



# Census 2011: Population and Household Results for Northern Ireland

11:00am – Monday, 16 July 2012

**Please NB:**

*The population figures that underlie this report have been superseded by those in the 19 September 2012 report; however the summary statistics in this press notice have not been affected.*

*For more information please see the [19 September Statistics Press Notice](#) and [19 September 2012 report: Census 2011 Population and Household Estimates by Local Government District for Northern Ireland](#).*

## Largest ever population in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency has today released the first results from the 2011 Census, which was held on 27 March 2011. The statistics provide estimates of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland on Census Day broken down by age and sex along with information on the number of households.

### Key Points:

- The population on Census Day was 1,810,900 – the highest ever recorded in Northern Ireland.
- Since the 2001 Census, the population has increased by 125,600 (7 per cent). This represents the fastest growth in population between consecutive Censuses since the 1960s.
- In 2001, a person aged 35 would have been in the older half of the population in Northern Ireland. In 2011 a person would need to have been aged 38 to be in the older half of the population.
- Compared to 2001, the population aged 65 and over has increased by 40,400 (18 per cent). Within this group, the numbers of the most elderly have seen the greatest proportionate increase over the last decade – in 2001 there were 23,300 people aged 85 or more, this has now increased to 31,400 (an increase of 35 per cent over the decade). Compared to 2001, the population aged 16 to 64 has increased by 103,900 (10 per cent). In absolute numbers, the biggest increases have been among the older working ages – there are 93,400 more people aged 40 to 64 (19 per cent) than ten years ago.

- Despite the increase in the overall population of 7 per cent, the number of children has fallen by 18,700 (5 per cent) since the 2001 Census. Within this reduction the numbers of primary school age children (aged 4-10) and compulsory secondary school age children (aged 11-15) have both fallen by 9 per cent. In contrast, the number of pre-school children (aged 0-3) has increased by 10 per cent – reflecting recent increases in fertility.
- The demographic structure of the households in which we live has changed dramatically over recent decades. Fifty years ago, in 1961, 50 per cent of the population lived in households containing 5 or more people, in 2011 only 22 per cent of the population lived in such households. Considering the number of households, in 1961, only 34 per cent of households contained up to 2 people, compared with 58 per cent of households in 2011. Single person households now represent 28 per cent of all households.
- This trend towards smaller household sizes means that the number of households is increasing more rapidly than the number of people. Over the last decade, the number of households has increased by 12 per cent compared to population growth of 7 per cent.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. This information can also be accessed on the NISRA website at:  
[www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011\\_results\\_population.html](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2011_results_population.html)
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

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