

Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

Background

On 24th February 2009 the Office for National Statistics (ONS), in combination with the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), published a range of demographic statistics as part of the most recent quarterly consolidated release. Most of the datasets relate either directly or indirectly to migration, but one – population estimates by country of birth and nationality – uses results from the Annual Population Survey relating to the period July 2007 to June 2008. Estimates are available at London borough level and continue a series that goes back to 2004.

This *Update* presents these indicators as they relate to the UK, London and the London boroughs.

The Data and Definitions

The following paragraphs are based on the ONS description of the data and the source.

The tables are produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey of people in the UK. It includes those resident at private addresses and includes those students living in halls of residence whose parents are resident in the UK. However, the LFS does not cover most communal establishments.

The APS combines results from the LFS and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts, which increase the size of the sample. During 2004 and 2005 the APS also included a boost for England.

Each quarter's LFS sample of 53,000 households is made up from five "waves", each of approximately 11,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. Thus there is an 80 per cent overlap in the samples for each successive quarter and the sample is completely different after six quarters.

In some areas of the UK the boost makes up the bulk of the APS dataset, with a smaller contribution from the main LFS. The boost has a four year wave structure instead of the five quarter wave structure in the main LFS; after the initial interview, sampled households are interviewed three more times on an annual basis. Therefore the boost for these areas may be slower to react to a change in migration patterns than the main LFS and the speed with which the APS sample responds to changes in the household population may vary across the UK.

More robust estimates are available by using the APS rather than the main LFS. APS datasets are produced quarterly with each dataset containing 12 months of data. There are approximately 360,000 persons per dataset.

Nationality refers to that stated by the respondent during the interview. Country of birth is the country in which they were born. It is possible that an individual's nationality may change, but the respondent's place of birth cannot change, although the country's name may subsequently change. This means that country of birth gives a more robust estimate of change over time.

People born in Northern Ireland have the right to British and/or Irish nationality/citizenship. Therefore in the nationality tables British and Irish have been combined for Northern Ireland. Non-British consists of all other nationalities except British, apart from Northern Ireland where it consists of all other nationalities except British and Irish. Where a respondent has dual nationality the first one is recorded.

In the tables the following terms are used:

United Kingdom/British includes the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

European Union 13 – the fifteen countries of the EU as constituted between 1995 and May 2004, less the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

European Union 14 – the fifteen countries of the EU as constituted between 1995 and May 2004, less the United Kingdom.

European Union A8 – the eight Eastern European countries that joined the EU in May 2004.

European Union 24/26 – all members of the EU, except for the United Kingdom. For 2004 to 2006 this relates to 24 members and from 2007 it is 26 with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.

Rest of the World – all countries outside the EU as formed at the time.

Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.

Commentary

Table 1 shows that London and the UK have similar patterns of change of the composition of the population by country of birth. There are declines in the percentages of UK and Irish-born but increases for all other groups. Not surprisingly, it is the increase in the A8 countries that is the most dramatic with their representation in the UK rising by nearly four-fold and with a doubling in London. The representation in London is higher than in the UK as a whole for all groups born outside the British Isles. However, change is more rapid outside London as shown by the non-UK born population, which has grown by 24 per cent in the UK as a whole but only 15 per cent in London. However, the change in the UK is from a lower 2004 base than that in London.

The situation is very similar when analysed by nationality as in Table 2. In both the UK and London higher percentages of the population are British than are born in the UK. In London in 2007-08 this is 79 per cent compared to 67 per cent. Once again it is the growth of the A8 population that is most dramatic and the rates of change are even higher when viewed by nationality than by country of birth. London has proportionally more than three times the representation of non-British in its population than does the UK, but change is more rapid outside London, though, once again, starting from a lower 2004 base. The non-British population has grown by 38 per cent in the UK as a whole but only 21 per cent in London.

Population estimates for the individual London boroughs are much less robust than for London as a whole. For London all of the 2007-08 estimates, except those for the Republic of Ireland and the A8, have a coefficient of variation (CV)¹ of less than 5 per cent and are considered by ONS to be 'precise'. The remaining London estimates are 'reasonably precise' with a CV of between 5 and 10 per cent. In the borough tables all UK born and British estimates are considered to be 'reasonably precise'. For country of birth a minority of borough estimates of non-UK born have a CV of between 10 and 20 per cent but are still considered to be 'acceptable'. These are mainly outer boroughs. The overwhelming majority of non-British estimates are only considered to be 'acceptable', with three boroughs (Bexley, Bromley and Havering) having CVs in excess of 20 per cent and the estimates therefore considered to be 'not reliable for practical purposes'. Only Brent, Camden, Lambeth, Newham and Westminster have 'reasonably precise' estimates for non-British populations.

¹ The CV is defined as being the standard error divided by the estimate expressed as a percentage.

In Table 3, which shows country of birth, a number of cells are highlighted. In the ‘% UK’ columns these are boroughs that have the lowest percentages; all below 60 per cent. In 2007-08 six boroughs fall into this category, with Brent and Westminster below 50 per cent. In the ‘Change’ column Newham is the only borough to have an estimated overall fall in population but, as the non-UK population rose, the ‘% Change Non-UK’ column registers a negative percentage. Similarly Hackney, where the total population rose but the Non-UK population was estimated to have fallen, also shows as a negative ‘% Change’. In general the contribution to total population growth made by the non-UK born population is greater in outer London boroughs.

Similar statistics are displayed in Table 4 relating to population by nationality. Here the highlighted boroughs are those that have less than 75 per cent of the population British, with Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster having the lowest values below 70 per cent. Newham is again highlighted due to the overall population estimate having fallen, while Hammersmith & Fulham and Harrow have had increases in their total population estimate but slight reductions in the non-British population, hence the ‘% Change’ column records negative values. The contributions to growth made by non-British populations are generally proportionally higher in outer boroughs.

Table 1: Population by Country of Birth: United Kingdom and London: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

	United Kingdom					London				
thousands	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
United Kingdom	53,807	53,872	53,770	53,791	53,869	5,147	5,089	5,055	5,021	5,040
Non-United Kingdom	5,233	5,552	5,997	6,342	6,486	2,168	2,290	2,386	2,474	2,487
Republic of Ireland	452	437	434	420	416	124	128	122	119	111
European Union 13	768	767	809	832	842	254	255	265	271	281
European Union A8	167	274	430	589	650	85	104	139	162	173
European Union 24/26	1,492	1,577	1,769	1,969	2,052	516	536	567	614	640
Rest of the World	3,741	3,975	4,228	4,373	4,434	1,652	1,754	1,818	1,860	1,848
Total	59,040	59,424	59,767	60,133	60,355	7,315	7,379	7,441	7,495	7,527
Percentage	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
United Kingdom	91.14	90.66	89.97	89.45	89.25	70.36	68.97	67.93	66.99	66.96
Non-United Kingdom	8.86	9.34	10.03	10.55	10.75	29.64	31.03	32.07	33.01	33.04
Republic of Ireland	0.77	0.74	0.73	0.70	0.69	1.70	1.73	1.64	1.59	1.47
European Union 13	1.30	1.29	1.35	1.38	1.40	3.47	3.46	3.56	3.62	3.73
European Union A8	0.28	0.46	0.72	0.98	1.08	1.16	1.41	1.87	2.16	2.30
European Union 24/26	2.53	2.65	2.96	3.27	3.40	7.05	7.26	7.62	8.19	8.50
Rest of the World	6.34	6.69	7.07	7.27	7.35	22.58	23.77	24.43	24.82	24.55

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Population by Nationality: United Kingdom and London: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

	United Kingdom					London				
thousands	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
British	56,091	56,229	56,162	56,192	56,297	6,019	5,994	5,981	5,946	5,968
Non-British	2,946	3,198	3,594	3,941	4,054	1,296	1,388	1,461	1,552	1,563
European Union 14	951	945	981	971	972	364	377	380	381	382
European Union A8	125	233	404	567	636	72	87	128	156	170
European Union 24/26	1,094	1,198	1,403	1,588	1,672	445	476	515	570	593
Rest of the World	1,852	2,000	2,191	2,354	2,382	850	912	945	982	970
Total	59,037	59,427	59,756	60,133	60,351	7,315	7,382	7,442	7,498	7,531
Percentage	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007-08
British	95.01	94.62	93.99	93.45	93.28	82.28	81.20	80.37	79.30	79.25
Non-British	4.99	5.38	6.01	6.55	6.72	17.72	18.80	19.63	20.70	20.75
European Union 14	1.61	1.59	1.64	1.61	1.61	4.98	5.11	5.11	5.08	5.07
European Union A8	0.21	0.39	0.68	0.94	1.05	0.98	1.18	1.72	2.08	2.26
European Union 24/26	1.85	2.02	2.35	2.64	2.77	6.08	6.45	6.92	7.60	7.87
Rest of the World	3.14	3.37	3.67	3.91	3.95	11.62	12.35	12.70	13.10	12.88

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 3: Population by Country of Birth: London boroughs: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

	2004			2007-08			2004 Total	2007-08 Total	Change	% Change Non-UK
	UK	Non-UK	% UK	UK	Non-UK	% UK				
Inner London										
Camden	130	80	62	142	89	61	210	231	21	43
City of London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hackney	132	73	64	138	71	66	205	209	4	-50
Hammersmith and Fulham	103	64	62	103	68	60	167	171	4	100
Haringey	136	85	62	141	85	62	221	226	5	0
Islington	123	56	69	126	60	68	179	186	7	57
Kensington and Chelsea	91	78	54	98	82	54	169	180	11	36
Lambeth	168	98	63	172	99	63	266	271	5	20
Lewisham	184	65	74	172	85	67	249	257	8	250
Newham	146	105	58	128	117	52	251	245	-6	-200
Southwark	175	82	68	181	93	66	257	274	17	65
Tower Hamlets	126	81	61	126	89	59	207	215	8	100
Wandsworth	186	83	69	188	91	67	269	279	10	80
Westminster	112	110	50	118	123	49	222	241	19	68
Outer London										
Barking and Dagenham	133	32	81	121	45	73	165	166	1	1300
Barnet	216	103	68	219	109	67	319	328	9	67
Bexley	199	20	91	199	23	90	219	222	3	100
Brent	142	125	53	131	140	48	267	271	4	375
Bromley	264	29	90	268	31	90	293	299	6	33
Croydon	259	74	78	244	92	73	333	336	3	600
Ealing	180	121	60	164	141	54	301	305	4	500
Enfield	206	73	74	189	95	67	279	284	5	440
Greenwich	169	49	78	165	57	74	218	222	4	200
Harrow	134	76	64	122	92	57	210	214	4	400
Havering	208	15	93	211	17	93	223	228	5	40
Hillingdon	189	54	78	185	66	74	243	251	8	150
Hounslow	151	62	71	132	87	60	213	219	6	417
Kingston upon Thames	118	32	79	115	43	73	150	158	8	138
Merton	133	58	70	138	62	69	191	200	9	44
Redbridge	178	67	73	164	89	65	245	253	8	275
Richmond upon Thames	139	35	80	142	39	78	174	181	7	57
Sutton	159	21	88	151	33	82	180	184	4	300
Waltham Forest	158	60	72	148	74	67	218	222	4	350
London	5,147	2,168	70	5,040	2,487	67	7,315	7,527	212	150

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics

Table 4: Population by Nationality: London boroughs: 2004 to 2007-08: thousands and percentages

	2004			2007-08			2004 Total	2007-08 Total	Change	% Change Non-Brit.
	British	Non-British	%	British	Non-British	%				
Inner London										
Camden	162	47	78	169	62	73	209	231	22	68
City of London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hackney	169	36	82	159	50	76	205	209	4	350
Hammersmith and Fulham	119	48	71	126	45	74	167	171	4	-75
Haringey	169	52	76	175	51	77	221	226	5	-20
Islington	143	36	80	143	43	77	179	186	7	100
Kensington and Chelsea	111	57	66	120	60	67	168	180	12	25
Lambeth	201	65	76	206	66	76	266	272	6	17
Lewisham	204	45	82	201	56	78	249	257	8	138
Newham	191	60	76	173	72	71	251	245	-6	-200
Southwark	200	57	78	211	64	77	257	275	18	39
Tower Hamlets	166	40	81	159	56	74	206	215	9	178
Wandsworth	215	55	80	214	66	76	270	280	10	110
Westminster	141	81	64	157	85	65	222	242	20	20
Outer London										
Barking and Dagenham	142	22	87	137	28	83	164	165	1	600
Barnet	266	54	83	256	73	78	320	329	9	211
Bexley	209	9	96	210	12	95	218	222	4	75
Brent	194	73	73	190	82	70	267	272	5	180
Bromley	281	13	96	283	16	95	294	299	5	60
Croydon	291	42	87	278	58	83	333	336	3	533
Ealing	235	66	78	220	85	72	301	305	4	475
Enfield	247	32	89	220	65	77	279	285	6	550
Greenwich	185	33	85	181	41	82	218	222	4	200
Harrow	171	39	81	176	38	82	210	214	4	-25
Havering	216	8	96	217	10	96	224	227	3	67
Hillingdon	208	35	86	217	33	87	243	250	7	-29
Hounslow	177	35	83	167	53	76	212	220	8	225
Kingston upon Thames	129	21	86	133	25	84	150	158	8	50
Merton	154	37	81	164	37	82	191	201	10	0
Redbridge	220	26	89	206	48	81	246	254	8	275
Richmond upon Thames	152	22	87	156	24	87	174	180	6	33
Sutton	166	14	92	166	18	90	180	184	4	100
Waltham Forest	185	34	84	181	40	82	219	221	2	300
London	6,019	1,296	82	5,968	1,563	79	7,315	7,531	216	124

Source: Annual Population Survey, Copyright Office for National Statistics