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Correction Notice

Population Estimates by Ethnic Group: 2001 to 2007 Commentary

Production errors have been identified in this commentary paper since it was originally published on 23 April 2009. The following data were affected:

Table 3 – 2007 Totals

Table 5 – data for the wrong year were originally published

Both tables have now been corrected.

ONS apologises for any inconvenience caused.

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Population Estimates by Ethnic Group: 2001 to 2007 Commentary

September 2009

This paper provides some comments on the population estimates by ethnic group released in April 2009^a. The methodology used to produce the estimates is described in a separate paper. Tables referred to in the text are found at the end of the paper.

Changes in the population by ethnic group in England

Table 1 shows total population estimates for each ethnic group for mid-years 2001 to 2007, together with the average annual growth rate for each group over the period. Table 2 provides a summary of the components of change^b between 2001 and 2007.

While the White British and White Irish groups decrease in size over the period (due both to net international emigration and, for the relatively old White Irish population, more deaths than births), this is more than offset by the increase in other ethnic groups, with the rises in the Other White, Asian Indian and Black African groups making the largest contributions to growth. Nearly three quarters of the total growth of the non-‘White British’ groups is attributable to net migration into England.

Subnational patterns of development

In addition to patterns of growth seen at the England level, the estimates provide detail on developments within smaller areas, down to the level of the local authority district. Table 3 shows growth rates for Government Office Regions (GORs).

London retains great concentrations of the non-‘White British’ ethnic groups. Its proportion of the total non-‘White British’ population has risen from 40.4 per cent in 2001 to 42.3 per cent in 2007. Indeed, amongst the GORs, London shows the lowest annualised growth rate of the non-‘White British’ population over the period. In general, GORs with a small base of non-‘White British’ population show the highest growth rates.

The pattern of faster growth of non-‘White British’ populations in areas with smaller starting populations is also clear in the results for individual local authorities. Table 4 shows the local

^a Similar commentaries were published on previous releases of the estimates. These earlier documents can be obtained from the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group team (email: epe@ons.gov.uk, tel: 01329 444669).

^b Components of change shown will not add exactly to total change. Changes in special populations (Armed Forces, prisoners and school boarders) and small adjustments made to constrain to the Mid-Year Population Estimates are included in the total change figure.

authorities with the highest and lowest rates of increase for the non-‘White British’ population. In general, the highest growth rates are seen in those areas with small starting populations of non-‘White British’, with, conversely, the lowest growth rates associated with high proportions. 13 local authorities (11 in Inner London and 2 in Outer London) show a fall in the proportion of the total population belonging to a non-‘White British’ group between 2001 and 2007, reflecting a rise in the number of White British, due largely to natural growth, but also partly due to net migration from elsewhere in England and the rest of the UK.

Ethnic Groups

White British

The population of this group is estimated to have fallen by 190,000 between 2001 and 2007 (annual negative growth of -0.1 per cent). Though there were estimated to be 181,000 more births than deaths, this is more than offset by net emigration (to other parts of the UK and overseas) of 380,000.

White Irish

The White Irish group has an estimated annual growth rate of -1.6 per cent (a net decrease of 58,000 people) between 2001 and 2007 and is the only group other than White British to show a decrease over this period. This fall is attributable both to net out-migration (in particular to Ireland) and to an excess of deaths over births explained by the relatively old age-structure of this group.

White Other

This group has grown at an annual rate of 4.8 per cent between 2001 and 2007. About 399,000 of the total 429,000 estimated growth is contributed by net migration.

Mixed: White and Black Caribbean

Annual growth of 3.2 per cent over the period is driven by high natural growth – primarily due to the age structure. This group is the only group other than White British and White Irish to show negative net migration (though little should be drawn from such small numbers).

Mixed: White and Black African

This is the smallest of the standard groups. The relatively high annual growth of 6.5 per cent over the period is driven by natural growth.

Mixed: White and Asian

Again, the estimates suggest that growth of this small group is driven by natural growth.

Mixed: Other Mixed

Once again, the estimates suggest that growth of this small group is driven by natural growth.

Asian or Asian British: Indian

The largest of the Asian groups: annual growth of 3.9 per cent over 2001-2007 has added 270,000 to the estimate for this group, about three quarters of which is attributable to net migration.

Asian or Asian British: Pakistani

The Asian Pakistani group is estimated to have grown at a rate of 3.9 per cent per year between 2001 and 2007 due both to natural growth and net migration.

Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi

The Asian Bangladeshi group shows similar growth patterns to the Asian: Pakistani group (though it has a very different geographical distribution).

Asian or Asian British: Other Asian

This is the fastest growing of the Asian groups with annual growth of 5.7 per cent between 2001 and 2007. About three-quarters of this growth is attributable to net migration.

Black or Black British: Caribbean

This group, which has a relatively old age-structure compared to some other non-‘White British’ groups, shows one of the lowest growth rates of only 0.9 per cent per year.

Black or Black British: African

This is the third fastest growing group at 6.8 per cent over the period. Net inflows of asylum seekers with Zimbabwean and Somalian nationality make a particular contribution to growth.

Black or Black British: Other Black

Annual growth of 3.2 per cent for this small group driven primarily by an excess of births over deaths.

Chinese or other ethnic group: Chinese

The fastest growing group, with 9.9 per cent annual growth adding 173,000 to the 2001 estimate of 227,000 by 2007. More than 90 per cent of this growth is contributed by net migration.

Chinese or other ethnic group: Other

This group shows the second fastest growth rate of 9.2 per cent per year, driven by net migration (particularly in-migration from the Philippines).

Comparison with other sources

Figure 1 provides a comparison of population estimates by ethnic group for 2001 taken from the 2001 Census, the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and the population estimates by ethnic group (as the LFS does not separately identify White: Irish, this group has been added to ‘White: Other’ for the Census and population estimates by ethnic group shown in the chart).

Unsurprisingly the Census and the (Census-based) population estimates show similar distributions, though the adjustments for under-enumeration made in the mid-year estimates (which are reflected in the population estimates by ethnic group) do have a proportionately greater effect on those ethnic groups with relatively more young men and a greater concentration in urban areas.

Table 5 provides a comparison of the population estimates by ethnic group for 2007 with corresponding Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates. Notable differences exist for White Other and Other ethnic group, where the APS provides higher estimates, and the

mixed groups; Asian: Indian; Other Black; and Chinese groups, where the APS provides lower estimates.

Some reasons for differences between Census-based estimates and LFS/APS results are discussed in '*Comparison of 2001 Census and Labour Force Survey labour market data*', available at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=1037&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=1>. In addition to the sampling variability inherent in LFS/APS estimates for small groups, the differences in the estimates for the mixed groups between the Census-based estimates and the LFS/APS may also be partly attributable to differences in coding rules for the two data sources. Aggregation of the White Irish group may explain the discrepancy in the White Other estimate.

Table 1: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, England

	mid-year							Thousands	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Absolute change 2001-2007	Average percentage annual growth rate: 2001-2007
All people	49,450	49,652	49,866	50,111	50,466	50,763	51,092	1,642	0.5
White: British	42,926	42,868	42,805	42,756	42,753	42,738	42,736	-190	-0.1
White: Irish	629	620	611	602	592	581	571	-58	-1.6
White: Other White	1,342	1,397	1,448	1,514	1,623	1,699	1,776	434	4.8
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	234	242	250	258	266	275	283	49	3.2
Mixed: White and Black African	78	84	89	95	101	108	114	36	6.5
Mixed: White and Asian	187	198	209	220	233	246	261	74	5.7
Mixed: Other Mixed	154	163	171	181	191	201	212	58	5.4
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1,046	1,075	1,109	1,156	1,215	1,264	1,316	270	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	720	742	764	795	826	861	906	186	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	282	292	302	313	324	338	354	72	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	244	260	276	291	310	323	339	95	5.7
Black or Black British: Caribbean	570	575	581	587	590	595	600	30	0.9
Black or Black British: African	491	532	579	621	659	695	731	240	6.8
Black or Black British: Other Black	97	100	104	107	110	114	118	20	3.2
Chinese or other ethnic group: Chinese	227	255	286	315	347	374	400	173	9.9
Chinese or other ethnic group: Other Ethnic Group	222	252	283	301	325	352	376	154	9.2
<i>Non-White British</i>	6,524	6,785	7,061	7,355	7,713	8,025	8,356	1,832	4.2
<i>White: Irish and Other White</i>	1,971	2,017	2,059	2,116	2,215	2,280	2,347	376	3.0
<i>Mixed</i>	654	686	719	754	791	830	870	216	4.9
<i>Asian</i>	2,291	2,368	2,451	2,555	2,675	2,787	2,915	624	4.1
<i>Black</i>	1,158	1,207	1,263	1,314	1,359	1,403	1,448	290	3.8
<i>Chinese and Other Ethnic Group</i>	449	507	569	616	672	726	776	327	9.5

Table 2: Components of Change, England, 2001 - 2007

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>			
	Total growth	Natural growth	Net migration	Average percentage annual growth rate: mid 2001-2007
All people	1,642	689	934	0.5
White: British	-190	181	-380	-0.1
White: Irish	-58	-38	-22	-1.6
White: Other White	434	30	399	4.8
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	49	52	-3	3.2
Mixed: White and Black African	36	24	13	6.5
Mixed: White and Asian	74	54	20	5.7
Mixed: Other Mixed	58	40	17	5.4
Asian or Asian British: Indian	270	63	207	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	186	96	89	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	72	39	33	3.9
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	95	24	71	5.7
Black or Black British: Caribbean	30	17	12	0.9
Black or Black British: African	240	65	174	6.8
Black or Black British: Other Black	20	15	4	3.2
Chinese or other ethnic group: Chinese	173	14	159	9.9
Chinese or other ethnic group: Other Ethnic Group	154	14	140	9.2
<i>Non-White British</i>	1,832	508	1,314	4.2
<i>White: Irish and Other White</i>	376	-8	377	3.0
<i>Mixed</i>	216	169	46	4.9
<i>Asian</i>	624	222	401	4.1
<i>Black</i>	290	97	191	3.8
<i>Chinese and Other Ethnic Group</i>	327	28	299	9.5

Table 3: Non-'White British' population: Government Office Regions, 2007

Thousands and percentages

GOR Code	GOR	Total population		Non-'White British' population		Non-White British as % of total		Average percentage annual growth rate: mid 2001-2007	
		2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	Total	Non-White British
A	North East	2,540	2,565	94	162	3.7	6.3	0.2	9.6
B	North West	6,773	6,864	540	726	8.0	10.6	0.2	5.1
D	Yorkshire and The Humber	4,977	5,177	418	621	8.4	12.0	0.7	6.8
E	East Midlands	4,190	4,400	370	527	8.8	12.0	0.8	6.1
F	West Midlands	5,281	5,382	737	907	14.0	16.9	0.3	3.5
G	East of England	5,401	5,661	468	741	8.7	13.1	0.8	7.9
H	London	7,322	7,557	2,959	3,195	40.4	42.3	0.5	1.3
J	South East	8,023	8,309	708	1,062	8.8	12.8	0.6	7.0
K	South West	4,943	5,178	231	415	4.7	8.0	0.8	10.2
TOTAL		49,450	51,092	6,524	8,356	13.2	16.4	0.5	4.2

Table 4: Growth of non-White British Population: Selected local authorities***Local authorities with Highest and Lowest Growth Rates for non-'White British' Groups***

		Annualised percentage growth rate 2001- 2007	percentage of population at mid- 2007
18UK	Torridge	17.4	5.8
36UH	Selby	17.3	4.5
36UF	Ryedale	16.8	5.4
36UB	Craven	16.4	7.4
35UB	<i>Alnwick*</i>	16.2	3.7
35UC	<i>Berwick-upon-Tweed*</i>	16.1	3.5
34UG	South Northamptonshire	15.9	9.4
22UN	Tendring	15.8	7.7
30UQ	Wyre	15.8	5.6
12UD	Fenland	15.8	7.0
00BG	Tower Hamlets	0.7	55.5
00BB	Newham	0.3	67.7
00BJ	Wandsworth	-0.1	33.4
00AU	Islington	-0.2	40.8
00AJ	Ealing	-0.3	54.3
00AE	Brent	-0.5	68.4
00AN	Hammersmith and Fulham	-0.7	39.3
00AP	Haringey	-0.8	51.0
00AM	Hackney	-1.1	51.6
00AY	Lambeth	-1.9	44.5

Local authorities with highest and lowest proportions of non-'White British' Groups

		Annualised percentage growth rate 2001- 2007	percentage of population at mid- 2007
00AE	Brent	-0.5	68.4
00BB	Newham	0.3	67.7
00BG	Tower Hamlets	0.7	55.5
00AJ	Ealing	-0.3	54.3
00AQ	Harrow	1.4	53.3
00AM	Hackney	-1.1	51.6
00AP	Haringey	-0.8	51.0
00BK	Westminster	2.1	50.6
00AW	Kensington and Chelsea	1.4	49.4
00BC	Redbridge	3.1	49.0
16UF	Eden	15.1	3.5
16UE	Copeland	12.7	3.4
20UB	<i>Chester-le-Street**</i>	11.0	3.3
16UB	Allerdale	12.7	3.3
35UD	<i>Blyth Valley*</i>	11.2	3.2
35UG	<i>Wansbeck*</i>	11.2	3.2
20UJ	<i>Wear Valley**</i>	12.5	3.1
20UD	<i>Derwentside**</i>	14.8	3.1
20UG	<i>Sedgefield**</i>	12.7	2.8
20UF	<i>Easington**</i>	11.8	2.5

*Former Local Authority District now part of Northumberland UA

**Former Local Authority District now part of County Durham UA

Table 5: Mid-2007 Population Estimates by Ethnic Group and Estimates Derived from the Annual Population Survey, England, 2007

Thousands and percentages

Population Estimates by Ethnic Group	Population		Annual Population Survey	Population	
	Population	% of Total		Population	% of Total
All People	51,092	100.0	All People	49,387	100.0
White: British	42,736	83.6	British	41,188	83.4
White: Irish	571	1.1			
White: Other White	1,776	3.5	Other White	2,503	5.1
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	283	0.6	White and Black Caribbean	211	0.4
Mixed: White and Black African	114	0.2	White and Black African	73	0.1
Mixed: White and Asian	261	0.5	White and Asian	144	0.3
Mixed: Other Mixed	212	0.4	Other Mixed	131	0.3
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1,316	2.6	Indian	1,108	2.2
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	906	1.8	Pakistani	825	1.7
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	354	0.7	Bangladeshi	334	0.7
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	339	0.7	Other Asian	423	0.9
Black or Black British: Caribbean	600	1.2	Black Caribbean	613	1.2
Black or Black British: African	731	1.4	Black African	715	1.4
Black or Black British: Other Black	118	0.2	Other Black	56	0.1
Chinese or other ethnic group: Chinese	400	0.8	Chinese	195	0.4
Chinese or other ethnic group: Other Ethnic Group	376	0.7	Other	829	1.7
			N/A / Did not answer	36	0.1

Footnote

The Annual Population Survey uses slightly different categories in tabulating results by ethnic group to these used in the Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, as shown in the table.

Figure 1: Population by Selected Ethnic Groups: England, 2001

