Improvement to Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS)
West Midlands GOR

The Office for National Statistics is seeking users' views on these data – the exercise is open to all, but is largely targeted at local authorities and other Government bodies. Comments are requested before end of January 2010. The information and response form is available on the site www.statistics.gov.uk/imps. See more detail at the end of this paper.

Contents

Key Points

- Revisions will be made for 2002 to 2008 mid year estimates below England & Wales level
- The data provided is indicative and will change before final publication (27 May 2010)
- There have been two methodological changes: the use of Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data to both add and remove students and a methodological change to international in- and out-migration, both of these have their highest impact in the working age group
- The third indicative change is revision to the underlying data
- Tables and charts for the effects of the changes separately and also the cumulative effects of the revisions are available at the link given at the end of this paper
- Most local authorities have indicative marginal cumulative changes of between +/- 2 per cent by 2008
- The final version will be the data used for the next, 2008 based, SNPP – consultation on SNPP is open and available at this link http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/2008-based-subnational-population-projections-for-england/index.html

HESA data methodology changes

This has been used to adjust estimates of student migration. Currently General Practitioner (GP) registration data are used and a student does not leave an area until they re-register elsewhere, something they may be slow to do. The HESA data, which now includes term time address, allows estimates of students to be made entirely independently of the GP registration data. Adjustments have been made for both moves into the place of study and moves out at the end of study for the years 2002 to 2008 – although some assumptions about student patterns has had to be made for the earlier years. These changes result in revisions to the internal migration component of population change, mainly for the 18-24 age group.

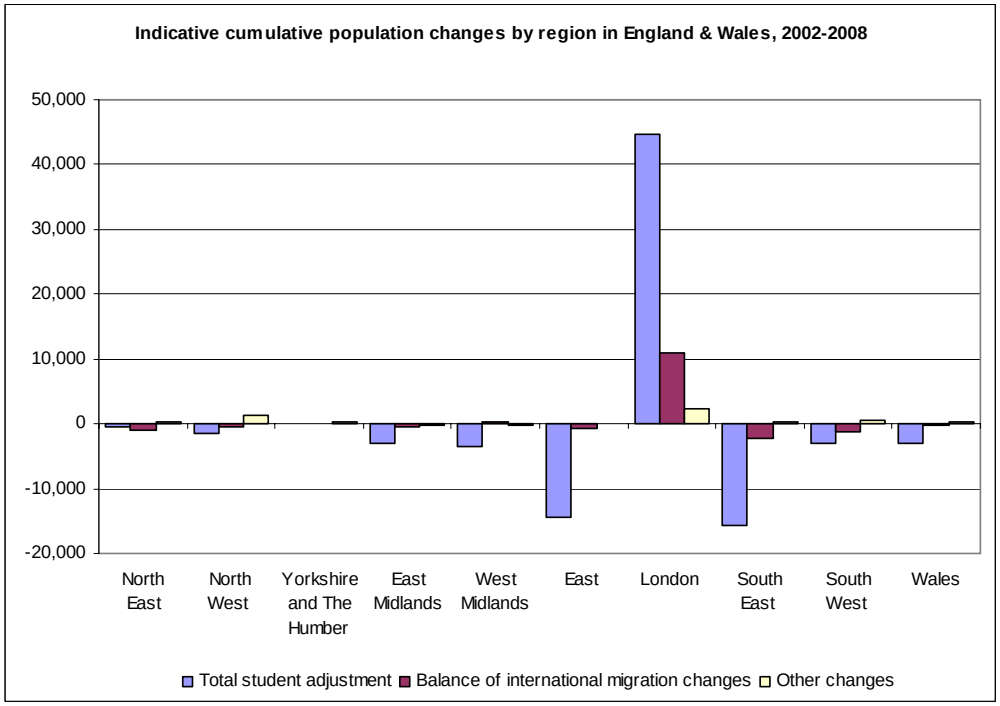
Revised methodology for estimation of international migration

International Passenger Survey data is used to estimate both immigration and emigration at England & Wales level and estimates for intermediate areas within these countries has used calibration of the IPS against LFS data. Below this geographical level (i.e. LAs) the estimates have used Census data to apportion migrants. The method proposed and used for these indicative estimates is to use a model-based estimate of international in-migrants starting with the IPS and then using covariates such as the NINos and GP Flag 4 registrations. The estimates of out-migrants uses a refinement of the current model based method.

Indicative cumulative change in England & Wales

Chart 1 compares the indicative cumulative changes by region across England & Wales. The major changes are in London, the East of England and the South East and largely result from revisions to student estimates of internal migration, although there is also a large proposed increase in net international migration to London. The methodological changes result in nearly 58,000 additional residents in London by 2008, about 45,000 of which are net internal migration changes as a result of using the HESA data. Apart from indicative decreases in student numbers in the East of England and the South East, all other changes are small.

Chart 1: Regional comparisons in England & Wales



Indicative change in the West Midlands: 2002-2008

Chart 2 shows the specific effects on the mid-year estimates of total population in the West Midlands over the revision period – rising to a regional decrease of 4,000 by 2008. Chart 3 shows how the student revision translates into changes in internal migration and Chart 4 does the same for net international migration for the West Midlands.

Charts 5 & 6 show the cumulative indicative changes by county and unitary authority in the West Midlands and illustrates that the methodological changes have differential effects on these areas. Proposed net increases resulting from the use of HESA data are largest in Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent and Sandwell with small increases or net decreases in most other areas. Increases in the net number of long term international migrants are indicated in Coventry, Warwickshire, Dudley, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford with no change or decreases in other areas. Charts 7 to 10 show the same information for local authority districts in each County in the West Midlands (note that charts 5 to 10 are drawn to the same scale to allow comparison).

Indicative changes in local authority districts in Warwickshire are noteworthy in two districts, in Rugby increases in the balance of international migration being the major contributing factor in the cumulative increase of 1,200, whereas for Warwick the student adjustment is the major contributing factor in the cumulative increase of 900 (Chart 9). Overall the proposed cumulative population change in Warwickshire is an increase of 1,900. The largest changes at local authority district level in Worcestershire are a decrease of 1,000 in Wychavon the major factor being a downward student adjustment, and a decrease of 900 in Redditch primarily due to a reduction in the balance of international migration (Chart 10). The proposed cumulative change in Worcestershire is a decrease of 3,200.

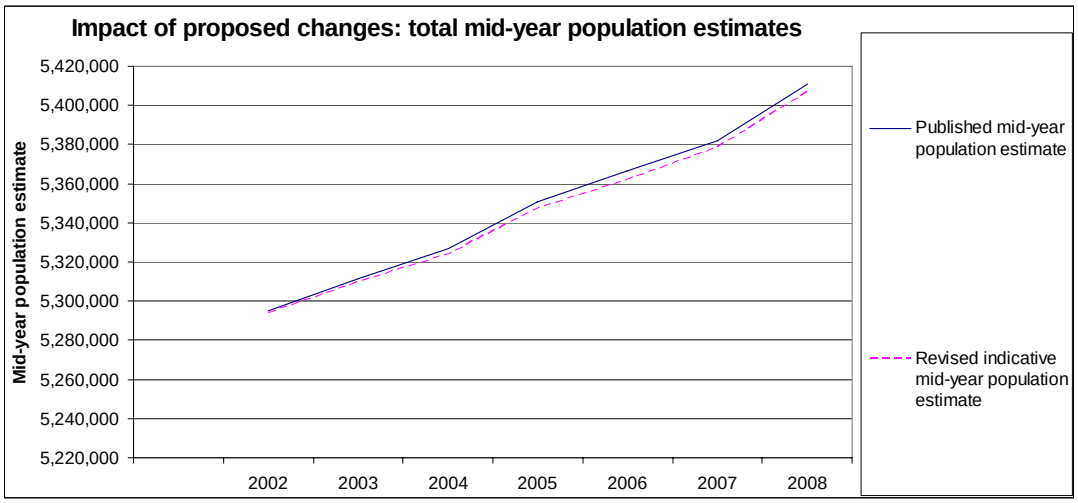
The proposed cumulative change in Staffordshire is an estimated decrease of 3,300, with the Cannock Chase district having the largest proposed change, down 1,000, with a decrease in the balance of international migration being the major contributing factor (Chart 8).

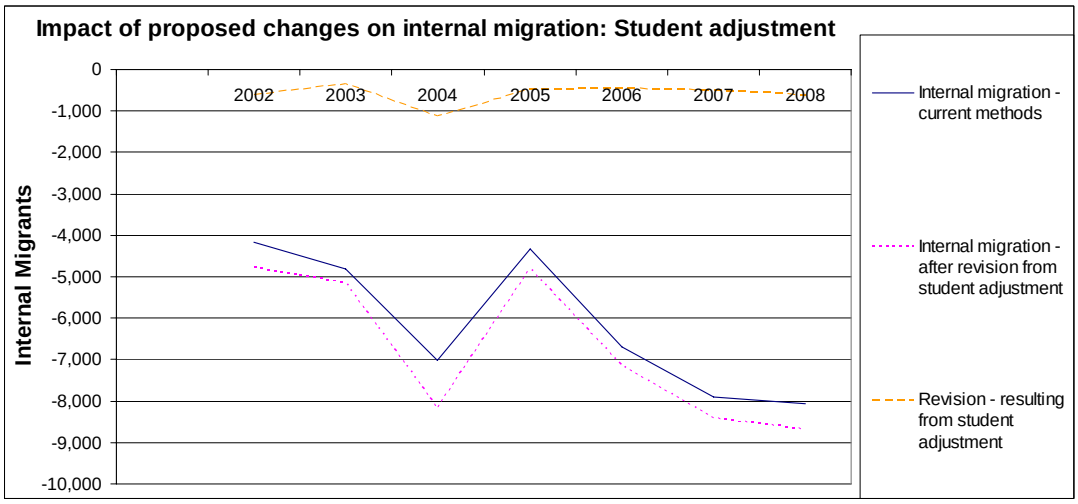
Of the urban unitary authorities, Birmingham saw the largest change with an upward revision of 3,500, with the primary contributing factor being student adjustment. Wolverhampton saw the largest decrease, down 2,800, with a decrease in the balance of international migration the major

contributing factor. Stoke-on-Trent and Coventry saw upward revisions primarily due to increases in the balance of international migration, at 2,400 and 1,400 respectively (Chart 6)

Shropshire saw a downward revision overall of 3,500, primarily due to student adjustment, although a decrease in the balance of international migration was also a significant factor. Of the county's discontinued districts, both Oswestry and North Shropshire have the biggest decline, both decreased by 800 (Chart 7).

Charts 2-4: Impact of changes on the West Midlands





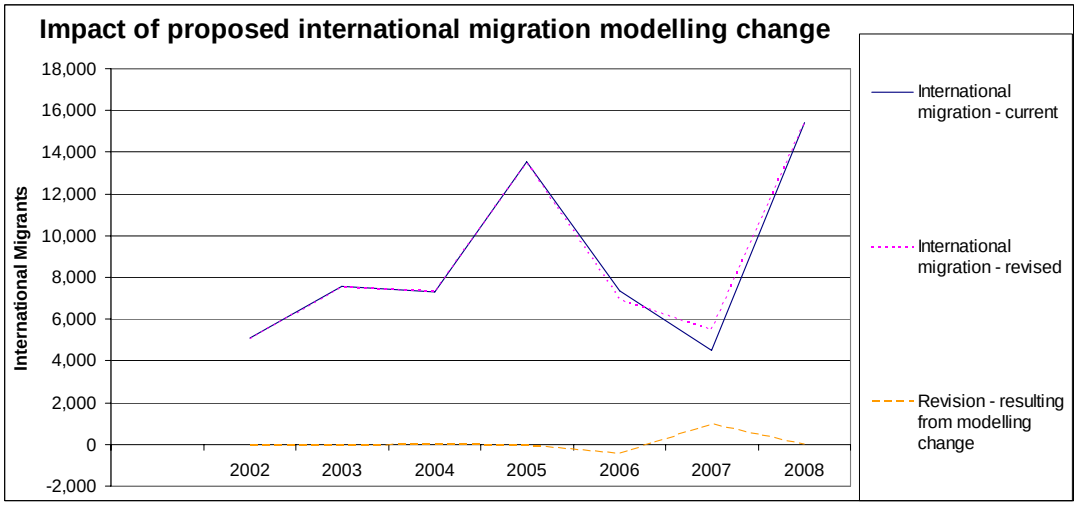


Chart 5: Change in the counties of the West Midlands

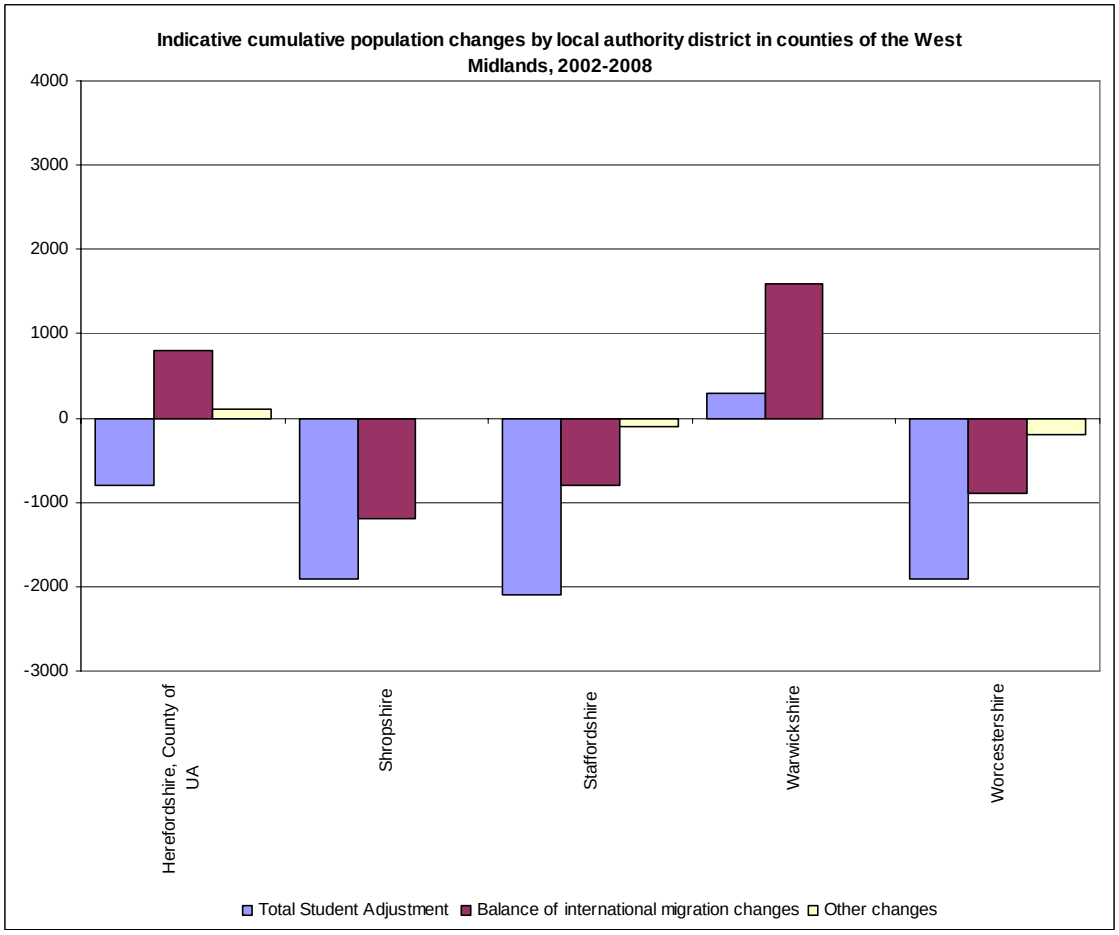


Chart 6: Change in the urban unitary authorities of the West Midlands

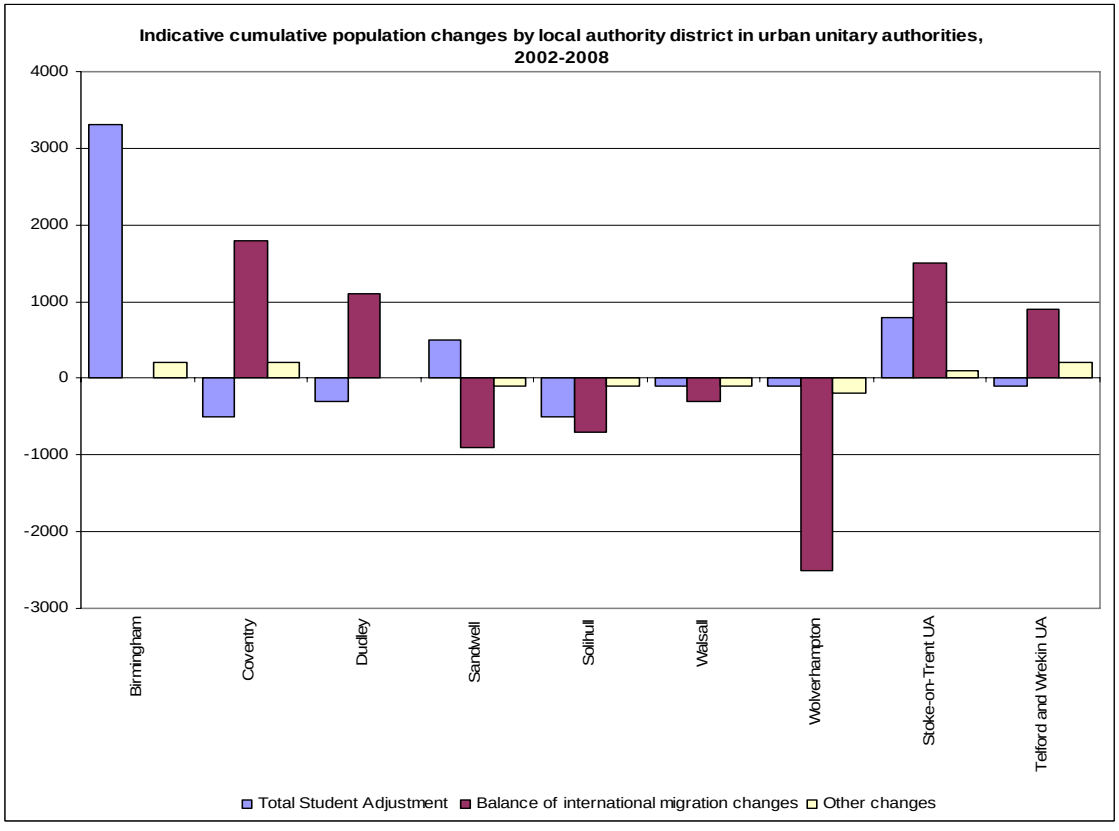


Chart 7: Change in the local authority districts of Shropshire

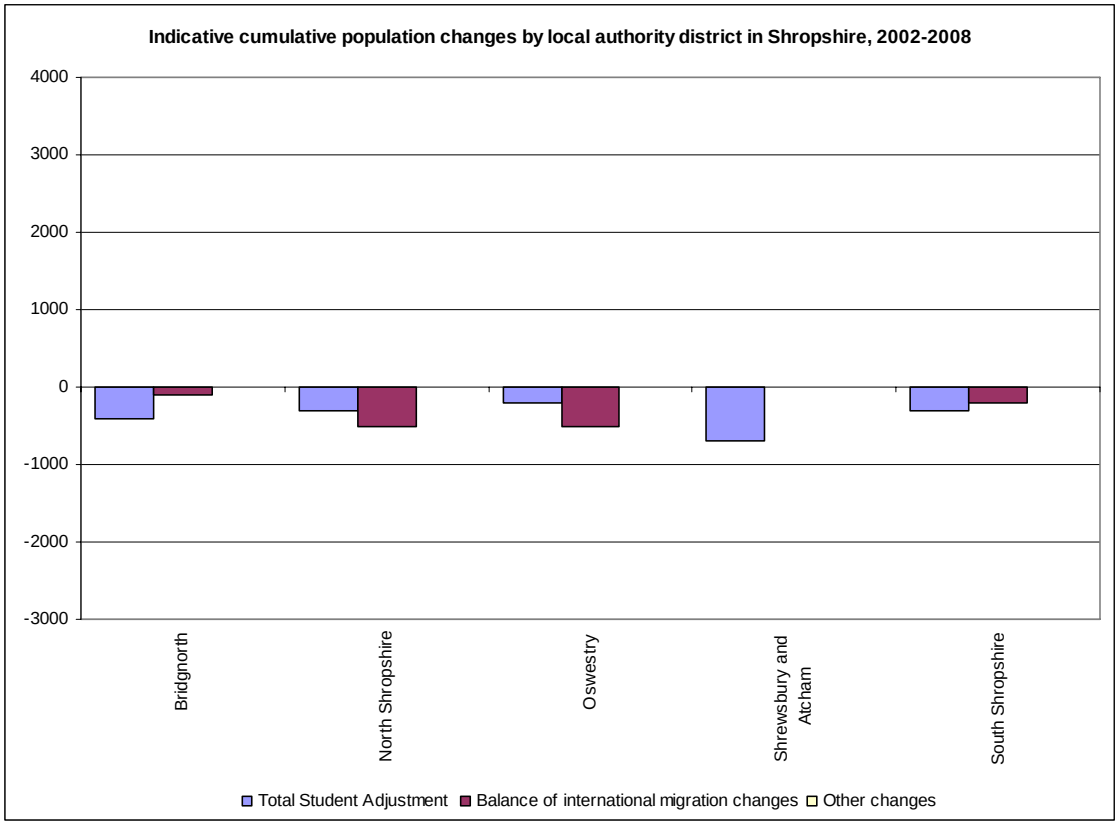


Chart 8: Change in the local authority districts of Staffordshire

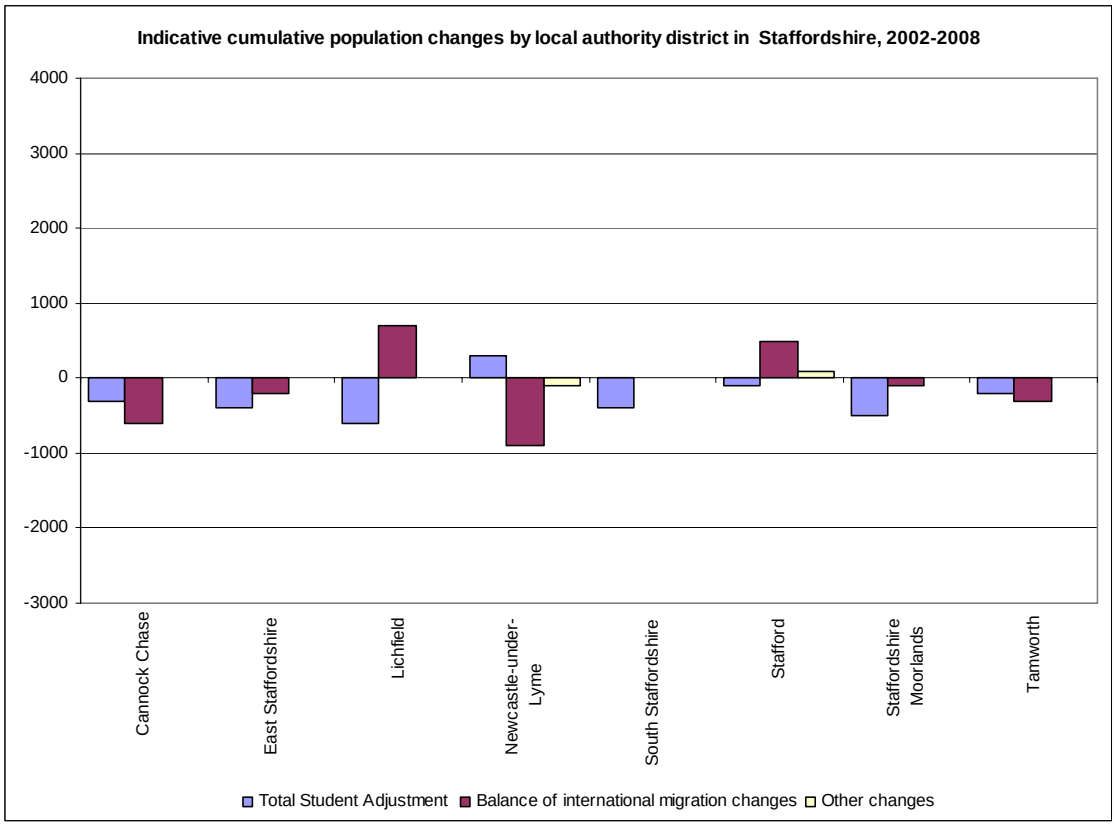


Chart 9: Change in the local authority districts of Warwickshire

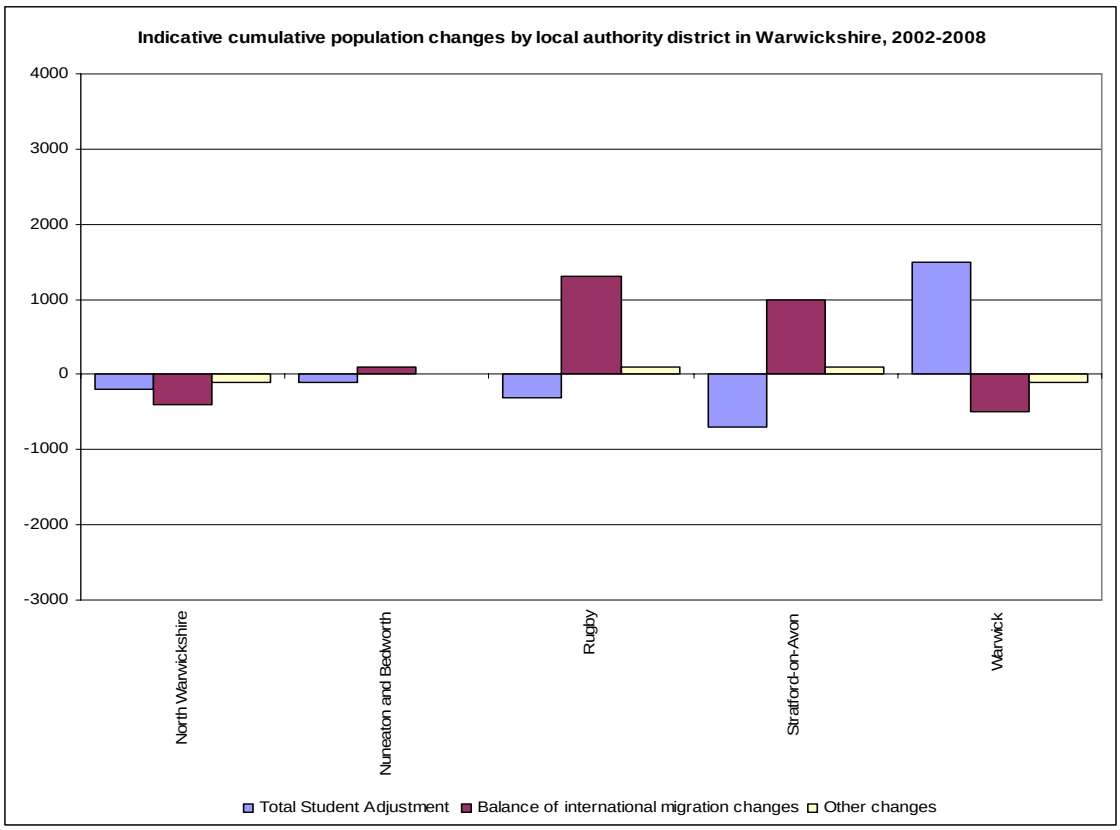
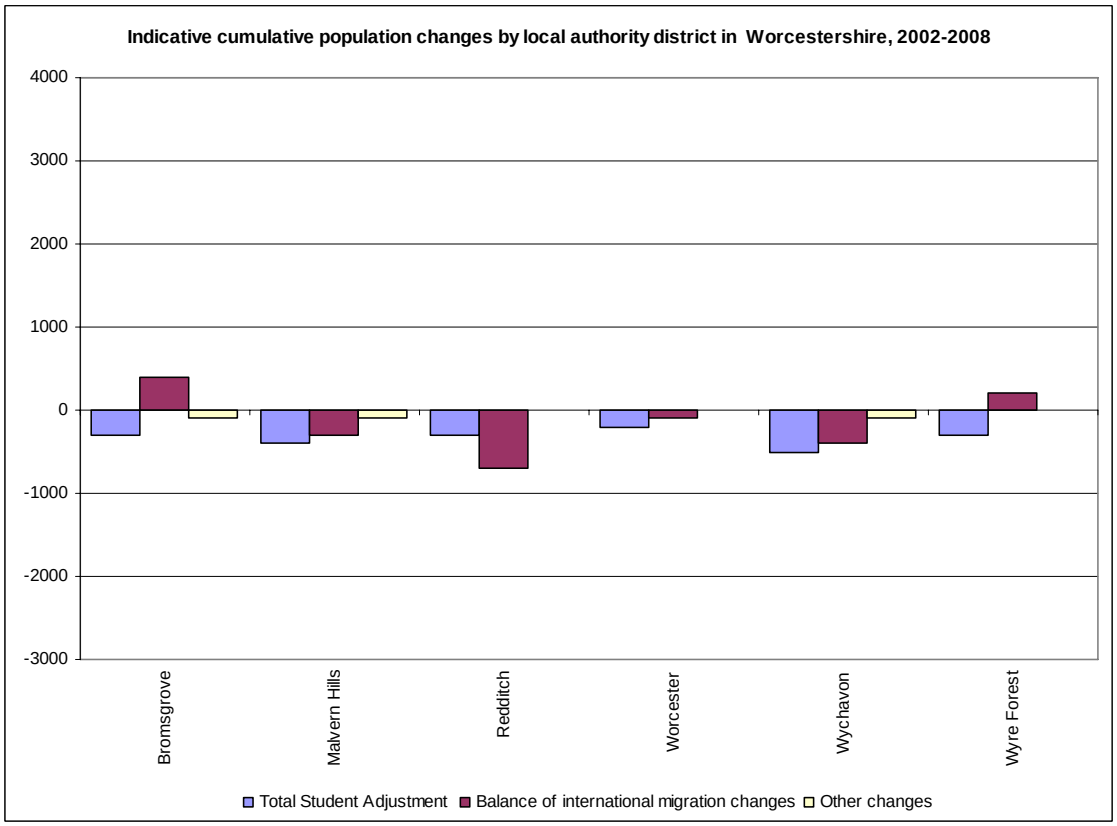


Chart 10: Change in the local authority districts of Worcestershire



Indicative percentage change in the West Midlands: 2002-2008

Chart 11 shows the impact of the methodological changes using the annual percentage difference between the published mid-year estimates of population and the indicative estimates by county and unitary authority in the West Midlands. The indicative cumulative percentage change in the West Midlands is a decrease of 0.1%

Indicative percentage changes in local authority districts in Shropshire are all downwards, with net decreases ranging from -0.8 to -2.0 per cent in 2008 (Chart 13). Overall the proposed cumulative population change in Shropshire is a decrease of 1.2 per cent of total population. Staffordshire has an indicative cumulative population decrease of 0.4 per cent by 2008 (Chart 11). The largest percentage change at local authority district level in Staffordshire are decreases in Cannock Chase (-1.0 per cent), primarily due to a decrease in the balance of international migration (Chart 14).

While the indicative percentage change in Warwickshire is a small estimated increase of 0.4 per cent by 2008 (Chart 11), there is much more variation at local authority district level: the largest change in Rugby primarily due to an increase in the balance of international migration, giving a cumulative increase of 1.3% (Chart 15).

Of all the local authority districts in Worcestershire, Redditch has the largest indicative percentage decrease of 1.2 per cent primarily due to a decrease in the net balance of international migration (Chart 16). All other local authority districts were stable or had small indicative percentage decreases. Overall the proposed population change in Worcestershire was an indicative decrease of 0.6 per cent (Chart 11).

Of the urban unitary authorities, Stoke has the largest increase of 1.0% primarily due to an increase in the balance of international migration, but also due to contribution from the student adjustment. Wolverhampton has the largest decrease of -1.2%, mostly as a result of a decrease in the balance of international migration (Chart 12).

Chart 11: Percentage change by counties in the West Midlands

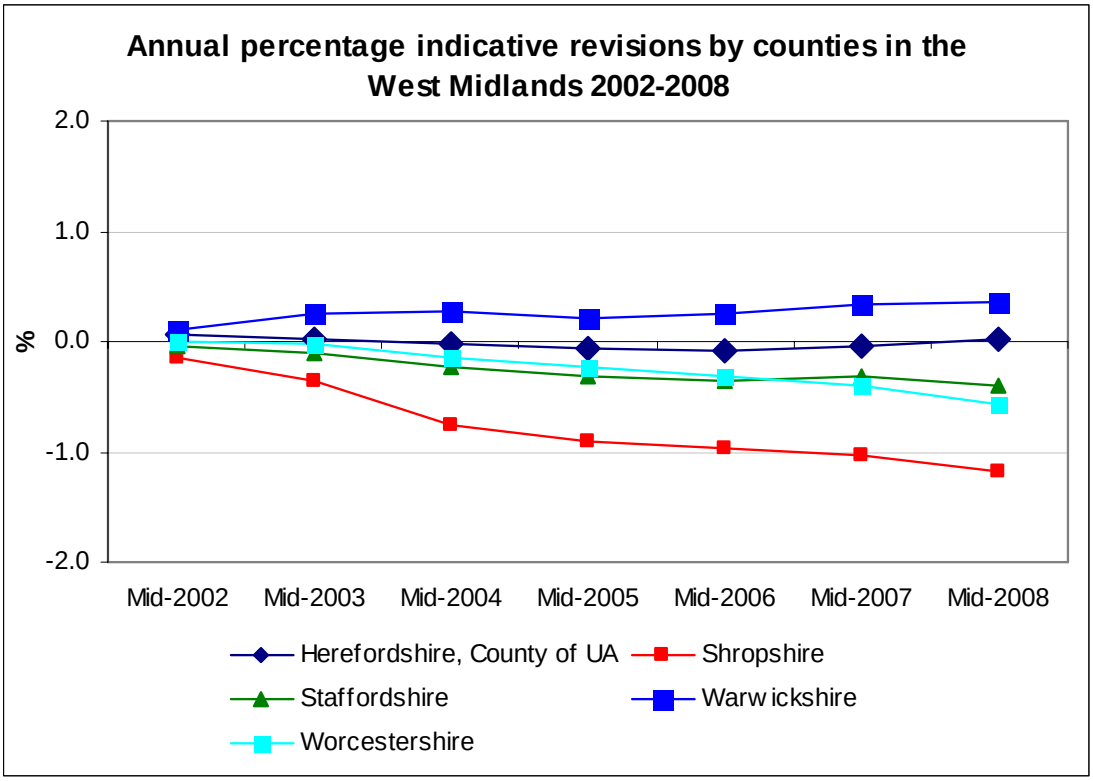


Chart 12: Percentage change by urban unitary authority in West Midlands

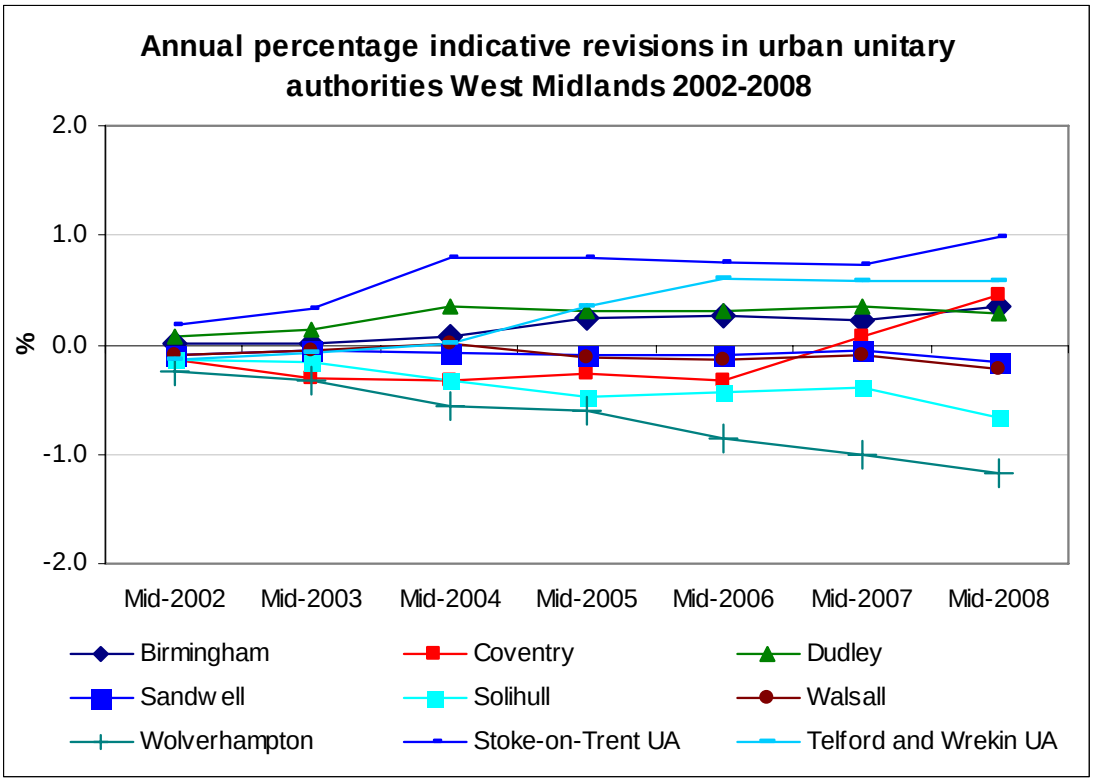


Chart 13: Percentage change by local authority in the Shropshire

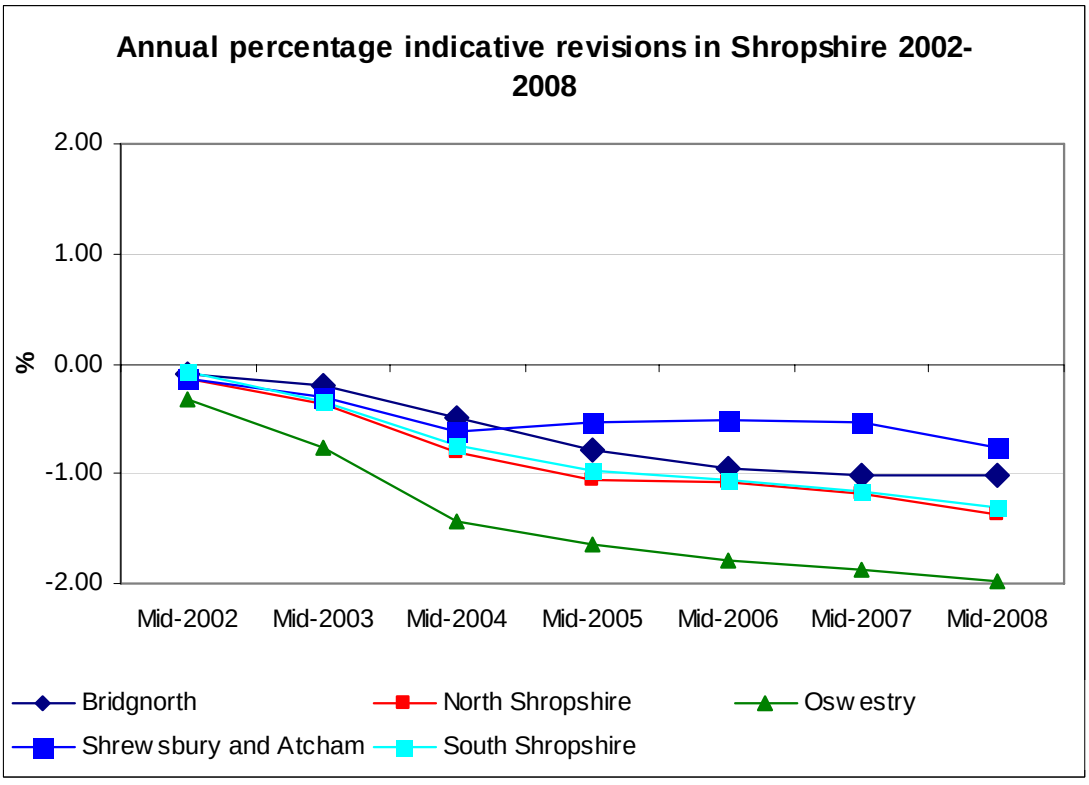


Chart 14: Percentage change by local authority in the Staffordshire

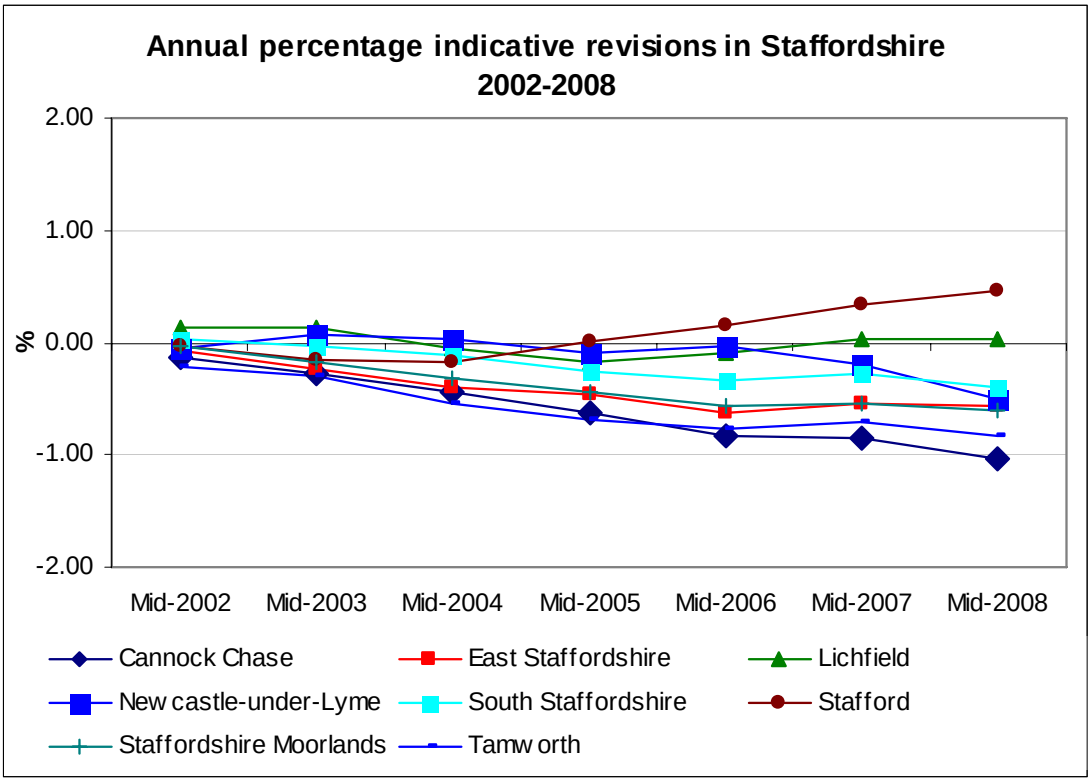


Chart 15: Percentage change by local authority district in Warwickshire

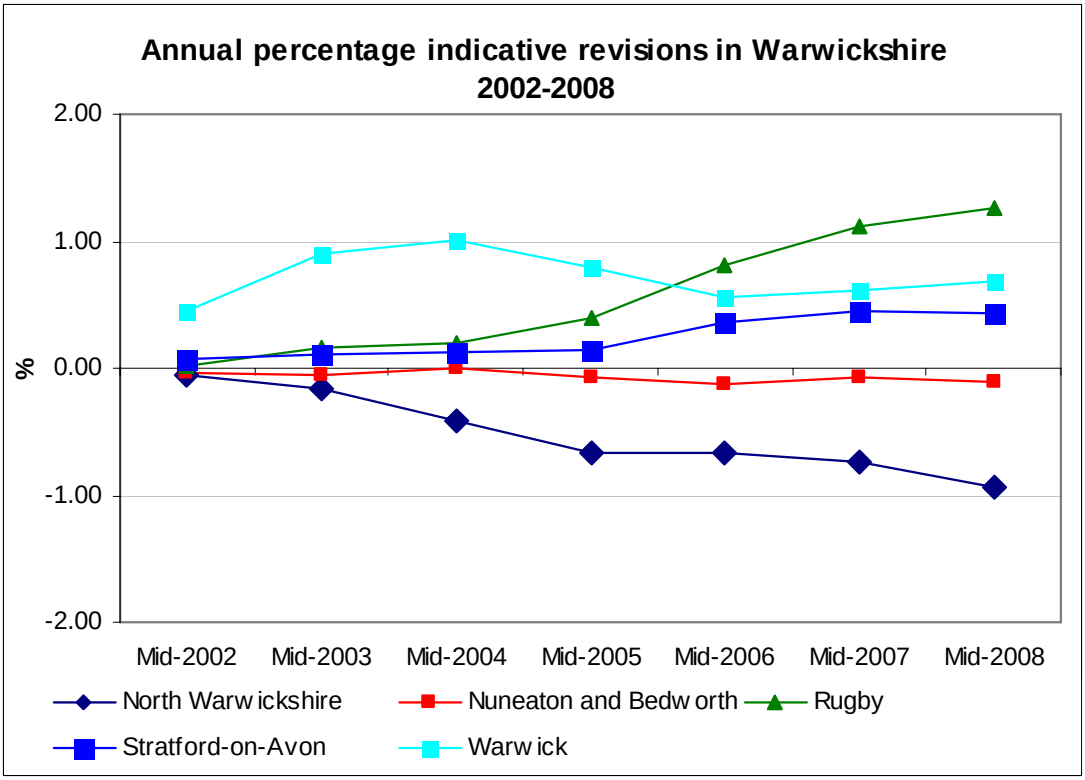
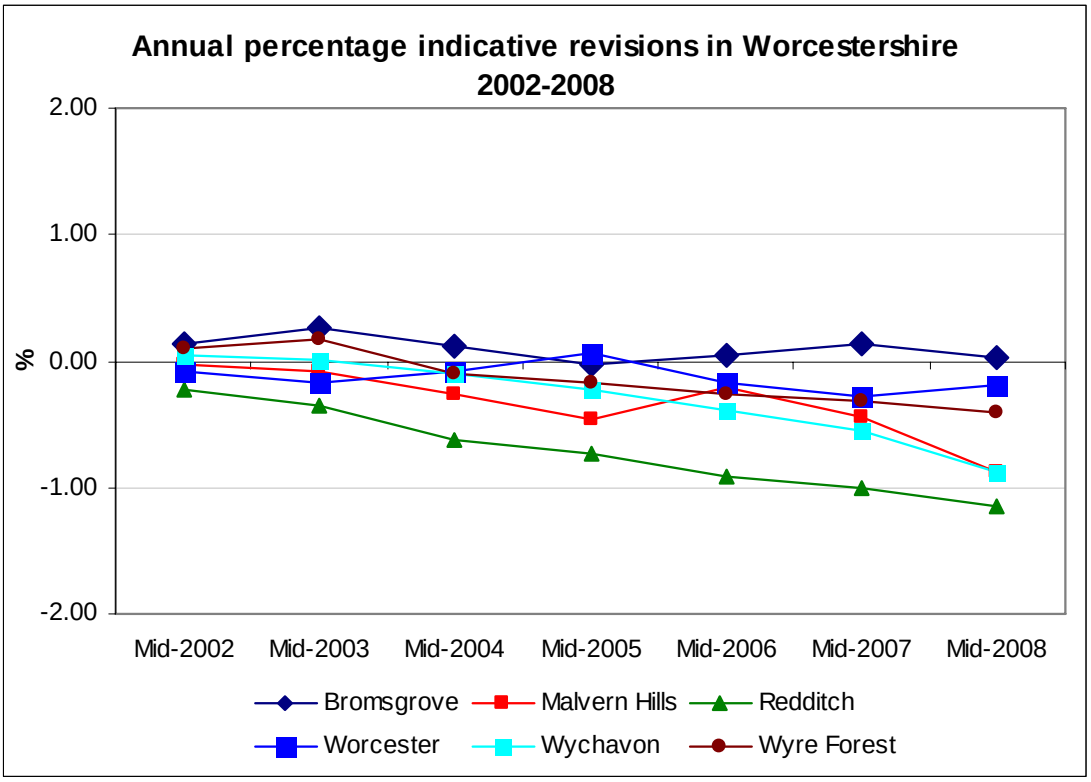


Chart 16: Percentage change by local authority district in Worcestershire



More detail about the indicative changes can be found using the following links

Link to key documents set out below (www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/methodology-and-quality/imps/mig-stats-improve-prog/comm-stakeholders/improvements-to-the-mid-2008-population-estimates/key-documents/index.html)

Data The adjusted population estimates in excel
Introduction Contains an overview of IMPS and the program of work
Overview of the package What information is available on the whole package of improvements being undertaken as part of IMPS
Summary of methodology Compares both old and new methods used in MYE calculation
Consultation questionnaire Framework document for any feedback
Consultation questionnaire - Word version Word document of above
Impacts report A report showing the impacts of the proposed changes
Review of quality assurance activities A report showing details of progress to the Quality Assurance Strategy
Frequently asked questions (FAQ) Supporting Question and Answer document