



Northern Ireland Census 2001 Population Report And Mid-Year Estimates

Details of the Census Day population counts across Northern Ireland are published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in “Northern Ireland Census - 2001 Population Report and Mid-Year Estimates”.

Census day population counts

The population of Northern Ireland on Census Day 2001 was 1,685,267 (1.685 million). There were 821,449 males and 863,818 females.

The population of the United Kingdom on Census Day 2001 was 58.789 million. Northern Ireland constitutes 2.87 per cent of the total UK population.

The age structure of the Northern Ireland population is the youngest in the UK. Children aged under 16 represent 24 per cent of the Northern Ireland population compared to 20 per cent in the UK as a whole.

Conversely, Northern Ireland has proportionately fewer people of pensionable age (16 per cent of the population) compared to the UK (18 per cent).

Mid-year population estimates and population change over time

The population of Northern Ireland on 30 June 2001 was estimated to be 1,689,000.

Over the last fifty years, since 1951, the population of Northern Ireland has risen by almost 320,000 (23 per cent).

As well as increasing in size since 1951, the age structure of the population has changed. In 1951 children under 16 represented 29 per cent of the population but in 2001 they account for 24 per cent. Conversely there are proportionately more people of working age¹ (61 per cent now compared to 59 percent in 1951) and pensionable age¹ (16 per cent now compared to 12 percent in 1951) in 2001.

¹ Using working age definition of 16-59/64 years and pensionable age definition of 60/65+ years.

More recently, over the last decade (1991 to 2001), the population of Northern Ireland has increased by 82,000 (5 per cent).

Between 1991 and 2001 the age structure of the population has continued to become older. In 1991 children under 16 represented 26 per cent of the population but in 2001 they account for 24 per cent. Indeed, compared to 1991, there are now 5 per cent fewer children aged under 16.

Conversely, the number of people of working age has increased by 9 per cent and the number of people of pensionable age by 7 per cent.

The numbers of people entering and leaving Northern Ireland for residence purposes have broadly been in balance over the last decade. Net out-migration has totalled 5,000 people, around 500 people per year on average.

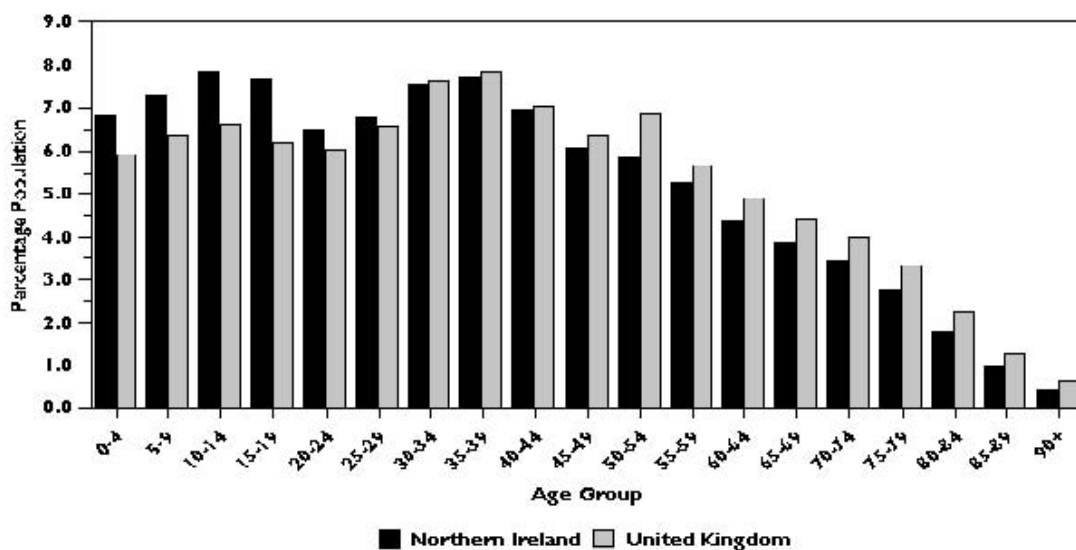
COMMENTARY***Census day population***

The population of Northern Ireland on Census Day (29 April 2001) was 1.685 million. Censuses were held throughout the UK on the same day, and the Census Day population of the UK was 58.789 million.

	Census Day population (millions)	Percentage of the UK
Northern Ireland	1.685	2.87
England	49.139	83.58
Scotland	5.062	8.61
Wales	2.903	4.94
United Kingdom	58.789	100

The age structure of the Northern Ireland population is relatively young overall compared to the UK as a whole. In Northern Ireland 24 per cent of the population is aged under 16 compared to 20 per cent in the UK. Conversely, only 16 per cent of the Northern Ireland population is of pensionable age compared to 18 per cent in the UK.

Comparison of Northern Ireland and United Kingdom percentage 2001 Census population by age group

***Mid-year population estimates***

Population figures are a key output from the Census, and are used as the basis for making mid-year estimates of population. The mid-year estimates facilitate comparison of population change over time by making allowances for changes in Census methodology, conventions and definitions. Mid-year population estimates for 2001 for Northern Ireland are also published today by NISRA.

The population of Northern Ireland on 30 June 2001 is estimated to be 1.689 million. This estimate is based on the Census Day count, adjusted by ageing the population

on by 2 months, adding births between Census Day and 30 June, subtracting deaths and allowing for migration.

The breakdown by Local Government District is as follows.

Local Government District 2001 Mid-year Population Estimates

LGD	0 – 15 years		16 – 59/64 years		60 / 65+ years		All Ages
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Antrim	11,628	23.85	30,925	63.42	6,208	12.73	48,761
Ards	15,568	21.20	45,725	62.27	12,142	16.53	73,435
Armagh	13,585	24.94	33,025	60.64	7,852	14.42	54,462
Ballymena	12,896	21.93	35,913	61.08	9,992	16.99	58,801
Ballymoney	6,374	23.60	16,361	60.58	4,272	15.82	27,007
Banbridge	9,774	23.52	25,632	61.69	6,143	14.78	41,549
Belfast	59,946	21.63	168,423	60.77	48,801	17.61	277,170
Carrickfergus	8,472	22.45	23,391	62.00	5,867	15.55	37,730
Castlereagh	14,395	21.64	39,491	59.36	12,647	19.01	66,533
Coleraine	12,529	22.21	34,342	60.88	9,537	16.91	56,408
Cookstown	8,445	25.82	19,816	60.58	4,451	13.61	32,712
Craigavon	19,924	24.62	48,903	60.43	12,104	14.96	80,931
Derry	28,161	26.73	64,816	61.53	12,358	11.73	105,335
Down	15,844	24.70	38,727	60.37	9,576	14.93	64,147
Dungannon	12,286	25.68	28,545	59.66	7,018	14.67	47,849
Fermanagh	13,807	23.93	34,735	60.21	9,145	15.85	57,687
Larne	6,672	21.65	18,775	60.94	5,364	17.41	30,811
Limavady	8,276	25.36	20,566	63.01	3,797	11.63	32,639
Lisburn	26,621	24.42	67,026	61.49	15,350	14.08	108,997
Magherafelt	10,335	25.91	24,199	60.66	5,357	13.43	39,891
Moyle	3,769	23.61	9,453	59.23	2,739	17.16	15,961
Newry and Mourne	23,188	26.53	52,250	59.78	11,961	13.69	87,399
Newtownabbey	17,327	21.62	49,455	61.71	13,362	16.67	80,144
North Down	15,083	19.70	47,114	61.52	14,381	18.78	76,578
Omagh	12,334	25.64	29,272	60.85	6,503	13.52	48,109
Strabane	9,911	25.90	23,078	60.30	5,284	13.81	38,273
Northern Ireland	397,150	23.51	1,029,958	60.97	262,211	15.52	1,689,319

The age structure of the Northern Ireland population is becoming older. In 1991, there were 417,000 children aged under 16, accounting for 26 per cent of the population. In 2001, the number of children has decreased to 397,000 (a reduction of 5 per cent), and children now account for only 24 per cent of the population. The change is more apparent for younger children (aged under 5); the number has reduced by 13 per cent over the last decade. In contrast, the number of people pensionable age has increased from 246,000 to 262,000 (an increase of 7 per cent) and such people now account for 16 per cent of the population compared to 15 per cent in 1991. Once again, the change is more apparent for the very elderly; although the absolute numbers are small, the number of people aged 85 and above has increased from 19,200 to 23,400 - an increase of 22 per cent.

Within Northern Ireland different Local Government Districts exhibit different age profiles. Derry has proportionately more children (27 per cent of its population aged

under 16) than other LGDs while, at the other end of the age spectrum, Castlereagh has highest proportion of persons of pensionable age (19 per cent compared with the Northern Ireland proportion of 16 per cent). Antrim has the highest proportion of people of working age (63 per cent) and Moyle has the lowest (59 per cent).

Population change over the last ten years

Over the last decade, since 1991, the population of Northern Ireland has increased by 82,000 (5 per cent) from 1.607 million to 1.689 million. This increase has resulted from a natural increase in population of 87,000 (the balance of 238,000 births and 151,000 deaths), reduced by a small amount of net out-migration (5,000).

All Local Government Districts except Belfast (where the population has fallen by 5 per cent) have experienced population growth over the last decade. The pattern of population growth varies by LGD from 4 per cent to 16 per cent. Some of the highest rates of population growth have been in LGDs surrounding Belfast, reflecting the continuing overall move of population from the inner areas of the city.

Migration

Over the past decade, the net effect of migration on the Northern Ireland population has been a loss of 5,000 people or about 500 people per year on average. In the context of annual migration flows that are in the order of approaching 20,000 in-migrants and 20,000 out-migrants, migration is broadly in balance. Within the overall picture, migration patterns have varied for different ages and genders. There has been more out-migration than in-migration among young people, now in their twenties, over the decade, with a higher incidence amongst males than amongst females. The net out-migration of younger people has been broadly balanced by net in-migration of slightly older people, now mostly in their thirties and forties.

Migration patterns have also varied across Northern Ireland, and have been one of the major influences on the different rates of population growth observed in the 26 Local Government District areas. For example, Belfast Local Government District (which excludes significant suburban parts of the city) has experienced net out-migration resulting in population decline. However in one age group, people now aged 20 to 24, there has been net in-migration to Belfast of almost 4,000, possibly influenced by the expansion of third level education. Other Local Government Districts, where overall there has been population growth over the decade, have also shown a consistent pattern of net out-migration of people in their twenties.

Further information

A number of technical papers on the 2001 Census methodology are also published today. They are available on the NISRA website, <http://www.nisra.gov.uk>. These include:

1. The relationship between the Census Day population count and the Mid-Year population estimate; and
2. The methodological approach in the 2001 Census.

A number of other technical papers will be published in due course.