

ONS 2004-based Subnational Population Projections

Background

Following the consultation on the migration input to the projections, that took place earlier this year, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has today (12 October) released the 2004-based subnational population projections for England (SNPP).

Results are available for each year to 2029 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+.

The consultation process resulted in 29 authorities responding via the consultation website, including 12 London boroughs. A further 7 boroughs as well as the GLA responded outside the website. Following consultation ONS indicated to the GLA that it would not be making changes in relation to migration assumptions for London. The final results are remarkably close to the consultation figures.

ONS stress in the accompanying notes that 'the projections **provide the population levels and structure that would result if the assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration levels were realised**' (ONS emphasis). The assumptions reflect recent demographic trends and do not reflect the impact of future housing development.

Further, ONS recognises in relation to the distribution of international migration that the present methodology does not perform well for some areas leading to over and underestimates of the true flows. The ONS IMPS programme is looking at improving methods of distributing international migrant flows. The research is due to complete next year and is intended to be incorporated into the preparation of the mid-2006 population estimates. ONS is therefore '**leaving open the option to revise the 2004-based subnational projections** in 2007' (ONS emphasis) by bringing the methodology in line with improved mid-year estimate methodology. Any revisions would be expected to be available for the DCLG to use in the RSG settlement formulae for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Results

Full details of the projections are available at:

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

For London the key results are an increase of 1.378 million persons (18.6%) between 2004 and 2029. London is projected to be the fastest growing region and compares to growth of 12.7% for England. In the period 2006 to 2026 the increase is 1.087 million to 8.678 million with the growth concentrated in the ages 45-64 where the increase over 20 years is projected to be 504 thousand. However the projections show that the female population of London grows much slower than the males with the result that from a position in 2006 of 56 thousand more women London moves to a projection of 79 thousand fewer women in 2026. The results by age for key years are shown in Table 1.

New GLA projections being prepared for the *Review of the London Plan* are consistent with the ONS level of increase in total population, however the distribution to boroughs is significantly different and there are some key differences in the age and gender structure of the projections. The GLA projections will be reported in a forthcoming *DMAG Briefing*.

Table1: Population by age for London (thousands)

	2004	2005	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2029
0-4	483.2	495.4	508.9	528.5	541.2	556.1	562.1	560.8
5-9	442.9	439.9	433.8	460.1	477.3	488.5	501.6	505.9
10-14	429.6	425.2	421.3	404.8	428.0	443.5	453.6	461.3
15-19	452.2	455.1	454.3	430.5	414.3	434.6	448.7	453.4
20-24	537.3	562.0	579.2	615.1	592.2	572.1	586.2	600.4
25-29	719.2	729.8	737.7	775.5	816.5	790.7	764.2	758.9
30-34	735.2	740.8	739.5	747.0	783.6	824.0	799.3	785.6
35-39	684.7	687.2	688.6	684.2	690.9	724.8	761.8	752.3
40-44	573.3	593.1	610.0	636.3	629.3	635.4	666.6	696.2
45-49	454.6	471.3	487.3	567.9	590.6	582.6	588.3	603.0
50-54	385.1	386.5	392.0	451.5	525.1	545.3	536.8	531.9
55-59	367.6	371.5	371.6	355.7	409.6	476.5	494.6	491.1
60-64	275.1	278.4	287.2	328.2	314.6	362.8	422.9	439.4
65-69	249.4	248.5	243.5	251.7	289.0	277.6	320.5	353.5
70-74	214.8	211.8	210.3	210.3	219.7	253.6	244.3	264.3
75-79	176.7	176.5	176.5	171.3	175.2	185.7	215.7	204.9
80-84	140.3	136.9	134.1	132.0	133.0	139.6	150.3	172.9
85+	107.5	112.1	115.5	124.6	133.6	145.0	160.5	170.8
Total	7428.6	7521.9	7591.3	7875.0	8163.7	8438.3	8678.1	8806.8

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