

NISRA STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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Geographical Area: Local Government Districts

Theme: Population

Time period: mid-2016 to mid-2041

Population Projections for areas within Northern Ireland: 2016-based

Key Points:

- 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).
- 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.

More detailed figures and analysis are included in the bulletin.

Content

1	Introduction	4
2	Background	4
3	Points to note	4
4	Projection Assumptions	5
5	Population Projections for Northern Ireland.....	8
6	Population Projections for Local Government Districts.....	10
7	Local Government Districts - Projected Components of Change.....	13
8	Local Government Districts - Projected Population by Age.....	19
9	Methodology	29
10	Variant Projections	29
11	Comparison with 2014-based Sub-National Projections	29
12	Data Quality	32
13	Limitations	34
14	Background Notes	35
	Annex A: Fact sheets of population projections for each LGD	37
	Annex B: Map 1 - Projected population growth by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)	49

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 percentage changes 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. This is particularly the case for the smaller population groups reported in Annex A.

1 Introduction

This report details the key findings from the [2016-based Population Projections for areas within Northern Ireland](#) and replaces the [2014-based projections](#) published in May 2016. The main focus of this report is on the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) which came into operation on 1st April 2015 and replaced the former 26 Districts. [Annex A](#) in this bulletin provides a 'key facts' sheet for each LGD, highlighting the projected population for the ten year period mid-2016 to mid-2026. Detailed tables for these areas, as well as projections for the former 26 LGDs, Health and Social Care Trusts and former Education & Library Boards for the 25 year period from mid-2016 to mid-2041 are available from the [NISRA website](#).

2 Background

[National population projections](#) by age and sex are produced every two years for the UK and its constituent countries by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The [current set of national projections](#) (i.e. Northern Ireland level) were published in October 2017 and are based on the [mid-2016 population estimates](#) and a set of underlying demographic assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and migration. This set of projections superseded the [2014-based National Population Projections](#), published in October 2015.

Following the publication of Northern Ireland level population projections, NISRA subsequently produces official sub-national population projections for areas within Northern Ireland. These sub-national projections are based on the extrapolation of demographic trends in fertility, mortality and migration for areas within Northern Ireland and, in keeping with past practice, are constrained to the most recent Northern Ireland level population projections.

3 Points to note

It is important to note that 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.

When considering these projections it should be noted that their degree of reliability is closely associated with their proximity to the base year (in this case mid-2016). For example, as we get further away from the base year, longer-term fertility assumptions are applied to a female population that hasn't been born yet in mid-2016, which affects the number of births in the long run. Therefore, this bulletin will focus mainly on the intermediate projections in the 10 year period from mid-2016 to mid-2026.

4 Projection Assumptions

4.1 Overarching National Level Assumptions

The long-term assumptions for the Northern Ireland level 2016-based population projections were:

- Fertility – In the long-term, the hypothetical woman will have 2.00 children in her life time.
- Mortality – In the long-term, improvements in mortality rates are projected to be around 1.2 per cent per annum.
- Migration¹ – Net international migration will continue throughout the projection period with the observed levels in the year ending mid-2016 (i.e. 1,500 inflows).

These long-term assumptions are applied in order to calculate the projected number of births, deaths, and net migration occurring each year in the projection period. However, there is a transition period for fertility, mortality and migration to gradually move from levels observed in the base year, to the long-term assumptions².

Figure 1 shows that at the Northern Ireland level, throughout the projection period both the number of births and deaths (and the difference between them - i.e. natural change) are projected to considerably exceed total net-migration. As such, at the Northern Ireland level overall population growth is projected to be mainly due to natural change, with the projected number of births exceeding the projected number of deaths. For example, over the 25 year period between mid-2016 and mid-2041, the number of births is projected to exceed the number of deaths by 127,300.

In terms of overall net migration, in the 25 years to mid-2041 there is projected to be an average annual net migration gain of 600 people. This differs from the net migration assumption above of +1,500 people per year because the assumption only relates to long-term international migration. Overall net migration also accounts for migration between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK³.

Within the 25 year projection period to mid-2041 there is projected to be an average annual net loss of 900 people to the UK, which when combined with the assumption of +1,500 people due to net international migration gives an overall average annual net migration gain of 600 people.

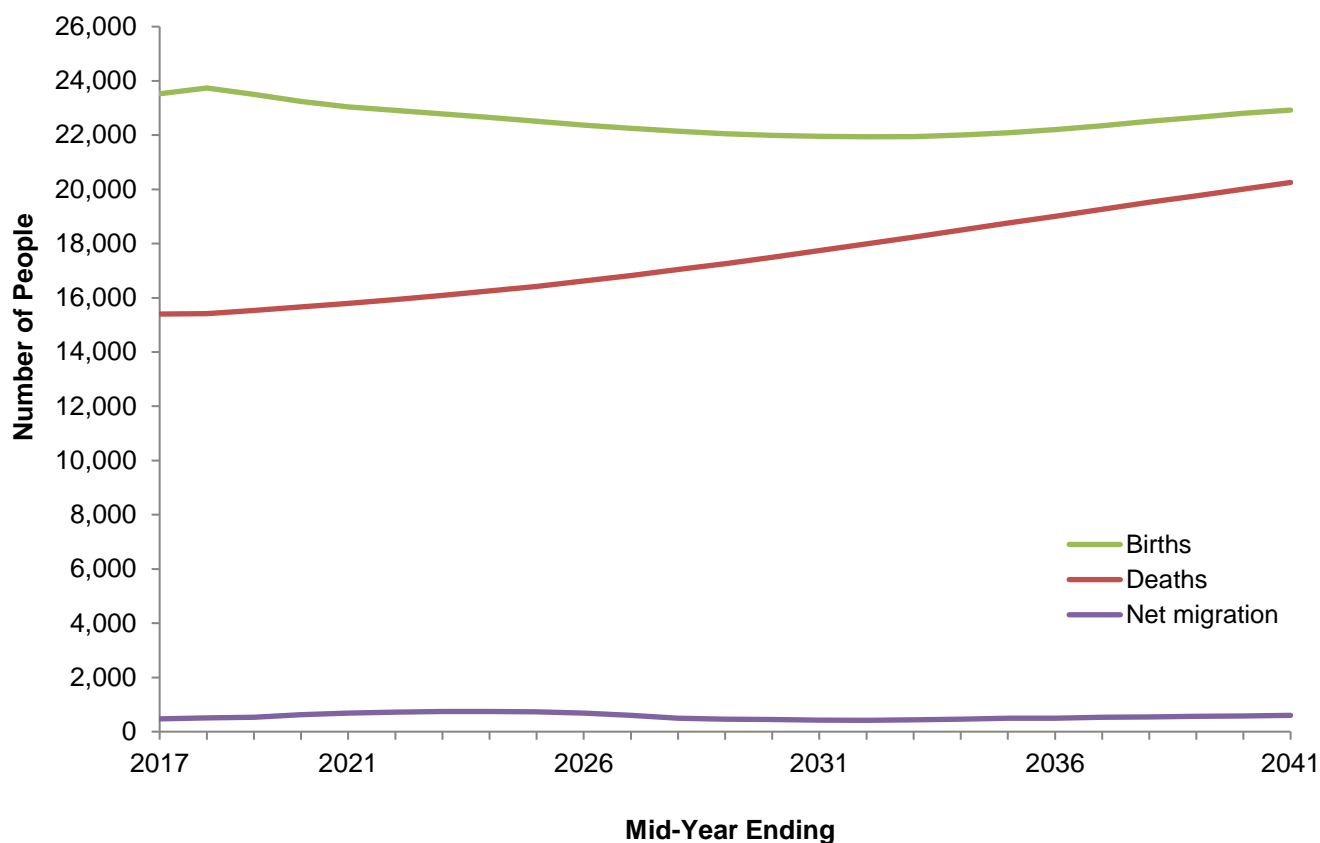
¹ These assumptions are based on recent trends in migration and do not attempt to predict the impact of the UK leaving the EU.

² Further information on the Northern Ireland level assumptions is available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-northern-ireland>

³ Migration projections relating to flows to/from the rest of the UK are calculated by applying rates to the overall projected populations each year.

Figure 1: Projected number of births, deaths and total net migration (mid-2016 to mid-2041)



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Since the population projections for areas within Northern Ireland are constrained to Northern Ireland level projections, these same overarching assumptions apply. However, there are of course regional differences in fertility, mortality and migration within Northern Ireland and these have different effects across the LGDs (see section 7).

4.2 LGD Level Fertility and Mortality Assumptions

The projected births by single year of age, and deaths by single year of age and sex, for each LGD were calculated by applying the agreed national fertility/mortality rates, which were adjusted by a scaling factor to account for variations in fertility and mortality within each LGD. As with previous projections, the resulting figures were made consistent with the single year of age and sex distributions that were published in the Northern Ireland projections.

Scaling factors were derived for each LGD by analysing local variations in observed mortality and fertility rates for the period mid-2012 to mid-2016 (i.e. a five year average). Estimates for the numbers of births and deaths for mid-2016 to mid-2017 were included in the projection model since these data were available at the time of production.

4.3 LGD Level Migration Assumptions

The projected levels of migration by single year of age and sex for each LGD were calculated by analysing estimates of LGD level migration over the period mid-2012 to mid-2016 (i.e. a five year average). Averages of estimates were calculated for the three elements of migration that apply at the LGD level, namely:

- Migration flows between each LGD and the UK (GB migration).
- Migration flows between each LGD and outside the UK (International migration).
- Migration between LGDs within Northern Ireland (Internal migration).

These averages were carried forward for each projection year and, where appropriate (i.e. GB and international migration), were scaled to the overall Northern Ireland flows published in the national population projections⁴. Estimates for net migration for mid-2016 to mid-2017 were included in the projection model, since these data were available at the time of production.

Further details can be found in the assumptions [consultation paper](#), which was reviewed by the Demographic Statistics Advisory Group.

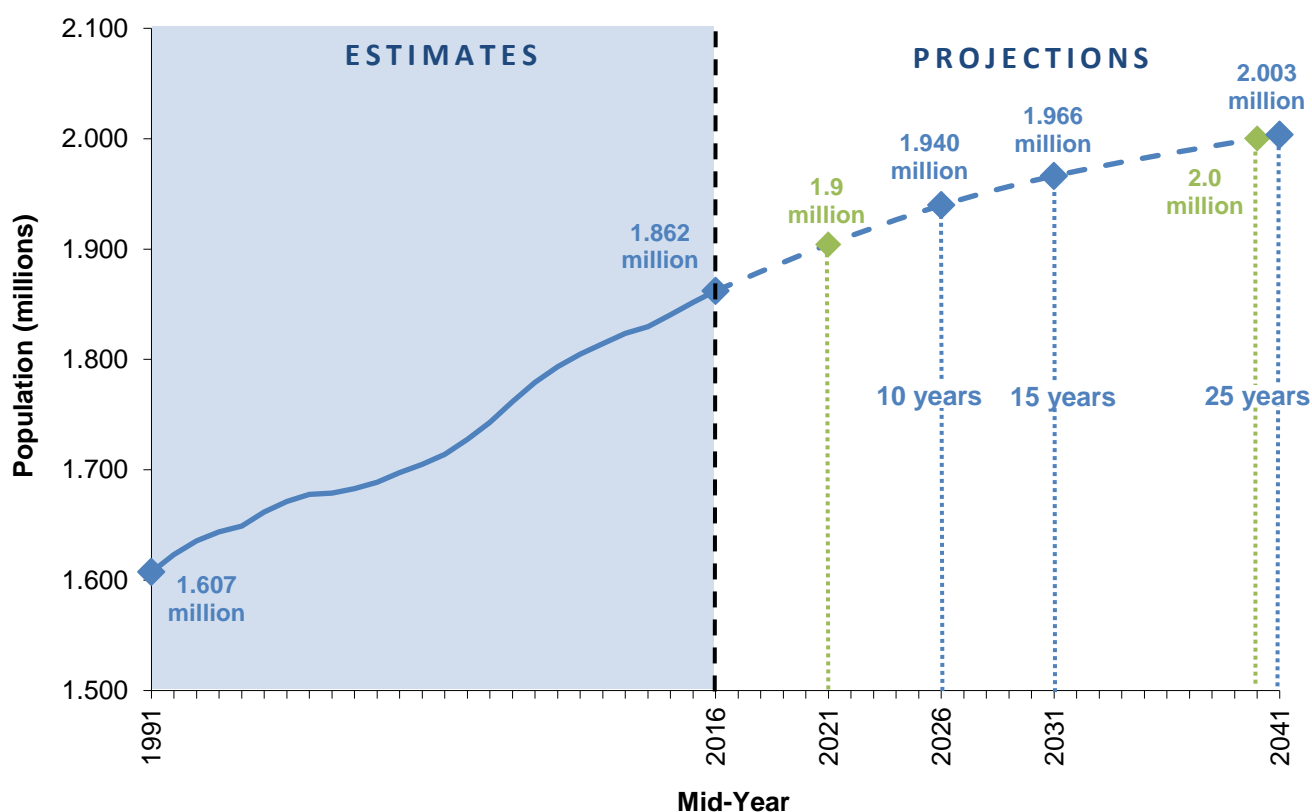
⁴ Internal migration has no affect at the Northern Ireland level.

5 Population Projections for Northern Ireland

In mid-2016, the population in Northern Ireland was estimated to be 1.862 million people. The national population projections show that this is projected to rise by 141,300 people to reach 2.003 million over the next 25 years to mid-2041 (see Figure 2). This equates to a 7.6 per cent increase, which is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 0.3 per cent. By way of contrast, over the past 25 years (mid-1991 to mid-2016) the population grew by 254,800 people (15.9 per cent) which is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 0.6 per cent.

Over the 10 years from mid-2016 to mid-2026, the population in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 4.2 per cent (77,600 people) to reach 1.940 million.

Figure 2: Population of Northern Ireland, estimated and projected (mid-1991 to mid-2041) (non-zero y-axis)



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The population of Northern Ireland is projected to reach 1.9 million people by mid-2021, with the 2 million milestone being reached by mid-2040. In the year ending mid-2028, annual population growth is projected to fall below 0.3 per cent for the first time since mid-2000, due to a falling number of births and rising number of deaths as a result of an ageing population.

As well as a projected growth in the overall numbers of people in Northern Ireland over the 25 year projection period, the age structure of the population is also projected to change. This change is evident from several key indicators:

- The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 65.1 per cent between mid-2016 and mid-2041 to reach 491,700 people, with the result that one in four people (24.5 per cent) will be in this age category.
- The population aged 85 and over projected to increase by 127.2 per cent to 82,800 people over the same period, which will see their share of the Northern Ireland population doubling from 2.0 per cent in mid-2016 to 4.1 per cent in mid-2041.
- The median age is projected to rise by 5.2 years by mid-2041 (from 38.3 years in mid-2016 to 43.5 years in mid-2041).
- The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is projected to overtake that of children (i.e. those aged 0 to 15 years) by mid-2028 (20.1 per cent and 19.6 per cent respectively).

Further detail on the Northern Ireland level population projections is available from the [National Projections Statistical Bulletin](#). Detailed projected population figures up to mid-2041 for the LGDs are available from the [NISRA website](#). The remainder of this report will focus on the population projections over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, looking at the projected components of population change (Section 7) and projections by age group (Section 8).

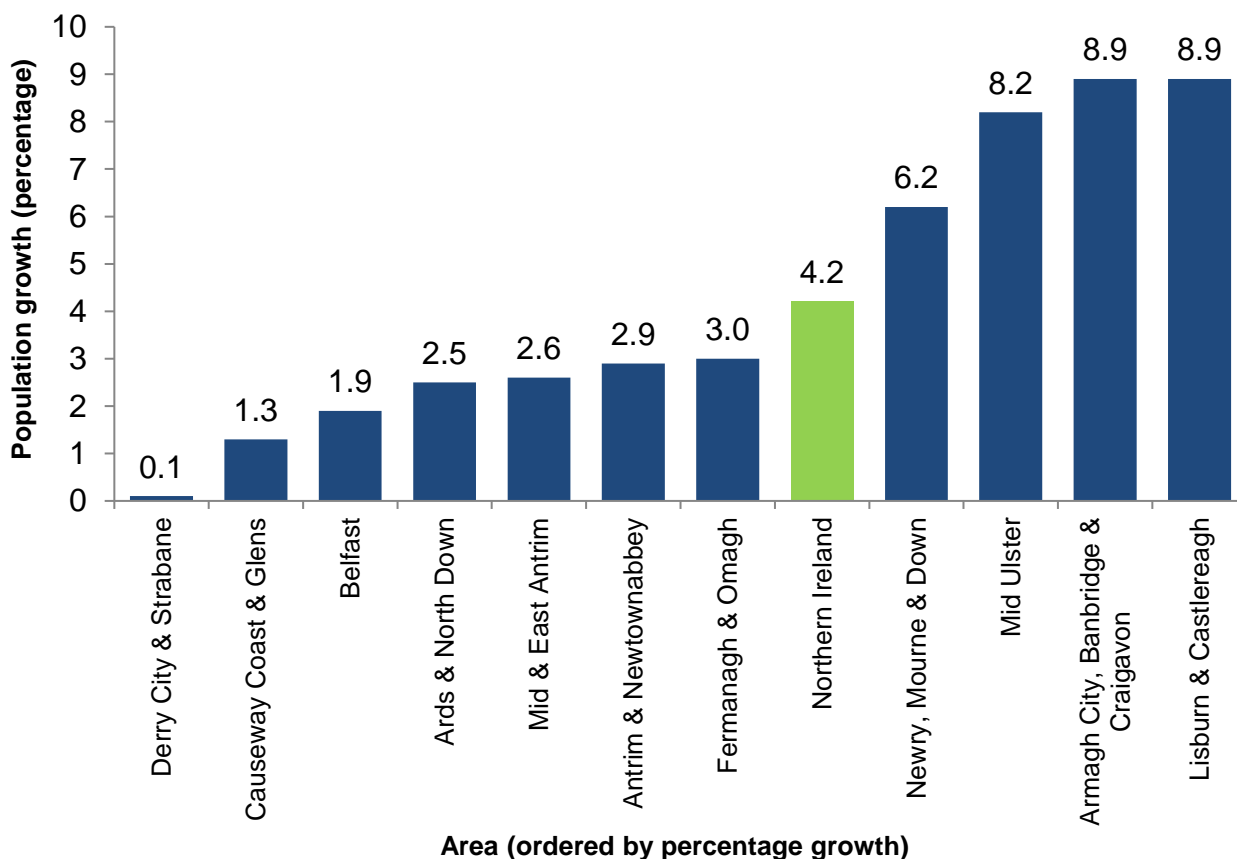
6 Population Projections for Local Government Districts

6.1 Population change

Each of the LGDs in Northern Ireland is projected to experience population growth over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, albeit to varying degrees (see Figure 3 and Table 1)⁵. The largest population increase in the ten years to mid-2026, in terms of the number of people, is projected to occur in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD (an increase of 18,600 people). The largest percentage increase is projected to occur in Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD over the ten year period (both 8.9 per cent).

The smallest growth, both in terms of the number of people (200) and the percentage change (0.1 per cent), is projected for Derry City and Strabane LGD. Newry, Mourne and Down (6.2 per cent), Mid Ulster (8.2 per cent), Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (8.9 per cent) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (8.9 per cent) LGDs are all projected to have growth rates above the Northern Ireland average (4.2 per cent).

Figure 3: Projected population growth by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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⁵ See also [Annex B](#) for a map showing the projected population growth for LGDs (mid-2016 to mid-2026).

[Infographics](#), [Population pyramids](#), and interactive maps ([Population Projections Interactive Map](#) and [Components of Population Change Map](#)) are also available on the NINIS website.

Table 1: Projected Population growth by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

Area (ordered by percentage growth)	Estimated population mid-2016	Projected population mid-2026	mid-2016 to mid-2026	
			Growth	% Growth
Derry City & Strabane	150,100	150,300	200	0.1
Causeway Coast & Glens	143,500	145,400	1,900	1.3
Belfast	339,600	346,200	6,600	1.9
Ards & North Down	159,600	163,500	3,900	2.5
Mid & East Antrim	137,800	141,400	3,600	2.6
Antrim & Newtownabbey	141,000	145,100	4,100	2.9
Fermanagh & Omagh	115,800	119,200	3,400	3.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	177,800	188,800	11,000	6.2
Mid Ulster	145,400	157,200	11,900	8.2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	210,300	228,900	18,600	8.9
Lisburn & Castlereagh	141,200	153,700	12,500	8.9
Northern Ireland	1,862,100	1,939,700	77,600	4.2

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 161KB)

6.2 Distribution of Northern Ireland Population

Belfast LGD has by far the largest estimated population in mid-2016 (339,600 people) and is projected to remain the largest by mid-2026 (See Table 2). This is despite a projected growth of only 1.9 per cent between mid-2016 and mid-2026 (see Table 1). Over the period its proportion of the total Northern Ireland population is projected to decrease slightly (from 18.2 per cent in mid-2016 to 17.8 per cent in mid-2026). Fermanagh and Omagh LGD is projected to continue to have the smallest proportion of the total Northern Ireland population (6.2 per cent in mid-2016 and 6.1 per cent in mid-2026) (See Table 2).

Table 2: Estimated and Projected Local Government District Share of the Northern Ireland Population (mid-2016 and mid-2026)

Area (ordered by population share in mid-2016)	Estimated population (mid-2016)	% of NI	Projected population (mid-2026)	% of NI
Fermanagh & Omagh	115,800	6.2	119,200	6.1
Mid & East Antrim	137,800	7.4	141,400	7.3
Antrim & Newtownabbey	141,000	7.6	145,100	7.5
Lisburn & Castlereagh	141,200	7.6	153,700	7.9
Causeway Coast & Glens	143,500	7.7	145,400	7.5
Mid Ulster	145,400	7.8	157,200	8.1
Derry City & Strabane	150,100	8.1	150,300	7.7
Ards & North Down	159,600	8.6	163,500	8.4
Newry, Mourne & Down	177,800	9.5	188,800	9.7
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	210,300	11.3	228,900	11.8
Belfast	339,600	18.2	346,200	17.8
Northern Ireland	1,862,100	100.0	1,939,700	100.0

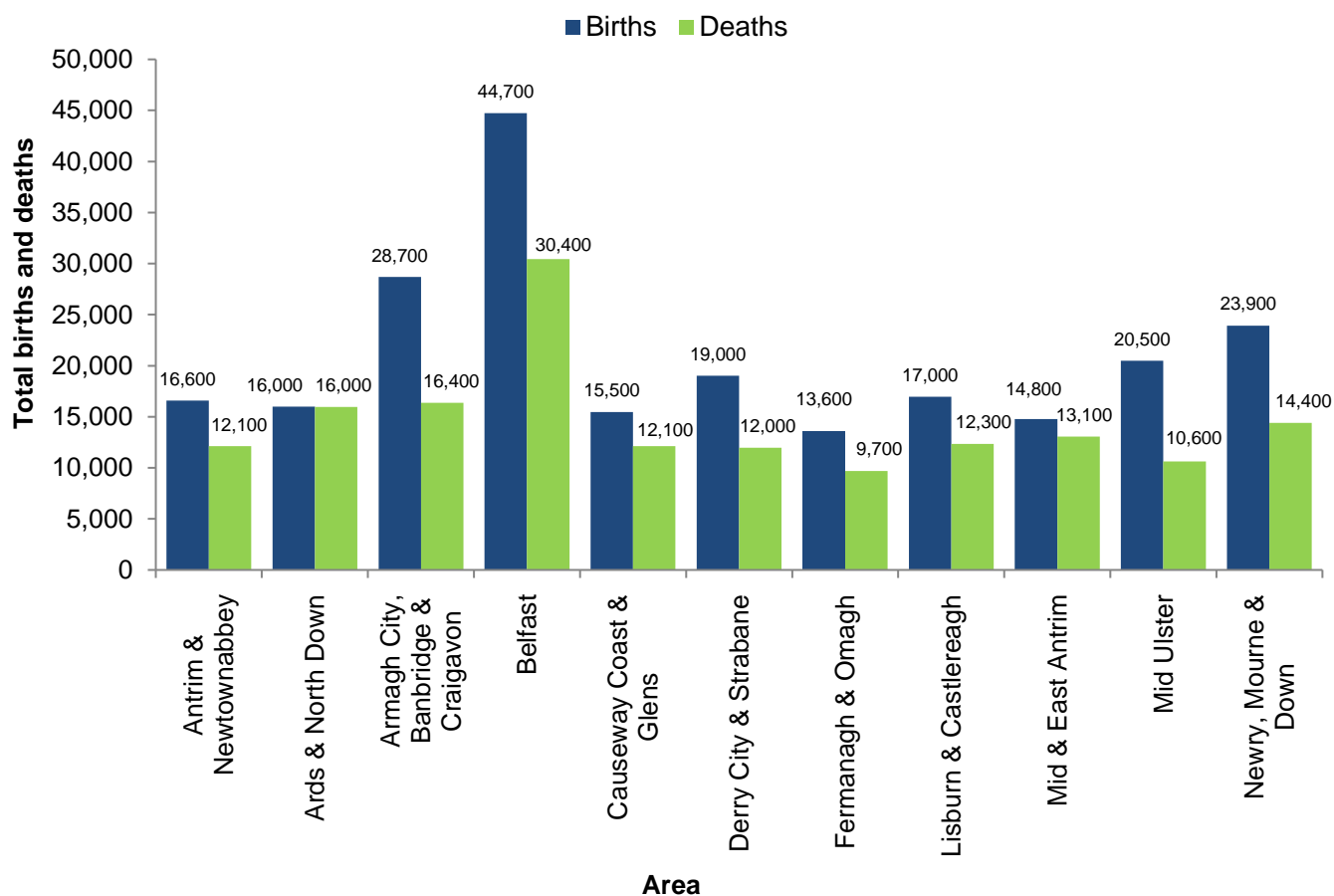
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7 Local Government Districts - Projected Components of Change

7.1 Births and Deaths

The largest numbers of both births and deaths are projected to occur in Belfast LGD over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026 (44,700 births and 30,400 deaths). In contrast, the smallest number of births and deaths are projected for Fermanagh and Omagh LGD (13,600 births and 9,700 deaths) (see Figure 4).

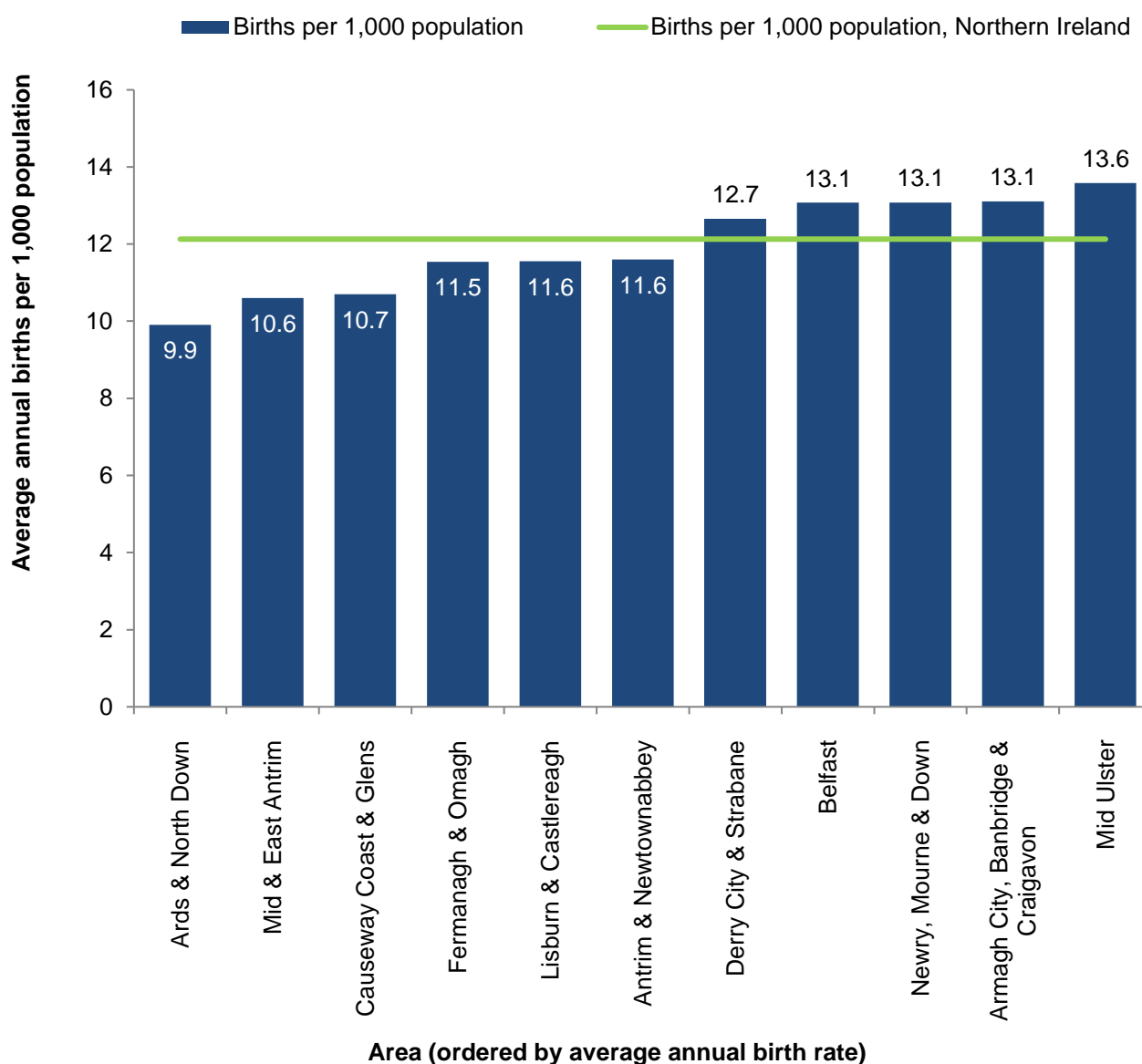
Figure 4: Projected total number of births and deaths by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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Figure 5 shows that six of the 11 LGDs have an estimated average annual birth rate below the Northern Ireland average (12.1 births per 1,000 population). Mid Ulster LGD has the highest estimated average annual birth rate at 13.6 births per 1,000 population, while Ards and North Down LGD has the lowest (9.9 births per 1,000 population).

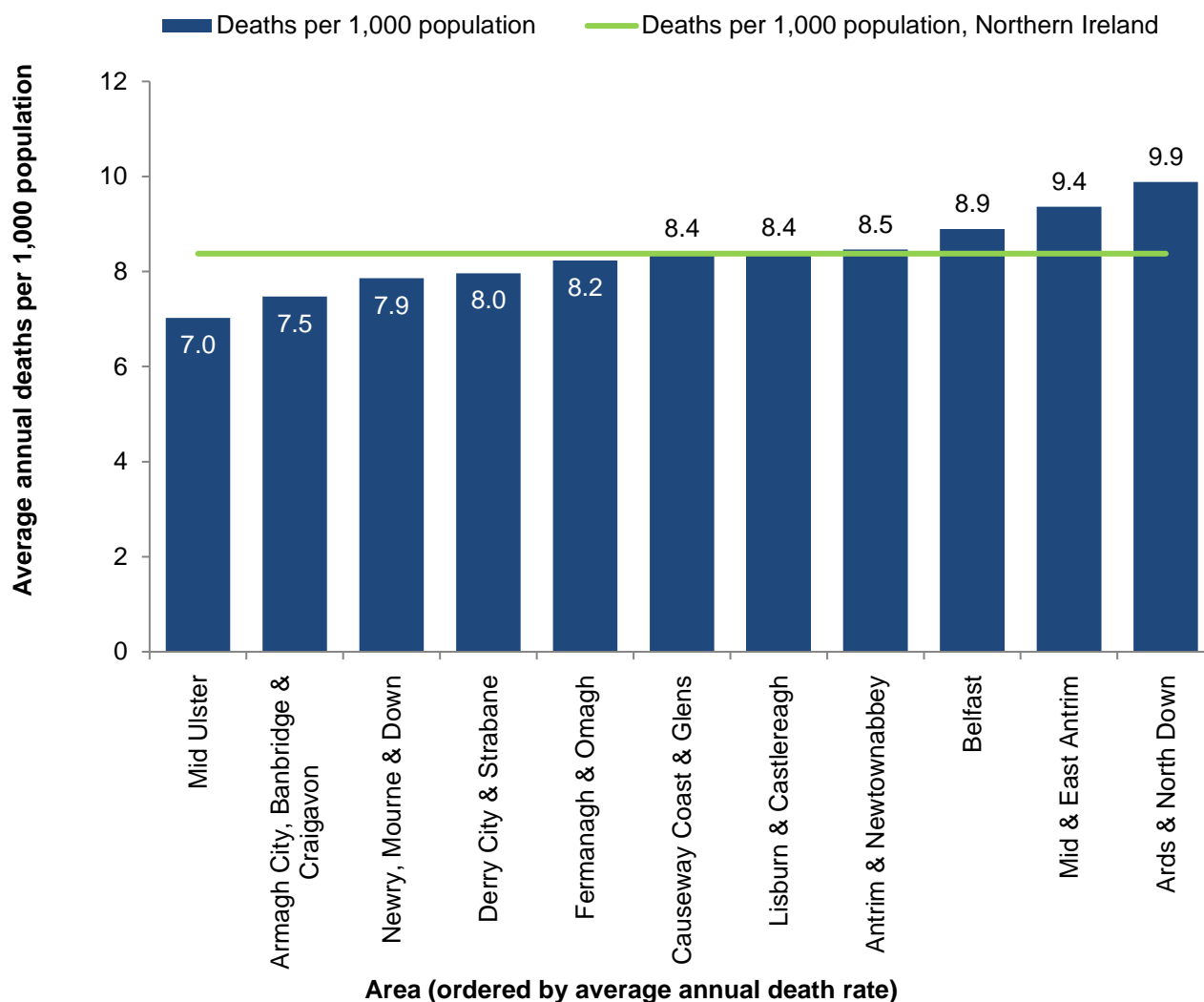
Figure 5: Projected average annual births per 1,000 population by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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Similarly, five out of the 11 LGDs are projected to experience an average annual death rate which is below the Northern Ireland average (8.4 deaths per 1,000 population). Ards and North Down LGD is estimated to have the highest average annual death rate (9.9 deaths per 1,000 population) and Mid Ulster LGD the lowest at 7.0 deaths per 1,000 population (see Figure 6).

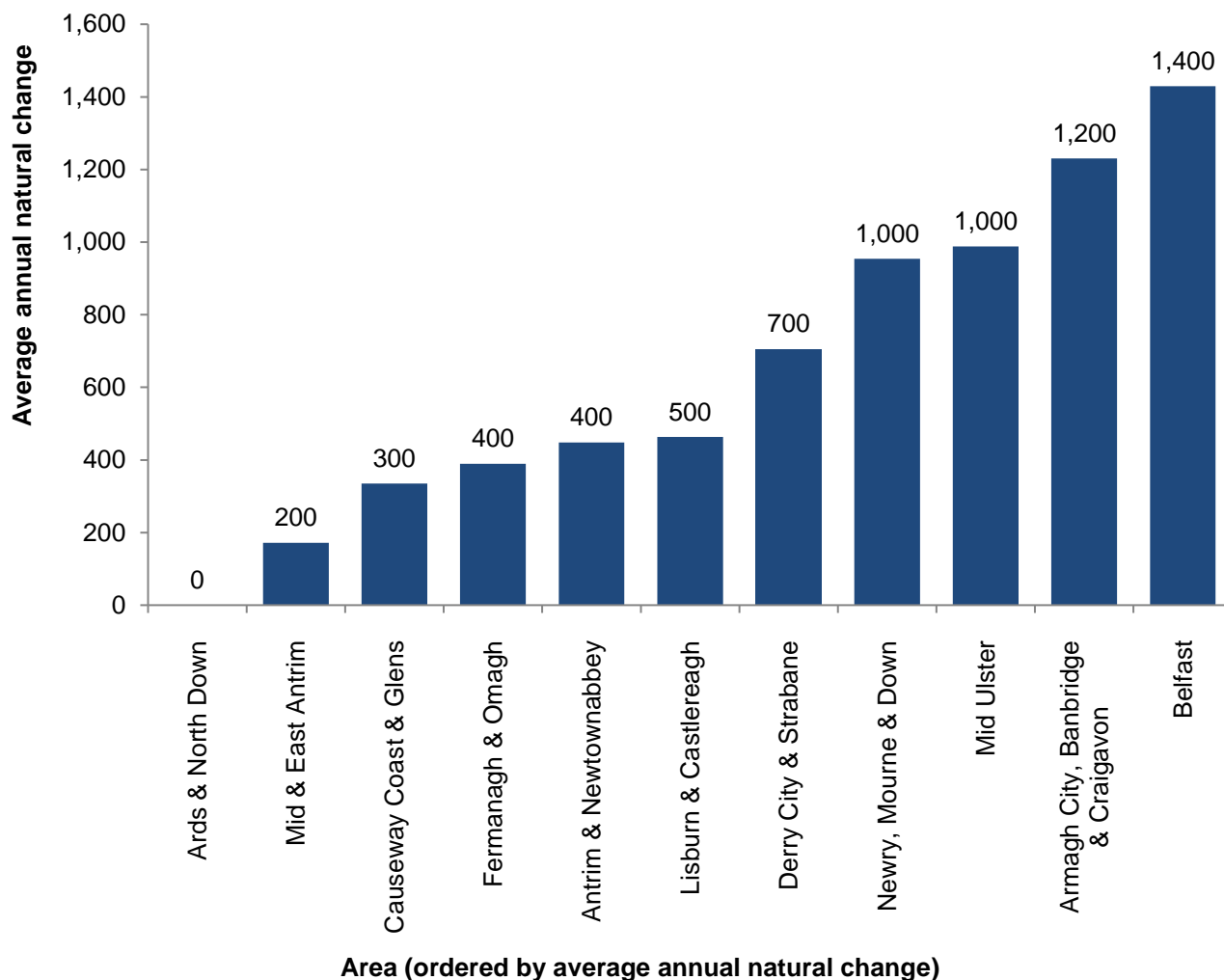
Figure 6: Projected average annual deaths per 1,000 population by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, the population of Northern Ireland is projected to grow, on average, by around 7,100 people as a result of natural change (i.e. more births than deaths). Across the LGDs, this picture varies from being negligible in Ards and North Down LGD (where the numbers of births and deaths are roughly equal) to be largest in Belfast LGD (1,400 more births than deaths) (see figure 7).

Figure 7: Projected average annual natural change (difference between births and deaths) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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7.2 Migration

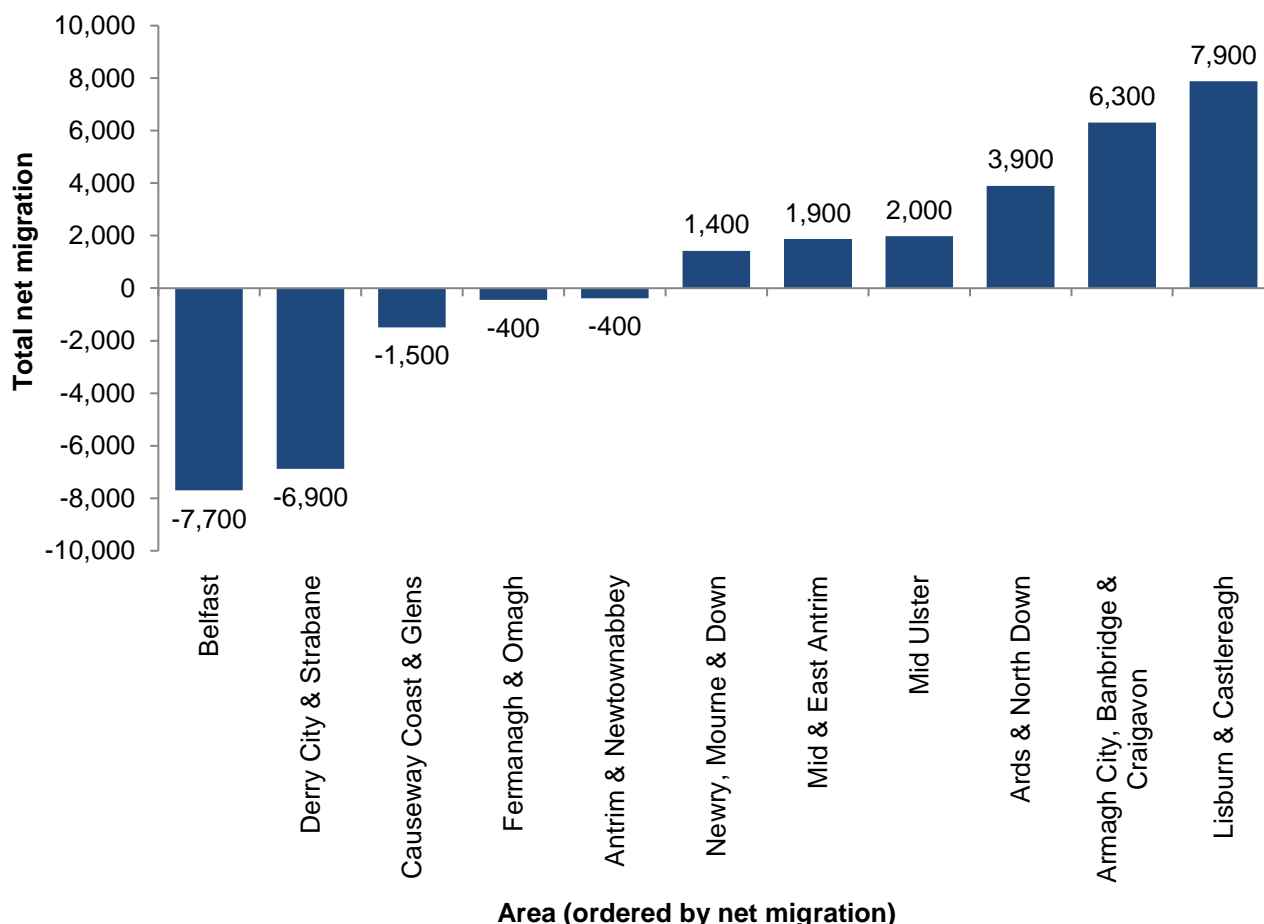
Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, Northern Ireland is projected to gain 6,400 people due to net inward migration⁶ and this will clearly have an effect on the projected populations in each LGD dependent on where people are leaving from / coming to. In addition, at the LGD level total net migration is also affected by movements between LGDs (i.e. internal migration). As such, the figures below reflect all moves – both those into and out of Northern Ireland, and internal moves across LGDs.

In the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD are projected to have the highest levels of population increase as a result of net inward migration (7,900 and 6,300 respectively). In contrast, both Derry City and Strabane

⁶ At the Northern Ireland level, net migration is the difference between people coming to Northern Ireland to live, and those leaving Northern Ireland to live elsewhere.

LGD and Belfast LGD are projected to experience the highest levels of population loss from net outward migration between mid-2016 and mid-2026 (6,900 and 7,700 people respectively) (See Figure 8).

Figure 8: Projected total net migration by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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7.3 All Components of Change

Taking births, deaths and migration together, it can be seen from Table 3 below that even though Belfast LGD is projected to have the largest growth in terms of natural change (i.e. births minus deaths) at 14,300 people, its overall growth in the decade to mid-2026 is not the largest compared to other LGDs. This is due to the projected numbers being lost over the decade due to net outward migration (7,700 people). In contrast, while Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD is projected to experience much lower levels of natural change over the decade (a gain of 4,600 people), its overall growth is projected to be 12,500 people due mainly to net inward migration of 7,900 people from mid-2016 to mid-2026.

Table 3: Projected change in total population (all components of change) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

Area	Estimated Population (mid-2016)	Mid-2016 to Mid-2026			Projected population (mid-2026)	% Change
		Natural Change (i.e. births – deaths)	Net Migration	Total Change		
Antrim & Newtownabbey	141,000	4,500	-400	4,100	145,100	2.9
Ards & North Down	159,600	0	3,900	3,900	163,500	2.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	210,300	12,300	6,300	18,600	228,900	8.9
Belfast	339,600	14,300	-7,700	6,600	346,200	1.9
Causeway Coast & Glens	143,500	3,300	-1,500	1,900	145,400	1.3
Derry City & Strabane	150,100	7,100	-6,900	200	150,300	0.1
Fermanagh & Omagh	115,800	3,900	-400	3,400	119,200	3.0
Lisburn & Castlereagh	141,200	4,600	7,900	12,500	153,700	8.9
Mid & East Antrim	137,800	1,700	1,900	3,600	141,400	2.6
Mid Ulster	145,400	9,900	2,000	11,900	157,200	8.2
Newry, Mourne & Down	177,800	9,500	1,400	11,000	188,800	6.2
Northern Ireland	1,862,100	71,100	6,400	77,600	1,939,700	4.2

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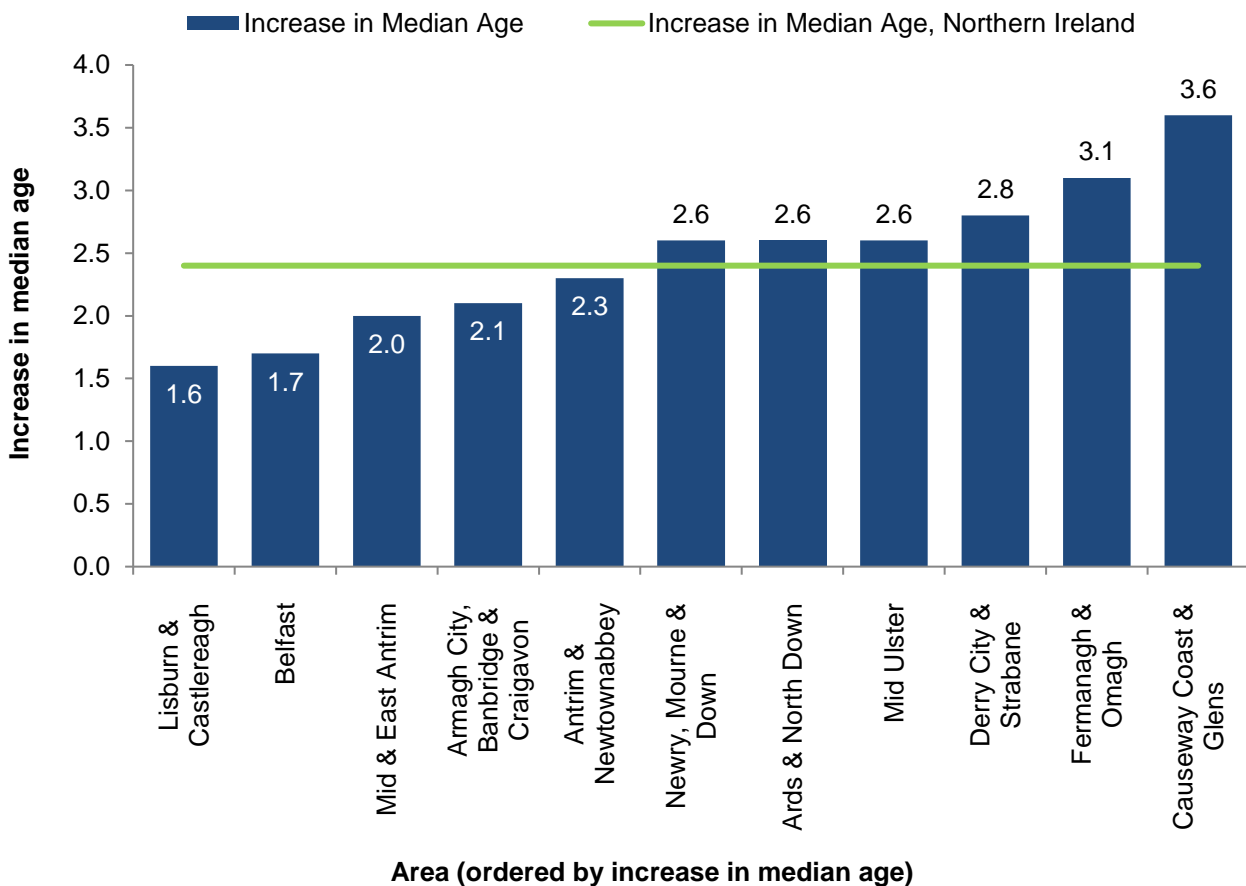
8 Local Government Districts - Projected Population by Age

8.1 Age distribution of population

The median age (i.e. the age at which half the population is younger and the other half older) in Northern Ireland is projected to rise by 2.4 years in the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026 (from 38.3 years to 40.7 years). The median age is projected to rise for all LGDs in this period (See Figure 9 and Table 4).

Causeway Coast and Glens LGD and Fermanagh and Omagh LGD are projected to have the highest increase in their median age between mid-2016 and mid-2026 (3.6 years and 3.1 years respectively). The smallest increases are projected for Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD and Belfast LGD (1.6 years and 1.7 years respectively) (See Figure 9 and Table 4).

Figure 9: Projected increase in median age by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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Table 4: Projected increase in median age by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

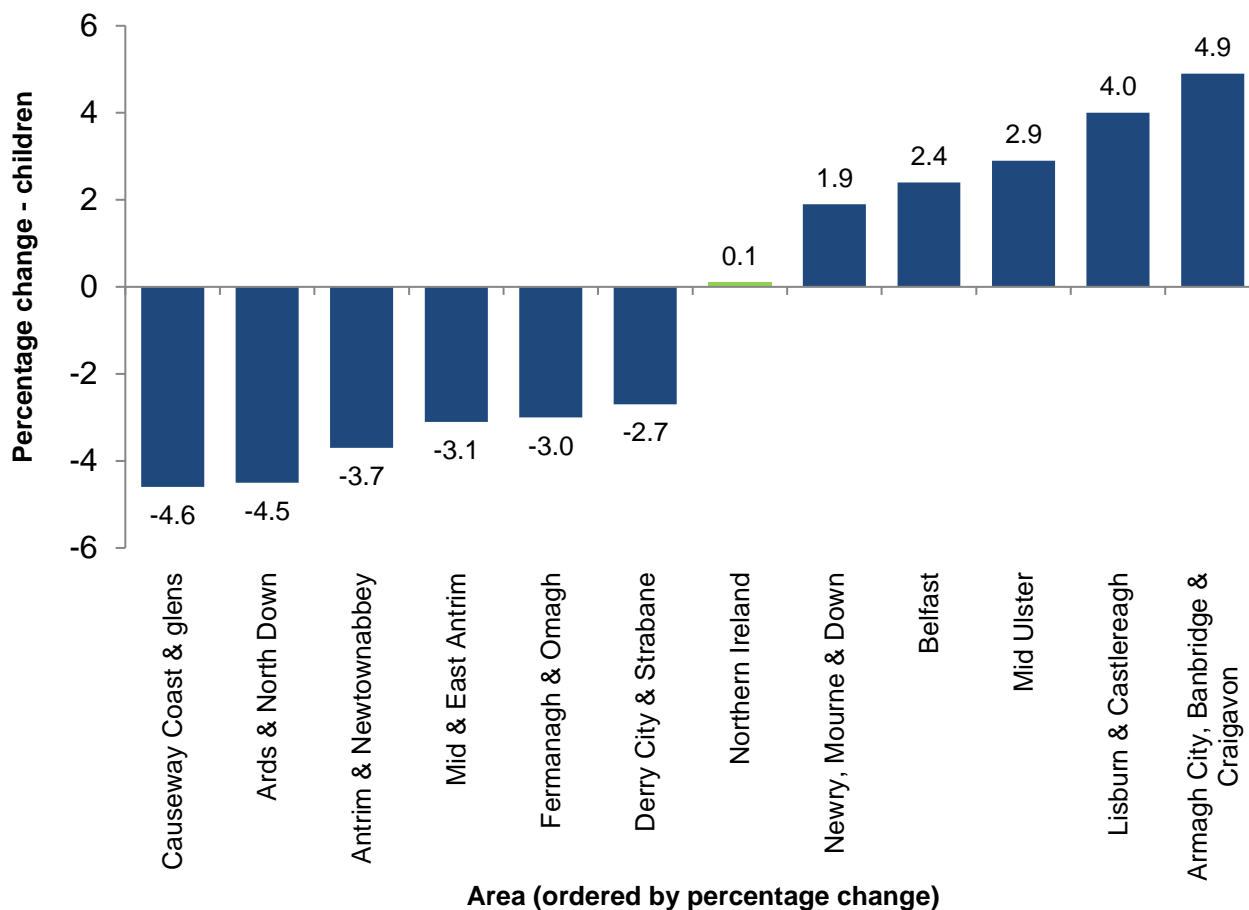
Area (ordered by increase in median age)	Estimated Median Age (mid-2016)	Projected Median Age (mid-2026)	Median Age Increase
Lisburn & Castlereagh	40.3	42.0	1.6
Belfast	35.5	37.2	1.7
Mid & East Antrim	41.9	43.9	2.0
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	37.3	39.4	2.1
Antrim & Newtownabbey	38.9	41.2	2.3
Newry, Mourne & Down	37.2	39.9	2.6
Ards & North Down	43.4	46.0	2.6
Mid Ulster	35.8	38.4	2.6
Derry City & Strabane	37.2	40.0	2.8
Fermanagh & Omagh	38.9	42.0	3.1
Causeway Coast & Glens	40.6	44.1	3.6
Northern Ireland	38.3	40.7	2.4

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8.2 Children (i.e. those aged 0 to 15 years)

Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, the population of children (i.e. those aged 0 to 15 years) in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 0.1 per cent (equivalent to 600 children). At the LGD level, five out of the 11 LGDs are projected to experience growth in the population of children (ranging from 1.9 per cent in Newry, Mourne and Down LGD to 4.9 per cent in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD). The remaining six LGDs are all projected to experience a decline in the population of children between mid-2016 to mid-2026 (ranging from 2.7 per cent in Derry City and Strabane LGD to 4.6 per cent in Causeway Coast and Glens LGD) (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: Projected change in number of children (i.e. those aged 0-15) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



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Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD is projected to have the largest percentage growth in the population of children at 4.9 per cent (2,300 children) over the decade. This projected population increase can be attributed mainly to net inward migration (2,400 children), with a slight loss of people (100) due to natural change⁷. In contrast, Causeway Coast and Glens LGD is projected to have the largest percentage decline in the population of children at 4.6 per cent (1,300 children). This projected decline can be attributed to the loss of children through natural change (2,900 children) outweighing the gain made by net inward migration of 1,500 children (See Table 5).

⁷ Natural change for this age group accounts for total births minus total deaths in the period, but also includes the loss of children who have aged from 15 to 16 each year.

Table 5: Projected change in population aged 0-15 (children) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

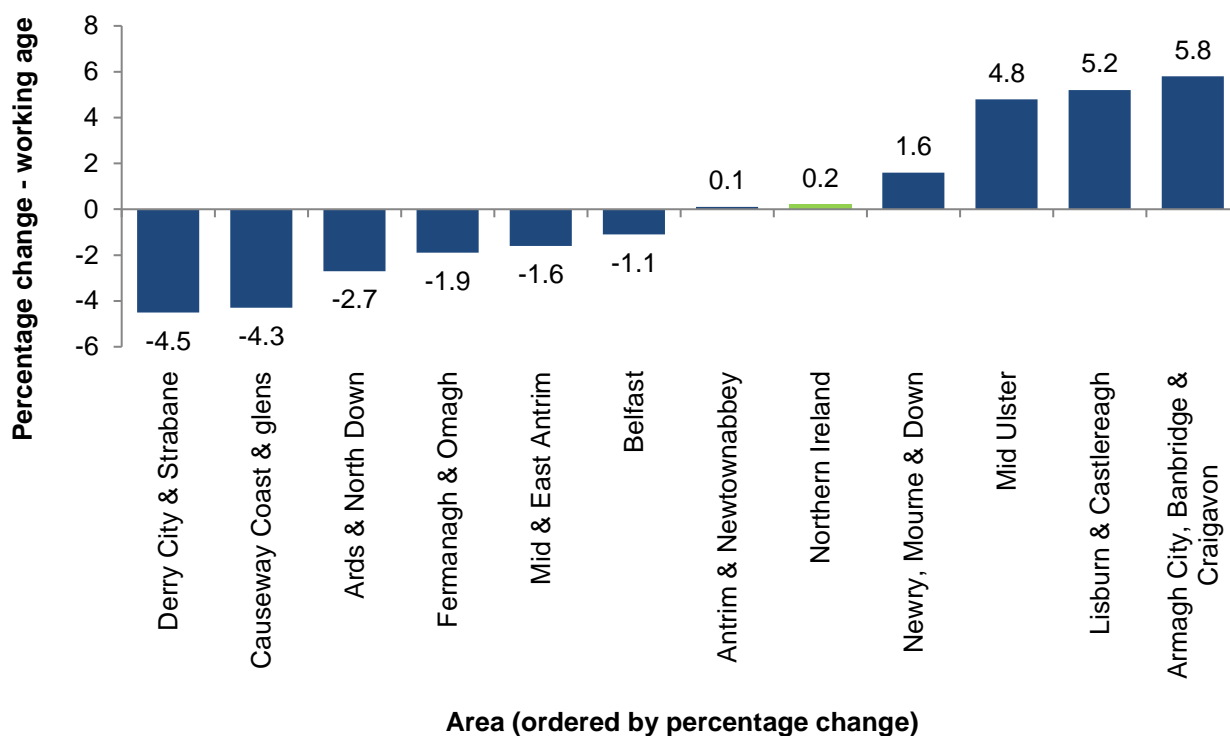
Area	Estimated Population (mid-2016)	Components of Change (mid-2016 to mid-2026)						Projected Population (mid-2026)	% Change
		Natural Change			Total Natural Change	Net Migration	Total Change		
		Births	Aged Out	Deaths					
Antrim & Newtownabbey	29,600	16,600	18,500	100	-2,000	900	-1,100	28,600	-3.7
Ards & North Down	30,000	16,000	19,200	100	-3,200	1,900	-1,300	28,600	-4.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	46,800	28,700	28,700	100	-100	2,400	2,300	49,100	4.9
Belfast	67,000	44,700	39,600	500	4,600	-3,000	1,600	68,600	2.4
Causeway Coast & Glens	28,600	15,500	18,200	100	-2,900	1,500	-1,300	27,200	-4.6
Derry City & Strabane	32,800	19,000	19,900	100	-1,000	100	-900	31,900	-2.7
Fermanagh & Omagh	25,000	13,600	15,900	100	-2,400	1,600	-700	24,300	-3.0
Lisburn & Castlereagh	28,200	17,000	17,700	100	-800	1,900	1,100	29,300	4.0
Mid & East Antrim	26,400	14,800	16,900	100	-2,200	1,300	-800	25,500	-3.1
Mid Ulster	33,500	20,500	20,700	100	-300	1,300	1,000	34,500	2.9
Newry, Mourne & Down	40,200	23,900	24,800	100	-1,000	1,800	800	41,000	1.9
Northern Ireland	388,000	230,300	240,000	1,300	-11,100	11,700	600	388,600	0.1

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 163KB)

8.3 Working age (i.e. those aged 16 to 64 years)

Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, the working age population (i.e. those aged 16 to 64 years) in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 0.2 per cent (equivalent to 2,500 people of working age). At the LGD level, five out of the 11 LGDs are projected to experience growth in the working age population (ranging from 0.1 per cent in Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD to 5.8 per cent in Armagh, City Banbridge and Craigavon LGD). The remaining six LGDs are projected to experience a decline in their working age population (ranging from 1.1 per cent in Belfast LGD to 4.5 per cent in Derry City and Strabane LGD) (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Projected change in working age population (i.e. those aged 16 to 64) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



[Download Figure](#) (XLSX Format – 162KB)

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD is projected to have the largest percentage growth in the working age population at 5.8 per cent (equivalent to 7,600 people of working age) over the decade. This projected population increase can be attributed equally to growth through natural change⁸ (3,800 people of working age) and net inward migration (3,800 people of working age). In contrast, Derry City and Strabane LGD is projected to have the largest percentage decline in the working age population at 4.5 per cent (4,300 people of working age). This projected decline can be attributed to the loss of people through net outward migration (6,000 people of working age) outweighing the gain made through natural change (1,800 people of working age) (See Table 6).

⁸ Natural change for this age group accounts for total deaths in the period, but also the gain of those who age from 15 to 16, and the loss of those who age from 64 to 65, each year.

Table 6: Projected change in population aged 16-64 (working age) by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

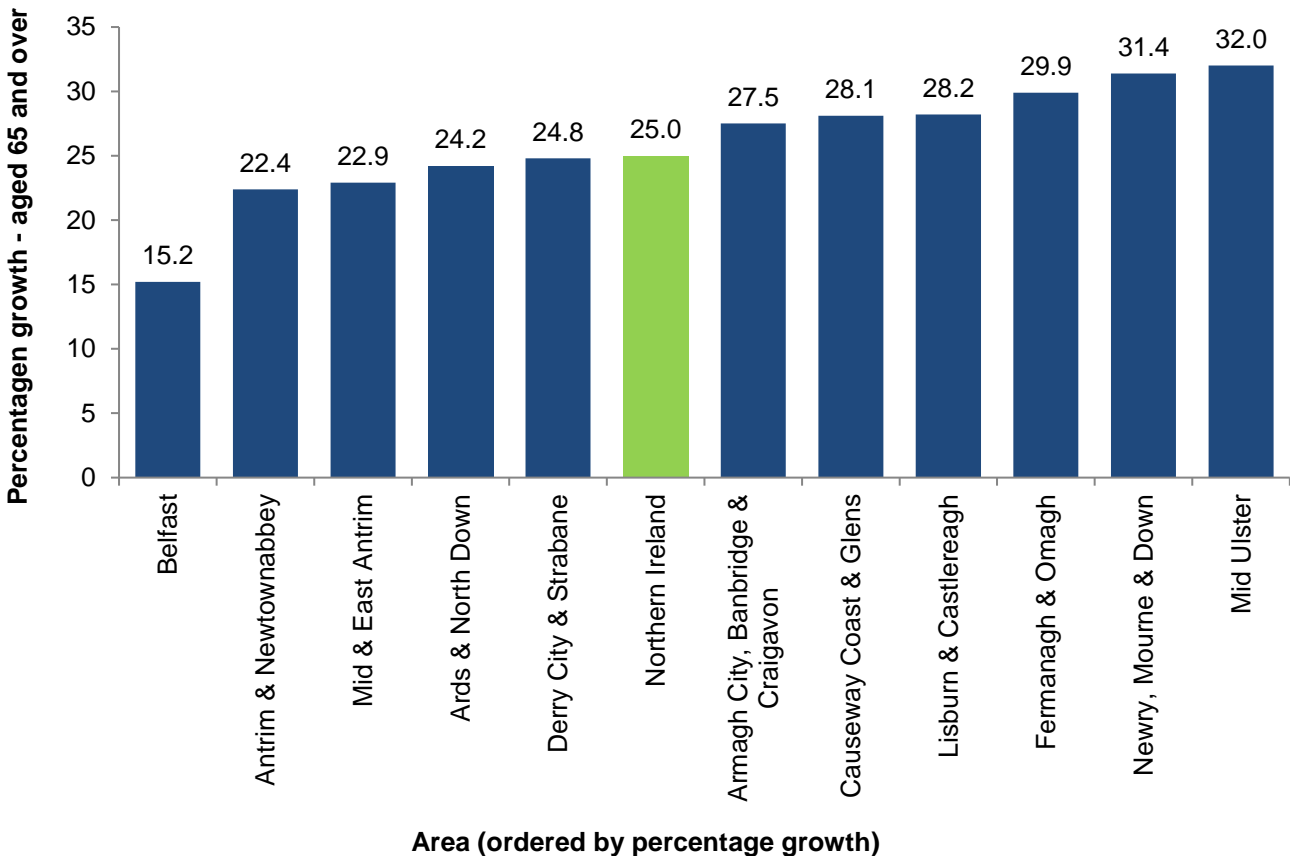
Area	Estimated Population (mid-2016)	Components of Change (mid-2016 to mid-2026)						Projected Population (mid-2026)	% Change
		Natural Change			Total Natural Change	Net Migration	Total Change		
		Aged In	Aged Out	Deaths					
Antrim & Newtownabbey	88,600	18,500	15,500	1,900	1,200	-1,100	100	88,700	0.1
Ards & North Down	97,200	19,200	20,600	2,000	-3,500	900	-2,600	94,600	-2.7
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	131,800	28,700	22,300	2,600	3,800	3,800	7,600	139,400	5.8
Belfast	223,100	39,600	33,900	5,400	400	-2,900	-2,500	220,600	-1.1
Causeway Coast & Glens	90,000	18,200	17,200	1,400	-400	-3,500	-3,800	86,100	-4.3
Derry City & Strabane	95,800	19,900	15,900	2,200	1,800	-6,000	-4,300	91,600	-4.5
Fermanagh & Omagh	72,200	15,900	13,700	1,400	800	-2,200	-1,400	70,800	-1.9
Lisburn & Castlereagh	88,900	17,700	16,400	1,700	-400	5,000	4,600	93,500	5.2
Mid & East Antrim	86,100	16,900	16,600	1,700	-1,400	0	-1,400	84,700	-1.6
Mid Ulster	91,700	20,700	14,700	1,700	4,300	100	4,400	96,100	4.8
Newry, Mourne & Down	111,100	24,800	19,800	2,400	2,600	-800	1,800	112,900	1.6
Northern Ireland	1,176,400	240,000	206,600	24,300	9,100	-6,600	2,500	1,178,900	0.2

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 163KB)

8.4 Population aged 65 and over

Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, the population aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 25.0 per cent (equivalent to 74,500 people aged 65 and over). All of the 11 LGDs are projected to experience growth in the population aged 65 and over, ranging from 15.2 per cent in Belfast LGD to 32.0 per cent in Mid Ulster LGD (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Projected growth in population aged 65 and over by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



[Download Figure](#) (XLSX Format – 162KB)

As illustrated above, Mid Ulster LGD is projected to have the largest percentage growth in the population aged 65 and over at 32.0 per cent (equivalent to 6,400 people aged 65 and over) over the decade. This projected population increase can be attributed mainly to growth through natural change⁹ (5,800 people aged 65 and over), with net inward migration contributing 600 people aged 65 and over. Belfast LGD is projected to have the smallest percentage growth in the population aged 65 and over at 15.2 per cent (7,500 people aged 65 and over). This projected population increase can be attributed mainly to growth through natural change (9,300 people aged 65 and over) outweighing the loss made due to net outward migration (1,800 people aged 65 and over) (See Table 7).

⁹ Natural change for this age group accounts for total deaths in the period, but also the gain of those who age from 64 to 65 each year.

Table 7: Projected growth in population aged 65 and over by Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

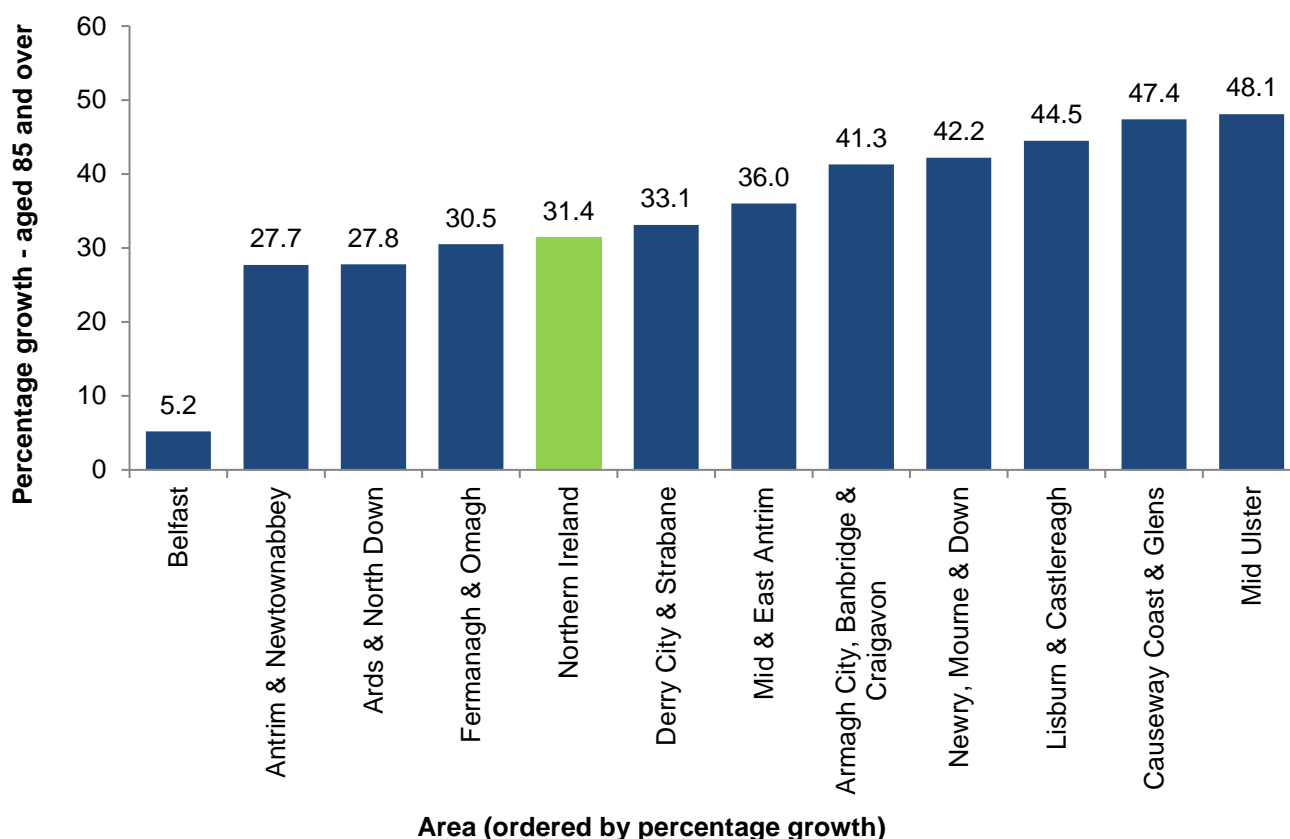
Area	Estimated Population (mid-2016)	Components of Change (mid-2016 to mid-2026)					Projected Population (mid-2026)	% Growth
		Natural Change		Total Natural Change	Net Migration	Total Change		
		Aged In	Deaths					
Antrim & Newtownabbey	22,800	15,500	10,200	5,300	-200	5,100	27,900	22.4
Ards & North Down	32,500	20,600	13,900	6,700	1,100	7,900	40,300	24.2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	31,700	22,300	13,600	8,600	100	8,700	40,400	27.5
Belfast	49,500	33,900	24,600	9,300	-1,800	7,500	57,000	15.2
Causeway Coast & Glens	25,000	17,200	10,600	6,600	400	7,000	32,000	28.1
Derry City & Strabane	21,500	15,900	9,600	6,200	-900	5,300	26,800	24.8
Fermanagh & Omagh	18,600	13,700	8,300	5,500	100	5,600	24,200	29.9
Lisburn & Castlereagh	24,100	16,400	10,600	5,800	1,000	6,800	30,900	28.2
Mid & East Antrim	25,300	16,600	11,400	5,300	500	5,800	31,100	22.9
Mid Ulster	20,100	14,700	8,900	5,800	600	6,400	26,600	32.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	26,600	19,800	11,900	7,900	500	8,300	34,900	31.4
Northern Ireland	297,800	206,600	133,500	73,100	1,400	74,500	372,300	25.0

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 163KB)

8.5 Population aged 85 and over

Over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026, the population aged 85 and over in Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 31.4 per cent (equivalent to 11,400 people aged 85 and over). All of the 11 LGDs are projected to experience growth in the population aged 85 and over, ranging from 5.2 per cent in Belfast LGD to 48.1 per cent in Mid Ulster LGD (see Figure 13).

Figure 13: Projected growth in population aged 85 and over by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



[Download Figure](#) (XLSX Format – 162KB)

As illustrated above, Mid Ulster LGD is projected to have the largest percentage growth in the population aged 85 and over at 48.1 per cent (equivalent to 1,200 people aged 85 and over) over the decade. This projected population increase can be attributed mainly to growth through natural change¹⁰ (900 people aged 85 and over) and net inward migration (300 people aged 85 and over). Belfast LGD is projected to have the smallest percentage growth in the population aged 85 and over at 5.2 per cent (400 people aged 85 and over). This projected population increase can be attributed to the growth through natural change (1,200 people aged 85 and over) outweighing the loss due to net outward migration of 800 people aged 85 and over (See Table 8).

¹⁰ Natural change for this age group accounts for total deaths in the period, but also the gain of those who age from 84 to 85 each year.

Table 8: Projected growth in population aged 85 and over by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)

Area	Estimated Population (mid-2016)	Components of Change mid-2016 to mid-2026					Projected Population (mid-2026)	% Growth
		Natural Change		Total Natural Change	Net Migration	Total Change		
		Aged In	Deaths					
Antrim & Newtownabbey	2,700	5,600	4,700	900	-200	700	3,400	27.7
Ards & North Down	3,900	7,600	6,700	900	100	1,100	5,000	27.8
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	3,700	7,800	6,300	1,500	0	1,500	5,200	41.3
Belfast	7,200	12,700	11,500	1,200	-800	400	7,600	5.2
Causeway Coast & Glens	2,900	6,300	5,000	1,300	100	1,400	4,300	47.4
Derry City & Strabane	2,100	4,900	4,000	900	-200	700	2,800	33.1
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,300	4,500	3,900	600	100	700	3,000	30.5
Lisburn & Castlereagh	2,900	6,500	5,300	1,200	100	1,300	4,300	44.5
Mid & East Antrim	3,100	6,400	5,500	1,000	200	1,100	4,300	36.0
Mid Ulster	2,400	5,100	4,200	900	300	1,200	3,600	48.1
Newry, Mourne & Down	3,200	6,700	5,600	1,000	300	1,300	4,500	42.2
Northern Ireland	36,500	74,300	62,700	11,500	-100	11,400	47,900	31.4

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 163KB)

9 Methodology

The 2016-based population projections (i.e. both Northern Ireland level and areas within Northern Ireland) are produced using the cohort component methodology, akin to the mid-year population estimates. Population projections use a base population, i.e. the most recently published mid-year estimates (currently the [mid-2016 population estimates](#)). Recent years' information on births, deaths and migration flows are used to create future assumptions on the number of children each woman will have (fertility), the chance of dying (mortality) and movement of people around, into and out of Northern Ireland (migration). Each year the population is "aged on" by one year and these assumptions on future fertility, mortality, and migration are applied to the resulting projection figures. At the area level the assumptions are adjusted accordingly to account for local variations and this information is applied within the [POPGROUP](#) software to create sub-national projections. Further details on the assumptions inherent in these projections is available in the [2016-based sub-national projections assumptions consultation report](#). More information on how the population projections are produced can be found in the accompanying [Methodology Paper](#).

10 Variant Projections

Variant population projections are not produced for areas within Northern Ireland (see [methodology paper](#) for more details). However, several [variant projections](#) are produced for Northern Ireland as a whole, each with alternative assumptions on fertility, mortality and migration. These variants are intended to provide an indication of the uncertainty surrounding projections based on alternative, but still plausible, assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration.

11 Comparison with 2014-based Sub-National Projections

Population projections are developed and published every two years. There are three main factors which can affect the difference between sets of population projections:

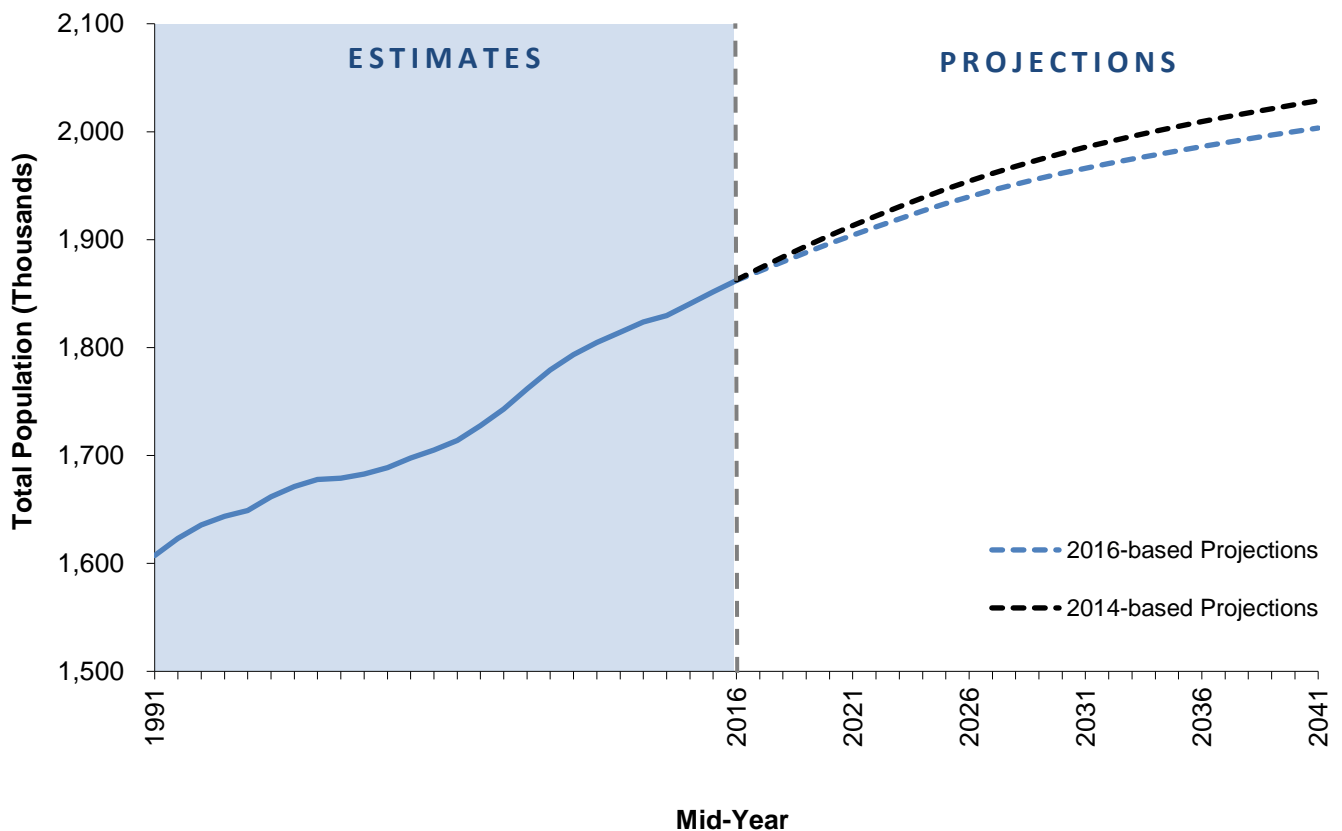
- Changes to the start point of the projections (resulting from more up to date population estimates);
- Changes to the levels of fertility/mortality and migration in the base year; and
- Changes to the projection assumptions for fertility/mortality and migration.

The [2014-based sub-national population projections](#) were published in May 2016. They were based on the [mid-2014 estimates](#) and assumptions around future fertility, mortality and migration which were determined from trends available at that time. Since the publication of the 2014-

based projections there have been two further years of mid-year population estimates and more up to date births, deaths and migration data for Northern Ireland.

This up to date data has informed similar assumptions for the 2016-based projections, which in turn has resulted in an overall reduction in the projected population growth at the Northern Ireland level between the 2014-based and the 2016-based projections (see Figure 14 below).

Figure 14: Estimated and Projected Population (mid-2014 and mid-2016 based) mid-1991 to mid-2041 (non zero y-axis)



[Download Figure](#) (XLSX Format – 173KB)

Since net migration accounts for a fraction of the overall annual population change at the Northern Ireland level, the main reason for the difference between the two sets of projections can be attributed to the difference in growth determined by natural change (i.e. births minus deaths).

Differences between the 2014-based and 2016-based projections at LGD level are similarly attributable to the change in observed levels of fertility/mortality and migration for each LGD between mid-2014 and mid-2016. However, while the projections are constrained at Northern Ireland level, there is variation in the projected components of change at LGD level. As such, it is not necessarily the case that each LGD will experience the same differences that Northern Ireland does when comparing the two sets of projections.

Looking ten years into the 2016-based projections (i.e. mid-2026), Table 9 below shows that at the Northern Ireland level, the population projection for mid-2026 is 0.7 per cent less than that projected in the 2014-based projections.

At the LGD level, nine of the 11 LGDs have a projected population for mid-2026 which is less than what was projected in the 2014-based projections, with most being within 1.0 per cent. The two LGDs which have a higher projected population are Ards and North Down LGD and Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD (0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively).

Table 9: Comparison of projected mid-2026 population between 2014-based and 2016-based projections

Area	2014-based Projections (mid-2026)	2016-based Projections (mid-2026)	Difference	% Difference
Antrim & Newtownabbey	144,800	145,100	400	0.2
Ards & North Down	162,700	163,500	800	0.5
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	231,000	228,900	-2,200	-0.9
Belfast	349,500	346,200	-3,300	-0.9
Causeway Coast & Glens	146,600	145,400	-1,300	-0.9
Derry City & Strabane	151,500	150,300	-1,100	-0.8
Fermanagh & Omagh	121,400	119,200	-2,200	-1.8
Lisburn & Castlereagh	154,300	153,700	-600	-0.4
Mid & East Antrim	141,500	141,400	-100	0.0
Mid Ulster	160,100	157,200	-2,800	-1.8
Newry, Mourne & Down	190,800	188,800	-2,000	-1.1
Northern Ireland	1,954,100	1,939,700	-14,400	-0.7

[Download Table](#) (XLSX Format – 161KB)

12 Data Quality

12.1 Base Population – Population Estimates for Northern Ireland (2016)

Mid-year population estimates are created using a variety of administrative data sources. A brief outline of these sources, and how quality is assured for each one, is detailed in the [population estimates and projections data quality document](#).

The estimates of the population aged 85 and over provide a further age breakdown of those aged 90 and over, by single year of age up to 104 years, and for those aged 105 and over as a group. A brief outline of the data used to create these figures, and how quality is assured for each one, is detailed in the Estimates of the Population Aged 85 and over, Northern Ireland (2016) [methodology and quality paper](#).

12.2 Births and Deaths

Information supplied at birth / death registration is generally believed to be correct since wilfully supplying false information may render the informant liable to prosecution for perjury. Birth and death figures by sex (and also by single year of age for deaths) are obtained from registrations with the General Register Office (GRO). All such events which occurred in the year between 1 July and 30 June are included in the mid-year population estimates.

During registrations, information provided is first checked by the informant before being finalised on the GRO's electronic system. Appropriate validation checks are embedded within the system to help the Registrar with this process. Statistics are extracted directly from the system and are subjected to further checks by the Vital Statistics team in NISRA's Demographic Statistics Branch, and again by the Population Statistics team when the relevant data are supplied to them.

Quality Assessment Reports are available online and contain further details on the quality of [birth](#) and [death](#) statistics.

12.3 Migration

Migration is the most difficult component of population change to measure, as unlike births and deaths, there is no complete system for registering migration. Migration is estimated using transfers observed in medical cards, detailing the list of patients registered with a family doctor:

- inflows (people who come to live in Northern Ireland for a period of at least one year) are estimated by counting the number of people who registered or re-registered with a family doctor; and
- outflows (people who leave Northern Ireland for a period of at least one year) are estimated by counting the number of people who de-registered with a family doctor.

Medical card data¹¹ are collated by the Business Service Organisation (BSO) and validation checks are undertaken by the statisticians within that organisation. When the data are then sent to NISRA further checks are carried out, including data cleansing and comparisons with previous years' data. When the medical card data are then processed to calculate migration estimates, figures for migration to / from Great Britain are agreed between the different UK administrations to provide as much accuracy and comparison between UK administrations as is possible for users.

12.4 National Statistics

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance review to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

In line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in 2011, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) appointed this publication as a National Statistics publication. Population estimates and projections for Northern Ireland statistics were re-assessed by the Statistics Authority in July 2015 ([UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report](#)). Following work to address recommendations that emerged from the assessment ([Assessment Action Plan](#)), UKSA confirmed the re-designation of these statistics as National Statistics in August 2016 (see [letter of designation](#)).

¹¹ In previous reports, medical card data was referred to as "health card" data.

13 Limitations

Population projections are based on assumptions derived from recent observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration. Therefore, 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 (e.g. the UK leaving the EU). While future policy changes are not taken into account, projections do reflect the impact of past policy and economic changes.

The future population of an area is often strongly influenced by the initial base population. The reliability of projections decreases over time due to the cumulative process of population change, as well as the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour.

Figures for the number of children are more difficult to project than for the number of adults, due to assuming fertility levels and parental migration. In contrast, the number of older adults are relatively more straightforward to project as they are not affected by fertility assumptions, and are less likely to be affected by migration assumptions (the numbers of inflows and outflows decrease with age).

Local area figures tend to be less reliable than Northern Ireland figures as smaller areas will be more affected by changes in migration.

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is used by England, Wales and Scotland to estimate international migration. NISRA is unable to use this source due to issues relating to the use of the IPS in Northern Ireland. The main issues are i) that the IPS does not cover the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and ii) there is uncertainty introduced when “Ireland” is given in response to survey questions – some people stating “Ireland” as their origin or destination may be referring to Northern Ireland. This means there is a methodological inconsistency for the international migration statistics of Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. Northern Ireland migration statistics have been previously assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, who found them to be fit for purpose¹².

¹² [UKSA Assessment Report – Statistics on Demography and Vital Events in Northern Ireland](#).

14 Background Notes

1. 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>
2. NISRA produces population projections for areas within Northern Ireland. While the focus of this report lies on the 11 LGDs, projections are also released for the former 26 LGDs, Health & Social Care Trusts and former Education & Library Boards. Detailed statistics on population projections for areas within Northern Ireland can be obtained from the NISRA website at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland>.
3. [Infographics](#), [population pyramids](#) and interactive maps ([Population Projections Interactive Map](#) and [Components of Population Change Map](#)) are available on the NINIS website.
4. Projections are the result of applying [long-term assumptions](#) 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.
5. **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.**
6. The latest population projections for areas within [England](#) (2014-based) were published on 25 May 2016, 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. The latest available population projections for areas within [Wales](#) (2014-based) were published by the Welsh Government in October 2016. A paper comparing the methodological approaches adopted by producers of population statistics across the UK is available [here](#).
7. 2018-based sub-national population projections are expected to be published in April/May 2020.
8. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland migration statistics is available [here](#).
9. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release, users can send feedback directly to census@nisra.gov.uk.
10. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

11. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Communications Office:
Telephone: 028 9081 6724
12. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:
Telephone: 028 9025 5156
E-mail: census@nisra.gov.uk
Responsible Statistician: Brian Green

Annex A: Fact sheets of population projections for each LGD

- A1. [Antrim and Newtownabbey \(N09000001\)](#)
- A2. [Ards and North Down \(N09000011\)](#)
- A3. [Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon \(N09000002\)](#)
- A4. [Belfast \(N09000003\)](#)
- A5. [Causeway Coast and Glens \(N09000004\)](#)
- A6. [Derry City and Strabane \(N09000005\)](#)
- A7. [Fermanagh and Dungannon \(N09000006\)](#)
- A8. [Lisburn and Castlereagh \(N09000007\)](#)
- A9. [Mid and East Antrim \(N09000008\)](#)
- A10. [Mid Ulster \(N09000009\)](#)
- A11. [Newry, Mourne and Down \(N09000010\)](#)

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 percentage changes 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. This is particularly the case for the smaller population groups reported in this Annex.

N09000001: Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	29,600	7.6	28,600	7.3	-1,100	-3.7
Children (0-3)	7,200	7.3	6,600	7.2	-700	-9.3
Children (4-11)	15,500	7.8	14,200	7.3	-1,400	-8.7
Children (12-16)	8,600	7.6	9,800	7.5	1,200	13.7
16 to 64	88,600	7.5	88,700	7.5	100	0.1
65 and over	22,800	7.7	27,900	7.5	5,100	22.4
85 and over	2,700	7.4	3,400	7.2	700	27.7
All ages	141,000	7.6	145,100	7.5	4,100	2.9

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 4,100 people (2.9 per cent) from 141,000 in mid-2016 to 145,100 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 4,500 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net loss of 400 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 1,100 (3.7 per cent) from 29,600 to 28,600 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to increase by 100 people (0.1 per cent) from 88,600 in mid-2016 to 88,700 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 5,100 people (22.4 per cent) from 22,800 to 27,900 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 700 people (27.7 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by around 100 per annum (from 1,700 to 1,600). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by 100 per annum (from 1,100 to 1,300).
- By mid-2026, the population of Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD is projected to account for 7.5 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 7.6 in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD is projected to increase by 4.1 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 146,800 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000011: Ards and North Down Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	30,000	7.7	28,600	7.4	-1,300	-4.5
Children (0-3)	7,200	7.3	6,400	7.1	-800	-10.5
Children (4-11)	15,600	7.8	14,300	7.4	-1,300	-8.6
Children (12-16)	9,000	8.0	9,900	7.6	900	10.4
16 to 64	97,200	8.3	94,600	8.0	-2,600	-2.7
65 and over	32,500	10.9	40,300	10.8	7,900	24.2
85 and over	3,900	10.7	5,000	10.4	1,100	27.8
All ages	159,600	8.6	163,500	8.4	3,900	2.5

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 3,900 people (2.5 per cent) from 159,600 in mid-2016 to 163,500 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a net gain of 3,900 people due to migration over the decade. Natural change (i.e. births minus deaths) in this LGD is negligible.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 1,300 (4.5 per cent) from 30,000 to 28,600 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 2,600 people (2.7 per cent) from 97,200 in mid-2016 to 94,600 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 7,900 people (24.2 per cent) from 32,500 to 40,300 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,100 people (27.8 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by less than 50 people per annum (from 1,600 to 1,500). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 200 per annum (from 1,500 to 1,700).
- By mid-2026, the population of Ards and North Down LGD is projected to account for 8.4 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 8.6 in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Ards and North Down LGD is projected to increase by 2.2 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 163,100 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000002: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	46,800	12.1	49,100	12.6	2,300	4.9
Children (0-3)	12,200	12.3	11,600	12.7	-600	-4.8
Children (4-11)	24,400	12.2	24,500	12.6	100	0.6
Children (12-16)	12,900	11.5	16,200	12.5	3,200	25.1
16 to 64	131,800	11.2	139,400	11.8	7,600	5.8
65 and over	31,700	10.6	40,400	10.9	8,700	27.5
85 and over	3,700	10.0	5,200	10.8	1,500	41.3
All ages	210,300	11.3	228,900	11.8	18,600	8.9

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 18,600 people (8.9 per cent) from 210,300 in mid-2016 to 228,900 people in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 12,300 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net gain of 6,300 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 2,300 (4.9 per cent) from 46,800 to 49,100 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to increase by 7,600 people (5.8 per cent) from 131,800 in mid-2016 to 139,400 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 8,700 people (27.5 per cent) from 31,700 to 40,400 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,500 people (41.3 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by less than 50 per annum (from 2,900 to 2,800). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 200 per annum (from 1,500 to 1,800).
- By mid-2026, the population of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD is projected to account for 11.8 per cent of the Northern Ireland, up from 11.3 in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD is projected to increase by 19.0 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 250,100 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000003: Belfast Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	67,000	17.3	68,600	17.6	1,600	2.4
Children (0-3)	18,200	18.4	17,000	18.6	-1,200	-6.6
Children (4-11)	34,100	17.1	33,800	17.4	-300	-0.8
Children (12-16)	18,600	16.5	22,200	17.1	3,600	19.4
16 to 64	223,100	19.0	220,600	18.7	-2,500	-1.1
65 and over	49,500	16.6	57,000	15.3	7,500	15.2
85 and over	7,200	19.8	7,600	15.8	400	5.2
All ages	339,600	18.2	346,200	17.8	6,600	1.9

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 6,600 people (1.9 per cent) from 339,600 in mid-2016 to 346,200 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 14,300 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net loss of 7,700 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 1,600 (2.4 per cent) from 67,000 to 68,600 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 2,500 people (1.1 per cent) from 223,100 in mid-2016 to 220,600 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 7,500 people (15.2 per cent) from 49,500 to 57,000 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 400 people (5.2 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to fall by around 100 per annum (from 4,500 to 4,300). The number of **deaths** is also projected to decrease by around 100 per annum (from 3,100 to 3,000).
- By mid-2026, the population of Belfast LGD is projected to account for 17.8 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 18.2 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Belfast LGD is projected to increase by 3.9 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 352,900 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000004: Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	28,600	7.4	27,200	7.0	-1,300	-4.6
Children (0-3)	7,000	7.1	6,000	6.6	-1,000	-13.7
Children (4-11)	14,600	7.3	13,700	7.1	-900	-5.9
Children (12-16)	8,800	7.8	9,400	7.2	500	6.2
16 to 64	90,000	7.6	86,100	7.3	-3,800	-4.3
65 and over	25,000	8.4	32,000	8.6	7,000	28.1
85 and over	2,900	8.0	4,300	9.0	1,400	47.4
All ages	143,500	7.7	145,400	7.5	1,900	1.3

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 1,900 people (1.3 per cent) from 143,500 in mid-2016 to 145,400 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 3,300 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net loss of 1,500 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 1,300 (4.6 per cent) from 28,600 to 27,200 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 3,800 people (4.3 per cent) from 90,000 in mid-2016 to 86,100 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 7,000 people (28.1 per cent) from 25,000 to 32,000 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,400 people (47.4 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by around 200 per annum (from 1,600 to 1,500). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 1,200 to 1,300).
- By mid-2026, the population of Causeway Coast & Glens LGD is projected to account for 7.5 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 7.7 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Causeway Coast & Glens LGD is projected to decrease by 0.7 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 142,600 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000005: Derry City and Strabane Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	32,800	8.5	31,900	8.2	-900	-2.7
Children (0-3)	8,300	8.4	7,400	8.2	-900	-10.9
Children (4-11)	16,700	8.4	15,900	8.2	-800	-4.6
Children (12-16)	9,800	8.7	10,600	8.2	900	8.7
16 to 64	95,800	8.1	91,600	7.8	-4,300	-4.5
65 and over	21,500	7.2	26,800	7.2	5,300	24.8
85 and over	2,100	5.9	2,800	5.9	700	33.1
All ages	150,100	8.1	150,300	7.7	200	0.1

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 200 people (0.1 per cent) from 150,100 in mid-2016 to 150,300 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 7,100 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net loss of 6,900 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 900 (2.7 per cent) from 32,800 to 31,900 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 4,300 people (4.5 per cent) from 95,800 in mid-2016 to 91,600 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 5,300 people (24.8 per cent) from 21,500 to 26,800 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 700 people (33.1 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by around 100 per annum (from 1,900 to 1,800). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 1,200 to 1,300).
- By mid-2026, the population of Derry City & Strabane LGD is projected to account for 7.7 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 8.1 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Derry City & Strabane LGD is projected to decrease by 2.6 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 146,200 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000006: Fermanagh and Omagh Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	25,000	6.4	24,300	6.2	-700	-3.0
Children (0-3)	6,100	6.2	5,400	6.0	-700	-11.0
Children (4-11)	12,900	6.4	12,200	6.3	-700	-5.2
Children (12-16)	7,600	6.8	8,400	6.4	800	9.9
16 to 64	72,200	6.1	70,800	6.0	-1,400	-1.9
65 and over	18,600	6.3	24,200	6.5	5,600	29.9
85 and over	2,300	6.3	3,000	6.3	700	30.5
All ages	115,800	6.2	119,200	6.1	3,400	3.0

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 3,400 people (3.0 per cent) from 115,800 in mid-2016 to 119,200 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 3,900 (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net loss of 400 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 700 (3.0 per cent) from 25,000 to 24,300 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 1,400 people (1.9 per cent) from 72,200 in mid-2016 to 70,800 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 5,600 people (29.9 per cent) from 18,600 to 24,200 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 700 people (30.5 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by around 200 per annum (from 1,500 to 1,300). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 900 to 1,000).
- By mid-2026, the population of Fermanagh & Omagh LGD is projected to account for 6.1 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 6.2 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Fermanagh & Omagh LGD is projected to increase by 3.8 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 120,200 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000007: Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	28,200	7.3	29,300	7.5	1,100	4.0
Children (0-3)	7,100	7.2	6,900	7.6	-200	-2.4
Children (4-11)	14,700	7.3	14,600	7.5	-100	-0.3
Children (12-16)	8,100	7.2	9,700	7.5	1,600	19.5
16 to 64	88,900	7.6	93,500	7.9	4,600	5.2
65 and over	24,100	8.1	30,900	8.3	6,800	28.2
85 and over	2,900	8.1	4,300	8.9	1,300	44.5
All ages	141,200	7.6	153,700	7.9	12,500	8.9

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 12,500 people (8.9 per cent) from 141,200 in mid-2016 to 153,700 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 4,600 people (i.e. more births than deaths) and a net gain of 7,900 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 1,100 (4.0 per cent) from 28,200 to 29,300 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to increase by 4,600 people (5.2 per cent) from 88,900 in mid-2016 to 93,500 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 6,800 people (28.2 per cent) from 24,100 to 30,900 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,300 people (44.5 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected remain stable at around 1,700 per annum. The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 1,200 to 1,300).
- By mid-2026, the population of Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD is projected to account for 7.9 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, up from 7.6 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD is projected increase by 18.3 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 167,000 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000008: Mid and East Antrim Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	26,400	6.8	25,500	6.6	-800	-3.1
Children (0-3)	6,400	6.5	5,900	6.5	-500	-7.4
Children (4-11)	13,500	6.8	12,700	6.6	-800	-5.9
Children (12-16)	8,100	7.2	8,600	6.6	500	6.6
16 to 64	86,100	7.3	84,700	7.2	-1,400	-1.6
65 and over	25,300	8.5	31,100	8.4	5,800	22.9
85 and over	3,100	8.6	4,300	8.9	1,100	36.0
All ages	137,800	7.4	141,400	7.3	3,600	2.6

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 3,600 people (2.6 per cent) from 137,800 in mid-2016 to 141,400 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 1,700 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net gain of 1,900 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to decrease by 800 (3.1 per cent) from 26,400 to 25,500 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to decrease by 1,400 people (1.6 per cent) from 86,100 in mid-2016 to 84,700 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 5,800 people (22.9 per cent) from 25,300 to 31,100 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,100 people (36.0 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to fall by around 100 per annum (from 1,600 to 1,400). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 1,200 to 1,400).
- By mid-2026, the population of Mid & East Antrim LGD is projected to account for 7.3 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, down from 7.4 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Mid & East Antrim LGD is projected to increase by 3.3 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 142,400 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

N09000009: Mid Ulster Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	33,500	8.6	34,500	8.9	1,000	2.9
Children (0-3)	8,800	8.9	8,200	9.0	-600	-7.1
Children (4-11)	17,200	8.6	17,300	8.9	0	0.1
Children (12-16)	9,500	8.4	11,400	8.8	2,000	20.7
16 to 64	91,700	7.8	96,100	8.2	4,400	4.8
65 and over	20,100	6.8	26,600	7.1	6,400	32.0
85 and over	2,400	6.6	3,600	7.4	1,200	48.1
All ages	145,400	7.8	157,200	8.1	11,900	8.2

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 11,900 people (8.2 per cent) from 145,400 in mid-2016 to 157,200 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 9,900 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net gain of 2,000 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 1,000 (2.9 per cent) from 33,500 to 34,500 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to increase by 4,400 people (4.8 per cent) from 91,700 in mid-2016 to 96,100 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 6,400 people (32.0 per cent) from 20,100 to 26,600 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,200 people (48.1 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected to decrease by around 200 per annum (from 2,200 to 2,000). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 100 per annum (from 1,000 to 1,100).
- By mid-2026, the population of Mid Ulster LGD is projected to account for 8.1 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, up from 7.8 per cent in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Mid Ulster LGD is projected to increase by 16.7 per cent over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 169,700 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

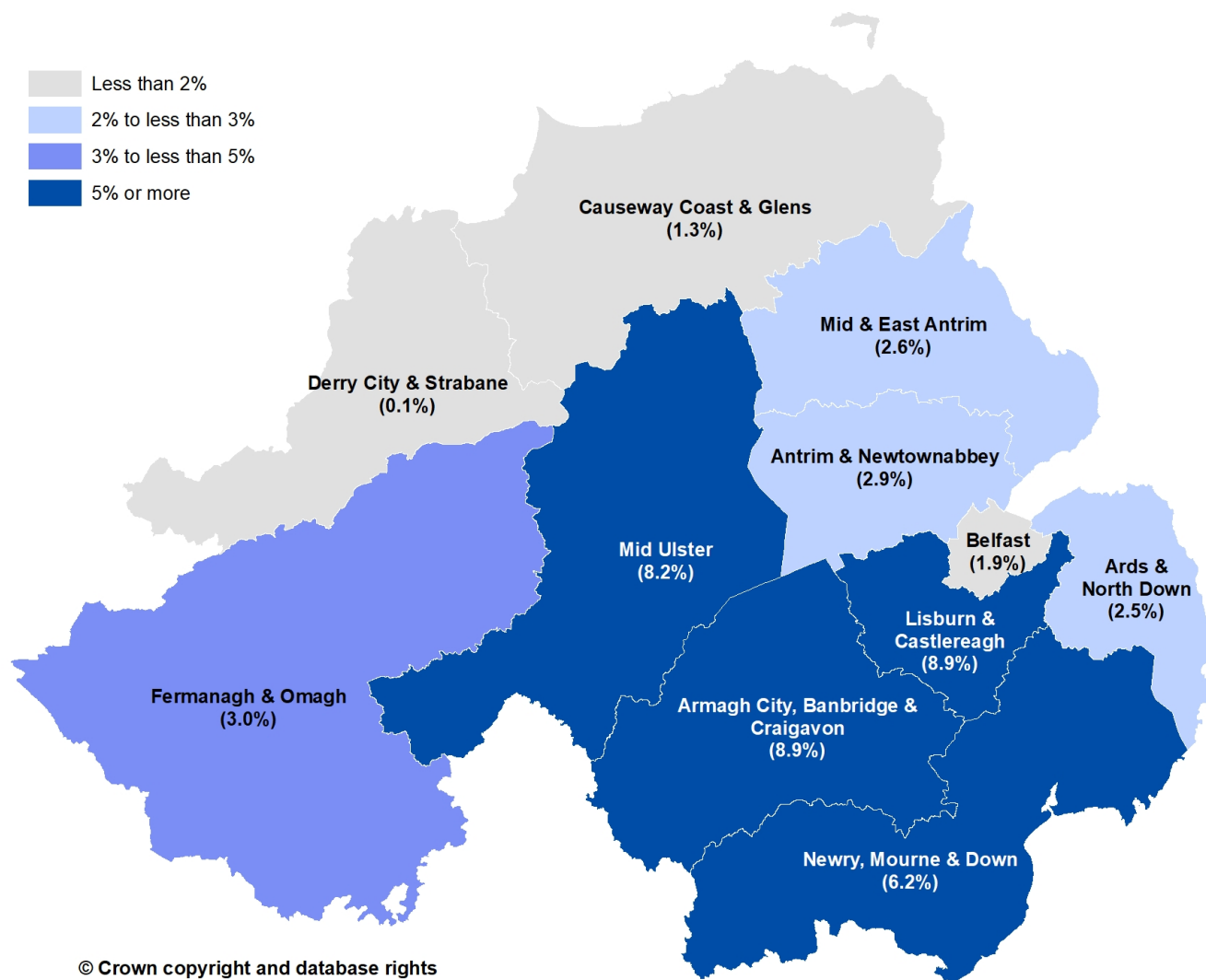
N09000010: Newry, Mourne and Down Local Government District

Age Groups (Years)	Population Figures				Population Change	
	Mid-2016 estimate		Mid-2026 projection		Mid-2016 to Mid-2026	
	People	% of NI	People	% of NI	People	% change
Children (0-15)	40,200	10.4	41,000	10.5	800	1.9
Children (0-3)	10,300	10.4	9,600	10.5	-700	-6.7
Children (4-11)	20,600	10.3	20,500	10.6	-100	-0.6
Children (12-16)	11,700	10.3	13,600	10.5	1,900	16.5
16 to 64	111,100	9.4	112,900	9.6	1,800	1.6
65 and over	26,600	8.9	34,900	9.4	8,300	31.4
85 and over	3,200	8.7	4,500	9.4	1,300	42.2
All ages	177,800	9.5	188,800	9.7	11,000	6.2

- The **total population** is projected to increase by 11,000 people (6.2 per cent) from 177,800 in mid-2016 to 188,800 in mid-2026. This can be attributed to a natural growth of 9,500 people (i.e. births minus deaths) and a net gain of 1,400 people due to migration over the decade.
- The **number of children** (i.e. those aged 0-15) is projected to increase by 800 (1.9 per cent) from 40,200 to 41,000 over the same period.
- The **working age population** (i.e. those aged 16-64) is projected to increase by 1,800 people (1.6 per cent) from 111,100 in mid-2016 to 112,900 in mid-2026.
- The number of those **aged 65 and over** is projected to increase by 8,300 people (31.4 per cent) from 26,600 to 34,900 over the ten years from mid-2016 to mid-2026. Within this group, the number of people **aged 85 and over** is projected to increase by 1,300 people (42.2 per cent).
- Over the period mid-2016 to mid-2026, the number of **births** is projected decrease by around 100 per annum (from 2,400 to 2,300). The number of **deaths** is projected to increase by around 200 per annum (from 1,400 to 1,500).
- By mid-2026, the population of Newry, Mourne & Down LGD is projected to account for 9.7 per cent of the Northern Ireland population, up from 9.5 in mid-2016.
- In the longer term, the population of Newry, Mourne & Down LGD is projected to increase by 11.9 over the 25 year period ending mid-2041, to reach 199,000 people.

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Annex B: Map 1 - Projected population growth by Local Government District (mid-2016 to mid-2026)



Note: The population of Northern Ireland as a whole is projected to grow by 4.2 per cent over the decade mid-2016 to mid-2026.

[Download Map](#) (PDF Format – 610KB)