

ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION AGED 85 AND OVER, 2018



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

Number of people aged 85 and over continues to increase

9:30am – Wednesday, 25 September 2019

By June 2018 the number of people aged 85 and over living in Northern Ireland had risen to 37,700 people. This is a 1.5%, or 600 person, increase on the mid-2017 statistic. This is one of the main findings in new statistics published today by the Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

Over the last decade (2008-18) the population aged 85 and over has increased by 30%. This population, referred to as the oldest old, has grown at a rate five times higher than the population of Northern Ireland as a whole.

Women account for two thirds (66%) of the oldest old. The new statistics also point to an estimated 300 centenarians (i.e. those aged 100 years or more) living in Northern Ireland. This is equivalent to 1 centenarian for every 10,000 people living in Northern Ireland.

The oldest old make up 2% of the population – this is lower than the other United Kingdom countries. However, the growth rate in Northern Ireland (30%) over the last decade is higher than the rest of the UK (23%).

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the population aged 85 and over for Northern Ireland are available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/estimates-population-aged-85-and-over-northern-ireland-2018-and-2001-2017-revised>.
2. An infographic highlighting trends in the data is available at <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/interactiveMaps/DataVis/85andover%20Population%202018.pdf>
3. Mid-year population estimates are produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The estimates refer to the size of the usually resident population at 30 June and are therefore often referred to as the mid-year estimates. The most recent estimates, published in June 2019, relate to the population at mid-2018 (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland>)
4. The method used to estimate the age distribution of the population aged 90 and over is an internationally recognised standard approach known as the Kannisto-Thatcher Survivor Ratio Method. This method requires previous years' estimates to be revised when new death registration data becomes available. Estimates of the population aged 90 and over, by single year of age and sex, are constrained to mid-year population estimates for the entire 90 and over age group.
5. Whilst this report concentrates on the significant increase in the population aged 85 and over, it is still important to recognise that the number of people aged 85 and over represents a small proportion of the total Northern Ireland population (i.e. 2% in mid-2018).
6. Statistics for the population aged 85 and over for Northern Ireland contribute to the production of population projections and life expectancy statistics for Northern Ireland, all of which are of policy interest because of the implications for pensions and the delivery of front line services for the older population such as housing, transport and health care.
7. Equivalent and comparable estimates of the population aged 90 and over for England and Wales (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/mortality-ageing/estimates-of-the-very-old--including-centenarians-/index.html>) by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and for Scotland (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/centenarians-population-estimates/population-estimates-for-scottish-centenarians>) by National Records Scotland (NRS) have also been released on 25 September 2019. A UK comparison paper analysing the comparability of these estimates between the four UK countries is available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/ageing/methodologies/comparisonpaper90andoversingleyearofageandsexpopulationestimatesproducedbyonsnrsandnisra>
8. Estimates of the population aged 85 and over for mid-2019, as well as a revised series for mid-2001 to mid-2018, are expected to be published in September 2020.

9. We welcome feedback on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to census@nisra.gov.uk.
10. Follow NISRA on <https://twitter.com/NISRA> and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-United-Kingdom/Northern-Ireland-Statistics-Research-Agency/131044496943228?v=wall>.
11. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/populationstatisticsrevisionspolicy2014.pdf>.
12. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Press Office:
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