

ISLEFACT



STATE OF THE ISLANDS

MIGRATION PRESSURES

2026 REVIEW

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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 Review features a selected topic, chosen for its significance to island-based organisations and individuals. Island best practice is also highlighted whenever relevant and 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 subject areas will form the structure of the Programme schedule over a twelve months' cycle:

Population & Demography	Climate Change Mitigation
Fiscal Challenges	Education and Skills
Health and Longterm Care	Financial Services
Transport Connectivity	Visitor Economy
Economic Performance	Digital Development
On-island Infrastructure	Security and Law & Order

In addition, periodic Briefing Papers (minimum of two over a twelve months' rolling cycle) covering latest international trends impacting island communities will also be available.

Full details of the Review Programme including how to subscribe to the service can be found 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 (April/May 2026).)