

December
2020

State of Dorset Population



Change in Dorset's demographic make-up can have an impact on service demands and provision but can also affect housing demand and business needs.

Changes in our population are shaped by both natural change (births and deaths) and by migration into and out of Dorset.

By projecting future population change, we can plan to target services and resources to the places where they will be needed most.

Big Numbers Box

4.3%

projected population change
2019-2029

378,500

total
population
in 2019

2%pa

+65's projected
population change
2019-2029

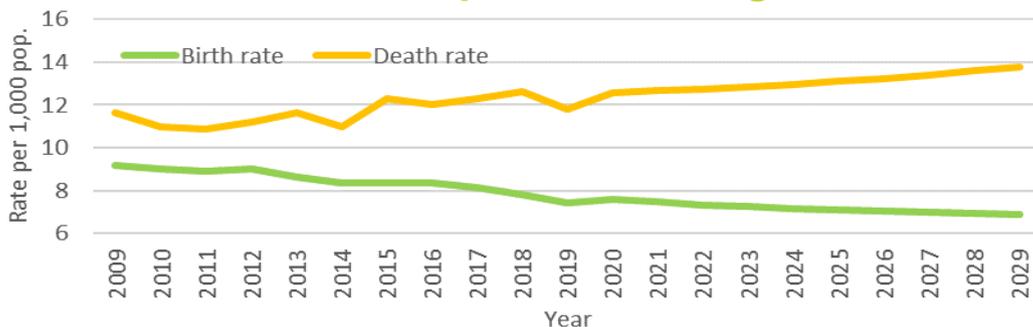
23,200

Total increase in
+65's 2009-2019, an
increase of 2.4%pa

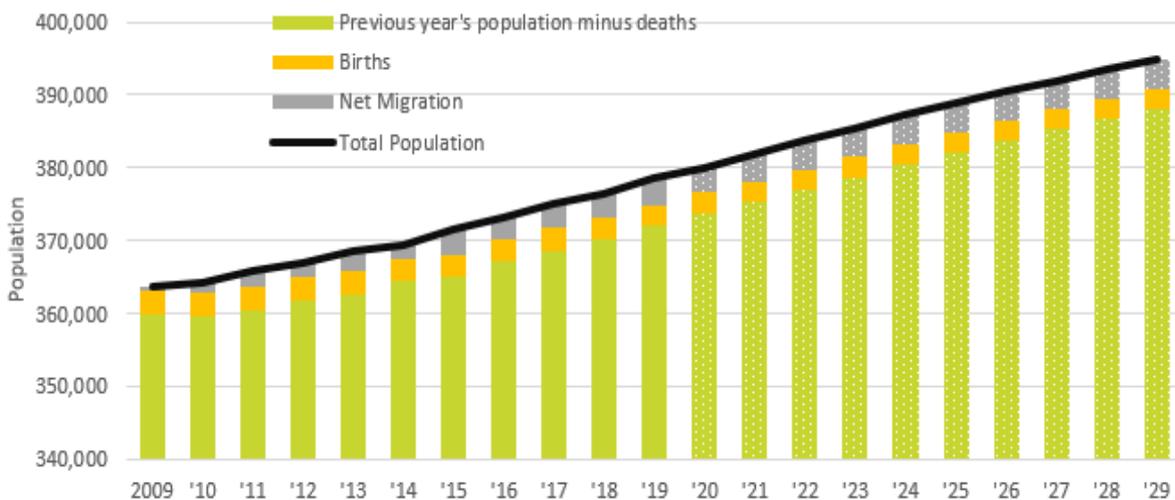
500

decrease in
0-15 yrs age
group
2009-2019

Box 1: Population Change



Since 2009 the death rate has steadily increased while the birth rate has decreased as shown in the graph above. This pattern is projected to continue over the next ten years. Total number of



The figure above shows the components of change for each year. Note years 2020 onwards are projected population.

Over the period 2009-2019, Dorset's population grew by 14,940, a growth of 4% compared with 8% nationally. Over the period 2019 to 2019 the population is projected to grow by another 4% (16,300) compared to 5% nationally.

Box 2: Age breakdown of population

	2009	2019	2029
0-15 yrs	60,200	59,730	56,180
16-64 yrs	216,480	208,730	204,530
65+ yrs	86,890	110,050	134,060
Total	363,570	378,510	394,770

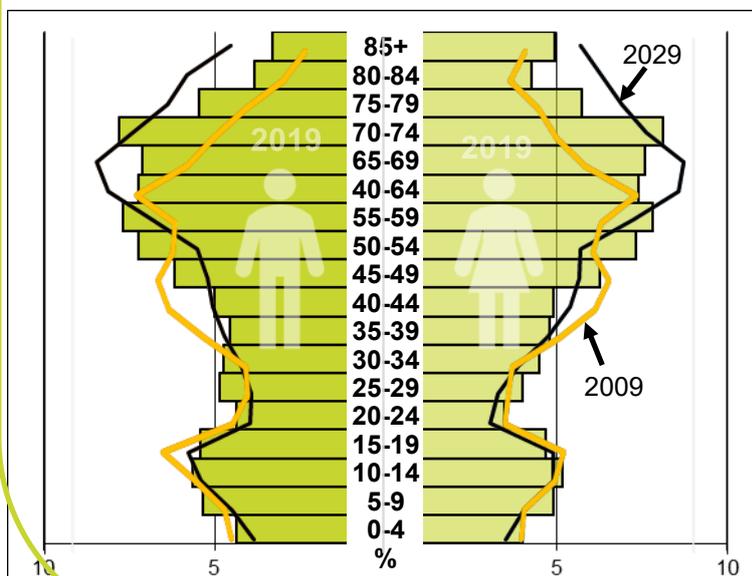
The median age of the Dorset council area was 46.9 in 2009. This increased to 52.0 in 2019 and is projected to increase to 54.4 by 2029. The current median age for England is 40.

Over the period 2009-2019, the number aged 65+ grew by 23,200 – up by 27% and is projected to increase by 24,000—up by 22% - to 2029. The proportion of the population aged 65+ continues to grow; from 24% in 2009 to 29% in 2019 and a projected figure of 34% in 2029.

In contrast Dorset's working age (16-64) population continues to fall; dropping by 7,700 between 2009 and 2019 and projected to drop by a further 4,200 by 2029.

Similarly the population of Dorset's children continues to decline; falling by 500 between 2009 and 2019 and projected to drop by a further 3,500

Dorset Council 2009, 2019 and 2029 population



The top heavy shape of the population pyramid has changed little in the past 10 years and is not projected to change over the next ten. This is illustrated by the graph to the left which shows proportion of 5yr age groups for 2019 in the green bars, 2009 the orange line and 2029 the black line. Females are on the right of the graph, males the left. Aging of the early 60's baby boomers can be clearly seen - driving the bulge in the population between the ages of 55 and 74. This is further increased by net internal migration which is highest for the 60-64 age group. Migration out of the area by young adults is also clearly illustrated.

What are we doing about it?

Population data at a wide range of geographies is released annually by the Office for National Statistics. Official projections are released biannually at Local Authority level. In Dorset Council we analyse demographic data and run our own bespoke projections at smaller areas to provide bespoke population profiles. Much of this data is available on our [Dorset Insight](#) website.

Information on population is key to all aspects of service provision within the authority. Looking at both past trends and projected scenarios allows us to effectively plan services for the people of Dorset. Analysis of population allows us to:

- Plan for adequate social care and suitable housing for our elderly population.
- Promote growth in the economic sector for our working age population.
- Provide sufficient school places and targeted resources for our children.

Sources

The following datasets have been used throughout the bulletin:
 2019 Mid-year estimates, Office for National Statistics ;
 2019 Components of Population Change, Office for National Statistics
 2019 based Dorset Council Continuity projections, Experimental, Dorset Council