

Northern Ireland is ageing



"The ageing population is here, whether we are ready for it or not."
COPNI's Ready or Not report, Nov 2026

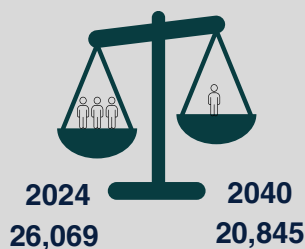
Retirement Age

Age for claiming State Pension



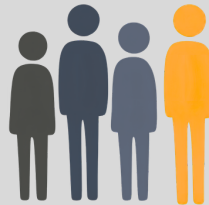
Legal working age

People aged 16 +



By 2027, people aged 65+ will outnumber under 16s

1 in 4

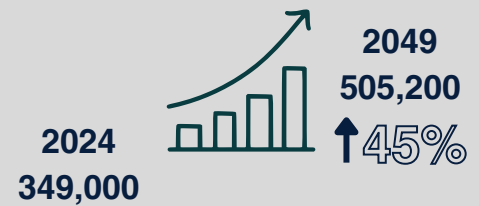


By 2040 nearly 1 in 4 people will be aged 65+ (up from 1 in 6 today).

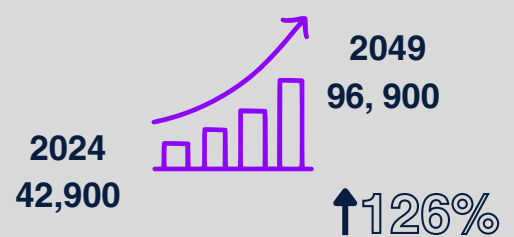
91%

increase in food bank use among 65+ since 2020
(largest increase of any age group)

People aged 65+



People aged 85+



Northern Ireland will see the largest rise in dementia in the UK

An ageing population affects every part of society.



Health and social care

Greater demand for health and social care with more people living longer with complex and long term conditions.



Housing

Housing pressures will intensify with increased need for homes adapted for mobility, hearing loss and visual impairments.



Work and economy

More people will reach state pension age than enter working age, placing pressure on labour supply, productivity and the sustainability of public finances.



Transport

Investment in accessible, reliable and affordable transport will be essential for independence, access to services and inclusion in society.



Communities

People 75+ are more likely to feel lonely than other age categories. This increase ill health such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Population ageing must be at the heart of government planning, so services can meet the needs of our changing society.

Read COPNI's Ready or Not: the ageing population
at www.copni.org



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