

Chapter 1



POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Introduction

Censuses of Population have been conducted on the island of Ireland since 1841. Beginning in 1951, the Republic of Ireland (ROI) has undertaken a census at five yearly intervals, with the exceptions of 1976 and 2001. In Northern Ireland the census remains a decennial exercise, taking place every decade during the year ending in 1.

The primary purpose of a Census of Population is to establish how many people are in a country. The Northern Ireland census and subsequent mid-year population estimates are based on the usually resident population. Thus, people are recorded at the address where they are usually resident irrespective of where they are on census night. In the Republic of Ireland, on the other hand, the main census results are reported on the de facto population, that is, persons are enumerated where they spend census night. A limited number of additional questions are included in the Republic of Ireland census about the usual residents at each address who were temporarily absent on census night, thereby enabling key demographic statistics to be produced on a usually resident basis if required. Most of the results included in this publication for the Republic of Ireland are based on the de facto population. In practice the difference between these de facto and usually resident measures is not significant.

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The Censuses provide an authoritative and comprehensive picture, at a local level, of the populations at the point in time they are undertaken. In the inter-censal years demographic change is monitored by data on births, marriages, deaths and mid-year population estimates. Time-series data for each of these key statistics are included in this chapter.

Migration is an increasingly important component of demographic change within both jurisdictions. Northern Ireland has a range of sources that can be utilised to derive migration statistics and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency can be contacted directly for these data. Likewise, migration data for the Republic of Ireland are available from the Central Statistics Office.

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Table 1.1 Population by gender

Thousands

Years	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland ¹		
	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	603.0	648.0	1,251.0
1926	1,506.9	1,465.1	2,972.0	607.0	647.0	1,254.0
1936	1,520.5	1,448.0	2,968.4	621.0	655.0	1,276.0
1946	1,494.9	1,460.2	2,955.1	647.0	686.0	1,333.0
1951	1,506.6	1,454.0	2,960.6	667.8	704.8	1,372.6
1956	1,462.9	1,435.3	2,898.3	680.9	715.7	1,396.6
1961	1,416.5	1,401.8	2,813.3	695.7	731.7	1,427.4
1966	1,449.0	1,435.0	2,884.0	720.1	757.9	1,478.0
1971	1,495.8	1,482.5	2,978.2	754.6	785.8	1,540.4
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
2005	2,059.0	2,071.8	4,130.7	844.3	880.1	1,724.4
2006	2,121.2	2,118.7	4,239.8	853.4	888.2	1,741.6

Sources Republic of Ireland: Census of Population Ireland, and Population and Migration Estimates (2001 and 2005), CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

¹Data for 1901 and 1911 are based on Census counts. Subsequent data are based on mid-year estimates.

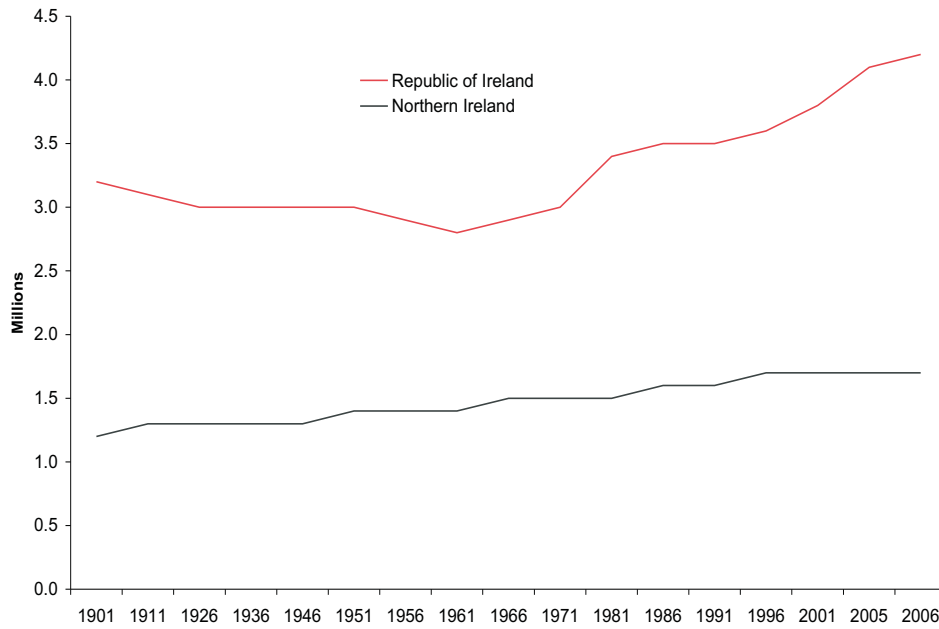
The Republic of Ireland witnessed little change in its population in the first half of the last century. Since 1961 its population has increased in each period, apart from a slight decline in 1986-1991.

There has generally been an increasing trend in population for Northern Ireland over the past 100 years, although there was a slight decrease observed in the early 1970s.

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Figure 1.1 Population, 1901-2006



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Table 1.2 Population by gender and age, 2006

Thousands

Age	Republic of Ireland			Northern Ireland		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
0-4	154.6	147.7	302.3	57.4	54.7	112.1
5-9	148.0	140.3	288.3	60.3	56.9	117.2
10-14	140.5	133.4	273.9	63.9	60.7	124.6
15-19	148.2	142.0	290.3	67.1	63.5	130.6
20-24	172.8	169.7	342.5	65.1	62.0	127.1
25-29	189.3	183.8	373.1	55.8	56.1	111.9
30-34	177.5	171.9	349.4	57.6	59.1	116.7
35-39	163.8	158.3	322.1	63.4	65.7	129.1
40-44	151.4	149.9	301.3	63.4	66.2	129.6
45-49	138.0	136.8	274.7	57.4	60.0	117.4
50-54	124.6	122.5	247.1	51.3	50.7	102.1
55-59	113.9	111.4	225.3	47.6	49.4	96.9
60-64	91.6	90.2	181.7	42.2	44.7	87.0
65-69	70.9	72.5	143.4	33.3	36.8	70.1
70-74	56.5	62.6	119.2	26.9	32.5	59.4
75-79	40.1	52.3	92.5	20.1	28.7	48.7
80-84	24.7	40.2	64.9	12.8	22.0	34.8
85+	14.8	33.2	48.0	7.9	18.4	26.3
Total	2,121.2	2,118.7	4,239.8	853.4	888.1	1,741.6

Sources Republic of Ireland: Census of Population 2006, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

In the Republic of Ireland, 27 per cent of the population were aged under 20. This was similar to Northern Ireland at 28 per cent. However, while the proportion of those aged 65 and over has increased over the years, their share is still low (11 per cent) by international standards.

The age structure of Northern Ireland's population continues to get older due to fertility levels which are below replacement level and increasing life expectancy. In 2006, 28 per cent of people living in Northern Ireland were aged under 20 while people aged 65 and over represented 14 per cent of the total population.

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Table 1.3 Intercensal population change

Units as indicated

Intercensal period	Population at start of intercensal period	Natural increase	Net migration	Population at end of intercensal period	Population change	% Population change
Republic of Ireland						
1961-1971	2,818,300	294,400	-134,500	2,978,200	159,900	6
1971-1981	2,978,200	361,300	103,900	3,443,400	465,200	16
1981-1991	3,443,400	288,400	-206,100	3,525,700	82,300	2
1991-2001	3,525,700	200,500	120,900	3,847,200	321,500	9
Northern Ireland¹						
1961-1971	1,425,000	172,800	-61,700	1,536,100	111,100	8
1971-1981	1,536,100	117,800	-121,300	1,532,600	-3,500	0
1981-1991	1,532,600	115,000	-69,800	1,577,800	45,200	3
1991-2001	1,577,800	87,000	20,500	1,685,300	107,500	7

Sources Republic of Ireland: Census of Population, and Population and Migration Estimates, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

¹ Includes changes in the number of armed forces stationed in Northern Ireland.

Figure 1.2 Percentage population change over the four decades 1961-2001

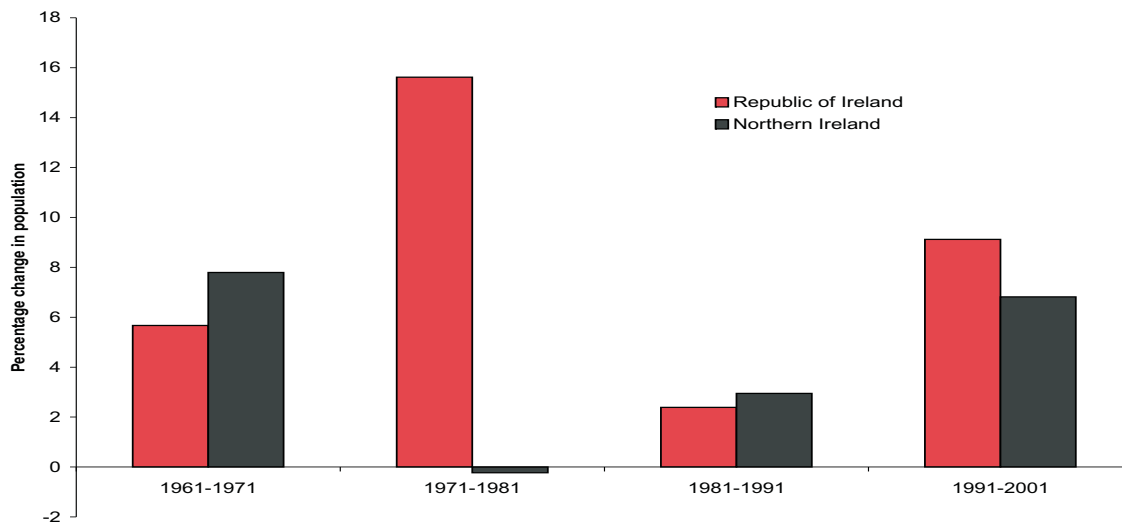


Table 1.4 Births

Units as indicated

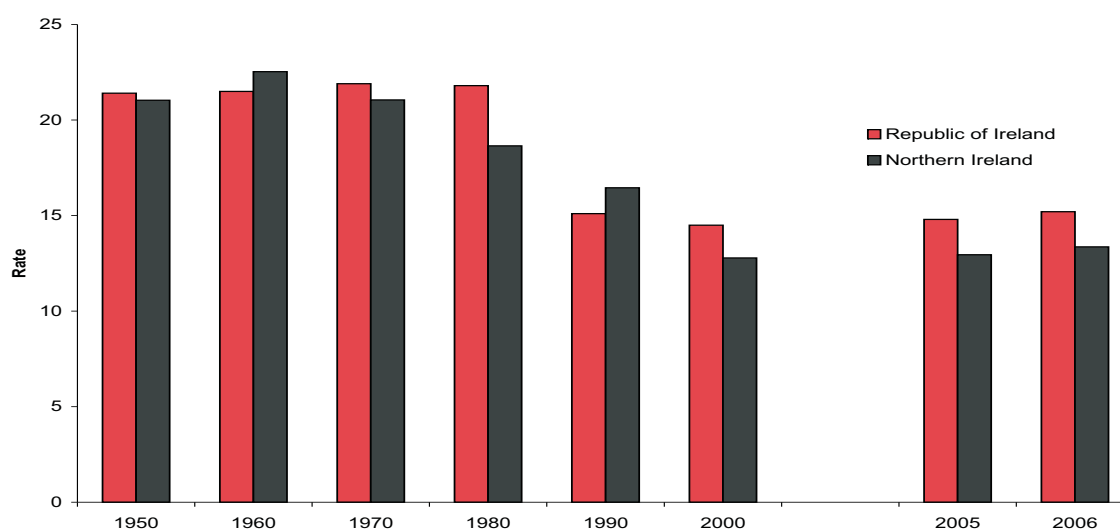
Year	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population
1950	63,565	21.4	28,794	21.0
1960	60,735	21.5	31,989	22.5
1970	64,382	21.9	32,086	21.1
1980	74,064	21.8	28,582	18.6
1990	53,044	15.1	26,251	16.5
2000	54,789	14.5	21,512	12.8
2005	61,042	14.8	22,328	12.9
2006	64,237	15.2	23,272	13.4

Sources Republic of Ireland: Annual Report on Vital Statistics, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

Numbers of births in the Republic of Ireland peaked in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Falling fertility rates during the 1980s and 1990s led to a corresponding decline in numbers of births. The fertility rate has risen slightly since 2000, and this, together with the increase in population, has led to increases in birth numbers once again.

Northern Ireland experienced a “baby boom” during the second half of the 1950s and 1960s with the annual number of births peaking in 1964 at just over 34,000 live births.

Figure 1.3 Birth rate per 1,000 population



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Table 1.5 Births by age of mother

Age	Numbers					Percentages				
	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006
Republic of Ireland										
Under 20	3,580	2,668	3,116	2,427	2,362	4.8	5.0	5.7	4.0	3.7
20-24	16,497	8,150	7,933	7,785	8,345	22.3	15.4	14.6	12.8	13.0
25-29	23,964	17,132	13,556	13,650	14,891	32.4	32.3	24.7	22.4	23.2
30-34	18,103	15,440	18,018	21,335	22,002	24.4	29.1	32.9	35.0	34.3
35-39	8,725	7,384	10,077	13,208	13,856	11.8	13.9	18.4	21.6	21.6
40-44	2,317	1,679	1,765	2,452	2,648	3.1	3.2	3.2	4.0	4.1
45 & over	170	97	63	74	98	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Not stated	708	494	261	111	35	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1
Total	74,064	53,044	54,789	61,042	64,237	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northern Ireland										
Under 20	2,114	1,853	1,614	1,395	1,427	7.4	7.1	7.5	6.2	6.1
20-24	8,450	6,355	3,602	3,738	3,944	29.7	24.2	16.7	16.7	16.9
25-29	9,015	9,129	6,206	5,936	6,282	31.7	34.8	28.8	26.6	27.0
30-34	5,802	6,089	6,547	6,961	7,048	20.4	23.2	30.4	31.2	30.3
35-39	2,511	2,327	3,031	3,610	3,823	8.8	8.9	14.1	16.2	16.4
40-44	520	471	496	661	712	1.8	1.8	2.3	3.0	3.1
45 & over	41	27	16	27	36	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	28,453	26,251	21,512	22,328	23,272	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources Republic of Ireland: Annual Report on Vital Statistics, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

In the Republic of Ireland in 2006, 3 in every 5 births were to mothers aged 30 and over. This contrasts with the situation in 1980, when 3 in every 5 births were to mothers aged under 30. There were more births to mothers aged 40 and over than births to teenage mothers in the Republic of Ireland in 2005 and 2006.

The number of births to older mothers has also increased in Northern Ireland. Over the past 30 years the number of births among mothers in both the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups has reduced with the 20-24 age group showing the most significant decline. In 2006, 50 per cent of mothers were aged 30 and over and this compares with around 30 per cent in 1976.

Table 1.6 Most popular babies' names

Rank	Republic of Ireland				Northern Ireland			
	Boys' names		Girls' names		Boys' names		Girls' names	
	1998	2006	1998	2006	1998	2006	1998	2006
1	Conor	Sean	Chloe	Sarah	Matthew	Jack	Chloe	Katie
2	Sean	Jack	Ciara	Emma	Ryan	Matthew	Emma	Grace
3	Jack	Conor	Sarah	Katie	James	Ryan	Rebecca	Sophie
4	James	Adam	Aoife	Aoife	Jack	James	Amy	Emma
5	Adam	James	Emma	Sophie	Conor	Daniel	Lauren	Ellie
6	Aaron	Daniel	Niamh	Ava	Adam	Adam	Hannah	Lucy
7	Dylan	Luke	Rachel	Grace	Jordan	Joshua	Shannon	Sarah
8	David	Cian	Megan	Ella	Michael	Callum	Sarah	Hannah
9	Michael	Michael	Rebecca	Leah	David	Ben	Rachel	Jessica
10	Daniel	Jamie	Lauren	Ciara	Christopher	Ethan	Megan	Erin

Sources Republic of Ireland: Irish Babies' Names, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

In the Republic of Ireland, the same boys' names (Jack, Sean, Conor, Adam, James) have been in the top five since 1998, with only their order changing from year to year. There has been more change in girls' names. While Emma, Sarah and Aoife have been in the top five since 1998, Katie has only been in the top five since 2003, and Sophie is in the top 5 for the first time in 2006.

In Northern Ireland, over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the first names they have given to their babies. In 2006, there were approximately 1,800 girls' and 1,300 boys' names used. The most popular boys' name was Jack and the most popular girls' name was Katie. Only the girls' name Emma holds a top five ranking in both 1998 and 2006 in Northern Ireland whereas the boys' names Jack, Matthew and James are ranked in the top five, in both years.

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Table 1.7 Deaths

Units as indicated

Year	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
2005	27,441	6.6	14,224	8.2
2006	27,479	6.5	14,532	8.3

Sources Republic of Ireland: Annual Report on Vital Statistics, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

The number of deaths in the Republic of Ireland in 2005 was the lowest ever recorded. This occurred despite the increases in the population in recent years. The lower death rate in the Republic of Ireland compared with Northern Ireland is related to the somewhat younger population structure in the Republic.

Death rates in Northern Ireland have fallen quite markedly over the latter half of the twentieth century. The reduction in deaths in recent years has occurred despite the population increasing in size and containing a higher proportion of elderly people. In 2006 there were 14,532 deaths registered in Northern Ireland, an increase of 2 per cent on the 14,224 deaths registered in 2005, which was the lowest figure ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

Figure 1.4 Death rate per 1,000 population

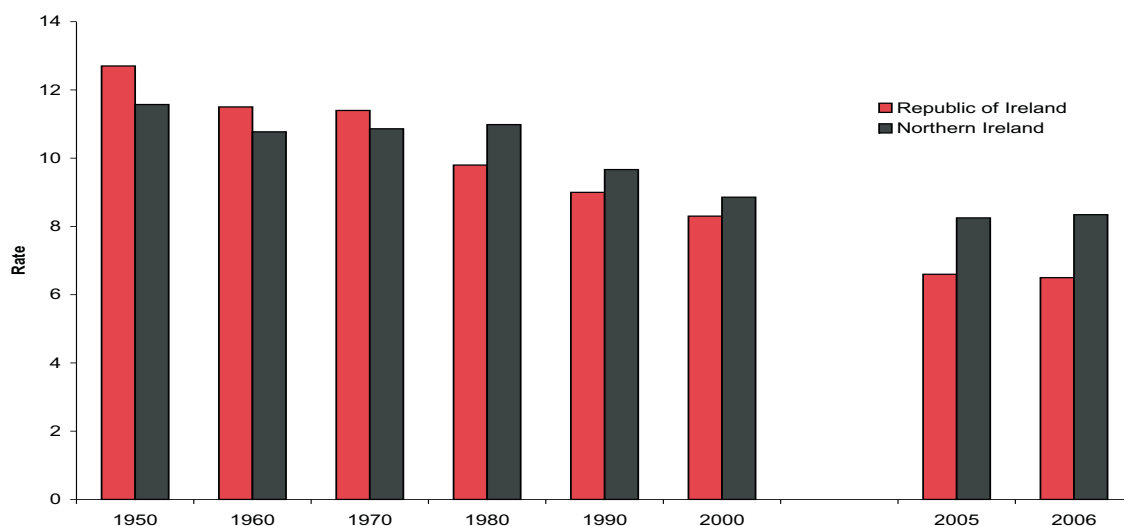


Table 1.8 Life expectancy at birth and at 65 years

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	57.4	57.9	12.8	13.4	55.4	56.1	11.9	12.7
1950-1952	64.5	67.1	12.1	13.3	65.5	68.8	12.1	13.5
1960-1962	68.1	71.9	12.6	14.4	67.6	72.4	12.2	14.4
1970-1972	68.8	73.5	12.4	15.0	67.6	73.7	12.0	15.2
1985-1987	71.0	76.7	12.6	16.2	70.9	77.1	12.8	16.6
1990-1992	72.3	77.9	13.4	17.1	72.6	78.4	13.6	17.4
1995-1997	73.0	78.5	13.8	17.4	73.8	79.2	14.3	17.9
2000-2002	75.1	80.3	15.4	18.7	75.2	80.1	15.7	18.7

Sources Republic of Ireland: Annual Report on Vital Statistics, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

The historical patterns of life expectancy have been quite similar in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Until the 1990s, female life expectancy increased more rapidly than male life expectancy. However, since the 1990s, the gap between male and female life expectancy has narrowed.

In both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, children born today can expect to have longer lives than children born in the past. Based on 2000-02 death rates, males born in recent years could expect to live until they are around 75 years old and females could expect to live until they are 80 years old. Males and females born between 1925 and 1927 were expected, at birth, to live only until their mid-fifties.

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Table 1.9 Marriages

Units as indicated

Year	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
2005	21,355	5.2	8,140	4.7
2006	21,841	5.2	8,259	4.7

Sources Republic of Ireland: Annual Report on Vital Statistics, CSO
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

The enactment of divorce legislation in the Republic of Ireland in 1997 has meant that people can now re-marry following divorce. This, together with an increase in the population, has led to increased numbers of marriages as compared with the 1990s.

In 2006 there were 8,259 marriages celebrated in Northern Ireland, an increase of 119 marriages or 1.5 per cent on the 2005 figure of 8,140 marriages. Changes to marriage law in Northern Ireland introduced, among other things, less strict residency requirements for marriage, thus allowing couples to marry in the area of their choice and making it easier for people from outside Northern Ireland to get married here. Another result of the new law is that around 1 in 3 civil marriages in 2006 (36 per cent) now take place in an approved venue rather than the Registrar's Office.

Table 1.10 Divorce applications granted

Year	<i>Numbers</i>	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
1997	95	2,176
1998	1,421	2,459
1999	2,333	2,326
2000	2,741	2,350
2001	2,838	2,365
2002	2,591	2,165
2003	2,970	2,319
2004	3,347	2,512
2005	3,411	2,362
2006	3,466	2,565

Sources Republic of Ireland: Courts Service
Northern Ireland: Demography and Methodology branch, NISRA

Divorce legislation was enacted in the Republic of Ireland in 1997. The number of divorce applications granted per year rose quickly in the first few years following this legislation. In more recent years the number of divorce applications granted has continued to increase at a slower rate.

The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2006 was 2,565. This is an increase from last year's figure of 2,362 and is the largest number of divorces on record for Northern Ireland.

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Table 1.11 Total EU population, 2006

Thousands

Country	Population
EU 27	493,190
Austria	8,266
Belgium	10,511
Bulgaria	7,719
Cyprus	766
Czech Republic	10,251
Denmark	5,427
Estonia	1,345
Finland	5,256
France	62,999
Germany	82,438
Greece	11,125
Hungary	10,077
Republic of Ireland	4,240
Italy	58,752
Latvia	2,295
Lithuania	3,403
Luxembourg	460
Malta	404
Netherlands	16,334
Poland	38,157
Portugal	10,570
Romania	21,610
Slovakia	5,389
Slovenia	2,003
Spain	43,758
Sweden	9,048
United Kingdom ¹	60,587
Northern Ireland	1,742

Sources Eurostat, WHO/Europe, ONS, NISRA

¹Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

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Table 1.12 EU births, deaths, net migration

Units as indicated

Country	Live births per 1,000 population		Stillbirths per 1,000 total births (live and still)		Infant mortality per 1,000 live births		Deaths per 1,000 population		Marriages per 1,000 population	
	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
Austria	2006	9.4	2006	4.0	2005	4.2	2006	8.9	2005	4.8
Belgium	2005	11.2	2005	3.7	2004	9.8	2005	4.1
Bulgaria	2006	9.6	2006	6.9	2005	10.4	2004	14.2	2005	4.3
Cyprus	2006	11.3	2005	4.0	2005	7.2	2005	7.8
Czech Republic	2006	10.3	2006	2.8	2005	3.4	2006	10.2	2005	5.1
Denmark	2006	12.0	2005	4.8	2005	4.4	2005	10.2	2005	6.7
Estonia	2006	11.1	2006	3.8	2005	5.4	2005	12.9	2005	4.6
Finland	2006	11.2	2006	2.4	2005	3.0	2006	9.1	2005	5.6
France	2006	13.1	2006	9.5	2004	4.0	2005	8.6	2005	4.5
Germany	2006	8.2	2006	3.6	2005	3.9	2006	9.9	2005	4.7
Greece	2006	10.0	2006	2.8	2005	3.8	2005	9.5	2005	5.5
Hungary	2006	9.9	2006	4.9	2005	6.2	2005	13.5	2005	4.4
Republic of Ireland	2006	15.2	2004	5.2	2006	3.7	2006	6.5	2006	5.1
Italy	2006	9.5	2004	2.9	2003	3.9	2005	9.7	2005	4.3
Latvia	2006	9.7	2006	6.9	2005	7.8	2005	14.2	2005	5.5
Lithuania	2006	9.2	2006	4.4	2005	6.8	2006	13.2	2005	5.8
Luxembourg	2005	11.7	2006	2.5	2005	2.6	2005	8.0	2005	4.4
Malta	2006	9.6	2006	2.6	2005	6.0	2004	7.2	2005	5.9
Netherlands	2006	11.3	2006	3.5	2005	4.9	2006	8.3	2005	4.5
Poland	2006	9.8	2006	3.6	2005	6.4	2005	9.7	2005	5.4
Portugal	2006	10.0	2005	2.8	2005	3.5	2004	9.7	2005	4.6
Romania	2006	10.2	2006	5.2	2005	15.0	2004	12.0	2005	6.6
Slovakia	2006	10.0	2006	4.0	2005	7.2	2005	9.9	2005	4.9
Slovenia	2006	9.4	2006	4.3	2005	4.1	2005	9.4	2005	2.9
Spain	2006	10.8	2006	3.2	2005	3.8	2005	8.9	2005	4.8
Sweden	2006	11.7	2006	3.0	2005	2.4	2006	10.0	2005	4.9
United Kingdom ¹	2006	12.4	2005	5.3	2005	5.1	2006	9.5	2005	4.7
Northern Ireland	2006	13.4	2006	3.8	2006	5.1	2006	8.3	2006	4.7

Sources Eurostat, WHO/Europe, ONS, NISRA

¹Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

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 provide the basis for the MYEs which are updated annually to take account of births, deaths and migration.

Table 1.3

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, the Northern Ireland Central Services Agency and data received from the Republic of Ireland QNHS.

Tables 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 2004 are based on year of occurrence and are final figures. Data for 2005 and 2006 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.

Tables 1.7 and 1.9

Republic of Ireland data up to and including 2004 are based on year of occurrence and are final figures. Data for 2005 and 2006 are based on year of registration and are subject to revision. All Northern Ireland deaths data are based on year of registration rather than year of occurrence.

Table 1.8

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

Table 1.10

Northern Ireland divorce figures are based on Decree Absolutes and include nullities of marriage. Decree Nisi information can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Court Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple are still married until the Decree Absolute has been granted.