

FOCUS ON People & Migration



Focus On People and Migration paints a picture of the dynamics of the UK population. It includes information on changes in the age structure of the UK, as well as on population growth and the role of fertility and migration in driving population change.

The UK population is growing. Until the mid-1990s this growth was mainly due to the number of births exceeding the number of deaths and this natural change is set to continue. Nonetheless, low numbers of children born and low mortality rates have both contributed to population ageing. There is a declining proportion of the population aged under 16 and an increasing proportion aged 65 and over.

Net international migration into the UK from abroad has been an increasingly important factor in population growth. Around one in twelve of the UK population were born overseas. Around a half of international migrants are aged between 25 and 44 and the overseas-born population is more concentrated in the working age group than is the UK-born population.

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Population

UK population grows to 59.2 million

In 2002 the UK was home to 59.2 million people. This was an 18 per cent increase from 50.3 million in 1951, and a 2.9 per cent increase over the last decade.

Until the mid-1990s, this growth was mainly due to natural increase as the number of births exceeded the number of deaths. Since the late 1990s, there has still been natural increase but net international migration into the UK from abroad has been an increasingly important factor in population growth.

In 2002, 84 per cent of the UK population were living in England, 9 per cent in Scotland, 5 per cent in Wales and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. Between mid-1992 and mid-2002, population growth was greatest in Northern Ireland (4.5 per cent). England's population grew by 3.3 per cent and the population of Wales grew by 1.4 per cent over the decade. In contrast, Scotland's population decreased by 0.6 per cent.

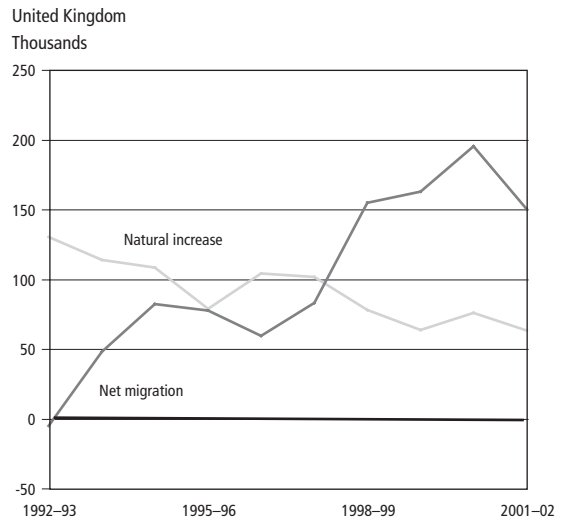
Northern Ireland's population grew faster than the rest of the UK because the number of births far outweighed the number of deaths each year. In contrast, in both Wales and Scotland there were fewer births than deaths towards the end of the 1990s, a factor that contributes to population decrease.

The UK population is projected to continue to grow, increasing gradually to reach 64.8 million by 2031. Longer-term projections suggest the population will peak around 2050 at over 65 million and then gradually start to fall.

Projected trends differ for the four countries of the UK. The decline in the population of Scotland is projected to continue, while the populations of Wales and Northern Ireland are projected to peak around 2030 and then start to fall. The population of England is still projected to be rising in forty years' time, but at a low rate of growth.

Scotland is the least densely populated of the four countries of the UK. There were 65 people resident per square kilometre in Scotland in 2002. In comparison, the population density was 125 people per square kilometre in Northern Ireland, 141 people in Wales and 380 people in England. London had a far higher population density than any of the English regions, with 4,679 people living in each square kilometre on average.

Natural increase and net migration as components of population change



Resident population, mid-2002

United Kingdom

| | Thousands | Percentages |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| England | 49,561.8 | 84 |
| Wales | 2,918.7 | 5 |
| Scotland | 5,054.8 | 9 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,696.6 | 3 |
| United Kingdom | 59,231.9 | 100 |

Sources:

Population estimates: Mid-2002 population estimates, Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency;
 Components of population change and mid-1992 population estimates: Series MN no.29, Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency;
 Population projections: Government Actuary's Department;
 Population density: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Births & Deaths

Births to exceed deaths up to 2031

Births

In 2003 there were 695,500 births in the UK. Over the last century there have been large fluctuations in the number of births. Sharp peaks occurred after both world wars. The largest annual number of births during the twentieth century occurred in 1920, when there were 1,126,800 births.

Throughout the 1960s there was a more sustained 'baby boom', with births rising to a peak of 1,014,700 in 1964. This was followed by a rapid decline in the numbers of births in the 1970s, reaching a low of 657,000 in 1977.

The larger numbers of women produced by the 1960s 'baby boom' meant there was an increase in the number of births during the 1980s and 1990s. These larger generations are in turn projected to produce a slight rise in the number of births during the 2010s.

Deaths

In 2003 there were 612,000 deaths in the UK. For the first half of the twentieth century there was no strong trend in the number of deaths. There was noticeable annual fluctuation, including at the time of both wars. The peak number of deaths in the twentieth century (715,200 deaths) occurred in 1918 at the time of an influenza pandemic.

From the 1950s the number of deaths rose slightly and annual fluctuations were smaller. Deaths reached a peak of 675,600 in 1979 and then started to fall. This decline is projected to gradually halt in the early 2010s.

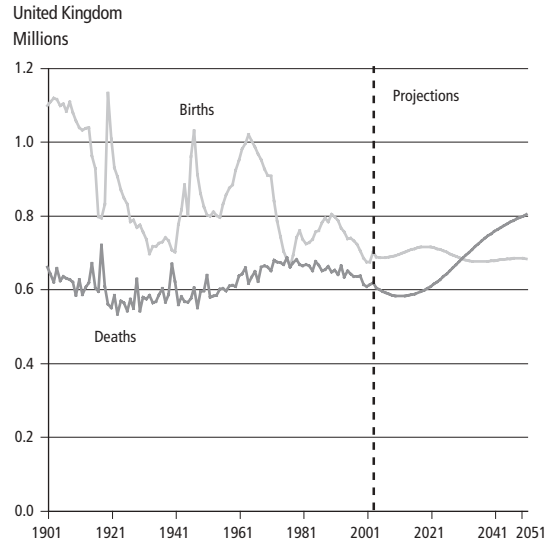
Deaths are then expected to start a sustained increase again to a projection of 800,000 deaths a year by 2051. The increase in the number of deaths will be added to in the 2040s and 2050s by the baby boom generation of the 1960s reaching old age.

The relationship between births, deaths and population

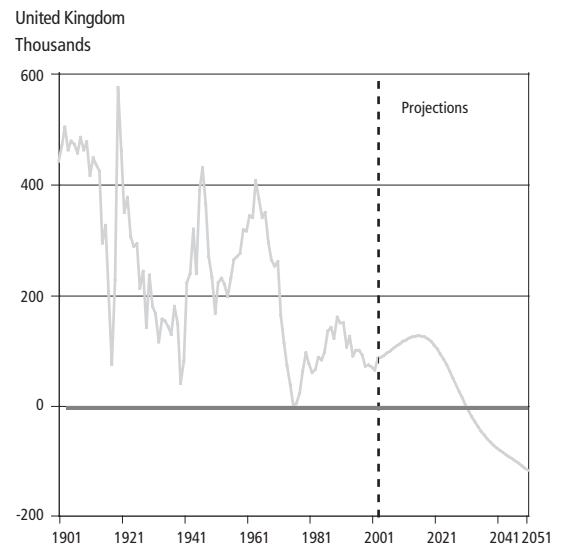
In every year since 1901, with the exception of 1976, there have been more births than deaths. This natural change is one of the two main components that determine population size and change, the other being migration.

The projected trends in births and deaths mean that the UK population is expected to experience natural decline from the 2030s onwards. However, because of projected migration the size of the UK population is not expected to decrease until the second half of this century.

Births and deaths



Natural change



Sources:

Birth and death registration data: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Central Statistics Office Ireland;
 UK 2002-based national population projections, 2004 to 2051: Government Actuary's Department.

Fertility

Women are having children later

Average (mean) age at childbearing

Large changes in the number of births from the 1950s to 1980s were partly the result of changes in the ages at which women gave birth. Average (mean) age of mothers at childbirth fell from 28.7 years for women born in 1920 to a low of 26.0 years for women born in the mid-1940s. Since then average age at childbirth has risen and is projected to increase to over 29 years for women born in the late 1970s onwards.

Women born in the 1940s had the lowest average age at childbirth, and these women contributed to the 1960s 'baby boom'. They went on to have a larger family size than women born in the 1950s onwards.

In England and Wales the average age at first birth fell from around 25.5 years for women born at the start of the 1920s to around 23.8 years for women born in the early 1940s. Among more recent generations, childbearing is starting later and women are having fewer children. The average age at first birth for women born in the second half of the 1950s, who have recently completed their childbearing, has climbed back to the levels of women born in the early 1920s.

Completed family size

Family size increased from 2.07 children for women born in 1920 to a peak of 2.46 children for women born in 1934. This peak corresponds with the 1960s 'baby boom'. Family size declined for subsequent generations and is projected to decline to around 1.74 children for women born in the mid-1980s.

Women born in 1955, and now at the end of their childbearing years, had an average of 2.03 children. Within the current 25 EU countries, family size for this generation of women was highest in the Irish Republic (2.67 children) and lowest in Germany (1.67 children).

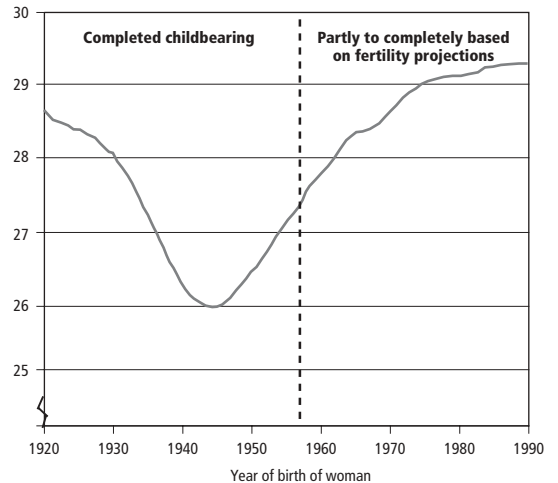
The decline in family size in the UK among women born in the mid-1930s onwards is the result both of fewer women having large families and more women remaining childless.

In England and Wales, 31 per cent of women born in 1920 had given birth to three or more children by the end of their childbearing years. This increased to around 40 per cent for women born in the 1930s. The percentage of women having three or more children then dropped rapidly to a level of around 30 per cent, where it has remained for the 1945-born generation onwards.

Some women remain childless. Twenty-one per cent of women born in 1920 were childless at the end of their childbearing years. This declined to a low of 9 per cent for women born in 1945 and 1946. It increased subsequently, and will be just under 20 per cent for women that are soon to complete their childbearing years.

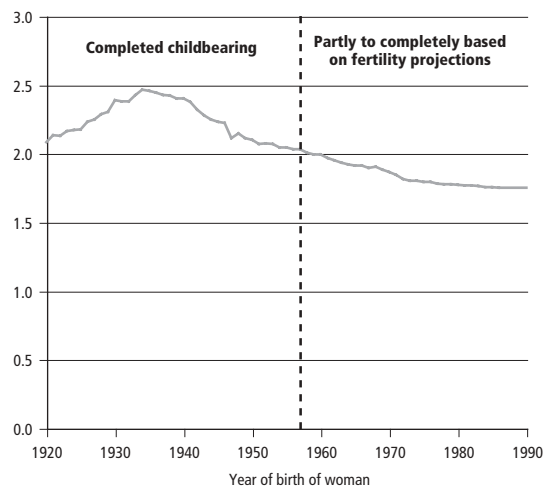
Mean age at childbearing for women born 1920 to 1990

United Kingdom
 Years of age



Completed family size for women born 1920 to 1990

United Kingdom
 Average number of children per woman



Sources:

Birth registrations England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland 1935 to 2002: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency;
 Birth order, England & Wales: Office for National Statistics;
 UK 2002-based national population projections, 2003 to 2035: Government Actuary's Department;
 Completed family size, EU: Council of Europe.

Age Structure

Average age rose to 38.2 years in 2002

The age structure of the UK population has become older in the last three decades, and will become older still in the next three decades. The median age rose from 34.1 years in 1971 to 38.2 in 2002 and is projected to rise to 43.3 in 2031.

This ageing is the result of declines both in the numbers of children born and in mortality rates. This has led to a declining proportion of the population aged under 16 and an increasing proportion aged 65 and over. In 1971, 25 per cent of the population were aged under age 16. This fell to 20 per cent in 2002 and is projected to fall further to 17 per cent in 2031.

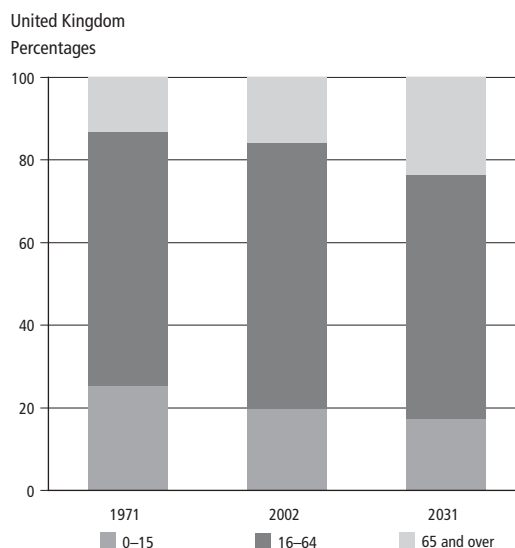
The percentage of older people (aged 65 and over) increased from 13 per cent in 1971 to 16 per cent in 2002 and is projected to rise to 23 per cent in 2031.

In 1971 there were 52 people aged 65 and over for every 100 children under 16. In 2002 there were 80 and by 2031 it is expected that there will be 136.

Comparing the UK's four constituent countries in 2002, Northern Ireland had the youngest age profile with 23 per cent of its population aged under 16 and only 13 per cent aged 65 and over. Wales had the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over (17 per cent), and a low proportion of people of working age (16 to 64 years), at 63 per cent. Scotland had the lowest proportion under the age of 16 (19 per cent).

Among the Government Office Regions of England, the South West had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over (19 per cent). London had both the lowest proportion of people aged 65 and over (12 per cent) and also the highest proportion in the working age group (68 per cent).

Population: by age



Age structure: regional comparison, 2002

Percentages

| | 0-15 | 16-64 | 65 and over |
|--------------------------|------|-------|-------------|
| North East | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| North West | 20 | 64 | 16 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 20 | 64 | 16 |
| East Midlands | 20 | 64 | 16 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 63 | 16 |
| East | 20 | 63 | 17 |
| London | 20 | 68 | 12 |
| South East | 20 | 64 | 16 |
| South West | 19 | 62 | 19 |
| England | 20 | 64 | 16 |
| Wales | 20 | 63 | 17 |
| Scotland | 19 | 65 | 16 |
| Northern Ireland | 23 | 63 | 13 |
| United Kingdom | 20 | 64 | 16 |

Sources:

Age structure up to 2002: population estimates, Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency;

Age structure for 2031: population projections, Government Actuary's Department.

Ethnicity

7.9% from a non-White ethnic group

The majority of the UK population in 2001 were White (92 per cent). The remaining 4.6 million (or 7.9 per cent) people belonged to other ethnic groups.

Indians were the largest of these groups, followed by Pakistanis, those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds, Black Caribbeans, Black Africans and Bangladeshis. The remaining minority ethnic groups each accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of the UK population and together accounted for a further 1.4 per cent.

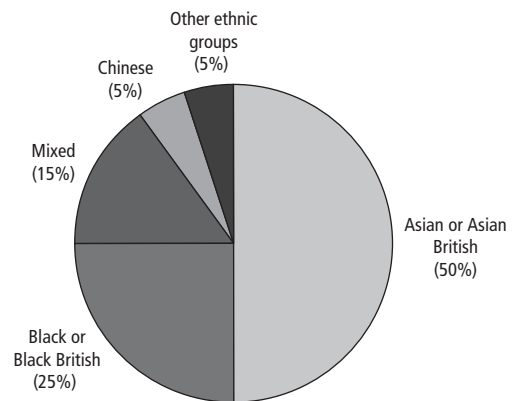
Around half of the non-White population were Asians of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or other Asian origin. A further quarter were Black, that is Black Caribbean, Black African or Other Black. Fifteen per cent of the non-White population were from the Mixed ethnic group. About a third of this group were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.

There were almost 691,000 White Irish people in Great Britain accounting for 1 per cent of the GB population.

In Great Britain the number of people who came from an ethnic group other than White grew by 53 per cent between 1991 and 2001, from 3.0 million in 1991 to 4.6 million in 2001. In 1991 ethnic group data were not collected on the Northern Ireland Census.

The non-White population: by ethnic group, April 2001

United Kingdom
 Percentages



Population: by ethnic group, April 2001

United Kingdom

| | (Numbers) | Total population (Percentages) | Non-White population (Percentages) |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| White | 54,153,898 | 92.1 | . |
| Mixed | 677,117 | 1.2 | 14.6 |
| Indian | 1,053,411 | 1.8 | 22.7 |
| Pakistani | 747,285 | 1.3 | 16.1 |
| Bangladeshi | 283,063 | 0.5 | 6.1 |
| Other Asian | 247,664 | 0.4 | 5.3 |
| All Asian or Asian British | 2,331,423 | 4.0 | 50.3 |
| Black Caribbean | 565,876 | 1.0 | 12.2 |
| Black African | 485,277 | 0.8 | 10.5 |
| Black Other | 97,585 | 0.2 | 2.1 |
| All Black or Black British | 1,148,738 | 2.0 | 24.8 |
| Chinese | 247,403 | 0.4 | 5.3 |
| Other ethnic groups | 230,615 | 0.4 | 5.0 |
| All minority ethnic population | 4,635,296 | 7.9 | 100.0 |
| All population | 58,789,194 | 100 | |

Sources:

Census, April 1991 and 2001, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland;
 Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Moves within UK

1 in 10 moved in year to April 2001

Around one in ten people (11 per cent) moved within the UK in the year before the 2001 Census.

Although 53,000 more people left London for other parts of the UK than moved to London, the population of London actually increased because the capital is the most likely initial destination for international migrants. Six regions gained people from elsewhere in the UK. The largest net inflows were in the South West, the East Midlands and the East of England.

The North West, West Midlands, North East and Northern Ireland all experienced net outflows of fewer than 10,000 people to the rest of the UK. In Scotland, inflows of students, retired people and other groups balanced out the loss of adult employees, leaving the total population relatively unchanged by internal migration.

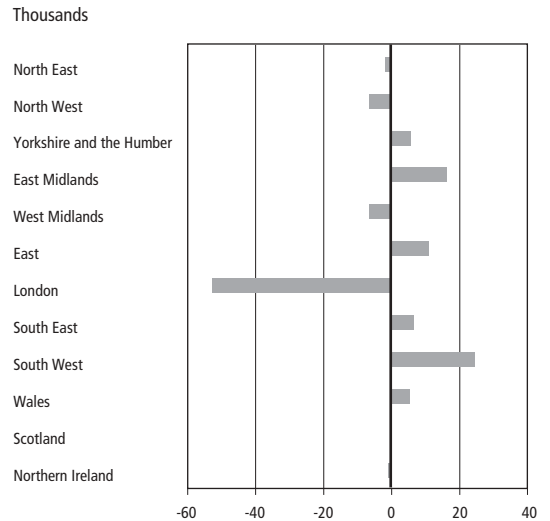
The northern regions of England, the midlands, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland experienced a net loss of full-time workers in the year up to the 2001 Census. The South East had the largest net gain: 13,000 more full-time workers moved in than moved out. London, the South West and the East regions of England also experienced a net inflow of full-time workers.

People who move to live in London tend to be young adults in their twenties. London attracts young single adults with no family ties. However, when people form partnerships and have children, many relocate to other parts of the UK particularly the South East, East, South West, and East Midlands.

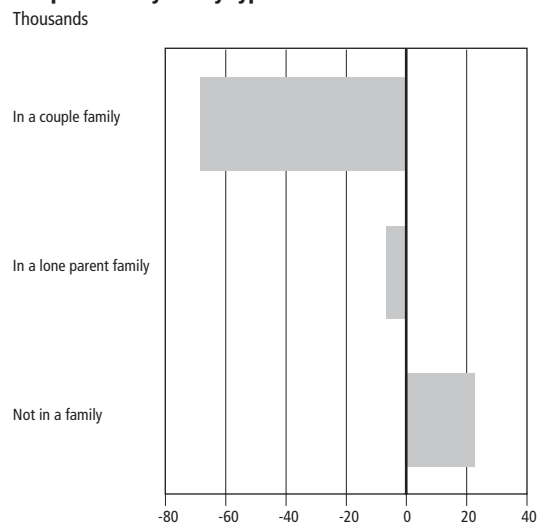
The overall net outflow from London to the rest of the UK was largely accounted for by the 30 to 59 age group, which experienced a net loss of 44,000 people.

Whereas many workers moved south to find employment, students were more likely to move to northern areas to study. Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Yorkshire and the Humber, the North East and the East Midlands all gained students from the rest of the UK. The East, South East and South West experienced a net loss of students. The net migration of students within the UK had little effect on the population of London, the West Midlands or the North West.

Net migration with the rest of the UK in the year to April 2001: by region



London – net migration with the rest of UK in the year to April 2001: by family type



Sources:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland;
 Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

International Migration

Rose in last decade

The UK has experienced higher levels of both inward and outward international migration in recent years than previously. Migration into the country increased from 265,000 in 1993 to 513,000 in 2002. Out-migration also increased over the period, but to a lesser extent – from 266,000 in 1993 to 359,000 in 2002.

As a result, net international migration increased over the decade. In 1993, the UK experienced a small net outflow of migrants. Net inflows were recorded in each year from 1994 onwards. These increased in the late 1990s to 172,000 in 2001, but fell slightly to 153,000 in 2002.

Over the decade to 2002, 3.9 million people entered the country as migrants and 2.8 million left, giving a net inflow of over one million people. In contrast, during the years 1983 to 1992, 2.4 million people entered the country and 2.2 million left, a net in-migration of 240,000. In the previous decade (1973 to 1982) there was an overall net outflow of 430,000 people from the UK.

The recent increases in net international migration to the UK mean that migration became much more important in determining the country's population change in the late 1990s. In 2002, and each of the three preceding years, international migration contributed approximately 80 per cent of the UK's annual population increase.

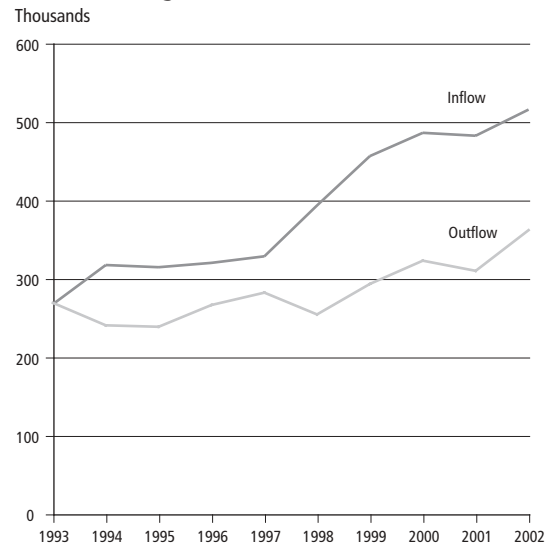
In 2002, 125,000 people migrated from the UK to the European Union (EU), compared with 89,000 who migrated from the EU to the UK. This gives a net outflow of 36,000 to the EU. There was a net inflow of 69,000 from the Commonwealth, and a net inflow of 120,000 from countries other than the EU or the Commonwealth.

Around a half of the people migrating into and out of the UK in 2002 were aged between 25 and 44. Although the proportions of both in-migrants and out-migrants in this age group were very similar, there was a net inflow of 69 thousand in this age group because the total number of in-migrants was greater than the number of out-migrants.

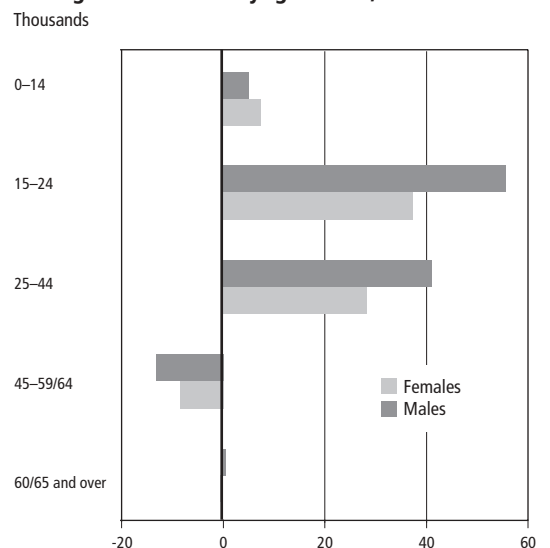
A much higher proportion of out-migrants than in-migrants were aged between 45 and state pension age, resulting in a net outflow of 22,000 in this age group. Conversely, a higher proportion of in-migrants than out-migrants were aged 15 to 24, and there was a large net inflow of 93,000 people in this age group.

In total, both in-migrants and out-migrants were slightly more likely to be male than female, with males making up around 55 per cent of both the inflows and outflows.

International migration into and out of the UK



Net migration to the UK: by age and sex, 2002



Sources:

International migration, Office for National Statistics.

Overseas-born

1 in 12 in UK were born overseas

In 2001, 8.3 per cent (4.9 million) of the total population of the UK were born overseas. This is almost double the proportion in 1951 (4.2 per cent).

The overseas-born population increased more between 1991 and 2001 than it did in any of the preceding post-war decades. There was a 1.6 percentage point increase over the decade to 2001. This compares with previous decade-to-decade increases between 1951 and 1991 that were all less than one percentage point.

Almost half of overseas-born migrants to the UK in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s emigrated within five years. There were large variations by country of birth. Between half and two thirds of the migrants born in the European Union, North America and Oceania emigrated within five years compared with 15 per cent of those born in the Indian subcontinent.

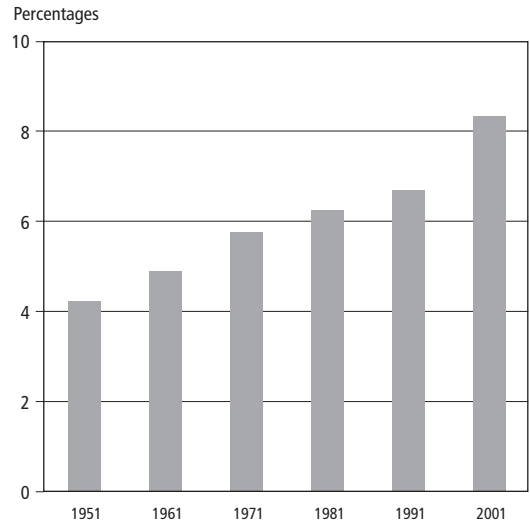
Compared with the UK-born population, the overseas-born population has a much more diverse mix of ethnic groups. While 96 per cent of the UK-born population was White in 2001, only just over half (53 per cent, or 2.6 million) of the overseas-born population was White. The next largest ethnic groups for people born overseas were Indian (570,000), Pakistani (336,000), Black African (322,000) and Black Caribbean (238,000). Other ethnic groups with significant representation among the UK overseas-born population are Chinese (176,000 were born overseas) and Bangladeshi (152,000).

Among the overseas-born population, country of birth does not always correspond closely with ethnic origin. Overseas-born people from the White ethnic group are the most diverse in regard to their countries and continents of birth. One in five (21 per cent) were born in the Republic of Ireland and a further two in five (41 per cent) were born elsewhere in Europe. Substantial proportions of overseas-born White people were also born in Asia (11 per cent), North or South America (11 per cent), Africa (10 per cent) and Oceania (6 per cent).

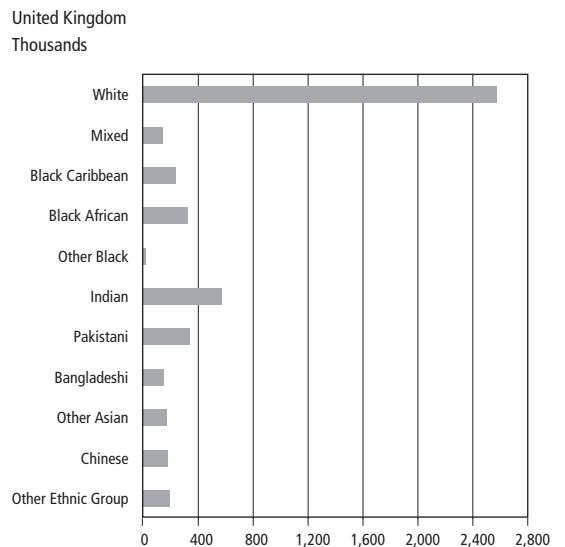
People born in Africa are the most varied in terms of their ethnic backgrounds. In 2001 less than two-fifths (38 per cent) of all African-born UK residents were Black, while 31 per cent were White and 20 per cent were Indian.

The overseas-born population is more concentrated than the UK-born population in the working age group. Three-quarters (75 per cent) of the overseas-born population were aged between 16 and state pension age in 2001. Only three-fifths (60 per cent) of the UK-born population were in this age group. There were 23 overseas-born people of pension age for every 100 overseas-born people of working age, compared with 31 per 100 for the UK-born population.

Overseas-born population as a percentage of total UK population



Overseas-born population by ethnic group, April 2001



Sources:

Census, April 1951 to 2001, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 1951 to 2001, General Register Office for Scotland;
 Census, April 1951 to 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Notes & Definitions

Population

The estimated and projected populations of an area include all those usually resident in the area, whatever their nationality. Members of the HM forces stationed outside the UK are excluded, members of the US forces stationed in the UK are included. Students are taken to be resident at their term-time address.

Births & Deaths

The number of births and deaths are registrations of births and deaths occurring within the UK. Births and deaths to British residents temporarily overseas are not included and therefore some deaths of armed forces personnel during wartime would not be included.

2003 births and deaths figures are provisional.

Natural change is the difference between births and deaths. More births than deaths results in the population experiencing natural increase, while more deaths than births results in natural decline. Natural change shown here is the difference between calendar year data. However, for the purpose of making population estimates and projections, natural change is calculated from mid-year to mid-year.

Fertility

Mean age at childbearing is standardised for the changing age distribution of the population.

Family size is measured by completed family size, which is the average number of children borne by a group of women by the end of childbearing.

Data on percentage of women with three or more children and percentage of childlessness are only available for England and Wales, but the general trends described here are applicable to the UK as a whole.

Data on age of women at first birth are only available for England and Wales.

Age Structure

The median is the midpoint age that separates the younger half of a population from the older half.

Ethnicity

Census ethnic group questions: In both 1991 and 2001 respondents were asked to which ethnic group they considered themselves to belong. The question asked in 2001 was more extensive than that asked in 1991, so that people could tick 'Mixed' for the first time. This change in answer categories may account for a small part of the observed increase in the minority ethnic population over the period. Different versions of the ethnic group question were asked in England and Wales, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland, to reflect local differences in the requirement for information. However, results are comparable across the UK as a whole.

In the table '.' means not applicable.

Non-White ethnic group includes all minority ethnic groups but not White Irish or Other White groups.

Moves within the UK

2001 data refer to UK residents of all ages.

Net flows exclude migrants who reported having no usual address 12 months before Census day. Net flows of internal migrants to or from an area are just one of a number of components of population change and are therefore not

necessarily indicative of the total population change of that area.

The total inter-regional migration flows shown by the Census are broadly consistent with ONS annual internal migration estimates. ONS Migration Statistics Unit publishes quarterly and annual (mid-year) estimates of internal migration for various UK geographies. These are produced using a combination of two sources: the NHS Central Register and GP Patient Register data.

International migration

The terms in-migration and out-migration refer to migration into and out of the UK respectively, and are therefore interchangeable with immigration and emigration.

Estimates of total international migration are based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), with adjustments for those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and migration flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Estimates prior to 1991 are based on the IPS only. This means that figures for years from 1991 onwards include all categories of migrants and therefore represent total international migration, while figures for years prior to 1991 exclude certain categories of migration.

An international migrant is someone who changes their country of usual residence for a year or more.

In this analysis, the EU is as it was constituted before 1 May 2004, consisting of 15 countries.

Overseas-born

Overseas-born refers to all people born outside the United Kingdom.

State pension age is age 65 and older for men and age 60 and older for women.

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