

# Chapter 1: Population

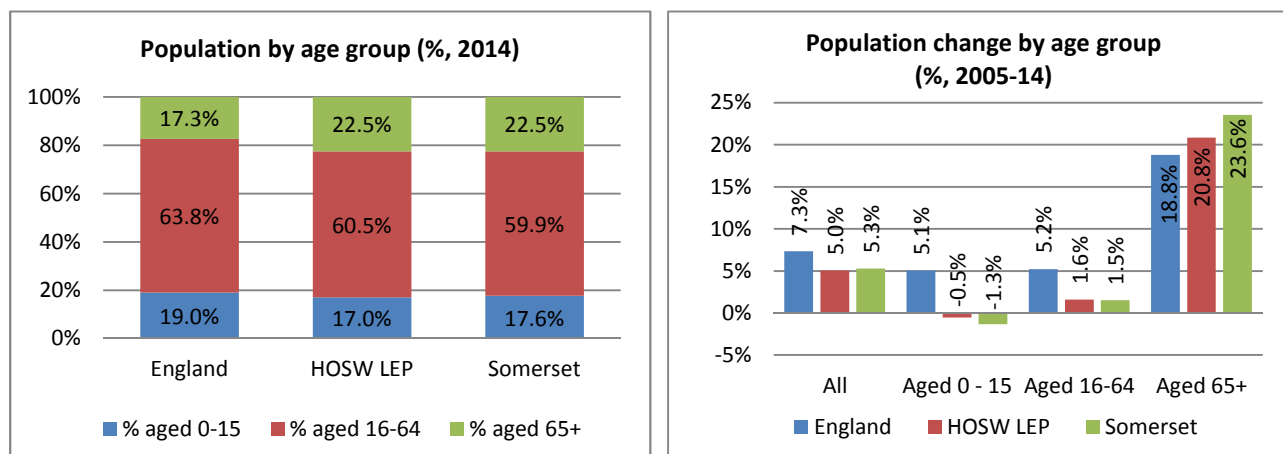
## Key facts

- In June 2014, Somerset's total population was 541,600, an increase of 3,500 (0.7%) since 2013.
- Almost half (48.4%) of Somerset's population live in rural areas, compared to 17.6% across England.
- The proportion of Somerset's population aged 65 and over has increased by 23.6% since 2005 and is projected to grow a further 41.8% by 2030.
- Somerset has a working age population of 321,600, which equates to 59.8% of the County's total population. It is expected to be 1.7% less in 2030 (54.1% of the population).

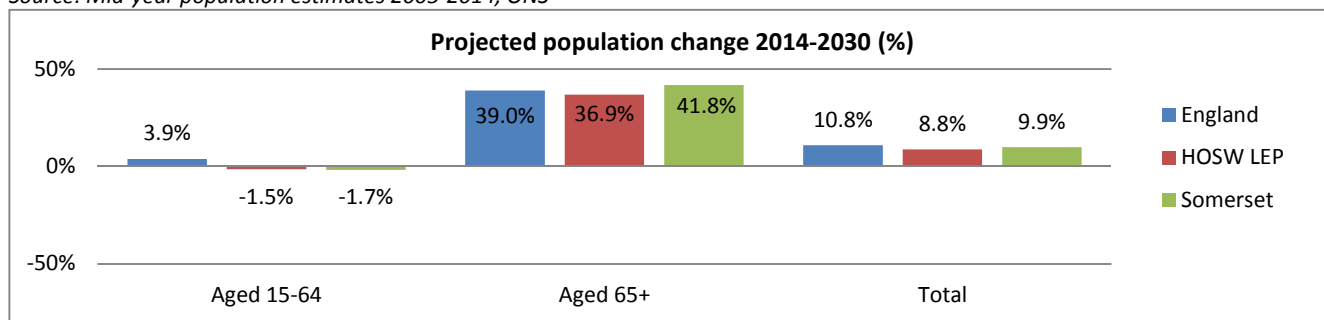
## National context

- According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS)<sup>1</sup>, the UK population grew to 64.6 million in mid-2014, representing a gain of 491,100 (0.77%) over the previous year mid-2013. This growth is above the annual average seen over the last decade (0.75%). This means that the UK's population has increased by around 5 million since 2001, and by more than 10 million since 1964.
- The population increase in the year to mid-2014 included natural growth of 226,200 people (777,400 births minus 551,200 deaths). Net international migration of 259,700 people in the year to mid-2014 (582,600 international migrants arrived in the UK and 322,900 migrants left the UK to live abroad) also added to population growth. The number of births occurring in the year to mid-2014 is down on that seen in the previous year (down 1.9%), continuing the downward movement seen in births since the recent peak in the year to mid-2012. The median age of the population at mid-2014 was 40 years - the highest ever estimated. The number and proportion of older people continues to rise, with over 11.4 million (17.7% of the population) aged 65 and over in mid-2014, up from 11.1 million (17.4%) last year.

## Somerset Overview



Source: Mid-year population estimates 2005-2014, ONS



Source: 2012-based population projections, ONS (NB. Age groups differ slightly for projections data).

<sup>1</sup> ONS Statistical Bulletin: Annual Mid-year Population Estimates 2014 (25<sup>th</sup> June 2015)

## Working age population

- Somerset has a working age population of 321,600, which equates to 59.8% of the County's total population. This is a slightly lower proportion than the LEP area (60.6%) and England as a whole (64%). Although some people remain economically active after 65, in economic terms, the working age population provides the majority of an area's workforce.
- The proportion of the population of working age in Somerset has increased by 1.5% since 2005, despite total population growth of 5.3% over the same period, and a decline of 1.7% is expected by 2030. This is a concern when it comes to an adequate labour supply being available to support the County's economic growth.

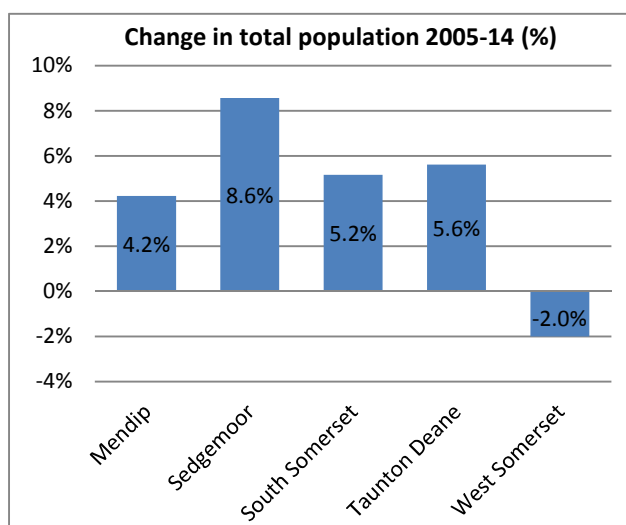
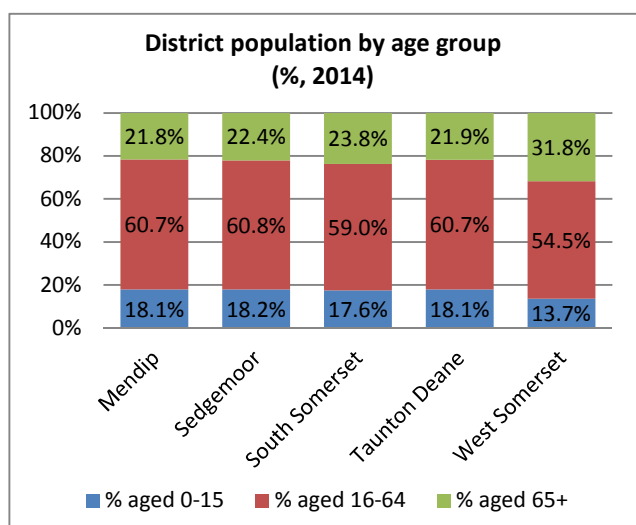
## Ageing population

- It is widely known that England has an ageing population due to increased life expectancies and the impact of the post-war 'baby boom' generation reaching retirement age. In Somerset, however, this trend towards an ageing population is more pronounced. In 2014, 124,800 of Somerset residents were aged 65 or over, representing 23.2% of the total population compared to 17.7% nationally.
- Somerset's population aged 65 and over has increased by 23.6% since 2005 and is projected to grow a further 41.8% by 2030. The projected growth in this age group is more than 4 times the expected rate for the population as a whole. An increasingly older population will have implications for public service delivery across Somerset, as well as an impact on specific industries such as the care sector (see Chapter 3 for more detail on industry sectors).

## Migration

- Total net migration into Somerset between 2005 and 2013 resulted in a gain of 30,900 people for the County<sup>2</sup>. The majority of this increase (71.2%) came from internal migration within the UK, with only 8,900 net migrants from international origins.
- Somerset experiences a net flow of migrants from other parts of England and Wales, especially from some neighbouring districts, the South East and London. However, there is a consistent net flow of 16-24 year-olds out of Somerset.<sup>3</sup> As outlined above, a dwindling working age population and increasing older population has implications for economic balance the supply of labour. Somerset's desirability as a destination for internal migration also has an impact on the housing market (see Chapter 6).

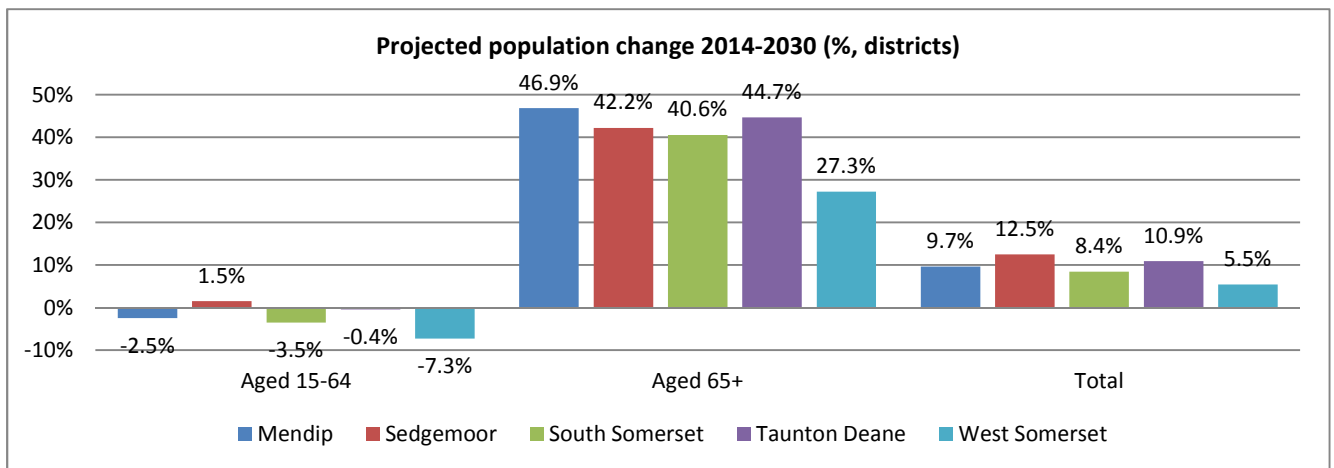
## Local trends (Districts)



Source: Mid-year population estimates 2005-2014, ONS

<sup>2</sup> ONS Local Area Migration Indicators, August 2014

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/migration.html>



Source: 2012-based population projections, ONS

### Working age population

- Sedgemoor has the highest working age population (60.8%) of all the districts, whilst West Somerset has the lowest (54.5%). In terms of total population, West Somerset has actually seen a decrease of 2% between 2005 and 2014. Sedgemoor has the highest population growth of 8.6% over the same period.
- By 2030, the working age population is projected to decline in all of the 5 districts except Sedgemoor which is expected to show a slim increase of 1.5%.

### Ageing population

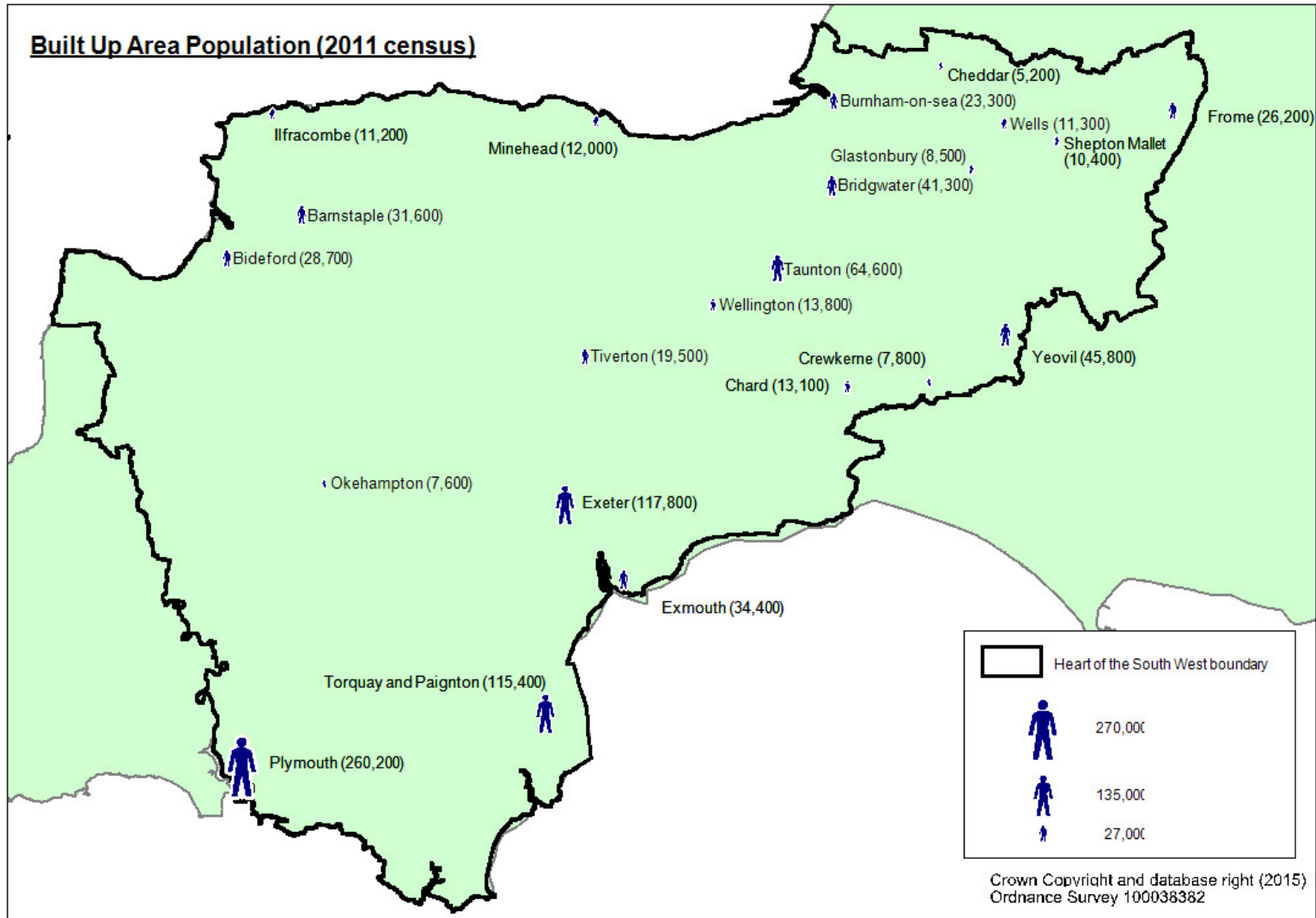
- West Somerset has the oldest population profile of all the districts, with 31.8% of the area's population aged 65 or over. Sedgemoor has the highest proportion of young people with 18.2%.
- All of Somerset's districts are expected to experience a substantial increase in the population aged 65 or over by 2030, with Mendip's projected to grow the most (+46.9%)

### Urban/rural

- Taunton Deane is the most 'urban' of the Somerset districts, with 71% of the population living in urban areas. Conversely, West Somerset and South Somerset are characterised by more sparse populations with 66.5% and 63.5% of residents in those areas living in rural areas.<sup>4</sup> This classification is based on Output Areas which are about 125 households and then aggregated up to districts.

<sup>4</sup> Urban and rural definitions as classified by the ONS Rural-Urban Classifications 2011.

**Built Up Area Population (2011 census)**



## DATA TABLES Chapter 1: Population

### Population age structure

	2005				2014				2030 (Projected)		
	Total	Under 16	16-64	65+	Total	Under 16	16-64	65+	Total	15-64*	65+
England	50,606,000	9,808,200	32,769,800	8,028,000	54,316,600	10,303,600	34,475,400	9,537,700	60,106,500	36,426,300	13,245,500
HOSW LEP	1,619,700	289,600	1,007,100	322,900	1,701,400	288,100	1,023,100	390,200	1,841,500	1,019,400	533,900
Somerset	514,300	96,500	316,800	101,000	541,600	95,200	321,600	124,800	593,900	321,500	177,000
Mendip	106,300	20,900	66,700	18,800	110,800	19,900	66,900	24,000	121,400	66,200	35,400
Sedgemoor	109,700	20,700	67,700	21,300	119,100	21,400	71,400	26,300	132,700	73,100	37,400
South Somerset	156,500	29,500	95,800	31,200	164,600	28,900	96,700	39,000	178,600	95,100	55,100
Taunton Deane	106,800	20,100	66,400	20,300	112,800	20,300	68,000	24,600	125,000	69,000	35,600
West Somerset	35,000	5,300	20,200	9,500	34,300	4,700	18,700	10,900	36,700	17,900	14,000

Source: Mid-year population estimates 2005-14, ONS / 2012-based population projections, ONS

\*Projected data uses different age bands from mid-year estimates.

### Migration (cumulative total 2005-2013)

	Net international migration	Net internal migration (within UK)	Total net migration	Migration as % of 2014 population
England	1,951,600	-99,100	1,852,500	3.4%
HOSW LEP	27,100	70,400	97,500	5.7%
Somerset	8,900	22,000	30,900	5.7%
Mendip	1,400	3,500	4,900	4.4%
Sedgemoor	2,300	6,900	9,200	7.7%
South Somerset	2,900	5,700	8,600	5.2%
Taunton Deane	1,700	4,900	6,600	5.9%
West Somerset	600	1,200	1,800	5.2%

Source: Local Area Migration Indicators - August 2014, ONS

### Urban/rural population split (2011)

	% Urban	% Rural
England	82.4	17.6
HOSW LEP	61.7	38.3
Somerset	51.6	48.4
Mendip	55.3	44.7
Sedgemoor	56.1	43.9
South Somerset	36.5	63.5
Taunton Deane	71.0	29.0
West Somerset	33.5	66.5

Source: 2011 Census, ONS