



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency

Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann  
um Staitisticí agus Taighde



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An Roinn

Airgeadais

## Deprivation Measures FAQs

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## What is the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure?

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM 2017) is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. The model of multiple deprivation which underpins the NIMDM 2017 is based on the idea of distinct domains of deprivation which can be recognised and measured separately. These are experienced by individuals living in an area. People may be counted as deprived in one or more of the domains, depending on the number of types of deprivation that they experience. The overall MDM is conceptualised as a weighted area level aggregation of these specific domains of deprivation. Further information on Deprivation is available on the [NISRA website](#).

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## What is a domain?

There are seven 'domains' which make up the Multiple Deprivation Measure and describe the 'type' of deprivation they cover. The domains are as follows:

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- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health Deprivation & Disability
- Education, Skills & Training
- Access to Services (formerly Proximity to Services)
- Living Environment
- Crime & Disorder

The overall multiple deprivation measure is a weighted average of the seven domains of deprivation, with weights of 25%, 25%, 15%, 15%, 10%, 5% and 5% respectively. The weights assigned to domains in the NIMDM 2017 were the same as those assigned to domains in NIMDM 2010, NIMDM 2005 and the 2001 index of multiple deprivation.

## How can I access Deprivation statistics on NINIS?

Select 'Deprivation' from the Statistical drop down menu to view Deprivation [datasets](#), or select 'Deprivation' from the Interactive Content section to view Deprivation [interactive maps](#).

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## Is there any guidance on using Deprivation measures?

Extensive guidance on use of the Deprivation measures is available on the [NISRA website](#). If you have any further questions you can contact us at [info@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:info@nisra.gov.uk)

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## What is the cut-off for most deprived areas?

Deprivation measures are a ranking from most deprived to least deprived areas, it does not categorize areas into deprived and non-deprived. NISRA does not prescribe a cut-off of a certain rank below which all areas are deprived; it depends on the users' need. For example, a study into health inequalities compares the 20% most deprived areas with the 20% least deprived areas. Extended Schools Funding looks at the 30% most deprived areas, both for the Multiple Deprivation Measure and the Education, Skills and Training Domain. The NIMDM 2017 report focussed on the 100 most deprived areas for presentational ease, although earlier reports focussed on the top 10% (89 SOAs).

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### [No deprivation scores?](#)

Deprivation scores for the 2001, 2005 and 2010 Measures were released and are still available on the NISRA website. The NIMDM 2017 indicator values and domain ranks are published on the NISRA website, see <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nimdm17-soa-level-results>.

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It does include the scores for the income and employment domain, as they consists of only one indicators. Other domains contain multiple indicators. They have been (1) ranked, (2) standardized, and (3) weighted to create a domain score. In other words, these scores reflect a weighted ranking, rather than a measure of the extent of deprivation. The processing of indicator values returns domain scores that cannot be sensibly interpreted other than providing a ranking of the Domain. Scores do not represent the extent of deprivation, nor can they be used to assess change over time. There are no plans to publish these scores for those reasons. Further detail is in the technical report:

[https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NIMDM%202017\\_Technical%20Report.pdf](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NIMDM%202017_Technical%20Report.pdf)

### [No deprivation for Ward1992?](#)

Super Output Areas (SOAs) are equivalent to the former Electoral Wards (Ward1992) or subdivisions of those wards. Deprivation measures for the Ward1992 will not be released; 340 out of the 582 Ward names (58%) have been retained, but for the vast majority the boundaries have been changed. The consultation on geographic outputs for deprivation measures identified a user need for the new Wards, which have been published in July 2018. Publishing deprivation measures for two sets of Wards with a high degree of overlapping names could lead to confusion.

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### [Deprivation for other geographies?](#)

Deprivation measures in 2001, 2005 and 2010 did produce a ranking of Local Government Districts, based on the proportion of their population living in the 10% most deprived areas, and a declining fraction of the population living in the next 20%.

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For NIMDM 2017, NISRA did not produce deprivation rankings of larger geographical areas, such as Parliamentary Constituencies (Assembly Areas) or Local Government Districts. Such ranking would hide small areas of deprivation within a larger area, and also depend on the choice of cut-off for most deprived areas. It is possible to report for such geographies the proportion of its Super Output Areas (SOAs) or Small Areas (SAs) that are within the 10% or 20% most deprived areas. We have also published all indicator data for such geographies, to put the SOA-level indicator data in context. It can provide a ranking based on individual indicators, but not the composite deprivation measures:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nimdm-2017-lgd-2014-results>  
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nimdm-2017-aa-2008-results>

### [Can I average ranks or indicators of multiple areas?](#)

No. The deprivation ranks tell you that one area is more deprived than another, but not how much more deprived. Most indicators are expressed as a rate or proportion of the population; averaging indicators does not take account of differences in the size of the population.

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### [What about rural areas?](#)

Super Output Areas have been designed to have a roughly similar population. However, rural SOAs cover a larger area with a more heterogeneous population than urban areas. Concentrations of deprivation are therefore more commonly found in urban areas, for example, social housing estates. Indeed, only 4 of the 100 most deprived SOAs are rural areas according to NIMDM 2017.

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Users can focus on rural areas alone, either based on the [2015 Settlement definition](#) or using the ranking on the Access to Services domain. In addition, users could look at Small Areas, which have a smaller population and should therefore be more uniform than SOAs.

### [Why no indicator data for Small Areas?](#)

Only the two indicators for income and employment deprivation are available. Other indicator data will not be released due to the risk of disclosure or the identification of individuals, as agreed with the Data Suppliers.

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### [Why no indicator data for Ward2014?](#)

Deprivation measures for Ward2014 had to rely on approximation techniques due to the absence of data for the exact boundaries of those areas. Where exact data was available, it raises the risk of disclosure through differencing, i.e. the identification of individuals. For those reasons and with agreement of the data suppliers, it was decided that indicator data would not be released for the new electoral wards. Further detail is available in:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Release%20Note%20-%20NIMDM2017%20-%20Ward2014.pdf>

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### [Is least deprived the same as most affluent?](#)

No. Indicators within the deprivation measures are commonly centred around the presence of undesired occurrence or not meeting a minimum level. For example, the broadband indicator reflects the proportion of the population where the speed is below 10 Mbs: an area where everybody gets 11 Mbs could be the least deprived, but may not have the fastest internet connection. Similar examples can be found in the income indicator, GCSE results and adult qualifications.

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### [How to assess change over time?](#)

Deprivation rankings cannot be used to assess change over time; this can only be done with individual indicators where the definition and used data source are comparable. For example, there was minimum change between the employment deprivation indicators used in 2005 and 2010. For Ballycrot SOA, the proportion of the working age population that was employment deprived fell from 18% to 16%. However, there were fewer SOAs where this proportion exceeded 16% in NIMDM 2010 than exceeding 18% in NIMDM 2010, thus Ballycrot SOA became relatively more employment deprived. The NIMDM 2017 is quite distinct from NIMDM 2010 in the definition of indicators and composition of domains. There are no examples that can be compared between both sets.

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### [Is there a UK deprivation measure?](#)

There are 4 measures of multiple deprivation for each UK country: [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and Northern Ireland. Each of these measures use the Noble methodology, combining indicators into domains and subsequently an Index of Multiple Deprivation. Differences include the year of reference, geographical units, indicators and weights. It is not possible to directly compare deprivation indices across nations, using deprivation ranks, scores, or otherwise.

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### [How can I get training on using deprivation measures?](#)

Upon completing the latest update, the Deprivation Team has now been dissolved and no further deprivation-specific training will be provided. A video of this training is still available on NISRA's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfRVp1i7QuU>

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NISRA's Dissemination Branch can provide general PC-based training on how to use the NINIS website in Colby House (Stranmillis Road, Belfast) and ad-hoc commissioned seminars region-wide. For further details, please visit the [NINIS Workshops page](#).

### [When will the deprivation measures be updated?](#)

An update of deprivation measures is a commissioned output by the Statistics Coordinating Group (SCG) of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. There are currently no plans for a new update.

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