The population of Northern Ireland is projected to reach 1.99 million

The population of Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 85,800 people in the first 10 years to mid-2028. Over the next 25 years the population is projected to grow by 107,600 people to reach 1.99 million in mid-2043.

Natural change and net migration are projected to remain positive over the next 25 years

Natural change (births minus deaths) will remain the main driver of population growth for most of the projection period, adding an average 2,800 people to the population, annually. However, by mid-2036 net migration is projected to exceed natural change for the first time since mid-2007.

The ageing of the population is projected to continue

The population of Northern Ireland is projected to become older. The population pyramid shows that by mid-2043 the older age population (65 and over) is projected to increase. The median age is projected to increase from 38.7 to 44.0 years between 2018 and 2043.
Largest population growth projected for the 65+ and 85+ age groups

The largest population growth is projected amongst the 65+ and 85+ age groups. Over the next 25 years the population aged 65+ and 85+ are projected to grow by 56.2 per cent and 106.4 per cent respectively. The population of children (age 0-15) is projected to fall by 10.8 per cent by mid-2043.

Northern Ireland projected the second largest population growth across the UK

Northern Ireland’s projected population growth (5.7 per cent) over the next 25 years was the second highest across the UK. England is projected to have the largest population growth (10.3 per cent) between mid-2018 and mid-2043.

Wales is the only UK country which is projected to experience a decrease in population (0.9 per cent) over the projection period.