

Census 2011: Detailed Characteristics for Northern Ireland on Health, Religion and National Identity



09:30am – Thursday, 16 May 2013

Census 2011: Detailed Characteristics for Northern Ireland on Health, Religion and National Identity

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency has today released further results from the 2011 Census, which was held on 27 March 2011. The statistics released today develop those published previously that described the Northern Ireland population across a range of individual topics by considering how these topics interact with one another, for example by examining how people who provided unpaid care assessed their own general health, compared with people who did not provide unpaid care. The statistics published today focus on the topics of Health, Religion and National Identity and will be followed later in the summer by a further release that will focus on Ethnicity, Language, Housing and the Labour Market.

The Census is widely acknowledged as playing a fundamental and unique role in the provision of comprehensive and robust population statistics. Census information is needed to form policy, to plan services for specific groups of people and, especially, to make effective use of resources through distributing them to where they are needed most.

Key users of information from the Census include central and local government, academia, organisations undertaking research, the private, business and voluntary sectors and the general public.

Key Points:

Health and Age

1. The proportion of the population assessing their general health as 'bad' or 'very bad' increases with age. For those living in households the proportion rises from under 1 per cent among those aged 0-9 assessing their health as 'bad' or 'very bad', to 10 per cent among those in their fifties and 17 per cent among those aged 85 and over. In a similar way, the proportion of the population who have at least one long-term condition increases from 11 per cent of children aged 0-9, to 42 per cent of those in their fifties and to 90 per cent of those aged 85 and over.

Health and Economic Activity

2. There is an association between general health and economic activity, in that those with better self-reported general health were more likely to be economically active. For example, 79 per cent of those aged 16-74 who considered their general health to be 'very good' were economically active in the week preceding Census Day compared with 9.4 per cent among those whose health was 'very bad'. Conversely, fewer than 1 per cent of those aged 16-74 who considered their general health as 'very good' were classified as 'long-term sick or disabled' with regard to their economic activity in the week preceding Census Day, compared with 58 per cent of those whose general health was 'very bad'.

Health and NS-SeC

3. Two-fifths (41 per cent) of those aged 35-44 whose general health was 'very good' were working in managerial, administrative and professional occupations, compared with 13 per cent among those describing their health as either 'bad' or 'very bad'. Conversely, 21 per cent of those aged 35-44 with 'very good' general health were classified as having semi-routine and routine occupations, compared with 41 per cent of those with either 'bad' or 'very bad' general health. A further 19 per cent of those aged 35-44 with either 'bad' or 'very bad' general health had never worked, compared with 1.7 per cent of those who had 'very good' general health.

Health and Provision of Unpaid Care

4. Approximately one in eight people living in households (12 per cent) provided unpaid care to family members, friends, neighbours or others. The provision of unpaid care was related to age, increasing from under 1 per cent among children aged 5-9 to a peak of 23 per cent among those aged 50-54. Across the age-ranges, those whose health was 'fair' or 'good' were typically more likely to provide unpaid care. Considering, for example, household residents aged 35-39, some 18 per cent of those whose general health was 'fair' and 17 per cent of those whose general health was 'good' provided unpaid care for family members, friends, neighbours or others, compared with – in particular - 12 per cent of those with 'very good' general health. For some people, it may be the case that the provision of unpaid care influenced their self-assessment of general health.
5. Similarly to those living in households, 12 per cent of the usually resident population provided unpaid care each week to family members, friends, neighbours or others. Those with a long-term health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activities 'a little' were most likely to provide such care (17 per cent), higher than those without such a long-

term health problem or disability (12 per cent) or those with such a problem that limited their day-to-day activities 'a lot' (10 per cent).

Health and Religion/Religion Brought up in

6. There were self reported differences in general health according to religion belonged to or brought up in. Those who were or had been brought up as Catholics were typically more likely than those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations to assess their general health as either 'bad' or 'very bad'. The relative differences were more noticeable in the older age groups. For example, among those aged 45-64, 11 per cent of Catholics, compared with 8.4 per cent of Protestants, were in either 'bad' or 'very bad' general health. In addition, among those aged 65 and over, 18 per cent of Catholics compared with 13 per cent of Protestants were in either 'bad' or 'very bad' general health.

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Age

7. People who are or have been brought up as Catholics, in Other religions or who have no religion have younger age distributions than those who are or have been brought up as Protestants. In 2011, over half (52 per cent) of usual residents who were or had been brought up as Catholics were aged under 35, compared with two-fifths (40 per cent) of those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations.

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Country of Birth

8. The proportion of the usually resident population born outside Northern Ireland rose from 9.0 per cent (151,000) in 2001 to 11 per cent (202,000) in 2011. This change was largely as a result of inward migration by people born in the 12 EU accession countries, who accounted for 2.0 per cent (35,700) of people usually resident in Northern Ireland on Census Day 2011, compared with less than 0.1 per cent of the 2001 Census Day population. Of the 202,000 usual residents born outside Northern Ireland, 34 per cent were or had been brought up as Protestants and 48 per cent as Catholics. The majority of migrants from EU accession countries were or had been brought up as Catholics (75 per cent).

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Knowledge of Irish or Ulster-Scots

9. Usual residents aged 3 and over with some ability in Irish had a younger age profile than those with some ability in Ulster-Scots. People aged 12-15 were most likely to have some ability in Irish (20 per cent), while those least likely to have such ability were those aged 75 and over (6.2 per cent). In contrast, people in the 55-74 or 75 and over age groups were

most likely to have some ability in Ulster-Scots (13 per cent and 12 per cent respectively), while those least likely to have such ability were aged 3-11 (2.3 per cent). Some 90 per cent of people aged 3 and over with some ability in Irish were or had been brought up as Catholics and 7.4 per cent as Protestants. In contrast, almost four-fifths (79 per cent) of those with some ability in Ulster-Scots were or had been brought up as Protestants and 17 per cent as Catholics.

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Highest Qualification

10. The level of highest educational qualification varied inversely with age. For instance, people aged 25-34 were three times as likely as those aged 75 and over (37 per cent compared with 12 per cent) to have achieved Level 4 or higher qualifications (broadly degree level or above). Conversely, people aged 75 and over were seven times as likely as those aged 25-34 to have no qualifications (70 per cent compared with 10 per cent). Despite their younger age-profile, people who were or had been brought up as Catholics had similar prevalence rates to those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations for Level 4 or higher qualifications (24 per cent and 23 per cent respectively) and no qualifications (29 per cent and 30 per cent respectively).

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Economic Activity, Employment and Unemployment

11. The differential in the overall economic activity rates between people who were or had been brought up as either Protestants or Catholics narrowed from around four percentage points in 2001 to around half a percentage point in 2011. Protestants, however, remained more likely to be economically active than Catholics within each of the age groups 16-24, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-74. In general, people who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations and those with no religion were more likely to be in employment (both 59 per cent) than those who were or had been brought up in Other religions (57 per cent) or as Catholics (56 per cent). Among those aged 16-74 who were or had been brought up as Protestants, some 3.9 per cent were unemployed in the week preceding Census Day, compared with 5.9 per cent among Catholics.
12. The unemployment rate for any particular group has traditionally been determined as the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of those who are economically active (excluding economically active full-time students). On this basis, the 2011 Census shows that the overall unemployment rate for those aged 16-74 was 7.5 per cent. In respect of the religion belonged to or religion brought up in categories, the 2011 Census unemployment rates among those aged 16-74 were 8.9 per cent (Catholics), 5.9 per cent (Protestants), 8.7 per cent (Other religions) and 10.0 per cent (None).

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Occupation group and Industry

13. Among people aged 16-74 in employment, those working in either Skilled agricultural and related trades or Protective service occupations were around twice as likely to be or have been brought up as Protestants (65 per cent and 61 per cent respectively) than as Catholics (33 per cent and 27 per cent respectively). In contrast, half or more of people working in either Skilled construction and building trades (55 per cent) or Elementary trades and related occupations (50 per cent) were or had been brought up as Catholics; the respective rates for Protestants working in these occupation groups were 42 per cent and 45 per cent.
14. The industry sector which displayed the highest share of Protestants among people aged 16-74 in employment was Agricultural, forestry and fishing; for which 64 per cent were or had been brought up as Protestants, compared with 34 per cent as Catholics. Conversely, the industry sector which displayed the highest share of Catholics among people aged 16-74 in employment was Construction, for which 52 per cent were or had been brought up as Catholics, compared with 44 per cent as Protestants.

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Tenure

15. People who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations were more likely than those who were or had been brought up as Catholics to live in Owner-occupied households (75 per cent and 70 per cent respectively), while the converse was true of those living in the Private rented sector (13 per cent and 17 per cent respectively). Within the Social rented sector, the religion or religion brought up in profile of NIHE tenants (45 per cent Catholic, 48 per cent Protestant, 0.7 per cent Other religions and 6.3 per cent None) was very similar to that of all usual residents (45 per cent Catholic, 48 per cent Protestant, 0.9 per cent Other religions and 5.6 per cent None). However, more than half (55 per cent) of tenants of Housing Associations were or had been brought up as Catholics, compared with under two-fifths (38 per cent) as Protestants – it is possible that this contrast relates to a combination of the transfer of the responsibility for the construction of all social housing to the Housing Association sector since the late 1990s and the younger age profile of the Catholic population.

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Occupancy Rating

16. The Occupancy rating provides a measure of under-occupancy and overcrowding, where a negative value implies a degree of overcrowding. The overall prevalences of overcrowding for the religion or religion brought up in categories were: Others (17 per cent); Catholics (12 per cent); None (11 per cent); and Protestants (6.5 per cent). In contrast, almost three-fifths

(59 per cent) of people who were or had been brought up as Protestants lived in households with an occupancy rating of +2 or more (in effect having at least two rooms more than the basic standard). This compared with under half of those who were or had been brought up as Catholics (48 per cent) or in Other religions (45 per cent), or who had no religion (44 per cent).

Religion/Religion Brought Up In and Household Size

17. Based on the religion or religion brought up in of the Household Reference Person (HRP), the average household size was largest among those who were or had been brought up as Catholics (2.72 persons). The rates for the remaining categories were: Protestants (2.41), Other religions (2.50) and no religion (2.54). While 14 per cent of HRPs who were or had been brought up as Catholics lived in households of 5 or more people, the rates were lower for those who belonged to or had been brought up in Other religions (9.4 per cent), Protestant denominations (7.8 per cent) or those with no religion (8.3 per cent). People who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations or Other religions were more likely to live in one-person households (both 30 per cent) than those who were or had been brought up as Catholics or who had no religion (both 26 per cent).

National Identity and Age

18. The proportion of people with a British only national identity tended to increase with age, ranging from 35 per cent of those aged 0-34 to 50 per cent of those aged 65 and over. In contrast, those with an Irish only national identity had a younger age distribution, ranging from 28 per cent of those aged 0-34 to 18 per cent of those aged 65 and over. There was, however, little variation by age group among those with a Northern Irish only national identity.

National Identity and Religion/Religion Brought Up In

19. Four-fifths (81 per cent) of people who felt British only were or had been brought up as Protestants, compared with 12 per cent of those who were or had been brought up as Catholics. In contrast, 94 per cent of people with an Irish only identity were or had been brought up as Catholics, compared with 4.4 per cent of those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations. Almost three-fifths (58 per cent) of people with a Northern Irish only national identity were or had been brought up as Catholics, and 36 per cent were or had been brought up as Protestants.
20. Looked at another way, two-thirds (67 per cent) of people who were or had been brought up as Protestants had a British only national identity, compared with 45 per cent of those with

no religion, 42 per cent of people who belonged to or had been brought up in Other religions and 11 per cent of those who were or had been brought up as Catholics. In contrast, over half (53 per cent) of people who were or had been brought up as Catholics felt Irish only, compared with 8.0 per cent of those who belonged to or had been brought up in Other religions, 6.5 per cent of people with no religion and 2.3 per cent of those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations.

21. Over a quarter (27 per cent) of people who were or had been brought up as Catholics felt Northern Irish only, compared with 22 per cent of those who had no religion, 15 per cent of those who belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations and 12 per cent of people who belonged to or had been brought up in Other religions. There was also a large number of people who regarded themselves as British and Northern Irish Only (111,700; 6.2 per cent of the usually resident population) relative to those who felt Irish and Northern Irish only (19,100; 1.1 per cent). Seven-eighths (87 per cent) of people who felt British and Northern Irish only belonged to or had been brought up in Protestant denominations, while a similar proportion (86 per cent) of those who regarded themselves as Irish and Northern Irish only were or had been brought up as Catholics. Thus, while Protestants were almost as likely as Catholics to declare a Northern Irish identity, they were much less inclined to regard themselves as exclusively Northern Irish.

National Identity and Country of birth

22. As 89 per cent of usual residents on Census Day 2011 were born in Northern Ireland, the results for national identity for people born here were very similar to those for all usual residents, with 41 per cent perceiving their national identity to be British only, 26 per cent Irish only and 23 per cent Northern Irish only. In contrast, almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of people born in the Republic of Ireland had an Irish only national identity, while 13 per cent felt British only and 7.8 per cent Northern Irish only.
23. There was a marked difference between the national identities of those born in England and those originally from Scotland or Wales. While people whose country of birth was England were nearly four times as likely to have a British only national identity (53 per cent) as English only (14 per cent), those born in Scotland were more likely to feel Scottish only (39 per cent) than British only (34 per cent). Similarly, people born in Wales were more likely to feel Welsh only (38 per cent) than British only (36 per cent).

National Identity and Ethnicity

24. On Census Day 2011, equal proportions of usual residents from the Asian ethnic group had either a British only or an Other only national identity (both 41 per cent), while 3.8 per cent

regarded themselves as Irish only and 2.9 per cent as Northern Irish only. Although people who were of Chinese ethnicity were more likely to have a British only national identity (46 per cent) than an Other only national identity (34 per cent), those who were ethnically Indian were more likely to identify with an Other only national identity (48 per cent) than to feel British only (37 per cent).

National Identity and Passports Held

25. A majority (54 per cent) of usual residents who held a UK passport only had a British only national identity, while 72 per cent of people who only held an Ireland passport felt Irish only. A more diverse group held both UK and Ireland passports only, with 36 per cent regarding themselves as Irish only, 24 per cent as Northern Irish only and 19 per cent as British only.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Today's release of results from the 2011 Census will be followed by a number of other planned releases. Further information about these is set out in the [Northern Ireland Census 2011 Output Prospectus](#), which will be regularly updated as the release programme proceeds.
2. A number of supporting papers on the 2011 Census, including a more detailed [Statistics Bulletin](#), are also available on the [NISRA website](#). The detailed Census statistics underlying this report can be viewed [here](#).
3. Information on the 2011 Census in England and Wales is available from the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) website](#).
4. Information on the 2011 Census in Scotland is available from the [National Records of Scotland \(NRS\) website](#).
5. Census statistics for the United Kingdom will be produced when estimates are available for all countries, and can be accessed at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/uk-census/index.html>.
6. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please send feedback to the email address below.
7. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
© Crown copyright 2012.
8. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

9. Media enquiries should be addressed to the Department of Finance and Personnel Communications Office on Tel: 028 9016 3390. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.
10. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Census Customer Services at:

Telephone:	028 9034 8160
Fax:	028 9034 8161
Email:	census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk
Responsible Statistician:	Mr Robert Beatty