



2016 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 statistics produced annually by the Office of National Statistics.

The total population has increased by 2,140 since 2015 with those aged 65+ increasing in particular, although this ageing has slowed in comparison to previous years. Migration into the County from within the UK has declined, with moves into the area the lowest since 2002.

Big Numbers

422,730 total population

0.5% Population increase since 2015

0.9% Population increase in England & Wales

4.2% Of Dorset's population is aged 85+
Twice the national level

16% Aged 0-15
19% NATIONALLY

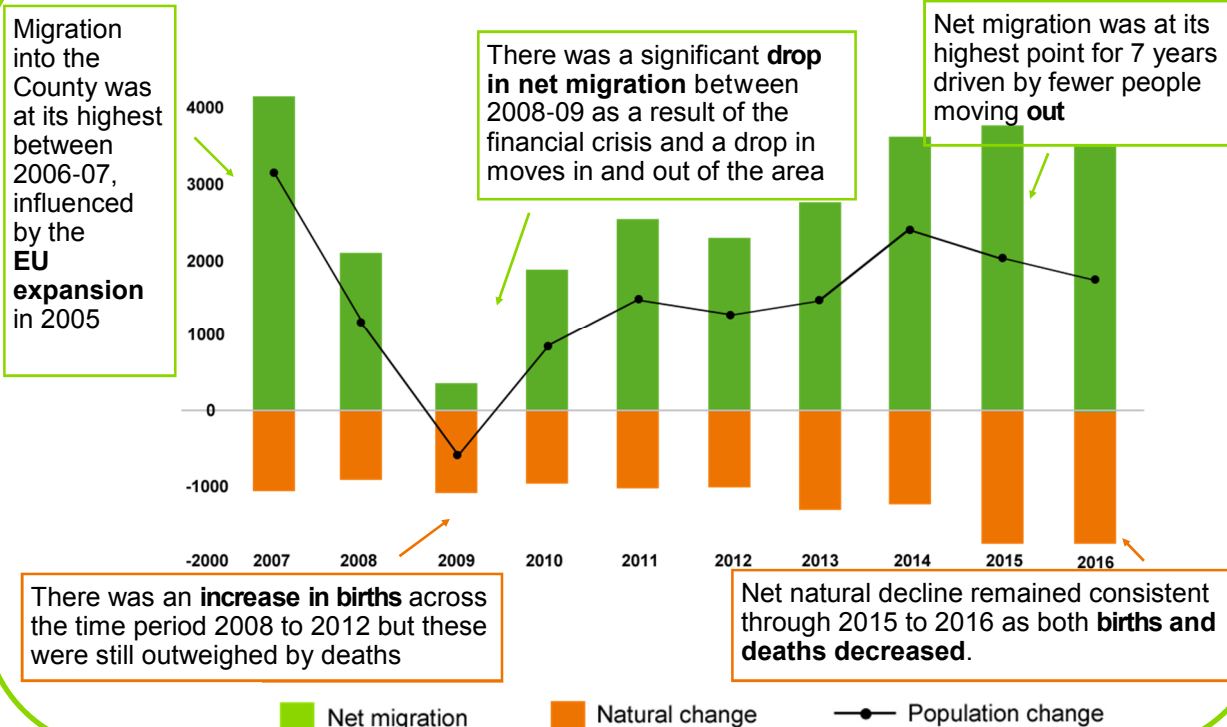
56% Aged 16-64
63% NATIONALLY

28% Aged 65+
18% NATIONALLY

Box 1: What has caused the population to increase 2015-16?

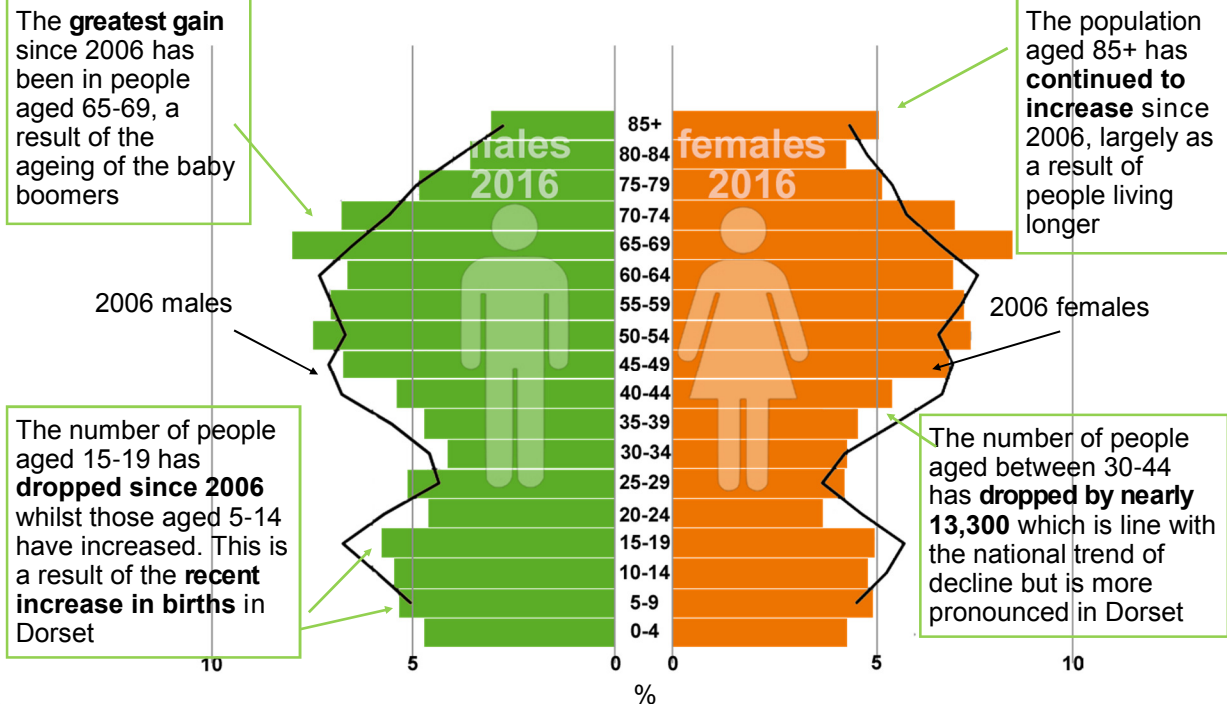
- The number of births and deaths is down on last year, but with still more deaths than births between 2015 and 2016 there is a **net natural decline** in the population.
- Total net migration has dropped but more people still moved into the area than out, meaning that the population still **increased**.
- 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 2006?



Box 4: Why does it matter?

The population continues to age both locally and nationally but at a slower rate than recent years. However the baby boomer generation are now approaching their 70s, highlighting the urgency for Dorset in planning services for older people and supporting carers as this generation becomes more vulnerable.

Older workers constitute the single largest pool of untapped potential in Britain. This is particularly pronounced in Dorset with 22% of the population aged 55-69. With the challenges that lie ahead, it is crucial we build on their wealth of skills, experience and collective wisdom. Further information on skills in the older workforce can be found on [Dorset Statistics](#).

Moves from within the UK (internal migration) both into the County and out of the County is the lowest it has been since 2002. This could reflect the turbulent times we are going through with continued economic uncertainty. International migration both in and out has increased very slightly (<30 individuals), but makes up just 0.1% of the population compared with 0.6% nationally.

In contrast to recent years the number of births has dropped. However due to increases in birth rates over previous years and gains in the 5-14 age group through migration there will continue to be an impact on pupil place planning.