

ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION AGED 85 AND OVER, NORTHERN IRELAND, 2016 (AND REVISED 2001-15)



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

Population aged 85 and over growing by 900 every year

9:30am – Wednesday, 27 September 2017

The number of people aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland has grown by around 900 people per annum throughout the decade ending mid-2016.

This is one of the findings of the statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Over the course of the decade in question the population aged 85 and over has reached 36,500, representing 2.0 per cent of the population. The rate of growth among this age group is almost six times that of those under 85 years of age (34.8 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively). While women account for two thirds (66.8 per cent) of those aged 85 and over, the population increase among males over the decade has been noticeably higher than that among females (52.0 per cent and 27.7 per cent respectively).

The estimates also suggest that there were 278 centenarians (i.e. those aged 100 and over) in mid-2016, the vast majority of whom (86.7 per cent) were female.

At Local Government District level, the proportion of people aged 85 and over in mid-2016 ranged from 1.4 per cent (2,100 people) in Derry & Strabane to 2.4 per cent (3,900 people) in Ards & North Down.

At a UK level Northern Ireland continues to have the lowest proportion of people aged 85 and over (2.0 per cent). However, over the decade ending mid-2016 the percentage growth here among this age group (34.8 per cent) was noticeably higher than in each of England (27.7 per cent), Scotland (26.8 per cent) and Wales (22.4 per cent).

Growth in the population aged 85 and over is the result of more people 'ageing into' the 85 and over age group than are leaving it each year as a result of dying. At these ages, the impact of migration is negligible.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the population aged 85 and over for Northern Ireland were released on 27 September 2017 and are available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/estimates-population-aged-85-and-over-northern-ireland-2016-and-2001-2015-revised>. An infographic highlighting the important figures and trends in the data is available at <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/interactiveMaps/DataVis/85andover%20Population%202016.pdf>
2. 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; the statistics are therefore often referred to as the mid-year estimates. The most recent estimates, published in June 2017, relate to the population at mid-2016 (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland>).
3. 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.
4. 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 population (i.e. 2.0 per cent in mid-2016).
5. 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 (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/estimates-of-special-populations/population-estimates-for-scottish-centenarians>) by National Records Scotland (NRS) have also been released on 27 September 2017. 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>
6. Estimates of the population aged 85 and over for mid-2017, as well as a revised series for mid-2001 to mid-2016, are expected to be published in September 2018.
7. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/populationstatisticsrevisionspolicy2014.pdf>.
8. We welcome feedback on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to census@nisra.gov.uk.

9. Follow NISRA on Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/NISRANINIS>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-United-Kingdom/Northern-Ireland-Statistics%20-Research-Agency/131044496943228?v=wall>).

10. All media inquiries should be directed to the DOF Communications Office:

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

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