



# Population Estimates

August 2009

**Date:** 27 August 2009

**Coverage:** UK

**Theme:** Population

## 1. UK Population Estimates – mid-2008

The estimated resident population of the United Kingdom was 61,383,000 in mid-2008, an increase of 408,000 (0.7 per cent) on the previous year, and of over two million compared with mid-2001.

In the seven years since 2001, the population has increased by an average of 0.5 per cent per year, compared with 0.3 per cent per year between 1991 and 2001, and 0.2 per cent between 1981 and 1991. Increases in births, decreases in deaths and changes in international migration into and out of the UK have all contributed to population growth since 2001.

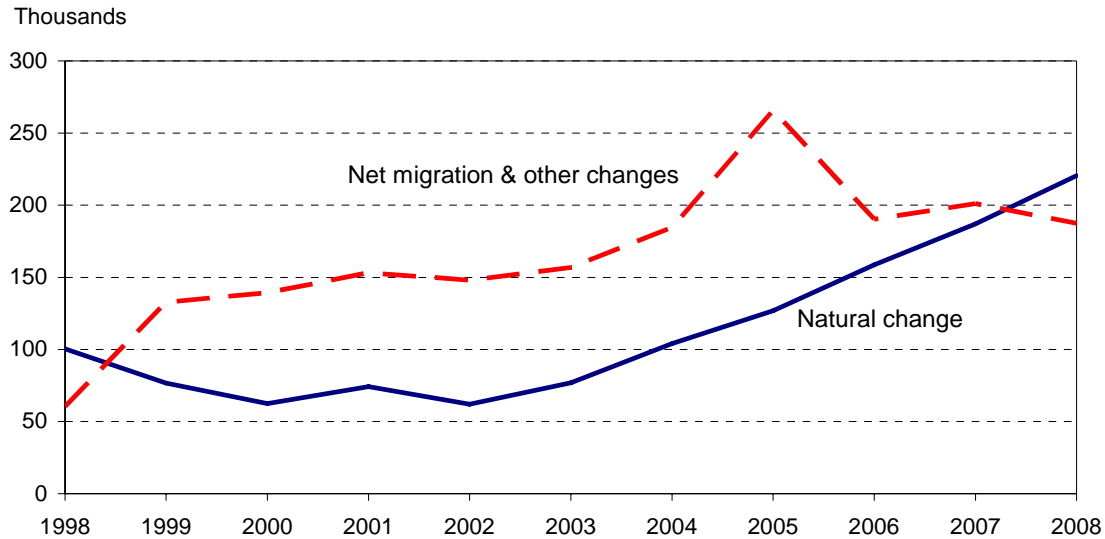
Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population. These estimates include long-term international migrants (people changing their country of usual residence for at least one year). They do not include people who come to or leave the UK for less than a year. These are referred to as short-term migrants. ONS separately publish estimates of short term migrants. Mid-2007 estimates of short-term migrants for England & Wales were published in February 2009. The short term migration estimates supplement existing population statistics.

## 2. Components of population change

For the first time in nearly a decade, natural change (the difference between births and deaths) has overtaken net migration (the difference between migration into and out of the UK) as the main contributor to population growth over a 12 month period (figure 1).

In the year to mid-2008, natural change accounted for 54 per cent of all population growth in the UK, compared with 48 per cent in 2007 and 29 per cent in 2002 (when the contribution of natural change was smallest in the last decade). Table 1 shows the annual components of population change in the UK between mid-2001 and mid-2008 in more detail.

**Figure 1: Natural change and net migration & other changes for UK, mid-1998 to mid-2008.**



Note: See background note 5 for explanation of 'other changes'.

**Table 1: Components of population change, UK**

Thousands	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
<b>Population at start of period</b>	59,113	59,323	59,557	59,846	60,238	60,587	60,975
Births	663	682	707	717	734	758	791
Deaths	601	605	603	591	575	571	570
<b>Natural Change</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>220</b>
In migration	487	514	539	601	576	605	561
Out migration	339	360	353	338	387	406	375
<b>Net Migration</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>186</b>
Other changes	0	3	0	3	1	3	1
<b>Net migration &amp; other changes</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>187</b>
Total change	210	234	289	393	349	388	408
<b>Population at end of period</b>	<b>59,323</b>	<b>59,557</b>	<b>59,846</b>	<b>60,238</b>	<b>60,587</b>	<b>60,975</b>	<b>61,383</b>

Note: See background note 5 for explanation of 'other changes'.

Note: Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Source: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

Numbers of births have increased from 663,000 in the year to mid-2002 to 791,000 in the year to mid-2008 and have been consistently higher than deaths over this period. The number of deaths has fluctuated between mid-2002 and mid-2008, ranging from 570,000 at its lowest in the year to mid-2008 and 605,000 at its highest in the year to mid-2003.

The increase in the number of births since mid-2002 has been driven partly by increases in the number of women in the key childbearing ages (15-44 years), a result of international migration. The increasing number of births is also a consequence of rising fertility levels among UK born women. For non-UK born women however, there has been little change in the estimated fertility rate over this period.

In the year to mid-2008, the flow of international migrants into the UK was 561,000, a decrease of 44,000 on the previous year, and an increase of 74,000 on the year to mid-2002. The flow of international migrants out of the UK was 375,000 in the year to mid-2008, a decrease of 32,000 on the previous year, and an increase of 36,000 on the year to mid-2002.

Net international migration was 186,000 in the year to mid-2008. This was 12,000 fewer than in the previous year but 38,000 more than in the year to mid-2002.

The August 2009 Migration Statistics Quarterly Report provides more timely but provisional estimates of international migration for the calendar year 2008.

### 3. Population change by country and region

Population growth rates varied within the United Kingdom. In the year to mid-2008, growth was highest in Northern Ireland, at 0.9 per cent (to 1.8 million people). This pattern is consistent with the previous three years where the highest growth rate was also seen in Northern Ireland. The population of England grew by 0.7 per cent to 51.4 million, and the populations of Scotland and Wales both grew by 0.5 per cent to 5.2 million and 3.0 million respectively in the year to mid-2008.

**Table 2: Population change for UK and constituent countries, mid-2007 to mid-2008**

	Population (thousands)		Change	% Change
	Mid-2007	Mid-2008		
United Kingdom	60,975	61,383	408	0.7
England & Wales	54,072	54,440	368	0.7
England	51,092	51,446	354	0.7
Wales	2,980	2,993	13	0.5
Scotland	5,144	5,169	24	0.5
Northern Ireland	1,759	1,775	16	0.9

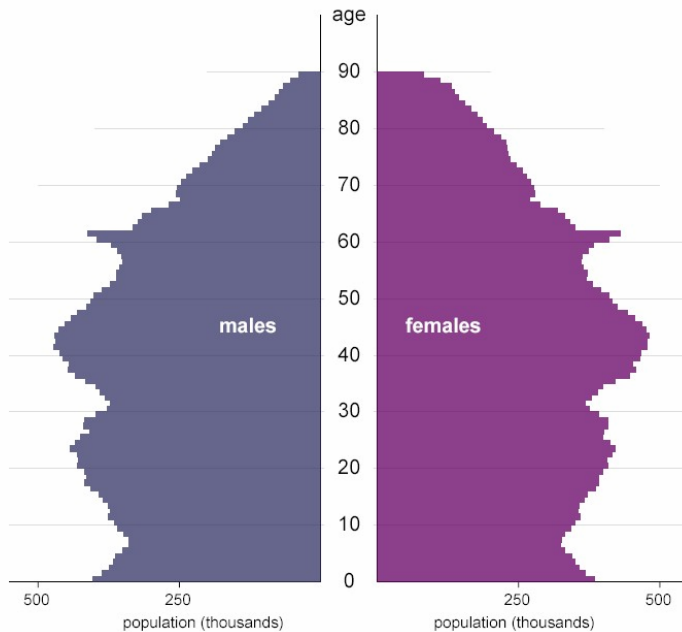
*Note: Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.*

*Source: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.*

Within England, all regions showed an increase in population in the year to mid-2008. The biggest percentage increases were in the East (1.2 per cent) and South East (0.9 per cent).

#### 4. Age structure of the UK population

**Figure 2: Population pyramid of the United Kingdom, mid-2008**

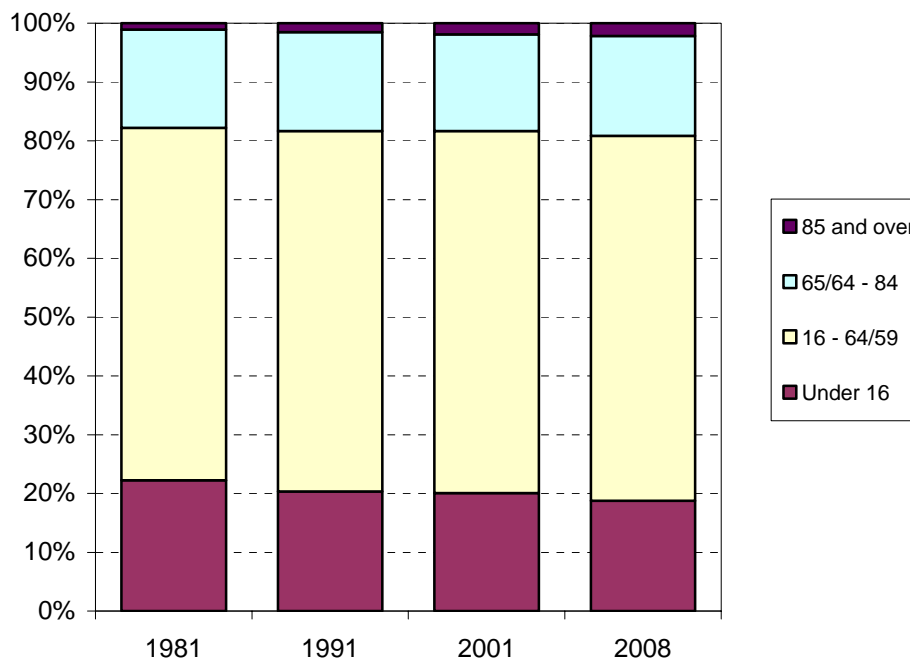


*Note: The population pyramid stops at age 89, causing the top of the pyramid to be flat. Although the very elderly (those aged 90 and over) are included in the overall population estimates covered in this bulletin, estimates by single year of age for mid-2008 have not yet been published.*

Figure 2 illustrates the age and sex structure of the UK population. Each bar represents a particular single year of age and its length shows the population of that age. The structure of the pyramid is determined by patterns of births, deaths and migration. Key points of interest include:

- At older ages females outnumber males, reflecting the higher life expectancy of females.
- Between ages 39 and 48 there is a 'bulge' due to the 'baby boom' years of the 1960s.
- The sharp narrowing of the pyramid for people aged 31 to 38 reflects low fertility in the 1970s. A further narrowing of the pyramid between the ages of 7 and 20 is a consequence of low fertility rates from the late 1980s to early 2000s.
- The broadening of the base of the pyramid is due to increasing numbers of births from mid-2003 onwards, reaching 791,000 in the year to mid-2008.

**Figure 3: Percentage population of the UK by age-group<sup>1, 2</sup>, mid-1981 to mid-2008**



1. The age-group '16 - 64/59' refers to 16-64 for males and 16-59 for females.

2. The age group '65/60 - 84' refers to 65-84 for males and 60-84 for females.

The UK population continues to age. The number of people aged 85 and over reached a record 1.3 million in mid-2008, comprising 422,000 men and 914,000 women and accounting for 2 per cent of the total population. Between 1981 and 2008, this age-group increased by more than 0.7 million.

In mid-2008, there were more people of state pensionable age (men aged 65 and above and women aged 60 and above) than there were under-16s, a pattern first seen in mid-2007. There were 11.5 million people aged under 16 in mid-2008 compared to 11.8 million people above state pensionable age, each age group accounting for 19 per cent of the total population.

## 5. Population movement

The volume of migration within an area, based on the sum of in and out flows, provides an indicator of areas with high levels of population turnover. Table 3 shows the local authority areas in England and Wales with the highest volume of migration per 1,000 population, both within the UK and internationally.

**Table 3: Local authorities in England and Wales with the highest volume of internal and international migration per 1,000 population, mid-2001 to mid-2008**

Rank	Local Authority	Internal migration (thousands)		International migration (thousands)		Volume of migration per 1000 population <sup>1</sup>
		In	Out	In	Out	
1	Cambridge	76	82	41	25	<b>277</b>
2	City of London	5	5	2	2	<b>266</b>
3	Oxford	93	100	45	26	<b>257</b>
4	Westminster	123	135	89	55	<b>255</b>
5	Hammersmith and Fulham	97	117	44	33	<b>244</b>
6	Wandsworth	176	201	55	37	<b>242</b>
7	Camden	122	138	74	37	<b>239</b>
8	Islington	113	128	39	24	<b>236</b>
9	Lambeth	157	199	44	22	<b>223</b>
10	Kensington and Chelsea	67	82	67	43	<b>213</b>

1. Volume of migration per 1,000 population is calculated for the 7 year period as ((average in-migration + average out-migration)/average population)\*1000. This includes both internal migration and international migration. Internal migration includes cross-border flows from other countries of the UK.

Note: The Isles of Scilly has been excluded from the table above due to its small population size (less than 5,000).

Source: Office for National Statistics.

## 6. Future population estimates

ONS is undertaking a significant programme of work to improve the population and migration statistics it produces. As announced in February 2009, a package of improvements for mid-year population estimates for England and Wales has been identified and these will be implemented in May 2010. The improved methods will result in revised population estimates for local authorities in England and Wales for mid-2002 to mid-2008. Population estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland will remain unaffected.

## Background notes

1. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. Mid-2008 population estimates for the UK and England & Wales can be found at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106)
3. Mid-2008 population estimates for Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and can be found at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html>
4. Mid-2008 population estimates for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>
5. 'Other changes' at the UK level includes changes in the population due to changes in the number of armed forces (both foreign and home) and their dependents resident in the UK.
6. Published tables include UK, Great Britain and constituent countries for mid-2008 by single year of age and sex. Local Authority and Strategic Health Authority tables by selected and quinary age groups, and broad components of population change are also published for mid-2008.
7. Net migration includes all civilian migration flows to and from all countries outside the UK. It is based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). It also includes adjustments for: (i) those whose intended length of stay changes such that their migrant status changes; (ii) asylum seekers and their dependents not identified by the IPS; and (iii) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
8. Total long-term international migration estimates are produced by combining migration data from the International Passenger Survey, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration data between the UK and the Republic of Ireland and adjustments for those whose intentions change with respect to their length of stay. The current method of calculation was introduced in 1991 and is not available for earlier years.
9. The UN definition of a long-term international migrant is a person who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, such that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.
10. Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population. These estimates include long-term international migrants (people changing their country of usual residence for at least one year). They do not include people who come to or leave the UK for less than a year. These are referred to as short-term migrants. ONS separately publish estimates of short term migrants. Mid-2007 estimates of short-term migrants for England & Wales were published in February 2009. The short term migration estimates supplement existing population statistics.

11. Details of the announcement and the improvements package to be implemented in May 2010 can be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp>

12. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.

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**Next publication:** 27 May 2010

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