

7. *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

(a) *Past trends*

Whereas the total fertility rate increased steadily from the 1950s level of 2.18 children per woman to 2.81 in 1960-1965, this trend reversed itself in the decades afterwards, and fertility fell continuously to 1.78 in 1990-1995. At the same time, life expectancy increased during the entire period from 1950-1995, from 69.2 to 76.2 years for both sexes. Hence, the proportion of the population aged 65 years or older increased over the same period of time from 10.7 per cent to 15.9 per cent.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, at a time when both fertility and mortality were higher, the potential support ratio was 13.3 persons aged 15-64 for each person aged 65 or older. The ratio declined to 6.2 in 1950 and declined further to 4.1 in 1995.

(b) *Scenario I*

Scenario I, which is the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, assumes a total of 1.2 million net migrants between 1995 and 2050. From 1995 to 2025, 40,000 persons would enter Britain annually and none after 2025. The overall population of the United Kingdom would increase from 58.3 million in 1995 to 59.9 million in 2025 and thereafter decline to 56.6 million in 2050 (the results of the 1998 United Nations projections are shown in the annex tables). The population of working-age, aged 15-64 years, would increase from 37.8 million in 1995 to 39.2 million in 2010; afterwards there would be a continuous decline to 33.4 million in 2050. By that date 1.9 per cent of the total population would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. The population aged 65 or over, on the other hand, would increase from 9.2 million (15.9 per cent) in 1995 to 14.1 million in 2050 (24.9 per cent) in 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would drop from 4.09 in 1995 to 2.37 in 2050.

(c) *Scenario II*

Scenario II, which is the medium variant with zero migration, is based on the fertility and mortality assumptions of the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, but without any migration to the United Kingdom after 1995. The overall population would decrease to 55.6 million in 2050, one million less than in scenario I; the population aged 15-64 years would decrease to 32.7 million, 700,000 less than in scenario I. The elderly population (aged 65 or older) would increase to 13.9 million in 2050, and the potential support ratio would be at 2.36. In general, only slight differences exist between scenarios I and II regarding the population trends of the country.

(d) *Scenario III*

Scenario III keeps the population in the United Kingdom constant at its maximum of 58.8 million people in 2020. In order to do so, the United Kingdom would have to receive 2.6 million migrants between 2020 and 2050. In 2050, 5.5 per cent of the total population would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. This influx would result in a population of labour-force age of 35 million in 2050, and the population aged 65 or older would reach 14 million in 2050, 24 per cent of the total population. The potential support ratio would be 2.5.

(e) *Scenario IV*

Scenario IV keeps the age group between 15-64 years constant at its maximum of 38.9 million from 2010 on. For this to happen, a total of 6.2 million immigrants would be needed between 2010 and 2050,

which would increase the overall population to 64.3 million in 2050. By that date 13.6 per cent of the total population would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. In 2050, the proportion of the elderly would be 22.9 per cent and the potential support ratio 2.6.

(f) *Scenario V*

Scenario V does not allow the potential support ratio to decrease below the value of 3.0. In order to achieve this, no immigrants would be needed until 2020, and 13.7 million immigrants would be needed between 2020 and 2040, an average of 0.7 million per year during that period. By 2050, out of a total population of 74.4 million, 18.8 million, or 25 percent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(g) *Scenario VI*

Scenario VI keeps the potential support ratio at its 1995 level of 4.09. Keeping this ratio would require 59.8 million migrants between 1995 and 2050, slightly more than one million migrants a year on average. The overall population would reach 136 million in 2050, of which 80 million (59 per cent) would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants.

(h) *Additional considerations*

Net migration in the United Kingdom amounted to 660,000 persons between 1990 and 1998, an average of 73,000 persons per year. In 1990, the proportion of the total population that was foreign-born was 6.5 per cent. This is comparable to the numbers needed to keep the total population constant, 88,000 migrants per year, and to the proportion of the total population in 2050 who would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants, 5.5 per cent. However, the number of migrants needed to keep the population of working-age constant is about twice the level of the past decade. Figure 21 shows, for scenarios I, II, III and IV, the population of the United Kingdom in 2050, indicating the share that is made up of post-1995 migrants and their descendants. Scenario VI, keeping the potential support ratio constant, would demand more than one million immigrants annually. This would greatly exceed the immigration rates that the country experienced in the past.

In the absence of migration, the figures show that it would be necessary to raise the upper limit of the working-age to 68.2 years to obtain a potential support ratio of 3.0 in 2050, and to about 72 years in order to obtain in 2050 the same potential support ratio observed in 1995 in the United Kingdom, which was 4.1 persons of working age per each older person past working age. Increasing the activity rates of the population, if it were possible, would only be a partial palliative to the decline in the support ratio due to ageing. If the activity rates of all men and women aged 25 to 64 increased to 100 per cent by 2050, this would make up for only 35 per cent of the loss in the active support ratio resulting from the ageing of the population.

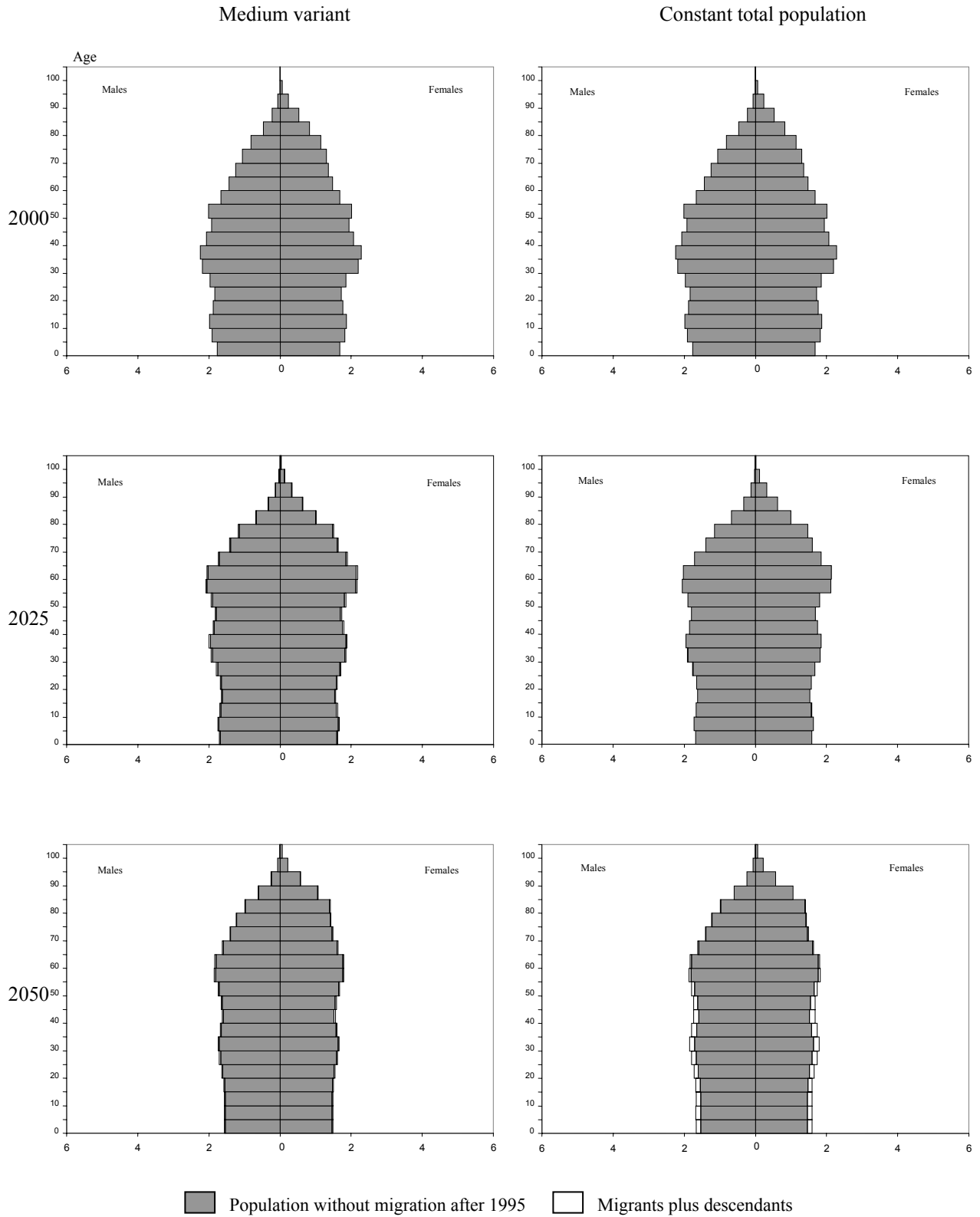
TABLE 24. POPULATION INDICATORS FOR UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND BY PERIOD FOR EACH SCENARIO

Scenario	I	II	III	IV	V	VI *
Period	Medium variant	Medium variant with zero migration	Constant total population	Constant age group 15-64	Ratio 15-64/65+ not less than 3.0	Constant ratio 15-64/65 years or older
<i>A. Average annual number of migrants (thousands)</i>						
1995-2000	40	0	0	0	0	11
2000-2025	40	0	2	121	53	947
2025-2050	0	0	103	129	494	1 441
2000-2050	20	0	53	125	273	1 194
1995-2050	22	0	48	114	249	1 087
<i>B. Total number of migrants (thousands)</i>						
1995-2000	200	0	0	0	0	55
2000-2025	1 000	0	61	3 025	1 315	23 687
2025-2050	0	0	2 572	3 222	12 358	36 035
2000-2050	1 000	0	2 634	6 247	13 674	59 722
1995-2050	1 200	0	2 634	6 247	13 674	59 775
<i>C. Total population (thousands)</i>						
1950	50 616	-	-	-	-	-
1975	56 226	-	-	-	-	-
1995	58 308	-	-	-	-	-
2000	58 830	58 600	58 600	58 600	58 600	58 655
2025	59 961	58 768	58 833	62 248	60 160	86 856
2050	56 667	55 594	58 833	64 354	74 398	136 138
<i>D. Age group 0-14 (thousands)</i>						
1950	11 306	-	-	-	-	-
1975	13 121	-	-	-	-	-
1995	11 241	-	-	-	-	-
2000	11 069	11 033	11 033	11 033	11 033	11 048
2025	10 071	9 872	9 890	10 796	10 245	17 174
2050	9 153	8 968	9 775	10 759	13 010	26 299
<i>E. Age group 15-64 (thousands)</i>						
1950	33 881	-	-	-	-	-
1975	35 261	-	-	-	-	-
1995	37 811	-	-	-	-	-
2000	38 328	38 207	38 207	38 207	38 207	38 246
2025	37 166	36 465	36 510	38 873	37 437	55 979
2050	33 406	32 745	35 009	38 873	46 266	88 239
<i>F. Age group 65+ (thousands)</i>						
1950	5 429	-	-	-	-	-
1975	7 844	-	-	-	-	-
1995	9 256	-	-	-	-	-
2000	9 433	9 360	9 360	9 360	9 360	9 362
2025	12 724	12 431	12 433	12 578	12 479	13 703
2050	14 107	13 881	14 048	14 722	15 122	21 600
<i>G. Potential support ratio 15-64/65+</i>						
1950	6.24	-	-	-	-	-
1975	4.50	-	-	-	-	-
1995	4.09	-	-	-	-	-
2000	4.06	4.08	4.08	4.08	4.08	4.09
2025	2.92	2.93	2.94	3.09	3.00	4.09
2050	2.37	2.36	2.49	2.64	3.06	4.09

* Scenario VI is considered to be demographically unrealistic.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Figure 20. Age-sex structures by scenario for 2000, 2025 and 2050
(Population in millions)



UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Figure 20 (continued)

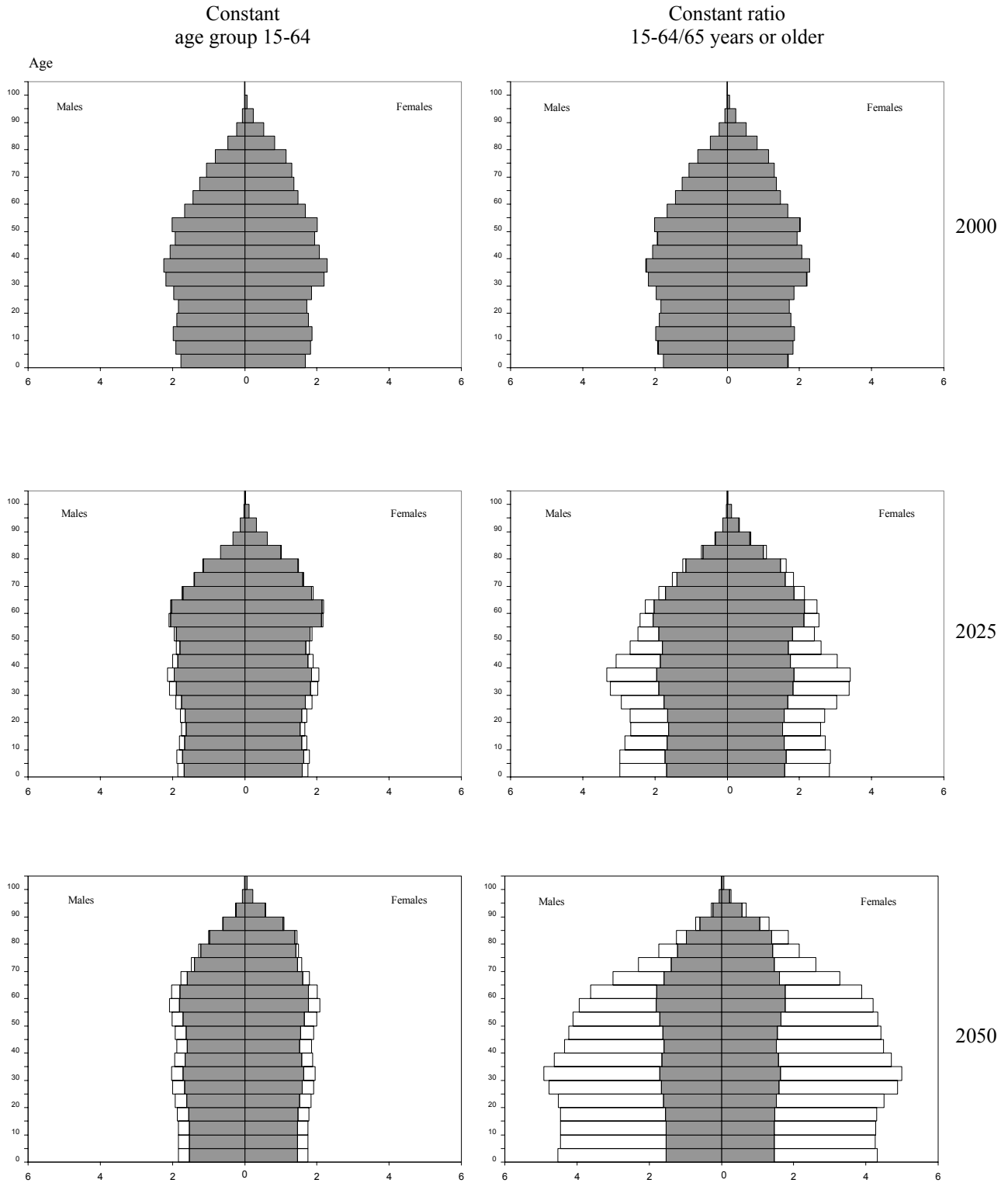


Figure 21. Population of the United Kingdom in 2050, indicating those who are post-1995 migrants and their descendants, by scenario

