Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Census 2021 – Summary Report

**First Main Statistical Release (September 2022)**

The first phase of main statistics from Census 2021 was published on 22 September 2022 and provides key statistics for a number of census topics such as demography, ethnicity, language, religion and housing and accommodation at Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels (LGD).

This report will provide census information for **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough** for 2021 with some comparisons of how things have changed in the 10 year period since the last census. Comparatives with other LGD’s will also be included.

**Demography**

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough usually resident population increased by 9.5% (18,963) from 199,693 in 2011 to 218,656 in 2021. Of all the LGD’s in Northern Ireland, the borough had the largest increase in terms of the number of people and the second highest percentage increase after Lisburn and Castlereagh. The 9.5% increase is also significantly higher than the percentage increase for Northern Ireland overall (5.1%).

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is the second largest LGD in Northern Ireland after Belfast with 11.5% of the total population in Northern Ireland currently residing in the borough.

Figure 1: Percentage change in usually resident population between 2011 and 2021 for each Local Government District and Northern Ireland. Source: Census 2021.

The 2021 Census recorded 110,388 females in the borough (50.5%) and 108,268 males (49.5%). These proportions have remained relatively static since 2011.

When disaggregated by age, the population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65+ increased by 7,363 or 26.7%. For those aged 75+, there was a 34% increase. The proportion of the population aged 15-29 fell by 6.4% between 2011 and 2021.

For those aged up to 39 years, the number of males outnumber the number of females, albeit only marginally. However in the 40+ age group, there are more females than males.

Figure 2: Usually resident population by broad age band and gender in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

On census day 2021, there were 84,642 occupied households in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough, up 12.1% from the 75,506 recorded in 2011. The average household size in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough decreased from 2.62 usual residents per household in 2011 to 2.56 usual residents per household in 2021. The average household size in Northern Ireland was 2.44 in 2021.

One person households account for 27.7% of the 84,640 households in the borough (compared to 25.9% on census day 2011) while two person households account for 29.5% and households with six of more people account for just 3.4%. These proportions have remained much the same since 2011.

**Ethnic group**

On census day 2021, 3.3% of the population in the borough belonged to ethnic minority groups. This is more than double the 2011 figure (1.4%). The figures were much the same for Northern Ireland overall where the proportion of the population belonging to ethnic minority groups increased from 1.8% in 2011 to 3.4% in 2021.

|  | Northern Ireland | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
| --- | --- | --- |
| White | 96.55% | 96.69% |
| Irish Traveller | 0.14% | 0.24% |
| Roma | 0.08% | 0.09% |
| Indian | 0.52% | 0.28% |
| Chinese | 0.50% | 0.31% |
| Filipino | 0.23% | 0.19% |
| Pakistani | 0.08% | 0.13% |
| Arab | 0.10% | 0.05% |
| Other Asian | 0.28% | 0.27% |
| Black African | 0.42% | 0.52% |
| Black Other | 0.16% | 0.24% |
| Mixed | 0.76% | 0.76% |
| Other ethnicities | 0.19% | 0.23% |

Table 1: Usually resident population by ethnic group, 2021. Source: Census 2021.

**Country of Birth**

The number of people living in the borough who were born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland has increased from 10,816 people (5.5%) in 2011 to 18,836 people (8.6%) in 2021. Of those 18,836 people living in the borough who were born outside of the United Kingdom and Ireland, 20% were born in Poland and 16% in Lithuania with a further 9% born in Bulgaria.

In Northern Ireland overall there has also been an increase from 81,500 people (4.5%) in 2011 to 124,300 people (6.5%) in 2021. Again, the majority of those living in Northern Ireland who were born outside of the UK and Ireland were born in Poland (18%) and Lithuania (8%). People born in India and Bulgaria also account for over 5% each.

Figure 3 presents the percentage of the population born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland by Local Government District in the 2011 and 2021 Censuses. At 8.6%, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has the third highest percentage of the population born outside the UK and Ireland, after Belfast and Mid Ulster. However, the figures are pointing to an increasingly diverse population in all 11 LGD’s on this indicator.

Figure 3: Percentage of population born outside UK and Ireland by LGD (2011 and 2021). Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021

**Passports held**

Census 2021 included a question on passports held which allowed the respondent to select multiple responses if they held multiple passports. The analysis of the passports question produces two sets of statistics. The first is how many people have a United Kingdom (UK), Ireland, etc., passport irrespective of whether they have a single passport or not. These statistics are entitled Passports held (passport based) and in this classification respondents can be in more than one group if they hold more than one passport.

However, a large number of people hold two or more passports (e.g. holding both UK and Ireland passports) and this leads to the second set of statistics entitled Passports held (person based). In this classification, respondents are included in one group only (e.g. “United Kingdom only”, “Ireland only”, “United Kingdom and Ireland only”).

The figures reported in this section refer to the Passports held (person based) statistics.

On Census day 2021, 172,143 people in the borough (78.7%) held a single passport and 11,333 people (5.2%) held more than one passport. Approximately 16.1% or 35,178 people did not hold a passport.

The number of people in the borough holding a United Kingdom passport solely or jointly was 112,411 people in 2021. This is a decrease from the 116,899 people recorded as holding a United Kingdom passport solely or jointly in 2011.

In the same period, the number of people in the borough holding an Ireland passport solely or jointly increased from 38,952 people in 2011 to 65,124 people in 2021, an increase of 67%. This is consistent with the increasing demand for Ireland passports since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

In 2021 there were 16,344 people resident in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (or 7.5% of our population) who held a non-UK/Ireland passport only. This is an increase from 2011, when 8,214 people resident in the borough (or 4.1% of our population) held a non-UK/Ireland passport only and further evidence that the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon is becoming more diverse.

|  | 2011 | 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| All usual residents | 199,693 | 218,654 |
| United Kingdom only | 56.8% | 46.4% |
| Ireland only | 17.9% | 24.9% |
| United Kingdom and Ireland only | 1.5% | 4.7% |
| United Kingdom and other (not Ireland) | 0.2% | 0.3% |
| Ireland and other (not United Kingdom) | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| United Kingdom, Ireland and other | - | 0.1% |
| Other only (not United Kingdom or Ireland) | 4.1% | 7.5% |
| No passport | 19.4% | 16.1% |

Table 2: Passports held (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.

**Languages**

On census day 2021, 6.8% (14,376 people) of the population in the borough aged 3 and over had a main language other than English. This has increased from 2011 when English was not the main language of 4.3% (8,146 people). In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2021, the most prevalent main languages other than English were Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%). Polish and Lithuanian were also the most prevalent main language other than English in Northern Ireland overall.

| Main Language | % |
| --- | --- |
| English | 93.2% |
| Polish | 1.7% |
| Lithuanian | 1.2% |
| Portuguese | 0.8% |
| Bulgarian | 0.7% |
| All other languages | 2.4% |
| All usual residents aged 3 and over | **210,402** |

Table 3: Top 5 main languages of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

As presented in Figure 4 below, every LGD has seen an increasing number of people living in their district who do not have English as their main language although there is some variation with the increase more significant in some areas. In Northern Ireland overall, in 2011, English was not the main language of 54,540 people aged 3 and over (3.1%). By 2021 this increased to 85,106 people (4.6%). Mid Ulster has continued to have the greatest proportion of people with English not as their main language, rising from 5.7% in 2011 to 8.2% in 2021. This is followed by Belfast (7%) and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (6.8%).

Table 4: Percentage of population aged 3 and over with English not as their main language by LGD and Northern Ireland overall. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021

**Irish and Ulster-Scots language ability**

The statistics on main language show that Irish was the main language of residents aged 3 and over for only 0.2% of the borough (0.3% in Northern Ireland overall). However, in terms of language ability, Census 2021 shows that 12.2% (25,644 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Irish language. This is up from 10.3% in 2011.

On Census day 2021, 9.7% (20,320 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Ulster-Scots language. This is up from 6% in 2011.

**Religion**

Census 2021 asked two religion questions, the first question related to ‘current religion’ of the usual resident population. There was also a follow-up question on ‘religion of upbringing’ which was asked only of respondents who answered ‘None’ or chose not to answer the ‘current religion’ question.

In 2021, the main current religions in the borough were: Catholic (41%); Presbyterian (14.3%); Church of Ireland (15.9%); Methodist (2.5%); Other Christian denominations (9%); and Other Religions (1.1%). In addition 14.7% of the population in the borough had ‘No religion’ – this is a marked increase on 2011 when only 7.8% had ‘No religion’. ,

Figure 5: Current Religion of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

Figure 6 presents the main current religions in the borough in 2011 and 2021. While the most significant increase has been in those with no religion, there has also been an increase in those stating Catholic as their main religion (39.5% - 41%) and Other Christian denominations (7.6% - 9%). The percentage of people whose current religion is Presbyterian, Church of Ireland or Methodist has fallen since 2011.

Figure 6: Current Religion of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

With regards to the ‘religion of upbringing’, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, there were a total of 35,240 (16%) who answered ‘None’ or chose not to answer the ‘current religion’ question. Those people were then asked a follow-up question on ‘religion of upbringing’ and the results are presented in the table below. Over 50% were brought up with no religion while 17% were brought up in the catholic religion and 31% were brought up in the protestant religion.

|  | Number | % |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Catholic | 6,131 | 17.4% |
| Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) | 10,825 | 30.7% |
| Other religions | 256 | 0.7% |
| None | 18,028 | 51.2% |
| Total ‘no religion’ or ‘religion not stated’ | **35,240** | |

Table 4: Religion of upbringing of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

**National identity**

Census 2021 included a question on national identity which allowed the respondent to record multiple national identities and the analysis of this question can produce statistics in two different ways. The first is how many people consider themselves to be British, Irish, Northern Irish, etc., irrespective of whether they have a single national identity or not. These statistics are entitled *National Identity (nationality based)* and in this classification people can be counted in more than one group.

The *National identity (person based)* relates to how people identify with specific labels such as ‘British only’, ‘Irish only’, ‘Northern Irish only’, ‘British and Northern Irish only’, ‘Irish and Northern Irish only’, etc. In this classification respondents are counted in separate groups which are mutually exclusive.

***National identity (nationality based)***

On Census day 2021, 96,663 people (44.2%) living in the borough identified as ‘British’. This is down from 100,825 people (50.5%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, the percentage has also fallen however there remains a greater proportion in the borough who identify as ‘British’. .

The number of people living in the borough who identified as ‘Irish’ has increased from 50,284 people (25.2%) in 2011 to 65,115 people (29.8%). This is still below the Northern Ireland average where 33.3% of the population identify as ‘Irish’.

The number of people identifying as ‘Northern Irish’ was 66,457 people or 30.4% of those living in the borough. This is up from 57,613 people (28.8%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, approximately 31.5% of the population identify as ‘Northern Irish’.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, approximately 8.6% of the population recorded their national identity as ‘Other’ which is above the rate for Northern Ireland at 6%.

|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | | Northern Ireland | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2011** | **2021** | **2011** | **2021** |
| British | 50.5% | 44.2% | 48.4% | 42.8% |
| Irish | 25.2% | 29.8% | 28.4% | 33.3% |
| Northern Irish | 28.9% | 30.4% | 29.4% | 31.5% |
| English | 0.9% | 0.8% | 1.0% | 0.9% |
| Scottish | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| Welsh | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Other | 4.6% | 8.6% | 3.4% | 6.0% |

Table 5: National Identity (nationality based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

***National identity (person based)***

As noted above, the national identity (person based) classification relates to the specific single identity or specific multiple identities people recorded in Census 2021.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough on Census day 2021, the largest person-specific national identities were – ‘British only’ - 73,150 people (33.5%); ‘Irish only’ - 57,602 people (26.3%); ‘Northern Irish only’ - 41,473 people (18.9%); and ‘British & Northern Irish’ – 17,954 people or 8.2% of our population.

While the number of people in the borough who identify only as ‘British’ is down from 84,571 people in 2011 to 73,150 people in 2021, the number of people in the borough who identify as ‘British and Northern Irish’ has increased from 12,443 people in 2011 to 17,954 people in 2021 and the number who identify as ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ has increased from 1,603 in 2011 to 2,629 in 2021.

Figure 7: National Identity (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

The number of people in the borough who identify as ‘Irish only’ is up from 45,163 in 2011 to 57,602 in 2021. There has also been an increase in the number of people who identify as ‘Irish and Northern Irish’, up from 1,692 in 2011 to 3,220 in 2021, and in those who identify as ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ up from 1,603 in 2011 to 2,629 in 2021.

On Census day 2021, the number of people who were recorded as ‘Northern Irish only’ was much the same as the 2011 figure – increasing by just 66 people from 41,407 in 2011 to 41,473 in 2021. However the total number of people identifying as either ‘British and Northern Irish’ or ‘Irish and Northern Irish’ or ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ has increased by over 50% from 15,738 people in 2011 to 23,803 people in 2021.

When compared with Northern Ireland overall, the percentage of residents who identify as ‘British only’ is higher in the borough, 33.5% compared to 31.9%. The borough also has a slightly higher percentage of residents who identify as ‘British and Northern Irish only’. Approximately 26% of residents in the borough identify as ‘Irish only’ compared to 29% in Northern Ireland.

Figure 8: National Identity (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Census 2021.