

MIGRATION TO AND FROM HEREFORDSHIRE

Source of Migration Data

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of the numbers of people moving between Herefordshire and the rest of the UK on an annual basis. The estimates are based on re-registrations with GPs; people are classed as migrants if they move between health authority areas and change their GP.

The estimates combine these movements, as recorded by the NHS Central Register (NHSCR), with information held by individual health authorities to enable data to be published at local authority district level.

There are limitations with patient data being used to estimate migration, particularly as some age-sex groups are likely to re-register more quickly when they move than others: for example young men take longer to change their GP than young women. However, ONS have as yet been unable to identify a way of dealing with this problem, although they are continuously researching ways of improving these and other population estimates.

For more detail regarding the methodology behind the estimates, the ONS Migration Statistics Unit's Customer Guidance Notes: *'Using Patient Registers to Estimate Internal Migration'* (August 2002) can be found on their website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/EXPODATA/commentary/Guidance%20Notes.pdf>

Migration between Herefordshire and the rest of the UK

ONS has published counts of migrants to/from Herefordshire from/to the rest of the UK, broken down by 5-year age-sex groups, since the year mid-2000 to mid-2001. The most recent estimates are for mid-2002 to mid-2003.

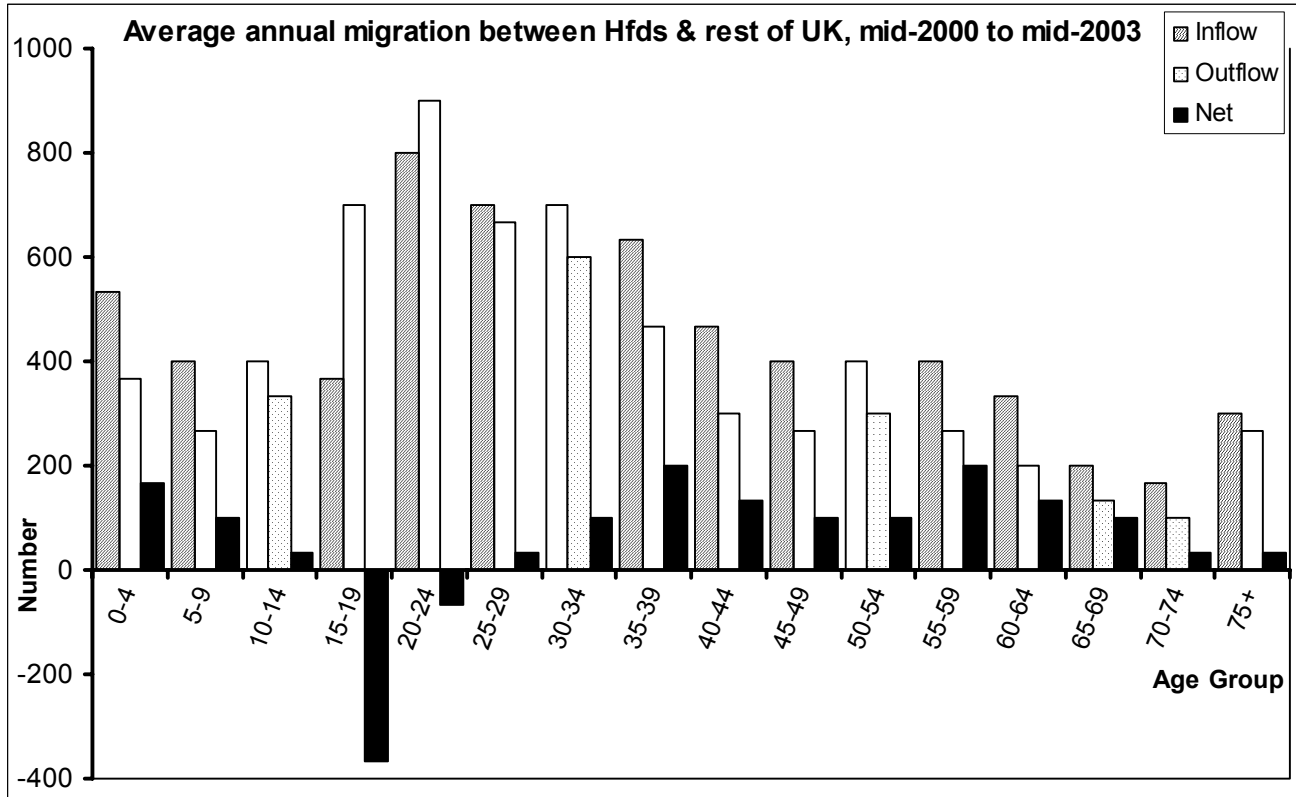
Over these 3 years, 21,700 people moved into Herefordshire from the rest of the UK and 18,500 moved out of Herefordshire to the rest of the UK. Therefore the net in-flow (i.e. number moving in minus number moving out) over this period was 3,200; an average of just under 1,100 more people moving into Herefordshire than out each year.

The following chart shows the average numbers of people in each age group moving into and out of Herefordshire each year, along with the average net in-flow. The largest flows, both into and out of Herefordshire, are in the 20-24 year-old age group (800 and 900 people, respectively). This is one of the age groups where people are most mobile generally, so the pattern isn't necessarily unique to Herefordshire.

The smallest flows (both in and out) are in the 65-69 and 70-74 year-old age groups, with averages of 200 people or less moving in each direction per year. Data from the 2001 Census indicate that a significantly lower percentage of Herefordshire's migrants (both in and out) were either retired or aged 75+ than the percentage in the population as a whole (economic activity was only classified for those people aged 16-74).

Notably, there is a net in-flow of *all* age groups except the 15-19s and 20-24s. The largest average net out-flow (i.e. number moving *out* minus number moving *in*) is in the 15-19 year-old age group: on average just under 400 more people of this age group leave the county than

move into it each year. Young people leaving home to start university are generally aged 18-19, and students away from home are counted as resident at their term-time address. Data from the 2001 Census indicate that a significantly higher percentage of Herefordshire's migrants (both in and out) were students than the percentage in the population as a whole, although the age of these students has not been published.



Source: ONS: Internal Migration within the UK; analysis by Herefordshire Council Research Team

Combining the data for the 15-19s and 20-24s, just over 400 more people of these ages leave Herefordshire each year than move into the county. However, when comparing this net out-flow to the total number of people in these age groups, it only represents an annual 'loss' of around 3% of the population aged 15-24.

To put this into context, 15% of the 376 local authority districts in England & Wales 'lose' a greater proportion of their population aged 15-24 than Herefordshire does, on average each year. The largest average annual 'loss' occurs in Rutland Unitary Authority, in the East Midlands (7%), and Malvern Hills district 'loses' around 5% each year. At the other end of the scale, Westminster UA 'gains' around 9% of it's population of 15-24 year-olds on average each year.

The largest net in-flows are in the 35-39 and 55-59 year-old age groups: both have an average net in-flow of 200 people per year. These both represent a 'gain' of about 2% of the population in the respective age groups. A 2% average annual 'gain' in the proportion of the population in an age group due to migration is also seen in the under 5's.

Origin of net in-migrants from England & Wales

Analysis of migration within England & Wales for the period mid-1998 to mid-2003 shows that about two-thirds (65%) of Herefordshire's 5,300 net in-migrants came from London and the South-East (including Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex); just under a quarter (23%) from neighbouring English counties (Gloucestershire, Worcestershire & Shropshire); 12% from non-neighbouring parts of the West Midlands Region and the rest from other parts of England. More people moved from Herefordshire to Wales than vice versa over the 5 year period.

Migration estimates for the year mid-2003 to mid-2004 are expected early in 2006.

For further information on the data in this article, please contact the Research Team on 01432 260498, or e-mail researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk