

2022-BASED POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

Northern Ireland population is projected to be 1.93 million in mid-2047

9:30am – Tuesday, 28 January 2025

The Northern Ireland population is projected to rise to 1.95 million in mid-2033 before falling to 1.93 million in mid-2047. This is an increase of 1.1 per cent over the 25 years from mid-2022. This is one of the findings of the latest statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Net migration is projected to cause a population increase of 53,800 while natural change is projected to cause a population decrease of 32,400 people between mid-2022 and mid-2047. There are 463,500 projected births and 495,900 projected deaths over the period.

The projections show the continuing ageing of the Northern Ireland population. The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 49.6 per cent between mid-2022 and mid-2047. Likewise, the population aged 85 and over is projected to increase by 122.2 per cent over the same period.

By mid-2027, there is projected to be more people aged 65 and over (377,700 people) than children (aged 0-15) (366,700 people) in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is projected to have the lowest population growth (1.1 per cent) between mid-2022 and mid-2047 across the UK. England is projected to have the highest population growth (14.5 per cent), followed by Wales (10.3 per cent), then Scotland (6.2 per cent).

These latest projections result in population figures that are generally lower than those reported in the 2021-based interim projections. By mid-2047, it is projected that there will be 71,700 (3.6 per cent) less people in Northern Ireland than previously projected in mid-2021.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Statistics for the 2022-based Population Projections for Northern Ireland are available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2022-based-population-projections-northern-ireland>.
2. Northern Ireland population projections provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of Northern Ireland, which is used as a common framework for national planning and policy development in areas such as housing, healthcare and education.
3. 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 Northern Ireland 2022 mid-year population estimates as the base population, these are available at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2022-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland>

With further information on the methodology used to create the projections available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/methodologies/nationalpopulationprojectionsqmi>

4. **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.**
5. National population projections, by age and sex, are produced for the UK, and each of the UK constituent countries, by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland. National population projections are calculated in collaboration and agreement with the statistical organisations for Northern Ireland and Scotland (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency [NISRA], and National Records of Scotland [NRS]). The calculation of population projections for all UK countries at the same time ensures that users of the population projections can work on consistent assumptions.

Full results of the 2022-based national population projections for the United Kingdom and all UK countries, are available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections>

Population projections and additional analyses specific to Scotland can be found at:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/population-migration-and-households/>

6. We welcome feedback on the content, format and relevance of this release. Users can send feedback directly to census@nisra.gov.uk.

7. Follow NISRA on <https://x.com/NISRA> and <https://www.facebook.com/nisra.gov.uk>.
8. The revisions policy for Northern Ireland population and migration statistics is available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologytopicsandstatisticalconcepts/revisions/populationandinternationalmigrationstatisticsrevisionspolicy>
9. All media inquiries should be directed to the DoF Press Office:
Telephone: 028 9081 6724
Email: dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk
10. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:
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