

Annual Mid-year Population Estimates, 2010



Date: 30 June 2011

Coverage: United Kingdom **Theme:** Population

This bulletin presents the key messages shown by the 2010 mid-year population estimates. It describes the recent changes in the population at UK, constituent country and regional levels, and makes comparisons over recent decades. It also describes the age structure of the UK population drawing out points of interest.

Key points

- The population of the UK was 62.3 million in mid-2010, up 470,000 (0.8 per cent) on the previous year; the highest annual growth rate since mid-1962
- In the nine years since 2001, the population has increased by an average of 0.6 per cent per year. This compares with 0.3 per cent per year between 1991 and 2001, and 0.2 per cent per year between 1981 and 1991
- Natural change (the difference between births and deaths) accounted for 52 per cent of UK population growth over the year to mid-2010, the third successive year that it has contributed more than net long-term international migration (the difference between long-term migration into and out of the UK)
- Natural change has accounted for an increasing proportion of total population change since 2002. The main driver of this has been the number of births. In the year to mid-2010 there were 134,000 more births than in the year to mid-2002, when natural change was at its lowest (during the decade)
- Net migration accounted for 48 per cent of the UK population growth in the year to mid-2010, with the number of migrants entering the UK remaining at similar levels to those seen over the past six years

- Past migration has contributed to the increase in natural change through its impact on births. However births to both UK born and non-UK born women have contributed to the increase in the annual number of births since 2002
- The UK population continues to age gradually. The number of people aged 85 and over was more than 1.4 million in mid-2010, accounting for just under 2.3 per cent of the total population. In 1981 this age group accounted for 1.1 per cent of the population and had 0.6 million people in it
- The difference between the number of men and women in the population aged 85 and over has decreased. In mid-2010 men accounted for just under 33 per cent of the population aged 85 and over, compared with just over 23 per cent in mid-1981

Introduction

The mid-year population estimates refer to the usually resident population on 30 June of the reference year and are published annually. This product is the official set of population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries, the regions of England and Wales and for local authorities, consisting of a consistent time-series of annually published estimates from 1981 onwards.

The estimates are based on the 2001 Census, updated each year using the cohort component method with a combination of registration, survey and administrative data sources. They are used by central and local government and the health sector for planning and monitoring service delivery, resource allocation and managing the economy. They are also of interest to commercial companies, special interest groups, academia, and the general public. For further information on how ONS population estimates meet user needs along with information on their fitness for purpose, please see the Summary Quality Report at:

www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/quality/qual-info-economic-social-and-bus-stats/quality-reports-for-social-statistics/index.html

United Kingdom Population Estimates for mid-2010

The estimated resident population of the UK was 62,262,000 in mid-2010, an increase of 470,000 (0.8 per cent) on the previous year, and an increase of 3.1 million compared with mid-2001. The population growth rate in the year to mid-2010 was at the highest level since 1962, the beginning of the 'baby boom' years.

In the nine years since 2001, the population has increased by an average of 0.6 per cent per year, compared with 0.3 per cent per year between 1991 and 2001, and 0.2 per cent per year between 1981 and 1991. Increases in births and net international migration to the UK, and decreases in deaths have all contributed to population growth since 2001 (the most recent census year).

Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population. They account for long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for at least one year) but do not account for short-term migrants (people who come to or leave the UK for less than a year). ONS publishes estimates of short-term migrants separately; 2009 estimates for England and Wales were published in February 2011. Over the next year ONS is planning to make use of administrative data to produce estimates of short-term migrant worker and student flows for local authorities. The short-term migration estimates supplement existing population statistics.

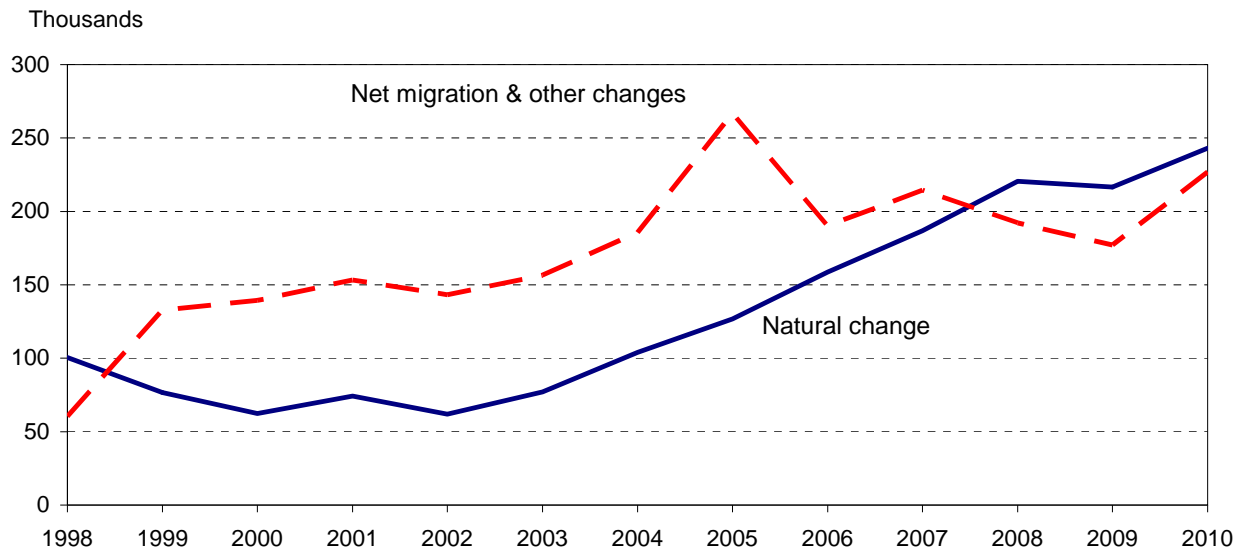
Components of population change

Natural change (the difference between births and deaths) accounted for 52 per cent of all UK population growth during the 12 months to mid-2010. It has exceeded net migration as the main contributor to population growth in the three years between mid-2007 and mid-2010. This follows a nine year period when net migration added more people to the population each year than natural change. The contribution of natural change was lowest in 2002 at 30 per cent.

Natural change added 243,000 to the population in the year to mid-2010, 26,000 more than the 2009 figure of 217,000. Except for the small decrease between mid-2008 and mid-2009, population growth as a result of natural change has increased in each consecutive year since 2002.

Changes in the number of births have been the main driver of natural change over the past decade. There were 797,000 births in the year to mid-2010, 10,000 more than in the previous year. Apart from the small decrease in the year to mid-2009, the number of births has increased each year since mid-2002. There were 134,000 more births in the year to mid-2010 than in the year to mid-2002, when natural change was at its lowest (during this decade). The number of UK births is at its highest level since 1991.

Figure 1: Natural change and net migration & other changes for the United Kingdom, mid-1998 to mid-2010



Note: See background note 8 for explanation of 'other changes'.

Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

Table 1: Components of population change for the United Kingdom, mid-2001 to mid-2010

Thousands	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Population at start of period	59,113	59,319	59,552	59,842	60,235	60,584	60,986	61,398	61,792
Births	663	682	707	717	734	758	791	787	797
Deaths	601	605	603	591	575	571	570	570	554
Natural Change	62	77	104	127	159	187	220	217	243
In migration	488	518	541	604	581	606	566	562	574
Out migration	345	363	354	340	392	394	375	386	344
Net Migration	143	155	186	264	189	212	191	176	230
Other changes	0	2	-1	3	1	3	1	1	-3
Net migration & other changes	143	156	186	267	190	214	192	177	227
Total change	205	233	290	394	349	401	413	394	470
Population at end of period	59,319	59,552	59,842	60,235	60,584	60,986	61,398	61,792	62,262

Notes: See background note 8 for explanation of 'other changes'.

Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

The number of births in a given year is dependent on the number of women in the key childbearing ages (15-44 years) and on fertility rates in that year. Overall, the total number of women aged 15-44 years increased from 12.3 million in mid-2002 to 12.5 million in mid-2010. However the number peaked in mid-2007 then decreased by 98,000 between mid-2007 and mid-2010. The increase in the number of women aged 15-44 from 2002 to 2007 was a consequence of international migration. Although this has continued, over the past three years there has also been a decrease in UK born population in this age group. The number of women reaching age 45 in 2010 (and leaving the childbearing population) was much greater than the number of women reaching age 15, reflecting the greater number of babies born in the mid-1960s than in the mid-1990s.

The UK Total Fertility Rate (TFR) increased from 1.64 in 2002 to 1.96 in 2008 but decreased slightly to 1.94 in 2009. A provisional figure for the UK TFR for the 2010 calendar year will be published in August, but provisional births data for the first three quarters of 2010 suggest that it is likely to be higher than the TFR for 2009.

Past migration has contributed to the increase in annual UK births since 2002 due to the increasing population of non-UK born women, who have (on average) higher fertility than UK born women. Migration is one of several factors pushing up births over the past decade. Another key reason is the high fertility of women over 30; some women born in the 1960s and 1970s delayed their childbearing to older ages and are now 'catching up' at older ages. It is possible that changes in support for families (such as increasing the length of maternity leave) may have contributed by creating a climate more conducive to childbearing. Further discussion on changes in fertility within the UK is available at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106

A lower number of deaths has also contributed to the increase in net natural change since 2002. The number of deaths in the year to mid-2010 was 554,000, 16,000 (2.8 per cent) fewer than the year to mid-2009 and 47,000 (7.8 per cent) fewer than the year to mid-2002 (601,000). The decrease in the number of deaths during this period continues a much longer-term decline in mortality. Mortality rates are generally falling due to medical advances in the treatment of many illnesses and diseases, illustrated by the reduction in age-standardised mortality rates for many causes of death. In recent years circulatory diseases have seen the greatest fall in age-standardised mortality. More information on age-standardised mortality rates is available at: www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/bdths0710.pdf

Net migration (the difference between long-term migration into and out of the UK) accounted for 48¹ per cent of the UK population growth. Net international migration was 230,000 in the year to mid-2010, 54,000 more than in the previous year and 87,000 more than in the year to mid-2002.

¹ Includes 'other changes'. See background note 8 for further explanation.

The higher net migration in the year to mid-2010 was driven mostly by a change in the estimated flow of international migrants out of the UK, which was 344,000, a decrease of 42,000 on the year to mid-2009. The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report shows that in particular, there was a decline of estimated long-term migration of British citizens out of the UK during this period. The flow of all international migrants out of the UK in the year to mid-2010 was at a similar level to that in the year to mid-2002 (decrease of 1,000).

In the year to mid-2010, the flow of international migrants into the UK was 574,000, little change from the flow in the year to mid-2009 (the change in estimates obtained from the International Passenger Survey was not statistically significant), but an increase of 86,000 on the year to mid-2002. During the nine years since 2002 twelve accession countries joined the European Union (in 2004 and 2007), which meant it was easier for EU citizens from these countries to work in the UK. However, there were increases in migration of both European and non-European citizens into the UK. More detailed information on the changes in the migration estimates is available in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15230

Population change by country, region and local authority

Population growth rates varied within the UK. In the year to mid-2010, percentage growth was highest in England, at 0.8 per cent, followed by Northern Ireland at 0.6 per cent. The population of England grew to 52,234,000 and that of Northern Ireland grew to 1,799,000. The population of Scotland grew by 0.5 per cent to 5,222,000 and that of Wales by 0.2 per cent to 3,006,000. These patterns are broadly consistent with those of recent years; the average annual increase since 2001 was highest in Northern Ireland at 0.7 per cent and England at 0.6 per cent.

Table 2: Population change for the United Kingdom and constituent countries

	Population (thousands)			% Change	
	Mid-2001	Mid-2009	Mid-2010	Mid-09 to Mid-10	Annual average Mid-01 to Mid-10
United Kingdom	59,113	61,792	62,262	0.8	0.6
England and Wales	52,360	54,809	55,240	0.8	0.6
England	49,450	51,810	52,234	0.8	0.6
Wales	2,910	2,999	3,006	0.2	0.4
Scotland	5,064	5,194	5,222	0.5	0.3
Northern Ireland	1,689	1,789	1,799	0.6	0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

Information about the components of population change for each of the UK constituent countries is available in Table 10 of the population estimates datasets, at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106

Key points to note are that for:

England

- the contribution of natural change and net migration to population change drives the patterns for the UK as a whole, contributing 52 and 48 per cent respectively in the year to mid-2010

Wales

- until the year to mid-2010 net migration was the main contributor to population change in the period since mid-2001

Scotland

- is the only UK country in which net migration had a greater contribution to population growth than natural change throughout the nine years since mid-2001

Northern Ireland

- after a period when net migration accounted for half of population growth (between mid-2004 and mid-2008) a situation has returned in which natural change is the dominant contributor to population change

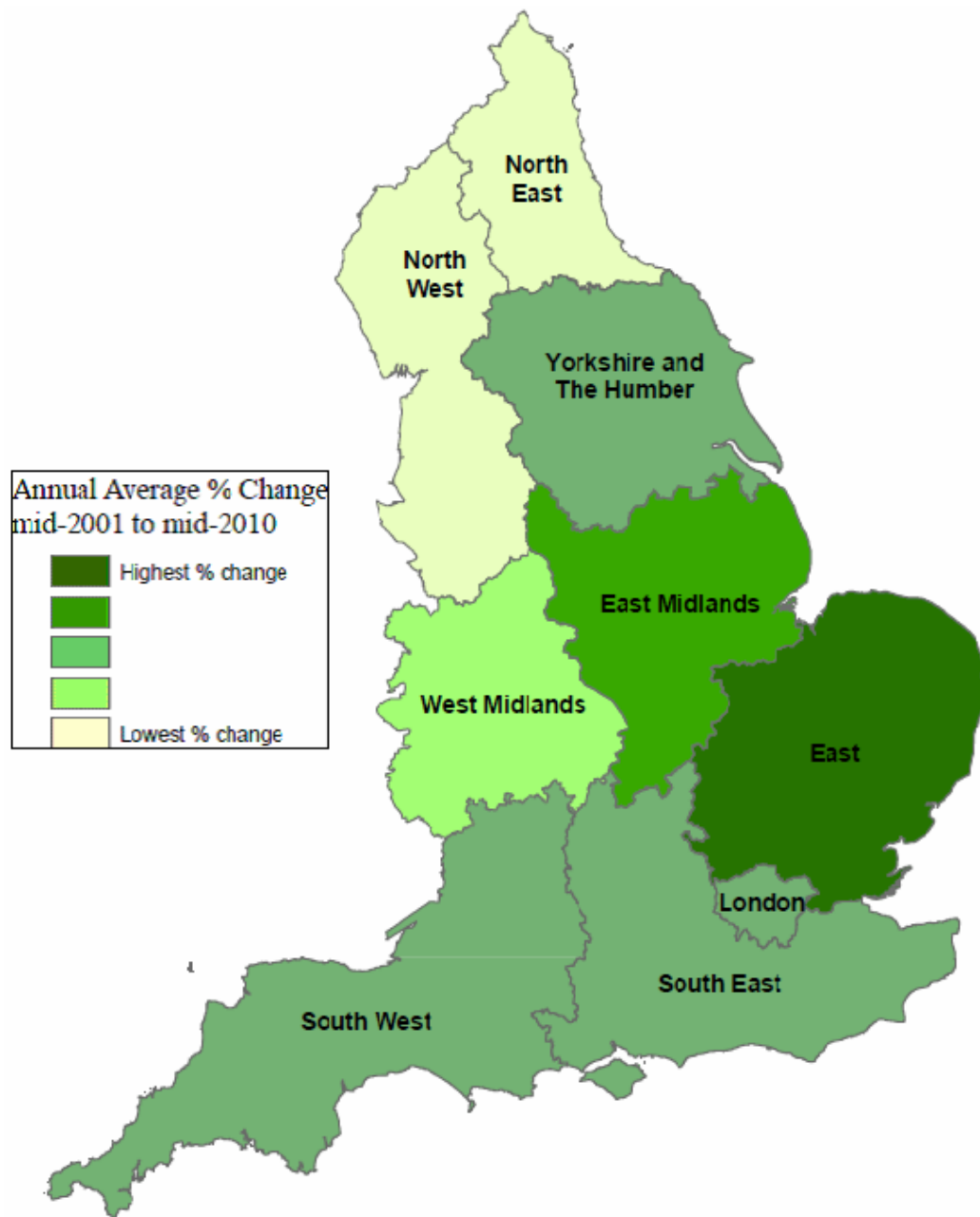
Table 3: Population change for English Regions

	Population (thousands)			% Change	
	Mid-2001	Mid-2009	Mid-2010	Mid-09 to Mid-10	Annual average Mid-01 to Mid-10
North East	2,540	2,584	2,607	0.9	0.3
North West	6,773	6,898	6,936	0.5	0.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	4,977	5,258	5,301	0.8	0.7
East Midlands	4,190	4,451	4,481	0.7	0.8
West Midlands	5,281	5,431	5,455	0.4	0.4
East	5,400	5,767	5,832	1.1	0.9
London	7,322	7,754	7,825	0.9	0.7
South East	8,023	8,436	8,523	1.0	0.7
South West	4,943	5,231	5,274	0.8	0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

Within England all regions showed an increase in population in the year to mid-2010. The biggest percentage increases were in the East and South East at 1.1 and 1.0 per cent respectively. The average annual increase since 2001 was highest in the East at 0.9 per cent followed by the East Midlands at 0.8 per cent.

Figure 2: Population change for English Regions mid-2002 to mid-2010



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2 shows that the English Regions with the highest average annual percentage change since mid-2001 are located in the East of the country and those with the lowest average annual change are located in the North of the country.

Table 4: Local authorities in England and Wales with the greatest percentage increase in population between mid-2001 and mid-2010

Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)		% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2010	Mid-01 to Mid-10
1	Westminster ¹	211	265	25.7
2	Tower Hamlets	201	238	18.3
3	Manchester	423	499	17.9
4	Norwich	122	143	17.3
5	Welwyn Hatfield	98	114	17.2
6	Camden	203	235	16.2
7	Colchester	156	181	16.0
8	East Cambridgeshire	73	85	15.7
9	South Derbyshire	82	94	14.9
10	Forest Heath	56	64	14.6

Note: Figures for City of London have been included with those for Westminster.

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 5: Local authorities in England and Wales with greatest percentage decrease in population between mid-2001 and mid-2010

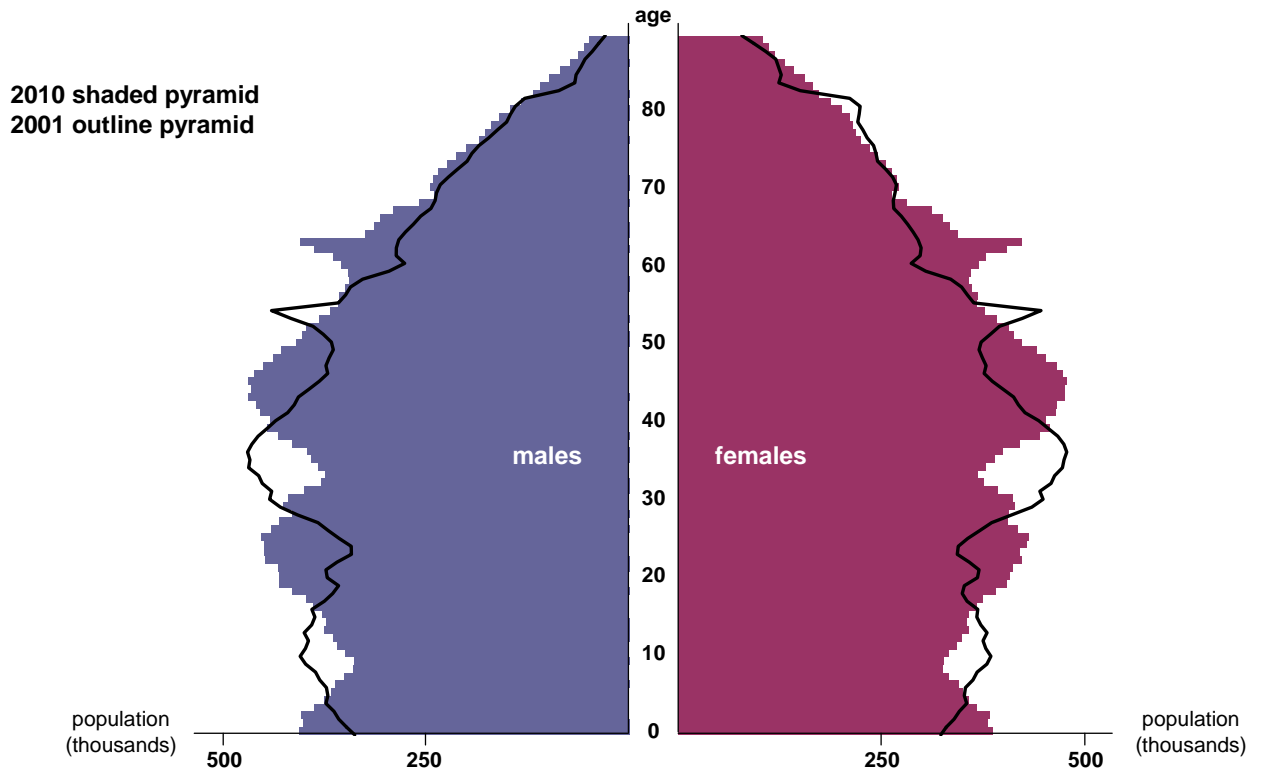
Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)		% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2010	Mid-01 to Mid-09
1	Brent	270	257	-4.8
2	Burnley	90	85	-4.7
3	Newham	249	240	-3.7
4	Sefton	283	273	-3.5
5	Blaenau Gwent UA	70	68	-2.3
6	Wirral	315	309	-2.0
7	Barrow-In-Furness	72	71	-1.8
8	Blackpool UA	142	140	-1.6
9	Knowsley	151	149	-1.4
10	Redcar & Cleveland UA	139	137	-1.3

Source: Office for National Statistics

There were eight local authorities where the population increased by 15 per cent or more over the nine years since 2001 (Westminster, Tower Hamlets, Manchester, Norwich, Welwyn Hatfield, Camden, Colchester and East Cambridgeshire). In the same period the largest decreases in local authority population in England and Wales were between 3 and 5 per cent and occurred in four local authorities (Brent, Burnley, Newham and Sefton). Information about population change within Scotland and Northern Ireland is available in the respective statistical bulletins (see background notes 3 and 4).

Age structure of the United Kingdom population

Figure 3: Population pyramid of the United Kingdom, mid-2010



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-2010 have not yet been published.

Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

Figure 3 illustrates the age and sex structure of the UK population. Each bar represents a single year of age and its length shows the size of the population of that age. The structure of the pyramid is determined by patterns of births, deaths and migration. Key points of interest include:

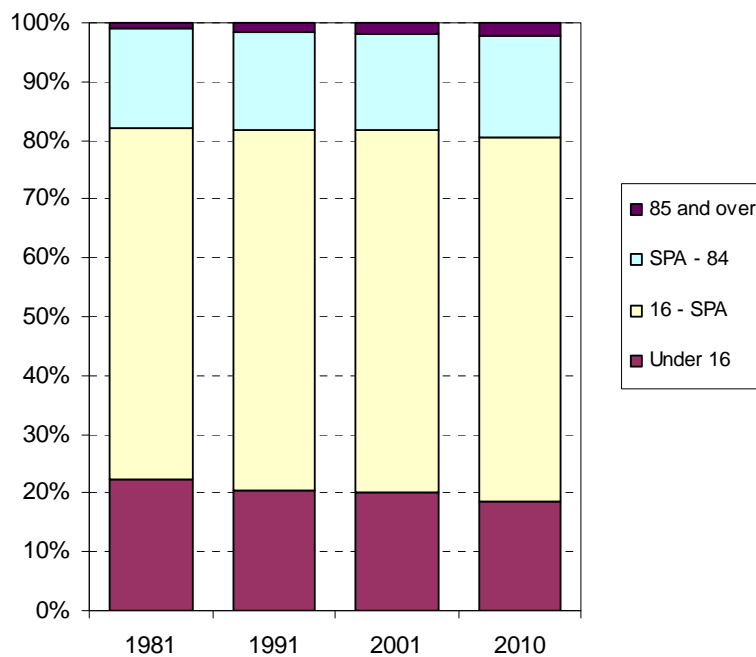
- At older ages females outnumber males, reflecting the higher life expectancy of females
- The peak in the pyramid between the ages of 60 and 64 reflects the higher number of births following the 2nd World War
- The bulge in the pyramid for people in their mid 40s reflects the 1960s 'baby boom'

- The sharp narrowing of the pyramid for people aged 30 to 34 reflects low fertility in the late 1970s. A further narrowing of the pyramid between the ages of 6 and 12 is a consequence of low fertility rates around the turn of the century
- The broadening of the base of the pyramid is due to increasing numbers of births from mid-2002 onwards, reaching just under 800,000 in the year to mid-2010

The median age at mid-2010 was 39.7 years, compared with 37.9 in 2001

The outline pyramid shows the age structure of the UK population in mid-2001 with the key characteristics highlighted above at the corresponding younger ages.

Figure 4: Population of the United Kingdom by age-group, mid-1981 to mid-2010



Note: For the years 1981, 1991 and 2001, State Pensionable Age (SPA) was 65 years for men and 60 years for women. For 2010, 85 per cent of women age 60 years have been defined as SPA. More information on the changes in SPA is available in Footnote 13.

Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

The UK population continues to age gradually. The number of people aged 85 and over was more than 1.4 million in mid-2010, comprising 460,000 men and 951,000 women, and accounting for 2.3 per cent of the total population. Between 1981 and 2010, this age-group increased by just over 0.8 million.

The difference between the number of men and women in the population aged 85 and over has decreased over recent decades; in mid-2010 men accounted for 33 per cent of the population aged 85 and over, ten percentage points more than in mid-1981 when they accounted for 23 per cent. In comparison, men accounted for approximately 49 per cent of the total population (all ages) in mid-2010 and this percentage has changed very little over time.

In mid-2010, there were more people of state pensionable age than there were under-16s, a pattern first seen in mid-2007. There were 11.6 million people aged under 16 in mid-2010, accounting for 18 per cent of the total population, compared with 12.2 million people of state pensionable age, accounting for 20 per cent of the total population (see background note 13 for the definition used for state pensionable age).

Highest volume of migration

Table 6: Local authorities in England and Wales with the highest volume of internal and international migration per 1,000 population, mid-2001 to mid-2010

Rank	Local Authority	Internal migration (thousands)		International migration (thousands)		Volume of migration per 1,000 population
		In	Out	In	Out	
1	Cambridge	112	124	70	46	309
2	Oxford	138	153	68	43	279
3	Camden	176	191	95	62	240
4	Hammersmith	140	159	55	51	239
5	Islington	166	177	53	42	237
6	Wandsworth	250	270	69	58	231
7	Westminster	171	183	116	68	231
8	Lambeth	225	266	62	38	213
9	Kensington	95	112	76	64	207
10	Reading	105	119	41	28	201

Notes: Volume of migration per 1,000 population is calculated for the 9 year period as ((average in-migration + average out-migration)/average population)*1,000. This includes both internal migration and international migration. Internal migration includes cross-border flows to and from other countries of the UK.

Figures for City of London and Isles of Scilly are excluded from this table due to their small population size.

Source: Office for National Statistics.

The volume of migration within an area is defined as the sum of in and out migration flows, including both international migrants and migrants to and from other parts of the UK. Table 6 shows the local authority areas in England and Wales with the highest volume of migration (both within the UK and internationally) per 1,000 population. Migration flows into and out of Cambridge and Oxford are high due to the large universities (and therefore student populations) in these areas. London boroughs are a common destination for international immigrants coming to live in the UK.

European comparisons

The UK average annual population growth rate between 2001 and 2010 was higher than the EU average rate but comparable with the rates in France and Italy. The growth rate in Spain was more than twice that in the UK, but Germany's population declined.

Table 7: Average annual population increase in selected countries in the European Union, 2001 to 2010

Country	% increase
EU	0.4
Spain	1.4
France	0.7
Italy	0.6
UK	0.6
Germany	-0.1

Notes: The EU figure covers the 27 current member states of the EU.

The data used are for 1 January each year. Some figures are provisional.

Source: Eurostat.

The National Statistician's article 'The UK population: how does it compare' puts the demography of the UK in the international context. The article summarises how the UK's population is similar to, and different from, other nations. Key points are that the UK has:

- Fertility in line with the high levels of much of northern Europe (France, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries)
- Improved and improving life expectation at birth in line with most western European countries

- An ageing population but not as aged as the levels predicted for Germany and Italy

The article is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/populationtrends/downloads/poptrends142web.pdf

Improvements to migration and population statistics

In May 2010 a package of improvements for mid-year population estimates for England and Wales was introduced as part of a cross government programme to improve migration statistics. These improvements led to revisions to the mid-2002 to mid-2008 local authority population estimates for England and Wales. The improved methods have also been used to calculate the mid-2009 as well as these, mid-2010 population estimates. Population estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland have remained unaffected. Details of this improvements package can be found at:

www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/index.html

Further improvements to the population estimates methodology have been developed. More information on these improvements is expected to be published in Autumn 2011. These have been made as the result of user feedback and improved access to, and understanding of, a range of administrative sources.

Background notes

1. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. Mid-2010 population estimates for the UK and England and Wales can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106
3. Mid-2010 population estimates for Scotland are published by National Records of Scotland and can be found at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/index.html>
4. Mid-2010 population estimates for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and can be found at: www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm
5. Published tables include UK, Great Britain and constituent countries for mid-2010 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-2010.
6. Total long-term international migration estimates include all civilian migration flows to and from countries outside the UK. They are produced by combining migration data from the International Passenger Survey, Home Office data on asylum seekers, migration to and from Northern Ireland (from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) and adjustments for visitor switchers and migrant switchers.
7. The United Nations 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.
8. '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 dependants resident in the UK.
9. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of live children a group of women would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question

throughout their key childbearing years. The TFR is a standardised measure that eliminates the impact of changes in the age distribution of the population and so enables analysis of time trends.

10. The age-standardised mortality rate is a weighted average of the age-specific mortality rates per 100,000 persons, where the weights are the proportions of persons in the corresponding age groups of the European Standard Population. This direct standardisation allows comparisons between populations with different age structures, including between males and females and over time.
11. This section refers to 'period' life expectancy which is the average number of additional years a person would live if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates of the given area and time period for the rest of their life.
12. The Accession countries are those that joined the EU in either 2004 or 2007. 10 joined in 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta, and 2 joined in 2007: Bulgaria and Romania.
13. The state pensionable age (SPA) for women will increase by six months every year (one month every two months) between April 2010 and March 2020. The age groupings displayed here reflect the SPA for women as of the reference date. Of the estimated population of females aged 60 on 30 June 2010, 85 per cent are defined as SPA, and the remaining 15 per cent are defined as not SPA.
14. The launch of the new ONS website on 28 August 2011 will bring changes to the design and format of statistical bulletins. The bulletin main body will be in html and pdf format but detailed data tables will be available as Excel spreadsheets only. The new website will improve the way users can access our statistics but many existing bookmarks and links will no longer work and users will need to update them. Find out more at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/what-we-do/programmes---projects/web-development/index.html>
15. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.

Next publication: Autumn 2012

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