



## **Census 2011: Detailed Characteristics for Northern Ireland on Ethnicity, Country of Birth and Language**

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The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency has today released further results from the 2011 Census, which was held on 27 March 2011. Comprising the second phase of the Detailed Characteristics release, these statistics focus on the topics of Ethnicity, Country of Birth and Language and consider how these interact with a range of Census topics, for example, by comparing the age profile of people whose main language is English with the age profile of people whose main language is not English. The first phase of Detailed Characteristics, published on 16 May 2013, covered Health, Religion and National identity, while the third phase, to be published later in the summer, will focus on 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 inform 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:**

##### **Ethnicity and Age**

1. Usual residents from the Asian, Black, Mixed or Other main ethnic groups had younger age profiles than those who were of White ethnicity. For instance, 93 per cent of people of Mixed ethnicity were aged under 45 years, compared with 87 per cent of those who were of Black origin, 82 per cent of people of Asian ethnicity, 76 per cent of those from Other ethnic groups and 61 per cent of people who were ethnically White. Conversely, 15 per cent of people who were of White ethnicity were aged 65 and over, compared with 5.4 per cent of

those from Other ethnic groups, 3.0 per cent of those of Asian ethnicity, 1.3 per cent of people who were ethnically Black and 1.1 per cent of those of Mixed ethnicity.

### **Ethnicity and Household Size**

2. Households in which the Household Reference Person (HRP) was of Asian or Black ethnicity were more likely to contain 4 or more people (39 per cent and 36 per cent respectively) than households in which the HRP was from the Other (30 per cent), Mixed (29 per cent) or White (25 per cent) ethnic groups.

### **Ethnicity and Occupation**

3. Over a third (35 per cent) of usual residents aged 16-74 in employment who were of Asian ethnic origin worked in Professional occupations (including 22 per cent as Health professionals), more than double the proportion of people of White ethnicity (17 per cent). The equivalent rates for the other main ethnic groups working in Professional occupations were: Mixed (23 per cent); Other (21 per cent) and Black (19 per cent) respectively.

People of White ethnicity were more likely than those from other main ethnic groups to be employed in Administrative and secretarial occupations (14 per cent), more than double the proportions of those from the Other or Asian ethnic groups (6.7 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively).

### **Ethnicity and Country of Birth**

4. A tenth (10 per cent) of usual residents who were of White ethnicity were born outside Northern Ireland, compared with 85 per cent of people from the Black main ethnic group, 79 per cent of those of Asian origin, 68 per cent of those of Other ethnicity and 39 per cent of those of Mixed ethnicity.

### **Country of Birth and Age**

5. Over half (53 per cent) of usual residents born in Northern Ireland were aged 35 and over, compared with almost three-quarters (73 per cent) of those born in the Republic of Ireland, 70 per cent of those born in either Scotland or Wales and 63 per cent of those born in England. Of particular note was the low proportion of usual residents born in the EU accession countries who were aged 35 and over (27 per cent), including 25 per cent of those born in Poland and 27 per cent of those born in Lithuania.

## **Country of Birth and Household Size**

6. Households in which the Household Reference Person (HRP) was born outside Northern Ireland had a larger average household size (2.64 persons) than households in which the HRP was born in Northern Ireland (2.53). The highest average household sizes related to those households in which the HRP had been born in Asian or EU accession countries, including: the Philippines (3.35); Lithuania (3.08); Poland (3.01); India (2.98); Latvia (2.95); China (2.85); and Slovakia (2.81).

## **Country of Birth and Tenure**

7. Usual residents born outside Northern Ireland were more likely than those born in Northern Ireland to live in the Private rented sector (36 per cent versus 13 per cent) and less likely to live in Owner-occupied accommodation (54 per cent versus 74 per cent). Usual residents born outside Northern Ireland were also less likely than those born in Northern Ireland to live in properties owned by the NIHE (7.6 per cent versus 10 per cent) or Housing Associations (2.5 per cent versus 2.8 per cent), although the differences were less marked.

On Census Day 2011, over three-quarters (76 per cent) of usual residents born in the EU accession countries were living in the Private rented sector, ranging from 72 per cent of those born in Latvia to 82 per cent of those born in Slovakia.

## **Country of Birth and Economic Activity**

8. Some 57 per cent of usual residents aged 16-74 and born in Northern Ireland were in employment on Census Day 2011, making up the major part of the 66 per cent who were economically active. Probably influenced by their younger age profiles, those born in the EU accession countries, in countries which were members of the EU before 2004 or in Other countries had higher levels of both employment (77 per cent, 65 per cent and 64 per cent respectively) and economic activity (85 per cent, 76 per cent and 74 per cent respectively).

## **Country of Birth and Occupation**

9. While people born in EU accession countries represented 3.0 per cent of usual residents aged 16-74 in employment, they comprised 8.3 per cent of Process, plant and machine operatives and 7.8 per cent of those employed in Elementary occupations. In addition, while 2.5 per cent of those in employment were born outside the EU, they constituted 4.3 per cent of people employed in Professional occupations.

## **Country of Birth and Religion or Religion Brought Up In**

10. People who were born in one of the EU accession countries accounted for 6.2 per cent of the usually resident population aged 25-34. Three-quarters (76 per cent) of this cohort were or had been brought up as Catholics, 10 per cent as Protestants, 1.0 per cent in Other religions, while 13 per cent had no religion.

## **Main Language and Proficiency in English**

11. While very high proportions of usual residents aged 3 and over whose main language was Tagalog / Filipino (99 per cent), Irish (Gaelic) (98 per cent) or Malayalam (92 per cent) could speak English well or very well, lower proportions of those who spoke mainly Chinese (61 per cent), Lithuanian (62 per cent), Slovak (64 per cent), Polish (66 per cent), Russian (66 per cent), Hungarian (68 per cent), Latvian (71 per cent) or Portuguese (73 per cent) could speak English well or very well.

Two-fifths (41 per cent) of the 2,700 usual residents aged 3 and over who could not speak English at all spoke mainly Polish, 14 per cent spoke mainly Lithuanian, 6.4 per cent spoke mainly Chinese, 4.6 per cent spoke mainly Slovak and 4.5 per cent spoke mainly Portuguese.

## **Main Language, Proficiency in English and Age**

12. Usual residents aged 3 and over whose main language was not English typically had much younger age profiles than those whose main language was English. For instance, over half (55 per cent) of those whose main language was not English were aged 25-44, double the proportion of those whose main language was English (28 per cent).

## **Proficiency in English and Occupation**

13. Among usual residents aged 16-74 in employment, based on Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2010), some 28 per cent of those whose main language was not English but who could speak English very well worked in Professional occupations.

High proportions of usual residents aged 16-74 in employment whose main language was not English and did not speak English very well worked in Skilled trades or Elementary occupations or as Process, plant and machine operatives. For instance, a third (33 per cent) of people who could not speak English well or at all worked in Elementary occupations, compared with 14 per cent of those who spoke English very well and 10 per cent of those whose main language was English.

## **Irish and Ulster-Scots and Country of Birth**

14. Although 2.2 per cent of usual residents aged 3 and over were born in the Republic of Ireland, they accounted for 8.9 per cent of those with some ability in Irish. Similarly, while 0.9 per cent of usual residents aged 3 and over were born in Scotland, they comprised 2.0 per cent of those with some ability in Ulster-Scots.

## 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.  
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- 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:

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