



# Optimum Population Trust



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## UK population growth

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UK population reached **61.4 million in mid-2008**, having grown 408,000 in the previous year. More than two million people have been added to the UK population in the last seven years, and our numbers have increased by more than a fifth since 1950 - in less than a lifetime, in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. On 21 October 2009 **2008-based population projections** released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed expected population growth of 16 million (more than two Londons) to 77 million in 2050, passing 70 million in 2029. Although a third\* of the public believe population growth to be the most serious threat to the future wellbeing of Britain, no political party has a clear policy to reverse it. **Act now. Call for an population policy - stabilisation and gradual decrease by 2050. See [Fertility, Migration, OPT Policies, OPT Population policy projections and Briefings and Submissions](#) for population policy alternatives.**

## Future population growth

MILLIONS, ONS PRINCIPAL PROJECTION 2008-based, published 21 October 2009

Mid-2005	Mid-2006	Mid-2010	Mid-2020	Mid-2031	Mid-2041	Mid-2051	Mid-2061	Mid-2071	Mid-2076
	60.587	62.222	66.522	70.933	74.165	77.073	79.697	82.341	85.141

## Past population growth 1750-2009

Year to	UK Population Millions	Total pop growth NI+NM previous 12 months	Live births previous 12 months	Deaths previous 12 months	Natural increase (NI) previous 12 months	Net legal immigration (NM) previous 12 months	Notes

<b>End-2008 (Preliminary estimates)</b>		<b>Est 337,698*</b>	<b>794,349*</b>	<b>574,651*</b>	<b>219,698*</b>	<b>118,000**</b>	*Prov (E&W) ONS 21 May 09, GRO Scotland 12 Mar 09, NISRA 12 & 19 Mar 09. **ONS Migration Statistics 27 Aug 09
<b>Mid-2008</b>	<b>61.383</b>	<b>408,000</b>	<b>791,000</b>	<b>570,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>	ONS 27 Aug 09.
<b>End-2007</b>			<b>772,192</b>	<b>574,638</b>	<b>197,554</b>	<b>237,000</b>	Births & Deaths ONS, GROS, NISRA Migration ONS 19 Nov 08
<b>Mid-2007</b>	<b>60.975 (+0.6%)</b>	<b>388,000</b>	<b>758,000</b>	<b>571,000</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>ONS 21 Aug 08</b>
<b>End-2006</b>		<b>367,339</b>	<b>748,563</b>	<b>572,224</b>	<b>176,339</b>	<b>191,000</b>	ONS 24 Sep 07 + GRO Scot, NISRA
<b>Mid-2006</b>	<b>60.587 (+0.6%)</b>	<b>349,000</b>	<b>734,000</b>	<b>575,000</b>	<b>159,000</b>	<b>190,000</b>	ONS 22 August 2007
<b>End-2005</b>		343,600	722,600	583,000	139,600	204,000	ONS 2 Nov 2006 HSQ 31 Autumn 2006
<b>Mid-2005</b>	<b>60.238 (+0.7%)</b>	<b>393,000</b>	<b>717,500</b>	<b>590,600</b>	<b>126,800</b>	<b>266,000</b>	ONS 22 Aug 2007
<b>End 2004</b>		375,205	715,996	584,791	131,205	244,000	HSQ 27 Autumn 05 Mig ONS 15 Nov 07
<b>Mid-2004</b>	<b>59.846 (+0.47%)</b>	<b>289,000</b>	<b>707,100</b>	<b>603,100</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	ONS 22 Aug 2007
<b>End 2003</b>		230,492	695,525	612,033	83,492	147,000	ONS
<b>Mid- 2003<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59.557 (+0.39%)</b>	<b>234,000</b>	<b>681,700</b>	<b>604,800</b>	<b>76,900</b>	<b>157,000</b>	ONS Pop Trends 126
<b>End 2002</b>		216,500	668,800	606,300	62,500	154,000	Mig ONS 13 Nov 2003
<b>Mid- 2002<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59.324 (+0.35%)</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>663,000</b>	<b>601,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>148,000</b>	ONS 22 Aug 2007
<b>End 2001</b>		239,800	669,100	602,300	66,800	173,000	ONS Pop Trends 2006
<b>Mid-2001<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59.113</b>	<b>227,000</b>	<b>674,000</b>	<b>599,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	ONS Pop Trends 126
<b>Mid-2000<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>58.886</b>	<b>202,000</b>	<b>688,000</b>	<b>626,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>139,000</b>	ONS Pop Trends 126

Mid-1999 <sup>2</sup>	58.684	209,000	713,000	634,000	77,000	133,000	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1998 <sup>2</sup>	58.475	161,000	718,000	617,000	100,000	60,000	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid 1997 <sup>2</sup>	58.314	150,000	740,000	637,000	103,000	47,000	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1996 <sup>2</sup>	58.164	140,000	722,000	645,000	77,000	62,000	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1995	58.025	163,000				175,400	<sup>1</sup> ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1994	57.862	148,000				176,800	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1993	57.714	114,000				1-1,200	ONS Pop Trends 126
Mid-1992	57.600	200,000				10,000	ONS Pop Trends 134
Mid-1991	57.400						Social Trends 2006, ONS
Mid-1990	57.561						ONS Pop Trends 90
Mid-1970	55.632						ODPM
<b>Decade to</b>	<b>End of period</b>	<b>Ave annual total growth</b>	<b>Ave annual live births</b>	<b>Ave annual deaths</b>	<b>Ave annual natural increase</b>	<b>Ave annual net migration</b>	ONS Population and Vital Statistics Table 5.2
Mid-1991	57.439	108,000	757,000	655,000	103,000	5,000	Social Trends 37, ONS
Mid-1981	56.357	43,000	736,000	666,000	69,000	-27,000	Social Trends 37, ONS
Mid-1971	55.928	312,000	962,000	638,000	324,000	-12,000	Social Trends 37, ONS
Mid-1961	52.807	252,000	839,000	593,000	246,000	6,000	Social Trends 37, ONS
1941-1951	50.225	213,000	793,000	604,000	190,000	22,000	ONS Table 5.2
Mid-1931	46.038	201,000	824,000	555,000	268,000	-67,000	ONS Table 5.2
Mid-1921	44.027	195,000	975,000	689,000	286,000	-92,000	ONS Table 5.2
Mid-1911	42.082	385,000	1,091,000	624,000	467,000	-82,000	ONS Table 5.2
1901	<sup>5</sup> 38.237						
1801	<sup>5</sup> 10.500						
<sup>5</sup> Est 1750	5.600						

**PROJECTED UK POPULATION GROWTH (MILLIONS, PRINCIPAL PROJECTION, 2006-based, published October 2007)**

Mid-2005	Mid-2006	Mid-2010	Mid-2020	Mid-2031	Mid-2041	Mid-2051	Mid-2061	Mid-2071	Mid-2076
	60.587	62.309	66.754	71.100	74.306	77.236	79.831	82.478	83.878

**PROJECTED UK POPULATION GROWTH (MILLIONS, PRINCIPAL PROJECTION, 2004-based, published October 2005)**

Mid-2005	Mid-2006	Mid-2010	Mid-2020	Mid-2031	Mid-2041	Mid-2051	Mid-2061	Mid-2071	Mid-2074
60.218	60.533	61.619	64.449	67.013	68.353	69.252	69.858	70.481	70.691

## FOOTNOTES

**Annual population growth** = natural increase (births minus deaths) + net migration, and migration also affects the number of births. Increasing life expectancy affects the number of deaths each year and later child-bearing and childlessness affect the number of births - these subcomponents are discussed on other sections of this website. ONS statistics are frequently retrospectively revised.

\*Ipsos-Mori poll, August 2006

**Retrospective revisions:** UK population figures are often revised retrospectively over a period of several years - for example, those for mid-1995 to mid-2003 were 'smoothed' following the April 2001 Census. Population counting methods are known to have been inaccurate, and on 23 May 2008 the House of Commons Treasury Committee published its report [Counting the Population](#), confirming flaws in official migration counting methods and suggesting ways of improving overall population counting. [ONS Release](#) of 2006 migration figures. Some figures may not correspond because of rounding or different statistical measuring methods. See also [ONS Why is the UK population growing?](#)

**Sources:** Natural increase (births minus deaths) from: Releases and Health Statistics Quarterly, ONS; General Register for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (N.I. births are defined as live births to resident mothers). Other sources: Population figures from mid-1995 to mid-2003 from Table 1.6, p58, Population Trends 121, ONS, Autumn 2005. The latest (Mid-2006 based) UK Principal Population Projection was published by the [Government Actuary's Department](#) on 23 October 2007. Some births and deaths occur within the UK to people not 'usually resident' in the UK. Births have exceeded deaths in every year since 1901 except 1976. Illegal immigration cannot be fully counted. UK Population Millions 1971-1995 are taken from ONS figures, Table D6900, Population Trends 112. Census figures for the early 19th century are estimates, since registration of births in England and Wales did not begin until 1837. <sup>1</sup>Migration figures were revised upwards by the Office of National Statistics in June 2003. Official (November 2002) population projections by the Government Actuary's Department were based on continued net inward migration of 100,000 a year, a figure now acknowledged to be a significant underestimate. GAD's mid-2006 based principal projection (October 2007) assumes a net inward flow of 190,000. ONS Revised net immigration figures include asylum seekers but do not include illegal immigrants. For further details see [Office of National Statistics](#). <sup>2</sup> These (retrospectively) revised population estimates were published on 9 September 2004 (for mid-2001 and mid-2002) and 7 October 2004 (for mid-1992 to mid-2000), following the local authority population studies which followed the Census in 2001. These revisions replace all earlier versions. <sup>5</sup> Census results - the Census 1801 figure excludes Northern Ireland. The figure for 1750 is an estimate, for England and Wales only. The United Kingdom incorporates Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland. Statistics for constituent parts of the UK are available from the Office of National Statistics.

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