

## ONS 2008-based National Population Projections

### Background

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released the 2008-based population projections for the UK and constituent countries. The ONS News Release is available here:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfrdir/pprojn1009.pdf>

This *Update* will outline the main results including differences with the 2006-based projections. It will also concentrate on the points of interest for users of the projections in London, including the long-term assumptions on fertility and international migration for England. Each of these features, and the projected improvements in survivorship, will be incorporated in the GLA 2009 Round of demographic projections.

The projections for England act as constraints for the ONS 2008-based subnational population projections. These are due to be published in May 2010. A consultation on the migration assumptions to be used in the subnational projections will open between December 2009 and January 2010. GLA Demography will be reporting on the draft data provided as well as making a submission to the consultation.

### Assumptions

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

- an average family size of 1.85 children per woman from 2014-15. The level is the same as that used in the 2006-based projections, however the level was assumed to be achieved in 2020-21.
- an expectation of life at birth in 2032-33 of 83.4 years for males and 87.1 years for females. These values were produced with the same methodology and parameters as in the 2006-based projections, but using two more years of data, and so are virtually identical.
- net migration into England of 157 thousand each year from 2014-15 compared with 171.5 thousand a year in the 2006-based projections achieved from the same year.

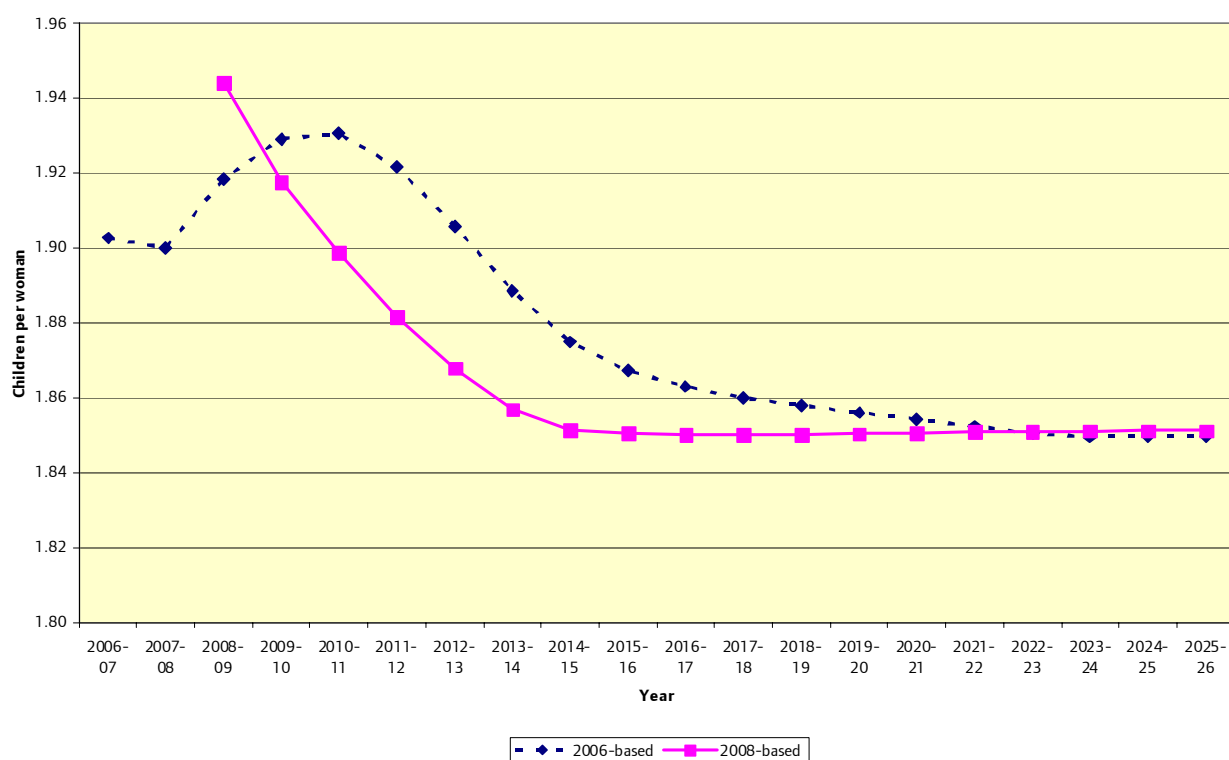
As stated in the ONS news release:

“The projections are not forecasts, and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour.”

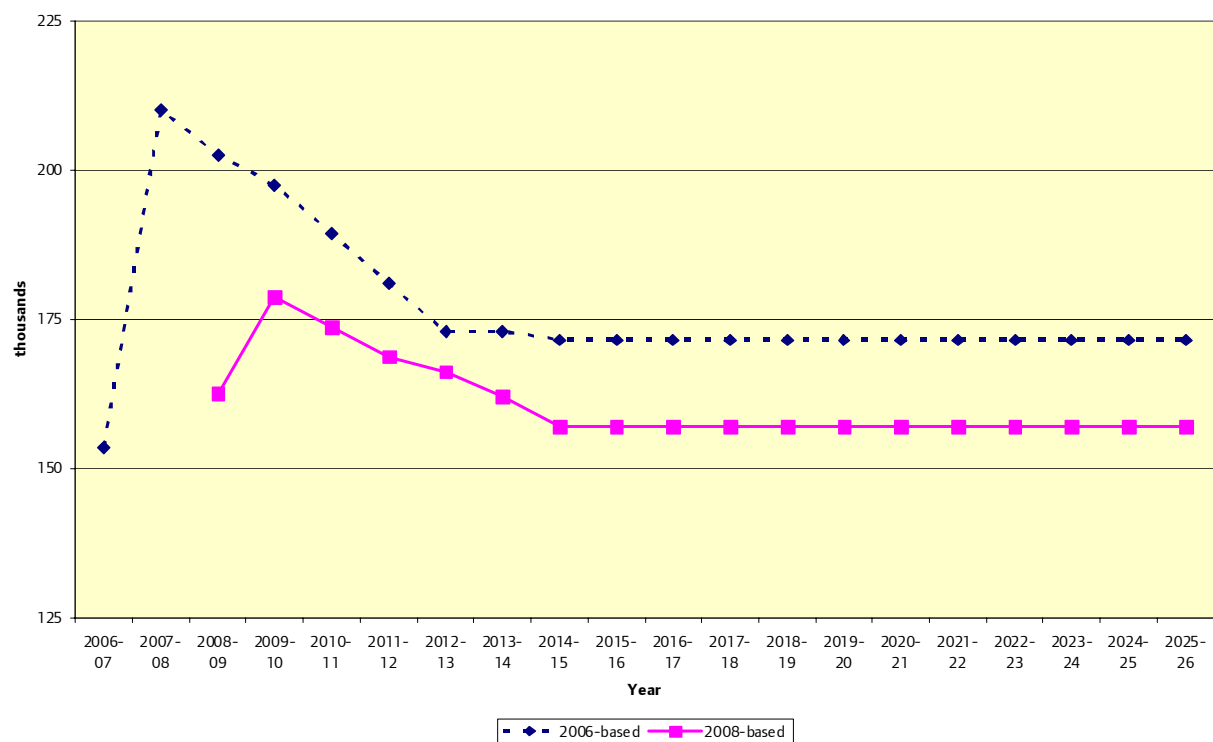
Although fertility rates in England since 2006 have exceeded the 2006-based projection a downturn has been detected in early 2009. While the long-term assumption of completed family size remains the same at 1.85 children per woman it is achieved at a greater pace and the annual total fertility rates after 2009-10 are all lower than previously projected until the two assumptions come together in 2020-21.

The assumptions on migration have benefitted from being made after the provisional International Passenger Survey data for calendar year 2008 were known. These data confirmed the recent downturn in net flows into the UK, particularly as a result of increased outflows.

**Chart 1: Total Fertility Rate, England, ONS 2006-based and 2008-based projections.**



**Chart 2: Net Migration, England, ONS 2006-based and 2008-based projections.**



The long-term net migration assumption for the UK has fallen from 190 thousand in the 2006-based projections to 180 thousand in the 2008-based projections. For England the new assumption means a reduction in the assumed overall net migration between 2008 and 2031 of 350 thousand.

## Results

The projections use the 2008 mid-year population estimates as their base.

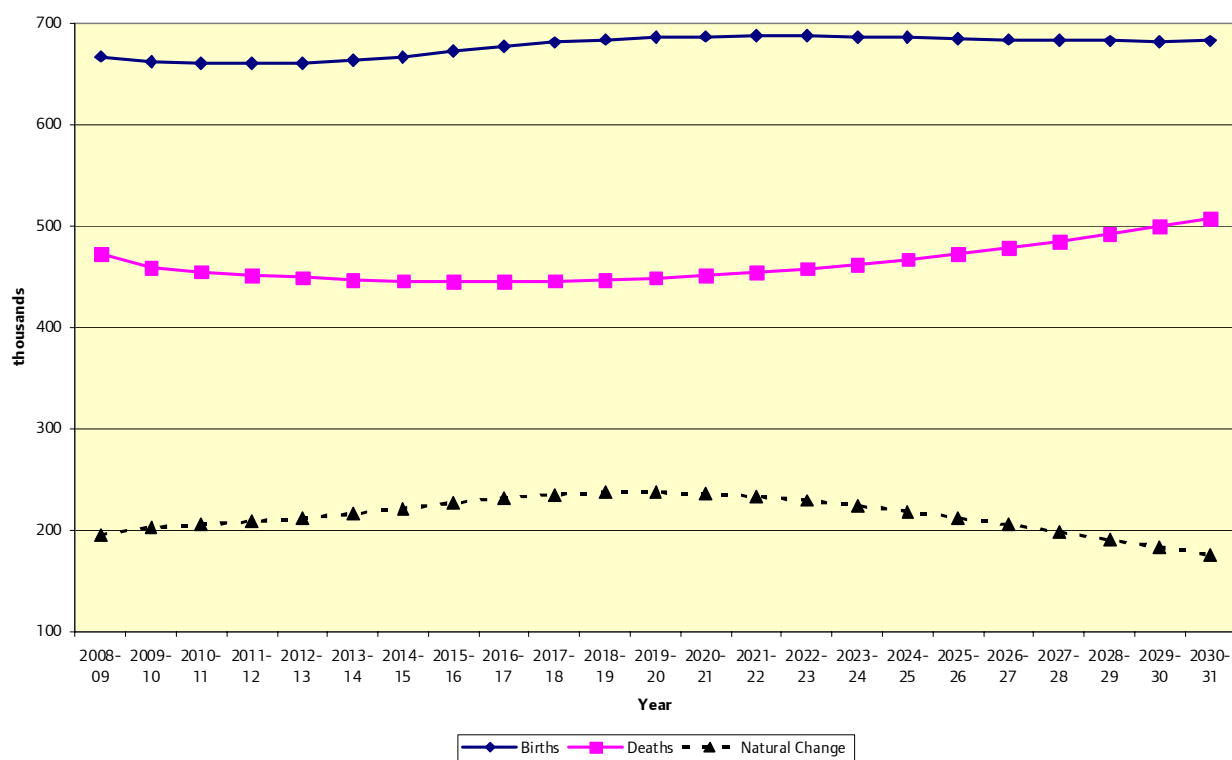
**Table 1: 2008-based population projections, by country, thousands.**

	2008	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Change 2008-31	Change % 2008-31
<b>United Kingdom</b>	61,393	62,649	64,773	66,958	69,051	70,933	9,540	15.5
<b>Great Britain</b>	59,618	60,834	62,900	65,031	67,080	68,929	9,310	15.6
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	54,450	55,601	57,576	59,620	61,597	63,397	8,947	16.4
<b>England</b>	51,460	52,577	54,472	56,433	58,334	60,071	8,611	16.7
<b>Scotland</b>	5,169	5,233	5,324	5,411	5,483	5,532	363	7.0
<b>Wales</b>	2,990	3,024	3,104	3,187	3,263	3,326	336	11.2
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,775	1,815	1,874	1,927	1,971	2,005	230	12.9

Between 2008 and 2031 the United Kingdom is projected to have a 15.5 per cent increase from 61.4 million to 70.9 million, equivalent to 9.5 million people. England is projected to have the fastest rate of increase of the four countries at 16.7 per cent (or 8.6 million people). Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all projected to grow from 2008 to 2031 but at significantly slower rates.

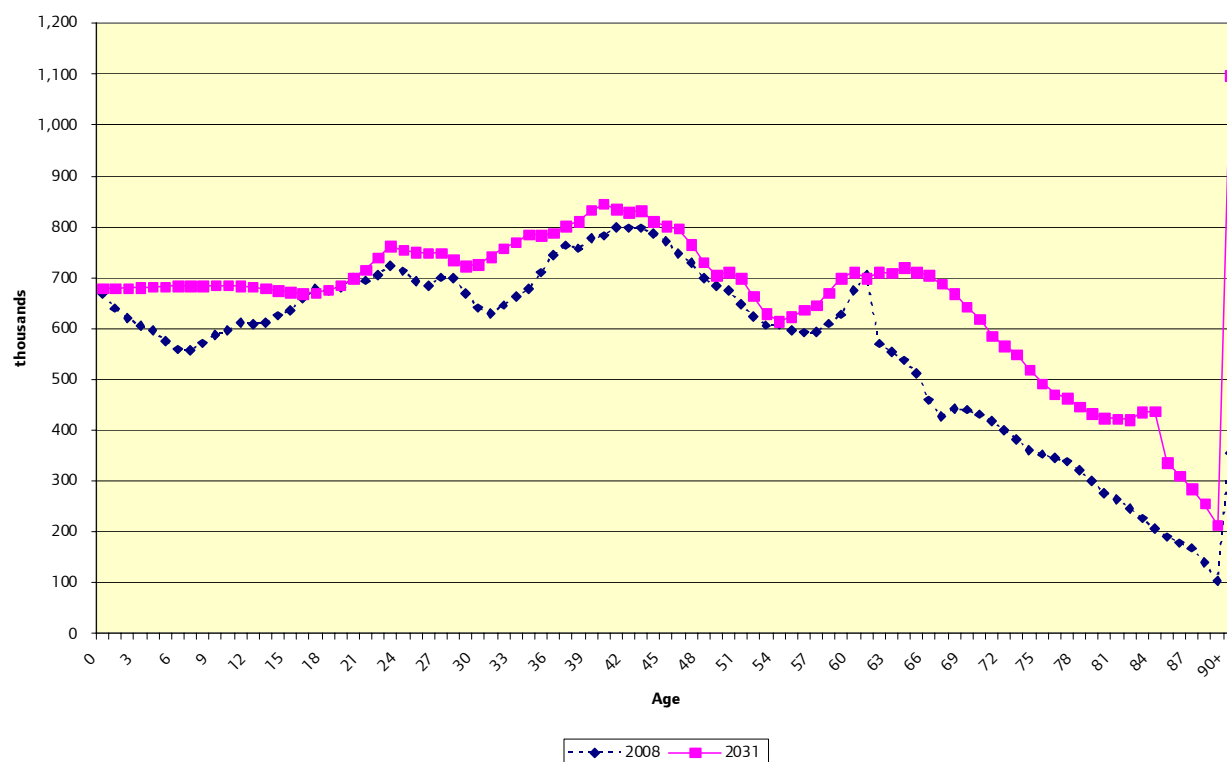
The projection for England in 2031 is 361 thousand lower than the equivalent total in the ONS 2006-based projections.

**Chart 3: Natural Change, England, 2008-09 to 2030-31.**



Births in England are initially projected to decline, reaching a low of 660 thousand in 2011-12. Births then rise to reach 687 thousand in 2011-12. Numbers of deaths are also projected to decline in the first years of the projection, reaching a low of 445 thousand in 2016-17. This is followed by an accelerating upward trend linked to the ageing of the population. The result of these two trends is that natural change rises from 195 thousand in 2008-09 to a peak of 237 thousand in 2019-20 before declining.

**Chart 4: Age Structure, England, 2008 and 2031.**



The projection for England between 2008 and 2031 shows growth across all age-groups with the most rapid growth projected at ages over 65. The over 90s are projected to grow by over 200 per cent from 356 thousand to 1.099 million.

## Data Availability

Apart from the main projection a number of variants have also been produced, with more to be released in November. The results are available on the ONS website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519>

Full results of the 2008-based and previous national projections are also available on the GAD website:

<http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography Data/Population/index.aspx>