

Methodology Note – Interim Revised National Population Estimates 1992-2000

Introduction

Revised mid-2001 population estimates for England and Wales were published on 26 September 2003. About 193 thousand people have been added to the mid-2001 estimate of the population of England and Wales, revising it to 52.3 million. Most of the extra people are young adult men aged 25-34, with smaller adjustments for males aged 35-49. These adjustments were made in 68 Local Authorities where the best evidence indicated that these men were underestimated in the 2001 Census and were most likely to live. There are 3 other elements that also contribute to the revision:

- It includes a small element to take account of some unprocessed Census forms that affects only a few areas (16 LAs in all) and adds about 7,000 people.
- The mid-2001 population estimates published in October 2002 were based on the Census estimates published in September 2002. Between September 2002 and February 2003 these Census estimates changed slightly. ONS has used the final Census estimates in the revised mid-2001 population estimates. The main impact is on the age distribution at single year of age, the estimates at LA and E&W level are largely unaffected.
- The revision also includes a small reduction to take out some Armed Forces personnel who were included in both the estimates for England and Wales and in the estimates for Northern Ireland where they were stationed. They are now included only in the population estimates for Northern Ireland.

The mid-2002 population estimates also incorporate the revision to the mid-2001 estimates. The implication of revisions to mid-2001 is that some revisions will also be required to the historic population series for the years 1992 to 2000 for the UK, GB and England and Wales. No revisions have been made to the 2001 mid-year estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

ONS have now produced a national level interim revised population series for mid-1982 to mid-2000 that are consistent with the revised mid-2001 estimates for England and Wales. This note describes the method used to produce the interim revised series. The method was applied at the level of England and Wales (separately); these have been added to the existing estimates for Northern Ireland and Scotland to produce an interim revised UK series. Both the UK and E&W interim series are subject to revision when the final series is published in Spring 2004.

Methodology used to create the interim revised series

The purpose of these estimates is to provide an interim series that is consistent with both the 1991 mid-year estimates and the 2001 revised mid-year estimates. The interim revised estimates have been produced using a basic period adjustment whereby the overall adjustment by age and sex between the revised mid-2001 estimates and previous mid-2001 estimates are divided by ten and added to each year in turn by age and sex from 1992 to 2000. The adjustments will be cumulative, so the revised 2001 mid-year estimates which show an overall adjustment of 192,600, will mean an adjustment of 19,260 in 1992, an adjustment of 38,520 in 1993 and so on.

The same adjustments will be made for each age and sex, eg the same adjustments to 20 year olds in 2000 will be made to 20 year olds in 1992.

Availability of other interim mid-year estimates

These interim revised mid-year estimates are only available at a national level (for UK, GB, E&W, E, W) by quinary age group. Revised population estimates covering the period 1991 to 2000 were released on 27 February 2003, available by single year of age at a national level and for local authorities and health areas. These figures have not been updated, and any users making use of these figures should be aware that they are not consistent with the interim revised estimates for 1992 to 2000 at national level. It is planned that comprehensive revisions to the historic series will be published in Spring 2004.