

## ► 4. Looking ahead

- Immigration will add nearly seven million to England's population by 2031, equivalent to about seven times the population of Birmingham.
- In 2009, England is expected to become the most crowded country in Europe, overtaking Holland.
- For the next 20 years we will have to build a house in England every six minutes for new immigrants.

### The impact of immigration on the population

Immigration is already the major factor affecting population growth. Immigrants and their descendants will account for nearly 70% of the UK's population growth.<sup>1</sup> In order to forecast our population, the Government Actuary's Department has to make some assumption about the level of net immigration in future years. Until 1996, they assumed that net immigration would return to zero. Since then **the Government have raised their assumption about net immigration to the UK on seven occasions to the present level of 190,000 a year**. This is illustrated in Figure 12 which also shows the actual level of net immigration:

Fig. 12: Government assumptions about future immigration



## Population projections for England

The graph below shows what is expected to happen to the population of England under various assumptions about immigration.

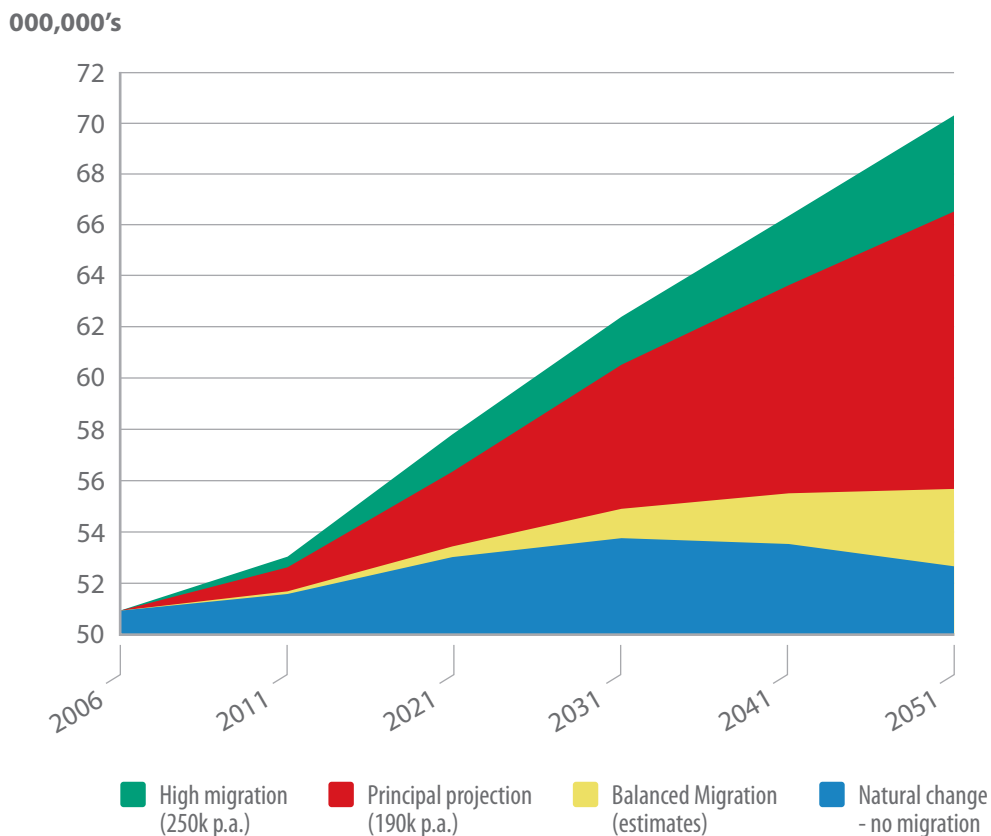
“Zero migration” means no movement either in or out (which is clearly only a theoretical concept). “Zero net migration”, or “Balanced Migration” means that the number of immigrants is the same as the number of emigrants.

In figure 13:

- The blue shows what would happen if there was no migration at all.
- The yellow shows the effect of zero net migration or “Balanced Migration”.
- The red is the Government’s Principal Projection based on an assumption of 190,000 net immigration per year.
- The green shows the effect of the Government’s “high migration scenario” which also includes a higher assumption for fertility and lower mortality.

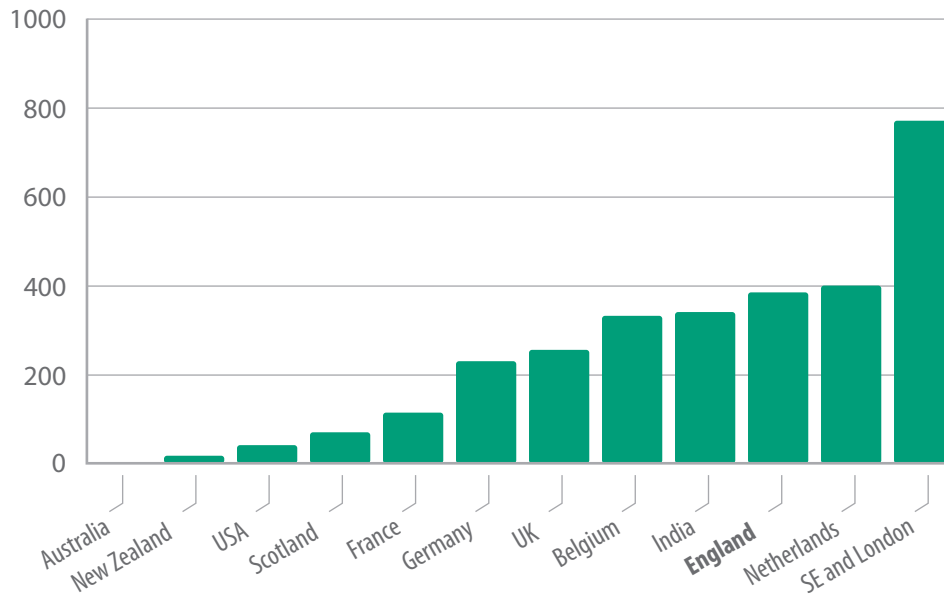
This shows that, on the Government’s “Principal Projection” (the red section) **England’s population will increase by nearly 10 million by 2031. The Government Actuary’s Department calculates that 70% of this increase will be the result of immigration. This is equivalent to seven times the population of Birmingham.**

Fig. 13: The Population of England: Government Projections, 2006 to 2051



For an island like ours, the most obvious impact of continued uncontrolled immigration is on our living space. **In 2009 England is expected to overtake Holland as the most crowded country in Europe** (except for Malta).

Fig.14: Population density – some comparisons



Mid-2008 estimates – Source: non-UK data CIA World Fact Book, UK, Scotland and England – 2006-based population projections. South East and London population assumed to grow in line with projected growth for England as a whole.

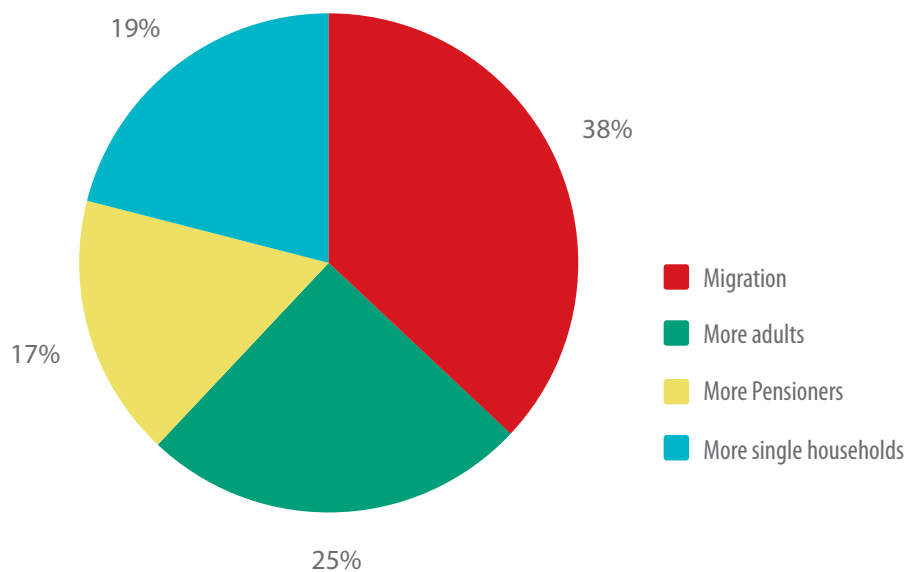
## Housing

The largest single factor contributing to the number of new households being formed (and therefore the number of homes needed) is net immigration. The latest official forecasts in England show that 223,000 additional households are expected to be formed each year between 2004 and 2026 of which 73,000 (33%) are attributable to net migration into England.<sup>1</sup> It is worth repeating that immigration is the only demand factor which the Government can directly influence.

In November 2007 the Government's immigration assumption for England was increased from 130,000 to 171,500 a year. The effect of this, on a straight-line projection, is to increase the proportion of new households due to immigration to about 39%. We will, however, have to await the Government's official calculation of the precise figure as there are also other factors involved.

**Broadly speaking, we will have to build 260 houses a day for the next 20 years to meet this requirement – that is one house every 6 minutes, day and night, seven days a week.**

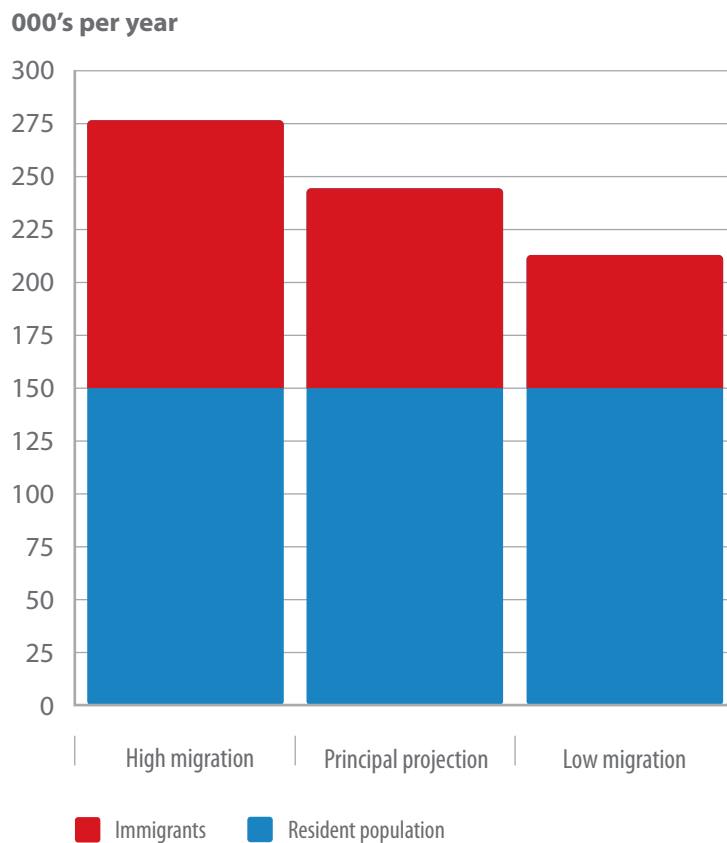
Fig.15: Household formation reasons



Source: DCLG New Projections of households for England and the Regions to 2026.

The following bar chart (Figure 16) shows how many additional households the Government expect to be formed each year on different assumptions about immigration. The resident population is expected to form 150,000 households each year. The number of additional households in England arising from future immigration varies from about 60,000 to 130,000 a year depending on what one assumes about future immigration. On the latest (2006) population projections and on the Government’s “Principal Projection” – that is the outcome they consider most likely – new immigrants will form about 95,000 new households per year, or nearly 39% of the total of 245,000.

Fig.16: Annual housing needs: immigrants and residents 2004-2026

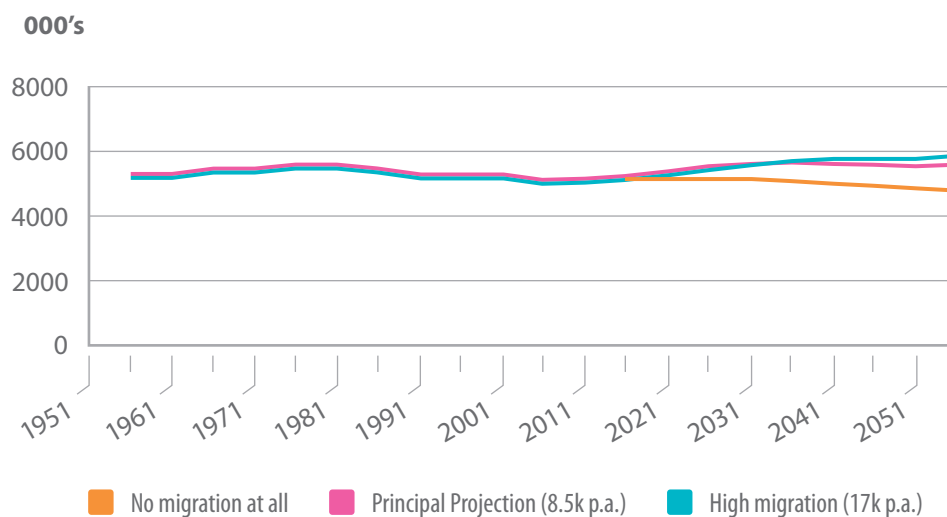


## Scotland

It is often suggested that Scotland needs large scale immigration because it has a declining and ageing population. This is simply not the case.

**Scotland's population is not declining. Its population has been about 5 million for the past 50 years and will remain at that level for the next 25 years even without net migration.** Figure 17 shows that, on the Principal Projection, Scotland's population will increase slightly until the middle of this century. The immigration assumption behind that projection is that net international immigration will be 4,000 per year and internal migration (mostly from England) will be a net positive of 4,500 per year.

Fig. 17: Scotland's population 1951-2006 and projected to 2051



Source: General Register Office for Scotland: Mid Year population Estimates Scotland by quinary age and sex, 1911 to 2007 and GAD website 2006 for population projections

Furthermore, immigration as a solution to the “pensions timebomb” has been dismissed by all serious studies – most recently by the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs (see page 25).<sup>1</sup>

Some in Scotland argue that immigrants are needed to fill vacancies, to do jobs that Scots will not do, and to invigorate the Scottish economy. All these propositions were also considered by the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, which was unconvinced (see page 24).

In recent years Scotland has received far fewer immigrants than England. In terms of international migration, less than one quarter of one per cent of net foreign immigration to the UK has been to Scotland. In the ten years to 2006, the total flow to Scotland was 27,000 compared to 1.57 million to England. Allowing for the fact that the population of England is 10 times that of Scotland, the flow of immigrants to England is still six times higher than to Scotland.

1 House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, The Economic Impact of Immigration, 1 April 2008, para. 234