

MID-  
2017

# POPULATION ESTIMATES COLCHESTER

*Report prepared by the Research & Engagement Team  
July 2018*

The annual population estimates show the population of Colchester to have increased from 186,635 people in mid-2016 to 190,098 in mid-2017. Colchester's population is estimated to increase to up to 211,000 in 2027.



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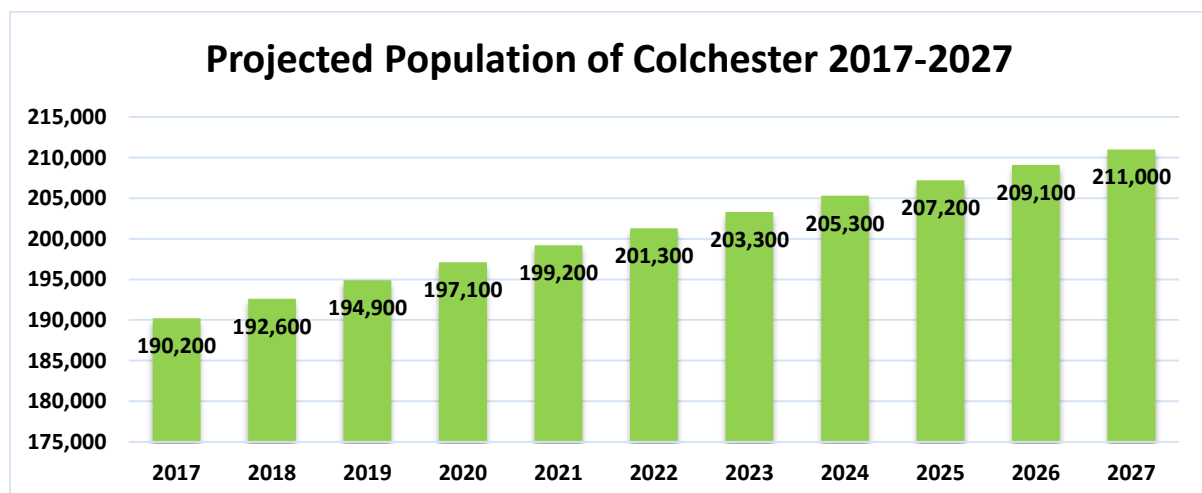
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## Executive Summary

- In mid-2017 Colchester's population was estimated to stand at 190,098.
- There has been an increase of 1.9% (approximately 3,463 people) between mid-2016 and mid-2017. In 2016 Colchester was the largest district in Essex County.
- Colchester still remains the largest district in Essex, and accounts for 12.9% of the county population, a slight increase of 0.1% from mid-2016.
- These figures indicate an average population density of 578 people per square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>). This is an increase of 1.4% from 2016 when there were 570 people per square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>).
- An estimated 44,858 young people (0-19 years) were living in the borough in mid-2017, which accounts for approximately 23.5% of the total population. This is a slight decrease from the mid-2016 estimates where young people accounted for 23.6% of the Colchester population.
- In mid-2017 approximately 121,980 individuals were aged 16-64, equating to approximately 64.2% of the total population.
- An estimated 32,640 people in Colchester were 65+ in mid-2017 accounting for an estimated 17% of the population.

## 2016-based Subnational Population Projections

Colchester's population is estimated to grow to approximately 211,000 people in 2027, an increase of 20,902 people over a ten year period. This is the highest population growth in Essex County, the second highest estimated to be in Basildon, with an increase of 17,421 people over a ten year period.



## 1. Introduction

This document looks at the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2017 population estimates and is the most recent data to be published for Colchester and other Essex districts. Data are presented in tables and charts and accompanied by brief commentaries. Notes to the tables can be found at the end of the document. The 2011 Census has led to the revision of the Mid-Year-Estimate (MYE) series from 2002-2010. A summary of these revisions is also included in this document.

For further information on this document or other demographic data please contact Julie Davis on 01206 508641 or email [research@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:research@colchester.gov.uk)

## 2. Methodology and caveats

2017 Mid-year population estimates are based on the results of the 2011 Census for England and Wales and take account of population change due to yearly births, deaths and net migration.

It is important to note that these estimates of the population are trend based and therefore subject to social changes within the borough. Further information about how the mid-year estimates are calculated is available in Appendix 1.

## 3. Headline figures for Colchester & Essex

The estimated population of Colchester for mid-2017 is 190,098 compared with 187,633 (this is the revised 2016 mid-year estimate in the latest release) for mid-2016. This change is made up as follows:

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Population mid-2016	187,633
Plus births	2,163
Less deaths	-1,567
Plus net migration and other changes	1,869
<b>Population mid-2017</b>	<b>190,098</b>

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## 4. Analysis of Colchester and Essex estimates

### 4.1 Mid-2017 Population Estimates for Essex

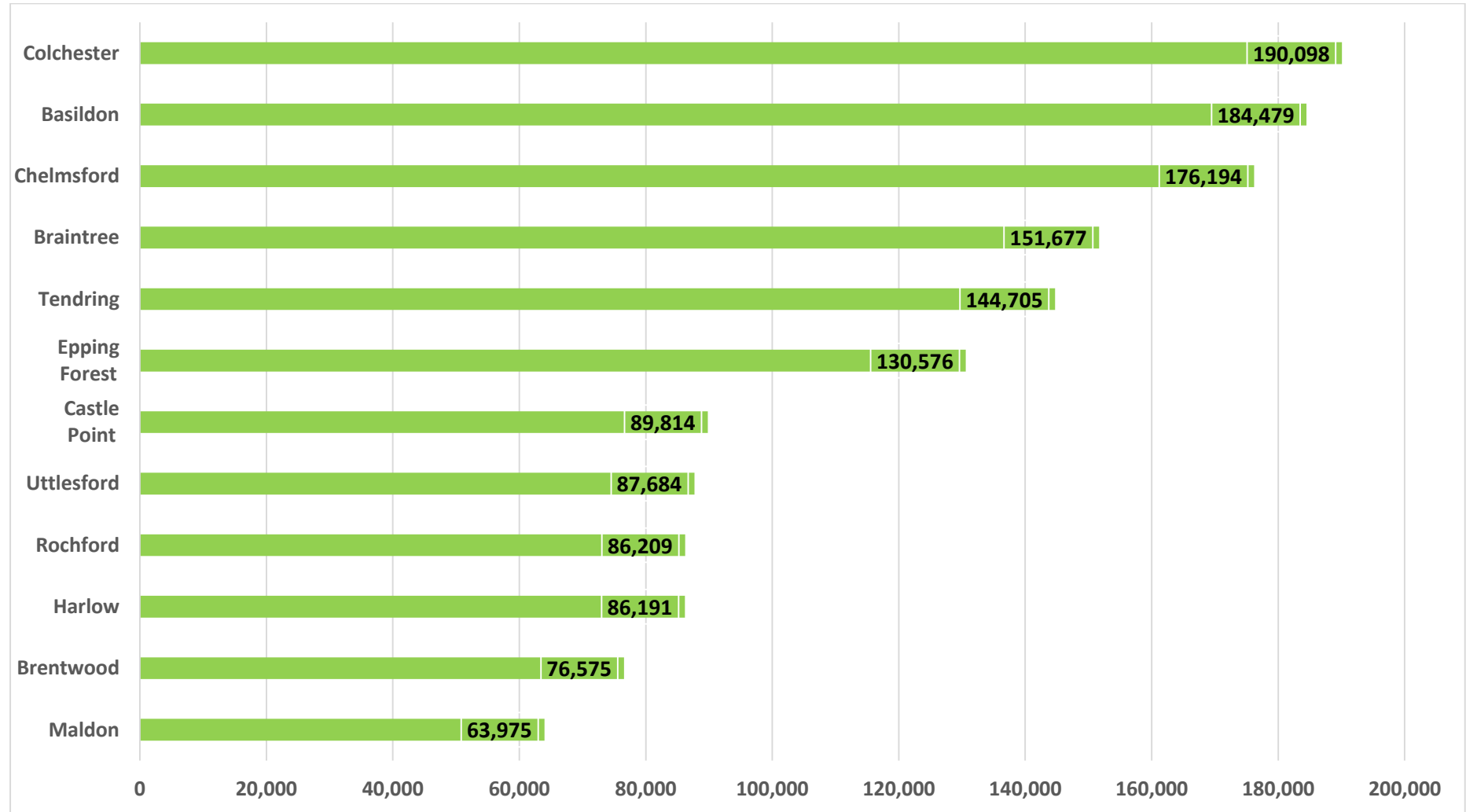
**Table 1: Mid-2017 Population Estimates**

	Mid-2017 population by age			
	All ages	0-15	16-64	65+ and over
<b>East of England</b>	6,168,432	1,186,897	3,779,374	1,202,161
<b>Essex</b>	1,468,177	275,142	893,293	299,742
Basildon	184,479	38,145	114,532	31,802
Braintree	151,677	29,056	92,581	30,040
Brentwood	76,575	14,148	46,863	15,564
Castle Point	89,814	14,956	52,367	22,491
Chelmsford	176,194	33,495	109,301	33,398
<b>Colchester</b>	<b>190,098</b>	<b>35,478</b>	<b>121,980</b>	<b>32,640</b>
Epping Forest	130,576	24,057	80,542	13,192
Harlow	86,191	19,078	53,921	13,192
Maldon	63,975	10,465	37,796	15,714
Rochford	86,209	14,713	51,757	19,739
Tendring	144,705	23,628	78,439	42,638
Uttlesford	87,684	17,473	53,214	16,997
<b>Southend-on-Sea UA</b>	181,808	35,123	111,887	34,798
<b>Thurrock UA</b>	170,394	38,886	108,037	23,471
<b>England</b>	55,619,430	10,637,971	34,950,948	10,030,511

- Colchester's population was estimated to stand at 190,098 people in mid-2017. It remains the largest district in Essex County.
- Compared to mid-2016 this amounts to an increase of 1.9% (approximately 3,463 people).
- There has been an increase of 21.8% (approximately 34,082 people) between mid-2001 and mid-2017. In 2001, Colchester was the third largest district in Essex County.
- As the largest district in Essex, Colchester now accounts for 12.9% of the County population, a slight increase of 0.1% compared to the mid-2016 estimates.

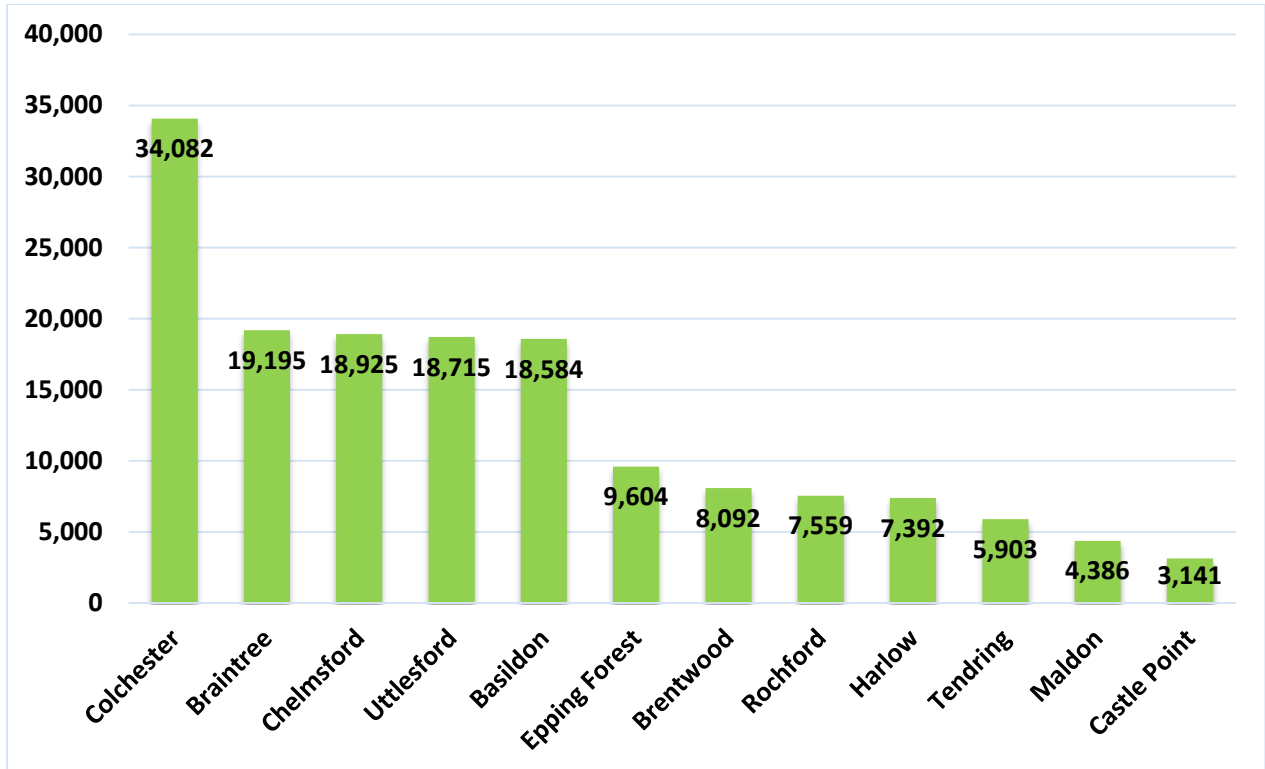
Figure 1 below illustrates the mid-2017 population distribution across Essex County ranked by district size.

**Figure 1: Population distribution across Essex County in mid-2017**



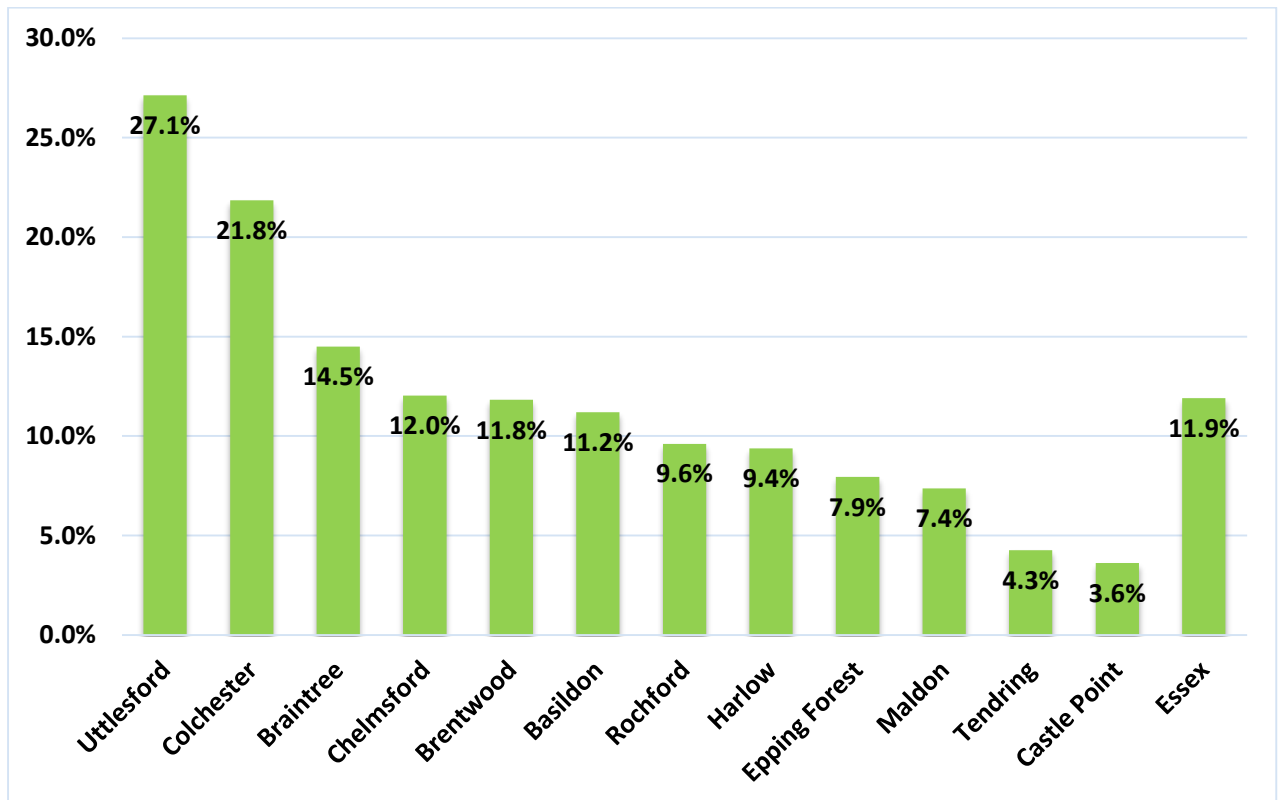
## 4.2 Population change over time (mid-2001 to mid-2017)

Figure 2: Change in Population 2001-2017 (numbers)



- Figure 2 illustrates the change in Essex County's population from mid-2001 to mid-2017.
- Data shows that Colchester has experienced the largest population change in Essex County between mid-2001 and mid-2017, growing by approximately 34,082 people.
- Colchester's growth rate is significantly higher than that of any other Essex district.
- The second largest population change between mid-2001 and mid-2017 has been experienced by Braintree which is estimated to have grown by 19,195 people.

**Figure 3: Change in Population 2001-2017 (percentages)**



- Figure 3 above illustrates the percentage change in Essex County’s population from mid-2001 to mid-2017.
- Colchester’s growth rate was significantly higher than the overall Essex County growth rate of 11.9% over the same period.
- Although Uttlesford has had a smaller population growth than Colchester between mid-2001 and mid-2017 (18,715 people in Uttlesford compared to 34,082 in Colchester), its percentage of growth is higher than that of Colchester.
- This can be explained by the fact that Uttlesford’s population in 2001 was significantly smaller than that of Colchester (68,969 people in Uttlesford compared to 156,016 in Colchester).
- The lowest rate of growth in Essex between mid-2001 and mid-2017 occurred in Castle Point, which experienced an approximate growth in population of 3,141 people (3.6%).



### 4.3 Age and Gender Analysis for Colchester

**Table 2: Mid-2017 Population Age & Gender Structure for Colchester**

Age	All People	Males	Females
Under 1	2,196	1,123	1,073
1 to 4	9,384	4,712	4,672
5 to 9	11,728	6,084	5,644
10 to 14	10,318	5,304	5,014
15-19	11,232	5,832	5,400
20-24	15,109	8,052	7,057
25-29	15,047	7,633	7,414
30-34	12,702	6,412	6,290
35-39	12,185	5,959	6,226
40-44	11,968	6,084	5,884
45-49	12,953	6,531	6,422
50-54	12,635	6,141	6,494
55-59	10,811	5,382	5,429
60-64	9,190	4,404	4,786
65-69	9,634	4,525	5,109
70-74	8,704	4,124	4,580
75-79	5,777	2,675	3,102
80-84	4,340	1,968	2,372
85-89	2,653	1,054	1,599
90+	1,532	477	1,055
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,098</b>	<b>94,476</b>	<b>95,622</b>

Colchester's working age population was estimated to stand at 121,980 people in mid-2017, making up 64.2% of the total population. Of this, 50.4% (61,464) are men and 49.6% (60,516) women.

In mid-2017, the number of young people aged 0-19 years in Colchester was estimated at 44,858 people, making up 23.6% of the total population. This is a decrease from 2001, when young people accounted for 25% of the population in Colchester. Of this, 51.4% (23,055) are men and 48.6% (21,803) are women.

Colchester's ageing population (65+ years) in mid-2017 was estimated at 32,640; this makes up for 17.2% of the total population. Of this, 45.4% (14,823) are men and 54.6% (17,817) are women.

**Table 3: Population change over time - mid-2001 to mid-2017 (Thousands)**

Area	Mid-2001	Mid-2002*	Mid-2003*	Mid-2004*	Mid-2005*	Mid-2006*	Mid-2007*	Mid-2008*	Mid-2009*	Mid-2010*	Mid-2011	Mid-2012	Mid-2013	Mid-2014	Mid-2015	Mid-2016	Mid-2017
<b>East of England</b>	5,400,463	5,432,688	5,474,133	5,508,564	5,562,653	5,606,294	5,653,534	5,708,350	5,751,443	5,807,402	5,862,418	5,907,348	5,954,169	6,018,383	6,076,451	6,129,005	6,168,432
<b>Essex</b>	1,312,599	1,319,145	1,326,079	1,334,632	1,345,170	1,354,301	1,362,888	1,373,172	1,379,503	1,388,913	1,396,599	1,406,517	1,416,405	1,431,953	1,443,151	1,457,910	1,468,177
Basildon	165,895	166,743	167,089	167,825	168,927	169,951	170,908	172,423	173,084	173,788	174,971	176,474	178,362	180,521	181,721	183,768	184,479
Braintree	132,482	134,272	135,767	137,426	139,160	140,921	142,344	143,894	144,589	145,972	147,514	148,384	149,108	149,985	150,360	151,233	151,677
Brentwood	68,483	68,779	69,234	69,895	70,542	71,040	71,346	71,941	72,663	73,301	73,841	74,020	74,460	75,645	76,057	76,769	76,575
Castle Point	86,673	86,866	87,237	87,207	87,462	87,576	87,776	88,020	88,122	88,115	87,964	88,218	88,570	88,907	89,173	89,752	89,814
Chelmsford	157,269	158,686	160,360	162,505	163,570	163,879	164,381	165,047	166,208	167,441	168,491	169,335	170,256	171,633	172,638	174,197	176,194
<b>Colchester</b>	156,016	156,055	157,164	158,652	162,038	163,847	165,674	167,927	169,027	171,679	173,614	176,008	177,626	180,420	183,939	187,633	190,098
Epping Forest	120,972	121,482	121,404	121,495	121,735	122,530	122,877	123,365	123,820	124,189	124,880	126,080	127,170	128,777	129,677	129,923	130,576
Harlow	78,799	78,340	78,128	78,019	78,354	78,722	79,165	79,913	80,710	81,490	82,177	82,676	83,372	84,564	85,397	85,867	86,191
Maldon	59,589	59,750	59,996	60,303	60,662	60,993	61,398	61,660	61,815	61,845	61,720	61,918	62,166	62,767	62,743	63,418	63,975
Rochford	78,650	79,325	79,513	80,100	80,815	81,490	82,264	83,056	83,094	83,415	83,333	83,869	83,911	84,776	85,144	85,708	86,209
Tendring	138,802	139,318	139,909	140,340	140,325	140,423	140,523	140,421	139,593	139,058	138,062	138,285	138,721	139,916	141,183	143,353	144,705
Uttlesford	68,969	69,529	70,278	70,865	71,580	72,929	74,232	75,505	76,778	78,620	80,032	81,250	82,683	84,042	85,119	86,289	87,684
<b>Southend-on-Sea UA</b>	160,362	161,159	161,437	161,488	162,645	163,776	165,429	168,150	170,013	172,122	174,274	174,838	175,798	177,931	178,702	180,606	181,808
<b>Thurrock UA</b>	143,297	144,728	145,977	147,056	148,556	150,206	151,741	153,633	155,003	156,585	158,268	159,533	160,849	163,270	165,184	168,428	170,394
<b>England</b>	<b>49,449,746</b>	<b>49,679,267</b>	<b>49,925,517</b>	<b>50,194,600</b>	<b>50,606,034</b>	<b>50,965,186</b>	<b>51,381,093</b>	<b>51,815,853</b>	<b>52,196,381</b>	<b>52,642,452</b>	<b>53,107,169</b>	<b>53,493,729</b>	<b>53,865,817</b>	<b>54,316,618</b>	<b>54,786,327</b>	<b>55,268,067</b>	<b>55,619,430</b>

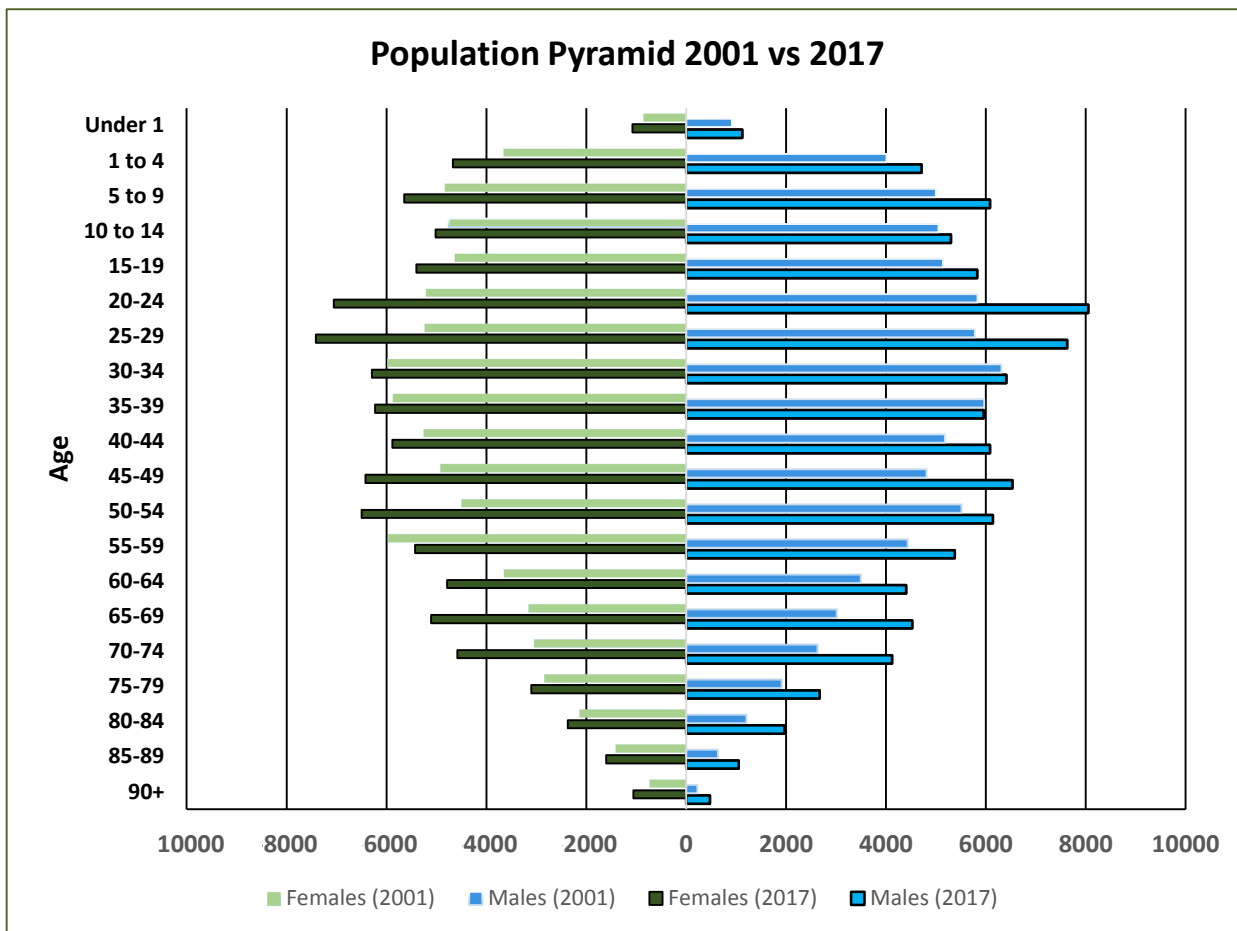
Notes: \* Revised mid-year estimates.

Following the 2011 Census, the Office for National Statistics decided to re-base the population estimate series from mid-2002 to mid-2010.

This means that the previous population estimate series has been superseded by this current release. The figures above should now be used when making comparisons.

More information can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-england-and-wales/mid-2002-to-mid-2010-revised--national/stb--mid-2002-to-mid-2010-revised-population-estimates-for-england-and-wales.html>

**Figure 4: Population Pyramid Comparisons**



- Figure 4 illustrates the age and gender structure of Colchester for the Census 2001, and mid-2017 estimates in a population pyramid.
- The modal age band in Colchester in mid-2017 was 20-24 years with 15,109 people. This was followed by the 25-29 years age band with 15,047 people.
- In contrast, the age band with the fewest individuals was 90+ years with 1,532 people. This was followed by those below the age of 1, with 2,196 people.
- Overall, the proportion of males and females in Colchester are very similar with 50.3% being female and 49.7% being male.

## 5. Notes to tables

1. Data source: Population Estimates Unit, the Office for National Statistics.© Crown Copyright, 2015.
2. Some figures have been rounded so totals may not sum exactly.
3. Statistics for Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock are not included in 'Essex County' calculations as they are unitary authorities and are only part of Essex on a geographical basis.
4. Population estimates are calculated for the 'usual resident population'.
5. For more information at national and local level, log on to 'Neighbourhood statistics' on the ONS website - [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)
6. The data are Crown Copyright and may only be reproduced in public or published documents with the permission of HMSO and acknowledgment of the source (as above). Colchester Borough Council holds a Click-use Licence permitting reproduction (these can be obtained for free from [www.clickanduse.hmso.gov.uk](http://www.clickanduse.hmso.gov.uk)).

## **Appendix 1: Methodology**

### **What are mid-year estimates?**

Mid-year estimates are based on the results of the 2011 Census and take account of population change due to births, deaths and net migration. The mid-year population estimates for each of the UK constituent countries refer to the usually resident population of an area on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June each year. The usually resident population is defined by the standard United Nations definition for population estimates, as people who reside in the area for a period of at least 12 months regardless of nationality.

### **How are they calculated?**

Estimates of the population during the inter-censal period (the time between 10 year censuses) are made using a cohort component method. Simply, this updates the previous mid-year estimate, allowing for natural change due to births and deaths in the past year and adding on net migration.

The components used in calculating the England and Wales population estimates include: births, deaths, prisoners, school boarders, armed forces (home and foreign), internal migration and international migration. Mid-year estimates only measure the usual resident population and therefore only long term international migrants are included in the estimates. ONS uses the United Nations recommended definition of a long-term migrant to identify who should be included – anyone who moves from their country of usual residence for at least a year or more.

As previously mentioned, mid-year population estimates are made for the population resident on 30 June of the reference year. The starting point for the estimate is the resident population on 30 June in the previous year. This population by single year of age is then aged on by one year (for example, all 3 year olds become 4 year olds one year later). Those who have been born during the 12 month period are then added on to the population and all those who have died during the 12 month period are removed according to their age, sex and their usual place of residence.

## **What are the data sources used to compile population estimates?**

**The base** from which inter-censal population estimates are calculated is the most recent Census (2011).

**Births and deaths** data used in the compilation of mid-year population estimates are obtained from the General Register Office through compulsory registrations of all births and deaths occurring in England and Wales.

**Internal migration** takes account of people moving within the UK and is estimated using:

- The NHS Central Register (NHSCR) which records movements of patients between Health Areas; and
- Higher Education Statistics Agency

**International migration** is estimated from sources including the:

- International Passenger Survey (IPS)
- Labour Force Survey data on the location of recent migrants
- Migrant Worker Scan
- National Health Service Central Register
- Further Education Learner Data
- Student Record (Higher Education Statistics Agency)
- Certificate of Acceptance to Study and Leave to Remain for Study
- ONS
- Asylum Seeker data is taken from the Home Office and National Asylum Support Service

## **Are the population estimation methods robust?**

- ONS population estimates are the best currently possible.
- Natural change components of estimates are of high quality.
- Migration is widely recognised to be more difficult to estimate accurately and ONS has a substantial programme of work aimed at improving estimates of migration and population.

- The ONS international migration estimates are based on the best available sources of long-term international migration.
- ONS is open and transparent about the methods it uses to produce outputs, following international standards.
- ONS implements methodological changes following reviews and suggestions from independent experts.
- ONS published highly detailed methodology guides, setting out the complete methodologies and the geographies which they cover and these are open to the public without any limitations.

ONS Population Estimates Website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/an-overview-of-ons-s-population-statistics/index.html>