



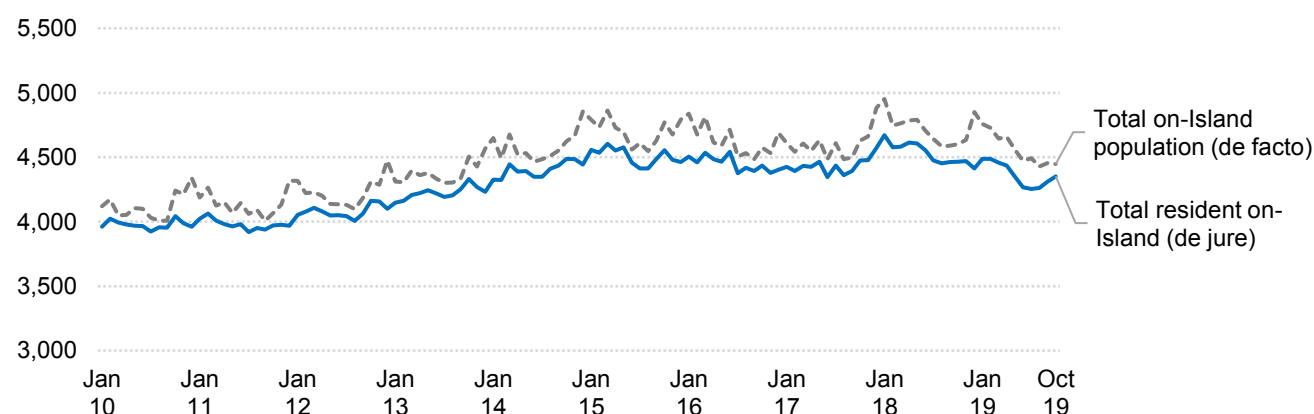
## In this Bulletin: estimates of the resident population

This bulletin releases new estimates of the resident population living on St Helena, a number of other associated indicators, and details about the methodology. The full data series, with estimates from 2010, are available in the 'Population.xls' file on the St Helena Government website at: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics>.

## The population 'on-Island'

There are two basic methods of measuring the population: counting everyone who is present 'on-Island' (sometimes called 'de facto'), or counting everyone who lives on St Helena (i.e. those who are resident, sometimes called 'de jure'). Chart 1 shows the trend in the number of people 'on-Island', and the number of people on-Island who are also resident on St Helena, at the end of each month since 2010. The difference between the two is the number of visitors, the people on St Helena who are here for a short-term stay of less than six months.

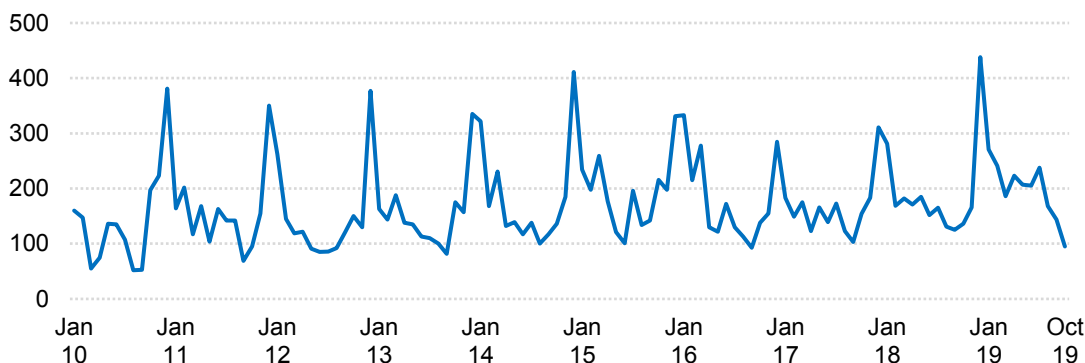
Chart 1. Total and resident population on-Island, 2010 to 2019 (measured at the end of each month)



The trends evident in Chart 1 are an increase in both population estimates from 2011 and 2012 during the Airport construction period, a plateau when construction was fully underway, and then a slight fall before the Airport opened for scheduled services at the end of 2017. At that point, the on-Island population jumped quite sharply, but has been falling since, to around about the same level at the end of October 2019 as it was at the end of 2014.

Chart 2 shows the number of visitors on St Helena at the end of each month, which is the difference between the total on-Island population and the on-Island resident population. There is a clear seasonal pattern, with many more visitors around Christmas each year. That's largely because warmer, drier months are the favoured time for St Helenians living abroad to come home to St Helena to visit their family and friends, and for tourists to visit the Island. Note that these are estimates of the visitors on St Helena at the end of each month – this illustrates the trend in the number of people on St Helena, and is a different measure to the total number of visitors arriving each month (those statistics are also compiled and reported by the Statistics Office, in the file 'Arrivals and Departures.xls').

Chart 2. Number of visitors on St Helena, 2010 to 2019, at end of month



Charts 3 and 4 show the trends in St Helenians and non-St Helenians visiting St Helena. St Helenians visiting family and friends is highly seasonal, much more than visitors of other nationalities. For non-St Helenian visitors, which includes for tourism and business, the pattern is also quite seasonal, especially after 2017.

Chart 3. Number of St Helenian visitors on St Helena at the end of each month, January 2010 to October 2019

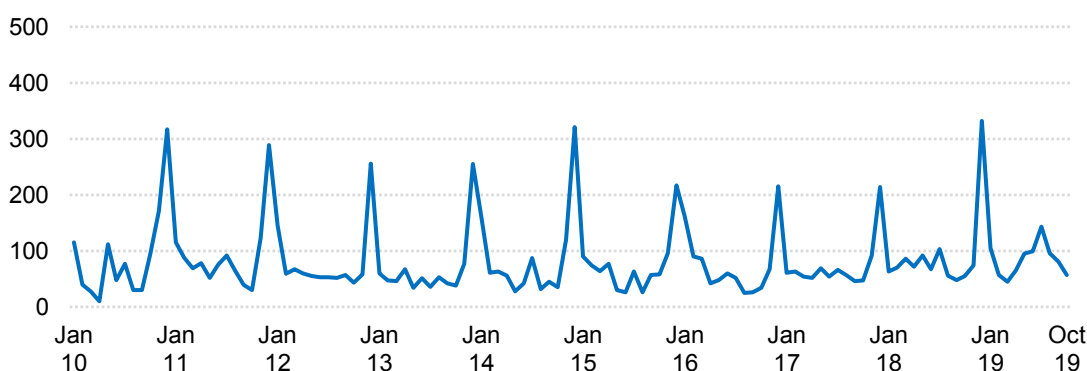


Chart 4. Number of non-St Helenian visitors on St Helena at the end of each month, January 2010 to October 2019

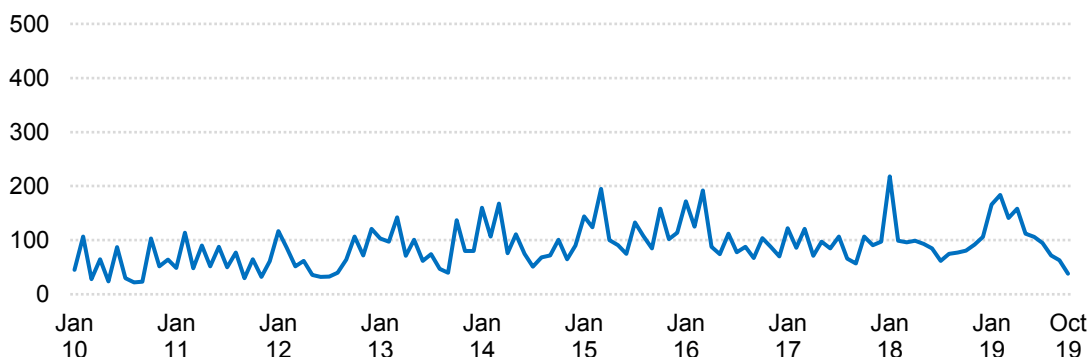
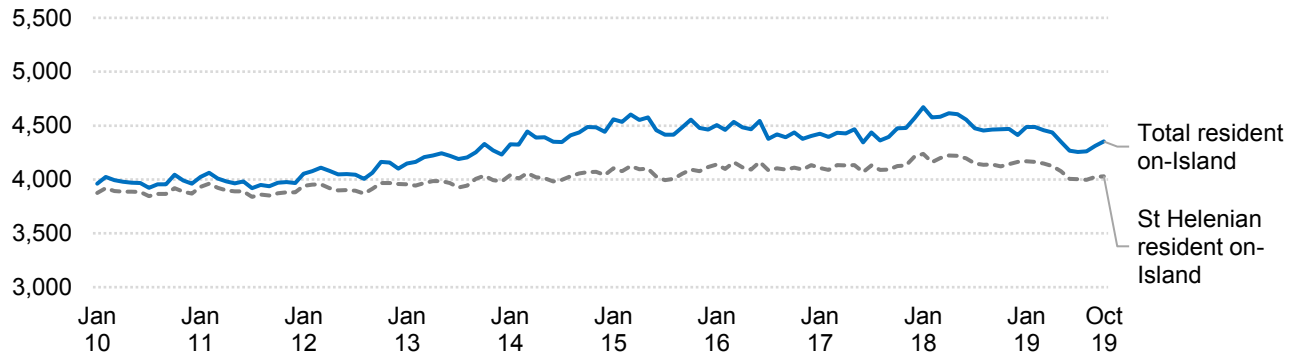


Chart 5 shows the total resident on-Island population and the resident on-Island population that are St Helenian, at the end of each month. The on-Island St Helenian resident population gradually increased during the Airport construction to a peak at the start of scheduled air service operations.

Since then there has been a decline of around 200.

**Chart 5. On-Island resident population of St Helena at the end of each month, St Helenian and total, 2010 to 2019**



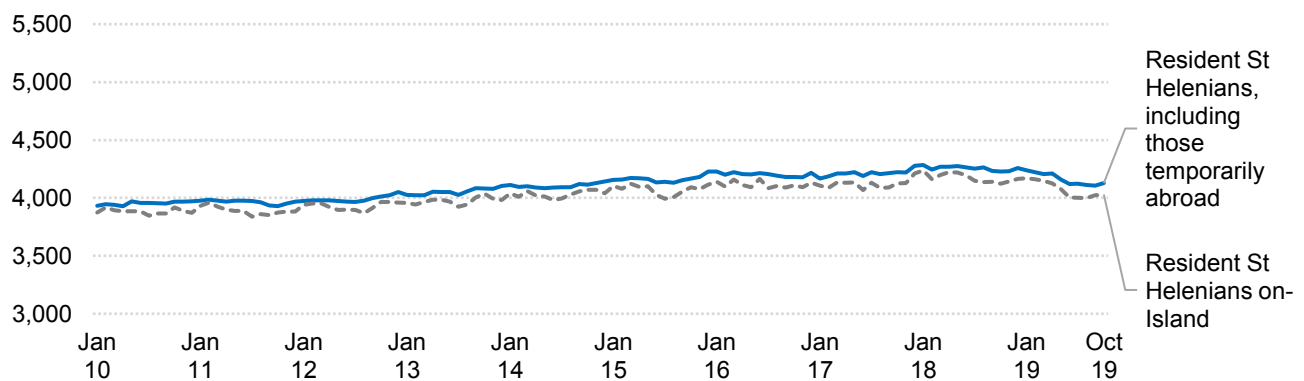
The difference between the on-Island resident and St Helenian population is the number of non-St Helenians who reside on St Helena and are on-Island (Chart 6). The number of non-St Helenians living on St Helena increased rapidly during the Airport construction period but has fallen back since, to around 300 people – around 7% of the total on-Island resident population.

**Chart 6. Number of on-Island non-St Helenian residents at the end of each month, 2010 to 2019**



Most indicators of the population, including those in the 2016 Population Census, only measure those people ‘on-Island’. However Chart 7 shows the estimate of the number of St Helenian residents, including those who are temporarily abroad. The trends are similar; the resident St Helenian population grew during Airport construction but has fallen since the Airport opened.

**Chart 7. Number of St Helenian residents at end of each month, total and on-Island, 2010 to 2019**



### How are these estimates calculated?

The indicators in this bulletin are estimated using the results from the 2016 Population Census, records of birth and deaths maintained by the Customer Services Centre at the Post Office, and records of passenger arrivals and departures maintained by the Immigration Service of the Police Directorate.

The Census estimates used are the number of people on-Island, the number of people who were resident on-Island, and the number of St Helenians who were on-Island, disaggregated into visitors and residents. Census night was 7 February, so these are first adjusted using birth and death records and arrival and departure records to give end-January and end-February estimates. The end of month estimates are then projected forward and backwards using arrivals, departures, births and deaths to obtain end of month estimates. Temporary visitors on St Helena, and St Helenian residents abroad at the end of each month are calculated from immigration records, using the declared purpose of entry and departure – these are then deducted and added to the main population estimates to calculate the number of residents.

Total resident on-Island =	Total on-Island population less temporary visitors on St Helena staying six months or less
Total St Helenian resident on-Island =	Total on-Island St Helenian population less temporary St Helenian visitors on St Helena staying six months or less
St Helenian residents =	St Helenian residents on-Island plus St Helenian residents temporarily abroad for less than one year

The six-month time period for visitors to St Helena reflects the distinction made in St Helenian immigration legislation between short-term and long-term permits; the one-year period for residents abroad follows the more usual definition of residence used in international statistics. In practice, however, most short-term visits abroad are for less than six months.

A constraint when using immigration records is that changes in the purpose of entry can occur after arrival, and declared purpose of entry may not be precise. For example, some St Helenians living or born abroad and arriving for a temporary visit may be registered using the nationality of their passport, rather than as a St Helenian. Some St Helenians arriving for a holiday may decide to stay, or some St Helenians who arrive as returning residents may leave after a short time on the Island. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that classifications for statistical purposes are correct, there is some room for error, and the statistics on the total population should be treated as estimates.

### Have questions or comments?

Please get in touch: we are Neil Fantom, Statistical Commissioner, Justine Joshua, Senior Statistical Assistant, and Bertina Benjamin, Statistical Assistant. You can find us in person at the Statistics Office on the **first floor of the Castle**, Jamestown, at the back of the main courtyard. You can also contact us by telephone: our direct line is **22138** or via the Castle switchboard on 22470. If calling from overseas, the international dialling code for St Helena is +290. Our general office e-mail address is [statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh), or you can email team members directly (the format is [firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh)).

For more statistical bulletins, reports and data please visit the St Helena Statistics website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics).