

2017 MID YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency

Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

Population topped 1.871 million in 2017

9:30am – Thursday, 28 June 2018

The Northern Ireland population at 30 June 2017 was estimated to be 1.871 million, an increase of 8,700 people (0.5 per cent) since mid-2016. This is one of the findings of the statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

The increase can mainly be attributed to natural growth of 7,700 people (i.e. 23,600 births minus 15,900 deaths) and net inward migration of 1,200 people (i.e. 22,100 people moving here to live and 20,900 people leaving to live elsewhere). The level of emigration (i.e. people leaving NI to live elsewhere) and immigration (i.e. people coming here to live) both decreased in the year ending mid-2017, by 6.5 per cent and 7.3 per cent respectively.

The statistics also point to the continuing ageing of the population with the number of those aged 65 and over increasing by 1.8 per cent in the year ending mid-2017 to reach 303,000 people (16.2 per cent of the population). Within this group, the population aged 85 and over increased by 1.9 per cent to reach 37,200 people (2.0 per cent of the population). By way of contrast, the number of children aged 0 to 15 years increased by just 0.7 per cent to reach 390,700 children (20.9 per cent of the population).

The population in all 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) increased over the year ending mid-2017, ranging from 0.19 per cent in Belfast LGD to 1.03 per cent in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD.

Over the same period, all eighteen Parliamentary Constituencies experienced population growth, ranging from 0.2 per cent in each of Belfast West and East Antrim to 1.1 per cent in Lagan Valley.

Population growth in Northern Ireland in the year ending mid-2017 was lower than the level of growth in the rest of the UK (0.5 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively).

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the 2017 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland were released on 28 June 2018 and are available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/mid-year-population-estimates>.
2. Infographics, population pyramids and interactive maps are available on the NINIS website: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/DataVis/NI%20Population%202017.pdf>
http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population%20Pyramid/2007_2017MYE/NINIS_Pyramid_2017.html and
<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population/Population%20Change/Population%20Estimates%20Broad%20Age%20Bands/atlas.html>
3. The Northern Ireland statistics contribute to a concurrent release of 2017 Mid-year Population Estimates for the UK by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>). Population estimates (2017) for Scotland were published by National Records Scotland (NRS) on 19 April 2018 (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2017>). A paper comparing the methodological approaches adopted by producers of population statistics across the UK is available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/consistencyofmethodsusedforpopulationstatisticsacrossukcountries>.
4. Population estimates (2017) for the Republic of Ireland were released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 28 September 2017 (<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/pme/populationandmigrationestimatesapril2017/>), however these use a reference point of mid-April, rather than 30 June, as is used throughout the UK.
5. Northern Ireland level population and migration estimates are produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on an annual basis. They detail the number of people resident at 30 June each year and are therefore often referred to as the mid-year estimates. They are disaggregated by age and sex, and contain data on components of population change (i.e. births, deaths and migration).
6. Sub-national population statistics published as part of this release include the 11 Local Government Districts as well as estimates for Parliamentary Constituencies, Health & Social Care Trusts and Super Output Areas. In addition, statistics are available for some former geographic areas in Northern Ireland, namely: the former 26 Local Government Districts; former Education & Library Boards; former Health & Social Services Boards; former NUTS-III areas¹; and the former 582 Electoral Wards. Detailed statistics on the population estimates can be

¹ NUTS Level III areas were changed to be equivalent to the current 11 Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland in January 2018.

obtained from the NISRA website at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/mid-year-population-estimates>.

7. Follow NISRA on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/NISRA>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-United-Kingdom/Northern-Ireland-Statistics%20-Research-Agency/131044496943228?v=wall>).
8. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/populationstatisticsrevisionspolicy2014.pdf>.
9. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Press Office:
Telephone: 028 9081 6724
Email: dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk
10. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:
Telephone: 028 9025 5156
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