

## POPULATION IN NORTHUMBERLAND - CHANGES FROM 1981 TO 2008 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by: Gillian Taylor and Myra Jamieson

Tel: 01670 533790

E-mail: [Gillian.Taylor@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.Taylor@northumberland.gov.uk), [Myra.Jamieson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Myra.Jamieson@northumberland.gov.uk)

Working Paper Number: 123

Date: January 2010

### Contacts

Philip Hanmer – Research Manager

Tel: (01670) 533919

Laurie Turnbull – Research Assistant

Tel: (01670) 533038

Fax: (01670) 533967

E-mail: [infoNet@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:infoNet@northumberland.gov.uk)

Website: [www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandinfonet.org.uk)

The Northumberland InfoNet is the Corporate Research Unit of Northumberland County Council. It is part of the Policy & Partnerships Service (in the Performance Directorate); it supports the Corporate Policy Team, other sections of the council and the NSP.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northumberland InfoNet are currently looking into producing population projections for the county and the former Districts, and subsequently the three service areas. These projections will be derived using specialist software; based on trends in past population data and local knowledge and will provide estimates of future population size and type.

As a pre-cursor to this, analysis has been carried out to examine how the population in Northumberland has changed since 1981. The key findings from this research are listed below.

- The population in Northumberland has generally been increasing over the past 27 years, though to a lesser extent than England & Wales. The natural change in the Northumberland population has been negative every year since 1992, suggesting that the increase is due to migration.
- The North East region has seen a decline in the population.
- The former Alnwick and Tynedale districts have had the largest increases in estimated residential population, whereas the Berwick and Wansbeck districts have seen a decline.
- There is no apparent correlation between the population growth in Northumberland and the rest of England & Wales.
- The data suggests a link between the annual change in population and the change in GVA when population is lagged one year behind GVA.
- There is a high correlation between population and the number of 'Business VAT registrations'.
- Northumberland had an older age structure in 2008 than the UK as a whole. Of the former districts, Berwick had the oldest population, and Blyth and Wansbeck had the youngest populations.
- Alnwick, Berwick, Castle Morpeth and Tynedale districts have all had similar proportions of 15-44 year old females over the time period. The proportion in Blyth has been considerably higher than the other districts, and the proportion in Wansbeck has declined much more slowly.

- There has been a greater increase in the proportion of people aged over 60 years in Northumberland and the North East than in England & Wales. There has been a marked increase in Northumberland over the past few years.
- The birth rate declined for Northumberland, the North East and the UK between 1992 and the early 2000's, then increased over the subsequent years.
- The annual change in birth rate for Northumberland is linked with that of the UK. However, the birth rate for Northumberland is lower.
- The death rate (based on the over 60's) has been generally declining for Northumberland, the North East and the UK since 1992.
- The annual change in death rate for Northumberland is linked with that of the UK. However, Northumberland had a slightly higher average death rate.
- Migration is very difficult to measure, due to there not being a consistent way of measuring movements within the UK.
- The UK has seen an increase in overall net migration over the period 1992-2008. Net migration in the North East initially declined, then increased sharply. Net migration in Northumberland has been erratic with no clear increase or decrease.
- More people have been coming into Northumberland from the UK than leaving Northumberland. Nearly half of these movements have been from or to the North East.
- Migration (UK) rates into and out of Northumberland have both been generally declining over the past 10 years. Migration rates (inward and outward) have been highest for the 16-24 year olds.
- The number of people entering the UK from overseas has generally increased over the period 1998-2007, with a sharp increase in 2004. This is likely to be as a result of the expansion of the EU at that time. The number of people leaving the UK has also generally increased.
- Overseas migration into the North East has also increased substantially.
- Figures for international migration are not robust enough to be used at the Northumberland level.