

# POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR AREAS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND: 2014- BASED



## Population of all Local Government Districts to grow and age by 2024

9:30am – Wednesday, 25 May 2016

The population in each Local Government District (LGD) in Northern Ireland is projected to both increase and age up to 2024. This is one of the key findings of the 'Population Projections for areas within Northern Ireland (2014-based)' published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Over the 10 year period from 2014 to 2024, Northern Ireland's population is projected to grow by 5.3 per cent (i.e. 98,200 people), reaching 1,938,700 people in 2024. Population growth is projected for each LGD over the decade, ranging from 1.5 per cent (i.e. 2,200 people) in Derry City and Strabane to 10.4 per cent (i.e. 21,400 people) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.

Ageing of the population is set to continue, with the Northern Ireland population aged 65 and over projected to increase by 25.8 per cent (i.e. 73,800 people) over this period. Increases are projected in each LGD, ranging from 14.8 per cent in Belfast to over 32 per cent in each of Newry, Mourne and Down (32.5 per cent), Mid Ulster (32.6 per cent) and Fermanagh and Omagh (33.2 per cent).

Growth of over 50 per cent is projected among those aged 85 and over in four of the 11 LGDs, with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon set to gain the highest number of people in this age category (1,700, equating to 50.5 per cent).

The number of children (i.e. those aged 0-15) in Northern Ireland is projected to rise by 3.9 per cent up to 2024, most noticeably in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD (9.6 per cent, equating to 4,400 children). Four out of the 11 LGDs are projected to see a small reduction in the number of children, with Ards and North Down experiencing the largest reduction (2.3 per cent, equating to 700 children).

In contrast, the number of pre-school children (i.e. those aged 0-3) in Northern Ireland is projected to fall by 4.6 per cent (i.e. 4,600 children) over the decade. Decreases are projected in all but one of the LGDs, namely Lisburn and Castlereagh, where a small increase of 100 pre-school children (1.4 per cent) is projected.

Modest growth of 0.8 per cent (i.e. 9,500 people) is projected among the working age population (i.e. those aged 16-64) of Northern Ireland over the period. Seven of the 11 LGDs will however experience a reduction in their working age population, most notably in Derry City and Strabane (3.5 per cent equivalent to 3,300 people) and Ards and North Down (3.0 per cent equivalent to 2,900 people).

In 2014, Ards and North Down was the only LGD where the estimated population aged 65 and over exceeded the estimated number of children. This position is projected to arise in both Causeway Coast and Glens LGD and Mid and East Antrim LGD during the first ten years of the projections and in all of the remaining areas by 2039.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces national population projections for the UK and constituent countries. Projections are made every second year, based on a review of the trends affecting fertility, mortality and migration. The national projections can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp20.htm>
2. NISRA produces population projections for areas within Northern Ireland. While the focus of this report lies on the 11 LGDs, projections are also released for the former 26 LGDs, Health and Social Care Trusts, former Education and Library Boards and NUTS-III Areas. Detailed statistics on population projections for areas within Northern Ireland can be obtained from the NISRA website at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp47.htm>.
3. Population pyramids and an interactive map are available at the NINIS website: [Population Projections Pyramids](#) and [Population Projections Interactive Map](#).
4. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please complete a short [survey](#) or send feedback directly to [census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk).
5. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
6. Population projections for areas within [England](#) (2014-based) are due to be published today, 25 May 2016, by the Office for National Statistics. National Records Scotland published sub-national population projections for [Scotland](#) (2012-based) in May 2014 and are due to update these to 2014-based in July 2016. The latest population projections for areas within [Wales](#) (2011-based) were published by the Welsh Government in December 2013 and are due to be updated in September 2016. A paper comparing the methodological approaches adopted by producers of population statistics across the UK is available [here](#).
7. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. It is NISRA's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.
8. These statistics were re-assessed by the Statistics Authority in July 2015 ([UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report](#)). They continue to be designated as National Statistics while we continue to address the recommendations that emerged from the assessment. The National Statistics status of the statistics beyond the deadline in the report is subject to confirmation by the Statistics Authority once all the requirements have been met. ([Assessment Action Plan](#)).
9. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available [here](#).
10. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Communications Office:  
Telephone: 028 9081 6724
11. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:  
Telephone: 028 9034 8160  
Fax: 028 9034 8161  
E-mail: [census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk)  
Responsible Statistician: Brian Green