



An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

## Population and Labour Force Projections 2023-

### 2057 and other Demographic Trends

Conor J Crowley,

Central Statistics Office  
**Department of Social Justice**  
**Annual Conference: Care in a  
Changing World**

IHREC, Dublin 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

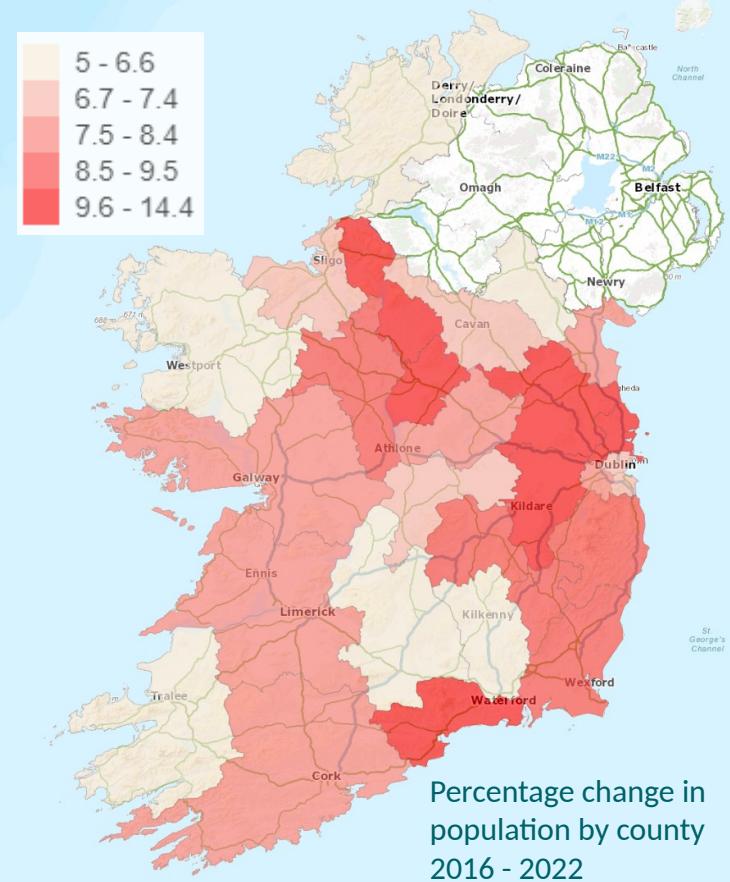
Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Overview



# Overview

- CSO and Demography Statistics
- Historic Population perspective, 1841 - 2022
- Introduction to Population Projections
- Irish Projections to 2057
- European and Global projections





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# The Central Statistics Office (CSO) and Demography Statistics



# What is the CSO?

- Central Statistics Office (the CSO) – the Irish State's National Statistical Institute (NSI)
- Legal basis under the 1993 Statistics Act
- Emphasis on confidentiality of data
- Independent, neutral, highest standards of output
- Works with wider Irish Statistical System



# Modern Demography Impacts

- **COVID-19** – Changes to mortality and associated reporting patterns in Ireland
- **Ukraine Crisis** – significant change to volatility of migration data
- **Declining fertility rates**– Over past twenty years, Ireland has changed from a replacement-level fertility to significant decline



# Products other than Projections

## Official measures of Population and Demography

- 5-yearly Census of Population and Housing
- Annual population estimates from admin./survey data
- CSO Vital Statistics Products (Birth and Death Flows)

## “Frontier” output

- Annual Irish Population Estimates from Administrative Data Sources - IPEADS



# Current Population and Demography

Census 2022 & 2027	IPEADS	Population Estimates and Projections	Vital Statistics
Traditional Census based on enumeration approach	Irish Population Estimates from Administrative Data Sources	Annual Population and Migration Estimates + National/ Regional Projections	Birth, marriage and death statistics currently obtained from GRO data (and RIP.ie)



# Recent Publications on Projections

## Population and Migration Estimates

- Estimates for April 2025 released in August 2025
- Official statistic

## Population and Labour Force Projections

- Released in July 2024
- Projecting from 2023 to 2057 based on Census 2022
- Official statistic

## Regional Population Projections

- Released in January 2025
- Disaggregating the national projections at a regional level
- Official statistic





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Historic Irish Population Perspective



# Ireland's population 1841 - 2022



## Population

**5,149,139**

Up 8%



Average  
Age  
38.8

## Citizenship



Non Irish  
Citizens  
**631,785**

12%\*

Dual Irish  
Citizens  
**170,597**

3%\*

## Immigration

Arrivals by citizenship in  
the year before census

India

**10,593**

Up 315%<sup>1</sup>



Brazil

**4,689**

Up 2%<sup>1</sup>



Spain

**4,174**

Up 43%<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Compared with  
year before census 2016



An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Introduction to Population Projections



# What do we mean by Population Projection

## Key idea:

- Projections illustrate **potential** future population trends given specific potential scenarios
  - We call these scenarios “assumptions”
  - We consider combinations of assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration



# A brief history of population projections

## Projections have a long history

- A (in)famous early example involved Jeremiah Day
  - President of Yale in 1831
  - Applied an exponential model
  - Projected a US population of **9 billion** in 2020
  - **Conclusion – methods matter.**



# Population and Labour Force Projections

- Once per Census cycle in conjunction with an Expert Group on Population Projections
- Population Projections for 2023 – 2057 completed using Census 2022 usual resident population as its basis



# Population and Labour Force Projections

- Demographic Component Method used with data from recent births, deaths and migration flows
- Make assumptions for potential population projections over the 2023-2057 period



# Regional Population Projections

- A follow-on publication to the national Population Projections in conjunction with an Expert Group on Population Projections
- Disaggregates the national projections into the 8 NUTS-3 regions



# Regional Population Projections

- Shorter time-period for projections (2023 – 2042)
- Takes internal migration into consideration and regional allocation of international migration flows are derived using LFS averages.





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Irish Projections to 2057 - Fertility Assumptions



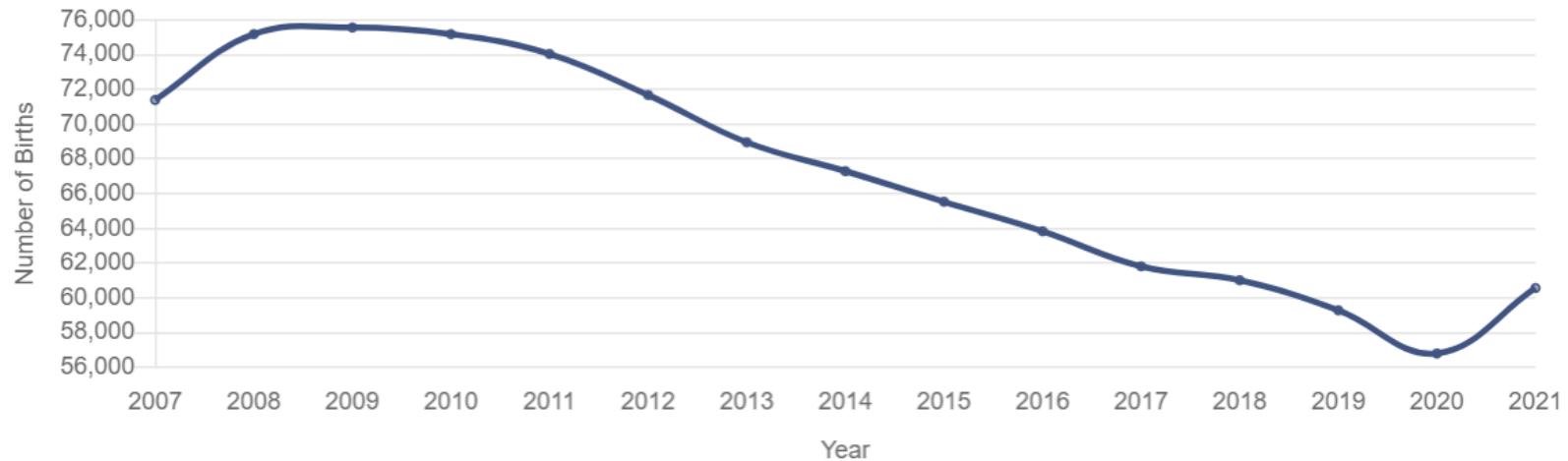
## Births and Fertility

- Significant reduction in Irish Fertility
- Convergence of Irish Fertility towards EU Average
- In recent years, major decline (apart from 2021)
  - Provisional 1.55 TFR for 2022 i.e. 54k births p.a.
- Decreases from 1.55 to 1.3 from the period 2023-2037
- Remains at 1.3 from 2037-2057.

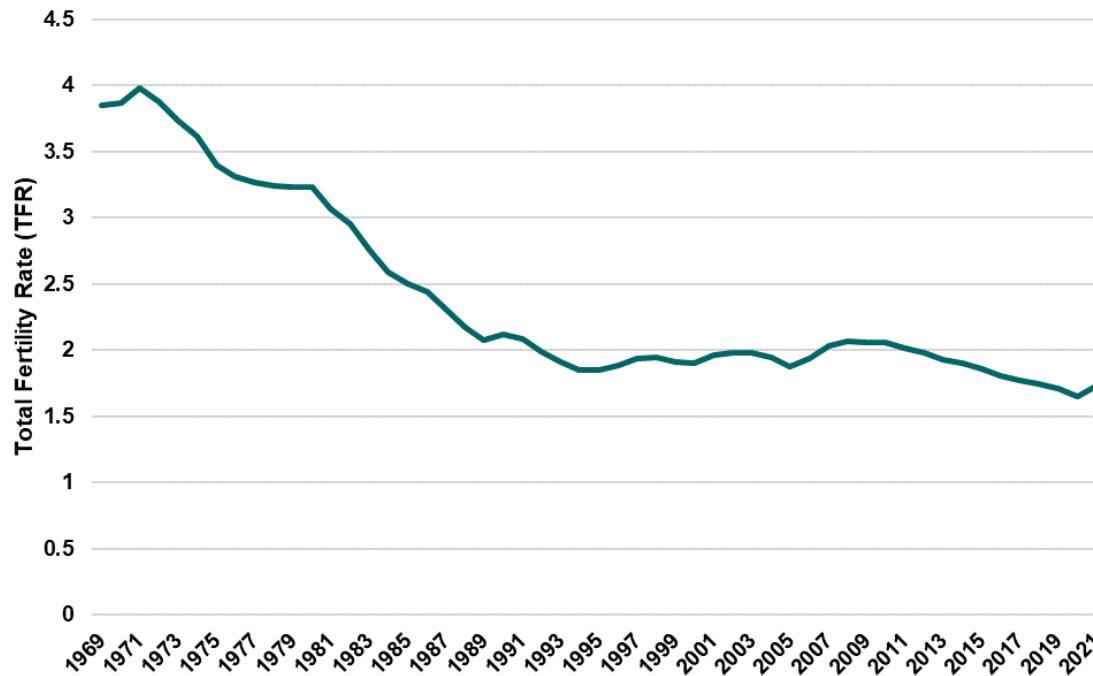


# Fertility Assumptions - Births 1969 -2021

**Figure 4.1 Number of births, 2007 - 2021**



# Fertility Assumptions - Fertility Rate 1969 -2021





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Stáidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Irish Projections to 2057 - Mortality Assumptions



# Current Irish Mortality

- In 2021, there were ~35,000 deaths occurring. These had following underlying causes of death:
  - Neoplasms (cancers and related) – 28%
  - Diseases of circulatory system – 27%
  - Diseases of respiratory system – 9%
  - External causes of injury (falls, accidents, etc) – 5%
  - In 20-24 age group, 94 out of 129 (74%) had external causes
  - In 85+ age group, 4,220 out of 12,222 (34%) were associated with Circulatory system and 1,241 (10%) with COVID-19.



# Mortality Assumptions

- In recent decades, Ireland has improved life expectancy
  - And falling mortality
  - Post war trend of major falls in adult mortality. Short term improvement in male/female mortality rate of 2.5% per annum
- These assumptions will result in gains in life expectancy from:
  - 80.2 years in 2022 to 86.2 years in 2057 for males
  - 83.9 years in 2022 to 89.1 years in 2057 for females





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Stáidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Irish Projections to 2057 - Migration Assumptions



# Migration Background

- With the decline in fertility in Ireland, migration remains the primary driver of population change in Ireland
- Historical periods of net emigration and immigration
- Historical and current migration flows have significant periods of volatility:
  - EU Accession Period, Ukraine War
- April 2025 Net Migration of ~60,000.**



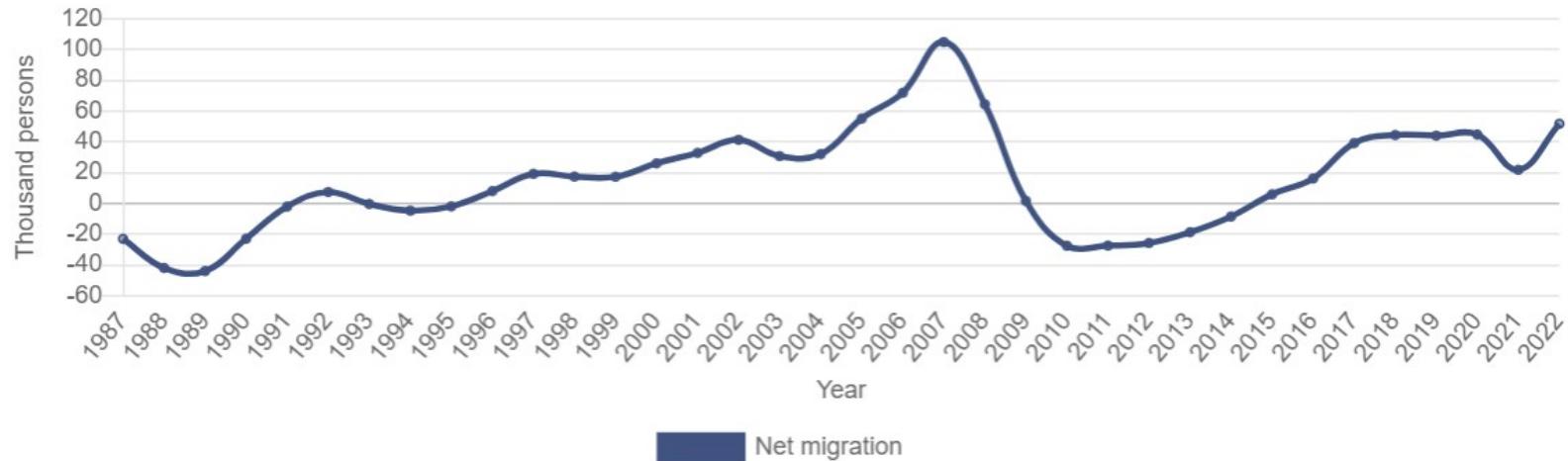
# Migration Background - Immigration

- April 2025 Population and Migration Estimates,
  - Total of ~125,000 immigrants,
    - UK ~ 12,000
    - EU14 (pre-accession excluding UK and Irl) ~ 16,000
    - EU14-27 ~ 7,000
    - US, Australia and Canada ~ 23,000
    - Other countries ~ 68,000 (including Ukraine and International Protection)



# Recent migration trends

Figure 6.1 Estimated net migration, 1987 - 2022



# Migration assumptions agreed

- **M1 - High net inward** - Net inward migration of 45,000 per annum from 2028 –
- **M2 - Medium net inward** - Net inward migration of 30,000 per annum from 2032
- **M3 – Low net inward** - Net inward migration of 10,000 per annum from 2032





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Stáidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Irish Projections to 2057 - Results

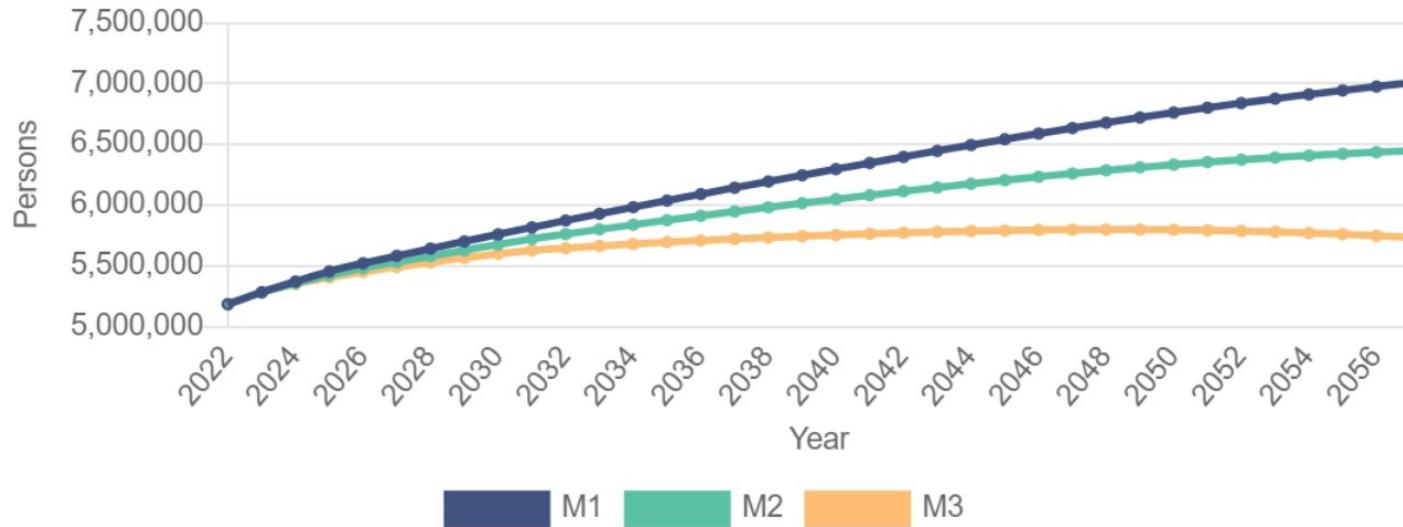


# Overall Results

- The usually resident population estimate based on Census 2022 was 5,183,966 persons
- Population projected to grow significantly under the three projection scenarios to 2057
  - M1 (high migration) to over 7.0m (~35% increase)
  - M2 (medium migration) to over 6.4m (~24% increase)
  - M3 (low migration) to around 5.7m (~10% increase)



# Projected Populations



# Rate of natural increase

- Rate of natural increase is (births minus deaths)
- Current period (six years to 2022), this is positive – 27,900
- By 2057 expected to show a natural decrease in population for all three scenarios



# Rate of natural increase

Figure 2.4 Average annual natural increase by intercensal period, 2022 - 2057



# Dependency Ratios

- **Dependency ratios**
- Young Dependency ratio (0-14/15-64 ratio) is currently 29.9% in 2022
  - Falls to between 20.9% (M1) and 21.2% (M3)
- Older Dependency ratio is currently 23.1% (65+/15-64) in 2022
  - Rises to between 46.5% (M1) and 55.9% (M3)





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Population Projections – Conclusions

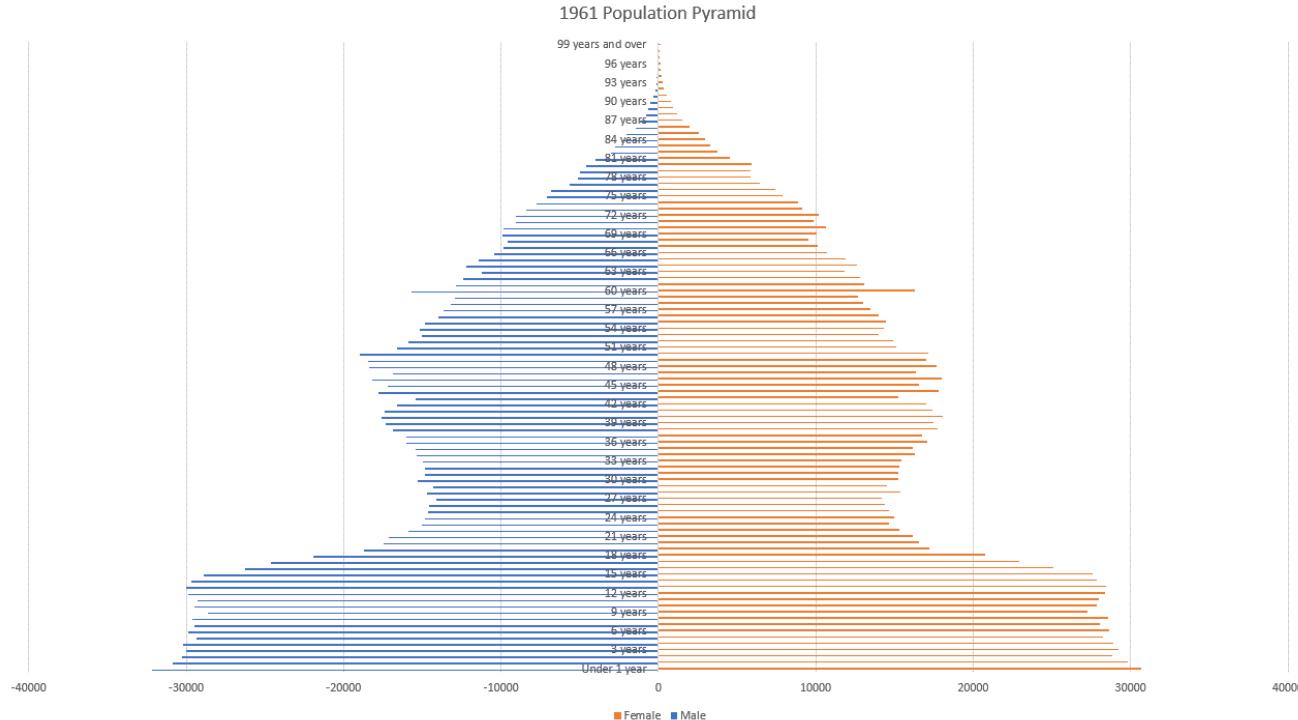


# Future Demography of Ireland

- Significant increase in population
- Increased population of older age groups
- Increased dependency rates
- Pyramid animation shows changing structure



# Irish Population Pyramids





An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Stáidrimh

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# Global and European Projections – What's happening in 2049?



# Global projections – UN WPP 2024

- On historical basis - features population estimates from 1950-2024 for over 230 countries
- The UNWPP estimates that global population will peak in this century then begin to decline.
- Population to rise until 2070s then begin to decline
- Peak of around 10.3 billion in mid 2080s
- Previous editions of WPP had predicted population rises until the mid 2100s.



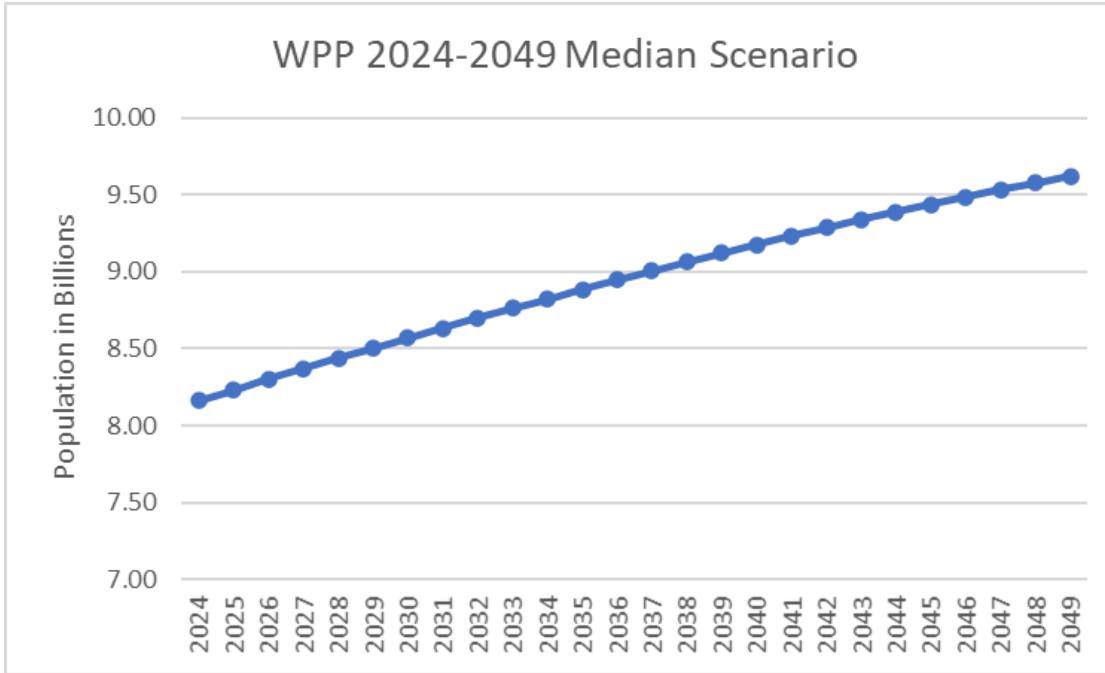
# Global projections – UN WPP 2024-2049

## The picture to 2049

- In this shorter time period, global population will continue to increase
- From 8.16 billion in 2024 to 9.62 billion in 2049
- Increasing 65+ population
- Decreasing population in the 0-14 age groups



# UNWPP 2024-2049 overall picture

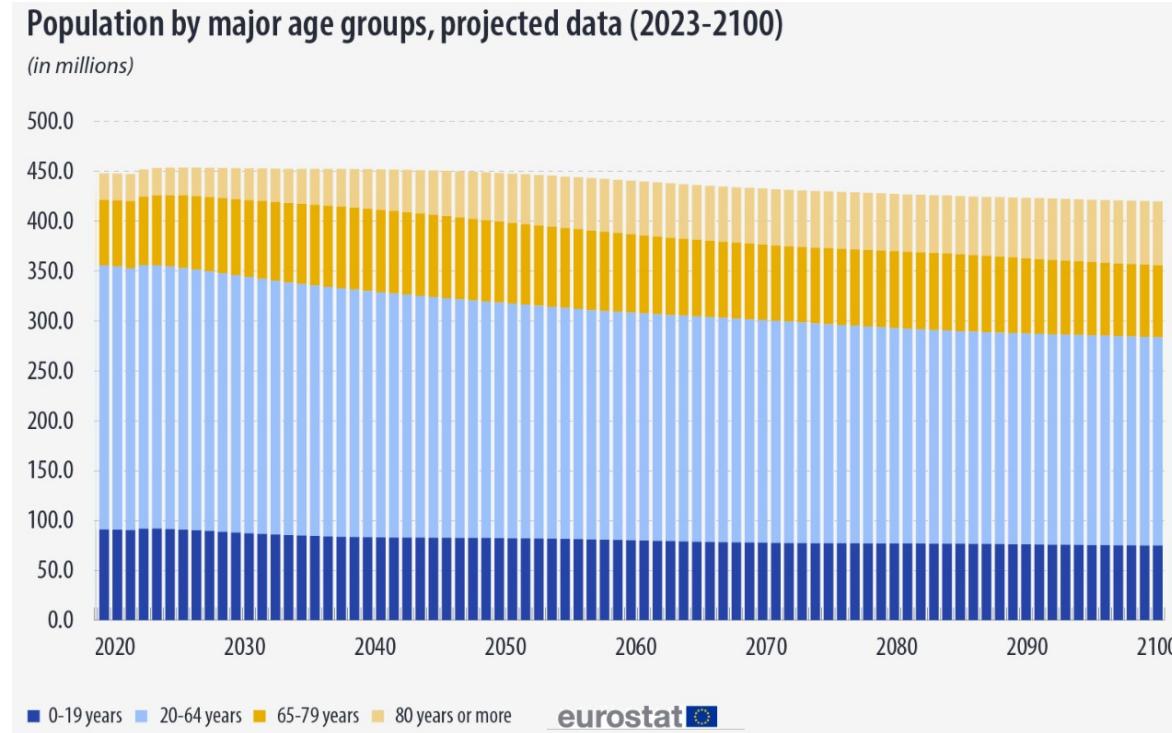


# Eurostat projections to 2049

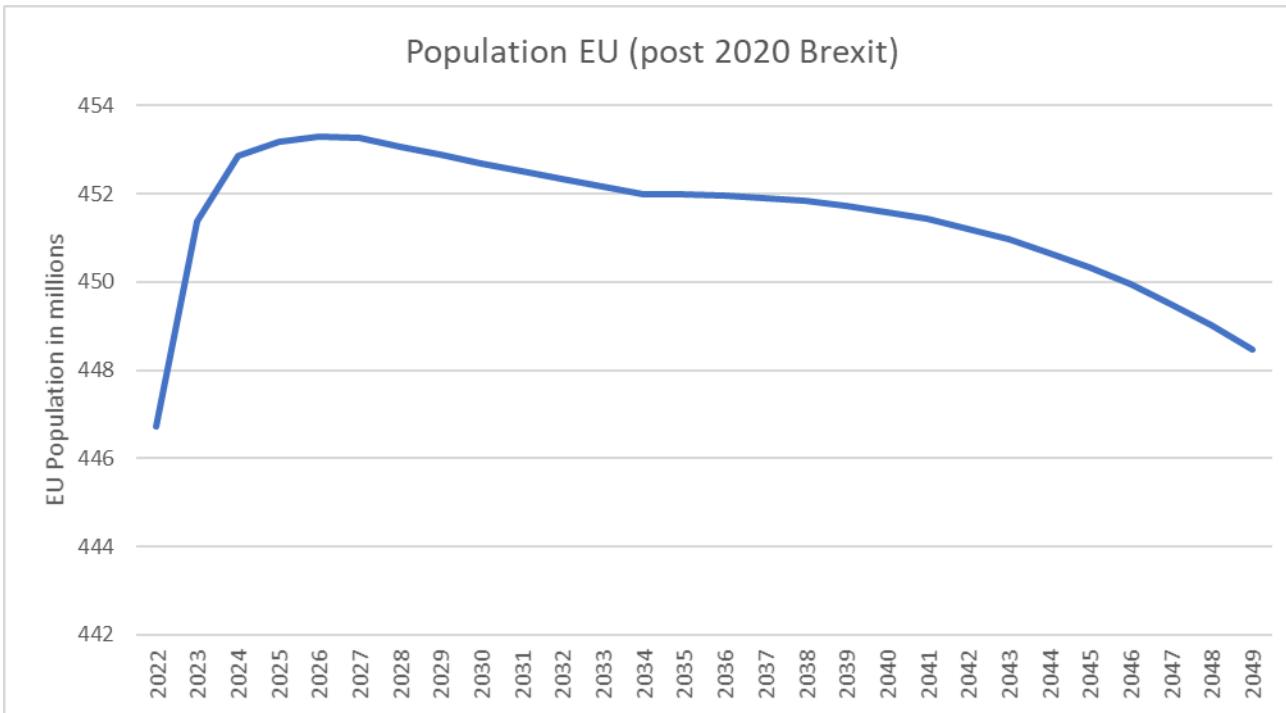
- European Union - Eurostat
  - Overall EU population expected to remain within a limited range between 2023 and 2049
  - Range between 446m and 452m
  - Current population is around 449m



# EU Projections and Age Groups to 2100



# Eurostat Results to 2049

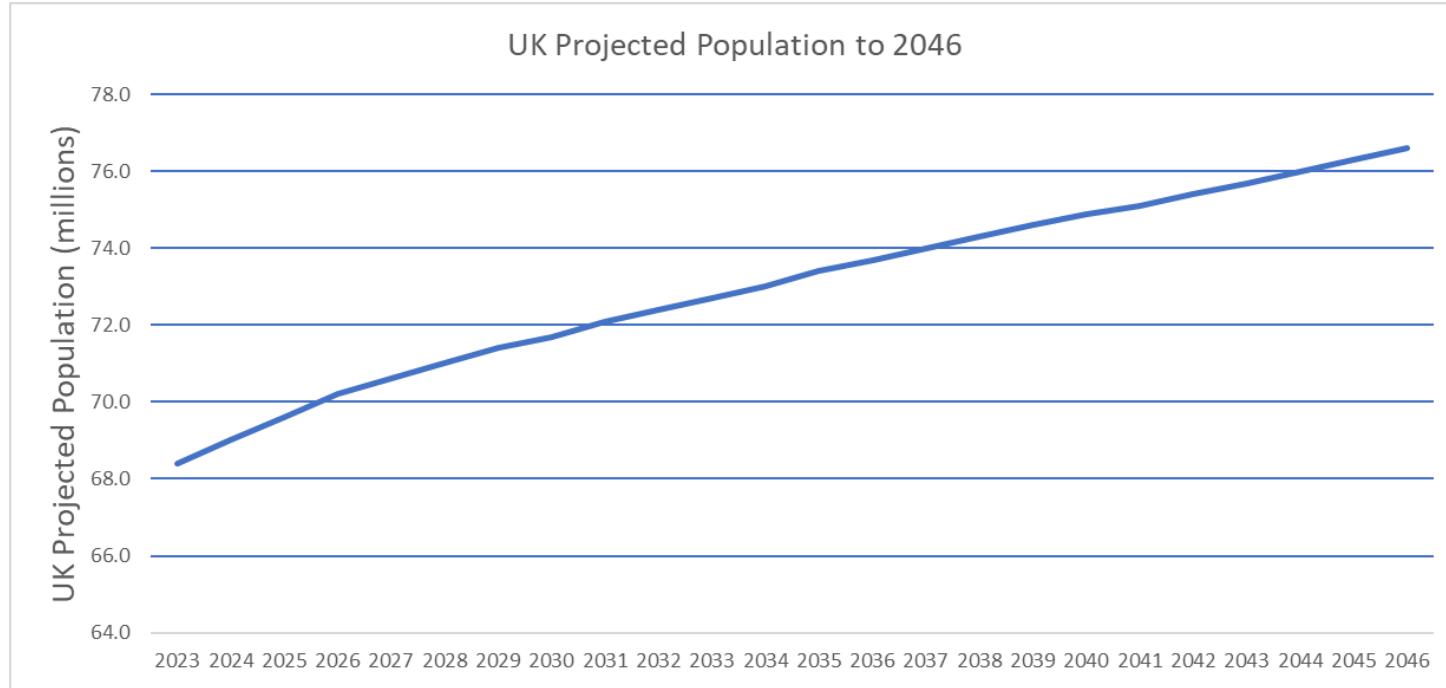


# UK Projections to 2046

- **UK Office for National Statistics (ONS)**
  - National Population Projections (2021-based interim)
  - Similar narrative of increase to Ireland's
  - UK population projected to rise to:
    - 73.7 million (mid-2036)
    - 76.6 million by mid-2046
    - Rise of over 9 million to 2046 from 67m in 2021.



# UK Projections to 2046 (ONS)



# Global and European conclusions

- **Long-term (to 2100)**
  - Decreasing overall global population
  - An ageing world
- **Medium-term (to 2049)**
  - Global population still increasing
  - European population remaining in narrow range



# Thank you

