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## Introduction

*Ireland North and South, A Statistical Profile* has been jointly prepared by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Both organisations have worked closely with their colleagues in government departments North and South.

The department or other body responsible for supplying the data has been noted at the relevant table. A full list of data sources together with contact points for further information appears at the end of the *Profile*.

## Definitions and Conventions

### *Technical Notes*

Each chapter of this Statistical Profile is followed by technical notes which should be read in conjunction with the appropriate tables.

### *Non-calendar years*

Academic year: e.g., September 1998 to June 1999 is shown as 1998/99.

Financial year: e.g., 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999 is shown as 1998-99.

Data covering more than one year: e.g., 1997, 1998 and 1999 are shown as 1997-99.

### *Rounding of figures*

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

### *Symbols*

The following symbols are used throughout this Statistical Profile:

- .. not available
- . not applicable
- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- 0 nil
- p provisional
- r revised
- \* sample size too small for a reliable estimate

# INTRODUCTION

## *Typeface*

Bold text denotes summary values. Rates and percentages are presented in italics.

## **Annual average exchange rate – Units of Pound Sterling (Stg£) per ECU or Euro<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Rate</b>	0.829	0.814	0.692	0.676	0.659	0.609	0.622	0.629

Source: *European Central Bank*

---

<sup>1</sup> Up to 1998, rates are against the ECU (European Currency Unit); from 1999 on, rates are against the Euro.

**CENSUS**

# **A Comparison of Census Results North and South**

# CENSUS

## *Introduction*

The Census of Population is the largest statistical exercise conducted in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It involves the distribution and collection of a Census form, or forms, from every domestic residence and communal establishment, the subsequent processing of the relevant information and the dissemination of the results. In the 2002 Census in the Republic of Ireland some 4,000 enumerators delivered forms to around 1.3 million properties and subsequently collected the forms from them. In Northern Ireland, the 2001 Census involved over 2,500 Census enumerators delivering forms to over 700,000 properties.

Censuses throughout Western Europe are encouraged to follow the United Nations recommendations (see [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)) and thus have much in common. The Censuses in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland cover many common topics and a range of North-South comparisons is shown below. Copies of the two Census forms can be viewed on the websites [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) and [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk). In years when there is a Census in Northern Ireland (years ending in 1), the Censuses North and South have traditionally been held on the same day. One of the positive spin-offs of sharing the same Census day is that advertising campaigns for both Censuses mutually encourage participation wherever people are resident. For 2001, the two Censuses were planned to occur on 29 April, but the Irish Census was postponed for one year due to the foot and mouth disease situation at the time. The comparisons below use the results for 2002 in the Republic of Ireland and 2001 in Northern Ireland.

## *The Census processes*

The basic Census process is similar in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In both jurisdictions, an enumerator is allocated a geographic area and given the responsibility of identifying all households within that area and delivering a Census form, to be completed by the people in the household. In Northern Ireland, households were asked to return the form by post, with enumerators calling back only at non-responding households whereas in the Republic of Ireland the enumerators collected all forms. There were similar arrangements for communal establishments.

For the first time, in both the recent Censuses in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the conversion of the paper forms into an electronic database was performed using scanning and imaging technology that involved automatic character recognition.

## *Differences in definition - Population base*

The Northern Ireland Census, and the subsequent mid-year population estimates, are based on the *usually resident* population. Thus, people are recorded at the address where they are *usually resident* irrespective of where they are on Census night. Full-time students are recorded at their term-time address.

In the Republic of Ireland on the other hand, the main Census results are reported on the *de facto* population, that is, persons are enumerated where they spend Census night. The Census in the South also asked a limited number of questions about those usual residents at each address, who were temporarily absent on Census night, thus enabling key demographic statistics (specifically family and household statistics) to be produced on a *usually resident* basis. The results given in this article for the Republic of Ireland however refer mainly to the *de facto* population measure. In practice the difference between the *de facto* and *usually resident* definitions of the population is not significant for the variables reported on.

### *The main results*

While it is recognised that some of the chapters in this publication already draw on the results of the Censuses carried out in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 2002 and 2001 respectively, it is considered worthwhile to bring together the principal census results in this article.

In the Republic of Ireland, the 2002 Census showed a population of 3,917,203, an increase of 291,116 (8%) compared with the 1996 population of 3,626,087. Average annual net immigration of 26,000 coupled with a natural increase of 23,000 resulted in the population increasing by 49,000 (1.3%) annually. According to the revised intercensal population estimates the mid-April 2001 population estimate was 3.847 million - an increase of 9.1% over the preceding decade, or about 0.9% population growth per annum.

The 2001 Census indicated that the Census Day population of Northern Ireland was 1,685,267. The Census is used to benchmark the annual mid-year population estimates series. A new time-series linking 1991 and 2001 shows that the NI population increased by 5% over the preceding decade, or about 0.5% population growth per year. This population growth was composed almost entirely of natural population growth (births less deaths) with in and out-migration being essentially in balance. The annual population estimates series for Northern Ireland shows that between 1996 and 2002 the population rose from 1.662 million to 1.697 million, an increase of 35,000 over the five year period, equivalent to an average annual increase of 0.4%.

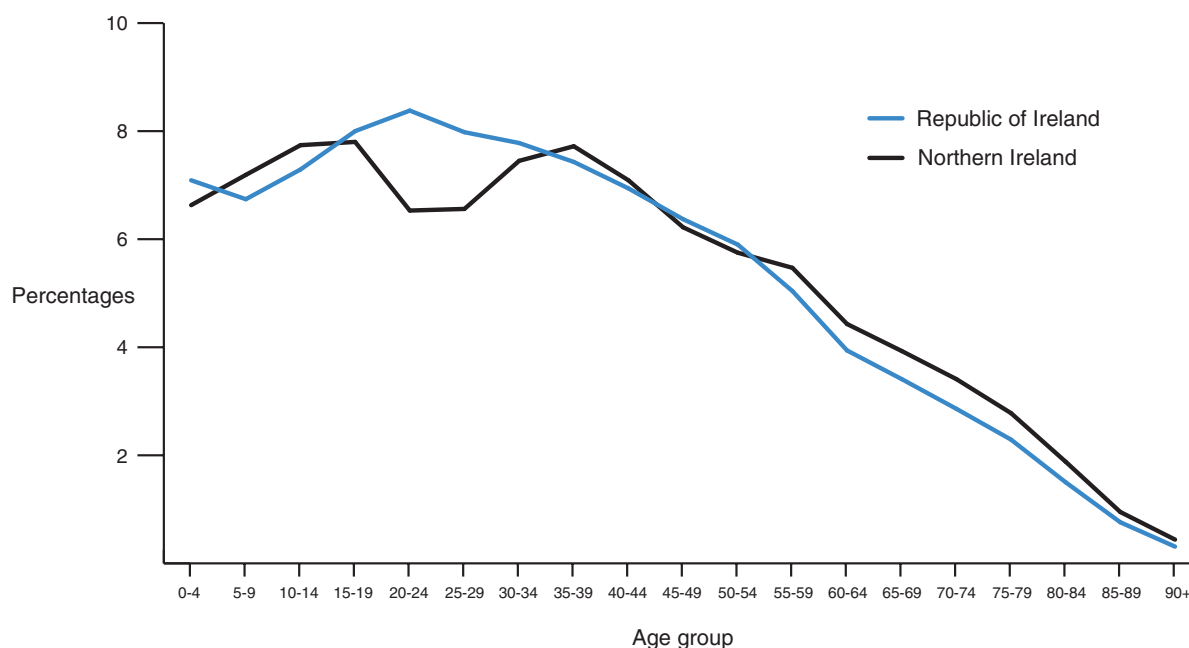
The Census provides statistics on a range of demographic and socio-economic topics. A comparison of these statistics based on the latest Censuses is shown below.

### *Age Structure*

The age structures of the populations North and South are broadly similar as illustrated by the following graph which gives the proportions of the total population accounted by each five year age group. The graph for the Republic of Ireland clearly shows the impact of the fall in the number of births between 1980 and the mid-1990s and the subsequent pick up. The impact of migration on persons in their twenties is clearly evident from the Northern Ireland graph. There are proportionately more older persons in Northern Ireland than in the Republic.



**Figure A Age structure**



A further measure of the age structure of the population is provided by computing age dependency ratios. The young and old dependency ratios are derived by expressing the young population (aged 0-14 years) and the old population (65 years and over) as percentages of the population aged 15-64. The total dependency ratio is the sum of the young and old ratios. Table C1 summarises the main figures.

**Table C1 Population by broad age group and dependency ratios**

*Thousands and percentages*

Age group	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
0-14	827.4	371.0
15-64	2,653.8	1,091.0
65 and over	436.0	223.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,917.2</b>	<b>1,685.3</b>
Young dependency ratio	31	34
Old dependency ratio	16	20

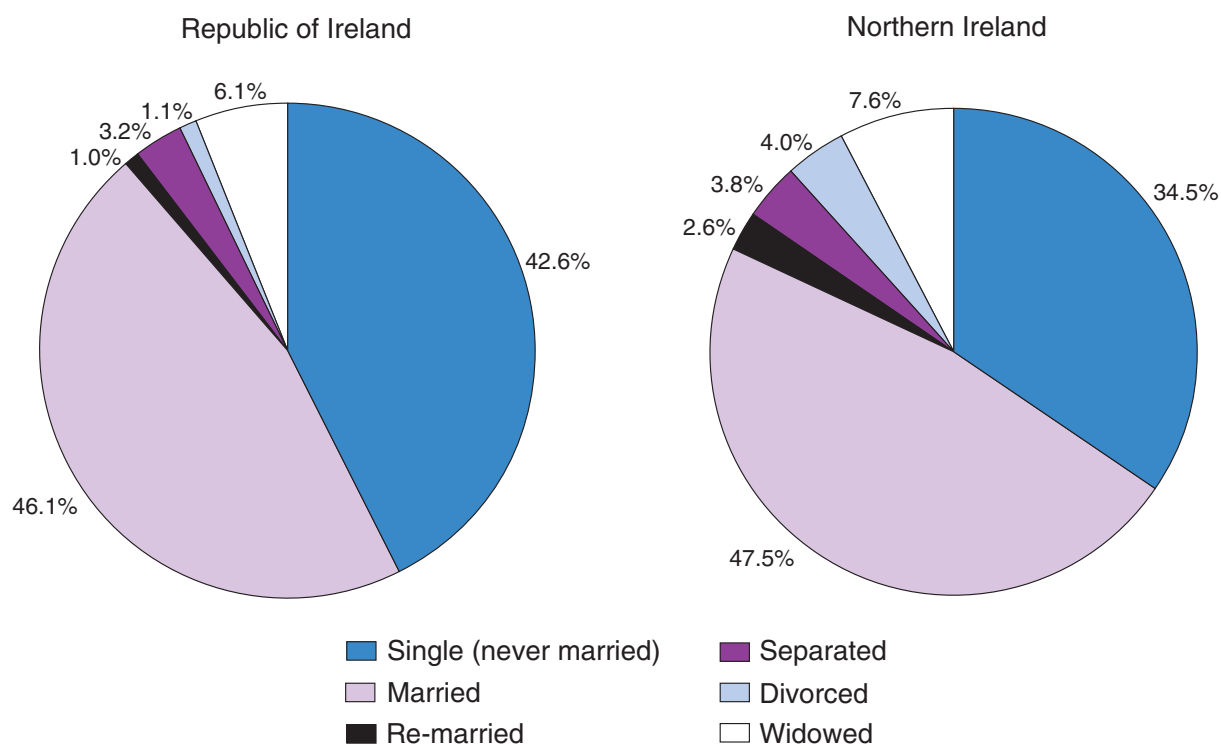
Both the young and old dependency ratios for Northern Ireland (34% and 21%) are higher than the corresponding ratios for the Republic of Ireland (31% and 16%). A major factor in explaining the differences is the proportionately higher number of persons aged 15 to 64 years in the Republic of Ireland.

## Marital Status

**Table C2** Marital status of persons aged 15 years and over

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Single (never married)	42.6	34.5
Married	46.1	47.5
Re-married	1.0	2.6
Separated	3.2	3.8
Divorced	1.1	4.0
Widowed	6.1	7.6

**Figure B** Marital Status



There is broad concordance between the proportions of the population aged 15 years and over who are married, separated and widowed in both jurisdictions. The proportion single is higher in the Republic of Ireland reflecting the younger age profile of the population, while the differential between the proportion divorced is due in large measure to the fact that divorce was only introduced in the Republic in 1997.

# CENSUS

## Religion

**Table C3 Religion**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
Catholic	88.4	40.3
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	0.5	20.7
Church of Ireland	3.0	15.3
Methodist Church in Ireland	0.3	3.5
Other Christian (including Christian related)	1.3	6.1
Other religions and philosophies	1.0	0.3
No religion or religion not stated	5.5	13.9

In 2002, 88.4% of the population of the Republic was Catholic, down from 91.6% in 1991, while a further 3% were Church of Ireland. In Northern Ireland just over 40% of the 2001 population were Catholic, followed by Presbyterians (20.7%), Church of Ireland (15.3%) and Methodists (3.5%). Other Christian denominations accounted for 1.3% of the population of the Republic of Ireland and 6.1% of the NI population. Those professing no religion or who refused to answer the question were proportionately twice as high in Northern Ireland as in the Republic.

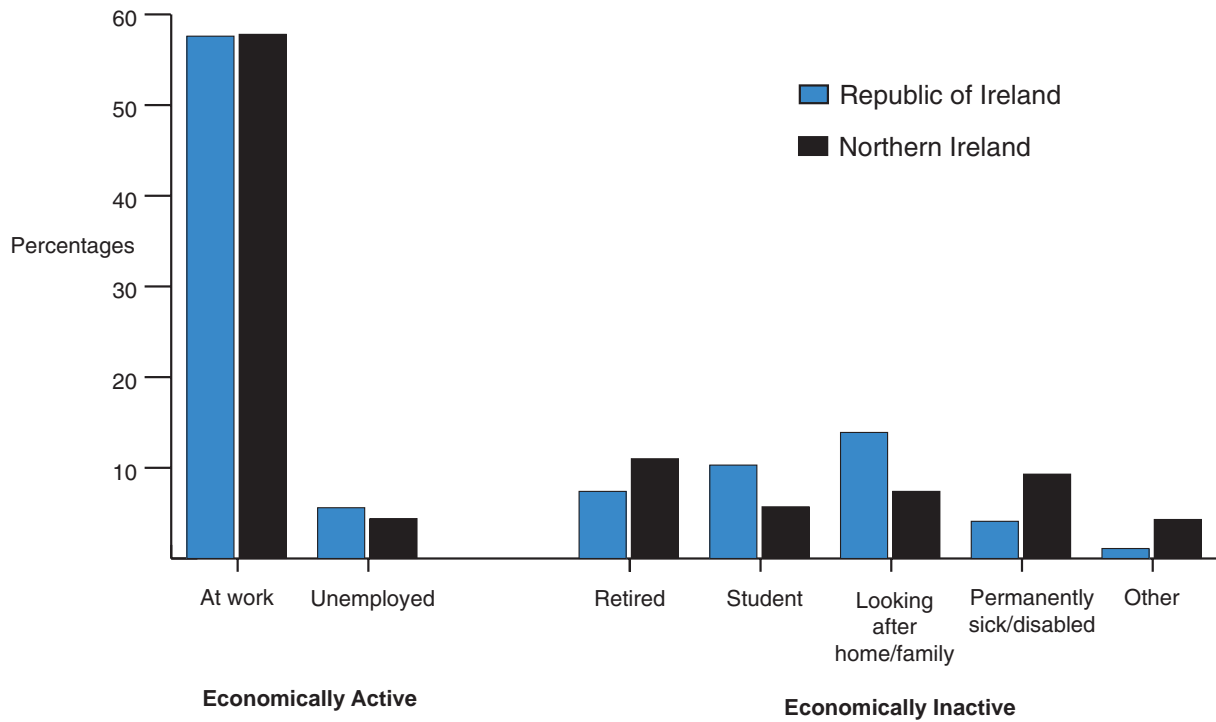
## Economic Status

**Table C4 Economic status of persons aged 16 to 74 years**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Economically Active</b>		
At work	57.6	57.8
Unemployed	5.6	4.4
<b>Economically inactive</b>		
Retired	7.4	11.0
Student	10.3	5.7
Looking after home/family	13.9	7.4
Permanently sick/disabled	4.1	9.3
Other	1.1	4.3

The labour force participation rate was marginally higher in the Republic of Ireland (63.2%) compared with Northern Ireland (62.3%). However, the unemployment rate as measured by the relevant Censuses was 7.1% in Northern Ireland compared with 8.8% in the Republic. There were proportionately more students and fewer retired persons in the Republic of Ireland than in Northern Ireland, reflecting the difference in population age structure between the jurisdictions.

**Figure C Economic status**



## Place of Birth

**Table C5 Place of birth**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	<b>Republic of Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Ireland</b>		
Republic of Ireland	89.6	2.3
Northern Ireland	1.3	91.0
England and Wales	4.7	3.8
Scotland	0.4	1.0
Other EU countries	0.9	0.6
Elsewhere	3.1	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Usually resident population.

# CENSUS

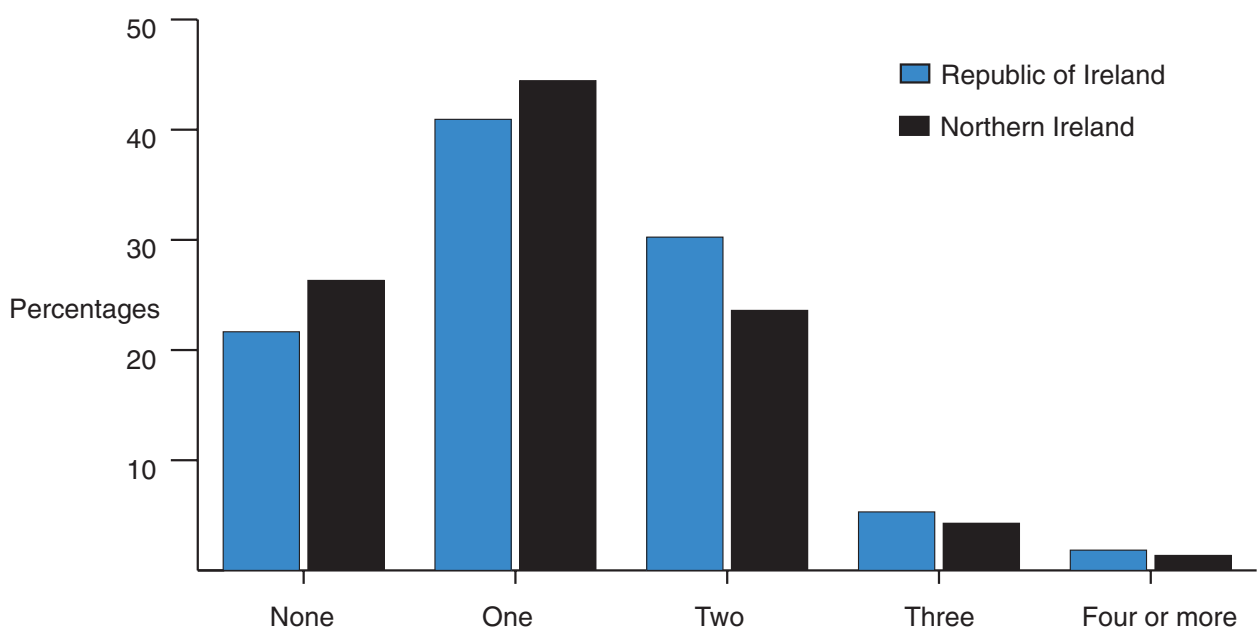
With regard to place of birth, similar patterns are observed in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, with the majority of each population born within their own respective jurisdictions, and over 90 percent of the population of the island were born on the island of Ireland. The Republic of Ireland has a higher proportion of its population born outside the UK and Ireland (3.9%) than Northern Ireland (1.8%).

## Access to a Car

**Table C6 Access to a car**

Number of cars or vans in each household	Percentages	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
None	21.7	26.3
One	40.9	44.5
Two	30.3	23.6
Three	5.3	4.3
Four or more	1.8	1.4

**Figure D Access to a car**



Car ownership patterns are broadly similar North and South. The proportion of households with no access to a car is reducing over time. In 1991, 35% of households in Northern Ireland did not have access to a car, compared with 26% in 2001, while the corresponding figures in the Republic of Ireland were 34% in 1991 and 22% in 2002.

## *Travel to Work*

**Table C7 Main mode of travel to work<sup>1</sup>**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Drive car or van	61.9	55.9
Car passenger <sup>2</sup>	6.7	14.7
On foot	11.4	9.7
Bicycle	2.1	0.9
Bus or coach	6.7	6.0
Train <sup>3</sup>	2.1	0.9
Motor-cycle, scooter or moped	1.1	0.8
Taxi	-	1.6
Other	0.4	0.8
Works mainly at home	6.1	8.8
Not stated	1.7	-

<sup>1</sup> ROI figures are for those aged 15 and over, while NI figures refer to people aged between 16 and 74 years.

<sup>2</sup> Includes car or van pool in Northern Ireland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes DART in the Republic of Ireland.

Travelling by car, either as a driver or a passenger, was the main means of commuting to work in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland according to the results of the recent Censuses. Travel by car accounted for over two-thirds of all journeys to work.

The number of people driving a car or van to work has increased from 37.0% in 1981 to 55.9% in 2001 in Northern Ireland, reflecting the growing number of households with access to a car. The corresponding figures for the Republic of Ireland were 36.0% in 1981 and 61.9% in 2002.

# CENSUS

## Housing Tenure

**Table C8 Housing tenure**

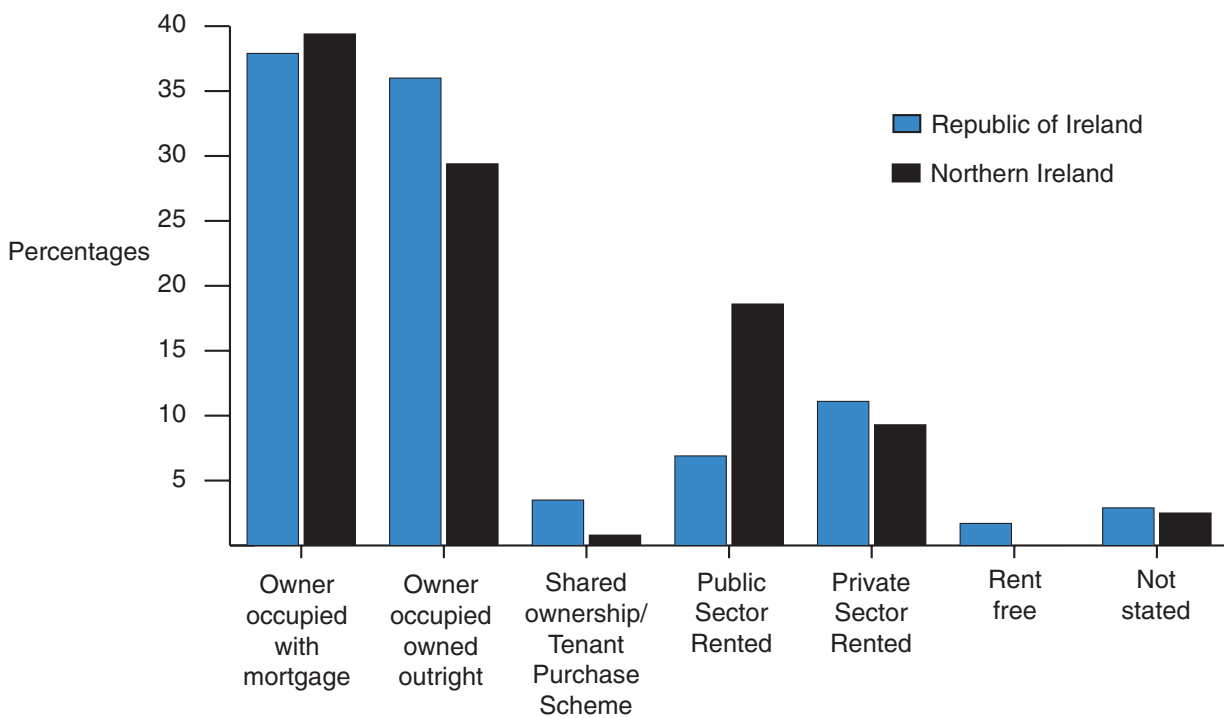
	<i>Percentages</i>	
	<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
Owner-occupied with a mortgage	37.9	39.4
Owner-occupied owned outright	36.0	29.4
Shared ownership (NI) / Tenant Purchase Scheme (ROI)	3.5	0.8
Public sector rented <sup>1</sup>	6.9	18.6
Private sector rented <sup>1,2</sup>	11.1	9.3
Rent free <sup>3</sup>	1.7	.
Not stated / Other	2.9	2.5

<sup>1</sup> In Northern Ireland, includes rent-free where a landlord has been identified.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Housing Associations in Northern Ireland.

<sup>3</sup> For example, owned by relative or employer.

**Figure E Housing tenure**



There are proportionately more owner-occupied (owned outright) households in the Republic of Ireland than in Northern Ireland. Over 53% of these households in the Republic are located in rural areas. In comparison there are more public sector rented households in Northern Ireland including rent-free where a landlord has been identified. The private rented sector is slightly higher in proportionate terms in the Republic than in Northern Ireland.

Housing tenure patterns have changed noticeably over recent decades in Northern Ireland. In 1971, only 46% of households were owner occupied compared with 70% in 2001. The trend has not been as pronounced in the Republic with the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings increasing from an already high 69% in 1971 to 77% in 2002.

## House Type

House type	Percentages	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Detached house or bungalow	44.0	36.5
Semi-detached house or bungalow	26.8	27.3
Terrace house or bungalow	18.5	27.4
Purpose built flat / apartment	5.5	7.2
Converted / shared house	2.3	1.0
In commercial building	0.8	0.3
Caravan or other temporary	2.1	0.3
Not stated		

A higher proportion of households in the Republic of Ireland live in detached houses or bungalows than indicated for Northern Ireland; this may be due to more households in rural areas in the Republic of Ireland. Conversely, proportionately more households in Northern Ireland live in terraced houses or bungalows.

## Further information

Further information on the Censuses in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland can be found at [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) and [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk) respectively.