

## ONS 2006-based Subnational population projections

### Background

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008 ONS released 2006-based subnational population projections (SNPP). These projections were the subject of a consultation earlier this year, see *DMAG Update 03-2008 ONS 2006-based Subnational Population Projections Consultation*.

The projections replace the revised 2004-based SNPP that were published in September 2007 which were used by CLG in the local authority grant allocation process for financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11. The 2006 SNPP will not be similarly used, although it is anticipated that the ONS 2008 SNPP will be when published in 2010.

Results are available for each year from 2006 (the mid-year estimate) to 2031 for all local authorities in England, with aggregates to counties, Government Office regions and health areas. Data are available by gender and for five-year age groups to 85+.

Full details of the projections are available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=997>

The 2006 SNPP are the first to consider past international migration (2001-06) prepared under the new methodology introduced by ONS last year. The revised 2004 SNPP used revised data for 2001-04 but the original flows for 1999-2001. The new projections, therefore, may differ quite markedly from their predecessors in areas that had the most significant amendments to international migration flows.

The 2006 SNPP are constrained to the results of the ONS 2006-based projections for England. In particular this means that the latest national assumptions about trends in fertility, mortality and international migration have been incorporated. The new assumptions show higher fertility rates, higher life expectancy and more net migration to England, therefore the national constraint population is higher. The population in England at 2031 is currently projected to be 60.43 million. This compares to the 2004-based projection that showed just 56.83 million.

It must be stressed that ONS considers the SNPP to be trend-based projections. The results may therefore differ considerably from the annual GLA projections in support of the *London Plan*, which are largely based on expected future housing developments. However, one of the GLA 2007 Round variant projections for London, PLP High, was designed to anticipate the migration levels used by ONS in the SNPP. The results of the two projections are quite similar. PLP High shows a population of 8.66 million in 2026 while the 2006 SNPP shows 8.63 million.

## Results

**Table 1: Population by age for London, 2006 to 2031 (thousands)**

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>0-4</b>	513.2	587.6	593.4	591.9	590.3	589.3
<b>5-9</b>	429.2	462.9	528.9	534.7	533.8	532.3
<b>10-14</b>	417.7	395.7	425.2	485.1	490.9	490.3
<b>15-19</b>	441.3	414.5	392.3	418.2	473.8	479.7
<b>20-24</b>	538.4	571.9	541.1	516.1	535.3	593.4
<b>25-29</b>	732.0	764.9	798.9	765.7	735.2	753.4
<b>30-34</b>	740.3	738.8	775.7	811.3	779.8	749.5
<b>35-39</b>	676.3	669.8	669.2	706.2	739.9	712.0
<b>40-44</b>	599.4	619.1	609.8	610.1	645.5	677.0
<b>45-49</b>	486.2	555.8	572.8	562.7	563.6	597.5
<b>50-54</b>	393.6	453.5	517.7	532.9	522.7	524.1
<b>55-59</b>	373.6	359.2	414.0	472.9	486.5	476.9
<b>60-64</b>	287.4	329.5	317.4	366.8	420.0	432.4
<b>65-69</b>	243.5	248.1	287.0	277.0	321.2	369.1
<b>70-74</b>	211.7	209.3	216.1	251.9	243.9	283.7
<b>75-79</b>	178.2	174.3	176.8	185.2	217.6	211.6
<b>80-84</b>	132.8	132.1	135.1	141.2	150.7	178.5
<b>85+</b>	117.4	129.7	142.9	160.2	182.0	207.2
<b>ALL AGES</b>	<b>7512.4</b>	<b>7816.8</b>	<b>8114.3</b>	<b>8390.1</b>	<b>8632.6</b>	<b>8857.9</b>

For London the key results are an increase in population of 1.346 million persons (17.9%) between 2006 and 2031, reaching a population of 8.858 million. This is considerably higher than the highest recorded population in London: 8.6 million in 1939. London's projected growth compares with a 19.0% increase for England. This is the first ONS SNPP since the 2001 Census that shows less rapid growth for London compared with England. The main cause is the reduced share of international migration assigned to London using ONS' revised distribution methodology.

The fastest growing regions are projected to be East Midlands (25.8%), East (24.8%), South West (24.4%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (22.9%). The South East (19.1%) is also projected to increase at a greater rate than London. The absolute growth in London is 13.9% of that of England (9.669 million) and is third behind the South East (1.576 million) and East (1.391 million).

It is again projected that London's female population will grow more slowly than the male: 16.8% compared to 19.0%. This is a national phenomena mainly caused by the anticipated more rapid improvement in male survival.

**Chart 1: Population by age for London, 2006 and 2031 (thousands)**

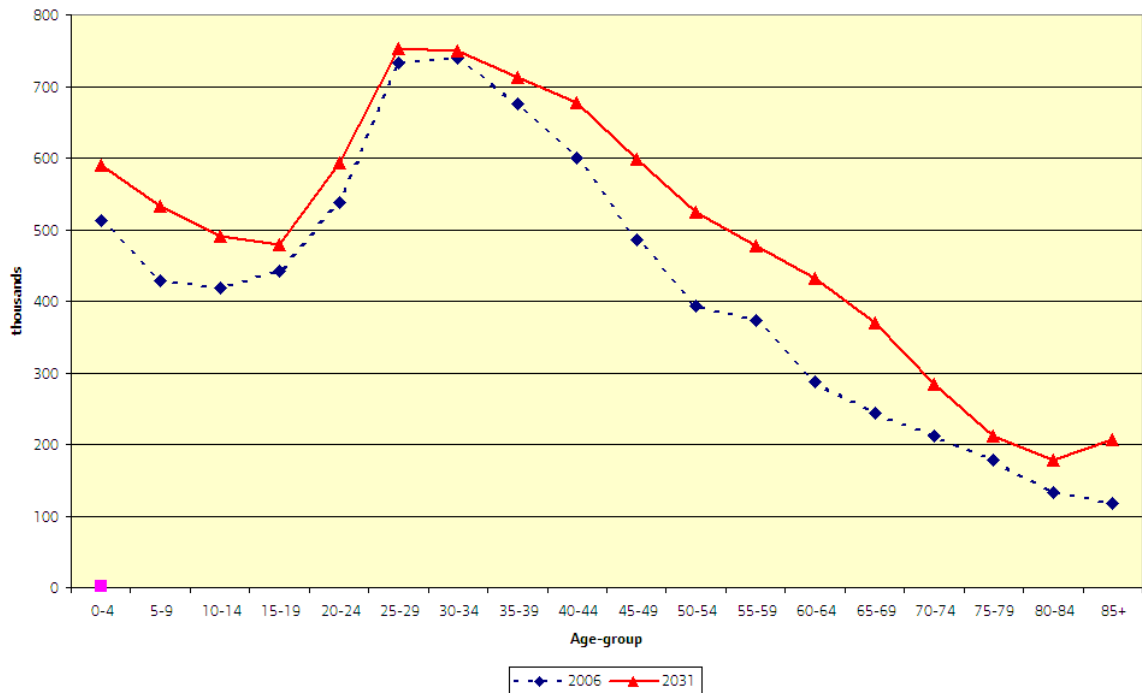


Chart 1 shows the changing age structure of London, with increases projected in all age groups between 2006 and 2031. The largest absolute increases are in the 60-64 and 65-69 age groups (145 thousand and 126 thousand), however the greatest percentage growth is for persons aged over 85 (76%). The pattern of change is similar to that shown by GLA projections, with significantly more children but little change in the twenties and thirties.

An estimate of the impact of the 2006 subnational population projection on households can be calculated by replacing the new populations in the detailed CLG 2004-based household projection results for 2006 and 2026. This produces household projections of 3.187 million in 2006 and 3.889 million in 2026, a growth of 703 thousand. These figures are remarkably close to the GLA's PLP High household projections: 3.185 million in 2006 and 3.897 million in 2026, a growth of 712 thousand. For more information see *DMAG Briefing 2008-07 GLA 2007 Round Demographic Projections*.

**Table 2: Population by London borough<sup>1</sup>, 2006 to 2031 (thousands)**

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
<b>Barking and Dagenham</b>	165.7	167.7	171.0	174.8	178.5	182.2
<b>Barnet</b>	328.6	345.1	361.6	377.3	391.1	403.4
<b>Bexley</b>	221.6	226.8	233.2	240.2	247.1	253.7
<b>Brent</b>	271.4	276.5	282.8	289.5	295.9	302.4
<b>Bromley</b>	299.1	306.3	314.3	322.9	331.4	339.5
<b>Camden</b>	227.5	260.1	286.2	306.9	323.8	338.0
<b>Croydon</b>	337.0	342.6	349.6	357.3	364.9	372.4
<b>Ealing</b>	306.4	311.5	317.5	323.8	329.6	335.3
<b>Enfield</b>	285.3	292.8	301.1	309.6	317.6	325.1
<b>Greenwich</b>	222.6	231.0	239.8	248.3	255.9	262.8
<b>Hackney</b>	208.4	211.5	216.3	221.1	225.2	229.2
<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	171.4	176.4	181.8	186.7	190.9	195.4
<b>Haringey</b>	225.7	228.6	233.7	239.3	244.3	249.2
<b>Harrow</b>	214.6	221.4	228.5	235.6	241.9	247.5
<b>Havering</b>	227.3	232.4	238.3	245.0	251.7	258.1
<b>Hillingdon</b>	250.0	257.0	264.0	270.7	277.3	283.5
<b>Hounslow</b>	218.6	225.0	231.6	237.9	243.5	248.8
<b>Islington</b>	185.5	194.5	202.6	209.3	214.8	220.5
<b>Kensington and Chelsea</b>	178.0	196.2	210.7	223.3	234.2	243.9
<b>Kingston upon Thames</b>	155.9	166.2	175.6	184.2	192.2	199.3
<b>Lambeth</b>	272.0	276.7	284.3	291.5	297.2	303.0
<b>Lewisham</b>	255.7	262.0	269.9	278.0	285.3	292.1
<b>Merton</b>	197.7	208.2	218.1	227.3	235.2	242.3
<b>Newham</b>	248.4	248.1	249.6	251.9	254.7	258.4
<b>Redbridge</b>	251.9	264.9	277.0	288.0	297.5	305.7
<b>Richmond upon Thames</b>	179.5	189.0	198.0	206.5	213.9	219.9
<b>Southwark</b>	269.2	289.1	305.6	318.8	329.3	338.6
<b>Sutton</b>	184.4	190.3	197.0	204.1	210.9	217.2
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	212.8	230.0	245.0	257.0	266.2	274.3
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	221.7	223.4	226.6	230.4	234.2	238.0
<b>Wandsworth</b>	279.0	294.8	309.7	321.6	330.2	338.0
<b>Westminster</b>	231.9	262.3	284.7	302.5	317.4	331.0
<b>London</b>	<b>7512.4</b>	<b>7816.8</b>	<b>8114.3</b>	<b>8390.1</b>	<b>8632.6</b>	<b>8857.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> City of London is included in the totals for London but is not shown separately as the projections produced are not robust enough for such a small area.

Within London ONS predicts growth in all boroughs between 2006 and 2031. This ranges from lows of 4.0% in Newham and 7.4% in Waltham Forest to highs of 48.6% in Camden and 42.7% in Westminster. Camden is projected to be the fastest growing local authority in England.