

STATISTICAL REPORT – 2010-BASED POPULATION PROJECTIONS



9:30am – Wednesday 26 October 2011

The Northern Ireland population is projected to increase by 60,000 people, or 3%, over the next five years (2010-2015). The population is projected to rise to 1.859 million by 2015, according to figures released today by the Statistics and Research Agency. The figures show that in the short-term (five year projection horizon 2010-2015):

- the population is projected to increase to 1.859 million in 2015 from 1.799 million in 2010. This is equivalent to an average annual rate of growth of 0.7%;
- the projected increase in population is primarily due to natural growth. In total between 2010 and 2015 it is projected that there will be 56,000 more births than deaths, accounting for 93% of population growth in that period; and
- projections indicate a marked increase in the size of the population at older ages. The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by around 13% in the next five years (2010-2015).

The figures show that in the longer-term (fifteen year projection horizon 2010-2025):

- the population is projected to increase to 1.951 million in 2025 from 1.799 million in 2010; and
- longer-term projections show the real impact of the marked increase in the size of the population at older ages. The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by around 42% in the next fifteen years (2010-2025).

This brief statistical report outlines some of the detail behind the 2010 population projections for Northern Ireland.

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Background

This short report details the key findings from the 2010-based national population projections, which replace the 2008-based projections published in October 2009. National population projections by age and sex are produced every two years for the UK and its constituent countries by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The projections are based on the most recently available mid-year population estimates (currently 2010) and a set of underlying demographic assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and migration. They are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour.

The primary purpose of the national projections is to provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population. Population projections are widely used in policy development, in areas as diverse as pensions, housing, healthcare and education.

Assumptions

Population projections are by definition based on assumptions about future fertility (the number of children each woman will have), mortality (the chance of dying) and migration levels (movement of people into and out of Northern Ireland). In these population projections it is assumed that:

- the hypothetical “average woman” in Northern Ireland will have 1.95 children in her lifetime;
- people will continue to live longer, with death rates continuing to reduce. In the long term rates of improvement in mortality rates are projected to be 1.2% per annum; and
- over the next six years around 4,000 more people will come here to live than leave. Beyond this migration will be in balance with the same number of people coming here to live as leaving each year. These assumptions are based on recent trends in migration and do not attempt to predict the impact of government policies on, for example, migration and student fees.

Age-Distribution

- the number of children¹ in Northern Ireland is projected to increase over the next fifteen years from 382,000 children in 2010 to a projected 396,000 children in 2025 (4% increase);
- the number of people of working age² is also projected to increase marginally from 1,109,000 people in 2010 to a projected 1,124,000 people in 2025 (1.4% increase). In contrast the number of people of pensionable age³ is projected to increase markedly from 308,000 in 2010 to 432,000 in 2025, an increase of 40%;
- Under current legislation, the pension age for females will be increased incrementally from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This means that by mid-2010, 85 per cent of females aged 60 will be of state pensionable age, adding roughly 2,000 females to the working age population. In addition, under current legislation, pension age for both males and females is planned to go up from 65 to 68 between 2024 and 2046 (see notes 6 and 7). Taking this into account, the number of people of working age in Northern Ireland is projected to rise by eight per cent from 1,111,000 in mid-2010 to 1,200,000 in mid-2025; and
- these figures show that the age profile of the population will gradually become older. The average age will rise from 37.9 years in 2010 to 40.8 years by 2025. The number of people aged 65 and over will continue to rise after 2025, and there are projected to be twice as many people aged 65 and over in 2047 than there are today.

¹ Children are those age under 16 years.

² Working age population, as defined in April 2010, consists of the male population aged 16-64 and the female population aged 16-59.

³ Pensioners as defined in April 2010 (males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over).

The tables and figures below summarise information regarding the population projections. The graphs are taken forward until 2035 to give a longer term indication of the projection beyond the next fifteen years.

The following tables and figures are attached:

Table 1: Projected components of population change, 2010-2035

Table 2: Projected age distribution of population, 2010-2035

Figure 1: Population of Northern Ireland, actual and projected, 1971-2035

Figure 2: Children aged under 16 and adults aged 65 and over, actual and projected, 1971-2035

Figure 3: Population aged 16 to 64, actual and projected, 1971-2035

Figure 4: Births and deaths, actual and projected, 1971-2035

Figure 5: Net migration, actual and projected, 1971-2035

Table 3: Projected population by age group, 2010-2035 (thousands)

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Table 1: Projected components of population change, 2010-2035 (annual averages)
(Thousands)

	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035
Population at start	1,799.4	1,859.2	1,910.5	1,951.3	1,982.1
Births (average)	25.5	24.8	23.4	22.4	22.0
Deaths (average)	14.4	14.6	15.3	16.3	17.5
Natural change	11.2	10.2	8.2	6.2	4.5
Net migration (average)	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Population at end	1,859.2	1,910.5	1,951.3	1,982.1	2,004.8

Table 2: Projected age distribution of population, 2010-2035 (percentages)

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Children (Under 16)	21	21	21	20	19	18
Adult Population (16-64)	64	63	62	61	60	59
Older population (65+)	14	16	17	19	21	23
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 1: Population of Northern Ireland, actual and projected, 1971-2035
(non-zero y-axis)

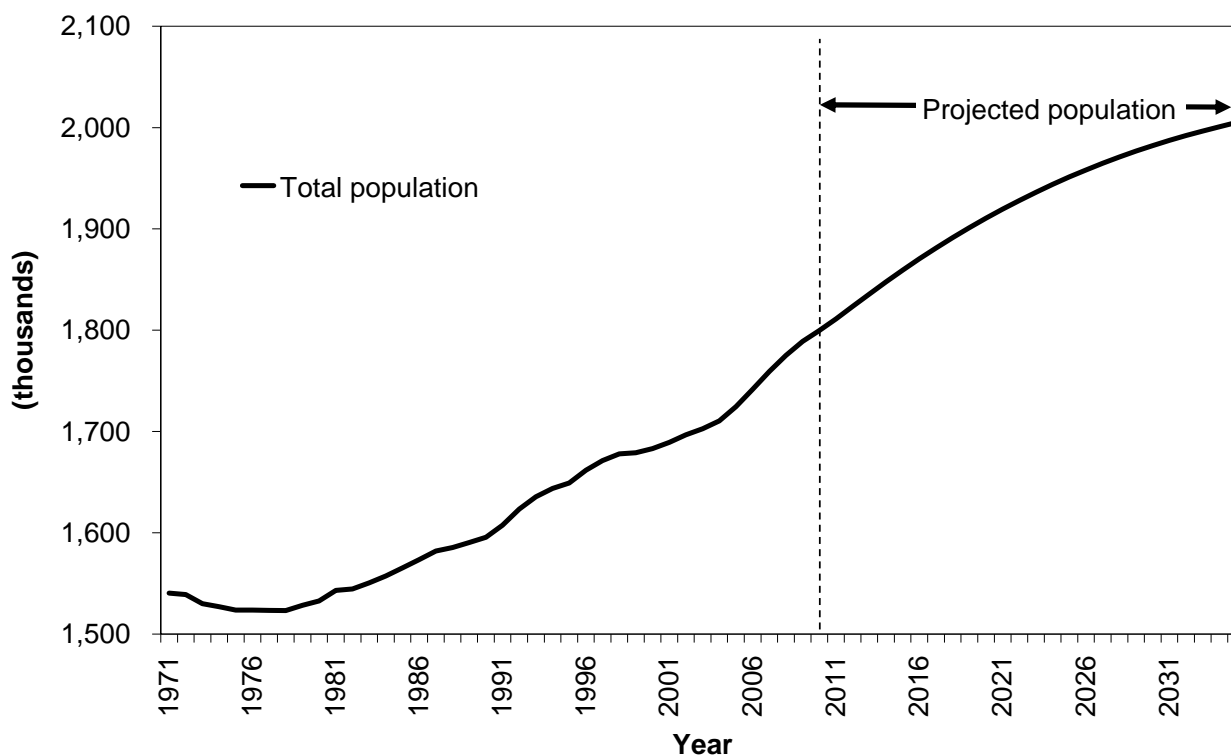


Figure 2: Children aged under 16 and adults aged 65 and over, actual and projected, 1971-2035 (non-zero y-axis)

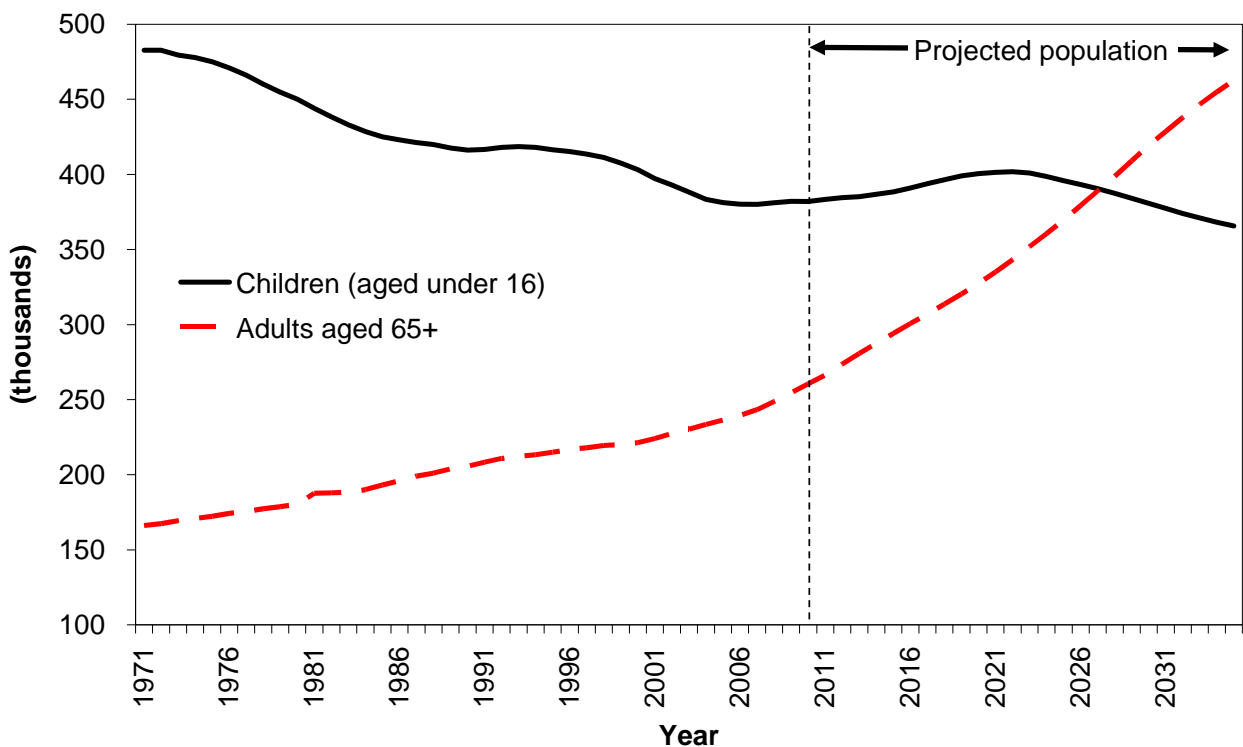


Figure 3: Population aged 16 to 64, actual and projected, 1971-2035 (non-zero y-axis)

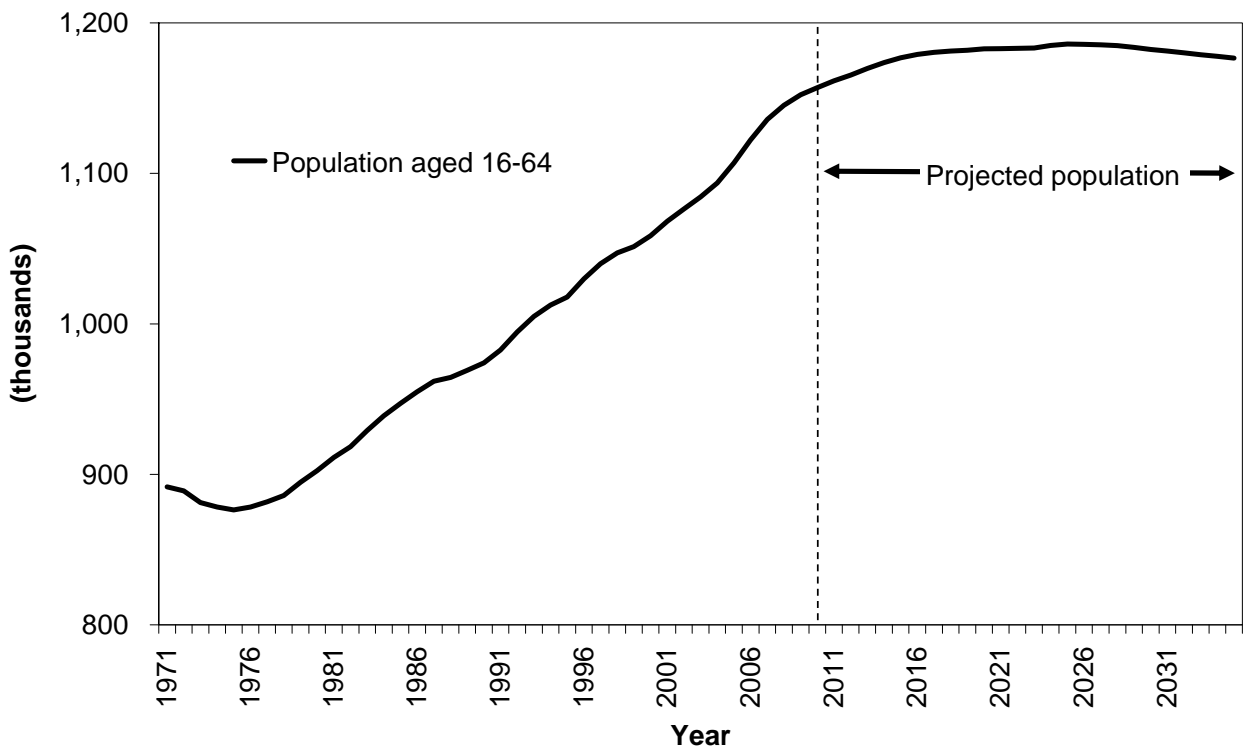


Figure 4: Births and deaths, actual and projected, 1971-2035

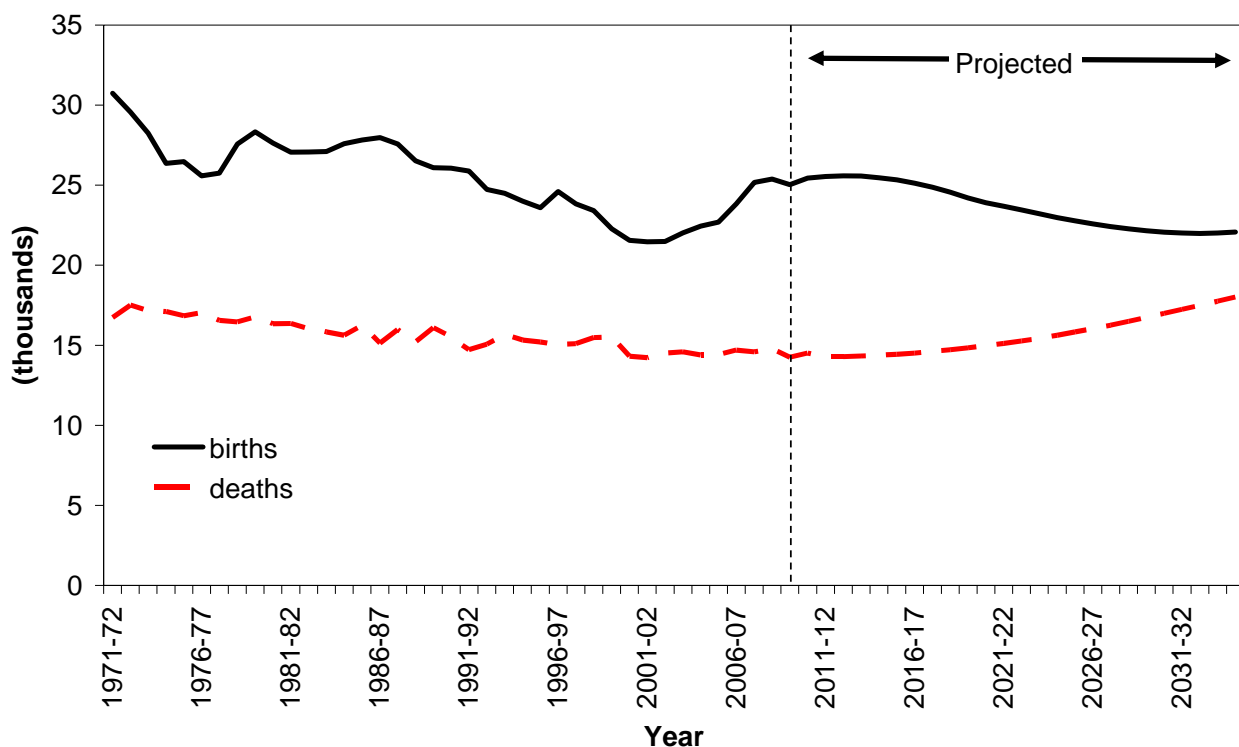


Figure 5: Net Migration, actual and projected, 1971-2035

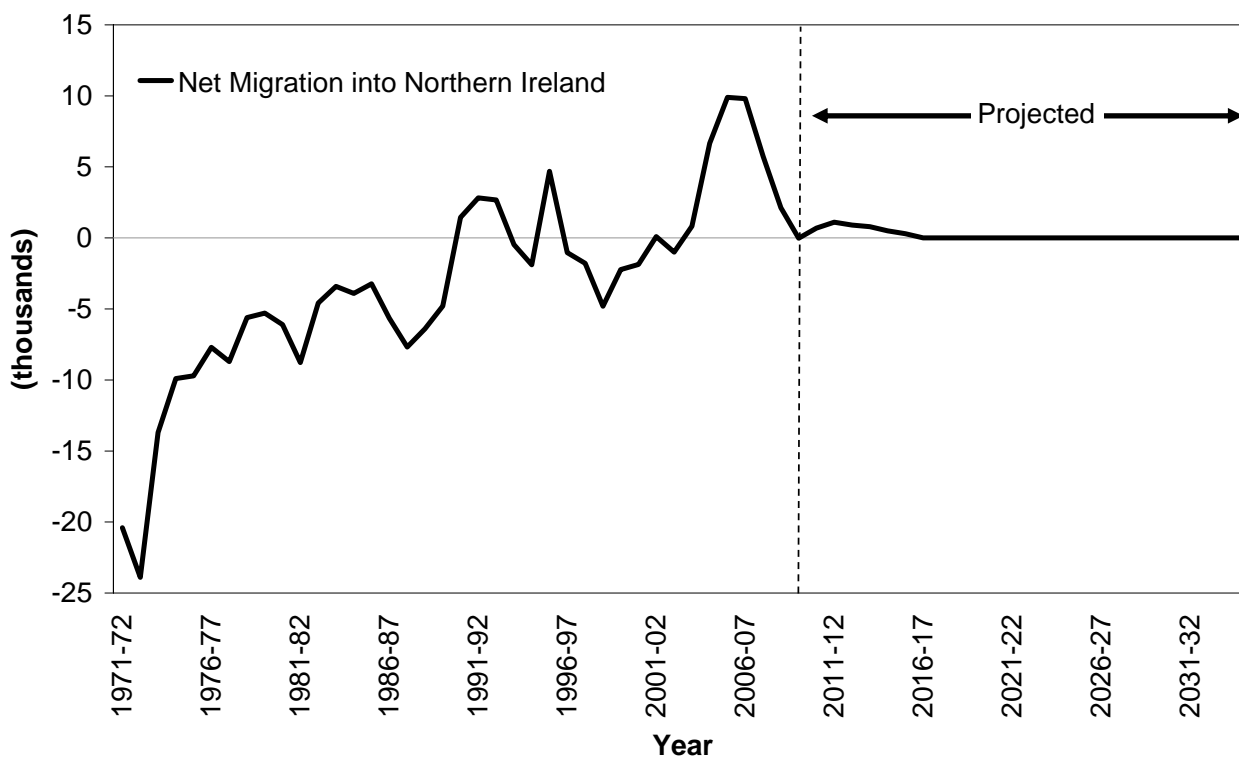


Table 3: Projected population by age group, 2010-2035 (thousands)

Year	Children (Aged under 16)	Adult Population (Aged 16-64)	Older population (Aged 65 and over)	Total
2010	382	1,157	260	1,799
2011	383	1,161	266	1,811
2012	384	1,165	274	1,823
2013	385	1,170	281	1,836
2014	387	1,174	287	1,848
2015	388	1,177	294	1,859
2016	391	1,179	301	1,870
2017	394	1,180	307	1,881
2018	397	1,181	314	1,891
2019	399	1,182	320	1,901
2020	400	1,183	327	1,910
2021	401	1,183	335	1,919
2022	402	1,183	343	1,928
2023	401	1,183	352	1,936
2024	399	1,185	360	1,944
2025	396	1,186	370	1,951
2026	393	1,186	379	1,958
2027	390	1,185	389	1,965
2028	387	1,185	399	1,971
2029	384	1,184	409	1,977
2030	381	1,182	419	1,982
2031	377	1,181	429	1,987
2032	374	1,180	438	1,992
2033	371	1,179	447	1,997
2034	368	1,178	455	2,001
2035	366	1,177	463	2,005

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces national population projections for the United Kingdom and constituent countries at the request of the Registrars General for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Projections are made every second year, based on a review of the trends affecting fertility, mortality and migration.
2. The primary purpose of the national projections is to provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of the UK (and of its constituent countries) which is used as a common framework for national planning in a number of different fields. These official sets of projections ensure that the many users of population projections can work on consistent assumptions.
3. Full results of the 2010-based national population projections for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries are available at the ONS website:
www.ons.gov.uk/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/stb-2010-based-npp-principal-and-key-variants.html
4. The Northern Ireland projections are also available on the NISRA website at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp20.htm>. There will be no population projections for administrative areas within Northern Ireland before the results of the 2011 Census are published.
5. Projections are the result of applying long-term assumptions described in the report. These assumptions are based on recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration, and do not take account of future policies, for example, on student fees. If different assumptions are used different results would result – a series of alternative population projections (variants) are also produced and these are available on the ONS website.
6. Under the provisions of the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2007, state pension age will (i) change from 65 years for men and 60 years for women to 65 years for both sexes by 2020 and then (ii) increase in three stages to 68 years for both sexes between 2024 and 2046. Further details are available at: www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-basedprojections/rep-2010-based-npp.html

7. The data presented in this bulletin does not reflect proposed further changes to the state pension age published by the government. They propose increasing the State Pension age to 66 - women's State Pension age will increase more quickly to 65 between April 2016 and November 2018; and from December 2018 the State Pension age for both men and women will start to increase to reach 66 from October 2020. These proposed changes are not yet law and still require the approval of Parliament. Further information relating to these proposals can be found at:
www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/StatePension/DG_4017919

8. All media inquiries should directed to DFP Press Office

Telephone: 028 9052 7374

Fax: 028 9052 7149

9. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

E-mail: census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk

Responsible Statistician: Dr David Marshall