

Inform Gloucestershire

Population Change in Gloucestershire (2006 to 2016) An Overview¹

The population of Gloucestershire was approximately 623,100 in 2016, representing a rise of approximately 42,400 people since 2006, an average increase of 4,240 people per annum. This is equivalent to a growth of 7.3% in population from 2006 to 2016, which is lower than the rate of growth in the South West (7.7%) and England and Wales (8.2%).

Table 1: Population change in Gloucestershire and the districts, 2006 to 2016

	Population 2006	Population 2016	Change 2006 to 2016	% change 2006 to 2016 ¹
Gloucestershire	580,700	623,100	42,400	7.3
Cheltenham	111,600	117,500	5,900	5.3
Cotswold	82,600	85,800	3,200	3.9
Forest of Dean	81,700	85,400	3,700	4.5
Gloucester	115,300	128,500	13,200	11.4
Stroud	110,500	117,400	6,900	6.2
Tewkesbury	78,900	88,600	9,700	12.3
South-West				7.7
England and Wales				8.2

¹ based on rounded figures

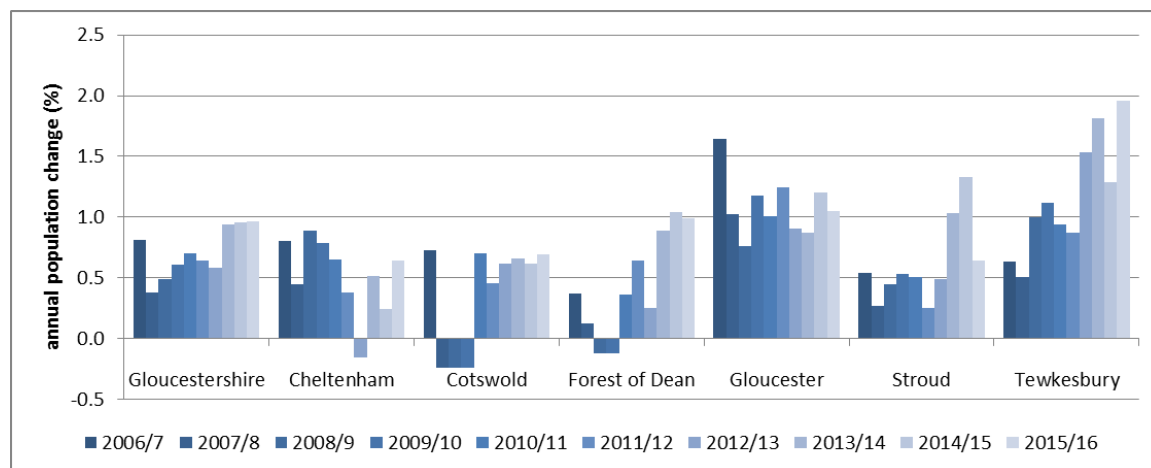
Table 1, above, shows that Tewkesbury was the fastest growing district in Gloucestershire in the period 2006 to 2016, with its population increasing by 12.3%; this accounted for 22.9% of the county's growth. Gloucester was the second fastest growing district with population growth of 11.4%, accounting for 31.1% of the county's growth. Cotswold was the slowest growing district in the county with population growth of 3.9% accounting for 7.5% of the county's growth.

Figure 1 (page 2) shows in more detail population growth in the county and the districts from 2006 to 2016 by charting the annual percentage change in population. It shows that the rate of growth in the county as a whole dropped at the beginning of this period, exceeding the 2006/7 growth only from 2013/14 onwards. Cotswold experienced a reduction in population from 2007/8 to 2009/10 and Forest a reduction in 2008/9 and 2009/10. Cheltenham experienced a reduction slightly later in

¹ Source: Mid-2006 and Mid -2016 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

2012/13. At district level, growth in Tewkesbury has increased in particular from 2012/13, whilst the Forest of Dean experienced higher growth rates from 2013/14, increasing to a rate which is now similar to Gloucester's rate. Stroud also experienced increased rates of growth in 2013/14 and 2014/15 before dropping back again in 2015/16. Cheltenham's and Cotswold's rates of growth in 2015/16 were similar to their rates at the beginning of this period.

Figure 1: Annual population change in Gloucestershire and the districts, 2006 to 2016



Changes in Age Structure

Table 2 shows that the lower rate of growth in population in Gloucestershire compared with England and Wales was driven by a slower increase in the number of children and young people aged 0-19 (1.9% in Gloucestershire compared with 5.1% in England and Wales) and a slower increase in the number of working age people aged 20-64 (3.6% in Gloucestershire compared with 5.7% in England and Wales). The growth of the older population (aged 65 and above) in the county continued to outpace that of the younger population, increasing by 26.9%; this was higher than the growth rate of 22.6% for the older population in England and Wales.

Table 2: Population change in Gloucestershire by broad age group, 2006 to 2016

Age Group	Gloucestershire			% change 2006 to 2016 ¹		
	Population 2006	Population 2016	Change 2006 to 2016	Gloucestershire	South West	England and Wales
All Ages	580,700	623,100	42,400	7.3	7.7	8.2
0-19	138,100	140,700	2,600	1.9	3.7	5.1
20-64	340,500	352,800	12,300	3.6	3.9	5.7
65+	102,100	129,600	27,600	26.9	24.8	22.6

¹ based on rounded figures

Table 3 shows that the lower growth rates in the 0-19 and 20-64 age groups were not uniform across Gloucestershire. Gloucester and Tewkesbury both had a faster growth rate in the children/young people age group (8.3% and 7.4% respectively) compared with the England and Wales figure whilst Cotswold, the Forest of Dean and Stroud all experienced a decline in the number of people in these

age groups. Gloucester and Tewkesbury also had a faster growth rate in the working age group (9.8% and 7.8% respectively) compared with the national figure, whilst Cotswold and the Forest of Dean experienced a decline in this age group. With regard to the 65+ population, growth was fastest in the Forest of Dean (34.3%) and higher than the England and Wales figure in all districts apart from Cheltenham where the rate was considerably slower (16.0%).

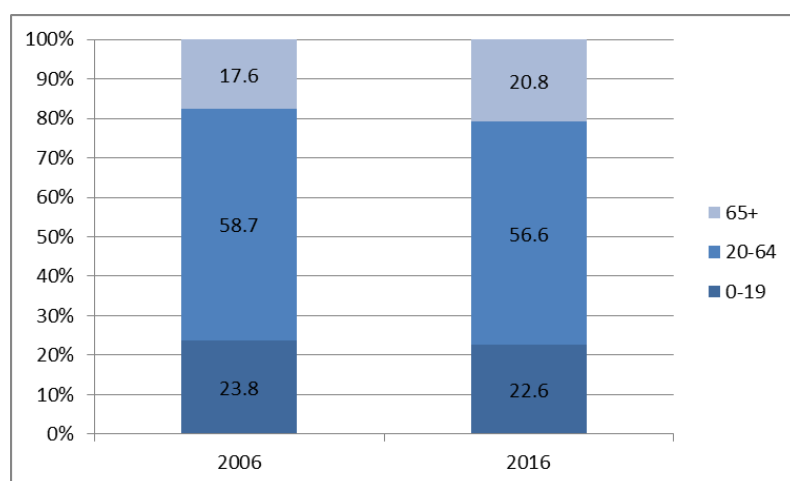
Table 3: Population change in the Gloucestershire districts by broad age group, 2006 to 2016

	% change 2006 to 2016 ¹		
	0-19	20-64	65+
Gloucestershire	1.8	3.6	27.0
Cheltenham	3.2	3.1	16.0
Cotswold	-3.8	-1.9	28.5
Forest of Dean	-4.2	-1.5	34.3
Gloucester	8.3	9.8	23.9
Stroud	-2.3	2.5	29.6
Tewkesbury	7.4	7.8	32.1
South-West	3.7	3.9	24.8
England and Wales	5.1	5.7	22.6

¹ based on rounded population figures

Figure 3 shows the age structure of the Gloucestershire population in 2006 and 2016 by broad age group. The proportion of the Gloucestershire population who are aged 65 or over increased from 17.6% in 2006 to 20.8% in 2016 whilst the proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds both decreased during the same period. The ratio of working age adults to non-working age adults and children reduced from 1.4 to 1.2 during this period.

Figure 3: Age Structure of Gloucestershire population 2006 and 2016



Drivers of change

Figure 4 shows that from 2006 to 2016, population growth in Gloucestershire was driven primarily by people moving into the county from other parts of the UK (internal migration); this led to 4.3% growth in the population. People aged 30-44 formed the largest proportion of this net inflow into

the county followed by children aged 0-14. Figure 4 also shows that at district level internal migration was the predominant driver of population growth in Cotswold, the Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury. Figure 5 shows that net internal migration to the county increased in particular in 2013/2014 and has remained at a higher level since then.

Natural change (more births than deaths) led to 1.6% growth in population in Gloucestershire between 2006 and 2016. Figure 4 shows that at district level, growth due to a higher number of births than deaths was concentrated in Gloucester followed by Cheltenham; this is related to the younger age structures in these districts. By contrast, Cotswold, the Forest of Dean and Stroud each lost population during this period as a result of a higher number of deaths than births.

International migration to the county led to 1.4% population growth from 2006 to 2016 and was concentrated in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury².

Figure 4: Percentage population change, Gloucestershire and the districts, 2006 to 2016

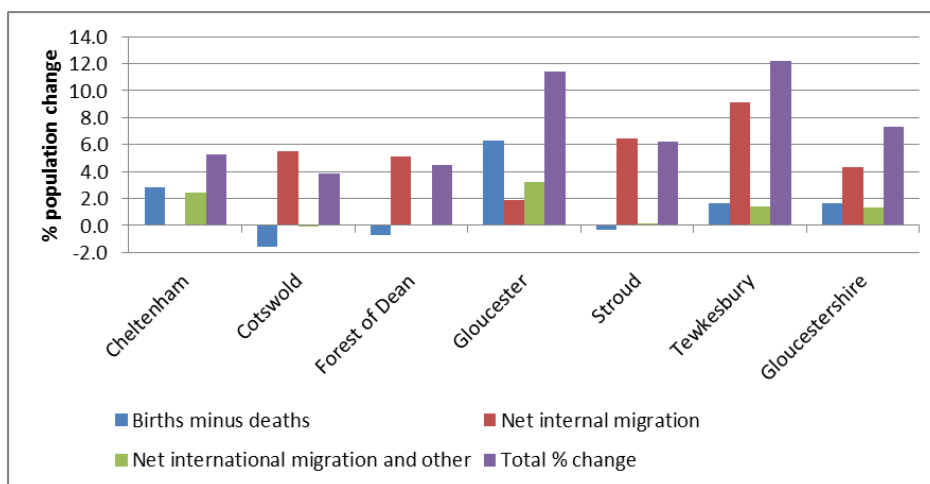
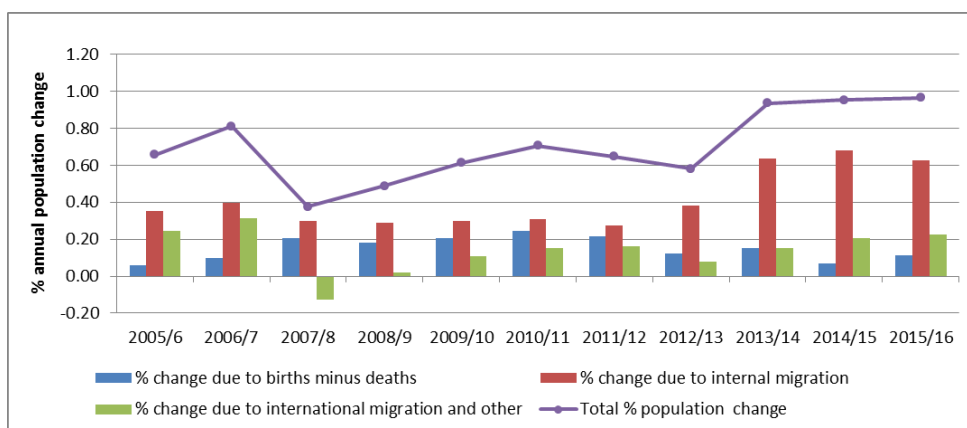


Figure 5: Percentage population change by year, Gloucestershire, 2006-2016



² International Migration Estimates are based in part on modelled figures and are subject to greater levels of uncertainty than the other components of change. However, the impact of uncertainty associated with net international migration flows is small as a percentage of the local authority mid-year estimate.