

Demography and Information in Norfolk

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Population estimates for mid-2007

This report provides information on the latest population estimates available for Norfolk, as issued by the Office for National Statistics on 21 August 2008. The County's population was 840,700 in mid-2007, an increase of around 8,200 since mid-2006.

This report is available to view on the County Council's Demographic Services web pages at www.norfolk.gov.uk/populationpublications.



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Headline analysis of the findings

- Norfolk's population was 840,700 in mid-2007, an increase of around 8,200 from mid-2006, as against an increase of 6,500 over the previous twelve months;
- Norfolk continues to have a relatively elderly age profile, with around a fifth of the population aged 65 and over and one in ten aged 75 and over;
- People of pensionable age now exceed the under 16s nationally for the first time, though in Norfolk there are currently 1.4 pensioners for every child under 16;
- There are now more people aged sixty than any other age in Norfolk (the result of the post-war baby boom), though the average age is around forty-three;
- Norwich was the District with the largest increase in population from 2001 to 2007, and North Norfolk the smallest. Norwich had a net migration loss to the rest of the Country but a significant net migration gain from abroad;
- Norfolk has the fifth largest area of the 34 English shire counties, but the tenth lowest population density.

New population estimates

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released mid-2007 population estimates for local authorities on 21 August. Figures for the East of England Region and its constituent county and unitary authorities are in **Table 1** below; Norfolk District estimates - including components of change - follow in **Tables 2** and **3**.

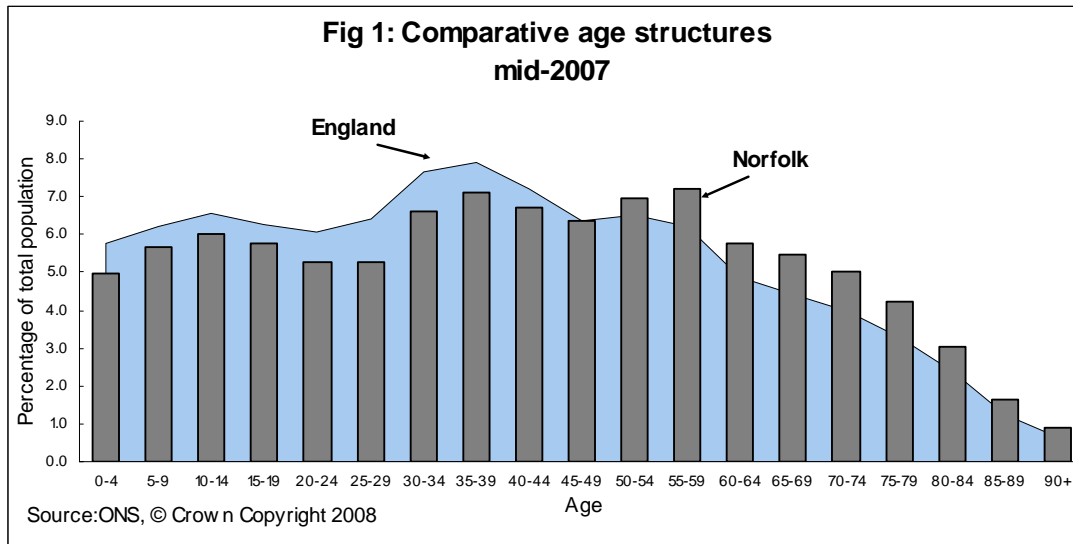
Table 1: Mid Year Population Estimates for the East of England Region

In thousands	Mid-year population						Change
	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2001 to 2007
		revised	revised	revised			
East of England	5,400.5	5,474.7	5,510.9	5,563	5,606.6	5,661.0	260.5
Bedfordshire	382.1	392.0	395.8	399.7	403.9	407.0	24.9
Cambridgeshire	554.7	568.7	574.6	583.1	589.6	597.4	42.7
Essex	1,312.6	1,328.2	1,338.3	1,350.5	1,361.2	1,376.4	63.8
Hertfordshire	1,035.5	1,042.8	1,044.8	1,051.4	1,058.6	1,066.1	30.6
Norfolk	798.6	812.6	818.8	825.9	832.4	840.7	42.1
Suffolk	669.9	679.0	686.9	696.1	702.0	709.4	39.5
Luton UA	185.9	186.0	185.0	186.4	186.8	188.8	2.9
Peterborough UA	157.4	159.9	161.5	163.0	163.3	163.3	5.9
Southend-on-Sea UA	160.4	160.2	159.2	159.3	159.9	162.0	1.6
Thurrock UA	143.3	145.4	146.1	147.5	148.1	150.0	6.7
East Anglia	2,180.6	2,220.2	2,241.8	2,268.1	2,287.3	2,310.8	130.2

Note: Cambridgeshire figures exclude Peterborough Unitary Authority. East Anglia (Standard Region) consists of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Unitary Authority. Figures are in thousands, are independently rounded and may not add exactly to totals. Source: ONS; © Crown Copyright 2008

Norfolk increased by around 5.3 per cent in population from 2001-2007, above the regional average of 4.8 per cent but well below Cambridgeshire (7.7 per cent), the county with the biggest growth. The County's population density in 2007 was 1.57 persons per hectare.

Norfolk's population continues to age. When compared with England, it has a relatively elderly age profile: higher proportions of people aged 50-54 and over, and lower proportions in younger age groups (see **Figure 1**). Around 20.5 per cent of Norfolk's population in 2007 were aged 65 and over, compared with 16 per cent in England, and ten per cent were aged 75 and over compared with nearly eight per cent nationally. The Figure shows the current peak in 60-64 year olds in Norfolk (due to the post-war baby boom) and, to a lesser degree, in 35-44 year olds (due to high birth rates in the late 1960s, when national birth rates were falling).



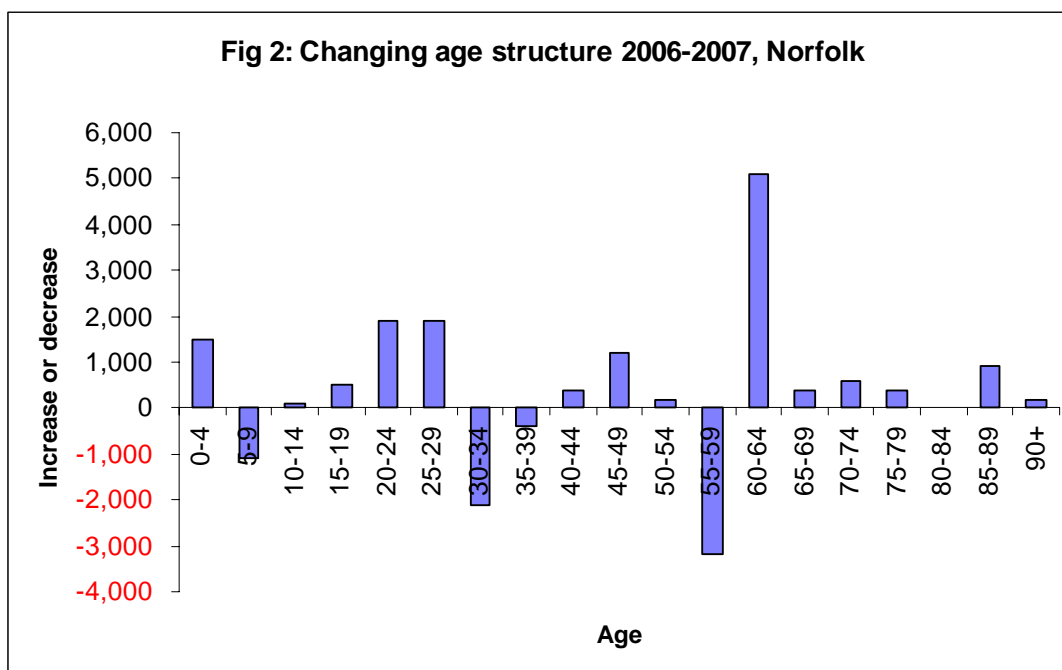
Nationally the number of people of pensionable age now exceeds the number of children aged under 16. Norfolk had already reached this position and the numbers of pensionable age (203,400) now exceed the numbers aged 0-15 (142,800) by a comfortable margin; a ratio of 1.4 to 1. From 2006 to 2007, in terms of broad age groups, numbers of children (0-14) rose marginally, numbers of working age adults (15-64) increased by 5,500 and numbers of older people (65 and over) increased by 2,500.

The most significant change in five-year age groups between 2006 and 2007 was the increasing numbers of people aged 60-64, and a decrease in ages 55-59. This is the result of a large birth cohort entering the 60-64 range –in fact there are more sixty year olds in Norfolk than any other age, though the average age is 43. There were also fluctuations in younger adults, including a fall in the 30-34s and increases in the ages 20-24 and 25-29.

Figure 2 has the numerical changes in chart form. The increase of 900 in 85-89 year olds is in fact a 5.7 per cent increase, which is the second largest change of any of the age groups concerned.

The 2007 estimates for Norfolk and County Districts, by sex and five-year age group, are available to view and download as Excel files from the link www.norfolk.gov.uk/populationstatistics

Figure 2 shows the change in numbers in each five-year age group (to 90-plus) between the mid-2006 and mid-2007 estimates. The exact comparison back to 2001 is not possible, as revised mid-2001 estimates are only available by broad age groups.



Source: ONS, © Crown Copyright 2008

Table 2: Mid Year Population Estimates for County Districts

Mid-year population							
In thousands							
	2001	2003 Revised	2004 Revised	2005 Revised	2006	2007	2001-07 Change
Breckland	121.6	124.2	125.3	127.1	128.3	129.9	8.3
Broadland	118.8	120.3	120.9	121.5	122.2	123.0	4.2
Great Yarmouth	90.9	92.6	93.1	93.2	93.4	93.9	3.0
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	135.6	138.3	139.5	140.8	142.3	143.5	7.9
North Norfolk	98.5	99.8	100.1	100.5	100.6	100.8	2.3
Norwich	122.4	123.8	125.0	127.1	129.5	132.2	9.8
South Norfolk	110.8	113.7	114.7	115.7	116.2	117.3	6.5
Norfolk	798.6	812.6	818.8	825.9	832.4	840.7	42.1

Source: ONS; Population Estimates Unit, Crown Copyright 2008

As **Table 2** shows, the biggest increase in District population from 2001-2007 was in Norwich, followed by Breckland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and the smallest was in North Norfolk.

Table 3 shows the broad components of change for mid-2006 to mid-2007. Norwich had a rather different pattern from other Districts. It had a net migration loss to the rest of the Country but a significant net migration gain from abroad. Combined with an excess of births over deaths this gave Norwich the largest population increase in the County. North Norfolk had the smallest increase, with moderate levels of net in-migration largely offset by a natural decrease in population (more deaths than births).

Table 3: Mid Year Population Estimates for County Districts – components of change and effect of improvements to international migration

Components of change 2006-2007					
In thousands	Natural change	Internal Migration	International Migration	Other change	Total change
Breckland	-0.1	1.1	0.8	-0.2	1.6
Broadland	-0.1	0.8	0.2	-0.1	0.8
Great Yarmouth	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.0	0.5
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	0.1	1.1	0.6	-0.4	1.2
North Norfolk	-0.5	0.9	0.2	-0.5	0.2
Norwich	0.6	-0.7	2.8	-0.1	2.7
South Norfolk	0.1	1.1	0.3	-0.1	1.2
Norfolk	-0.3	4.7	5.0	1.2	8.2

Source: ONS; Population Estimates Unit © Crown Copyright 2008

Population density

Norfolk is one of the larger shire counties in area – with 537,070 hectares it is the fifth largest of the 34 non-metropolitan counties in England. So despite having the seventh largest population in 2007 it had the tenth lowest density, 1.57 persons per hectare. The highest population density of all the shire counties was Surrey (6.61) and the lowest was Northumberland (0.62).

Population estimates for small areas

Population estimates by broad age group and sex for mid-2006 for super output areas, wards, electoral divisions and a range of service planning areas are available through the Norfolk Data Observatory at www.norfolkdata.net. These are accompanied by estimates for each year from mid-2001 to mid-2005. We aim to produce mid-2006 estimates for parishes later in the year.

Further information

If you would like to know more, please contact Ian Coldicott (Tel: 01603 222732) in Demography and Information, email demography@norfolk.gov.uk or visit our web site www.norfolk.gov.uk/demography
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