

## STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE



# Census 2011: Key Statistics for Northern Ireland

09:30am – Tuesday, 11 December 2012

## Census 2011: Key Statistics

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 provide a wide ranging profile of the Northern Ireland population covering demography, identity, health, housing, educational qualifications, labour market activity, travel to work or study and migration. The information is presented for a number of geographical levels based on, and including, Northern Ireland's 26 Local Government Districts (LGDs).

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 both central and local government, academia, organisations undertaking research, the private, business and voluntary sectors and the general public.

### Key Points:

#### Demography

- The usually resident Census Day population of Northern Ireland increased by 7.5 per cent (125,600) to 1.811 million, between 2001 and 2011. The rate of population growth was greatest in Dungannon Local Government District (LGD) (21 per cent).
- The share of the population represented by children aged under 16 years fell from 24 per cent in 2001 to 21 per cent in 2011, while the proportion of people aged 65 years and over rose from 13 per cent to 15 per cent over the same period.
- In 2011, 5.8 per cent of households contained dependent children and no adults in employment.

- The number of lone parent households with dependent children (where the lone parent was aged 16 to 74 years) increased by 27 per cent, from 50,500 in 2001 to 63,900 in 2011.

### **Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion**

- 1.8 per cent (32,400) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belonged to minority ethnic groups in 2011, more than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8 per cent).
- Two-fifths (40 per cent) of usual residents had a British Only national identity, a quarter (25 per cent) had Irish Only and just over a fifth (21 per cent) had Northern Irish Only. All LGDs had significant proportions with a Northern Irish Only national identity ranging from 28 per cent in Omagh to 17 per cent in Ballymena and Carrickfergus.
- Almost half (48 per cent) of people usually resident in Northern Ireland in 2011 included British as a national identity, while 29 per cent included Northern Irish and 28 per cent included Irish.
- 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. The LGD with the highest proportion of people born in EU accession countries was Dungannon (6.8 per cent).
- Almost three-fifths (59 per cent) of people usually resident in Northern Ireland held a UK passport, just over a fifth (21 per cent) held an Ireland passport, while 19 per cent held no passport.
- English was not the main language for 3.1 per cent (54,500) of usual residents aged 3 years and over, almost one quarter of whom (24 per cent) lived in Belfast LGD. The most prevalent main language other than English was Polish (17,700 people, 1.0 per cent).
- Among usual residents aged 3 years and over, 11 per cent had some ability in Irish in 2011 (compared with 10 per cent in 2001), while 8.1 per cent of people had some ability in Ulster-Scots.
- One sixth (17 per cent) of the usually resident population on Census Day 2011 either had No Religion or Religion Not Stated. The prevalence rates for the main religions were: Catholic (41 per cent); Presbyterian (19 per cent); Church of Ireland (14 per cent); Methodist (3.0 per cent); Other Christian or Christian-related denominations (5.8 per cent); and Other Religions and Philosophies (0.8 per cent).
- Bringing together the information on Religion and Religion Brought up in, 45 per cent of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 48 per cent belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, Other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A

further 0.9 per cent belonged to or had been brought up in Other Religions and Philosophies, while 5.6 per cent neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.

- The highest proportions of people who neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion were in North Down (12 per cent), Carrickfergus (10 per cent) and Ards (9.4 per cent) in 2011.

## **Health**

- Just over one in five of the usually resident population (21 per cent) had a long-term health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activities.
- An eighth (12 per cent) of the usually resident population in 2011 provided unpaid care (compared with 11 per cent in 2001), around a quarter (26 per cent) of whom did so for 50 or more hours per week.
- Four-fifths (80 per cent) of usual residents had a good or very good level of general health.
- Almost seven-tenths of usual residents (69 per cent) did not have a long-term condition. The most common long-term conditions among the usually resident population were a mobility or dexterity problem (11 per cent) and long-term pain or discomfort (10 per cent).

## **Households and Accommodation**

- There were 703,300 households in Northern Ireland, up 12 per cent (76,600) since 2001.
- The main household space types were detached houses or bungalows, accounting for 37 per cent of household spaces, semi-detached houses or bungalows (28 per cent), terraced properties (25 per cent) and purpose-built flats or apartments (8.6 per cent).
- The number of households renting from a private landlord increased by 128 per cent, from 41,700 in 2001 to 95,200 in 2011, effectively doubling the share of all households accounted for by private renting from 6.6 per cent in 2001 to 14 per cent in 2011.
- The average household size across Northern Ireland decreased from 2.65 usual residents in 2001 to 2.54 in 2011.
- The proportion of households with no central heating fell from 4.9 per cent in 2001 to 0.5 per cent in 2011.

- Over three-quarters of households (77 per cent) had access to a car or van in 2011, up from 74 per cent in 2001. Over the same period, the proportion of households with access to two or more cars or vans increased from 29 per cent to 36 per cent.
- 12 per cent of household accommodation had been designed or adapted for wheelchair usage, other physical or mobility difficulties, visual difficulties, hearing difficulties or other circumstances.

## **Qualifications**

- In 2011, 24 per cent of usual residents aged 16 years and over in Northern Ireland had achieved Level 4 or higher<sup>1</sup> qualifications, while 29 per cent had no qualifications.

## **Labour Market**

- Two-thirds (66 per cent) of all usual residents in Northern Ireland aged 16 to 74 years were economically active in the week before Census Day 2011. These were primarily composed of full-time employees (36 per cent), part-time employees (13 per cent), the self-employed (8.9 per cent) and unemployed people (5.0 per cent); the remaining 3.7 per cent were economically active full-time students.
- The total number of employees aged 16 to 74 years was 640,000 in 2011, which was 14 per cent (76,200) higher than on Census Day 2001 (563,800).
- 16 per cent of people aged 16 to 74 years had helped with or carried out voluntary work without pay.
- Based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007), around a third of people aged 16 to 74 years in employment worked in either of two industrial sectors in the four weeks before Census Day 2011, namely the wholesale and retail trade or repair of motor vehicles (18 per cent) and human health and social work (14 per cent).
- Based on Standard Occupation Classification 2010 (SOC 2010), the largest occupational groupings for people aged 16 to 74 years in employment in 2011 were: professional occupations (17 per cent); skilled trades (14 per cent); and administrative and secretarial occupations (14 per cent).
- Almost three-fifths (58 per cent) of people aged 16 to 74 years who were in employment<sup>2</sup> usually drove a vehicle to work, while 10 per cent worked mainly at or from home.

---

<sup>1</sup> Level 4 or higher: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree, Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)

## Migration

- 93 per cent of usual residents born in Northern Ireland have never resided outside the jurisdiction. 1.8 per cent (28,300) of the usually resident population had lived elsewhere and returned between 2007 and Census Day 2011.

---

<sup>2</sup> 'In employment' for travel to work refers to those who are currently working (excluding full-time students)

## 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](#). A new supporting paper that describes the quality assurance work that was undertaken by NISRA, in order to ensure that the Key Statistics released today are of high quality, fit for purpose and meet the needs of users, can be accessed [here](#). 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 [ONS website](#).
4. Information on the 2011 Census in Scotland is available from the [NRS website](#).
5. Census statistics for the United Kingdom will be produced when estimates are available for all countries.
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 Customer Services at:

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

Email: [Census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:Census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)

Responsible Statistician: Mr Robert Beatty