



Ageing in Ireland, North and South

Key Statistics

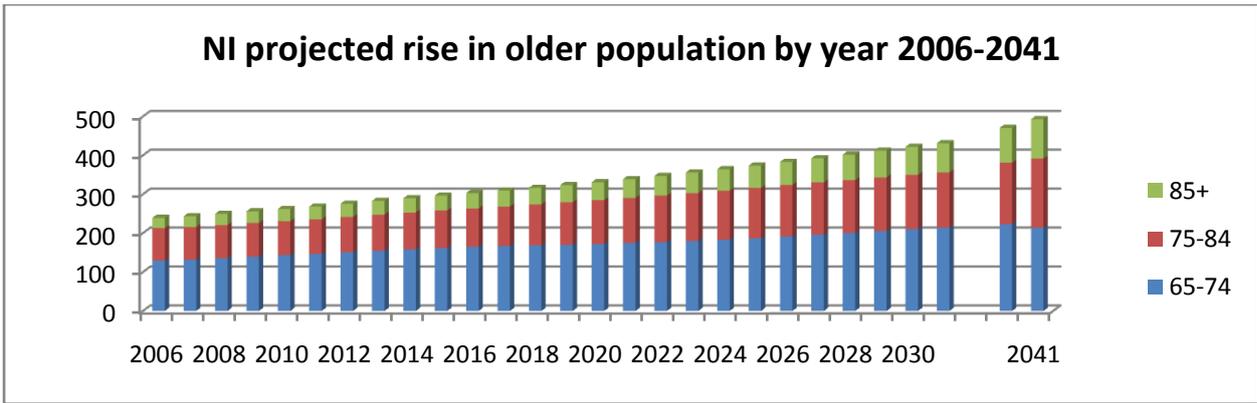
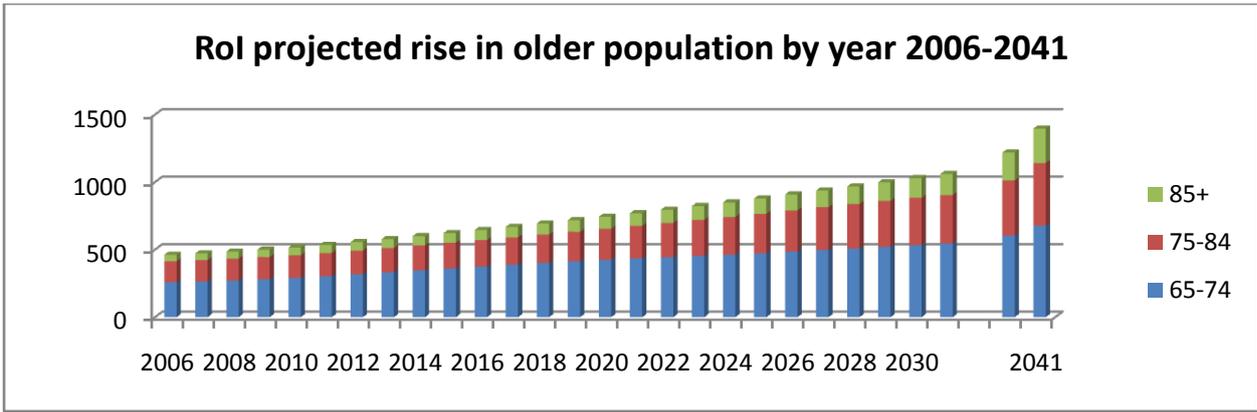
Ageing population – ROI	Ageing population – NI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 2006 census, there were 468,000 people aged 65+ (11% of the population) • By 2041, there will be 1.4 million aged 65 and over (22% of the population). • Life expectancy at birth is 76.8 years for men and 81.6 years for women. • 95% of men and women aged 70 and over rate their health as very good (19%), good (50%) or fair (26%). • 9.1% of people aged 65 and over are still in employment (Q2 2009). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2008, there were 248,500 people aged 65+ (14% of the population) • In 2041 the 65+ age group is projected to make up 24% of the population • Life expectancy is 76.3 years for men and 81.3 years for women. • 66% of people aged 70 and over rate their health as good (25%) or fairly good (42%). • 9% of men aged 65 and women aged 60+ are still in employment (Q2 2009).

Source: McGill, P. Illustrating Ageing in Ireland North and South: Key Facts and Figures. Belfast: Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland, 2010

An ageing population is one of the success stories of modern society. Medical advances, improved diet and living conditions and better healthcare have resulted in the rapid growth of older people. Worldwide, some one million people pass the sixty year old threshold every month¹.

The island of Ireland already has nearly one million people aged 60 years or older. By 2031, it is expected that Northern Ireland's percentage of people aged 60 or older will increase to 28 per cent, it will take until 2041 to reach a similar level in the Republic of Ireland. There is also a significant increase in the oldest old. By 2041 the number of people aged 85 years or older will rise almost fivefold, from 74,000 to 356,000 with the number of centenarians predicted to top 8,500 by 2041.

¹ World Health Organisation <http://www.who.int/topics/ageing/en/>



Life expectancy has risen dramatically since the 1920s in both the North and South, the number of years a man can expect to live has risen by about 20, while women have extended their average life spans by about 24-25 years.²

However, while people are living longer and many more are living healthier lives into old age, this is not universal. In the Republic of Ireland, for example, the number of years a man can expect to live in poor health rose from 9.5 in 1999 to 14.7 in 2007. The average woman's likely period in bad health increased from 11.3 years to 16.8 years over the same period.

Northern Ireland has shown a slight improvement in healthy life, but still lags behind the rest of the United Kingdom in terms of both ill health and disability.

There are still considerable health, social and economic challenges to be overcome to help us achieve a healthy, active and fulfilling old age for all.

For more facts and figures about ageing in Ireland visit:

www.cardi.ie/publications/illustratingageinginirelandnorthsouthkeyfactsandfigures

² Data from Illustrating Ageing in Ireland North & South Key Facts and Figures. See <http://www.cardi.ie/publications/illustratingageinginirelandnorthsouthkeyfactsandfigures>