

Lord Green  
 House of Lords  
 London  
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February 2015

Dear Lord Green,

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the annual increase in the United Kingdom of births since 2002 they consider to be due to (1) rising fertility among United Kingdom-born mothers, and (2) births to migrant females. (HL4976).

Table 1 shows the number of births in each year, the annual change in births from the previous year and the changes in the numbers of births to non-UK born and UK-born women from the previous year. It also shows the proportion of the annual change from 2002 to 2013 that is due to births to UK born and non-UK born women.

**Table 1 - Annual change in births in the UK, 2002 to 2013, to UK and non-UK born women**

Year	Births			Change in births from previous year		
	All	To non-UK born women	To UK born women	All	To non-UK born women	To UK born women
2002	668,777	110,484	558,293	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	695,549	120,937	574,612	+ 26,772	+ 10,453	+ 16,319
2004	715,996	130,650	585,346	+ 20,447	+ 9,713	+ 10,734
2005	722,549	140,711	581,838	+ 6,553	+10,061	-3,508
2006	748,563	154,380	594,183	+ 26,014	+13,669	+12,345
2007	772,245	169,378	602,867	+ 23,682	+14,998	+8,684
2008	794,383	181,590	612,793	+ 22,138	+12,212	+9,926
2009	790,204	185,193	605,011	-4,179	+ 3,603	-7,782
2010	807,271	193,207	614,064	+ 17,067	+ 8,014	+9,053
2011	807,776	196,061	611,715	+ 505	+ 2,854	-2,349
2012	812,970	200,698	612,272	+ 5,194	+ 4,636	+557
2013	778,805	196,806	581,999	- 34,165	- 3,892	-30,273
<b>2002 - 2013</b>				110,028	86,321	23,706

In summary, 78% of the total increase in the number of births from 2002 to 2013 (the latest available data) was due to births to non-UK born women.

The number of births to any group of women results from a combination of the size and age distribution of the population and also the fertility rates that population experiences. The changes in numbers of births seen here are a result of both changing population sizes and age compositions, and changes in age specific fertility rates. The change between 2002 and 2013 is due to:

- Increases in the size of the non-UK born childbearing age female population, combined with decreases in their total fertility rates.
- Decreases in the size of the UK born female population of childbearing age, combined with increases in their total fertility rates.

Yours sincerely,



Glen Watson  
Director General for ONS