



Press Release

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How Alderney fared during the first Covid-19 wave

An electronic survey of Alderney's demographics and living standards reveals slight increases in the Island's population and in the number of employers.

Published mid-March 2021, the Alderney Electronic Census Report provides employment and earnings data for the year to 30th September 2020, a period when the Bailiwick was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic along with the rest of the world.

The Bailiwick went into strict lockdown at the end of March 2020 to slow the spread of the coronavirus, with restrictions lifted in phases during April, May and June.

Despite this, there was a slight increase (0.8%) in the number of employing organisations which has numbered around 130 since 2015.

Although the figures show only a small (0.3%) increase in median earnings as at 30th September 2020 – an average of £25,900 – the period includes nearly three months in which trading, commerce and social life were severely disrupted. Median earnings for women rose by 3.3% compared with the previous year indicating that any perceived gender gap is closing.

“It is difficult to tease out from this data the impact of the supportive Guernsey initiatives that were in place, such as the furlough scheme and business support measures,” said Ian Carter, Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee. “In addition, the full impact of the staycation initiative would not have fed through fully in statistical terms.”

Population and housing figures at 31st March 2020 show that Alderney enjoyed a positive net migration of 37 people into the island and a stronger five-year improvement trend figure, reversing the negative five-year trend figures to 2017.

However, the dependency ratio – the proportion of the population that is either eligible for retirement (over 65) or in full-time education (15 and under) – continues to rise. For every 100 people of working age (16-64) there were 87 of dependent age. This reflects the diminishing working age profile as more of the “baby boom” generation (people born between the end of the Second World War and the Sixties) move into the retirement age category.

“This is a natural phenomenon. The statistic is also influenced by the number of retirees who move to the island and an increasing number of children,” said Mr Carter. “We should remember that those people who retire here bring their wealth with them and employ the island’s contractors, use our shops and support a wide range of established businesses. Equally with a growing number of younger children aged nought to nine we are widening our demographic base which is a positive healthy message for the future development of the island.”

To access the full report, visit <http://www.alderney.gov.gg/data>

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