

# Current population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2022 population estimates)<sup>1</sup>

## An overview

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<sup>1</sup> All data in this report is sourced from the Office for National Statistics Population Estimates,  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

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Note: Throughout this report a comparison is made between Gloucestershire and all 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales as well as between Gloucestershire's districts and all 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales. A comparison is also made to Gloucestershire's geographical and statistical neighbours. Geographical neighbours are local authorities which share a boundary with Gloucestershire, there are 12 local authorities, including Gloucestershire, in the geographical neighbour group, these are: Bath and North East Somerset; Bristol; Gloucestershire; Herefordshire; Monmouthshire; North Somerset; Oxfordshire; South Gloucestershire; Swindon; Warwickshire; Wiltshire and Worcestershire. Statistical neighbours are local authorities which share similar characteristics such as, social and economic features. There are 16 statistical neighbours in the group, including Gloucestershire, these are: Cambridgeshire; Devon; East Sussex; Essex; Gloucestershire; Hampshire; Leicestershire; North Yorkshire; Nottinghamshire; Oxfordshire; Somerset; Staffordshire; Suffolk; Warwickshire; West Sussex; Worcestershire.

## 1. Population overview

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates that at mid-year 2022 the population of Gloucestershire was 652,409, as shown in Table 1. This is an increase of 0.92% between mid-2021 and mid-2022, which is higher than the South West population growth of 0.91% and lower than the overall England and Wales population growth of 0.97%.

Gloucester continues to have the largest population with 133,522 people and Forest of Dean the smallest with 87,937. Between mid-2021-22, Tewkesbury had the highest population growth at 1.68% followed by Stroud with an increase of 1.41%. All districts saw growth in their population sizes.

*Table 1: Mid-population estimates in Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid 2021-22*

Area	Population Mid-2022	Population Mid-2021	Net change 2021-22	% change 2021-22
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>652,409</b>	<b>646,485</b>	<b>5,924</b>	<b>0.92%</b>
Cheltenham	119,434	118,838	596	0.50%
Cotswold	91,311	91,076	235	0.26%
Forest of Dean	87,937	87,114	823	0.94%
Gloucester	133,522	132,564	958	0.72%
Stroud	123,205	121,493	1,712	1.41%
Tewkesbury	97,000	95,400	1,600	1.68%
<b>South West</b>	<b>5,764,881</b>	<b>5,712,822</b>	<b>52,059</b>	<b>0.91%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>57,106,398</b>	<b>56,554,891</b>	<b>551,507</b>	<b>0.98%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>60,238,038</b>	<b>59,660,524</b>	<b>577,514</b>	<b>0.97%</b>

Comparing the 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire had the 64<sup>th</sup> highest population growth between mid-2021 and mid-2022, placing it within the top 40%. Furthermore, compared to its geographical and statistical neighbours, Gloucestershire was placed in the middle for population growth.

Out of 331 district and unitary authorities, Tewkesbury was within the top 20% for population growth, placed at 39<sup>th</sup> as well as Stroud which was placed at 66<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, Cheltenham was the only district to be placed in the 40% lowest authorities for population growth between mid-2021 and mid-2022. Figure 1 indicates that when compared to all other districts and unitary authorities, Cotswold's population growth has fallen noticeably lower in the ranking from 60<sup>th</sup> mid-2020-2021, which put it in the top 40% of authorities, to 268<sup>th</sup> mid-2021-22, putting it in the bottom 40%. Stroud also had a lower ranking in mid-2021-22. All the other districts had a higher ranking for population growth in mid-2021-22 compared to mid-2020-21.

## Rank of district and unitary authority population growth in England and Wales, 2020-21 and 2021-22

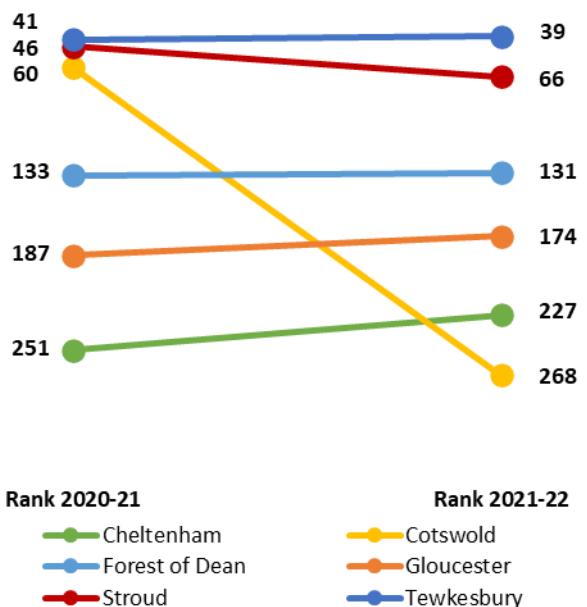


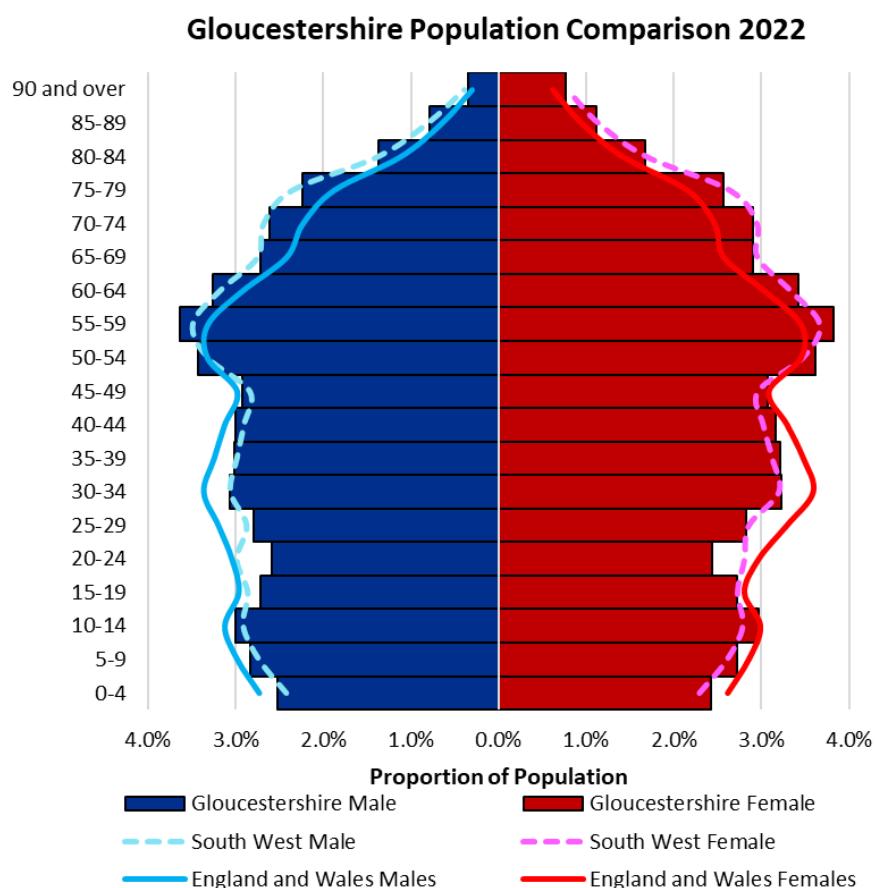
Figure 1: Rank of district and unitary authority population growth in England and Wales, mid 2020-21 and mid 2021-22

## 2. Population composition

Population pyramids, shown in Figure 2, illustrate the current age structure of a population as well as the gender balance. Gloucestershire's population pyramid indicates it has an ageing population, indicated by the wider top half of the pyramid and narrowing base.

The overall gender distribution for Gloucestershire is 48.88% males and 51.12% females. In comparison, England and Wales has a 49.00% share of males and the South West has a 48.97% share of males.

Additionally, the Gloucestershire 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. Whilst the South West population pyramid broadly reflects the Gloucestershire pyramid, there is some noticeable differences to the England and Wales population pyramid. Gloucestershire and the South West have a higher proportion of people in the 55+ age groups and a smaller proportion of the population in the 15-19 to 40-44 age groups. Therefore, indicating that population ageing is at a more advanced stage in Gloucestershire and the South West compared to the overall population in England and Wales.



*Figure 2: Population pyramid, Gloucestershire, the South West and England and Wales, mid-2022*

At district level, population pyramids for each of Gloucestershire's districts is shown below in Figure 3, with comparison lines for Gloucestershire and England and Wales. All the districts show signs of an ageing population whereby the age groups at the top of the pyramid are already wider than the middle and base and are continuing to widen. However, the urban districts Cheltenham and Gloucester show that their population ageing is less advanced as there is a lower proportion of the population in the 65+ age groups than the Gloucestershire average. Furthermore, Cheltenham and Gloucester have a noticeably higher proportion of the population in the 20-24 to 35-39 age groups than Gloucestershire overall whilst the opposite can be said for Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Stroud, and to some extent Tewkesbury.

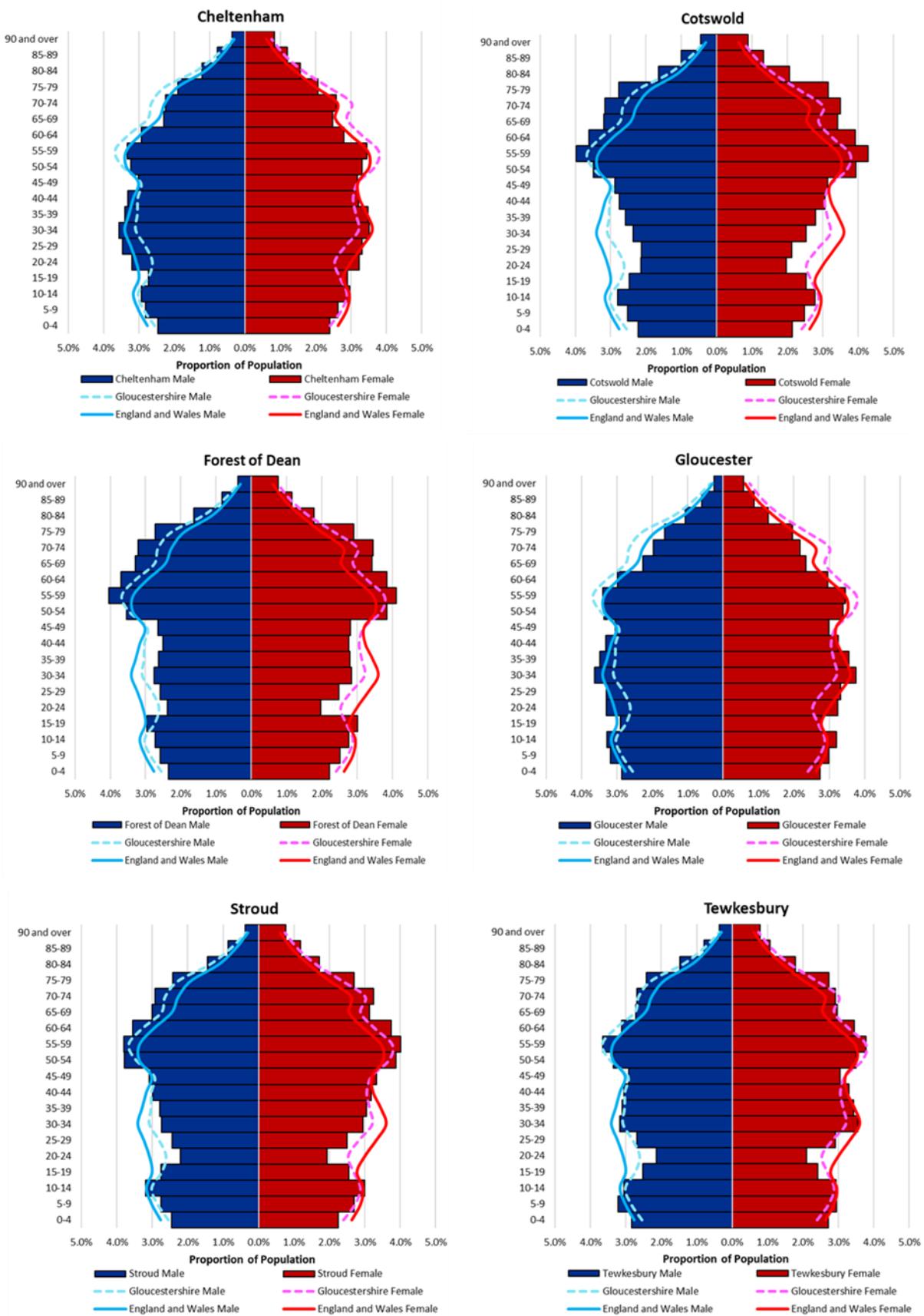


Figure 3: District population pyramids compared to Gloucestershire and England and Wales, mid-2022

## 2.1 Broad age groups

The population composition can also be examined by broad age group. Table 2 indicates that Gloucestershire has a smaller proportion of people aged 15 and under compared to England and Wales, 17.55% vs. 18.47%. However, the proportion of 0-15-year-olds in Gloucestershire is higher than the South West (16.87%). Compared to all 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire is placed within the bottom 40% for its 0-15 population proportion size at 121<sup>st</sup>. Gloucestershire is also placed in the middle of its geographical and statistical neighbours

*Table 2: Broad age group proportions, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid-2022*

	0-15	16-64	65+
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>17.55%</b>	<b>60.53%</b>	<b>21.92%</b>
Cheltenham	17.44%	62.95%	19.61%
Cotswold	16.00%	57.46%	26.54%
Forest of Dean	16.04%	58.65%	25.30%
Gloucester	19.25%	63.85%	16.89%
Stroud	17.26%	59.29%	23.46%
Tewkesbury	18.52%	59.13%	22.35%
<b>South West</b>	<b>16.87%</b>	<b>60.56%</b>	<b>22.57%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>18.52%</b>	<b>62.87%</b>	<b>18.61%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>18.47%</b>	<b>62.77%</b>	<b>18.76%</b>

Table 2 also shows 60.53% of Gloucestershire's population is aged 16-64. This is lower than the overall working-age proportion in England and Wales (62.77%) and marginally lower than the South West (60.56%). Noticeably there is a smaller proportion of 20-39 year olds in Gloucestershire than in England and Wales as a whole. Out of 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire was placed in the bottom 40% for its working-age population size at 131<sup>st</sup>. However, it was placed in the middle of its geographical neighbours and in the top 50% of its statistical neighbours.

In contrast, the proportion of the population over the age of 65 is higher in Gloucestershire (21.92%) than in England and Wales (18.76%) but lower than the South West region (22.57%). Comparing the 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire had the 41<sup>st</sup> largest proportion of its population accounted for by 65+ year olds, placing it within the 40% largest proportion sizes. Out of 12 geographical neighbours, Gloucestershire's 65+ proportion size was placed in the middle of the group however, it was placed in the bottom middle of the 16 statistical neighbours group at 10<sup>th</sup>.

Out of Gloucestershire's districts, Gloucester had the highest proportion of 0-15 year olds accounting for 19.25% of its population. In contrast, Cotswold the lowest

proportion with 16.00% of the population. Compared to all district and unitary authorities, Gloucester is placed in the top 40% with the 97<sup>th</sup> largest 0-15 population proportion and Cotswold is placed in the lowest 40% at 279<sup>th</sup>.

For the 16–64-year age group, Gloucester also had the highest proportion, accounting for 63.85% of its population and Cotswold had the lowest proportion at 57.46%. In comparison to the 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucester is ranked in the top 20% at 70<sup>th</sup> for its 16-64 population proportion size, whilst Cotswold is in the bottom quintile at 295<sup>th</sup>.

Furthermore, Cotswold had the highest proportion of the population aged 65+ accounting for 26.54% of the total population and Gloucester had the smallest proportion accounting for 16.89% of the population. Compared to all authorities in England and Wales, Cotswold is within the top 20% for largest proportion size at 34<sup>th</sup> and Gloucester is placed at 253<sup>rd</sup>.

### 3. Broad age group change between mid-2021 and mid-2022

Between 2021 and 2022, there was an increase in the number of people in all three broad age groups in Gloucestershire, as shown in Figure 4. The largest increase was in the 0-15 age group, which increased by 1.68%, followed by the 65+ year olds, by 1.60% and the 16–64 year olds, which increased by 0.45%. Increases were also seen at a regional and national level, however, the increases in England and Wales were smaller for the 0-15 and 65+ year olds, and larger for the 16-64 year olds when compared to Gloucestershire. Likewise in the South West.

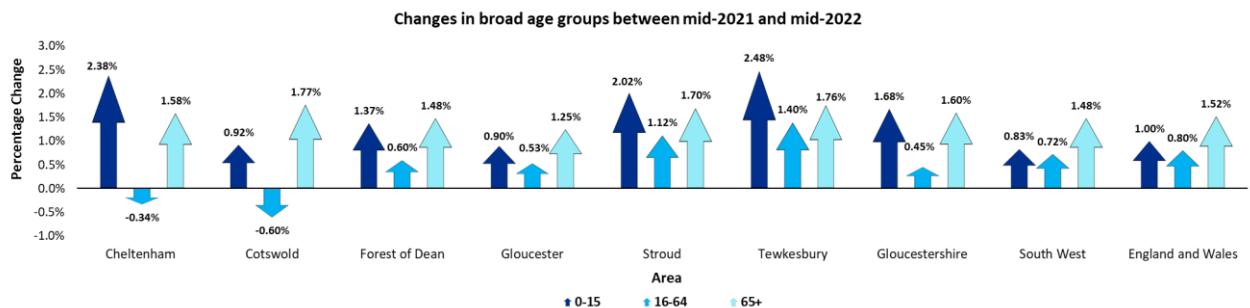


Figure 4: Changes in broad age group between mid 2021-22, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales

All the districts saw an increase in the number of people in the 0-15 age group, the largest increase was in Tewkesbury by 2.48% and the smallest was in Gloucester, 0.90%. There was also an increase in the 65+ year age group for all the districts. The biggest increase was in Cotswold, with a 1.77% increase, and the smallest in Gloucester, with a 1.25% increase. The picture is more mixed when looking at the working-age population, 16-64. Cheltenham and Cotswold both saw decreases in the number of people in this age group, with a 0.34% and 0.60% decrease respectively. The other four districts saw increases with Tewkesbury once again experiencing the biggest percentage increase at 1.40%.

## 4. Components of population change

The change in population size between two years is calculated by adding the number of births and deaths, net internal migration, net international migration and any special adjustments to the previous year's population figure.

Overall, Gloucestershire's population size increased by 0.92% between mid-2021-22, this figure was calculated from the following component percentage changes as shown in Table 3. Gloucestershire had more deaths than births, leading to a -0.13% reduction in natural population change. The main driver of population growth in the county was internal migration as more people moved into the county than out of it. Internal migration increased Gloucestershire's population by 0.65%. There was also more people immigrating, moving from countries outside of the UK to Gloucestershire than emigrating, leaving Gloucestershire and moving to a country outside of the UK, which increased the population by 0.38%. There was no special adjustments made.

Whilst Gloucestershire had a similar percentage change in its population size to the South West, the South West overall experienced a bigger decrease in natural change (-0.20%), a smaller increase in internal migration (0.57%) and a bigger increase in international migration (0.53%). In contrast, England and Wales had more births than deaths, with a 0.8% increase in natural change, opposite to Gloucestershire. England and Wales's population growth is largely attributed to international migration which saw the population grow by 0.9%. In contrast, there was negative population growth attributed by internal migration from England and Wales to the other parts of the UK.

*Table 3: Components of population change between mid 2021-22, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales<sup>2</sup>*

Components of Population Change 2021-22					
Area	% Population Change	% Natural Change (Births minus Deaths)	% Internal Migration	% International Migration	% Special and Other Adjustments
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>0.92%</b>	<b>-0.13%</b>	<b>0.65%</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Cheltenham	0.50%	-0.10%	-0.02%	0.61%	0.02%
Cotswold	0.26%	-0.34%	0.25%	0.31%	0.03%
Forest of Dean	0.94%	-0.33%	1.14%	0.20%	-0.08%
Gloucester	0.72%	0.11%	-0.06%	0.67%	0.00%
Stroud	1.41%	-0.24%	1.42%	0.19%	0.02%
Tewkesbury	1.68%	0.03%	1.40%	0.20%	0.03%
<b>South West</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>	<b>0.57%</b>	<b>0.53%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>0.98%</b>	<b>0.09%</b>	<b>-0.04%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>0.97%</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>-0.02%</b>	<b>0.90%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

In two of Gloucestershire's districts, there was a positive natural change, Gloucester's population naturally increased by 0.11% and Tewkesbury's population naturally increased by 0.03%. Three of the districts had their populations increase by more than 1% by internal migration, these were Forest of Dean (1.14%), Stroud (1.42%) and Tewkesbury (1.40%). Cheltenham and Gloucester both saw more people leaving the district than move into them. All the districts saw more people immigrate to the county from abroad than emigrate to another country, the largest increase was in Gloucester (0.67%). Forest of Dean was the only district to lose people classed as a special population or receive other adjustments which caused a 0.08% decrease in the population.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## 5. Dependency ratios

Dependency ratios are a measure that indicate the level of support that needs to be provided by the working age (16-64) population to the younger and older population, people aged 0-15 or 65+. A low dependency ratio indicates that there is a sufficient ratio of the working-age 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.

In mid-2022, Gloucestershire had an estimated dependency ratio of 0.65, shown in Table 4, this means that for every 100 people who are of working age (16-64) there is 65 people who are dependent on them. The dependency ratio for the South West is also 0.65 however, England and Wales, has a lower dependency ratio of 0.59 i.e., 59 dependents for every 100 people who are of working age.

The dependency ratio can be further broken down into a youth dependency ratio and an old-age dependency ratio. Youth dependency ratios refer to the number of people aged 0-15 compared to the number of people aged 16-64, and old-age dependency ratios calculate the number of people aged 65+ per 100 people aged 16-64.

Gloucestershire has a lower number of youthful dependents for every 100 people of working age than the number of older people per 100 people of working age. For every 100 people aged 16-64, there is 29 people aged 0-15 dependent on them, a 0.29 youth dependency ratio, and there is 36 people aged 65+ dependent on the 16-64 population, a 0.36 old-age dependency ratio. Gloucestershire has a similar youth dependency ratio as the South West and England and Wales. However, there is a noticeably lower old-age dependency ratio in England and Wales overall, 0.30, which reflects the population's more youthful age structure.

Looking at all 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, in mid-2022 Gloucestershire's dependency ratio was within the 40% highest authorities at 44<sup>th</sup>, its youth dependency ratio was in the middle 40% of authorities at 102<sup>nd</sup> and its old-age dependency ratio was ranked in the 40% highest authorities at 41<sup>st</sup>.

*Table 4: Dependency ratios, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid- 2022*

	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio	Old-age Dependency Ratio
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.36</b>
Cheltenham	0.59	0.28	0.31
Cotswold	0.74	0.28	0.46
Forest of Dean	0.70	0.27	0.43
Gloucester	0.57	0.30	0.26
Stroud	0.69	0.29	0.40
Tewkesbury	0.69	0.31	0.38
<b>South West</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.37</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.30</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.30</b>

Comparing Gloucestershire's districts, Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio in mid-2022, with 74 dependents for every 100 people of working age. This is followed by Forest of Dean which had a dependency ratio of 0.70. The urban districts of Cheltenham and Gloucester had the lowest dependency ratios, with 59 and 57 dependents for every 100 people aged 16-64 respectively.

Forest of Dean had the lowest youth dependency ratio, 0.27, and Tewkesbury had the highest youth dependency ratio with 31 young people aged 0-15 per 100 people of working age. In contrast, Gloucester had the lowest old-age dependency ratio with 26 people aged 65+ for every 100 people aged 16-64 and Cotswold had the highest old-age dependency ratio with 46 older people per 100 people aged 16-64. Interestingly, Gloucester is the only district where the youth dependency ratio is higher than the old age dependency ratio, this reflects the younger age structure of the urban district.

The Cotswold's overall and old age dependency ratios are both ranked in the highest 40% of 331 district and unitary authorities at 37<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the highest youth dependency out of Gloucestershire's districts, in Tewkesbury, was ranked within the middle 20% of local authorities at 79<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the districts are ranked between 74<sup>th</sup> and 262<sup>nd</sup> for the overall dependency ratio, between 131<sup>st</sup> and 269<sup>th</sup> for the youth dependency ratios and between 60<sup>th</sup> and 259<sup>th</sup> for the old-age dependency ratios.

## 6. Focus on the 65+ population

In Gloucestershire, the largest age group within those aged 65+ was the 65-74 year olds with 72,374 people. The 65-74 age group was the only age group over 65 that experienced a decrease between mid-2021 and mid-2022, a decrease of 1.40% compared to 2021. There was also a decline in the South West, by 1.90%, and England and Wales, by 1.52%. The age group with the largest percentage increase in Gloucestershire was 75-84 year olds (6.14%). The South West and England and Wales also saw these changes. Overall, the 65+ age group is increasing in Gloucestershire, a trend being experienced all over the UK, this will pose resource challenges as an ageing population will have a greater reliance on services for example, healthcare.

*Table 5: Age breakdown of the population aged 65+ between mid 2021-22, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales,*

	65-74			75-84			85+		
	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>73,401</b>	<b>72,374</b>	<b>-1.40</b>	<b>48,050</b>	<b>50,998</b>	<b>6.14</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>19,667</b>	<b>1.68</b>
Cheltenham	11,475	11,308	-1.46	7,842	8,309	5.96	3,736	3,801	1.74
Cotswold	12,262	12,098	-1.34	8,234	8,792	6.78	3,315	3,342	0.81
Forest of Dean	11,792	11,650	-1.20	7,499	7,887	5.17	2,636	2,715	3.00
Gloucester	11,708	11,589	-1.02	7,536	7,912	4.99	3,036	3,057	0.69
Stroud	15,164	14,960	-1.35	9,447	10,065	6.54	3,808	3,876	1.79
Tewkesbury	11,000	10,769	-2.10	7,492	8,033	7.22	2,811	2,876	2.31
<b>South West</b>	<b>666,280</b>	<b>653,632</b>	<b>-1.90</b>	<b>436,934</b>	<b>465,740</b>	<b>6.59</b>	<b>178,919</b>	<b>181,709</b>	<b>1.56</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>5,567,613</b>	<b>5,483,543</b>	<b>-1.51</b>	<b>3,507,656</b>	<b>3,721,453</b>	<b>6.10</b>	<b>1,393,775</b>	<b>1,424,871</b>	<b>2.23</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>5,926,743</b>	<b>5,836,796</b>	<b>-1.52</b>	<b>3,730,494</b>	<b>3,956,813</b>	<b>6.07</b>	<b>1,477,612</b>	<b>1,509,998</b>	<b>2.19</b>

All the districts saw a decrease in the number of people aged 65-74 between mid-2021 and mid-2022. The largest decrease was in Tewkesbury with 2.10% fewer people. In contrast all the districts saw increases in the population size of the 75-84 and 85+ age groups. Tewkesbury had the highest increase in the 75-84 year age group (7.22%) whilst Forest of Dean had the largest increase in the 85+ age group (3.00%).

## 7. The 90+ age group

Looking at the oldest old age group in Table 6, Gloucestershire had 7,272 people aged 90+ in 2022, accounting for 1.11% of its population. Between mid-2021 and mid-2022 the 90+ age group increased by 1.24%. In comparison, the 90+ age group made up 1.19% of the population in the South West and increased by 0.96%.

England and Wales had a lower proportion of its population accounted for by 90+ year olds (0.91%), however, it saw a larger rise in the number of 90+ year olds between 2021 and 2022 with an increase of 2.08%.

*Table 6: Population change in the 90+ age group, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid 2021-22*

Area	All 90+	90+ as a Percentage of the Population	% Change in Population Size Between 2021-22
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	<b>1.24%</b>
Cheltenham	1,469	1.23%	2.73%
Cotswold	1,218	1.33%	0.74%
Forest of Dean	983	1.12%	2.82%
Gloucester	1,108	0.83%	-1.69%
Stroud	1,400	1.14%	1.60%
Tewkesbury	1,094	1.13%	1.02%
<b>South West</b>	<b>68,581</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>520,329</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>2.14%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>550,835</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>2.08%</b>

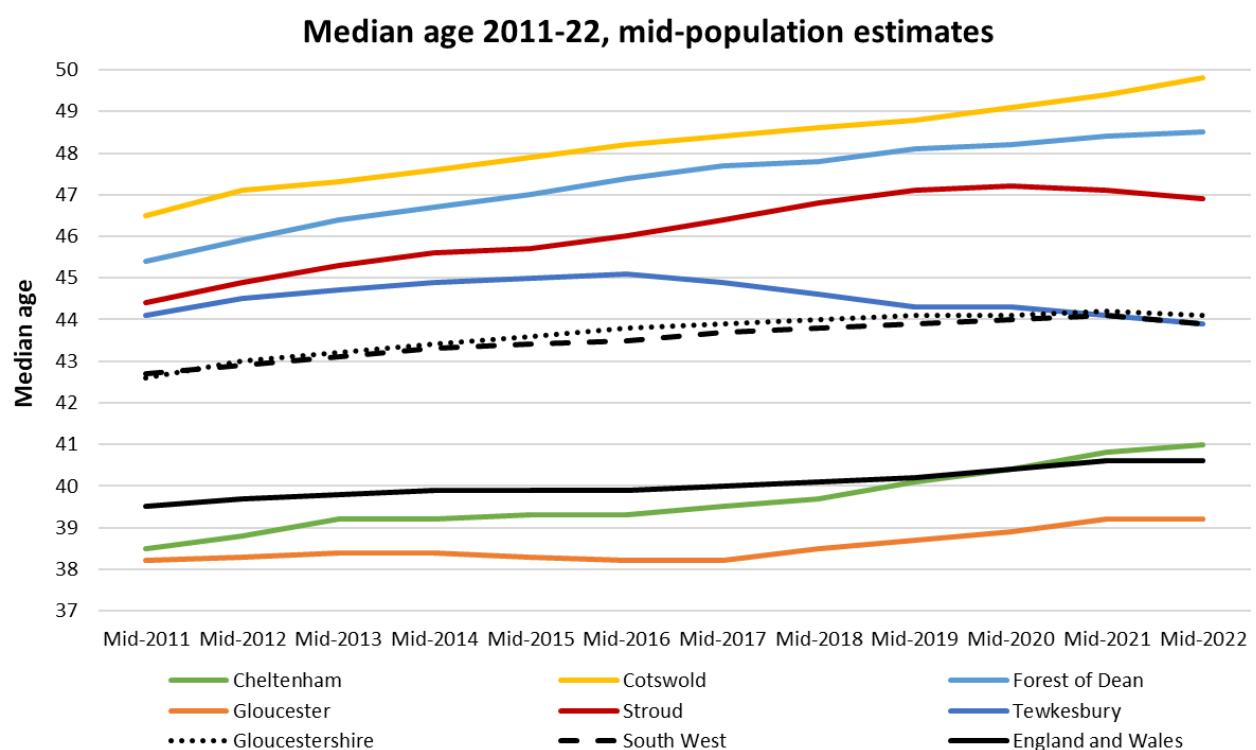
Out of the districts, Cotswold had the largest proportion of its population accounted for by 90+ year olds with 1.33% and Gloucester had the smallest proportion with a 0.83% share. Gloucester was the only district to have a decrease in its 90+ population size between mid-2021 and mid-2022, by 1.69%. In contrast, Forest of Dean had the largest increase in the 90+ population with 2.82% more people in mid-2022.

## 8. Median age

The average median age in Gloucestershire has increased year-on-year between mid-2011 and mid-2019, from 42.6 years to 44.1 years, an increase of 1.5 years. Since then, the average median age has plateaued and whilst it increased to 44.2 years in mid-2021 it then reverted back to 44.1 years in mid-2022. In comparison, the average age of a person living in the South West in mid-2022 was 43.9 years and 40.6 years in England and Wales, both lower than Gloucestershire.

Furthermore, the South West has followed the same trend as Gloucestershire with a drop in median age in the most recent years whereas, the median age in England and Wales has stalled, staying the same in mid-2022 as mid-2021 but has not seen a decrease.

Out of 174 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, the mid-2022 median age in Gloucestershire was ranked in the top 40% highest authorities at 41<sup>st</sup>. Furthermore, Gloucestershire is placed in the middle of its geographical neighbours, furthermore, compared to its 15 statistical neighbours it has the 10<sup>th</sup> highest median age.



*Figure 5: Median age, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid-2011-22*

In mid-2022 Cotswold had the highest median age at 49.8 years followed by Forest of Dean at 48.5 years. In contrast, Gloucester and Cheltenham had the lowest median ages with 41.0 years and 39.2 years respectively, this is a difference of almost 10 years when compared to Cotswold. The median age for Cotswold was

placed in the top 10% highest out of 331 district and unitary authorities at 28<sup>th</sup> whilst Forest of Dean was placed in the top 20% at 46<sup>th</sup> and Stroud and Tewkesbury were in the top 40% at 73<sup>rd</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> place respectively. Cheltenham and Gloucester were placed at 213<sup>th</sup> and 253<sup>rd</sup>, within the 40% lowest district and unitary authorities in England and Wales.

Figure 5 demonstrates that most of the districts have had an increasing trend in the median age overall since 2011. However, growth stalled between mid-2021 and mid-2022 in Gloucester at 39.2 years and there was a decrease in the median age in Stroud and Tewkesbury, by 0.2 years each. In contrast, Cheltenham saw an increase in median age by 0.2 years, Cotswold by 0.4 years and Forest of Dean by 0.1 years.

## 9. Population density

The number of people living in a square kilometer in Gloucestershire has risen. In mid-2022 there was 246 people per km<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 2 people between mid-2021 and mid-2022 (+0.82%), Gloucestershire has a higher population density than the South West by 4 people but a lower population density than England and Wales by 153 people.

Gloucestershire is ranked in the 20% least densely populated county and unitary authorities in England and Wales at 145<sup>th</sup> highest out of 174. It is also placed within the bottom half of its geographical (9<sup>th</sup> out of 12) and statistical neighbours (11<sup>th</sup> out of 16).

*Table 7: Population density, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid 2021-22*

Land Area	(sq./km)	Population	Population	% Increase
		density 2021	density 2022	2021-22
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>0.82%</b>
Cheltenham	47	2,550	2,563	0.51%
Cotswold	1165	78	78	0.00%
Forest of Dean	526	166	167	0.60%
Gloucester	41	3,269	3,293	0.73%
Stroud	461	264	268	1.52%
Tewkesbury	414	230	234	1.74%
<b>South West</b>	<b>23,836</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>0.83%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>130,310</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>0.92%</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>151,047</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1.01%</b>

Cheltenham and Gloucester have a much higher population density than the rural districts with 2,563 and 3,293 people per square kilometre respectively. The population density of all the districts increased between mid-2021 and mid-2022, with the exception of Cotswold which remained the same. Tewkesbury saw the biggest percentage increase with 1.74%.

Gloucester is the only district to be ranked within the top 40% most densely populated district and unitary authorities at 59<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, Forest of Dean and Cotswold are placed within the 20% least densely populated authorities at 273<sup>rd</sup> and 317<sup>th</sup> respectively and Tewkesbury is within the 40% least densely populated at 245<sup>th</sup>.