Bath and North East Somerset JSNA
ONS Population Projections to 2035: Key Findings

Summary

The ONS have produced new population projections based on 2010 population estimates. Please note this data is not based on the 2011 census.

These projections provide future estimates of the local population up to 2035. Key findings are that:

- By 2035 the population will have increased by 7% from 177,200 to 188,900.

- There will also be significant change in the composition of the population
  - Our older population will become a more significant demographic
    - By 2035 24.5% of the population will be aged over 65 (compared to 17% now). (31,600 in 2010 to 46,400 in 2035).
    - The 80+ population is projected to increase by 72% (from 9,900 in 2010 to 17,000 in 2035).
  - Comparably, the working age (16-65) population is expected to reduce by 3%. (from 115,800 in 2010 to 112,700)
  - The number of residents aged under 16 is projected to increase up to the year 2022 and then reduce to levels comparable with 2010 by 2035 (29,700 in 2035).

- These figures are different to previous projections produced both by the ONS and the local authority (to 2026), with the new ONS figures projecting:
  - a much smaller level of population growth;
  - a greater proportion of older residents
  - a lower proportion of younger, working age residents

A note on data quality:

As with all ONS population estimates these figures do not take into account future housing developments or changes to the make-up of existing residential establishments (such as Universities or residential care homes).

In addition, as these projections are based on 2010 mid-year population estimates they are not based on data collected in the 2011 census. Headline results from the census are expected in July 2012 and may significantly alter our understanding of the makeup of the local population

Underlying data and tables can be found at: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/stb-2010-based-snpp.html

Population Change: Overview

The population is expected to increase by 11,700 residents between 2010 and 2035, from 177,200 to 188,900. This represents a 7% increase overall. Fig 1 demonstrates how this change is distributed over time, with a moderate increase to the year 2222, increasing more steadily after that point.

In addition, there are significant variations experienced with regards the makeup of the population; Table 1 demonstrates these changes for key population groups

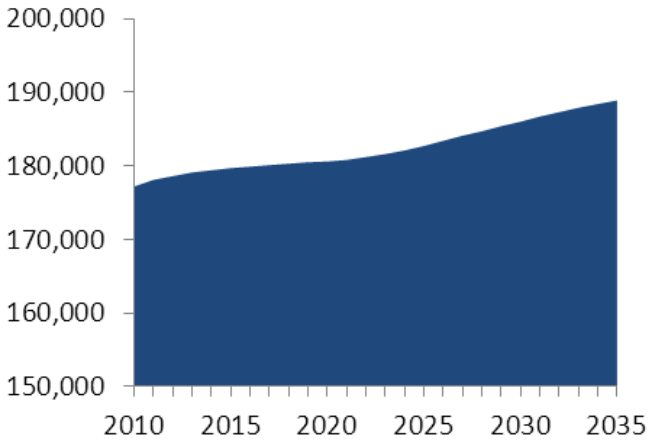


Fig 1 – ONS 2010 Based population projections – Bath and North East Somerset Total Population 2010-2035

Key Age Ranges	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	% Change 2010-2035
ONS 2010							
0-15	29,800	30,300	31,100	31,100	30,400	29,700	0%
16-64	115,800	114,700	112,800	112,200	112,400	112,700	-3%
65 and over	31,600	34,700	36,800	39,400	43,200	46,400	+47%
All ages	177,200	179,700	180,600	182,700	186,000	188,900	+7%
80+	9,900	10,500	11,300	13,100	15,300	17,000	+72%
20-24	18,400	19,200	18,200	17,700	19,500	20,700	+13%

Table 1 – ONS 2010 Based Population Projections by key age ranges 3010-2035

The most significant changes are observed in the older population, the 80+ population is projected to increase by 72% by 2035 (from 9,900 in 2010 to 17,000 in 2035), while the 65+ population is expected to increase by 47% (from 31,600 in 2010 to 46,400 in 2035).

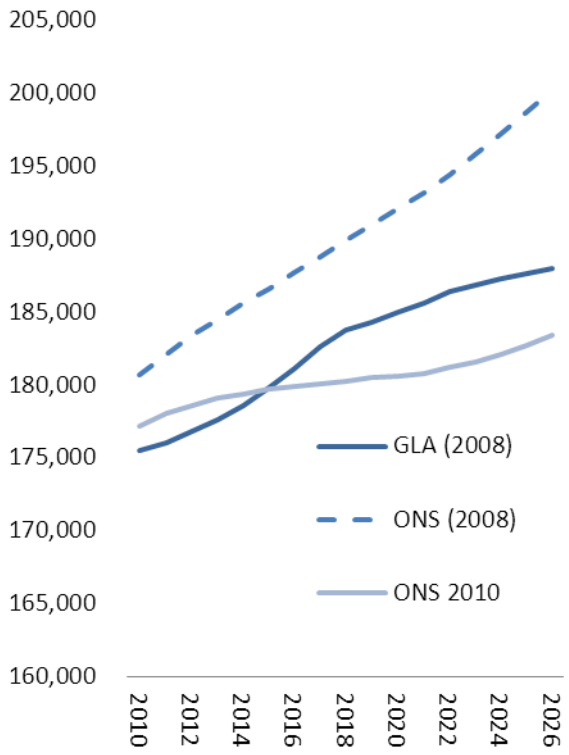
Fluctuation is observable in the number of residents aged <16, increasing to 31,100 in 2025 before reducing to slightly below 2010 levels (29,800 in 2010 to 29,700 in 2035). This can be attributed to a short-term increase in birth rates currently being experienced.

The 20-24 age range remains a notable proportion of the population throughout the projection period; suggesting that the the presence of higher education establishments will remain a significant factor in the local population.

Changes to previous projections

The 2010 based estimates represent a significant change to previous population estimates. Historically there have been two different methods used to calculate population change, previous ONS projections and population estimates and projections produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA) based on likely patterns of housing growth. Both of these models have used 2008 based population estimates as their base.

Fig.2 & table 2 demonstrate the variation between the different projections between 2010 and 2026 (the current duration of the LDF).



2010-2026	2010	2015	2020	2026
GLA (2008)	175,467	179,848	185,012	188,043
ONS (2008)	180,700	186,600	192,100	200,200
ONS (2010)	177,200	179,700	180,600	183,400

Fig 2 & Table 2 – Comparative population projections, ONS 2008 and 2010 based projections and GLA 2008 based projections (2010-2026)

In terms of overall population volume, the 2010 based ONS projections are now much closer to the GLA, housing growth based estimates than the previous ONS projections (~5,000 lower for 2010 projections, compared to 12,000 higher for 2008 based projections).

There are, however, significant variations between projection models observable with regards the distribution of age ranges within the population. Fig 3 demonstrates the proportional population makeup of B&NES in 2026 by 5-year age ranges for the three population models.

The most significant variations observed between the projections are for the 25-39 age range, which make 21% of the population in the GLA projections and 16% in the 2010 ONS projections. This is balanced by increases in the 20-24 and 75+ age ranges.

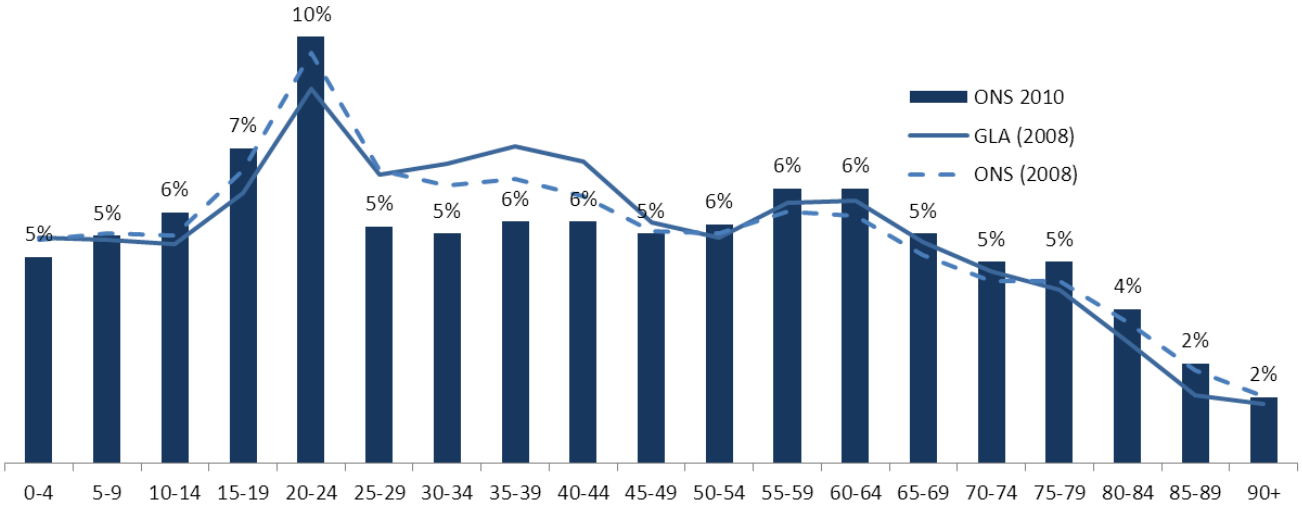


Fig 3 – % Population makeup 2026 by comparative projection models

It should also be observed that neither the ONS nor GLA models are effective at understanding the impact of large residential premises, such as university campuses or residential care homes.

Table 2 demonstrates the real-term variations for selected age-ranges and it can be seen that the proportional change represents a real-term change in age ranges by approximately 10,000 residents (5% of the total population). The main shift is seen in a reduction in the expected 25-39 age range and corresponding increases in the 20-24 and 75+ age ranges.

	GLA	ONS 2010	Difference
20-24	16,198	18,000	1,802
25-39	39,240	29,900	- 9,340
75+	15,211	22,000	6,789

Table 3 – Comparative volume of population at 2026 for key age range (GLA 2008 based projections and ONS 2010 based projections)