



ONS 2006-based Sub-national Population Projections

Background

On 12 June 2008 ONS released 2006-based sub-national population projections (SNPP). Consultation on the projections was held with local and health authorities earlier this year. The projections replace the revised 2004-based SNPP (published in September 2007) used by CLG in the local authority grant allocation process for financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11. The 2006 SNPP will not be similarly used; although it is anticipated that the ONS 2008 SNPP will be, when published in 2010.

Results are available for each year from 2006 (the mid-year estimate) to 2031 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+.

Full details of the projections are available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=997

Single years of age data are available on request to:

snppconsult@ons.gsi.gov.uk

The 2006 SNPP are the first to consider solely recent international migration (2001-06) prepared under the new methodology introduced by ONS last year. The revised 2004 SNPP used revised data for 2001-04 but the original flows for 1999-2001. The new projections, therefore, may differ quite markedly from their predecessors in areas that had the most significant amendments to international migration flows.

The 2006 SNPP are constrained to the results of the ONS 2006-based projections for England. In particular this means that the latest national assumptions about trends in fertility, mortality and international migration have been incorporated. The new assumptions show higher fertility rates, higher life expectancy and more net migration to England, therefore the national constraint population is higher. The population in England at 2031 is now projected (in the 2006-based national projections) to be 60,430,000. This compares to the 2004-based projection that showed just 56,830,000.

It must be stressed that ONS considers the SNPP to be trend-based projections produced consistently for all local authority areas. The results may therefore differ considerably from any locally-produced projections that are largely based on expected future housing developments, such as those used in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Results

At mid-2006 the population of the South East region was estimated to have been 8,238,000 and is projected to grow to 9,523,000 at mid-2026 and 9,814,000 at mid-2031 (see Table 1). The new projected population at 2026 is some 412,000 more than in the predecessor projections – the revised 2004-based SNPP. The main reasons for the increase in the region's projected population are that the national population is now projected to be higher and that the 2006 SNPP takes full account of five years of revised international migration estimates in the base period (2001-06). The revisions tended to place relatively more international migration into the South East.

Looking at the period 2006 to 2026 the projections show growth of 1,286,000, equivalent to 15.6%, the same as the projection for England. Table 2 shows that the main growth is projected at ages over 60, with the fastest growth (84%) seen at ages 85 and over. Small losses are anticipated for the age groups 40-44 and 45-49. While migration plays some part in these changes by age groups the main cause of differential change is the aging of cohorts from 2006 that start out at different sizes due to past birth fluctuations and the impact of net migration. For example in 2006 the 40-49 year old population had been born in the high fertility years 1956-66, whereas twenty years later they would have been born in 1976-86, a period of much lower annual numbers of births.

In the period 2006 to 2031 the population is expected to grow by 1,576,000 million, or 19.1%, slightly higher than England at 19.0%. All age groups are projected to increase in the period with the greatest absolute changes again at ages over 60 and the growth in the over 85s being 129%.

The fastest growing regions in the period 2006-31 are projected to be East Midlands (25.8%), East (24.8%), South West (24.4%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (22.9%). The South East is next. However, the absolute growth of 1,576,000 in the South East is 16.3% of that of England (9,669,000) and is the greatest of all regions. The South East is projected to marginally increase its proportion of the England population from 16.23% in 2006 to 16.24% in 2031.

An indication of the impact of the new projections on the region can be made by introducing the population results into the CLG revised 2004-based household projections, recalculating households and comparing the projected growth. The CLG revised 2004-based projections showed households in the region rising from 3,452,000 in 2006 to 4,160,000 in 2026. The new 2006 SNPP populations imply that households in 2026 could grow to 4,245,000 that is growth of 793,000 or nearly 40,000 a year. The extra growth is about 85,000 households over twenty years.

Tables 3 and 4 present the main results (total population and changes) for the counties and unitary authorities in the region. Over the entire 25-year period of the projection the fastest growing parts of the region are Milton Keynes (32%), Isle of Wight (25%), Portsmouth (24%), Kent and Windsor & Maidenhead (both 23%) and Southampton (22%). The slowest growth is projected for Slough (7%) and Reading (9%).

It must be stressed that these projections are based on the ONS assessment of the local effect of UK and international migration in the period 2001-06. Several local authorities in the region dispute the accuracy of the estimates for their own areas.

**Table 1: Age structure in ONS 2006 SNPP: South East region
2006 to 2031 (thousands)**

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
0-4	470.4	524.3	534.4	541.8	542.4	539.7
5-9	483.3	485.0	541.4	551.8	559.1	559.6
10-14	518.4	490.4	493.1	551.3	561.9	569.1
15-19	535.5	527.9	499.4	503.3	561.7	572.5
20-24	496.9	552.0	537.5	509.7	514.2	569.9
25-29	487.6	537.2	584.4	567.7	540.1	545.2
30-34	530.7	521.8	571.8	618.3	599.9	571.8
35-39	621.2	559.7	550.4	602.6	649.5	629.6
40-44	650.5	632.9	572.3	563.5	617.2	664.5
45-49	577.2	646.9	631.1	571.9	563.8	618.4
50-54	508.4	566.5	636.4	622.4	564.9	557.6
55-59	546.3	492.4	550.3	620.1	607.9	552.5
60-64	452.9	521.8	472.0	529.5	598.9	588.5
65-69	362.1	428.1	496.4	451.2	507.9	576.5
70-74	319.9	337.4	401.4	468.2	427.9	483.4
75-79	273.8	284.3	306.1	367.1	430.6	396.4
80-84	209.0	220.0	237.6	262.7	318.4	375.8
85+	193.7	221.3	254.5	298.8	356.9	442.8
ALL AGES	8,237.8	8,549.7	8,870.6	9,201.7	9,523.3	9,813.8

**Table 2: Changes in age structure in ONS 2006 SNPP: South East region
2006-26 and 2006-31 (thousands and percentages)**

	Absolute	Percentage	Absolute	Percentage
	Change	Change	Change	Change
0-4	72.0	15.3	69.3	14.7
5-9	75.8	15.7	76.3	15.8
10-14	43.5	8.4	50.7	9.8
15-19	26.2	4.9	37.0	6.9
20-24	17.3	3.5	73.0	14.7
25-29	52.5	10.8	57.6	11.8
30-34	69.2	13.0	41.1	7.7
35-39	28.3	4.6	8.4	1.4
40-44	-33.3	-5.1	14.0	2.2
45-49	-13.4	-2.3	41.2	7.1
50-54	56.5	11.1	49.2	9.7
55-59	61.6	11.3	6.2	1.1
60-64	146.0	32.2	135.6	29.9
65-69	145.8	40.3	214.4	59.2
70-74	108.0	33.8	163.5	51.1
75-79	156.8	57.3	122.6	44.8
80-84	109.4	52.3	166.8	79.8
85+	163.2	84.3	249.1	128.6
ALL AGES	1285.5	15.6	1576.0	19.1

Table 3: Total population in ONS 2006 SNPP: region, counties and unitary authorities 2006 to 2031 (thousands)

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
England	50,762.9	52,706.4	54,724.2	56,757.0	58,682.4	60,431.5
South East	8,237.8	8,549.7	8,870.6	9,201.7	9,523.3	9,813.8
Buckinghamshire	487.4	501.8	516.9	532.1	546.5	559.1
East Sussex	506.2	523.6	543.2	564.7	586.7	606.8
Hampshire	1,265.9	1,306.1	1,350.5	1,398.3	1,445.0	1,486.3
Kent	1,382.9	1,446.0	1,511.6	1,579.0	1,643.2	1,700.5
Oxfordshire	632.0	659.8	684.6	709.6	734.7	758.0
Surrey	1,085.2	1,129.0	1,172.7	1,217.2	1,259.8	1,297.4
West Sussex	770.8	795.8	822.7	852.3	881.9	908.8
Medway	251.7	256.2	262.3	268.8	275.0	280.7
Bracknell Forest	112.2	116.7	121.4	126.2	130.5	134.1
West Berkshire	148.8	153.9	159.2	164.7	169.9	174.1
Reading	142.8	144.2	146.2	148.4	151.1	154.1
Slough	119.5	120.2	121.9	123.9	125.8	127.8
Windsor and Maidenhead	138.8	146.0	152.9	159.6	165.6	170.4
Wokingham	153.8	159.8	165.0	170.3	175.4	179.6
Milton Keynes	224.8	241.0	257.0	272.1	285.5	297.3
Brighton and Hove	251.4	257.1	263.1	269.7	276.7	284.1
Portsmouth	196.4	207.4	217.4	226.2	234.6	242.8
Southampton	228.6	239.9	249.9	258.8	268.3	278.1
Isle of Wight	138.5	145.2	152.2	159.7	167.1	173.7

Table 4: Changes in population in ONS 2006 SNPP: region, counties and unitary authorities 2006-26 and 2006-31 (thousands and percentages)

	2006-26		2006-31	
	Absolute Change	Percentage Change	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
England	7,919.5	15.6	9,668.6	19.0
South East	1,285.5	15.6	1,576.0	19.1
Buckinghamshire	59.1	12.1	71.7	14.7
East Sussex	80.5	15.9	100.6	19.9
Hampshire	179.1	14.1	220.4	17.4
Kent	260.3	18.8	317.6	23.0
Oxfordshire	102.7	16.3	126.0	19.9
Surrey	174.6	16.1	212.2	19.6
West Sussex	111.1	14.4	138.0	17.9
Medway	23.3	9.3	29.0	11.5
Bracknell Forest	18.3	16.3	21.9	19.5
West Berkshire	21.1	14.2	25.3	17.0
Reading	8.3	5.8	11.3	7.9
Slough	6.3	5.3	8.3	6.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	26.8	19.3	31.6	22.8
Wokingham	21.6	14.0	25.8	16.8
Milton Keynes	60.7	27.0	72.5	32.3
Brighton and Hove	25.3	10.1	32.7	13.0
Portsmouth	38.2	19.5	46.4	23.6
Southampton	39.7	17.4	49.5	21.7
Isle of Wight	28.6	20.6	35.2	25.4

This report has been commissioned by the South East England Regional Assembly from the Greater London Authority.

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