

Population of all Local Government Districts to grow and age

9:30am – Thursday, 26 April 2018

The population in each Local Government District (LGD) in Northern Ireland is projected to grow and age. This is one of the findings of the statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Over the 10 year period from mid-2016 to mid-2026, Northern Ireland's population is projected to grow by 4.2 per cent (i.e. 77,600 people), reaching 1,939,700 people in 2026. Population growth is projected for each LGD over the decade, ranging from 0.1 per cent (200 people) in Derry City and Strabane to 8.9 per cent in both Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD and Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD (18,600 and 12,500 people respectively).

The projections between mid-2016 and mid-2026 also highlight that:

- Ageing of the population is set to continue, with the Northern Ireland population aged 65 and over projected to increase by 25.0 per cent (i.e. 74,500 people) over this period. Increases are projected in each LGD, ranging from 15.2 per cent in Belfast to over 30 per cent in Newry, Mourne and Down and Mid Ulster (31.4 per cent and 32.0 per cent respectively).
- Growth of over 40 per cent is projected among those aged 85 and over in five of the 11 LGDs, with Mid Ulster set to experience the highest percentage growth in this age category (1,200, equating to growth of 48.1 per cent).
- The number of children in Northern Ireland is projected to rise by a modest 0.1 per cent (600 children) up to 2026. The largest increase is projected in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD (4.9 per cent, equating to 2,300 children). Six out of the 11 LGDs are projected to see a reduction in the number of children, with Causeway Coast and Glens experiencing the largest reduction at 4.6 per cent, equating to 1,300 children.
- In contrast, the number of pre-school children (i.e. those aged 0-3) in Northern Ireland is projected to fall by 7.8 per cent (i.e. 7,700 children) over the decade. Decreases are projected in all of the LGDs, with the largest decrease projected in Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (13.7 per cent, equating to 1,000 children).

- Modest growth of 0.2 per cent (i.e. 2,500 people) is projected among the working age population (i.e. those aged 16-64) of Northern Ireland over the decade to 2026. Six of the 11 LGDs will however experience a reduction in their working age population, most notably in Derry city and Strabane LGD (4.5 per cent, equivalent to 4,300 people) and Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (4.3 per cent, equivalent to 3,800 people).
- In 2016, Ards and North Down was the only LGD where the estimated population aged 65 and over exceeded the estimated number of children. At the Northern Ireland level, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over is projected to overtake that of children by 2028 (20.1 per cent and 19.6 per cent respectively). By this time, this will also be the case in six out of the 11 LGDs, with the remaining five falling into this category by 2035.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the 2016-based Population Projections for areas within Northern Ireland were released on 26 April 2018 and are available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland>.
2. Infographics, population pyramids and interactive maps are available on the NINIS website: (<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/interactiveMaps/DataVis/Population%20Projections%20forArea%20withinNI%202016.pdf>, http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population/PopulationPyramids/Projections_2016-2041/atlas.html?date=2016, <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population/PopulationProjections/atlas.html> and <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Population/ComponentsChange/atlas.html>).
3. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces national population projections for the UK and constituent countries. Updated projections are published every second year, based on a review of the trends affecting fertility, mortality and migration. The national projections can be found at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/national-population-projections>.
4. NISRA produces population projections for areas within Northern Ireland. Projections are available for Local Government Districts (LGDs), Health & Social Care Trusts, the former 26 LGDs, and former Education & Library Boards.
5. Projections are the result of applying long-term assumptions (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/SNPP16-Assumptions.pdf>) based on recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration to the base population. These projections use the mid-2016 population estimates as the base population. See the methodology paper for further Information: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/SNPP16-Methodology.pdf>.
6. **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.**
7. The latest population projections for areas within England (2014-based) were published on 25 May 2016 (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014basedprojections>), by the Office for National Statistics and are due to be updated to 2016-based on 24 May 2018. National Records Scotland published the most recent sub-national population projections for Scotland (2016-based) in March 2018 (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2016-based>). The latest available population projections for areas within Wales (2014-based) were published by the Welsh Government in October 2016 (<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-population-projections/?lang=en>).

8. A paper comparing the methodological approaches adopted by producers of population statistics across the UK is available at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/consistencyofmethodsusedforpopulationstatisticsacrossukcountries>.
9. 2018-based sub-national population projections are expected to be published in April/May 2020.
10. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland migration statistics is available at:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/revisions/revisions-policies-by-theme/population/population-statistics-revision-policy.pdf>
11. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release, users can send feedback directly to census@nisra.gov.uk.
12. Follow NISRA on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/NISRA>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-United-Kingdom/Northern-Ireland-Statistics%20-Research-Agency/131044496943228?v=wall>).
13. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Communications Office:
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