

Population

- The population of the United Kingdom has grown steadily between 1971 and 2001 to reach 59.8 million people in 2004, an increase of 3.9 million. (Table 1.1)
- In 2004 there were 11.6 million people aged under 16 in the United Kingdom, a decline of 2.6 million since 1971, and 9.6 million people aged over 65, an increase of 2.2 million. (Table 1.2)
- In 2001, 38 million people (nearly seven in ten) in Great Britain described their ethnicity as White British and their religion as Christian. Other large faith groups were Pakistani Muslims (686,000), Indian Hindus (471,000), Black Caribbean Christians (417,000), Black African Christians (334,000) and Indian Sikhs (307,000). (Page 13)
- There were 716,000 live births in the United Kingdom in 2004 – an increase of 20,500 compared with 2003. (Figure 1.9)
- In 2004 nearly 222,600 more people migrated to the United Kingdom than left it. This was 71,600 greater than in 2003 and the highest net inflow since the present method of estimation began in 1991. (Page 17)
- The United Kingdom had a rate of 0.7 asylum seekers per 1,000 population in 2004, higher than the EU-25 average of 0.6 per 1,000 population. (Table 1.14)

The number of births and deaths, and the number of people entering and leaving the country all affect the size, sex and age structure and the geography of the population. Changes in demographic patterns not only influence social structures, but also the demand for services. Information on the size and structure of the population by other factors, such as marital and partnership status, ethnicity, and social class are essential in understanding aspects of society, such as the labour market and household composition.

Population profile

The population of the United Kingdom has grown steadily between 1971 and 2001 to reach 59.8 million people in 2004, an increase of 3.9 million (Table 1.1). During this period the populations of England, Wales and Northern Ireland all grew but the population of Scotland declined by 0.1 million people. The 2004 based population projections suggest that the population of the United Kingdom will still be rising in 2031.

Table 1.1
Population¹ of the United Kingdom

	1971	1981	1991	2001	2004	2011	2021
United Kingdom	55.9	56.4	57.4	59.1	59.8	61.9	64.7
England	46.4	46.8	47.9	49.4	50.1	52.0	54.6
Wales	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.2
Scotland	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Northern Ireland	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8

¹ Mid-year estimates for 1971 to 2004; 2004-based projections for 2011 and 2021. See Appendix, Part 1: Population estimates and projections.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Table 1.2
Population:¹ by sex and age

United Kingdom	Under 16	16–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75 and over	All ages
Males									
1971	7,318	3,730	3,530	3,271	3,354	3,123	1,999	842	27,167
1981	6,439	4,114	4,036	3,409	3,121	2,967	2,264	1,063	27,412
1991	5,976	3,800	4,432	3,950	3,287	2,835	2,272	1,358	27,909
2001	6,077	3,284	4,215	4,382	3,856	3,090	2,308	1,621	28,832
2004	5,970	3,533	3,954	4,553	3,780	3,391	2,374	1,717	29,271
2011	5,744	3,768	4,074	4,293	4,301	3,598	2,652	2,008	30,438
2021	5,821	3,436	4,487	4,133	4,201	4,042	3,158	2,664	31,943
Females									
1971	6,938	3,626	3,441	3,241	3,482	3,465	2,765	1,802	28,761
1981	6,104	3,966	3,975	3,365	3,148	3,240	2,931	2,218	28,946
1991	5,709	3,691	4,466	3,968	3,296	2,971	2,795	2,634	29,530
2001	5,786	3,220	4,260	4,465	3,920	3,186	2,640	2,805	30,281
2004	5,676	3,408	3,983	4,640	3,859	3,509	2,659	2,830	30,564
2011	5,487	3,563	4,050	4,358	4,412	3,755	2,898	2,931	31,454
2021	5,578	3,257	4,347	4,146	4,295	4,244	3,452	3,465	32,784

¹ Mid-year estimates for 1971 to 2004; 2004-based projections for 2011 and 2021. See Appendix, Part 1: Population estimates and projections.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

The population is expected to pass 60 million in 2005, 65 million in 2023 and reach 67 million by 2031. This is a projected increase of 7.2 million people between 2004 and 2031: 43 per cent of this increase is attributed to natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) and 57 per cent is projected to be net migration. Projected trends differ for the four parts of the United Kingdom. The population of Scotland is expected to increase slightly until 2019 and then start to fall, while the Northern Ireland population is projected to grow until the early 2030s and then decline. The Welsh population projections suggest the population will increase beyond 2031 but at a low rate of growth, while the English population is also projected to continue rising but at a higher rate.

The populations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales as proportions of the UK population varied little from 1971 to 2004. In 2004 England represented approximately 84 per cent of the population, Scotland 8 per cent, Wales 5 per cent and Northern Ireland 3 per cent. Similar values are shown in the projections to 2021.

More boys than girls are born each year; nearly 368,000 boys were born in the United Kingdom in 2004 compared with 348,000 girls. However, overall there were more women than men in the UK – 30.6 million and 29.3 million respectively (Table 1.2). In 2004 the numbers of men and women were similar from age 22, but by age 30 women outnumbered men. This is partly because of higher net in-migration among young women (aged 15 to 24) than men in recent years and higher death rates from accidents and suicide for young men than young women. Although at birth there were 105 boys for every 100 girls, by age 65 there were 94 men for every 100 women. The difference was most pronounced in the very elderly as women tend to live longer than men. The Second World War has also had an impact on the number of men aged over 80: at age 89 there were 40 men per 100 women in 2004.

The age structure of the population reflects past trends in births, deaths and migration. The number of people in any age group within the population depends on how many people are born in a particular period and how long they live. It is also affected by the numbers and ages of migrants moving to and from the country.

The population of the United Kingdom is ageing. There are increasing numbers of people aged 65 and over and decreasing numbers of children under 16. This is illustrated by the differences between the population pyramids for 1821 (when age was first collected in the census) and 2004 (Figure 1.3). In 1821 the population pyramid was much larger at the bottom than at the top showing large numbers of young people but

Figure 1.3
Population: by sex and age, 1821 and 2004



Source: Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland

few surviving to older ages. By 2004 the pyramid had become more uniform with similar numbers of people at all ages, except in the oldest age groups. The peaks of the 1960s 'baby boom' can be seen in the 30 to 39 age group. Those aged under 10 fell from 27 per cent of the population in 1821 to 12 per cent in 2004 while those aged 80 and over rose from 1 to 4 per cent.

Historically the ageing of the population was largely the result of a fall in fertility that began towards the end of the 19th century. Early in the 20th century the number of people surviving to adulthood increased due to lower infant mortality. In the last three decades of the 20th century population ageing has been due to both lower fertility and falling mortality rates at older ages.

The change in the population structure of Great Britain over time is also true for the United Kingdom with a decline in the younger population and an increase in those aged 65 and over.

Table 1.4
Population: by age, EU comparison, 2004

	Percentages					Percentages			
	Under 15	15–64	65 and over	All people (=100%) (thousands)		Under 15	15–64	65 and over	All people (=100%) (thousands)
Austria	16.3	68.1	15.5	8,140	Luxembourg	18.8	67.1	14.1	452
Belgium	17.3	65.6	17.1	10,396	Malta	18.2	68.7	13.0	400
Cyprus	20.0	68.1	11.9	730	Netherlands	18.5	67.6	13.8	16,258
Czech Republic	15.2	70.8	13.9	10,211	Poland	17.2	69.8	13.0	38,191
Denmark	18.9	66.2	14.9	5,398	Portugal	15.7	67.4	16.8	10,475
Estonia ¹	16.0	67.8	16.2	1,351	Slovakia	17.6	70.9	11.5	5,380
Finland	17.6	66.8	15.6	5,220	Slovenia	14.6	70.4	15.0	1,996
France	18.6	65.1	16.4	59,901	Spain	14.5	68.6	16.9	42,345
Germany	14.7	67.3	18.0	82,532	Sweden	17.8	65.0	17.2	8,976
Greece	14.5	67.7	17.8	11,041	United Kingdom	18.2	65.8	16.0	59,700
Hungary	15.9	68.6	15.5	10,117	EU-25	16.4	67.2	16.5	456,890
Ireland	20.9	68.0	11.1	4,028					
Italy	14.2	66.6	19.2	57,888					
Latvia	15.4	68.4	16.2	2,319					
Lithuania	17.7	67.3	15.0	3,446					

¹ 'All people' includes data for individuals where age was not defined.

Source: Eurostat

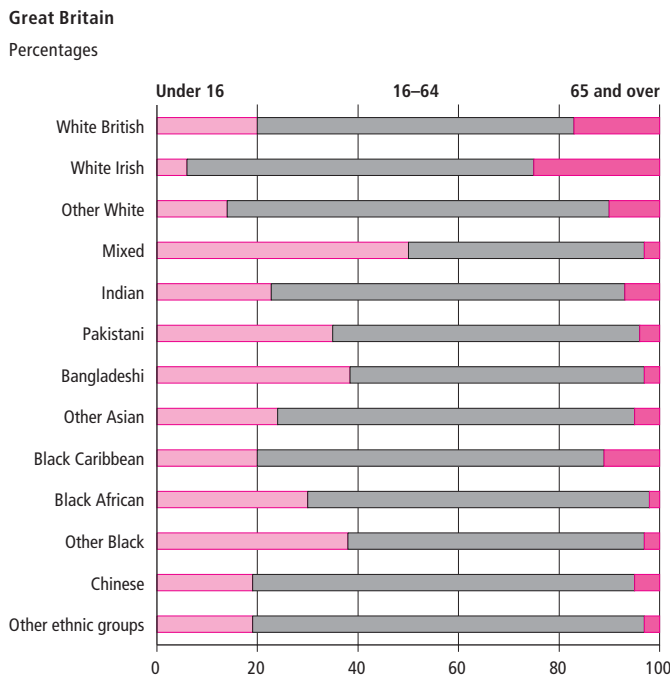
In 1971 there were 14.3 million people aged under 16 and 7.4 million aged 65 and over. By 2004 there were 11.6 million people under 16, a decline of 2.6 million (18 per cent) and 9.6 million people over 65, an increase of 2.2 million (29 per cent). By 2014 projections suggest that the number of people over 65 will exceed those under 16 for the first time and then the gap will widen. By 2021 it is projected that 17.6 per cent of the population will be under 16 and 19.7 per cent will be aged 65 and over.

Population ageing is not just a characteristic of the United Kingdom but is happening throughout the European Union (Table 1.4). In 2004 Italy had the largest percentage of people aged 65 and over (19.2 per cent), followed by Germany (18.0 per cent) and Greece (17.8 per cent). Ireland had the lowest proportion, at 11.1 per cent. The United Kingdom had 16.0 per cent of the population aged 65 and over, just under the EU-25 average of 16.5 per cent. The United Kingdom also had a larger proportion of children under 15 than the EU-25 average – 18.2 per cent compared with 16.4 per cent. This was the same proportion as Malta and similar to France (18.6 per cent), the Netherlands (18.5 per cent) and Sweden (17.8 per cent). Ireland, which had the highest birth rate in Europe, has the largest percentage of the population aged under 15 at

20.9 per cent, nearly twice that of older people, followed by Cyprus (20.0 per cent). In seventeen of the EU-25 countries the young dependant population is larger than the older dependant population. As well as Ireland where the young dependant population is 9.7 percentage points greater than the older dependant population, these include Cyprus (8.1 percentage points) and the United Kingdom (2.2 percentage points). Conversely, Italy, Greece and Germany have an older population. Those countries with an older population structure have the combination of both a high chance of survival to old age and have experienced low fertility over the last decade. There were seven countries with less than a one percentage point difference between the younger and older population; Estonia and Belgium were the countries closest to zero.

Historically the population of Great Britain is made up of people from a White British ethnic background. The pattern of migration since the 1950s has produced a number of distinct ethnic minority groups within the general population. In 2001 the majority of the population in Great Britain were White British (88 per cent). The remaining 6.7 million people (or 11.8 per cent of the population) belonged to other ethnic groups. Of these smaller ethnic populations, White Other were the largest group (2.5 per cent), followed by Indians

Figure 1.5
Population: by ethnic group¹ and age, 2001



¹ See Appendix, Part 1: Classification of ethnic groups.

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census 2001, General Register Office for Scotland

(1.8 per cent), Pakistanis (1.3 per cent), White Irish (1.2 per cent), those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds (1.2 per cent), Black Caribbeans (1.0 per cent), Black Africans (0.8 per cent) and Bangladeshis (0.5 per cent). The remaining ethnic minority groups each accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of the Great Britain population and together accounted for a further 1.4 per cent.

White ethnic groups have an older age structure than other ethnic groups, reflecting past immigration and fertility patterns. Among the White British population in Great Britain 17 per cent were aged 65 and over in 2001. The White Irish group however had the oldest age structure, with 25 per cent aged 65 and over (Figure 1.5). Among the non-White groups, Black Caribbeans had the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over (11 per cent), partly reflecting their earlier migration to Britain. Large scale migration from South Asia began in the 1960s so these groups have the next oldest population structures – between 4 and 7 per cent were aged 65 and over. Only 2 per cent of Black Africans were 65 and over, large scale migration to Britain having only begun since the 1980s. The Mixed group had the youngest age profile, with a very small proportion of people aged 65 and over (3 per cent). The majority of the Mixed group were born in the UK,

Classification of ethnic groups

Membership of an ethnic group is something that is subjectively meaningful to the person concerned. Ethnic group questions are designed to ask people which group they see themselves belonging to. This means the information collected is not based on objective, quantifiable information like age or gender.

There are two levels to the National Statistics classification of ethnic groups. Level 1 has five main ethnic groups: White, Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese or other ethnic group. Level 2, the preferred approach, provides a finer breakdown than level 1 and is used here.

For more details see Appendix, Part 1: Classification of ethnic groups.

predominantly the children of partnerships between first or second generation migrants and White British people.

Besides ethnic diversity, migration during the latter part of the 20th century has also led to religious diversity in Great Britain (see article on ethnic and religious populations page 1).

Christianity was the main religion in Great Britain; 41 million people identified as Christians in 2001, making up 72 per cent of the population. People with no religion formed the second largest group, comprising 15 per cent of the population, and 8 per cent of the Great Britain population chose not to state their religion as the question was voluntary (see Appendix, Part 1: Religion). Muslims formed the largest non-Christian religious group, comprising 3 per cent of the total population. Hindus were the next largest group (1 per cent of the total population), followed by Sikhs (0.6 per cent), Jews (0.5 per cent) and Buddhists (0.3 per cent).

Ethnicity and religion tend to be closely linked. In 2001, 38 million people (nearly seven in ten) described their ethnicity as White British and their religion as Christian. Other large faith groups were Pakistani Muslims (686,000), Indian Hindus (471,000), Black Caribbean Christians (417,000), Black African Christians (334,000) and Indian Sikhs (307,000). The Indian group was the most religiously diverse of all ethnic groups; 45 per cent of Indians were Hindu, 29 per cent were Sikh, 13 per cent were Muslim and 5 per cent were Christian. In contrast, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups tended to share the same faith, Muslims accounting for 92 per cent in both groups.

Table 1.6

Main ethnic group: by religion, 2001

Great Britain		Percentages							
	White British	White Irish	Mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Black Caribbean	Black African	Chinese
Christian	75.7	85.7	52.3	5.0	1.1	0.5	73.7	68.8	21.1
Buddhist	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	15.1
Hindu	-	-	0.9	44.8	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1
Jewish	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
Muslim	0.1	0.1	9.7	12.6	91.9	92.4	0.8	20.0	0.3
Sikh	-	-	0.4	29.2	0.1	-	-	0.1	-
Any other religion	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.7	0.1	-	0.6	0.2	0.5
No religion	15.7	6.2	23.3	1.8	0.6	0.5	11.3	2.4	53.0
Not stated	7.7	7.4	11.6	4.7	6.2	5.8	13.0	8.2	9.8
Total (=100%) (thousands)	50,366	691	674	1,052	747	283	566	485	243

Source: Census 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census 2001, General Register Office for Scotland

Among Black Africans seven out of ten were Christian and two out of ten were Muslim (Table 1.6).

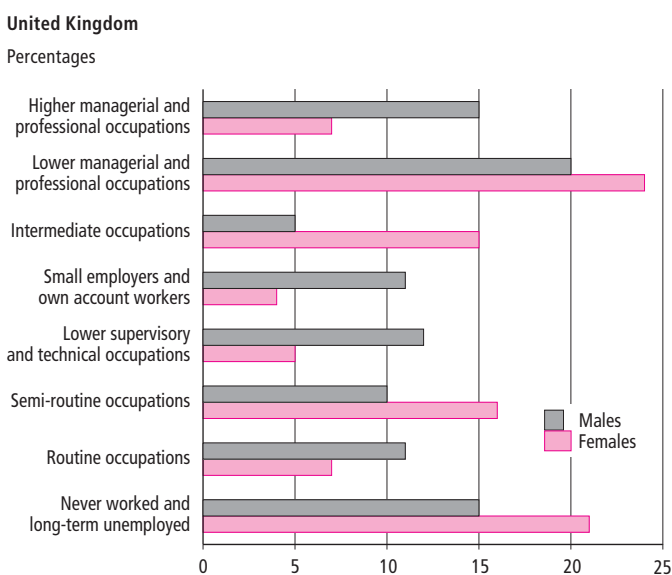
In the Labour Force Survey (LFS) information on socio-economic classification based on occupation is available for those of working age (16 to 59 for women and 16 to 64 for men).

Students and those whose occupation was not stated or who were not classifiable for other reasons are excluded. The largest group in spring 2005 was the lower managerial and professional

occupational group both in total (22 per cent), and for men and women separately (20 and 24 per cent respectively) (Figure 1.7). The second largest group was those who had never worked or were long-term unemployed (18 per cent). The largest sex differences were in the higher managerial and professional occupational group where the proportion of men was 8 percentage points higher than women and in the intermediate occupational group where the proportion of women was 10 percentage points higher than men. Most men and women in

Figure 1.7

Socio-economic classification: by sex, 2005¹



¹ At spring. Males aged 16 to 64, females aged 16 to 59.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)

NS-SEC was launched in 2001 to replace the Registrar Generals Social Class measure based on occupation. The NS-SEC is an occupationally based classification but has rules to provide coverage of the whole adult population. The information required to create the NS-SEC is occupation coded to the unit groups (OUG) of the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000) and details of employment status (whether an employer, self-employed or employee; whether a supervisor; number of employees at the workplace).

See Appendix, Part 1: National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC).

Table 1.8
Population change¹

United Kingdom		Annual averages					Thousands
	Population at start of period	Live births	Deaths	Net natural change	Net migration & other	Overall change	
1951–1961	50,287	839	593	246	6	252	
1961–1971	52,807	962	638	324	-12	312	
1971–1981	55,928	736	666	69	-27	42	
1981–1991	56,357	757	655	103	5	108	
1991–2001	57,439	731	631	100	68	167	
2001–2004	59,113	684	603	81	160	240	
2004–2011	59,835	704	582	122	171	294	
2011–2021	61,892	716	578	139	145	284	

¹ Mid-year estimates for 1951–1961 to 2001–2004; 2004-based projections for 2004–2011 and 2011–2021. See Appendix, Part 1: Population estimates and projections.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

the 16 to 19 age group (excluding students), had either never worked or were unemployed. For other age groups the lower managerial and professional group was the largest.

Population change

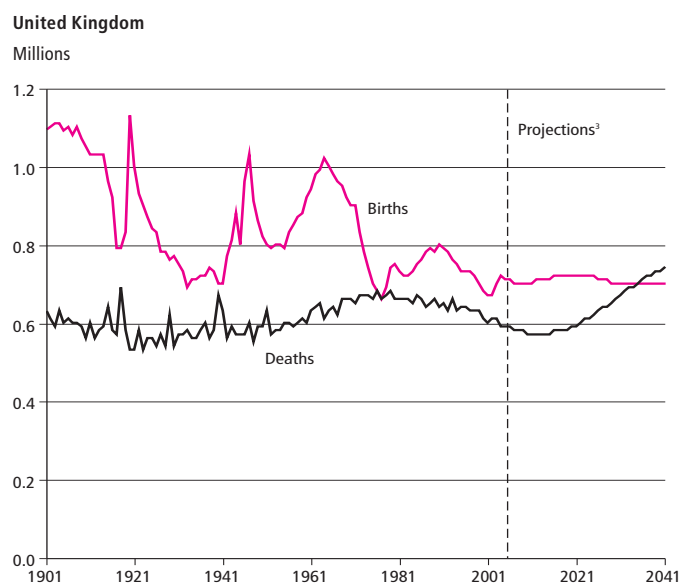
The rate of population change over time depends upon the net natural change – the difference between numbers of births and deaths – and the net effect of people migrating to and from the country. In the 1950s and 1960s natural change was an important factor in population growth in the United Kingdom, although from the 1980s onwards net migration has had a growing influence (Table 1.8). Between 2001 and 2004 net migration accounted for two thirds of the population change resulting in an increase of 160,000 people, compared with an increase of 81,000 people due to natural change. This contrasts with the 1950s when net natural change accounted for 98 per cent of population change and net migration for only 2 per cent. In the 1960s and 1970s net out-migration was more than compensated for by natural increases and so the total population increased. Between 2011 and 2021, net migration is projected to result in an increase in the population of 145,000, and natural change an increase of 139,000, accounting for 51 per cent and 49 per cent of the total change respectively. These projections are dependent on net migration to the United Kingdom, as this influences the number of births and deaths.

There were 716,000 live births in the United Kingdom in 2004, an increase of 20,500 compared with 2003 (Figure 1.9).

However, this was 34 per cent fewer births than in 1901 and 21 per cent fewer than 1971. The two World Wars had a major

impact on births. There was a fall in births during the First World War followed by a post war 'baby boom', with births peaking at 1.1 million in 1920. The number of births then fell and remained low during the inter-war period and the Second World War. Births increased again after the Second World War with another

Figure 1.9
Births^{1,2} and deaths¹



¹ Data for 1901 to 1921 exclude Ireland which was constitutionally a part of the United Kingdom during this period.

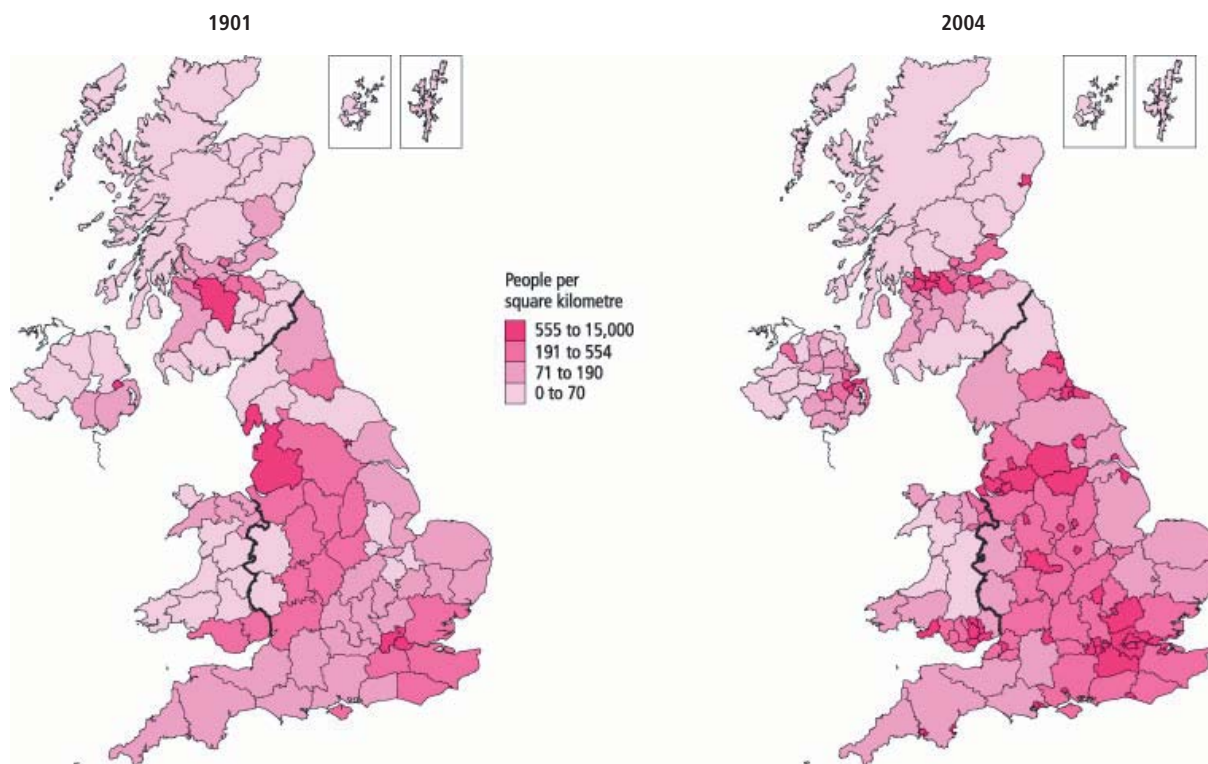
² Data from 1981 exclude the non-residents of Northern Ireland.

³ 2004-based projections for 2005 to 2041.

Source: Office for National Statistics; Government Actuary's Department; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Map 1.10

Population density: by area, 1901¹ and 2004²



1 Administrative boundaries for 1901 use some information from www.en.wikipedia.org.

2 Counties, unitary authorities, Inner and Outer London in England, unitary authorities in Wales, council areas in Scotland and district council areas in Northern Ireland for 2004.

Source: Census 1901, 2004-based population estimates, Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

'baby-boom'. There was an increase in births in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the result of the larger cohorts of women born in the 1960s entering their child-bearing years, before numbers began falling again. The larger cohort of women having children combined with increased numbers of births meant that birth rates were only slightly changed. Projections to 2041 suggest that the number of births will remain relatively stable ranging from 700,000 to 720,000 each year.

The annual number of deaths has remained relatively steady since 1901. However, as the population has increased death rates have fallen; between 1971 and 2004 the death rate for all males fell by 21 per cent, while the death rate for all females fell by 9 per cent. There were peaks in the number of deaths during both the First and Second World Wars. The peak of 690,000 in 1918 represented the highest annual number of deaths ever recorded; these were due both to losses during the First World War and the influenza epidemic which followed it. Population projections suggest that the annual number of deaths will decline to a low of around 570,000 between 2010 and 2015 and will then gradually rise to reach around 740,000 in 2041.

The steady increase in the population through both natural change and net migration (Table 1.8) means that there is now a larger population living in the same geographic space. The measure of the number of people living in a country or region relative to its land area is known as population density. The population density of the four parts of the UK varies considerably. In 2004 England had approximately 385 people per square kilometre compared with 65 people resident per square kilometre in Scotland. Wales had 142 people per square kilometre and Northern Ireland had 126.

Due to boundary and classification changes it is difficult to trace regional population densities over time. However, it is still possible to see that London had the highest concentration of people in both 1901 and 2004 (Map 1.10). This was also true in 1801 when London was part of the county of Middlesex. In 2004 Kensington and Chelsea in West London was the most densely populated area, and Highland in Scotland had the fewest people per square kilometre. The Belfast region was the most densely populated area in Northern Ireland in both 1901 and 2004.

Regional changes in population in the United Kingdom are caused not just by births and deaths and by international migration, but also by people moving within the country. In 2004 England recorded a net loss of 25,000 people to other parts of the United Kingdom while other countries experienced a net inflow; Wales (10,900), Scotland (11,700) and Northern Ireland (2,300) (Table 1.11). Within England, London experienced the largest net loss of 105,100 people moving to elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The only other region in England to experience a net loss of people to other areas of the country was the West Midlands. The North East and North West regions of the UK both had little change in their populations due to internal migration. The remaining areas had a net inflow of people; in the case of the East Midlands, East, South East and South West regions there was a greater net inflow than experienced by Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. The majority of people leaving Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales came to England, though there was no dominant place within England to which migrants moved. UK Census data for 2001 showed that while workers tended to move south to find employment, students were more likely to move to northern areas to study.

Table 1.11
Inter-regional movements¹ within the United Kingdom, 2004

	Thousands		
	Inflow	Outflow	Balance
England	97	122	-25
North East	41	39	1
North West	105	104	1
Yorkshire & the Humber	98	92	6
East Midlands	112	97	15
West Midlands	95	101	-6
East	146	128	17
London	155	260	-105
South East	223	208	15
South West	139	108	30
Wales	60	49	11
Scotland	57	45	12
Northern Ireland	12	10	2

¹ Based on patients re-registering with NHS doctors in other parts of the United Kingdom. Moves where the origin and destination lie within the same region do not appear in the table. See Appendix, Part 1: Internal migration estimates.

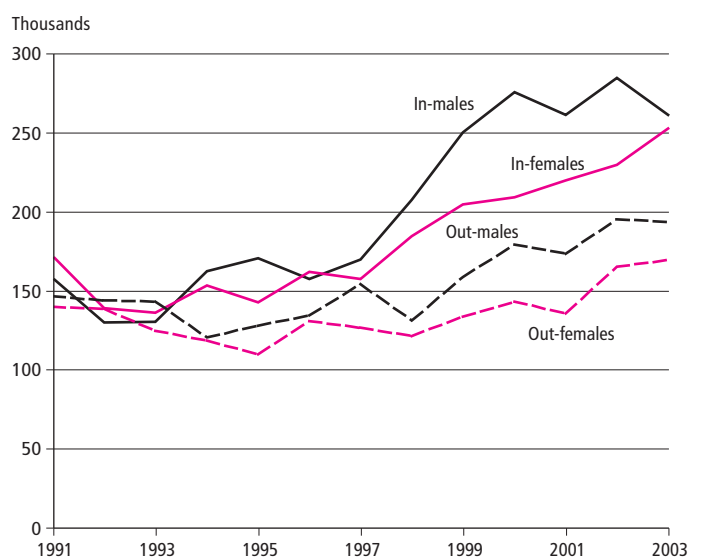
Source: National Health Service Central Register; General Register Office for Scotland; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

International migration

The pattern of people entering and leaving the United Kingdom changed over the 20th century. During the first four decades there was a net loss due to international migration, but since 1983 there has generally been net migration into the United Kingdom. In 2004 nearly 222,600 more people migrated to the United Kingdom than left it. This estimated net inflow is 71,600 people higher than in 2003 and is the highest since the present method of estimation began in 1991 (see Appendix, Part 1: International migration estimates).

Since 1991 there has been an increase in international migration both in and out of the United Kingdom (Figure 1.12). In 1991 the estimated numbers of males and females migrating in and out of the country were very similar. In-migration for males was 157,200 and 171,200 for females. Out-migration for males was 145,600 and 139,300 for females. However from 1994 onwards the number of both males and females arriving to live in the United Kingdom exceeded the numbers leaving to live elsewhere; in 2003 the differences were 67,900 for males and 83,200 for females. The inflow of females has always been higher than the outflow. In 2003 single males were the group

Figure 1.12
International migration into and out of the United Kingdom: by sex¹

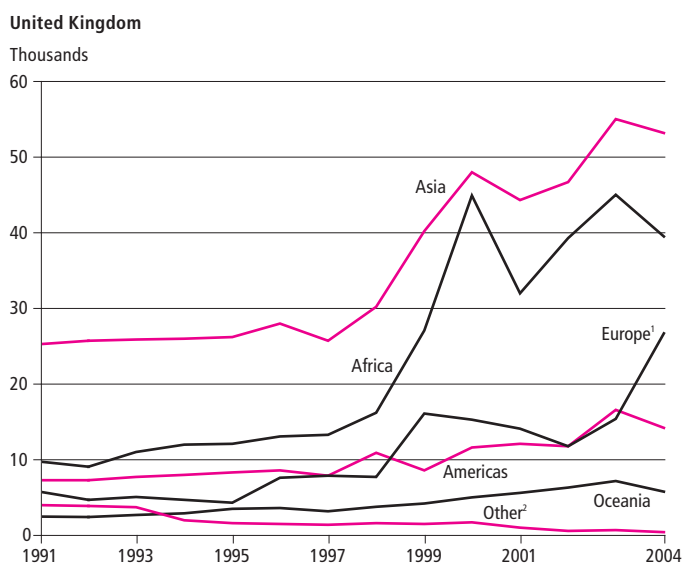


¹ Estimates for Total International Migration use International Passenger Survey data adjusted for 'visitor switchers' (short term visitors granted an extension to stay a year or more), 'migrant switchers' (persons who intend to be migrants but stay in UK, or abroad for less than a year), most asylum seekers and their dependants and migration to and from Ireland.

Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 1.13

Grants of settlement: by region of origin



1 Excludes European Economic Area (EEA) nationals. All decisions on nationals from countries that acceded to the European Union on 1 May 2004 are included before that date but excluded after it.

2 Includes British Overseas citizens, those whose nationality was unknown and, up to 1993, acceptances where the nationality was not separately identified; from 1994 these nationalities have been included in the relevant geographical area.

Source: Home Office

with the highest proportion migrating both to and from the United Kingdom and widowed and divorced people were the smallest group. Out-migration for both sexes was highest in the 25 to 44 age group, while those over retirement age and children under 15 had the lowest numbers migrating in and out.

Almost half of overseas-born migrants to the United Kingdom in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s emigrated again within five years of arrival. There were large variations by country of birth. Between half and two thirds of the migrants born in the European Union, North America and Oceania emigrated within five years compared with about a sixth of those born in the Indian subcontinent.

Nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) (Europe plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) have the right to reside in the United Kingdom provided they are working or are able to support themselves financially. Nearly all other overseas nationals wishing to live permanently in the United Kingdom require Home Office acceptance for settlement. Between 1991 and 2004 the number of acceptances for settlement in the United Kingdom more than doubled, rising from 53,900 to 139,260 (Figure 1.13). The largest increase in acceptances was for people from Europe (but excluding EEA nationals) which

Table 1.14

Asylum applications, including dependants: EU comparison, 2004

	Number of asylum seekers ¹	Asylum seekers per 1,000 population
Austria	24,700	3.0
Belgium ²	17,500	1.7
Cyprus ³	9,900	11.0
Czech Republic ³	5,500	0.5
Denmark	3,200	0.6
Estonia ³	-	-
Finland	3,900	0.7
France	65,600	1.1
Germany	35,600	0.4
Greece ³	4,500	0.4
Hungary ³	1,600	0.2
Ireland	4,800	1.2
Italy ³	7,400	0.1
Latvia ³	-	-
Lithuania ³	200	-
Luxembourg ³	1,600	3.2
Malta ³	1,000	2.5
Netherlands	9,800	0.6
Poland ³	8,100	0.2
Portugal ³	100	-
Slovakia ³	11,400	2.1
Slovenia ³	1,300	0.6
Spain	5,600	0.1
Sweden	23,200	2.6
United Kingdom	40,600	0.7
All applications to EU-25	286,800	0.6

1 Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

2 Figures based on Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugees and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC) data but adjusted to include an estimated number of dependants.

3 Figures based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data, including dependants.

Source: Home Office

nearly quadrupled, followed by those from Africa which tripled. The overall number of people accepted for settlement in the United Kingdom remained almost level between 2003 and 2004. The increase in acceptances from European countries outside the EEA, of 11,300 people, outweighed declines from all other areas leaving the total number stable. The main reason for acceptance in 2004 was for asylum, followed by employment reasons and family formation and reunion reasons.

Table 1.15**World demographic indicators, 2004**

	Population (millions)	Population density (sq km)	Infant mortality rate ^{1,2}	Total Fertility Rate ²	Life expectancy at birth (years) ²	
					Males	Females
Asia	3,860	121	53.7	2.47	65.4	69.2
Africa	887	29	94.2	4.97	48.2	49.9
Europe	729	32	9.2	1.40	69.6	78.0
Latin America & Caribbean	554	27	26.0	2.55	68.3	74.9
North America	327	15	6.8	1.99	74.8	80.2
Oceania	33	4	28.7	2.32	71.7	76.2
World	6,389	47	57.0	2.65	63.2	67.7

1 Per 1,000 live births.

2 Data are for 2000-05.

Source: United Nations

The number of people seeking asylum in the United Kingdom varies from year to year. However the total number of asylum applications, including dependants, to EU-25 countries remained relatively steady between 1999 and 2002 but then fell in both 2003 and 2004. In 2004 the United Kingdom received 40,600 applications, a fall of 32 per cent compared with 2003 (Table 1.14). Applications to the United Kingdom peaked in 2002 at 103,100. Over a third of countries recorded a rise in applications between 2003 and 2004 (nine out of 25) although, with the exception of France, the overall numbers were still low. When the relative size of the countries' populations are taken into account, the United Kingdom ranked tenth in 2004, with a rate of 0.7 asylum seekers per 1,000 population. This was higher than the EU-25 average of 0.6 per 1,000 population. Cyprus had the highest rate at 11.0 per 1,000 population, followed by Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden, Malta and Slovakia which also had a large number of applications for asylum given the size of their population. In comparison with the EU countries, the USA received 63,000 asylum claims in 2004, 0.2 per 1,000 population and Australia received 3,300 claims, 0.2 per 1,000 population. In 2004 the majority of principal asylum applicants to the UK were aged under 35 years (82 per cent), 15 per cent were aged between 35 and 49 and only 3 per cent were aged 50 and older. Seventy per cent of principal applicants were male.

International perspectives

In 2004 the world population was nearly 6.4 billion people (Table 1.15). Over 3.8 billion lived in Asia – 60 per cent, while 14 per cent lived in Africa and 11 per cent lived in Europe. The remaining 15 per cent lived in North America, Latin America

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

TFR is the average number of children a woman would have if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a particular year for her entire childbearing years. Changes in the number of births are in part due to changes in the population age structure. The TFR is commonly used to look at fertility because it standardises for the changing age structure of the population.

Replacement level fertility

Replacement level fertility is the level at which a population would be exactly replacing itself in the long term, other things being equal. In developing countries this is valued at 2.1 children per woman to take account of infant mortality and those who choose not to have children.

and Oceania. Population density was also highest in Asia, with 121 people resident per square kilometre. Oceania was the least densely populated with only 4 people per square kilometre. All the areas shown in Table 1.15 are less densely populated than England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but Scotland is less densely populated than Asia (see page 16). It is estimated that the population of Africa will grow by 2.1 per cent between 2005 and 2010; while Europe will decline by 0.07 per cent. Most other areas are projected to have population growth during this period.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) varies widely between the different areas of the world. In Africa it was 4.97 children per woman in 2004 but in both North America and Europe the TFR

Table 1.16

European demographic indicators, 2005

	Population (millions)	Infant mortality rate ^{1,2}	Total Fertility Rate ²	Life expectancy at birth (years) ²			Population (millions)	Infant mortality rate ^{1,2}	Total Fertility Rate ²	Life expectancy at birth (years) ²	
				Males	Females					Males	Females
Austria	8.2	4.5	1.42	76.4	82.1	Luxembourg ³	0.5	3.9	1.70	75.1	81.6
Belgium ³	10.4	4.3	1.64	75.9	81.7	Malta ³	0.4	5.9	1.37	76.4	80.4
Cyprus ³	0.7	3.5	1.49	77.0	81.4	Netherlands	16.3	4.1	1.73	76.4	81.1
Czech Republic	10.2	3.7	1.23	72.6	79.0	Poland	38.2	6.8	1.23	70.0	79.2
Denmark	5.4	4.4	1.78	75.2	79.9	Portugal ³	10.5	4.0	1.42	74.0	80.6
Estonia ³	1.3	6.3	1.40	66.0	76.9	Slovakia	5.4	6.8	1.25	70.3	77.8
Finland	5.2	3.3	1.80	75.3	82.3	Slovenia ³	2.0	3.7	1.22	73.2	80.7
France	60.6	3.9	1.90	76.7	83.8	Spain	43.0	3.5	1.32	77.2	83.8
Germany	82.5	4.1	1.37	75.7	81.4	Sweden	9.0	3.1	1.75	78.4	82.7
Greece ³	11.1	3.9	1.29	76.6	81.4	United Kingdom ³	60.0	5.1	1.74	76.2	80.7
Hungary	10.1	6.6	1.28	68.6	76.9						
Ireland ³	4.1	4.9	1.99	75.4	80.5						
Italy ³	58.5	4.1	1.33	76.8	82.5						
Latvia	2.3	9.4	1.24	65.5	77.2						
Lithuania	3.4	7.9	1.26	66.4	77.8						

1 Per 1,000 live births.

2 Infant mortality rate and Total Fertility Rate data are for 2004.

3 Life expectancy data are for 2003.

Source: Eurostat

is below replacement level (1.99 and 1.40 children per woman respectively). This reflects the low infant mortality in these areas; in Europe and North America only 9.2 and 6.8 live births per 1,000 died before age one in 2004 respectively. However in Africa the infant mortality rate is 94.2 per 1,000, suggesting that nearly one in ten children will not survive to their first birthday. Life expectancy is also lower in Africa and is the only continent with life expectancy below the World average. In 2004 there was a difference in life expectancy of 26.6 years for males and 30.3 years for females between Africa and North America (the areas with the lowest and highest levels). For all continents female life expectancy is higher than male; the largest differences were in Europe where females could expect to live 8.4 years longer than males.

Total Fertility Rates were low throughout Europe, ranging from 1.99 children per woman in Ireland to 1.22 children per woman in Slovenia in 2004 (Table 1.16). The lowest fertility rates were found predominantly in countries which joined the EU-25 in

2004, with the lowest seven TFRs being recorded in these countries. Infant mortality rates followed a similar pattern, with the highest rates in the accession countries; though not necessarily the same accession countries as those with the lowest fertility rates. The United Kingdom had the highest infant mortality rate outside the accession countries in both 2003 and 2004.

Across Europe female life expectancy in 2004 ranged from 76.9 years in Estonia and Hungary to 83.8 years in Spain and France; a difference of 6.9 years. For males the difference in life expectancy was 12.9 years, from 65.5 years in Latvia to 78.4 years in Sweden. Within each country the difference between male and female life expectancy was highest in Latvia (11.7 years) and lowest in Malta (4.0 years), while the average differences for all EU-25 countries was 6.6 years. In the United Kingdom life expectancy was 76.2 years for men and 80.7 years for women: a difference of 4.5 years.

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Contact points

For enquiries about this publication, contact the Editor.

Tel: 020 7533 5778

E-mail: social.trends@ons.gsi.gov.uk

For general enquiries, contact the National Statistics Customer Contact Centre.

Tel: 0845 601 3034 (minicom: 01633 812399)

E-mail: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Post: Room 1015, Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road, Newport NP10 8XG

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