

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Data Management and Analysis Group

2001 Census: First Results and Implications for the *draft London Plan*

DMAG Briefing 2002/5

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2001 Census: First Results: Key Features

- The resident population of London at Census day (29 April) 2001 was 7.172 million. This compares to the ONS mid-2000 estimate of 7.375 million and a population at mid-2001 of 7.411 million as used in the *draft London Plan*.
- The Census day resident population of England & Wales was 52.042 million. This compares to the ONS mid-2000 estimate of 52.943 million.
- It is believed that about 300 thousand of the difference for England & Wales is an over correction of the 1991 Census figures in the calculation of the 1991 mid-year estimate. The rest of the difference is due to over estimation of the impact of international migration throughout the decade.
- For England & Wales the difference is mainly an overestimation of males. The forecasts in the *draft London Plan* have used a London population that has relatively fewer males when compared to the ONS estimates and projections
- Within London two boroughs, Kensington & Chelsea and City of Westminster, account for 95 thousand of the 203 thousand difference between the Census day population and the mid-2000 estimate. The *draft London Plan* incorporates much lower populations for these boroughs when compared to ONS estimates.
- Provisional projections for London incorporating the new Census population show population growth of 721 thousand from 2001 to 2016. This compares to 738 thousand in the *draft London Plan*.
- When converted to households the new provisional projection is for an increase of 303 thousand compared to 311 thousand in the *draft London Plan*.
- The next release of 2001 Census results will be a set of 500 variables for local authorities in February 2003.

2001 Census: First Results

This morning ONS released the first results from the 2001 Census on their website <www.statistics.gov.uk>. These data comprise the population by gender and age group for each local authority in England & Wales. A separate *Dmag Briefing* will focus on the borough populations and the detailed age structure. This *Briefing* utilises information obtained at a recent 'off-the-record' meeting with ONS and looks at the implications of the new total population of London for the *London Plan* demographic forecasts.

The resident population of London on Census day (29 April 2001) was 7.172 million. This compares with the ONS estimate for mid-1991 of 6.890 million and the most recent estimate for mid-2000 of 7.375 million. The background projections to the *draft London Plan* incorporate a population in 2001 of 7.411 million.

Nationally the picture is similar. **The England & Wales Census day population was 52.042 million.** This compares with 51.100 million at mid-1991 and 52.943 million at mid-2000.

The national difference is mainly seen in the reduced estimate of young adult males. The female population is very close to expectation. ONS believe that the difference between the England & Wales Census day population and the mid-2000 estimate was partly due to an over correction of 300 thousand in the mid-1991 estimate. The remaining difference is due to overestimation of the net effect of asylum applicants, visitor switchers and other international migration into the country since 1991. When ONS converted the 1991 Census population to the 1991 mid-year estimate the young adult male population was given the largest boost. As it is also this group that forms the majority of asylum applicants and international immigrants the ONS hypothesis appears to be feasible.

For London the GLA has always believed that the ONS estimates contained too many males relative to females when compared to its own population estimates prepared as part of its regular series of projections.

If the ONS hypothesis of a national over correction in 1991 of 300 thousand is distributed to all local authorities the London population at mid-1991 should be about 6.835 million, some 55 thousand fewer than the original estimate. ONS intends to distribute recalculated mid-year population estimates for all local authorities between 1991 and 2000 in February 2003.

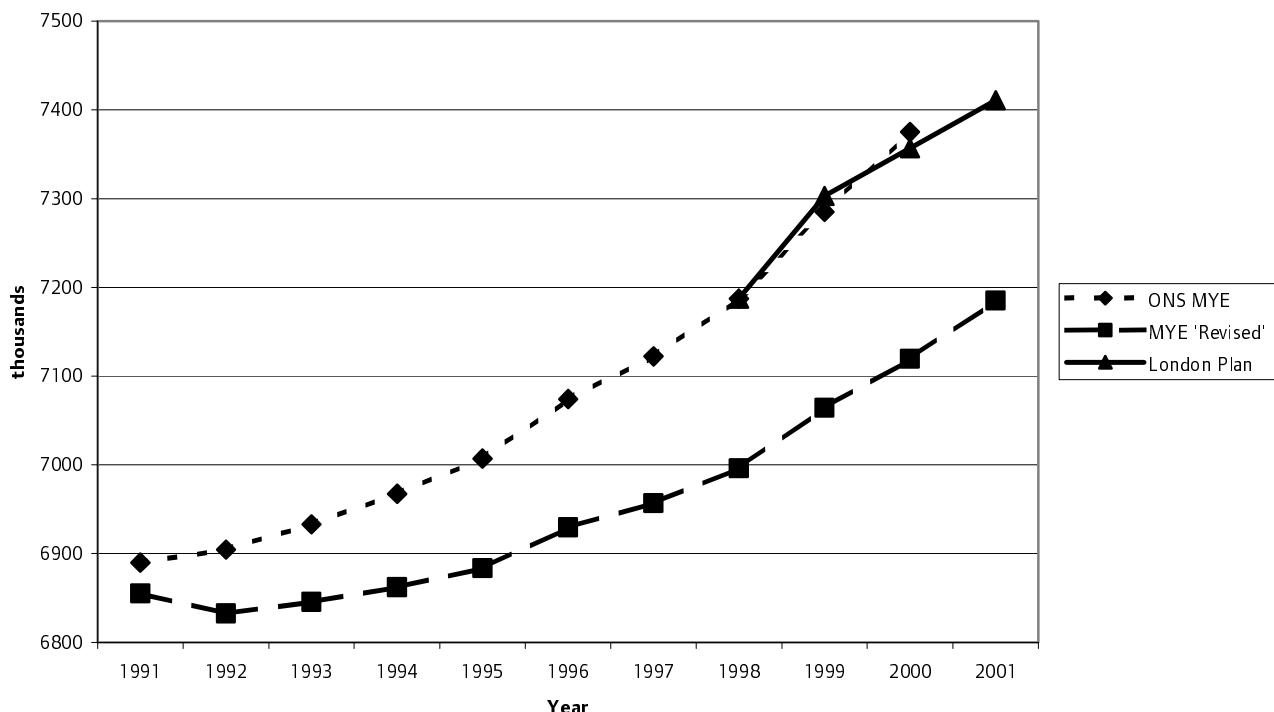
The Census day population for London is some 203 thousand lower than the mid-2000 estimate. Of this total 95 thousand is accounted for in Kensington & Chelsea and the City of Westminster. In the forecasts prepared for the *London Plan (SDS Technical Report 5)* the populations of these two boroughs were reduced substantially as it was considered that the mid-year estimates were overestimating the effect of international migration.

Revised Population Estimates from 1991 to 2001

Given the reduced mid-1991 population, the 2001 Census day population and the original annual mid-year estimate change analyses it is possible to construct a sequence of mid-year populations for London between 1991 and 2001. The only assumption required is that the original annual estimates of international immigration (including asylum seekers and visitor switchers) are reduced proportionally in each year. The chart shows the resulting populations with comparisons to the original mid-year estimates from 1991 to 2000 and the *London Plan* population forecast from 1998 to 2001. (*Note that these are GLA revisions not the 'official' ONS revisions.*)

The revised series shows that London grew by 350 thousand in the decade, compared to the original ONS estimate of 485 thousand between 1991 and 2000. Had ONS prepared a mid-2001 estimate based on the 2000 estimate and using the same methodology the resulting population for 2001 would have been about 7.480 million, an increase of 590 thousand in the decade, including a net international flow to London of 690 thousand. The revised estimate of international migration over the decade consistent with the 2001 Census would now be about 450 thousand.

Greater London Population: 1991-2001



Implications for the *draft London Plan*

The details available from the Census are not yet sufficient to prepare a new borough level demographic projection. This will be done in mid-October when ONS have released the full gender and age structures of the borough populations for mid-2001. However, the revised sequence of annual estimates for London, together with the implied annual international inflows have been linked to the results from the most recent GLA projection to prepare a provisional projection of both population and households for London comparable to those presented in *SDS Technical Report 5*.

It has been assumed that the migration flows to and from London in 2001-02 are the average of the most recent five years: 1996-2001. After 2002 the inflows (both international and from the rest of the UK) are held constant and the outflows increase in line with the increasing London population. This assumption is consistent with the projection used in the *London Plan*, although in that case the last five years of data were for 1993-98. It is further assumed that the annual crude birth and death rates used in the most recent GLA projections may be applied in the new calculations. Table 1 shows the different migration bases of the two projections as well as the original estimates associated with the mid-year estimates. The overall difference between the 1993-98 and revised 1996-01 migration figures is only 2 thousand per year, but the distribution between the international gains and the UK losses are more substantial.

Table 2: The *London Plan* projection and the provisional 2001-based projection compared (thousands)

	<i>London Plan</i> (SDS TR 5)		2001-based	
	2001	2016	2001	2016
Population	7411	8149	7185	7906
Population Growth		738		721
Households (DETR rates)	3125	3592	3030	3485
Households (Benchmarked)	3110	3421	3014	3317
Household Growth		311		303

While these projections must be treated as highly provisional they do imply that while the new 2001 starting levels of population and households are lower than those used in the *London Plan* the extent of change over the fifteen year period is substantially the same.

Table 1: Average Annual Net Migration Flows for London (thousands)

		1993-98	1996-01 (Original)	1996-01 (Revised)
United Kingdom	In	165	167	167
	Out	212	225	225
	Net	-47	-58	-58
International	In	122	178	147
	Out	67	82	82
	Net	55	96	65
Total	Net	9	37	7

The outcome of the projection is a growth in population between 2001 and 2016 of 721 thousand, compared to 738 thousand in the *London Plan*.

In terms of households, two alternatives have been calculated. The first uses the 'standard' 1996-based household representative rates prepared by the, then, DETR. This leads to an increase of 455 thousand households (30.3 thousand per year) over the period 2001-16. The equivalent figure from the background projection to the *London Plan* was 467 thousand.

The second calculation of households follows the benchmarking process described in *SDS Technical Report 5*. This leads to an additional 303 thousand households (20.2 thousand per year) and compares to the 311 thousand in the *London Plan*. Table 2 presents the figures.

Release of Further 2001 Census and other Demographic Statistics

The current timetable for the release of additional demographic information by ONS is as follows:

- October 10, 2002** **2001 mid-year population estimates** by age and gender for each local authority area.
- February 13, 2003** **2001 Census Key Statistics** for local authority areas. This comprises a set of about 500 univariate variables and will provide the first information on the numbers of households, economic activity and ethnic groups of the resident population.
- February 13, 2003** **Revised mid-year population estimates for 1991 to 2000** for each local authority area.

ONS have not confirmed the release dates of the more detailed Census output. They were due originally due for release in April and May 2003, but subsequently the date for the release of the Key Statistics has been delayed from December to February and we await a new timetable.