2006-based marital status projections for England & Wales

The 2006-based population projections by marital status for England & Wales, covering both legal marital status and (opposite-sex) cohabitation for the period to 2031, were published on the 31 March 2009 by the Office for National Statistics. These new marital status projections are described as 2006-based as they are consistent with the 2006-based national population projections for England & Wales. However, they also incorporate new estimates of the population by legal marital status and the population cohabiting as at the middle of 2007. For this reason, all data tables start at mid-2007.

The news release for the 2006-based marital status projections can be found [here](#). A report on the projections was published in the Population Trends on 25 June 2009 [here](#).

Marital status projections are produced periodically. The last sets were produced by the Government Actuaries Department in 2005, and responsibility for their production transferred to the Office for National Statistics in 2006.

One of the main uses of these projections is as one of the inputs to the regular projections of the number and type of households in England, now produced by Communities and Local Government. Marital status projections are also used by the Department for Work and Pensions to cost various aspects of the future social security programme.

Variant projections are also produced for both legal marital status and cohabitation to illustrate the sensitivity of these results to alternative levels of future marriage, divorce and cohabitation to that assumed in the principal projections.

Details of the methodology used and the projections can be downloaded using the following links:

**Methodology**
- Base population ([linked here](#))
- Adjustments for marriages abroad ([linked here](#))
- Method of projection ([linked here](#))
- Consistency constraints ([linked here](#))

**Assumptions**
- Marriage rate ([linked here](#))
- Divorce rate ([linked here](#))
- Mortality ([linked here](#))
- Migration ([linked here](#))
- Cohabitation ([linked here](#))
Results

Principal projections

- **Legal marital status**
  - Summary results: Population by broad age group and legal marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Males by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Females by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Animated population pyramids 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#)) added 25 June 2009

- **Cohabitation**
  - Summary results: Cohabiting population by broad age group and marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Cohabiting males by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Cohabiting females by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Animated population pyramids 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#)) added 25 June 2009

Variant projections

- **Legal marital status**
  - High marriage variant:
    - Summary results: Population by broad age group and legal marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 ([linked here](#))
    - Males by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
    - Females by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
  - Low marriage variant:
    - Summary results: Population by broad age group and legal marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 ([linked here](#))
    - Males by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
    - Females by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 ([linked here](#))
High divorce variant:
- Males by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)
- Females by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)

Low divorce variant:
- Males by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)
- Females by five year age group and legal marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)

Summary
- Comparison of marriage and divorce variants, 2011, 2021 and 2031 (linked here)

○ Cohabitation

High cohabitation variant:
- Summary results: Cohabiting population by broad age group and marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 (linked here)
- Cohabiting males by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)
- Cohabiting females by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)

Low cohabitation variant:
- Summary results: Cohabiting population by broad age group and marital status, 2007, 2011, 2021 and 2031 (linked here)
- Cohabiting males by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)
- Cohabiting females by five year age group and marital status, 2007 to 2031 (linked here)

Summary

Correction 30 April 2009 - Please note that this table contained incorrect values for 'All cohabiting couples' when published on 31 March 2009. This table has now been updated with the corrected values. ONS apologises for any inconvenience caused.