

LONG-TERM INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ESTIMATES FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (August 2013)



9.30am – Thursday 29th August 2013

Summary

NISRA estimate that 12,900 people came to live in Northern Ireland from outside the United Kingdom, while 12,500 people left Northern Ireland to live outside the United Kingdom between mid-2011 and mid-2012. This equates to a net gain of 400 persons through international migration.

In the same time period, 10,300 people came to live in Northern Ireland from Great Britain, whilst 12,100 people left Northern Ireland to live in Great Britain, thus resulting in a net loss of 1,800 persons due to migration within the UK.

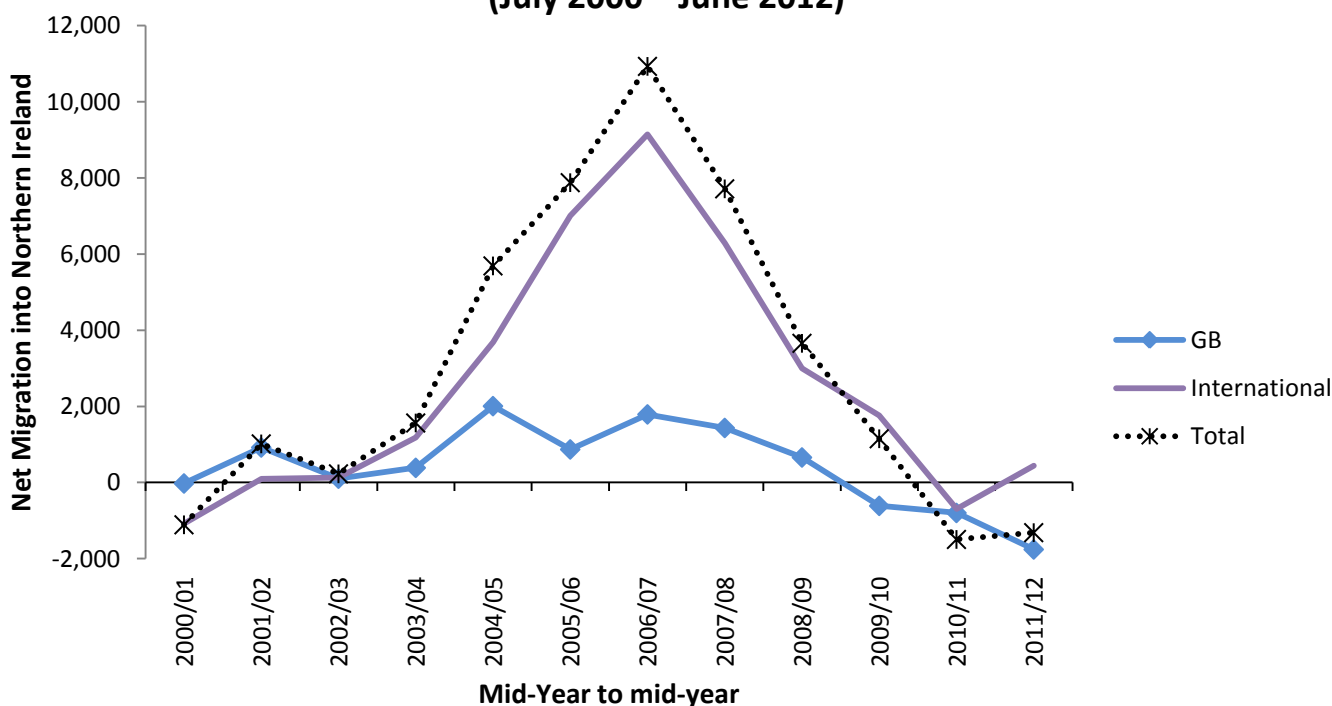
The net effect of all migration is a population reduction of 1,300 persons between mid-2011 and mid-2012. However, taken with an excess of births over deaths, the Northern Ireland population increased from 1.814 million people in mid-2011 to 1.824 million people in mid-2012.

Measuring migration is challenging. The [United Nations definition](#) of a long-term migrant based on a 12 month residency rule is used in Northern Ireland. This report sets out the sources available to estimate the number of persons coming to or leaving Northern Ireland. The report notes that these sources use different definitions for recording migration.

Between 2001 and 2004 the population of Northern Ireland grew on average by 8,400 people or 0.4% each year. This increase was due to natural change (more births than deaths) with little change in the size of the population due to migration. The European Union expansion in 2004 resulted in increased migration to Northern Ireland, reaching a peak in 2007 with a net migration of 10,900 into Northern Ireland. Since 2007, net migration has been decreasing, dropping to 1,200 into Northern Ireland by 2010. From 2010 migration has shown a net outflow, with on average 1,400 people (net) leaving Northern Ireland in 2011 and 2012.

While there was a net migration of people leaving Northern Ireland in 2012, the loss was marginally smaller in 2012 compared to 2011. This was mainly related to changes in out-migration rather than changes in in-migration. Regarding out-migration, there was an increase in the number of people leaving Northern Ireland for Great Britain, while concurrently there was a decrease in the amount of people leaving Northern Ireland for International destinations (see Table 1 in Annex). Overall, this has led to more persons coming into Northern Ireland from international destinations than leaving for international destinations, while the number of persons leaving Northern Ireland to Great Britain was more than those entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Estimated Net GB and International Migration (July 2000 – June 2012)



[Download Chart](#) (XLS format – 60.5KB)

The latest Census took place on 27 March 2011 and included several questions relating to migration, language and national identity. Table 2 (see annex) compares the country of birth of usual residents in Northern Ireland at the time of the 2001 Census with the 2011 Census. The number of persons born outside the UK and Ireland rose from 27,200 (1.6%) in 2001 to 81,500¹ (4.5%) in 2011. A large proportion of this rise can be attributable to the accession of 12 countries to the EU since 2004².

As a Census takes place only every ten years, migration estimates are created annually to feed into the population estimates. Administrative data sources have been used to create and validate migration estimates, but can also provide further detail on the reasons, origin and destination of migrants to aid the provision of services. This short report provides detailed statistics from these sources.

Administrative Data Sources

Recent data from all administrative and statistical sources show decreased in-migration since the peak in 2007 yet still at levels in excess of those seen prior to 2004. Some key findings outlined in this report are:

- health card registration data, which is the most comprehensive in-migration data source, show 10,600 new international health registrations into Northern Ireland in 2012. This is in contrast to 10,900 such registrations in 2011;
- birth registration data show that the proportion of children born in Northern Ireland whose mother was born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland has risen more than three fold over the last ten years. In 2001, 3% of babies had foreign-born mothers (700 babies out of 22,000) while this has risen to 10% since 2010 (2,500 babies out of 25,300 in 2012). This is in part due to the accession of countries into the EU since 2004; and
- the school census shows an increase of 800 for the number of primary school children with English as an additional language between 2011 and 2012, an increase of 16%. Polish and Lithuanian make up half of all primary school children with English as an additional language.

¹ This total does not equal the summation of the relevant data in Table 2 (see annex) as data is rounded to the nearest 100.

² The post-2001 accession countries are those involved in the expansion of the European Union, with the addition of ten countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) in 2004 and a further two (Bulgaria and Romania) in 2007.

Taking these and other sources together, NISRA estimate that 12,900 people came to live in Northern Ireland from outside the United Kingdom between mid-2011 and mid-2012. In addition, NISRA estimate a further 10,300 people came to live in Northern Ireland from Great Britain over this time period.

The number of people leaving Northern Ireland is harder to estimate as there are limited data sources. NISRA have assessed information on school population loss, health card de-registrations and household surveys of people emigrating from Northern Ireland. Based on these sources, it is estimated that 12,500 people left Northern Ireland to live outside the United Kingdom between mid-2011 and mid-2012. In addition, NISRA estimate that over this time period a further 12,100 people left Northern Ireland to live in Great Britain.

The overall net effect between mid-2011 and mid-2012 of migration is of a population reduction of 1,315 people. However, taken with an excess of births over deaths, overall the Northern Ireland population increased from 1.814 million people in 2011 to 1.824 million people in 2012.

The very latest 2013 statistics are pointing towards a further but modest decrease in international in-migration: both National Insurance number registrations and health cards are showing a fall in registrations. At the same time, indicators of out-migration are still slightly rising. However, that said, the latest data from the School Census, higher education enrolments and birth registration all remain strong. Where appropriate NISRA will disseminate the findings from these and other sources throughout the year.

NOTES

1. The Northern Ireland International guidelines migration statistics relate only to long-term migrants (i.e. someone who changes their place of residence for a year or more (Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998)).
2. Migration estimates for mid-2011 to mid-2012 were produced and released alongside the mid-year population estimates on 26 June 2013. Detailed tables and additional reports can be accessed on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's website at:
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>
3. The Northern Ireland mid-year population estimate relates to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland including Her Majesty's Forces stationed here. Births and deaths are reported on an occurrence basis, as registered by the General Register Office up to December 2012.
4. Population and migration estimates for the period mid-2000 to mid-2011 were revised in light of the 2011 Census results. Further detail on the revision of the methodology of the population estimates are available at:
http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/Methodology_Population_Estimates_April_2013.pdf
5. An interactive map of National Insurance Number allocations to non-UK residents is available at the NINIS website:
<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population/Migration/NINO%20Allocations%20to%20Non-UK%20Residents/atlas.html>
6. An interactive map of population estimates, as well as a population pyramid are available at the NINIS website:
<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/InteractiveMapTheme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population>
7. This report coincides with the release of a UK migration indicator suite by the Office for National Statistics:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-indicators-suite/august-2013/index.html>
8. Latest migration figures for England & Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland are available at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/	England and Wales
http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/	Scotland
http://www.cso.ie/	Republic of Ireland

9. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please send feedback to census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk.
10. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
11. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance review to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
12. United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

13. All media inquiries should be directed to the DFP Communications Office:

Telephone: 028 9016 3389

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

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

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

Responsible Statistician: Dr David Marshall

Annex – Summary Tables

The following tables are attached:

Table 1: Estimated GB and International Migration (July 2000 – June 2012)

Table 2: Country of Birth of Persons in Northern Ireland (2001 and 2011 Census)

Table 1: Estimated GB and International Migration¹ (July 2000 – June 2012)

Estimated Migration	Year ending											
	Mid-2001	Mid-2002	Mid-2003	Mid-2004	Mid-2005	Mid-2006	Mid-2007	Mid-2008	Mid-2009	Mid-2010	Mid-2011	Mid-2012
GB Inflows	11,600	12,500	11,100	12,200	13,300	12,400	12,900	12,100	10,900	10,700	10,300	10,300
GB Outflows	11,700	11,600	11,000	11,900	11,300	11,500	11,100	10,700	10,200	11,300	11,100	12,100
Net GB Migration	0	900	100	400	2,000	900	1,800	1,400	700	-600	-800	-1,800
International Inflows	6,500	6,500	6,800	8,200	12,500	15,800	19,800	18,300	14,400	13,900	13,400	12,900
International Outflows	7,600	6,400	6,700	7,000	8,900	8,800	10,600	12,000	11,400	12,100	14,100	12,500
Net International Migration	-1,100	100	100	1,200	3,700	7,000	9,100	6,300	3,000	1,800	-700	400
Total Inflows	18,200	19,000	17,900	20,400	25,900	28,200	32,700	30,400	25,300	24,500	23,700	23,300
Total Outflows	19,300	18,000	17,700	18,900	20,200	20,300	21,800	22,700	21,600	23,400	25,200	24,600
Total Migration	-1,100	1,000	200	1,600	5,700	7,900	10,900	7,700	3,700	1,100	-1,500	-1,300

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest 100; some totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 2: Country of Birth of Persons in Northern Ireland
(2001 and 2011 Census¹)**

Country of Birth	2001		2011	
	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population
Northern Ireland	1,534,300	91.0	1,608,900	88.8
Rest of UK	81,500	4.8	82,700	4.6
Republic of Ireland	42,300	2.5	37,800	2.1
Other EU15 Countries ²	6,500	0.4	9,700	0.5
EU12 Countries ³	900	0.1	35,700	2.0
Other Countries	19,800	1.2	36,000	2.0
Total	1,685,300		1,810,900	

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest 100; some totals may not add up due to rounding. Further information on the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census, as well as additional figures are available from the [NINIS](#) and [NISRA](#) websites.

² EU15 Countries relates to the EU members prior to the 2004 expansion.

³ EU12 Countries relates to the Accession countries added from 2004 onwards.