

Revised Population Estimates – Mid 2002 to Mid 2008

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has introduced a package of improvements to migration and population statistics. The improvements impact on previously published population estimates leading to revisions on the mid-2002 to mid-2008 population estimates for local authorities in England and Wales. These result in very small changes to the estimates for England, Wales, and the UK (Scotland and Northern Ireland are not affected). The revised population estimates released are the official population estimates for England and Wales and replace previous mid-year population estimates for the period mid-2002 to mid-2008.

For East Staffordshire, the previously published figures showed a population of 109,100 for mid 2008 but the revised estimates show a population of 108,200. This represents a fall of 900 residents, which equates to a 0.8% decrease.

Mid-2009 population estimates were published on 24 June 2010, and are based on these new methods. The mid 2009 population estimate for East Staffordshire is 108,800. This represents an increase of 600 or 0.5% on the revised 2008 estimate.

The revisions have been produced as a result of improvements to methods introduced as part of the cross-government Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP). These improvements include:

- New method for distributing migrants to Local Authorities incorporating modelling using up to date survey and administrative data replacing 2001 Census data where this is no longer a good indicator of migration.
- Data from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has been used to improve estimates of internal migration by adjusting for student migration not caught by other administrative sources e.g. patient registers.
- Short-term migration estimates for England and Wales and Local Authority level have been developed and published.
- A suite of migration indicators that bring together data from a range of sources, providing users with a quick view of different migration indicators at LA level.
- Improved Port Survey to better estimate international in and out migration - ONS has been investing in the International Passenger Survey to increase the migrant sample size for emigrants.
- Joined up and consistent reporting of migration statistics across government which brings together migration data from ONS, the Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, and General Register Office for Scotland.

A user engagement exercise was undertaken to seek users' views on the impact of the methodology changes. The user engagement showed that respondents were largely in favour of the improvements that are being implemented.

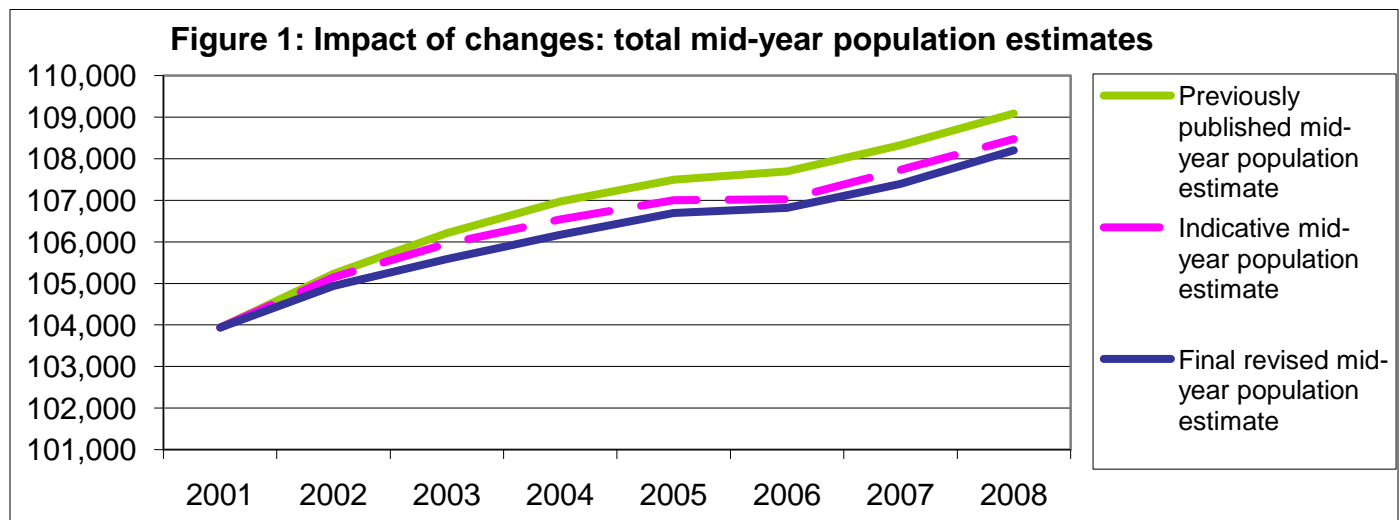
At local authority level the majority of revisions are small, over 85 per cent of district level local authorities have been changed by less than $\pm 2\%$ over the seven years 2002 to 2008, and over 80 per cent of local authorities have revision of less than one per cent of their total populations.

East Staffordshire's population has been revised by less than 1% in each year from 2002 to 2008 as the table below shows.

Table 1: Mid Year Population Estimates 2002 to 2008 for East Staffordshire				
Year	Percentage Revision	Previously published mid-year population estimate	Final revised mid-year population estimate	Revised population
2002	-0.3%	105,200	104,900	-300
2003	-0.6%	106,200	105,600	-600
2004	-0.7%	107,000	106,200	-800
2005	-0.7%	107,500	106,700	-800
2006	-0.8%	107,700	106,800	-900
2007	-0.9%	108,300	107,400	-900
2008	-0.8%	109,100	108,200	-900

Source: Office for National Statistics

The chart below compares the previously published mid-year population estimates with the newly revised mid-year population estimates, as well as indicative estimates that were published on 30 November 2009. According to the new methods of calculating the local population, East Staffordshire's population has consistently been over-estimated by around 800 to 900 residents since 2004.



Source: Office for National Statistics

As the table below shows East Staffordshire has experienced a greater percentage decrease in its estimated population under the revised methods compared to the county average and the other districts within Staffordshire.

Table 2: Percentage Revision of Revised Population Estimates Compared to Previously Published Figures							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Staffordshire	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Cannock Chase	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
East Staffordshire	-0.3	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-0.8
Lichfield	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.1	0.1
Newcastle-u-Lyme	-	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.4
South Staffordshire	-	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Stafford	-	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-	0.3	0.5
Staffs Moorlands	-	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Tamworth	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

However, East Staffordshire's decrease is under 1% and is very small in comparison to some local authorities. The greatest loss of population from the revised methods can be found in:

- Forest Heath, which experienced a loss of 4,000 residents in 2008, which represents a decrease of 6.2% of the total population, and
- Brent, which experienced a loss of 16,100 residents in 2008, which represents a decrease of 6.0% of the total population.

The greatest gains in population from the revised methods can be found in:

- Westminster, which experienced an increase of 10,600 residents in 2008, which represents an increase of 4.5% of the total population, and
- Harrow, which experienced an increase of 9,200 residents in 2008, which represents an increase of 4.2% of the total population.