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Coverage
United Kingdom

Joint reporting on demographic statistics

New measures to improve the way in which existing population and migration statistics are reported across government are introduced today, with the simultaneous publication of a range of demographic data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Home Office.

The initiative represents the first step towards a new 'coherent reporting' programme for demographic statistics, one of the key recommendations of the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Force on Migration Statistics.

Population and migration statistics are produced by a number of government departments, as well as the ONS, and last year alone saw data released on over 40 separate dates.

In contrast the new initiative aims to ensure that related demographic data from different government departments are presented in a co-ordinated manner on a limited number of dates throughout the year.

Eventually, the joint reports will be accompanied by a brief outline of key points from the range of published data and there will also be an annual report on migration statistics, published jointly across government.

ONS today announced:

- A public consultation on improved coherence in the way that population and migration statistics are reported. This will help to shape the way that these statistics are reported in the future. Further information on this consultation can be accessed on the ONS website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/Migration_and_Population_Consultation.asp Responses are invited until 27 May 2008.
- The *2007 Local Authority Case Studies: Final Report* brings together the recommendations of four previously published individual local authority case studies. Reports of the individual studies, conducted in collaboration with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, Derby City Council and the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Barnet, were

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published in 2007, and were followed by workshops involving representatives from local government and the health service. This report presents consolidated recommendations that take account of discussions at these workshops.

- The latest Quarterly Population Estimates for December 2007. These Experimental Quarterly Population Estimates are early seasonal estimates of the population of England, Wales and English Government Office Regions.
- Further releases of population estimates for England and Wales covering revisions and updates to ward population estimates and the publication for the first time of population estimates for National Parks and Parliamentary Constituencies, all released as experimental statistics.
- Internal migration estimates for countries within the United Kingdom and, within England, between the Government Office Regions of England and the rest of the United Kingdom for the year ending June 2007.

The Home Office today released:

- Asylum Statistics for fourth quarter 2007, available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>
- The Accession Monitoring Report to the end of 2007, available at http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/accession_monitoring_report/
- Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Statistics, available at <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/Reports/bulgarianromanian/>

Related publications to be issued by ONS over the next three months include:

- UK electoral statistics for 2007, released on 28 February.
- *Comparison of Statistics on Jobs, September 2007*. This article, to be released on 29 February, compares estimates of jobs from the Labour Force Survey (a household survey) with corresponding estimates from the Work Force Jobs series



(mainly compiled from business surveys). It concentrates on reconciling the two surveys by improving estimates of double-counting and under-coverage for self-employed and temporary foreign workers respectively.

- *Population Trends* vol 131 will be released on 27 March.

The next joint publication date is planned for 20 May. This will again include a range of information from both the Home Office and ONS.

Additionally today a report on progress made towards the recommendations from the 2006 Interdepartmental Task Forces on Migration Statistics is to be released. The recommendations cover improvements in terms of better use of administrative data and statistical modelling in migration estimation and improved methods for gaining information on migrants as they enter and leave the country.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. Experimental statistics are statistics that are in the testing phase and are not yet fully developed as National Statistics. There is a greater emphasis within ONS on consulting users during methodological reviews and the development stage of methodological changes. In particular there is a strong desire to make experimental series available during a development period, to assist in the quality assurance process, and to help familiarise potential users with any changes. © Crown copyright 2008.