

GAD 2003-based National Population Projections

Key points

- **GAD 2003-based projections released on 30 September 2004**
- **UK population set to rise 8.0% to 63.835 million in 2021**
- **Larger increase in England and Wales – 9.0% - to stand at 57.060 million in 2021**

Background

The Principal population projections released by GAD on 30 September 2004, take account of the recently release mid-year estimates for 2003 and the revisions to the mid-2001 and 2002 estimates. In keeping with the decision by ONS to remove the unattributable population change component from the mid-year estimates, GAD has removed UPC from the 2003-based projections. These projections are deemed to be 'interim' because the long-term assumptions for fertility, mortality and net migration, which were used in the 2002-based projections, have remained the same for the 2003-based. There have, however, been some revisions to the short-term assumptions for fertility and cross-border migration. For fertility, this has resulted in slightly higher total fertility rates for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 than in the 2002-based projections. The differences for net migration are summarised in Table 1 below;

Table 1
Short-term net migration assumptions for the United Kingdom and constituent countries
2003-based interim national population projections, thousands

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
Short-term assumptions					
2003-2004	99.5	18.5	12	0	130
2004-2005	108	15	7.5	-0.5	130
2005-2006	116	11.5	3	-0.5	130
Long-term assumptions (unchanged from 2002-based projections)					
2006-2007 onwards	124	8	-1.5	-0.5	130

In addition to the revisions to short-term assumptions, where possible the 2003-04 results also take account of actual data.

Results

The 2003-based projections are slightly higher than those of the 2002-based, around 0.2% higher in 2003, rising to nearly 1% higher in 2021, for both the UK and England and Wales. The total fertility rates are much the same in the later years, but due to the changes to short-term assumptions, the differences between the 2002 and 2003-based projections are great. Tables 2 and 3, overleaf, show the differences between the two sets of projections.

Table 2
GAD Population Projections
Comparison of TFR between 2002 and 2003-based Principal Projections, England and Wales

	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006	2006- 2007	2007- 2008
2002-based	1.69	1.70	1.71	1.71	1.72	1.72
2003-based	1.69 ¹	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.73	1.73

¹TFR data is average of calendar years 2002 and 2003

Table 3
GAD Population Projections
Comparison of 2002 and 2003-based Principal Projections, thousands and rates

		2001 ¹	2006	2011	2016	2021
England and Wales						
2002-based	Population	52,297	53,252	54,287	55,402	56,517
	TFR ²	1.65	1.71	1.74	1.75	1.75
2003-based	Population	52,360	53,463	54,615	55,834	57,060
	TFR	1.65	1.74	1.74	1.75	1.75
United Kingdom						
2002-based	Population	59,051	59,995	61,022	62,134	63,239
	TFR	1.64	1.70	1.72	1.73	1.74
2003-based	Population	59,113	60,254	61,401	62,618	63,835
	TFR	1.64	1.73	1.72	1.73	1.74

¹ 2001 data: population data relate to current mid-year estimates at the time projection; TFR data is average of calendar years 2000 and 2001

² TFR data for 2006 onwards relates to year to mid-year shown

The general results show that the population is increasing; the UK is expected to rise 4.721 million between 2001 and 2021, naturally with the majority (99.6%) of the increase occurring in England and Wales, while Scotland is expected to show a fall and Northern Ireland a small rise. This represents an average rise of around 236 thousand a year. UK population is set to rise across all ages and genders. However, the population is getting older; with the mean age increasing from 39.4 to 42.2 between 2003 and 2021 and the life expectancy at birth increasing for both men and women. Births and deaths are stable, with the natural change ranging between 96 and 118 thousand per year.

The full results are available on the GAD website: <http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp>

Future developments

On 21 October 2004, GAD will release the 2003-based Variant projections, for the UK only. In October 2005, after a review of the underlying assumptions, the next 'full' set of principal projections, 2004-based, will be released.

Comments or further information:

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