



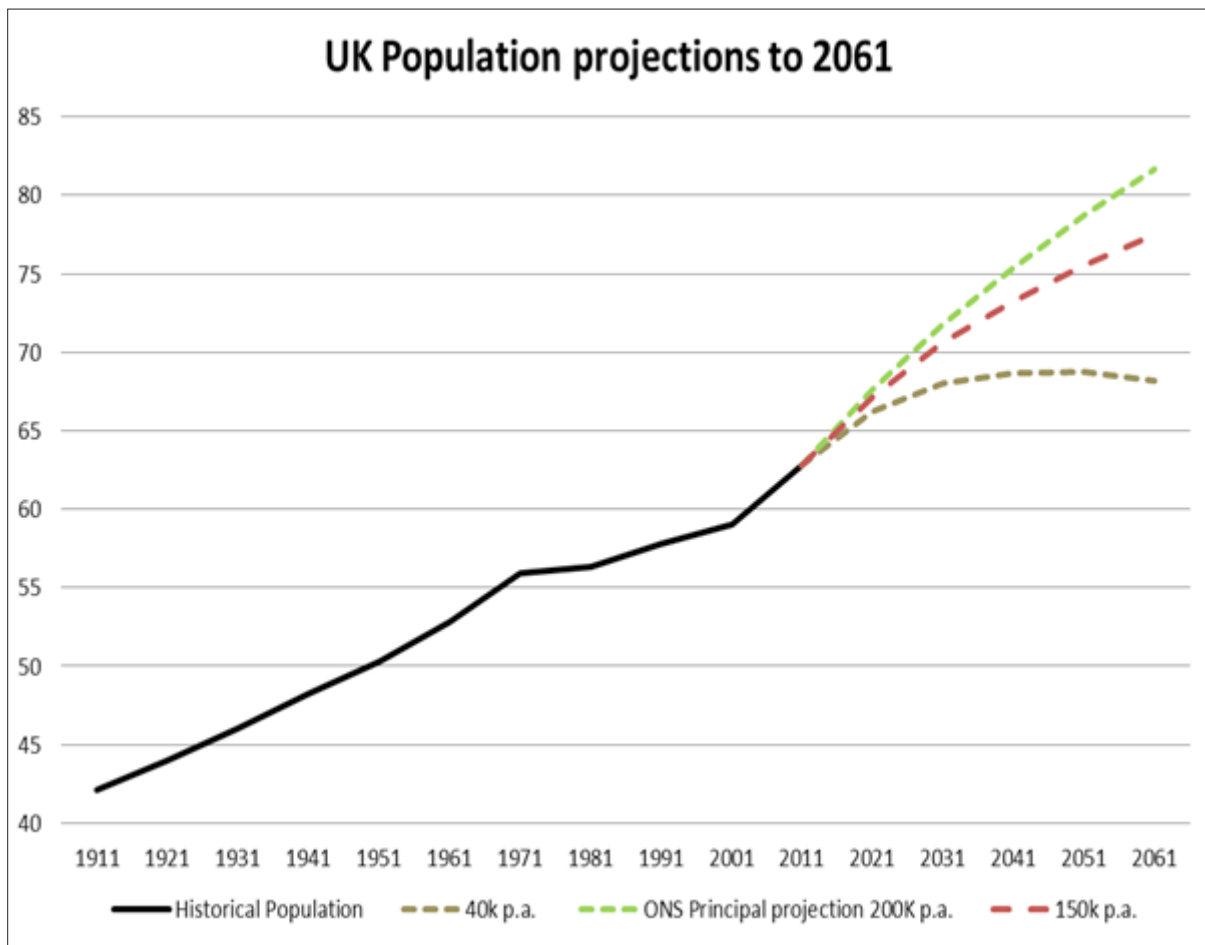
UK Population Projections - How to stay below 70 million

Summary

1. Only a significant reduction in net migration to below 40,000 a year will stabilise the UK's population at below 70 million.

UK Population Projections

2. The graph below shows the UK recorded population¹ for the last one hundred years and the projected population out to 2061² at different levels of net migration.



1 A century of change House of Commons research paper 99/111 <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons/lib/research/rp99/rp99-111.pdf>

2 40k p.a. and 150K p.a. projections created using ONS assumptions except for net migration. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html>

3. The UK population rose at a fairly consistent rate between 1911 and 1971 from 42.1 million to 55.9 million, a rate that work outs at 230,000 a year. Between 1971 and 2001 the rate of increase was significantly less at around 100,000 a year as the population grew to 59 million.
4. In the last ten years the rate of population growth has been significantly more rapid at an estimated 380,000 per year. In this period, however, much of the increase was due to net migration.
5. The latest ONS principal population projection has the UK population reaching 70 million in 2027 and continuing to rise rapidly into the future, with two thirds of the increase a result of immigration. This is based on their assumption that net migration will be 200,000 a year over the period. In 2010 net migration was 239,000.
6. There has been an ill-informed suggestion that reducing net migration to 150,000 will be sufficient to limit population growth to a further 3 million people³. However, as can be seen from the above graph, net migration of 150,000 simply delays the population reaching 70 million by four years to 2031 and does not stop it continuing to rise after this date.
7. A net migration of around 40,000 a year is required to stop the continuous population rise and stabilise the population at below 70 million.

1 January 2012

3 <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/44586>