

Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2020)

An Overview

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Contents

Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2020) An Overview	3
Population Composition	5
Population Composition Change 2019-20	8
Components of Population Change	9
Dependency Ratios	11
Focus on the over-65 Population	12
90+ Age Group	13
Median Age	14
Population Density	15

Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2020) An Overview

The Office of National Statistics estimated that Gloucestershire's population was 640,650 in 2020. This is an increase of 0.56% between 2019-20, which is higher than the growth rate of 0.47% for England. Overall, in the last 29 years, the population of Gloucestershire is estimated to have grown year-on-year, with the exception of 1998.

Gloucester continues to have the largest population with 120,709 people and Cotswold continues to have the smallest at 90,264. Between 2019-20, Tewkesbury had the most population growth at 1.69% followed by Stroud with a 0.78% increase. Cheltenham was the only district to experience negative growth, (-0.23%) reducing the estimated population by 263 people compared to 2019.

Table 1. Mid-population Estimates in Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2019-20

Area	Population 2020	Population 2019	Net Change 2019-2020	% Change 2019-2020
Gloucestershire	640,650	637,070	3,580	0.56%
Cheltenham	116,043	116,306	-263	-0.23%
Cotswold	90,264	89,862	402	0.45%
Forest of Dean	87,107	86,791	316	0.36%
Gloucester	129,709	129,128	581	0.45%
Stroud	120,903	119,964	939	0.78%
Tewkesbury	96,624	95,019	1,605	1.69%
South West	5,659,143	5,624,696	34,447	0.61%
England	56,550,138	56,286,961	263,177	0.47%
England and Wales	59,719,724	59,439,840	279,884	0.47%
Great Britain	65,185,724	64,903,140	282,584	0.44%
United Kingdom	67,081,234	66,796,807	284,427	0.43%

As well as being the district with the highest growth in Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury has had one of the highest district growth rates in the UK. Between 2019-20, it was ranked 13th, out of 379 districts, for its percentage growth amongst the UK's districts. This is 8 places down from its ranking as 5th between 2018-19. The main driver for Tewkesbury's population growth is internal migration.

UK District Rank for Population Growth, 2018-19 and 2019-20

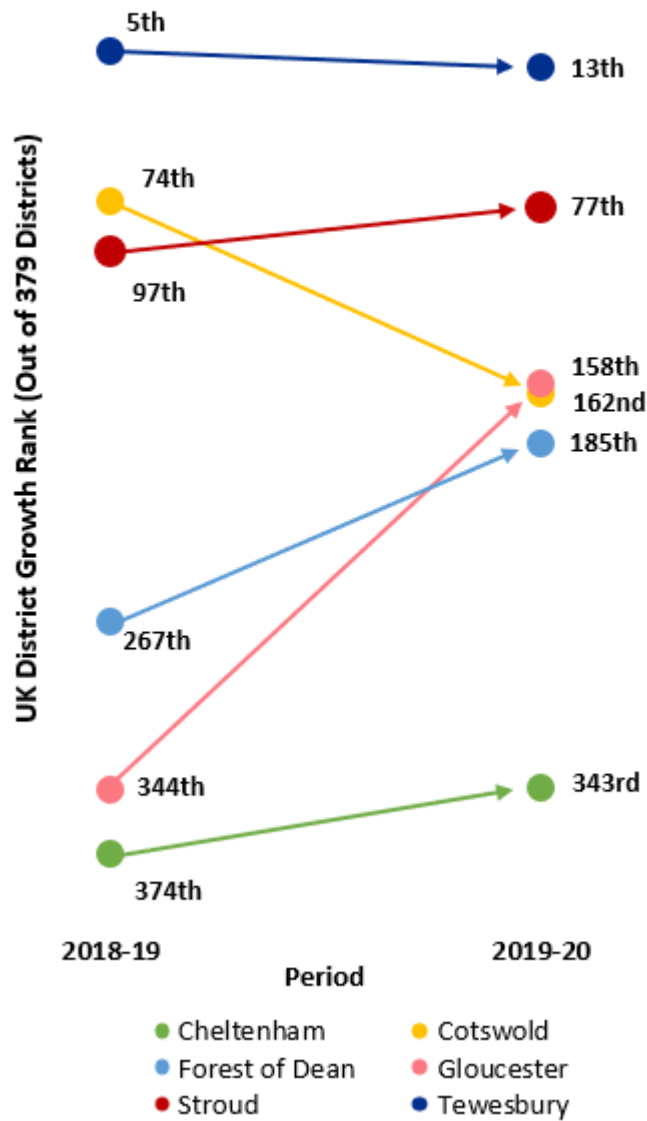


Figure 1. UK District Rank for Population Growth, Gloucestershire Districts (Out of 379 Districts)

Population Composition

Population pyramids illustrate the current age structure of a population as well as the gender balance. Gloucestershire's population pyramid indicates it has an ageing population.

The overall gender distribution for Gloucestershire is 49.04% males and 50.96% females. Additionally, the population pyramid indicates that between ages 0-29 there is a slightly higher proportion of males than females which is reversed for 30+ year olds. In comparison, England has a 49.48% share of males and the South West has a 49.21% share of males.

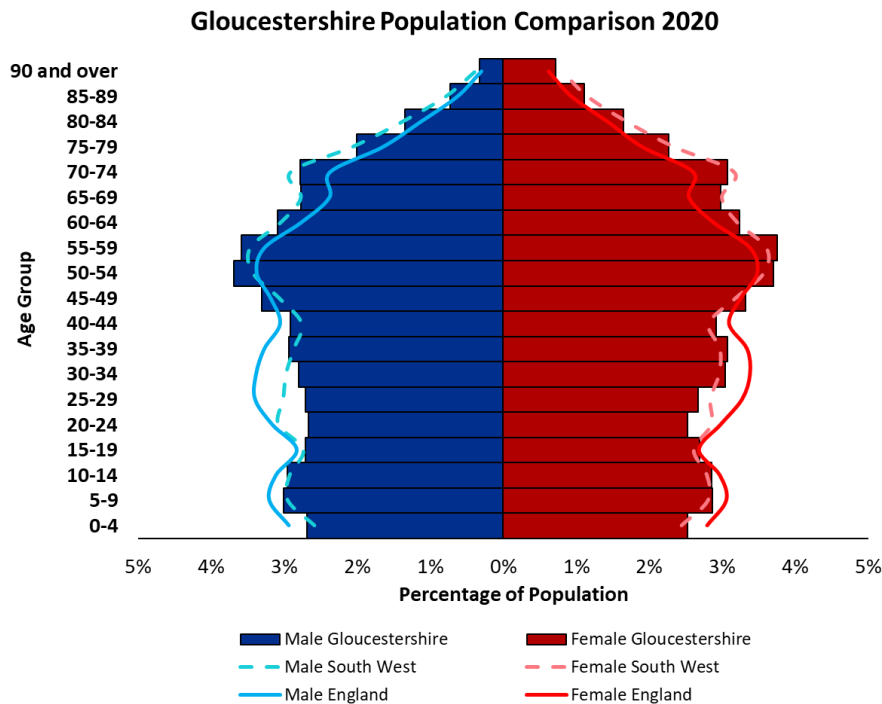


Figure 2. Gloucestershire Population Pyramid, 2020

The proportion of people over the age of 65 is higher in Gloucestershire (21.76%) than in England (18.50%) but slightly lower than in the South West (22.45%).

The proportion of the population who are of working-age is 55.94% in Gloucestershire. This is lower than the overall working-age proportion in England (57.94%) but slightly higher than in the South West (55.70%). Noticeably there is a smaller proportion of 20-39-year olds in Gloucestershire than in England as a whole.

Gloucestershire also has a slightly smaller proportion of people age 19 and under compared to England, 22.30% vs. 23.57%. However, the proportion of 0-19 years olds in Gloucestershire is higher than in the South West (21.85%).

Table 2. Population Composition of Gloucestershire and its Districts by Broad Age Groups

Age Group	0-19	20-64	65+
Gloucestershire	22.30%	55.94%	21.76%
Cotswold	20.33%	53.46%	26.21%
Forest of Dean	21.05%	54.05%	24.91%
Gloucester	24.53%	58.41%	17.06%
Stroud	21.92%	55.35%	22.73%
Tewkesbury	22.49%	55.43%	22.08%
South West	21.85%	55.70%	22.45%
England	23.57%	57.92%	18.50%
United Kingdom	23.34%	58.01%	18.65%

District Focus

The population pyramids for each of the districts in Gloucestershire shows some distinct differences.

To some extent all of the districts, apart from Gloucester and Cheltenham, have a narrower proportion of working-age groups compared to England. This is particularly distinct in the Cotswold.

Key points:

- Gloucester has the highest proportion of 0-19-year olds with a share of 24.35% compared to Forest of Dean which has the lowest proportion of under 19s with 20.33%.
- Gloucester also has the highest share of working-age people between 20-64 at 58.41% compared to Cotswold which has the lowest with 53.46%.
- Cotswold has the highest share of over-65s at 26.21%, whilst Gloucester has the smallest at 17.06%.
- All districts had a lower percentage of males than females.
- Gloucester had the highest percentage of males at 49.45% compared to females whereas, Cotswold had the lowest at 48.36%.

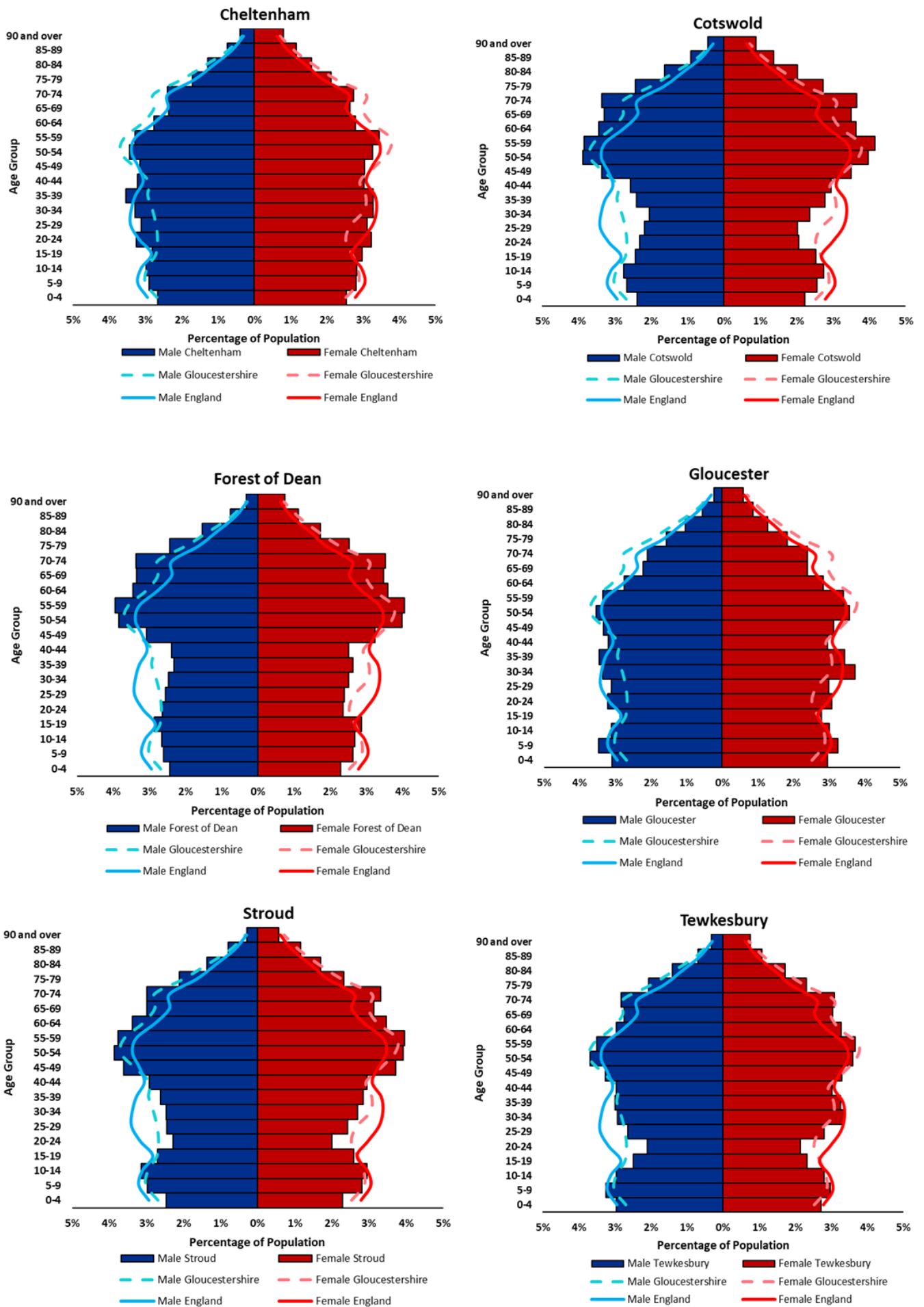


Figure 3. District Population Structures

Population Composition Change 2019-20

Between 2019-20 there were changes in the population composition by broad age group:

- Gloucestershire's 0-19 population increased by 0.25%, which is equivalent to the South West but lower than England's 0.36% increase.
- There was a 0.37% increase in the working-age population, 20-64, in Gloucestershire which is lower than in the South West, with a 0.45% increase, but higher than England overall which had a 0.32% increase.
- The over-65 population increased by 1.39% in Gloucestershire which is higher than both the South West, 1.37% increase, and England, 1.07% increase.

District Focus

Age Structure Changes Between 2019-20

- 0-19-year olds:
 - Tewkesbury had the largest increase with 1.39% more people aged 0-19.
 - Cheltenham (-0.10%) and Forest of Dean (-0.37%) both had decreases in their 0-19 population.
- 20-64- year olds:
 - Tewkesbury had the largest increase in the working-age population at 1.81%.
 - Both Cheltenham (-0.66%) and Cotswold (-0.20%) experienced decreases in their 20-64 population.
- 65+ year olds
 - Cotswold had the largest increase with 1.84% more people being added to the over-65 population.
 - All districts experienced increases in the number of people aged 65 and over.

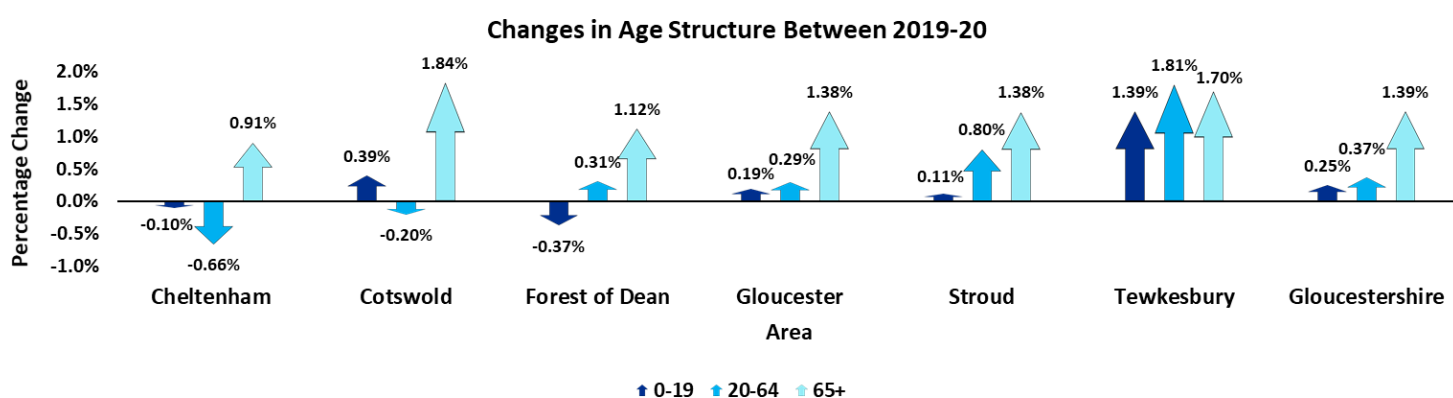


Figure 4. Gloucestershire and its Districts Broad Age Group Change Between 2019-20

Components of Population Change

The change in population size is calculated by adding the number of births and deaths, net internal migration, net international migration and any special adjustments. Gloucestershire had more deaths than births overall between 2019-20. The main driver of population growth in the county was internal migration as more people moved into the county than moved out. Internal migration increased Gloucestershire's population by 0.51%. There were also more people immigrating to Gloucestershire than emigrating, which increased the population by 0.16%.

Gloucestershire's components of change were similar to the South West. In contrast, England had more births than deaths (0.8% natural change) which is opposite to Gloucestershire. Also, whilst most of Gloucestershire's population growth was attributed to internal migration, England's population growth was mostly contributed to by international migration (0.41%).

Table 3. Components of Population Change in Gloucestershire, 2019-2020

Components of Population Change 2019-20					
Area	% Population Change	% Natural Change (Births minus Deaths)	% Internal Migration	% International Migration	% Special and Other Adjustments
Gloucestershire	0.56%	-0.14%	0.51%	0.16%	0.04%
Cheltenham	-0.23%	-0.13%	-0.37%	0.25%	0.03%
Cotswold	0.45%	-0.36%	0.59%	0.14%	0.07%
Forest of Dean	0.36%	-0.25%	0.48%	0.09%	0.04%
Gloucester	0.45%	0.10%	0.13%	0.19%	0.02%
Stroud	0.78%	-0.27%	0.93%	0.09%	0.04%
Tewkesbury	1.69%	-0.02%	1.50%	0.16%	0.05%
South West	0.61%	-0.15%	0.48%	0.22%	0.06%
England	0.47%	0.08%	-0.04%	0.41%	0.01%
United Kingdom	0.43%	0.05%	0.00%	0.37%	0.01%

*Special populations refer to static populations who are not captured by the internal and international migration estimates, for example, prisons and the armed forces; the adjustments account for movement between these areas.

District Focus:

- Gloucester was the only district to have more births than deaths between 2019-20.
- Tewkesbury had the highest inflow of people migrating there from other parts of the country.
- Cheltenham is the only district to have more people move out of the area than into it.
- All districts saw more people move into the district from international countries than people moving out of the district to live abroad.

Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios¹ are a measure that indicates the level of support that needs to be provided by the working population to the youth and older population. A low dependency ratio indicates that there is a sufficient ratio of the working population to the dependent population. In contrast, a high dependency ratio indicates there may be more financial burden on the working population to support the dependent population. Gloucestershire had an estimated dependency ratio of 0.79 which means for every 100 people who are of working-age there are 79 people who are dependent on them. England, in comparison, has a lower ratio of 0.72 meaning that for every 100 working-age people there are 72 dependents. Gloucestershire's dependency ratio is similar to the South West's.

Table 4. Age Structure of Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2020

Age Group	0-19	20-64	65+	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio	Old-age Dependency Ratio
Gloucestershire	22.30%	55.94%	21.76%	0.74	0.39	0.35
Cotswold	20.33%	53.46%	26.21%	0.87	0.38	0.49
Forest of Dean	21.05%	54.05%	24.91%	0.85	0.39	0.46
Gloucester	24.53%	58.41%	17.06%	0.71	0.42	0.29
Stroud	21.92%	55.35%	22.73%	0.81	0.40	0.41
Tewkesbury	22.49%	55.43%	22.08%	0.80	0.41	0.40
South West	21.85%	55.70%	22.45%	0.79	0.40	0.39
England	23.57%	57.92%	18.50%	0.80	0.39	0.40
United Kingdom	23.34%	58.01%	18.65%	0.73	0.41	0.32

District Focus:

- In 2020 Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio at 0.87 whilst Gloucester had the lowest at 0.71.
- Interestingly, Cotswold had the lowest youth dependency ratio and the highest old-age dependency ratio whereas, Gloucester had the highest youth dependency ratio and the lowest old-age dependency ratio.

¹ Dependency ratios only provide a rough indication of the level of support needed to sustain the dependent population and should not be used on its own. As the retirement age increases, the dependency ratio should change.

Focus on the over-65 Population

In Gloucestershire, the largest age group was those aged between 65-74 with 74,373 people, an increase of 0.71% from 2019. Overall, the age group with the greatest percentage increase in Gloucestershire was 75-84-year olds at 2.75%. This is the same for England (2.32% increase) and the South West (3.45% increase).

Table 5. Age Breakdown of Population Change in the Over-65s in Gloucestershire, 2019-2020

	65-74			75-84			85+		
	2019	2020	% Change	2019	2020	% Change	2019	2020	% Change
Gloucestershire	73800	74323	0.71	45378	46624	2.75	18332	18473	0.77
Cheltenham	11733	11,767	0.29	7586	7,764	2.35	3591	3,587	-0.11
Cotswold	12271	12,464	1.57	7733	7,949	2.79	3227	3,245	0.56
Forest of Dean	11974	11,955	-0.16	6973	7,179	2.95	2507	2,561	2.15
Gloucester	11701	11,814	0.97	7184	7,390	2.87	2939	2,922	-0.58
Stroud	14888	15,013	0.84	8897	9,082	2.08	3327	3,392	1.95
Tewkesbury	11233	11,310	0.69	7005	7,260	3.64	2741	2,766	0.91
South West	668,999	670,184	0.18	409,151	423,265	3.45	174,979	176,852	1.07
England	5,576,066	5,598,428	0.40	3,380,599	3,459,181	2.32	1,397,051	1,406,410	0.67
United Kingdom	6,687,066	6,719,287	0.48	4,040,624	4,129,982	2.21	1,647,271	1,659,369	0.73

District Focus

- Gloucester had the highest increase in 65-74-year olds (0.97%) whereas Tewkesbury was the only district to have a decrease in the number of 65-74-year olds (-0.16%).
- Tewkesbury experienced the highest increase in 75-84-year olds (3.64% increase) whilst Stroud experienced the lowest (2.08% increase).
- Stroud had the highest increase in 85+ year olds with a 1.95% increase. Gloucester (-0.58%) and Cheltenham (-0.11%), experienced a decrease in the number of 85+ year olds between 2019-20.

90+ Age Group

Looking at the oldest old age group of 90+, Gloucestershire's overall 90+ population decreased between 2019-20 and made up 1.04% of the population in 2020. England (0.92%) had a lower proportion of 90+ year olds than Gloucestershire however, the South West had a higher proportion with a 1.18% share.

Table 6. Population Change in the 90+ Age Group in Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2019- 2020

	All 90+	90+ as a Percentage of the Population	% Change in Population Size Between 2019-20
Gloucestershire	6,658	1.04%	-0.11%
Cheltenham	1,385	1.19%	0.14%
Cotswold	1,194	1.32%	1.27%
Forest of Dean	917	1.05%	0.55%
Gloucester	1,080	0.83%	-3.57%
Stroud	1,042	0.86%	1.76%
Tewkesbury	1,040	1.08%	-0.67%
South West	67,043	1.18%	1.29%
England	521,067	0.92%	0.73%
United Kingdom	609,503	0.91%	0.71%

District Focus

- Cotswold had the highest share of 90+ year olds at 1.32% of the population, whilst Gloucester had the lowest at 0.83%.
- Between 2019-20 Gloucester (-3.57%) and Tewkesbury's (-0.67%) 90+ population decreased.

Median Age

The average age of an individual living in Gloucestershire is increasing. This is another indicator that the population is ageing. Between mid-2000 and mid-2020 the median age in Gloucestershire has increased by 4.6 years, from 39.9 to 44.5. In 2020, the average age in Gloucestershire was higher than the average for the South West (44.1) and England (40.2).

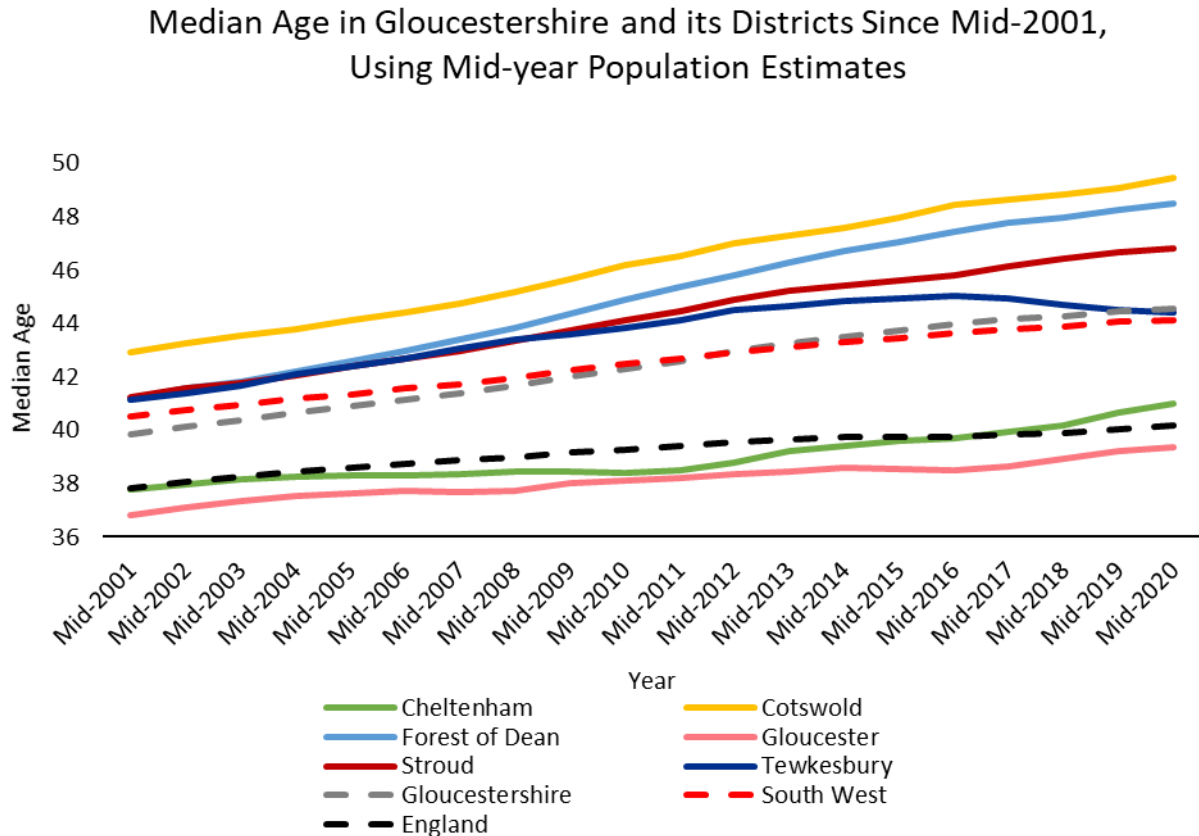


Figure 5. Median Age in Gloucestershire and its Districts, since 2001

District Focus:

- Each of the districts have experienced an increase in the median age apart from Tewkesbury which has seen year-on-year decreases since 2015.
- In 2020, Cotswold had the highest median age at 49.4 whereas, Gloucester had the lowest at 39.4.
- Gloucester is the only district to have a median age lower than England in 2020.

Population Density

Overall, the population density in Gloucestershire is increasing. In 2020 Gloucestershire was estimated to have a population density of 242 people per square kilometre. Compared to England, Gloucestershire had 192 fewer people per kilometre squared but was more densely populated than the South West overall with 5 more people per kilometre squared.

Table 7. Population Density in Gloucestershire and its Districts

Population Density	Land Area (sq./km)	Population per sq./km		
		2020	2019	% Increase 2019-20
Gloucestershire	2653	242	240	0.56%
Cheltenham	47	2490	2496	-0.23%
Cotswold	1165	78	77	0.45%
Forest of Dean	526	166	165	0.36%
Gloucester	41	3199	3184	0.45%
Stroud	461	263	260	0.78%
Tewkesbury	414	233	229	1.69%
South West	23836	237	236	0.61%
England	130310	434	432	0.47%
UK	242741	276	275	0.43%

District Focus:

- Of the districts, Gloucester has the highest population density with 3,199 people per square kilometre in 2020 followed by Cheltenham at 2,490 people per square kilometre.
- In contrast, Cotswold has the lowest population density at 78 people per square kilometre.
- All areas experienced an increase in the population density apart from Cheltenham.
- Tewkesbury had the biggest increase in population density between 2019-20 at 1.69%.