

## **STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE– MIGRATION STATISTICS NORTHERN IRELAND (2009)**



### **Latest figures show falling net migration to Northern Ireland**

**9:30am – Thursday, 25 November 2010**

Latest figures indicate a downward trend in international migration to Northern Ireland and a consequent fall in net migration.

This is just one of the findings in a report from the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) published today.

In the year to June 2009, 23,500 people are estimated to have come to live in Northern Ireland and 21,400 people left Northern Ireland to live elsewhere. Migration therefore added 2,100 net residents to the Northern Ireland population. The 2009 figure is lower than the previous annual figure - 5,700 net residents in 2007-8; and also the 10,000 net residents added in both the 2005-6 and 2006-7 years. Early figures indicate that the downward trend will continue into 2010.

In 2009 there were estimated to be 39,000 people of A8 Central and Eastern European background living in Northern Ireland (see note 2). This is equivalent to around 2% of the Northern Ireland population.

Among some of the other key points are:

- after a period through the 1970s and 1980s of emigration exceeding immigration, and balanced migration in the 1990s, the period since 2004 has seen population growth with immigration exceeding emigration;

- in recent years the scale of immigration has fallen from a high of 32,300 people coming to live in Northern Ireland in 2006-7 to 23,500 people in 2008-9. This has led to overall net migration (immigration minus emigration) falling in the last two years;
- in 2009, information on new health service registrations on migrants coming from outside the UK shows that 50% gave their reason for coming to Northern Ireland as work related, around a quarter (27%) came for family reasons, 12% for education and 10% gave another or no reason;
- in 2009, just under 1 in 10 births here (2,300 births out of 24,900) were to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland, compared to 3% of births in 2001 (700 births out of 22,000). Figures for the first half of 2010 indicate that births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland will be at a similar level to 2009;
- the School Census (2009) shows that 4,800 primary school children have a language other than English as their 'first' language. This is 3% of the primary school pupils, and an increase on the corresponding figure (4,300) for 2008. For post-primary school children, the increase has been from 2,100 pupils in 2008 to 2,400 pupils in 2009 (1.6% of the post-primary school population);
- overall migration trends vary across Northern Ireland. Flows around areas such as Botanic (Belfast), Jordanstown (Newtownabbey) and Strand (Derry) are driven by students. Health service registrations also show that in some parts of particularly Belfast and Dungannon Local Government Districts, annual immigration flows last year exceeded 1 in 20 of the resident population. A detailed map is available [here](#);
- the percentage of residents with an A8 background ranges from 8% in Dungannon Local Government District to less than 0.5% of the population in Larne Local Government District; and
- the Labour Force Survey estimates that there are 80,000 persons who were born outside the UK and Ireland living in Northern Ireland in 2010.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. 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)).
2. Eight Central and Eastern European countries (referred to as the “A8” countries) joined the European Union in May 2004 – these are the countries referred to in this release. The A8 countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
3. Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union in January 2007. However restrictions have been placed on their entry to the UK labour market by the UK Government. These countries are excluded from the A8 Eastern European background referred to in this report.
4. A report has been published today entitled “Migration Statistics for Northern Ireland (2008-9)”. This updates previous analysis undertaken by NISRA and provides more detailed statistics on measures of long-term international migration. It also provides more detail on A8 population estimates. This paper can be found at:  
[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI\\_Migration\\_Report\(2009\).pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/migration/NI_Migration_Report(2009).pdf)
5. All media enquiries should be directed to DFP Communications Office  
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