

Place Profiles

Just a reminder that to celebrate the launch of our new Place Profiles service we would like to offer you a **free copy** of one of our new reports - there are over 140,000 to choose from, so to make life simpler just tell us which Sub-region, District or Ward you are most interested in and pick an issue from [this list](#). Place Profiles have been created to give you fast, low-cost summaries of the key issues facing your area and are designed to underpin a range of research and policy applications and to help tell a 'story of place'.

Recession Offer

Local Futures has developed a customised offer to help local authorities and partner organisations assess the likely impact of the recession on their own area. To do this we have joined forces with economics consultancy Volterra and consumer research specialists The Trajectory Partnership. Together with our own geographical perspective we offer a unique insight into the implications of the recession for businesses, communities and for local authorities and partners themselves.

Local Economic Assessment

Local Futures has introduced a range of services to inform the preparation of Local Economic Assessments. Based on our recent work on a 'Strategy for Sustainable Prosperity' for the Berkshire local authorities, we are also able to offer a tried and tested process for preparing an assessment, recommended as good practice by the South East Regional Efficiency and Innovation Partnership. For further details on our flexible and phased approach contact us at info@localfutures.com

Customer Insight

Our recent inclusion in Local Knowledge of the Output Area Classification (OAC) system means that users now have access to a powerful and cost effective alternative to Mosaic and Acorn, classification systems used by local authorities across Britain to inform Customer Insight. For those authorities keen to exploit this new service Local Futures is offering a programme of training and consultancy support.

New addition to the Local Futures team

Local Futures is pleased to welcome another new addition to our team. Romelia Niman has recently graduated from Nottingham Trent University where she studied International Relations with Global Politics. Romelia has a particular interest in international development issues, specifically those of Colombia and South America.

At Local Futures Romelia will be working as PA to company director John Fisher. Should you need to check John's availability for meetings or events please contact Romelia at Romelia.Niman@localfutures.com or on 020 7440 7360.

Latest resources for Network members

The 'intelligence' and 'resources' sections of the Local Futures Network site are regularly updated. Some of the latest additions include new policy reports, the latest research and new drivers of change. [More](#)

Next Local Futures Network event: Creative Places

Our next Local Futures Network event will be on the topic of Creative Places. At the event we will explore the role of arts and culture in regeneration and the implications for economies, communities – and places. The seminar will be held on **Wednesday 18th February**, with all Network members entitled to one free place. Please find a copy of the agenda [here](#).

For more information, contact [Phil Gregory](#)

For the latest update on our work, go to the [Local Futures Group](#) website and log in with your username and password.

You are receiving this email because you are an Local Futures Network member. If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply to this email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject field.

The Local Futures Group 30 little Russell Street London WC1A 2HN
T: 020 7440 7360 F: 020 7440 7370 E: info@localfutures.com W: www.localfutures.com

New services for Network members

The members' area of the Local Futures Network site is constantly updated. If you would like to be notified of changes more regularly, please register to receive an [RSS feed](#). We have highlighted some of the new content included in the site below, but if you want to view all new content please log in to www.localfutures.com using your email address and user password.

Our new content includes additions to the following:

- [Policy](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Strategies](#)
- [Future drivers of change](#)

Policy

In the policy section we have included links to a range of recently published reports, including:

Mutual Action, Common Purpose: Empowering the Third Sector

Penned by the Rt Hon David Blunkett MP on behalf of the Fabian Society, this report discusses the importance of the role played by the third sector in UK society. The paper outlines how the Third Sector forms a crucial part of Labour's mission to build a fairer society and argues that the voluntary, community and not for profit sector have an increasingly important role in supporting people in an uncertain world, and supporting government in enabling people to help themselves.

New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future

The government has launched a series of measures to give everyone in the UK a fair chance of succeeding in life. The New Opportunities white paper, unveiled today, looks to narrow the gap between the rich and poor and improve social mobility for children born into disadvantaged families. The paper focuses on key points in a person's life, including early years, education and the transition into employment.

Compassionate Economics – The Social Foundations of Economic Prosperity – A personal view

This report, written by Jesse Norman for the Policy Exchange, looks at possible approaches for rebuilding the British economy in light of the ongoing economic turmoil. It considers the structure that ultimately led Britain into its present downturn to be deeply flawed, and suggests that by challenging the present consensus in public administration the way is cleared for new ideas, new energy, and new creativity.

Guidance on meaningful interaction: How encouraging positive relationships between people can help build community cohesion

This guidance is Communities and Local Government's first attempt to set out what is known about meaningful interaction, based on research findings and the views of expert practitioners. It is aimed at local cohesion practitioners and policy planners and includes some good practice. The DCLG plan to revise the document on the basis of local experience and so are seeking comments on, whether they are suggestions for improvement or information about projects which have succeeded or failed.

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Research

New reports included in our research section include:

The Skills Paradox: Confronting inequality in adult learning

Published by Demos, this report examines Britain's skills gap and argues that a damaging paradox - those with the least skills are the least likely to train - is a social as well as an economic issue. This document explores which policies can help reverse this trend and argues that reform of the education and training system is important, but insufficient. A coherent skills strategy needs to work on three fronts: the labour market, the training system and people's everyday lives.

Creative Industries Economic Estimates

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published its latest bulletin containing statistics on gross value added, exports, employment and numbers of businesses within the creative industries.

Cities Outlook 2009

The second edition of the annual report from Centre for Cities looks back at the recent economic performance of UK cities as well as the main policy milestones of 2008. It also looks ahead to the prospects for UK cities in 2009 and beyond. The report reveals the cities most exposed to recession - and least well placed to ride out job losses and business closures over the coming months. In 2009 all cities will feel recession bite but they will also be leading the upturn as the economy recovers.

Nice Work If You Can Get It: Achieving a sustainable solution to low pay and in-work poverty

The third paper in IPPR's 'Working Out of Poverty' series, this document makes the case for a coherent strategy to deal with the twin challenges of low pay and in-work poverty that emphasises job quality and career progression and recognises the needs of different families.

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Local Strategies

We continue to update our library of local strategies and have recently included:

Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall – Shaping Cornwall's future

This document describes Cornwall's long term vision for the future. Based firmly on local needs, and underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations, the vision will be met through the achievement of a number of key medium-term priorities. The document tells the "story of the place", Cornwall's vision and ambition, backed by evidence and analysis.

Plymouth 2020 – Sustainable Community Strategy

This is Plymouth's first Sustainable Community Strategy and builds on the previous City Strategy by looking further ahead to 2020. It focuses more on the long-term sustainability of the city and plans for future generations. It sets out how Plymouth aims to fulfil its potential to become one of Europe's most vibrant cities and how, by working closely together, they aim to achieve greater things for the people who live in, work in, or visit, Plymouth. Plymouth 2020 also sets out how Plymouth wants to firmly establish its place in the South West region, in the UK, in Europe and globally.

Lancaster District Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011

The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies 21 key priorities which the Lancashire District Local Strategic Partnership will be getting to grips with during the next three years. These 21 priorities stretch across the partnership's seven key themes, and include issues such as anti-social behaviour, lifelong learning, community cohesion, transport and economic regeneration throughout the district as a whole.

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Future drivers of change

New drivers of change included in the 'Futures' section of the site include:

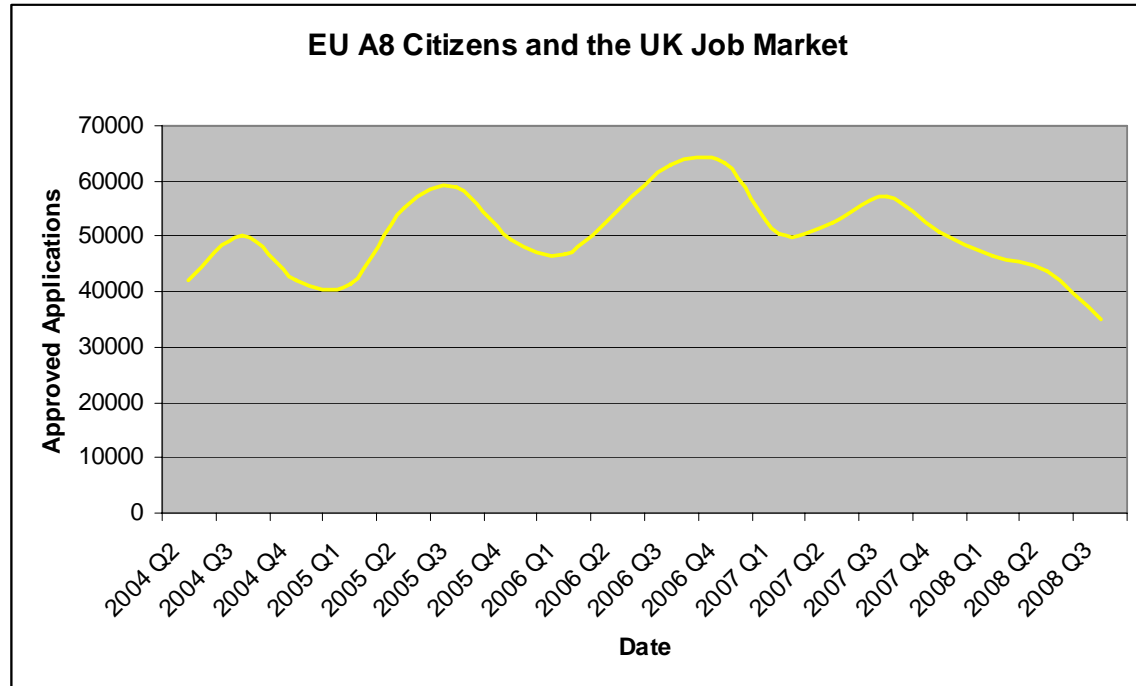
EU A8 immigration falls

May 2004 saw 10 new countries, the majority of which were from Eastern Europe, join the existing 15 members of the European Union. Accession for citizens of these new member states brought with it access to the Common Market and all the entailing benefits of freedom of movement and trade. The UK Government was initially cautious about the potential impact the forecasted large scale immigration could bring, and thus introduced the Worker Registration Scheme for citizens from 8 of the 10 Accession countries (the EU A8) – the exceptions being Malta and Cyprus – to monitor and control the number of migrants seeking employment.

The number of successful applications for the scheme quickly rose from an average of 41,960 per quarter in 2004, to 56,968 per quarter by 2006, with the largest number of immigrants coming from Poland, Lithuania, and Slovakia. However, this strong growth would now appear to have reached its zenith.

The UK of 2006, boasting a growing economy, strong currency, and abundance of employment opportunities is now a distant memory. Consequently there has been a drop off in immigration into the UK, particularly from the EU A8 nations, with successful application numbers for the Worker Registration Scheme falling to below levels recorded in 2004. The quarterly average for the scheme now stands at 41,686 successful applications.

Overall, immigration fell by 2.4% between 2006 and 2007, and emigration by 15%. The result has seen UK net migration increase by 46,000 in 2007, to 237,000. This is a result of emigration falling faster than immigration.



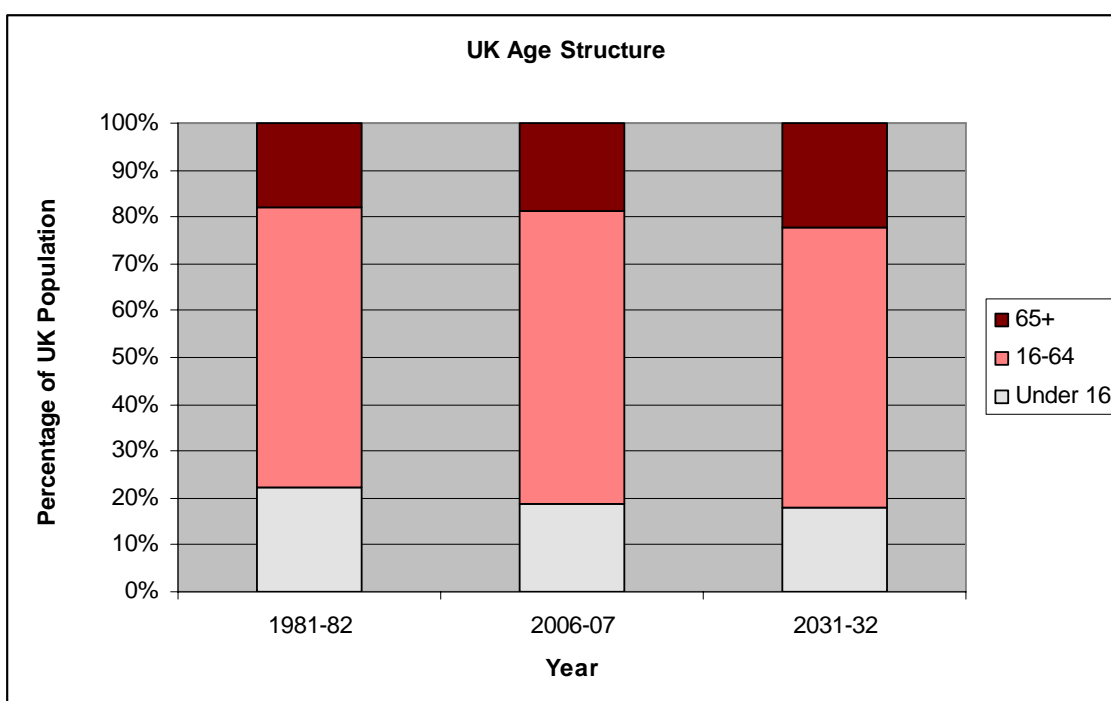
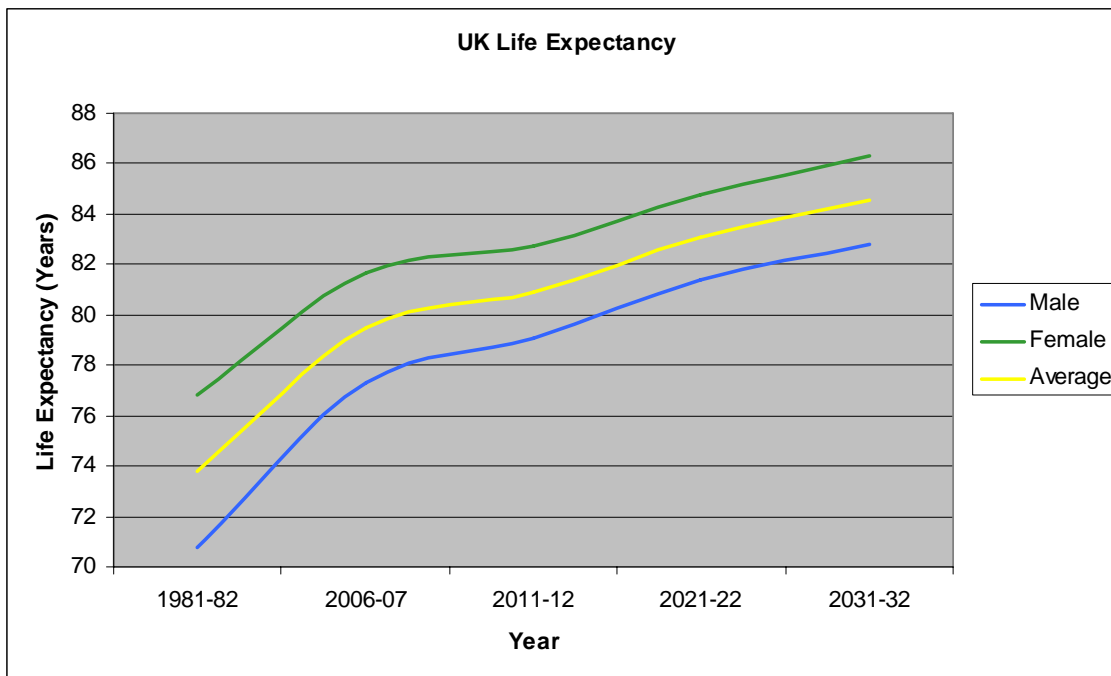
Source – Home Office: UK Border Agency

UK Ageing Population

The latest Age-Structure figures released by the Office for National Statistics show the UK's increasingly ageing population, with growth in the number of elderly residents far outstripping growth in all other age categories.

Ever improving social conditions, combined with advancements in medical technology, have led to falling mortality rates, and thus increases in life expectancy levels. The result for the UK is that, for the first time ever, the percentage of the population comprised by those of pensionable age is now larger than the percentage comprised by the Under 16 age group. Indeed, the age group showing the strongest growth is currently the Over 80s group, with the number of individuals in this group increasing by 75% over the last 25 years.

Life expectancy now stands at 79.1 years for males and 82.7 years for females, with these figures expected to rise to 82.8 years for males and 86.3 years for females by 2031. The continued increase in UK life expectancy, and the subsequent expansion in the population of the oldest age brackets, presents policy makers with serious challenges. Residents aged 65 and over place the highest demands on public services and families and thus future UK governments will need to find increased levels of funding and resources for this section of society.



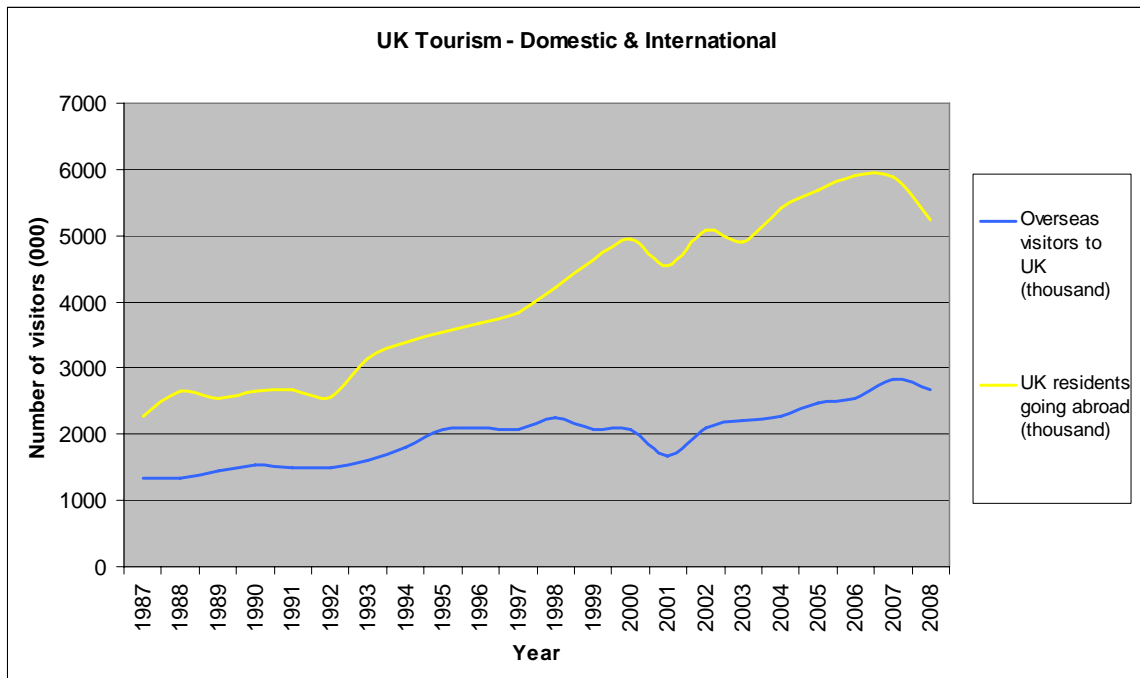
Source – ONS

Domestic tourism set to flourish amid recession

The latest data release from the International Passenger Survey has highlighted the growing impact of the global economic slowdown on international travel. For the first time in 6 years the number of UK residents travelling abroad, and their level of expenditure overseas, has declined. Alongside this, the number of overseas visitors travelling to the UK has suffered its first reduction since 2001. Nonetheless, such is the current weakness of Sterling, the earnings generated by overseas visitors to the UK have actually continued to rise.

Somewhat surprisingly then, the latest predictions from a number of UK tourism bodies suggest that the global economic downturn may not be all doom and gloom for the domestic tourist industry in 2009. A combination of: poorly performing Sterling; a later Easter than 2008 – with potentially warmer weather and more hours of daylight; several high profile sporting events to be hosted in the UK, including the Ashes and the Twenty20 World Cup; and the possibility for international flight prices to fall amid decreasing commodity prices, could well mean strong levels of inbound tourism.

However, the biggest contribution to an increase in domestic tourism is predicted to come from UK citizens themselves. Whilst the recession is likely to mean a tightening of the purse-strings throughout the country, research from Visit Britain suggests holidays will continue to remain a high priority for individuals. The potentially more cost-efficient UK break therefore looks set to increase in popularity in the coming year.



Source: International Passenger Survey

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