The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) was established as an Executive Agency within the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel on 1 April 1996. NISRA is the principal source of official information on socio-economic conditions in Northern Ireland. The Registrar General, a NISRA official, is responsible for undertaking the Northern Ireland Census of Population, and administers the civil registration of births, deaths and marriages.

A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

More information on National Statistics in general can be obtained at www.statistics.gov.uk

Tables P1-P5 in this report are laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly pursuant to Section 4(1) of the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969.
Introduction

This publication is the first report from the 2001 Census of Population for Northern Ireland. It provides counts of the resident population, disaggregated by age and sex, for Northern Ireland and the 26 Local Government Districts. The population counts are also presented at Health and Social Services Board, Education and Library Board and NUTS Level III (European Union Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics).

This report is produced in accordance with the provisions of the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. As a statutory report it therefore relates only to the conduct of the Census in Northern Ireland. To assist the Northern Ireland Assembly in placing Northern Ireland Census figures in a wider context, it also includes some summary statistics on England, Scotland, Wales and the United Kingdom as a whole. This information is drawn from the reports laid before the Westminster Parliament and the Scottish Parliament in accordance with the statutory provisions of those administrations. The Censuses in England and Wales and in Scotland are the responsibilities of the Registrars General for England and Wales and Scotland, respectively.

Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates for 2001 are also included in this report. These estimates have been based on the results of the 2001 Census, adjusted to take account of births, deaths and migration between Census Day, 29 April 2001, and the mid-year date of 30 June 2001.

These results will be followed by a Key Statistics Report which will provide basic analysis of each of the Census questions, to be followed by Standard Tables and Census Area Statistics which provide more detailed crosstabular Census output. A timetable for the release of these results is included in the Census Output Prospectus which can be obtained on request from Census Customer Services or from the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk.

As with all Census outputs, this report was made possible by the co-operation of members of the public in responding to the Census; the commitment of the Census field staff in delivering and collecting forms; and the assistance of many other people and organisations throughout all aspects of the Census. The Registrar General would like to thank all those who have contributed to this work.

Conduct of the Census

Results from the 2001 Census relate to Census Day, 29 April 2001. The Census placed a legal obligation on every household in which someone was usually resident on Census Day, and on every person who was a usual resident of a communal establishment, to complete a Census form. These forms were returned by post or collected by a Census Enumerator.

The Census was followed by a Census Coverage Survey (CCS), an independent count of people in a sample of small areas throughout Northern Ireland. The results of the CCS were combined with the data collected from the Census in order to allow estimates of households and people missed by the Census to be made. The figures presented here, as with all forthcoming reports on the 2001 Census, have been adjusted to allow for under-enumeration.

Population Base

The tables in this report relate to the usually resident population on Census Day. Students are recorded at their term-time address. In contrast to the 1991 Census, information on visitors has not been collected.
Tables and Geography

This report contains seven tables of Census Day information. Table 1 provides counts for males and females by single year of age for Northern Ireland as a whole. Table 2 provides corresponding counts for each Local Government District, while Tables 3-5 provide similar counts for Health and Social Services Boards, Education and Library Boards and NUTS Level III areas. Tables 6 and 7 provide information on the United Kingdom population. A set of tables of mid-year population estimates is also provided.

Mid-Year Population Estimates

Population counts have been the primary output from each Census of Population in Northern Ireland since 1926. Intercensal estimates have always been (and continue to be) based upon results from the preceding Census. The methodology employed for calculating the mid-year population estimates is based upon monitoring components of change over time – births, deaths, migration and other changes. The natural change component (births minus deaths) is known accurately in respect of every Local Government District from civil registration sources. The net migration component is currently based primarily on information from registrations with General Practitioners, as recorded by the Central Services Agency.

The usually resident population recorded in the 2001 Census is the starting point for the 2001 mid-year population estimates. This is rolled forward from Census Day (29 April) to the mid-year date (30 June) by ageing the population by 2 months, adding on the births, subtracting the deaths and adjusting for migration and other changes occurring during that period. The population counts from the Census and the mid-year population estimates are reported on the same basis with the exception of some small technical adjustments to the count of HM Forces.

Comparability with 1991

The Census is designed to provide the most accurate possible picture of the population on the day the Census is taken. Comparisons of the results contained in this report with counts from the 1991 Census will be affected by changes in the Local Government District boundaries, changes in definitions, and adjustment for under-enumeration in the 2001 Census figures. Whilst the effect of these changes is likely to be small relative to the population being measured, users interested in population changes are advised to use the mid-year population estimates, which are designed to measure such changes.

Confidentiality

The Registrar General has taken steps to ensure that the confidentiality of respondents is fully protected. All published results from the Census have been subject to a statistical process to ensure that individuals cannot be identified. This process may mean that population numbers in larger areas may not be equal to the sum of the populations in constituent smaller areas; any difference between the two figures will be very small.

September 2002
Further Information

More detailed results from the 2001 Census will be published over the coming months. These will include results for the range of Census topics and for smaller areas; supporting information on the Census including definitions of Census terms; statistics on the coverage of the Census; and evaluation of the conduct of the Census. Further information is available from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website www.nisra.gov.uk and Census Customer Services:

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