

# ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION AGED 85 AND OVER, NORTHERN IRELAND, 2015 (AND REVISED 2001-14)



## Population aged 85 and over growing by 1,000 every year

9:30am – Thursday, 29 September 2016

The number of people aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland has grown by around 1,000 people per annum throughout the decade ending mid-2015.

This is one of the findings of the statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Over the course of the decade in question the population aged 85 and over has reached 35,500, representing 1.9 per cent of the population. The rate of growth among this age group is almost six times that of those under 85 years of age (37.1 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively). While women account for two thirds (67.3 per cent) of those aged 85 and over, the population increase among males over the decade has been noticeably higher than that among females (54.8 per cent and 29.9 per cent respectively).

The estimates also suggest that there were 280 centenarians (i.e. those aged 100 and over) in mid-2015, only one in nine of whom (11.1 per cent) were male.

At Local Government District level, the proportion of people aged 85 and over in mid-2015 ranged from 1.4 per cent (2,100 people) in Derry & Strabane to 2.4 per cent (3,800 people) in Ards & North Down.

At a UK level Northern Ireland continues to have the lowest proportion of people aged 85 and over (1.9 per cent). However, over the decade ending mid-2015 the percentage growth here (37.1 per cent), among this age group, was noticeably higher than in each of England (31.3 per cent), Scotland (30.7 per cent) and Wales (27.2 per cent).

Growth in the population aged 85 and over is the result of more people 'ageing into' the 85 and over age group than are leaving it each year as a result of dying. At these ages, the impact of migration is negligible.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the population aged 85 and over are available at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp134.htm>. An infographic highlighting the important figures and trends in the data has also been released and is available at <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/interactiveMaps/DataVis/85andover%20Population%202015.pdf>.
2. Mid-year population estimates are produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The estimates refer to the size of the usually resident population at 30 June; the statistics are therefore often referred to as the mid-year estimates. The most recent estimates, published in June 2015, relate to the population at mid-2015 (<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp17.htm>).
3. The method used to estimate the age distribution of the population aged 90 and over is an internationally recognised standard approach known as the Kannisto-Thatcher Survivor Ratio Method. This method requires previous years' estimates to be revised when new death registration data becomes available. Estimates of the population aged 90 and over, by single year of age and sex, are constrained to mid-year population estimates for the entire 90 and over age group.
4. Whilst this report concentrates on the significant increase in the population aged 85 and over, it is still important to recognise that the number of people aged 85 and over represents a small proportion of the total population (i.e. 1.9 per cent in mid-2015).
5. Equivalent and comparable estimates of the population aged 90 and over for England and Wales (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/mortality-ageing/estimates-of-the-very-old--including-centenarians-/index.html>) by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and for Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/estimates-of-special-populations/population-estimates-for-scottish-centenarians>) by National Records Scotland (NRS) will also be released on 29 September 2016. A UK comparison paper analysing the comparability of these estimates between the four UK countries is available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/ageing/methodologies/comparisonpaper90andoversingleyearofageandsexpopulationestimatesproducedbyonsnrsandnisra>
6. Estimates of the population aged 85 and over for mid-2016, as well as a revised series for mid-2001 to mid-2015, are expected to be published in September 2017.
7. The revisions policy for population statistics is available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/revisions/revisions-policies-by-theme/population/population-statistics-revision-policy.pdf>.
8. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to [census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk).
9. Follow NISRA on Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/NISRANINIS>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belfast-United-Kingdom/Northern-Ireland-Statistics%20Research-Agency/131044496943228?v=wall>).
10. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Communications Office:  
Telephone: 028 9016 3389
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