



Office for  
National Statistics

# Migration Statistics Improvement Programme – an overview

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# Context

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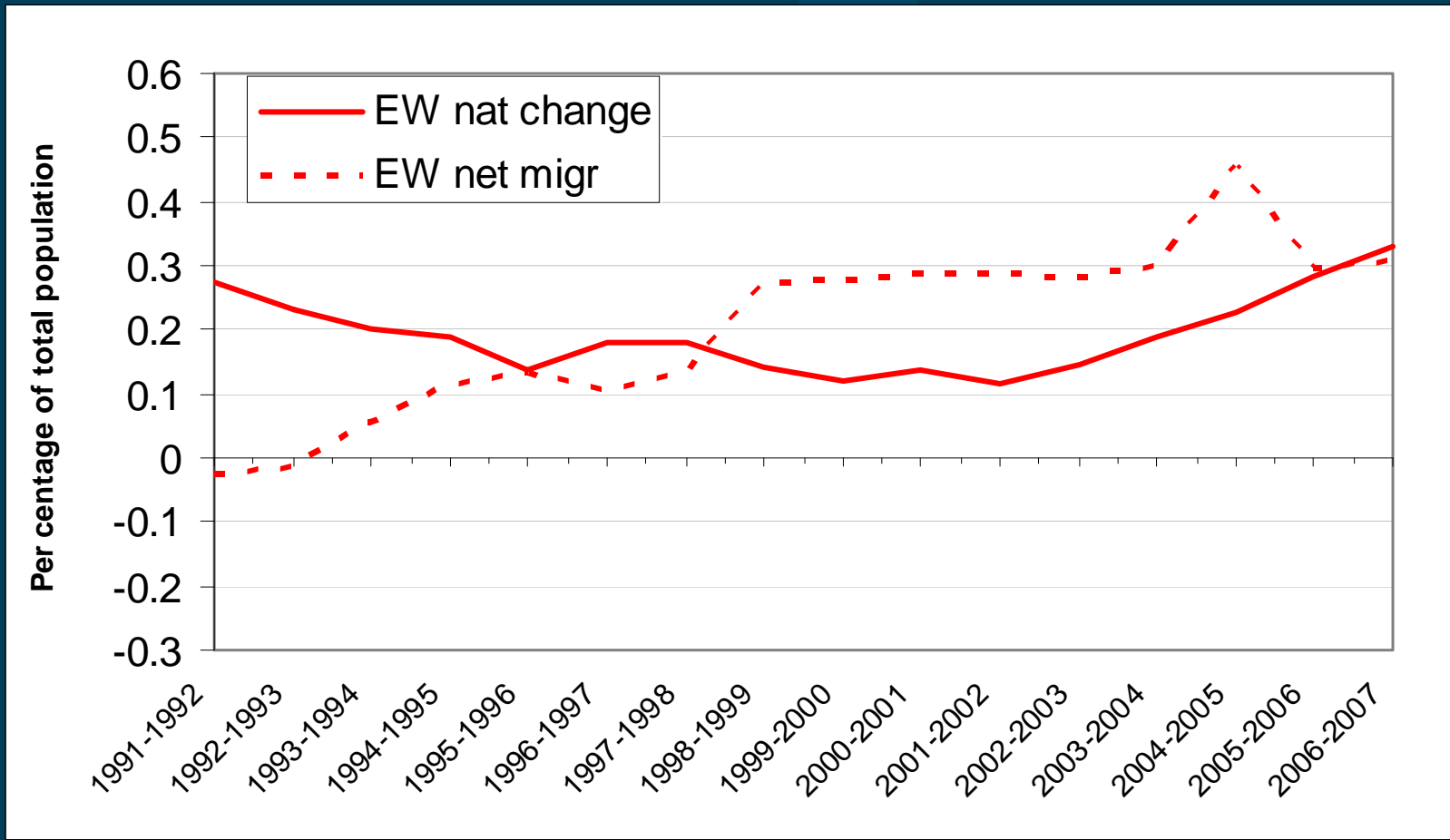
- It is difficult to measure
- There is no direct source or register
- Estimated using surveys and other sources
- A key component of population change

# Importance of Population Estimates

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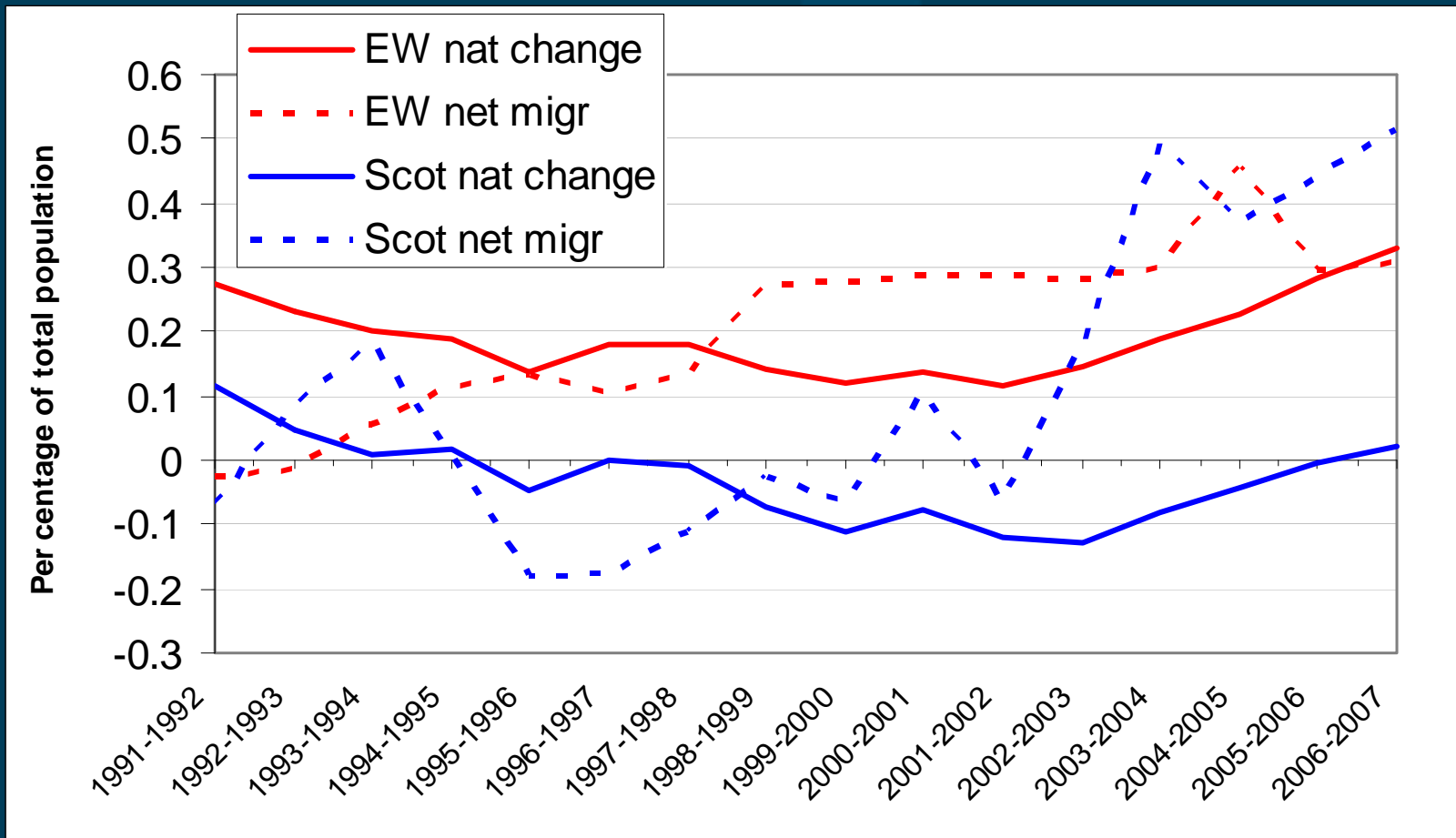
- Local authority resource allocation
- Planning and monitoring service provision  
e.g. education and health services
- Grossing up survey results  
e.g. Labour Force Survey
- Research by academics
- Denominators in the derivation of rates  
e.g. GDP, unemployment rates, mortality & fertility rates

# Components of change EW



Component shown as a percentage of total population at start of year

# Components of change EW v Scotland



Component shown as a percentage of total population at start of year

# Improving population estimates

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- Late 1990s emerging trend of higher net in migration
- NS International Migration Quality Review Initiated pre Census, reported in 2003.
- Implementation plan taken forward within pre-existing ONS Improvement work - Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS)
- IMPS increased to handle LA studies work post 2001 Census
- Need for cross departmental collaboration to make radical improvements

# Cross Government task force

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- National Statistician established a cross department Task force in May 2006
- Interdepartmental Task Force recommended in December 2006 ways to improve migration estimation and reporting
- Fifteen recommendations in five broad groups
  1. Information on migrants as they enter or leave UK
  2. Comprehensive/timely information on migrants in UK
  3. Linkage - better information on migrants' intentions
  4. Timely, robust indicators of migrant numbers
  5. Coherent migration reporting

# Improvements to population and migration statistics

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- External drivers
  - Treasury Select Committee report
  - House of Lords Impact of Immigration report
- Implementation of improvements for mid-2006 MYEs
- Interdepartmental programme



# Improvements in 2007

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- New methods for improved distribution of international migrants in local population estimates implemented in mid-2006 MYEs
  - Use of survey data for regional migration
  - Emigration modelling
  - Intermediate geography for immigration
  - Improved assumptions on switchers
- Short-term migration feasibility report and estimates (experimental national, London/non-London)
- Improvements to data collection at ports IPS, out-migrants sample size increased

# Interdepartmental Work Programme 2008

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- Coordinated by ONS, with the following Government Departments:
  - DWP, HO, DCSF, CLG, DH, DIUS, Bank of England, Devolved administrations, LGA
- Five work streams
  - Entry/Exit data
  - Alternative Sources
  - Local population estimates
  - Migration Reporting
  - Analysis and Indicators



# Achievements in 2008

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- Coherent Reporting
- Local Authority Case Study reports
- IPS boost for specific additional migration shifts at further airports - April 2008.
- Port Survey Review
- A new tabulation tool for the dissemination of National Insurance Number statistics on foreign nationals introduced by DWP.
- Reconciliation of administrative sources with long and short term migration estimates, leading to improved national short term migration estimates.

# Population Statistics Development

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- Setting up National Statistics Centre for Demography
- Integration of National Population Projections into ONSCD
- Continued to produce and improve existing statistics
  - Expanded detail
  - More technical information
- Expanded product range including:
  - Quarterly Population Estimates
  - Population Estimates by Ethnic Group
  - Small Area Population Estimates
  - Private Household population estimates
  - Estimates of the very elderly
  - Publishing material by PCO areas
- Integration of Longitudinal Studies team into ONSCD

# Further improvements to be made

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- Inflow and outflow measurement of international migration
- Distribution of international immigrants and emigrants at the sub-national level
- Inflow and outflow measurement of internal migration
- Better explanation
  - Even more coherent reporting of migration story
  - Definitions: short-term v long-term



# Improvement Work Streams

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Five interdepartmental working groups

- Better information on migrants as they enter or leave the country (Entry and Exit)
- **Better information on migrants within the country (Local Population estimates)**
- **Improved sources (Alternative Sources)**
- More timely indicators (Analysis and Indicators)
- More coherence in reporting (Migration reporting)

# Modelling and Matching Approaches

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- International migration:
  - survey based estimate
  - sample of data
  - modelling approaches appropriate
- Internal migration:
  - administrative data basis (Health)
  - “population” data
  - record matching approach to improvement

# Current research examples

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- Distribution of international migration using administrative data
- Student adjustments using HESA data
- Short term migration estimates
- Quality measures around population estimates
- Indicators and early migration outputs



# Specific deliverables

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## 2008

- Redesigned port survey
- E-Borders initiated
- Legal gateways for data sharing
- Development of new surveys
- Coherent migration reporting
- Research – students, distributions, short term migration

# Specific deliverables

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## 2009 and beyond

- Implementation for 2008 MYEs
- Data from e-Borders
- New/redesigned surveys running
- Use of DWP, DCSF and other administrative data
- Record linkage
- 2011 Census
- Beyond 2011

# Keeping up to date

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- Quarterly updates and other information at [www.statistics.gov.uk/imps](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/imps)

# Web page

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/default.asp>. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Internet Explorer icon and the text "Internet".

The website header features the National Statistics logo on the left, the text "About National Statistics & ONS" in the center, and a photograph of a woman on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with a search icon and four menu items: "About National Statistics", "About ONS", "About data", and "Getting users involved".

The main content area is titled "Population and migration / Future plans / IMPS". It is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Improving Migration and Population Statistics Project (IMPS)" and lists the aims of the project: to improve migration and population statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to avoid the problems of Census 2001, and to gain a better understanding of the causes of any difference that does occur. The right column contains three sections: "Background" (learning from the past to improve migration and population statistics), "Components of the IMPS project" (how work on international migration, demographic analysis, and LA case studies contribute), and "Communication with key stakeholders" (involvement of government departments and key stakeholders). At the bottom of the right column is a "Updates" section with a link to a report from the Inter-Departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics and details on improved methods for population statistics revisions in 2007. A "Contact Us" link is also present at the bottom of the right column.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the following links: [Feedback or Enquiries](#), [Copyright](#), [Terms and Conditions](#), [Privacy Statement](#), and [Link to Directgov](#).

# Keeping up to date

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- Quarterly updates and other information at [www.statistics.gov.uk/imps](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/imps)
- Joint ONS/LGA workshops
- Implementation seminars
- Consultation
- Email: [imps@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imps@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

# Questions?

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# Current Demographic Products

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1. Mid-year Population Estimates
2. National Population Projections
3. Sub-national Population Projections
4. Quarterly population estimates
5. Migration statistics (all UK)
6. Demographic analysis work (Fertility, Mortality, Family and Ageing analysis)
7. Marital Status estimates (EW)
8. Ethnic population estimates (experimental)
9. Small Area population statistics (experimental)
10. Population Trends