

Population Estimates



June 2010

Date: 24 June 2010

Coverage: UK

Theme: Population

1. United Kingdom Population Estimates – mid-2009

The estimated resident population of the UK was 61,792,000 in mid-2009, an increase of 394,000 (0.6 per cent) on the previous year, and an increase of 2.7 million compared with mid-2001.

In the eight 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 between 1981 and 1991. Increases in births, decreases in deaths and net international migration to the UK have all contributed to population growth since 2001.

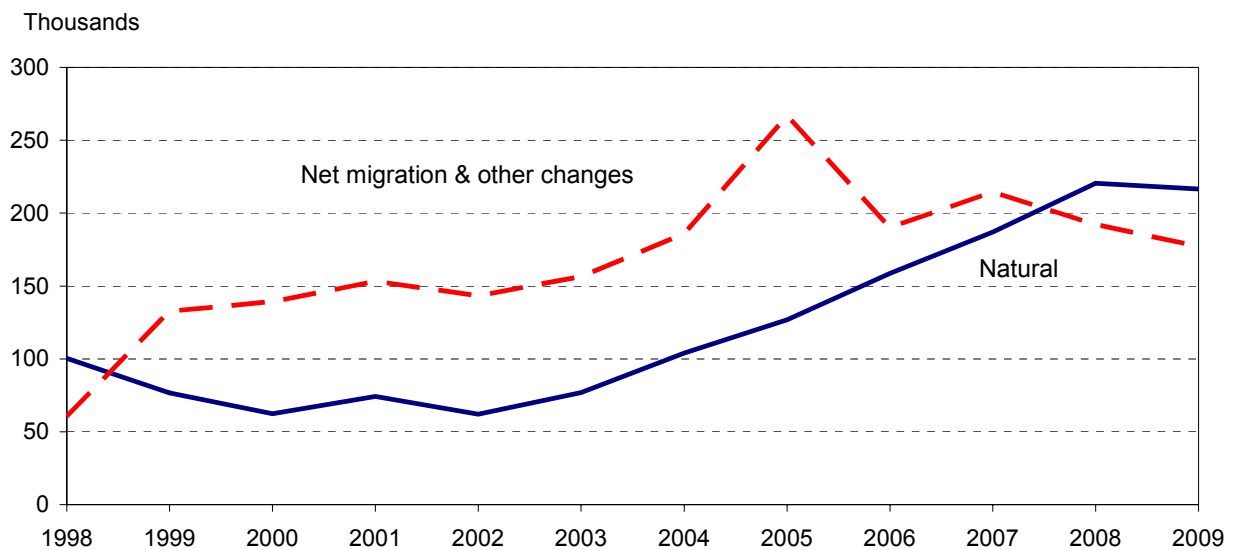
Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population. They account for long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for at least one year) but do not account for people who come to or leave the UK for less than a year. These are referred to as short-term migrants. ONS publishes estimates of short-term migrants separately, mid-2008 estimates for England and Wales were published in February 2010. The short-term migration estimates supplement existing population statistics.

2. Components of population change

Natural change (the difference between births and deaths) accounted for 55 per cent of all UK population growth during the 12 months to mid-2009. This compares with 53 per cent in the year to mid 2008, the first time since 1998 that natural change exceeded net migration as the main contributor to population growth. Its contribution was lowest in 2002 at 30 per cent.

Natural change added 217,000 to the population in the year to mid-2009, slightly lower than the 2008 figure of 220,000. This small decrease follows six consecutive years when population growth as a result of natural change has increased.

Figure 1: Natural change and net migration & other changes for the United Kingdom, mid-1998 to mid-2009



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

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

Table 1: Components of population change for the United Kingdom, mid-2001 to mid-2009

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

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

Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

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

Changes in the number of births have been the main driver of natural change over the past decade. There were 787,000 births in the year to mid-2009, 4,000 fewer than the year to mid-2008. Despite this recent decrease, in the year to mid-2009 there were 123,000 more births compared to mid-2002 (when natural change was at its lowest). The number of births has remained at a high level that has not been evident since 1992. Deaths have decreased by 31,000 in the year to mid-2002 compared with the year to mid-2009 (from 601,000 to 570,000).

The number of births in a given year is dependant on the number of women in the key childbearing ages (15-44 years) and fertility rates in that year. Overall, the total number of women aged 15-44 years has increased from 12.3 million in mid-2002 to 12.5 million in mid-2009 but the number peaked in 2007, followed by a decrease of 60,000 between mid-2007 and mid-2009. The increase in the number of women aged 15-44 since 2002 is a consequence of international migration. The recent decline is driven by a decrease in the UK born population in this age group. The number of women reaching age 45 in 2009 (and leaving the childbearing population) was greater than the number of women reaching age 15, reflecting the greater number of babies born in the 1960s than in the 1990s. At the same time the UK Total Fertility Rate (TFR) increased from 1.64 in 2002 to 1.96 in 2008 but decreased again slightly to 1.94 in 2009.

Net migration (the difference between long-term migration into and out of the UK) accounted for 45% of the UK population growth, with gross flows of migrants remaining at the levels seen over the past five years. Net international migration was 176,000 in the year to mid-2009, 15,000 fewer than in the previous year but 33,000 more than in the year to mid-2002.

In the year to mid-2009, the flow of international migrants into the UK was 562,000, little change from the flow in the year to mid-2008 (decrease of 4,000), but an increase of 73,000 on the year to mid-2002. The flow of international migrants out of the UK was 386,000 in the year to mid-2009, again the change from the previous year (increase of 11,000) is not statistically significant. The flow of international migrants out of the UK increased by 41,000 between the years to mid mid-2002 and mid-2009.

3. Population change by country, region and local authority

Population growth rates varied within the UK. In the year to mid-2009, percentage growth was highest in Northern Ireland and England, at 0.8 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively. The population of Northern Ireland grew to 1.8 million and that of England grew to 51.8 million. The population of Scotland grew by 0.5 per cent to 5.2 million and Wales by 0.3 per cent to 3.0 million. 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-2008	Mid-2009	Mid-08 to Mid-09	Annual average Mid-01 to Mid-09
United Kingdom	59,113	61,398	61,792	0.6	0.6
England and Wales	52,360	54,455	54,809	0.7	0.6
England	49,450	51,465	51,810	0.7	0.6
Wales	2,910	2,990	2,999	0.3	0.4
Scotland	5,064	5,169	5,194	0.5	0.3
Northern Ireland	1,689	1,775	1,789	0.8	0.7

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

Within England, all regions showed an increase in population in the year to mid-2009. The biggest percentage increases were in London (1.1 per cent) and the East (0.9 per cent) followed by the South East and Yorkshire and The Humber at 0.8 per cent. The average annual increase since 2001 was highest in the East and in East Midlands at 0.8 per cent, followed by London, the South West and Yorkshire and Humber at 0.7 per cent.

Table 3: Population change for English Government Office Regions

	Population (thousands)			% Change	
	Mid-2001	Mid-2008	Mid-2009	Mid-08 to Mid-09	Annual average Mid-01 to Mid-09
North East	2,540	2,571	2,584	0.5	0.2
North West	6,773	6,874	6,898	0.3	0.2
Yorkshire and The Humber	4,977	5,217	5,258	0.8	0.7
East Midlands	4,190	4,429	4,451	0.5	0.8
West Midlands	5,281	5,408	5,431	0.4	0.4
East	5,400	5,717	5,767	0.9	0.8
London	7,322	7,668	7,754	1.1	0.7
South East	8,023	8,369	8,436	0.8	0.6
South West	4,943	5,210	5,231	0.4	0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

Within England and Wales there were three local authority areas where the population increased by 15 per cent or more over the eight years since 2001 (Westminster, Tower Hamlets and Welwyn Hatfield). 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, Sefton and Newham).

Table 4: Local authorities in England and Wales with the greatest percentage increase in population between mid-2001 and mid-2009

Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)		% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2009	Mid-01 to Mid-09
1	Westminster	211	261	23.8
2	Tower Hamlets	201	235	16.7
3	Welwyn Hatfield	98	113	15.7
4	Norwich	122	140	14.5
5	Manchester	423	484	14.4
6	East Cambridgeshire	73	84	14.3
7	Camden	203	231	14.1
8	Colchester	156	177	13.5
9	South Derbyshire	82	93	13.5
10	Richmondshire	47	53	12.1

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

Source: Office for National Statistics

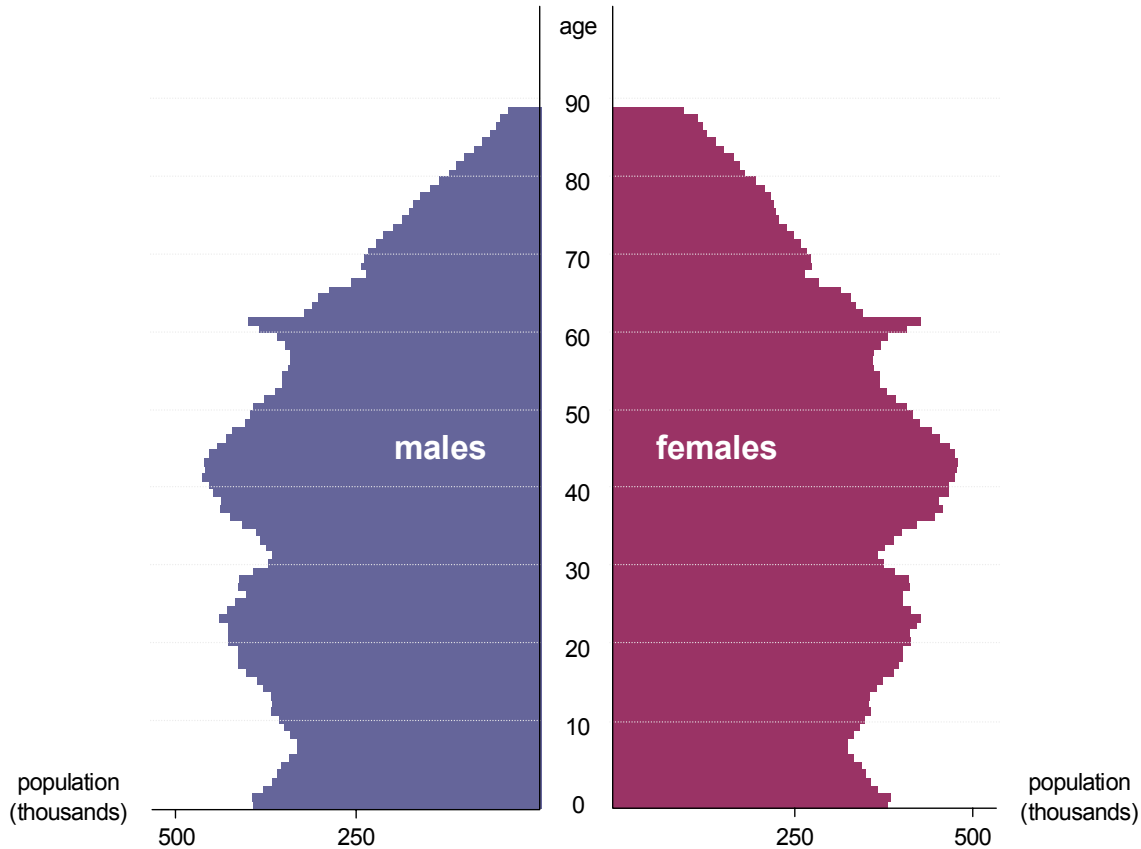
Table 5: Local authorities in England and Wales with greatest percentage decrease in population between mid-2001 and mid-2009

Rank	Local Authority	Population (thousands)		% Change
		Mid-2001	Mid-2009	Mid-01 to Mid-09
1	Brent	270	255	-5.3
2	Burnley	90	86	-4.4
3	Sefton	283	273	-3.4
4	Newham	249	241	-3.3
5	Wirral	315	308	-2.1
6	Blaenau Gwent UA	70	69	-2.0
7	Blackpool UA	142	140	-1.6
8	Barrow-In-Furness	72	71	-1.5
9	Ellesmere Port & Neston	82	81	-1.3
10	Knowsley	151	149	-1.2

Source: Office for National Statistics

4. Age structure of the United Kingdom population

Figure 2: Population pyramid of the United Kingdom, mid-2009



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-2009 have not yet been published.

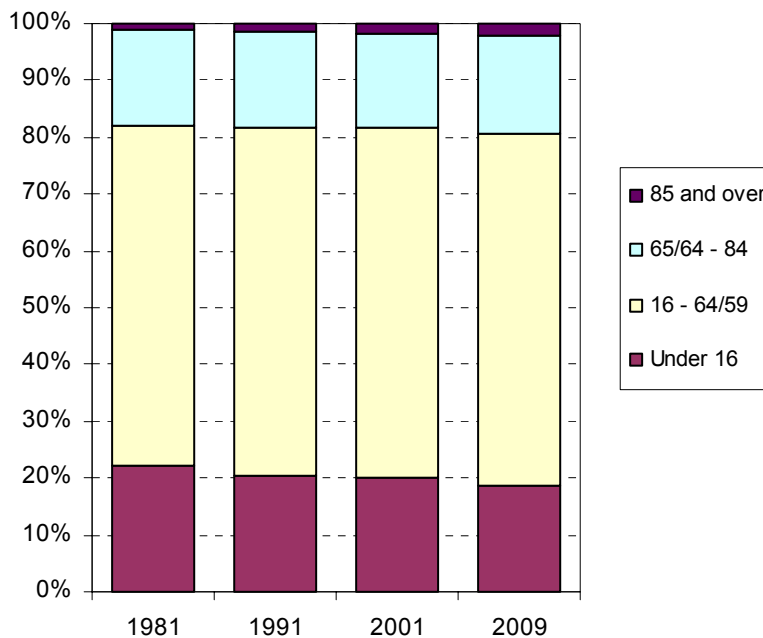
Source: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

Figure 2 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.
- Between ages 37 and 50 there is a 'bulge' due to the 'baby boom' years of the 1960s and early 1970s.

- 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 5 and 10 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 790,000 in the year to 2009.

Figure 3: Population of the United Kingdom by age-group, mid-1981 to mid-2009



Notes: The age-group 16 - 64/59 refers to 16-64 for males and 16-59 for females.
The age group 65/60 – 84 refers to 65-84 for males and 60-84 for females.

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

The UK population continues to age gradually. The number of people aged 85 and over reached 1.4 million in mid-2009, comprising 439,000 men and 930,000 women and accounting for 2.2 per cent of the total population. Between 1981 and 2009, this age-group increased by just under 0.8 million.

The gender difference in the population aged 85 and over has decreased over recent decades; in 2009 men accounted for 32 per cent of the population aged 85 and over, in 1981 they

accounted for 23 per cent. In comparison, men accounted for approximately 49 per cent of the total population (all ages) in 2009 and this percentage has changed very little over time.

In mid-2009, there were more people of state pensionable age (men aged 65 and above and women aged 60 and above) than there were under-16s, a pattern first seen in mid-2007. There were 11.5 million people aged under 16 in mid-2009 compared with 12 million people of state pensionable age, each age group accounting for 19 per cent of the total population.

5. Population movement

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 per 1,000 population, both within the UK and internationally.

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-2009

Rank	Local Authority	Internal migration		International		Volume of migration per 1,000 population
		In	Out	In	Out	
1	Cambridge	99	110	62	43	310
2	Oxford	122	136	60	39	278
3	Camden	155	169	83	55	237
4	Hammersmith and Fulham	121	140	49	44	233
5	Islington	146	156	47	37	233
6	Westminster	150	162	104	59	230
7	Wandsworth	219	239	61	50	227
8	Lambeth	197	236	56	32	210
9	Kensington and Chelsea	84	99	70	58	206
10	Reading UA	93	106	36	26	200

*Notes: Volume of migration per 1,000 population is calculated for the 8 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.

6. Improvements to Migration and Population Statistics

A package of improvements for mid-year population estimates for England and Wales were introduced as part of a cross government programme to improve migration statistics. The improvements have led to revisions to the mid-2002 to mid-2008 local authority population estimates for England and Wales. These revised estimates were published on 13 May 2010. The improved methods have also been used to calculate the mid-2009 population estimates. Population estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland have remained unaffected. Details of the improvements package can be found at:

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

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-2009 population estimates for the UK and England and Wales can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106
3. Mid-2009 population estimates for Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and can be found at: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html
4. Mid-2009 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-2009 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-2009.
6. Total long-term international migration estimates include all civilian migration flows to and from countries outside the UK. They are based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). They also includes adjustments for: (i) those whose intended length of stay changes such 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. The current method of calculation was introduced in 1991 and is not available for earlier years.

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 dependents 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. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.

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Next publication: June 2011
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