

## 2018 Mid-Year Population Estimates in Dorset

The 2018 Mid-Year Population Estimate (MYE) for the Dorset Council area is 376,480, a growth of 1,430 on 2017. The Office for National Statistics provides yearly population estimates back dated to 2001 for the new unitary authority area together with the statistics that drive the change: births, deaths and migration. MYE are the official source of population size in between censuses and refer to the usually resident population on June 30th of each year. They are determined using the cohort component method—aging the start population— and factoring in natural change and migration. Data sources used include the General Register Office (GRO), the International Passenger Survey (IPS), the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and Ministry of Justice.

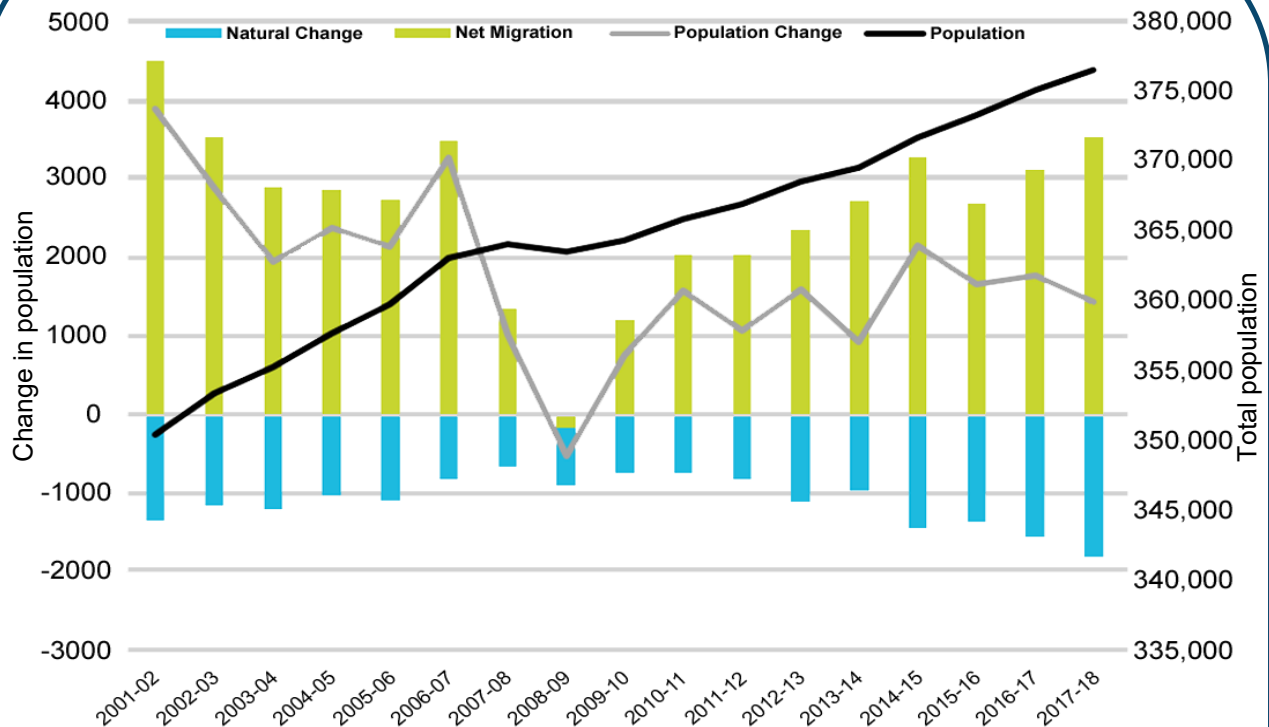
Big Numbers

<b>376,480</b>	Total population	<b>2,943</b>	Lowest number of births since 2002	<b>16%</b> Aged 0-15 <b>19% NATIONALLY</b>
<b>0.4%</b>	Population increase since 2017	<b>4,751</b>	Number of deaths continues to rise	<b>55%</b> Aged 16-64 <b>63% NATIONALLY</b>
<b>0.6%</b>	Population increase in England & Wales			<b>29%</b> Aged 65+ <b>18% NATIONALLY</b>

### Box 1: Cause of population increase

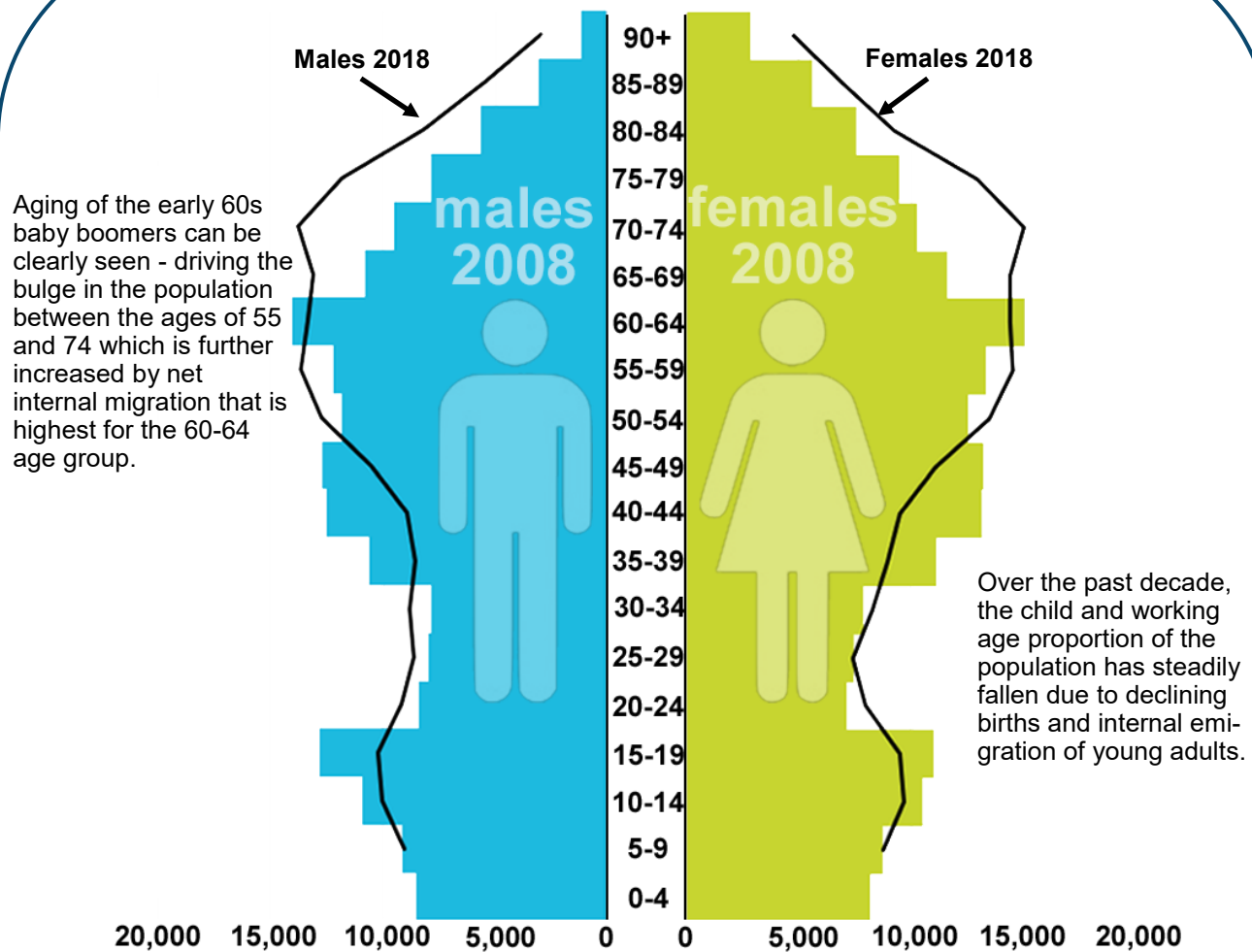
Population growth has slowed slightly since the previous year down from 0.5 to 0.4%, compared to national growth which remained stable at 0.6%. Growth is driven by internal migration from within the UK (2,752 net) and international migration (779 net) as the number of deaths continues to rise and outweigh declining births.

### Box 2: 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 decline led by a decrease in net migration—more people were moving out of the area—and an increase in the number of deaths. The number of births rose steadily from 2001 to 2008/09 but started to fall after the financial crisis and is now the lowest it has been since 2002. Conversely the number of deaths is at its highest.

### Box 3: Population Pyramid



The top heavy shape of the population pyramid shows how the older age groups dominate the population. The median age of the population has risen from 46.5 in 2008 to 50.5 in 2018. The median age for England and Wales rose from 39.1 in 2008 to 40 in 2018. Dorset Council has one of the highest Old Age Dependency Ratios\* in England and Wales: 516 for the DC area compared to 293 for E&W.  
 \*number of people aged 65+ for every 1000 people aged 16-64

### What are we doing about it?

Information on population is key to all aspects of service provision within the authority. Facts about population underpin:

- Local planning –the [Dorset Council Local Plan](#) will set out planning policies and propose allocations to meet the needs of the whole of the Dorset Council area. It will look ahead until at least 2038 in order to ensure provision for growth for 15 years on adoption. Historic and future trends in population structure are one aspect used to determine community need.
- Adults service provision—the [Building Better Lives](#) programme is developing new accommodation and services in Dorset, joining up health and social care in the authority and providing good quality housing and care options. Information on current and future population structure is used to inform where the provision is most needed.
- Economy—information on changes in Dorset’s age structure has informed the Council’s emerging [Enabling Economic Growth](#) Strategy which seeks to increase the number of high skilled and better paid jobs across the county and encourage older people to remain in the workforce.
- Children’s Services provision—the authority is responsible for ensuring there are enough school places locally. Population projections based on the most recent Mid-Year Estimate form the