

# in brief

## Population Trends and Health Statistics Quarterly

ONS are considering a possible merger of Population Trends and its sister journal Health Statistics Quarterly (HSQ) into one larger and more comprehensive quarterly journal at the start of 2010.

HSQ has been published for more than 10 years, shares similar values to Population Trends, but concentrates on topical health-related issues. For example, the most recent issue (No 42, Summer 2009) explores social inequalities in adult female mortality and updates the measurement of chronic illness.

The new combined title would offer a broader and more complementary cross section of news items, articles and data covering both key demographic/population and health issues. All material on fertility, mortality, migration and other population themes currently found in this volume would be retained.

The proposed title of a new journal is Population and Health Review.

Comments from readers of both journals are welcomed. Further details will be published later in the year.

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## Local Authority Boundary Changes from 1 April 2009

On 1 April 2009 a reorganisation of local government created nine new unitary authorities (UAs) in England. Five of these were created from county councils and their district councils. The remaining four were created by splitting Cheshire and Bedfordshire respectively into two each along district council boundaries. The nine unitary authorities are, therefore, all aggregates of former local authorities. Further details of the reorganisation are:

- Bedford UA was formed from Bedford District Council
- Central Bedfordshire UA was formed from Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire District Councils.
- Cheshire East UA was formed from Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich and Macclesfield District Councils.
- Cheshire West and Chester UA was formed from Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston, and Vale Royal District Councils.
- Cornwall UA was formed from Caradon, Carrick, Kerrier, North Cornwall, Penwith and Restormel District Councils (note the Isles of Scilly remains separate).
- Durham UA was formed from Chester-le-Street, Derwentside, Durham, Easington,

Sedgefield, Teesdale and Wear Valley District Councils.

- Northumberland UA was formed from Alnwick, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Blyth Valley, Castle Morpeth, Tynedale and Wansbeck District Councils.
- Shropshire UA was formed from Bridgnorth, North Shropshire, Oswestry, Shrewsbury & Atcham and South Shropshire District Councils.
- Wiltshire UA was formed from Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury and West Wiltshire District Councils.

As a result of these boundary changes, Cornwall UA with a population of around 530,000 is now the fourth largest local authority in terms of population, behind Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield.

This reorganisation has implications for statistics for the former local authorities, as well as creating the need to support the new administrative bodies. The intention is that for statistical publications and releases, where practically possible, statistics will be available for the new UAs and former district councils until the 2011 Census results are released in 2013.

## Social Trends 39

This annual publication draws together statistics from a wide range of government departments and other organisations to paint a broad picture of contemporary UK society, and how it has changed over the years. The underlying theme of *Social Trends 39* is households, families and children.

This year's edition, published on 15 April 2009, shows how demographic patterns in the UK continue to change. In 2007 there were 61.0 million people resident in the UK. Key points in the population chapter include:

Falls in birth rates and decreases in mortality mean that the growing UK population is becoming ever more skewed towards the older age groups. Population projections indicate that by 2031 there will be more than 1.1 million people aged 90 and over in Great Britain.

Population change is not just affected by births and deaths. Migration plays a key role in population growth and in 2007 around 577,000 people arrived to live in the UK for at least 12 months, while around 340,000 left the country with the intention of living abroad for a year or more. Estimates show that around 243,000 people moved to the UK for work-related reasons in 2007, compared with just over 100,000 in 1997. On the other hand, in 2007 more than 170,000 people left the UK to work, or look for work, abroad. The most popular destinations for UK nationals moving abroad in 2007 were Australia and New Zealand, followed by Spain and France.

The chapter also takes a look at key demographic indicators of other countries around the world, including seven countries, other than the UK, that sit on the Greenwich Meridian Line. For this set of countries, the highest rates of infant mortality and fertility and lowest life expectancies are found in countries near the equator.

In its entirety *Social Trends* takes a wide look at society with further chapters covering subjects as diverse as Education, Health, Transport, Lifestyles and more.

The report can be accessed at:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends39](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends39)

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[www.palgrave.com/ons](http://www.palgrave.com/ons)

## Ageing – ensuring research and statistics meet the needs of a changing society

On 27 March 2009 ONS held a seminar on Ageing to facilitate engagement with users and experts in the field. The seminar was attended by policy makers and researchers from other

government departments, as well as academics, representatives from local government, and voluntary organisations concerned with ageing.

The main aims of the day were:

- To share ideas and information on ageing research
- To raise awareness of ONS work on ageing
- To ensure that our research is well targeted and meeting changing needs

A number of presentations were given in the morning by ONS and external speakers and group discussions took place in the afternoon.

ONS speakers presented:

- an overview of population change in the UK, focussing on Ageing and Mortality based on the National Statistician's article published in *Population Trends* nr 134 in December 2008.
- completed, current and regular ageing related research and outputs produced by the ONS. This included work previously published in *Population Trends* (for example, analysis of the 'oldest old' population, and Internal migration trends at older ages); estimates of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy; and the recent analysis of subnational ageing appearing in this edition of *Population Trends*.
- future areas of ONS work on ageing including the development of a sub-national data visualisation tool; the production of a regular Ageing newsletter and reporting on the demographic drivers of ageing.
- a specific example of current ONS ageing research on older workers. Further analysis will be published in *Population Trends* later in the year.

In addition speakers from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) presented the government policy response to population ageing. The new strategy for an ageing society is to be released later this year, building on the existing Opportunity Age strategy. Additional information was presented by DWP on extending working lives policies designed to retain and re-skill older workers and encourage people back to work. There were further presentations from the Oxford Institute of Ageing, University College London and Southampton University.

The afternoon was given over to group discussions. The main focus of these was to ask participants to identify priority areas for ageing research, gaps in existing research and outputs, and opportunities for collaborative working.

### Research themes

Priority areas for ageing research identified in the group discussions were:

- the effect of population ageing on family and household structures including trends in living arrangements of older people and the factors associated with these, including transitions into communal establishment.
- informal and formal care provision, in particular the implications of trends in family and household structures and living arrangements on informal care provision and the role of grandparents in the care for their grand-children.
- the effects of caring on different aspects of older carers' lives, including employment and retirement decisions, income, social networks, health, well being and quality of life, older workers and retirement, motivation to stay in work, exploring non-monetary benefits to working at older ages and examining barriers to employment at older ages, refining predictors of retirement, affording retirement, and effects of retirement on health, well being and quality of life.

### Other important themes

Other themes that emerged from the seminar were the need to:

- ensure ageing research is informed by key policy changes (for example, changes to State Pensionable Age (SPA))
- provide ageing information at local authority level and for different sub-groups of the population, particularly for different ethnic groups
- recognise the importance of longitudinal analysis, in particular sources like the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)
- undertake more qualitative research to further understanding of what older people really think about their lives and old age, and what makes older people happy.

### Collaborative working

Collaborative working on ageing by researchers, policy makers and practitioners both across and outside of government was considered to be an important issue.

Suggestions to facilitate and encourage collaborative working included improving access to ageing data sources and research by establishing a dedicated Ageing webpage on the NS website which would link to all ageing related outputs and provide links to non-ONS ageing research on the NS website.

### Outputs

There was positive feedback on the different types and levels of ageing related outputs produced by ONS.

Detailed reports of research published in *Population Trends* as well as contributions to other ONS publications such as *Pensions Trends*, *Social Trends* and *Health Statistics Quarterly*, *Focus on Older People* and *nuggets*

of ageing information on the NS website were all considered to be useful for different purposes. The pilot edition of the newsletter *Ageing Times* was well received and seen as a good sign-post to ageing work in the ONS. Suggestions for improvements included publishing a calendar of release dates for ageing outputs and sending email alerts prior to releases.

#### Next steps

Information and feedback from the seminar, including the research priorities identified, is being used to inform and prioritise the ONS analytical ageing work programme.

ONS will continue to work closely with those working on ageing both across and outside of government. ONS are planning to set up an Ageing user group (to include policy makers, practitioners and academics) to act as a sounding board for ideas and to facilitate wider engagement.

The newsletter *Ageing Times* will be launched later in the year. It will provide a regular update on ageing research within ONS.

Further information can be obtained by contacting [ageing@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ageing@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## Mid-2008 Population Estimates for Scotland

On 28 April 2009 the General Register Office for Scotland published its *Mid-2008 Population Estimates Scotland*. The key points of this report are:

- The estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2008 was 5,168,500, a rise of 24,300 on the previous year and the highest since 1981
- Between mid-2001 and mid-2008, Scotland's population increased by 2.1 per cent (+104,300) from 5.06 million to 5.17 million
- Between mid-1998 and mid-2008, Scotland's population increased by 1.8 per cent (+91,430) from 5.08 million to 5.17 million
- In the twelve months up to 30 June 2008, the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 3,900, the largest natural increase since 1991–92
- Over the year there was a net migration gain of 20,000 people. This includes net gains of 11,500 people from the rest of the UK, 7,700 people from overseas (including

asylum seekers) and 800 people from the armed forces

- Over the year 38,500 people (including asylum seekers) came to Scotland from overseas and 30,800 left Scotland to go overseas. The net gain of 7,700 is lower than the record gain of 16,800 in 2006–07 because more people left Scotland
- The net gain from the rest of the UK exceeded that from overseas. Over the year 53,300 people came to Scotland from England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 41,800 left Scotland to go in the opposite direction. The net gain of 11,500 is greater than the previous year's 8,800 net gain because more people came to Scotland and fewer left
- Among Council areas, between mid-2007 and mid-2008, East Lothian had the largest percentage population increase at +1.8 per cent followed by Perth & Kinross (+1.4 per cent) and Midlothian (+1.3 per cent). Argyll & Bute had the largest percentage population decrease at -0.9 per cent, followed by Eilean Siar and Inverclyde each with a percentage decrease of -0.4 per cent
- Among NHS Board areas, Lothian (+1.0 per cent), Borders (+0.9 per cent) and Grampian (+0.8 per cent) had the largest percentage population increases. The only NHS Board area to have experienced a decline in population was Western Isles (-0.4 per cent)
- In the year to mid-2008, the **city** Council areas experienced net losses of migrants to the rest of Scotland. However, more migrants came to the city Council areas from both the rest of the UK and from overseas than went in the other direction
- There were 66 people per square kilometre in Scotland, ranging from 9 persons per square kilometre in Eilean Siar and Highland Council areas to 3,329 persons per square kilometre in Glasgow City Council area.
- Further details may be found in the full publication, available at: [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/mid-2008-population-estimates-scotland/index.html](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/mid-2008-population-estimates-scotland/index.html)

## Wales' Population: A Demographic Overview 2009

The third comprehensive overview of demographic statistics on Wales was published

by the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government on 26 March 2009.

The publication brings together information on the demography of Wales for the period 1971 to 2007. It looks at population and migration estimates, birth and death patterns, and also focuses on the 2006-based national population projections, and the recently published 2006-based local authority projections. The publication can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/walespop09/?lang=en>

## Welsh Population Newsletter

The Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government have recently established a population statistics newsletter. This newsletter has been developed in order to inform people of recent and forthcoming developments and publications. The newsletter is aimed at internal and external policy colleagues, researchers and economists that use demographic data and evidence to form policies, to plan services and to monitor and evaluate policies and services. The population statistics newsletter forms part of a series of statistical newsletters published by the Welsh Assembly Government, and will be published every two months. The most recent population newsletter, published in March 2009 is available at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/?lang=en>

## 2011 Census update

#### Census Rehearsal

The Rehearsal for the 2011 Census in England and Wales will comprise approximately 135,000 households in the Isle of Anglesey (Ynys Môn), Lancaster and Newham. Rehearsal day is 11 October 2009 and preparations are well underway. The Rehearsal in Northern Ireland at the same time will include around 5,000 households in the Local Government Districts of Lisburn and Dungannon. The Rehearsal areas have been chosen to simulate actual Census type conditions by covering a cross section of the population and housing types. A Rehearsal in Scotland was carried out earlier this year.

A field address checking exercise has taken place and the findings are currently being incorporated into the address register in preparation for printing of addressed questionnaires at the end of July.

The contract to provide integrated nationwide personnel services for the 2011 Census has

been awarded to Capita Business Services. Capita will provide services to help recruit, train and pay the estimated 35,000 temporary staff needed to deliver both the Rehearsal and the Census itself. Staff will be recruited from local communities across England and Wales to carry out Census field roles. Posts include Area Managers, local team coordinators and Census delivery and collection staff. Recruitment for the Rehearsal started in May. Nationwide recruitment for the 2011 Census will start in June 2010.

ONS continues to work with local authorities in the Rehearsal areas, gathering support for recruitment of field staff and for local publicity. Local information and details of community contacts are being provided by the three Rehearsal authorities.

In order to provide accessible support ONS is producing translation booklets in 30 languages as well as information in Braille, British Sign Language video clips and audio clips. All of these will be made readily available through community and local authority networks in Rehearsal areas (see also below).

Development of all the supporting systems for the Census, particularly for the:

- receipting and scanning returned paper questionnaires
- online questionnaire completion
- web self-help and the Contact Centre, and
- internal management information system to inform the effective deployment of the field force

are also progressing as planned.

#### Making the Census accessible

ONS is committed to delivering an inclusive 2011 Census and 2009 Rehearsal, providing an accessible online service and additional support formats to allow people to complete their questionnaire independently. In addition, some people may prefer to use an accessible support format in conjunction with their normal method of completion. ONS recognises there is no one method of completing a questionnaire and aims to provide choice.

After consultation with key groups such as the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and British Deaf Association (BDA), the following Accessible Formats in English and Welsh are to be piloted in the 2009 Rehearsal:

- Braille Guidance Booklet
- Audio Guidance Cassette Tape
- Audio Guidance CD
- British Sign Language (BSL) Guidance CD
- Audio Clips on website
- BSL Clips on website
- Large print questionnaire

Accessibility information will be on the website and formats available to the public at request through the Contact Centre. This message will be passed to key disability groups through engagement and publicity. In addition, the ONS Community Liaison team will be looking at innovative ways of targeting these formats such as through libraries and disability clubs. Following evaluation of the Rehearsal, decisions will be made on the accessible formats to be produced for the 2011 Census. There will be a tendering exercise for a contract to supply them.

Workshops will be held in Autumn 2009, after the Rehearsal, with a range of stakeholders from accessibility groups in order to discuss initial feedback from the rehearsal and gather further views about plans for 2011.

Accessibility and usability testing of the Rehearsal website is under way. The second round of usability testing has been implemented by Abilitynet and work has begun with the RNIB to gain 'See it Right' accreditation for 2011. On successful completion, the website will meet RNIB and Abilitynet guidelines to maximise accessibility for users.

#### Population bases for enumeration and outputs

The three UK statistical offices agreed in 2005 that the population base to be used for enumeration in the 2011 Census should be *Usual Residents and Visitors*. This was consistent with the National Statistician and Registrars General's agreement to harmonise the three UK Censuses as closely as possible. This decision was reached after extensive research and consultation, summarised in the paper *Selection of the population base for the 2011 Census enumeration* (see [www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census\\_consultation\\_population\\_base.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/downloads/2011Census_consultation_population_base.pdf))

At that time, the exact definition of a usual resident to be used had not been finalised, as this was planned for agreement after further consultation and extensive questionnaire testing.

At the time of the 2007 Census Test, it was assumed that the enumeration base for the 2011 Census would be broadly consistent with that used in 2001, but with the addition of visitors (the Test questionnaire reflected this), and that the same population base would be used for enumeration and outputs. However, further consultation identified increasing requirements for information on short-term migrants, and it was agreed that the Census (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) would be expanded to meet this need. To achieve this, it was agreed that a full Census return would be collected from everyone who has been, or intends to be, resident in the UK for a period of three months or more in the 2011 Census.

It would be necessary to be able to distinguish between usual residents and short-term migrants in the Census database when producing outputs and, as a result, ONS have tested a question on *Intended length of stay in the UK* to help achieve this. Respondents who have lived in the UK for less than 12 months would be asked to

indicate whether their overall stay is likely to be less than 6 months, less than 12 months or longer-term.

This enumeration base and these questions have been evaluated through qualitative cognitive testing and quantitative postal tests and ONS are confident that they will collect the required information in the 2011 Census. The 2009 Census Rehearsal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will use this enumeration base and include the new questions.

As the same strength of requirement for information on migration was not identified in Scotland, the 2011 Census there will not be expanded to collect this information, and only usual residents will be directed to complete a full Census return. However, it has been agreed that the main output base for the 2011 Census should be common across the UK and that this would be usual residents defined as those people who:

- (a) have been, or intend to be, a resident of the UK for a period of 12 months or more; and
- (b) are not at the time of the Census living outside the UK for a period of 12 months or more.

This will make the national level estimates directly comparable with the MYEs for the first time, and also allow closer comparability with population estimates from other countries.

However, some respondents with more than one residence will continue to be included at their family home, as in the 2001 Census, to enable the production of accurate family statistics. This will mean that the sub-national population estimates will not be directly comparable with the MYEs, where everyone is, in theory, counted at the address where they spend the majority of the time. In England and Wales, information will be collected on second residences, which may enable a Census estimate of the *majority of time* population to be produced.

## Revisions to adjust mid-year population estimates by marital status for marriages abroad

Revised mid-2002 to mid-2007 marital status population estimates for England and Wales were published on the National Statistics website on 30 April 2009 and are available at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15107](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15107)

The revisions have been made to adjust the previously published marital status population estimates to account for marriages of residents of England and Wales that take place abroad, and for marriages of overseas residents that take place in England and Wales. These people will be incorrectly counted in the existing marital status estimates which use marriage and divorce registrations in England and Wales to update Census estimates of the resident population by marital status.

Marriage registration data used to compile the marital status population estimates cover only those marriages actually occurring in England and Wales. However, some people who are usually resident in England and Wales travel abroad to marry, so are not included in the marriage registrations, and some people who are overseas residents marry in England and Wales (marriage tourists) and are included in marriage registrations.

The adjustments are made only for England and Wales residents travelling outside the UK to get married; the assumption is made that the number of England and Wales residents marrying in Scotland and Northern Ireland is equal to the number of Scotland and Northern Ireland residents marrying within England and Wales.

The impact of these adjustments is cumulative over the years between mid-2002 and mid-2007. The mid-2007 revised estimates show that the number of England and Wales residents who are married is 21,701,600. This is 313,800 (1.5 per cent) more than those shown in the previously published unadjusted estimates. The revised estimates of the number of people who are single, divorced and widowed are correspondingly lower than the previously published estimates.

Marriages of England and Wales residents abroad occurring prior to mid-2001 will already be included within the published marital status estimates as they will have been recorded in the 2001 Census.

Publication of these revised estimates follows an earlier research project conducted by ONS to estimate the number of marriages to UK residents taking place outside the UK and the number of marriages to overseas residents taking place within the UK. The results of this research were published in Autumn 2008 in Population Trends 133, *Report: Marriages abroad 2002–2007*, available at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_population/PT133\\_part2.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/PT133_part2.pdf)

The revisions also include a correction for a minor processing error in the original mid-2007 marital status estimates.

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## UK National Statistics Migration Homepage and the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report

In May 2009 a new migration homepage was launched on the UK National Statistics Publication Hub. This was inspired by the Interdepartmental Migration Task Force's recognition that migration statistics needed to be more accessible. The new homepage gives an introduction to the topic and the range of data available. The page is located at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/cross-cutting-topics/migration/index.html](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/cross-cutting-topics/migration/index.html).

May 2009 also saw the first edition of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, a joint bulletin by ONS, DWP and the Home Office. Containing numerous graphs, the Report is intended to offer an interesting and accessible summary of the main messages coming from the regular quarterly releases of migration data. The Report is available via the migration homepage, and people are invited to give their feedback on the Report so it can be developed for future quarters.

Two new ONS products were also launched in May. The provisional International Passenger Survey estimates of long-term international migration offer an early indication of how migration is changing, several quarters before the official long-term estimates are published. The new online viewer for local authority level migration indicators provides a useful way of helping people understand how migration is affecting their area. Both of these products can be accessed via the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report.

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## Seminars on improvements to mid-2008 population estimates

ONS will be holding a series of seminars in June 2009 to explain the future improvements to, and underlying methodology of, the mid-2008 population estimates. All interested parties are welcome to attend and the changes will be particularly of interest to Local Authorities and Primary Care Organisations.

The seminars will be held in Cardiff, Leeds, Birmingham and London, on respectively 19, 24, 25, and 26 June. For more details, registration form, and agenda see: [www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/seminar-english.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/seminar-english.asp)

Alternatively, contact [imps@ons.gov.uk](mailto:imps@ons.gov.uk) or call 01329 444 695 for a registration form.

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## Quick online access to older Population Trends articles

Readers interested in locating earlier articles published in Population Trends should know that there is a search engine available to find items quickly. This online article search facility covers all ONS journals. To find an article it is possible to do a text search for keywords, journal title, article title, author's name, issue number, and publication year. All articles published in Population Trends since Winter 1997 (issue no 90) are available online. Using this search facility pdf files can be downloaded for each article; this service is free of charge. To use this service go to: [www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/articlesearch.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/articlesearch.asp)