

Impacts on the UK population

There have been changes in nutrition, hygiene and healthcare over the past few decades which have impacted the population of the UK greatly. Some key facts are:

- The number of GPs per 1000 of the population between 1996-2011 has increased in all parts of the UK
- The mortality rate in all parts of the UK is also falling, with mens being the steepest

<i>Healthcare Changes</i>	<i>Hygiene Changes</i>	<i>Nutritional Changes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the birth of the World Health Organisation (WHO) vaccinations for many illnesses means that the population of the UK is protected e.g MMR vaccination - There are 193 members of the WHO meaning that countries and coordinate vaccinations in order to completely eradicate the disease. - The passing of the Public Health Act in 1848 means that places are a lot cleaner now, reducing the risk of disease - 50,000 people have received aid in order to stop smoking (a government initiative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1/4 of the population used n lived in cellars and 1/2 of the working families lived in a single room, with no independent water supply. - After the passing of the Public Health Act in 1848 it means that local issues of health and sanitation had to be dealt with by law e.g. local authorities must supply clean water, drainage and sewage waste disposable areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The discovery that various vitamins and minerals aid growth and development means that people are healthier - 3 million people in the UK are malnourished, costing the economy £13 billion annually - The government initiative 'Change4Life' has been set up in order to tackle childhood obesity which is a growing problem in the UK.

Other factors that have affected the population of the UK is the post war baby boom, the growth of consumerism and the decline in heavy industry.

Decline in heavy industry:

- Heavy manufacturing in the UK has been decline for many years. Reasons for this are that there is now heavy competition from overseas, particularly in South East Asia. Other reasons include poor management, a lack of investment, outdated working practices and expensive workers.
- The Rover plant at Longbridge closed in 2005 with the loss of over 5,000 jobs
- The UK still manufactures steel, though it is now one of the smaller producers in the world. In 1945 there were 50 steelworks in Ebbw Vale in South Wales, following the merger of British Steel with a Dutch company
- Steel works are concentrated to Port Talbot, Scunthorpe (now closed) and Teesside (also closed).

Baby Booms:

- After soldiers returned from war in the 1940s there was a huge baby boom in the UK. Another baby boom occurred just before the recession in 2008
- The effect of that these babies boom's on the UK was fairly huge. It meant that there was a larger workforce available which in turn benefited the economy, however it also added huge pressure on services such as the NHS and the education system as there were a lot more children to vaccinate and educate.
- After the birth of the royal baby in 2012, the Office of National Statistics reported that a 'mini baby boom' had occurred, reaching its highest level in 40 years.
- Recently there has been an increase in the number of births, this is due to the fact that a large amount of women at child bearing age are entering the UK. The fertility rate of UK women is 1.9 compared with 2.2 for foreign born women. However 1/3 of British women are responsible for the recent increase in births.

Growth of Consumerism:

- Consumption is the purchasing of commodities and services, including food, goods and leisure. Consumerism describes the growth of a way of life based around consumption, in which shopping and spending are all important.
- UK consumer spending reached a record £1 trillion in 2006
- The rise of consumption explains the rise of TNCs as well as out of town shopping. Consumption has led to a decline in fertility in affluent nations. Raising a child is expensive and people do not want to give up shopping, eating out and holidaying abroad, meaning it is now very expensive.

