

Census 2021 – Population and Household numbers topic.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have released the first data sets from Census 2021.

The latest Census shows that there are 379,584 residents in Dorset¹. This is a 4% increase from the 2011 Census where the total population was 365,153. This is lower than both the regional and national increases.

Table 1 – Total Population

	2011 population	2021 population	% Change
Dorset	365,153	379,584	4.0
South West	5,288,935	5,701,195	7.8
England & Wales	56,075,912	59,597,539	6.3

Of the total resident population, the 2021 Census recorded 195,172 (51.4%) females and 184,412 (48.6%) males living in the area.

Table 2 – Sex

The data from the Census in 2021 illustrates a slightly higher proportion of females than males in Dorset when compared to the regional figure and nationally.

	% Female	% Male
Dorset	51.4	48.6
South West	51.1	48.9
England & Wales	51.0	49.0

¹ All data that refers to Dorset relates to the Dorset Council area

Table 3 - Age profile

Dorset has a much higher proportion of residents who are aged over 65 years (29.6%) compared with the regional and national averages. The working age population is lower than the figures for both the South West and National figures.

Age	Dorset	South West	England & Wales
% 0-4 years	4.0	4.8	5.4
% 5-15 years	11.2	12.1	13.1
% 16-64 years	55.2	60.7	62.9
% 65+ years	29.6	22.3	18.6
% 80+ years	8.4	6.2	5.0

Figure 1 – Population Projections for Dorset and England Wales

The population pyramids below highlight the profound difference between Dorset’s age profile and that of England and Wales in 2021. Dorset’s population pyramid has a squeezed middle with a greater proportion of young people under 20 and older people 60 and over than the population in England and Wales.

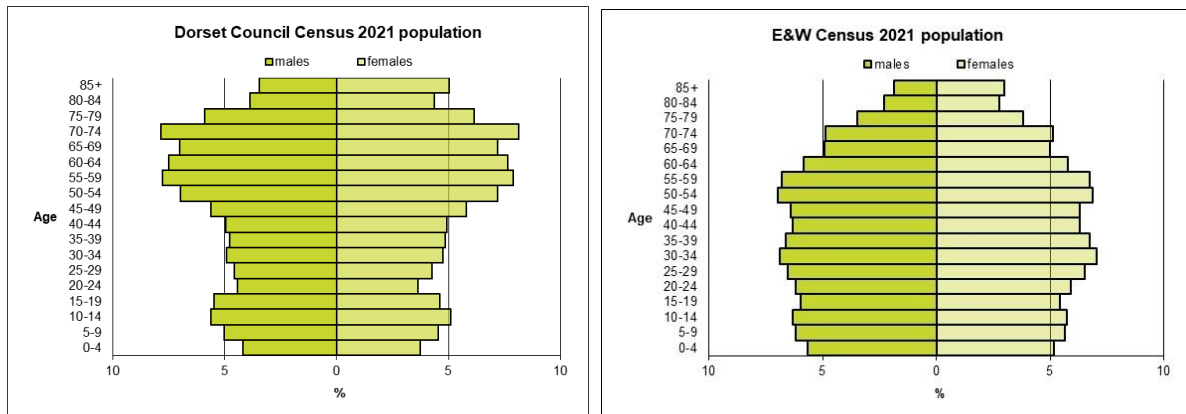


Table 4 – Population by age and sex by five year age group in 2021.

Dorset has a higher proportion of males than females in every five year age group from 0 to 29. From 30 years onwards the proportion of females is higher in every five year age category increasing in the oldest of age groups. With 61% of the over 85 population female compared to 39% male. Overall there are more females in Dorset than males.

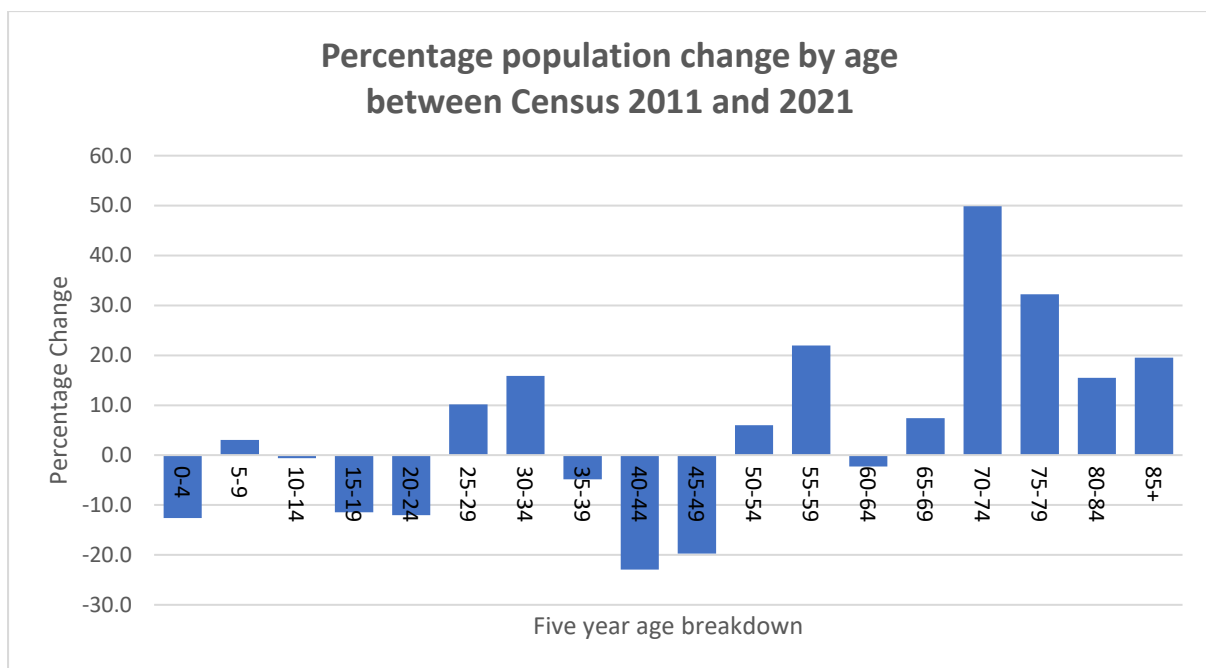
Age	All	Male	Female
0-4	15,024	7,729	7,295
5-9	18,162	9,293	8,869
10-14	20,341	10,349	9,992
15-19	19,141	10,141	9,000
20-24	15,295	8,174	7,121
25-29	16,754	8,456	8,298
30-34	18,330	9,065	9,265
35-39	18,325	8,825	9,500
40-44	18,791	9,139	9,652
45-49	21,659	10,344	11,315
50-54	26,915	12,862	14,053
55-59	29,764	14,338	15,426
60-64	28,803	13,857	14,946
65-69	27,017	12,935	14,082
70-74	30,418	14,492	15,926
75-79	22,892	10,872	12,020
80-84	15,737	7,176	8,561
85+	16,216	6,365	9,851

Table 5 - Population Change by age

Since 2011, Dorset has seen a decrease in 0–15-year-olds and 16–64-year-olds. The population aged over 65 years old have increased by 25%. Over 80-year-olds have increased by 17.5% since 2011.

Age	2021		Age	Change 2011-	
	2011 population	population		2021	% change
0-4	17,190	15,024	0-4	- 2,166	-12.6
5-9	17,629	18,162	5-9	533	3.0
10-14	20,461	20,341	10-14	- 120	-0.6
15-19	21,610	19,141	15-19	- 2,469	-11.4
20-24	17,387	15,295	20-24	- 2,092	-12.0
25-29	15,209	16,754	25-29	1,545	10.2
30-34	15,818	18,330	30-34	2,512	15.9
35-39	19,257	18,325	35-39	- 932	-4.8
40-44	24,375	18,791	40-44	- 5,584	-22.9
45-49	26,978	21,659	45-49	- 5,319	-19.7
50-54	25,394	26,915	50-54	1,521	6.0
55-59	24,404	29,764	55-59	5,360	22.0
60-64	29,483	28,803	60-64	- 680	-2.3
65-69	25,153	27,017	65-69	1,864	7.4
70-74	20,294	30,418	70-74	10,124	49.9
75-79	17,312	22,892	75-79	5,580	32.2
80-84	13,630	15,737	80-84	2,107	15.5
85+	13,569	16,216	85+	2,647	19.5

Figure 2 – Population change by age – five year age brackets



Population Density

Dorset has a slightly increased population density since the last Census in 2011

Dorset’s population density in 2021 was 152.4 persons per square kilometre, compared to 146.6 persons per square kilometre in 2011.

Households

Within Dorset, there were 169,261 households recorded in the Census in 2021. An increase of 6.6% since 2011 (HH in 2011 total 158,738).