**Qualifications**

The 2021 Census asked about qualification levels of residents ranging from no qualifications to level 4 and above. The type of qualification at each level is shown below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Highest level of qualification group | Description  |
| No qualifications | No academic or professional qualifications.  |
| Level 1 | 1-4 GCSEs, O Levels, CSEs (any grades); NVQ level 1; or equivalent qualifications.  |
| Level 2 | 5+ GCSEs (Grades A\*-C, 9-4), O Levels (Passes), CSEs (Grade 1); 1 A Level, 2-3 AS Levels; NVQ level 2, BTEC General, City and Guilds Craft; or equivalent qualifications. |
| Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship.  |
| Level 3 | 2+ A Levels, 4+ AS Levels; NVQ Level 3, BTEC National, OND or ONC, City and Guilds Advanced Craft; or equivalent qualifications.  |
| Level 4 | Degree (for example BA, BSc), foundation degree, HND, HNC, NVQ Level 4-5, professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing), or equivalent qualifications. |
| Other Qualifications  | Any other qualifications, equivalent unknown.  |

*Table 1: Highest level of qualification group detail (Census 2021). Source: Census 2021*

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough the percentage of residents aged 16 and over with no qualifications (25.2%) was slightly higher than Northern Ireland overall (23.8%). Level 1 qualifications and apprenticeships showed similar proportions in both the borough and Northern Ireland. Those with qualifications at level 4 and above was lower in the borough (30.4%) than Northern Ireland (32.1%).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | **%** | **Northern Ireland** | **%** |
| **No qualifications** | 42,898 | 25.2% | 360,624 | 23.8% |
| **Level 1** | 9,962 | 5.8% | 89,378 | 5.9% |
| **Level 2** | 24,068 | 14.1% | 206,162 | 13.6% |
| **Apprenticeship** | 11,084 | 6.5% | 96,371 | 6.4% |
| **Level 3** | 26,489 | 15.5% | 242,004 | 16.0% |
| **Level 4 and above** | 51,769 | 30.4% | 486,331 | 32.1% |
| **Other** | 4,143 | 2.4% | 33,867 | 2.2% |
| **Total** | 170,413 | 100.0% | 1,514,737 | 100.0% |

*Table 2: Highest level of qualifications of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Highest Level of Qualification – Table MS-G01, Census 2021, NISRA.*

*Figure 1: Highest level of qualifications of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Highest Level of Qualification – Table MS-G01, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Further information on Census 2021 can be found via the following links:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census>