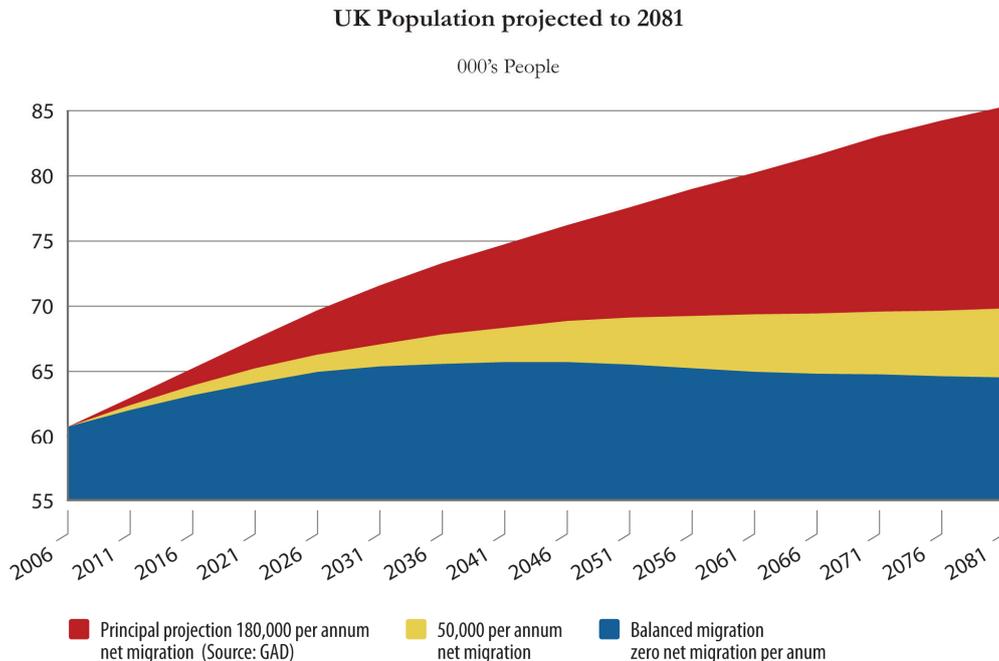


## 70 MILLION IS TOO MANY

*Official forecasts show that the UK's population will reach 70 million in 20 years. Most of this increase will be in England and over two thirds will be due to immigration. This is why the main political parties need to commit to a policy of Balanced Migration – so that immigration equals emigration. This would hold our population at 65 million.*

### 1. Why will the population grow?

The UK's population is now 61.4 million. According to official forecasts it will grow by 10.2 million by 2033, and by 17 million by 2056, as the graph below indicates. About 7 million of the increase between now and 2033 will be due to immigration. Over 90% of the increase in population will be in England.



Net immigration in 2007 was 237,000. In 2008 it fell to 163,000 due almost entirely to a fall in net migration from Eastern Europe rather than to government policy. This is only 10% below the long term assumption of 180,000 which underlies the latest, 2008-based population projections.

### 2. What will be the impact of large scale immigration on England?

90% of immigrants go to England. The extra 7 million people now projected for 2033 as a result of immigration is equivalent to seven cities the size of Birmingham or the entire population of London. Most of the housing would be required in England which is already the most crowded country in Europe (except Malta). Future immigrants will form a new household every five minutes.

### 3. What reduction in immigration is needed to stabilise the population?

The main source of future immigration will be from countries outside the EU, from which immigration to the UK can be controlled. Net EU migration is already declining.

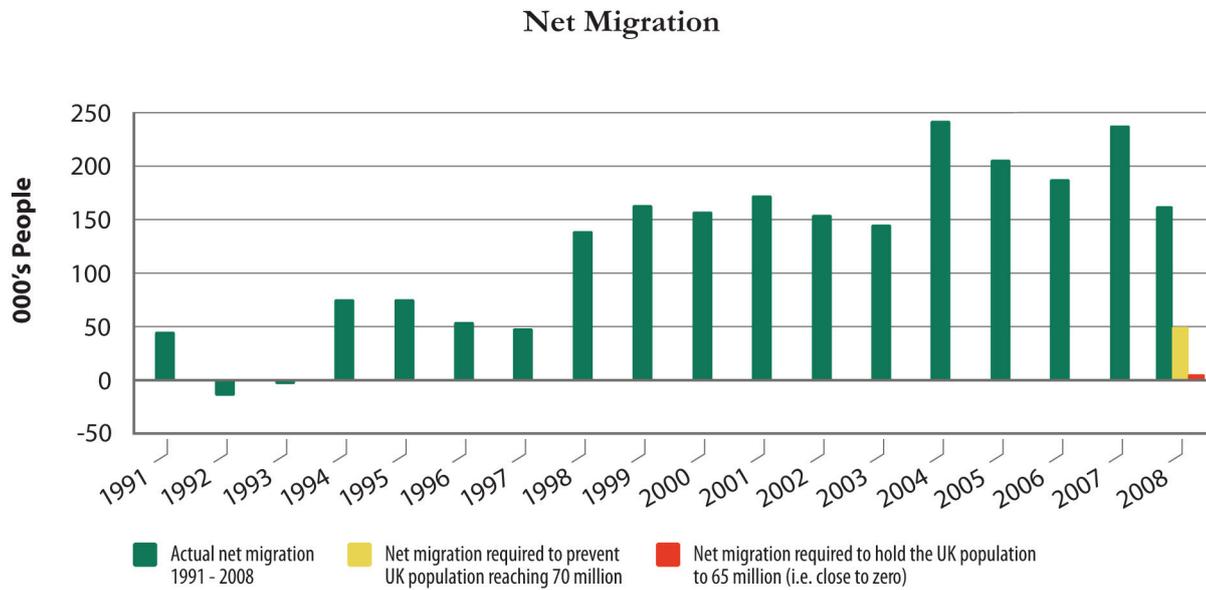
To stop the UK's population hitting 70 million, net migration – the number who come here minus those who leave – would need to be reduced by nearly 70% from the 2008 level of 163,000 a year to 50,000 a year – but even this would be the equivalent of adding the present population of Sweden to that of England. To hold our population at 65 million we need to bring net migration down close to zero.

### 4. Are the Government doing enough?

The Government have claimed that their Points Based System (PBS) would have reduced immigration by 20,000 had it been in operation in 2008 – but there is no sign of such a reduction. Virtually all the reduction was due to lower net flows from the Eastern European members of the EU over which the government has no control. The PBS covers only 20% of the 2 million visas granted annually to enter Britain.

## 5. Would Conservative policy be any better?

The Conservative leader has recently stated his wish to see net immigration reduced to the levels of the early 1990s. The average of 1991-95 was 42,000. If this becomes formal policy and is achieved it would be enough to hold the UK population below 70 million. Balanced Migration is needed to hold it at 65 million.



Source: ONS, TIM UK area, 1997-2007 (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=15053>).

## 6. Won't the recession mean immigration falls as East Europeans and others return home?

Yes – this is certainly true for Eastern European migrants but it has already been factored in to the latest 2008-based projections which assume that net migration from the East European countries will decline to zero after six years. As regards the rest of the world, past recessions have seen net immigration fall, only to increase again as the recovery begins.

## 7. What needs to be done?

Immigration policy needs to be firmly based on a commitment to hold the UK's population well below 70 million. Measures could then be built around this commitment so as to reduce net immigration to less than 50,000 a year as in the early 1990s. There is no silver bullet. A range of measures will be required including the following:

- economic migration should no longer lead, almost automatically, to settlement. The government have proposed a second points system for settlement - a significant step forward.
- the Points Based System for work permits needs to be substantially tightened, for example to suspend Tier 1 of the Points Based System which allows skilled workers to come to Britain "on spec" without a job offer.
- the marriage regulations need to be tightened so as to discourage marriages that are intended purely for immigration purposes. A significant English language requirement would be a first step. The accommodation and maintenance requirements should also be tightened and enforced.
- the issue of visas to students has been widely exploited. The system of sponsorship needs to be tightened. Opportunities for fraud must be reduced by restoring interviews with Immigration Officers and those who overstay must be removed.

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