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**POPULATION AND VITAL  
STATISTICS**

## Population

During the first half of the twentieth century the population of the island of Ireland declined somewhat, falling by around 200,000 to 4.2 million between 1901 and 1961. This overall trend masks variations in the population change in what is now the Republic of Ireland and that of present-day Northern Ireland. Over the period 1901 to 1961 the population of the current Republic of Ireland declined by some 400,000. This decline, however, was partly offset by growth in the population of what is now Northern Ireland of around 200,000. For the remainder of the twentieth century, and into the twenty-first century, the population of both jurisdictions grew quite markedly, increasing by a total of almost 1.3 million in the forty year period from 1961 to 2001. It is notable that, in contrast with the beginning of the century, the population increase in the latter part of the century was greater in the Republic of Ireland than in Northern Ireland.

In 2002, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland had relatively young populations with around 29% of both populations aged below 20. People aged 65 years and over represented 11% of the population in the Republic of Ireland and 13% in Northern Ireland.

## Births

From the middle to the end of the twentieth century birth rates per 1,000 population generally declined in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 2000, the Republic of Ireland birth rate stood at 14.5 per 1,000 population. This was notably lower than the rate in 1950 of 21.4 births per 1,000. Similarly, the Northern Ireland birth rate was 12.8 per 1,000 population in 2000, which was markedly lower than the 1950 rate of 21.0 births per 1,000.

In the last two decades the proportion of babies born to older mothers increased in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 1980, just under 40% of babies in the Republic of Ireland were born to mothers aged 30 and over. By 2002, this proportion had increased to 56%. The proportion of babies born to mothers aged 30 and over in Northern Ireland increased from 31% to 49% between 1980 and 2002. In the Republic of Ireland, the largest decline in the proportion of births by age of mother was among those aged 25-29, closely followed by those aged 20-24. In Northern Ireland, the largest decline in the proportion of births by age of mother was among those aged 20-24. Over the same period, 1980 to 2002, the proportion of births outside marriage increased substantially in both jurisdictions, rising from around 5% to approximately one third of all births in both areas.

## Deaths

The death rates per 1,000 population fell quite markedly in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over the latter half of the twentieth century. In 1950, death rates per 1,000 population were higher in the Republic of Ireland at 12.7 per 1,000 compared with 11.6 per 1,000 in Northern Ireland. However, by 2002, death rates per 1,000 population were lower in the Republic of Ireland at 7.5 per 1,000 compared with 8.6 per 1,000 for Northern Ireland.

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.1 Population by gender**

*Thousands*

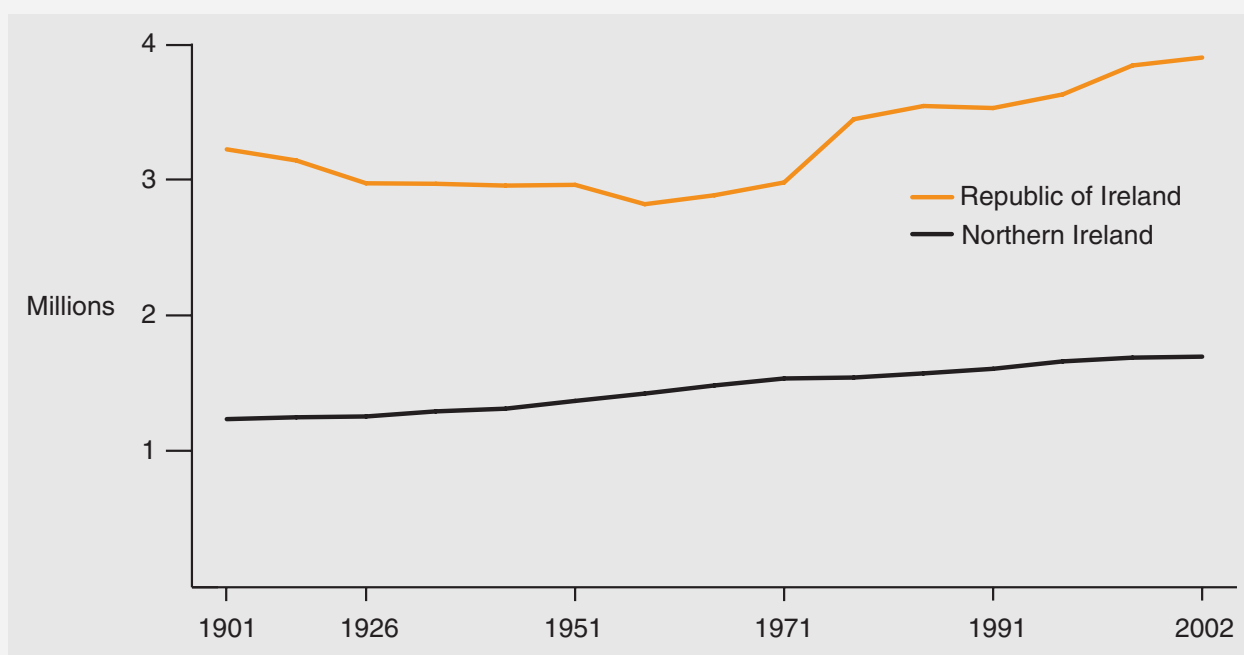
Years	Republic of Ireland <sup>1</sup>			Northern Ireland <sup>2</sup>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1901	1,610.1	1,611.7	3,221.8	590.0	647.0	1,237.0
1911	1,589.5	1,550.2	3,139.7	602.5	648.0	1,250.5
1926	1,506.9	1,465.1	2,972.0	608.1	648.5	1,256.6
1936	1,520.5	1,448.0	2,968.4	631.0	663.0	1,294.0
1946	1,494.9	1,460.2	2,955.1	638.0	675.8	1,313.8
1951	1,506.6	1,454.0	2,960.6	667.8	703.1	1,370.9
1961	1,416.5	1,401.8	2,818.3	694.2	730.8	1,425.0
1966	1,449.0	1,435.0	2,884.0	723.9	760.9	1,484.8
1971	1,495.8	1,482.5	2,978.2	754.7	781.4	1,536.1
1981	1,729.4	1,714.1	3,443.4	756.6	786.3	1,543.0
1986	1,769.7	1,771.0	3,540.6	768.4	805.1	1,573.5
1991	1,753.4	1,772.3	3,525.7	783.2	824.1	1,607.3
1996	1,800.2	1,825.9	3,626.1	810.3	851.4	1,661.8
2001	1,913.1	1,934.1	3,847.2	824.4	864.9	1,689.3
2002	1,946.2	1,971.0	3,917.2	828.9	867.8	1,696.6

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

<sup>1</sup> Republic of Ireland figures for 2001 are estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland figures for 1936, 1946 and 1981 onwards are estimates.

**Figure 1.1 Population, 1901-2002**



# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.2 Population by gender and age<sup>1</sup>, 2002**

*Thousands*

Age	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
0-4	142.0	135.6	277.6	57.8	54.7	112.5
5-9	135.9	128.2	264.1	62.5	59.5	122.0
10-14	146.1	139.6	285.7	67.4	64.0	131.4
15-19	160.4	152.8	313.2	67.7	64.6	132.3
20-24	165.3	163.0	328.3	56.0	54.8	110.8
25-29	156.1	156.6	312.7	55.1	56.1	111.3
30-34	152.4	152.3	304.7	62.2	64.2	126.4
35-39	144.5	146.4	290.9	64.5	66.5	131.0
40-44	135.3	136.7	272.0	58.8	61.7	120.4
45-49	125.0	124.6	249.6	53.0	52.5	105.5
50-54	116.6	114.3	230.8	48.4	49.3	97.7
55-59	99.8	97.5	197.3	45.5	47.4	92.9
60-64	77.6	76.7	154.3	36.3	38.8	75.2
65-69	65.3	68.2	133.5	31.1	35.6	66.7
70-74	51.7	60.4	112.1	25.3	32.6	58.0
75-79	37.4	52.4	89.8	19.1	28.2	47.2
80-84	22.3	36.6	58.9	11.7	20.2	31.9
85+	12.5	29.2	41.7	6.5	17.1	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,946.2</b>	<b>1,971.0</b>	<b>3,917.2</b>	<b>828.9</b>	<b>867.8</b>	<b>1,696.6</b>

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

<sup>1</sup> Figures for the Republic of Ireland are taken from the Census of Population 2002 while NI figures are estimates.

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.3 Births**

*Units as indicated*

Years	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
1950	63,565	21.4	28,794	21.0
1960	60,735	21.5	31,989	22.5
1970	64,382	21.9	32,086	21.1
1980	74,064	21.8	28,582	18.6
1990	53,044	15.1	26,251	16.5
2000	54,789	14.5	21,512	12.8
2001	57,854	15.0	21,962	13.0
2002	60,521	15.5	21,385	12.6

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.4 Births by age of mother**

Age	Numbers					Percentages				
	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>										
Under 20	3,580	2,668	3,116	3,087	2,978	4.8	5.0	5.7	5.3	4.9
20-24	16,497	8,150	7,933	8,325	8,589	22.3	15.4	14.5	14.4	14.2
25-29	23,964	17,132	13,556	14,160	14,572	32.4	32.3	24.7	24.5	24.1
30-34	18,103	15,440	18,018	19,276	20,346	24.4	29.1	32.9	33.3	33.6
35-39	8,725	7,384	10,077	10,779	11,633	11.8	13.9	18.4	18.6	19.2
40-44	2,317	1,679	1,765	1,867	1,999	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3
45 and over	170	97	63	79	70	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Not stated	708	494	261	281	334	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,064</b>	<b>53,044</b>	<b>54,789</b>	<b>57,854</b>	<b>60,521</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>										
Under 20	2,124	1,853	1,614	1,524	1,502	7.4	7.1	7.5	6.9	7.0
20-24	8,472	6,355	3,602	3,699	3,619	29.6	24.2	16.7	16.8	16.9
25-29	9,058	9,129	6,206	6,087	5,779	31.7	34.8	28.8	27.7	27.0
30-34	5,839	6,089	6,547	6,891	6,691	20.4	23.2	30.4	31.4	31.3
35-39	2,524	2,327	3,031	3,183	3,203	8.8	8.9	14.1	14.5	15.0
40-44	524	471	496	548	565	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.6
45 and over	41	27	16	30	26	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,582</b>	<b>26,251</b>	<b>21,512</b>	<b>21,962</b>	<b>21,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.5 Births outside marriage**

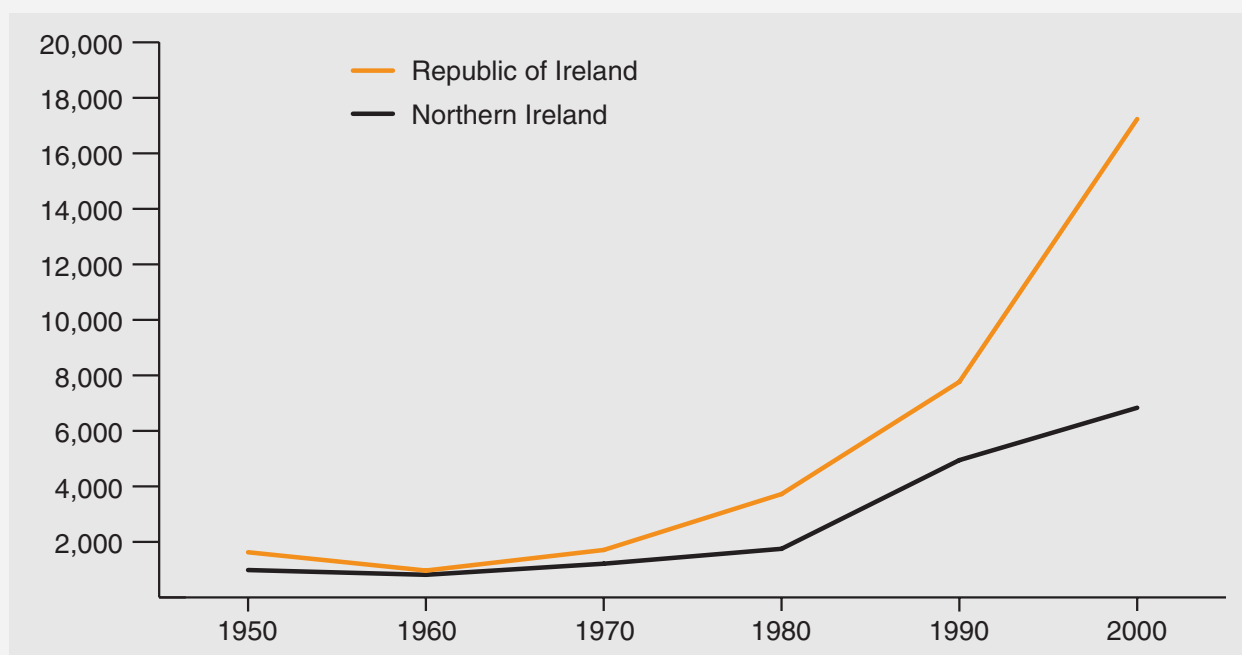
*Numbers and percentages*

Years	Total births	Births outside marriage	Births outside marriage as % of total
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>			
1950	63,565	1,627	2.6
1960	60,735	968	1.6
1970	64,382	1,709	2.7
1980	74,064	3,723	5.0
1990	53,044	7,767	14.6
2000	54,789	17,266	31.5
2001	57,854	18,114	31.3
2002	60,521	18,815	31.1
<b>Northern Ireland</b>			
1950	28,794	986	3.4
1960	31,989	815	2.5
1970	32,086	1,214	3.8
1980	28,582	1,751	6.1
1990	26,251	4,946	18.8
2000	21,512	6,833	31.8
2001	21,962	7,144	32.5
2002	21,385	7,161	33.5

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Figure 1.2 Births outside marriage, 1950-2000**



**Table 1.6 Most popular babies' names, 2002**

Rank	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Boys' names	Girls' names	Boys' names	Girls' names
1	Jack	Sarah	Matthew	Chloe
2	Sean	Aoife	Jack	Caitlin
3	Adam	Ciara	Ryan	Katie
4	Conor	Emma	Adam	Megan
5	James	Chloe	James	Sarah
6	Daniel	Amy	Joshua	Lauren
7	Cian	Katie	Conor	Amy
8	Michael	Niamh	Ben	Emma
9	David	Sophie	Dylan	Hannah
10	Luke	Lauren	Daniel	Niamh

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*



# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.7 Deaths**

*Units as indicated*

Years	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
1950	37,741	12.7	15,838	11.6
1960	32,660	11.5	15,296	10.8
1970	33,686	11.4	16,551	10.9
1980	33,472	9.8	16,835	11.0
1990	31,370	9.0	15,426	9.7
2000	31,391	8.3	14,903	8.9
2001	30,212	7.9	14,513	8.6
2002	29,348	7.5	14,586	8.6

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

**Table 1.8 Marriages**

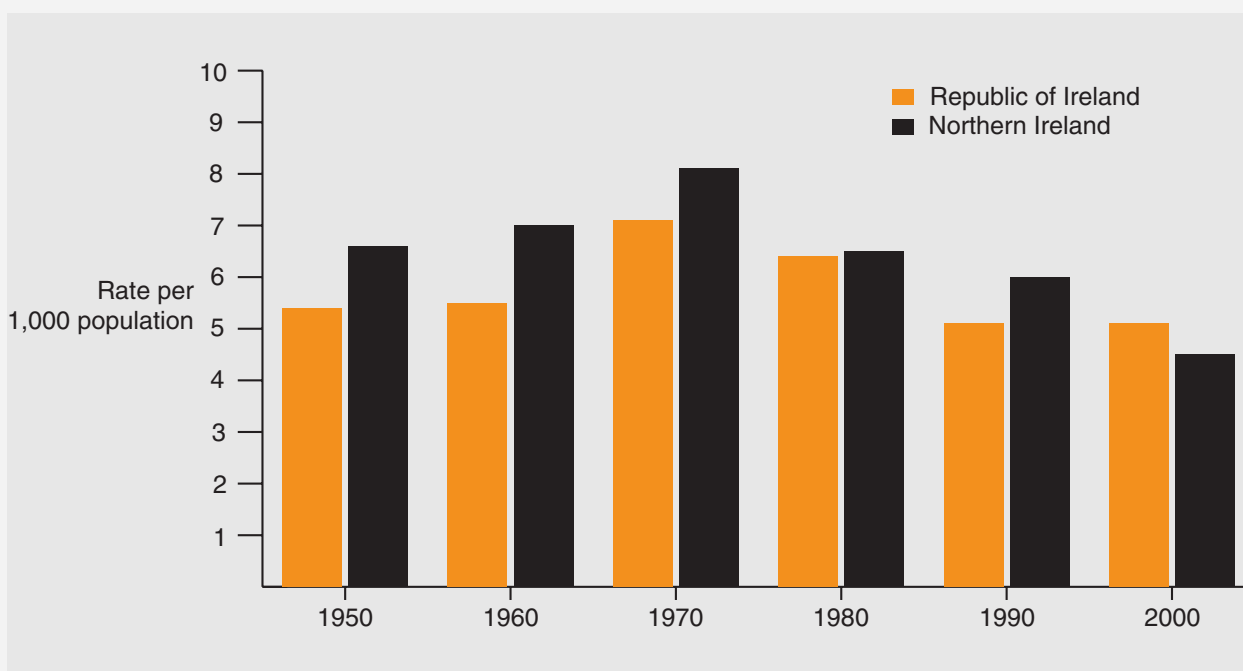
*Units as indicated*

Years	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
1950	16,018	5.4	9,084	6.6
1960	15,465	5.5	9,881	7.0
1970	20,778	7.1	12,297	8.1
1980	21,792	6.4	9,923	6.5
1990	17,838	5.1	9,588	6.0
2000	19,168	5.1	7,584	4.5
2001	19,246	5.0	7,281	4.3
2002	20,047	5.1	7,599	4.5

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Figure 1.3 Marriage rates, 1950-2000**



**Table 1.9 Net migration**

Years	Numbers	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
1992	7,400	2,800
1993	-400	2,700
1994	-4,700	-500
1995	-1,900	-1,900
1996	8,000	4,700
1997	19,200	-1,000
1998	17,400	-1,800
1999	17,300	-4,800
2000	26,000	-2,200
2001	32,800	-1,900
2002	41,300	100

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

**Table 1.10 Life expectancy at birth and at 65 years**

Years	Years							
	Republic of Ireland				Northern Ireland			
	At birth		At age 65 years		At birth		At age 65 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1925-1927	57	58	13	13	55	56	12	13
1950-1952	65	67	12	13	66	69	12	14
1960-1962	68	72	13	14	68	72	12	14
1970-1972	69	74	12	15	68	74	12	15
1985-1987	71	77	13	16	71	77	13	17
1990-1992	72	78	13	17	73	78	14	18
1995-1997	73	79	14	17	74	79	15	18

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

# 1 POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## **Technical Notes**

### **Tables 1.1 and 1.2**

Mid-year estimates (MYEs) of the usually resident NI population relate to 30 June each year. The most recent Census data provides the basis for the MYEs which are updated annually to take account of births, deaths and migration.

### **Tables 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5**

Data for the Republic of Ireland include births to non-Republic of Ireland resident mothers. Figures up to and including 2001 are based on year of occurrence and are final figures. Data for 2002 are based on year of registration and are subject to revision.

Northern Ireland births data from 1981 onwards exclude births to non-Northern Ireland resident mothers.

### **Table 1.6**

The results for babies' names are based on an analysis of the first names recorded at registration of birth for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Only the first name was used for analysis, surnames and additional forenames were not used. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names.

### **Table 1.7 and 1.8**

ROI data up to and including 2001 are based on year of occurrence and are final figures. Data for 2002 are based on year of registration and are subject to revision.

### **Table 1.9**

Republic of Ireland gross migration flows are estimated using a number of sources, principally the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS – formerly the Labour Force Survey). This is supplemented by other data sources including the continuous Country of Residence Inquiry of passengers conducted at airports and seaports; the Child Benefit Scheme; the number of visas granted; and the number of asylum applications.

In Northern Ireland, estimates of total net migration are made each year as part of the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimation process. These estimates are based on transfers of medical cards recorded by the National Health Service Central Registers, the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Central Services Agency and data received from the Republic of Ireland QNHS.

### **Table 1.10**

Northern Ireland life expectancy data are based on an abridged life table with three years' population and deaths data.