

# REBASED POPULATION AND MIGRATION ESTIMATES NORTHERN IRELAND (2001-11) – STATISTICAL REPORT



9.30am – Tuesday 30 April 2013

## Executive Summary

1. The population estimates for each year in the period from 2001 to 2011 have been revised in light of the 2011 Census population estimates. The focus of this report is on components and timing of the population change over this 10 year period.
2. Between July 2001 and June 2011, the number of people living in Northern Ireland increased by 125,500 people (7.4%). Population growth was larger than in the previous 10 years, primarily due to an increase in levels of migration into Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland population at 30 June 2011 is estimated to be 1.814 million people, up from 1.689 million people in June 2001. The increase in population between July 2001 and June 2011 was due to:
  - natural growth of 90,800 people (235,000 births and 144,200 deaths);
  - a net gain of 38,300 people entering Northern Ireland (248,000 in and 209,700 out); and
  - a net loss of 5,300 due to changes in HM Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.
3. The annual rate of population increase has not been uniform in the 10 year period between 2001 and 2011. Particularly in the period between mid-2004 and mid-2009, the average annual rate of population increase was 0.9%, due to large flows of people into Northern Ireland, particularly from the A8<sup>1</sup> countries. This was nearly double the annual rate of increase in the period mid-2001 to mid-2004 and 2010-11 (0.5%). The population change in 2010-11 was dominated by natural change and a return to a position of moderate net out migration, similar to that seen in the period between mid-1996 and mid-2001, mainly due to increased migration out of Northern Ireland.
4. More detailed analysis and figures are attached.

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<sup>1</sup> Eight Central and Eastern European countries (referred to as the “A8” countries) joined the EU in May 2004. The A8 countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

## *Introduction*

The first results of the 2011 Census were published in July 2011. The release of the 2011 Census results offers the best opportunity to review the population estimates and to consider the methodology; this is to ensure the most efficient methods are being used effectively.

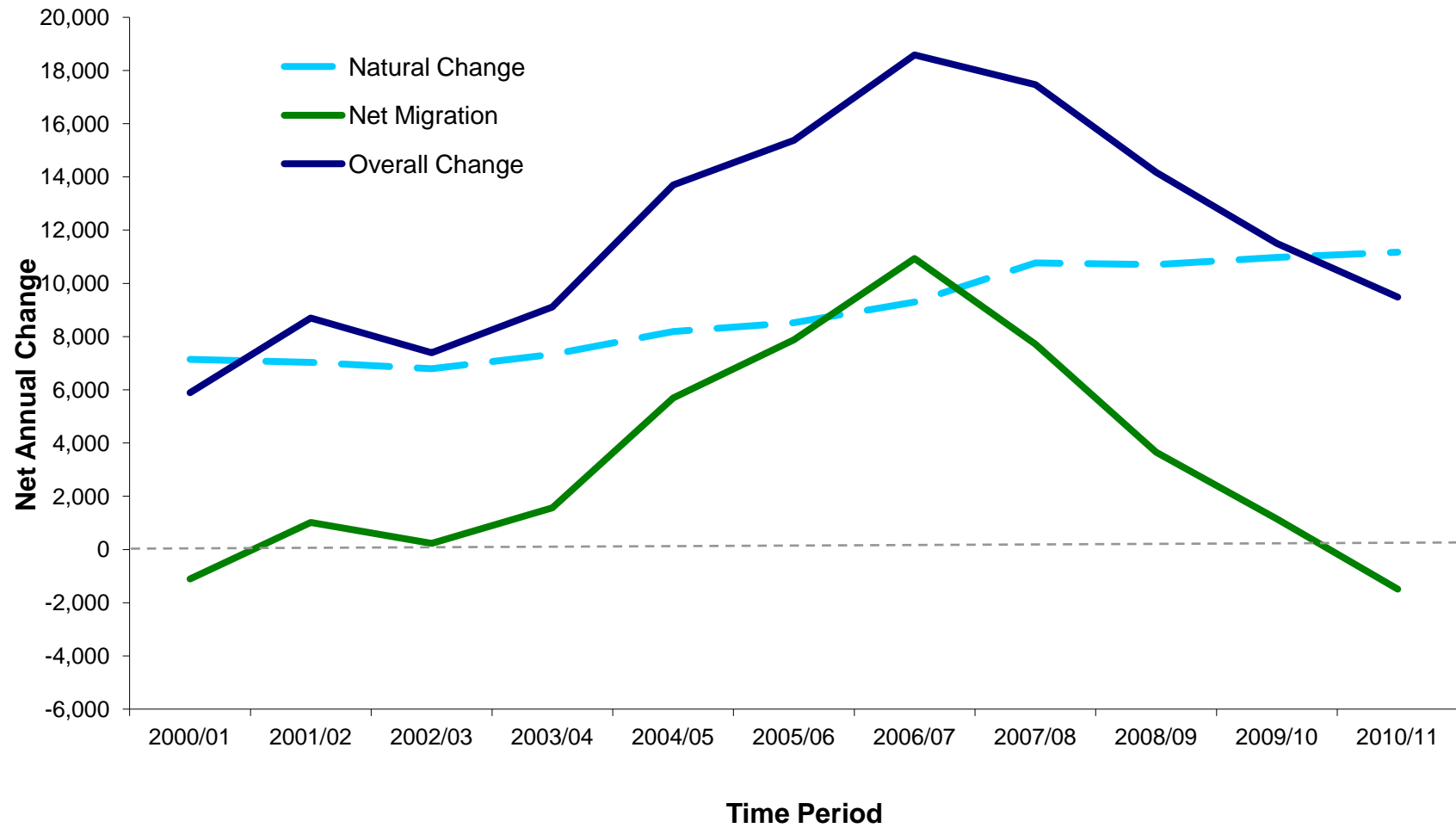
This report outlines some of the main findings in the mid-year estimates of population each year in the period 2001 to 2011 for Northern Ireland. All the statistics presented are available on the NISRA website at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp.htm>. Also available on the website is a detailed methodology report on population estimates and a report on the sources used to estimate migration in Northern Ireland.

Population estimates are widely used to express other statistics as a rate (per 1,000 population), and thus enable comparisons across the UK and other countries. They are also used to allocate public funds to the devolved Northern Ireland administration through the Barnett formula. These estimates form the basis for future population statistics such as population projections and indeed estimates for smaller geographical areas.

## *Northern Ireland level*

- Between mid-2001 and mid-2011 the number of people living in Northern Ireland is estimated to have increased by 125,500 people (7.4%). The size of the resident population in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2011 is estimated to be 1.814 million people.
- The population increase between July 2001 and June 2011 was a result of the following factors:
  - a. natural growth of 90,800 people (235,000 births and 144,200 deaths);
  - b. a net gain of 38,300 people entering Northern Ireland (248,000 in and 209,700 out) and;
  - c. a net loss of 5,300 due to changes in HM Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.
- Figure 1 shows the components of population change between 2000/01 and 2010/11. Prior to 2004, population increase in Northern Ireland was mostly due to natural change, i.e. the number of births minus the number of deaths. However, in 2006/7 the contribution from migration was larger than the contribution from natural change. Since then, net migration has gradually reduced and fallen below zero between mid-2010 and mid-2011.

**Figure 1: Components of Population Change (2000/01 to 2010/11)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLS format - 861Kb)

## Population & Migration Estimates Northern Ireland (2001-11)

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- Between 2001 and 2011 the number of children aged 0 to 15 years old has decreased (from 397,500 to 380,800). The decline in this age group is in part due to the number of children who “aged out” of this age group (259,000) outnumbering the number of babies born in this period (235,000). This can be directly linked to the continued decline in the number of babies born in the late 1980s and 1990s, which ended with the lowest number of births on record between mid-2002 and mid-2003 (21,400). Since then, the number of births has risen again. The number of babies born between mid-2010 and mid-2011 (25,400) was 18% higher than the record low.
- Between 2001 and 2011 the working age<sup>2</sup> population has increased (from 1,067,200 to 1,167,800). The majority of this change is driven by the surplus of persons ageing into this age group (259,000) over those ageing out (163,000), with the remainder driven by net in migration, which more than compensates for the number of deaths and the decline in the number of HM Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.
- Between 2001 and 2011 the number of persons aged 65 and over<sup>3</sup> has increased by 19% (from 224,100 to 265,800). At these ages, there is minimal migration; the increase is the result of a surplus of persons ageing into this population over those leaving through mortality. The highest increase can be found in the population aged 85 and over, which increased by 35% (from 23,500 to 31,800) between mid-2001 and mid-2011.
- The overall death rate in Northern Ireland has fallen significantly over the last 30 years from 11 deaths per 1,000 population in 1981 to eight deaths per 1,000 population in 2011, despite having a higher proportion of (very) elderly population.
- The median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of the Northern Ireland population has increased from 28 to 36 years over the last three decades.

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<sup>2</sup> Working age population is defined as the population aged 16-64.

<sup>3</sup> The population made up from males aged 65 and over, and females aged 60 and over, was previously referred to as the “pensioner population”. However, the state pensionable age (SPA) for women will increase to equal that of men over the next decade. Of the estimated population of females aged 60 on 30 June 2010, 85 per cent could be defined as SPA, and the remaining 15 per cent are defined as not SPA. Of the estimated population of females aged 60 on 30 June 2011, 35 per cent could be defined as SPA, and the remaining 65 per cent are defined as not SP

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The following tables<sup>4</sup> are attached:

Table 1: Northern Ireland Mid-Year Population Estimates, by Gender and Selected Age Groups, 2001-2011

Table 2: Components of Population Change, Northern Ireland, 1995-2011

Table 3: Population Estimates for Selected Age Groups, 2001-2011

Table 4: Detailed Migration, 2001-2011

Table 5: Comparison Between Previously Published and Revised Population Estimates, 2001-2011

**NISRA**

**April 2013**

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<sup>4</sup> All figures in tables have been rounded to the nearest 100. Therefore counts may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 1: Northern Ireland Mid-Year Population Estimates, by Gender and Selected Age Groups, 2001 - 2011**

<b>Age</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>MALES</b>											
<b>0-15</b>	204,100	200,900	197,900	195,600	194,200	193,300	193,400	194,100	194,700	195,000	195,300
<b>16-19</b>	52,300	54,300	54,600	55,000	54,600	54,000	53,400	52,800	52,200	51,700	51,200
<b>20-24</b>	55,000	55,700	57,600	59,000	60,400	61,900	63,200	63,600	64,100	63,800	63,300
<b>25-29</b>	56,800	55,700	54,500	54,000	55,300	56,700	58,700	60,800	61,900	61,900	61,400
<b>30-44</b>	184,600	186,100	187,100	187,700	187,800	187,500	187,200	186,400	185,000	184,000	182,600
<b>45-59</b>	144,100	146,700	148,800	150,900	153,700	157,000	159,800	163,300	166,800	170,200	173,500
<b>60-64</b>	35,500	36,200	37,700	39,300	40,800	42,400	43,900	44,400	45,000	45,600	46,100
<b>65-74</b>	55,600	56,300	57,200	58,200	59,000	59,900	61,200	63,400	65,700	67,700	69,700
<b>75-84</b>	29,900	30,700	31,200	31,700	32,000	32,500	33,100	33,600	34,300	35,300	36,300
<b>85+</b>	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,900	7,500	8,000	8,200	8,600	8,900	9,400	9,800
<b>FEMALES</b>											
<b>0-15</b>	193,400	190,800	188,000	185,700	184,600	183,800	183,700	184,400	184,800	184,900	185,500
<b>16-19</b>	50,400	51,800	51,900	52,400	52,000	51,500	51,200	50,500	50,100	49,700	49,300
<b>20-24</b>	54,500	55,400	56,700	57,900	59,400	60,800	62,400	63,000	63,000	62,500	61,700
<b>25-29</b>	57,800	56,600	55,700	55,500	56,700	58,500	60,900	63,000	63,800	64,000	63,600
<b>30-44</b>	191,500	192,800	193,500	193,600	193,700	193,300	193,300	193,100	192,400	191,500	190,800
<b>45-59</b>	146,400	149,100	151,400	153,600	156,600	159,700	162,300	165,200	168,800	172,600	176,200
<b>60-64</b>	38,300	38,700	40,200	41,600	43,100	44,700	46,400	47,000	47,400	47,800	47,900
<b>65-74</b>	67,800	67,900	68,100	68,600	68,700	68,900	69,800	71,600	73,600	75,500	77,100
<b>75-84</b>	47,400	48,200	49,000	49,300	49,400	49,800	49,900	50,000	50,100	50,400	51,000
<b>85+</b>	17,100	17,200	17,200	17,500	18,400	19,100	19,700	20,300	20,800	21,400	22,000
<b>PERSONS</b>	<b>1,688,800</b>	<b>1,697,500</b>	<b>1,704,900</b>	<b>1,714,000</b>	<b>1,727,700</b>	<b>1,743,100</b>	<b>1,761,700</b>	<b>1,779,200</b>	<b>1,793,300</b>	<b>1,804,800</b>	<b>1,814,300</b>

**Table 2: Components of Population Change 1995-2011**

Year	Population at start of period	Births <sup>1</sup>	Deaths <sup>1</sup>	Natural Change	Net Migration	Other Changes <sup>2</sup>	Population at end of period	Population Change	
								Number	%
Mid 1995 to Mid 1996	1,649,100	23,600	15,200	8,400	4,700	-500	1,661,800	12,600	0.8
Mid 1996 to Mid 1997	1,661,800	24,600	15,000	9,600	-1,000	1,000	1,671,300	9,500	0.6
Mid 1997 to Mid 1998	1,671,300	23,800	15,100	8,700	-1,800	-400	1,677,800	6,500	0.4
Mid 1998 to Mid 1999	1,677,800	23,400	15,500	7,900	-4,800	-1,900	1,679,000	1,200	0.1
Mid 1999 to Mid 2000	1,679,000	22,300	15,500	6,800	-2,200	-600	1,682,900	3,900	0.2
Mid 2000 to Mid 2001*	1,682,900	21,600	14,400	7,100	-1,100	-100	1,688,800	5,900	0.4
Mid 2001 to Mid 2002*	1,688,800	21,500	14,400	7,000	1,000	700	1,697,500	8,700	0.5
Mid 2002 to Mid 2003*	1,697,500	21,400	14,600	6,800	200	400	1,704,900	7,400	0.4
Mid 2003 to Mid 2004*	1,704,900	22,100	14,700	7,300	1,600	200	1,714,000	9,100	0.5
Mid 2004 to Mid 2005*	1,714,000	22,600	14,400	8,200	5,700	-200	1,727,700	13,700	0.8
Mid 2005 to Mid 2006*	1,727,700	22,700	14,200	8,500	7,900	-1,000	1,743,100	15,400	0.9
Mid 2006 to Mid 2007*	1,743,100	23,800	14,600	9,300	10,900	-1,600	1,761,700	18,600	1.1
Mid 2007 to Mid 2008*	1,761,700	25,200	14,500	10,800	7,700	-1,000	1,779,200	17,500	1.0
Mid 2008 to Mid 2009*	1,779,200	25,300	14,600	10,700	3,700	-200	1,793,300	14,200	0.8
Mid 2009 to Mid 2010*	1,793,300	25,000	14,000	11,000	1,200	-600	1,804,800	11,500	0.6
Mid 2010 to Mid 2011*	1,804,800	25,400	14,200	11,200	-1,500	-200	1,814,300	9,500	0.5

\* These figures have been updated in light of the 2011 Census

<sup>1</sup> Mid-year to mid-year.

<sup>2</sup> Other changes include changes in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

**Table 3: Population Estimates for Selected Age Groups 2001-2011**

Year	Persons				Percentages		
	All Ages	0-15	16-64	65+	0-15	16-64	65+
Mid 2001	1,688,800	397,500	1,067,200	224,100	23.5	63.2	13.3
Mid 2002	1,697,500	391,700	1,079,000	226,800	23.1	63.6	13.4
Mid 2003	1,704,900	385,900	1,089,700	229,400	22.6	63.9	13.5
Mid 2004	1,714,000	381,200	1,100,600	232,200	22.2	64.2	13.5
Mid 2005	1,727,700	378,800	1,114,100	234,900	21.9	64.5	13.6
Mid 2006	1,743,100	377,100	1,127,900	238,100	21.6	64.7	13.7
Mid 2007	1,761,700	377,100	1,142,700	241,900	21.4	64.9	13.7
Mid 2008	1,779,200	378,500	1,153,200	247,500	21.3	64.8	13.9
Mid 2009	1,793,300	379,500	1,160,400	253,400	21.2	64.7	14.1
Mid 2010	1,804,800	380,000	1,165,200	259,600	21.1	64.6	14.4
Mid 2011	1,814,300	380,800	1,167,800	265,800	21.0	64.4	14.6

The population made up from males aged 65 and over, and females aged 60 and over, was previously referred to as the “pensioner population”. However, the state pensionable age (SPA) for women will increase to equal that of men over the next decade. Of the estimated population of females aged 60 on 30 June 2010, 85 per cent could be defined as SPA, and the remaining 15 per cent are defined as not SPA. Of the estimated population of females aged 60 on 30 June 2011, 35 per cent could be defined as SPA, and the remaining 65 per cent are defined as not SPA.



**Table 4: Detailed Migration 2001-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population at start of period</b>	<b>Net UK Migration<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Net International Migration<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Net Total Migration</b>
<b>Mid 2000 to Mid 2001</b>	1,682,900	0	-1,100	-1,100
<b>Mid 2001 to Mid 2002</b>	1,688,800	900	100	1,000
<b>Mid 2002 to Mid 2003</b>	1,697,500	100	100	200
<b>Mid 2003 to Mid 2004</b>	1,704,900	400	1,200	1,600
<b>Mid 2004 to Mid 2005</b>	1,714,000	2,000	3,700	5,700
<b>Mid 2005 to Mid 2006</b>	1,727,700	900	7,000	7,900
<b>Mid 2006 to Mid 2007</b>	1,743,100	1,800	9,100	10,900
<b>Mid 2007 to Mid 2008</b>	1,761,700	1,400	6,300	7,700
<b>Mid 2008 to Mid 2009</b>	1,779,200	700	3,000	3,700
<b>Mid 2009 to Mid 2010</b>	1,793,300	-600	1,800	1,100
<b>Mid 2010 to Mid 2011</b>	1,804,800	-800	-700	-1,500

<sup>1</sup> UK migration relates to population migration flows with the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> International migration relates to migration flows with the Republic of Ireland and the Rest of the World

**Table 5: Comparison Between Previously Published and Revised Population Estimates, 2001-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Previously Published Population Estimate</b>	<b>Revised Population Estimate</b>
<b>Mid 2001</b>	1,689,300	1,688,800
<b>Mid 2002</b>	1,696,600	1,697,500
<b>Mid 2003</b>	1,702,600	1,704,900
<b>Mid 2004</b>	1,710,300	1,714,000
<b>Mid 2005</b>	1,724,400	1,727,700
<b>Mid 2006</b>	1,741,600	1,743,100
<b>Mid 2007</b>	1,759,100	1,761,700
<b>Mid 2008</b>	1,775,000	1,779,200
<b>Mid 2009</b>	1,788,900	1,793,300
<b>Mid 2010</b>	1,799,400	1,804,800
<b>Mid 2011</b>	1,806,900	1,814,300

## NOTES

1. The Northern Ireland mid-year population estimate relates to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland including Her Majesty's Forces stationed here. Births and deaths are reported on an occurrence basis, as registered by the General Register Office up to December 2012.
2. Following international guidelines migration statistics relate only to long-term migrants (i.e. someone who changes their place of residence for a year or more (Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998)).
3. Further detail on the revision of the methodology of the population estimates are available at:  
[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/Methodology\\_Population\\_Estimates\\_April\\_2013.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/Methodology_Population_Estimates_April_2013.pdf)
4. This information, detailed tables and additional reports can be accessed on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's website at:  
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>
5. Rebased mid-year population estimates for the period mid-2001 to mid-2011 by Local Government District will be released as part of the 2012 mid-year population estimates, which are scheduled for June/July 2013.
6. The 2011 Census was conducted on 27 March 2011, in line with arrangements across the rest of the UK. Supporting detail on the Quality Assurance work at both the Northern Ireland and Local government District level can be found on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's website at:  
[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011\\_results\\_population.html](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011_results_population.html)
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