# The Population and Migration system: combining the power of data collection and admin data

## Mary Gregory

10 July 2025

**BBC NEWS**

UK net migration in 2024 almost halves to 431,000, ONS estimates

22 May 2025

**THE STANDARD**

NEWS | LONDON

How much is London's population set to increase?

Could the UK's population really reach 72.5 million by 2032?

**Fertility rate in England and Wales drops to new low**

Just over 591,000 babies were born in the UK last year – the lowest number in four decades

**The Guardian**

This article is more than 5 months old

UK population exceeds that of France for first time on record, ONS data shows

Office of National Statistics projects population will reach 72.5m by mid-2032, with growth driven by migration

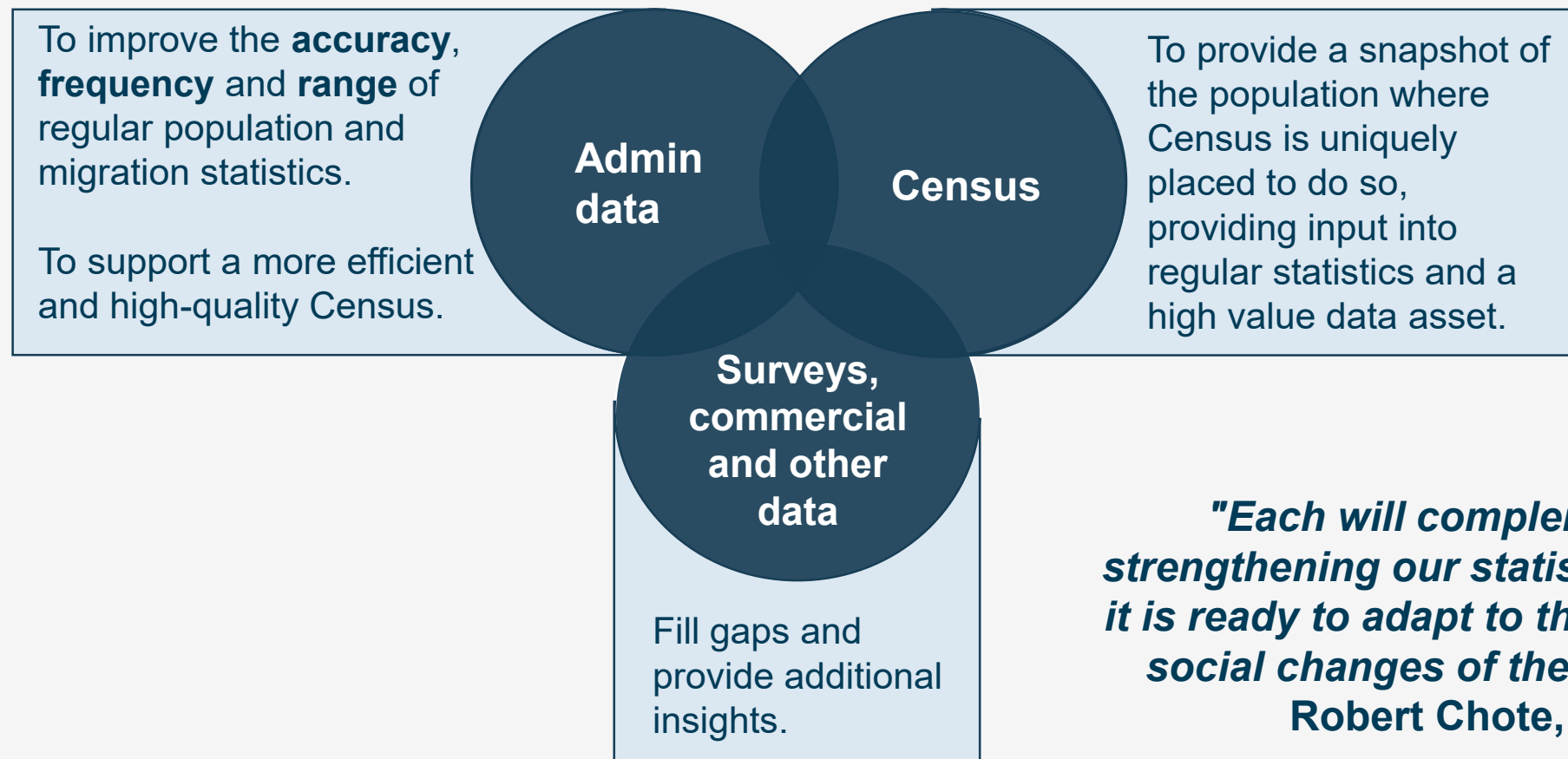**Less than half of England and Wales population Christian, Census 2021 shows**

29 November 2022

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# Our vision

*High quality population and migration statistics to inform decisions and improve lives.*

**By combining the power of data collection and administrative data to tell us about who we are, where we live and how we live.**

To improve the **accuracy**, **frequency** and **range** of regular population and migration statistics.

To support a more efficient and high-quality Census.

**Admin data**

**Census**

To provide a snapshot of the population where Census is uniquely placed to do so, providing input into regular statistics and a high value data asset.

**Surveys, commercial and other data**

Fill gaps and provide additional insights.

*"Each will complement the other, strengthening our statistical system so that it is ready to adapt to the technological and social changes of the next decade."* Sir Robert Chote, June 2025

# Who?

- Central government
- Local government
- Other public bodies and services
- Devolved governments
- Academics and researchers
- Religious and faith groups
- Charities
- Business and industry
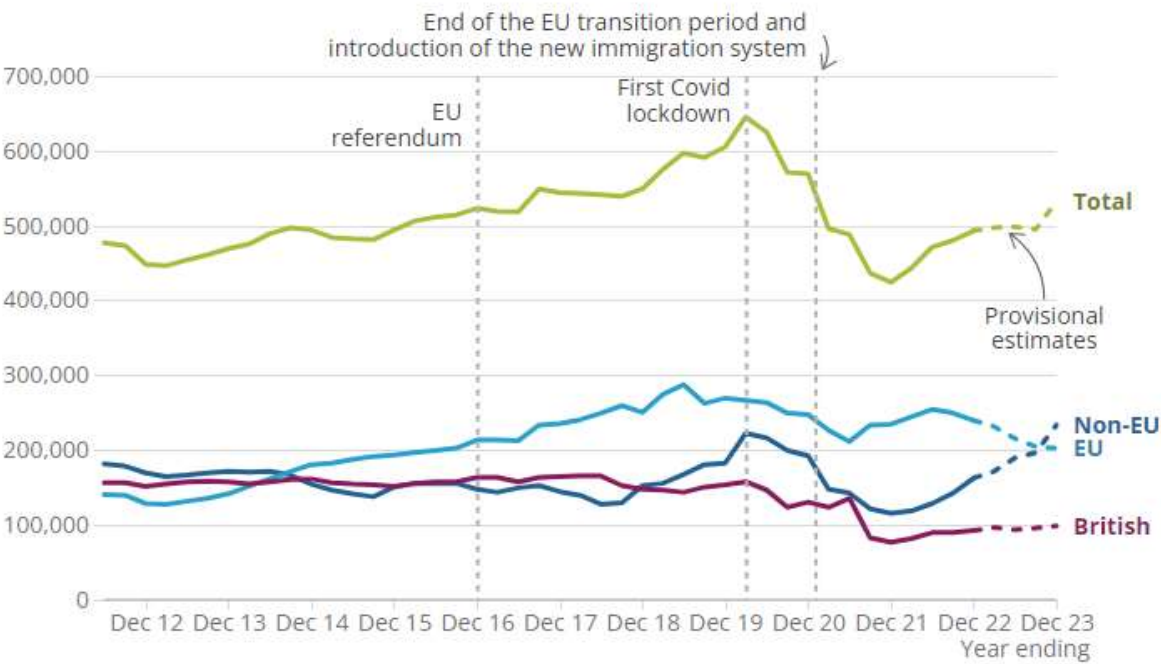- Media
- Think tanks
- Individuals

# What?

- Forecasts and planning (eg government fiscal events, benefits forecasts, planning of services including education and health).

- Funding allocation eg funding of devolved governments through the **Block Grant Adjustment** and **Barnett Formula**

- Charities use our statistics to help **target their support** and help build a case for the funding they need
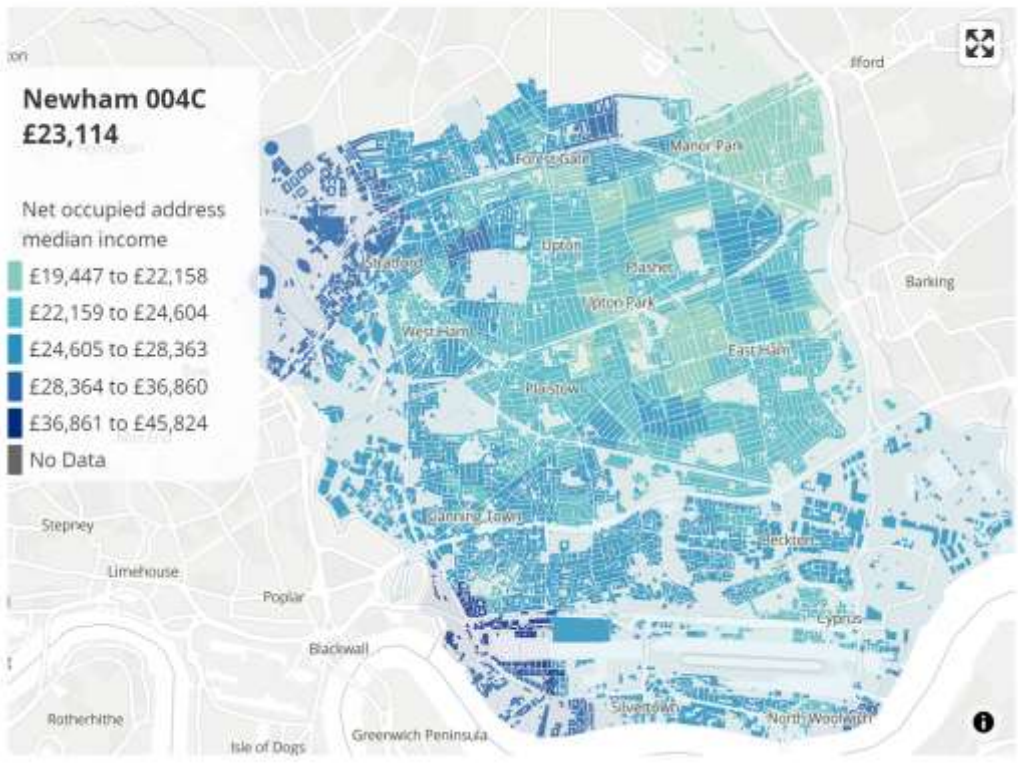
# Examples



Number of non-EU, EU, and British nationals emigrating long-term from the UK, between the year ending (YE) June 2012 and the YE December 2023



Admin-based income statistics (ABIS) median occupied address net income (£), LA, tax year ending 2018

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**Set your scenario:**

**Life expectancy**

| | Males | Females | |
|---|---|---|---|
| - | 82.2 | 85.8 | + |

> **What is life expectancy?**

**Children per woman**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| - | 1.5 | + |

> **What is children per woman?**

**Net migration**

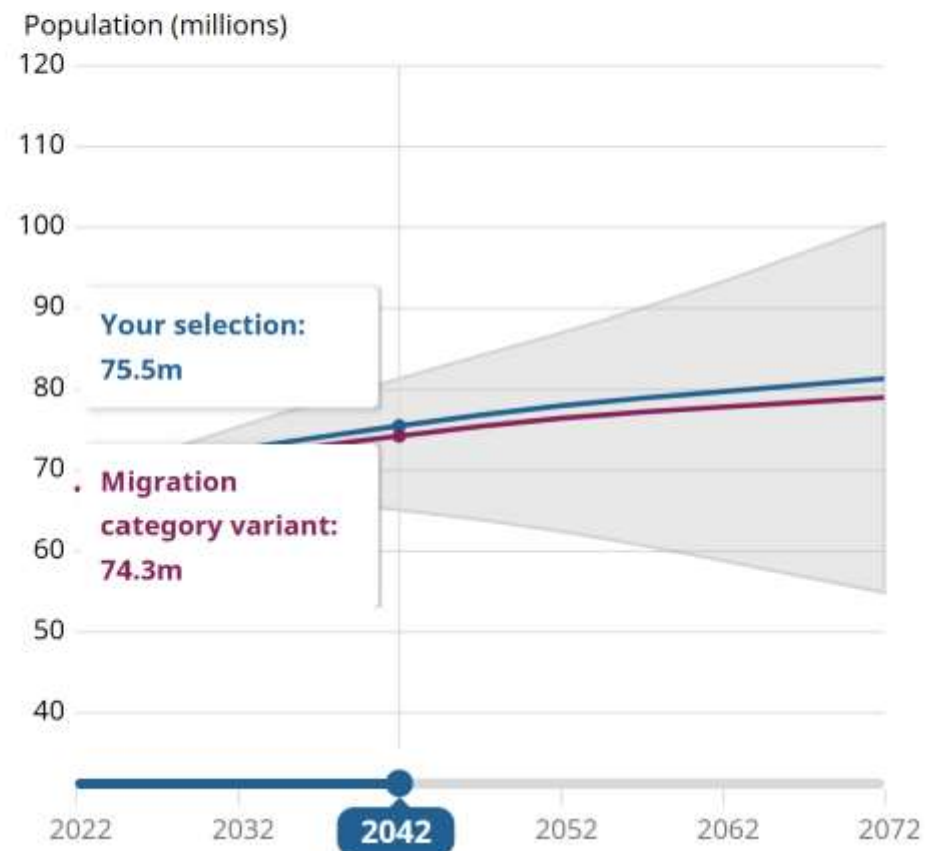| | | |
|---|---|---|
| - | 340,000 | + |

> **What is net migration?**

**Compare to an official projection:**

Migration category variant ⌄

∨ See assumptions for migration

**How would the UK population be projected to change?**

◺ Range of official projections

Population (millions)

**Your selection:**
**75.5m**

. **Migration category variant:**
**74.3m**

2022   2032   **2042**   2052   2062   2072

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# Planned Developments

- **Veterans:** Estimates by Local Authority 28 August (in development)
- **Longitudinal**: We are planning a launch event 15 October to promote the availability of new data
- **International Migration**: Method updates will be published 14 November (in advance of November estimates).
- **Income**: Developing plans Household Finance and income, aim to publish Small Area Income Estimates by end of the year
- **Households**: Number and size of households by LA in December, date tbc. In development output, including quality and methods information.
- **Provisional population estimates**: Developing a method with the aim of publishing provisional estimates in Winter 25/26, providing an early indication which will be updated in Summer 2026.

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# Topic Consultation Vision and Objectives

- If the recommendation is accepted by government, ONS will conduct a Topic Consultation in Autumn 2025.

  *The topic consultation will build on our understanding of user needs to support the development of the population and migration statistical system including the 2031 Census and beyond*

**Through the consultation we will:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Evaluate requirements for topic data | Build on past consultations and what users have already told us | Create robust questions to give us strong evidence base | Identify and address gaps in our understanding |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Consider harmonisation needs | Explore sentiment around alternative data | Collaborate and align with Devolved Governments |

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- Please email: pop.info@ons.gov.uk
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# Questions