

Current population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2023 population estimates)¹

An overview

Data & Analysis Team

Gloucestershire County Council

informgloucestershire@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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

Contents

1. Population overview	3
2. Population composition	5
2.1 Broad age groups	8
2.2 Broad age group change between mid-2022 and mid-2023	9
3. Components of population change	10
4. Dependency ratios.....	11
5. Focus on the 65+ population	13
6. The 90+ age group	14
7. Median age	15
8. Population density	16

Note: Throughout this report a comparison is made between Gloucestershire and all 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales as well as between Gloucestershire's districts and all 318 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 15 statistical neighbours in the group, including Gloucestershire, these are: Cambridgeshire; Devon; 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 2023 the population of Gloucestershire was 659,276, as shown in Table 1. This is an increase of 1.01% between mid-2022 and mid-2023, which is higher than the South West population growth of 0.77% and in line with the overall England and Wales population growth of 1.01%.

Gloucester continues to have the largest population with 134,991 people and Forest of Dean the smallest with 89,104. Between mid-2022-23, Tewkesbury had the highest population growth at 1.92% followed by the Forest of Dean with an increase of 1.33%. 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 2022-23

Area	Population Mid-2023	Population Mid-2022	Net change 2022-23	% change 2022-23
Gloucestershire	659,276	652,666	6,610	1.01%
Cheltenham	120,255	119,585	670	0.56%
Cotswold	91,490	91,360	130	0.14%
Forest of Dean	89,104	87,934	1170	1.33%
Gloucester	134,991	133,530	1461	1.09%
Stroud	124,540	123,225	1,315	1.07%
Tewkesbury	98,896	97,032	1,864	1.92%
South West	5,811,259	5,766,937	44,322	0.77%
England	57,690,323	57,112,542	577,781	1.01%
England and Wales	60,854,727	60,245,218	609,509	1.01%

Comparing the 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire had the 72nd highest population growth between mid-2022 and mid-2023, placing it within the middle 20% of authorities across the country. Furthermore, compared to its geographical and statistical neighbours, Gloucestershire was placed in the middle of both cohorts for population growth.

Out of 318 district and unitary authorities, Tewkesbury was the only district in the county within the top 20% nationally for population growth. In contrast, Cotswold was the only district to be placed in the 20% lowest authorities for population growth between mid-2022 and mid-2023. Figure 1 indicates that when compared to all other districts and unitary authorities, Stroud's population growth has fallen the most noticeably in the rankings from 71st mid-2021-2022, which put it in the top 40% of authorities, to 133rd mid-2022-23, putting it in the middle 20% of authorities. Cotswold and Cheltenham also had a lower ranking in mid-2022-23. All the other

districts had a higher ranking for population growth in mid-2022-23 compared to mid-2021-22.

Rank of district and unitary authority population growth in England and Wales, 2021-22 and 2022-23

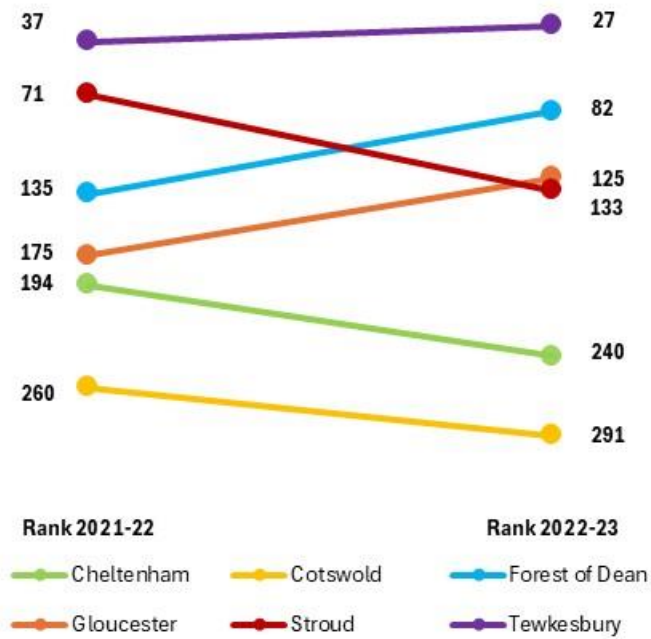


Figure 1: Rank of district and unitary authority population growth in England and Wales, mid 2021-22 and mid 2022-23

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 48.90% males and 52.10% females. In comparison, England and Wales has a 49.03% share of males and the South West has a 48.96% share of males.

Additionally, the Gloucestershire population pyramid indicates that between ages 0-24 there is a slightly higher proportion of males than females which is reversed for 25+ 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 0-44 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.

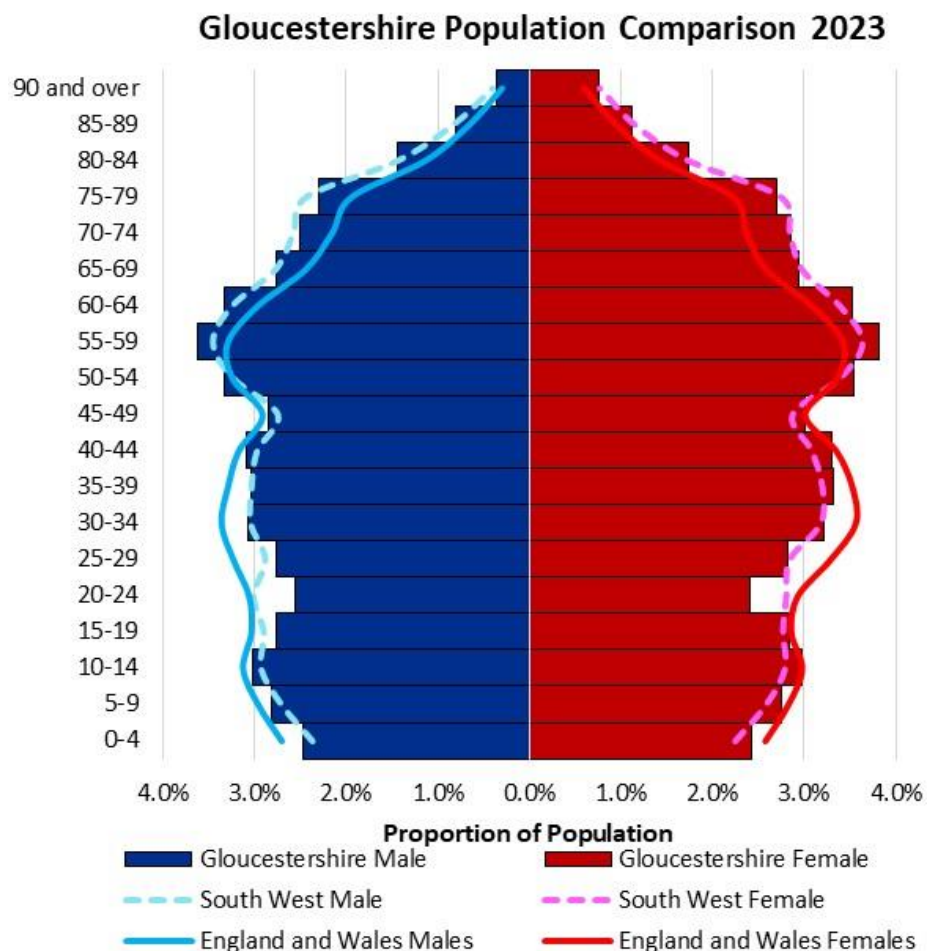


Figure 2: Population pyramid, Gloucestershire, the South West and England and Wales, mid-2023

At district level, population pyramids for each of Gloucestershire's districts are 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.

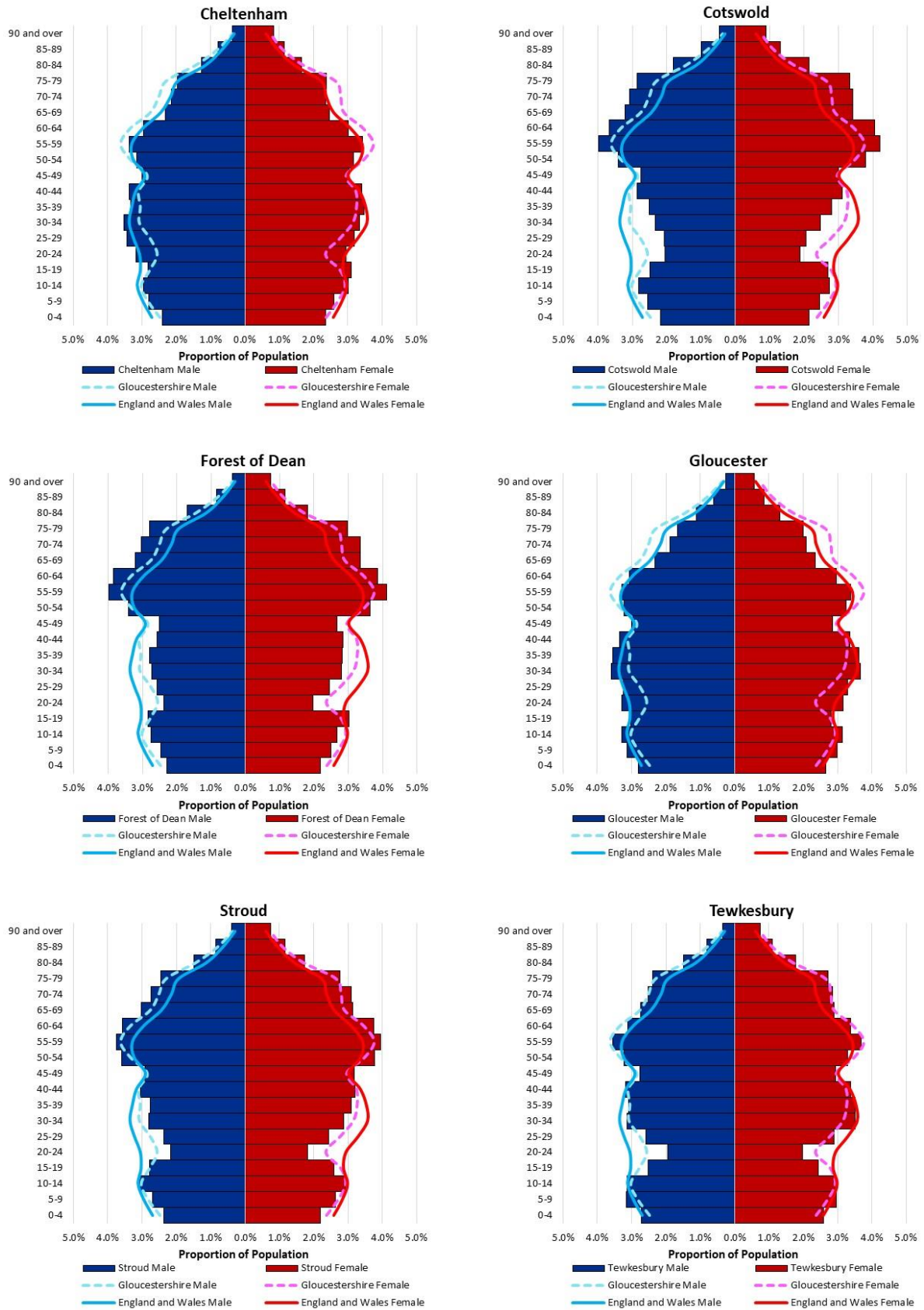


Figure 3: District population pyramids compared to Gloucestershire and England and Wales, mid-2023

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, 17.52% vs. 18.40%. However, the proportion of 0–15-year-olds in Gloucestershire is higher than the South West (16.77%). Compared to all 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire is placed within the bottom 40% for its 0-15 population proportion size at 119th. Gloucestershire is also placed broadly 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-2023

	0-15	16-64	65+
Gloucestershire	17.52%	60.42%	22.06%
Cheltenham	17.40%	62.92%	19.68%
Cotswold	15.96%	57.08%	26.97%
Forest of Dean	15.92%	58.75%	25.33%
Gloucester	19.31%	63.66%	17.02%
Stroud	17.11%	59.25%	23.64%
Tewkesbury	18.60%	59.01%	22.39%
South West	16.77%	60.54%	22.70%
England	18.46%	62.85%	18.69%
England and Wales	18.40%	62.76%	18.84%

Table 2 also shows 60.42% of Gloucestershire’s population is aged 16-64. This is lower than the overall working-age proportion in England and Wales (62.76%) and marginally lower than the South West (60.54%). Noticeably there is a smaller proportion of 20-39 year olds in Gloucestershire than in England and Wales as a whole. Out of 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire was placed in the bottom 40% for its working-age population size at 134th. However, it was placed in the middle of its statistical and geographical neighbours.

In contrast, the proportion of the population over the age of 65 is higher in Gloucestershire (22.06%) than in England and Wales (18.84%) but lower than the South West region (22.70%). Comparing the 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucestershire had the 42nd 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 15 statistical neighbours group at 9th.

Out of Gloucestershire’s districts, Gloucester had the highest proportion of 0-15 year olds accounting for 19.31% of its population. In contrast, Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion with 15.92% of the population. Compared to all district and unitary authorities, Gloucester is placed in the top 40% with the 92nd largest 0-15 population proportion. The Forest of Dean and Cotswold are placed in the lowest 20% at 271st and 269th respectively.

For the 16–64-year age group, Gloucester also had the highest proportion, accounting for 63.66% of its population, while Cotswold had the lowest proportion at 57.08%. In comparison to the 318 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Gloucester and Cheltenham are ranked in the top 40% at 71st and 87th respectively for their 16-64 population proportion size. Cotswold is in the bottom quintile at 293rd.

Furthermore, Cotswold had the highest proportion of the population aged 65+ accounting for 26.97% of the total population and Gloucester had the smallest proportion accounting for 17.02% of the population. Compared to all authorities in England and Wales, Cotswold and the Forest of Dean sit within the top 20% for largest proportion size at 26th and 55th respectively. At the other end of the scale Gloucester is placed at 238th putting it in the bottom 40% of authorities nationally.

2.2 Broad age group change between mid-2022 and mid-2023

Between 2022 and 2023, 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 65+ age group, which increased by 1.70%, followed by the 0-15 year olds, by 0.97% and the 16–64 year olds, which increased by 0.78%. 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.

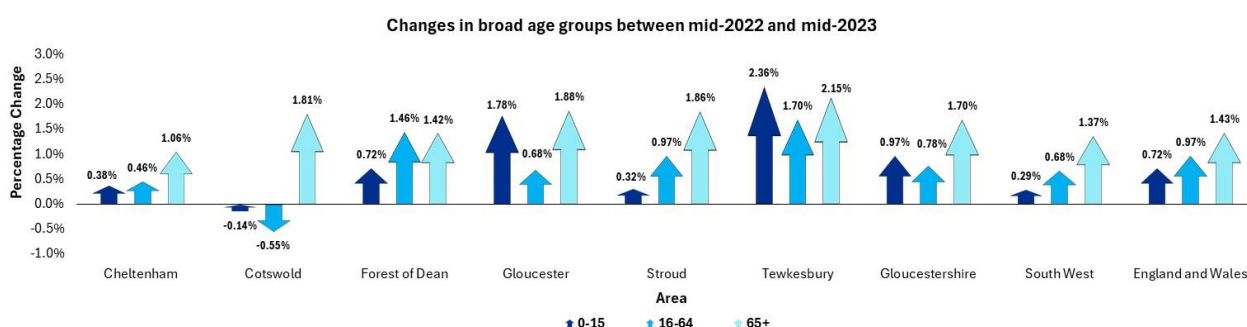


Figure 4: Changes in broad age group between mid 2022-23, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales

All districts saw an increase in the number of people in the 65+ year age group. The biggest increase was in Tewkesbury, with a 2.15% increase, and the smallest in Cheltenham, with a 1.06% increase. The picture is more mixed when looking at the 0-15 year old population and the working-age population, 16-64. Cotswold saw a

decrease in the number of people in both age groups, while all other districts saw increases. When looking at the 0-15 year old age group, Cotswold saw a 0.14% decline, while the largest increase was in Tewkesbury where the number of 0-15 year olds increased by 2.36%. Tewkesbury also saw the largest increase in the 16-64 year old population, with a growth of 1.70%, conversely in Cotswold this age group declined by 0.55%.

3. 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 1.01% between mid-2022-23, this figure was calculated from the following component percentage changes as shown in Table 3. Gloucestershire had more deaths than births, leading to a -0.19% 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 0.72%. There were 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 0.52%². Special adjustments³ accounted for -0.03% of Gloucestershire's population growth.

When compared to the South West there were some noticeable differences, the South West experienced a bigger decrease in natural change (-0.28%), a smaller increase in internal migration (0.45%) and a bigger increase in international migration (0.63%). In contrast, England and Wales saw a similar number of births and deaths. England and Wales's population growth is largely attributed to international migration which saw the population grow by 1.03%. In contrast, there was negative population growth attributed by internal migration from England and Wales to the other parts of the UK.

² It is thought this may be partly due to easing of restrictions of movement following the COVID-19 pandemic and external events such as the war in Ukraine. [Long-term international migration, provisional - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

³ Adjustments to the population estimates are made for some special population groups that are not captured by the usual internal or international migration estimates: members of the armed forces and prisoners. These populations have specific age structures, which remain fairly constant over time so are not aged-on with the rest of the population.

Table 3: Components of population change between mid 2022-23, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales⁴

Components of Population Change 2022-2023					
Area	% Population Change	% Natural Change (Births minus Deaths)	% Internal Migration	% International Migration	% Special and Other Adjustments
Gloucestershire	1.01%	-0.19%	0.72%	0.52%	-0.03%
Cheltenham	0.56%	-0.22%	0.12%	0.79%	-0.12%
Cotswold	0.14%	-0.44%	0.27%	0.33%	-0.01%
Forest of Dean	1.33%	-0.34%	1.48%	0.19%	0.00%
Gloucester	1.09%	0.06%	-0.12%	1.11%	0.04%
Stroud	1.07%	-0.30%	1.26%	0.21%	-0.11%
Tewkesbury	1.92%	-0.01%	1.64%	0.27%	0.02%
South West	0.77%	-0.28%	0.45%	0.63%	-0.03%
England	1.01%	0.02%	-0.05%	1.05%	0.00%
England and Wales	1.01%	0.00%	-0.02%	1.03%	0.00%

In one of Gloucestershire's districts, there was a positive natural change, Gloucester's population naturally increased by 0.06%. Three of the districts had their populations increase by more than 1% by internal migration, these were Forest of Dean (1.48%), Stroud (1.26%) and Tewkesbury (1.64%). Gloucester saw more people leaving the district than moving to it. All the districts saw more people immigrate to the county from abroad than emigrate to another country, the largest increase was in Gloucester (1.11%). Cheltenham, Cotswold and Stroud lost people classed as a special population or received other adjustments which caused a decrease in the population. Conversely, Gloucester and Tewkesbury saw their population increase as a result of special adjustments.

4. 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-2023, Gloucestershire had an estimated dependency ratio of 0.66, shown in Table 4, this means that for every 100 people who are of working age (16-64) there

⁴ 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.

is 66 people who are dependent on them. The dependency ratio for the South West is similar at 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 are 29 people aged 0-15 dependent on them, a 0.29 youth dependency ratio, and there are 37 people aged 65+ dependent on the 16-64 population, a 0.37 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 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, in mid-2023 Gloucestershire's dependency ratio was within the 40% highest authorities at 42nd, its youth dependency ratio was in the bottom 40% of authorities at 119th and its old-age dependency ratio was ranked in the 40% highest authorities at 42nd.

Table 4: Dependency ratios, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid- 2023

	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio	Old-age Dependency Ratio
Gloucestershire	0.66	0.29	0.37
Cheltenham	0.59	0.28	0.31
Cotswold	0.75	0.28	0.47
Forest of Dean	0.70	0.27	0.43
Gloucester	0.57	0.30	0.27
Stroud	0.69	0.29	0.40
Tewkesbury	0.69	0.32	0.38
South West	0.65	0.28	0.37
England	0.59	0.29	0.30
England and Wales	0.59	0.29	0.30

Comparing Gloucestershire's districts, Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio in mid-2023, with 75 dependents for every 100 people of working age. This is followed by Forest of Dean which had 70 dependents for every 100 people of working age. 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, with 27 people aged 0-15 for every 100 people of working age, and Tewkesbury had the highest youth dependency ratio with 32 young people aged 0-15 per 100 people of working age. In contrast, Gloucester had the lowest old-age dependency ratio with 27 people aged 65+ for every 100 people aged 16-64 and Cotswold had the highest old-age dependency ratio with 47 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 20% of 318 district and unitary authorities at 26th and 27th. In addition, the highest youth dependency out of Gloucestershire's districts was in Tewkesbury, which was ranked within the top 40% of local authorities at 72nd. The rest of the districts are ranked between 74th and 248th for the overall dependency ratio, between 121st and 266th for the youth dependency ratios and between 56th and 240th for the old-age dependency ratios.

5. Focus on the 65+ population

In Gloucestershire, the largest age group within those aged 65+ was the 65-74 year olds with 72,211 people. The 65-74 age group was the only age group over 65 that experienced a decrease between mid-2022 and mid-2023, with a decrease of 0.22% compared to 2022. There was also a decline in the South West, by 0.64%, and England and Wales, by 0.19%. The age group with the largest percentage increase in Gloucestershire was 75-84 year olds (4.60%). 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 2022-23, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales,

	65-74			75-84			85+		
	2022	2023	% change	2022	2023	% change	2022	2023	% change
Gloucestershire	72,373	72,211	-0.22%	50,998	53,345	4.60%	19,667	19,913	1.25%
Cheltenham	11,308	11,161	-1.30%	8,309	8,734	5.11%	3,801	3,771	-0.79%
Cotswold	12,098	12,018	-0.66%	8,792	9,289	5.65%	3,342	3,364	0.66%
Forest of Dean	11,650	11,531	-1.02%	7,887	8,271	4.87%	2,715	2,767	1.92%
Gloucester	11,588	11,679	0.79%	7,912	8,201	3.65%	3,057	3,102	1.47%
Stroud	14,960	14,939	-0.14%	10,065	10,561	4.93%	3,876	3,938	1.60%
Tewkesbury	10,769	10,883	1.06%	8,033	8,289	3.19%	2,876	2,971	3.30%
South West	653,628	649,424	-0.64%	465,739	486,269	4.41%	181,709	183,184	0.81%
England	5,483,487	5,472,865	-0.19%	3,721,420	3,863,610	3.82%	1,424,848	1,446,612	1.53%
England and Wales	5,836,722	5,824,078	-0.22%	3,956,751	4,108,576	3.84%	1,509,957	1,532,669	1.50%

Four districts, Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Stroud, saw a decrease in the number of people aged 65-74 between mid-2022 and mid-2023. The largest decrease was in Cotswold with 1.30% fewer people. Conversely, Gloucester and Tewkesbury saw an increase in the number of people aged 65-74, with the greatest increase in Tewkesbury with 1.06% more people. All the districts saw increases in the population size of the 75-84 age group, with Cotswold having the greatest increase (5.65%). Cheltenham saw a decrease in the number of people aged 85+ (0.79%), while all other districts saw an increase, with the greatest increase being in Tewkesbury (3.30%)

6. The 90+ age group

Looking at the oldest old age group in Table 6, Gloucestershire had 7,314 people aged 90+ in 2023, accounting for 1.11% of its population. Between mid-2022 and mid-2023 the 90+ age group increased by 0.58%. In comparison, the 90+ age group made up 1.17% of the population in the South West and decreased by 0.58%. England and Wales had a lower proportion of its population accounted for by 90+ year olds (0.91%), it saw a small rise in the number of 90+ year olds between 2022 and 2023 with an increase of 0.17%.

Table 6: Population change in the 90+ age group, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid 2022-23

Area	All 90+	90+ as a Percentage of the Population	% Change in Population Size Between 2022-23
Gloucestershire	7,314	1.11%	0.58%
Cheltenham	1,445	1.20%	-1.63%
Cotswold	1,254	1.37%	2.96%
Forest of Dean	984	1.10%	0.10%
Gloucester	1,118	0.83%	0.90%
Stroud	1,422	1.14%	1.57%
Tewkesbury	1,091	1.10%	-0.27%
South West	68,182	1.17%	-0.58%
England	521,291	0.90%	0.19%
England and Wales	551,758	0.91%	0.17%

Out of the districts, Cotswold had the largest proportion of its population accounted for by 90+ year olds with 1.37% and Gloucester had the smallest proportion with a 0.83% share. Cheltenham and Tewkesbury saw a decrease in its 90+ population size between mid-2022 and mid-2023, by 1.63% and 0.27% respectively. In contrast, Cotswold had the largest increase in the 90+ population with 2.96% more people in mid-2023.

7. 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 and remained at that level in mid-2023. In comparison, the average age of a person living in the South West in mid-2023 was 43.9 years and 40.5 years in England and Wales, both lower than Gloucestershire. Furthermore, the South West and England and Wales has followed a similar trend as Gloucestershire with a drop in median age in the most recent years.

Out of 175 county and unitary authorities in England and Wales, the mid-2023 median age in Gloucestershire was ranked in the top 40% highest authorities at 42nd. Furthermore, Gloucestershire is placed in the middle of its geographical neighbours, furthermore, compared to its 14 statistical neighbours it has the 9th highest median age.

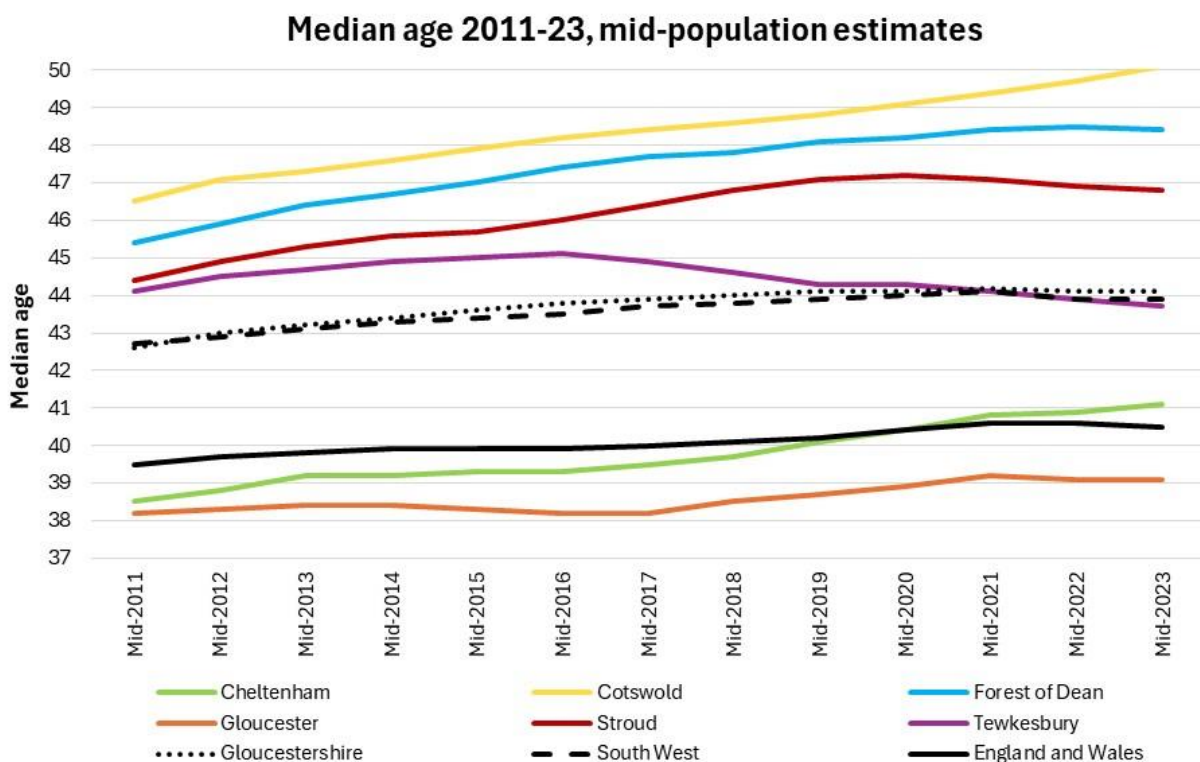


Figure 5: Median age, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid-2011-23

In mid-2023 Cotswold had the highest median age at 50.1 years followed by Forest of Dean at 48.4 years. In contrast, Gloucester and Cheltenham had the lowest median ages with 41.1 years and 39.1 years respectively, this is a difference of around 10 years when compared to Cotswold. The median age for Cotswold was placed in the top 10% highest out of 318 district and unitary authorities at 20th whilst

Forest of Dean was placed in the top 20% at 41st and Stroud and Tewkesbury were in the top 40% at 65th and 116th place respectively. Cheltenham and Gloucester were placed at 197th and 235th, 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, the picture in more recent years is mixed. Cheltenham and Cotswold saw an increase in median age between mid-2022 and mid-2023 of 0.2 years and 0.4 years respectively. Gloucester saw no change in median age between mid-2022 and mid-2023, while there was a decrease in median age by 0.1 years in the Forest of Dean and Stroud and 0.2 years in Tewkesbury.

8. Population density

The number of people living in a square kilometer in Gloucestershire has risen. In mid-2023 there was 249 people per km² an increase of 3 people between mid-2022 and mid-2023 (+1.22%), Gloucestershire has a higher population density than the South West by 5 people but a lower population density than England and Wales by 249 people.

Gloucestershire is ranked in the 20% least densely populated county and unitary authorities in England and Wales at 145th highest out of 175. It is also placed within the bottom half of its geographical (9th out of 12) and statistical neighbours (10th out of 15).

Table 7: Population density, Gloucestershire, its districts, the South West and England and Wales, mid 2022-23

	Land Area (sq./km)	Population density 2022	Population density 2023	% Increase 2022-23
Gloucestershire	2,653	246	249	1.22%
Cheltenham	46.596	2566	2,581	0.58%
Cotswold	1164.5244	78	79	1.28%
Forest of Dean	525.902	167	169	1.20%
Gloucester	40.553	3293	3,329	1.09%
Stroud	460.5423	268	270	0.75%
Tewkesbury	414.4144	234	239	2.14%
South West	23,836	242	244	0.83%
England	130,310	438	443	1.14%
England and Wales	151,047	399	403	1.00%

Cheltenham and Gloucester have a much higher population density than the rural districts with 2,581 and 3,329 people per square kilometre respectively. The population density of all the districts increased between mid-2022 and mid-2023. Tewkesbury saw the biggest increase with an increase of 2.14%.

Gloucester is the only district to be ranked within the top 20% most densely populated district and unitary authorities at 59th. In contrast, Forest of Dean and Cotswold are placed within the 20% least densely populated authorities at 269th and 309th respectively.