

census 2021



The First Release – a briefing



InformGloucestershire

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1. What is the 2021 Census?

The census is a survey of all people and households in England and Wales that happens every 10 years. It is designed to collect detailed information about where people live, what they do for a living, what sort of homes and families they have, their general health, their educational attainment and how these factors have changed over time. There is simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It tells us what our needs are now and what they are likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on.

The information given by the public during the census helps local authorities plan and fund public services. It informs where billions of pounds are spent, for instance on things like roads, schools and hospitals.

The 2021 Census was conducted on the 21st March 2021, it is unique as it was conducted during national lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This briefing provides analysis of the first release of data, released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the 28th June 2022. This provides population figures by quinary (5 year) age bands, by gender, as well as summary household estimates at the local authority level.

2. Caveats – Covid¹

The 2021 Census took place during national lockdown which was initiated in response to COVID-19. *‘For most of the population, the coronavirus pandemic would not have affected where they considered themselves resident.’²* However, there is indication that some subgroups of the population may have changed where they lived during this time, mainly students and some urban residents:

- **Students-** There is evidence to suggest there was a higher proportion of students not living at their term-time address on the 21st March compared with previous years. Also, usually resident international students may have returned to their home country early and not have been residing in the UK at the time of the 2021 Census. To combat the impact of this, the ONS asked students to complete the form for their term-time address which they *‘intended to stay at regularly during term time in this academic year, even if they are not currently there’³*. Furthermore, international students were counted if they were still present in the UK or had attended university during

¹ See

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/qualityandmethodologyinformationqmf forcensus2021#quality-summary> for further information

² ONS, 2022

³ *Ibid.*

the Autumn 2020/Winter 2021 academic terms and were intending to return: up to the 21st March 2022.

- **Urban residents-** There is some evidence to suggest that the population of Greater London may have fallen in the COVID-19 pandemic due to young adults leaving, higher mortality of over 75s and increased internal migration. However, there is also indication that the population has begun growing since then. This may also have been reflected in other urban centers.

3. What do the results tell us about Gloucestershire?

3.1 The population of Gloucestershire and its districts

The usual resident population of Gloucestershire was estimated to be 645,100 on Census Day, 2021. Gloucestershire accounted for around 11.3% of the population of the South West and 1.1% of the population of England and Wales.

Figure 1 shows Gloucester district had the largest population with approximately 132,500 people or 20.5% of the county's population. This was followed by Stroud which accounted for 18.8% of the county's population, this represents a change from 2011 when Cheltenham had the second largest population in the county. In 2021 the Forest of Dean had the smallest population followed by Cotswold. This differs from 2011 when Tewkesbury had the smallest population followed by the Forest of Dean and Cotswold.

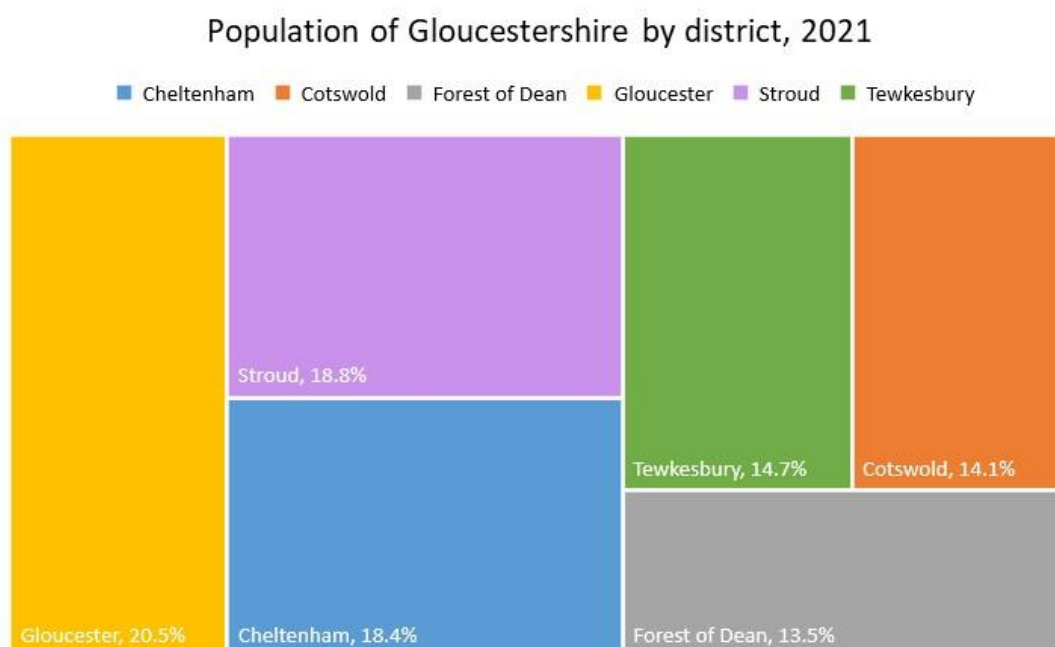


Figure 1: Population of Gloucestershire by district, 2021⁴

⁴ 2021 Census, ONS

3.2 Population change

The population of Gloucestershire has increased by more than 48,000 (8.1%) compared with Census Day 2011, when there were 596,984 people in Gloucestershire. The rate of growth in Gloucestershire was higher than nationally, with the population of England and Wales increasing by 6.3% between 2011 and 2021. The rate of population growth in Gloucestershire over the last decade has increased compared with the rate between 2001 and 2011, when the population grew by 5.7%. This differs from the picture seen nationally, with population growth in England and Wales decreasing slightly compared with the rate between 2001 and 2011, when the population grew by 7.8%.

Table 1: Population change 2011-2021⁵

	2011 Population	2021 Population	Net change 2011-2021	% Change 2011-2021
Cheltenham	115,732	118,800	3,068	2.7%
Cotswold	82,881	90,800	7,919	9.6%
Forest of Dean	81,961	87,000	5,039	6.1%
Gloucester	121,688	132,500	10,812	8.9%
Stroud	112,779	121,100	8,321	7.4%
Tewkesbury	81,943	94,900	12,957	15.8%
Gloucestershire	596,984	645,100	48,116	8.1%
South West	5,288,935	5,701,200	412,265	7.8%
England	53,012,456	56,489,800	3,477,344	6.6%
England and Wales	56,075,912	59,597,300	3,521,388	6.3%

Figure 2 shows most local authority areas across England and Wales experienced population increases between 2011 and 2021, although in some areas particularly in parts of Wales the population decreased.

⁵ 2021 Census and 2011 Census, ONS

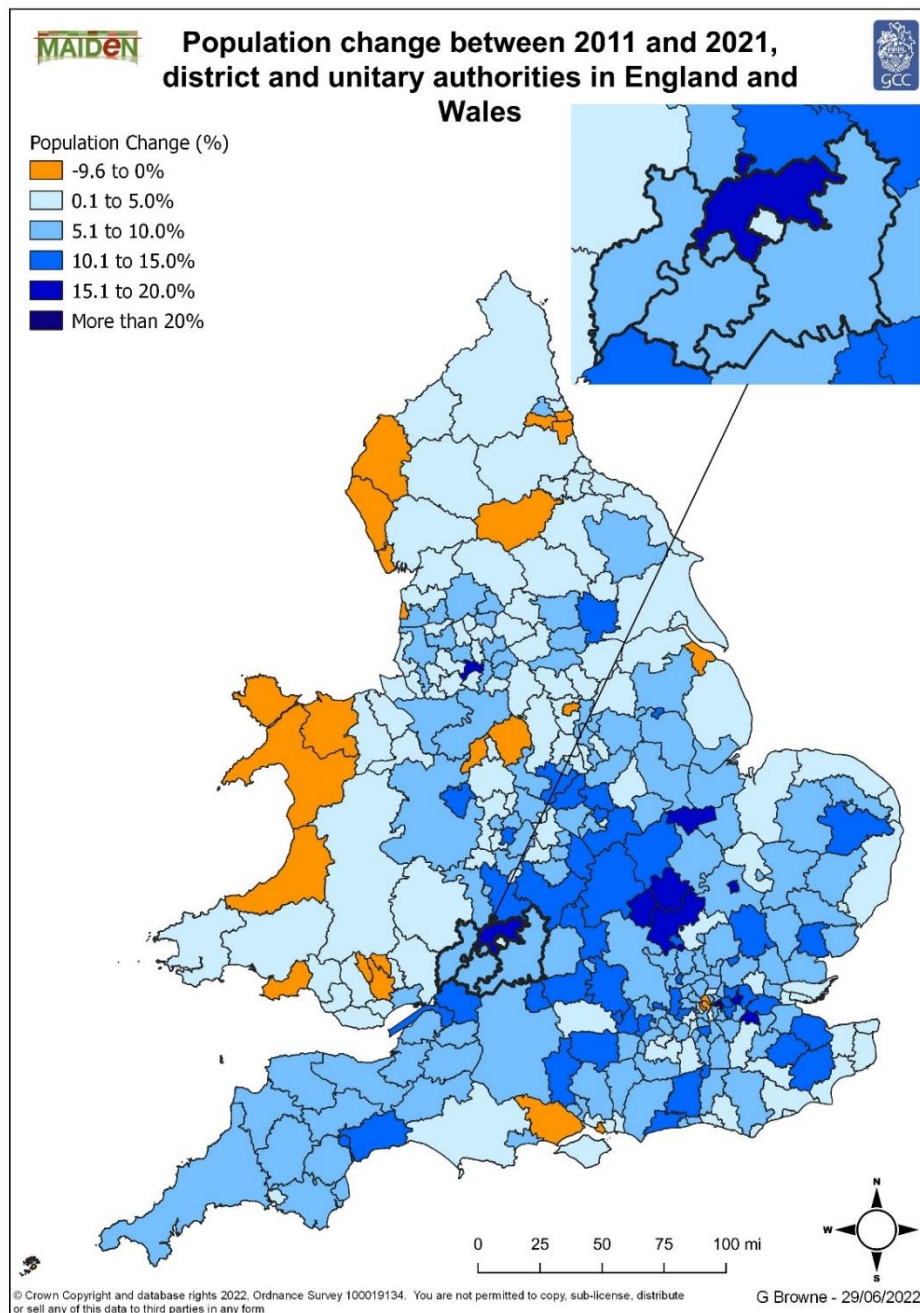


Figure 2: Population change between 2011 and 2021, district and unitary authorities in England and Wales⁶

Across Gloucestershire population growth was greatest in Tewkesbury, with the population increasing by 15.8% from 2011 (a gain of approximately 13,000 people). As well as being the district with the highest growth in Gloucestershire, Figure 3 shows Tewkesbury has had one of the highest growth rates nationally, it was ranked 8th out of 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, considerably higher than its rank of 140 between 2011 and 2021. Tewkesbury

⁶ 2021 Census and 2011 Census, ONS

also saw the greatest population growth out of all authorities in the South West between 2011 and 2021.

Cheltenham saw the smallest population growth in Gloucestershire, with the population increasing by 2.7% since 2011 (a gain of around 3,000 people). This puts Cheltenham in the bottom 25% of district and unitary authorities in England and Wales in terms of population growth. It also saw the second lowest population growth across authorities in the South West, with only the Isles of Scilly seeing a lower rate of growth.

Rank for population growth out of the 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, 2001 to 2011 and 2011 to 2021

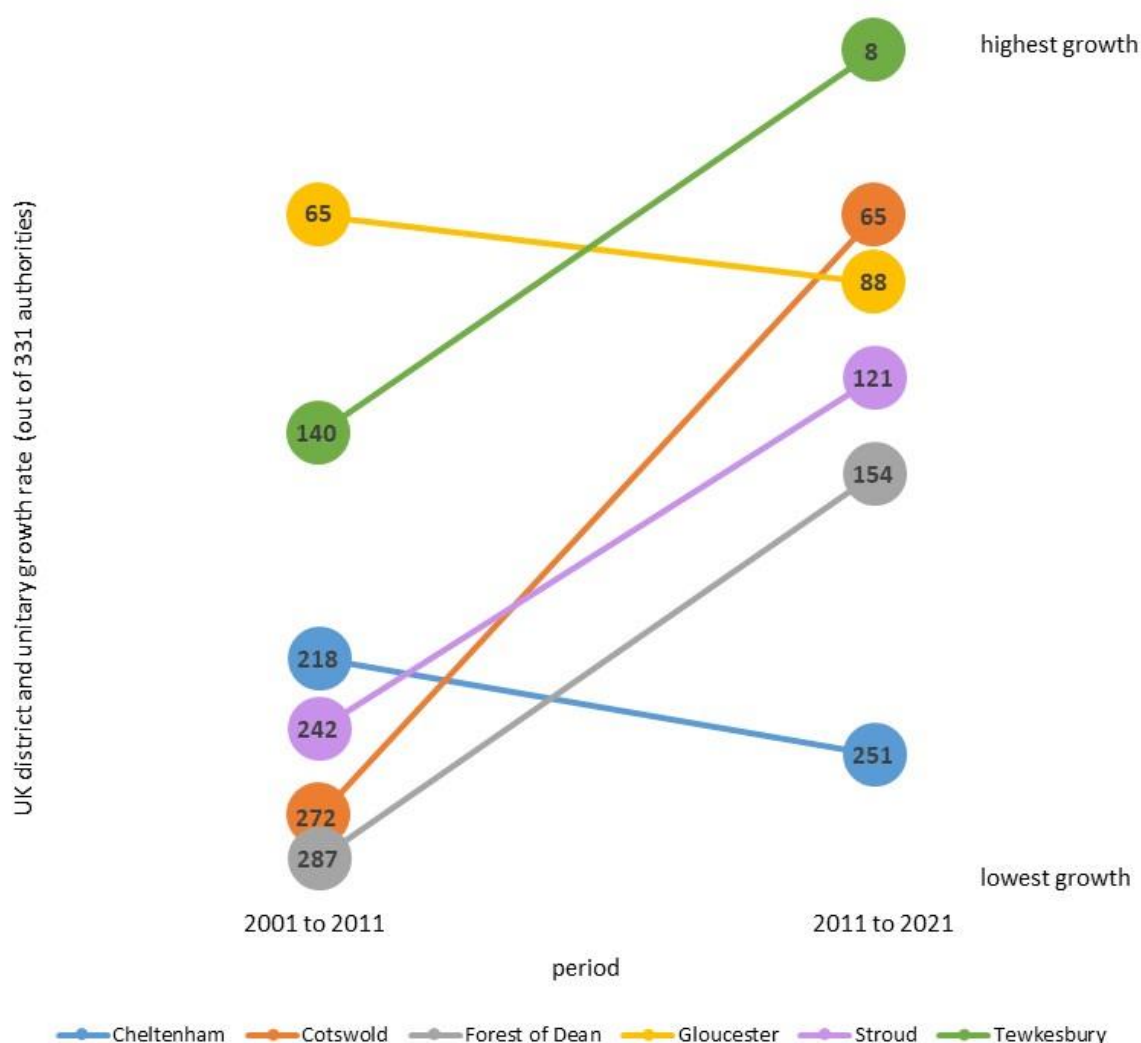


Figure 3: Rank for population growth out of the 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, 2001 to 2011 and 2011 to 2021⁷

⁷ 2021, 2011 and 2001 Census, ONS

3.3 Age and sex profile

3.3.1 Sex

Overall, there were 329,800 women and 315,300 men living in Gloucestershire on Census Day 2021, equivalent to a 51.1% to 48.9% split. This is in-line with the South West and marginally different to the 51.0% female, 49.0% male split in England and Wales, shown in Table 2.

All districts have a higher proportion of females than males. Cotswold has the highest proportion of females accounting for 51.8% of its population, whereas Gloucester has the lowest, accounting for 50.6% of its population.

Table 2: Gloucestershire sex distribution, 2021⁸

Area name	Females	Males	Net Difference	Female Proportion	Male Proportion
Cheltenham	60,700	58,100	2,600	51.1%	48.9%
Cotswold	47,100	43,800	3,300	51.8%	48.2%
Forest of Dean	44,400	42,600	1,800	51.0%	49.0%
Gloucester	67,000	65,500	1,500	50.6%	49.4%
Stroud	61,900	59,200	2,700	51.1%	48.9%
Tewkesbury	48,800	46,100	2,700	51.4%	48.6%
Gloucestershire	329,800	315,300	14,500	51.1%	48.9%
South West	2,911,600	2,789,600	122,000	51.1%	48.9%
England	28,833,500	27,656,300	1,177,200	51.0%	49.0%
England and Wales	30,420,100	29,177,200	1,242,900	51.0%	49.0%

3.3.2 Broad Age Groups



Figure 4: Gloucestershire population distribution 2021- 0-19 (21.8%), 20-64 (56.5%), 65+ (21.7%)⁹

⁸ 2021 Census, ONS

⁹ *Ibid.*

Figure 4 indicates that over one-fifth (21.8%) of Gloucestershire's population was between 0-19 years old in 2021. This proportion is marginally larger than the South West (21.4%) but smaller than the England and Wales proportion of 23.1%.

Likewise, over one-fifth (21.7%) of Gloucestershire's population was aged over 65 years. This is a smaller proportion than the South West (22.3%) but a bigger proportion than England and Wales (18.6%).

The working-age population (20-64 years old) in Gloucestershire accounted for 56.5% of the overall county population. Similarly, 56.3% of the population in the South West was between the ages of 20-64 and 58.4% in England and Wales overall.

At district level, Gloucester had the highest proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds (23.9% and 59.5% respectively) and Cotswold had the lowest proportion of 0-19 year olds (19.8%) while Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion of 20-64 year olds (54.0%). Inversely, Gloucester had the lowest proportion of 65+ year olds (16.7%) and Cotswold the highest (26.1%).

Table 3: Broad age groups, 2021¹⁰

Proportion of population	0-19	20-64	65+
Cheltenham	21.8%	58.9%	19.2%
Cotswold	19.8%	54.3%	26.1%
Forest of Dean	20.9%	54.0%	24.9%
Gloucester	23.9%	59.5%	16.7%
Stroud	21.4%	55.3%	23.3%
Tewkesbury	22.2%	55.5%	22.1%
Gloucestershire	21.8%	56.5%	21.7%
South West	21.4%	56.3%	22.3%
England	23.1%	58.5%	18.4%
England and Wales	23.1%	58.4%	18.6%

3.3.3 Sex and age composition- 5 year age groups

Population pyramids, as seen in Figure 5, illustrate the age distribution of the population as well as gender balance. A comparison between the population structure of Gloucestershire, the South West and England and Wales is also made.

Gloucestershire has a smaller proportion of people in the age groups between 0-4 and 40-44 and a higher proportion of people in all age groups over 50-54 for

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

males and females combined, compared to England and Wales. There is more of a mixed picture when comparing to the South West, generally there is a bigger proportion of people in the 0-4 to 10-14 age groups and 35-39 to 60-64 age groups. In contrast, there is a smaller proportion of the population in the 15-19 to 25-29 and 65-69 plus age groups compared to the South West.

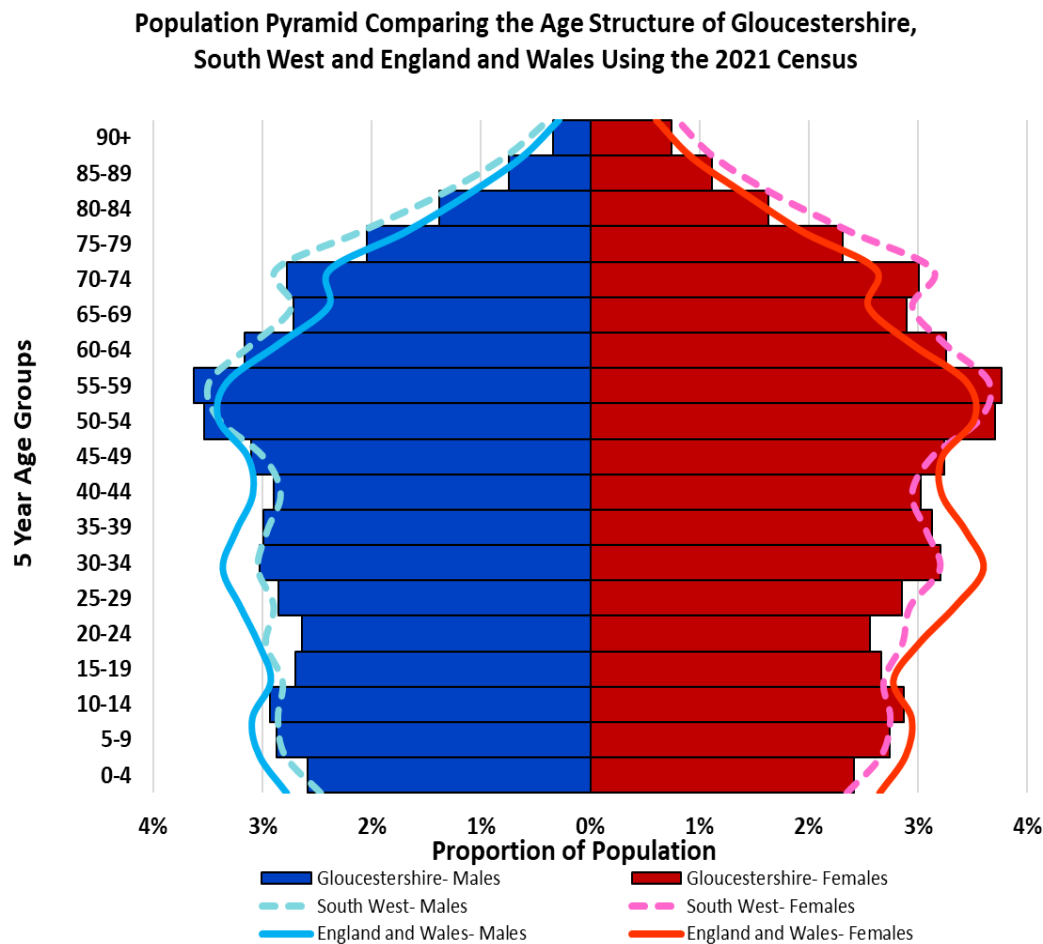


Figure 5: Age Structure Comparison¹¹

3.3.4 Male and Female Change Between 2011 and 2021

In 2011, the Gloucestershire sex split was similar to 2021 with a 51.0% female to 49.0% male distribution.

Table 4 indicates between 2011 and 2021, the female population in Gloucestershire increased by 8.3% (an additional 25,402 females) whereas the male population increased by 7.8% (an additional 22,714 males). The percentage increase in females and males was higher in Gloucestershire than

¹¹ *Ibid.*

both the South West (7.9% females, 7.7% males) and England and Wales (6.7% females, 5.8% males). This reflects the trends seen for the overall population increases.

The biggest increase in both males and females was in Tewkesbury (16.6% female increase, 15.0% male increase) whereas the smallest increase for both females and males was in Cheltenham (female increase 2.5%, male increase 2.8%). This reflects the same trends seen for the overall population increases per district.

Table 4: Females and males between 2011 and 2021¹²

	Female Net Change 2011-2021	Female % Change Between 2011-2021	Male Net Change 2011-2021	Male % Change Between 2011-2021
Cheltenham	1,480	2.5%	1,588	2.8%
Cotswold	4,323	10.1%	3,696	9.2%
Forest of Dean	2,711	6.5%	2,328	5.8%
Gloucester	5,416	8.8%	5,396	9.0%
Stroud	4,635	8.1%	3,686	6.6%
Tewkesbury	6,937	16.6%	6,020	15.0%
Gloucestershire	25,402	8.3%	22,714	7.8%
South West	213,273	7.9%	198,992	7.7%
England	1,890,192	7.0%	1,587,152	6.1%
England and Wales	1,917,564	6.7%	1,603,824	5.8%

3.3.5 Broad age group changes between 2011 and 2021

Table 5 indicates between 2011 and 2021, the broad age group with the biggest growth for all districts, Gloucestershire, the South West and England and Wales was the 65+ population. Gloucestershire's 65+ population increased by 25.6% (an additional 28,545 people), which is higher than the South West increase (23.0%) and England and Wales increase (20.0%).

At county, regional and national level, the 20-64 group had the next largest percentage increase in the number of people. Gloucestershire's 20-64 population increased by 4.5%, this is a smaller increase than the South West (4.9%) but a bigger increase than England and Wales (4.1%). At district level, Tewkesbury had the biggest increase in the 20-64 population (11.3%) however, Cheltenham was the only district to have a decrease in the working age population (-0.7%, a loss of around 470 people).

¹² 2021 Census and 2011 Census, ONS

The 0-19 population group also increased at county, regional and national level. Gloucestershire had the greatest growth with a 2.9% increase, this compares to a 2.1% increase in the South West and 2.4% increase in England and Wales overall. At district level, Tewkesbury also experienced the biggest growth with an increase of 16.6% however, Cheltenham (-0.1%), Forest of Dean (-1.5%) and Stroud (-0.2%) had a decrease in their 0-19 population size.

Table 5: Broad age group changes between 2011 and 2021¹³

	0-19			20-64			65+		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
Cheltenham	25,932	25,900	-0.1%	70,471	70,000	-0.7%	19,329	22,800	18.0%
Cotswold	17,602	18,000	2.3%	46,790	49,300	5.4%	18,489	23,700	28.2%
Forest of Dean	18,471	18,200	-1.5%	46,504	47,000	1.1%	16,986	21,700	27.8%
Gloucester	30,529	31,700	3.8%	73,094	78,800	7.8%	18,065	22,100	22.3%
Stroud	25,955	25,900	-0.2%	64,847	67,000	3.3%	21,977	28,200	28.3%
Tewkesbury	18,099	21,100	16.6%	47,335	52,700	11.3%	16,509	21,000	27.2%
Gloucestershire	136,588	140,500	2.9%	349,041	364,700	4.5%	111,355	139,900	25.6%
South West	1,193,752	1,218,700	2.1%	3,059,739	3,208,900	4.9%	1,035,444	1,273,600	23.0%
England	12,712,275	13,057,600	2.7%	31,639,652	33,030,900	4.4%	8,660,529	10,401,200	20.1%
England and Wales	13,026,849	13,747,300	2.4%	33,422,316	34,786,800	4.1%	9,223,073	11,063,400	20.0%

3.3.6 5-Year Age Group Changes

Between 2011 and 2021, Gloucestershire saw a decrease in people between the ages of 0-4, 15-24 and 40-49. In contrast, there was an increase in all age groups over 50 with the biggest increase occurring in the 70-74 year old age group (44.5%). There was also an increase in 5-14 and 25-39 year-olds.

Gloucestershire followed a similar trend to the South West and England and Wales. However, there was a larger percentage increase in Gloucestershire's 90+ and 75-79 age groups and larger percentage decreases in the 15-19 and 40-44 age groups.

¹³ *Ibid.*

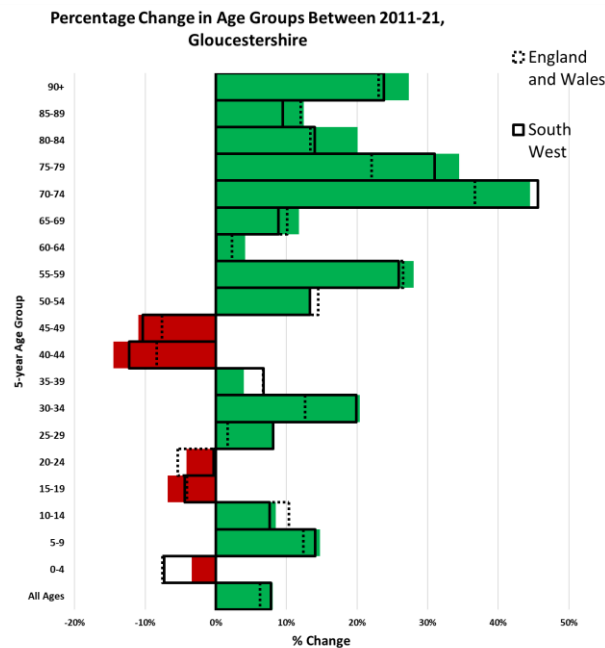


Figure 6: Percentage change in 5 year age groups between 2011 and 2021¹⁴

3.3.7 Ageing Population

An ageing population occurs when the share of older people in the population increases, it has implications for planning and policy as there is a requirement to adapt to the needs of an older population. The proportion of people in Gloucestershire aged 65+ has increased from 18.7% of the population in 2011 to 21.7% of the population in 2021. In comparison, the South West has increased from 19.6% to 22.3% of the population and England and Wales has increased from 16.4% to 18.6% between 2011 and 2021, see Table 6.

Table 6: Proportion of population in each broad age group, 2011 and 2021¹⁵

	0-19		20-64		65+	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Cheltenham	22.4%	21.9%	60.9%	59.3%	16.7%	19.3%
Cotswold	21.2%	19.8%	56.5%	54.3%	22.3%	26.1%
Forest of Dean	22.5%	20.9%	56.7%	54.0%	20.7%	24.9%
Gloucester	25.1%	23.9%	60.1%	59.5%	14.8%	16.7%
Stroud	23.0%	21.4%	57.5%	55.3%	19.5%	23.3%
Tewkesbury	22.1%	22.2%	57.8%	55.5%	20.1%	22.1%
Gloucestershire	22.9%	21.8%	58.5%	56.5%	18.7%	21.7%
South West	22.6%	21.4%	57.9%	56.3%	19.6%	22.3%
England	24.0%	23.1%	59.7%	58.5%	16.3%	18.4%
England and Wales	24.0%	23.1%	59.6%	58.4%	16.4%	18.6%

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

At district level, Cotswold has the largest proportion of 65+ year olds, accounting for 26.1% of its population in 2021, increasing from a 22.3% share in 2011.

2.3.7.2 The 80+ Population

The proportion of Gloucestershire's population that is 80+ increased from 5.4% of the population in 2011 to 6.0% of the population in 2021, equivalent to an 18.8% net increase. In comparison, the South West proportion increased from 5.8% to 6.1% and England's proportion increased from 4.6% to 5.0%.

Out of the districts, Cotswold had the highest proportion of people over the age of 80+ in both 2011 (6.7%) and 2021 (7.3%). In comparison, Gloucester had the lowest proportion of 80+ year olds in both 2011 (4.3%) and 2021 (4.5%).

Table 7: 80+ Population Proportion¹⁶

80+	2011	2021
Cheltenham	5.4%	5.9%
Cotswold	6.7%	7.3%
Forest of Dean	5.5%	6.2%
Gloucester	4.3%	4.5%
Stroud	5.5%	6.2%
Tewkesbury	5.6%	6.0%
Gloucestershire	5.4%	6.0%
South West	5.8%	6.1%
England	4.6%	5.0%
England and Wales	4.6%	5.0%

2.3.7.3 Age Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios¹⁷ are a measure that indicate the level of support that needs to be provided by the working population to the younger 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.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ 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.

Old-age dependency ratios are an example of an indicator of whether a population is ageing. They represent the ratio of people over the age of 65 to the working age population (20-64 year olds). As the old-age dependency ratio increases, the number of people over the age of 65 increases compared to every 100 people of working age.

Table 8 indicates that Gloucestershire's old-age dependency ratio increased from 0.32 to 0.38 between 2011 and 2021. This means for every 100 people of working-age there was 38 65+ year olds dependent on them on Census Day 2021. The South West's old-age dependency ratio (0.40) was higher than Gloucestershire but the old-age dependency ratio for England and Wales was lower (0.32) than Gloucestershire in 2021.

Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio of 0.48 (48 people over the age 65 for every 100 people of working age), this is followed by Forest of Dean (0.46 dependency ratio) and Stroud (0.42 dependency ratio).

Table 8: Old age dependency ratios¹⁸

Old- Age Dependency Ratio	2011	2021
Cheltenham	0.27	0.33
Cotswold	0.40	0.48
Forest of Dean	0.37	0.46
Gloucester	0.25	0.28
Stroud	0.34	0.42
Tewkesbury	0.35	0.40
Gloucestershire	0.32	0.38
South West	0.34	0.40
England	0.27	0.31
England and Wales	0.28	0.32

3.4 Population density

There were 243 residents per square kilometre in Gloucestershire in 2021. This was lower than the national average of 395 residents per square kilometre in England and Wales but in line with the regional average of 239 residents per square kilometre.

Figure 7 shows population density varies across the country and county. The urban districts of Cheltenham and Gloucester have densities of 2,550 and 3,267 residents per square kilometre respectively. In contrast, Cotswold district has a

¹⁸ 2021 Census and 2011 Census, ONS

density of 78 residents per square kilometre, which puts it in the 10% most sparsely population district and unitary authorities in England and Wales (with a rank of 317 out of 331 authorities).

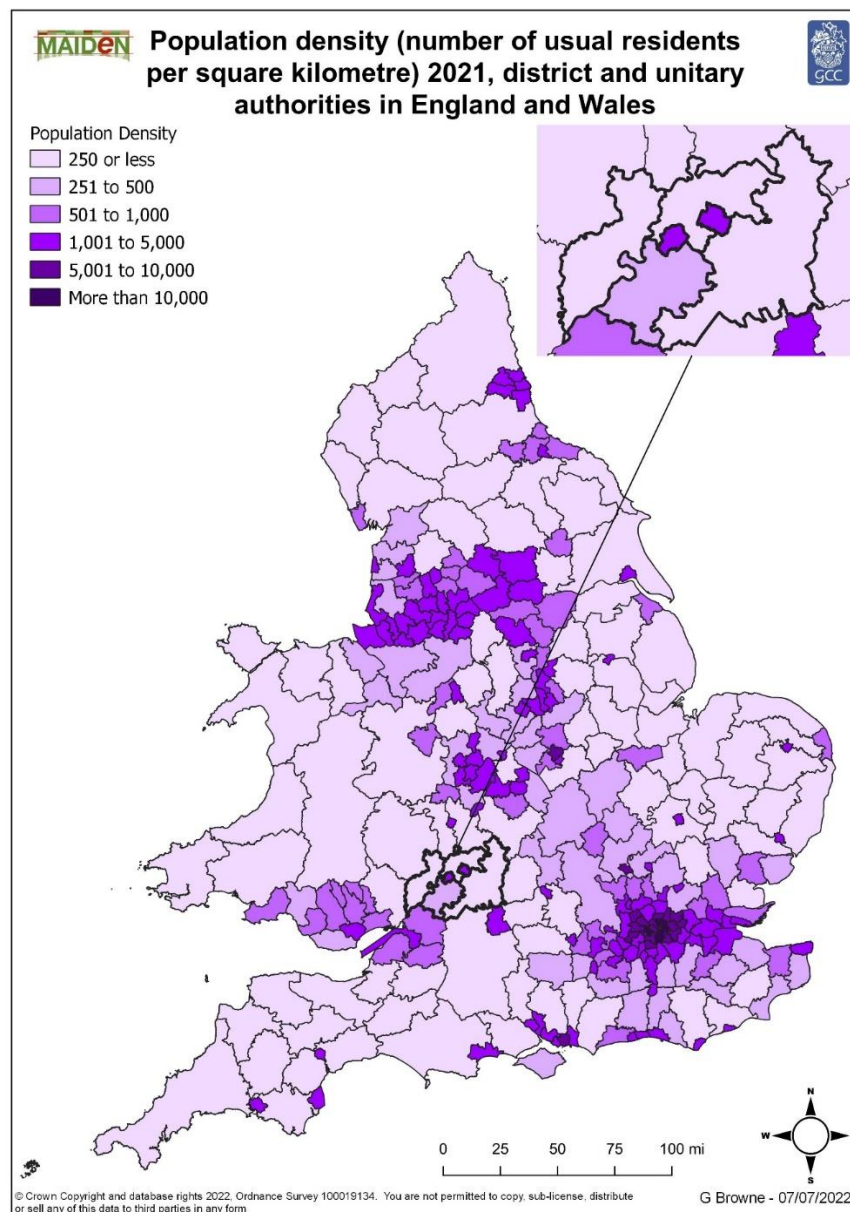


Figure 7: Population density 2021, district and unitary authorities in England and Wales¹⁹

Given the growth in population it is unsurprising population density increased in Gloucestershire between 2011 and 2021 and at a faster rate than nationally. Across the county Tewkesbury saw the greatest rate of growth in population density, while Cheltenham saw the lowest, reflecting the picture seen in overall population change. Gloucester and Cheltenham saw the greatest net change in population density and the increase in Gloucester was greater than the overall

¹⁹ 2021 Census, ONS

population density of all other districts apart from Cheltenham, with an additional 266 residents per square kilometer.

Table 9: Population density, 2011 and 2021²⁰

	Number of usual residents per square kilometre, 2011	Number of usual residents per square kilometre, 2021	Net change 2011-2021	% change 2011-2021
Cheltenham	2,483	2,550	67	2.7%
Cotswold	71	78	7	9.9%
Forest of Dean	156	165	9	5.8%
Gloucester	3,001	3,267	266	8.9%
Stroud	245	263	18	7.3%
Tewkesbury	198	229	31	15.7%
Gloucestershire	225	243	18	8.0%
South West	222	239	17	7.7%
England	407	434	27	6.6%
England and Wales	371	395	24	6.5%

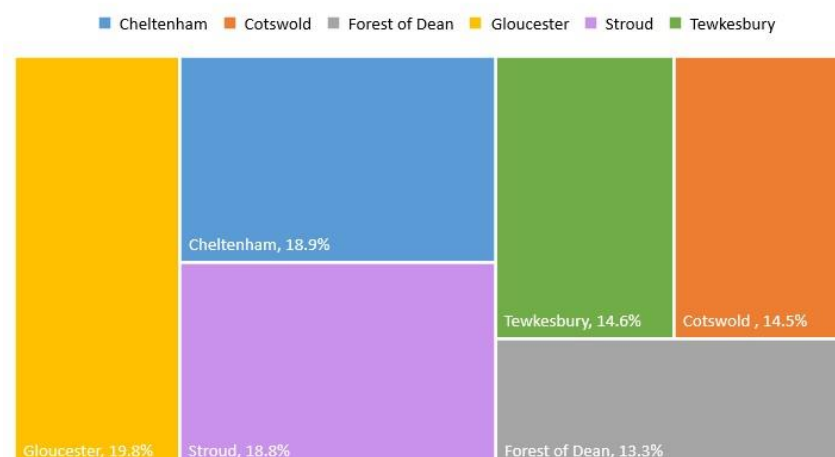
3.5 Households in Gloucestershire

There were 279,400 households in Gloucestershire on Census Day. Gloucestershire accounted for around 11.4% of households in the South West and 1.1% of the households in England and Wales.

Figure 8 shows Gloucester district had the most households with approximately 55,400 households or 19.8% of the county's total. This was followed by Cheltenham which accounted for 18.8% of the county's households, this represents a change from 2011 when Cheltenham had most households in the county, followed by Gloucester. In 2021 the Forest of Dean had the smallest number of households followed by Cotswold, in line with the picture seen in 2011.

²⁰ 2021 Census and 2011 Census

Households in Gloucestershire by district, 2021

Figure 8: Households in Gloucestershire by district, 2021²¹

3.6 Household change

The number of households in Gloucestershire increased by 24,785 (9.7%) compared with Census Day 2011, when there were 254,615 households. The rate of growth in Gloucestershire was higher than nationally, with the number of households in England and Wales increasing by 6.1% between 2011 and 2021. The rate of household growth in Gloucestershire over the last decade has increased compared with the rate between 2001 and 2011, when the number of households grew by 7.0%. This differs from the picture seen nationally, with household growth in England and Wales decreasing slightly compared with the rate between 2001 and 2011, when the number of households grew by 7.9%.

Table 10: Change in the number of households, 2011-2021²²

	2011 Households	2021 Households	Net change 2011-2021	% change 2011-2021
Cheltenham	50,929	52,900	1,971	3.9%
Cotswold	36,236	40,600	4,364	12.0%
Forest of Dean	34,167	37,200	3,033	8.9%
Gloucester	50,363	55,400	5,037	10.0%
Stroud	47,794	52,400	4,606	9.6%
Tewkesbury	35,126	40,900	5,774	16.4%
Gloucestershire	254,615	279,400	24,785	9.7%
South West	2,264,641	2,448,800	184,159	8.1%
England	22,063,368	23,435,700	1,372,332	6.2%
England and Wales	23,366,044	24,782,800	1,416,756	6.1%

²¹ 2021 Census²² 2021 Census and 2011 Census

Figure 9 shows most local authority areas across England and Wales experienced increases in housing number between 2011 and 2021, although in some areas the number of houses fell.

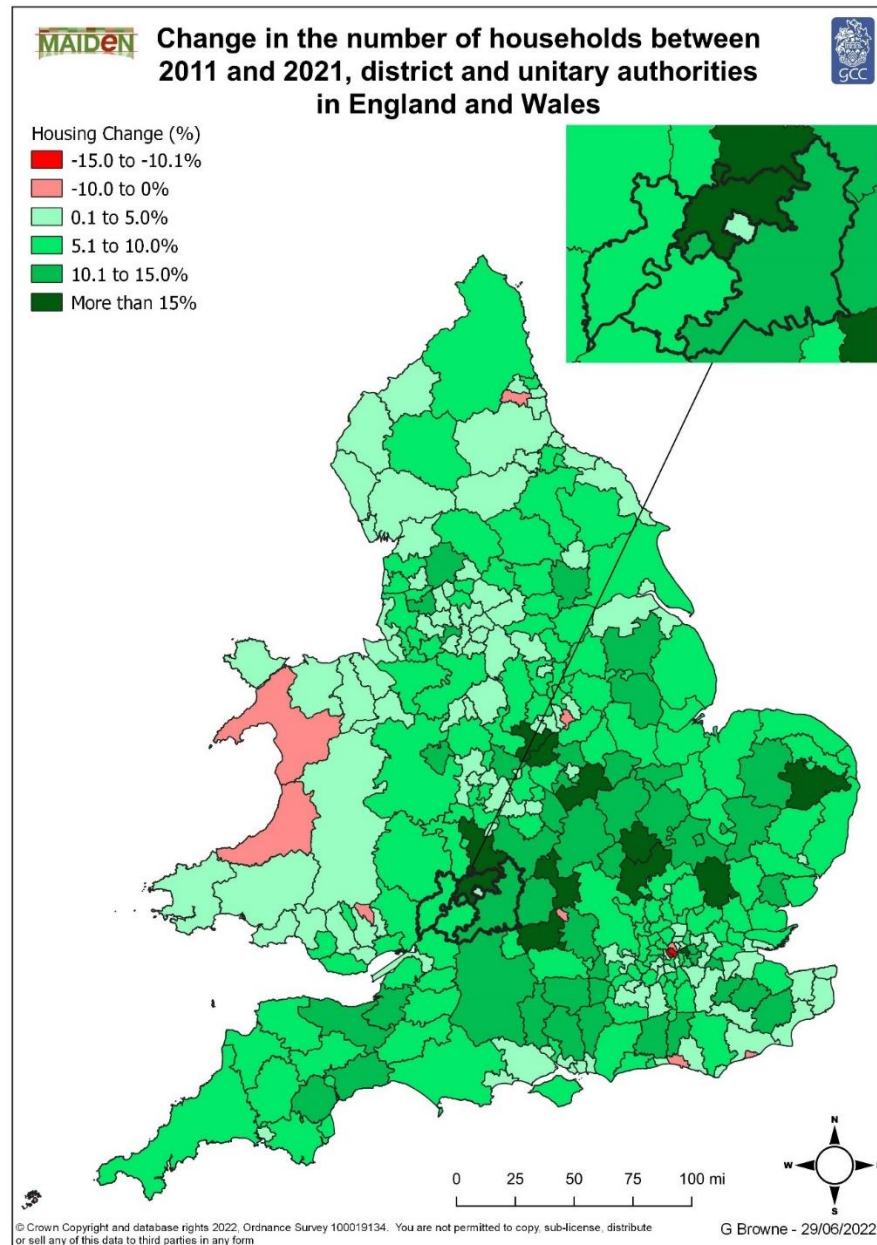


Figure 9: Change in the number of households between 2011 and 2021, district and unitary authorities in England and Wales²³

Across Gloucestershire housing growth was greatest in Tewkesbury, with the number of households increasing by 16.4% from 2011 (a gain of approximately

²³ 2021 Census and 2011 Census, ONS

5,774 households), reflecting the picture seen in population growth. As well as being the district with the highest growth in Gloucestershire.

Figure 10 shows Tewkesbury has had one of the highest growth rates nationally, it was ranked 4th out of 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, considerably higher than its rank of 131 between 2001 and 2011. Tewkesbury also saw the greatest household growth in the South West between 2001 and 2021.

Cheltenham saw the smallest household growth in Gloucestershire, with the number of households increasing by 3.9% since 2011 (a gain of around 2,00 households). This puts Cheltenham in the bottom 25% of district and unitary authorities in England and Wales in terms of household growth. It also saw the third lowest household growth across the South West, with only Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and the Isles of Scilly seeing lower rates of growth.

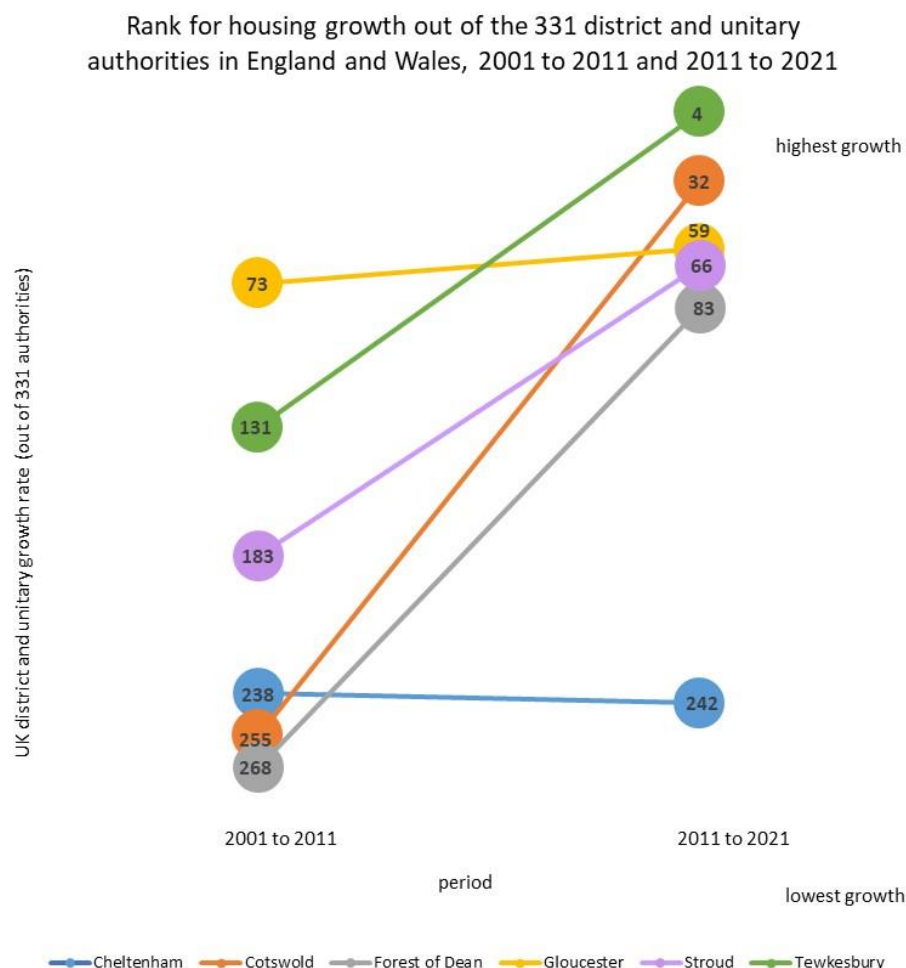


Figure 10: Rank for household growth out of the 331 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales, 2001 to 2011 and 2011 to 2021²⁴

²⁴ Ibid.

3.7 Comparison to the Mid-Year Estimates

Between censuses the ONS produce mid-year estimates. Estimates are produced by updating a census base using a standard demographic method, the cohort component method, and cover the usually resident population. The previous year's resident population, by single year of age, is aged by one year, and then flows are applied to cover births, deaths, immigration, emigration and people entering and leaving "special populations" such as people in prisons or the armed forces. All population estimates are subject to a degree of uncertainty and that uncertainty increases over the decade between the censuses. The most recent mid-year estimates relate to 2020 and estimate the population of Gloucestershire to be 640,650, the census figures are 0.7% higher than this (4,450 more residents). Gloucestershire's 25-44 year old population and 55-65 year old population was greater according to the census, conversely the number of 0-9 year olds, 45-54 year olds and 65-69 year olds was lower.

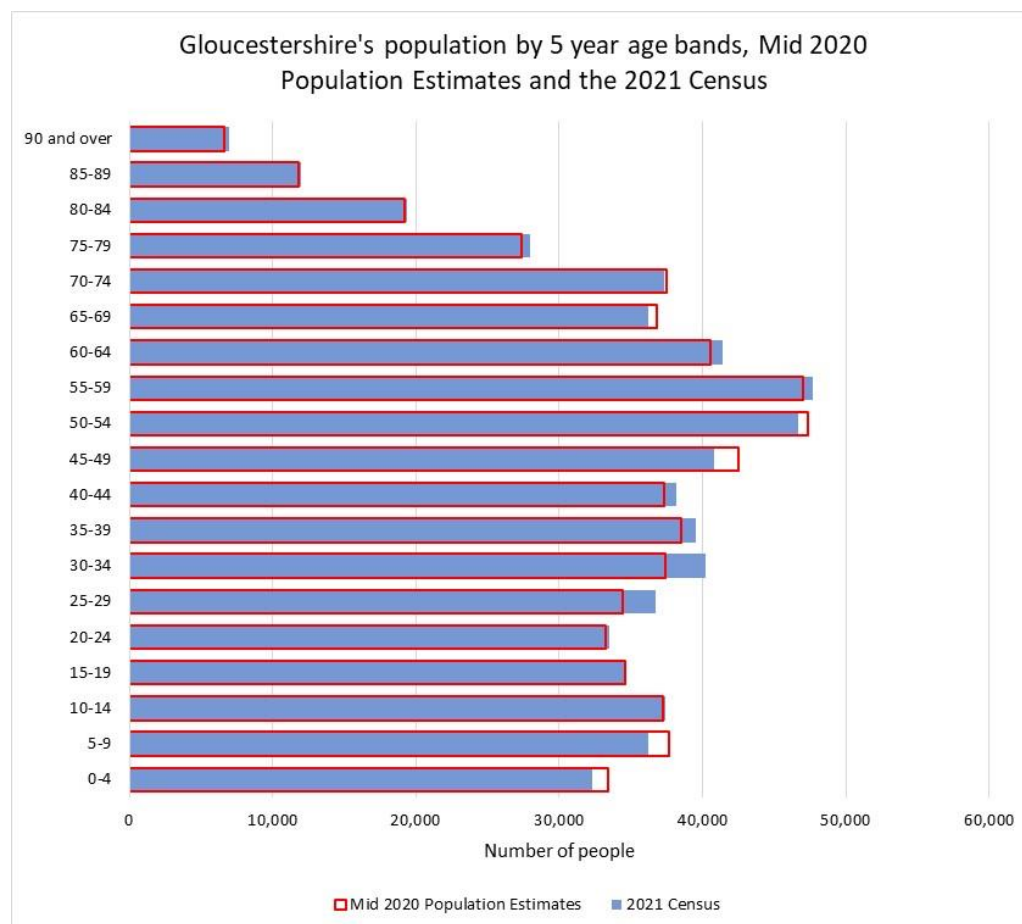


Figure 11: Gloucestershire's population by 5 year age bands, Mid 2020 Population Estimates and the 2021 Census²⁵

²⁵ 2021 Census and Mid 2020 Population Estimates, ONS

Figure 12 shows that at district level the picture is varied, the mid-year estimates are greater than the census for Tewkesbury, but lower than the census for Cheltenham and Gloucester

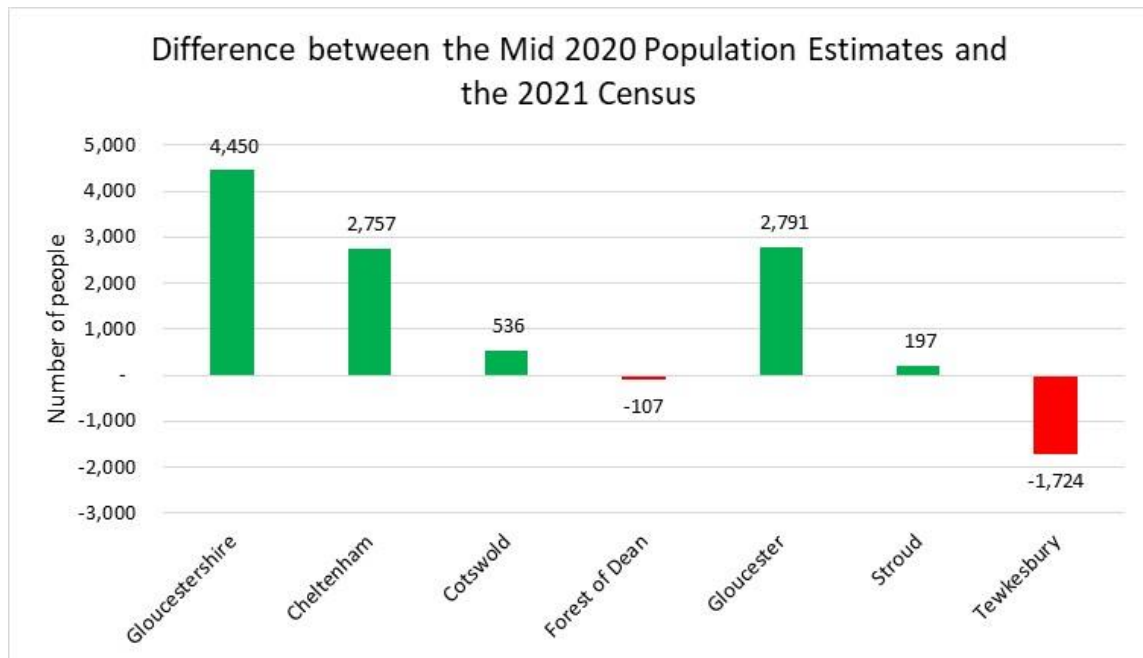


Figure 12: Difference between the Mid 2020 Population Estimates and the 2021 Census²⁶

4. Key messages

- On Census Day, 21st March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in Gloucestershire was 645,100, an increase of more than 48,000 people from 2011. The percentage increase was more than that experienced by the South West and England and Wales as a whole.
- Population growth has not been spread evenly across the county, the rate of growth has been much higher in Tewkesbury than other parts of the county in particular Cheltenham, which might have ramifications in terms of demand for services.
- There continues to be a higher proportion of females (51.1%) than males (48.9%) living in the county reflecting the same trend seen in the South West and England and Wales.
- The proportion of 65+ years old has increased in Gloucestershire and its districts, indicating an ageing population. The ageing population will continue to pose challenges for service providers. Gloucestershire also faces

²⁶ Ibid.

challenges in how to drive the local economy forward to support the growing numbers of people in retirement.

5. What's next?

Following the first release in June, the ONS will release further results from the census from September onwards. These will include data on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. For the first time, it will also include information on armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity.

6. Where can you find out more?

For further information please visit:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

Or contact us by emailing informgloucestershire@gloucestershire.gov.uk

7. Notes

Figures for 2021 are individually rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures may not add exactly due to this rounding.