



Isle of Man
Government

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Isle of Man Population Report 2023

Statistics Isle of Man

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Introduction

In 2022 the Select Committee for Population Rebalancing identified a need for more frequent estimates of the Isle of Man's population than is currently available through the five-yearly censuses. In response, this report presents the first of a series of annual estimates produced by Statistics Isle of Man.

The statistics contained within are focused largely on the period from the 2021 Isle of Man Census to March 2023. Our populations estimates depend on income tax data concerning the number of people leaving and arriving on the Isle of Man and there is a varying degree of delay between when people leave and when they notify the Government that they have done so (or have otherwise been identified as having left). An important task in producing our population estimates is the successful determination of the number of people this delay covers, and so Statistics Isle of Man has chosen a gap of six months between the end of the period covered by the report and reporting as a pragmatic compromise between currency of the results being presented and the stability of the data being used to estimate population numbers.

Included in the report are

- broad demographic statistics regarding the size and compositions of the Island's population and how this has changed since the previous Isle of Man Census in 2021;
- a study of inward, outward, and internal migration patterns; and
- population projections based on census data and estimates of net migration.

The final section of this report provides details of the methodology and data sources that were used in the production of this report, accompanied by a description of any current limitations and a plan for future development.

It should be noted that the estimates presented in this report are currently at an experimental stage and may to be restated as methodologies are revisited and refined and when additional data becomes available. While all effort has been made to ensure that these estimates are as reliable as is presently possible, they should not be regarded as definitive. As a rule of thumb, estimates pertaining to years prior to 2022 are likely to be more reliable than those for 2022 and 2023, with reliability increasing for earlier years.

Acknowledgements

Statistics Isle of Man would like to express their gratitude to the Income Tax Division of the Isle of Man Treasury, both for supplying much of the (anonymized) data that has made this report possible and for the productive discussions that have contributed to the development of the methodology employed.

Summary

Overview

This section presents some of the key results of the 2023 Population Report.

Overall, the data and estimates that have been produced show that the population of the Isle of Man grew by around 461 people in the period between the census in 2021 and the end of the first quarter of 2023.

There are relatively high levels of immigration into the Isle of Man. The contribution of this influx of new residents to overall population numbers is however tempered by high numbers of deaths on the Island, resulting from a relatively aged resident population, and a substantial degree of outward migration. Combined with a low birth rate (relative to deaths), this results in modest increase in population numbers.

New residents to the Island are on average younger than both current residents and those who leave the Island. A noteworthy characteristic of new residents is that around 35% leave the Island within five years of their arrival. It is possible that the reason behind this is largely or almost entirely due to opportunities for career advancement being much more widely available in the United Kingdom. If so, this would make the task of increasing the number of new residents who settle permanently a considerable challenge. More generally, there is reason to believe that the availability of jobs and unemployment levels on the Island is one of the most important factors, if not the most important factor, that determines how successful the Island is at retaining new residents and whether the population grows and how fast.

At present, inward and outward migration looks to make only a modest contribution to the age profile of the Island, and what effect it has had has been to slightly reduce the average age on the Island. Further study into this is required, but it looks likely that much of the Isle of Man's current age profile is in large part a legacy of the very high levels of inward migration seen in the 1980s, and 1990s as the Finance Industry and supporting businesses first arrived and started expanding on the Isle of Man.

Key Results

- Since the 2021 Census, the Isle of Man's resident population is estimated to have increased by 461 people to 84,530. If accurate, this represents a return to population levels last seen in 2011.
- When applied to data from 2011, the population model suggests that this increase is a continuation of a general upward trend that started in 2017 after a sustained fall in population numbers from 2011 to 2016. These trends broadly follow a period of relatively high unemployment on the Isle of Man that started in 2009, peaked in 2013, and started declining markedly in 2016.
- Rises seen in 2022 and 2023 are greater than previous years in which this trend is evident. It is not clear whether this is (partly) a consequence of social and economic changes in the Isle of Man, United Kingdom, and

other countries in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, or whether it is (also) a result of other factors.

- The age profile of new or returning residents aged 16 and above is broadly similar to that of residents of the same age group leaving the Island. On average the former group is in fact younger than the latter, and indeed younger than the Island's existing resident population at the time of the census. This characteristic has been evident in previous years: the average age of those leaving the Isle of Man has been equal to or greater than the average age of new or returning residents for every year since 2011 bar one.
- The majority of new and returning residents for whom employment information is available are concentrated in just nine business sectors. The most common, by some margin 'Medical and Health', with 'Other Business Services' being the second most common, and 'Catering and Entertainment' and 'eGaming' joint third.
- Although Douglas and surrounding areas form the most common destination for new and returning residents, internal migration shows current residents moving away from Douglas. While there is some degree of uncertainty in the figures, there is an indication that the North of the Island (including Ramsey) and the South of the Island may have both seen relatively strong growth due to net external and internal migration over the period covered.
- Were net migration to continue at a pace similar to that in 2022 the population of the Isle of Man would be expected to reach approximately 92,000 by 2035 or 2036.

A Comment on this Paper

Caution should be exercised when attempting to compare population estimates in recent years with those for earlier years, or when extrapolating into the future. Only a couple of years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term effects on economic and social factors that may influence migration remain unknown. For this reason, it is difficult to identify trends or effectively compare figures seen in recent years to those seen before the pandemic.

Section I

Demographics of the Isle of Man

The most recent census for the Isle of Man was conducted in May 2021 by the Economic Affairs Division¹. The resident population recorded at that date is 84,069 people and has a composition given by the table below.

The latest data available shows a rise of 461 (or 0.6%) change since that date. This consists of a small rise in the remainder of 2021 after May, a much more significant rise in 2022, and a proportionally similar rise in the first quarter of 2023.

Year	Population Change	Population Total
2021(partial)	33	84,102
2022	329	84,431
2023(partial)	99	84,530

This rise may be attributable to migration patterns recovering after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and be part of a more general pattern of economic recovery across the Western World

The large rise in 2022 is in part accounted for by a historically large influx of 152 children between the ages of 5 and 16, suggesting an increase in the number of families relocating to the Island during this period.

Age Distribution

Age group	Jun-21	Dec-22
16 and Under	17.0%	16.6%
17 to 19	3.2%	3.2%
20 to 24	5.1%	5.0%
25 to 29	5.2%	5.2%
30 to 34	5.6%	5.8%
35 to 39	5.9%	6.0%
40 to 44	6.2%	6.3%
45 to 49	6.9%	6.5%
50 to 54	7.9%	7.8%
55 to 59	8.0%	7.9%
60 to 64	6.9%	7.2%
Over 65	22.1%	22.5%

The age distribution as at the end of December 2022 is estimated to be broadly the same as at the date of the 2021 Isle of Man Census. Small decreases are seen in the percentage of under seventeens and those in the 45 to 49 age group,

¹ The predecessor of Statistics Isle of Man.

while there are increases in those aged 60 and above and the 30 to 34 age group.

For the 60 and over age group, the increase is due to existing residents moving into higher age brackets as time increases rather than as a consequence on inward migration—net migration and deaths over this period in fact results in a decrease in the number of people in this age bracket compared with what it otherwise would be.

Population Distribution by Area

It is not at present possible to provide a complete population distribution by area due to a lack of necessary data relating to births and deaths on the Island. We have however provided data for how inward, outward, and internal migration has affected the Island. These can be found in the relevant sections later in this report.

Historical Comparison

In the process of developing the population model used to provide the figures in this report, population estimates from 2012 to the second quarter of 2021 were generated using the 2011 Isle of Man Census as baseline. This allows the output of the model to be compared with known population numbers provided by the censuses held in 2016 and 2021.

Year	Population	Change
2011	84,522	-
2012	84,403	-119
2013	84,257	-146
2014	84,052	-205
2015	83,868	-184
2016	83,862	-6
2017	84,094	232
2018	84,198	104
2019	84,270	72
2020	84,259	-11
2021 (partial)	84,297	39

In both cases, the figure produced by the model is comfortably within 1% of the reported Census figure (see the table below). Moreover, the larger difference for 2016 may be a result of the need to impute population figures for a large number of individuals (particularly children) during that year².

Year	Census Figure	Estimate	Difference (%)
2016	83,314	83,862	0.7%
2021	84,069	84,297	0.3%

² See 2016 *Isle of Man Census Report*, pp. 51–54, for further details.

Some of the difference may also be accounted for by census non-response or any imperfections in the data used to produce these estimates.

It is important that the table on the previous page is not interpreted as a general statement of rigorous margins of error for the model. These figures are presented here more in the vein of a proof of concept that it is capable of producing results with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

Comparison with other metrics

Income Tax Records. Comparing the number of residents registered for tax between Q3 2021 and Q3 2023 shows an increase of 1,774. This broadly supports the figures reported in this report since the figure of 1,774 includes approximately 1,150 local students and school leavers added to the record of residents over that period, while the excess can be accounted for by the likely number of ghost records for residents leaving in 2023 and 2022.

Historical Unemployment Records. Comparing the estimated change in the population since 2011 with records for unemployment over the same period shows the population decreasing during the period of relatively high unemployment that followed in the wake of the global financial crisis in the late 2000s/early 2010s, and increasing somewhat following the period of economic recovery that started gaining pace in 2015.

Year	Change	Unemployment³
2011	-	882
2012	-119	1,023
2013	-146	1,104
2014	-205	958
2015	-184	824
2016	-6	668
2017	232	428
2018	104	348
2019	72	337
2020	-11	893
2021 (partial)	39	564

It is not unusual for small Island populations to be more sensitive to fluctuations in the job market, one reason being that there is typically no option for people to compensate for local high unemployment by increasing the distance they are willing to commute for work. Because of this it is not surprising that high unemployment, and in particular prolonged periods of this, should be a key determining factor for population levels.

³ Twelve month average

Section II

Inward Migration

Current estimates are that the Isle of Man has seen an inward migration of 3,705 people between the 2021 Census and the end of March 2023.

Year	Totals
2021 (partial)	899
2022	2,378
2023 (partial)	428
Total	3,705

These figures include both individuals who have returned to the Isle of Man after a period away and new residents.

Please note that the figures in the table above are estimates based on data from school rolls and income tax records that have been adjusted to reflect a likely delay in the completion of income tax records for new and returning residents. Figures expressed in subsequent tables in this section are taken directly from the unprocessed data and hence totals may differ.

Age and Sex of Incoming Migrants

New and returning residents are on the whole younger than both the Island's population at the time of the 2021 Census and residents who leave the Island.

The age characteristics of inward migration between July 2021 and March 2023 are:

- the average age for all inward migrants over this period was 40 years old and just over half (56.6%) of such people were younger than this;
- by comparison, the average age of all residents of the Isle of Man during the 2021 Census was 44 years old;
- nearly three quarters (73.9%) of inward migration consisted of people aged under 50 years old, compared with just 55.2% for the Island's population at the time of the 2021 Census;
- 11.7% consisted of people aged 60 years old or older, compared with 29% at the 2021 Census;
- approximately 13.2% of all inward migration was made up of people who were returning to the Island; and
- with an average age of 44 years old, those returning to the Isle of Man were on average older than new residents.

The age distribution of new and returning residents is provided in the table below.

Age Range	New Residents	Returning Residents	Total	Total as a % of all inward migration
16 to 19	92	3	95	2.9%
20 to 24	268	21	289	8.8%
25 to 29	461	73	534	16.4%
30 to 34	456	50	506	15.5%
35 to 39	375	49	424	13.0%
40 to 44	249	41	290	8.9%
45 to 49	233	41	274	8.4%
50 to 54	197	38	235	7.2%
55 to 59	181	43	224	6.9%
60 to 64	121	35	156	4.8%
65 to 69	74	17	91	2.8%
70 to 74	53	9	62	1.9%
75 to 79	27	9	36	1.1%
80 to 84	26	2	28	0.9%
85 to 89	12	0	12	0.2%
90 to 94	7	1	8	0.0%
95 +	2	0	2	0.0%

The sex differential for new and returning residents is skewed in favour of males: whereas the sex ratio for the Isle of Man as at the Census in 2021 was 0.98 males to females, that for new and returning residents is 1.18. This disparity is smallest in the 35 to 49 year old age range. In contrast with the situation overall, migrants in the 16 to 19 and 75 and over age ranges comprise more women than men⁴.

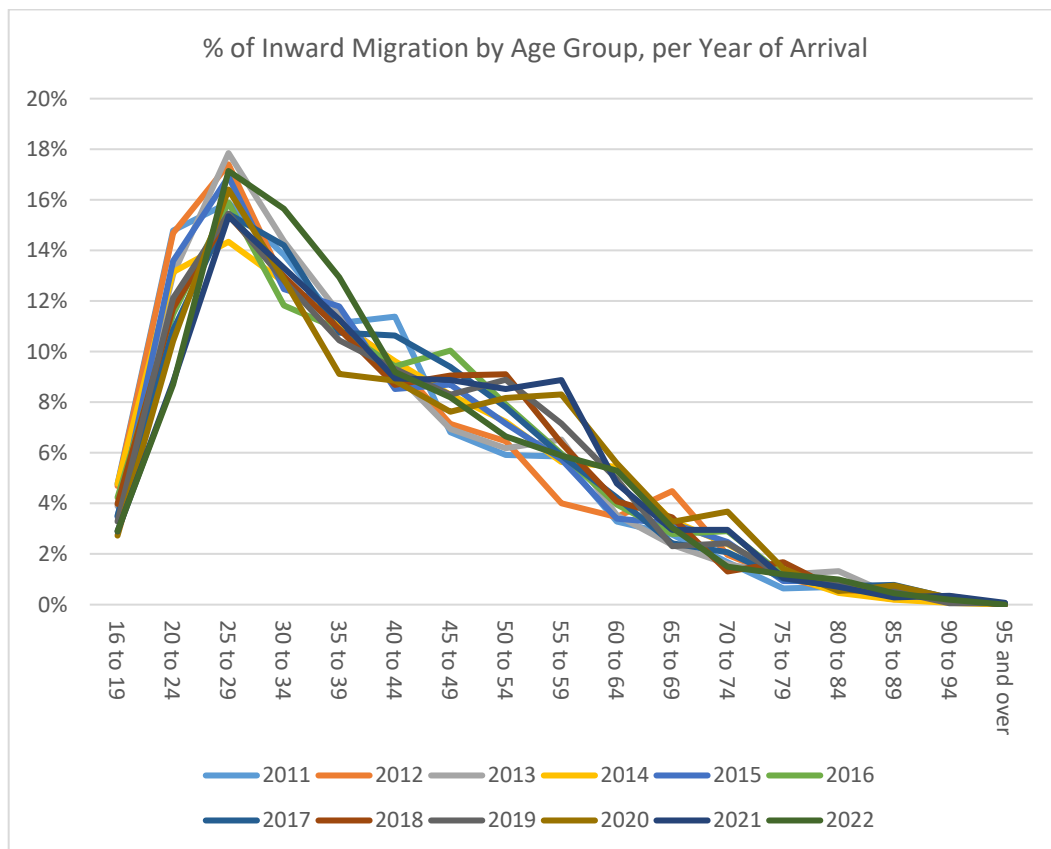
Note that no data on the sex of 119 people was available.

Age Range	Male	Female	Sex Ratio (male(s)/female)
16 to 19	42	45	0.93
20 to 24	154	130	1.18
25 to 29	294	232	1.27
30 to 34	279	210	1.33
35 to 39	210	197	1.07
40 to 44	144	131	1.10
45 to 49	137	128	1.07
50 to 54	125	97	1.29
55 to 59	119	99	1.20

⁴ This is especially the case for the older age range; however, the small number of people in this range means that this is possibly subject to large fluctuations and should not be regarded as indicative of a general trend or inherent quality of migration in this age range.

60 to 64	83	69	1.20
65 to 69	49	39	1.26
70 to 74	37	22	1.68
75 to 79	11	20	0.55
80 to 84	13	14	0.93
85 to 89	4	7	0.57
90 to 94	2	6	0.33
95 +	2	0	-

As can be seen from the graph below, the age distribution of inward migration has been relatively stable since 2011, with only a slight overall increase in ages in later years. This increase may be a consequence of a wider trend across the United Kingdom and the European Union rather than an indication of changes in migration patterns.



A full description of the age distribution of inward migrants per year, as a percentage of the yearly totals is given in the table on the next page.

Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
16 to 19	5%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%
20 to 24	15%	15%	13%	13%	14%	11%	11%	12%	12%	10%	9%	9%
25 to 29	16%	17%	18%	14%	17%	16%	15%	15%	15%	16%	15%	17%
30 to 34	14%	13%	14%	13%	12%	12%	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%	16%
35 to 39	11%	11%	12%	11%	12%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	11%	13%
40 to 44	11%	10%	9%	10%	9%	9%	11%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
45 to 49	7%	7%	7%	8%	9%	10%	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%	8%
50 to 54	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	9%	7%
55 to 59	6%	4%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	9%	6%
60 to 64	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%
65 to 69	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
70 to 74	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%
75 to 79	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
80 to 84	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
85 to 89	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
90 to 94	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
95 +	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Employment and Location of Incoming Migrants

Data regarding employment was found for 2,208 new and returning residents. Of these, 65.6% were employed in just nine business sectors. Amongst these, Medical & Health (which includes staff employed in residential care homes) proved the largest business sector for new and returning residents.

Business Sector	% of new and returning residents
Medical & Health	18.9%
Other Business services	7.3%
Catering & Entertainment	7.2%
eGaming	7.2%
Miscellaneous services	6.1%
Retail	5.5%
Education	5.3%
Accountancy	4.3%
Tourist Accommodation	3.9%

Inward migration is largely concentrated around Douglas and the South of the Island. As at April 2023, 81.9% of all new and returning residents for which both post code area and age data could be found were located in the IM1, IM2, IM3, and IM9 postcode areas. Douglas, consisting of the IM1 and IM2 areas, accounts for 45.6% and is by far the most common location for new and returning residents. This is followed by some distance by the South (IM9) and IM4, though in each case the likelihood is that an important factor is the

availability of housing in these areas. This is particularly the case for IM9 which has seen a number of substantial housing developments from 2020 onwards.

IM1 & IM2	1,421	45.6%
IM9	519	16.8%
IM4	419	13.5%
IM8	208	6.7%
IM3	186	6.0%
IM5	166	5.4%
IM7	142	4.6%
IM6	44	1.4%

A breakdown of inward migration since the 2021 Census by postcode area and age group is provided in the table below. One feature is that almost a quarter of all new and returning residents since the 2021 Census fall between the ages of 20 and 34 and are located in Douglas.

Age Range	IM1	IM2	IM3	IM4	IM5	IM6	IM7	IM8	IM9
16 to 19	0.5%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
20 to 24	1.7%	3.4%	0.4%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%
25 to 29	3.6%	6.4%	0.7%	1.8%	1.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	1.8%
30 to 34	3.4%	5.3%	0.6%	1.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.3%	1.1%	2.2%
35 to 39	1.9%	4.2%	0.7%	1.6%	0.7%	0.1%	0.5%	0.8%	2.6%
40 to 44	1.5%	2.2%	0.5%	1.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	1.6%
45 to 49	1.1%	2.3%	0.7%	1.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	1.2%
50 to 54	0.7%	1.7%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	1.5%
55 to 59	0.4%	1.5%	0.4%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	1.8%
60 to 64	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%
65 to 69	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%
70 to 74	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
75 to 79	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
80 to 84	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
85 to 89	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
90 to 94	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
95 +	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	16.0%	29.6%	6.0%	13.5%	5.4%	1.4%	4.6%	6.7%	16.8%

An approximate translation of postcode areas into geographic areas is provided in the table below:

IM1 & IM2	Douglas
IM3	Onchan
IM4	Onchan, Braddan, Marown, Santon, Laxey, Lonan, St Johns, Foxdale
IM5	Peel, German (excl. St Johns), Patrick (excl. Foxdale)

IM6	Kirk Michael
IM7	Maughold, Lezayre, Jurby, Andreas, Bride, Ballaugh
IM8	Ramsey
IM9	Malew, Rushen, Arbory, Castletown, Port St Mary, Port Erin

Retention of Inward Migrants

It can be challenging for small jurisdictions to retain the people who move to them for a significant amount of time. To what degree that this is due to a lack of amenities, travel considerations, greater opportunities elsewhere, or other factors in the case of the Isle of Man is well beyond the scope of this report, but it is nevertheless worthwhile establishing an indication of what proportion of inward migration the Island retains and over what time scales.

Historically, data suggests that around 50% of those who come to the Isle of Man as new or returning residents remain on the Island after ten years. Of those whose most recent dates of arrival fell in 2011, 47.6% had left the Island by 2021 while the corresponding figure for those arriving in 2012 is 46.2%.

The percentage of new and returning residents who leave after just two or five years is relatively stable from year to year, typically clustering within a few percentage points of 20% and 35% respectively, suggesting that this is a robust trend and worth further investigation.

Start of most recent period of residence	Percentage who have left by 2 years	Percentage who have left by 5 years	Percentage who have left by 10 years
2011	19.8%	35.3%	47.6%
2012	22.4%	35.1%	46.2%
2013	19.8%	30.9%	44.2%*
2014	22.5%	37.6%	-
2015	21.0%	37.2%	-
2016	19.0%	33.8%	-
2017	18.8%	31.8%	-
2018	20.6%	30.2%*	-
2019	16.5%	-	-
2020	15.3%	-	-

An asterisk (*) in the above table indicates that the period under consideration includes 2023, and hence the figure provided is not for the full period.

Figures for later years may be influenced by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdowns and may be underestimates due to records of those leaving in 2022 and 2023 not yet being complete.

One factor determining the pattern observed in the table above may be the limited number of opportunities for career advancement or change of career on the Isle of Man relative to the United Kingdom (and further afield), irrespective of any other quality the Island may possess. Although there is not a great deal of research into how long people tend to stay in the same job, some sources have in the past suggested that the average is approximately five years⁵—a period similar to that by which most of those new and returning residents who eventually leave the Island have left.

This is perhaps not surprising given the far greater number of jobs that are going to be on offer in the United Kingdom than the Isle of Man at any one time. That is to say, anyone looking to advance or change their career is more likely to find an opportunity to do so which could require them to leave the Island, irrespective of other factors that may otherwise lead them to stay.

⁵ 'How Long Should You Stay in One Job', BBC website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-38828581>

Section III

Outward Migration

It is currently estimated that outward migration from the Isle of Man has amounted to 2,708 people between the 2021 Census and the end of March 2023. Figures for each of the years in question are provided below.

Year	Estimate
2021 (partial)	717
2022	1,730
2023 (partial)	262
Total	2,709

A relatively large proportion of the figures for 2022 and 2023 are estimates designed to compensate for the fact that for a large number of people there is typically a delay (in some cases a substantial one) from when they leave the Island and when they inform the Government that they have left. As a result, information about the characteristics of people leaving the Island is incomplete at the point of estimation and only fully known some time later.

While there a delay in when data concerning inward migration is complete, it is typically much shorter than in the case of outward migration, and hence affects far fewer people. For this reason, we have not gone into quite as much detail as in the section on Inward Migration. Where results in the last section tended to be presented in terms of both percentages and absolute numbers, we have largely restricted ourselves to percentages here. This avoids presenting figures that may be incorrect while still allowing for extrapolation to all people leaving the Island (if we're prepared to use the assumption that those about whom we as yet have little information are similar to those described here).

Age and Sex of Residents Leaving the Isle of Man

The average age of residents who left the Island between the last Census and the end of March 2023 was 42 years. The average ages for both men and women leaving the Island were the same. The age distribution of those leaving is broadly similar for both sexes, though some important differences are:

- 35.1% of women who left the Island were aged between 20 and 29, compared with 29.5% of men in the same age group.
- This difference is reversed for age groups between the ages of 30 and 54. This age group consisted of 42.7% of all men leaving the Island but only 35.2% of women.

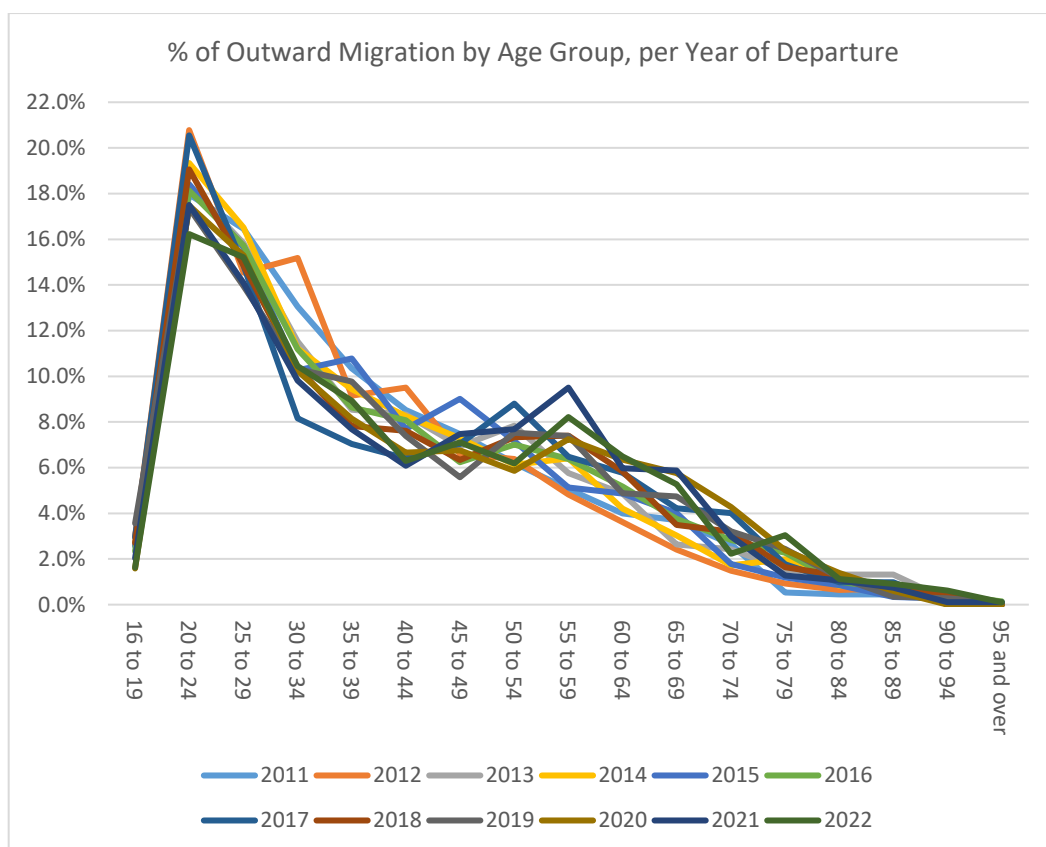
Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 to 19	2.2%	1.3%	1.7%
20 to 24	15.0%	19.8%	17.4%
25 to 29	14.5%	15.3%	14.9%
30 to 34	10.4%	8.1%	9.2%

35 to 39	9.2%	8.2%	8.7%
40 to 44	7.3%	5.8%	6.5%
45 to 49	8.3%	6.7%	7.5%
50 to 54	7.5%	6.6%	7.0%
55 to 59	8.3%	9.2%	8.8%
60 to 64	6.0%	6.3%	6.2%
65 to 69	6.0%	4.4%	5.2%
70 to 74	1.7%	2.9%	2.3%
75 to 79	1.6%	2.9%	2.2%
80 to 84	0.7%	1.3%	1.0%
85 to 89	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%
90 to 94	0.1%	0.6%	0.3%
95 +	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Despite the difference between the age characteristics of men and women leaving the Island, almost exactly the same number of both left during this period. The overall with a sex ratio is 0.998.

Age Range	Men	Women	Sex Ratio (Male(s)/Female)
16 to 19	19	11	1.73
20 to 24	130	172	0.76
25 to 29	126	133	0.95
30 to 34	90	70	1.29
35 to 39	80	71	1.13
40 to 44	63	50	1.26
45 to 49	72	58	1.24
50 to 54	65	57	1.14
55 to 59	72	80	0.90
60 to 64	52	55	0.95
65 to 69	52	38	1.37
70 to 74	15	25	0.60
75 to 79	14	25	0.56
80 to 84	6	11	0.55
85 to 89	9	7	1.29
90 to 94	1	5	0.20
95 +	1	1	1.00
Total	867	869	0.998

As in the case for inward migration, the age distribution for residents leaving the Island has shown a reasonable degree of stability since 2011, which may suggest that the characteristics of outward migration has been largely fixed by economic and social factors.



Location of Outgoing Migrants

With respect to where those leaving the Island lived before their departure, the geographic distribution of outward migration is similar to that of inward immigration.

The main difference is a weaker clustering around Douglas. This is to be expected as there are clear reasons why new residents to the Island would be inclined to settle in and around Douglas due to this being the main centre of employment on the Island and having a much larger number of rental properties. By comparison, the former place of residence of people leaving the Island would be expected to be influenced more by the distribution of the population around the Island, particularly for those age groups who tend to make up outward migration.

Age	IM1	IM2	IM3	IM4	IM5	IM6	IM7	IM8	IM9
16 to 19	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
20 to 24	1.6%	4.8%	1.5%	2.6%	1.0%	0.2%	1.3%	1.4%	3.1%
25 to 29	2.0%	4.0%	0.7%	2.6%	1.1%	0.1%	0.4%	1.3%	2.7%
30 to 34	1.5%	3.4%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	1.4%
35 to 39	1.6%	2.7%	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.0%
40 to 44	1.0%	1.9%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%
45 to 49	1.2%	1.9%	0.5%	1.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	1.5%
50 to 54	0.8%	1.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%	0.8%	0.6%	1.3%
55 to 59	0.6%	2.2%	0.9%	1.8%	0.7%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%	1.2%
60 to 64	0.3%	1.7%	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%	1.5%

65 to 69	0.6%	1.5%	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%
70 to 74	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
75 to 79	0.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%
80 to 84	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
85 to 89	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
90 to 94	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
95 +	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	12.0%	27.8%	7.8%	14.3%	6.4%	0.9%	5.8%	7.5%	17.5%

As seen from the ranking below, Douglas and the South accounts for 57.2% of outward migrants, while 79.3% lived in Douglas, the South, or areas nearby (IM3 and IM4).

Postcode area	% of Outward Migration
IM1 & IM2	39.80%
IM9	17.50%
IM4	14.30%
IM3	7.80%
IM8	7.50%
IM5	6.40%
IM7	5.80%
IM6	0.90%

Section IV

Internal Migration

Internal migration is the movement of people between different areas of the Isle of Man. We have attempted to approximate statistics concerning such migration by comparing tax data from July 2021 to July 2023.

As this data is anonymized and provides only the first four digits of individuals' postcodes, we can only chart movement between postcode areas, rather than at a more detailed level or on areas such as constituencies and wards. These figures do not capture the movement of children.

		Destination									
		IM1	IM2	IM3	IM4	IM5	IM6	IM7	IM8	IM9	Totals
Origin	IM1	256	540	91	84	43	4	24	33	96	1,171
	IM2	440	920	324	334	114	18	88	104	230	2,572
	IM3	75	296	156	103	24	6	38	51	58	807
	IM4	103	252	114	170	111	10	56	75	149	1,040
	IM5	28	78	26	83	40	35	24	44	63	421
	IM6	5	19	7	8	29	3	15	23	18	127
	IM7	22	42	17	31	18	8	76	172	32	418
	IM8	24	101	29	46	20	11	155	364	26	776
	IM9	65	174	66	115	61	11	30	35	637	1,194
	Totals	1,018	2,422	830	974	460	106	506	901	1,309	8,526

Comparing the number of people moving to an area with those moving from the same area provides an indication of net internal migration between July 2021 and July 2023. From this it can be seen that the most common destinations for those moving within the Island were by a large margin in the North and the South. Douglas, by contrast saw a large net outward movement of residents.

Postcode Area	Net internal migration
IM1 & IM2	-303
IM3	23
IM4	-66
IM5	39
IM6	-21
IM7	88
IM8	125
IM9	115

Viewed relative to their populations at the time of the census in 2021, those areas which experienced the largest change due to internal migration are Ramsey and the North (excluding Kirk Michael), which both experienced relatively large increases. The two areas which experienced the greatest decreases are Douglas and Kirk Michael.

Post Code Area	% Change
IM1 & IM2	-1.1%
IM3	0.3%
IM4	-0.6%
IM5	0.6%
IM6	-1.3%
IM7	1.5%
IM8	1.5%
IM9	0.8%

This differs somewhat with the movement of people due to migration from or to the Island (see the following section for more details). In this case, Douglas has seen increases to its population that are greater than the losses due to internal migration. One similarity between both internal and external migrations is the popularity of Ramsey and the South of the Island, possibly due to the presence of large developments and/or lower property or rental prices in those areas.

Section V

Net Migration and a Comparison of Inward and Outward Migration

The average age of new and returning residents has in general been the same or lower than residents who leave the Island, exerting a moderating effect on the overall rise in the average age on the Island.

Year	Leaving	New and Returning
2011	38	38
2012	37	38
2013	39	38
2014	39	39
2015	39	39
2016	40	40
2017	41	40
2018	41	40
2019	41	40
2020	42	42
2021	42	42
2022	42	40
2023	44	40

Net migration by age group is largely characterised by a large addition to the number of 25 to 44 year olds, with smaller increases in the 45 to 64 age groups and a reduction in those aged 65 and over and those aged 20 to 24.

Age Group	2021 (Partial)	2022	2023 (Partial)	Total
17 to 19	10	29	12	51
20 to 24	-62	-87	6	-144
25 to 29	43	118	12	173
30 to 34	76	167	51	294
35 to 39	50	134	41	225
40 to 44	21	96	23	140
45 to 49	23	60	13	96
50 to 54	11	41	16	68
55 to 59	13	-11	4	6
60 to 64	5	6	-11	-1
65 +	-8	-64	-1	-73

Although net migration exhibits a marked reduction in the number of 20 to 24 year olds, around 56% of the total figure for net migration from the time of the 2021 Isle of Man Census to the end of March 2023 is aged 25 to 34 and accounts for more than treble the number of people in the younger category who leave.

Comparing inward and outward migration⁶ for each of the nine postcode areas shows reasonably large growth in Douglas, with only small changes in population elsewhere.

Postcode Area	Inward Migration	Outward Migration	Difference
IM1 & IM2	1,421	1,078	343
IM3	186	211	-25
IM4	419	387	32
IM5	166	173	-7
IM6	44	24	20
IM7	142	157	-15
IM8	208	203	5
IM9	519	474	45

However, much of the increase in the population of Douglas is negated by internal migration to other areas of the Island, with Ramsey and the North of the Island and the South of the Island seeing the greatest increases once internal migration is taken into account.

⁶ A significant number of people in the 'outward migration' category have been imputed. Figures reported here are based on the assumption that the distribution of these among the different locations on the Isle of Man is the same as of those about whom we have definitive information. Some degree of error may be present in these figures because of this.

Section VI

Population Projections

This section contains broad population projections based on the data used in this report. The projection model combines current trends in fertility and mortality rates with hypothesized rates of net migration to determine population numbers in future years. Because of this, it should be borne in mind that the figures below are not predictions; they are hypothetical statements based on an assumed rate of net migration and the assumption that, on average, fertility and mortality rates on the Island remain more or less constant.

Due to the disruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic it is impossible to predict future trends in net migration and all choices are therefore arbitrary to some extent or another. The table below provides a projection of population number based on the assumption that net migration stays the same as our model estimates for 2022.

	Age Groups								
Year	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-59	60-64	65-74	75+	All Ages
2023	3,818	4,937	4,776	2,445	43,679	6,110	9,887	9,452	85,105
2024	3,994	4,872	4,782	2,390	43,643	6,325	9,928	9,801	85,735
2025	4,196	4,841	4,635	2,492	43,585	6,486	10,007	10,112	86,355
2026	4,399	4,820	4,528	2,537	43,581	6,628	10,086	10,381	86,960
2027	4,458	4,946	4,456	2,570	43,562	6,562	10,474	10,514	87,542
2028	4,501	5,145	4,322	2,508	43,612	6,645	10,629	10,762	88,124
2029	4,538	5,332	4,251	2,456	43,599	6,634	11,008	10,878	88,695
2030	4,564	5,522	4,239	2,378	43,596	6,625	11,243	11,074	89,241
2031	4,581	5,737	4,207	2,296	43,553	6,697	11,488	11,217	89,776
2032	4,583	5,951	4,179	2,261	43,527	6,710	11,647	11,440	90,299
2033	4,572	6,016	4,360	2,222	43,450	6,690	11,805	11,677	90,792
2034	4,548	6,064	4,535	2,201	43,496	6,543	11,991	11,890	91,268
2035	4,510	6,101	4,714	2,181	43,578	6,402	12,117	12,108	91,711
2036	4,459	6,127	4,921	2,200	43,663	6,153	12,308	12,278	92,108
2037	4,398	6,139	5,123	2,199	43,764	5,978	12,228	12,647	92,476
2038	4,330	6,133	5,178	2,347	43,858	5,814	12,303	12,857	92,818
2039	4,260	6,111	5,221	2,523	43,878	5,816	12,133	13,220	93,164
2040	4,192	6,073	5,258	2,693	43,809	5,944	11,998	13,449	93,416

This results in a gradual increase that slows over the years of the population up to approximately 92,000 in 2036. This would represent an increase of around 9.4% compared with the population at the time of the 2021 Isle of Man Census.

The projection also asserts that the 65 and over age group will continue to grow as a percentage of the entire population, from 23% to 27%. This figure requires the caveat that population trends can be volatile over such a long period and so the warning that these figures should not be treated as predictions carries additional weight here.

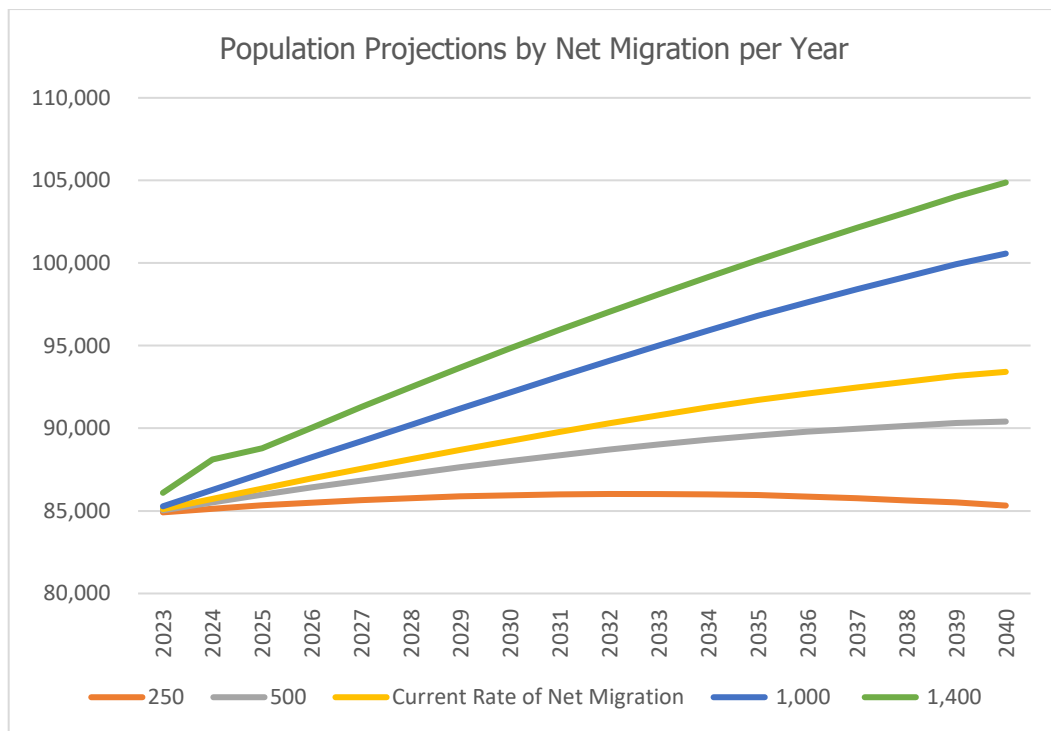
The model used in generating the predictions above can also be used to attempt to estimate what level of net migration would be required, all else being equal, in order to reach a certain population total by a particular year.

Applying this to the figure of 100,000 people by the year 2036 suggests that net migration would have to be around twice the level it's estimated to have been in 2022 and remain constant for all subsequent years. The table below provides projections, broken down by age group, for an assumed rate of net migration of 1,400 each year from 2023 onwards.

Year	Age Groups								
	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-59	60-64	65-74	75+	All Ages
2023	3,733	4,901	4,872	2,634	43,854	6,226	10,096	9,776	86,093
2024	3,887	4,814	4,913	2,650	44,087	6,500	10,269	10,992	88,113
2025	4,062	4,772	4,780	2,805	44,310	6,716	10,479	10,859	88,783
2026	4,248	4,718	4,691	2,887	44,599	6,901	10,685	11,300	90,028
2027	4,300	4,816	4,616	2,944	44,870	6,889	11,201	11,646	91,283
2028	4,340	4,980	4,482	2,896	45,211	7,027	11,482	12,080	92,498
2029	4,380	5,133	4,402	2,859	45,489	7,065	11,984	12,366	93,677
2030	4,421	5,298	4,375	2,781	45,770	7,108	12,339	12,738	94,829
2031	4,463	5,485	4,322	2,705	46,001	7,239	12,698	13,040	95,952
2032	4,499	5,684	4,274	2,661	46,240	7,305	12,974	13,409	97,046
2033	4,536	5,743	4,422	2,623	46,420	7,331	13,248	13,787	98,111
2034	4,572	5,792	4,567	2,590	46,735	7,227	13,530	14,143	99,156
2035	4,604	5,841	4,725	2,560	47,062	7,126	13,752	14,513	100,183
2036	4,634	5,891	4,904	2,565	47,383	6,923	14,033	14,834	101,167
2037	4,662	5,940	5,089	2,545	47,717	6,781	14,052	15,344	102,129
2038	4,688	5,983	5,138	2,678	48,028	6,651	14,218	15,686	103,068
2039	4,713	6,028	5,177	2,835	48,268	6,693	14,131	16,178	104,021
2040	4,738	6,069	5,218	2,994	48,418	6,837	14,077	16,525	104,875

The graph on the following page shows population projections for different rates of net migration with the current (2022) rate of net migration provided for the purpose of reference. This graph suggests that the current rate of net migration is near to a minimum level needed to maintain relatively steady growth over the next ten years or so. While a rate of net migration of 500 per year also results in a growing population, gains are much more modest and show evidence of plateauing in the long term.

Such conclusions should not however be treated as being definitive. Population projections often exhibit decreasing reliability over time, with figures relating to over ten years being particularly vulnerable to the effect of changing circumstances and demographic trends.



Section VII

Data Sources and Methodology

Data Sources

The primary data sources used in the production of this report are

- data regarding individuals who have notified the Income Tax Division that they have left the Island or otherwise been identified as having done so;
- data regarding all individuals who have recently registered for Income Tax on the Isle of Man, complete with details of their year of arrival;
- data on all current individuals presently registered on the Isle of Man for income tax;
- school roll data, provided by the Department for Education, Sport, and Culture; and
- registry data for births and deaths on the Island.

Please note that all data provided to Statistics Isle of Man for the purpose of this report have been done so with no information that is capable of identifying an individual whatsoever.

How the Estimate is Calculated

In principle, the calculation of the estimate is simple and consists of no more than the subtraction of the number of deaths and people leaving the Isle of Man in a given year from the sum of new and returning residents and births in that same year.

The main complications to this process are:

- Income tax data is only comprehensive for those over the age of 16.
- There is typically a delay in when people notify the Income Tax Division that they have left or settled on the Isle of Man. In the case of those who have left, this can amount to a lengthy amount of time, if indeed they notify the division at all. People who fail entirely to inform the division that they have left the Island are eventually identified as having done so, though this can take in excess of a year and a half.

In order to estimate the net migration of children over the span of a year, we compare the number of children in each age group with the number of children in the next age group the year after. If the number in one age group is less than the number in the next age group the following year, then the difference should be a reasonable approximation of the number of children of that age who have left the Island in that year. Analogous reasoning applies to the situation where the difference between the two age groups is an increase.

This of course neglects children below school age. However, it is anticipated that the net migration of children in this group is sufficiently small as to not affect the estimates produced too significantly.

Compensating for those who take a long time or fail to notify the Income Tax Division that they have left the Island is a more complicated matter and is dealt with in a slightly different manner in each case. Based on evidence gained from study of income tax records, it was decided to treat those who in a given year fail to notify the division that they have left as a fixed percentage of the total number of people who leave in that year. On the other hand, the number of those who are merely slow to inform the division that they have left appear to be much less predictable, particularly if they have left in months close to that at which the data has been extracted. For this group of people it has been necessary to find the closest month for which the percentage of the total number of leaving residents that they represent is stable enough to be used for the estimate. On investigation of the data available, it was found that six months prior was the most practical compromise between currency of the results and accuracy.

While there is also a delay in when some new or returning residents inform the Income Tax Division that they have

Limitations and Future Improvements

The main limitations in the approach outlined are:

- little is known about the levels of inward or outward migration for children below school age;
- the method used to construct estimates is as yet at a relatively simple stage;
- analysis currently assumes that those people who have been inferred to have left or come to the Island share the same characteristics (such as age and sex) as those who we know to have done;
- the estimate is based on only twelve years' worth of data at most, with some aspects of the methodology being based on only four or five years' worth; and
- the model used for population projections could benefit from further refinement, such as by employing fertility and mortality trends, rather than projecting averages of past years into the future.

Further development will require sourcing additional and more detailed data (where available), such as that regarding children below school age. This will allow for a greater degree of analysis and hopefully increased coverage of the population. It is also hoped that additional historical data will be sufficient to investigate adapting Bayesian methods to add additional rigour and analytical power to the population estimates.



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