

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, INCLUDING 2015 MID-YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Population topped 1.85 million in 2015

9:30am – Wednesday, 31 August 2016

The population of Northern Ireland was estimated to be 1.852 million at 30 June 2015, representing an increase of 11,100 people (0.6 per cent) since mid-2014. This is one of the findings of the statistics published today by the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Almost 80 per cent of this population increase can be attributed to natural growth (i.e. more births than deaths), with net inward migration (i.e. the number of people coming here to live exceeding the number leaving to live elsewhere) accounting for the vast majority of the remainder of the increase.

Each of the 11 Local Government Districts is estimated to have experienced population growth during the year in question, ranging from 0.2 per cent in Derry City & Strabane to 1.1 per cent in Lisburn & Castlereagh.

A total of 24,215 births were registered last year (12,493 males and 11,722 females), two out of every five of which (44 per cent) occurred outside of marriage. Births to teenage mothers reached a new record low (760), whilst births to mothers aged 35 years and over continued to rise. The 76 stillbirths registered during 2015 was 6.2 per cent lower than in 2014 and represents the lowest number ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

At 15,548, the number of deaths registered in 2015 is the highest on record since the flu epidemic of 1999 (when 15,663 deaths were registered) and is 870 more than in 2014. Two out of every three of the additional deaths last year can be attributed to people aged 75 or over, 68 per cent of whom were male.

At 28 per cent, Cancer continued to be the leading cause of death in 2015, with the number of such deaths among males increasing by 7 per cent and the number among females decreasing by 5 per cent.

A total of 8,355 marriages and 89 civil partnerships were registered last year, equivalent to roughly 1 every hour. August was the most popular month for weddings with Saturday 5th September being the most popular day.

There were 2,360 divorces and 7 civil partnership dissolutions granted in 2015, with non-cohabitation remaining the most frequently recorded reason for separation.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Today's release comprises the 94th Annual Report of the Registrar General for Northern Ireland and 2015 Mid-year Population Estimates for Areas within Northern Ireland.
2. This release provides statistics on a number of areas which have policy relevance. In particular, the number of births has implications for planning maternity services and schools, whereas the number of deaths has implications for hospital and palliative care strategies. Population estimates, projections and life expectancy statistics are all of policy interest because of their implications for pensions and the delivery of front line services for the population in areas such as housing, health care, education and transport.
3. The Report of the Registrar general is published annually and is available [here](#). The report includes commentary and infographics designed to bring out the key demographic trends and issues. Detailed statistical tables are available on CD and on the [NISRA website](#).
4. 2015 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland were published on 23 June 2016 as part of a UK release by the ONS and simultaneously by NISRA via the NISRA website in the form of [statistical tables](#). The 2015 Mid-year Population Estimates for Areas within Northern Ireland are published today and are available on the [NISRA](#) website. Estimates are available for the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) as well as for the former 26 LGDs, former Education and Library Boards, former Health and Social Services Boards, Health and Social Care Trusts, NUTS-III Areas, Super Output Areas and the former 582 Electoral Wards.
5. Corresponding information for England and Wales is published by the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) and for Scotland by the [National Records of Scotland](#) (NRS). Similar figures for the Republic of Ireland are available from the [Central Statistics Office](#) (CSO) Ireland.
6. Interactive content, including population pyramids, infographics and interactive maps are available at the [NINIS website](#).
7. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We welcome feedback on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk.
8. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available [here](#).
9. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Communications Office:
Telephone: 028 9081 6724
10. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:
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