

# State of Dorset

## Population

March  
2017



Dorset County Council

Change in Dorset's demographic make-up can have an impact on service demands and provision for local authorities 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

**0.5%pa**

projected total population change  
2015-2035

**420,585**

total  
population  
in 2015

**1.8%pa**

+65s population  
change 2015-2035

**22,500**

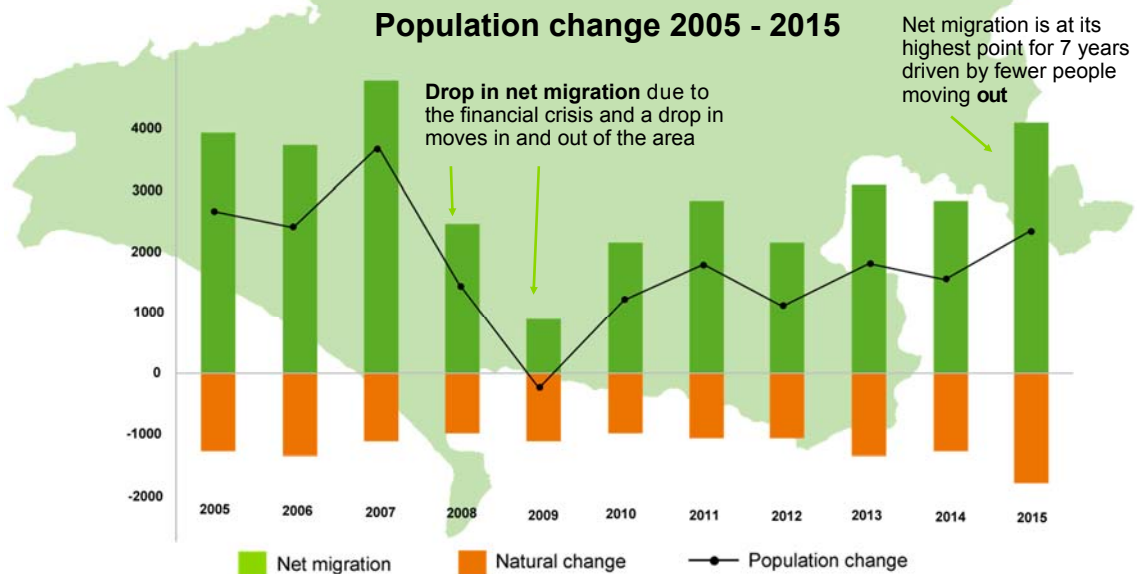
increase in +65s  
2005-2015

**2,600**

decrease in  
0-15yrs  
2005-2015

### Box 1: Population change in Dorset

- In Dorset, deaths usually outnumber births giving net decline in the natural population.
- Growth in Dorset's population therefore arises from positive net migration, with in migration normally greater than out migration each year.
- Dorset's below average rate of population growth is projected to continue over the next two decades.

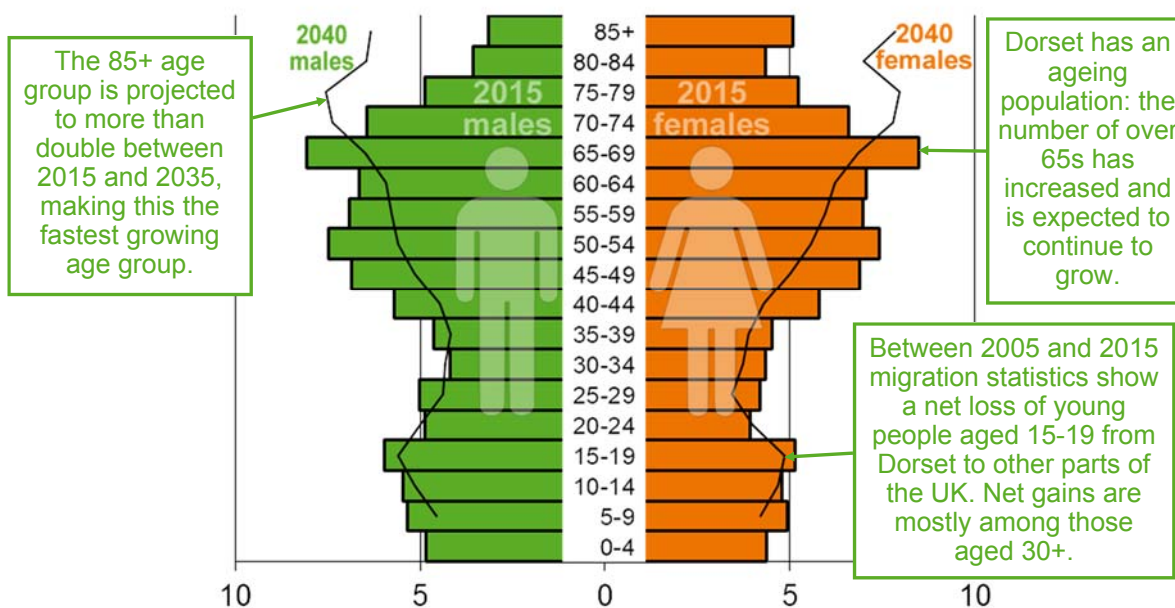


- Over the period 2005-2015, Dorset's population grew by 17,140, growth of about four per cent compared with eight per cent nationally.

## Box 2: Age breakdown of population change

- Over the next twenty years, Dorset's population is projected to grow at just under the national average: at about 0.5% per annum compared with 0.6% pa nationally.
- Over the period 2005-2015, the number aged 65+ grew by 22,500 – up by 19%.
- However, the population of working age dropped by 2,600 in Dorset – and the number of children fell by 2,700.

DCC 2015 population against 2040



- Corresponding with the national trend, the greatest part of this growth is among those aged 65+, increasing at 1.8% pa. Dorset's working age population is expected to see a marginal decline over this period compared with marginal growth nationally. However, over the next 20 years the number of children aged under 15 is projected to grow in Dorset: up 0.3% pa - in a change to the previous trend.

## Why does it matter:

Change in the make-up of the population impacts on service demands for local authorities. With a growing number of older people, there will be further pressures on services and budgets in social care and health together with greater demand for workers in these occupations and a growing number of carers in the community. A growing population of children creates a greater demand for school places and support services.

In the wider community, the ageing population can put pressure on housing supply as older people stay in under-occupied homes. There is also an impact on the economy as more workers move into retirement with a potential loss of skills from the workforce, unless employers plan for this by up-skilling other workers to fill the gaps and recruiting and training apprentices for a long term solution.

### Sources

2015 Mid-year estimates from ONS. For more information visit <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/> 2015-based trend population projections, Dorset County Council