

# Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

## Census 2021

### Briefing: Release 2, Phase 1 Results

January 2023

#### Introduction

The Northern Ireland Census was held on 21 March 2021.

On Census Day, the All Usual Resident population in Northern Ireland was 1,903,173. A 'Usual Resident' is anyone who, on 21 March 2021:

- is in the UK and is staying in the UK for a period of 3 months or more; or
- has a permanent UK address and is outside the UK and is staying outside the UK for less than 12 months (NISRA, 2021).

The statistics in this paper were released during May and September 2022. They provide a basic profile of key Statistics of All Usual Residents, on Census Day, within the Northern Ireland Population, in the areas of country of birth, ethnicity, national identity, passports, language, and religion.

#### Country of Birth

| Country of Birth |                          |                     |         |           |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|
| Northern Ireland | England, Scotland, Wales | Republic of Ireland | Other   | Total     |
| 1,646,276        | 92,257                   | 40,357              | 124,285 | 1,903,175 |
| 86.50%           | 4.85%                    | 2.12%               | 6.53%   | 100%      |

On Census Day, the number of All Usual Residents who were born in Northern Ireland was 1,646,276. The population in Northern Ireland has experienced steady growth in the past 20 years.

Of All Usual Residents, those born outside of Northern Ireland made up 13.5% (256,899) of the population. Of these, 92,257 were born in the England, Scotland, and Wales, and 40,357 in the Republic of Ireland. Residents born in England, Scotland, and Wales represented 4.85%, whereas those born in the Republic of Ireland represented 2.12%.

The remainder of the All Usual Resident population (6.53%, 124,285) were born elsewhere, outside of Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and the Republic of Ireland. The largest populations of All Usual Residents in Northern Ireland on Census Day who were born outside of Northern Ireland were born in Poland (1.17%, 22,335), Lithuania (0.55%, 10,451), India (0.36%, 6,908), and Romania (0.35%, 6,612).

| Country of Birth                |           |       |           |      |           |       |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|-------|
|                                 | 2001      |       | 2011      |      | 2021      |       |
|                                 | Count     | %     | Count     | %    | Count     | %     |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>         | 1,534,268 | 91.04 | 1,608,853 | 88.8 | 1,646,276 | 86.50 |
| <b>England, Scotland, Wales</b> | 81,389    | 4.83  | 82,824    | 4.6  | 92,257    | 4.85  |
| <b>Republic of Ireland</b>      | 42,272    | 2.51  | 37,872    | 2.1  | 40,357    | 2.12  |
| <b>Other</b>                    | 27,338    | 1.62  | 81,314    | 4.5  | 124,285   | 6.53  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | 1,685,267 | 100   | 1,810,863 | 100  | 1,903,175 | 100   |

As shown in table above, All Usual Residents on Census Day born outside of Northern Ireland accounted for 13.5% of the population in 2021; a growth of 2.3 percentage points since 2011 and 4.54 percentage points since 2001. This change was largely due to inward migration from countries outside of Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Republic of Ireland and is most notable in the 'other' category, which has experienced a growth of 2.03 percentage points since 2011, in terms of this category's share of the overall population. In numerical terms, this category has grown by more than 50% from 2011 (81,314 to 124,285 in 2021).

## Ethnicity

| Ethnic Group |                 |       |        |           |
|--------------|-----------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| White        | Irish Traveller | Roma  | Other  | Total     |
| 1,837,575    | 2,609           | 1,529 | 61,466 | 1,903,179 |
| 96.55%       | 0.14%           | 0.08% | 3.23%  | 100%      |

On Census Day 2021, the number of All Usual Residents who stated that they were from a White Ethnic group was 1,837,575 (96.55%) of the total population. In total, 65,604 (3.45%) of All Usual Residents belonged to ethnic minority groups. The ethnic minority groups with the highest prevalence were those belonging to the Mixed Ethnicity (14,382) categorisation, followed by those belonging to the Indian (9,881), Chinese (9,495), and Black African (8,069) ethnicity categorisations. Irish Travellers accounted for 0.14% (2,609) of the All Usual Resident population and Roma 0.08% (1,529).

| Ethnic Group    |           |       |           |       |           |       |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                 | 2001      |       | 2011      |       | 2021      |       |
|                 | Count     | %     | Count     | %     | Count     | %     |
| White           | 1,671,013 | 99.15 | 1,778,449 | 98.21 | 1,837,575 | 96.55 |
| Irish Traveller | 1,685     | 0.10  | 1,287     | 0.07  | 2,609     | 0.14  |
| Roma            | N/D       | N/D   | 14        | 0.00  | 1,529     | 0.08  |
| Other           | 12,569    | 0.75  | 31,113    | 1.72  | 61,466    | 3.23  |
| Total           | 1,685,267 | 100   | 1,810,863 | 100   | 1,903,179 | 100   |

Since 2001, ethnic minority groups, as a **proportion** of All Usual Residents in Northern Ireland, have grown by 2.6 percentage points. The numbers of All Usual Residents belonging to ethnic minority groups have grown. Between 2011 and 2021, the Irish Travellers population has doubled from 1,287 to 2,609 and the Roma population has increased from 14 to 1,529. Since 2001, there has been a steady growth in All Usual Residents of Other ethnic minority groups. Between 2001 and 2021, Other ethnic minority groups have increased from 12,569 in 2001 to 61,466 in 2021.

## **National Identity**

| <b>National Identity</b> |                   |                            |              |              |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>British Only</b>      | <b>Irish Only</b> | <b>Northern Irish Only</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 606,263                  | 554,415           | 376,444                    | 366,061      | 1,903,183    |
| 31.86%                   | 29.13%            | 19.78%                     | 19.23%       | 100%         |

In 2021, 31.86% of All Usual Residents declared their national identity as British Only; 29.13% selected Irish Only; and 19.78% stated Northern Irish Only. Since 2011, those declaring themselves as British Only and Northern Irish Only has declined by approximately 8 percentage points and 2 percentage points respectively in their share of the national identity categories.

Other National Identities accounted for approximately one-fifth of the All Usual Residents in the Northern Irish population. The highest of these were Polish (1.25%, 23,862), Lithuanian (0.62%, 11,879), Romanian (0.37%, 7,056) and Portuguese (0.36%, 6,853).

There were some differences between the counts of national identity and country of birth. For instance, the national identity count was higher for countries such as Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Italy, when compared to the counts for these countries of country of birth. On the other hand, the national identity counts were lower for countries such as the Philippines, East Timor, Central America and Caribbean, compared to the counts for these countries of country of birth.

The Others categorisation in the table above refers to all other national identity classifications; whether for those persons who identified as another single national identity, or those who identified multiple national identities.

Also, the Others included persons such as those who identified as a combination of British, Irish and Northern Irish. Of these combined nationalities (British and Northern Irish Only; Irish and Northern Irish Only; British, Irish and Northern Irish Only) British and Northern Irish Only had the highest prevalence at 7.95% (16,163 residents) of All Usual Residents.

| <b>Multiple National identity (British, Irish &amp; Northern Irish)</b> |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>British &amp; Northern Irish</b>                                     | <b>Irish &amp; Northern Irish</b> | <b>British, Irish &amp; Northern Irish</b> |
| 151,327   | 33,581                            | 28,050                                     |
| 7.95%   | 1.76%                             | 1.47%                                      |

### **Passports Held**

| <b>Passports Held</b> |                |                                |              |             |              |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>UK</b>             | <b>Ireland</b> | <b>UK, Ireland &amp; Other</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>None</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 887,649               | 504,527        | 116,252                        | 92,542       | 302,193     | 1,903,163    |
| 46.64%                | 26.51%         | 6.11%                          | 4.86%        | 15.88%      | 100%         |

For All Usual Residents, UK and Irish passports had the highest count at 887,649 (46.64%) and 504,527 (26.51%) respectively. Usual Residents with multiple passports (which included both UK and Ireland and/or other passports with a UK or Ireland passport) were held by 6.1% (116,252). Individuals holding both UK and Ireland passport, but no other passports (United Kingdom and Ireland Only) accounted for a 5.49% (6,527) share of Usual Residents. Passports held for Other Only (Not United Kingdom or Ireland) countries accounted for 4.86% (92,542) of All Usual Residents. The countries with the highest passport holders were Poland (1.25%, 23,789), Lithuania (0.63%, 11,943), Portugal (0.34% 7,012), and Romania (0.20% 6,448). There were 15.88% (302,193) of All Usual Residents with no passports.

## Main Language

| Main Language |       |        |           |
|---------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| English       | Irish | Other  | Total     |
| 1,751,510     | 5,969 | 79,137 | 1,836,616 |
| 95.37%        | 0.32% | 4.31%  | 100%      |

English was the main language used by 95.37% (1,751,510) of All Usual Residents. The Irish language accounted for 0.32% (5,969). Other languages combined accounted for 4.31% (79,137) of the main language spoken. The other languages with the highest prevalence were Polish (1.10%, 20,134), Lithuanian (0.49%, 8,978), Romanian (0.31%, 5,627) and Portuguese (0.27%, 4,982). It is interesting to note that, for example, the number of residents born in Poland was 22,335, and 20,134 reported Polish as their main language. There is a similar pattern for other residents born in countries such as Lithuania, Romania, and Bulgaria.

## Religion

| Religion |                                |                   |                             |   |                 |             |                     |           |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Catholic | Presbyterian Church in Ireland | Church of Ireland | Methodist Church in Ireland | Other Christian (including Christian related) | Other religions | No religion | Religion not stated | Total     |
| 805,151  | 316,103                        | 219,788           | 44,728                      | 130,377                                       | 25,519          | 330,983     | 30,529              | 1,903,178 |
| 42.31%   | 16.61%                         | 11.55%            | 2.35%                       | 6.85%   | 1.34%           | 17.39%      | 1.60%               | 100%      |

Of All Usual Residents who stated their religion, Catholics and Protestants represented 42.31% (805,151) and 37.36% (710,996) respectively. Please note, the categorisation of those stating their religion as Protestant is the amalgamation of the Protestant denominations: Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Church of Ireland; Methodist Church in Ireland; and Other Christian (including Christian related). Of All Usual Residents, 18.99% (361,512) either had no religion or religion not stated.

| Religion                     |           |       |           |       |           |       |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                              | 2001      |       | 2011      |       | 2021      |       |
|                              | Count     | %     | Count     | %     | Count     | %     |
| Catholic                     | 678,462   | 40.26 | 738,033   | 40.75 | 805,151   | 42.31 |
| Protestant & Other Christian | 767,924   | 45.57 | 752,555   | 41.56 | 710,996   | 37.36 |
| Other                        | 5,028     | 0.30  | 14,859    | 0.82  | 25,519    | 1.34  |
| None                         | 233,853   | 13.87 | 305,416   | 16.87 | 361,512   | 18.99 |
| Total                        | 1,685,267 | 100   | 1,810,863 | 100   | 1,903,178 | 100   |

Since 2001, the category of those stating their religion as Catholic shows a growth in overall share, whereas the category of those stating their religion as Protestant and other Christian shows a decline. These trends are also apparent in the respective growth and decline in the counts over the same period. For Catholics, the percentage growth has been 0.49 percentage points in 2011 and 1.56 percentage points in 2021 in overall share. For Protestants the decline has been larger, decreasing by 4.01 (2011) and 4.2 (2021) percentage points between the two time points. Catholics now represent a larger proportion of the Northern Irish population. There has also been an increase in those with Other and No religion, both in the counts and in their share.

### **Religion or Religion Brought Up In**

In addition to the question of 'current religion', a follow-up question on 'religion brought up in', also referred to as 'religion of upbringing', was asked for those who either indicated that they had no current religion or chose not to answer the religion question.

| <b>Religion and Religion Brought Up In</b> |   |              |             |              |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Catholics</b>                           | <b>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>None</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| 869,753                                    | 827,545   | 28,514       | 177,360     | 1,903,172    |
| 45.70%                                     | 43.48%  | 1.50%        | 9.32%       | 100          |

When the two questions are combined, the highest prevalence rates for people who belonged to, or who had been brought up in, were found for the Catholic religion (869,753, 45.7%). Those belonging to, or who had been brought up as Protestant, represented 43.48% (827,545) of All Usual Residents.

The two questions, on Religion and Religion Brought Up In, have been asked since 2001. This is the first time that the Catholic share is shown to be greater than the Protestant share.

### **Additional releases**

Release 2, phase 2 was released on 15 December 2022, which included statistics for household language, health, disability and unpaid care, housing and accommodation. Other data, for example on marital status; sexual orientation; highest level of qualifications; labour market are awaited.