



23 December 2005

AMENDMENT

A minor error has been corrected for the mid-2004 population estimates affecting the London Borough of Harrow and 'higher' geographical levels. As a result the following data in this News Release has changed:

Population of England in mid-2004 increased by 237,400 from mid-2003 (original figure was 238,000).

Population of the United Kingdom in mid-2004 increased by 280,600 from mid-2003 (original figure was 281,200).

ONS Apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Population and migration

Population of England passes 50 million and UK approaches 60 million

The population of England has passed 50 million for the first time mid-2004 population estimates released today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show.

The population of England was 50.1 million at 30 June 2004, an increase of 0.5 per cent (237,400) compared with mid-2003. The population of the United Kingdom was 59.8 million, a rise of 0.5 per cent (280,600) on a year earlier, compared to 0.4 per cent between mid-2002 and mid-2003. This is in line with population projections that the UK population would reach 60 million by mid-2005.

The population of all countries in the UK grew by between 0.4 per cent (Scotland) and 0.5 per cent (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland). This continues a pattern of steady growth in the UK population, increasing by nearly 2.4 million since 1991 (4.2 per cent) equivalent to an annual average increase of 0.3 per cent.

The UK population continues to age and the number of people over 85-years-old increased from 873,300 to 1,111,600 between 1991 and 2004. This age group now makes up 1.9 per cent of the population. In 2004 there were 322,800 males and 788,800 females in this age group.

The population estimates for England and Wales are also published by Government Office Region, Local Authority, Strategic Health Authority in England and Local Health Board in Wales. At regional level the population grew most in the South West region (0.8 per cent) and least in the North East region (0.2 per cent).

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Over one third of the latest increase in the UK population is due to natural change – more births than deaths. The remainder of the increase is due to migration and other changes.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Mid-2004 population estimates for Scotland were released by the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO) on 27 April 2005 and can be found at: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/recently-published-population-estimates/index.html
2. Mid-2004 population estimates for Northern Ireland were released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on 29 July 2005 and can be found at: www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/financeandpersonnel/DMB/datavault.html
3. 'Migration and other changes' at the UK level includes changes in the population due to civilian international migration and changes in the number of armed forces (both foreign and home) and their dependants resident in the UK.
4. Tables containing figures for natural change and 'migration and other changes' components are included in the set of population tables published by each country.
5. The international migration estimates used in the population estimates are for the period mid-2003 to mid-2004. International migration estimates for the calendar year 2003 were published on 4 November 2004. International migration estimates for 2004 will be published on 20 October 2005.
6. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
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