

Chapter 4 Families and households

Topic 4 Demography

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Activity: Webquest

Britain's future population

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify population projections for the UK.
- Identify key factors affecting population changes.
- Analyse the potential effects of the different factors on the overall demography of the UK.

A. Using the web link below, complete the activities that follow.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/interactive/uk-national-population-projections-dvc3/index.html>

The link shows population pyramids for the UK for 2012 and population projections for the future. The diagrams show the population of the UK for different ages groups separated into male and female. The slider along the bottom of the graphs enables you to see population projections and the changing demography of the UK up to 2087. This can also be viewed as an animation by clicking on the play button.

Press 'Play' or use the manual slider to look at the principal population projections. Make a note of the changes to the varying age groups from 2012 and 2087.

Which groups show an increase in number?

Which age groups show a decrease in number?

B. Now use the diagrams to look at the effect of different factors on the projected population of the UK.

1. The effect of changes to fertility rates

Using the drop-down menu above the graphs, select 'high fertility' on the left hand graph and 'low fertility' on the right hand graph.

Run the animation (either manually or by pressing 'Play') and compare the changes to the two graphs.

Write a summary of the changes for each graph.

2. The effect of changes to life expectancy

Using the drop-down menu above the graphs, select 'high life expectancy' on the left hand graph and 'low life expectancy' on the right hand graph.

Run the animation (either manually or by pressing 'Play') and compare the changes to the two graphs.

Write a summary of the changes for each graph.

3. The effect of differing rates of migration

Using the drop-down menu above the graphs, select 'high migration' on the left hand graph and 'low migration' on the right hand graph.

Run the animation (either manually or by pressing 'Play') and compare the changes to the two graphs.

Write a summary of the changes for each graph.