

Bridget Jones generation will dominate UK by 2029

Ten million Britons will be living alone by 2029, figures show.

There will be only around 3.5 million couples co-habiting as the popularity of marriage declines, and nearly two million lone parents.

The number of new households in London is forecast to grow to four million in 22 years but the growth rate is set to go down slightly in the South-East while increasing in other regions, the official figures show.

The number of people living alone is predicted to soar from 6,536,000 three years ago to 10,347,000 in 2029, creating a Bridget Jones generation.

More than 5.7 million of singletons will be aged 25 to 64 by 2026, a rise of more than two million from 2004. The majority of them are likely to have never married or to be divorced.

Housing minister Yvette Cooper warned property prices will continue to rise unless the house building rate is increased.

She said: "These figures show why it's right to build more homes to meet the needs of the next generation.

"We have a growing population, with people living longer and more of us living alone."