

ISLEFACT



STATE OF THE ISLANDS

2026 - REVIEW 1

POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This first Review for 2026, provides a comparative analysis of demographic trends across five island jurisdictions: Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Bermuda, and the Cayman Islands. These islands share similar characteristics such as small populations, limited land area, high-income economies, and global connectivity, yet they exhibit divergent demographic projections driven by migration, economic specialisation, fertility rates, and ageing.

Key findings indicate that migration is the primary determinant of population dynamics. Ageing populations pose long-term fiscal and social pressures, particularly for this sample of islands; and environmental constraints amplify challenges associated with housing, infrastructure, and resilience planning. The Review concludes with possible policy-relevant initiatives to support sustainable demographic and economic outcomes.



REVIEW PROGRAMME

The State of the Islands' Review Programme is designed to support and stimulate island strategic and operational decision-making and provide clear, evidence-based guidance for policymakers and business leaders.

Each 30/40 page downloadable Review features a selected topic, chosen for its significance to island-based organisations. Island best practice is also highlighted whenever relevant and, over a twelve months' rolling cycle, a broad sample of islands including the three Crown Dependencies will be referenced.

There is a high degree of synergy between the Reviews and the following key island topics are planned to be covered over the next twelve months' period:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Population & Demography | On-island Infrastructure |
| Health and Longterm Care | Education and Skills |
| Fiscal Challenges | Visitor Economy |
| Latest International Overview 1 | Latest International Overview 2 |
| Transport Connectivity | Climate Change Mitigation |
| Economic Performance | Security and Law & Order |

Throughout this ongoing Programme, attention will also be given to the challenges posed by critical mass and economies of scale, recognising these as constant factors influencing island development and policy.

Published Reviews are available at: www.islefact.com.reviews



Located in Guernsey, we have extensive knowledge of and practical experience in how islands operate globally. There are a wide range of island economic and social models adopted and it is essential that data and information are benchmarked accurately. Full details of all our services can be found at: www.islefact.com

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(NB. Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this Review are accurate at the time of drafting (March 2026).)