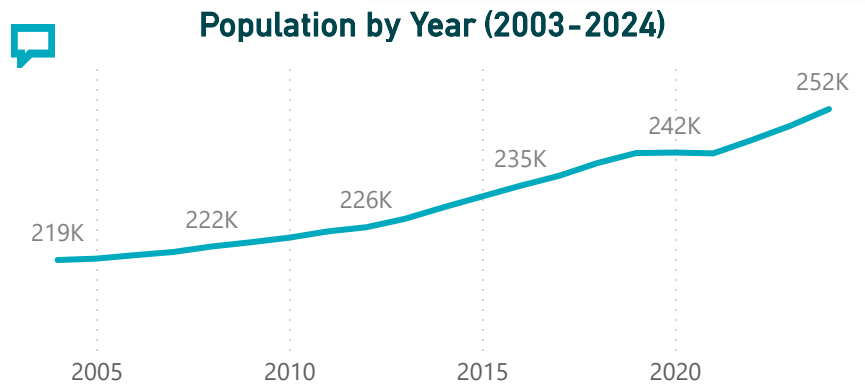
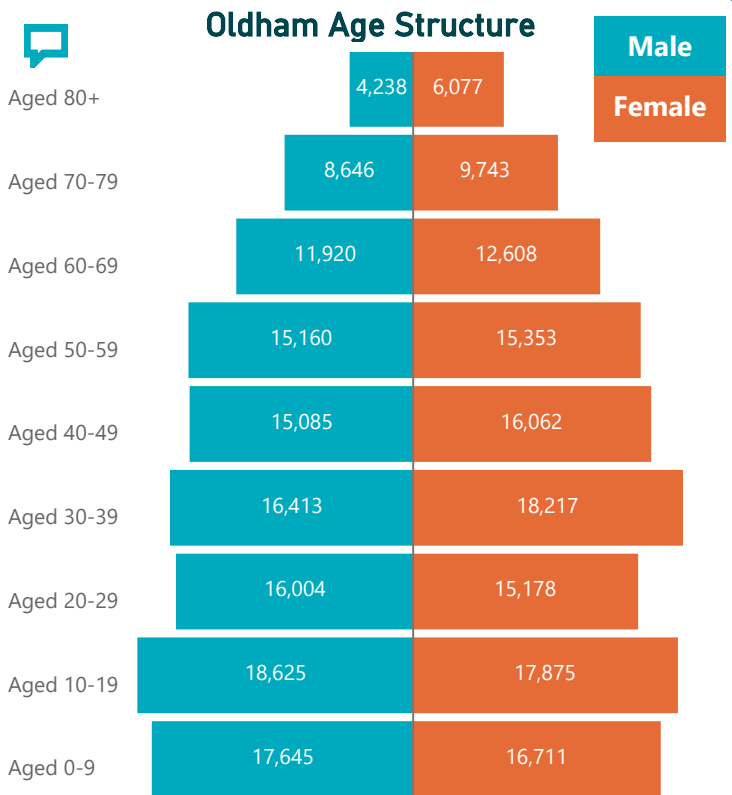
- Mid-year population estimates for England and Wales are produced annually by the office for national statistics (ONS).
- According to the 2024 mid-year population estimates, the usual resident population of Oldham is approximately 251,560. An increase of 1.4% since the 2023 mid-year population estimates.
- By Broad Age Bands we can see that Oldham has a significantly younger population than both GM and England.
- The population pyramid shows a significantly younger population within Oldham. There is a greater number of younger males and older females.

Data Sources:
Broad Age Bands - Population Mid Year Estimates ONS
Population Timeseries - Population Mid Year Estimates ONS
Oldham Age Structure - Population Mid Year Estimates ONS

251,560
Oldham Total Population

22.5%
Aged 0-15

15.7%
Aged 65 and Over



Oldham in Profile - Ethnicity

Population:

- Oldham has seen considerable change in different ethnic groups since the 2001 census. The proportion identifying as white British was 84.4% in 2001 and is now 65.2% in 2021. During the same time period there has been significant growth from the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities.
- The school census shows that 48.5% of those aged between 4-15 are white British, 18.9% Pakistani, 12% Bangladeshi, 11.2% Mixed or other. 6.6% Black and 2.8% are other White.
- The make-up of Oldham's population will continue to change and become more diverse over the coming years as demonstrated by the differences in the proportions of each ethnic group between the 2021 Census and the school census.

Data Sources:

Ethnic Group Change Over Time - ONS Census 2001,2011 and 2021.

School Age Ethnicity - Oldham council school Census



251,560

Oldham Total Population



65.2%

White British

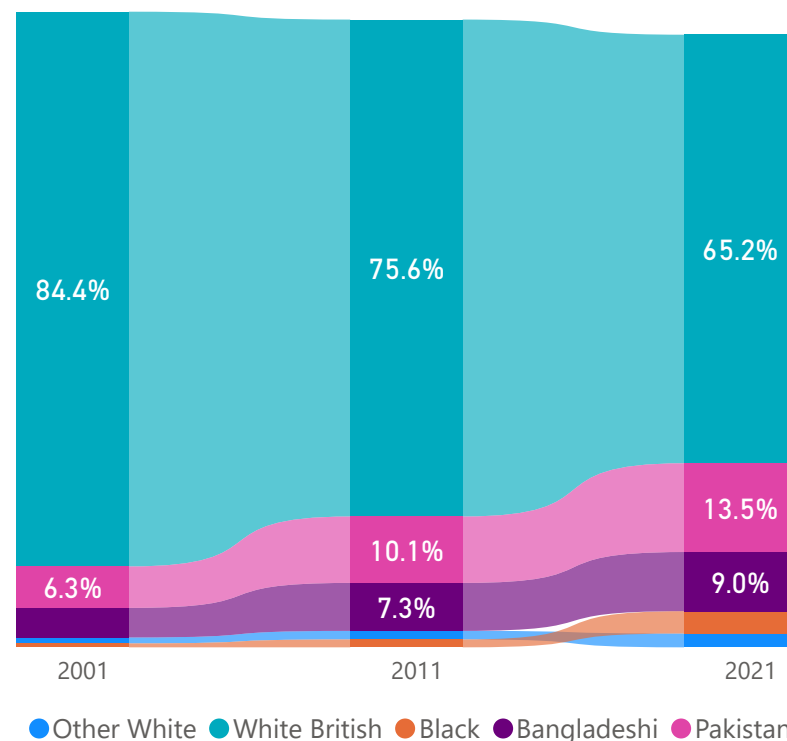


48.5%

White British (Aged 4-15)



Ethnic Group Change Over Time



Larger Groups (Aged 4-15)

White British

48.5%

Pakistani

18.9%

Bangladeshi

12.0%

Mixed and...

11.2%

Black

6.6%

...

Oldham in Profile - Education

Education:

- Oldham is home to a wide variety of educational institutions such as primary and secondary schools. There remains several challenges within education in Oldham such as absence and educational attainment.
- Good level of development has been historically below both England and statistical neighbours, the latest data shows slight improvements for Oldham with Oldham now in line with statistical neighbours at 63.6%.
- Oldham has also had historically low results for KS2 expected standard below both England and statistical neighbours at 55%. This still remains a significant challenge for Oldham.
- Attainment 8 results have also been lower in recent years than both England and statistical neighbours. There was an increase shortly after COVID due to the use of TAG's but this has now returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Both no qualifications and level 4+ qualifications are significantly lower than than GM and England.

Data Sources:

Good Level of Development - DfE

KS2 Expected Standard (R,W&M) - DfE

GCSE Attainment 8 - DfE

Qualifications - ONS Census 2021



63.6%

Good Level of Development



55.0%

KS2 - Expected Standard

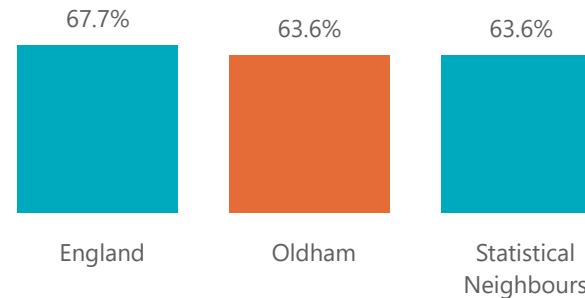


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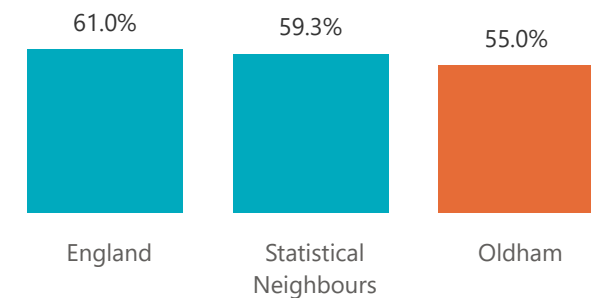
Attainment 8



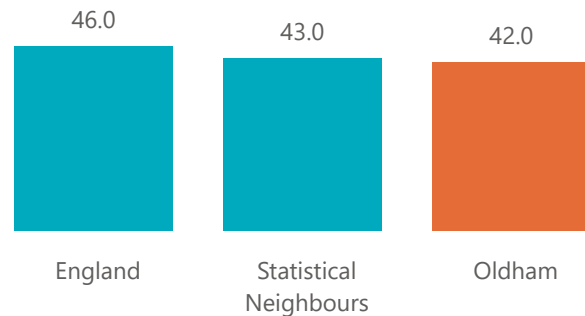
Good Level of Development (GLD) - 2024



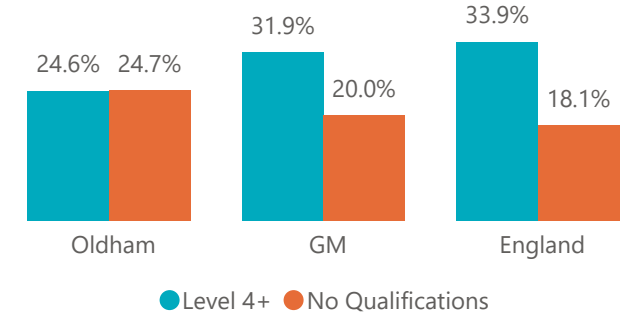
KS2 - Expected Standard (R,W&M) - 2024



GCSE - Attainment 8 - 2024



Adult Qualifications



● Level 4+ ● No Qualifications

Oldham in Profile - Economy

Economy:

- Oldham's economy was historically built upon manufacturing, large scale deindustrialisation means Oldham's economy has seen a significant restructure.
- Industry percentages show 17.9% of Oldham's workforce is in Health compared to 14.1% and 13.5% for GM and England respectively. Oldham also sees a greater proportion working in Manufacturing and Education compared to GM and England.
- Oldham also has a greater reliance on public sector employment at 23.5% compared to GM (19.2%) and England (17.5%)
- The latest data for the number of businesses shows Oldham has 8,425 businesses employing 84,000 people.

Data Sources:

Public & Private Sector Employment - Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

Industry Percentages - Annual Population Survey (APS)

Number of Businesses & Employees - IDBR



8,425

Number of Oldham Businesses



84,000

Number of Employees

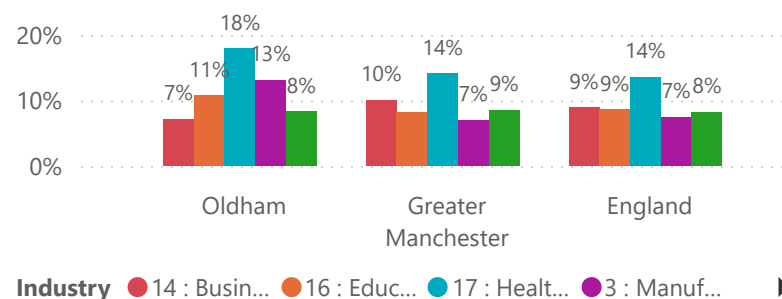


23.5%

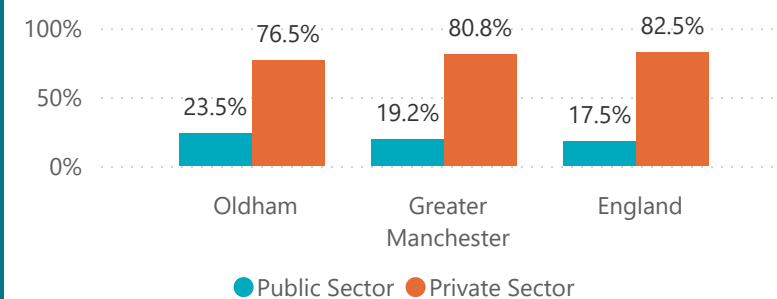
Public Sector Employment



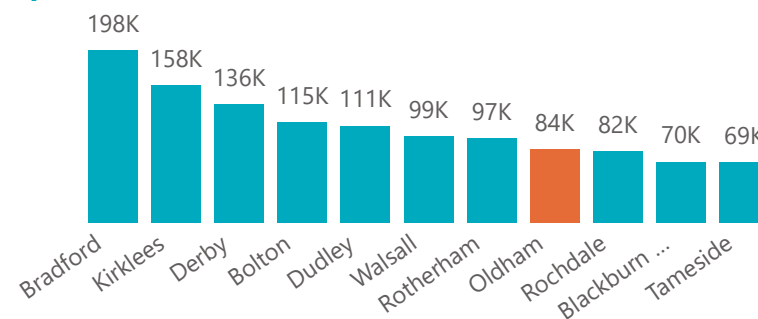
Industry Percentages - 2023



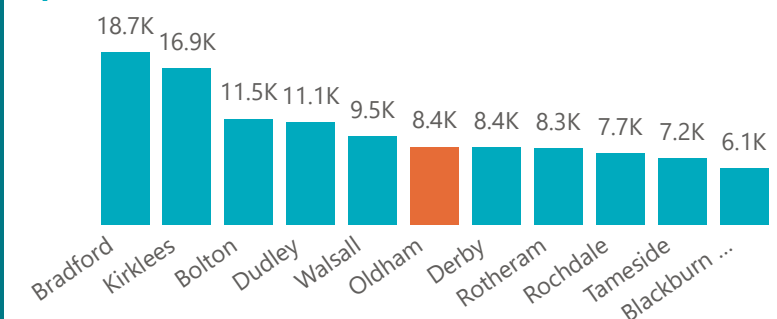
Public & Private Sector Employment - 2023



Number of Employees - 2023



Number of Businesses - 2023



Oldham in Profile - Economy

Economy:

- Median Household Income in Oldham has been historically low especially when compared to GM and the UK. The latest figure for Oldham is £32,662 which is lower than both GM and the UK. There are large discrepancies for median household income in Oldham across the different wards.
- Oldham's unemployment rate is currently 7.0% and this is the highest rate across Greater Manchester, Oldham's youth unemployment rate is also the highest across GM at 9.2%. Oldham consistently has a higher rate of unemployment than all other Greater Manchester local authorities.
- Oldham's NEET rate is the 2nd highest when compared to statistical neighbours. This is a measure that can fluctuate quite significantly due to the nature of the small sample sizes.

For more detailed analysis on Oldham's economy click [here](#)

Data Sources:

Median Household Income - CACI

NEET Rates - Positive Steps MI Report

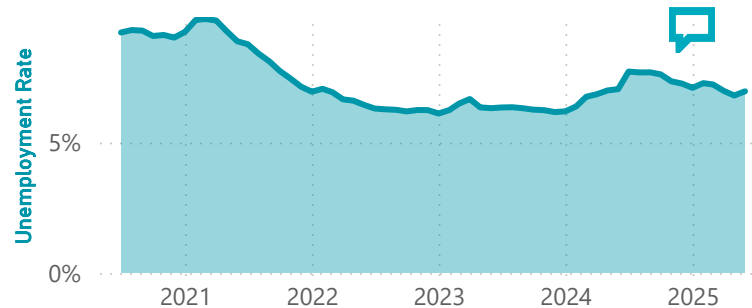
Unemployment Rate - Annual Population Survey



7.0%

16-64 Unemployment Rate

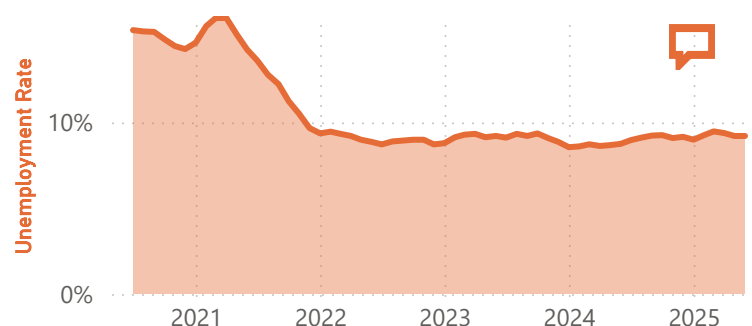
16-64 Unemployment Rate Time Series - Oldham



9.2%

18-24 Unemployment Rate

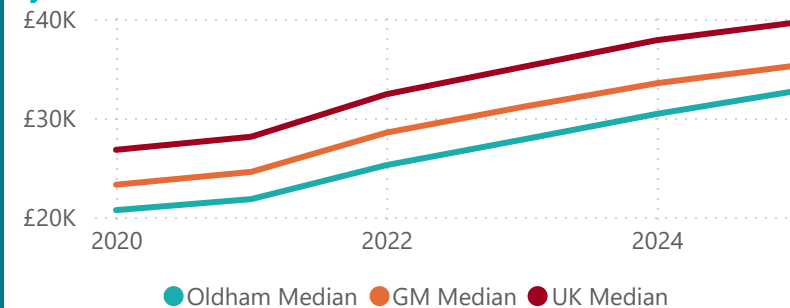
18-24 Unemployment Rate Time Series - Oldham



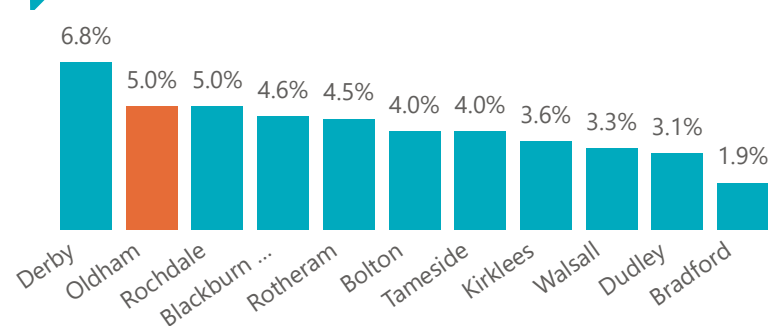
£32,662

Median Household Income

Median Equivalised Household Income - 2025



NEET Rate (16-17 Year Olds) - May 2025



Oldham in Profile - Housing

Housing:

- Housing is a significant challenge currently within Oldham and across the country. The borough has an unbalanced housing market with a low proportion of detached properties and a very high proportion of terraced properties.
- There has been a significant increase in median house price over the last few years within Oldham with an increase of 38.7% for all property types since 2020. This is greater than the national change of 16.9% over the same time period.
- Compared to statistical neighbours, Oldham sits in the middle of the pack at £190,000. Dudley has the highest median house price at £224,000 and Blackburn with Darwen has the lowest median house price at £144,000.

Data Sources:
Median House Price - Land Registry



£190,000

Median Price for All Properties



£150,000

Terraced Housing

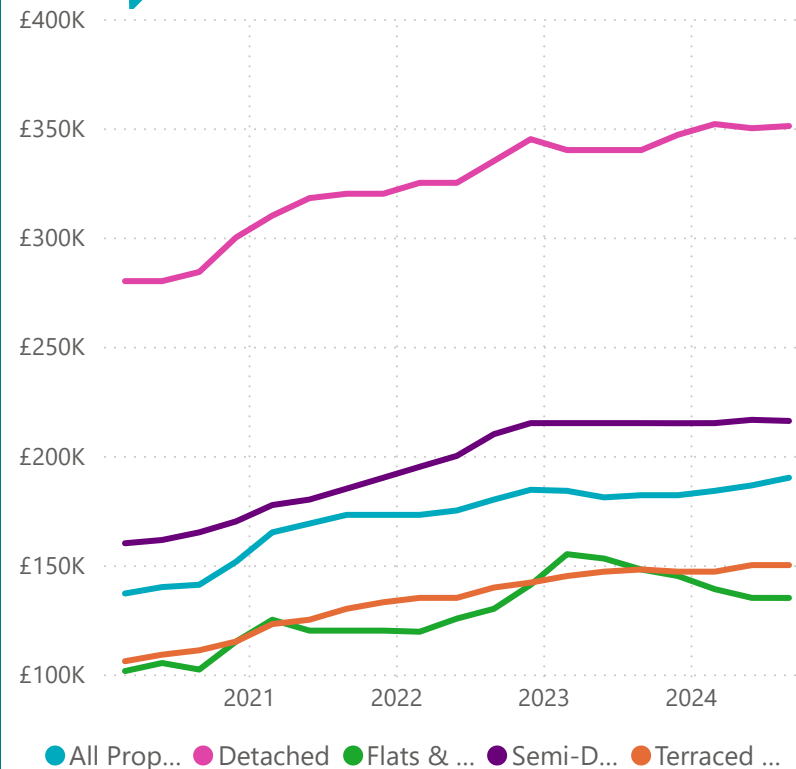


£350,995

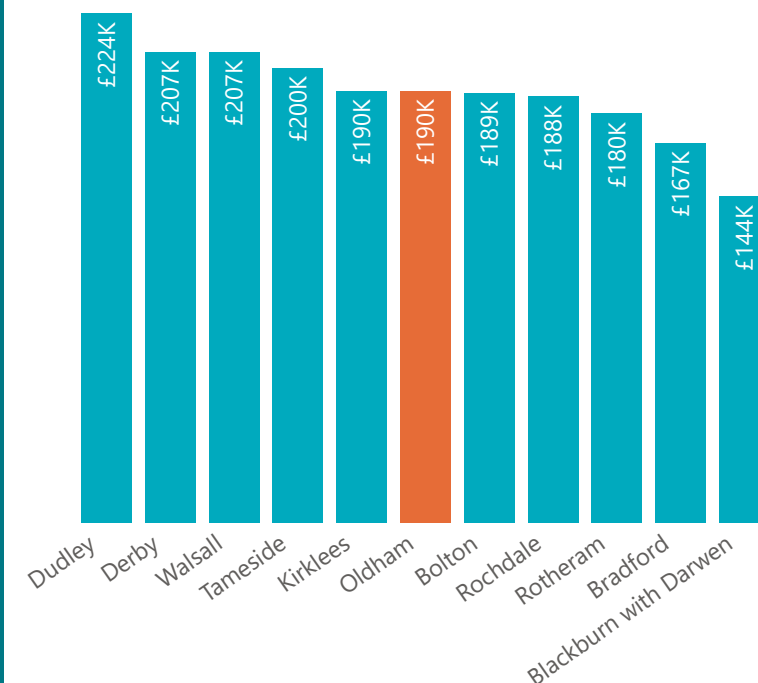
Detached Housing



Median House Price - Oldham



Median House Price - Stat Neighbours



Oldham in Profile - Housing

Housing:

- Housing is a significant challenge currently within Oldham and across the country. The borough has an unbalanced housing market with a low proportion of detached properties and a very high proportion of terraced properties.
- The number of households and children in temporary accommodation has steadily increased since 2023 with highs of 722 and 793 respectively in September 2024.
- There has been a significant change in the proportion of households that are now privately rented going from 6% in 2001 to 18% in 2021.
- There has been very little change in terms of household dwelling type in Oldham, the proportion of terraced houses has decreased from 41% in 2001 to 38% in 2021 with a slight increase in the proportion of semi-detached houses going from 34% in 2001 to 36% in 2021.

Data Sources:

House Price Index - Land Registry

Fuel Poverty - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Temporary Accommodation - Oldham Council - Locata System



569

Number of Households in TA



725

Number of Children in TA

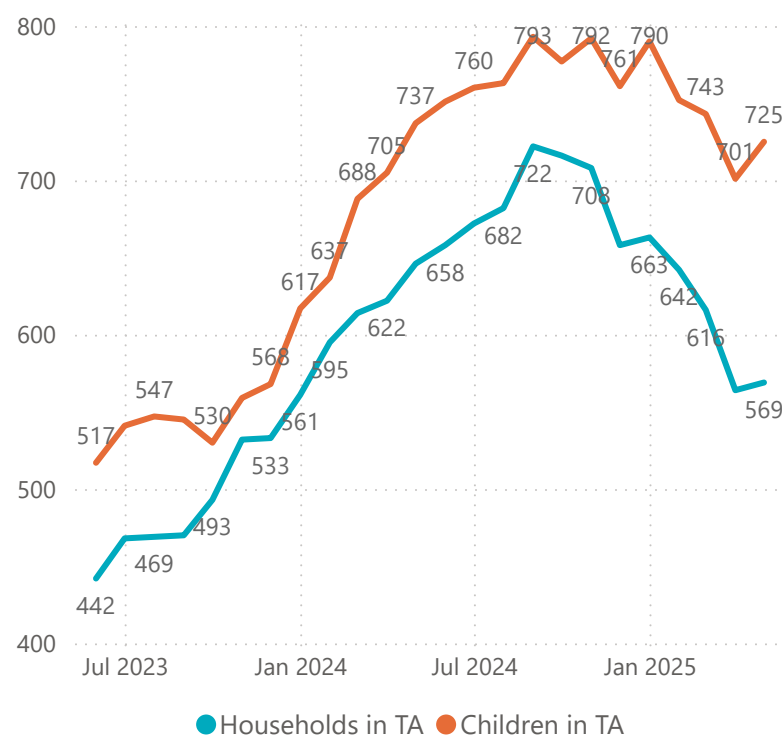


61.0%

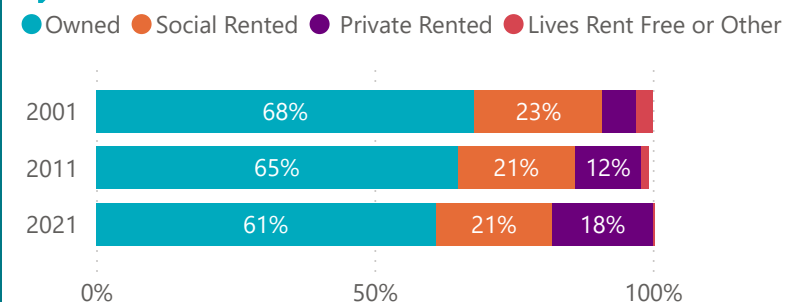
Own Their Home



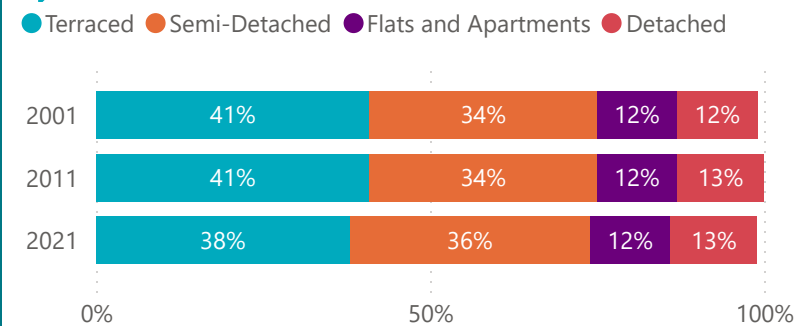
Households and Children in Temporary Accommodation



Housing Tenure in Oldham



Household Dwelling Type in Oldham



Oldham in Profile - Health

Health:

- In general, Oldham residents have worse health than England's average. There are strong links between deprivation and health outcomes and high levels of deprivation in the borough have a significant impact on health.
- Male life expectancy is around 3 to 4 years less than female life expectancy. There are also significant differences within Oldham in regards to life expectancy. Those living in the most deprived ward of Oldham (Alexandra) can expect to live shorter lives than those living in the most affluent ward of Oldham (Saddleworth South).
- The proportion of reception children in Oldham classed as overweight/obese is in line with statistical neighbours and England, however Oldham has a greater proportion of children in year 6 classified as overweight/obese.
- Smoking rates have decreased nationally and within Oldham consistently. Oldham currently ranks as the 3rd lowest local authority when compared to its statistical neighbours.
- Oldham ranks as the 3rd lowest local authority for physically active adults just ahead of Blackburn with Darwen and Walsall and is significantly below the national average (67.4%)



14.0%

Smoking Prevalence in Oldham...



22.1%

Reception Overweight/Obese

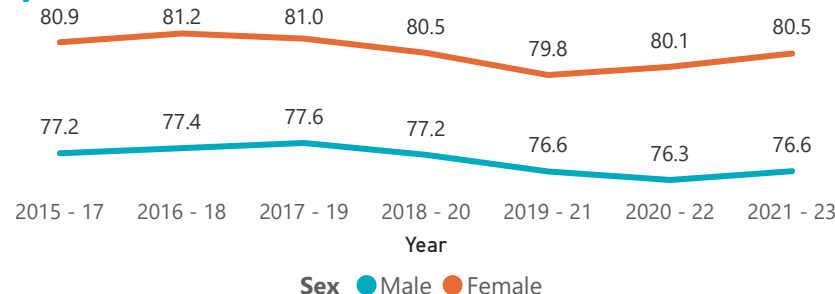


40.3%

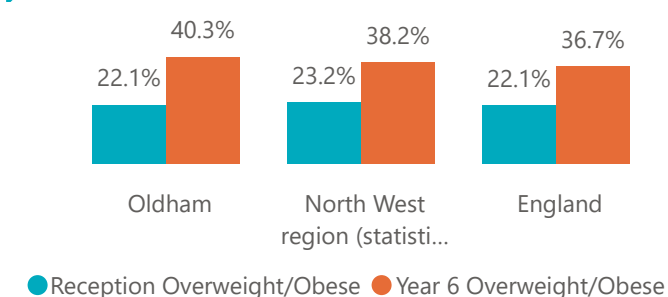
Year 6 Overweight/Obese



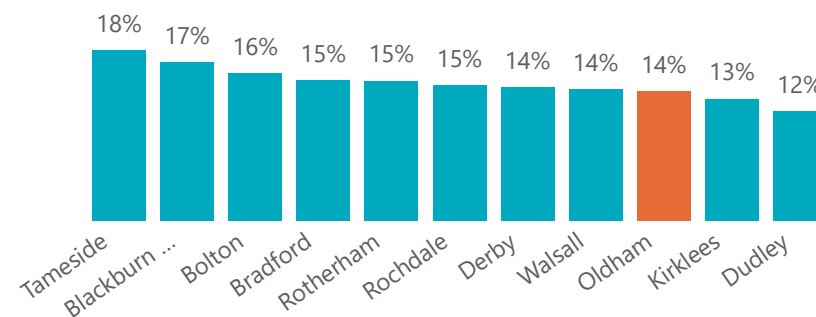
Life Expectancy



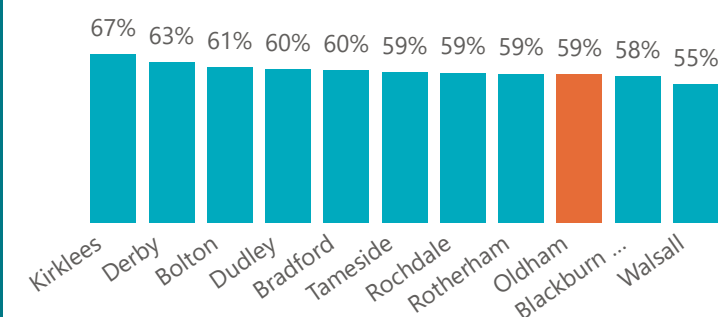
Overweight and Obesity Prevalence



Smoking Prevalence (Aged 18+)



Proportion of Physically Active Adults



Oldham in Profile - Deprivation

Deprivation:

- IMD (Indices of multiple deprivation) measures relative, not absolute deprivation. Analysis shows that Oldham's overall ranking has declined from 34th to 19th worst of 317 local authorities. (EXTRA BULLET ON DEPRIVATION and INEQUALITIES WITHIN OLDHAM)
- The proportion of households in Oldham that are classed as fuel poor is 12.8%. This is lower than most statistical neighbours with only Rochdale, Bolton and Tameside having a smaller proportion of households classed as fuel poor.
- Oldham has a particularly high rate of relative child poverty at 42.9%. This is only behind Bradford at 44.2%.

Data Sources:

Indices of Multiple Deprivation - Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities

Fuel Poverty - Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Relative Child Poverty - Registration and Population Interaction Database (RAPID)



19

Oldham IMD Rank (of 317 LA's)



42.9%

Relative Child Poverty in Oldham



12.8%

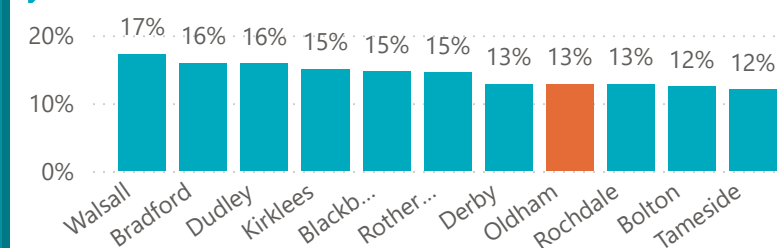
Fuel Poverty in Oldham



IMD Measures Over Time



Proportion of Households Classed as Fuel Poor



Relative Child Poverty - Before Housing Costs

