



2017 Mid-Year Population Estimates in Dorset

July 11th is [World Population Day](#). The aim of the day is to focus the world's attention on the importance of population issues. This coincides with the recently released 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimates by the Office for National Statistics which provide population estimates at a local authority level and above. The total population has increased by 1,730 since 2016, just 0.4%.

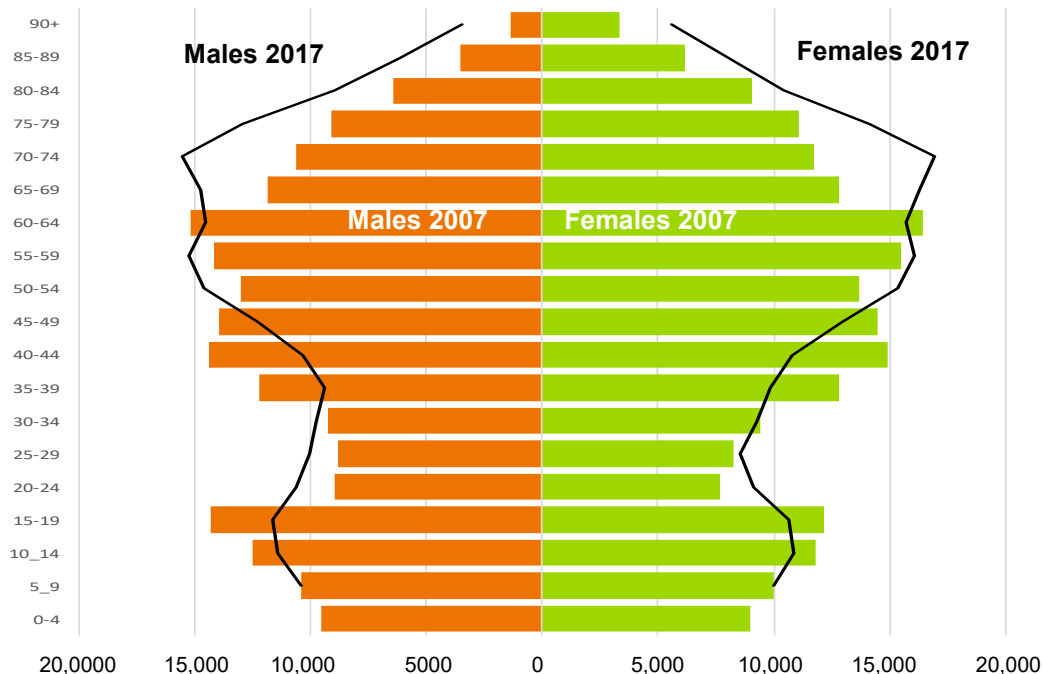
The new Dorset Council area which will come into effect in April 2019 saw a similar rise in population. As is the trend in Dorset, those aged 65+ showed the largest increase with a growth of 1.6% and now make up 29% of the population compared to 18% nationally.

Big Numbers	424,670 Total population	3,384 Lowest number of births since 2004	16% Aged 0-15 19% NATIONALLY
	0.4% Population increase since 2016	5,296 Number of deaths continues to rise	55% Aged 16-64 63% NATIONALLY
	0.6% Population increase in England & Wales	10% Increase in 70-74yr olds over the year from 2016	29% Aged 65+ 18% NATIONALLY

Box 1: Cause of population increase

Population growth continues to decline since a high in **2015** and at 0.4% is over half that seen in **2007**. Growth is driven by immigration as the number of deaths far outweighs births. **2,941** more people entered the county from within the UK than left. Net international migration has fallen since last year with just **500** more people immigrating from overseas than left to go abroad.

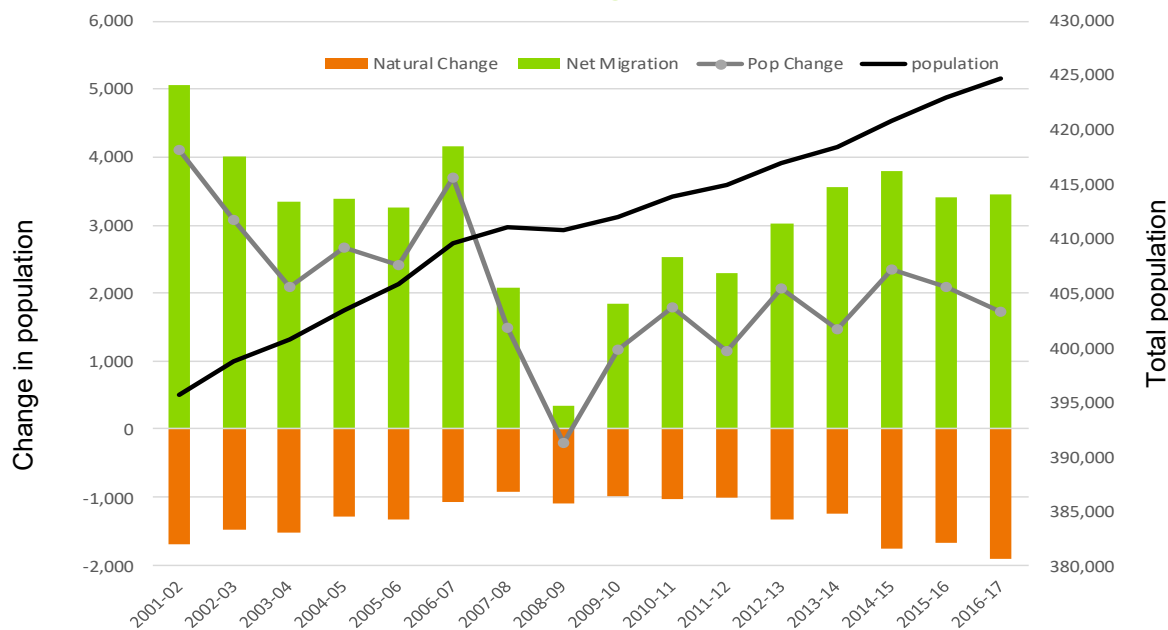
Box 2: Change in population structure over 10 years



The shape of the population pyramid remains the same as it was in 2007, with those in the older age groups dominating the population while those in the working age groups continue to decrease. The increase in very old people is driven by aging of the post WW2 baby boomers who are now entering their eighth decade.



Box 3: Population Change over the new millennium



Since 2001 there has been a steady increase in population except around the financial crash of **2008/09** which saw a decrease in population led by a decrease in net migration—more people were moving out of the area—and an increase in number of deaths. Number of births rose steadily from 2001 to 2008/09 but started to fall post the financial crisis. Number of deaths is the highest it has been since 2001.

Box 4: New Dorset Council

The new Dorset Council will come into effect in April 2019. The geography of the new council will cover Purbeck, East, North and West Dorset Councils and Weymouth & Portland Borough. The current population of the area is 375,050. Population structure is similar to that seen in the County Council area, however there is a slightly lower proportion of those aged 65+ at 28% of the population .

What are we doing about it?

The topic for this year's World Population day is family planning as the UN expects the population to increase to around 10bn by 2050, while in comparison the birth rate in Dorset is falling and already lower than the national average. Trends of births and migration of children aged 0-15 inform the school place planning process to ensure enough school places for all. This work is undertaken through analysis of our population estimates along with provision of population projections based upon this data and those trends. An increase in births between 2007 and 2009 and again in 2011/12 and gains in the 5-14 age group through migration means there will continue to be an impact on pupil place planning.

Dorset County Council's [Enabling Economic Growth Strategy](#) seeks to increase the number and proportion of high skilled and better paid jobs across the county. Together with improved links between schools and employers and improved careers advice, this will help young people make informed decisions about their future and appreciate the potential to achieve aspirations within Dorset. High employment levels enable older people to remain in the work force, and initiatives such as the Dorset Business Mentoring scheme allow experienced business people to work alongside and encourage fledgling companies.

Dorset County Council is investing in helping people to plan ahead for their old age, continues to fund prevention type services, and is delivering on a plan to create a sustainable care market which is personalised for current and future generations. In addition we have developed a programme of engagement with representatives of communities, in particular older people and carers so they can influence the design of caring communities wherever possible. Dorset County Council aims to increase the number of carers who are registered, working in greater partnership with Dorset CCG, to ensure wider recognition and awareness of the vital role carers play in all our communities and use this information to improve advice, information and support and availability and access to this.