

2018-BASED POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



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

Northern Ireland population in mid-2043 projected to be 1.99 million

9:30am – Monday, 21 October 2019

The Northern Ireland population in mid-2043 is projected to be 1.99 million, an average annual rate of growth of 0.2 per cent over the 25 years from mid-2018. This is one of the findings of the biennial statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Natural change is projected to be the main driver of this population increase of 107,600 people between mid-2018 and mid-2043, with 68,900 more births projected than deaths.

The projections show the continuing ageing of the Northern Ireland population. The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 56.2 per cent between mid-2018 and mid-2043. Likewise, the population aged 85 and over is projected to increase by 106.4 per cent over the same period.

By mid-2028, there is projected to be more people aged 65 and over (385,500 people) than children (aged 0-15) (375,700 people) in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is projected to have the second largest population growth (5.7 per cent) between mid-2018 and mid-2043 across the UK. England is projected to have the largest population growth (10.3 per cent), followed by Wales (3.7 per cent), and Scotland (2.5 per cent).

These latest projections result in population figures that are generally lower than those reported in the 2016-based projections. By mid-2043, it is projected that there will be 20,300 less people in Northern Ireland than previously projected in mid-2016.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the 2018-based Population Projections for Northern Ireland are available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-based-population-projections-northern-ireland>.
2. Northern Ireland population projections provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of Northern Ireland, which is used as a common framework for national planning in a number of different fields.
3. Projections are the result of applying long-term assumptions based on recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration to the base population. These projections use the Northern Ireland 2018 mid-year population estimates as the base population, these are available at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland>
With further information on the methodology used to create the projections available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/methodologies/nationalpopulationprojectionsqmi>
4. **These projections are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour. If different assumptions are used, different statistics would result: a series of alternative population projections (variants) are also available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-based-population-projections-northern-ireland-variant-projections>**
5. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates national population projections for the UK and UK countries at the request of the Registrars General for England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. National population projections are calculated in collaboration and agreement with the statistical organisations for Northern Ireland and Scotland (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency [NISRA], and National Records of Scotland [NRS]). The calculation of population projections for all UK countries at the same time ensures that users of the population projections can work on consistent assumptions.
6. Full results of the 2018-based national population projections for the United Kingdom and all UK countries, including variant projections, are available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections>. Population projections and additional analyses specific to Scotland can be found at: <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/population-projections-scotland>.

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