

InformGloucestershire

Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2019)

An Overview

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The population of Gloucestershire was estimated to be around 637,070 in 2019, representing a rise of approximately 3,512 people since 2018. This is the equivalent to a growth of 0.6% in population from 2018 to 2019, which was higher than the rate of growth for England and Wales which stood at 0.5%.

The district of Gloucester has the largest population in the county and the Forest of Dean has the smallest. From 2018 to 2019, Tewkesbury had the fastest rate of growth in the county (2.6%) whilst Cheltenham had the lowest rate with a decline of -0.7%.

Table 1: Gloucestershire and Districts Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2019

	Population 2019	Population 2018	Change 2018 to 2019	% Change 2018 to 2019
Gloucestershire	637,070	633,558	3,512	0.6%
Cheltenham	116,306	117,090	-784	-0.7%
Cotswold	89,862	89,022	840	0.9%
Forest of Dean	86,791	86,543	248	0.3%
Gloucester	129,128	129,285	-157	-0.1%
Stroud	119,964	119,019	945	0.8%
Tewkesbury	95,019	92,599	2,420	2.6%
South West	5,624,696	5,599,735	24,961	0.4%
England	56,286,961	55,977,178	309,783	0.6%
England and Wales	59,439,840	59,115,809	324,031	0.5%
Great Britain	64,903,140	64,553,909	349,231	0.5%
United Kingdom	66,796,807	66,435,550	361,257	0.5%

United Kingdom Rankings of Local Authorities by percentage change

It was mentioned above that Tewkesbury Borough is estimated to have grown the fastest over the past year with 2.6% increase in population 2018-2019. In fact it has the 5th highest percentage growth amongst districts of the UK (see Table 2). Only City of London, Camden, South Derbyshire and Dartford exceed it. The increases in the population in the two London Boroughs are largely driven by international migration whereas in Tewkesbury, South Derbyshire and Dartford it is largely driven by internal migration.

The Cotswold District is ranked 74th of 379 districts and again growth is driven largely by internal migration as the natural change (births minus deaths) is negative.

Stroud District and The Forest of Dean rank 97th and 267th.

Gloucester and Cheltenham have negative growth and are ranked 344th and 374th respectively. Both these districts have negative internal migration rates.

Table 2: Population change and components of change Gloucestershire districts (2018-19)

District	Population change (%2018-19)	Net internal migration rate (% 2018 to 2019)	Net international migration rate (% 2018 to 2019)	Natural change rate (% 2018 to 2019)	Rank of pop change (of 379UK districts)
Tewkesbury	2.6	2.4	0.1	0.1	5
Cotswold	0.9	1.1	-0.1	-0.2	74
Stroud	0.8	0.9	0.1	-0.1	97
Forest of Dean	0.3	0.4	0.1	-0.2	267
Gloucester	-0.1	-0.5	0.1	0.3	344
Cheltenham	-0.7	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	374

Age Structure

The proportion of children and young people aged 0-19 (22.4%) in Gloucestershire was slightly higher than that for the South West but lower than that for England and Wales.

The working age population (aged 20-64) made up 56.0% of the population in Gloucestershire in 2019. This was slightly higher than the figure for South West, but lower than that for England and Wales. The proportion of people aged 65 or over (21.6%) was lower than that for South West but higher than that for England and Wales.

The percentage of the population of working age in Gloucestershire at 56.0%, is nearly 2 percentage points lower than that of England and Wales, and has declined from 56.2% last year.

The 90 years and over population continues to increase despite a decline in births in England and Wales 90 years ago; this reflects improvements in mortality going back many decades.

Table 3: Age structure of the Gloucestershire population, mid-2019

Age Band	Number of people 2018	Gloucestershire %	South West %	England and Wales %
0-19	142,506	22.4	21.9	23.5
20-64	357,054	56.0	55.8	57.9
65 and over	137,510	21.6	22.3	18.5

Age Band	Number of people 2018	Gloucestershire %	South West %	England and Wales %
90+	6,665	1.0	1.2	0.9

Table 4 shows that from 2018 to 2019, population growth in Gloucestershire was fastest in the 65+ age group, which increased by 1.9%; this was the same rate as in the South West and faster than the rates for this age group in England and Wales (1.7%). The rate of growth in the children and young people (0-19) population in Gloucestershire (0.2%) was slightly higher than the rates for the South West (0.0%) and lower than England and Wales (0.3%) whilst the growth in the working age (20-64) population of 0.2% was slightly higher than the South West (0.0%) and lower than England and Wales (0.3%).

Table 4: Population change by age (%), 2018 to 2019

Age Band	Gloucestershire %	South West %	England and Wales %
0-19	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
20-64	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
65 and over	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%

The older population

Table 5 shows in more detail the age structure of the older population in Gloucestershire in 2019. The largest group is people aged 65-74 with 73,800 people, whilst those aged 85 and over make up 18,332 of the people in Gloucestershire, 11,715 of which are female. The fastest percentage growth in these older age groups is the 75-84 age group which has grown by 4.1% since last year.

Table 5: The older population in Gloucestershire, mid-2019

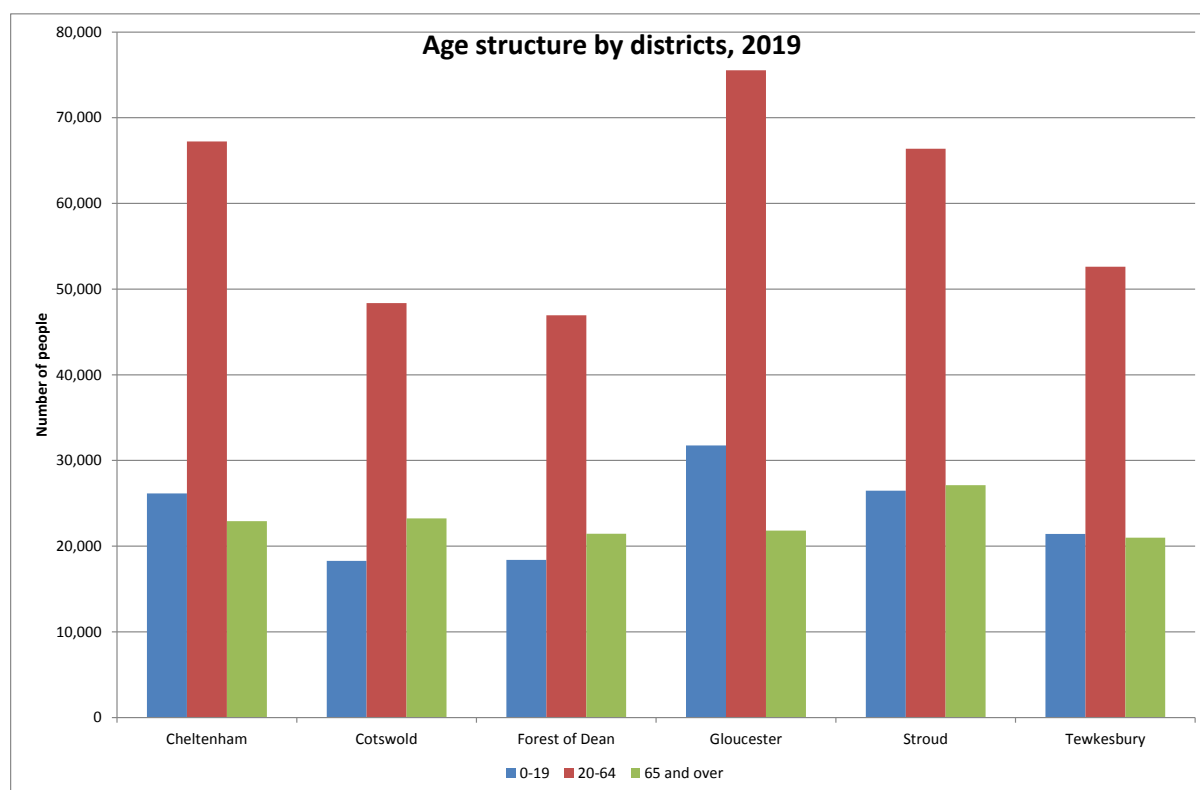
	Males	Females	All persons	% change since 2018 (all persons)
65-74	35,270	38,530	73,800	0.6%
75-84	20,929	24,449	45,378	4.1%
85 and over	6,617	11,715	18,332	1.7%

Age Structure in the Gloucestershire Districts

Figure 1 shows the structure of the population in the six Gloucestershire districts in 2018:

- Gloucester had the highest number of 0-19 year olds (31,762) and Cotswold the lowest number (18,275)
- Gloucester and Cheltenham had the highest number of 20-64 years olds (75,542 and 67,234 people respectively) and Forest of Dean and Cotswold the lowest (46,933 and 48,356 people respectively).
- Stroud has the highest number of people aged 65 and over with 27,112 people and Tewkesbury the lowest with 20,979

Figure 1: Age Structure in the Gloucestershire Districts Mid-2019



Data Source: Mid-2019 population estimates, Office for National Statistics

Ageing population

An area is considered to have an ageing population if the median age of its residents is increasing, Gloucestershire does have an ageing population, the median age is 44.5 years in 2019 compared with 44.3 years in 2018 and only 39.9 in 2001. All the individual districts also have an ageing population with the exception of Tewkesbury Borough where the median age peaked at 45.0 in 2016 and has now fallen to 44.5. This is likely to be the effect of younger people moving into the Borough where there has been, and continues to be, significant new housing.

The median age of the Gloucestershire population in 2019 is 0.4 years older than the SW median and 4.3 years older than England and Wales. Those differentials have remained the same since 2018.

See table 6 below

Table 6: Median age of Gloucestershire residents

District	Median age 2019	Median age 2018	Median age 2011	Median age 2001
Cheltenham	40.7	40.2	38.5	37.8
Cotswold	49.1	48.8	46.5	42.9
Forest of Dean	48.2	47.9	45.4	41.2
Gloucester	39.2	38.9	38.2	36.8
Stroud	46.7	46.4	44.4	41.3
Tewkesbury	44.5	44.7	44.1	41.2
Gloucestershire	44.5	44.3	42.6	39.9
South-West	44.1	43.9	42.7	40.5
England and Wales	40.2	40.0	39.5	37.9