InformGloucestershire

Internal Migration in Gloucestershire
An Overview[1]

Internal Migration Numbers

In 2019 around 27,691 people were recorded as moving to Gloucestershire from the rest of the UK and around 24,141 people left the county for the rest of the UK. This resulted in Gloucestershire gaining a total of 3,550 internal migrants during the year; this was a decrease of 7.2% on the previous year when net migration was 3,825 people.
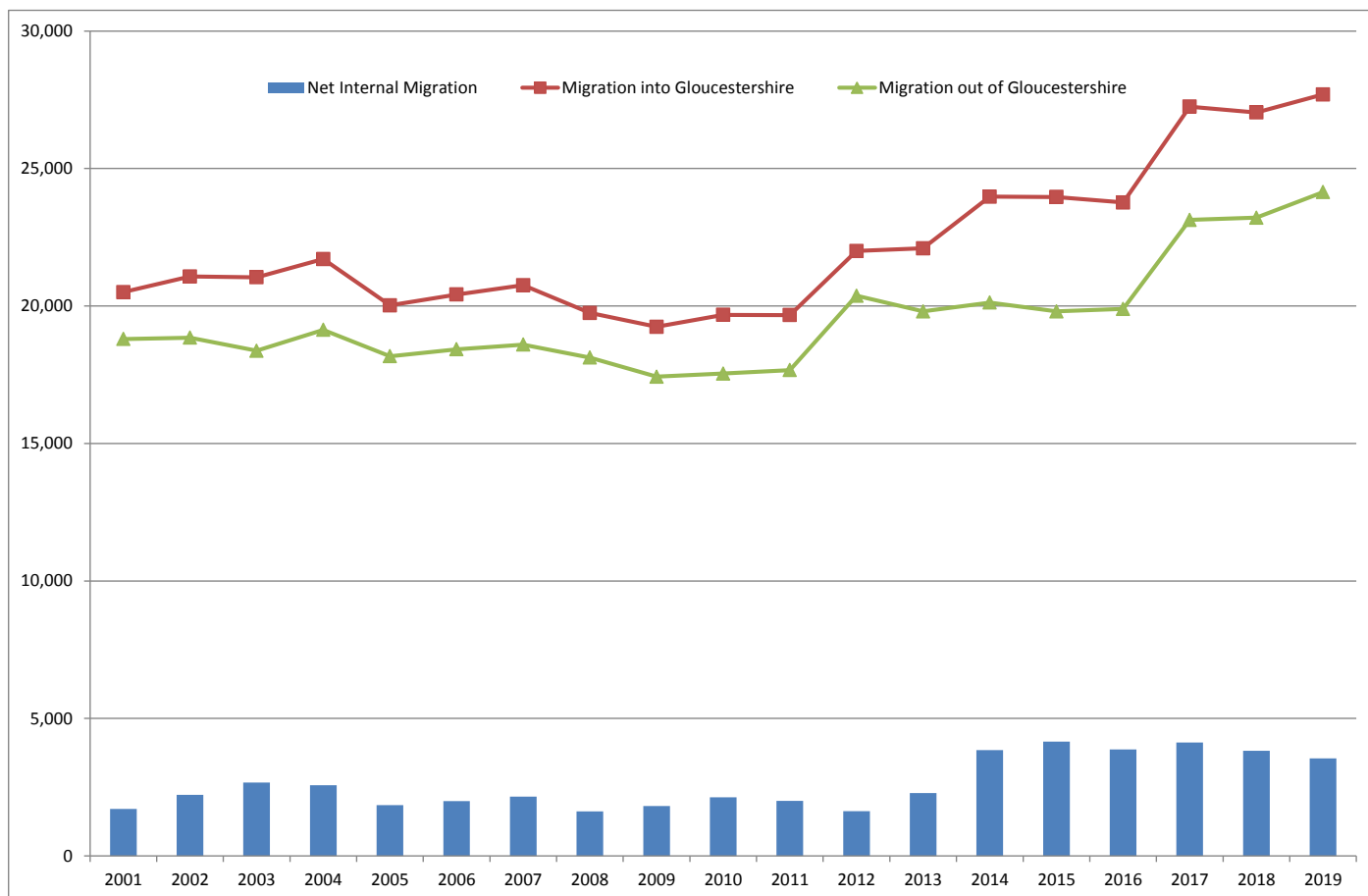
Figure 1 (page 2) shows internal migration in Gloucestershire between 2001 and 2019. Between 2001 and 2011 net internal migration ranged from a high of 2,670 in 2003 to a low of 1,623 in 2008. Between 2011 and 2012 there was a sharp increase in both inflow and outflow[2]; since the increase was in both inflow and outflow, there was little change in net migration which remained below 2,000. However, between 2013 and 2014 there was another sharp rise in inflow with only a small rise in outflow, resulting in an increase in net migration into the county from 2,291 people in 2013 to 3,849 people in 2014, an increase of 68%. From 2014 onwards there were a series of rises and falls with 2015 having the highest net internal migration so far of 4,159 movements this was an increase of 8% on the previous year. In 2017, 2018 and 2019 both inflow and outflow increased markedly with the net internal migration remaining above 3,500.

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[1] Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)
[2] Some of this increase may be due to a change in the methodology used to measure internal migration, introduced by the Office for National Statistics in 2012

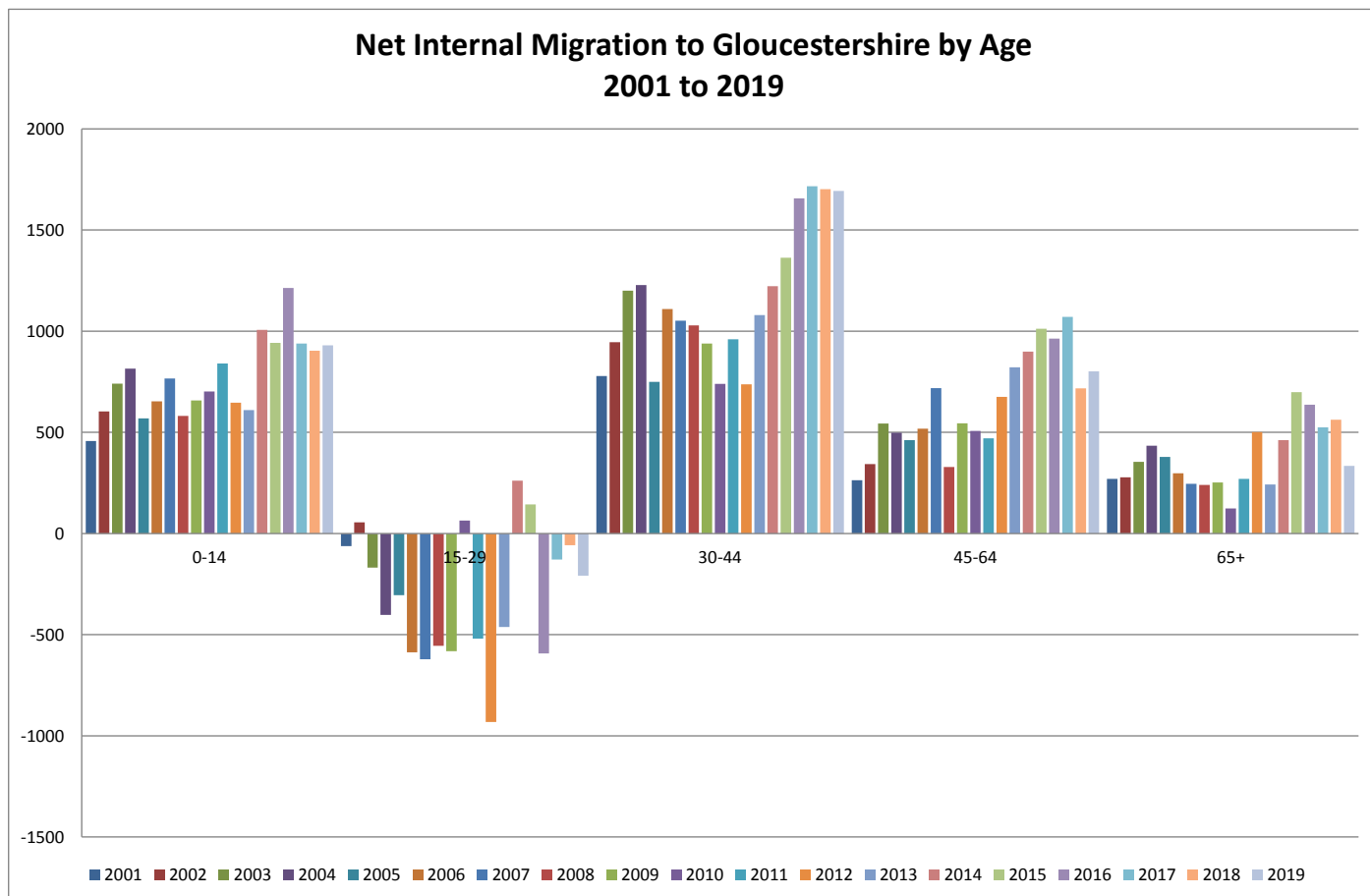## Figure 1: Internal Migration in Gloucestershire 2001 to 2019

Age Groups

Figure 2 (page 3) shows that from 2001 to 2019 Gloucestershire has attracted a net inflow of population from other parts of the UK in all age groups with the exception (in most years) of 15 to 29 year olds. In 2019 the age group with the largest net inflow was people aged 30 to 44 (around 1,700 people), followed by children aged 0 to 14 (approximately 930 people) and then people aged 45 to 64 (around 800 people). The age group with the smallest positive net inflow was people aged 65 and over (approximately 330 people). Between 2018 and 2019 net inflow to the county increased slightly for people aged 0-14 and those aged 45-64, but it decreased amongst all the other age groups.

By contrast, from 2001 to 2019 Gloucestershire generally experienced a net outflow of population among the 15 to 29 population as outflow of this age group exceeded inflow in most years. In 2014 and 2015, the county saw a net inflow of people in this age group, of 260 and 140 people respectively. In 2019 the figure resulted in a net loss of 208 people which was the result of both higher inflow and outflow than previous years.

Figure2: Net internal migration in Gloucestershire by age group, 2001 to 2019

Districts

Please note that from this point on, when we are considering district migration, we are including migration between Gloucestershire districts as well as inflow and outflow to and from Gloucestershire.

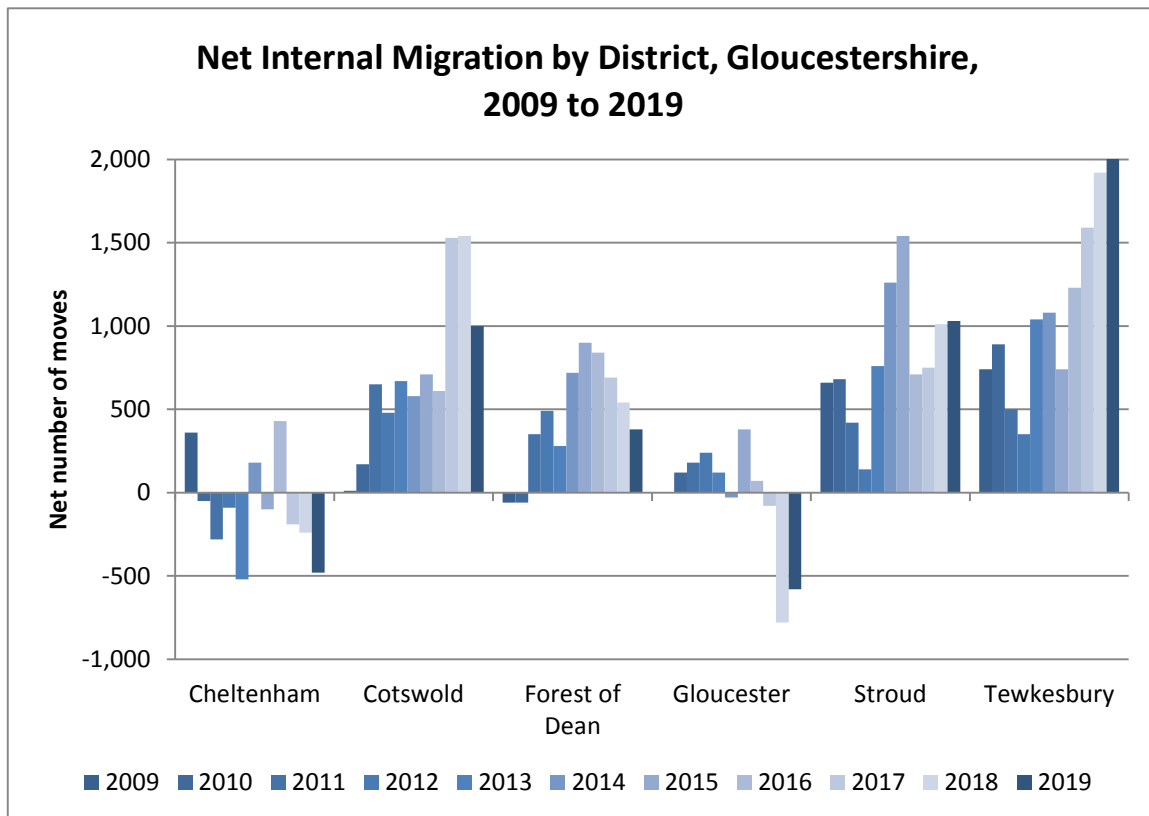Figure 3 (page 4) shows net internal migration at district level. In 2019:

- all districts apart from Cheltenham and Gloucester had a net inflow (i.e. more people moving in than moving out);
- Tewkesbury had the highest net inflow (2,230) followed by Stroud (1,030), Cotswold (1,000) and the Forest of Dean (380); Gloucester had the lowest (580 out) and Cheltenham (480 out);
- Net inflow has increased in Stroud and Tewkesbury since 2016; it has decreased this year in Cotswold and Forest of Dean. Net inflow was negative i.e. an outflow from Cheltenham and Gloucester in the last three years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and that outflow increased in all three years in Cheltenham and in 2017 and 2018 in Gloucester.

Between 2009 and 2019:
- Cotswold, Stroud and Tewkesbury experienced a net gain of population through internal migration in each year;
- Stroud experienced higher increases in net inflow compared with the other districts in 2014 and 2015

- Tewkesbury experienced higher increases in net inflow compared with other districts in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Cheltenham has experienced a net outflow of internal migration since 2010 with the exception of 2014 and 2016
- The Forest of Dean experienced a net outflow in 2009 and 2010, but has experienced net inflows since then, with a noticeable increase between 2013 and 2014
- Gloucester has consistently had amongst the lowest net inflows in the county since 2009 and in 2014 ,2017,2018 and 2019 experienced a net loss of migration
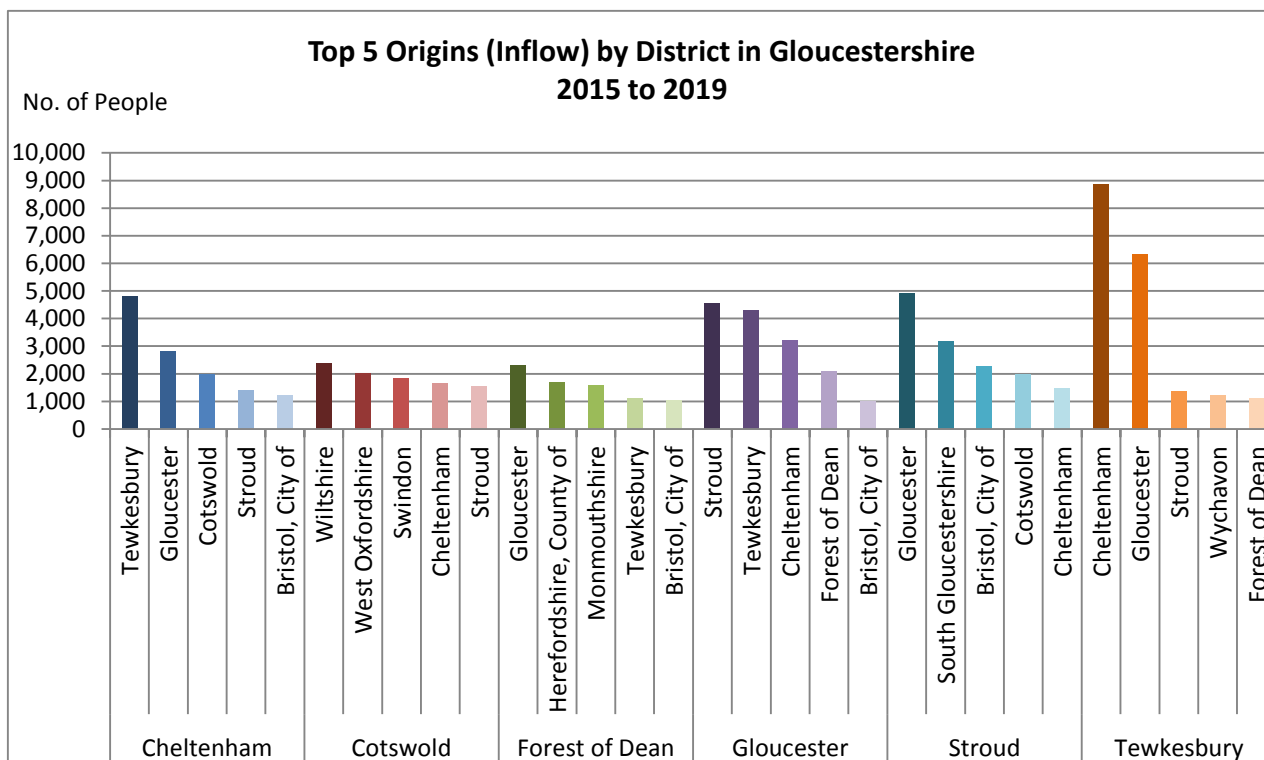
Figure 3: Net internal migration in Gloucestershire by district, 2009 to 2019

Net Internal Migration by District, Gloucestershire, 2009 to 2019

Origins

Figure 4 (page 5) shows the top 5 origins for moves into each district for the period 2015 to 2019. The majority (58.3%) of moves into Tewkesbury originated from other districts within Gloucestershire with Cheltenham and Gloucester being the top origins. The proportion of inflow from within Gloucestershire was also high in Gloucester (45.5%), whilst in Stroud, Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean the figure was 32.5%, 28.9% and 24.3% respectively. By contrast, in Cotswold only 14.9% of moves in 2015-2019 originated in the county with the top origins outside the county being Wiltshire, West Oxfordshire and Swindon.
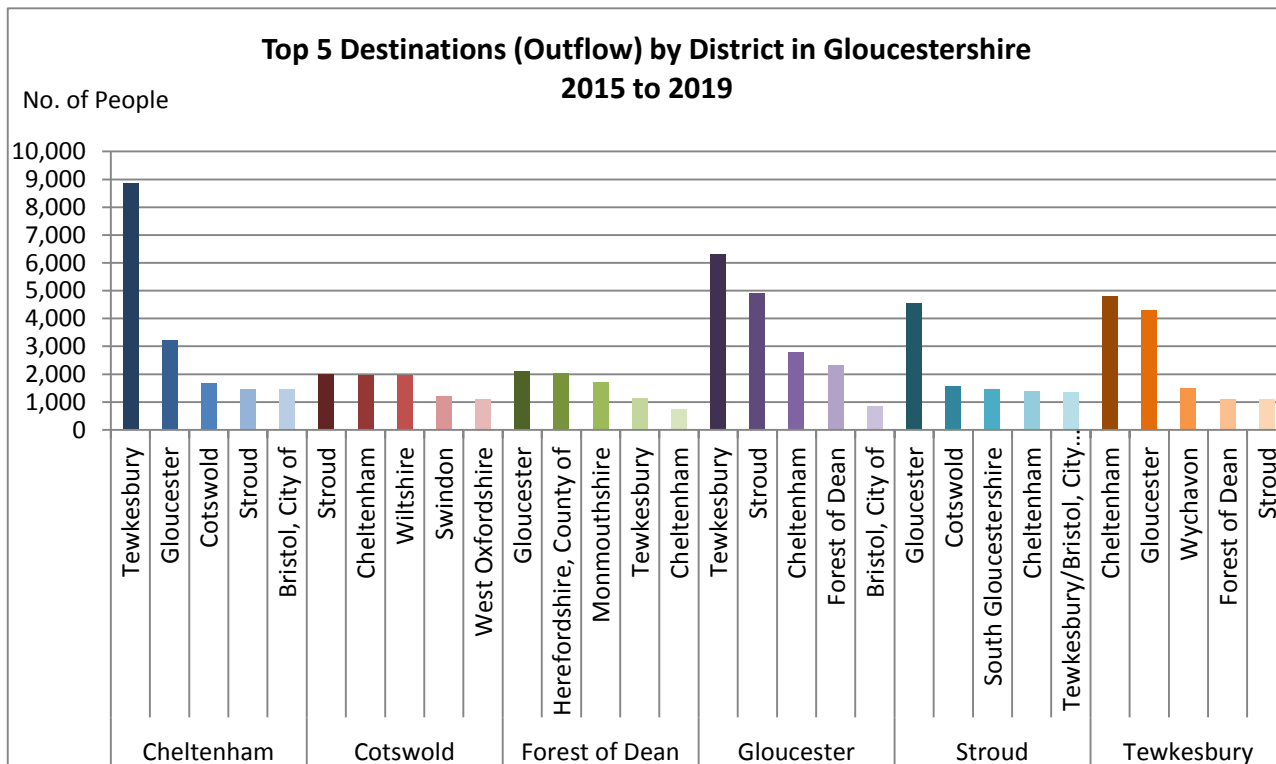
Figure 4: Top 5 Origins (Inflow) by District in Gloucestershire 2015 to 2019

Top 5 Origins (Inflow) by District in Gloucestershire 2015 to 2019

Destinations

Figure 5 (page 6) shows the top 5 destinations for moves by district. Districts that have a large percentage of internal migration inflow coming from within Gloucestershire also tend to have a high percentage of outflow to areas within the county. For Tewkesbury, which had the highest proportion of inflow from within the county compared to other districts in 2015-2019, 50.6% of the outflow was to areas within Gloucestershire in the same period, with Cheltenham and Gloucester being the top destinations. Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud, also had a high proportion of outflow leaving for other districts within the County (representing 50.6%, 37.8%, and 41.8% respectively). By contrast, only 21.1% of Cotswold's outflow was to destinations within Gloucestershire.

Figure 5: Top 5 Destinations (Outflow) by District in Gloucestershire 2015 to 2019

Top 5 Destinations (Outflow) by District in Gloucestershire 2015 to 2019

Net migration between districts.

In the period 2015 to 2019, the largest net flow between Gloucestershire districts was from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury (4,060 moves). This was followed by Gloucester to Tewkesbury (2,010 moves), Cotswold to Stroud (430 moves) and Cheltenham to Gloucester (400 moves).

Net migration to and from Gloucestershire

The largest net inflow to Gloucestershire in the period 2015 to 2019 was from South Gloucestershire (2,870 moves), followed by Bristol (1,440 moves), Swindon (1,290 moves), West Oxfordshire (1,230 moves) and Wiltshire (1,180 moves).

The largest net outflow from Gloucestershire in the period 2015 to 2019 was to Wychavon (640 moves), followed by Cornwall (470 moves), Wales-non-specific (380 moves), Malvern Hills (310 moves) and Cardiff (270 moves).