Guernsey Annual Population Bulletin
2009

POLICY COUNCIL
THE STATES OF GUERNSEY

Introduction

This is the first edition of the Guernsey Annual Population Bulletin to be published. It provides a snapshot of the Guernsey population; containing information on population headcounts, demographics and change, housing licences and projections. It is put together using data provided by the States of Guernsey Social Security Department, Housing Department and the UK Government Actuary's Office. As far as possible international age groupings and classifications have been used to assist comparability with other jurisdictions.

Headlines

- **At the end of March 2009, the Guernsey population was 62,274, which was 548 people (0.9%) higher than the previous year.**
- **The median average age was 40 for males and 42 for females.**
- **The working age (16 to 64 years old) population increased by 347 people (0.8%) during the year ending March 2009, when it constituted 67.5% of the total population.**
- **The population over 85 years of age (classified as the "oldest old") increased by 60 people (4.4%) since 2008.**
- **The population shows seasonal variation and has tended to be highest at the end of the second quarter and lowest at the end of the fourth quarter.**
- **Based on historic trends the total population is projected to increase to approximately 64,300 in 2020 and then decline to approximately 61,200 in 2060.**

Total population

Table 1: Key Data (at 31st March)

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Males	30,034	30,022	30,405	30,777
Females	30,995	31,153	31,321	31,497
Total population	61,029	61,175	61,726	62,274
Annual natural increase	n/a	n/a	108	111
Annual net migration	n/a	n/a	443	437
Annual change in population number	n/a	146	551	548
Annual % percentage change	n/a	0.2	0.9	0.9

Figure 1: Total population (at 31st March)

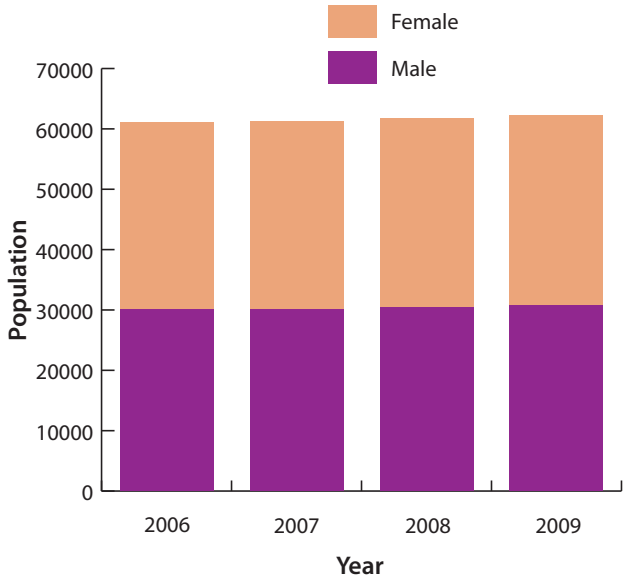


Figure 2: Age and gender distribution (at 31st March)

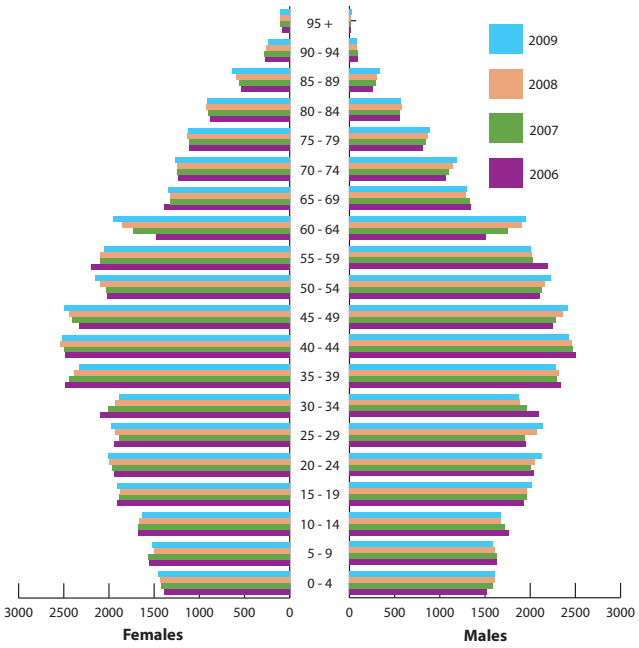


Table 2: Age and gender distribution (at 31st March 2008)

	Female	Male	Total
0 - 4	1,450	1,605	3,055
5 - 9	1,519	1,587	3,106
10 - 14	1,628	1,681	3,309
15 - 19	1,907	2,022	3,929
20 - 24	2,005	2,132	4,137
25 - 29	1,978	2,145	4,123
30 - 34	1,888	1,877	3,765
35 - 39	2,327	2,289	4,616
40 - 44	2,513	2,429	4,942
45 - 49	2,500	2,415	4,915
50 - 54	2,148	2,234	4,382
55 - 59	2,058	2,009	4,067
60 - 64	1,949	1,955	3,904
65 - 69	1,339	1,296	2,635
70 - 74	1,272	1,194	2,466
75 - 79	1,122	892	2,014
80 - 84	914	571	1,485
85 - 89	631	335	966
90 - 94	239	81	320
95 +	110	28	122
Total	**31,497**	**30,777**	**62,274**

Age and gender distribution pyramids, such as ***figure 2*** can be used to track changes in the population demographic over time.

Changes in the population demographic tend to develop over relatively long periods of time. The available data, presented in ***figure 2***, represents four consecutive years and it can be seen that in 2009, the overall age and gender distribution was very similar to the previous three years.

However, the number of males and females in five out of the six age bands from seventy years upwards was seen to increase between 2006 and 2009.

The 'baby boom' between the 1950's and early 1970's is responsible for the 'bulge' in the pyramids in the age groups between 35 and 59. This bulge will move progressively further up the pyramid as the 'baby boom' generation get older.

The male population is higher than the female in all age categories up to the age of 30 (***see table 2***). In almost all subsequent age categories the female population is higher than the male. In March 2009, 70% of the population over the age of 85 were female; this is due to a slightly longer average life-span for females than males.

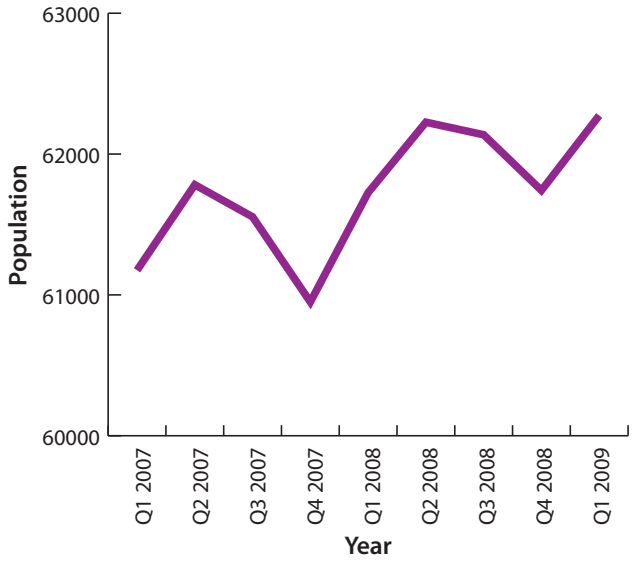
Comparing the median age of the male and female populations gives an indication of the differences in the two demographic profiles. In March 2009, the median age (i.e. the age of the person in the middle if everyone was to be ranked in age order) was 40 for males and 42 for females.

Quarterly changes

Table 3: Total population and quarterly changes

		Total population at end of quarter	Quarterly change in population number	Quarterly percentage change in population (%)
2007	**Q1**	61,175	n/a	n/a
2007	**Q2**	61,782	607	1.0
2007	**Q3**	61,554	-228	-0.4
2007	**Q4**	60,950	-604	-1.0
2008	**Q1**	61,726	776	1.3
2008	**Q2**	62,226	500	0.8
2008	**Q3**	62,137	-89	-0.1
2008	**Q4**	61,742	-395	-0.6
2009	**Q1**	62,274	532	0.9

Figure 3: Total population (at end of each quarter)



Quarterly population figures are available from 31st March 2007 (***see table 3***), so there are just over two years worth of quarterly data available at present. This does not provide sufficient time series data to determine a credible trend.

However, it is possible to see a seasonal pattern in this relatively short time series of data (***figure 3***). The population has tended to be highest at the end of the second quarter and lowest at the end of the fourth quarter.

In 2008, the population increased by 1,276 over the first half of the year, and then decreased by 484, resulting in an overall increase of 792 people. Pease note this figure differs to the annual change provided on page one, which is based on the year ending in 31st March, rather than the calendar year. March figures have been provided as the headline figures, since they are more (but not directly) comparable with data from the traditional census, which was held in April.

Further detail of the quarterly population changes is provided overleaf. The data is broken down to show the numbers of births, deaths, immigrants and emigrants, which result in the overall changes to the total population shown on this page.

Quarterly changes (continued)

Figure 4: Quarterly population changes

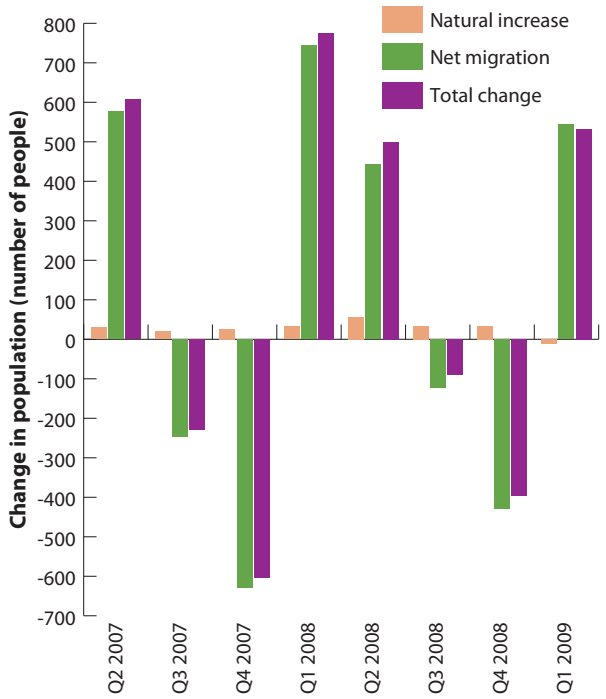


Table 4: Births, deaths and natural increase

		Births during quarter	Deaths during quarter	Natural increase during quarter
2007	Q2	155	125	30
2007	Q3	138	118	20
2007	Q4	167	141	26
2008	Q1	143	111	32
2008	Q2	179	122	57
2008	Q3	147	114	33
2008	Q4	162	129	33
2009	Q1	158	170	-12

Table 5: Immigration, emigration and migration

		Immigration during quarter	Emigration during quarter	Net migration during quarter
2007	Q2	1,630	1,053	577
2007	Q3	1,487	1,735	-248
2007	Q4	907	1,537	-630
2008	Q1	1,598	854	744
2008	Q2	1,606	1,163	443
2008	Q3	1,374	1,496	-122
2008	Q4	953	1,381	-428
2009	Q1	1,364	820	544

The quarterly population changes result from a combination of natural increase and net migration (***see figure 4***).

Natural increase in population is defined as the number of births minus the number of deaths during a particular time period. ***Table 4*** shows that Guernsey's rate of natural increase is relatively consistent throughout the year.

The highest level of natural increase (57 people) observed over the two years ending on 31st March 2009 was in the second quarter of 2008. The lowest level was in the first quarter of 2009 (-12 people i.e. 12 more people died than were born during the quarter).

Net migration is the sum of immigration (people moving to the island) and emigration (people moving off the island). For statistical purposes, an immigrant is defined as a person moving to Guernsey to work for any period of time or live for a period of 26 weeks. An emigrant is defined as a person moving away from Guernsey to work for any period of time or live for a period of 26 weeks.

Table 5 shows that net migration was higher in the spring and summer quarters than in the autumn and winter. This is to be expected, due to the seasonal nature of some areas of the Guernsey economy which "import" additional labour on short term housing licences during spring and summer. Emigrants and immigrants include residentially qualified people; people with a housing licence or their families; and people living in open market accommodation.

Net (also known as inward) migration is volatile on a quarterly basis. The highest level of net migration during the two year period for which data is available, was seen in the first quarter of 2008, when there were 744 more immigrants than emigrants. However, the lowest level had occurred in the quarter prior to that, when there were 630 less immigrants than emigrants.

The sum of the quarterly changes over the past four quarters was a natural increase of 111 people and net inward migration of 437 people. This resulted in an overall annual increase of 548 people (or 0.9%) in the population headcount between March 31st 2008 and March 31st 2009. The March to March information is presented rather than calendar year to maintain consistency with data previously published.

Please note that in the past, net migration has been seen to fluctuate considerably from one five year period (i.e. between censuses) to the next. The migration data presented here should not be treated as an indicator of an ongoing trend. As more data becomes available in forthcoming years, a better picture of the longer term trend will develop.

Housing licences

The principal means of controlling population is through the administration of the Housing (Control of Occupation) Law, 1994.

The Housing Department issues two main types of housing licences: (i) employment-related licences linked to a specific post of employment; (ii) non employment-related licences based on the length and strength of a person's connections with the island.

All licences contain conditions relating to: (i) the local market accommodation the holder of the licence may occupy; and (ii) the duration of the licence.

Tables 6, 7 and 8 provide a high level summary of the number of licence holders (not including their spouse/ partner or dependants) who were living in the island by virtue of different types of housing licence as at 31 March for the years in question. (NB The table does not show the annual number of housing licences issued in those categories.)

Due to changes in the coding system used to classify economic sectors of employment and developments to the database used by the Housing Department, which came into effect in 2009, more detailed statistics are now available.

Tables 6 and 7 show the numbers of employment related license holders by employment sector. It should be noted that the sector breakdown used for 2009 is not strictly comparable with earlier years (where available). In particular, accountancy and legal work, which were previously included in the Finance sector are now split out into the Professional, business, scientific and technical sector.

Future data will be available in a comparable format to 2009, enabling year on year comparisons at sector level.

Table 8 shows the numbers of non-employment related or compassionate license holders. These figures are unaffected by the sector code changes, so are comparable year on year.

It can be seen that there has been a general upward trend in the numbers of live housing licenses (of all three types) over the four years since 2005.

Table 6: Live housing licenses (at 31st March) - Essential employment related

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Hostelry	155	153	151	161	134
Finance	367	406	458	555	423
Professional, business, scientific and technical	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	205
Education	204	230	251	251	228
Human health, social & charitable work	231	238	244	275	268
Public Administration	92	93	80	90	113
Other	126	221	224	259	227
Total	**1175**	**1341**	**1408**	**1591**	**1598**

Table 7: Live housing licenses (at 31st March) - Short term employment related

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Agriculture, horticulture, fishing and quarrying	141	161	126	205	107
Construction	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	249
Wholesale, retail and repairs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	256
Hostelry	426	533	452	570	569
Finance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100
Other	496	491	379	683	335
Total	**1063**	**1185**	**957**	**1458**	**1616**

NB At the time of producing the 2007 data there were some short-term licence applications which had not yet been processed by the Housing Department, and as such, the 2007 figures shown above are artificially low and the 2008 figures artificially high.

Table 8: Live housing licenses (at 31st March) - Compassionate

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
"En famille" or one to one	1042	1110	1185	1265	1341
Other	613	581	655	725	672
Total	**1655**	**1691**	**1840**	**1990**	**2013**

Dependency ratios

Figure 5: Population by age group (at 31st March)

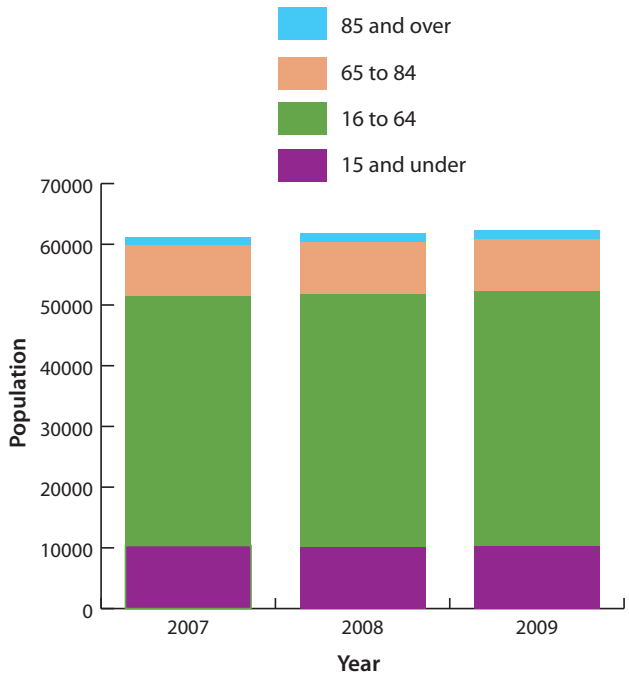


Table 9: Population by age group (at 31st March)

	15 and under	16 - 64	65 - 84	85 and over	Total
2007	10,379	41,031	8,424	1,341	**61,175**
2008	10,191	41,668	8,503	1,364	**61,726**
2009	10,235	42,015	8,600	1,424	**62,274**

Table 10: Dependency ratios (at 31st March)

	15 and under	65 - 84	85 and over	Overall
2007	0.25	0.21	0.03	**0.49**
2008	0.24	0.20	0.03	**0.48**
2009	0.24	0.20	0.03	**0.48**

NB - *Categories may not sum to overall total due to rounding*

Dependency ratios are used to indicate the portion of a population, which is economically dependent (i.e. under 16 or over 64 years of age). Trends in dependency ratios over time (and projected into the future) are used to assess the contribution rates required from the economically active in order to support the economically dependant.

Dependency ratios are calculated by dividing the number of individuals in the dependent age categories by the number of people in the working age category.

The age groups presented in ***figure 5 and table 9*** are used to show the population of working age i.e. the number of people between the ages of 16 and 64, compared to those of dependant age i.e. those who are eligible for retirement (presented here in two categories; 65 to 84 and 85 and over) and those who are still in compulsory full time education (represented by the 15 and under age category).

The 85 and over category is used to highlight the number of "oldest old"; a portion of the population, which is likely to be of particular interest when monitoring the ageing of a population.

In 2008, the proportion of people in the 16-64, 65-84 and 85 and over categories increased by 1.5%, 0.9% and 1.7% respectively. The number of children of 15 or under decreased by 1.8%.

In 2008, the overall dependency ratio was 0.48, which means that for every 100 people of working age (between the ages of 16 and 64) there were 48 people of dependant age (15 and under or 65 and over).

The dependency ratios for those under 15, those aged 65 to 84 and those over 85 years of age (who can be considered to require, in general, a higher level of support than those in the 65-84 category) were 0.24, 0.20 and 0.03 respectively.

At present, the data required to calculate dependency ratios is available for 2007 and 2008 only and small fluctuations can be seen from one year to the next. As more data is added in coming years, further trend analysis will be possible.

Projections

Population projections are produced by UK Government Actuary's Office[1], primarily for the purpose of actuarial review of the Guernsey Insurance Fund for the Social Security Department. Updates are produced periodically, the next of which will be available in 2010.

A range of projection models are produced by the actuaries. The model presented here best matched historic data trends, so at present is taken to be the most likely in terms of future trends. However, it should be noted that these projections will be revised periodically to reflect changing circumstances, including any changes to States policy or legislation which will affect the population level (for example, changes to immigration controls).

The model is based on a variety of assumptions including an average net migration of plus 200 people per annum and a fertility rate of 1.56. The fertility rate represents the average number of children that each woman will have during her lifetime.

According to this actuarial model, the total population is projected to increase gradually until 2030 after which it is expected to decrease to levels lower than at present (***see figure 6***).

The proportion of people under 15 is projected to fall over the next 50 years from 16% of the total population in 2010 to 13% in 2060 (***see table 9***). The proportion of people aged 16 to 64 is also projected to decrease (from 68% to 56%), whist the number of people over 65 is projected to increase; reaching its peak in 2040 before stabilizing. This is primarily as a result of the ageing of the baby boom generation.

However, since average life expectancy is projected to increase, the largest proportional increase is projected for the number of people aged over 85, which increases in number throughout the 50 year period.

As a result of these changes the overall projected dependency ratio increases from 0.48 in 2010 to 0.79 in 2060 (***see table 12***). This means that, in 2060 for every 100 people who are of working age, there will be an estimated 79 people who fall in to the dependent categories (a 64% increase on the 2010 ratio).

Increasing dependency ratios are a challenge faced by many countries as aging populations place increasing demands on the provision of pensions, healthcare and social support services.

The age band 65 to 66 is shown on the graph, since between the years 2020 and 2032, the pension age will be gradually increased from 65 to 67.

[1] For more information see www.gad.gov.uk

Figure 6: Projected population by age group

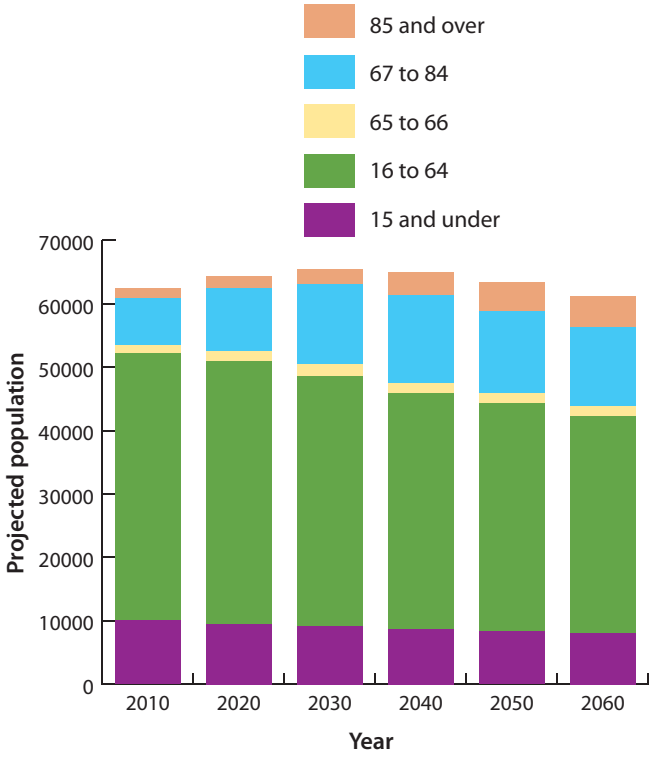


Table 11: Projected age group distribution

	15 and under	16 - 65	65 - 84	85 and over	Total
2010	10,033	42,183	8,745	1,425	**62,386**
2020	9,511	41,426	11,571	1,792	**64,300**
2030	9,188	39,387	14,472	2,375	**65,422**
2040	8,700	37,178	15,553	3,595	**65,026**
2050	8,287	36,026	14,510	4,581	**63,404**
2060	8,059	34,241	13,982	4,913	**61,195**

Table 12: Projected dependency ratios

	15 and under	65 - 84	85 and over	Overall
2010	0.24	0.21	0.03	**0.48**
2020	0.23	0.28	0.04	**0.55**
2030	0.23	0.37	0.06	**0.66**
2040	0.23	0.42	0.10	**0.75**
2050	0.23	0.40	0.13	**0.76**
2060	0.24	0.41	0.14	**0.79**

NB - *Categories may not sum to overall total due to rounding*

Methodology

Population headcounts are calculated by the Social Security Department using administrative records. All individuals who are employed in Guernsey or who are resident for longer than 26 weeks are required to register with the Department. The data is cross referenced with information provided by the Education Department in order to calculate a headcount at the end of each quarter.

This data has been available on an annual basis since March 2006 and quarterly since March 2007 and is also has previously been published in the Facts and Figures booklet.

Prior to this, population figures were calculated using data collected by census every 5 or ten years; the last census was held in 2001. However, due to the different method and count date; the figures produced by the two methodologies are not directly comparable.

This is the first edition of the Annual Guernsey Population Bulletin to be produced. The intention is to develop upon the data contained here for future publications, both in terms of building up time series data and looking into the feasibility of collecting data which is not currently available e.g. population by parish data.

If you have any suggestions regarding how we can make this bulletin more useful to you please contact us.

Further information

This bulletin has been compiled by the States of Guernsey Policy & Research Unit. Please contact Helen Walton (Senior Research Officer) for further information.

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