

POPULATION AND MIGRATION ESTIMATES NORTHERN IRELAND (2010) – STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE



Migration to Northern Ireland continues to fall

9:30am – Thursday, 30 June 2011

The Northern Ireland population at 30 June 2010 is estimated to be 1.799 million people, the Statistics and Research Agency said today. This is the last official population estimate released before the publication of the first results of the 2011 Census.

Between July 2009 and June 2010 the number of people living in Northern Ireland increased by 10,500 people (+0.6%). Population growth was less than in each of the previous five years, primarily due to a fall migration to Northern Ireland. The increase in population between July 2009 and June 2010 was due to:

- natural growth of 10,800 people (25,000 births and 14,200 deaths);
- equal numbers of people coming to and leaving Northern Ireland (22,500 people each way); and
- a net loss of 300 due to changes in HM Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

In the period 2004-8, net migration accounted for 50% of population growth. With migration currently in the balance, population growth is now solely due to natural change.

Due to a decline in fertility, the number of children (aged 0 to 15) fell in the 1990s, however, since 2004 the number of children has stabilised due to a recovery in fertility and significant in migration. In contrast, the population aged 65 and over has continued to rise over the last four decades and currently accounts for nearly 15% of the Northern Ireland population.

Responding to the findings a Statistics and Research Agency spokesperson said:

“Migration to Northern Ireland has fallen over the last three years. Last year the overall impact of migration on the total number of people living in Northern Ireland was zero. Despite that 22,500 people came to live here and 22,500 left Northern Ireland to live elsewhere. This in contrast to the years between 2004 and 2008 when there was marked population growth due to migration – when a net total of 32,000 people were added to the population.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Northern Ireland mid year population estimate series relates to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland including Her Majesty's Forces stationed here. Births and deaths recorded are those registered by the General Register Office between mid-2009 and mid-2010.
2. In line with international practice, migration estimates relate to long-term migrants only. A long-term migrant is defined as someone who changes their residence for a year or more (Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998)).
3. Population statistics for areas within Northern Ireland were also published today; further details are available on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>.
4. Population statistics form a part of the "Barnett formula" and are also used in allocating Northern Ireland public expenditure across the province. Latest population figures for Scotland and the Republic of Ireland show 2009-10 annual increases of 0.5% and 0.3% respectively. Equivalent population figures for England and Wales were also published today and can be obtained from the Office for National Statistics website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106>.
5. All media enquiries should be directed to DFP Communications Office
Telephone: 028 9052 7374
6. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services
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