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Coverage
United Kingdom

Theme
Population



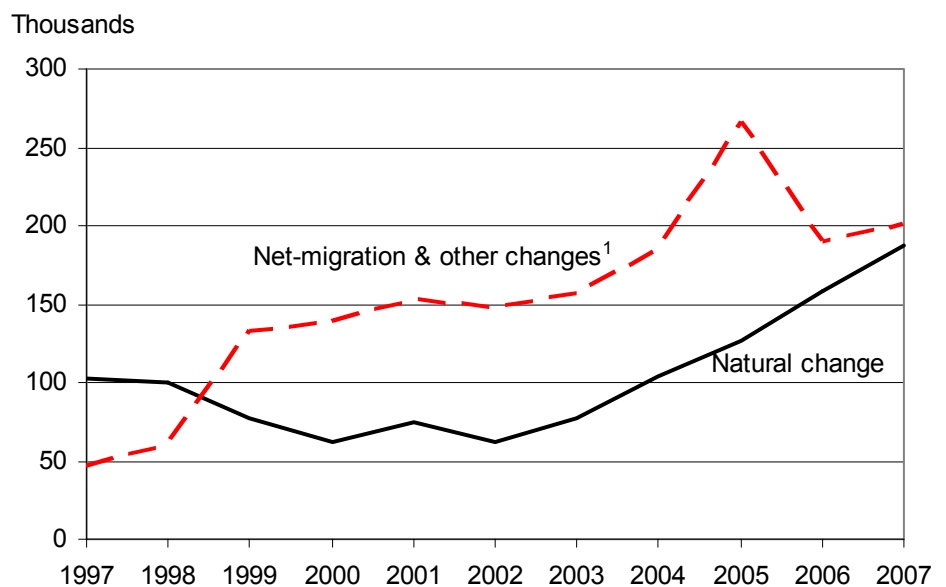
UK population approaches 61 million in 2007

New estimates from the Office for National Statistics indicate that the population of the UK was 60,975,000 in mid-2007, up by 388,000 (0.6 per cent) on the previous year and nearly two million more than in mid-2001.

Average annual population growth since 2001 has been 0.5 per cent, compared with 0.3 per cent per year between 1991 and 2001 and 0.2 per cent between 1981 and 1991.

Net migration into the UK accounted for just over half - 52 per cent - of all population growth during the 12 months to mid-2007, compared with 55 per cent in 2006 and 72 per cent in 2001¹.

Figure 1: Natural change, and net migration & other changes, for UK mid-1997 to mid-2007



The rising numbers of births and falling numbers of deaths have also played an increasing role in population growth. Natural change (the

¹ Net migration here includes 'other changes' (see background note 4). For 2000-2001 an adjustment was made to ensure that estimated population change was consistent with population change recorded between Censuses. This Census adjustment has been excluded when calculating the contribution of migration to population growth in 2001.

Issued by

Office for National Statistics
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG

Contacts

Media Relations
0845 604 1858

Statistician
Alison Whitworth 01329 444653
Pop.info@ons.gov.uk

www.statistics.gov.uk

difference between births and deaths) contributed 48 per cent to population growth in the year to mid-2007 compared with 45 per cent in mid-2006 and 28 per cent in mid-2001.

There were 758,000 births in the 12 months to mid-2007, 84,000 more than in the 12 months to mid-2001 (674,000). Deaths decreased by 28,000 over this period (from 599,000 in 2001 to 571,000 in 2007).

The number of births has increased due to:

- rising fertility levels
- the increase in the number of women of childbearing ages in the UK

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the UK rose from a low of 1.63 in 2001 to 1.84 in 2006 and 1.90 in 2007. The number of women aged 15-44 increased by 2 per cent between 2001 and 2007

Contribution of migration

The numbers of long-term migrants entering and leaving the UK have increased since 2001:

- In the year to mid-2007, the flow of long-term migrants into the UK was 605,000, the highest since the current method of calculating total international migration was first introduced in 1991 (see background note 7). This was 30,000 more than in the previous year, and 107,000 higher than in the year to mid-2001
- Long-term migration from the UK reached 406,000 in the year to mid-2007, also the highest recorded total since the current method of calculation was introduced in 1991. This was 21,000 more than in the previous year, and 95,000 more than in the year to mid-2001
- Net international migration (the difference between long term migration into and out of the UK) was +198,000 in the year to mid-2007. This was 9,000 more than in the previous year and 11,000 more than in the year to mid-2001 (+187,000)

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 published estimates of short term migrants in May 2008. The short-term migration estimates supplement existing population statistics.

Mid-2007 Population Estimates for UK can be found at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106

Other key points

For the first time ever, there are more people of state pensionable age than under-16s. This reflects a decline in the number of under-16s, which fell to 18.9 per cent of the population, compared with rising numbers of men aged 65+ and women aged 60+, who accounted for 19.0 per cent of the population at mid-2007.

The oldest age group (80 and over) is the fastest growing. This age group accounted for 5 per cent (2.7 million) of the total population in mid-2007 and has increased by more than 1.2 million between 1981 and 2007, mainly as a result of improvements in mortality at older ages over the second half of the twentieth century.

Population growth rates varied within the United Kingdom. In the year to mid-2007, growth was fastest in Northern Ireland, at 1.0 per cent (to 1.8 million people). Growth was slowest in Wales, with an increase of 0.5 per cent to 3.0 million, and Scotland with growth also of 0.5 per cent to 5.1 million. The population of England grew by 0.6 per cent to 51.1 million. This pattern is consistent with the previous two years where the greatest growth was also seen in Northern Ireland.

Within England, all regions showed an increase in population. The biggest percentage increases were in the South West (1.1 per cent) and East (1.0 per cent).

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

In England and Wales there were six local authority areas where the population increased by 12 per cent or more over the six years since 2001 (Westminster, Camden, South Northamptonshire, Forest Heath, Colchester and South Derbyshire).

In the same period the largest reductions in local authority population in England and Wales were around 2 per cent and occurred in Sefton, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Rushmoor, Wirral and Sunderland (see Tables 2 and 3).

ONS also publishes today indicators of the volume of moves into and out of each local authority in England and Wales as a proportion of their population. Of the ten local authorities with the highest volume of population movement, three (Westminster, Camden and Oxford) also feature among the areas with the greatest overall population increase (Table 2).

Cambridge, which had the highest volume of population movement from 2001 to 2007, also had relatively high population growth (9 per cent). Other local authorities with high volumes of moves, Lambeth and Hammersmith & Fulham, did not experience high population growth during 2001-2007 with zero and 2 per cent respectively.

This news release is one of two releases covering the range of population and migration statistics released today. For the other news release go to: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/jrds0808.pdf>

Figure 2: Total live births and deaths occurring in the UK, mid-1997 to mid-2007

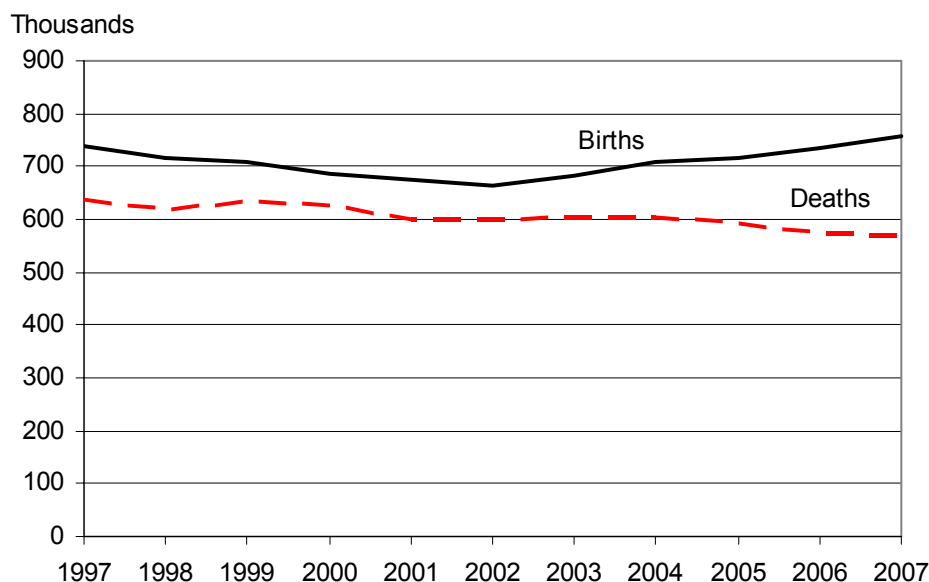


Figure 3: UK Total International Migration, mid-1997 to mid-2007

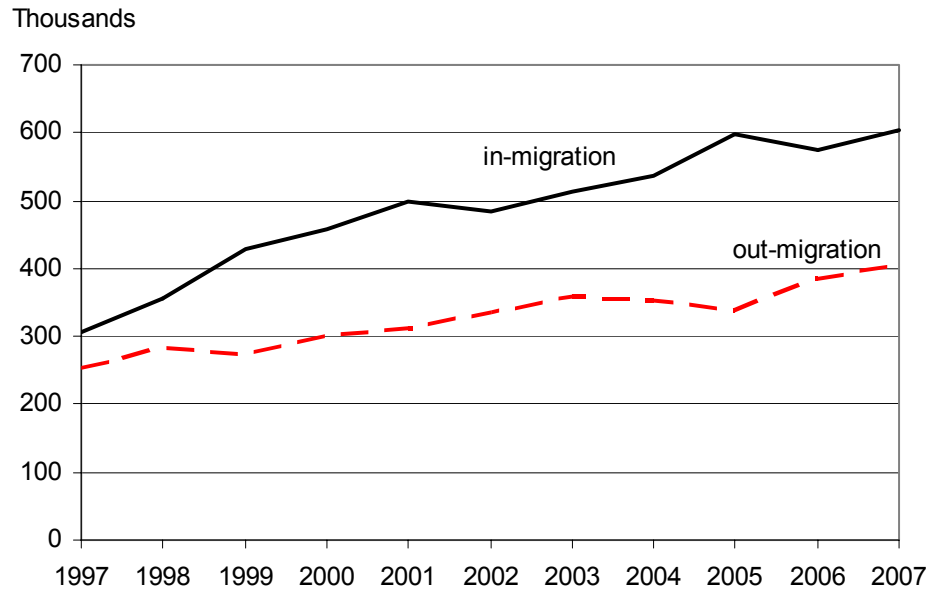


Table 1: Components of population change, UK

Thousands							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Population at start of period	58,886	59,113	59,323	59,557	59,846	60,238	60,587
Births	674	663	682	707	718	734	758
Deaths	599	601	605	603	591	575	571
Natural Change	74	62	77	104	127	159	187
In migration	498	483	512	537	599	574	605
Out migration	311	334	358	352	337	385	406
Net Migration	187	148	154	185	262	189	198
Other Changes	-34	0	2	0	3	1	3
Net migration and other changes	153	148	157	185	266	190	201
Total change	227	210	234	289	393	349	388
Population at end of period	59,113	59,323	59,557	59,846	60,238	60,587	60,975

Note: For 'other changes' see background note 4

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

Table 2: Local authorities in England and Wales with greatest percentage increase in population between mid-2001 and mid-2007

Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)			% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2007	Change	
1	Westminster	203	234	31	15
2	Camden	203	232	29	14
3	South Northamptonshire	79	90	11	14
4	Forest Heath	56	63	7	13
5	Colchester	156	175	19	12
6	South Derbyshire	82	91	9	12
7	Oxford	136	151	15	11
8	East Northamptonshire	77	85	9	11
9	Rutland	35	38	4	11
10	North Kesteven	94	105	10	11

Table 3: Local authorities in England and Wales with greatest percentage decrease in population between mid-2001 and mid-2007

Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)			% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2007	Change	
1	Sefton	283	276	-7	-2
2	Burnley	90	87	-2	-2
3	Middlesbrough	141	139	-3	-2
4	Rushmoor	91	89	-2	-2
5	Wirral	315	310	-5	-2
6	Sunderland	285	280	-4	-2
7	Liverpool	442	435	-6	-1
8	Bridgnorth	52	52	-1	-1
9	Stockport	285	281	-4	-1
10	Blaenau Gwent	70	69	-1	-1

Table 4: Local authorities in England and Wales with the highest volume of internal and international migration per 1000 population

		Mid-2001 to mid-2007						
Rank	Local Authority	Internal migration (thousands)		International migration (thousands)		Volume of migration per 1000 population ¹	% population change ²	
		In	Out	In	Out	All migration		
1	Cambridge	65	70	35	23	280	9	
2	City of London	5	4	2	2	273	8	
3	Oxford	80	85	39	22	259	11	
4	Westminster	106	115	78	47	258	15	
5	Hammersmith and Fulham	82	100	39	28	244	2	
6	Wandsworth	150	172	48	32	243	4	
7	Camden	104	117	64	32	242	14	
8	Islington	95	109	34	21	236	-2	
9	Lambeth	133	171	39	19	223	5	
10	Kensington and Chelsea	58	71	59	37	217	10	

1. Volume of migration per 1,000 population for the 6 year period is calculated as ((average in-migration + average out-migration)/average population)*1000 (includes both internal migration and international migration). Internal migration figures include cross-border flows from other countries of the UK.
2. Population change is calculated as in Table 2.

Note: Isles of Scilly has been excluded from the Tables above due to its small population size (less than 5,000). For such areas, a small absolute change in population can demonstrate a relatively large percentage population change.

Source: Office for National Statistics

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. © Crown Copyright 2008.
2. Mid-2007 population estimates for Scotland were released by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) on 24 July 2008 and can be found at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html>
3. Mid-2007 population estimates for Northern Ireland were released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on 31 July 2008 and can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>

4. '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. For 2000-2001 it also includes a factor to ensure that estimated population change is consistent with population change recorded between Censuses.
5. Published tables include UK, Great Britain and constituent countries for mid-2007 by single year of age and sex. Local Authority and Strategic Health Authority tables by selected and quinary age groups are also published for 2007.
6. 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 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.
7. Total International Migration is 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.
8. 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, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.
9. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that a group of women would have if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates for a particular year throughout their child-bearing life. 'Replacement level' fertility (commonly given as 2.1) represents the approximate number of children per woman needed for the population to replace itself in the long-term in the absence of migration.
10. New measures to improve the way in which existing population and migration statistics are reported across government were announced on 26 February 2008. The initiative represents the first step towards a new 'coherent reporting' programme for demographic statistics, one of the key recommendations of the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics. Population and migration statistics are produced by a number of government departments, as well as the ONS, and last year alone saw data released on over 40 separate dates. In contrast the new initiative aims to ensure that related demographic data from different government departments are presented in a coordinated manner on a limited number of dates throughout the year. Today is the fourth joint publication of a

range of demographic data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office.

11. Eventually the joint reports will be accompanied by a brief outline of key points from the range of published data and there will also be an annual report on migration statistics, published jointly across government.
12. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.