

Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2021)

An Overview

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Current Population of Gloucestershire (Mid-2021) An Overview

The Office of National Statistics estimated that Gloucestershire's population was 646,627 people in the middle of 2021. Gloucester continues to have the largest population with 132,538 people and Forest of Dean continues to have the smallest at 87,140.

Table 1. Mid-population Estimates in England and Wales, Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2021

Area	Population 2021
Gloucestershire	646,627
Cheltenham	118,866
Cotswold	91,125
Forest of Dean	87,140
Gloucester	132,538
Stroud	121,529
Tewkesbury	95,429
South West	5,712,840
England and Wales	59,641,829

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, indicated by the wider top half of the pyramid and narrowing base.

The overall gender distribution for Gloucestershire is 48.9% males and 51.1% 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 and Wales has a 49.0% share of males and the South West has a 48.9% share of males.

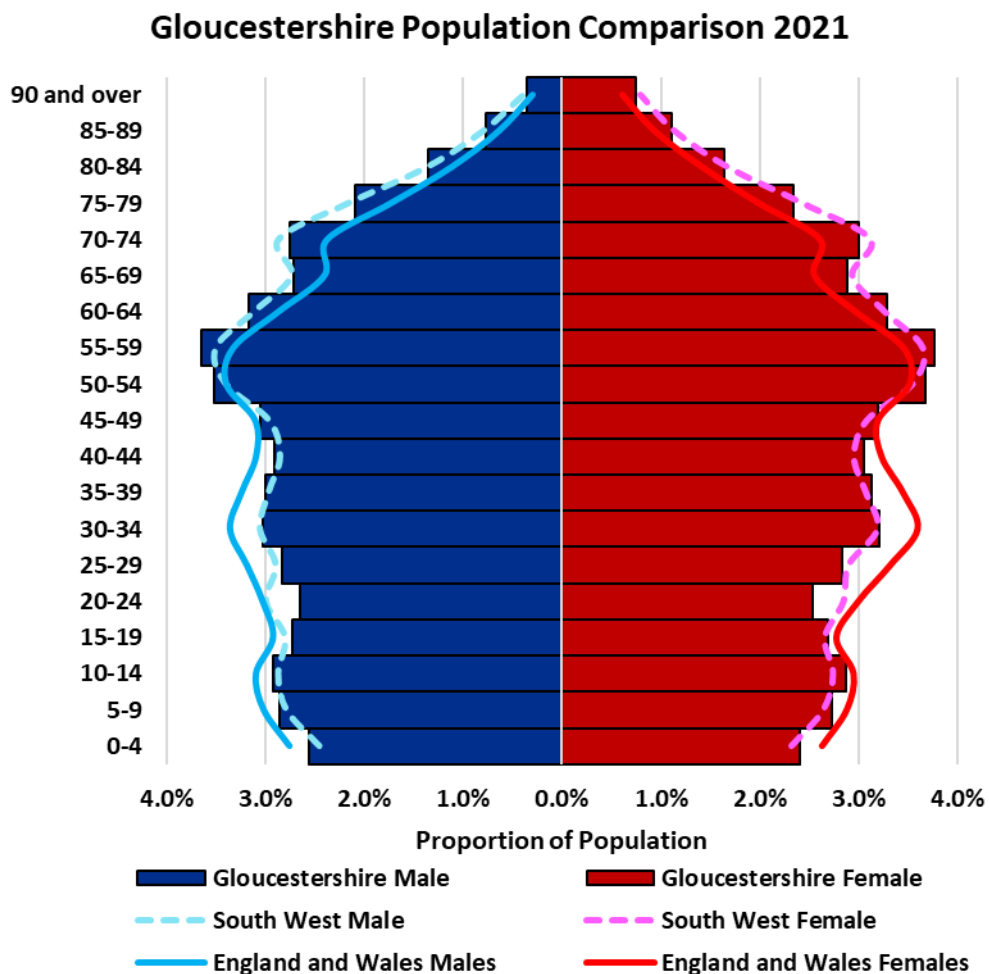


Figure 2. Gloucestershire Population Pyramid, 2021

The proportion of people over the age of 65 is higher in Gloucestershire (21.8%) than in England and Wales (18.7%) but lower than in the South West (22.4%).

The proportion of the population who are of working-age (16-64) is 60.8% in Gloucestershire. This is lower than the overall working-age proportion in England and Wales

(63.0%) but slightly higher than in the South West (60.7%). Noticeably there is a smaller proportion of 20-39-year olds in Gloucestershire than in England and Wales as a whole.

Gloucestershire also has a slightly smaller proportion of people aged 15 and under compared to England and Wales, 17.4% vs. 18.5%. However, the proportion of 0-15 years olds in Gloucestershire is higher than in the South West (16.9%).

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

Age Group	0-15	16-64	65+
Gloucestershire	17.4%	60.8%	21.8%
Cheltenham	17.1%	63.5%	19.4%
Cotswold	15.9%	57.9%	26.1%
Forest of Dean	16.0%	58.8%	25.2%
Gloucester	19.2%	64.0%	16.8%
Stroud	17.2%	59.5%	23.4%
Tewkesbury	18.4%	59.3%	22.3%
South West	16.9%	60.7%	22.4%
England and Wales	18.5%	62.9%	18.7%

The population pyramids for each of the districts in Gloucestershire shows some distinct differences. To differing extents all the districts, apart from Gloucester and Cheltenham, have a narrower proportion of working-age groups compared to England and Wales. This is particularly distinct in the Cotswold.

Key points:

- Gloucester has the highest proportion of 0-15-year olds with a share of 19.2% compared to Cotswold which has the lowest proportion of under 16s with 15.9%.
- Gloucester also has the highest share of working-age people between 16-64 at 64.0% compared to Cotswold which has the lowest with 57.9%.
- Cotswold has the highest share of people over the age of 65 at 26.1%, whilst Gloucester has the smallest at 16.8%.
- All districts had a lower percentage of males than females.
- Gloucester had the highest percentage of males at 49.5% compared to females whereas, Cotswold had the lowest at 48.2%.

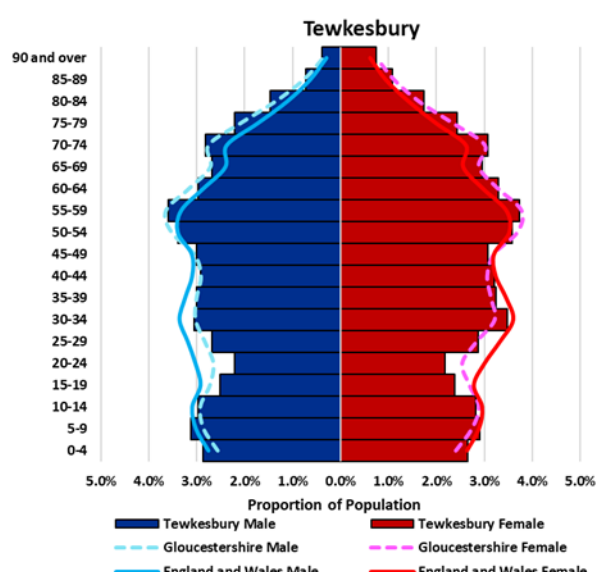
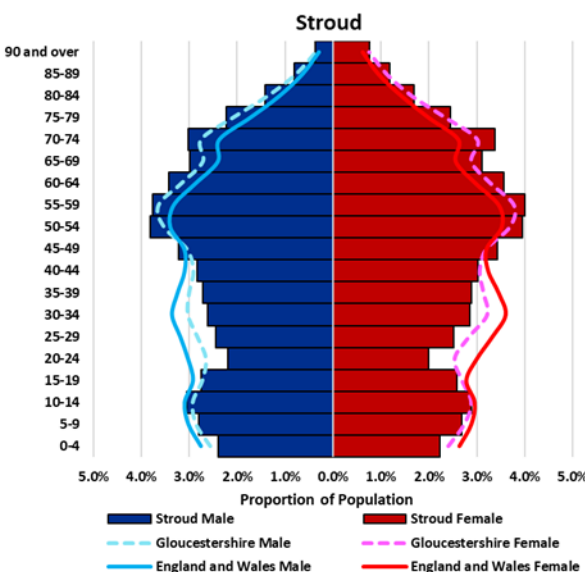
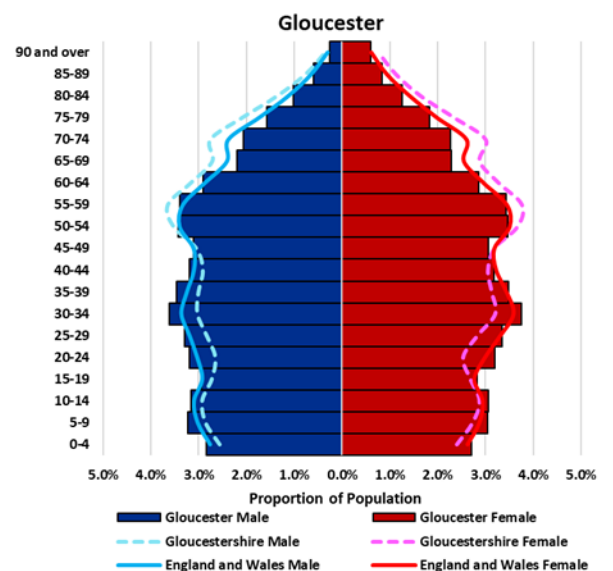
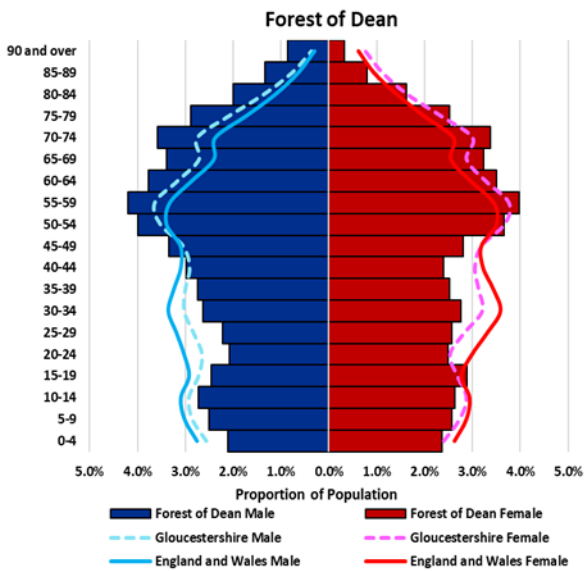
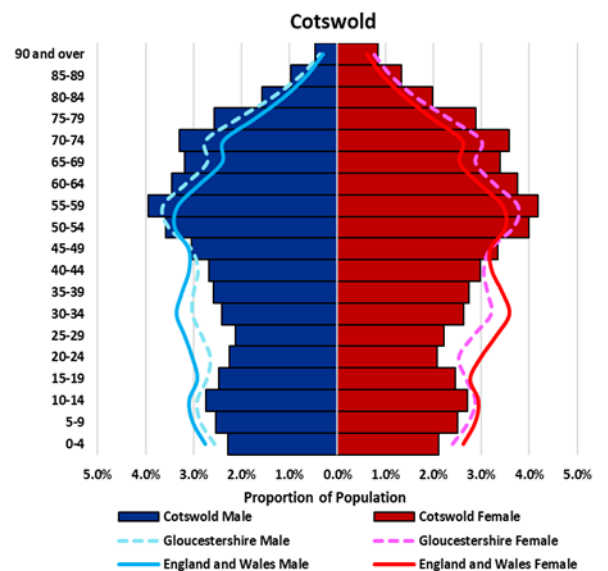
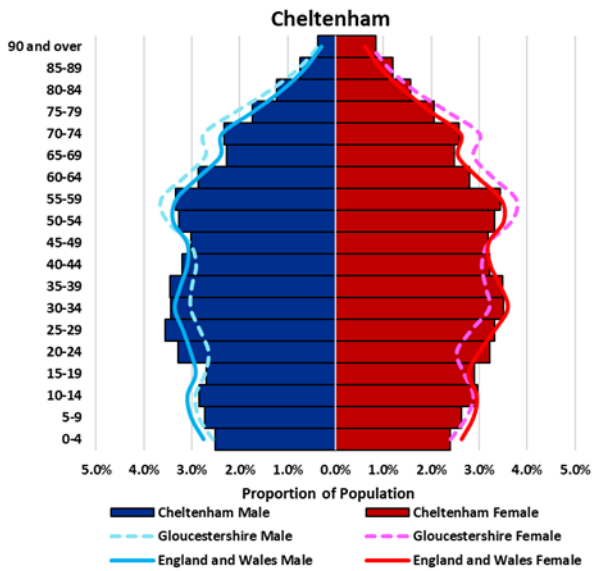


Figure 3. District Population Structures

Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios¹ are a measure that indicate 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. These workings use the 0-15 and 16-64 age-groups.

Gloucestershire had an estimated dependency ratio of 0.64 which means for every 100 people who are of working-age there are 64 people who are dependent on them. England and Wales, in comparison, has a lower ratio of 0.59 meaning that for every 100 working-age people there are 59 dependents. Gloucestershire's dependency ratio is similar to the South West's.

Table 4. Age Structure of Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2021

Age Group	0-15	16-64	65+	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio	Old-age Dependency Ratio
Gloucestershire	17.4%	60.8%	21.8%	0.64	0.29	0.36
Cheltenham	17.1%	63.5%	19.4%	0.58	0.27	0.31
Cotswold	15.9%	57.9%	26.1%	0.73	0.27	0.45
Forest of Dean	16.0%	58.8%	25.2%	0.70	0.27	0.43
Gloucester	19.2%	64.0%	16.8%	0.56	0.30	0.26
Stroud	17.2%	59.5%	23.4%	0.68	0.29	0.39
Tewkesbury	18.4%	59.3%	22.3%	0.69	0.31	0.38
South West	16.9%	60.7%	22.4%	0.65	0.28	0.37
England and Wales	18.5%	62.9%	18.7%	0.59	0.29	0.30

Out of Gloucestershire's districts:

- In 2021, Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio at 0.73 whilst Gloucester had the lowest at 0.56.
- Interestingly, Cotswold the one of the lowest youth dependency ratios 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 90+ population

In Gloucestershire, 1.1% of the population was over the age of 90, equivalent to 7,183 people. In comparison, 1.2% of the population in the South West was aged 90+ and 0.9% in England and Wales overall.

Table 5. Number of people over the age of 90 in England and Wales, 2021

	90+	% of population
Gloucestershire	7,183	1.1%
Cheltenham	1,430	1.2%
Cotswold	1,209	1.3%
Forest of Dean	956	1.1%
Gloucester	1,127	0.9%
Stroud	1,378	1.1%
Tewkesbury	1,083	1.1%
South West	67,930	1.2%
England and Wales	539,637	0.9%

In Gloucestershire's districts there were differences in the proportion of the population who were aged 90 plus:

- Cotswold had the highest proportion of people over the age of 90 in 2021, equivalent to 1.3% of its population (956 people).
- Conversely, Gloucester accounted for the smallest proportion of 90 plus year olds with 0.9% of the population (1,127 people).
- All the district proportions of 90 plus year olds were equivalent to or greater than the England and Wales proportion.

Median Age

The average age of an individual living in Gloucestershire is increasing, another indicator that the population is ageing. In 2021, the average age of a Gloucestershire resident was 44.2 years. The median age in Gloucestershire is higher than both the South West (44.1 years) and England and Wales (40.6 years).

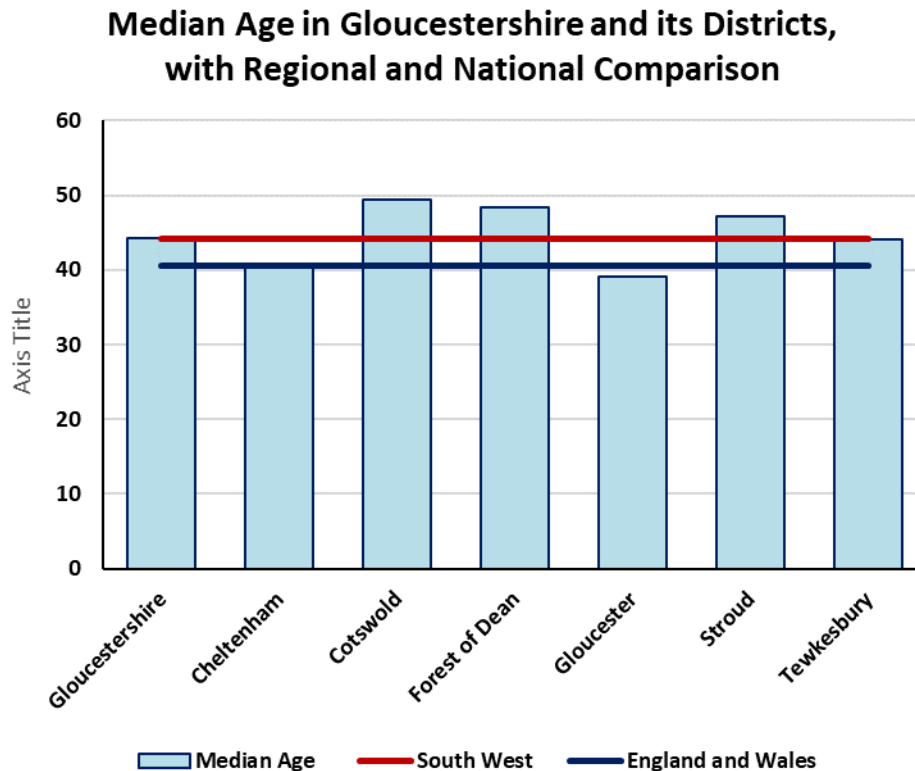


Figure 4. Median Age in Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2021

There are stark differences between Gloucestershire's districts which is reflective of the age structure of the populations:

- In 2021, Cotswold had the highest median age at 49.3 whereas, Gloucester had the lowest at 39.2, a difference of 10 years.
- Gloucester is the only district to have a median age lower than England and Wales in 2021.

Population Density

Overall, the population density in Gloucestershire is increasing. In 2021, Gloucestershire was estimated to have a population density of 244 people per square kilometre (km). In comparison, England and Wales had 213 more people per km squared than Gloucestershire, equivalent to a population density of 457 people per square km. However, the South West is less densely populated than Gloucestershire with 4 fewer people per kilometre squared (240 people per square km).

Table 7. Population Density in Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2021

	Land Area (sq. km) ²	Population	Population per sq./km
Gloucestershire	2,652.53	646,627	243.8
Cheltenham	46.60	118,866	2,551.0
Cotswold	1,164.52	91,125	78.3
Forest of Dean	525.90	87,140	165.7
Gloucester	40.55	132,538	3,268.3
Stroud	460.54	121,529	263.9
Tewkesbury	414.41	95,429	230.3
South West	23,849.98	5,712,840	239.7
England	130,462.35	59,641,829	457.2

The district data indicates there is an uneven distribution of the population per square km at district level:

- Of the districts, Gloucester has the highest population density with 3,268 people per square km in 2021 followed by Cheltenham at 2,551 people per square km.
- In contrast, Cotswold has the lowest population density at 78 people per square km.

² Standard Area Measurements 2022, Mean High Watermark, ONS
<https://geoportal.statistics.gov.uk/datasets/standard-area-measurements-latest-for-administrative-areas-in-the-united-kingdom-v2/about>