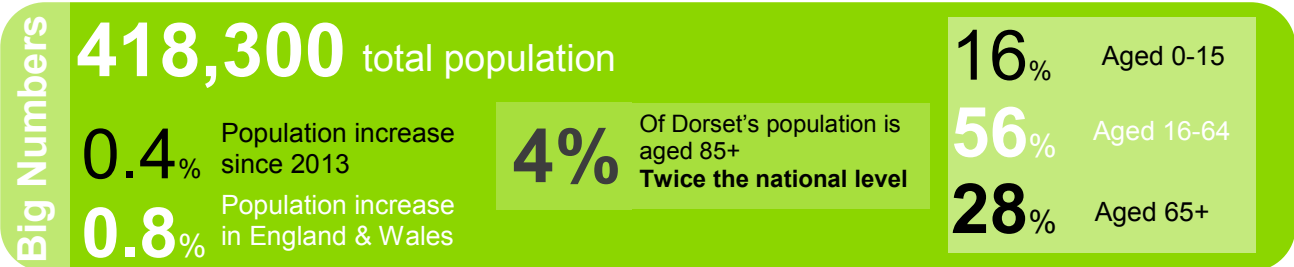




2014 Mid-Year population estimates in Dorset

Welcome to this **ourcommunities** bitesize bulletin on mid-year population estimates for Dorset. This edition will include the current population in Dorset, its changes and why this matters. The mid-year population estimates are the official statistic produced annually by the Office of National Statistics.

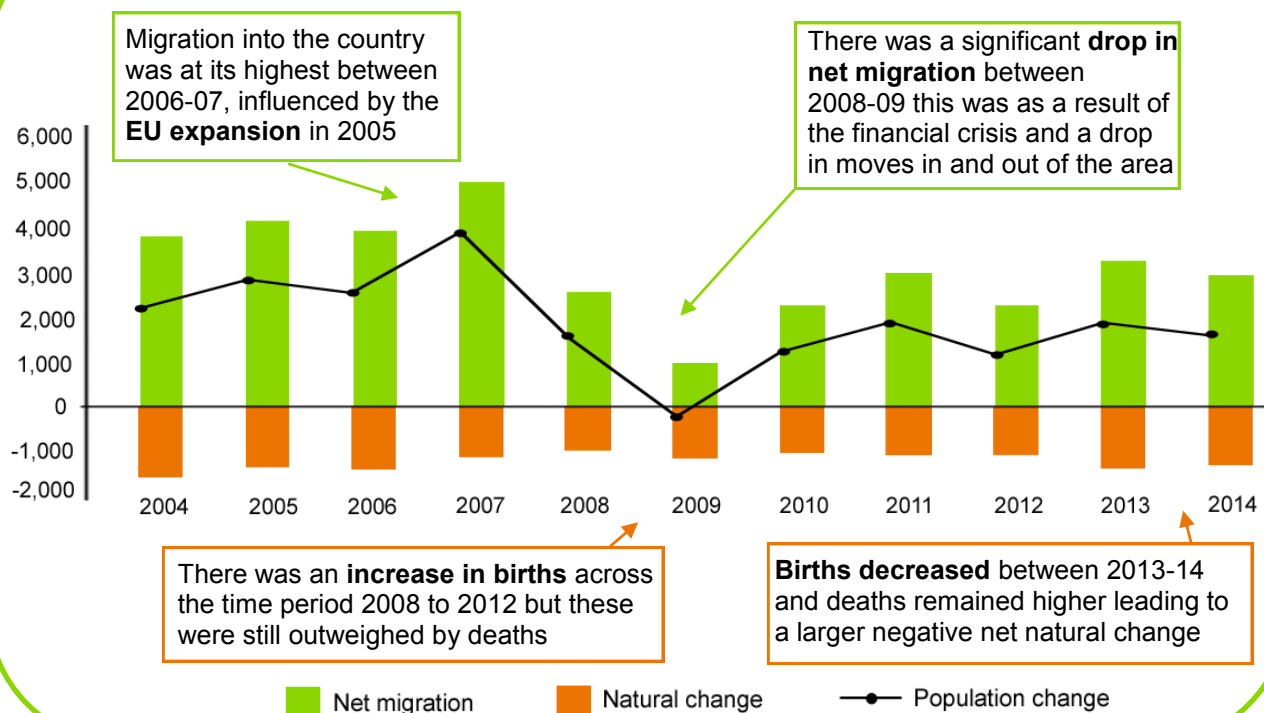
The total population has increased by 1,500 since 2013 with those aged 65+ increasing in particular. Births are at the lowest since 2006 whilst net migration is at the highest for seven years.



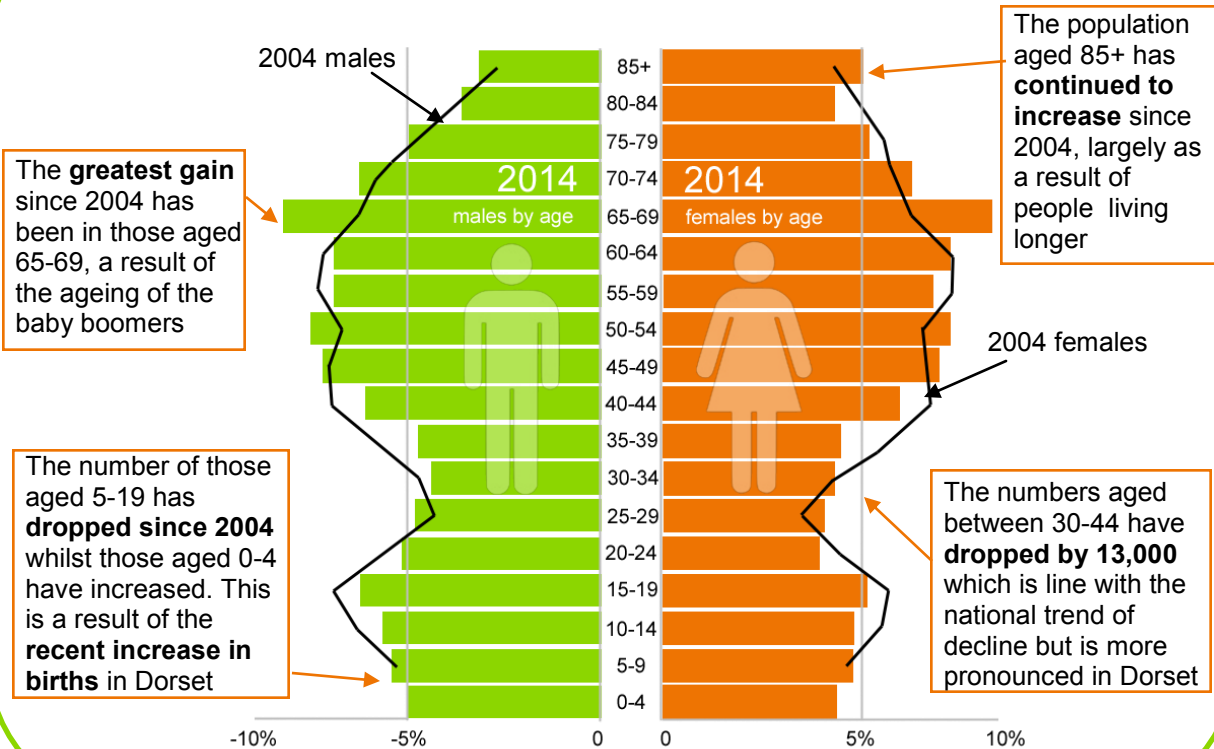
Box 1: What has caused the population to increase 2013-14?

- There were more deaths than births between 2013 and 2014 resulting in a **net natural decline** in the population.
- More people moved into the area than out, meaning that the population still **increased**.
- Without this **positive net migration** the population would have declined.

Box 2: How has the population changed over the last ten years?



Box 3: How has the age structure changed since 2004?



Box 4: Why does it matter?

These demographic changes are likely to have an impact on the needs of residents and demand for services, in particular the over 85s. Whilst ageing of the population will also occur nationally, this is more pronounced in Dorset due to the already significantly older age structure. This highlights the urgency for Dorset in planning services for older people and supporting carers. Associated with this is the rise in one person households, increasing challenges for council services and putting additional pressure on housing. Loneliness and isolation is a particular issue in Dorset and further information can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/article/339524/Research-and-data-bulletins.

Our shrinking population aged between 30 and 44 will impact on employers looking to recruit staff and replace the growing numbers of those retiring. Whilst these losses are partially offset by gains in those aged 25-29 and 50-59, there is still potential for considerable impact on the local economy.

Further challenges also exist in the previous year on year increase in birth rates leading to growth in the number of children aged 0-4 years impacting on school provision. The previous trend of an increase in births may have come to an end as births between 2013-14 are the lowest since 2006. Nonetheless, gains in previous years will be reflected throughout school years and so pupil place planning should consider when and where demands will be at their highest, impacting on school roll numbers, staffing and travel to school.