

# Inform Gloucestershire

## Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2016) An Overview<sup>1</sup>

The population of Gloucestershire was estimated to be around 623,100 in 2016, representing a rise of approximately 6,000 people since 2015. This is equivalent to a growth of 1.0% in population from 2015 to 2016, which is higher than the England and Wales growth of 0.8%.

The district of Gloucester has the largest population in the county and the Forest of Dean the smallest. From 2015 to 2016, Tewkesbury had the fastest rate of growth in the county (2.0%) whilst Cotswold, Cheltenham and Stroud had the lowest rates (0.7%, 0.6% and 0.6% respectively). Tewkesbury's and Cheltenham's growth rates were both higher than their rates for 2014/15, whilst Stroud's growth had slowed compared with 2014/15; the Forest of Dean, Cotswold and Gloucester all had similar rates of growth to those in 2014/15.

**Table 1: Gloucestershire and Districts Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2016**

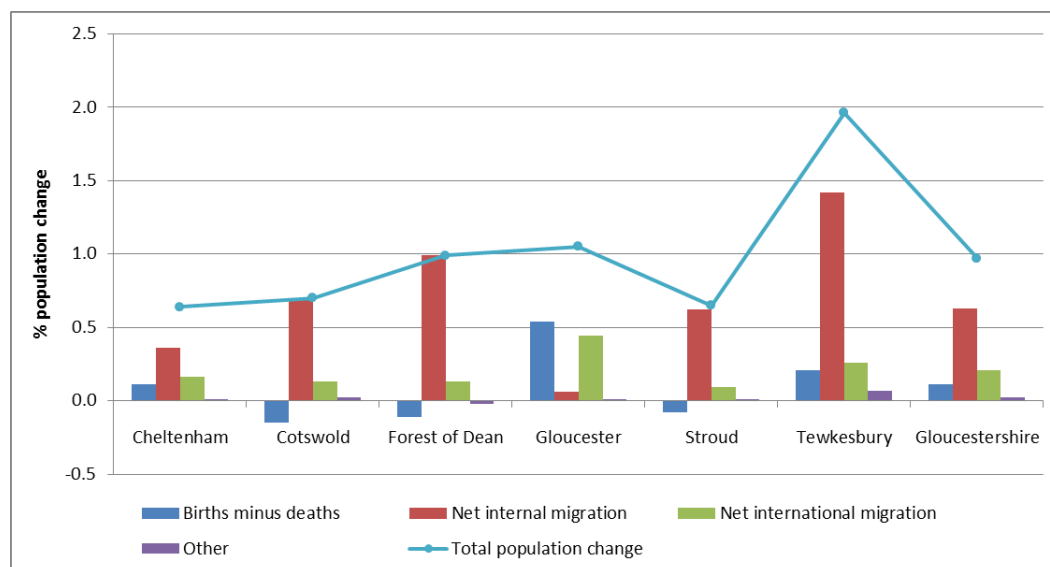
	Population 2016	Population 2015	Change 2015 to 2016	% Change 2015 to 2016	% Change 2014 to 2015
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>623,129</b>	<b>617,162</b>	<b>5,967</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Cheltenham	117,530	116,781	749	0.6%	0.2%
Cotswold	85,756	85,162	594	0.7%	0.6%
Forest of Dean	85,385	84,544	841	1.0%	1.0%
Gloucester	128,488	127,158	1,330	1.0%	1.2%
Stroud	117,381	116,627	754	0.6%	1.3%
Tewkesbury	88,589	86,890	1,699	2.0%	1.3%
<b>South West</b>	<b>5,515,953</b>	<b>5,471,180</b>	<b>44,773</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>58,381,217</b>	<b>57,885,413</b>	<b>495,804</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

Figure 1 shows the components of population change from 2015 to 2016 for the county and for each district. Growth across the whole county was driven primarily by internal migration i.e. people moving from other parts of the UK (0.6% growth). At district level, internal migration (including moves from other parts of the county) was the major source of population change in Cotswold, the

<sup>1</sup> Source: Mid-2016 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury. By contrast, population growth in Gloucester was driven by natural change (a higher number of births than deaths) and international migration<sup>2</sup>, whilst in Cheltenham growth was spread more evenly across internal migration, international migration and natural change.

**Figure 1: Components of population change in the Gloucestershire Districts, 2015 to 2016.**



## Age Structure

The working age population (aged 20-64) made up 56.6% of the population in Gloucestershire in 2016. This was slightly higher than the figure for the South West, but lower than that for England and Wales. The proportion of people aged 65 or over (20.8%) was lower than that for the South West but higher than that for England and Wales. The proportion of children and young people aged 0-19 (22.6%) was slightly higher than that for the South West but lower than that for England and Wales.

**Table 2: Age structure of the Gloucestershire population, Mid-2016**

	Number of people 2016	% of population 2016		
		Gloucestershire %	South West %	England and Wales %
<b>0-19</b>	140,666	22.6	22.2	23.7
<b>20-64</b>	352,840	56.6	56.2	58.3
<b>65 or over</b>	129,623	20.8	21.6	18.0

<sup>2</sup> International Migration Estimates are based in part on modelled figures.

Table 3 shows that from 2015 to 2016, population growth in Gloucestershire was fastest in the 65+ age group, which increased by 2.2%; this was faster than the rates for this age group in the South West and England and Wales (1.9% and 1.8% respectively). The rate of growth in the children and young people (0-19) population in Gloucestershire (1.1%) was also higher than the rates for the South West and England and Wales (0.6% and 0.7% respectively) whilst the growth in the working age (20-64) population of 0.5% was comparable with that for the South West and England and Wales.

**Table 3: Population change by age, 2015 to 2016.**

	% change in population 2015-2016		
	Gloucestershire %	South West %	England and Wales %
<b>0-19</b>	1.1	0.6	0.7
<b>20-64</b>	0.5	0.5	0.6
<b>65 or over</b>	2.2	1.9	1.8

### The older population

Table 4 shows in more detail the age structure of the older population in Gloucestershire in 2016. The largest group is people aged 65-74 which forms 11.4% of the Gloucestershire population, whilst those aged 85 or over form 2.8% of the population. The table shows that Gloucestershire has higher proportions of its population in all three age groups when compared with England and Wales, but lower proportions in each age group when compared with the South West region.

The ratio of women to men increases as age increases. Thus, whilst women make up 52.2% of the 65-74 age group, they form 64.8% of the 85 and older age group.

**Table 4: The older population in Gloucestershire, Mid-2016.**

	Number of people 2016			% of population 2016		
	Males	Females	All	Gloucestershire	South West	England and Wales
<b>65-74</b>	33,971	37,084	71,055	11.4	11.8	9.9
<b>75-84</b>	18,580	22,248	40,828	6.6	6.8	5.7
<b>85 or over</b>	6,248	11,492	17,740	2.8	3.1	2.4

Table 5 shows the rates of growth for each of these older age groups between 2015 and 2016. The 65-74 age group had the fastest rate of growth (2.8%); the growth rates of the 75-84 and 85 and over groups were approximately half this rate.

Looking at gender, the rate of growth from 2015 to 2016 was faster for men than women in the 75-84 and 85 and over age groups, but slower for men than women in the 65-74 age group. The difference across gender was greatest in the 85 and over age group where the number of men grew by 2.5% compared with 0.9% for the women.

**Table 5: Population change in the older population in Gloucestershire, 2015 to 2016.**

	% increase in number of people 2015-2016		
	Males	Females	All
<b>65-74</b>	2.2	3.2	2.8
<b>75-84</b>	2.4	0.9	1.5
<b>85 or over</b>	2.5	0.9	1.4

## Age structure in the districts

Figure 2 shows the age structure of the population in the six Gloucestershire districts in 2016:

- Gloucester had the highest proportion of 0-19 year olds (25.0%) and Cotswold the lowest proportion (20.6%).
- Cheltenham and Gloucester had the highest proportion of 20-64 year olds (58.9% and 58.8% respectively) and Forest of Dean and Cotswold the lowest (54.8% and 54.4% respectively).
- Cotswold has the highest proportion of people aged 65 or over (25.1%) and Cheltenham and Gloucester the lowest (18.5% and 16.2% respectively).

**Figure 2: Age structure in the Gloucestershire Districts Mid-2016**

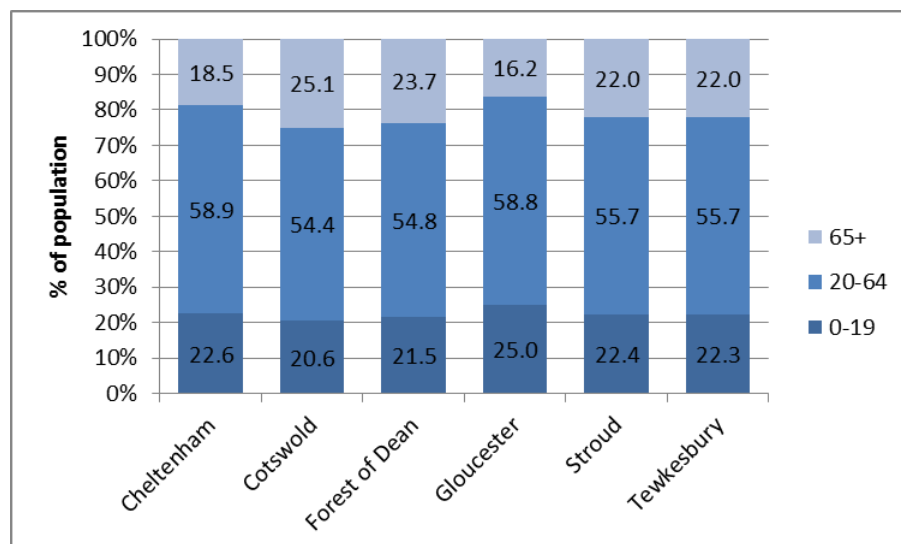


Table 6 shows the number of people in the districts and the percentage changes in population from 2015 to 2016 by broad age group.

**Table 6: Population change in the Gloucestershire Districts by broad age group, 2015 to 2016**

	Number of people 2016			% change 2015 to 2016		
	0-19	20-64	65+	0-19	20-64	65+
Cheltenham	26,517	69,230	21,783	1.6	0.0	1.7
Cotswold	17,648	46,626	21,482	0.0	0.3	2.1
Forest of Dean	18,379	46,797	20,209	0.2	0.7	2.3
Gloucester	32,148	75,497	20,843	1.4	0.7	1.9
Stroud	26,245	65,350	25,786	0.6	0.0	2.3
Tewkesbury	19,729	49,340	19,520	2.2	1.5	2.8
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>140,666</b>	<b>352,840</b>	<b>129,623</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Figure 3 shows that the patterns of population change between 2015 and 2016 were similar in Tewkesbury and Gloucester and followed the overall county pattern: strongest growth in the 65+ age group, followed by the 0-19 age group and then the 20-64 age group. Cheltenham experienced very similar rates of growth in the 0-19 and 65+ age groups and no growth in the 20-64 age group. Cotswold and the Forest of Dean experienced strong growth in the 65+ age group, some growth in the 20-64 group, and very little or no growth in the 0-19 group. Stroud experienced strong growth in the 65+ age group, some growth in the 0-19 group and no growth in the working age group.

**Figure 3: Population change in the Gloucestershire Districts by broad age group, 2015 to 2016**

