

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE:

BIRTHS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (2009)



Almost 25,000 births registered in 2009

9:30am – Thursday, 18 March 2010

In total 24,900 live births were registered in Northern Ireland in 2009, marginally less (3%) than the number of births registered in 2008. This fall in birth registrations halts a six-year (2002-2008) consecutive increase.

These findings are contained in provisional 2009 birth statistics released today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

The recent fall in registered births should be set against the increase in numbers from 2002 to 2008. The number of births registered in 2009 remains well above the record low in 2002, when 21,400 births were registered. It is too early to be definitive about whether the decrease in 2009 indicates a new trend (see editor's note 3).

Whilst last year the overall number of births registered fell marginally, the number of births to mothers born in the eight Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 remained at 1,100 births. This compares with 10 such births in 2001.

A NISRA spokesperson said:

“Whilst the annual number of births registered fell marginally between 2008 and 2009, there were still almost 25,000 births registered in 2009. This is a marked increase from the 21,400 births registered in 2002. In 2009 there were 1,100 births to mothers from Eastern Europe, a similar number to that in 2008.”

Summary

- In 2009, there were 24,910 births registered to mothers resident in Northern Ireland. This is a 3% decrease on the 2008 figure of 25,631 births. However the number of births registered in 2009 remains well above the record low in 2002 when only 21,385 births were registered;
- births of 12,799 baby boys and 12,111 baby girls were registered in 2009;
- a total of 10,733 births (43%) were to first time mothers in 2009, while second time mothers had 8,177 babies (33%) and third time mothers had 3,888 babies (16%). Only eight per cent became mothers for at least the fourth time;
- on Friday 10 April, Thursday 30 April and Friday 3 July 2009, 95 babies were born, the largest number of births on any single day in 2009. The most common day of the week to have a baby was Friday, accounting for 16% of all births. Markedly fewer babies were born on Saturdays (12% of all births) and Sundays in 2009 (10% of all births); and
- around 100 babies were born in places other than a hospital in 2009, a similar figure to 2008.

Mother's Age

- Almost half (49%) of all births registered in 2009 were to mothers aged 30 or over. This is a significant increase from thirty years ago when 32% of births were to older mothers. This indicates that women are delaying child-bearing to later in life – a trend seen across the developed world;
- looking at first births this trend is even more pronounced. In 1979, only around 12% of married mothers aged 30 and over were first-time mothers, while in 2009, 28% of married mothers aged 30 and over were first-time mothers;
- in 2009 the average age of mothers was 29.8 years, compared with 29.0 years in 1999, 27.8 years in 1989, and 27.5 years in 1979. The average age of first time mothers was 27.4 years last year compared with 24.4 years in 1979;
- the trend to later childbearing is most apparent in the decline in fertility among 20-24 year old females. Over the past three decades fertility for this age group has more than

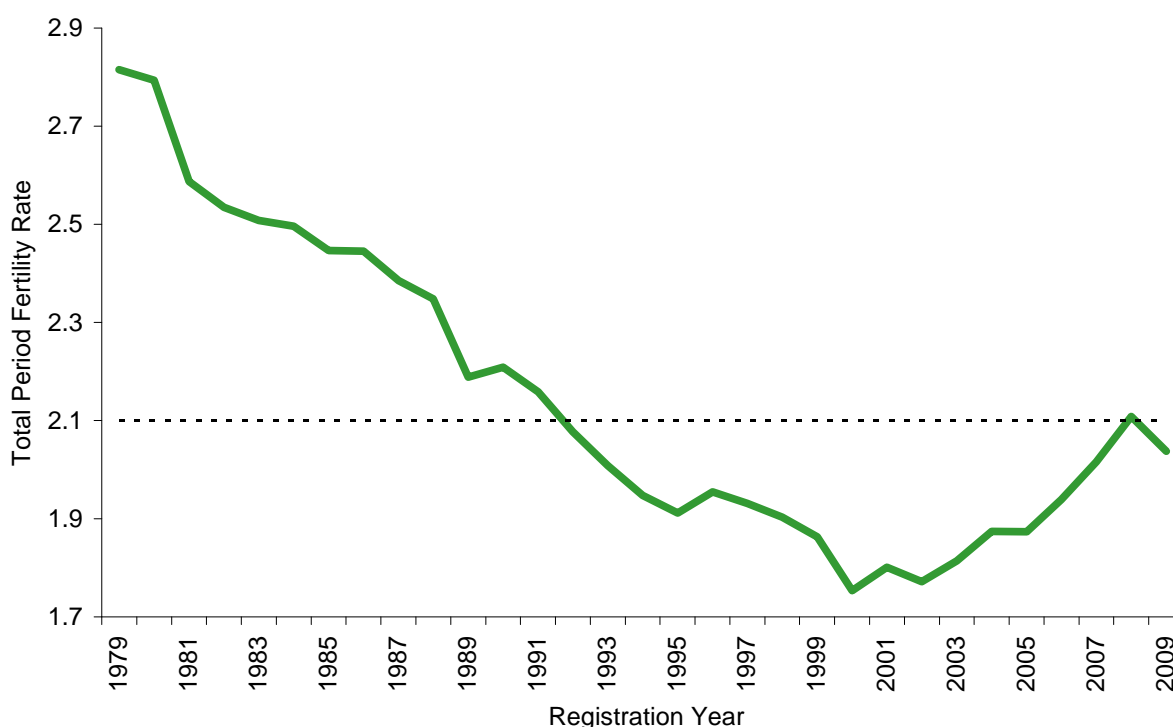
halved, from 145 births per 1,000 women aged 20-24 in 1979 to 63 births per 1,000 women aged 20-24 in 2009; and

- the number of births to teenage mothers has fallen in recent years. In 2009 there were 1,334 births to teenage mothers, a 6% decrease on the 1,426 births in 2008, and a decrease of more than 25% from the recent high of 1,791 such births in 1999.

Fertility Trend

- It is estimated that with the current age pattern of fertility¹ the hypothetical “average woman” will have 2.04 children in her lifetime;
- in 2008 fertility reached replacement level (2.10 children per “average woman”) for the first time since 1991. In 2009 fertility levels fell slightly below replacement level (2.04); however this is a 17% recovery from the record low of 1.75 in 2000, but below the recent highest level of 2.82 children in 1979. The total period fertility rate for Northern Ireland since 1979 is shown in Chart 1 below; and
- in 2008 Northern Ireland’s total period fertility rate was 2.11, higher than those in England (1.97), Scotland (1.80), Wales (1.96) and similar to the rate in Republic of Ireland (2.10). Comparable statistics for 2009 are not yet available for all countries.

Chart 1. Total Period Fertility Rate (1979 to 2009)



¹ The 2009 total period fertility rate has been calculated using 2009 population projections

Country of Birth of Mother

- There were just under 4,400 births registered in Northern Ireland during 2009 where the mother was not born in Northern Ireland (18% of all births). Just under half (47%) of mothers who were not born in Northern Ireland were born either elsewhere in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland (2,053 births);
- births to mothers who were born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland have risen markedly in recent years, from 616 births in 1999 to 2,318 births last year. Within these figures there has been a large increase in births to mothers born in the eight countries that joined the European Union in 2004 – the A8 countries. Around 10 babies were born to A8 mothers in 2001 compared to over 1,100 such births in 2009;

Table 1. Births registered in Northern Ireland by mother's country of birth, 1999-2009^P

Year	All countries	Country of Birth of Mother									
		Northern Ireland		Rest of UK		Republic of Ireland		A8 Countries ¹		All Other Countries ²	
		Number	% ³	Number	% ³	Number	% ³	Number	% ³	Number	% ³
1999	22,957	20,021	87.2	1,654	7.2	666	2.9	6	0.0	610	2.7
2001	21,962	18,993	86.5	1,557	7.1	722	3.3	12	0.1	678	3.1
2002	21,385	18,507	86.5	1,480	6.9	653	3.1	16	0.1	729	3.4
2003	21,648	18,610	86.0	1,459	6.7	654	3.0	21	0.1	904	4.2
2004	22,318	19,056	85.4	1,408	6.3	689	3.1	34	0.2	1,131	5.1
2005	22,328	19,040	85.3	1,463	6.6	705	3.2	118	0.5	1,002	4.5
2006	23,272	19,611	84.3	1,477	6.3	736	3.2	390	1.7	1,058	4.5
2007	24,451	20,325	83.1	1,456	6.0	723	3.0	775	3.2	1,172	4.8
2008	25,631	21,095	82.3	1,410	5.5	779	3.0	1,080	4.2	1,267	4.9
2009 ^P	24,910	20,539	82.5	1,364	5.5	689	2.8	1,113	4.5	1,205	4.8

^P Provisional

¹ The A8 countries include Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

² Includes not stated

³ Percentage of all live births

- generally mothers born in the A8 countries are younger than their Northern Ireland born counterparts. Last year, 73% of A8 born mothers were aged in their twenties compared to 45% of mothers born in Northern Ireland. This is likely to be the result of the age profile of A8 born women living in Northern Ireland;
- the percentage of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland ranged from 20% (1 birth in every 5) in Dungannon Local Government District (180 births) to 3% in Larne Local Government District. Armagh, Belfast, Coleraine and Craigavon Local

Government Districts also had relatively high percentages of births (over 10%) to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland; and

- of Armagh, Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon and Dungannon Local Government Districts (the highest areas noted above), Belfast was the only area where the number of births to mothers born in “All Other Countries” (i.e. outside UK, Ireland and the A8 countries) was higher than the number of births to A8 born mothers.

Births Outside Marriage

- Last year, 40% of all registered births occurred outside marriage – an increase on the 2008 figure (39%) and the highest proportion on record. This compares with one in seventeen births (6%) occurring outside marriage in 1979;
- last year just over 9,900 babies were born outside marriage compared with 1,700 babies born outside marriage in 1979;
- in 2009, of the births outside marriage, over four-fifths (81%) were jointly registered by both parents. The remaining 19% were registered by the mother only. In comparison in 1989 half of births outside marriage were jointly registered by both parents; and
- the percentage of births outside marriage differs across Northern Ireland. Last year over half of all births in Belfast (58%) and Derry Local Government Districts (52%) occurred outside marriage. In contrast under one quarter of births in Magherafelt Local Government District (23%) occurred outside marriage.

Births by Area

- At Health and Social Care Trust level, birth rates ranged from 13.1 births per 1,000 population in the Northern Trust area to 15.9 births per 1,000 population in the Southern Trust area. The birth rate in the Belfast, South Eastern and Western Trusts were 14.0, 13.3 and 14.2 births per 1,000 population respectively;
- Dungannon Local Government District had the highest birth rate of all the Local Government Districts in 2009 with 16.4 births per 1,000 population while the lowest birth rate was in Carrickfergus Local Government District at 10.6 births per 1,000 population; and

- the total period fertility rate for the three year period 2007-2009 ranged from 2.27 children in Newry and Mourne Local Government District to 1.79 children in Carrickfergus Local Government District. The Northern Ireland total period fertility rate for this three year period 2007-2009 was 2.05 children.

Births to Non-residents

- Births are assigned to the usual place of residence of the mother and this press release excludes births to non-Northern Ireland residents as these will not be included in the population estimates. In 2009, there were 577 births registered in Northern Ireland where the mother was not resident in Northern Ireland;
- prior to 2008 the number of births to non-Northern Ireland residents had been stable at around 500 births, however the last two years have seen an increase of around 100 additional births to non-Northern Ireland residents; and
- over 97% of births to non-Northern Ireland residents in 2009 were to mothers from the Republic of Ireland.

Births by Place of Birth

- Almost all births take place in a hospital, with 95 babies being born in places other than hospitals in 2009; and
- the number of births in Northern Ireland since 2003 has increased by 15%, and with the exception of maternity unit closures the number of births in each hospital has also increased over this period. In the Craigavon and Ulster Hospitals increases have been greater at over 30%.

Also included are a number of tables – these are listed below:

Table 2a	Registered births, 1979, 1989, 1999 to 2009
Table 2b	Registered multiple births, 1979, 1989, 1999 to 2009
Table 3	Registered births by Area, 2009
Table 4	Registered births by Area, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2003 to 2009
Table 5	Age-Specific Fertility Rates by age-group of mother, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2003 to 2009
Table 6	Registered births by place of birth, 2003 to 2009

Table 2a. Registered births, 1979, 1989, 1999 to 2009^P

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births											
		All Resident Births ¹	Birth Rate ^{2,3}	Total Period Fertility Rate ³	Births Outside Marriage ⁴		Teenage Mothers ⁶			Mothers aged 30 and over			Average age of first time mothers ⁸
					Number	% ⁵	Number	% ⁵	Rate ^{3,7}	Number	% ⁵	Rate ^{3,7}	
1979	1,528,300	28,178	18.4	2.82	1,668	5.9	2,200	7.8	30.9	8,963	31.8	68.3	24
1989	1,590,400	25,831	16.2	2.19	4,394	17.0	1,888	7.3	29.0	8,393	32.5	55.2	..
1999	1,679,000	22,957	13.7	1.86	6,957	30.3	1,791	7.8	28.6	10,426	45.4	56.0	26
2000	1,682,900	21,512	12.8	1.75	6,833	31.8	1,614	7.5	25.6	10,090	46.9	53.4	26
2001	1,689,300	21,962	13.0	1.80	7,144	32.5	1,524	6.9	23.9	10,652	48.5	55.6	27
2002	1,696,600	21,385	12.6	1.77	7,161	33.5	1,502	7.0	23.3	10,485	49.0	54.5	27
2003	1,702,600	21,648	12.7	1.81	7,439	34.4	1,484	6.9	22.9	10,729	49.6	55.7	27
2004	1,710,300	22,318	13.0	1.87	7,703	34.5	1,486	6.7	23.0	11,305	50.7	58.8	27
2005	1,724,400	22,328	12.9	1.87	8,108	36.3	1,395	6.2	21.7	11,259	50.4	58.7	27
2006	1,741,600	23,272	13.4	1.94	8,832	38.0	1,427	6.1	22.5	11,619	49.9	60.8	27
2007	1,759,100	24,451	13.9	2.02	9,261	37.9	1,405	5.7	22.5	12,229	50.0	64.3	27
2008	1,775,000	25,631	14.4	2.11	9,966	38.9	1,426	5.6	23.0	12,606	49.2	67.1	27
2009 ^P	1,788,600	24,910	13.9	2.04	9,902	39.8	1,334	5.4	21.8	12,311	49.4	66.1	27

^P Provisional

¹ All births prior to 1981

² Rate per 1,000 population

³ Rate calculated using mid year estimates for years 1979-2008 and for 2009 using the 2009 projected population

⁴ From 2009 onwards, includes birth registrations outside civil partnership for cases registered under the Human Fertility and Embryology Act

⁵ Percentage of all live births

⁶ All births to mothers aged under 20 years at the time of birth

⁷ Rate for teenage mothers is per 1,000 females aged 15-19 and the rate for mothers aged 30 and over is per 1,000 females aged 30-44

⁸ Prior to 1997 birth order is available for married mothers only. The figure for 1979 is therefore calculated for married mothers only

Table 2b. Registered multiple births, 1979, 1989, 1999 to 2009^P

Year	All Resident Births ¹	Multiple Births		
		Sets of Twins	Sets of Triplets, etc	% of Maternities ²
1979	28,178	276	5	1.0
1989	25,831	281	2	1.1
1999	22,957	334	6	1.5
2000	21,512	314	5	1.5
2001	21,962	330	10	1.6
2002	21,385	313	13	1.5
2003	21,648	304	5	1.4
2004	22,318	330	7	1.5
2005	22,328	294	6	1.4
2006	23,272	315	1	1.4
2007	24,451	357	5	1.5
2008	25,631	356	6	1.4
2009 ^P	24,910	372	5	1.5

^P Provisional

¹ All births prior to 1981

² Maternities refer to the number of pregnancies ending in stillbirths or live births with multiple births counting only once

Table 3. Births by Health and Social Care Trust and Local Government District, 2009^P

Area	All Resident Live Births			Birth Rate ¹	TPFR (2007-2009) ²	Births Outside Marriage	
	Total	Male	Female			Number	% ³
Northern Ireland	24,910	12,799	12,111	14.0	2.05	9,902	39.8
Belfast HSCT	4,696	2,367	2,329	14.0	1.90	2,501	53.3
Belfast	3,866	1,951	1,915	14.4	1.87	2,234	57.8
Castlereagh	830	416	414	12.5	2.02	267	32.2
Northern HSCT	5,946	3,035	2,911	13.1	2.03	2,124	35.7
Antrim	814	411	403	15.3	2.23	294	36.1
Ballymena	805	424	381	12.8	2.05	308	38.3
Ballymoney	410	223	187	13.6	2.01	147	35.9
Carrickfergus	426	190	236	10.6	1.79	164	38.5
Coleraine	620	309	311	10.9	1.90	266	42.9
Cookstown	532	266	266	14.8	2.04	159	29.9
Larne	342	175	167	10.9	1.86	148	43.3
Magherafelt	690	337	353	15.7	2.19	156	22.6
Moyle	202	108	94	12.0	2.03	78	38.6
Newtownabbey	1,105	592	513	13.4	2.09	404	36.6
South Eastern HSCT	4,528	2,380	2,148	13.3	2.07	1,707	37.7
Ards	863	460	403	11.1	1.93	294	34.1
Down	979	512	467	14.0	2.12	385	39.3
Lisburn	1,763	946	817	15.4	2.20	687	39.0
North Down	923	462	461	11.7	1.93	341	36.9
Southern HSCT	5,531	2,836	2,695	15.9	2.24	1,838	33.2
Armagh	892	452	440	15.3	2.24	271	30.4
Banbridge	699	345	354	14.9	2.18	214	30.6
Craigavon	1,456	789	667	16.0	2.26	589	40.5
Dungannon	907	445	462	16.4	2.24	261	28.8
Newry & Mourne	1,577	805	772	16.2	2.27	503	31.9
Western HSCT	4,209	2,181	2,028	14.2	2.01	1,732	41.1
Fermanagh	811	458	353	13.1	2.05	237	29.2
Limavady	427	199	228	12.5	1.88	180	42.2
Derry	1,667	852	815	15.3	2.06	868	52.1
Omagh	722	385	337	13.9	1.89	208	28.8
Strabane	582	287	295	14.7	2.04	239	41.1

^P Provisional

¹ Rate per 1,000 population. Rate for 2009 calculated using 2008 mid year population estimate

² The TPFR is the average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question. Rates are calculated using 3 years births data and the 2007-8 mid year population estimates

³ Percentage of all live births

Table 4. Births by Health and Social Care Trust and Local Government District, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2003 to 2009^P

Area	All Resident Live Births									
	1979 ¹	1989	1999	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^P
Northern Ireland	28,178	25,831	22,957	21,648	22,318	22,328	23,272	24,451	25,631	24,910
Belfast HSCT	5,869	5,386	4,428	4,054	4,136	4,011	4,147	4,467	4,745	4,696
Belfast	5,321	4,631	3,502	3,327	3,423	3,289	3,396	3,664	3,883	3,866
Castlereagh	548	755	926	727	713	722	751	803	862	830
Northern HSCT	6,771	6,181	5,626	5,335	5,697	5,623	5,781	6,021	6,347	5,946
Antrim	986	777	772	708	755	702	728	809	857	814
Ballymena	993	870	753	735	784	794	784	815	852	805
Ballymoney	406	368	344	344	397	376	404	385	412	410
Carrickfergus	455	521	480	456	439	479	471	472	498	426
Coleraine	788	772	698	621	672	589	646	644	725	620
Cookstown	565	528	448	411	502	483	498	540	533	532
Larne	394	402	383	344	316	350	358	364	347	342
Magherafelt	674	639	581	562	589	607	624	652	720	690
Moyle	254	218	211	198	198	193	183	225	203	202
Newtownabbey	1,256	1,086	956	956	1,045	1,050	1,085	1,115	1,200	1,105
South Eastern HSCT	4,569	4,406	4,227	3,957	4,069	3,984	4,240	4,528	4,676	4,528
Ards	1,040	949	918	882	864	890	863	941	971	863
Down	1,015	946	888	851	895	798	950	960	979	979
Lisburn	1,419	1,609	1,568	1,367	1,464	1,473	1,535	1,705	1,751	1,763
North Down	1,095	902	853	857	846	823	892	922	975	923
Southern HSCT	5,568	5,072	4,575	4,469	4,682	4,813	5,038	5,362	5,591	5,531
Armagh	872	874	800	765	728	807	855	862	884	892
Banbridge	407	487	599	643	584	646	644	688	733	699
Craigavon	1,561	1,304	1,121	1,073	1,176	1,193	1,324	1,416	1,470	1,456
Dungannon	951	846	719	652	785	760	802	876	911	907
Newry & Mourne	1,777	1,561	1,336	1,336	1,409	1,407	1,413	1,520	1,593	1,577
Western HSCT	5,401	4,786	4,101	3,833	3,734	3,897	4,066	4,073	4,272	4,209
Fermanagh	1,005	914	722	710	692	732	823	802	876	811
Limavady	517	533	462	468	426	451	483	491	458	427
Derry	2,172	1,899	1,674	1,504	1,485	1,529	1,530	1,583	1,648	1,667
Omagh	1,023	796	677	645	646	682	687	687	719	722
Strabane	684	644	566	506	485	503	543	510	571	582

^P Provisional

¹ Data for 1979 includes births to mothers resident outside Northern Ireland

Table 5. Age-Specific Fertility Rates¹ by age-group of mother, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2003 to 2009^P

Age-Group of Mother	Registration Year									
	1979 ²	1989	1999	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^P
15-19 ³	31	29	29	23	23	22	22	23	23	22
20-24	145	101	71	66	63	63	64	63	66	63
25-29	189	149	112	107	110	109	112	116	120	114
30-34	123	104	106	107	113	115	119	125	131	129
35-39	57	45	46	50	56	55	58	64	67	65
40-44 ³	15	11	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	13
Total Period Fertility Rate⁴	2.82	2.19	1.86	1.81	1.87	1.87	1.94	2.02	2.11	2.04

^P Provisional

¹ Rate per 1,000 population. Rate for 2009 calculated using 2009 projected population

² Data for 1979 includes births to mothers resident outside Northern Ireland

³ Rate for 15-19 includes births at younger ages and rate for 40-44 include births at older ages

⁴ The TPFRR is the average number of children that would be born to a cohort of women who experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the fertility rates of the calendar year in question. Rates are calculated using mid year population estimates and for 2009, population projections

Table 6. Resident births by place of birth, 2003 to 2009^P

Place of Birth ¹	Registration Year						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 ^P
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	2,436	2,398	2,459	2,485	2,528	2,672	2,676
Antrim Area Hospital	2,262	2,394	2,330	2,495	3,064	3,078	2,790
Causeway Hospital	1,102	1,208	1,126	1,239	1,328	1,447	1,373
Craigavon Area Hospital	2,727	2,966	3,123	3,413	3,670	3,805	3,812
Daisy Hill Hospital	1,565	1,694	1,637	1,675	1,797	1,875	1,842
Downpatrick Maternity Hospital	269	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erne Hospital	1,134	1,092	1,154	1,268	1,240	1,331	1,266
Lagan Valley Hospital	1,049	1,224	1,154	1,122	1,190	1,196	1,069
Mater Maternity Hospital	1,029	1,075	1,082	1,084	1,159	1,272	1,119
Mid-Ulster Hospital	636	637	662	570	-	-	-
Royal Group of Hospitals	4,821	5,018	4,998	5,193	5,459	5,437	5,467
Ulster Hospital	2,541	2,523	2,504	2,623	2,908	3,416	3,398
All Other Places ²	77	89	99	105	108	102	98
Total	21,648	22,318	22,328	23,272	24,451	25,631	24,910

^P Provisional

¹ This table includes resident births only. There are around 500 births registered each year to non-residents and most of these births occur in Altnagelvin (160 births in 2009) and Daisy Hill Hospitals (320 births in 2009)

² This includes births at home and births in hospitals where the count was less than 5 births per year

NOTE FOR EDITORS

1. This information can also be accessed on the NISRA website at:
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp23.htm>.
2. Birth figures have been compiled from returns to local registrars. All 2009 statistics are provisional until final figures are published in the Annual Report of the Registrar General.
3. The results are based on analysis of all births registered within the 2009 calendar year. This is not necessarily the year these births will have occurred (e.g. a birth that occurs in December 2008 may not be registered until January 2009). Indeed births can be registered up to 42 days after they occur. The monthly registration statistics show relatively high levels in December 2008 and relatively low levels in January 2009. This suggests that when occurrence data becomes available later in the year the fall in the annual number of births between 2008 and 2009 is likely to be smaller than that shown here.
4. Northern Ireland level rates for 2009 data are calculated on the projected home population as at 30 June 2009. Sub-Northern Ireland level rates are calculated on the mid year population estimate at 30 June 2008 as 2008-based projections for areas within Northern Ireland are not yet available.
5. All media inquiries should be directed to the DFP Press Office
Telephone: 028 9052 7374
Fax: 028 9052 7149
6. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

Telephone: 028 9034 8160
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