

27 September 2007

**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

Population and Migration

## Long-term assumptions for UK population projections

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) sets out the long-term assumptions of future fertility, mortality and net migration on which the new 2006-based population projections, due to be published on 23 October, will be based. These are presented in a report, *2006-based national population projections: underlying long-term assumptions*, released today by ONS.

The assumptions are based on analysis of recent demographic trends. The key assumptions for the UK are:

- An average family size of 1.84 children per woman, an increase of 0.10 compared with the 2004-based projections.
- An expectation of life at birth in 2031 of 82.7 years for males and 86.2 years for females, compared with 81.4 years and 85.0 years respectively in the 2004-based projections.
- A long-term assumption for net migration to the UK of +190,000 each year compared with +145,000 a year in the previous projections.

This report is available at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/PT129\\_Long\\_term\\_assumptions.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/PT129_Long_term_assumptions.pdf)

Today ONS is also publishing:

- Subnational Population Projections: Revised 2004-based projections for 2005-2029, for Local Authorities and former Strategic Health Authorities in England. These are available at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/snpp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/snpp)

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- A review of the potential use of administrative sources in the estimation of population statistics. This paper compares estimates of international migration at local authority district level available from three administrative data sources (the Worker Registration Scheme, National Insurance Number allocations, and recording of new registrations with NHS General Practitioners). Comparisons are also made with ONS estimates. It concludes that, for the majority of local areas, patterns are similar. However in some areas there are large differences between sources. Among the most important reasons for these differences are that different populations are covered, that inclusion in each source is based on different lengths of stay in the country and that registration is not compulsory on some of the systems. This paper is available at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/admin.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/admin.pdf)

On 13 September ONS published additional information on population statistics at local authority level. They are available at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15001](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15001)

The additional information included figures on the volume of migration into and out of each local authority. These showed that in the years from mid 2001 to mid 2006, Cambridge had the highest average volume of overall migration in England and Wales (278 moves per 1,000 population). The highest figure for international migration was for Westminster (93). Volumes were lowest in Blaenau Gwent (44 for overall migration, and one for international migration).

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

1. *Population Trends 129*, previously announced for 27 September, has been deferred until mid-October. See the operational note at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/poptrend0907.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/poptrend0907.pdf)
2. The assumptions for national population projections are prepared by ONS in liaison with devolved administrations, following consultation with key users of projections in each country and advice from an expert academic advisory panel.

3. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
4. 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. © Crown copyright 2007.