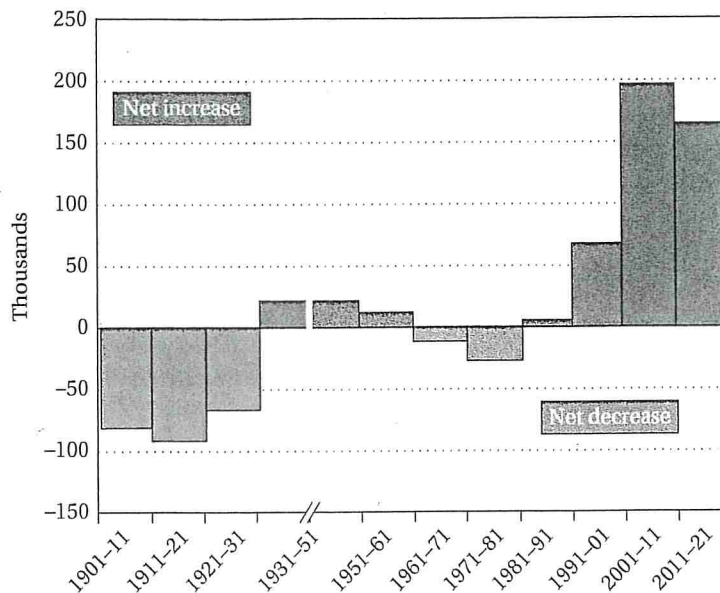


**Figure 5.16**  
Estimated average  
annual net  
migration in the UK  
1901–2021\*

\*2011–21 based on 2012  
projections.

Source: Office for  
National Statistics



success of anti-immigrant political parties in several European countries, such as UKIP in the UK. There have been fears around levels of immigration; integration into British culture of immigrant communities who may have different values; the weakening of national culture and identity; and undercutting of wages through immigration from the poorer EU countries.

Against this, it should be noted that migrant workers make key contributions to the economy, and often take on jobs unwanted by British workers. They also play key roles in the provision of health and social care, and without them it is difficult to see how the NHS could be properly staffed, or proper care services for older people provided.

Most EU countries, including the UK, now have strict immigration controls to restrict immigration from outside the EU, including, in the UK, the non-British (or EU) wives and husbands and children of British citizens. There is now a minimum income requirement of around £18,600 a year before British citizens can bring in their non-British, non-EU partners and children. This would exclude even full-time workers receiving only the National Minimum Wage. The government's own estimate is that the new rules will break up as many as 17,800 families every year, with husbands and wives separated, and children growing up separated from one of their parents – a kind of enforced lone parenthood. Despite immigration rules, it is generally much easier for those with money and skills from outside the EU to migrate than it is for the poor.

## Natural population change in the United Kingdom

Since 1900, most of the growth in the UK population has been due to natural increases, with more births than deaths, and greater **life expectancy**. The population of the United Kingdom rose from about 38.3 million in 1901 to around an estimated 64 million by the end of 2013. Since 1900, a continuing fall in the **death rate** combined with a falling **birth rate** has slowed down population growth compared to the nineteenth century, and there has been greatly improved life expectancy. The birth rate has been generally declining since 1900, but there have been some periodic increases in births – ‘baby booms’ – after the two world wars (1914–18 and 1939–45) as couples started families delayed by separation during the war years, with another baby boom in the 1960s as living standards rose, and another smaller baby boom in the 2000s, largely fuelled by mothers delaying children until they were older, and immigration of women of child-bearing age from Eastern and Central Europe, where women tend to have more children.

Figure 5.17 illustrates the main natural changes in population size since 1901, with projections until 2021.

Life expectancy is an estimate of how long the average person can be expected to live. Estimates of life expectancy can be based on any age, but the most common are life expectancy at birth and at one year. The birth rate is the number of live births per 1,000 of the population each year. The death rate (or mortality rate) is the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population per year.

of the estimated 30,000 women involved in off-street prostitution in England and Wales were migrants, and around 70 per cent of these women were thought to be victims of trafficking. These are likely to be underestimates because of the criminal and covert nature of trafficking.

Such changes brought about by globalization mean that distant events – such as foreign wars (including those waged by the British government in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan), famines or economic crises – can have effects on the intimate family lives of people living in the UK.

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## THE PATTERN OF MIGRATION 1900–2000

In the twentieth century, there were two peak periods of immigration. During the 1930s and up until about 1945, several hundred thousand refugees fled to Britain from Europe to escape the effects of Nazi occupation and persecution. Most of these immigrants were white. During the 1950s and 1960s, widespread immigration of British subjects from former British colonies – the (black) New Commonwealth – began, with immigrants arriving from the Caribbean in the 1950s, and from India, Bangladesh (then East Pakistan), Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya in the 1960s and 1970s. Much of this immigration was actively encouraged by the British government, which sent out recruiting teams to these countries to solve labour shortages in unskilled and poorly paid occupations in Britain, though Ugandan and Kenyan Asians were fleeing persecution. This influx of people began to transform Britain into a more ethnically diverse country, and in 2011 around 10 per cent of the UK population were from a non-white ethnic group. During the 1980s and 1990s, there was a net gain in population through migration, but this was at a relatively low level in the majority of years, though it rose sharply after 1997.

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## THE PATTERN OF MIGRATION 2000s ONWARDS

Net migration is the *difference* between the estimated number of immigrants arriving in the UK for at least one year and the estimated number of emigrants leaving the UK for at least one year. During the 2000s, net migration reached record peaks between 2004 and 2007, in part as a result of immigration of citizens from the countries that joined the EU in 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). In 2007, Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU. Between 2007 and 2013, these countries were subject to temporary controls restricting their access to the UK labour market, and immigration was around 10,000 per year. In the 12 months to March 2014, there was a significant increase in immigration from these countries to 28,000, reflecting the lifting of the labour market restrictions in January 2014.

Since the 2004–7 peak, annual net migration has fluctuated between around 180,000 and 250,000. In 2013, around 80 per cent of immigrants came from the following groups, a useful indicator of current trends in migration:

- around 15 per cent were British citizens returning to the UK, to work, to study or coming home to live
- around 40 per cent were citizens of the European Union
- around 15 per cent were citizens of the New Commonwealth (countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nigeria and Sierra Leone)
- around 10 per cent were citizens of the Old Commonwealth, which comprises Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

Figure 5.16 shows the pattern of net migration from 1901, with projections until 2021.

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## THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION SINCE 2001

In the EU, every European citizen has the right to work and live anywhere in the EU, under the same conditions as the nationals of the host state. Immigration, particularly from the poorer countries of the European Union (EU), such as Bulgaria and Romania and other Eastern European countries, has become a significant political issue since 2001.

There is growing fear and distrust of immigrants, which has led to the creation and growing

## THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

Global interconnectedness has meant more and more people's lives connect with far-away places, such as through travel and tourism, the purchase of consumer goods bought from all over the world, and through the internet and social media. In relation to migration, more people are moving between countries for work, and the number of people who live outside their country of birth is now greater than at any time in history, according to the United Nations Population Fund. Globalization has had a significant influence on the UK population in recent years, including membership of the European Union (EU), which means any EU citizen can live and work in any EU country. Living globally used to apply only to the very wealthy elites and highly skilled professionals, but it now involves the lives of many ordinary and, increasingly, poor people, who seek to migrate to richer countries for more employment and better standards of living. This often involves great risks, as many European countries, including the UK, are not very welcoming to poor immigrants (even those from EU countries, who have a legal right to live and work in the UK) and particularly those from outside of the EU and who come from a non-white ethnic group.

Globalization has affected the UK population in the following ways:

- *More immigration from the EU* (and more emigration to the EU by British people who go to live in other EU countries). In the year ending March 2014, EU immigrants made up about 38 per cent of all immigrants.
- *More undocumented workers.* **Undocumented workers** are those who come and stay in the UK illegally (also known as illegal immigrants). They are 'pulled' by the prospects of better living standards, and often 'pushed' by poverty and the lack of opportunities in their own countries, but they lack the skills or wealth which would allow them to enter the country legally. There is a growing influx of undocumented workers, who are exploited by UK employers, and who are often also exploited by people-traffickers who smuggle them into the country by various means. Home Office estimates suggest there are between 500,000 and 800,000 undocumented workers, but the fact that these don't officially exist means estimates are very difficult to substantiate.
- *More asylum seekers.* At the end of March 2014, there were around 24,000 people seeking asylum in the UK to escape persecution, torture and potential death in their countries of origin. Asylum seekers are widely perceived to be a large group of undeserving scroungers of benefits, social housing and jobs; the reality is that they make up only about 5 per cent of migrants, are banned from working, and have near-zero government support. They are often held in immigration detention centres (effectively, prisons) while their applications are considered, where they are subject to appalling dehumanized treatment in very poor conditions – treatment described by the Chief Inspector of Prisons in 2014 as showing 'a shocking lack of humanity'.
- *Greater cultural diversity.* Globalization has meant there is much greater cultural diversity, as different cultures and ways of life come into contact with one another. In family life, this can mean growing numbers of couples coming from different cultural backgrounds, and more 'hybrid families' creating new family relationships and values derived from a merging of two cultures.
- *Changing families.* Migrants from Eastern Europe tend to have larger families, and this has contributed to a new 'baby boom' in the 2000s. Beck and Beck-Gernsheim (2014) talk of the growth of 'world families', and 'distant love', in which love and other forms of relationships are conducted between people living in different countries and continents. Chambers (2012) suggests that globalization has meant there are more global family networks, as migrants in the UK try to maintain relationships and send money to their families in other countries. Chambers also points to globalization leading to a growing trade in surrogate motherhood, mail-order brides – what Chambers calls the 'purchase of intimacy' – and the purchase of family personal care, such as home helps and nannies from poorer countries across the world, for those who can afford it. A related element of this 'purchase of intimacy' arising from globalization is the growing international criminal trade in trafficking of women for enforced prostitution. A 2010 report from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) suggested that 17,000

**Undocumented workers** are those who do not have the documents that are needed to enter, live and work in a country legally. Commonly referred to as 'illegal immigrants'.

**Infant mortality rate** – the number of deaths of babies in their first year of life per 1,000 live births per year.

**Death rate (or mortality rate)** – the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population per year.

**Life expectancy** – an estimate of how long the average person can be expected to live. Estimates of life expectancy can be based on any age, but the most common are life expectancy at birth and at one year.

**Dependent population** – that section of the population which is not in work and is supported by those who are, such as the under-18s (who are still at school or in training); pensioners; the unemployed and others living on welfare benefits.

The **dependent age groups** are those under age 17 (age 18 from 2015) in compulsory education, and those over retirement age.

**Migration** – changing the country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

**Immigration** – entering another country for a period of at least a year, so that country becomes the one of usual residence.

**Emigration** – leaving the usual country of residence for another country for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination becomes the one of usual residence.

**Net migration** – the *difference* between immigration and emigration, and therefore whether the population of a country or area has gone up or gone down when both emigration and immigration are taken into account. Net migration is usually expressed in terms of a net gain or increase (+) or a net loss or decrease (–) of population.

**Natural population change** – changes in the size of a population due to changes in the number of births and deaths, excluding migration. Expressed as a *natural increase* (+) or *decrease* (–) in population.

**Population projections** – predictions of future changes in population size and composition based on past and present population trends.

## Migration and globalization: immigration and emigration

One influence on the population size and composition of the UK has been migration, and **globalization** has had a significant influence on worldwide migration patterns. Britain's long colonial history means migration has had a significant historical effect, and turned Britain into a multicultural society even before globalization and membership of the European Union (EU) began to exercise major influences.

### PUSH AND PULL FACTORS

Migration occurs because of 'push' and 'pull' factors. Push factors are those that may encourage someone to leave their home country, and pull factors are those that may attract them to a new country. Both of these can either encourage people to leave the UK to live abroad, or encourage those in other countries to move to the UK.

- *Push factors* include things like escaping poverty or famines, lack of jobs and unemployment, the effects of wars, and political and religious persecution.
- *Pull factors* include things like better opportunities for jobs, study, a higher standard of living, better healthcare and education, more political and religious freedom, and joining relatives.

In 2013, the two main pull reasons for immigration to the UK were work-related reasons and for formal study, followed by family reasons, with people from abroad joining their families in the UK. Around 5 per cent of immigrants are asylum seekers fleeing persecution.

Push reasons for emigration from the UK include better career and job opportunities, and higher earnings, the attraction of a better lifestyle, or simply wanting a fresh start. In 2013, a number of emigrants were former immigrants from the European Union who decided to return to their own countries.

Globalization is the process of connecting societies across the world, with the result of the spread of consumer goods and ideas across