10.00am, 19 December 2002

Today, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency published the second report from the 2001 Census of Population in Northern Ireland. The report entitled "Northern Ireland Census 2001 Key Statistics Report" provides summary statistics for the majority of Census questions and topics.

The printed report provides statistical information at the Northern Ireland, Local Government District and Administrative Area level. More detailed Electoral Ward level data are available on the NISRA website as are the basic counts associated with the percentage figures published in this report.

Further more detailed reports from the Census including, cross-tabulations of different variables, will follow in early 2003. These reports will also be made available on the NISRA, website which will be developed to provide users with the facility to undertake further analysis of the data. The published tables and the website provide a large amount of information on a range of topics. Some of the information from this release is summarised below.

This report was made possible by co-operation of members of the public with the Census and the work of a large number of people in the fieldwork and subsequent processing of results. The Registrar General would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Census.
PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

- The population of Northern Ireland on Census Day 2001 was 1,685,267 (1.685 million). Of the total population, 48.7% were male and 51.3% were female.

- The population of the United Kingdom on Census Day 2001 was 58.789 million. Northern Ireland constitutes 2.87% of the total UK population.

- The age structure of the Northern Ireland population is the youngest in the UK. Children aged under 16 represent 23.6% of the Northern Ireland population compared to 20.2% in the UK as a whole. Conversely, Northern Ireland has proportionately fewer people of pensionable age (15.5% of the population) compared to the UK (18.4%).

- The age structure of the Northern Ireland population is becoming older – in 1991 children under 16 represented 26.0% of the population compared to 23.6% now.

- Slightly over half of persons aged over 16 were married or re-married (51.1%). One third (33.1%) of persons aged over 16 were single (never married). Of the rest 8.0% of individuals were either separated or divorced and a further 7.8% were widowed.

- Over two fifths (42.9%) of households were centred on married couples, 24.3% with dependent children, 8.0% with all non-dependent children and 10.6% with no children. Over a quarter of households (27.4%) were composed of a single person, 12.8% by a pensioner and 14.5% by a non-pensioner.

- Just over one third (36.5%) of households contain dependent children, while 14.4% contain children aged under five. 7.2% of households had both dependent children and no adults in employment.
- There are just over 50,000 lone-parent households with dependent children, of which 92.2% are headed by a lone mother. Almost half (45.2%) of lone fathers work full time, compared to one in six (17.5%) of lone-parent mothers.

- The vast majority of persons (98.4%) live in private households, with just over 26,000 people living in communal establishments, of whom just over 2,000 are staff members or their families.

At the sub-Northern Ireland level:

- The percentage of the population aged 0-4 years ranges from 8.0% in Strabane to 5.6% in North Down. In contrast, the percentage of the population aged 85+ years ranges from 2.2% in North Down to 0.9% in Derry.

- Single persons (never married) aged 16 and over constitute 41.3% of the population in Belfast, whereas in Ards they constitute only 26.7% of the population.

- Belfast has the highest percentage of one person pensioner households (15.8%), whereas Magherafelt had the highest incidence of married couple households with dependent children (31.9%).
HEALTH AND CARE

- Over two fifths (41.3%) of households contain at least one person with a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities or the work they can do. Overall, one in five of the population (20.4%) reported having a condition of this nature.

- For the first time the Census asked a question on whether people provided any unpaid help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health, disability or health problems related to old age. In total 11.0% of the population noted that they provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid care, 25.2% did so for 50 or more hours per week.

- When asked about their general health, 70.0% indicated their general health had been good over the last 12 months.

At the sub-Northern Ireland level:

- Belfast had the highest percentage of persons with a limiting long-term illness or disability (24.2%). Antrim had the highest percentage of persons who indicated their health was good (72.8%). Of those who provide unpaid care for more than 50 hours per week, Strabane had the highest percentage (30.3%).
ETHNICITY, RELIGION AND LANGUAGE

- For the first time the Northern Ireland Census contained a question on ethnicity. In total 99.2% of the population classified themselves as white. Of the other ethnic groups, 0.2% were Chinese, 0.2% were of mixed ethnic group and 0.1% were Indian. In addition 0.1% classified themselves as Irish Traveller.

- In the 2001 Census, a large proportion of the population stated they were born in Northern Ireland (91.0%). The remainder of the population was composed of 4.8% born in Great Britain, 2.3% born in the Republic of Ireland and 1.8% born elsewhere.

- Just over two fifths (40.3%) of the population stated their religion/religious denomination as Catholic, 20.7% Presbyterian, 15.3% Church of Ireland and 3.5% Methodist. A further 6.1% belonged to other Protestant, Christian or Christian related denominations, 0.3% belonged to other religions and the remaining 13.9% indicated they had no religion or did not answer the question.

- Respondents with no religion were asked what religion they were brought up in. Considering these data with those who specified a religion, 43.8% of the population had a Catholic community background, 53.1% had a Protestant, other Christian or Christian related community background, 0.4% had another religion or philosophy community background and 2.7% had no religious community background.

- 10.4% of individuals aged 3 and over had some knowledge of Irish with 4.6% able to read, write, speak and understand Irish.
At the sub-Northern Ireland level:

- Antrim had the highest percentage of persons born elsewhere in the UK (9.4%), Fermanagh had the highest percentage of persons born in the Republic of Ireland (7.1%) and Belfast had the highest percentage of persons born outside the UK and Ireland (2.8%).

- Newry and Mourne had the highest percentage of persons with a Catholic community background (80.6%), whereas Carrickfergus (8.7%) had the lowest.

- Newry and Mourne had the highest percentage of persons aged 3 and over who had some knowledge of Irish (20.4%), whereas Carrickfergus had the lowest (1.9%).
HOUSING AND TRANSPORT

- The number of households was almost 627,000 representing 95.2% of all household spaces, of which 36.5% were detached houses or bungalows, 27.3% were semi-detached houses or bungalows and a further 27.4% were terraced accommodation.

- 95.1% of households had central heating.

- Almost one third (29.4%) of households owned their property outright, 39.4% owned their property with a mortgage or loan, 18.6% rented their property from the public sector and 6.6% rented from a private landlord or letting agency.

- Almost three quarters of households (73.7%) had access to a car or van; 44.5% had access to one car or van, 23.6% had access to 2 vehicles and 5.6% had access to 3 or more vehicles. The remaining 26.3% of households had no access to a car or van.

- Of those aged 16-74 in employment 55.9% drove to work and a further 14.7% travelled either as a passenger or as a member of a car or van pool.

At the sub-Northern Ireland level:

- Castlereagh had the highest percentage of persons aged 16-74 in employment who drove to work by car or van (62.1%), Belfast (44.6%) had the lowest. Belfast also had the lowest percentage who worked mainly at or from home (4.5%), whereas Moyle had the highest (15.6%).

- Belfast had the highest percentage of households with no car or van (43.8%).
- Fermanagh had the highest percentage of households who owned their property outright (40.6%) while Derry had the lowest percentage (20.9%).

- The average household size across Northern Ireland was 2.65 persons per household, ranging from 3.05 (Magherafelt) to 2.38 (Belfast).
• Whilst 41.6% of the population aged 16-74 had no qualifications of at least GCSE standard, 15.8% had degree level or higher qualifications.

• Of the people aged 16-74 in employment, over half were employed in the 4 largest industrial sectors; 16.7% were employed in the wholesale/retail trade (including repair of motor vehicles), 14.2% in manufacturing, 12.7% in health and social services and 9.3% in public administration and defence.

• The largest occupational groupings for those in employment were skilled trades (15.6%) and administrative and secretarial occupations (14.6%).

• On Census Day there were 288,000 male employees aged 16-74, slightly higher than the number of female employees (275,000). 94.0% of male employees worked full-time, compared to 63.4% of female employees.

• Males aged 16-74 were proportionately more likely to be self-employed (13.6% of males, 3.2% of females), or unemployed (5.7% of males, 2.7% of females) while females aged 16-74 were more likely to be looking after home and family (13.2% of females, 1.4% of males).

• At the time of the 2001 Census the average number of hours worked by males aged 16-74 in employment was just under 42 hours. The equivalent figure for employed females aged 16-74 was just under 32 hours. Nearly one in five (19.8%) employed males aged 16-74 worked for over 48 hours per week in the 4 weeks prior to Census day.

At the sub-Northern Ireland level:

• Magherafelt had the highest percentage of persons aged 16-74 in employment working in construction (18.0%), Craigavon had the highest percentage
working in manufacturing (23.3%) and Moyle had the highest percentage working in agriculture, hunting and forestry (7.6%).
NOTES TO EDITORS

1) This is the second published report arising from the 2001 Census of Population. The first report “Northern Ireland Census 2001: Population Report and Mid-Year Estimates” was published on 30 September.

2) The report is available, at a cost of £15, from The Stationary Office, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast. ISBN number 0-337-08587-0 and can be accessed on the NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk

3) A number of supplementary reports which describe Census definitions are also available on the NISRA website. These include a Glossary Document defining 2001 Census output terms and a Classification Document detailing how the responses to individual questions were classified. A printed Census Definitions volume will be available in February 2003.

4) Further information can be obtained from:

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