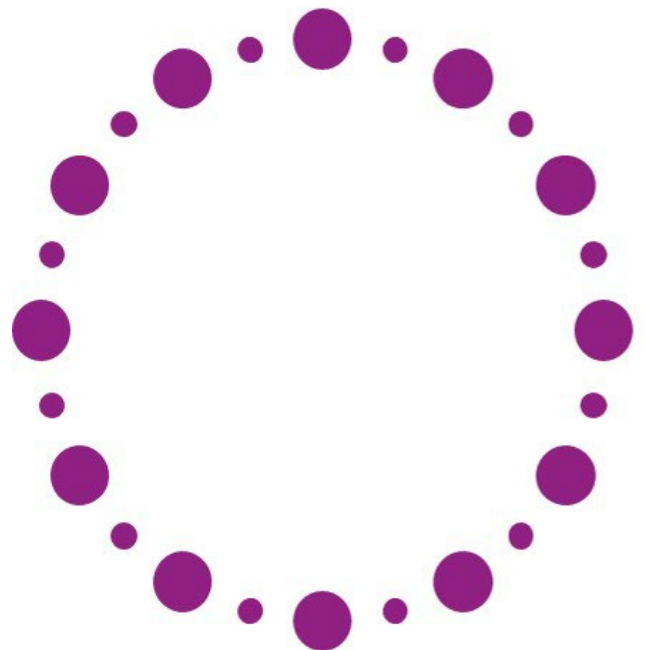


**census**  
2021



**Main statistics for Northern Ireland**  
**Statistical bulletin -**  
**Ethnic group**

**22 September 2022**



## 1. Introduction

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) today released further results from Census 2021, which was held on 21 March 2021. The statistics released today provide a profile of the Northern Ireland population covering demography, ethnic group, identity, language and religion. The information covers Northern Ireland and the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs).

This report relates to ethnic group – for display purposes figures are appropriately rounded but full figures are available in the [Census 2021 tables](#) on the NISRA website.

## 2. Key points

The key points relating to the ethnic topic are as follows:

- On Census Day 2021, 3.4% of the population, or 65,600 people, belonged to minority ethnic groups. This is around double the 2011 figure (1.8% – 32,400 people) and four times the 2001 figure (0.8% – 14,300 people);
- Taken together the bulletin reports and tables released today show an increasing diversity from 2011 to 2021 in our population across statistics on ethnic group, main language, country of birth and passports held. This increasing diversity is evident to a greater or lesser degree across all 11 Local Government Districts.

### 3. Questions asked

Census 2021 included a question on ethnic group – shown in Figures 1 (online) and 2 (paper).

Figure 1: Census 2021 question on ethnic group – online

What is your ethnic group?

- White
- Chinese
- Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Indian
- Filipino
- Black African
- Black other
- Mixed ethnic group
- Any other ethnic group  
You can enter your ethnic group on the next question

Save and continue

Figure 2: Census 2021 question on ethnic group – paper

**12** What is your ethnic group?  
Tick one box only.

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino
<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed ethnic group, write in	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group, write in	
<input type="text"/>	

## 4. Ethnic group – Census 2021

Note: In the following analysis the label ‘minority ethnic group’ is used. This relates to all persons who have an ethnicity classification other than the ‘White’ option shown in the question above.

In 2021 the number of people with a white ethnic group was 1,837,600 (96.6% of the population). Conversely, the total number of people with a minority ethnic group stood at 65,600 people (3.4% of the population). Within this latter classification, the largest groups were Mixed Ethnicities (14,400), Black (11,000), Indian (9,900), Chinese (9,500), and Filipino (4,500). Irish Traveller, Arab, Pakistani and Roma ethnicities also each constituted 1,500 people or more.

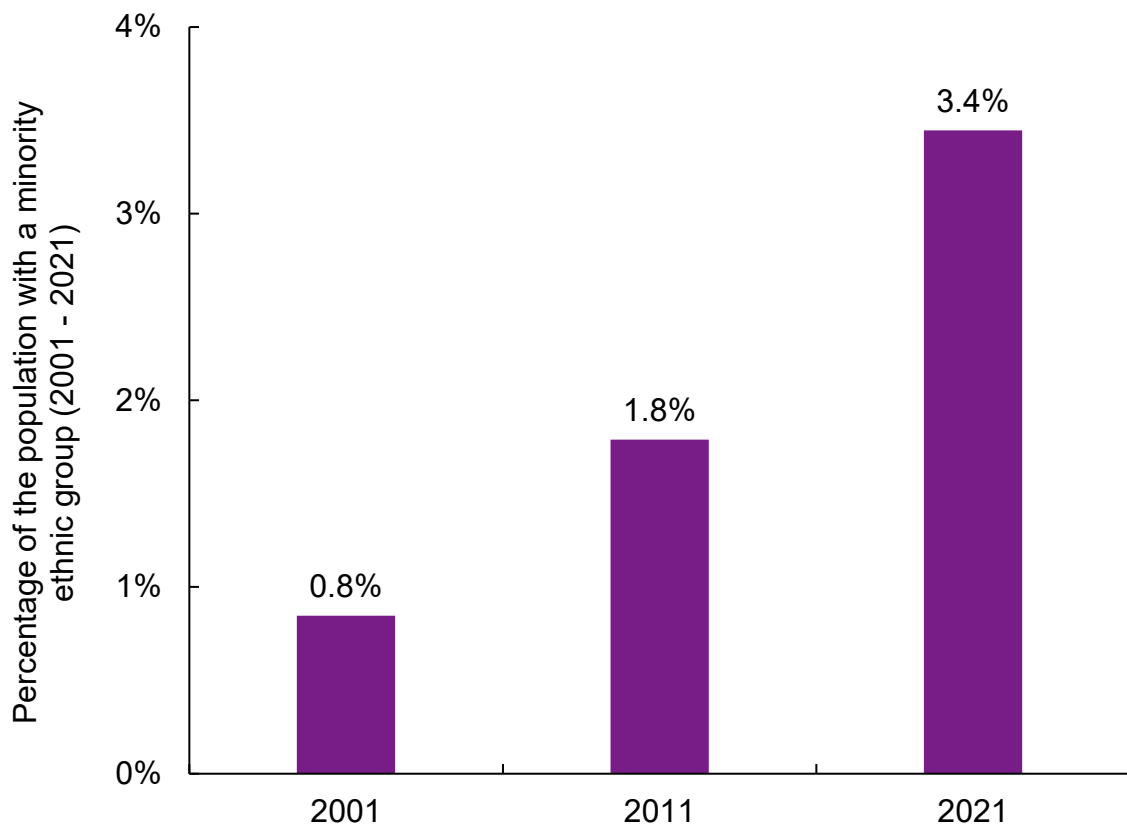
**Table 1: Ethnic group of usual residents (Census 2021)**

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>1,837,600</b>	<b>96.6%</b>
<b>Minority Ethnic Group</b>	<b>65,600</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
Black	11,000	0.6%
Indian	9,900	0.5%
Chinese	9,500	0.5%
Filipino	4,500	0.2%
Irish Traveller	2,600	0.1%
Arab	1,800	0.1%
Pakistani	1,600	0.1%
Roma	1,500	0.1%
Mixed Ethnicities	14,400	0.8%
Other Asian	5,200	0.3%
Other Ethnicities	3,600	0.2%
<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>1,903,200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5. Change over time

A question on ethnic group has been included in the last three censuses (2001, 2011 and 2021). In 2001 there were 14,300 people (0.8%) with a minority ethnic group, increasing to 32,400 (1.8%) in 2011 and increasing further to 65,600 (3.4%) in 2021. This points to the increasing diversity in the population over the last twenty years. See Figure 3.

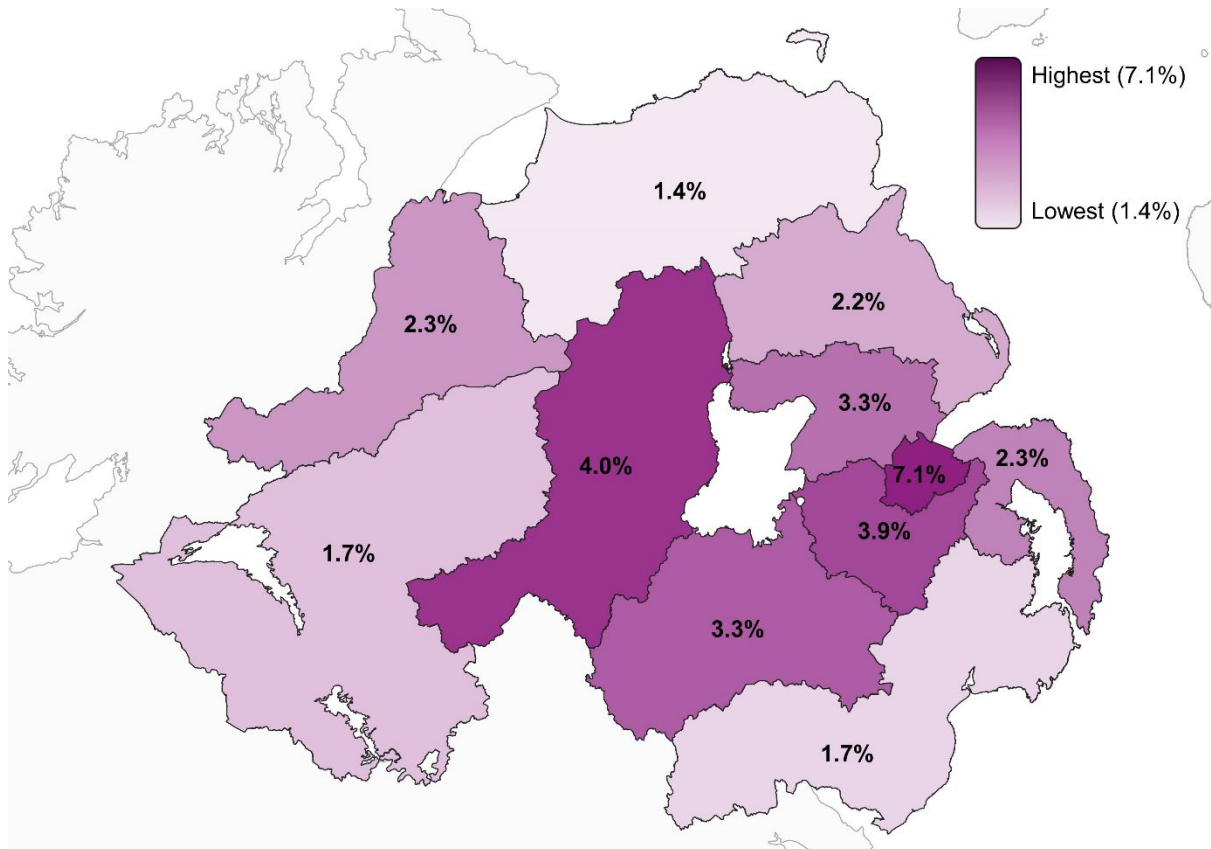
**Figure 3: Percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group (2001 - 2021)**



## 6. Local Government Districts

Figure 4 displays the percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group for all Local Government Districts from Census 2021.

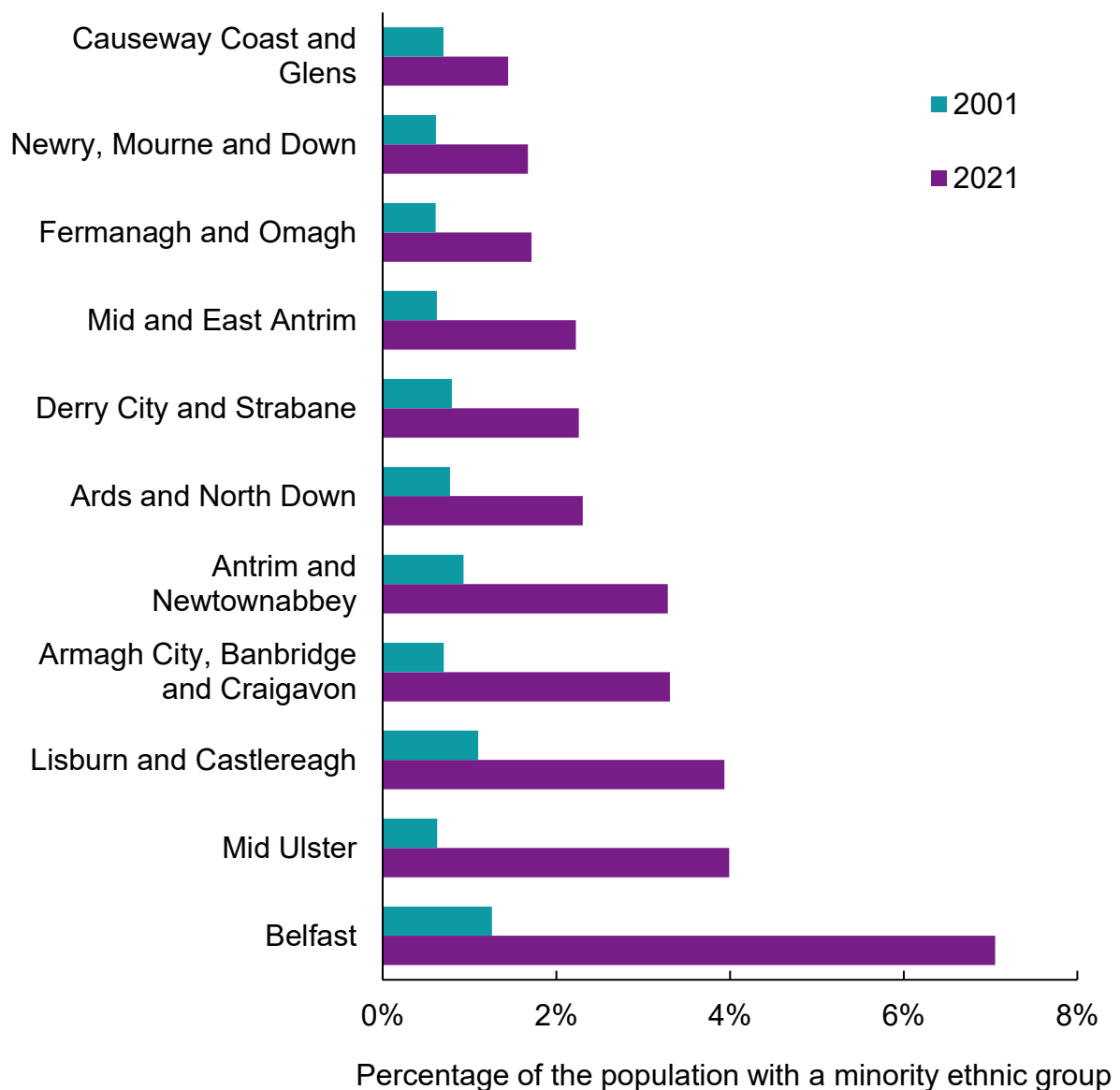
**Figure 4: Percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group by LGD (Census 2021)**



Thus the most diverse Local Government Districts are Belfast (7.1% of the population with a minority ethnic group), Mid Ulster (4.0%) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (3.9%).

Figure 5 shows the percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group by Local Government District in the 2001 and 2021 Censuses. All 11 Local Government Districts are more diverse than they were both ten and twenty years ago. Indeed the least diverse Local Government District in 2021 (Causeway Coast and Glens, 1.4%) is now more diverse than was the most diverse Local Government District in 2001 (Belfast, 1.3%).

**Figure 5: Percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group by LGD (2001 and 2021)**



## 7. Associated outputs

[Census 2021 outputs on ethnic group](#) are available to download from the NISRA website, they include:

- MS-B01 Ethnic group

## 8. Further information

Census statistics are produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency free from political influence. In May 2022, following a full assessment, the United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the [Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007](#) and the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). National Statistics status means that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The census plays a fundamental role in the provision of official statistics – census data are used to inform key policies, plan key services and allocate public funds.

### 8.1. Quality of the results

The census data collection operation was supported by an independent [coverage survey](#). The coverage survey along with administrative data and information from the field operation were combined to allow statistical estimates to be made of the small proportion of people who did not make a return. The statistical estimates discussed here, as with all Census 2021 outputs, reflect the full population of Northern Ireland.

Further information on accuracy, coverage and imputation is provided on the NISRA website in the [Census 2021 quality assurance report \(PDF 275 KB\)](#).

### 8.2. Confidentiality

Census Office has taken steps to ensure that the confidentiality of respondents is fully protected. All published results from the census have been subject to statistical processes to ensure that individuals cannot be identified. For more information, please refer to the [statistical disclosure control methodology](#). These processes may result in very marginally different results between tables for the same statistic.



### 8.3. Comparability with previous censuses

The census is designed to provide the most accurate possible picture of the population on the day the census is taken. Whilst this report contains a small number of historical tables that give comparisons at the Northern Ireland level of some key demographic statistics, users should be aware that comparisons may be affected by other differences, in particular, between the census questionnaires, impacts of issues of the day, etc.

As the last three censuses (2001, 2011 and 2021) were all adjusted for under-enumeration and reflect the Northern Ireland population on census day, this supports comparisons between those censuses.

### 8.4. Supporting material

A number of [supporting documents](#) are available on the census pages of the NISRA website. These documents describe the census methodology in more detail, the quality assurance processes applied, the paper questionnaire used in the census, and a full list of definitions and output classifications.

### 8.5. More details

Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from Census Customer Services at:

Telephone:	028 9025 5156
Email:	<a href="mailto:census@nisra.gov.uk">census@nisra.gov.uk</a>
Responsible Statistician:	Dr David Marshall

This report was made possible by the co-operation of the public in responding to the census, the commitment of the census field and headquarters staff, and the assistance of many other people and organisations throughout all aspects of the census. The Registrar General for Northern Ireland, who is responsible for the planning, conduct and reporting of the census, would like to thank all of those who contributed to the census.