The Isle of Wight is a Better Place to Live – Demographics & Population
Last updated: September 2013

Introduction

The following pages give general information about the size of the Island and how its communities are distributed, a range of population information and projected changes to numbers over time.

Island Summary

- 94.8% of residents are ‘White British’ origin although this proportion has reduced since the 2001 Census
- There are 69,216 residential households Source Isle of Wight Council Revenues and Benefits as at 4th October 2013
- Around 1 in 6 households on the Island are occupied by a single person over 65
- The Isle of Wight has the 6th highest divorce rate in the UK (9.1% of residents aged 16 or over)

Island Geography

- The Isle of Wight lies off the south coast of mainland England and covers an area of 146.8 sq miles (38.016 hectares, or 380.16 km²)
- Based on the 2011 Census, there is an average population per hectare of 38,016 persons, or 3.6 persons per hectare². This compares with an average of 4.1 persons per hectare² for England and a regional average of 4.5 persons per hectare² for the South East. Source 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- The Island has a 39 Electoral Wards served by 40 Councillors (Brading, St Helens and Bembridge has two). At the last election of the Isle of Wight Council there was no overall majority, so the independent candidates joined together to form 'Island Independents' and are now the majority party. In addition there are 25 Parish and 8 Town councils. Source iwight.com
- The major towns of the Island are:
  - Newport c.17,200 persons
  - Ryde c.18,700 persons
  - West Cowes c.14,400 persons
  - East Cowes c. 7,800 persons
  - Sandown c. 7,200 persons
  - Shanklin c. 7,100 persons
  - Ventnor c. 6,000 persons

Based on 2011 Census, ONS

- The average house price for the Island as at May 2013 was £149,755 Source Land Registry

The following chart demonstrates the changes in property prices for the Island over the past three years.

Population

Based on the mid-2011 usually resident population estimate of 138,392 people, the Isle of Wight was the eleventh largest Unitary Authority in the South East region. 
(Source ONS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Isle of Wight (000’s)</th>
<th>South East Region (000’s)</th>
<th>England &amp; Wales (000’s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All people</td>
<td>138.4</td>
<td>8,652.8</td>
<td>56,170.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>4,251.4</td>
<td>27,637.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>4,401.4</td>
<td>28,533.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: ONS Mid-2011 population estimates, based on the results of the 2011 Census)

The Island has a greater proportion of older residents (aged 65 plus) and fewer younger people (those aged 0-14 years) than both the South East region, and England and Wales.
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The majority of Island residents were born in England and Wales (92.2%) (Source: 2011 Census).

In comparison with other authorities in England and Wales, the Island has the 78th highest level of residents born in England. (Knowsley in Merseyside has the highest proportion at 96.4%).

The next largest group (2.9%) is made up from people originating from outside of the European Union.

Gender

The proportion of males/females on the Island is broadly similar to the South East region and England and Wales as a whole.

There are less girls than boys in the 0-14 age group,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Isle of Wight</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England and Wales</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

but more women than men over the age of 65.

Ethnicity

The Island’s population is predominantly ‘White British’ (94.8% of residents). The next largest group is ‘White other white’ (not including, Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller) with 1.9%. The remaining 3.3% is made up of a wide range of ethnic origins. (Source: 2011 Census).

Country of birth

Proportion of population by broad age band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>0-14</th>
<th>15-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight UA</td>
<td>15.10%</td>
<td>60.64%</td>
<td>24.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>17.77%</td>
<td>64.94%</td>
<td>17.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England and Wales</td>
<td>17.63%</td>
<td>65.82%</td>
<td>16.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Change in proportion of ‘White’ population rates between 2001 and 2011 Censuses)

Over the last ten years (2001-2011) the number of White British has reduced marginally by just under two percentage points. In the same period, the number of ‘Asian/Asian British: Other Asian’ has increased just under half of a percentage point.

Length of residence in the UK

Most island residents (94.8%) were born in the United Kingdom (UK) and most of those who came from outside the UK have been resident in the country for ten years or more (3.2%). (2011 Census)

Just 0.4% of the resident population that were not born in the UK, had been resident for less than two years.

Religion

Over half of the Island’s resident population (60.5%) are of Christian faith (2011 Census). This is a reduction of around twelve and a half percentage points on the number of Christians in the 2001 Census.

This reduction is offset by a roughly equivalent growth in the number of residents stating that they had no religion – which is now over a quarter of residents (29.6%) (2011 Census).

Household composition

With so many over 65s living on the Island it is no surprise that 16.5% of all households are occupied by one person aged 65 or over. This was the eighteenth highest rate for all of the authorities in England and Wales. (source 2011 Census)

A similar rate (16.2%) was also given for other one person households. This is broadly in-line with England (17.9%) and the South East region (16.1%).
Marriage and Civil partnerships
Just under a half of all residents aged sixteen and over were married, while around 32% were single.

Around 180 people or 0.2% were in a registered same-sex civil partnership, a rate consistent with both the South East region and England.

With 9.1% of all residents aged sixteen and over stating that they were 'Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which had been legally dissolved' the Island has the sixth highest rate of all authorities in England and Wales.

Lone Parent households
Just over four thousand households on the Island are lone parent with dependent children where the lone parent was aged 16-74.

In 38% of these households the lone parent was not in full-time employment. The number of male lone parents not in employment (4.2%) was the 23rd highest of all authorities in England and Wales. 2.2% of male lone parents are in part-time employment (20th highest)

Mosaic -
Mosaic Public Sector data provides socio-demographic segmentation of all UK households, based on over 440 data elements, including Census data.

All UK citizens are classified into 69 types and 15 groups, helping local authorities gain a better understanding of the characteristics and needs of the local population. This table looks at the 15 groups and the make-up of households within them.

A break down by Ward is included in the Ward Packs section on www.iwight.com/Ward Area Data

Reflecting on the Past:

Number of Island residents.
1991 125,900
2011 138,400
Change in numbers between 1991-2011 12,500
% Change between 1991-2011 9.0%

Between the census years of 1991 and 2001 the Island population grew by just over 7,000 persons. While the Island’s population has continued to grow, the most recent census result suggests that the rate had slowed marginally, with actual growth being slightly less at around five and a half thousand.

NB:
The slight dip in numbers seen between 2010 and 2011 is the variance between the Census outcome and the previous year’s estimated figure and not necessarily a drop in the real population numbers.
The following table shows the percentage changes for the individual age groups on the Island.

The largest declines are 5 to 9 year olds, and 30 to 39 year olds. The highest growth is in the 60 to 69 age group and the 90 and over group.

Looking towards the Future:

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed population projections for the next ten year period, through to 2021.

2011 population estimate (census based) 138,392
2021 population projection 146,749
Projected growth in numbers (10 years) 8,357
Projected percentage growth (10 years) 6%

Comparisons with neighbouring counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>% growth 2011-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Sussex</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiltshire</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfordshire</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This compares with a projected increase for the South East region as a whole of 9.3% and for England 8.6%.

Reading is the only Unitary Authorities in the South East with a lower increase, just 4.2%. Our two closest neighbours Southampton and Portsmouth are each expected to see greater increases in population of 7.1% and 6.3% respectively.

The projections suggest the Island will experience an average annual growth of 836 persons per annum between 2011 and 2021, although the actual rate of increase is predicted to increase year on year i.e. to start slowly and increase in numbers as the years pass.

What might the future demographic look like?

Over the next ten years, there is likely to be an significant increase in the number of people aged 65 years and older as a proportion of the island’s population, while over the same period, the number of younger age groups will reduce, although the level of reduction is predicted to slow towards the end of the ten years.

Source: ONS, Interim 2011 based subnational population projections

The ratio for working age persons compared to those aged 65+ would drop from 2.3 in 2011, to only 1.8 by 2021.

- Population projections suggest that the greatest level of rise will be in the age groups 70-74; 75-79 and 90 plus years, while the highest levels of reduction would be in the 15-19; 40-44 and 45-49 year age groups.
- By 2021 the rate by which numbers of men aged 70 years and older have increased, is predicted to be higher than the equivalent for women, this is similar to the national picture.
The following two charts show the predicted shifts in population by age band and gender, with an overlay of the same projections at a national level:

**In 2011 –**

[Chart showing population shifts in 2011 for males and females across different age bands.

**In 2021 –**

[Chart showing population shifts in 2021 for males and females across different age bands.]