

State of the North 2017: 2030 — The Millennial North

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Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR North) is a think tank focusing on political issues in the North of England. The organisation provides policy advice on a wide variety

of topics, ranging from infrastructure development to economic issues. During my internship in IPPR North, I conducted data analysis which results contributed to the annual State of the North report.

Objectives

State of the North 2017 aims at projecting the demographic, economy, labour market, and technological innovation of the North of England in 2030, while investigating possible challenges and solutions.

Using the population projection data of NOMIS from 2016 to 2030, I analysed the demographic composition of the population in the North by generations. The dataset includes population projection by year and age, in which I was able to calculate the population for each generation.

The main priority of the report is to provide policy advice for the North of England, targeting at the challenges the region may face in the upcoming years. These challenges include an ageing population, increasing demand in the labour market, and also the consequences of Brexit, especially in trade and flow of labour.

Method

I used the data on population projection from people aged 18 onwards in NOMIS for this report. The analysis looked at projections from 2016 to 2030. Just as many definitions in Political Science, the categorisation of generations remains contested. However, for the sake of the report, I have used the definitions of Ipsos MORI as follows:

Pre-War: People born in or before 1940

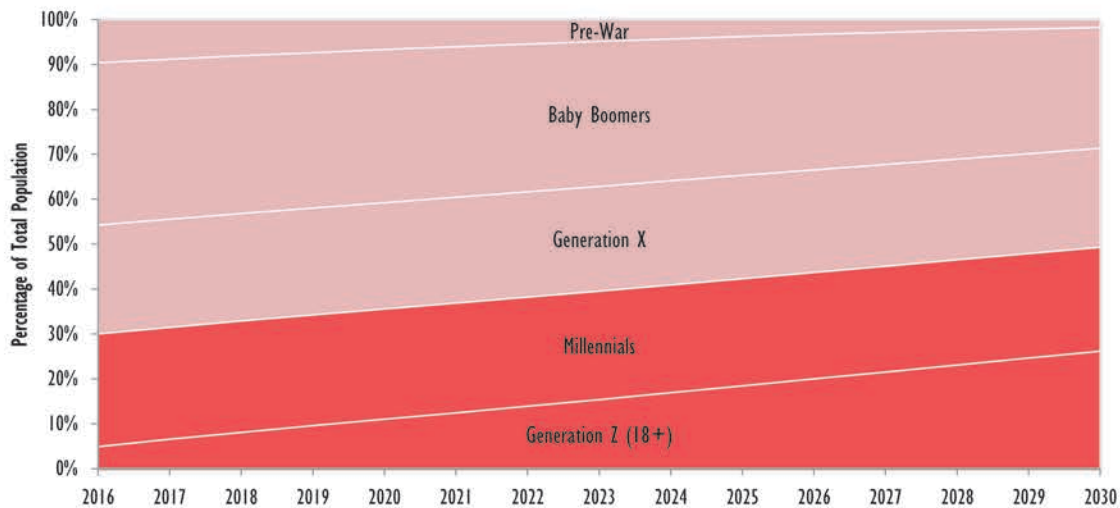
Baby Boomers: People born between 1941 and 1965

Generation X: People born between 1966 and 1980

Millennials: People born between 1981 and 1995

Generation Z: People born in or after 1996

Generations are defined by technological advancement and innovations in their respective time periods. However, there is one limit to this piece of work. After all, as the data is a projection, and thus is not the most accurate. Furthermore, the dataset also does not account for externalities that might affect the population in the future.



Results and Conclusion

The data shows that in 2030, almost half of the population aged 18 or above will be Millennials and Generation Z, and this might imply notable change in the political field. As shown in the past two years' events, especially with Brexit and the General Election, younger

generations are often the turning point in the political spectrum. A majority of them voted to remain in the EU, and against the Conservative government. With almost half of the electorate being younger people in 2030, we might see a greater change in politics in Northern England to a more liberal view.