

22 August 2007

Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Population and Migration

UK population grows to 60,587,000 in mid-2006

The population of the United Kingdom was 60,587,000 in mid-2006, an increase of 349,000 (0.6 per cent) on mid-2005, according to new statistics published today by the Office for National Statistics. In the five years since 2001, population has increased by an average 0.5 per cent per year.

The latest increase was smaller than the 393,000 rise (0.7 per cent) in the previous year.

Increases in births, decreases deaths and changes in the pattern of international migration into and out of the United Kingdom have all contributed to population growth since 2001.

Overall, migration and other related changes accounted for 55 per cent of population growth in the year to mid-2006, compared with 68 per cent in the previous year and 71 per cent in the year to mid 2002.

Contribution of births and deaths

Natural change (the difference between births and deaths) has increased and contributed 159,000 to population growth in the year to mid-2006, 127,000 in the previous year and 62,000 in the year to mid-2002 (Table 1). This was a result of births increasing in each year, from 663,000 in the year to mid-2002 to 734,000 in the year to mid-2006 while deaths decreased in the same period, from 601,000 to 575,000.

Contribution of migration

Both in migration and out migration have increased since 2001:

- In the year to mid-2006, the flow of long term migrants into the UK was 574,000. This was 25,000 lower than in the previous year, but 38,000 higher than in the year to mid-2004.

Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Public Enquiries 0845 601 3034

Statistician
Jonathan Swan 01329 813262
email jonathan.swan@ons.gov.uk

Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk



- Long term migration from the UK reached 385,000 in the year to mid-2006, the highest figure since the introduction of the current indicator in 1991. This was 49,000 more than in the previous year, but only 34,000 more than in the year to mid-2004.
- Net international migration (the difference between long term migration into and out of the UK) was 189,000 in 2006. While this was 73,000 less than in the previous year (262,000), it was similar to the mid-2004 figure (185,000) and 41,000 higher than the figure for the year to mid 2002 (148,000).

Estimates of Total International Migration by citizenship (Table 2) show that the change in long term migrant numbers between 2005 and 2006 varied by citizenship and direction of migration:

- Migration levels to the UK by British and other EU citizens were similar in the years to mid 2005 and mid 2006. The main decreases between 2005 and 2006 were for Commonwealth citizens (down 23,000 to 179,000) and Other Foreign Nationals (down 17,000 to 140,000).
- The main increases in migration from the UK between 2005 and 2006 occurred among non-British EU citizens (up 20,000 to 62,000) and Other Foreign Nationals (up 18,000 to 65,000).

Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population, which includes long term international migrants. ONS international migration figures are based on the UN recommended definition of a long term migrant – someone changing their country of usual residence for at least a year. They do not include people who come to the UK for less than a year. These are referred to as short term migrants and are not included in the usually resident population estimates. ONS has published plans for developing estimates of short term migrants, including the release of national estimates in October 2007. The short term migration estimates will supplement existing population statistics.

Other key points

The UK population is ageing. In the year to mid-2006, the largest percentage growth in population was at ages 85 and over (6 per cent) and the number in this age group reached a record 1,243,000. The number of people of retirement age increased by 1 per cent, to 11,344,000, and the number at working ages increased by 0.8 per cent, to 37,710,000. The number aged under 16 decreased by 0.4 per cent to 11,537,000 people.

Population growth rates varied within the United Kingdom. In the year to mid-2006, growth was fastest in Northern Ireland, at 1 per cent (to 1,742,000 people). Growth was slowest in Wales, with an increase of 0.4 per cent to 2,966,000, similar to Scotland with growth of 0.4 per cent to 5,117,000. The population of England grew by 0.6 per cent to 50,763,000. This pattern is consistent with the previous year where the greatest growth was also seen in Northern Ireland.

Within England, all regions showed an increase in population. The biggest percentage increases, of 0.8 per cent, were in the East Midlands, East and London.

The population estimates published today also include estimates for all local authorities in the UK together with Strategic Health Authority areas in England.

In England and Wales there were five local authority areas where the population increased by 11 per cent or more over the five years since 2001 (Westminster, Camden, South Northamptonshire, Forest Heath and Rutland). In the same period the largest reductions in local authority population in England and Wales were around 2 per cent and occurred in Rushmoor, Middlesbrough, Sefton and Burnley (see Tables 3 and 4).

The estimates released today incorporate the improved methods for estimating international migration, announced on 24 April 2007 as well as the refinements announced on 24 July. Details, including indicative impacts, are available at:



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

The mid-year population estimates (MYEs) for 2006 and revised MYEs for 2002 to 2005 are available from:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=601>

Also published today are internal migration estimates by local authority which are available from:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=7070>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Revised mid-2003 to mid-2006 population estimates for Scotland were released by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) on 27 July 2007 and can be found at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html>

2. Mid-2006 population estimates for Northern Ireland were released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on 31 July 2007 and can be found at:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_21_24&cms=demography_population%20statistics_Mid%2Dyear+population+estimates&release=

3. '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. 'Other Foreign Nationals' are citizens of countries that are not part of the EU or the Commonwealth.
4. Published tables include UK, Great Britain and Country for mid 2006 by single year of age and sex. Local Authority and Strategic Health Authority tables by selected and quinary age groups are also published for 2006; Revised Local Authority and Strategic Health Authority tables by quinary age groups for 2002 to 2005 are also being published. Further tables will be published on 13 September 2007.
5. The international migration component of the population estimates for the period mid-2002 to mid-2005 have been revised as a result of using the improved methodology announced on 24 April 2007 and



refined on 24 July 2007. Final tables, showing the impact that the new methods had on MYEs for 2002 to 2005 will be published on 13 September. Both the indicative and final versions of the tables will then be available from:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14834>.

6. A timetable for the release of other population estimates products that will also be revised was published on 5 July 2007.
7. The International Migration First Release for 2006, with revised historical tables, will be published in November 2007. International migration estimates on the previous methodology for the calendar year 2005 were published on 19 April 2007.
8. Total International 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 so 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.
9. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
10. **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. Crown copyright 2007.

Figure 1 - Total live births and deaths occurring in the UK, mid-1996 to mid-2006

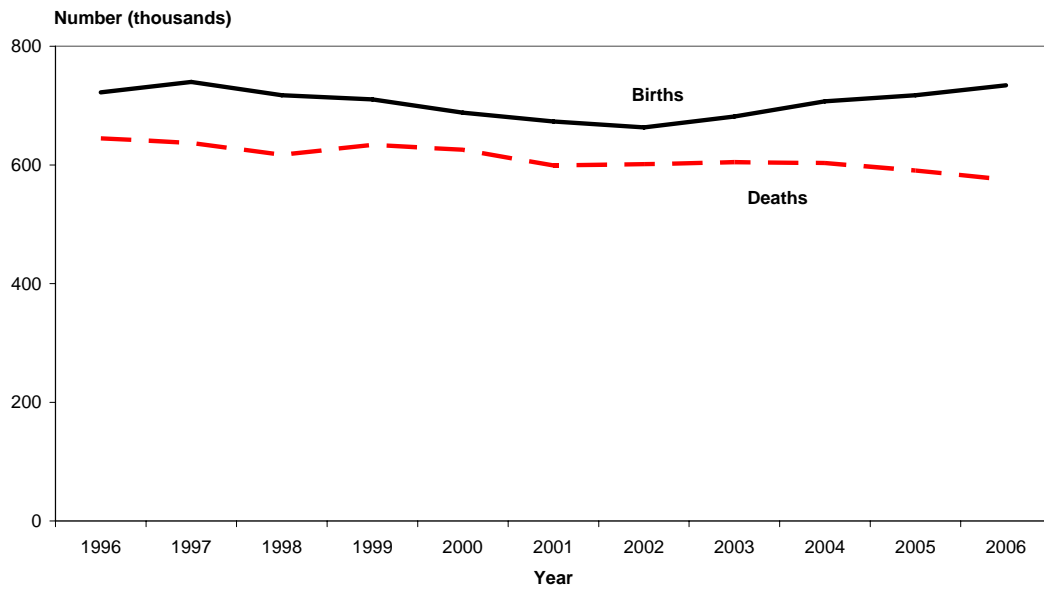


Figure 2 - UK Total International Migration, mid-1996 to mid-2006

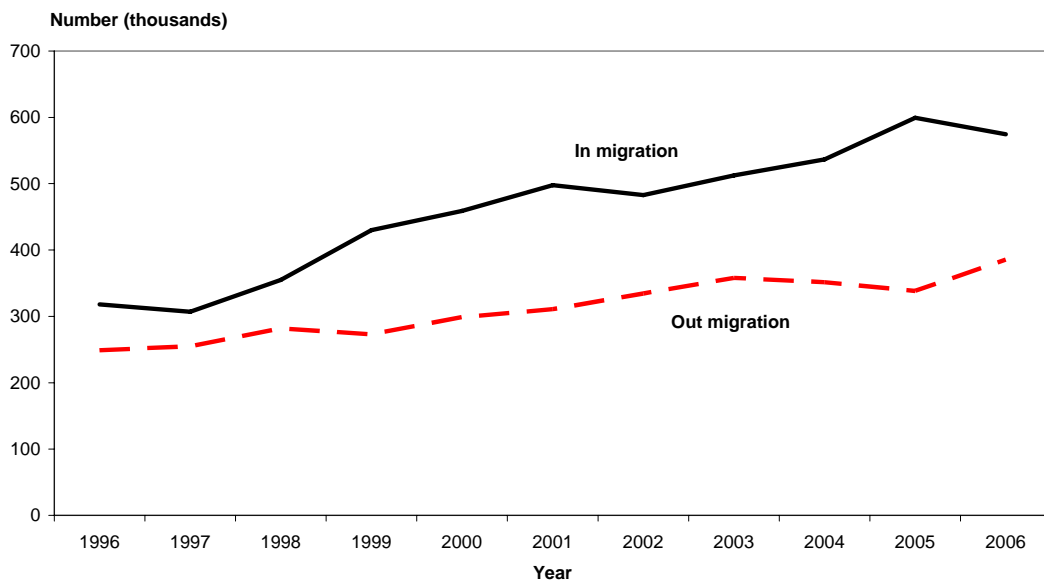


Figure 3 - Natural change and net migration & other changes for UK, mid-1996 to mid-2006

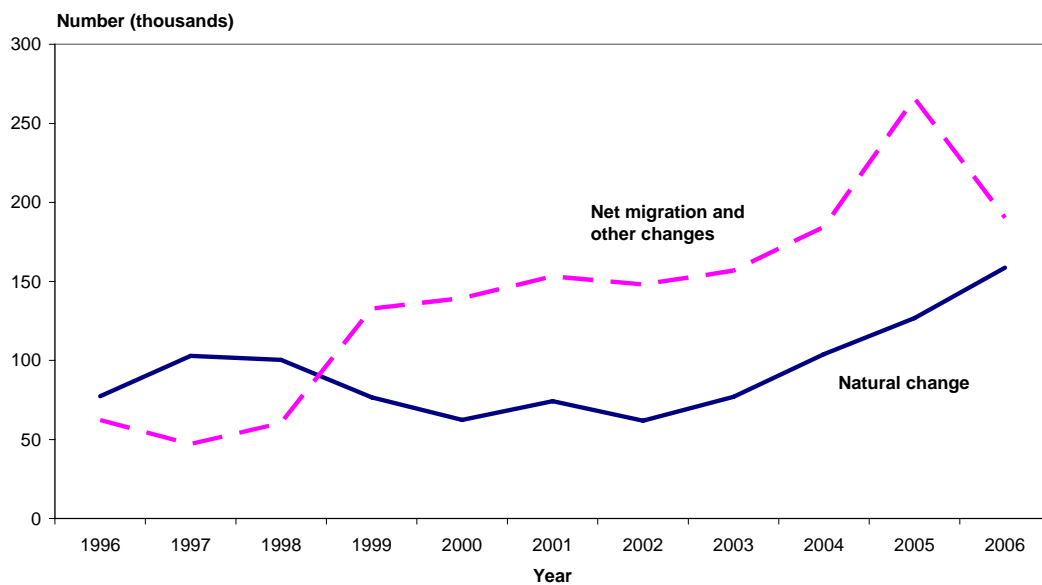


Table 1 - Components of population change, UK

	Thousands				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Population at start of period	59,114	59,324	59,557	59,846	60,238
Births	663	682	707	718	734
Deaths	601	605	603	591	576
Natural Change	62	77	104	127	159
Net Migration	149	154	185	262	189
Other Changes	0	3	-1	3	1
Net migration and other changes	148	157	185	266	190
Total change	210	234	289	393	349
Population at end of period	59,324	59,557	59,846	60,238	60,587

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

Notes: Net migration and other changes includes changes in the population due to international migration and changes in the number of armed forces (both foreign and home) and their dependants resident in the UK.

**Table 2 - Total International Migration, mid-year estimates¹:
Citizenship, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06**

	United Kingdom										
	<i>thousands</i>										
	All citizenships	British	Non- British	European Union ²			Commonwealth			Other foreign ⁶	
EU15				A10 ⁴	A8	EU25 ³	All	Old	New ⁵		
Inflow											
2003-04 ⁷	526	93	433	67	21	20	82	195	70	125	155
2004-05	593	87	505	68	78	77	146	202	69	133	157
2005-06 ⁸	559	91	468	73	76	74	149	179	58	121	140
Outflow											
2003-04 ⁷	353	195	158	37	11	10	40	57	39	18	61
2004-05	334	188	146	37	4	3	42	58	35	23	47
2005-06 ⁸	383	196	187	45	17	16	62	60	38	22	65
Balance											
2003-04 ⁷	+173	-101	+275	+30	+11	+9	+42	+138	+30	+108	+95
2004-05	+258	-101	+359	+30	+74	+74	+104	+144	+34	+110	+110
2005-06 ⁸	+176	-105	+281	+28	+59	+57	+87	+119	+20	+99	+75

© Crown copyright 2007

1. Based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey. Includes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes (or 'switchers'); (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS (AS); and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
2. European Union estimates are shown for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden), the A10 (Malta and Cyprus plus the A8), the A8 (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and EU 25 (EU15 and A10 groupings). British citizens are excluded from all groupings and shown separately. These estimates do not include the 2 new member states admitted to the EU in January 2007. These will be included in the 2007 international migration estimates.
3. The EU25 estimate for 2003-04 comprises EU15 for the second half of 2003, EU25 for the first half of 2004.
4. The A10 estimates for the second half of 2003 are also included in the New Commonwealth and Other Foreign columns.
5. For 2004 onwards, the New Commonwealth excludes Malta and Cyprus, these are included for the second half of 2003.
6. 'Other foreign' are all citizenships that are not part of the EU or the Commonwealth groupings. For 2004 onwards, Other foreign excludes the eight Central and Eastern European member states that joined the EU in May 2004. These are included for the second half of 2003.

7. A new assumption for the proportion of visitors and migrants assuming to 'switch' categories was introduced in 2004. Therefore, the 2003-04 year uses the previous assumption for the second half of 2003.
8. The 2005-06 estimates may change as they include provisional estimates for the first half of 2006.
9. The estimates of total international migration for the UK shown in this table differ from the international migration component of change for the UK. This is due to a slightly different methodology being used in Scotland and Northern Ireland to estimate international migration for the purposes of population estimation.

Table 3 - Local authorities with greatest increase in population between mid-2001 and mid-2006

Local Authority	Mid-2001 (Thousands)	Mid-2006 (Thousands)	Percentage increase
Westminster	203.3	231.9	14
Camden	202.6	227.5	12
South Northamptonshire	79.5	88.8	12
Forest Heath	56.1	62.1	11
Rutland UA	34.6	38.3	11
Oxford	135.5	149.1	10
South Derbyshire	81.7	89.8	10
Kensington and Chelsea	162.2	178.0	10
Colchester	156.0	170.8	10
North Kesteven	94.4	103.2	9

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates

Table 4 - Local authorities with greatest decrease in population between mid-2001 and mid-2006

Local Authority	Mid-2001 (Thousands)	Mid-2006 (Thousands)	Percentage decrease
Rushmoor	90.9	88.7	-2
Middlesbrough UA	141.2	138.4	-2
Sefton	282.9	277.4	-2
Burnley	89.5	88.0	-2
Bournemouth UA	163.6	161.2	-1
Sunderland	284.6	280.6	-1
Stockport	284.6	280.6	-1
Reading UA	144.7	142.8	-1
Liverpool	441.9	436.1	-1
Bridgnorth	52.5	51.8	-1

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates