



# Projecting the Population During the Pandemic

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BSPS 2021



# Contents

- Context: population projections at the GLA
- Challenges:
  - Does the standard way of doing things still hold up?
  - The timeliness of data & the need for supporting evidence
  - What assumptions should we make about the future?



# Context: What we do

- Annually we produce 2 sets of projections:
  - Trend projection (cohort component model)
  - Housing-led projections (reconcile forecast housing delivery with trends)
- Our focus is London and the London boroughs but our trend model does produce outputs for all LAs in E&W as well as national outputs for Scotland & Northern Ireland

# Standard approach (trend projections)

- Mid-year estimates & domestic migration flow data are released in June each year for the period ending the previous June (1-year lag)
- Data from NPP, SNPP, Household models updated every 2 years
- Migration variants where migration assumptions are applied uniformly across the projection period



# New challenges

- The strong growth seen in the past seem unlikely to be sustained into the future
- The level of uncertainty is high
  - What are the short-term impacts of covid/Brexit
  - How long will short-term impacts be felt
  - To what extent will past trends re-establish
  - How quickly will past trends re-establish
- Short-term mortality assumptions



# Our Approach

- Variants & Scenarios
- Short-term covid/Brexit affected assumptions
- Long-term assumptions
  - 3 International migration scenarios
  - 3 domestic migration scenarios
- A 'central range' rather than a single central projection



# Expert panel

- Ann Berrington (Southampton)
- Tony Champion (Newcastle)
- Ian Gordon (LSE)
- Jason Hilton (Southampton)
- John Hollis (ret. GLA)
- Madeleine Sumption (Compas, Oxford)



# Circumstantial Evidence

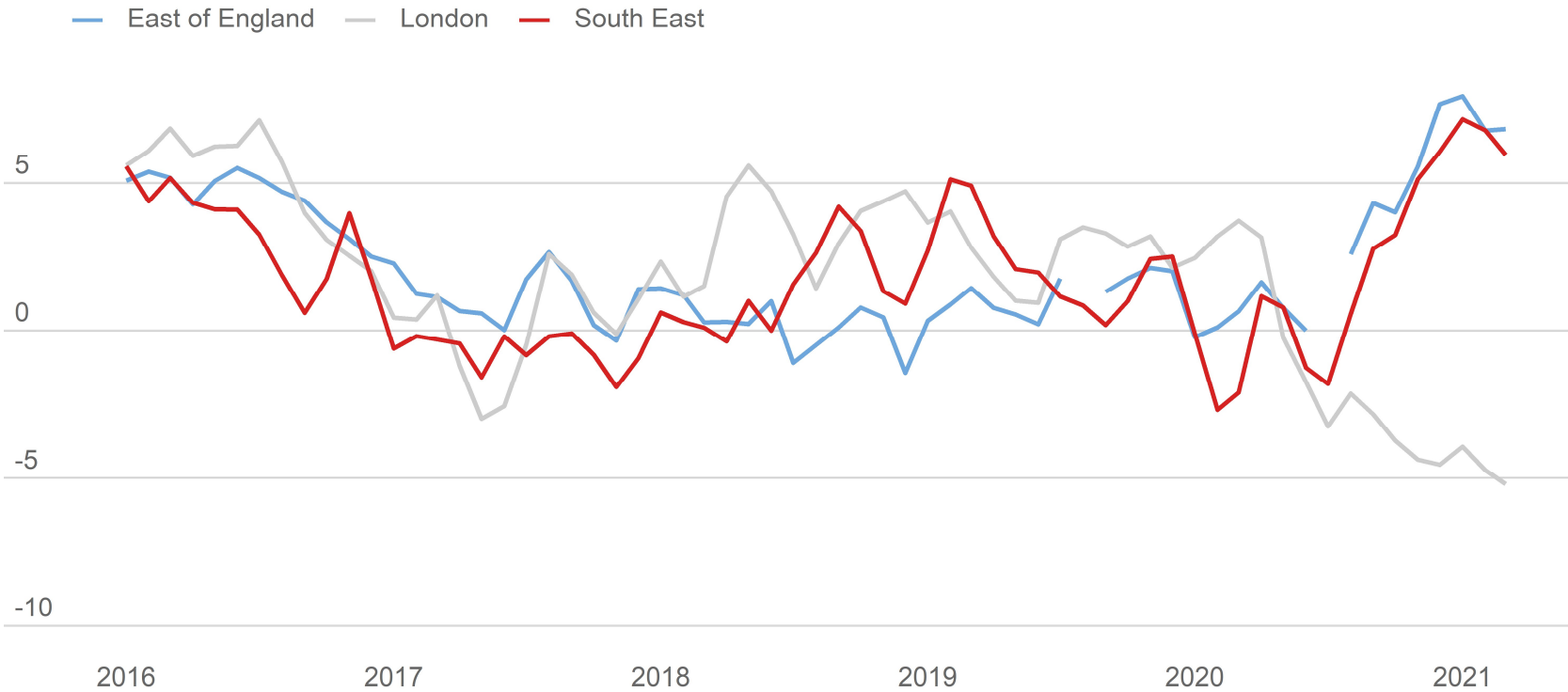
- GP registrations
- Home Office visa data
- Jobs and employment (PAYE)
- Rental values
- Transport for London data on network use



# Rental values

## Annual change in rents for new tenancies, Wider South East

Annual change (%)

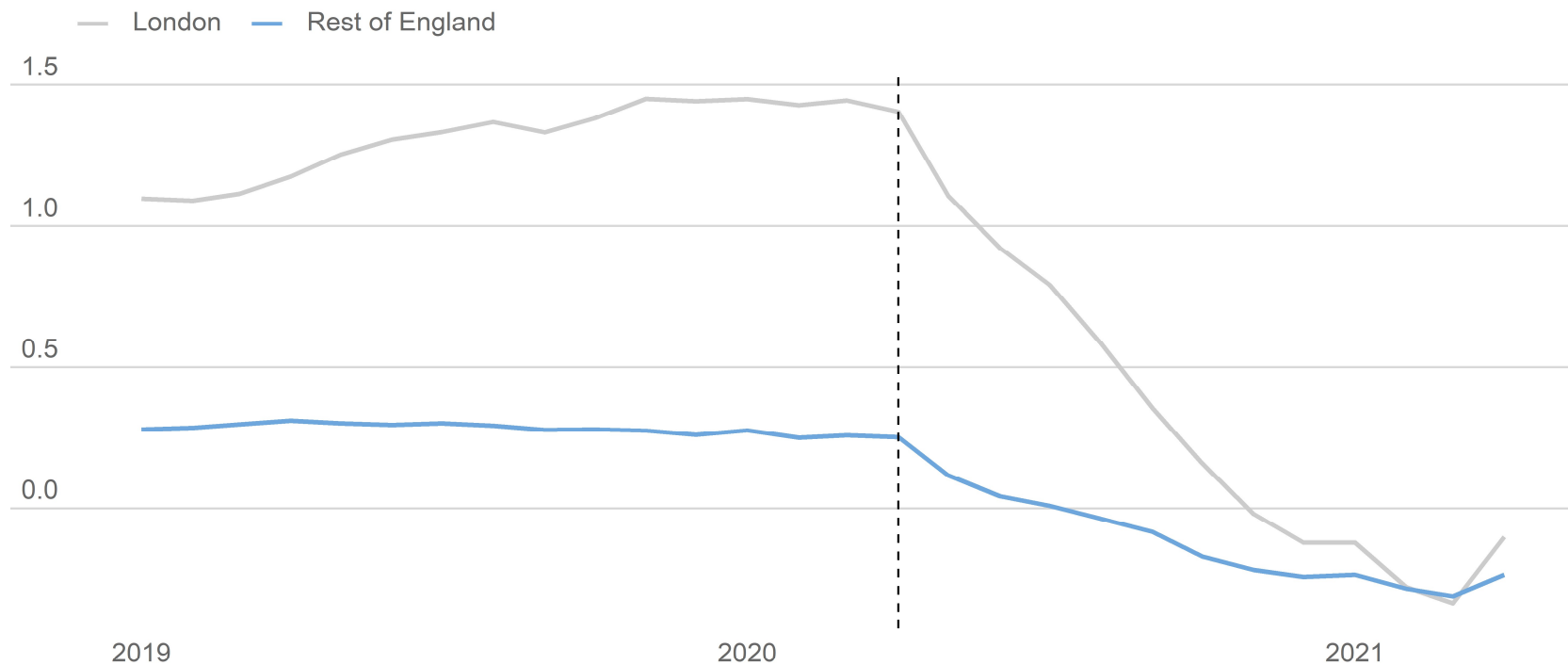


Source: Homelet. Chart: GLA demography.

# GP Registrations

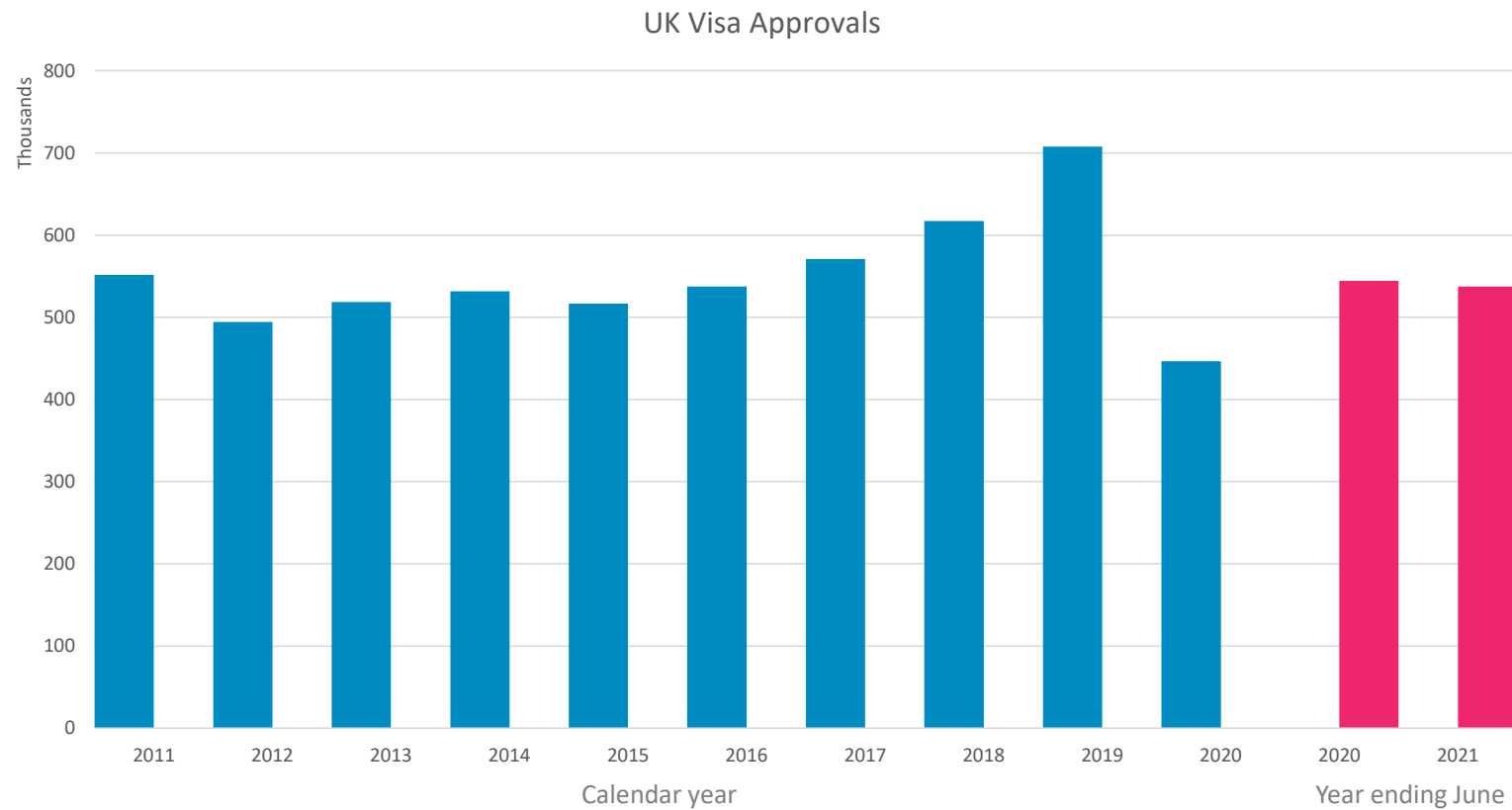
## Annual change in GP register count

% change from one year previous

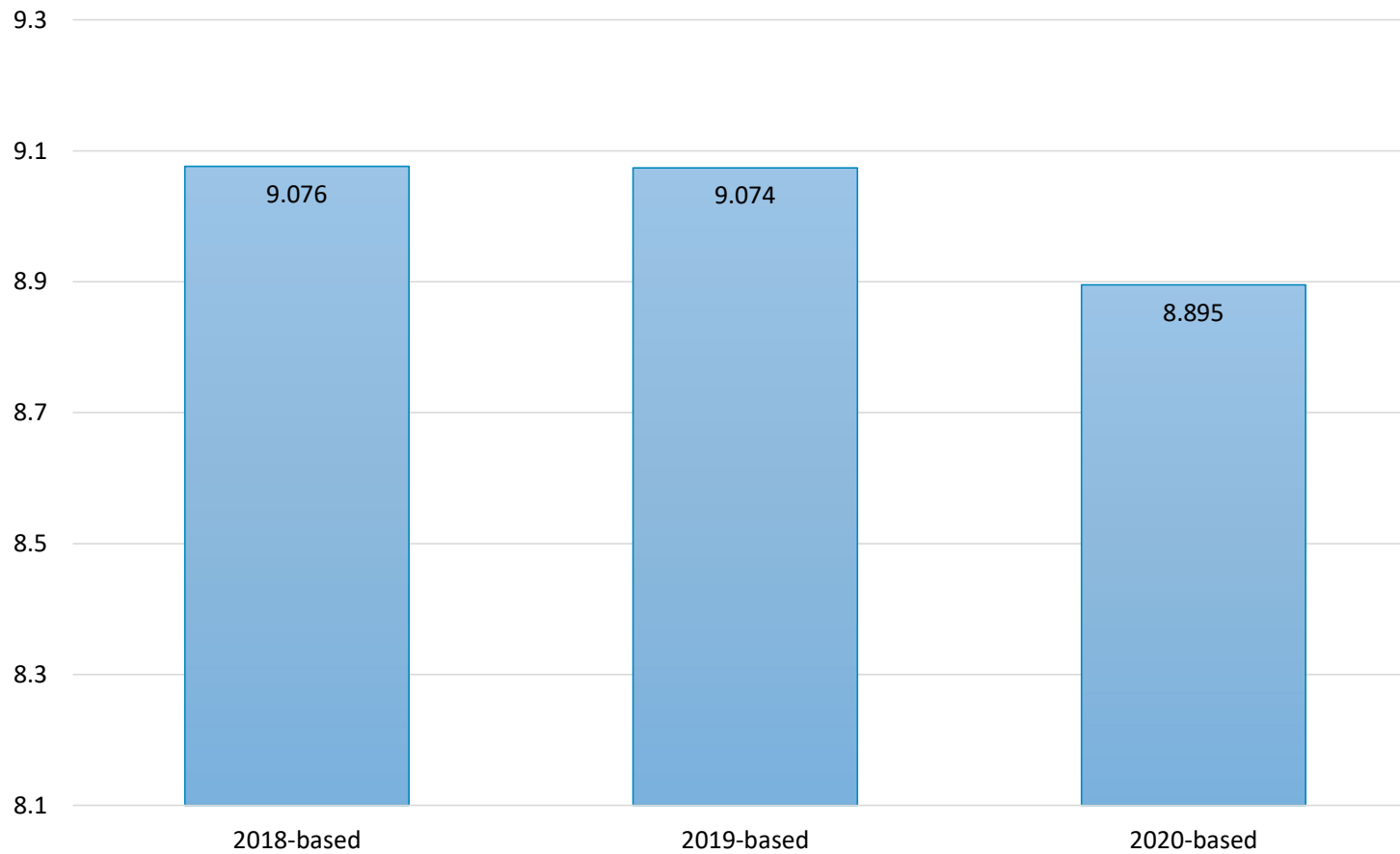


Source: NHS Digital. Chart: GLA demography.  
Note: Dotted line at 1 April 2020. England data excludes London.

# Home Office visas



# Evolving Assumptions: The 2021 population





# Challenges of this new approach

- Presenting uncertainty to policy makers and the public
- Producing projections which focus on
  - the very short-term
  - sections of the population which have not previously been under such scrutiny
- Defending a conservative approach when wild claims about shifts in population are made

 Thank you



# Links

- London's population: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/londons-population>
- GLA Projections: <https://data.london.gov.uk/demography/population-and-household-projections/>
- Population change in the Pandemic: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/population-change-in-london-during-the-pandemic>

# Variants

Covid period assumptions

Transition period

Central International

Central Domestic

Central Range Upper bound

Central International

High Domestic

Central Range Lower bound

Central International

Low Domestic

High International

Central Domestic

High population

High International

High Domestic

High International

Low Domestic

Low International

Central Domestic

Low population

Low International

High Domestic

Low International

Low Domestic