Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Census 2021

Summary Report 6: Labour Market & Qualifications

**Third Phase of main statistics (March 2023)**

The third phase of main statistics from Census 2021 was published 21 March 2023 and provides key statistics for a number of census topics such as marital and civil partnership status, household composition and living arrangements, sexual orientation, qualifications, labour market, travel to work or study, communal establishments, and migration, at Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels (LGD).

**Labour Market & Qualifications**

This summary report will provide census information on economic status (e.g. in employment, unemployed, economically inactive), hours worked, industry of employment and occupation as well as highest level of qualification. The report will provide information for **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough** for 2021. Where information is available, comparisons will be made with the 2011 census results to see how things have changed in the 10 year period since the last census. Some comparatives with other LGD’s will also be included.

**Economic Status**

All persons aged 16 and over were asked a number of questions to determine their economic status. This information allows for a three-way classification of economic status[[1]](#footnote-1):

1. Economically active: in employment (an employee, self-employed or full-time student in employment)
2. Economically active: unemployed (those who were looking for work and could start within two weeks, or waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted); and
3. Economically inactive (those who did not have a job between 15 and 21 March 2021 and had not looked for work between 22 February and 21 March or could not start work within two weeks).

On census day 2021 there were an estimated 170,416 residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Of those, approximately 101,265 (59.4%) were in employment, 4,019 (2.4%) were unemployed and 65,132 (38.2%) were economically inactive.

**Economically Active: In Employment**

The estimates for economically active: in employment include persons who are employed, self-employed or a full-time student in employment. Persons aged 16 and over were economically active and in employment if they were working the week before census day. The figures are available for males and females and the breakdown is presented in Table 1.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All | Females | Males | Females % | Males % |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | **170,416** | **86,762** | **83,654** | **50.9%** | **49.1%** |
| Employee | **82,854** | **41,733** | **41,121** | **50.4%** | **49.6%** |
| Part-time | *21,848* | *17,159* | *4,689* | *78.5%* | *21.5%* |
| Full-time | *61,006* | *24,574* | *36,432* | *40.3%* | *59.7%* |
| Self-Employed | **14,852** | **3,745** | **11,107** | **25.2%** | **74.8%** |
| With employees | *3,402* | *796* | *2,606* | *23.4%* | *76.6%* |
| Without employees | *11,450* | *2,949* | *8,501* | *25.8%* | *74.2%* |
| Full-time Student in Employment | **3,559** | **2,093** | **1,466** | **58.8%** | **41.2%** |
| All people aged 16+ in employment | 101,265 | 47,571 | 53,694 | 47.0% | 53.0% |

*Table 1: Employment type by Sex, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Source: Table MS-H02 & MS-H04, Census 2021.*

On census day 2021 there were an estimated 101,265 persons living in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in employment and this was comprised of 82,854 (81.8%) employees, 14,852 self-employed (14.7%) and 3,559 (3.5%) full-time students in employment. Females accounted for a slightly higher percentage of employees at 50.4% compared to 49.6% males. However, a much higher percentage of females worked part-time compared to males. Of the total females in employment, 41% worked part-time hours while just 11% of males worked part time. Just one quarter of the self-employed group were female accounting for 3,745 of the self-employed compared to 11,107 males. Of those full-time students in employment, over 58% were female compared to just 42% males.

When compared with Northern Ireland overall, the gender split is fairly similar with the percentage of females aged 16+ in employment just slightly higher in Northern Ireland.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | | | Northern Ireland | | |
|  | All | Females % | Males % | All | Females % | Males % |
| All people aged 16+ in employment | **101,265** | **47.0%** | **53.0%** | **849,108** | **47.9%** | **52.1%** |
| Employee | **82,854** | **50.4%** | **49.6%** | **686,596** | **51.5%** | **48.5%** |
| Self-Employed | **14,852** | **25.2%** | **74.8%** | **127,185** | **26.1%** | **73.9%** |
| Full-time Student in Employment | **3,559** | **58.8%** | **41.2%** | **35,327** | **58.2%** | **41.8%** |

*Table 2: Employment type by Sex, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon & Northern Ireland. Source: Table MS-H02 & MS-H04, Census 2021.*

**Economically Active: Unemployed**

A person is considered to be economically active and unemployed if they were not in employment the week before census day and they were:

* Looking for work and could start within two weeks or:
* Waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted.

The economically active: unemployed accounted for approximately 4,019 residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. Of those, approximately 691 were full-time students. Overall, the majority of the unemployed were males, accounting for 57.5% however there were marginally more female (376) unemployed students compared to male (315).

In Northern Ireland overall, females accounted for a slightly lower percentage of the total unemployed at 40.3% compared to 42.5% in the borough. For those unemployed and a full-time student, the male/female percentage split for Northern Ireland overall was much the same as the borough.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | | Northern Ireland | |
| **Total Unemployed** | **of which unemployed & a full-time student** | **Total Unemployed** | **of which unemployed & a full-time student** |
| All | | 4,019 | 691 | 41,924 | 7,651 |
| Females | No. | 1,710 | 376 | 16,911 | 4,176 |
| ***%*** | *42.5%* | *54.4%* | *40.3%* | *54.6%* |
| Males | No. | 2,309 | 315 | 25,013 | 3,475 |
| ***%*** | *57.5%* | *45.6%* | *59.7%* | *45.4%* |

*Table 3: Unemployed by Sex and full-time student status, 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon & Northern Ireland. Source: Table MS-H02 & MS-H04, Census 2021.*

**Economically Inactive**

A person is considered to be economically inactive, if, in the week before census day, they were not in employment, and they were not looking for work; or they were looking for work, but were not able to start work in the next two weeks. A person is recorded as having one of several different inactivity statuses:

* Retired (whether receiving a pension or not);
* Studying;
* Looking after home or family;
* Long-term sick or disabled; and
* Other

In total, on census day 2021, there were 65,132 persons aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon who were economically inactive. This accounted for 38.2% of the total population in the borough aged 16 and over. Females accounted for 57.5% (37,481) of the economically inactive while males accounted for 42.5% (27,651). Almost half of the economically inactive were retired (49.8%) and long-term sick or disabled accounted for the next biggest grouping at 17.9%. Of the 37,481 females aged 16 and over who were economically inactive, again, the majority were retired (48.5%) while looking after home or family was the next biggest grouping accounting for 18.1%.

There were a total of 27,651 males aged 16 and over who were economically inactive, the majority of which were retired (51.7%). Long-term sick or disabled was the next biggest grouping accounting for 20% of economically inactive males. Just 5.2% of males aged 16 and over who were economically inactive were looking after home or family.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough | |
|  | **No** | **%** |
| All Persons | **65,132** | **38.2%** |
| Retired | 32,459 | 49.8% |
| Student (including full-time students) | 7,836 | 12.0% |
| Looking after home or family | 8,243 | 12.7% |
| Long-term sick or disabled | 11,677 | 17.9% |
| Other | 4,917 | 7.5% |
| Females | **37,481** | **43.2%** |
| Retired | 18,167 | 48.5% |
| Student (including full-time students) | 3,990 | 10.6% |
| Looking after home or family | 6,798 | 18.1% |
| Long-term sick or disabled | 6,141 | 16.4% |
| Other | 2,385 | 6.4% |
| Males | **27,651** | **33.1%** |
| Retired | 14,292 | 51.7% |
| Student (including full-time students) | 3,846 | 13.9% |
| Looking after home or family | 1,445 | 5.2% |
| Long-term sick or disabled | 5,536 | 20.0% |
| Other | 2,532 | 9.2% |

*Table 4: Economic Inactivity Status, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Table MS-H02, Census 2021*

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough has one of the lowest rates of economically inactive of all the LGD’s in Northern Ireland. At 38.2% it is 3 pps below the Northern Ireland average and the third lowest of all LGD’s.

*Figure 1: Percentage of population who are economically inactive by local government district, 2021. Source: Table MS-H02, Census 2021. Note: Calculated internally*

**Hours Worked**

Census 2021 also included a question on hours worked. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough there was over 101,260 persons aged 16+ in employment and just over 70% worked full-time hours. Approximately 44.6% of females worked part-time compared to just 15.8% of males. In Northern Ireland overall a slightly higher percentage of males worked part-time hours while the part-time/full-time split for women was much the same as the borough.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | Northern Ireland |
| All | **101,262** | **849,106** |
| Part-time | 29.3% | 30.9% |
| Full-time | 70.7% | 69.1% |
| Females | **47,571** | **407,081** |
| Part-time | 44.6% | 45.0% |
| Full-time | 55.4% | 55.0% |
| Males | **53,691** | **442,025** |
| Part-time | 15.8% | 18.0% |
| Full-time | 84.2% | 82.0% |

*Table 5: Hours worked, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Table MS-H02, Census 2021*

Table 6 shows that most people aged 16 and over in employment were working 31-48 hours in their current job (61,858 people or 61.1%) with a further 9,696 people (9.6%) working 49 hours or more per week. Just over half of females aged 16+ in employment worked 31-48 hours per week and more than 30% worked 16-30 hours per week. For males, almost 70% worked 31-48 hours per week and almost 15% worked 49+ hours per week. More than 70% of part-time workers are female while 63% of full-time workers are male.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | |
|  | **No.** | **%** |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over in employment | **101,262** | **101,262** |
| Part-time: 15 hours or less worked per week | 9,557 | 9.4% |
| Part-time: 16-30 hours worked per week | 20,151 | 19.9% |
| Full-time: 31-48 hours worked per week | 61,858 | 61.1% |
| Full-time: 49+ hours worked per week | 9,696 | 9.6% |
| Females aged 16 and over in employment | **47,571** | **47.0%** |
| Part-time: 15 hours or less worked per week | 6,277 | 13.2% |
| Part-time: 16-30 hours worked per week | 14,951 | 31.4% |
| Full-time: 31-48 hours worked per week | 24,526 | 51.6% |
| Full-time: 49+ hours worked per week | 1,817 | 3.8% |
| Males aged 16 and over in employment | **53,691** | **53.0%** |
| Part-time: 15 hours or less worked per week | 3,280 | 6.1% |
| Part-time: 16-30 hours worked per week | 5,200 | 9.7% |
| Full-time: 31-48 hours worked per week | 37,332 | 69.5% |
| Full-time: 49+ hours worked per week | 7,879 | 14.7% |

*Table 6: Hours worked, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Table MS-H02, Census 2021*

**Industry of Employment**

The questions on industry of employment relate to the industry in which those persons aged 16 and over in employment were employed in the week before the census. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles was the largest industry sector employing 17,505 people aged 16 and over. This was closely followed by ‘human health and social work activities’ which employed a further 15,750 people in the borough and ‘manufacturing’ which employed 13,644 people. Together, these three sectors employ 46.3% of the total population aged 16 and over in employment in the borough. There are a further six industry sectors not presented in the chart below which, together, account for just 2.2% of total employment in the borough. These industries are real estate activities (0.8%); water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (0.8%); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (0.4%); mining and quarrying (0.2%); activities of household as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (0.02%); and, activities of extra-territorial organisations and bodies (0.01%).

*Figure 2: Industry groups, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. Source: Table MS-H06, Census 2021*

Figure 2 presents the top 5 industry groups for males and females aged 16 and over in employment in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. Human health and social work activities is by far the most common industry group among females, employing over 13,000 females which equates to almost 28% of all females aged 16 and over in employment in the borough. Just 4.8% of employed males aged 16 and over are employed in this sector. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles is the second biggest industry group for both females and males employing 17% and 17.5% respectively. There are 6,535 (13.7%) females employed in the education sector compared to just 1,865 (3.5%) males aged 16 and over in employment in the borough.

For males, the most common industry groups are manufacturing, employing 9,611 or 17.9% of the male workforce aged 16 and over; wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles which employs 9,398 or 17.5%; and construction which employs 8,021 or 14.9% of males aged 16 and over in employment in the borough.

*Figure 3: Top five Industry groups by sex, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. Source: Table MS-H06, Census 2021*

Table 7 presents the industry groups with the largest percentage point change in the ten year period since the 2011 Census. Human health and social work activities has had the largest percentage increase from employing 13.9% in 2011 to 15.6% in 2021. Information and communication was the industry with the next biggest percentage point change increasing by 0.6 percentage points from 1.8% in 2011 to 2.4% in 2021. Conversely, wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles had the largest percentage point fall in the ten year period, decreasing its population share from 18.6% in 2011 to 17.3% in 2021.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2011 | 2021 | Percentage point change |
| Human health and social work activities | 13.9% | 15.6% | +1.7 |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles | 18.6% | 17.3% | -1.3 |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 4.6% | 3.7% | -0.9 |
| Information and communication | 1.8% | 2.4% | +0.6 |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 7.0% | 6.5% | -0.5 |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 4.2% | 4.6% | +0.4 |

*Table 7: Industry groups with largest percentage point change, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, 2011 & 2021. Source: Table MS-H06, Census 2021 & Table CT0395NI, Census 2011.*

**Occupation**

The questions on occupation relate to the occupation of those persons aged 16 and over in employment in the week before the census.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, there were over 101,260 persons aged 16 and over in employment at the time of the 2021 Census of which 47% were female and 53% male. Professional occupations were the largest occupational grouping for all persons accounting for 18.4% of the employed population in the borough. For females, the most common occupation group was ‘professional occupations’ (22.9%) followed by ‘caring, leisure and other service occupations’ (18.4%) and ‘administrative and secretarial occupations’ (15.9%). In terms of males, the most common occupations are ‘skilled trade occupations’ accounting for almost one quarter (23.7%) of all male jobs; ‘process, plant and machine operatives’ (16.7%) and professional occupations (14.5%).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All Persons | Females | Males |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over in employment | 101,261 | 47,570 | 53,691 |
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 8,798 | 6.4% | 10.7% |
| Professional occupations | 18,668 | 22.9% | 14.5% |
| Associate professional and technical occupations | 8,924 | 8.8% | 8.8% |
| Administrative and secretarial occupations | 10,514 | 15.9% | 5.5% |
| Skilled trades occupations | 14,002 | 2.7% | 23.7% |
| Caring, leisure and other service occupations | 10,120 | 18.4% | 2.5% |
| Sales and customer service occupations | 8,804 | 11.3% | 6.4% |
| Process, plant and machine operatives | 10,873 | 4.0% | 16.7% |
| Elementary occupations | 10,558 | 9.5% | 11.2% |

*Table 8: Occupation groups by sex, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, 2021. Source: Table MS-H09, Census 2021.*

**Highest Level of Qualification**

All persons aged 16 years and over were asked to record any qualifications they had achieved including academic qualifications, vocational qualifications, apprenticeships, and professional qualifications. People were also asked to include equivalent qualifications gained anywhere outside Northern Ireland and the information was then used to calculate the highest level of qualification that an individual had attained and categorised into a number of groups[[2]](#footnote-2) as detailed in the table 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 9: Highest level of qualification group detail (Census 2021). Source: Census 2021*

As presented in table 10 below, there are approximately 170,413 persons aged 16 and over living in the borough of which over one quarter (25.2%) have no qualifications while over 30% indicated that their highest level of qualification was Level 4 and above.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Population | % of Population |
| No qualifications | 42,898 | 25.2% |
| Level 1 qualifications | 9,962 | 5.8% |
| Level 2 qualifications | 24,068 | 14.1% |
| Apprenticeship | 11,084 | 6.5% |
| Level 3 qualifications | 26,489 | 15.5% |
| Level 4 qualifications and above | 51,769 | 30.4% |
| Other qualifications | 4,143 | 2.4% |
| All usual residents aged 16 and over | **170,413** | **100.0%** |

*Table 10: Highest level of qualification, 2021. Source: Table MS-G01, Census 2021*

Figure 4 presents the percentage of the population in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough by highest level of qualification in Census 2011 and Census 2021. Overall, the percentage of people aged 16 and over with higher level qualifications has increased in the ten year period while the percentage of people with no, or lower level qualifications has decreased over the period from 2011-2021. The greatest increase has been in the percentage of the population aged 16 and over with level 4 qualifications or above which has increased by 8.3 percentage points from 22.1% in 2011 to 30.4% in 2021.

*Figure 4: Percentage of people aged 16 and over by highest level of qualification 2011 & 2021. Source: Table MS-G01, Census 2021 & Table KS501NI, Census 2011.*

As presented in figure 5, the highest level of qualification statistics vary across the LGDs. Derry City & Strabane have the highest percentage of the population with no qualifications at 28.4% while Lisburn and Castlereagh have the lowest at 17.9%. Lisburn and Castlereagh also have the highest percentage of the population with level 4 qualifications or above. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has the 5th highest percentage of the population aged 16 and over with no qualifications and is 1.4pps above the Northern Ireland average. The borough is ranked seventh of the eleven LGD’s for the percentage of the population with level 4 qualifications or above and is 1.7 pps below the Northern Ireland average.

*Figure 5: Percentage of population with no qualifications and level 4 qualifications and above by local government district, 2021. Source: Table MS-G01, Census 2021.*

1. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Labour market (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-3-statistical-bulletin-labour-market.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Qualifications (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-3-statistical-bulletin-qualifications.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)