UK Population Trends in the Last 10 Years

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Overview

1. Key trends in UK population
   A growing population
   An ageing population
   An increasingly diverse population
   Changing family structures

2. Trends in Living Alone
   What are the drivers of the increase in living alone?
   Typologies of people living alone in mid-life

3. The Boomerang Generation
   How has the societal context changed?
   Which young adults are more likely to be living with their parent(s)?

4. Implications of Demographic Change
1. Key trends in UK population
The drivers of population change

The size, composition and distribution of a population are determined by fertility, mortality and migration

\[ P_{t_2} = P_{t_1} + B - D + I - E \]

Where:

- \( P_{t_2} \): Population at time \( t_2 \)
- \( P_{t_1} \): Population at time \( t_1 \)
- \( B \): Births
- \( D \): Deaths
- \( I \): In-migration
- \( E \): Out-migration
Over the past two decades UK population has grown due to both natural increase and net migration.

Future growth in UK population will come from both natural increase and net migration.

An ageing population

UK Age, sex pyramid 2014 (line) & 2034 (shaded)

The size of population aged 90+ will triple, 2014-2034

The 1960s baby boomers will have retired by 2034

Post WW2 baby boomers in 2014

1960s baby boomers in 2014

Source: ONS, 2012-based, population projection
An increasingly diverse population
Growth in ethnic minority group population, Eng & Wales


Changing Family Structures

• Decline in marriage, increase in cohabitation
• Postponement of family formation, increased childlessness
• Partnership turnover and complex family structures
Decline in marriage, increase in cohabitation

Figure 1
Percentage ever having cohabited, married, or entered any union by specified exact ages, and by sex. Great Britain, GHS 2000-2004/07

by 25th birthday

Postponement of childbearing / increased childlessness

Percentage of women who remain childless, Eng & Wales

Increased partnership dissolution

% households that are lone parent households

Source: ONS, 2011 Census
2. Trends in Living Alone
The chances of men living alone have declined at young ages but increased in mid-life.

The Drivers of Living Alone

At younger ages: increased cost of renting / buying separate residence; benefit changes; greater experience of HE

In middle age: Increase in living alone, especially for men due to increased partnership dissolution, plus significant minority men who never partner


Source: Demey et al’s analysis of GHS/GLS 1985-2008
Partnership trajectories into living alone

Distribution of those currently living alone, according to age and partnership history. UK men and women aged 35-64.

The socio-economic characteristics of those living alone differ by age & partnership history

Educational distribution of UK men aged 35-64 living alone, according to age and whether ever had a co-residential partner.

3. The “Boomerang Generation”
Changing context of young adults’ household formation

• Increased enrolment in Higher Education, especially among females
• Youth unemployment and economic precariousness for those in work
• Decreasing availability and affordability of housing
• Welfare retrenchment
• Increased international migration

Increase in co-residence of UK young adults living with their parent(s)

Percentage living with parent(s), 1998, 2008 and 2012

Source: Authors’ analysis of LFS, Oct-Dec quarter, 2008 and 2012

Factors associated with returning home

- Longitudinal analyses following up young adults
- Turning points in the life course associated with “boomeranging” to parental home
  - Experiencing a partnership dissolution,
    - Especially for men
  - Finishing full time studies
    - Both men and women

Summary of household formation trends in young adulthood

- Decreasing headship rates due to postponement of leaving / more returning to the parental home and the postponement of partnership formation
- As young adults increasingly leave home for reasons other than family formation they are more likely to return home
- As a result of increased HE enrolment young women have become more like young men in their leaving and returning home behaviour
- At older ages (e.g. early 30s) remaining living with parents associated with economic precariousness
4. Implications of Demographic Change
Implications of Demographic Change (1)

• Growth, diversity population
  – New, expanding opportunities

• Ageing of the baby boomers
  – But, increased economic dependency young adults
  – Obligations for caring
  – Future elderly may have less kin availability
Implications of Demographic Change (2)

• Young adults boomeranging, renting
  – Choice or constraint?
  – Implications for spending

• Heterogeneity in groups living alone
  – A higher proportion of high flyers, especially at young ages
  – Disadvantaged (men especially) face less positive future as reach old age
Questions?

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