

Demographic Change Statistics: August 2009

Background

On 27th August 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. Several of the datasets relate either directly or indirectly to migration. The geography used in the indicators varies but in all cases relates to the UK. The mid-2008 population estimates were also released on the same day

This *Update* presents these indicators of demographic change as they relate to the UK and London.

Mid-2008 Population Estimates

The change analysis between 2007 and 2008 shows the significance of the recent increase in births throughout the UK. In 2007-08 natural change was a more significant part of total population change than was net migration and other changes. For London the number of births reached its highest point since 2001 and deaths fell below 50 thousand. London contributes 12.4 per cent of the UK population but 35 per cent of its natural growth. On the other hand London together with the North West are the only regions to lose population as a consequence of the migration flows. See *DMAG Update 08-2009* for similar data to that in Table 1 at borough level.

Table 1: Mid-2007 and mid-2008 population estimates and annual change analysis, thousands. ONS.

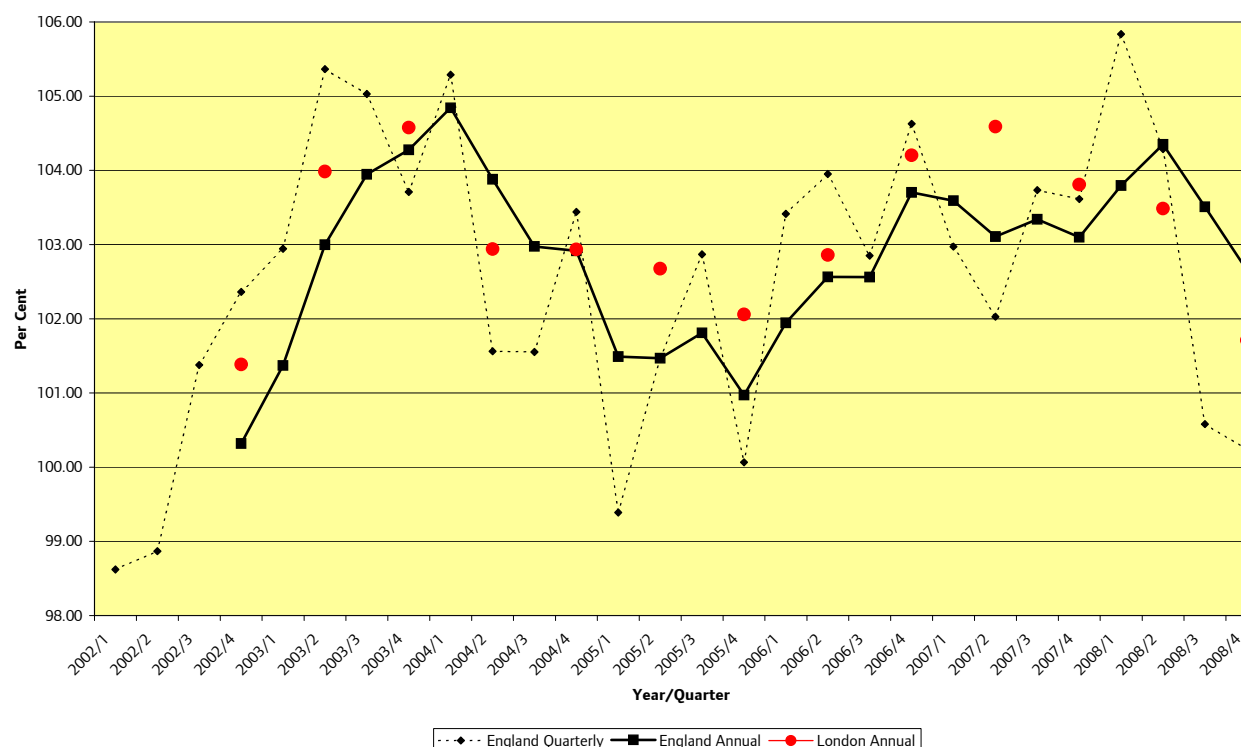
	Mid-2007 population	Live births 2007-08	Deaths 2007-08	Natural change 2007-08	Net migration & other changes 2007-08	Total change 2007-08	Mid-2008 population
UNITED KINGDOM	60,975.4	790.5	570.0	220.5	187.3	407.8	61,383.2
ENGLAND	51,092.0	670.6	468.7	201.9	152.3	354.2	51,446.2
LONDON	7,556.9	127.6	49.9	77.7	-14.8	62.9	7,619.8

Sources: Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Births

As Table 1 shows there were 127,600 births in London in the year to mid-2008. *DMAG Update 07-2009* showed there to be 127,651 births in calendar year 2008. Therefore there was almost the same number of births in the second half of 2008 as the second half of 2007. A similar picture emerges for births in England, where there were only about 0.6 per cent and 0.2 per cent more births in the last two quarters of 2008 compared to 2007. The implication of these figures is that the rise in births that has occurred since 2002 has at least flattened out and in London may have actually fallen in the last few months of 2008. Data for the first quarter of 2009 for England are expected later in September and may confirm the first signs of a national decline in births. Chart 1 shows that in 2008 there were 1.7 per cent more births in London than in 2007. This is the lowest annual increase since 2002.

Chart 1: Birth trends in London and England, annual and quarterly comparisons, per cent. ONS.



Internal Migration

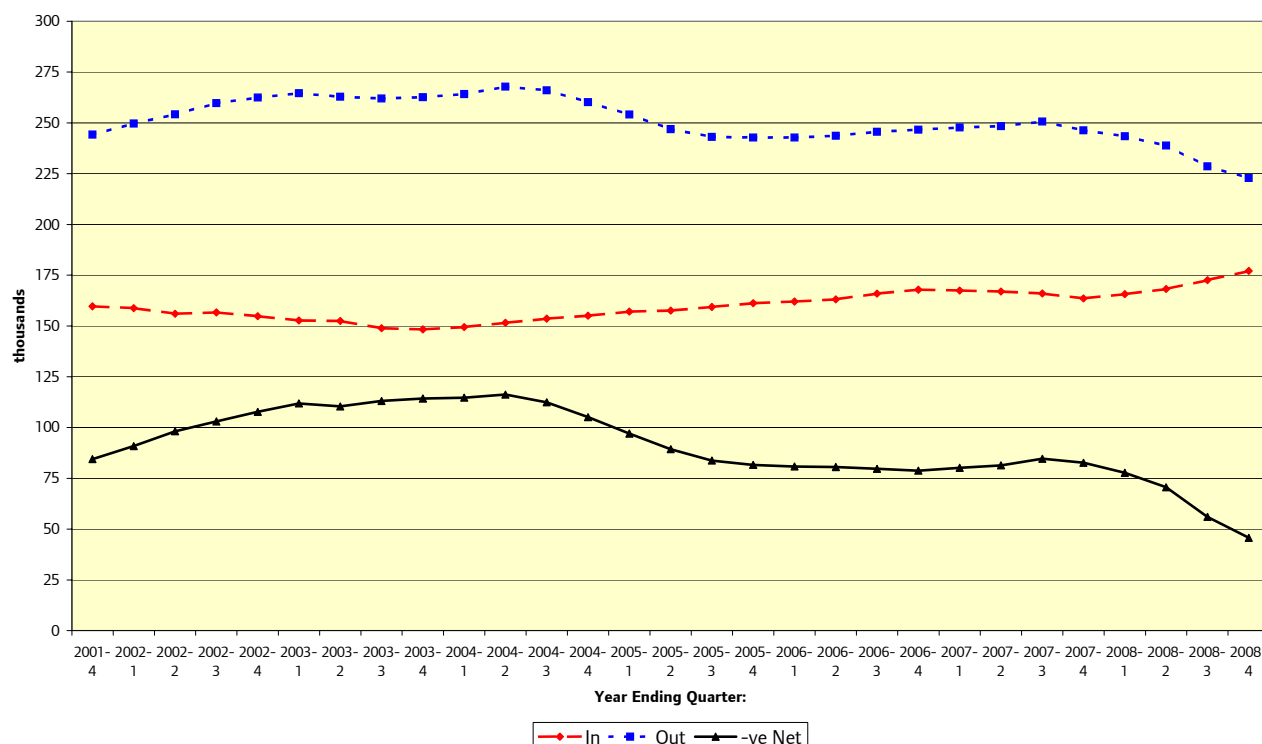
Data on migration within the UK are based on patient re-registrations in cumulative 12-month periods. The full dataset is for countries of the UK and English regions showing flows between regions, hence the UK figure is the total number of inter-regional moves.

The latest 12-month period to the end of December 2008 shows a reduction of nearly 26 thousand in the outflow from London compared to the year to mid-2007. This is the lowest London outflow since the year to mid-1999. On the other hand the gross inflow to London from the rest of the UK was the highest since GP patient re-registration data was used to estimate internal migration flows in 1984. Therefore the net loss from London of less than 46 thousand was 36 thousand fewer than in 2006-07 and was the lowest since 1995-96. Overall the number of inter-regional movements in the UK, at 1.16 million, was the lowest since 1994. London showed a 10.3 per cent decline in its outflow since mid-2007 and had a 6.0 per cent increase in its inflow. London was the only region to experience any significant increase in the inflow in this period.

The changes in inter-regional migration are clearly dependent upon recession effects. Many Londoners who would normally have moved to the adjacent regions are remaining, whether voluntarily or forced by economic and financial circumstances, in their owner-occupied accommodation. The increase in the flow to London is not as straightforward. The inflow is composed mainly of young workers and students, who mainly move to rented accommodation. So far the recession has affected jobs in London to a lesser extent than in other regions.

In Chart 2 the net flow is shown as a positive number – rather than its true negative values. This is to enable a better overall presentation of the gross and net flows on a single scale.

Chart 2: Internal Migration to and from London, thousands, cumulative 12-month periods since 2001, thousands. ONS/PRDS.



International Migration

Data on international migration are based on a number of sources, principally the International Passenger Survey (IPS) but also estimates of moves to and from the Republic of Ireland and asylum seekers. The full dataset relates to calendar years for countries of the UK and English regions. However, a secondary set of information is used for the mid-year to mid-year flows at local authority level for the preparation of the mid-year estimates. The latest available calendar year data relate to 2007 but the following table shows the longer trends in the more familiar mid-year form. Data for 2007-08 for London, made available in the mid-year estimate change analysis, shows an international inflow of 156,400 and an outflow of 101,100, leading to a net inflow of 55,400. The 2007-08 inflow is the lowest on a mid-year basis since 2001, but while the net inflow is just a little higher than in 2006-07 it is the second lowest since 2001.

Calendar year data for 2008 are expected in November.

Some indication of trends in international flows based solely on the IPS has been made available on a quarterly basis for the UK. These show that in 2008 512 thousand persons arrived in the UK (15 thousand fewer than in 2007) and that 395 thousand persons left (77 thousand more than in 2007). The net inflow was drastically reduced from 209 thousand in 2007 to 118 thousand in 2008. The increase in the outflow was mainly EU citizens (62 thousand) of which 41 thousand were from A8 countries. The trends in inflows and outflows of A8 citizens since 2004 are shown in Table 3. 2008 showed the first downturn in the gross inflow to the UK and the first significant return flow. The net flow into the UK plummeted from 84 thousand in 2007 to just 14 thousand in 2008.

Table 2: International migration to and from London and the UK, thousands, 12-month periods ending at given quarters. ONS.

		2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	2008 Q2	Annual Change %
UK ¹	In	488	505	526	593	561	595	577	507	-15
	Out	336	357	353	334	387	388	340	333	-14
	Net	152	147	173	258	174	207	237	174	-16

		2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	2008 Q2	Annual Change %
London	In	180	174	178	187	171	172	162	156	-9
	Out	97	111	90	92	98	121	92	101	-16
	Net	83	63	88	95	72	51	70	55	9

		2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2007 Q4	2008 Q2	
London as % of UK ²	In	36.9	34.5	33.8	31.5	30.5	28.9	28.1	30.9	-
	Out	28.9	31.1	25.5	27.5	25.3	31.2	27.1	30.4	-
	Net	54.6	42.9	50.9	36.8	41.4	24.6	29.5	31.8	-

¹ 2008 Q2 is Great Britain

² Based on GB for 2008 Q2

Table 3: Migration of A8 citizens to and from the UK, thousands. ONS.

	To UK	From UK	Net
2004	49	2	47
2005	69	15	54
2006	75	22	53
2007	109	25	84
2008	79	66	14

Asylum Seekers

Data on asylum are now collected by the UK Border Agency and made available by the Home Office. The applications data are only available for the UK as a whole but the information on those asylum seekers who receive either subsistence only or accommodation support are available for all regions and local authorities, although data are rounded to the nearest 5 and are not published if less than 15 cases (subsistence). However, in the case of accommodation support all local authorities giving some support (even if rounded to zero) are shown in the tabulations.

Table 4: Asylum: UK Applicants (12-month periods ending at given quarters) and Supported Asylum Seekers at end of periods: thousands. Home Office.

	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2008 Q2	2009 Q2	Annual Change %
UK Applicants	76.5	72.5	39.7	30.3	24.4	22.3	25.0	27.9	11.4
Supported:									
	2002 Q2	2003 Q2	2004 Q2	2005 Q2	2006 Q2	2007 Q2	2008 Q2	2009 Q2	Annual Change %
UK						48.1	30.6	30.7	0.3
London						9.4	5.3	4.6	-12.1

Asylum applications have risen for the last two years after falling from the annual totals of over 70 thousand around the turn of the century. Nationally numbers receiving support are now static, representing some backlog of those applying in earlier years. Numbers of supported asylum seekers in London have continued to decline.

National Insurance Numbers (NINOs)

New NINOs allocated to overseas nationals by the DWP have become a useful way of monitoring the flow of citizens of EU accession states coming to the UK for work. The data, rounded to the nearest ten, are available for all local authorities in the UK by a full range of origin countries for financial years.

Table 5: National Insurance Numbers allocated to Overseas Nationals: 12-month periods ending at given quarters: thousands. DWP.

		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2008 Q1	2009 Q1	Annual Change %
Total	UK	346.2	373.5	435.4	663.1	705.8	733.1	686.1	-6.4
	London	149.6	157.4	169.7	235.4	240.9	272.7	275.6	1.1
		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2008 Q1	2009 Q1	Annual Change %
EU A8	UK	11.4	19.9	107.8	269.3	309.0	293.8	215.2	-26.8
	London	5.8	8.4	33.2	61.0	64.6	63.4
		2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1	2008 Q1	2009 Q1	Annual Change %
Bulgaria & Romania	UK	5.8	8.4	7.8	5.7	6.8	36.9	39.9	8.2
	London	3.8	5.2	4.2	1.7	3.4	23.4

The total inflow peaked in calendar year 2007 at 797 thousand and the flow from the EU A8 countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) peaked in the year to September 2007. The A8 flow fell by 27 per cent in the year to March 2009. There has been the expected continual increase in flows from Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU at the beginning of 2007, but at a much reduced pace.

Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) and Bulgaria/Romania

The WRS relates solely to the A8 countries. The data are available by 'regions' related to the first two characters of the postcode and do not align with the government office regions. For workers from Bulgaria and Romania there are a number of administrative ways by which they may legally obtain work in the UK. The data presented here relate to Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates, which are mainly given to the self-employed. Data on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme have not been presented here. None of the data are available below the level of the UK.

Table 6: Worker Registration Scheme (A8); Accession Worker Cards and Registration Certificates (Bulgaria/Romania), 12-month periods ending at given quarters: thousands, DWP and Home office

	2004 Q4	2005 Q4	2006 Q4	2007 Q4	2008 Q4	2009 Q2
WRS	134.6	212.3	234.7	218.0	165.0	116.0

	2007 Q4	2008 Q4	2009 Q2
Bulgaria/Romania	40.9	29.9	27.7

The downturn in WRS applications reflects what has been seen with NINOs for A8 countries. It is too early to detect trends in the Bulgaria/Romania data given that 2007 was the first year since accession, however on an annual comparison the registrations in each quarter of 2008 and the first half of 2009 were lower than a year earlier.

Flag 4 GP Registrations

A 'Flag 4' is generated when a person registers with a GP and has either been born outside the UK or has a previous address outside the UK and has been outside the UK for at least 3 months. The 'Flag 4' is removed from the record if the person re-registers with another GP.

Table 7: Flag 4 Registrations in mid-year to mid-year periods, thousands. ONS/PRDS.

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Annual Change %
England	398.3	420.0	445.1	460.7	520.9	551.6	581.3	588.0	0.17
London	165.2	164.0	171.1	176.5	192.6	190.6	192.8	193.0	0.52
London as % England	41.5	39.0	38.4	38.3	37.0	34.6	33.2	32.8	-

Source: Patient Register Data Services (PRDS)

This is the first occasion that ONS has published these data – although they have been available on request in recent years. New registrations in 2007-08 were barely higher than a year earlier. London's share of registrations in England has fallen since 2000-01 but actual numbers have been consistently just over 190 thousand for four years.

Conclusions

The most recent migration data generally show a diminution of migration flows. The two measures that are used to prepare the mid-year estimates – internal and international migration – imply that London could be moving from a period of net migration losses (15 thousand in 2007-08) to a small gain. However, the flows are changing rapidly, as fewer people are leaving London to go to the rest of UK at the same time as more people, mainly non-British citizens and especially A8 citizens, are moving overseas.

A major exception to lower flows is the increase in the flow to London from the rest of the UK.

The general decline in the numbers of people moving between regions and particularly those leaving London is an indication of the impact of the present financial downturn.

The impact of global economic uncertainty shows up in the recent declines in new NINOs and WRS registrations, as well as the return migration to A8 countries. The only exception remains the buoyant NINO flow from Bulgaria and Romania.