



**An
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Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Population and Labour Force Projections 2023-

2057 and other Demographic Trends

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

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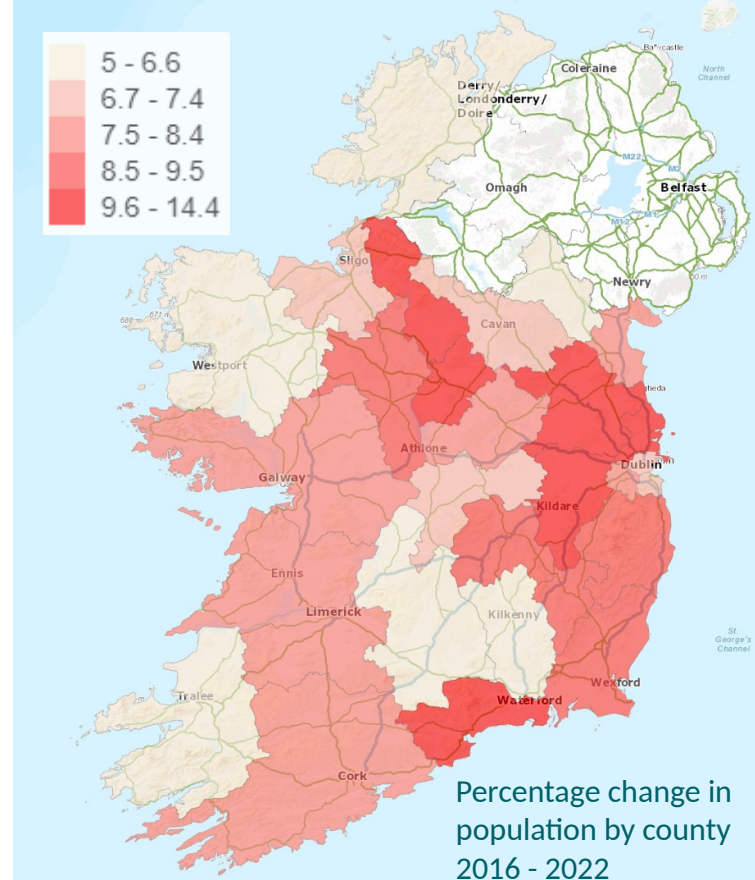
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Overview



Overview

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





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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





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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%¹

Brazil
4,689
Up 2%¹

Spain
4,174
Up 43%¹



¹Compared with
year before census 2016



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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.





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Irish Projections to 2057 – Fertility Assumptions



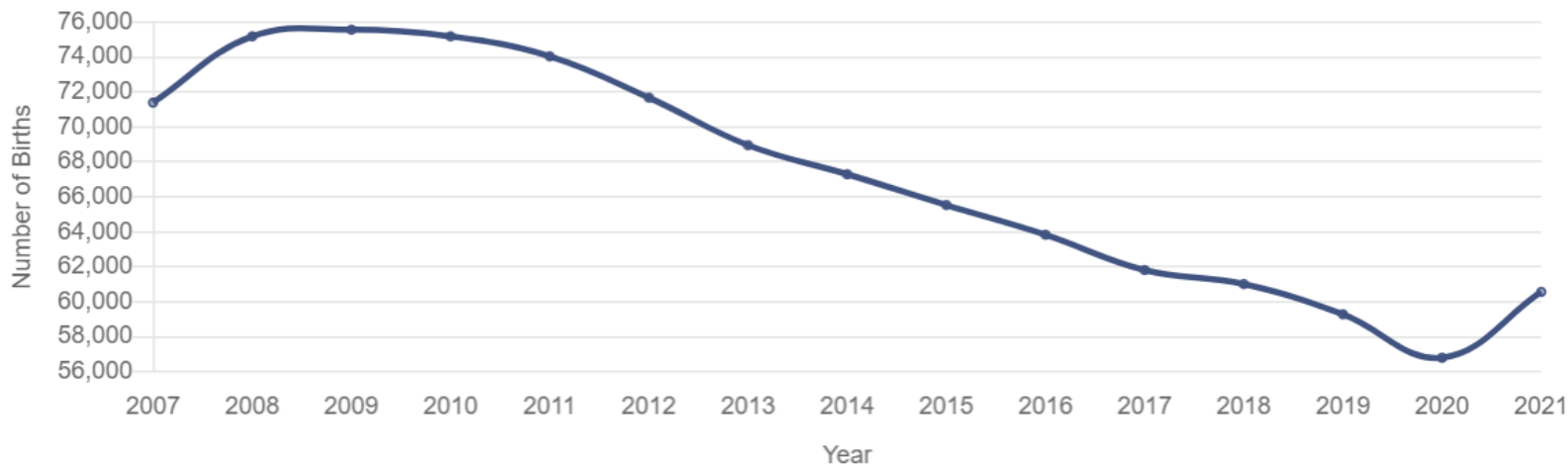
Births and Fertility

- 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.

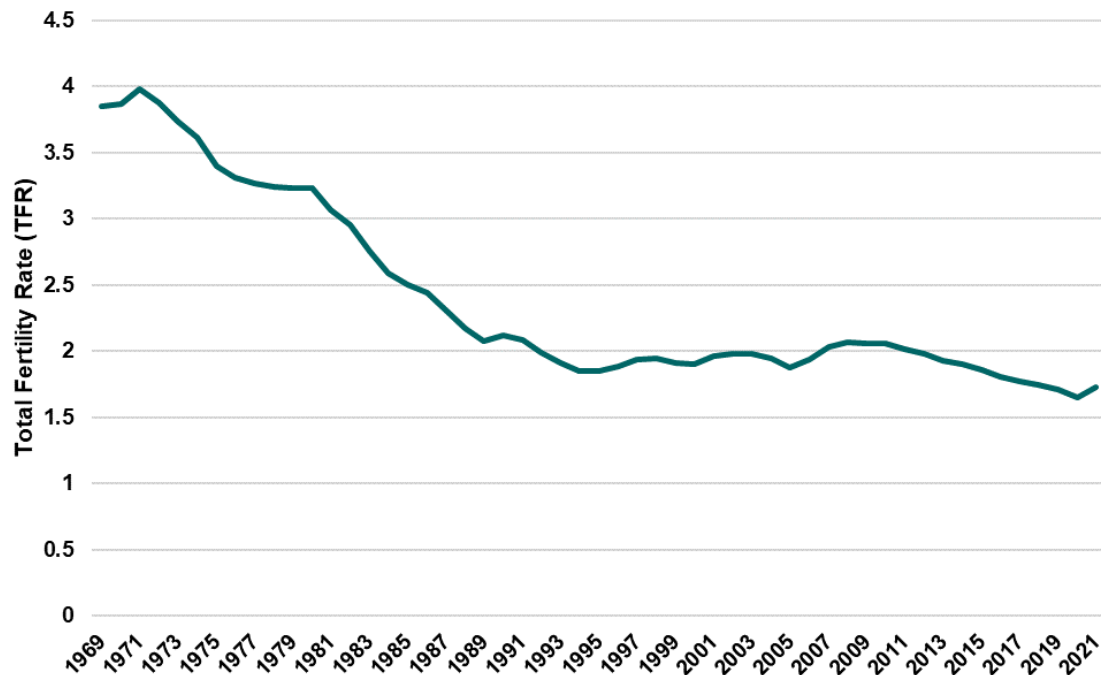


Fertility Assumptions - Births 1969 -2021

Figure 4.1 Number of births, 2007 - 2021



Fertility Assumptions - Fertility Rate 1969 -2021





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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





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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.**



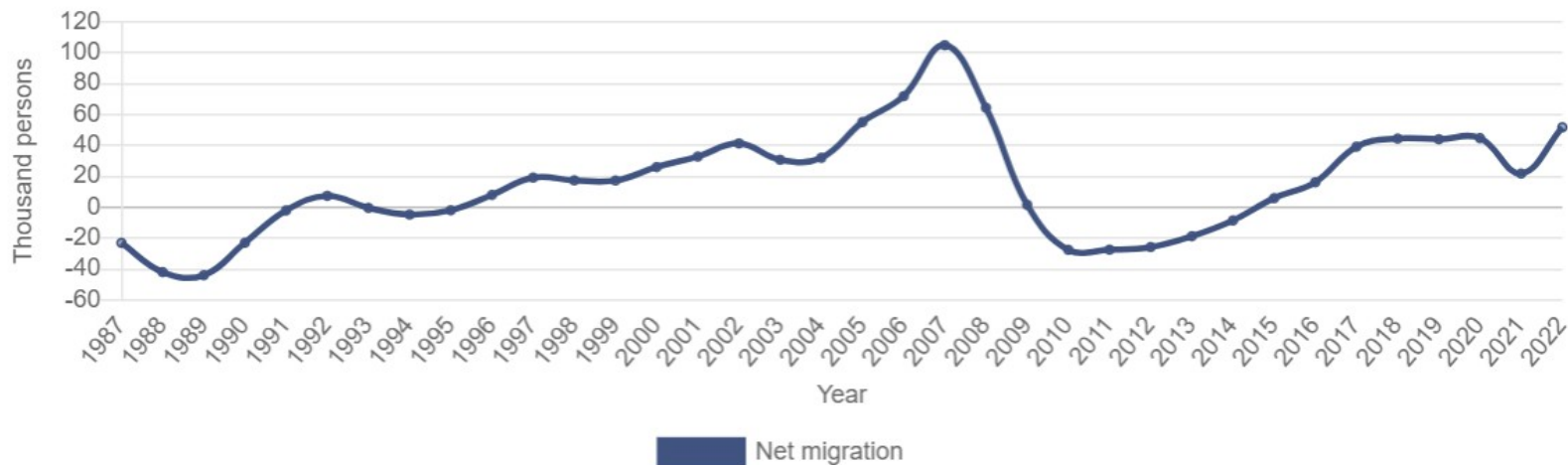
Migration Background - Immigration

- 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





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Irish Projections to 2057 - Results

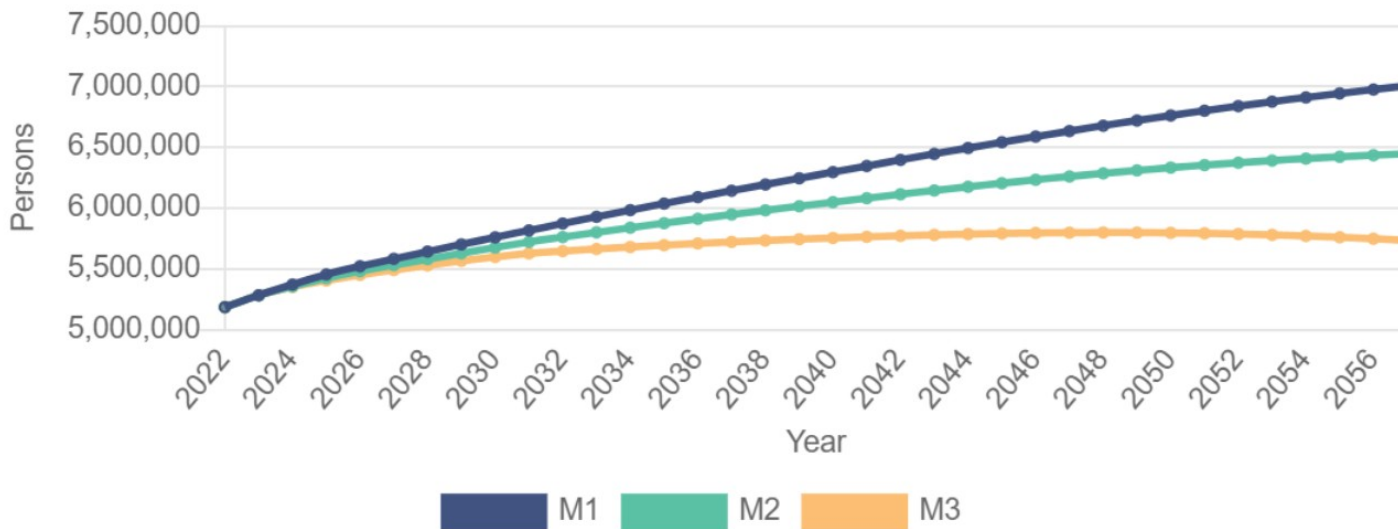


Overall Results

- 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



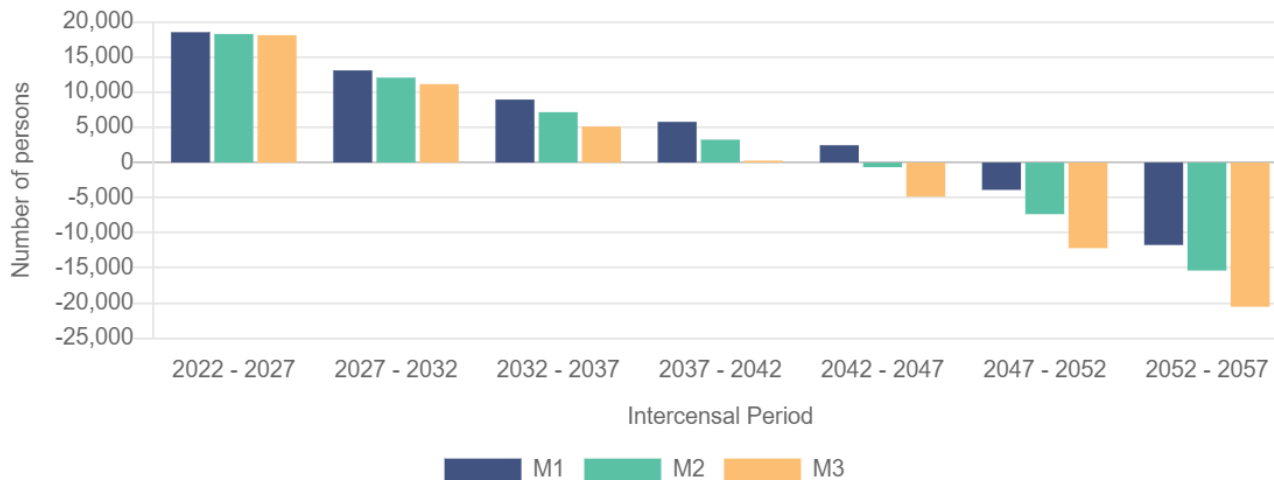
Rate of natural increase

- 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)





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Population Projections – Conclusions

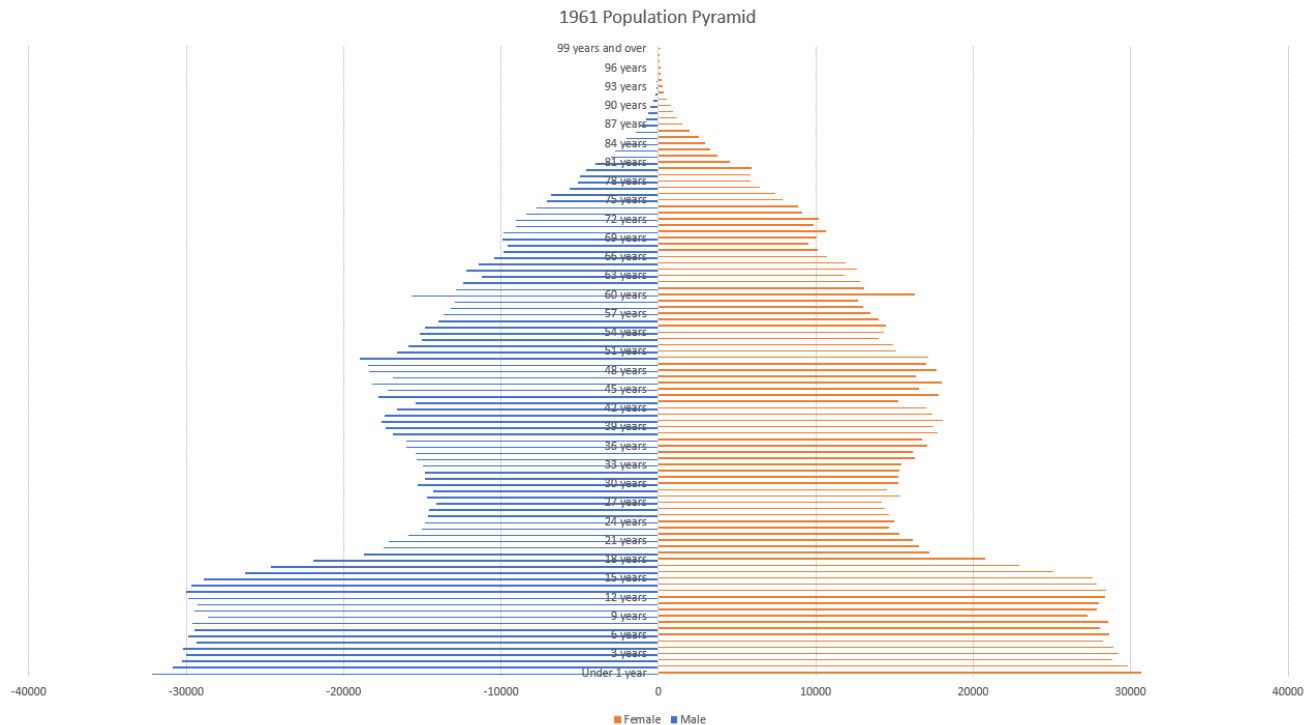


Future Demography of Ireland

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



Irish Population Pyramids





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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.



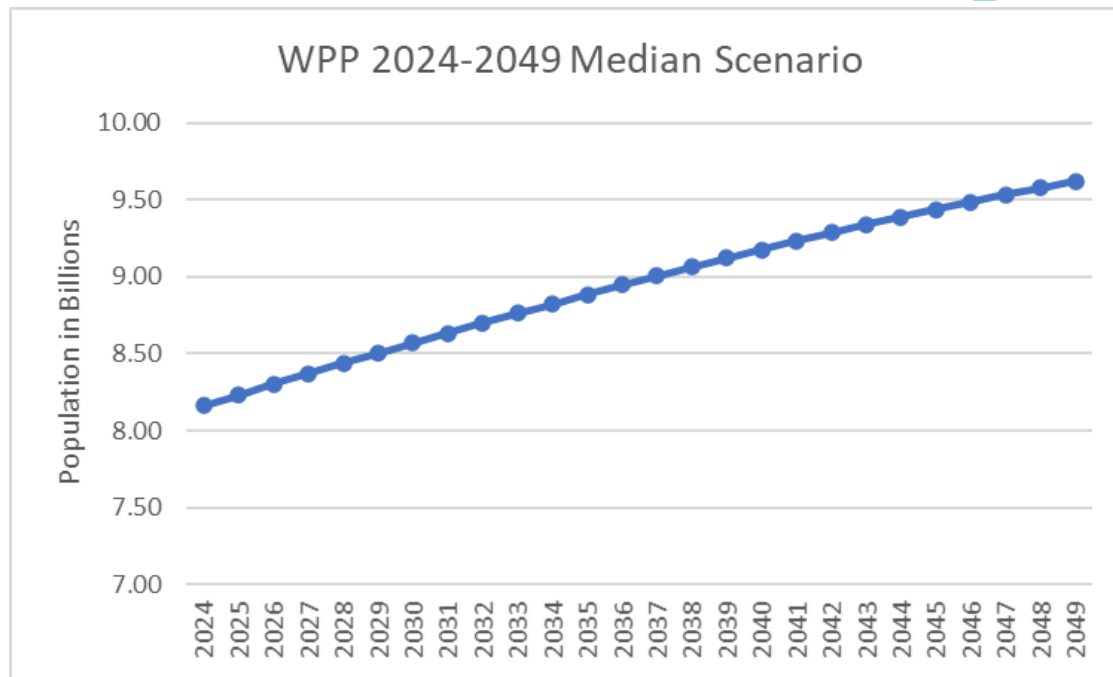
Global projections – UN WPP 2024-2049

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

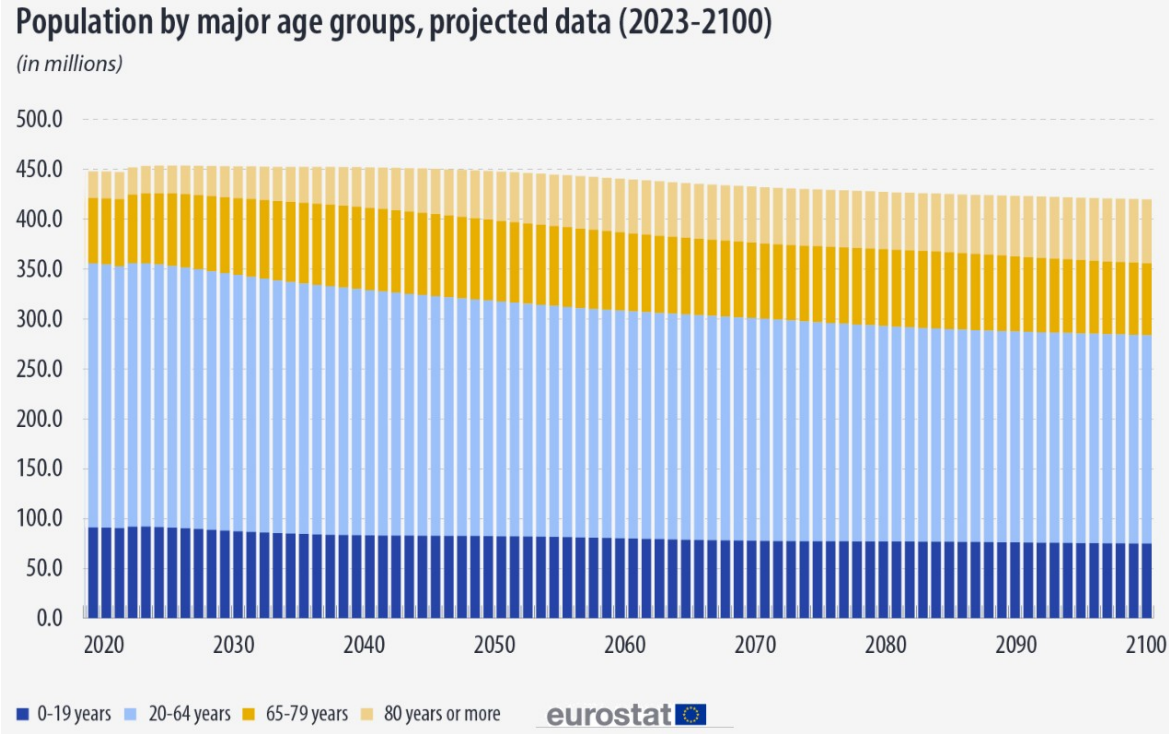


Eurostat projections to 2049

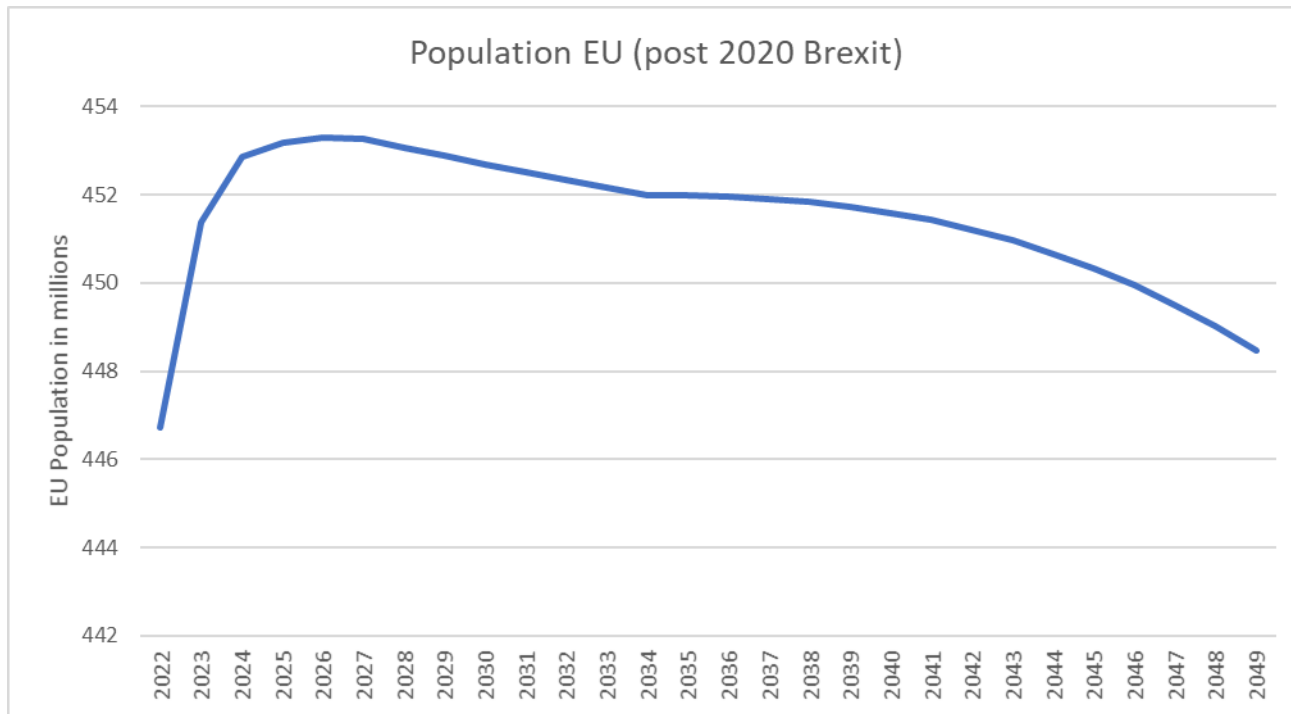
- **European Union - Eurostat**
 - Overall EU population expected to remain within a limited range between 2023 and 2049
 - Range between 446m and 452m
 - Current population is around 449m



EU Projections and Age Groups to 2100



Eurostat Results to 2049

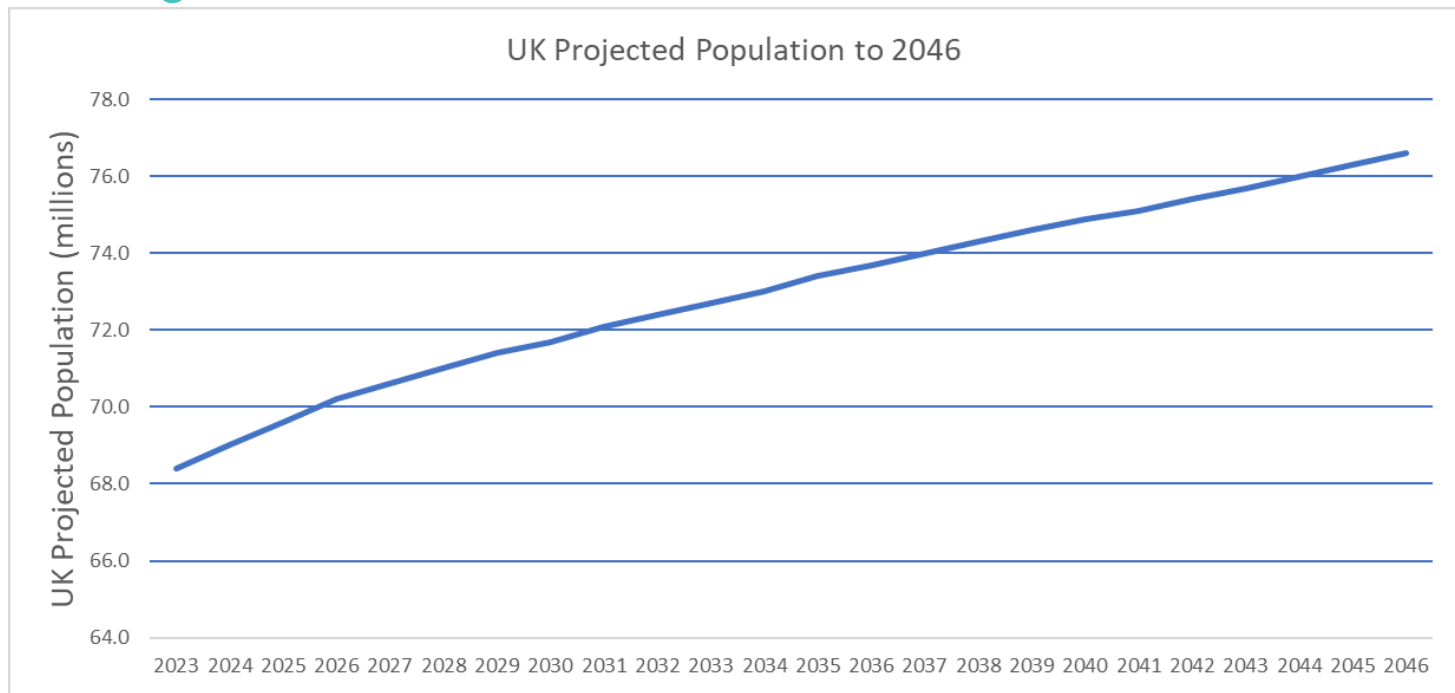


UK Projections to 2046

- **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

