

# NISRA STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Frequency: Annual

Coverage: Northern Ireland



Date: 19 September 2023 (9.30am)

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Theme: Population

Time period: Mid-2023

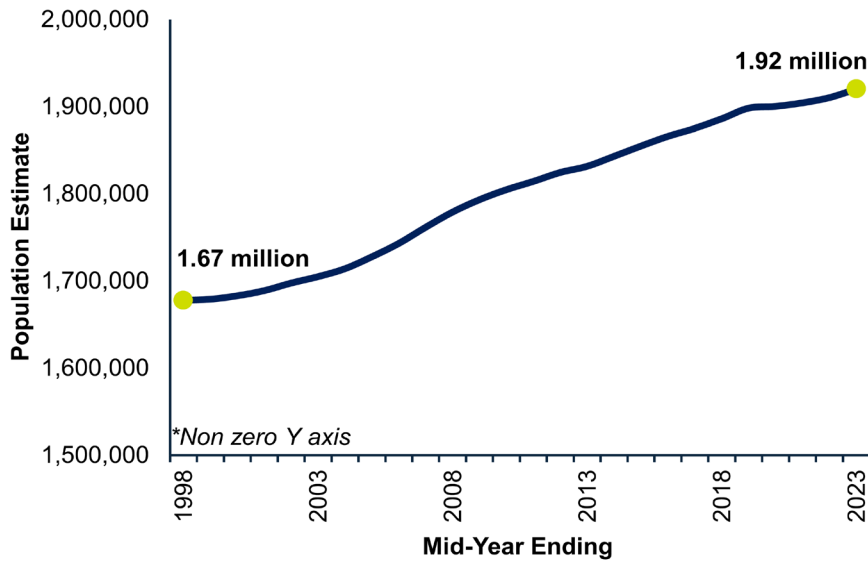
## 2023 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland



This statistical report provides population estimates for Northern Ireland by age and sex, including those aged 85 and older.

Population estimates for Local Government Districts will be published at a later date.

# 2023 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland - Summary

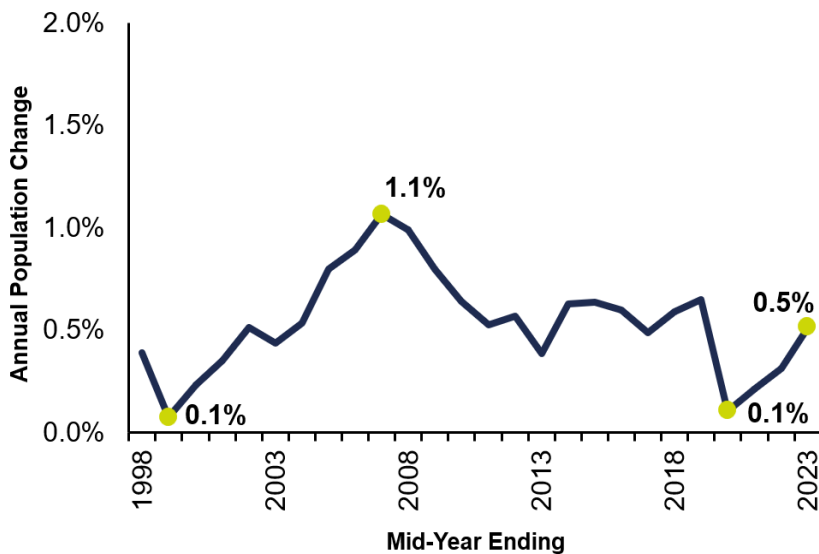


## Northern Ireland population grows to 1.92 million in mid-2023

Northern Ireland's population (30 June 2023) was 1,920,400.

The population increased by 9,800 people or 0.5 per cent between mid-2022 and mid-2023.

The graph shows the trend from 1998-2023.

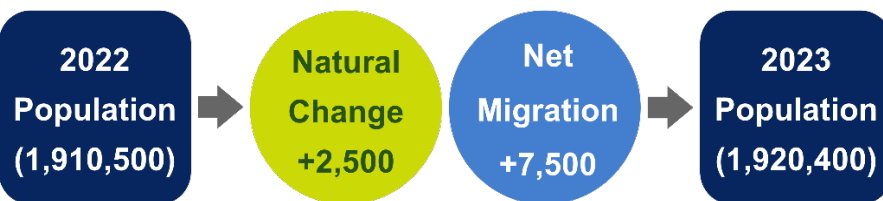


## Population Continues to Grow

Annual population change has remained positive over the last twenty-five years.

Growth over the last year has increased to 0.5 per cent from a recent low of 0.1 per cent in 2020.

Over the decade mid-2013 to mid-2023, the population of Northern Ireland increased by a total of 88,700 people with an average year-on-year increase of 0.5 per cent.

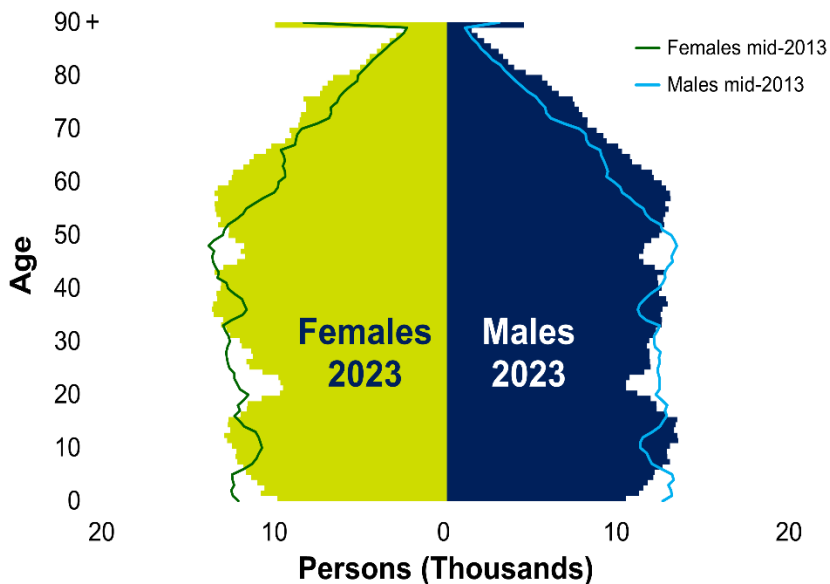


## Net migration is the main driver of population growth

Net migration was the main contributor to the population increase over the last year (+7,500).

Natural change (births minus deaths) contributed to the population increase from 2022 to 2023, (+2,500).

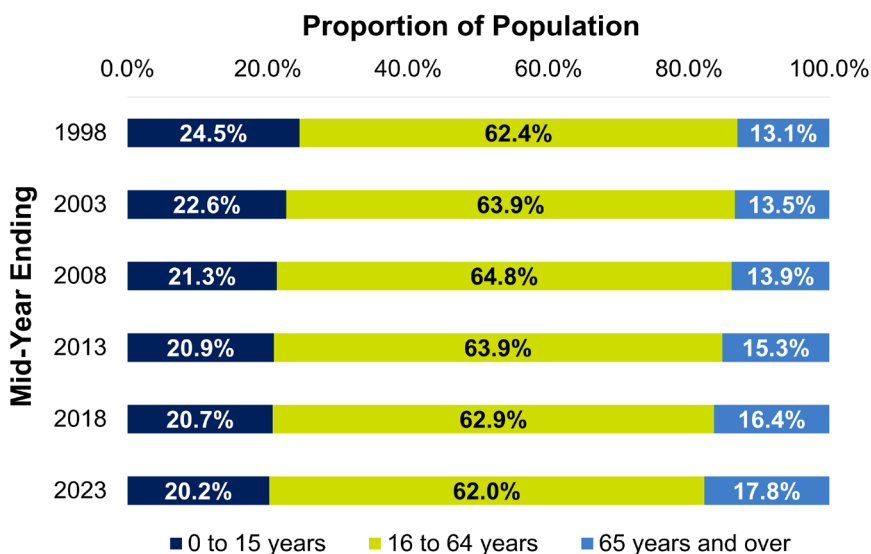
# 2023 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland - Summary



## The Northern Ireland population continues to age

The population pyramid (left) shows the population structure. The ageing of the population from 2013 to 2023 is evident in the increasing population amongst the older ages. This can be seen in the pyramid where the population begins to broaden around age 50.

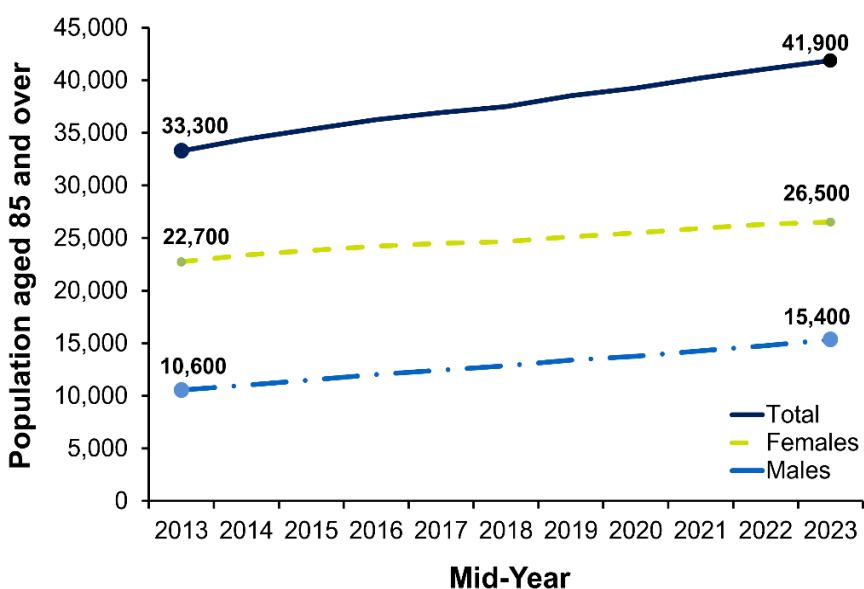
In the year to mid-2023, the number of people aged 65 or more increased by 2.1 per cent from 335,400 to 342,500 people.



## By mid-2023, one in six people in Northern Ireland were aged 65 and over

The proportion of the population aged 65 or more has increased from 13.1 per cent in mid-1998 to 17.8 per cent in mid-2023.

In contrast, the proportion of the population aged 0 to 15 years has decreased from 24.5 per cent in mid-1998 to 20.2 per cent in mid-2023.



## Higher improvement in survival rates among males than females at older ages in recent years

Between mid-2013 and mid-2023, the percentage increase in the number of males aged 85 and over (45.5 per cent) has been noticeably higher than that among females (16.6 per cent).

In mid-2023, males accounted for 36.7 per cent of those aged 85 and over and females for 63.3 per cent. In mid-2013, the figures were 31.7 per cent and 68.3.

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**Note:** Throughout the report figures have been presented in a rounded form to ease readability. For example, population figures have been presented to the nearest 100 and percentages have been presented to 1 decimal place. However, all calculations have been undertaken on the basis of unrounded numbers which will, in some instances, give rise to apparent discrepancies.

# 1 Introduction

This bulletin details the key findings from the 2023 Mid-year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland and for areas within Northern Ireland published on 19 September 2024. This bulletin contains analyses of the population and migration estimates for Northern Ireland

Population statistics are used to allocate public funds to the Northern Ireland Executive through the Barnett formula<sup>1</sup>. Population estimates are also widely used by Northern Ireland government departments for the planning of services, such as health and education. These statistics are also of interest to those involved in research and academia. They are widely used to express other statistics as a rate, and thus enable comparisons across the United Kingdom and other countries. Furthermore, population estimates form the basis for future population statistics such as population projections<sup>2</sup>.

# 2 Background

The population estimates refer to the number of people in the population at 30 June each year. Population estimates for Northern Ireland, sub-national levels and small geographical areas are published annually and approximately one year in arrears. Due to a delay in receiving key data, the 2023 population estimates are restricted to Northern Ireland, with sub-national estimates to follow at a later date. Population estimates are based on the most recent Census of population: each year, the population is 'aged-on' by one year with the number of births in the year added and the number of deaths in the year subtracted. An adjustment is also made for migration. Subsequent mid-year population estimates then use the previous year's figures as the base.

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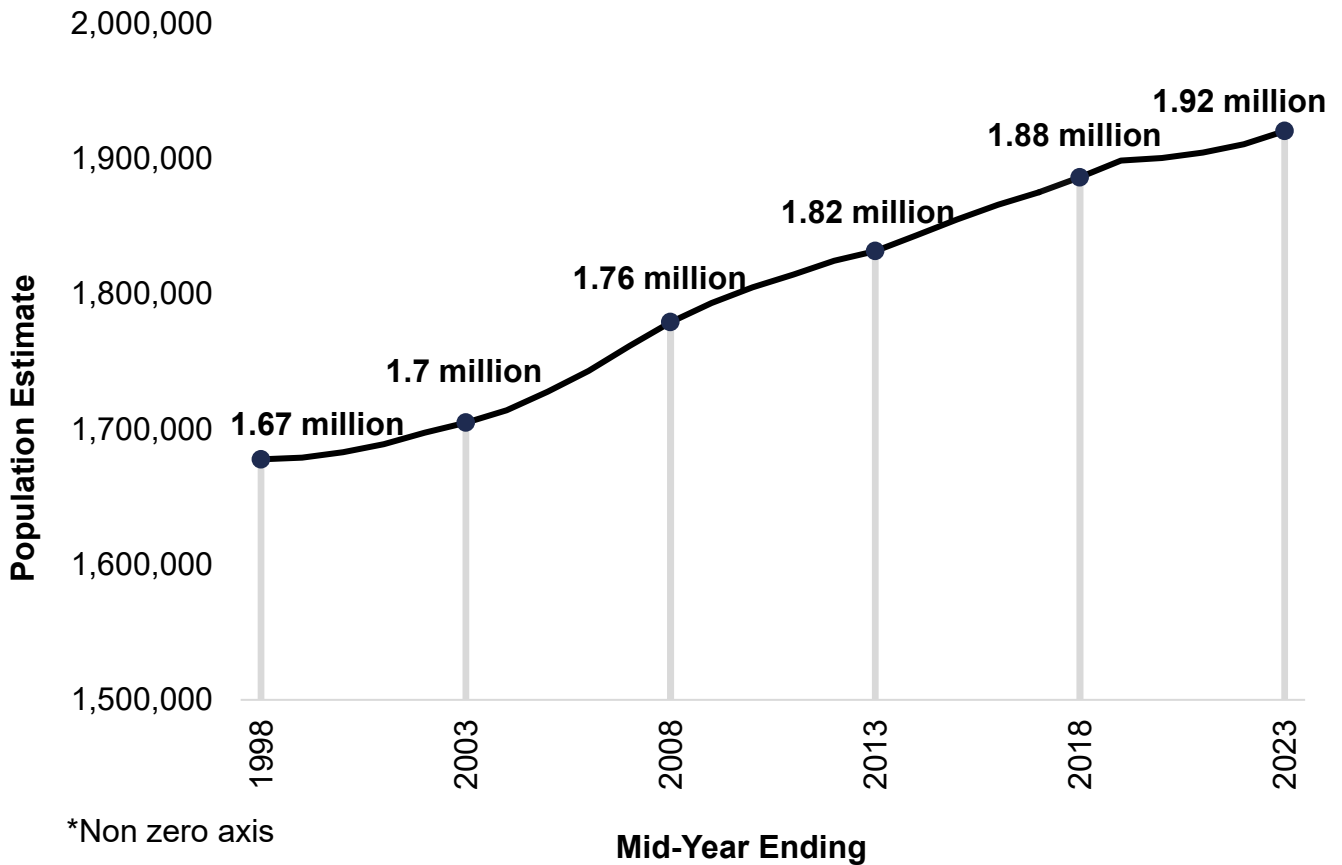
<sup>1</sup> A mechanism used by His Majesty's Treasury to adjust the amounts of public expenditure allocated to the Devolved Administrations. For more information see the [NI Assembly website](#).

<sup>2</sup> For the latest Northern Ireland population projections see the [NISRA website](#).

### 3 Population Estimates for Northern Ireland

#### 3.1 Northern Ireland's population continues to increase

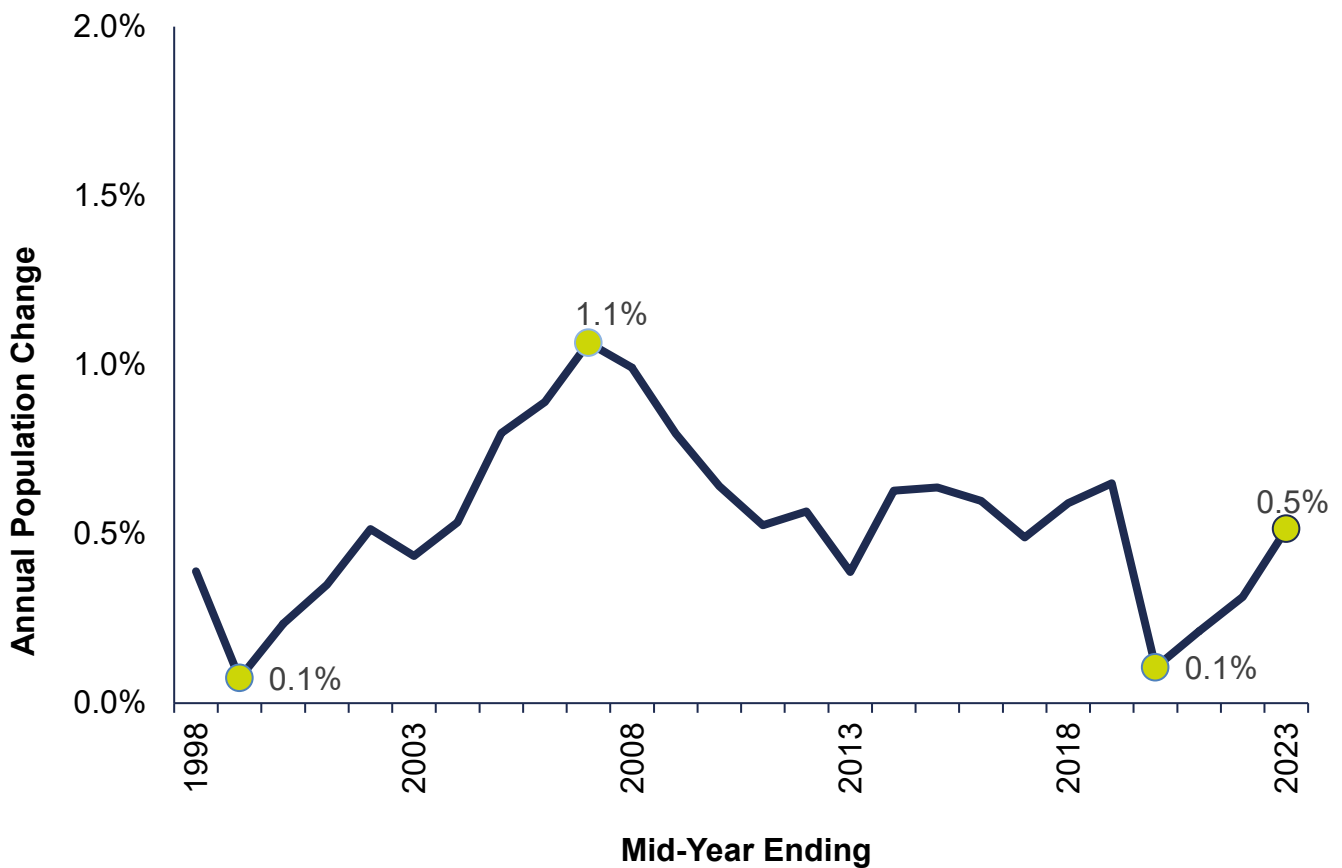
Figure 1: Estimated Population of Northern Ireland, mid-1998 to mid-2023\*



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 26 KB)

At 30 June 2023, Northern Ireland's population was estimated to be 1.92 million people. Between mid-2022 and mid-2023, the population of Northern Ireland increased by 9,800 people (0.5 per cent). Just over half of the population (50.8 per cent) were female, with 974,900 females compared to 945,500 males (49.2 per cent).

**Figure 2: Annual population change for Northern Ireland, mid-1998 to mid-2023**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 91 KB)

Over the decade mid-2013 to mid-2023, the population of Northern Ireland increased by a total of 88,700 people with an average year-on-year increase of 0.5 per cent.

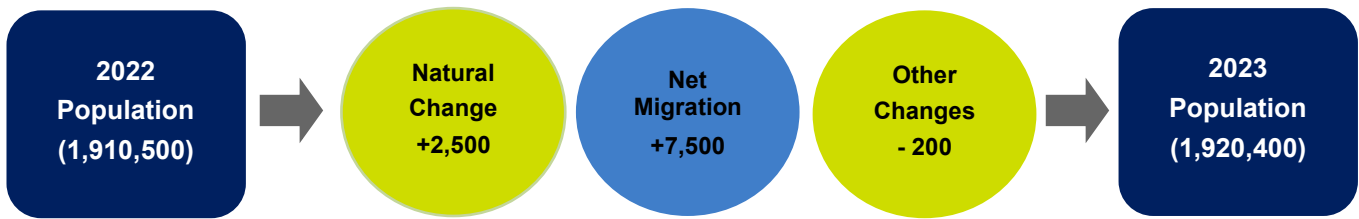
### 3.2 Why is the population increasing?

The two main components of population change are **natural change** and **net migration**. Natural change is the difference between the number of births and deaths, while net migration is the difference between the number of people entering and leaving Northern Ireland. **Other Changes** is a third minor component and takes into account changes such as the number of armed forces stationed here.

The latest increase in the Northern Ireland population was a result of (see Figure 3):

1. Positive natural change of 2,500 people (20,100 births minus 17,600 deaths);
2. An estimated gain of 7,500 people due to net migration (30,500 people came to live in Northern Ireland and 23,000 people left).
3. A slight reduction of 200 people due to other changes.

**Figure 3: Contribution of components of change to population increase, mid-2022 to mid-2023**

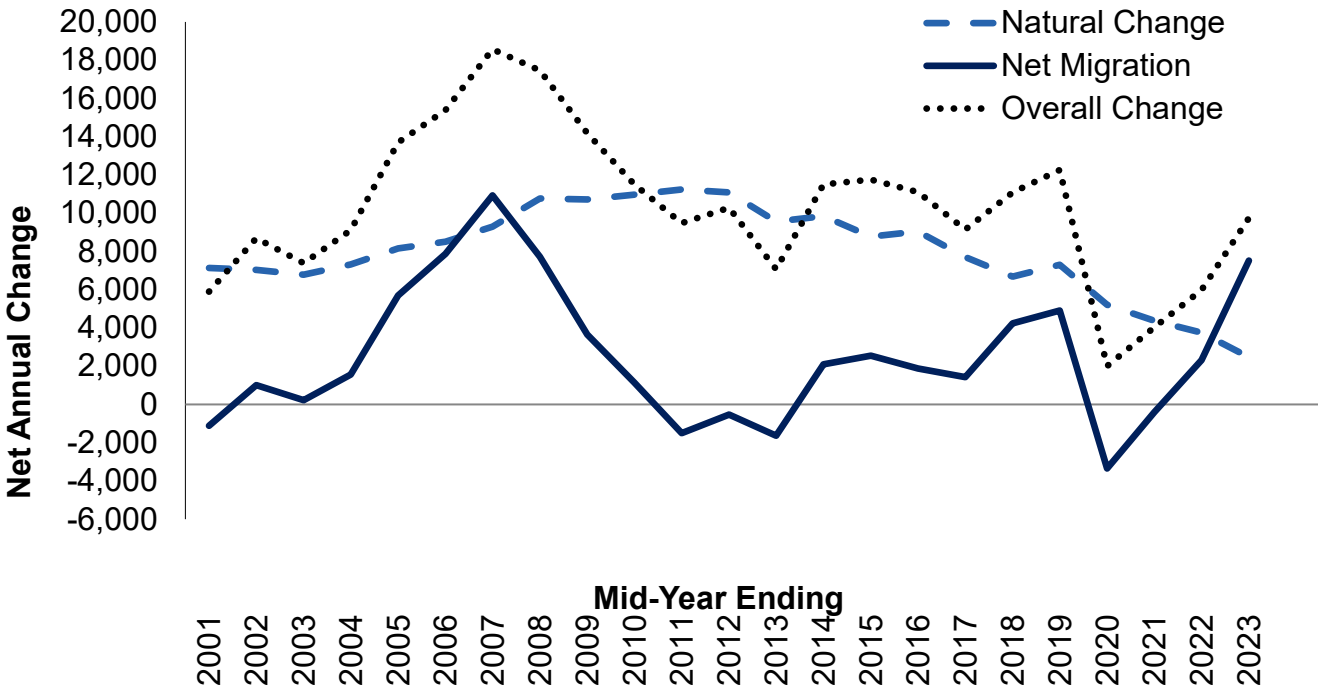


In the year between mid-2022 and mid-2023 population change totalled 9,800 people, which was a result of positive natural change and net migration. This marks a continued increase in population growth since a recent low in mid-2020. Net migration (i.e. inflows<sup>3</sup> minus outflows<sup>4</sup>) was the main contributor to the increase in population, accounting for 76.5 per cent (7,500) of this growth.

In 2023, net migration was at its highest level (+7,500 people) since mid-2008

Northern Ireland has also experienced positive natural change (i.e. births minus deaths) over the year with the number of births exceeding deaths by 2,500 (see Figure 4). This represents the lowest natural change in the time series and continues a downward trend in the last decade.

**Figure 4: Components of population change (year ending mid-2001 to year ending mid-2023)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 149 KB)

<sup>3</sup> Inflows: the number of people coming to Northern Ireland to live.  
<sup>4</sup> Outflows: the number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live elsewhere.



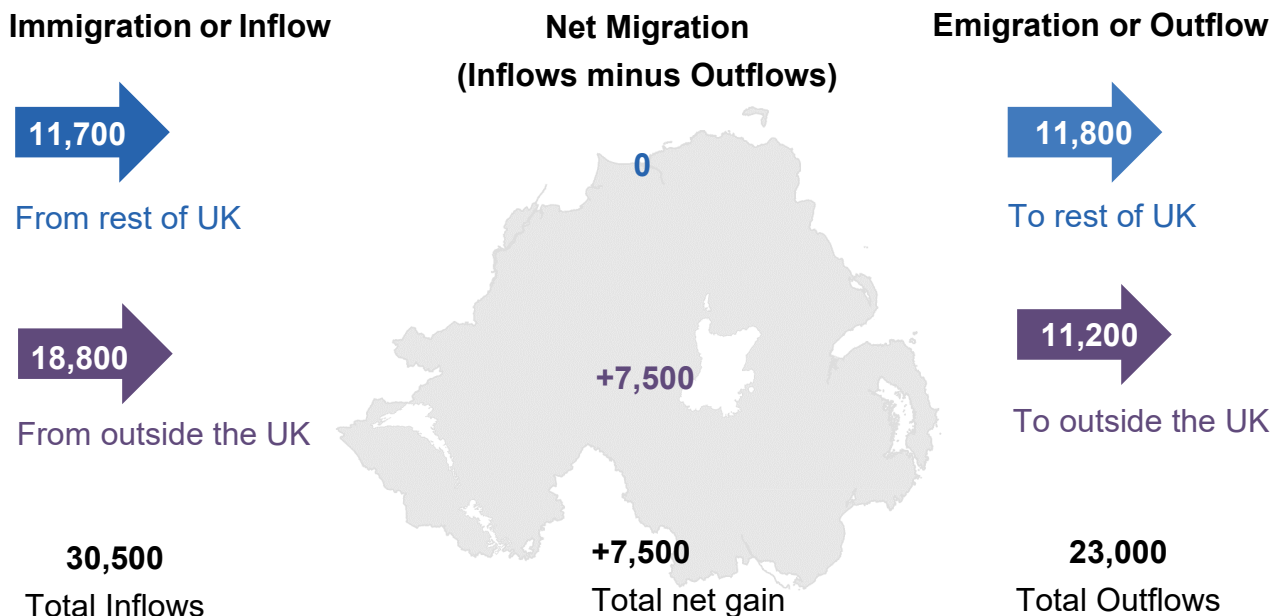
## 4 Where do migrants come from and go to?

Migration into and out of Northern Ireland can be analysed in two groups, namely:

- UK migration – Flows of people between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK
- International migration – Flows of people between Northern Ireland and outside the UK

Figure 5 below shows the number of people migrating into and out of Northern Ireland by type (i.e. whether to/from the UK or International) for the year ending mid-2023.

**Figure 5: Migration to and from Northern Ireland by type in the year ending mid-2023**



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Note that figures may not sum due to rounding

[Download Map](#) (PDF format – 135 KB)

Between the year ending mid-2022 and the year ending mid-2023, the number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live in the rest of the UK decreased by 1,000 people (8.0 per cent), while the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK increased by 1,600 people (16.3 per cent). This led to inflows of 11,700 people and outflows of 11,800 people in the year ending mid-2023 and resulted in an approximately even net UK migration.

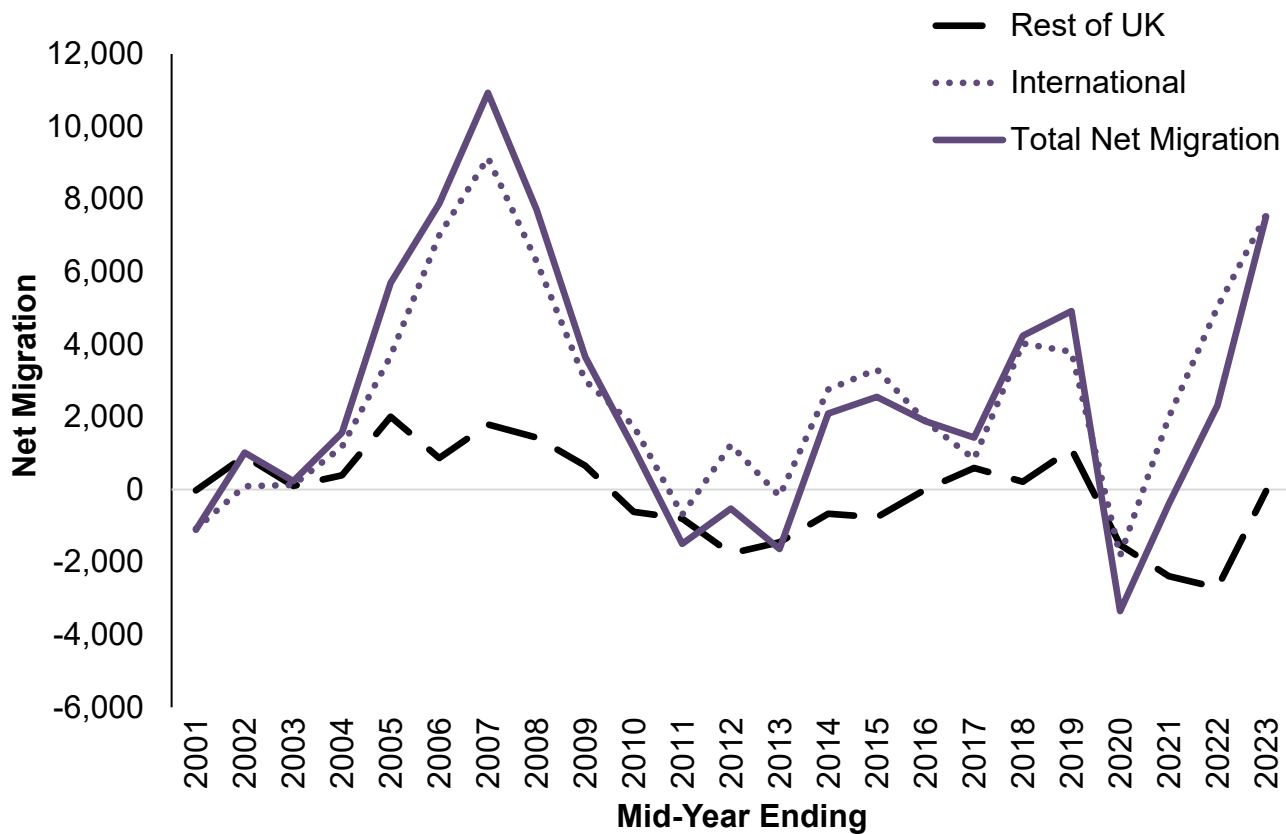
During the same time, the number of people leaving Northern Ireland to live outside the UK decreased by 600 (5.6 per cent) to 11,200, while the number of people coming to live in Northern Ireland from outside the UK increased by 1,900 (11.1 per cent) to 18,800<sup>5</sup>. As a result, in the

<sup>5</sup> This figure includes asylum seekers and those who arrived as part of the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

year ending mid-2023, there was a net migration gain of 7,500 people due to international migration.

Figure 6 shows a time series of net migration by type from the year ending mid-2001 to the year ending mid-2023. Mid-2023 shows a continuation of an upward trend seen since 2020.

**Figure 6: Estimated net migration by type (year ending mid-2001 to year ending mid-2023)**

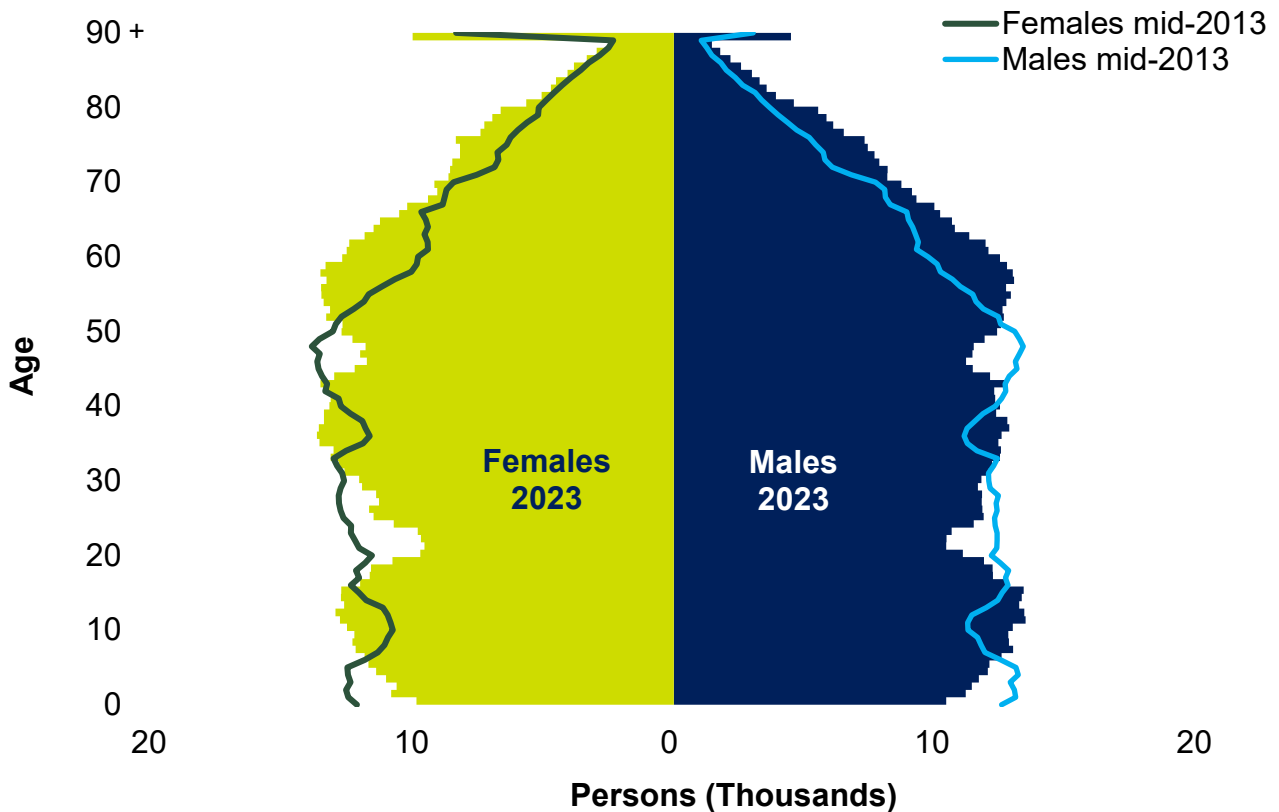


[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 93 KB)

## 5 The age structure of Northern Ireland's population

### 5.1 The population of Northern Ireland is ageing

Figure 7: Population by age and sex (mid-2013 and mid-2023)



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 100 KB)

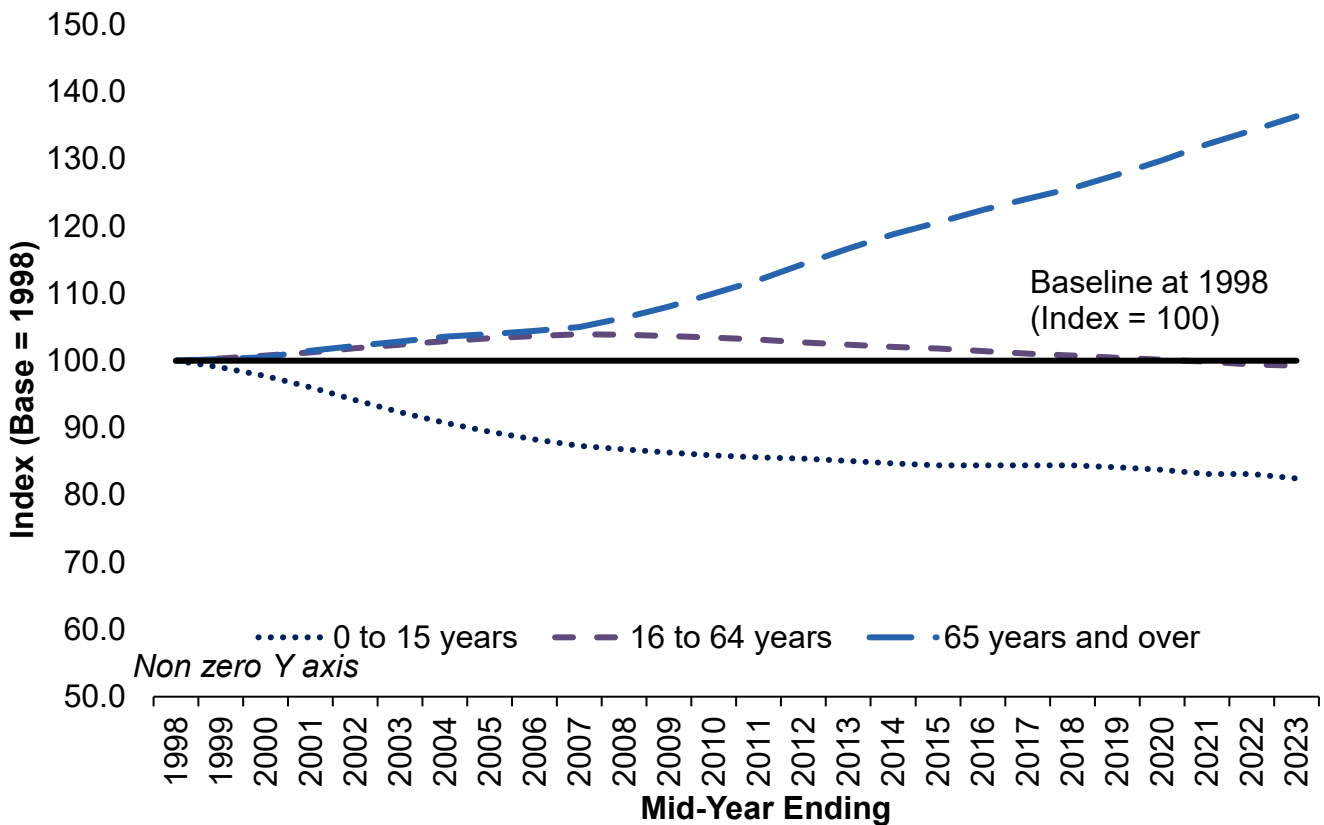
Age composition is one of the most important aspects of the population since changes in different age groups will have varied social and economic impacts. Figure 7 shows the population split by age and sex for mid-2013 and mid-2023 in the form of a population pyramid. This particular data representation allows for a more visual idea of how the numbers of people have 'aged on' in the decade to the year ending mid-2023 with the pyramid beginning to broaden around age 50 and over.

Over the three decades from the year ending mid-1993 to the year ending mid-2023 the median age (i.e. the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of the Northern Ireland population has increased from 31.7 to 40.2 years.

## 5.2 How is the age structure of the population changing?

Over the 25 year period (from 1998 to 2023) Northern Ireland has seen changes in the proportion of the population in key age groups. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over has experienced the largest increase over the 25 year period, with a distinct accelerated growth in this population occurring from mid-2007. As a result, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased by 36.4 per cent from mid-1998 to mid-2023. Conversely, the proportion of children (i.e. people aged 0 to 15 years) in Northern Ireland has decreased since mid-1998 by 17.5 per cent to mid-2023. The proportion of the population who are of working age (i.e. people aged 16 to 64 years) has remained relatively stable over the period.

**Figure 8: Index of population change for key age groups in Northern Ireland, mid-1998 to mid-2023**

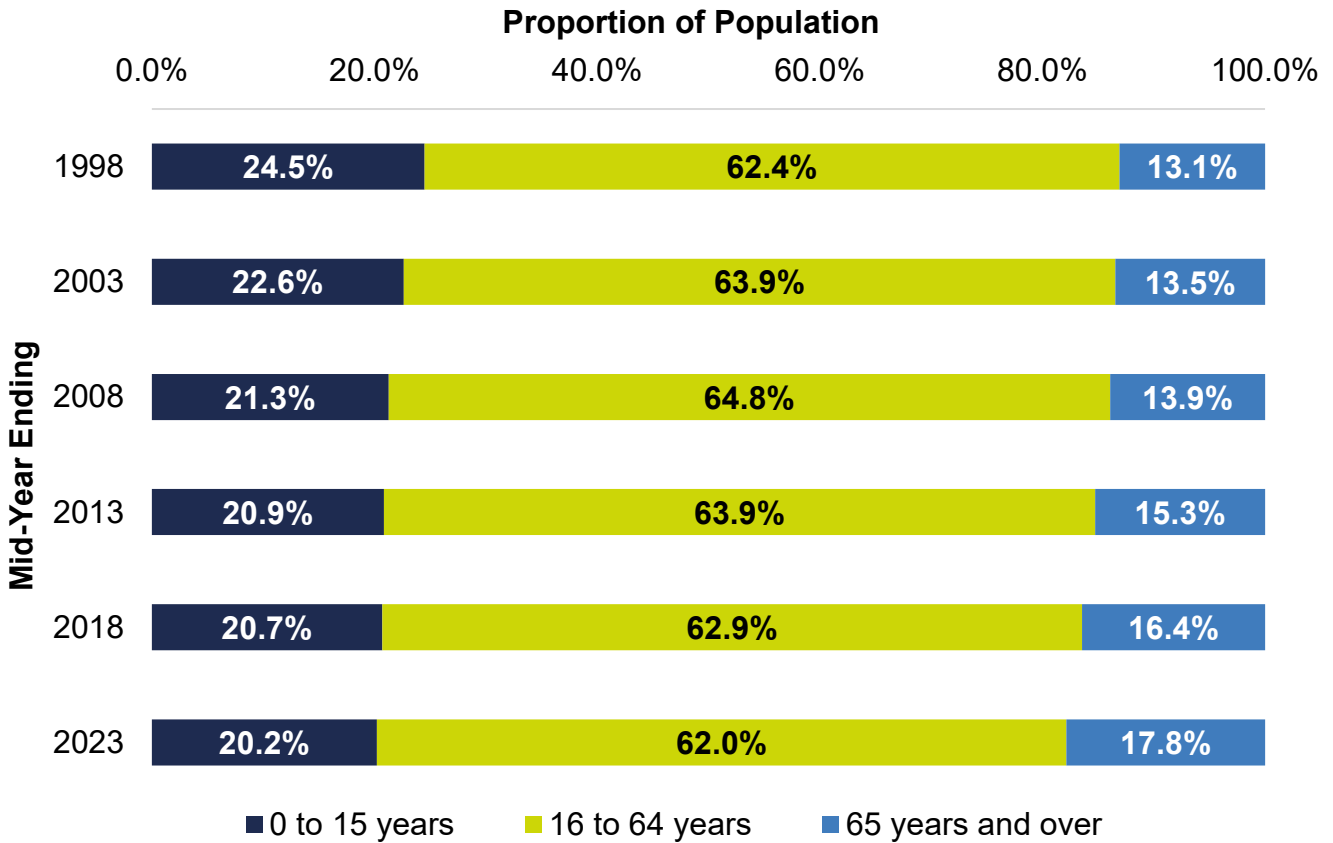


[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 97 KB)

Figure 9 shows how the rate of change between these three age groups translates into the makeup of the Northern Ireland population as a whole. The population has gradually become older with the proportion older population (aged 65 years and over) increasing throughout this period from 13.1 per cent in mid-1998 to 17.8 per cent in mid-2023. Conversely, the proportion

of the of children has decreased from 24.5 per cent of the population in mid-1998 to 20.2 per cent of the population in mid-2023.

**Figure 9: Age structure of Northern Ireland's population, mid-1998 to mid-2023**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX format – 90 KB)

In mid-2023, just over **one in five** (20.2 per cent) people in Northern Ireland were children

### 5.3 Change in age structure over the year

#### 5.3.1 Children (0 to 15 years)

In the year ending mid-2023, the number of children decreased by 1,200 people (from 389,400 to 388,200), representing 20.2 per cent of the population.

This decrease of 1,200 children was a result of:



<sup>6</sup> 'Ageing out' refers to the cohort of people ageing from one group into the next. In this case, people who are aged 15 in mid-2022 will turn 16 by mid-2023 and therefore 'age out' of the Children (0 to 15 years) age group.

### 5.3.2 Working age population (16 to 64 years)

In the year ending mid-2023 the working age population<sup>7</sup> increased by 0.3 per cent (from 1,185,700 to 1,189,700), representing 62.0 per cent of the population.

This increase of 4,000 people was a result of:



Over the same period, the **younger working age population** (i.e. people aged 16 to 39 years) is estimated to have increased by 0.3 per cent from 565,900 people to 567,800 people, representing 29.6 per cent of the population. This population increase of 1,900 people in the younger working age group was a result of:

- more people 'ageing out' of this age group (25,500) than 'ageing in' (24,600);
- a net increase of 3,300 in this population age group due to migration; and
- a relatively small number of deaths (400)

The **older working age population** (i.e. people aged 40 to 64 years) grew by 0.3 per cent in the year ending mid-2022 (from 619,800 to 621,900), representing 32.4 per cent of the population. This growth of 2,100 was a result of:

- more people 'ageing into' this age group (25,500) than 'ageing out' (22,000);
- a net gain of 1,100 in this population age group due to migration; and
- a total of 2,400 deaths among people in this age group

<sup>7</sup> The working age population is defined by the age at 30 June 2023 and is not based on the age for entitlement to state pension. Following the Pensions Act 2007 and 2011, the State Pension Age (SPA) for women will increase gradually to 65 by November 2018.

<sup>8</sup> 'Ageing in' refers to the cohort of people ageing from one group into the next. In this case, people who are aged 15 in mid-2022 will turn 16 by mid-2023 and therefore 'age in' to the 'working age' group (16 to 64 years).

<sup>9</sup> 'Ageing out' refers to the cohort of people ageing from one group into the next. In this case, people who are aged 64 in mid-2022 will turn 65 by mid-2023 and therefore 'age out' of the working age group and 'age in' to the 'older population' group (65 years and over) age group.

### 5.3.3 The older population (65 years and over)

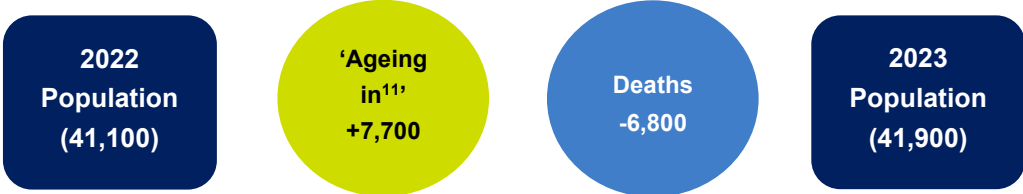
In mid-2023, just over **one in six** (17.8 per cent) people in Northern Ireland were aged 65 and over

In the year mid-2022 to mid-2023, the population aged 65 and over increased by 2.1 per cent (from 335,400 to 342,500), representing 17.8 per cent of the population.

This increase of 7,000 was due to:



The **population aged 85 and over** increased by 1.9 per cent (from 41,100 to 41,900) between mid-2022 and mid-2023, representing 2.2 per cent of the population. The growth of 800 people in this age group was a result of:



<sup>10</sup> 'Ageing in' refers to the cohort of people ageing from one group into the next. In this case, people who are aged 64 in mid-2022 will turn 65 by mid-2023 and therefore 'age in' to the 'working age' group (65 years and over).

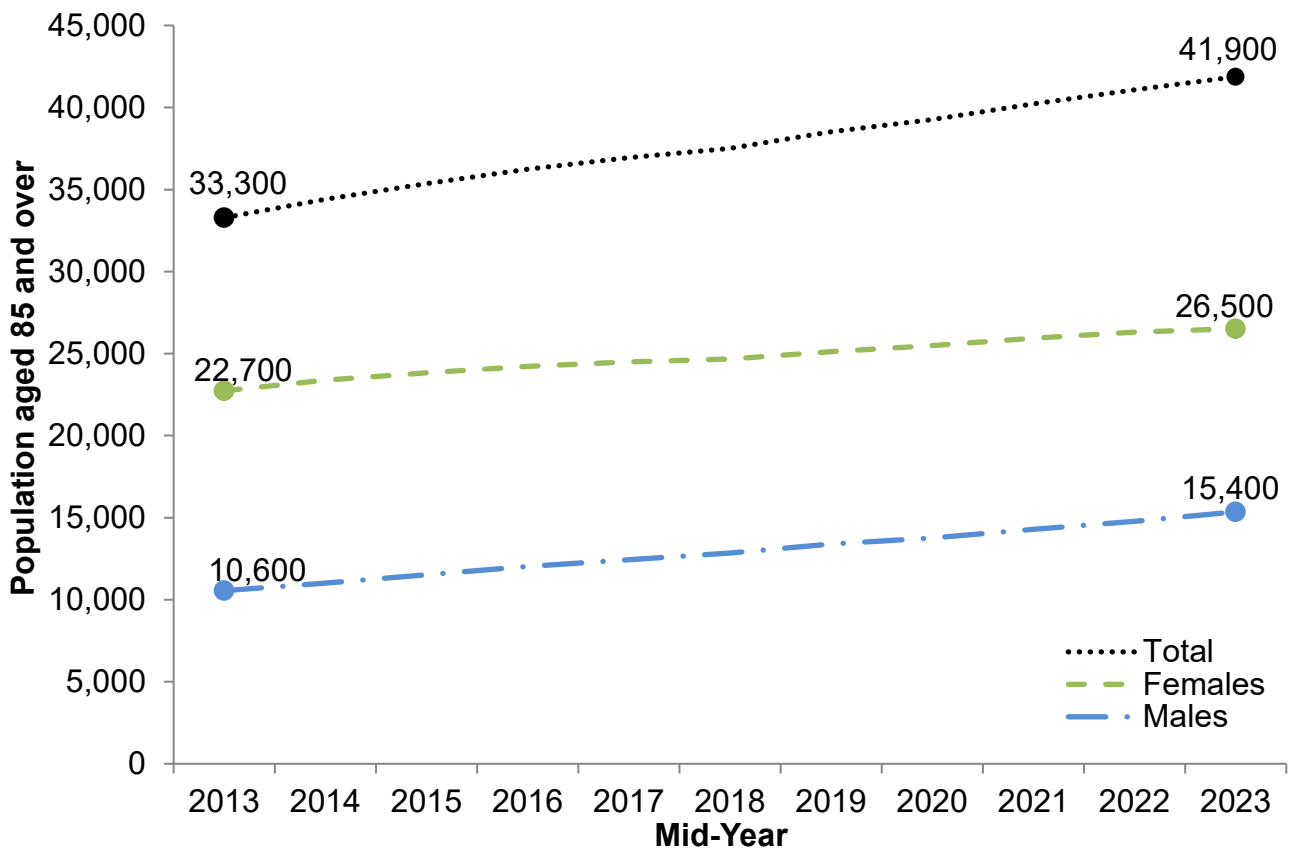
<sup>11</sup> 'Ageing in' refers to the cohort of people ageing from one group into the next. In this case, people who are aged 84 in mid-2022 will turn 85 by mid-2023 and therefore 'age in' to the 'working age' group (85 years and over).

## 6 Population aged 85 and over

The population aged 85 and over increased by 25.8 per cent in the decade since mid-2013, a rate over five times higher than the population as a whole

It is estimated that there were 41,900 people aged 85 and over living in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2023, an increase of 800 people (1.9 per cent) since mid-2022. Figure 3 illustrates the trend in the population aged 85 and over, from Mid-2013 to Mid-2023.

**Figure 10: Population aged 85 and over by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 148 KB)

Between mid-2022 and mid-2023, net migration of people aged 85 and over, to and from Northern Ireland, was negligible. In the same period, more people aged into this group (7,600) than left through mortality (6,800). This resulted in an overall increase of 800 people aged 85 and over from mid-2022 to mid-2023. This pattern of marginal migration effects is consistent with estimated population changes in previous years.

Deaths in the population aged 85 and over increased by 1.2 per cent (from 6,700 deaths to 6,800 deaths) in the year ending mid-2023.

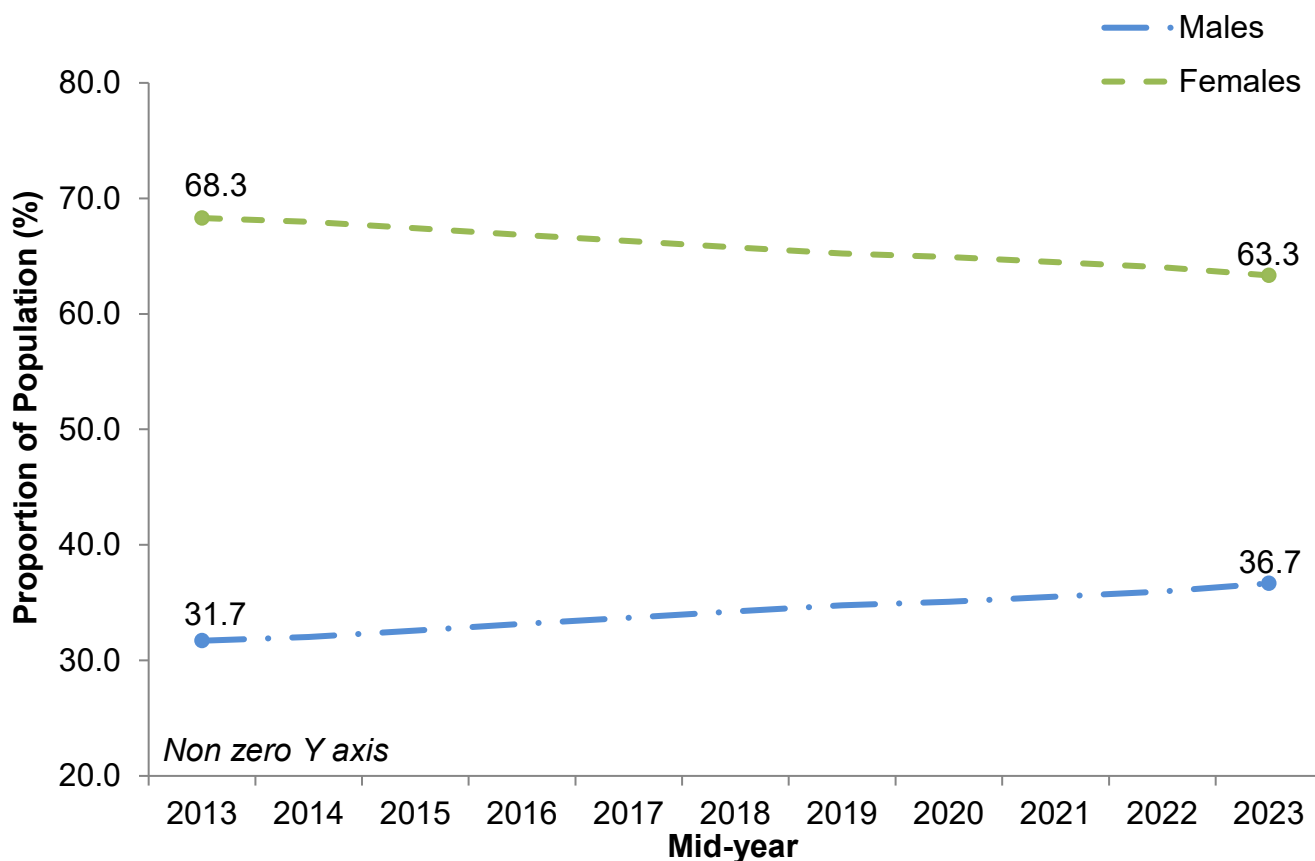
Between mid-2013 and mid-2023, the percentage increase in the number of males aged 85 and over (45.5 per cent) has been noticeably higher than that among females (16.6 per cent). Over



the past decade, numbers of males aged 85 and over increased on average by 3.8 per cent each year, while females aged 85 and over increased on average by 1.6 per cent each year.

In mid-2023, males accounted for 36.7 per cent of those aged 85 and over and females for 63.3 per cent, whereas 10 years previously, in mid-2013, the figures were 31.7 per cent and 68.3 per cent respectively. This compositional change, which is illustrated in Figure 4, is indicative of higher improvement in survival rates among males than females at older ages in recent years.

**Figure 11: Proportion of population aged 85 and over by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 147 KB)

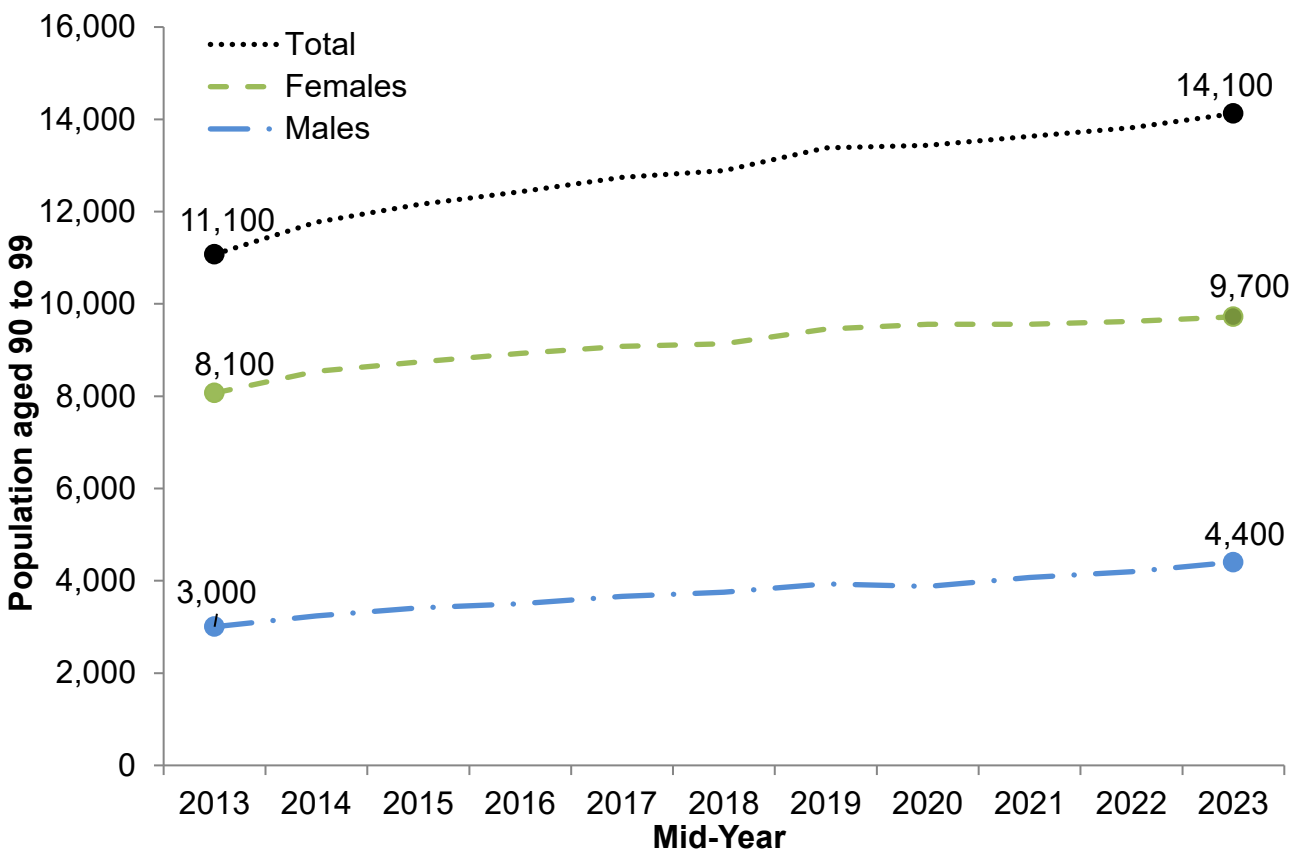
## 6.1 Population aged 90-99

In the period mid-2013 to mid-2023, the Northern Ireland population aged 90 to 99 increased by 27.5 per cent

It is estimated that there were 14,100 people aged between 90 and 99 in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2023, this represents an increase of 300 people (2.2 per cent) since mid-2022.

Figure 5 shows there has consistently been more females aged 90 to 99 than males since mid-2013. In mid-2023, 68.8 per cent of those aged 90 to 99 were females (9,700) and 31.2 per cent were males (4,400). Ten years previously in mid-2013, females accounted for 72.9 per cent of those aged 90 to 99 and males accounted for 27.1 per cent.

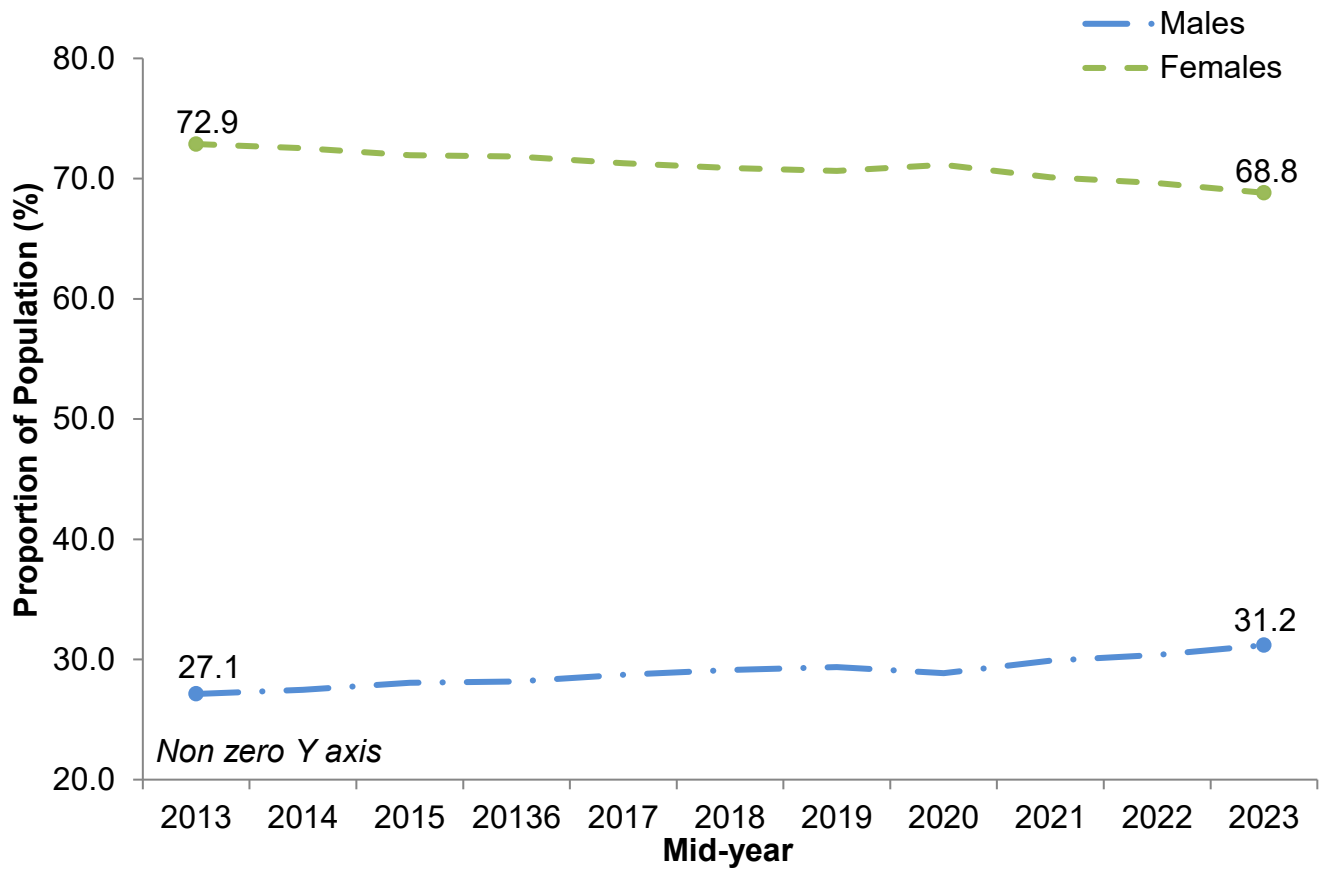
**Figure 12: Population aged 90 to 99 by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 148 KB)

However, looking at percentage growth, the increase in the number of males aged 90 to 99 (46.6 per cent) was noticeably higher than that of females (20.4 per cent) over the decade, mid-2013 to mid-2023. This compositional change, which is illustrated in Figure 6, is indicative of higher improvement in survival rates among males than females in the population aged 90 to 99 in recent years.

**Figure 13: Proportion of population aged 90-99 by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)**

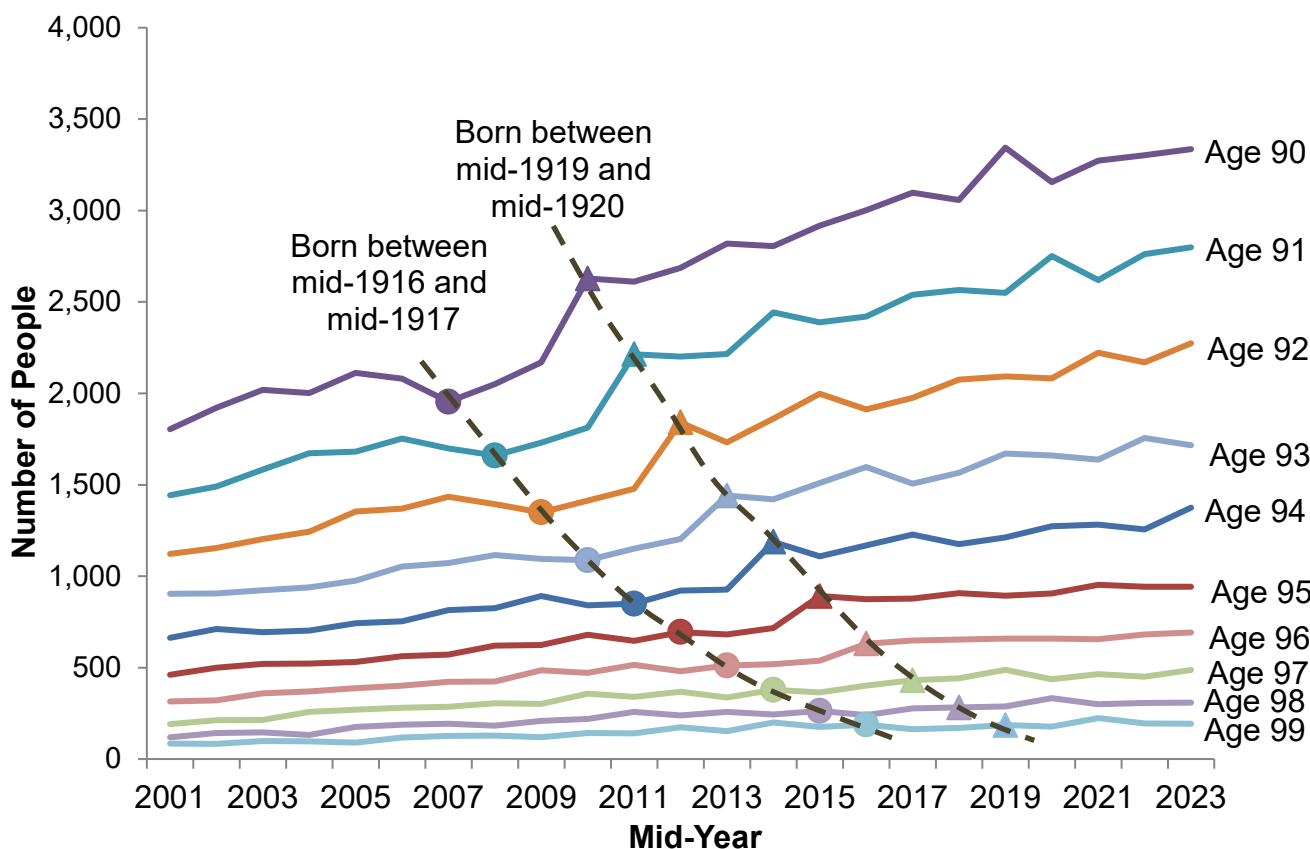


[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format - 147 KB)

Previous reports demonstrated the impact which the First World War had on births occurring at that time, and how that has had knock-on effects on the number of persons aged 90 and over in recent years<sup>13</sup>. Figure 7 shows the population aged 90 to 99 from mid-2001 to mid-2023, and highlights those born in the years ending mid-1917 and mid-1920.

The peak in the number of births in 1920 is still visible in the population estimates for those aged 90 in mid-2010, those aged 91 in mid-2011, and so on right through to those aged 99 in mid-2019. The low number of births in 1917 can still be observed in the dips in population estimates for those aged 90 in mid-2007 through to those aged 92 in mid-2009, albeit to a lesser extent. Beyond this the impact of low births in 1917 on the population estimates becomes less evident.

**Figure 14: Population aged 90-99, Northern Ireland (mid-2001 to mid-2023)**



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 152 KB)

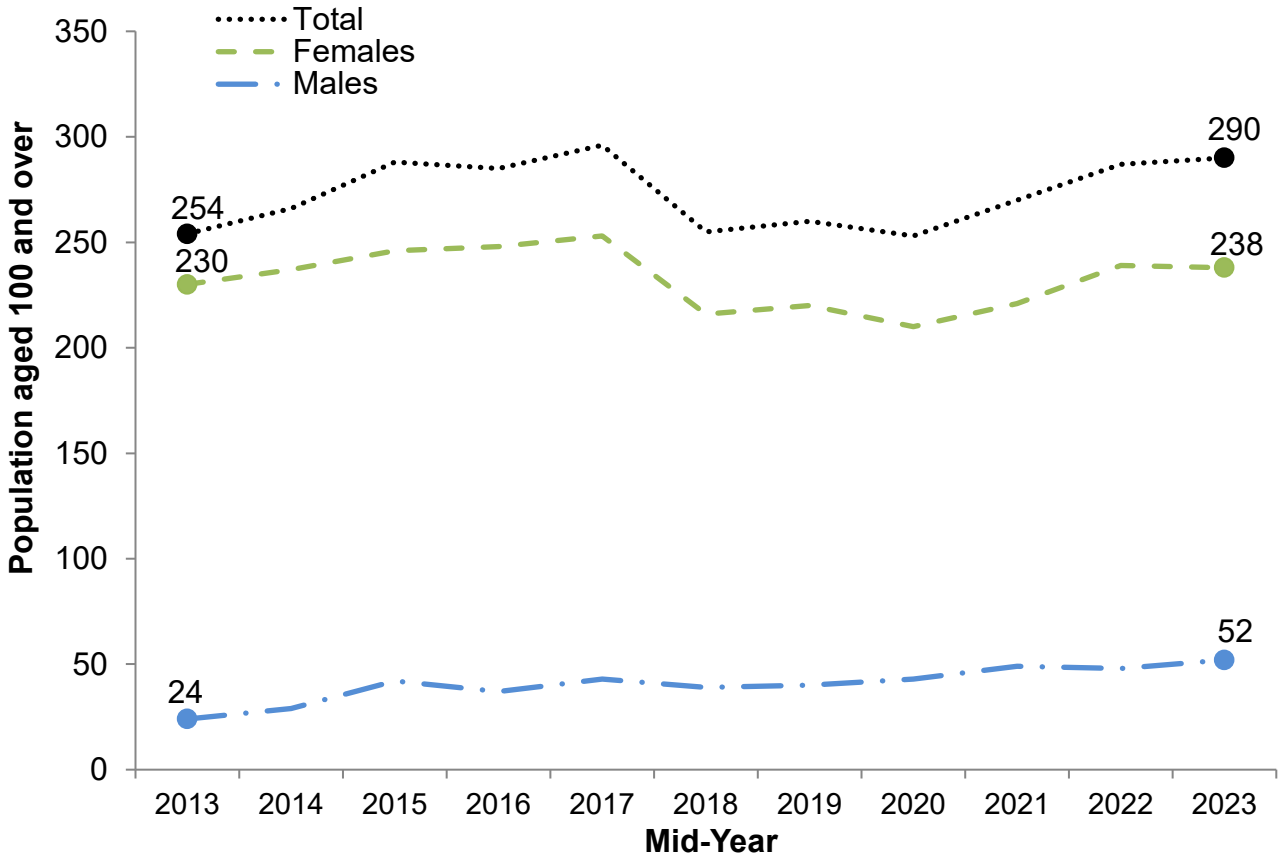
<sup>13</sup> Historical births data are available from the [Vital Statistics](#) section of the NISRA website.

## 6.2 Number of centenarians (aged 100 and over)

The vast majority of centenarians were female (82.1 per cent) in mid-2023

It is estimated that there were 290 centenarians living in Northern Ireland on 30 June 2023. Figure 8 shows how the size and gender composition of the relatively small centenarian group has changed over the ten year period mid-2013 to mid-2023. The centenarian group has increased in size from 254 centenarians in mid-2013 to 290 centenarians in mid-2023, with the number of females consistently, and notably, exceeding the number of males.

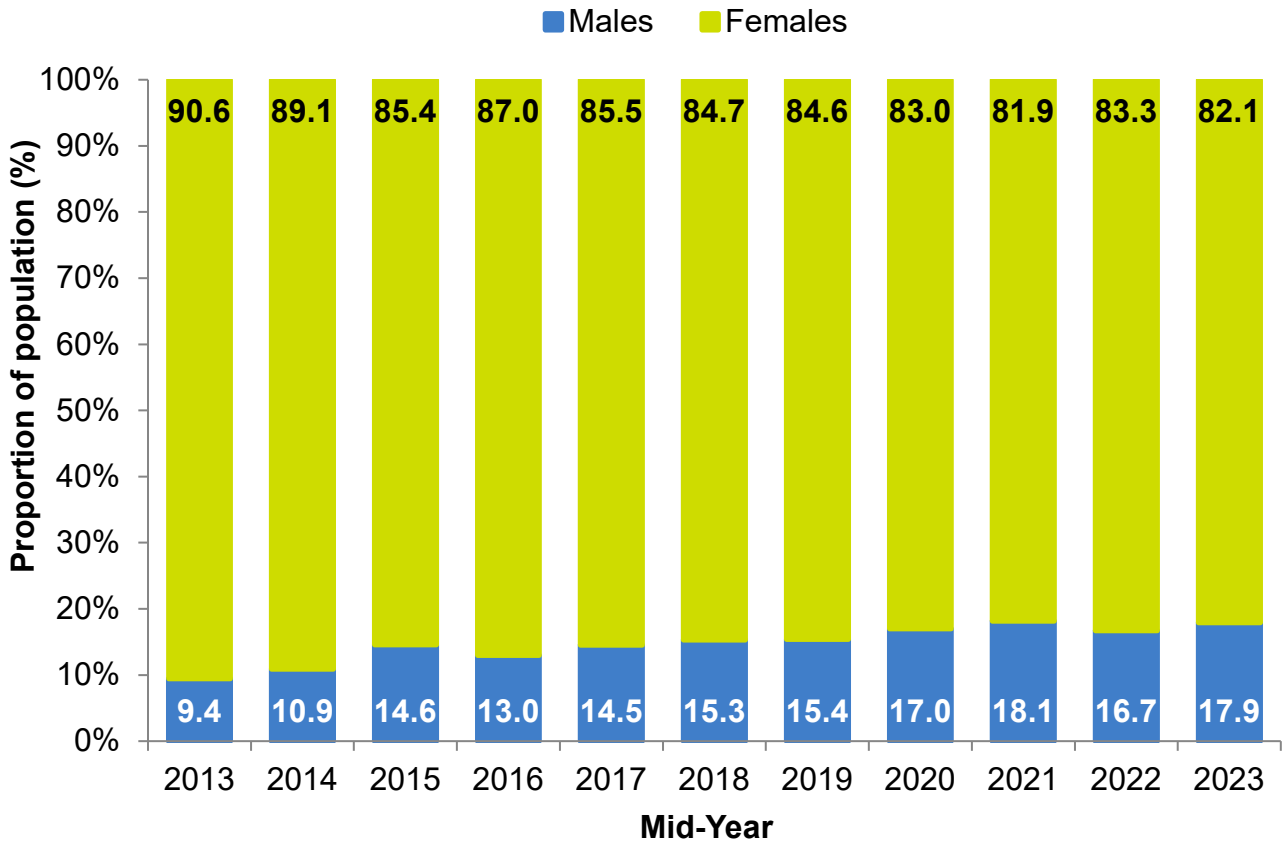
Figure 15: Population aged 100 and over by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 145 KB)

As a result of the relatively small number of people in the centenarian age group, small changes in the number of males and females can result in large changes in the proportional representation of males and females (see Figure 9).

Figure 16: Proportion of population aged 100 and over by sex (mid-2013 to mid-2023)



[Download Chart](#) (XLSX Format – 146 KB)

## 7 Links to related statistics

More detailed population estimates for Local Government Districts and Parliamentary Constituencies are available on the [NISRA website](#).

[Population projections for Northern Ireland](#) and [sub-national areas](#) (2018-based) are available from the NISRA website. [2020-based National Interim Population Projections](#) were published at the end of 2021. Release dates for all population projection outputs are being reviewed in conjunction with the ONS in light of the revised publication plans for rebased population estimates and mid-year population estimates. Further information and updates will be pre-announced and updated on the [release calendar](#).

How to find data and related documents	
What are you looking for?	Where is it?
The tables and figures used throughout this publication in Excel format.	<a href="#">Tables and figures</a>
Population estimates on NISRA data portal can be exported in CSV, JSON-stat, PX, XLSX formats.	<a href="#">NISRA data portal</a>
Quality Report	<a href="#">Background Quality Report</a>
Methodology Report	<a href="#">Methodology Report</a>

## 8 Official Statistics

Official Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

Population Estimates for Northern Ireland last underwent a full assessment by the Statistics Authority against the [Code of Practice](#) in July 2015. The assessment report can be found on the [NISRA website](#). Following the Statistics Authority assessment the continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in [August 2016](#).

Official Statistics status was confirmed subject to NISRA implementing six specific requirements. An action plan outlining how and when NISRA addressed each of these requirements can be found on the [NISRA website](#).

An action plan checklist with supporting documentation can also be found on the [NISRA website](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Improved clarity and insight by redesigning the statistical bulletin to include a key point's summary for users. In addition, key point headlines have been included throughout the commentary, so users are alerted to key messages.
- The associated data tables for mid-year population estimates are disseminated in a more innovative way by including a flat file and tabular format which users can interact with.
- We improved the accessibility of mid-year population estimates and we are publishing data in 3\* open data format on the [NISRA Data Portal](#). We will publish the mid-2023 population estimates on the data on the NISRA data portal shortly. We have also included a new 'Links to related statistics' section within the bulletin so users can explore the whole population statistics package, including older person estimates, population projections, small area population estimates and a range of other material.

## 9 Background Notes

### 9.1 Population coverage

Mid-year population estimates relate to the *usually resident* population on 30 June of the reference year and ages relate to a person's age at this mid-year period. Long term international migrants are included in population estimates; however, short term migrants are not. The definition of a long-term migrant which has been adopted from the United Nations is, '*a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country*'



*of usual residence*'. Other changes include changes in armed forces personnel stationed in Northern Ireland.

## **9.2 Methodology**

Population estimates for 2012-2020 contained within this report have been revised in line with the most recent Census 2021 population estimates. This was carried out by examining the difference between the rolled-forward 2011-based estimates for mid-2021 and the Census 2021-based estimates. A weighted cohort model was used to apply changes to the series from 2012 to 2020 at a Northern Ireland level initially. From there we have distributed to Local Government Districts (LGDs) up to mid-year 2020. A period adjustment was also applied to people of student age at LGD level, again up to mid-year 2020. The majority of the adjustment to this series was applied to international outward migration with some other changes applied to within Northern Ireland migration and 'other' unattributable changes.

## **9.3 Quality of administrative data**

Population estimates are produced using a range of administrative data sources, the quality of which have been assessed in detail within the [Population Estimates and Projections Data Quality Document](#). In addition, population estimates are compared to several administrative data sources including, active medical cards, electoral register, benefit claimants and National Insurance Number registrations to assure the quality of outputs. Any significant differences are examined further. NISRA also works closely with colleagues in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and National Records of Scotland (NRS) to assure the quality of population estimates across the UK. A paper comparing the methodological approaches adopted by producers of population statistics across the UK is available on the [ONS website](#).

## **9.4 Census 2021 and Rebasing Exercise of 2012-2020**

The decennial census population estimate forms the baseline for the mid-year population estimates going forward. As each year from the baseline passes the accuracy of the population estimates slightly diminishes. Following the [2021 mid-year population estimates](#) (published 29 November 2022) which were based on the results of the 2021 census, a reconciliation process, which looked at the intercensal drift between 2011 and 2021 was carried out. The rebased population estimates for this period are included in the [2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#) publication.

## **10 Limitations**

Migration is the most difficult component of population change to measure due to the absence of an administrative dataset designed specifically for measuring migration. NISRA uses the medical card register as the source in the production of migration estimates, however, there are

known deficiencies with this approach. For example, it is recognised that the medical card register is deficient in recording the movements of young adult males; therefore, the age distribution for movements of young adult males is adjusted to be similar to the age distribution for the movements of young adult females. Furthermore, not all outflows are measured fully by the medical card register and therefore outflows are scaled up by an additional 67 per cent. It is assumed only 3 out of 5 people will de register with their GP if they are leaving Northern Ireland (see [Methodology Report](#) for more detail).

England, Wales and Scotland used International Passenger Survey (IPS) for producing official migration statistics. Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced in August 2020 that they would not return to producing official migration statistics from the IPS and instead shift to a new approach that will rely on administrative data first and foremost (admin-based migration estimates (ABMEs)). This shift means that in future they will be basing their estimates on actual patterns of migration, rather than relying on potential migrants to respond to survey questions about whether they are planning to remain in or out of the UK in the next 12 months. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) works closely with ONS to ensure comprehensive and coherent UK and country level migration statistics.

While this means there is a methodological difference for the international migration estimates of Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK, NISRA and ONS are content that the methods used for Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK yield robust estimates for the UK as a whole. Furthermore, Northern Ireland migration statistics have been previously assessed by UKSA, who found them to be fit for purpose<sup>12</sup>.

Some data sources used in the production of population estimates for small geographical areas (e.g., School Census, Child Benefits, and Pensions data) rely on the use of postcodes to allocate people to specific small geographical areas. In a small number of cases, postcodes can span more than one small geographical area (3-5 per cent of postcodes). Therefore, properties within the same postcode can be in different small geographical areas. However, all properties with a given postcode are allocated to a single small geographical area based on where the “centre of the postcode” is located. This can give rise to some small inaccuracies in the resultant estimates for small geographical areas and is not unique to Northern Ireland statistics.

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<sup>12</sup> For more detail see the [NISRA website](#).

## Enquiries and suggestions

- The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population statistics is available [here](#).
- We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please send feedback directly to [census@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:census@nisra.gov.uk).
- Follow NISRA on [X](#), formerly known as Twitter and [Facebook](#).
- All media inquiries should be directed to the DOF Press Office:

Telephone: 028 9081 6724

Email: [dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk)

- Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:

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