

## ONS 2009 Provisional Births

### Background

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 ONS released the first information on the number of births in England & Wales in calendar year 2009. This *Update* focuses on the totals for London boroughs, but gives some background based on the more detailed information available nationally.

For **England & Wales** there were:

- 706,248 births in 2009, a fall of 0.3 per cent from 2008, itself the highest total since 1972.
- The total fertility rate (TFR) at 1.95 children per woman was down from 1.97 in 2008, the highest level since 1973.
- There were annual decreases in fertility rates at all age groups under 35, with the greatest rise being to mothers aged over 40.
- Nationally both the highest and lowest TFRs were seen in London. Newham was estimated to have had the highest TFR at 2.87 children per woman, while the lowest was in Westminster at 1.18.

For **London:**

- Births increased by 1,594, 1.25 per cent, since 2008, to reach 129,245 in 2009.
- Since 2001 births in London have increased by 24.1 per cent.
- The greatest percentage increases since 2001 have been in Barking & Dagenham (51 per cent), Greenwich (40 per cent), Hounslow (37 per cent), Redbridge (37 per cent) and Sutton (33 per cent)
- Recent increase in births has been twice as rapid in Outer boroughs compared to Inner boroughs, with 72 per cent of the London increase being in Outer boroughs
- On the basis of these births London will need to provide approximately 11 per cent more reception class places by January 2014.
- Estimates suggest eight London boroughs would need to provide at least 20 more reception classes, led by Ealing (27) and Wandsworth (26).
  
- The births totals are provisional and will be finalised in July or August this year. All rates are based on the revised mid-year estimate populations for 2008 published by ONS on 10 May 2010.

Full details of the births data are available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/prep/14408.asp>

## London Births

Table 1 shows calendar year births since 2001. Births in London increased by 1,594, 1.25 per cent, since 2008, to reach 129,245 in 2009. This was the lowest percentage rise since 2001-02 following the 1.71 per cent rise in 2008. Since 2001 births in London have increased by 24.1 per cent. The TFR for London was 1.95, identical to the national average.

The greatest absolute increases since 2008 were seen in Redbridge (240) and Brent (233) with seven other boroughs having increases of over 100. Conversely seven boroughs saw declines, led by Enfield (172). Although there has been a consistent year-on-year rise in London as a whole, eleven boroughs have had peak numbers of births in 2008 or earlier: Kensington & Chelsea and Lambeth in 2006; Camden, Haringey and Newham in 2007 and Southwark, Croydon, Enfield, Havering, Richmond upon Thames and Waltham Forest in 2008.

**Table 1: Births 2001 to 2009, London boroughs**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>London</b>	<b>104,162</b>	<b>105,603</b>	<b>110,437</b>	<b>113,679</b>	<b>116,019</b>	<b>120,883</b>	<b>125,505</b>	<b>127,651</b>	<b>129,245</b>
		1.0138	1.0458	1.0294	1.0206	1.0419	1.0382	1.0171	1.0125
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>45,089</b>	<b>45,734</b>	<b>47,848</b>	<b>48,599</b>	<b>49,548</b>	<b>51,385</b>	<b>52,198</b>	<b>52,744</b>	<b>53,209</b>
<b>Camden</b>	2,792	2,839	2,944	3,047	2,954	3,012	3,147	3,061	3,094
<b>Hackney</b>	4,095	4,084	4,261	4,366	4,375	4,538	4,452	4,485*	4,574*
<b>City of London</b>	53	57	62	58	64	75	48	-	-
<b>Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b>	2,365	2,585	2,559	2,623	2,686	2,770	2,695	2,733	2,841
<b>Haringey</b>	3,830	3,731	3,890	4,017	4,026	4,076	4,325	4,289	4,193
<b>Islington</b>	2,500	2,510	2,671	2,675	2,731	2,803	2,792	2,917	2,983
<b>Kensington &amp; Chelsea</b>	2,138	2,156	2,235	2,205	2,188	2,321	2,218	2,216	2,227
<b>Lambeth</b>	4,397	4,374	4,787	4,753	4,739	4,908	4,822	4,837	4,863
<b>Lewisham</b>	3,718	3,845	3,932	4,068	4,284	4,568	4,671	4,872	4,888
<b>Newham</b>	4,805	4,938	5,102	5,170	5,353	5,523	6,053	5,963	6,003
<b>Southwark</b>	3,998	4,138	4,342	4,452	4,714	4,753	4,966	5,008	4,873
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	3,646	3,845	3,940	4,086	3,968	4,152	4,144	4,230	4,337
<b>Wandsworth</b>	4,182	4,080	4,359	4,345	4,554	5,000	4,936	5,246	5,335
<b>Westminster</b>	2,570	2,552	2,764	2,734	2,912	2,886	2,929	2,887	2,998
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>59,073</b>	<b>59,869</b>	<b>62,589</b>	<b>65,080</b>	<b>66,471</b>	<b>69,498</b>	<b>73,307</b>	<b>74,907</b>	<b>76,036</b>
<b>Barking &amp; Dagenham</b>	2,407	2,419	2,594	2,751	2,985	3,208	3,384	3,619	3,624
<b>Barnet</b>	4,063	4,180	4,334	4,482	4,728	4,834	5,120	5,195	5,286
<b>Bexley</b>	2,626	2,517	2,640	2,699	2,686	2,788	2,947	2,975	3,029
<b>Brent</b>	3,917	4,155	4,376	4,326	4,503	4,700	4,839	4,899	5,132
<b>Bromley</b>	3,414	3,401	3,651	3,589	3,663	3,740	3,956	3,983	4,104
<b>Croydon</b>	4,401	4,372	4,591	4,869	4,704	5,024	5,315	5,331	5,235
<b>Ealing</b>	4,392	4,436	4,479	4,767	4,838	5,064	5,346	5,549	5,638
<b>Enfield</b>	3,747	3,988	4,087	4,222	4,496	4,543	4,856	5,000	4,828
<b>Greenwich</b>	3,210	3,345	3,446	3,721	3,963	4,236	4,471	4,361	4,480
<b>Harrow</b>	2,581	2,564	2,848	2,870	2,872	2,924	3,088	3,230	3,265
<b>Havering</b>	2,382	2,257	2,366	2,559	2,474	2,426	2,575	2,787	2,697
<b>Hillingdon</b>	3,244	3,292	3,334	3,473	3,489	3,691	3,845	4,126	4,207
<b>Hounslow</b>	3,134	3,253	3,306	3,638	3,674	3,828	4,082	4,209	4,297
<b>Kingston upon Thames</b>	1,787	1,815	1,859	2,041	2,000	2,046	2,197	2,248	2,321
<b>Merton</b>	2,664	2,535	2,737	2,828	2,925	3,091	3,300	3,330	3,462
<b>Redbridge</b>	3,110	3,231	3,376	3,483	3,577	3,977	4,085	4,013	4,253
<b>Richmond upon Thames</b>	2,394	2,413	2,548	2,585	2,580	2,767	2,884	2,865	2,859
<b>Sutton</b>	2,090	2,131	2,247	2,220	2,325	2,426	2,568	2,605	2,786
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	3,510	3,565	3,770	3,957	3,989	4,185	4,449	4,582	4,533

\* Hackney includes City of London

Since 2001 annual births have increased by over a thousand in twelve boroughs led by Greenwich (1,270), with a total increase of over 25 thousand in Greater London. The greatest percentage increases in this time period have been in Barking & Dagenham (51 per cent), Greenwich (40 per cent), Hounslow (37 per cent), Redbridge (37 per cent) and Sutton (33 per cent).

**Table 2: Impact of the Increase in Births, London Boroughs**

	<b>Change 2005 to 2009</b>	<b>% Change 2005 to 2009</b>	<b>Additional Reception Classes by Jan 2014</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>13,226</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>441</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>3,661</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>122</b>
Camden	140	5	5
Hackney	132	3	4
City of London	-	-	-
Hammersmith & Fulham	155	6	5
Haringey	167	4	6
Islington	252	9	8
Kensington & Chelsea	39	2	1
Lambeth	124	3	4
Lewisham	604	14	20
Newham	650	12	22
Southwark	159	3	5
Tower Hamlets	369	9	12
Wandsworth	781	17	26
Westminster	86	3	3
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>9,565</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>319</b>
Barking & Dagenham	639	21	21
Barnet	558	12	19
Bexley	343	13	11
Brent	629	14	21
Bromley	441	12	15
Croydon	531	11	18
Ealing	800	17	27
Enfield	332	7	11
Greenwich	517	13	17
Harrow	393	14	13
Havering	223	9	7
Hillingdon	718	21	24
Hounslow	623	17	21
Kingston upon Thames	321	16	11
Merton	537	18	18
Redbridge	676	19	23
Richmond upon Thames	279	11	9
Sutton	461	20	15
Waltham Forest	544	14	18

\* Hackney includes City of London

Those children born in 2005 were, at 31st December 2009, aged four and should all be in reception classes by January 2010. Those children born in 2009 will all be four by the end of 2013. Table 2 shows that the increase in births in London between 2005 and 2009 was 13.2 thousand, or 11 per cent. Therefore, assuming all other things being equal, London will need to provide approximately 11 per cent more reception class places by January 2014. In Barking & Dagenham that increase will be 21 per cent and in both Havering and Sutton 20 per cent. If an average reception class size is assumed to be 30 children, eight boroughs would need to provide at least 20 more classes, led by Ealing (27) and Wandsworth (26). The only factor mitigating this rise in required provision is that in recent years 10 to 15 per cent of children born in London have tended to move out of London by the time of starting school. However, since mid-2007 the ability of many families with young children to leave London has been curtailed by the economic downturn, hence adding their children to London borough school rolls.

The recent increase in births has been twice as rapid in Outer boroughs compared to Inner boroughs, with 72 per cent of the London increase being in Outer boroughs

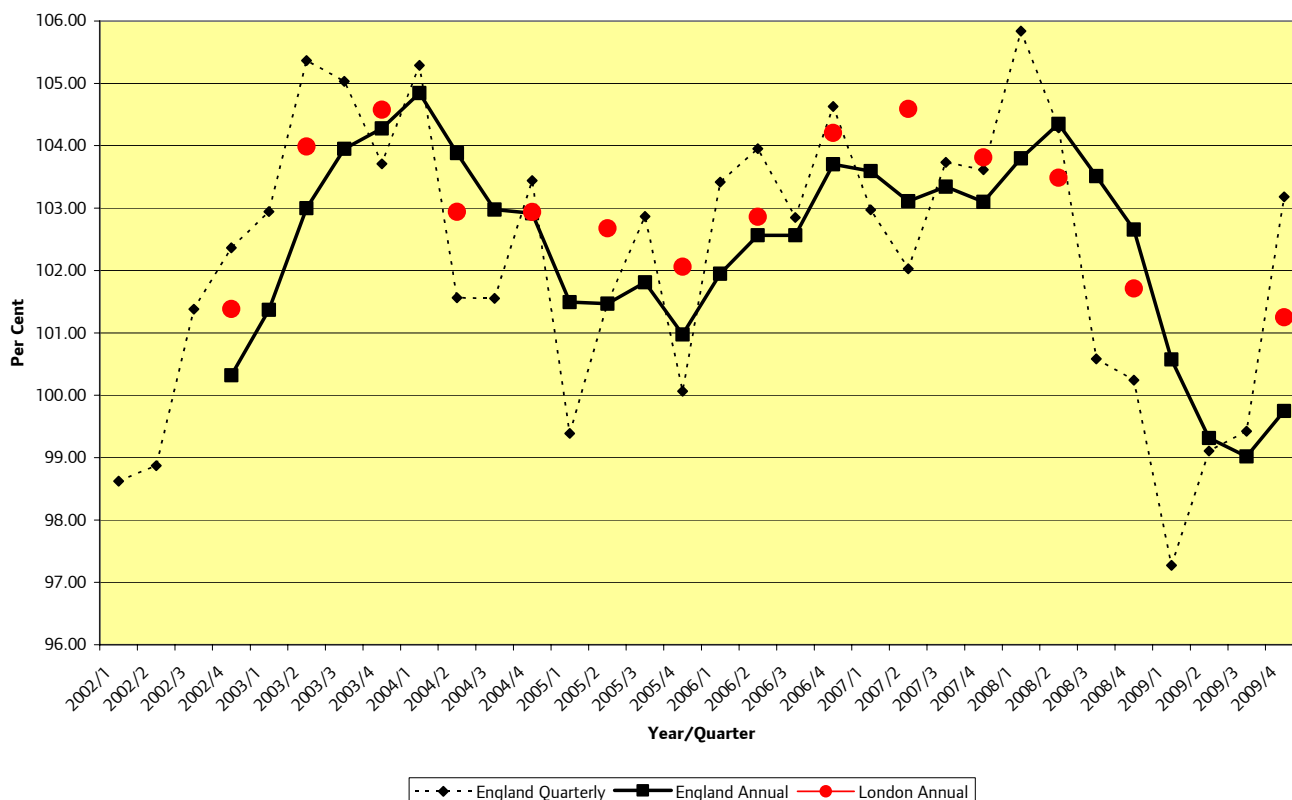
## Analysis

Chart 1 shows the percentage changes in births in England on a quarterly and annual basis and in London on an annual basis since the beginning of 2002. On a quarterly comparison births in England fell in the first three quarters of 2009 but recovered significantly in the last quarter. By mid-2009 annual (12 month totals) had declined compared to the previous year. This was the first annual decline in this series and remained the case to the end of 2009. The quarterly comparisons are more volatile and particularly so in 2009, with nearly 3 per cent decline in quarter 1 and over 3 per cent increase in quarter 4. ONS has used a declining trend in total fertility rates in its 2008-based projections for England, based, in part, on the experience of early 2009. Evidence from the second half of 2009 means that the start of the anticipated decline in births may have been little more than a blip.

In 2007-08 and 2008 the rate of increase in births in London reduced ahead of the decline in England as a whole. The London data for births in 2008-09 will be published as part of the 2008-09 mid-year estimates change analysis on 24 June, so at present the series is missing data that may show a turning point in these statistics.

The GLA Demography Team will continue to monitor the trends in England and in London as part of the preparation for future GLA demographic projections assumptions.

**Chart 1: Quarterly and Annual Birth Trends. England and London**



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