

27 August

Coverage
United Kingdom

Theme
Population



UK population grows to 61.4 million

The population of the United Kingdom has grown to over 61 million for the first time, according to estimates released by the Office for National Statistics today.

- The population of the UK was 61.4 million in mid-2008, up by 408,000 (0.7 per cent) on the previous year and over two million more than in mid-2001
- In the seven years since 2001, the population has increased by an average of 0.5 per cent per year. Increases in births, decreases in deaths and changes in the pattern of international migration into and out of the UK have all contributed to population growth since 2001
- For the first time in nearly a decade, natural change (the difference between births and deaths) has overtaken net migration (the difference between long-term migration into and out of the UK) as the main contributor to population growth over a 12 month period
- In the year to mid-2008, natural change accounted for 54 per cent of all population growth in the UK
- The UK population continues to age. The number of people aged 85 and over reached a record 1.3 million in mid-2008, accounting for more than 2 per cent of the total population.

Mid-2008 population estimates tables for the UK, England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found here:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=601>

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Next publication date
27 May 2010

Latest births, deaths and migration data

Other related publications today include:

- The latest Migration Statistics Quarterly Report. This report includes provisional estimates of international migration based on the International Passenger Survey. These show that net migration during the 2008 calendar year was lower than in the year to mid-2008, largely driven by a rise in emigration from the UK. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15230>
- Summary tables of birth and death registrations in England and Wales during 2008 (final figures). These show that numbers of

births and deaths were both higher in the year to December 2008 than in the year to mid-2008.

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408
(births)

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14409
(deaths)

- Live births in England and Wales by country of birth of mother during 2008. These show that:
 - There were 170,834 live births in England and Wales to mothers born outside the UK. This was 24 per cent of all live births, compared to 23 per cent in 2007
 - The three most common countries of birth of mothers from outside the UK were Pakistan, Poland and India
 - The Government Office Region (GOR) in England with the highest percentage of live births to mothers born outside the UK was London (55 per cent). The North East had the lowest percentage (9 per cent).

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

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. Mid-2008 population estimates for the UK and England & Wales released today can be found at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106.
3. Mid-2008 population estimates for Scotland are published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and can be found at:
www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html.
4. Mid-2008 population estimates for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and can be found at:
www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm.
5. Published tables include UK, Great Britain and constituent countries for mid-2008 by single year of age and sex. Local Authority and Strategic Health Authority tables by selected and quinary age groups, and broad components of population change are also published for 2008.
6. Net Migration includes all civilian migration flows to and from all countries outside the UK. It is based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). It also includes adjustments for (i) those whose intended length of stay changes such that their migrant status changes; (ii) asylum seekers and their dependents not identified by the IPS; and (iii) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
7. The UN definition of a long-term international migrant is a person who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.
8. ONS is undertaking a significant programme of work to improve the population and migration statistics it produces. As announced in February 2009, a package of improvements for mid-year population estimates for England and Wales has been identified and these will be implemented in May 2010. The improved methods will result in revised population estimates for local authorities in England and Wales for mid-2002 to mid-2008. Population estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland will remain unaffected. Details of the announcement and the improvements package can be found at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp
9. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.