
2011 Census: Frequently Asked Questions



V3.0

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The following is a collection of questions and answers on a wide range of census related topics. Questions and answers are grouped under the following headings:

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Timetable

What is the timetable for Census outputs?

The timetable for Census outputs is detailed in the [Northern Ireland 2011 Census Output Prospectus](#) which is published on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA issued the first release (population estimates) of Census outputs on 16 July and 19 September 2012. The initial phase of the second release (Key Statistics) was published on 11 December 2012, with the remaining elements of the second release published on 30 January 2013 and 28 February 2013. The initial phase of the third release (Detailed Characteristics) was published on 16 May 2013; the remaining three phases were published on 28 June 2013, 11 September 2013 and 28 November 2013, as detailed in the prospectus. The fourth release (Local Characteristics) was published on 20 March 2014.

When will dates become more specific?

There are substantial amounts of data within the 2011 Census. NISRA planned for four releases of data – with the published dates as above. Dates for subsequent releases will be advised at least four weeks in advance of publication. For the most up to date information on more specific timing, please see the [Northern Ireland 2011 Census Output Prospectus](#).

Why was the first release split?

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires NISRA to release statistics as soon as they are judged ready. NISRA published the first part (Northern Ireland as a whole) of the first release (population statistics) as soon as possible, rather than wait for the complete first release. A similar phased approach has been taken with each Census release.

When did you publish numbers on ethnic groups, religion, carers, family status, qualifications etc?

This information became available in the second release. The first phase of the second release (Key Statistics) was published on 11 December 2012, down to Local Government District level, with the remaining geographical levels published on 30 January and 28 February 2013. More information on the published dates can be found in the [Northern Ireland 2011 Census Output Prospectus](#).

Since the 2011 Census, The Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 has come into effect, introducing 11 new Local Government Districts. Elections based on the new council areas were held in May 2014. NISRA published 2011 Census Key Statistics for the new LGDs (LGD2014) on 30 January 2014.

When did you publish cross-tabulations of the Census variables?

The third and fourth releases consisted of cross-tabulations of Census variables and were published from May 2013 onwards. Publication of the third release (Detailed Characteristics) was completed on 28 November 2013. The fourth release (Local Characteristics) was published on 20 March 2014.

Why do you release the data in batches? Can't you produce all the Census data in one go, and why do there have to be phased releases?

There is a vast range of data to be released from the Census. In 2001 we produced in excess of 1 million tables.

More details of the 2011 Census release schedule are available in the [Northern Ireland 2011 Census Output Prospectus](#).

General

What is a Census?

A Census provides an estimate of the population of Northern Ireland and is held every 10 years. The most recent Census took place on Sunday 27 March 2011. The one before that was held on 29 April 2001.

Everyone was asked the same questions on the same day so that we could get a snapshot of the population. This information is used to estimate the number of people and households in each area, and their characteristics.

Who runs the Census?

The Census is organised by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), headed by the Registrar General, and overseen by professional statisticians. NISRA works with the Census offices for England & Wales and Scotland to conduct the Census on the same day and to provide comparable Census results across the United Kingdom.

Why do we have a Census?

To help tomorrow take shape. If we know how many people live in Northern Ireland, we can work out what types of services they need now and in the future. With statistics from the Census, central and local government can allocate funds, decide future policy and plan important services such as:

- *Population* – Knowing how many people live in an area helps central government allocate funding. Local government also use these data to plan who needs what in their local areas.
- *Health and disability* – Health services and policies are planned around the Census data so that the necessary services are provided to those who need them.
- *Housing* – Housing needs can be much better planned if we know what the demand is now and likely to be in the future.
- *Employment* – By establishing how many people work in different occupations and industries, Census information can be used to help plan jobs and training policies.
- *Ethnic groups* – Census information can be used to help allocate resources and monitor policies to ensure that all groups are treated equally.
- *Transport* – Identifying how and where people travel to work and study will help us understand the pressures on our transport systems and improve planning for roads and public transport.

Is the Census compulsory?

The Census itself is compulsory – if you don't take part, the results may not show complete information about your local area and it might not get its fair share of funding over the next 10 years.

How did you decide which questions to ask?

In deciding which topics to cover we consulted widely. The cases made for specific topics by Census users were balanced against the public acceptability of the questions, and whether or not they can be asked in a way that gives reliable information, and alternative methods of collecting information. The justification for each question is described in the [Census Proposals Paper](#) and the [Privacy Impact Assessment](#).

The questions asked in 2011 were subject to the approval of the Northern Ireland Assembly. There were questions about the household as a whole and about each person usually resident in the household. Additionally there was also space for basic information about visitors present on Census night.

Where can I find definitions and footnotes for Census 2011 tables?

The [Census 2011 Definitions and Output Classifications](#) document published by Census Office contains a full list of definitions and footnotes; and can be found on the NISRA website.

How many questions were there on the questionnaire?

There were 59 questions in total. 14 were about the household and its accommodation and 45 questions were for each individual member of the household to complete.

Most questions on the 2011 Census questionnaire could be answered by a simple tick.

How successful was the 2011 Census?

The 2011 Census was considered an operational success. It was delivered on time, on budget and to a high quality.

The quality of the outputs has been judged against a quality framework. This is detailed in the [Methodology Overview Paper](#).

What was the response rate?

It is estimated that, in the 2011 Census, responses were received from 94% of households and these contained 92% of the usually resident population.

NISRA is content that the Census remains of high quality. It is stressed that all Census outputs have been adjusted so that they reflect the full population of Northern Ireland.

Changes in society and the make-up of the population are adding to the complexity of Census taking. What is the future for the next Census?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and National Records of Scotland (NRS) have announced that they intend to conduct predominantly online 2021 Censuses in, respectively, England & Wales and Scotland. NISRA will work with ONS and NRS to ensure harmonised outputs across the UK from the 2021 Censuses.

On 27 October 2014 NISRA published indicative proposals for a 2021 Census, in [‘The Future Provision of Census of Population Information for Northern Ireland’](#).

NISRA will focus on planning for a census in 2021 which will be primarily online, while offering alternative modes of completion where necessary. It also aims to make best use of technology and administrative data in its design, building on the online approach used successfully in the 2011 Census.

How much has the 2011 Census cost?

The 2011 Census in Northern Ireland has been estimated as costing around £21.8 million over the six year period 2008 – 2014. Over the ten-year cycle the cost is expected to be about £25 million.

How precise are the Census estimates?

The Census aims to measure the size of the population at a particular point in time – 27 March in 2011. While the detailed statistical tables from the Census provide population figures that are published as exact numbers of people, they should be regarded as estimates of the true population for a variety of factors. For example, despite the legal obligation on everyone to participate in the Census, it is acknowledged that some people may be missed and/or may be counted in the wrong place. The key demographic characteristics of those who are missed are determined through a coverage assessment and adjustment process, which provides estimates by area, age and sex of those who were missed. Confidence intervals that quantify the impact that this particular component has on the Census estimates have been published alongside the headline figures released.

Quantifying non-sampling measurement error in the Census in a routine manner (i.e. using confidence intervals) is difficult because of the self-assessment nature of the Census and the various complex and inter-related methodological processes involved (e.g. two response channels – paper and internet; scanning, coding and capture systems; item imputation of missing responses for those who participated in the Census; and item imputation for people who were missed by the Census). Outside of these inter-related Census issues, every year there are approaching 40,000 births and deaths across Northern Ireland. In addition, about 20,000 people emigrate from Northern Ireland and a further 20,000 immigrate into Northern Ireland. As a result, there are likely to be over 200 changes to the Northern Ireland population on an 'average' day. For areas within Northern Ireland, Census Day estimates are further affected by migration moves within Northern Ireland.

Further detail on the quality of the statistics can be found in the [Methodology Overview Paper](#).

Can the statistics from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses be compared?

Details of the differences in the 2001 and 2011 census questionnaires and their impact on outputs can be found in the [Comparability of the Census questionnaire in Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011](#) document.

Details on changes to table layouts and content from the 2001 Census may be found in the [Appendix: Comparability of the Census outputs in Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011](#).

If the Census figures are estimates, what about comparing different Census figures?

Any comparison of Census figures should take account of the estimated nature of the Census outputs.

The Census, as is the case with sample surveys, is subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. Almost by definition, sampling error will be relatively more important for sample surveys than for the Census, which covers the entire population. Accordingly, confidence intervals and the associated levels of statistical significance are typically given prominence in interpreting the outputs from sample surveys. In the Census, a Coverage Survey is used to estimate the number of people who are missed through the enumeration process along with their age and sex characteristics – confidence intervals that quantify this have been published alongside the headline figures released. Quantifying non-sampling measurement error in the Census in a routine manner (i.e. using confidence intervals) is difficult because of the self-assessment nature of the Census and the various complex and inter-related methodological processes involved (e.g. two response channels – paper and internet; scanning, coding and capture systems; item imputation of missing responses for those who participated in the Census; and item imputation for people who were missed by the Census).

While Census Office has provided population figures that are published as exact numbers of people, all figures in the Statistics Press Notices and Statistics Bulletins have been presented in a rounded form to (a) stress the estimated nature of the Census figures and (b) ease readability.

The Statistics Bulletins and Statistics Press Notices provide comparisons across time and across geographic units. Given the difficulty in assessing the non-sampling measurement error associated with such comparisons, the concept of using 'statistical significance' (e.g. whether a difference is significant at the 5% level) to quantify and help interpret any differences has not been used in these documents. Accordingly, the Statistics Bulletins and Statistics Press Notices use words like 'increases' and 'less than' without regard to statistical significance. Clearly, the importance of any differences will be proportionate to their size.

National Statistics

What does it mean that Census Outputs are designated as National Statistics?

Outputs from the 2011 Census have been designated as National Statistics by the UK Statistics Authority. The Authority has published a [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The Code outlines 7 principles and 3 protocols to which producers of official statistics should adhere. The Authority has assessed Census Office procedures against the Code and confirmed that Census Office is adhering to the Code.

The Authority has published [two assessment reports \(numbers 28, 115 and 318\)](#) about the 2011 Census.

The Outputs Prospectus provides dates on which new Census Statistics are to be published. Can anyone see the statistics prior to publication?

Census outputs are subject to [The Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#), which specifies limited categories of people who can be granted pre-release access to Official Statistics. For the 2011 Census, [pre-release access](#) has been granted solely to the Departmental Minister and Permanent Secretary, who are granted pre-release access for 24 hours.

Collecting the information and quality assurance

What has NISRA done to improve accuracy this time around?

The complete Census operation was designed with a key objective of ensuring the quality of the Census results. Some of the ways this was achieved include:

- development of an address register¹ – underpinning the field operation and subsequently a key input to quality assuring the Census results;
- extensive community and voluntary sector engagement – NISRA engaged with communities and the voluntary sector to promote the value of the Census and work with communities which needed support and assistance in order to respond;
- providing online completion – the ability to fill in the Census questionnaire online made it easier for some people to respond and thus improved the accuracy of the data collected;
- larger and more focused Census Coverage Survey² sample – NISRA increased the size of the Census Coverage Survey and allocated more sample in those areas where response rates were expected to be lower – this improves the accuracy of estimation in more difficult areas; and
- improved quality assurance methods – NISRA improved the quality assurance methods to take account of new data sources (e.g. the address register), engaged with local authorities ahead of the Census specifically to enhance and validate the address register, and involved external independent experts to review methods and review the application of these methods.

¹What is an address register?

An address register was created to make sure that every household and managed accommodation in Northern Ireland received a Census questionnaire.

This register is a list of residential addresses in Northern Ireland. It did not exist prior to the 2011 Census. NISRA developed the register for the Census from the Pointer address database held by the Land and Property Services Agency.

²What is a Census Coverage Survey (CCS)?

The Census Coverage Survey (CCS) is an independent face to face interview survey carried out after the Census to make sure our Census population estimates are as accurate as possible.

The households and people counted in the CCS are matched with those recorded in the Census so that we can estimate the number and the characteristics of people who were not included on a Census questionnaire. Our field teams carried out doorstep interviews from 9 May – 3 June 2011.

What is a Census Quality Survey?

In June 2011, NISRA sent trained interviewers to a sample of 1,741 households who had returned Census forms. The interviewers repeated the Census questionnaire with the household. The report on the [Census Quality Survey](#) reports the extent of agreement between the answers given on the Census form and the answers given to the Census Quality Survey interviewers.

What percentage of people filled in their questionnaire online and was this percentage in line with NISRA expectations?

Approximately 15% of respondents completed their Census questionnaire online which was fully in line with NISRA expectations.

What confidence levels do you work to and why?

NISRA has examined the quality of the Census outputs against a quality framework and this is detailed in the [Methodology Overview Paper](#).

This paper points out the variety of sampling and non-sampling potential sources of error associated with the Census. With regard to sampling error in particular it is estimated that the Census Day population estimate is subject to a 95% confidence interval of +/- 11,000 people. For further details see the [Quality Assurance Report](#).

Why should I believe the Census numbers?

There is no other data source that can provide the information or coverage that the Census provides. The Census outputs have been subjected to a rigorous quality assurance process as described in the [Quality Assurance Report](#).

We have robust and proven methods in place to adjust for those people missed in the Census or who missed some of the questions out or were double-counted.

How did you deal with diverse communities?

Prior to Census Day 2011 NISRA carried out a number of community liaison events to increase awareness of the Census amongst community groups and the voluntary sector. These events focused on the benefits of the Census. They also highlighted where and how people could get information and assistance to help with completing their Census questionnaire.

How can we trust the results when you've had to impute some respondents?

To account for under and over coverage, the statistics include adjustments that take account of the results from the Census Coverage Survey. The Census data then go through rigorous processes to make sure the estimates are as accurate as possible. To help people understand the methods used to make the adjustments we have published a series of reports to explain the processes, which are described in the [Methodology Overview Paper](#) and the [Quality Assurance Report](#).

How many people did you prosecute for not completing a Census form?

The obligation to complete a census return is clearly defined in The Census Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 and The Census Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

NISRA adopted a policy of supporting and encouraging field staff to press for compliance from householders and other prescribed responsible persons. When refusals were encountered field staff tried to convert to compliance. When this was not achieved an investigation process was invoked which may have led to prosecution of a refuser for non-compliance using the Northern Ireland Public Prosecution Service (PPS).

During non-response follow-up visits, field staff came across 284 households where a householder explicitly refused to complete a Census return. Census Office instigated formal non-compliance procedures for these cases. 40 of these cases were not considered suitable for follow-up due to mitigation such as illness and old age. For the rest, the primary objective was to encourage the non-respondents to make a Census return. From this perspective, the overall exercise was successful and led eventually to the completion of 207 completed Census returns (i.e. 85% of those pursued).

A number of other cases were closed for other reasons such as the property becoming vacant. No cases were ultimately put through the criminal justice system.

Were the Census questions in Northern Ireland exactly the same as in England and Wales?

The vast majority of Census questions in Northern Ireland were exactly the same as in England and Wales. The differences are outlined below.

Household questions

England and Wales and Northern Ireland asked 14 household questions, of these:

1 question was essentially the same

“Who is your landlord?”

1 question was England and Wales specific

“How many of these are bedrooms?”

1 question was Northern Ireland specific

“Has this accommodation been designed or adapted for:”

Individual questions

England and Wales asked 43 individual questions while Northern Ireland asked 45 individual questions, of these:

4 questions were essentially the same

“How would you describe your national identity?”

“Which of these qualifications do you have?”

“In your main job, what is the address of your workplace?” England and Wales / “What address do you travel to for your main job or course of study (including school)?” Northern Ireland

“How do you usually travel to work?” England and Wales / “How do you usually travel to your main place of work or study (including school)?” Northern Ireland

2 questions had quite different tick box categories

“What is your ethnic group?”

“What is your religion?” England and Wales / “What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?” Northern Ireland

3 questions were England and Wales specific

“If you were not born in the United Kingdom, when did you most recently arrive to live here?”

“Do you stay at another address for more than 30 days a year?”

“What is that address?”

1 question was Wales specific

“Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?”

7 questions were Northern Ireland specific

“Have you lived outside Northern Ireland for a continuous period of one year or more?”

“During this time outside Northern Ireland, what was the last country you lived in?” “When did you most recently arrive to live in Northern Ireland?”

“Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?”

“Can you understand, speak, read or write Irish or Ulster-Scots?”

“What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?”

“In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work without pay?”

A report showing comparability of the census questions and outputs across the UK is available to download from the ONS website – [UK Comparability report](#).

Accompanying this report are one table showing the UK tables released and the equivalent tables for each country – [‘2011 UK Censuses KS and QS table correspondence v1.0’](#) – and a second table showing the mappings for each UK table – [‘2011 UK Censuses - Harmonised Mappings - KS and QS tables v1.0’](#).

Processing the information

How do you deal with any under or over enumeration?

As with any Census there will always be a small percentage of people who will have been missed and an even smaller proportion who may have been counted twice (usually because they live in more than one home e.g. students). Some people will have missed out some questions too. This is true internationally. NISRA has many procedures in place to deal with this, including the Census Coverage Survey and quality assurance of the results. This is described in the [Methodology Overview Paper](#). So while a Census is based on a count of the population, the 2011 Census results include adjustments for under and over coverage.

Were there any processing delays with the 2011 Census?

None, that weren't overcome, there was a successful field operation for the 2011 Census and return rates to the Census and the Census Coverage Survey were good.

The data were captured and coded and loaded into Census systems for statistical processing. Statistical processing and its systems and methods worked.

Publishing the results and accessing the data

What are the arrangements to produce a combined population figure for the UK?

NISRA is responsible for population figures for Northern Ireland only, while the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and National Records of Scotland (NRS) are responsible for delivering population figures for England and Wales and Scotland respectively.

Overall UK figures (i.e. data for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) will be released once all the countries have completed their processing and are confident that their data are of the best possible quality. The [Census Day population estimates for the UK](#) were published on 17 December 2012 and 21 March 2013.

Further [UK-wide Census statistics](#) were published throughout 2013 and 2014.

As a member of the general public, can I get information from the Census?

Yes. NISRA is keen to make the data as accessible as possible to a wide range of users from those in local government districts through to those in business, commerce, the not for profit sector and the general public. However, no one can have access to individual Census returns.

NISRA is providing access via its [website](#) and the [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service \(NINIS\) website](#) to:

- maximise the use of Census and other NISRA data;
- provide an enhanced website with new web tools to explore NISRA statistics more effectively;
- open up direct access to NISRA data for third parties to power their own websites and applications; and
- support the government's transparency policy.

Surely the Census figures are already out of date?

It takes time to analyse and quality assure the data and we need to strike the proper balance between timeliness and quality. Users were content that autumn 2012 – for the initial results, with further cross-tabulations to follow – was adequate to feed into, for example, resource allocation decisions.

Why doesn't the ONS produce all the statistics for the UK, rather than just those for England and Wales?

Statistics is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland and consequently NRS & NISRA have responsibility for the Censuses in their own countries, however ONS has responsibility to collate Census statistics across the UK.

Confidentiality and security

Is it safe, secure and confidential?

Yes. We've made it a top priority to keep your Census data safe, secure and confidential.

Everyone working with personal Census details is security checked and must sign an undertaking that they will protect the privacy of the information. NISRA owns the data that have been collected. The data are protected by law and will not leave the UK. The data are not just important to us; it is actually a criminal offence to disclose personal Census data, punishable by a fine and/or up to two years in prison.

We also asked independent experts to conduct an information assurance review of the 2011 Census. The review team concluded that "the public can be assured that the information they have provided has been well protected". [Full details of the review team's findings](#) can be found on the NISRA website.

Will individuals or households be identifiable from published statistics?

Data security and confidentiality carries the highest priority for the Census. Names and addresses are retained purely for Census purposes and are removed from the data we use for our day to day tabulation work – they are not accessible to anyone requesting Census data.

Census outputs

If you find a problem, will you republish them?

We are very confident that the estimates are sound and reliable but, yes, NISRA has a responsibility to be transparent about all research and analysis, including any adjustments made.

NISRA has a [revision policy](#) that will be adhered to should it prove necessary.

What can you say about the comparison between the population estimates from the Census and the rolled forward Mid-Year Estimates (MYEs)?

NISRA publishes an annual series of Mid-Year Estimates (MYEs) of population, which is based on the most recent Census of Population and rolled forward each year taking account of aging, births, deaths and net migration. The estimated population rolled forward from the 2001 Census to Census Day 2011 was 1,805,100 compared to the 2011 Census estimate of 1,810,900.

It is common practice to “rebase” the population estimates when new Census results become available. The current MYE series have now been revised to take into account the Census 2011 results.

When will Mid-Year Estimates (MYEs) for 2011 be published?

A MYE for 2011, rolled forward from the 2001 Census, was published in October 2012. A new MYE for 2011, based on the 2011 Census was published on 30 April 2013. This included a revised MYE series over the period 2001 to 2011 at the Northern Ireland level only. A revised MYE series by Local Government District was published on 26 June 2013.

Further information can be found on the [NISRA website](#).

When will Mid-Year Estimates (MYEs) for 2012 be published?

MYEs are usually published towards the middle of the succeeding year. The MYEs for 2012 were published on 26 June 2013.

Why does the Census include a question on ‘religion brought up in’?

Why do Census outputs include separate outputs for ‘religion’ and ‘religion or religion brought up in’?

Equality legislation, in particular the [Northern Ireland Act 1998](#), makes it an offence to discriminate on the grounds of religion, and leads to the requirement for – for example – employers to maintain monitoring information on the religion of their employees. [Guidance documents from the Equality Commission](#) refer to the ‘community background’ of employees ([see Appendix 3, page 37](#)). The Equality Commission document notes that ‘Regardless of whether we practice religion, most of us in Northern Ireland are seen as either Catholic or Protestant. We are therefore asking you to indicate your community background by ticking the appropriate box below’.

A religion question has been included in every Northern Ireland Census. Census legislation (the [Census Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1969](#)) indicates that, unlike other questions in the Census, there is no penalty for not completing the question about religion. Accordingly in recent Censuses, a number of respondents do not answer the religion question, and further respondents may have indicated “None” as their religion. In the 1991 Census, 7 per cent of respondents declined to answer the religion question and 4 per cent indicated ‘none’. In response to this, and to aid monitoring, it was proposed that an additional question be asked in the 2001 Census – about religion brought up in – but asked only of those who indicated that they had no current religion. This was indicated in the [White Paper](#) published in 1999 that contained proposals for the 2001 Census (see section 66).

Accordingly two sets of outputs associated with religion were produced in 2001. The first output was based solely on the initial religion question. The percentage of the population who either did not complete the religion question, or indicated ‘None’ as their religion, was 14 per cent compared to 11 per cent in 1991. A second output was produced entitled “Community background (religion or religion brought up in)” that combined the responses to the questions on religion and ‘religion brought up in’. Further detail on the analysis of the religion and ‘religion brought up in’ questions in 2001 can be seen in [Annex B: Application of the One Number Census and Edit and Imputation methodologies to the Census question on religion and religion brought up in](#).

A similar approach has been taken in the 2011 Census, as indicated in the [Proposals Paper](#) published in 2010 and the [Privacy Impact Assessment](#) for the 2011 Census.

The publication of two distinct outputs, based respectively on religion and ‘religion or religion brought up in’, provides users with a range of information designed to meet their specific requirements.

A [note on the background to the religion and ‘religion brought up in’ questions in the Census](#), and their analysis in 2001 and 2011 can be found on the NISRA website.

Now that the Key Statistics at Small Area have been published, can we compare Small Area statistics from the 2001 and 2011 Census?

Any comparison of 2001 and 2011 statistics depends primarily on three considerations – population coverage, questionnaire content and geographic units.

On population coverage, both the 2001 and 2011 Census outputs reflect the complete population on Census Day 2001 and Census Day 2011.

A [paper comparing the 2001 and 2011 Census questionnaires](#) can be accessed on the NISRA website.

The 2001 and 2011 Censuses both report statistics based on the current set of electoral wards and Local Government Districts, and accordingly Census outputs for 2001 and 2011 can be compared for these geographic units. For smaller geographic units, direct comparison can be made between 2001 and 2011, but such comparisons should be made with caution. [Comparisons of Census Outputs from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses for Geographic Areas within Northern Ireland](#) provides more detail.

What are these new 11 Districts that you published Key Statistics for on 30 January 2014?

Local Government boundaries in Northern Ireland are reviewed on a periodic basis. At the time of the 2011 Census, the current boundaries (26 LGDs composed of 582 wards) were based on a review of local government boundaries introduced in 1992. These '1992' boundaries are the main geographic basis of outputs from the 2011 Census. In particular, the 2011 Census Key Statistics (published December 2012) present statistics for the 26 current (1992) Local Government Districts (LGDs).

Since the 2011 Census, the Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 has come into effect, introducing 11 new Local Government Districts. Elections based on the new council areas were held in May 2014. NISRA published Census 2011 Key Statistics for the new LGDs (LGD2014) on 30 January 2014.

How do these new LGDs differ from the old ones?

By and large, the new LGDs (LGD2014) have been created by combining old ones together e.g. the 2 council areas of Antrim and Newtownabbey have been combined to form a new single council area named 'Antrim and Newtownabbey'. However, in some cases, an old LGD has been divided amongst more than one new LGD e.g. parts of Lisburn now appear in both Belfast LGD and Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD.

A summary table showing the relationship between the full set of old and new LGDs is given below.

LGD2014 Code	LGD2014 Name	Relationship to 26 Current Councils
N09000001	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils
N09000002	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Armagh and Craigavon Councils and major part of Banbridge Council and minor part of Dungannon Council
N09000003	Belfast	Belfast City and minor parts of Castlereagh and Lisburn City Councils
N09000004	Causeway Coast and Glens	Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Councils
N09000005	Derry City and Strabane	Derry City and Strabane Councils
N09000006	Fermanagh and Omagh	Fermanagh and Omagh Councils
N09000007	Lisburn and Castlereagh	Major parts of Lisburn City and Castlereagh Councils
N09000008	Mid and East Antrim	Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne Councils
N09000009	Mid Ulster	Cookstown and Magherafelt Councils and major part of Dungannon Council
N09000010	Newry, Mourne and Down	Down, Newry and Mourne Councils and minor part of Banbridge Council
N09000011	Ards and North Down	Ards and North Down Councils

A [NISRA guidance paper on the new LGD areas](#) provides more detail.

How were the statistics for the new 11 LGDs produced, and can they be reconciled with statistics based on the '1992' LGDs?

The Census Small Area geographic units fit exactly within both the '1992' and '2014' LGD boundaries, and the LGD2014 statistics are all exact aggregates of statistics already published for Small Areas. Where the LGD2014 is a simple amalgamation of a LGD1992, the relevant statistics can equivalently be derived by simple aggregation of the statistics for the LGD1992. Further detail is given in the [NISRA guidance paper](#), referred to above.

What are Microdata SARs (Samples of Anonymised Records)?

SARs, as the name suggests, are samples of individual records drawn from the Census outputs database which have been completely anonymised. Such samples can be based on individual person level records or individual household level records and have typically been utilised for research purposes. Steps are taken to preserve the confidentiality of all individual records (both person based and household based) that are included in any such sample.

In addition, access arrangements are very much tailored to reflect both the nature and detail of the information included for each record. Further information on microdata can be found in our [Microdata Product Overview](#) document on the NISRA website.

What are Detailed Characteristics and Local Characteristics statistics?

Detailed Characteristics and Local Characteristics statistics are multivariate tables; however Local Characteristics statistics contain less detail than the Detailed Characteristics statistics. The reduced level of detail compared to the Detailed Characteristics statistics, reflects the availability of these Local Characteristics statistics at Small Area (SA) level. A [Local Characteristics to Detailed Characteristics table look-up](#) is available on the NISRA website.

Detailed Characteristics statistics correspond to the 2001 Standard tables.

Local Characteristics statistics correspond to the 2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) tables.