

MID-YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES NORTHERN IRELAND (2005)

Largest ever migration increase in the Northern Ireland population

9:30am – Monday 24 July 2006

The number of people resident in Northern Ireland is estimated to have increased by nearly 15,000 people (0.8%) in the year ending 30 June 2005. Population growth from migration (+ 6,700 people) is the highest ever observed. The size of the resident population in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2005 is estimated to be 1.724 million people.

These are some of the key findings from statistics released today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The figures released are the estimated size and structure of the population of Northern Ireland at 30 June 2005. The published information includes a breakdown of the population by age and gender at Local Government District, Parliamentary Constituency and Northern Ireland levels.

Over the last decade the average annual rate of population increase has been around 7,000 persons (equivalent to 0.4% each year). The 2005 increase in population (0.8%) is larger than the average annual increases experienced over recent years.

The increase in the population between 2004 and 2005 was a result of the following factors:

- a natural increase of 8,000 people (22,400 births and 14,400 deaths);
- estimated net migration into Northern Ireland from Great Britain of 2,000 people (in total 13,300 people are estimated to have come to NI from GB and 11,300 people left NI for GB);
- estimated net international migration of 4,700 people (in total 13,600 people are estimated to have come to NI from outside the UK and 8,900 people left NI for outside the UK) – see editor's note 2 for further detail.

Responding to the findings a NISRA spokesperson said:

"These figures illustrate the significant increase in the Northern Ireland population over the last year. In particular, since the enlargement of the European Union in May 2004 significant migration to Northern Ireland from countries of Eastern Europe has occurred."

Some further key results and a number of attached tables are outlined below.

Age Structure

- the number of children (aged under 16 years) has declined by 0.6% (from 383,300 to 381,200) between 2004 and 2005, reflecting the falling birth rate during the 1990s. In the ten-year period between 1995 and 2005 the number of children has fallen from 416,500 to 381,200 a fall of 8.5%;
- the working age population has increased by 1.1% (from 1,051,700 to 1,063,600) between 2004 and 2005. In the ten-year period between 1995 and 2005 the number of people of working age has increased from 981,200 to 1,063,600 a rise of 8.4%;
- the pensioner population has increased by 1.6% (from 275,200 to 279,600) between 2004 and 2005. In the ten-year period between 1995 and 2005 the number of pensioners has increased from 251,500 to 279,600 a rise of 11.2%.

Local Government Districts (change in population size)

- between 2004 and 2005, Dungannon Local Government District had the greatest proportionate increase in population (+2.9%) – nearly four times the Northern Ireland percentage increase (+0.8%);
- last year 24 Local Government Districts increased in population size. In addition to Dungannon LGD, Armagh (+1.6%), Ballymoney (+1.7%), Banbridge (+2.3%) and Craigavon (+1.8%), experienced population growth of at least 1.5%;
- two Local Government Districts decreased in population, Belfast (-0.4%) and Castlereagh (-0.2%). The fall in the population of Belfast LGD was primarily due to residents of the North and West of the city moving to other parts of Northern Ireland;
- all Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland experienced a natural increase in population (births less deaths). The largest natural increase of population was in Derry and Newry and Mourne Local Government Districts, each with natural increases of 700 people.

Local Government Districts (population structure)

- in 2005, Newry and Mourne Local Government District had the highest proportion of children among its population (25.2%), while North Down had the lowest proportion (18.8%);
- North Down Local Government District had the highest proportion of the population of pensionable age (19.8%) and Derry and Limavady Local Government Districts had the lowest proportion (12.7%).

Parliamentary Constituencies

- Upper Bann and Lagan Valley had the greatest proportionate increases in population of the Parliamentary Constituencies (1.8%), whilst all four Parliamentary Constituencies covering Belfast Local Government District showed a decrease in population between 2004 and 2005;
- in Belfast East Parliamentary Constituency the number of deaths was marginally greater than the number of births. In all other Parliamentary Constituencies the number of births exceeded the number of deaths;
- Belfast West Parliamentary Constituency had the highest proportion of children among its population (25.3%), while Belfast South had the lowest proportion (16.6%);
- Belfast East Parliamentary Constituency had the highest proportion of the population of pensionable age (21.8%) while Foyle Parliamentary Constituency had the lowest proportion (12.7%).

The following tables¹ are attached:

1. Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates, by gender and 5-year age bands, 2005.
- 2a. Components of population change, by area, 2004 to 2005.
- 2b. Detailed migration, by area, 2004 to 2005.
3. Local population estimates for selected age groups, by area, 2005.

NISRA
July 2006

¹ All count figures in tables have been rounded to nearest 100. Therefore counts may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 1 Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates, by gender and 5 year age bands, 2005

Age Group	Males	Females	Persons
0-4	56,500	53,600	110,100
5-9	61,200	57,600	118,900
10-14	64,500	61,600	126,000
15-19	68,000	64,300	132,300
20-24	61,700	59,200	120,900
25-29	54,300	54,700	108,900
30-34	58,600	60,600	119,200
35-39	63,600	65,600	129,200
40-44	62,700	65,500	128,200
45-49	56,100	58,100	114,100
50-54	50,300	49,600	99,900
55-59	47,100	49,100	96,200
60-64	40,800	43,300	84,100
65-69	32,900	36,800	69,600
70-74	26,400	32,400	58,800
75-79	19,700	28,700	48,400
80-84	12,600	21,600	34,300
85-89	5,300	11,100	16,400
90+	2,100	6,600	8,700
All Ages	844,300	880,100	1,724,400

Table 2a Components of population change, 2004 to 2005

	Population at start of period June 2004	Births ¹ 2004/2005	Deaths ¹ 2004/2005	Natural Change 2004/2005	Migration 2004/2005	Other Changes ² 2004/2005	Population at end of period June 2005	Population Change Number	%
Northern Ireland	1,710,300	22,400	14,400	8,000	6,700	-600	1,724,400	14,100	0.8
Local Government Districts									
Antrim	49,800	700	400	300	500	-100	50,500	700	1.4
Ards	74,600	900	700	200	400	0	75,300	600	0.8
Armagh	54,900	800	400	400	500	0	55,800	900	1.6
Ballymena	60,000	800	500	300	400	0	60,700	700	1.2
Ballymoney	28,300	400	200	200	300	0	28,700	500	1.7
Banbridge	43,800	600	300	300	700	0	44,800	1,000	2.3
Belfast	269,000	3,300	2,800	500	-1,500	0	268,000	-1,000	-0.4
Carrickfergus	38,700	400	300	100	300	0	39,200	500	1.2
Castlereagh	65,800	700	600	100	-200	0	65,700	-100	-0.2
Coleraine	56,500	700	500	200	-100	0	56,600	0	0.1
Cookstown	33,700	500	300	300	200	0	34,100	400	1.3
Craigavon	83,200	1,200	600	600	1,100	-200	84,700	1,500	1.8
Derry	106,900	1,500	800	700	-300	0	107,300	400	0.4
Down	66,800	900	500	300	400	0	67,400	700	1.0
Dungannon	49,300	800	400	400	1,000	0	50,700	1,400	2.9
Fermanagh	59,300	700	600	100	300	0	59,700	400	0.7
Larne	30,900	400	300	0	100	0	31,100	200	0.5
Limavady	34,000	400	200	200	-100	0	34,100	100	0.4
Lisburn	110,200	1,400	800	600	900	-200	111,500	1,300	1.2
Magherafelt	41,300	600	300	300	200	0	41,800	500	1.3
Moyle	16,400	200	100	100	0	0	16,500	100	0.6
Newry and Mourne	90,300	1,400	700	700	600	0	91,600	1,300	1.4
Newtownabbey	80,300	1,100	700	400	200	0	80,800	600	0.7
North Down	77,600	800	800	100	600	0	78,300	600	0.8
Omagh	50,100	700	300	300	300	0	50,700	600	1.3
Strabane	38,700	500	300	200	-100	0	38,700	100	0.2

¹ Mid 2004 to Mid 2005.

² Other changes principally relates to changes in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

Table 2a Components of population change, 2004 to 2005

	Population at start of period June 2004	Births ¹ 2004/2005	Deaths ¹ 2004/2005	Natural Change 2004/2005	Migration 2004/2005	Other Changes ² 2004/2005	Population at end of period June 2005	Population Change Number %	
Health and Social Services Boards									
Eastern	664,100	8,100	6,300	1,800	600	-300	666,200	2,100	0.3
Northern	435,900	5,700	3,600	2,200	2,100	-100	440,100	4,100	1.0
Southern	321,400	4,800	2,400	2,400	3,900	-200	327,500	6,100	1.9
Western	288,900	3,800	2,100	1,600	100	0	290,600	1,700	0.6
Education and Library Boards									
Belfast	269,000	3,300	2,800	500	-1,500	0	268,000	-1,000	-0.4
North Eastern	402,300	5,200	3,300	1,900	1,900	-100	406,000	3,700	0.9
South Eastern	395,100	4,700	3,400	1,300	2,100	-300	398,200	3,100	0.8
Southern	355,100	5,300	2,600	2,700	4,100	-200	361,600	6,600	1.8
Western	288,900	3,800	2,100	1,600	100	0	290,600	1,700	0.6
NUTS III Areas									
Belfast	269,000	3,300	2,800	500	-1,500	0	268,000	-1,000	-0.4
East of N. Ireland	409,100	5,500	3,300	2,200	3,600	-400	414,500	5,400	1.3
North of N. Ireland	280,800	3,600	2,100	1,600	-400	0	282,000	1,200	0.4
Outer Belfast	372,700	4,500	3,200	1,300	1,800	-200	375,500	2,800	0.8
West & South of N. Ireland	378,800	5,500	2,900	2,600	3,100	0	384,400	5,600	1.5

¹ Mid 2004 to Mid 2005.

² Other changes principally relates to changes in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

Table 2a Components of population change, 2004 to 2005

	Population at start of period June 2004	Births ¹ 2004/2005	Deaths ¹ 2004/2005	Natural Change 2004/2005	Migration 2004/2005	Other Changes ² 2004/2005	Population at end of period June 2005	Population Change Number %	
Parliamentary Constituencies									
Belfast East	77,700	900	900	0	-100	0	77,600	-100	-0.2
Belfast North	82,400	1,100	1,000	100	-700	0	81,700	-700	-0.8
Belfast South	92,800	1,000	800	200	-200	0	92,800	0	0.0
Belfast West	85,700	1,300	800	400	-1,100	0	85,000	-700	-0.8
East Antrim	85,300	1,000	800	300	300	0	85,900	600	0.7
East Londonderry	90,500	1,100	700	400	-200	0	90,700	200	0.2
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	93,900	1,200	900	400	1,100	0	95,400	1,500	1.6
Foyle	106,900	1,500	800	700	-300	0	107,300	400	0.4
Lagan Valley	104,600	1,400	800	600	1,500	-200	106,500	1,800	1.8
Mid Ulster	89,700	1,400	600	700	600	0	91,000	1,300	1.5
Newry & Armagh	103,000	1,600	800	800	800	0	104,500	1,500	1.5
North Antrim	104,700	1,400	900	500	700	0	106,000	1,300	1.2
North Down	87,400	900	900	0	800	0	88,200	800	0.9
South Antrim	101,900	1,400	800	600	800	-100	103,300	1,300	1.3
South Down	109,200	1,500	900	700	800	0	110,700	1,500	1.3
Strangford	99,600	1,200	800	400	400	0	100,300	700	0.7
Upper Bann	106,200	1,500	800	800	1,400	-200	108,100	1,900	1.8
West Tyrone	88,700	1,100	600	600	200	0	89,500	700	0.8

¹ Mid 2004 to Mid 2005.

² Other changes principally relates to changes in Her Majesty's Forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

Table 2b**Detailed Migration, 2004 to 2005**

	Population at June 2005	Net Internal Migration¹ 2004/2005	Net External Migration² 2004/2005	Net Total Migration 2004/2005
Northern Ireland	1,724,400	0	6,700	6,700
Local Government Districts				
Antrim	50,500	200	200	500
Ards	75,300	400	100	400
Armagh	55,800	200	300	500
Ballymena	60,700	0	400	400
Ballymoney	28,700	200	100	300
Banbridge	44,800	500	200	700
Belfast	268,000	-2,100	600	-1,500
Carrickfergus	39,200	300	100	300
Castlereagh	65,700	-200	0	-200
Coleraine	56,600	-300	100	-100
Cookstown	34,100	-100	200	200
Craigavon	84,700	100	1,100	1,100
Derry	107,300	-200	-200	-300
Down	67,400	200	200	400
Dungannon	50,700	-100	1,100	1,000
Fermanagh	59,700	-100	400	300
Larne	31,100	100	0	100
Limavady	34,100	0	0	-100
Lisburn	111,500	600	300	900
Magherafelt	41,800	0	300	200
Moyle	16,500	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	91,600	-200	800	600
Newtownabbey	80,800	200	-100	200
North Down	78,300	300	300	600
Omagh	50,700	0	300	300
Strabane	38,700	-100	-100	-100

¹ Internal migration relates to population migration across local areas within Northern Ireland only.

² External migration relates to migration flows with Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the world.

Table 2b**Detailed Migration, 2004 to 2005**

	Population at June 2005	Net Internal Migration¹ 2004/2005	Net External Migration² 2004/2005	Net Total Migration 2004/2005
Health and Social Services Boards				
Eastern	666,200	-800	1,400	600
Northern	440,100	700	1,400	2,100
Southern	327,500	500	3,400	3,900
Western	290,600	-400	500	100
Education and Library Boards				
Belfast	268,000	-2,100	600	-1,500
North Eastern	406,000	700	1,200	1,900
South Eastern	398,200	1,300	800	2,100
Southern	361,600	400	3,700	4,100
Western	290,600	-400	500	100
NUTS III Areas				
Belfast	268,000	-2,100	600	-1,500
East of N. Ireland	414,500	1,400	2,200	3,600
North of N. Ireland	282,000	-300	0	-400
Outer Belfast	375,500	1,300	500	1,800
West & South of N. Ireland	384,400	-300	3,400	3,100

¹ Internal migration relates to population migration across local areas within Northern Ireland only.

² External migration relates to migration flows with Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the world.

Table 2b**Detailed Migration, 2004 to 2005**

	Population at June 2005	Net Internal Migration¹ 2004/2005	Net External Migration² 2004/2005	Net Total Migration 2004/2005
Parliamentary Constituencies				
Belfast East	77,600	-200	100	-100
Belfast North	81,700	-900	100	-700
Belfast South	92,800	-500	300	-200
Belfast West	85,000	-1,100	0	-1,100
East Antrim	85,900	300	0	300
East Londonderry	90,700	-300	100	-200
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	95,400	-200	1,300	1,100
Foyle	107,300	-200	-200	-300
Lagan Valley	106,500	1,200	300	1,500
Mid Ulster	91,000	-100	700	600
Newry & Armagh	104,500	0	800	800
North Antrim	106,000	200	500	700
North Down	88,200	400	400	800
South Antrim	103,300	500	300	800
South Down	110,700	400	400	800
Strangford	100,300	300	100	400
Upper Bann	108,100	200	1,200	1,400
West Tyrone	89,500	0	200	200

¹ Internal migration relates to population migration across local areas within Northern Ireland only.

² External migration relates to migration flows with Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the world.

Table 3 Local population estimates for selected age groups, by area, 2005

	Numbers				Percentages		
	All Ages	Children ¹	Working Age ²	Pensioners ³	Children ¹	Working Age ²	Pensioners ³
Northern Ireland	1,724,400	381,200	1,063,600	279,600	22.1	61.7	16.2
Local Government Districts							
Antrim	50,500	11,800	31,700	7,000	23.3	62.8	13.9
Ards	75,300	15,100	46,800	13,300	20.1	62.2	17.7
Armagh	55,800	13,300	33,700	8,700	23.9	60.5	15.6
Ballymena	60,700	12,700	37,000	11,000	21.0	61.0	18.0
Ballymoney	28,700	6,400	17,500	4,800	22.3	61.0	16.7
Banbridge	44,800	10,000	28,000	6,700	22.4	62.6	15.0
Belfast	268,000	54,000	166,500	47,500	20.2	62.1	17.7
Carrickfergus	39,200	8,400	24,300	6,500	21.3	62.0	16.7
Castlereagh	65,700	13,400	39,300	13,000	20.4	59.8	19.7
Coleraine	56,600	11,900	34,200	10,400	21.1	60.5	18.3
Cookstown	34,100	8,100	21,000	4,900	23.9	61.7	14.4
Craigavon	84,700	19,200	52,300	13,200	22.7	61.7	15.5
Derry	107,300	26,300	67,300	13,600	24.6	62.8	12.7
Down	67,400	15,500	41,400	10,600	23.0	61.4	15.7
Dungannon	50,700	12,100	31,100	7,500	23.9	61.2	14.9
Fermanagh	59,700	13,100	36,800	9,900	21.9	61.6	16.5
Larne	31,100	6,400	19,100	5,700	20.5	61.3	18.2
Limavady	34,100	8,000	21,800	4,300	23.6	63.7	12.7
Lisburn	111,500	25,900	68,900	16,700	23.2	61.8	15.0
Magherafelt	41,800	10,100	26,000	5,800	24.1	62.1	13.8
Moyle	16,500	3,600	9,900	3,000	21.7	60.1	18.2
Newry and Mourne	91,600	23,100	55,600	12,900	25.2	60.7	14.1
Newtownabbey	80,800	16,900	49,700	14,200	20.9	61.5	17.6
North Down	78,300	14,700	48,100	15,500	18.8	61.5	19.8
Omagh	50,700	12,000	31,700	7,100	23.6	62.4	13.9
Strabane	38,700	9,200	23,800	5,800	23.6	61.4	14.9

¹ Children are defined as those in the population aged under 16.

² Working age is defined as the female population aged 16 to 59 and the male population aged 16 to 64.

³ Pensioners are defined as the female population aged 60 and over and the male population aged 65 and over.

Table 3 Local population estimates for selected age groups, by area, 2005

	Numbers				Percentages		
	All Ages	Children ¹	Working Age	Pensioners ³	Children ¹	Working Age	Pensioners ³
Health and Social Services Boards							
Eastern	666,200	138,700	411,000	116,500	20.8	61.7	17.5
Northern	440,100	96,300	270,500	73,300	21.9	61.5	16.7
Southern	327,500	77,800	200,700	49,100	23.7	61.3	15.0
Western	290,600	68,600	181,400	40,700	23.6	62.4	14.0
Education and Library Boards							
Belfast	268,000	54,000	166,500	47,500	20.2	62.1	17.7
North Eastern	406,000	88,100	249,500	68,400	21.7	61.5	16.8
South Eastern	398,200	84,700	244,500	69,000	21.3	61.4	17.3
Southern	361,600	85,900	221,800	54,000	23.8	61.3	14.9
Western	290,600	68,600	181,400	40,700	23.6	62.4	14.0
NUTS III Areas							
Belfast	268,000	54,000	166,500	47,500	20.2	62.1	17.7
East of N. Ireland	414,500	90,800	256,300	67,400	21.9	61.8	16.3
North of N. Ireland	282,000	65,500	174,600	41,900	23.2	61.9	14.9
Outer Belfast	375,500	79,300	230,300	65,900	21.1	61.3	17.6
West & South of N. Ireland	384,400	91,700	235,900	56,800	23.9	61.4	14.8

¹ Children are defined as those in the population aged under 16.

² Working age is defined as the female population aged 16 to 59 and the male population aged 16 to 64.

³ Pensioners are defined as the female population aged 60 and over and the male population aged 65 and over.

Table 3 Local population estimates for selected age groups, by area, 2005

	Numbers				Percentages		
	All Ages	Children ¹	Working Age	Pensioners ³	Children ¹	Working Age	Pensioners ³
Parliamentary Constituencies							
Belfast East	77,600	14,600	46,000	16,900	18.8	59.3	21.8
Belfast North	81,700	17,700	47,900	16,200	21.6	58.6	19.8
Belfast South	92,800	15,400	62,300	15,000	16.6	67.2	16.2
Belfast West	85,000	21,500	51,200	12,300	25.3	60.2	14.5
East Antrim	85,900	18,100	53,200	14,600	21.1	61.9	17.0
East Londonderry	90,700	20,000	56,000	14,700	22.0	61.7	16.2
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	95,400	21,200	58,700	15,500	22.2	61.6	16.3
Foyle	107,300	26,300	67,300	13,600	24.6	62.8	12.7
Lagan Valley	106,500	23,600	65,700	17,100	22.1	61.8	16.1
Mid Ulster	91,000	22,200	56,200	12,600	24.4	61.7	13.8
Newry and Armagh	104,500	25,600	63,300	15,600	24.5	60.6	14.9
North Antrim	106,000	22,700	64,500	18,800	21.5	60.8	17.7
North Down	88,200	16,500	54,000	17,700	18.8	61.2	20.0
South Antrim	103,300	22,900	64,600	15,700	22.2	62.6	15.2
South Down	110,700	26,400	67,800	16,500	23.9	61.3	14.9
Strangford	100,300	20,800	62,300	17,200	20.7	62.1	17.1
Upper Bann	108,100	24,400	67,100	16,600	22.6	62.0	15.4
West Tyrone	89,500	21,100	55,500	12,900	23.6	62.0	14.4

¹ Children are defined as those in the population aged under 16.

² Working age is defined as the female population aged 16 to 59 and the male population aged 16 to 64.

³ Pensioners are defined as the female population aged 60 and over and the male population aged 65 and over.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Northern Ireland mid year population estimate is an estimate of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland including Her Majesty's Forces stationed here. The births and deaths recorded in this release are those registered by the General Register Office between mid-2004 and mid-2005. A more detailed breakdown of these and other statistics will be published later in the year in the "Registrar General Annual Report (NI) 2005". This information can also be accessed on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's website at:
http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_21_24&cms=demography_population%20statistics_Mid%2Dyear+population+estimates&release
2. Following United Nations guidelines migration estimates in the Northern Ireland population estimate series relate only to long-term migrants. A long-term migrant is someone who changes their place of residence for a year or more (Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, United Nations, 1998).
3. A number of further papers are also being published today. The first, published by NISRA, is entitled "International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2004-5) – Sources and Methodology". This outlines analysis undertaken by NISRA to develop measures of long-term international migration. The second paper is published by the UK National Statistics Centre for Demography, a collaboration between the partners in UK official demographic statistics. This paper explains in detail work ongoing across the UK on estimating population migration. Both these papers can be found at:
http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_45&cms=demography_Publications&release
3. A final paper is also published today by the Department for Social Development on the number of new National Insurance Numbers issued to foreign nationals. This can be found at <http://www.dsdni.gov.uk>
4. The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a hierarchical classification of administrative areas, used across the European Union for statistical purposes. NUTS III Areas in Northern Ireland are groups of district council areas. NUTS areas were created by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) as a single hierarchical classification of spatial units used for statistical production across the European Union.
5. Corresponding information is published for England and Wales by the Office for National Statistics (London) and for Scotland by the General Register Office for Scotland (Edinburgh).

6. All media inquiries should be directed to:

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7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

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