

Northern Ireland Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements



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The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) was established as an Executive Agency within the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel on 1 April 1996. NISRA is the principal source of official information on socio-economic conditions in Northern Ireland. The Registrar General, a NISRA official, is responsible for undertaking the Northern Ireland Census of Population, and administers the civil registration of births, deaths and marriages.

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A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION

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Introduction

This publication is the sixth report from the 2001 Census of Population for Northern Ireland, produced in accordance with the provisions of the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. The first report, published in September 2002, provided population counts by age and sex. The second report provided summary statistics for the majority of Census questions and topics that were mainly presented as percentages of population totals. They were presented for a variety of geographic levels including: Northern Ireland, Local Government Districts, Health and Social Services Boards, Education and Library Boards, Parliamentary Constituencies and NUTS Level III (European Union Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) areas. The tables were also made available electronically down to Electoral Ward and Census Output Area level on the NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk. The current report provides the same summary statistics for settlements within Northern Ireland with populations of 1000 or more usually resident persons. The settlements are based on boundaries provided by the DOE Planning Service and are classified into bands according to the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural definition group (see Annex A).

As with all Census outputs, this report was made possible by the co-operation of members of the public in responding to the Census; the commitment of the Census field staff in delivering and collecting forms; and the assistance of many other people and organisations throughout all aspects of the Census. The Registrar General would like to thank all those who have contributed to this work.

Background to the 2001 Census

Legislation

The Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 allows for the carrying out of a Census no less than five years after the previous Census.

However various other legislative requirements need to be fulfilled before a Census can be held. The first stage in this process was the publication of The White Paper 'The 2001 Census of Population' which set out the reasons for holding a Census, the proposed questions, operational methodology and format of results. The White Paper was produced in March 1999, two years before the Census, to ensure sufficient time for public discussion of proposals. Prior to every Census, a Census Order is required, which states the date of the Census, the people who are required to complete the form, those who are to be included on the form and the topics on which questions will be asked. The operational aspects of the Census also require legislative approval. This information was set out in the Census Regulations, which contained details of how the Census was to be conducted and included a copy of the Census form.

Fieldwork

The Census was designed to collect information on the resident population on Census Day - 29 April 2001. Ahead of this day enumerators delivered Census forms to every identified household space and communal establishment. Residents were asked to complete the forms with their information, as correct on Census Day, and to return the completed forms by post. Where Census Office did not receive a form through the post, the enumerator visited the address in order to collect the form by hand. Special arrangements were made to enumerate the Armed Forces and people sleeping rough.

Processing

Returned forms were fed through scanning machinery which captured all the ticked responses and stored written answers in digital form. The latter were coded into categories either by automatic systems that recognised terms given in response to questions, or by manual coding. These data then underwent an edit process to ensure that the data were

consistent, and an imputation process to supply responses for questions that had not been completed on the original form.

Coverage of the population

The results in this report all relate to the usually resident population of Northern Ireland on Census Day, 29 April 2001. Students are recorded at their term-time address. In contrast to the 1991 Census, information on visitors has not been collected. The Census placed a legal obligation on every household in which someone was usually resident on Census Day, and on every person who was a usual resident of a communal establishment, to complete a Census form. As no Census of Population succeeds in collecting information from every resident, a methodology (The One Number Census) was developed to adjust the results to take account of any undercount and thus provide an accurate estimate of the total population and its characteristics. The One Number Census methodology was developed with the assistance of academic experts and was subject to consultation and peer review. The work involved matching the results of the Census enumeration with those of an independent large scale Census Coverage Survey of 10,000 households, conducted shortly after the Census. The response rate in the Census Coverage Survey was 92 per cent. This enabled the number and characteristics of those not enumerated in the Census to be estimated and this information was used to produce Census results, including those not enumerated in the original count. The figures presented here, as with all reports on the 2001 Census, have been adjusted to take account of under-enumeration. Administrative registers and demographic estimates were used to quality assure the final estimates. Further details on the methodology to adjust for under-enumeration can be found at www.nisra.gov.uk.

Comparability with 1991

The Census is designed to provide the most accurate possible picture of the population on the day the Census is taken. Comparisons of

the results contained in this report with counts from the 1991 Census will be affected by changes in settlement boundaries, changes in definitions, and adjustment for under-enumeration in the 2001 Census figures. Where comparisons between 1991 and 2001 Census results are required, the effects of the differences noted above can be mitigated by comparing differences between percentages calculated from the respective bases in each Census, rather than measuring the difference between the actual counts at each Census. Users interested in changes in population size are advised to use the mid-year population estimates, which are designed to measure such changes.

Information in this Report

This report provides Census results for Northern Ireland and settlements with a usually resident population of 1000 or more persons on Census Day, 29 April 2001. The results are based on the information collected from the Census forms. All questions included in the 1991 Census were included in the 2001 Census with the exception of questions relating to usual address and whereabouts on Census night, fertility and professional/vocational qualifications and household accommodation questions on water supply and domestic sewage disposal. The answer categories in some questions, such as educational qualifications, were updated, while questions on religion and economic activity have been restructured. There were also new questions on ethnic group, general health, the provision of unpaid care, time since last paid employment, the size of work force at place of work, supervision of employees, lowest floor level of accommodation and whether all rooms in a household were located on a single floor.

The Census questions asked of all people covered:

- relationship to others in the household
- sex, age (date of birth) and marital status
- whether schoolchild/student

- term-time address (where applicable)
- Irish language
- religion or religion brought up in
- country of birth
- ethnic group
- general health
- provision of unpaid care
- long-term illness
- usual address one year ago

whilst questions for those aged 16 to 74 covered:

- educational qualifications
- economic activity and employment status
- number of employees at place of work
- occupation and industry of employment
- address of workplace
- means of travel to work
- hours worked

In addition, the person filling in the form in each household was asked about:

- type of accommodation and whether self-contained
- number of rooms
- availability of bath/shower and toilet
- lowest floor level and whether all rooms on one level
- presence of central heating
- availability of cars or vans
- tenure
- landlord

Classification and Delineation of Settlements

The Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural definition group was set up to investigate the classification and delineation of settlements, based on boundaries as defined by the DOE Planning Service in March 2004. Population and household counts for these settlements, were derived using the 2001 Census dataset, and were used by the group to classify the settlements into the following 8 bands.

A. Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA)

B. Derry Urban Area (DUA)

C. Large town

population 18,000 or more (not BMUA/DUA)

D. Medium town

population 10,000 or more, but under 18,000 (not BMUA/DUA)

E. Small town

population 4,500 or more, but under 10,000 (not BMUA/DUA)

F. Intermediate settlement

population 2,250 or more, but under 4,500 (not BMUA/DUA)

G. Village

population 1,000 or more, but under 2,250 (not BMUA/DUA)

H. Small village, hamlet and open countryside

population under 1,000 (not BMUA/DUA)

Bands A to E are classified as urban settlements and bands F to H are classified as rural settlements. Supporting maps which show the location of the various settlements within each band are included at the back of the report. More details on the urban-rural classification used are included in the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural definition group report: Statistical Classification and delineation of settlements, ISBN 999903685-6 which is available on the NISRA website.

Geographical level of tables

This report provides a range of statistics for the settlements in bands A to G along with urban-rural classification totals. Settlements with populations below 1000 are thus excluded from the report with the exception of Groomsport and Crawfordsburn whose counts are combined in order to make up the remainder of Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area.

The exact boundaries used to produce the population and household counts cannot be used in the production of a full range of Census statistics due to the potential disclosure risk of the data being differenced from other available Census data. The

statistics provided in this report are thus produced using a best-fit approximation using 100 metre grid squares as building blocks. As these fit the exact boundaries more closely than the Census Output Areas that are normally used, the statistics are more robust and accurate. The best-fit approach used is the same for all settlements, namely a 100 metre grid square is included in a settlement if either

- (i) the geographical centroid of the grid-square is within the settlement boundary; or
- (ii) the majority of the people within the grid-square are in the settlement.

The level of accuracy attained through the best-fit approximation approach can be gauged through the exact counts for the number of persons and household spaces and communal establishments provided in Annex A.

Maps of the statutory settlement development limits are available on the NISRA web site, www.nisra.gov.uk, while Annex B includes a list of the settlements with a population of 1000 or more persons in each Local Government District.

Census Definitions

Key Census definitions on persons, households and communal establishments are given below, and details on all 2001 Census definitions and classifications can be found in the metadata section of the Census web site which can be accessed through www.nisra.gov.uk. This will include a Census glossary together with details on 2001 Census output classifications, differences between parts of the UK, comparability with the 1991 Census, Census concepts and definitions, data classifications, and standard derived variables. A printed Census Definitions volume is also available (ISBN 0-11-621754-5).

Persons: Results from the 2001 Census of Population relate to the usually resident population; a usual resident is defined as someone who resides at that address most of the time. The usually resident population

includes persons temporarily away on Census Day (for example on holiday, on business, in hospital or visiting family), persons who work away from home for part of the time, students at their term-time address, babies born before Census Day even if still in hospital, and persons staying at that address if they have no other usual address.

Households: A household comprises one person living alone, or a group of persons not necessarily related living at the same address with common housekeeping, that is, sharing either a living-room or sitting-room or at least one meal a day.

Communal establishments: A communal establishment is defined as an establishment providing managed residential accommodation, where managed means full-time or part-time supervision of the accommodation. Fuller details of these terms and other Census definitions can be found on the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk.

Quality of the results

The use of the One Number Census methodology means that the results of the 2001 Census cover the entire population of Northern Ireland and are the most reliable achievable. The results are nonetheless subject to potential errors from a variety of sources including incorrect information provided on forms, sampling error relating to estimates derived through the One Number Census process, and errors introduced during processing and imputation. Some elements of incorrect information have been corrected during an edit process and, following this, the results have undergone an extensive quality assurance process including checks against administrative sources. Further information on accuracy, coverage and imputation rates is provided on the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk. A detailed report on the quality of Census results will be published in 2005.

Confidentiality

The Registrar General 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. One of these processes, small cell adjustment, may result in marginally different results between tables reporting the same statistic, however any differences between the figures will be very small. An example of this is seen in table KS06 of this report where the populations of some settlements differ slightly from other tables. A description of the small cell adjustment process is available on the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk.

Further information

All Census results and supporting information are available in electronic format from the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk.

Further information can be obtained from Census Customer Services:

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Other Censuses in the UK

Separate Censuses were carried out, on the same day and using similar methodologies, in England and Wales and Scotland, under the authority of the respective Registrars General. Information on these Censuses is available from:

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