

## 2006-based population projections

### Background

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 the Office for National Statistics released the 2006-based population projections for the UK and composite countries.

- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pproj1007.pdf>

These were produced using the long-term assumptions for UK population projections that were published on September 27<sup>th</sup> this year.

- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ppro0907.pdf>
- [http://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)

### Assumptions for projections

The key long-term assumptions for the projections for the UK are as follows:

- 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.

As stated in the ONS press release:

“The assumptions underlying national population projections are demographic trend based. They are not forecasts. They do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors (whether in the UK or overseas) might have on demographic behaviour. They simply provide the population levels that would result if the assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration levels were to be realised in practice.”

### Results

The projections use the 2006 mid-year population estimate as their base.

**Table 1: 2006-based population projections, by county**

|                   | Persons, thousands |        |        |        |        |        |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|
|                   | 2006               | 2011   | 2016   | 2021   | 2026   | 2031   | Change 2006 to 2026 |
| United Kingdom    | 60,587             | 62,761 | 64,975 | 67,191 | 69,260 | 71,100 | 14%                 |
| Great Britain     | 58,846             | 60,950 | 63,107 | 65,269 | 67,294 | 69,101 | 14%                 |
| England and Wales | 53,729             | 55,744 | 57,837 | 59,943 | 61,931 | 63,727 | 15%                 |
| England           | 50,763             | 52,706 | 54,724 | 56,757 | 58,682 | 60,432 | 16%                 |
| Wales             | 2,966              | 3,038  | 3,113  | 3,186  | 3,248  | 3,296  | 10%                 |
| Scotland          | 5,117              | 5,206  | 5,270  | 5,326  | 5,363  | 5,374  | 5%                  |
| Northern Ireland  | 1,742              | 1,812  | 1,868  | 1,922  | 1,966  | 1,999  | 13%                 |

In the twenty years from 2006 to 2026 the United Kingdom is projected to have a 14% increase from 60.6 million to 69.2 million people. England, and England & Wales are projected to have a greater increase of 16% (7.9 million people) and 15% (8.2 million people) respectively. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are all projected to grow from 2006 to 2026 but at a slower rate.

Differences in the growth rates of each constituent country are because of differing assumption in the fertility, mortality and migration patterns in each case.

**Figure 1: Fertility assumption, Total Fertility Rate by country**

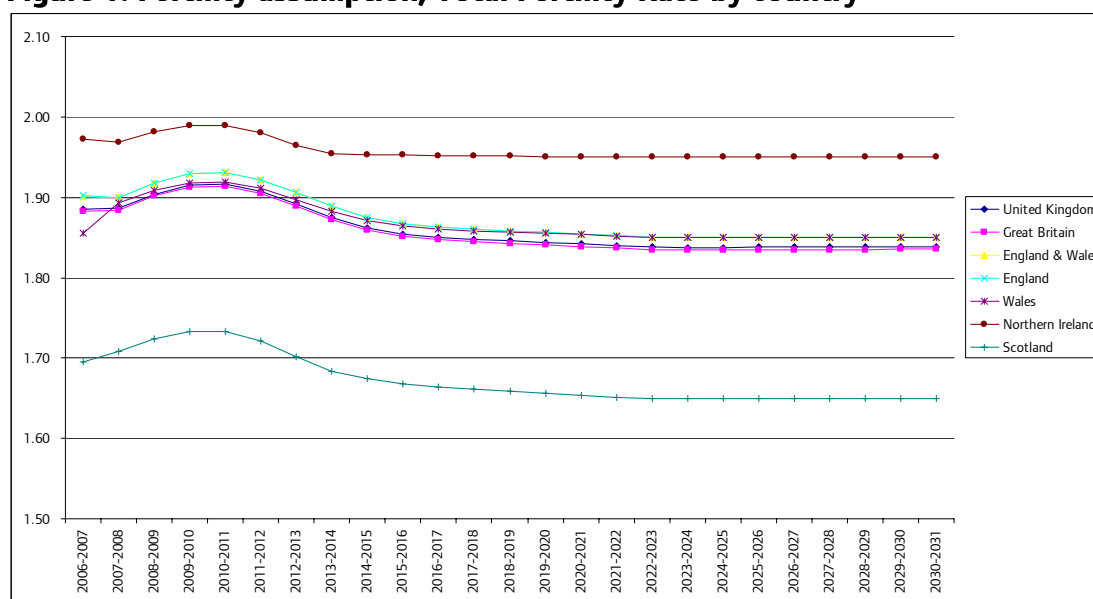


Figure 1 clearly shows that Scotland has much lower TFR compared with other countries and Northern Ireland is much higher.

The increase in life expectancy and higher net migration for all countries combined with the continued high fertility rates combine to lead to continued increase in population.

The GLA 2007 Round demographic projections will use the fertility and mortality assumptions for England as well as the net international migration trend for the UK.

### Data Availability

Key results for the projections are available from the ONS website  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519>

Full results are on the GAD website  
[http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography\\_Data/Population/](http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/)

2006-based subnational population projections will be produced by ONS during 2008.

For more information please contact John Hollis or Caroline Hall, Data Management and Analysis Group, Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA  
 Tel: 020 7983 4604 e-mail: [john.hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:john.hollis@london.gov.uk) or 020 7983 4347 e-mail: [caroline.hall@london.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.hall@london.gov.uk)

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