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## ***HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS***

## Households

In 2002, the average household size in the Republic of Ireland was 2.94, with the corresponding average in Northern Ireland being 2.58. Northern Ireland had a higher proportion of one person households than the Republic of Ireland (28% and 22% respectively). The proportion of households comprising five or more people was greater in the Republic of Ireland at 16% than in Northern Ireland, at 12%.

Almost half of households in the Republic of Ireland in 1999-2000 lived in dwellings which were owned outright compared with less than one third in Northern Ireland. In comparison, a higher proportion of households in Northern Ireland (23%) rented accommodation from the local authority than in the Republic of Ireland (8%).

## Housing

Between 1997 and 2002, the number of dwellings completed in the Republic of Ireland increased by almost 50% from 38,842 to 57,695. The increase was less pronounced in Northern Ireland with a rise of just over one-third in the number of dwellings completed during the same period. Around 90% of dwellings completed in both jurisdictions in 2002 were private. Between 1997 and 2002 the annual number of dwellings completed in the ROI social housing sector generally increased year-on-year, such that the number completed in 2002 was 70% higher than in 1997. Conversely, the number of NI social housing completions generally decreased year-on-year. In 2002, the number of NI social housing completions was half that for 1997.

The average new house price in the Republic of Ireland almost doubled between 1997 and 2002 to €198,000. Over the same period the increase in the average new house price in Northern Ireland was less marked at around 45%.

## Household Income and Expenditure

In 1999-2000, 67% of average gross weekly household income in the Republic of Ireland was derived from wages and salaries, compared with 62% in Northern Ireland. Social security benefits accounted for a noticeably higher proportion of average weekly household income in Northern Ireland (22%) than in the Republic of Ireland (12%).

The proportions of average weekly household expenditure on certain goods and services were broadly similar in the two jurisdictions in 1999-2000. Households in the Republic of Ireland spent a somewhat higher proportion of their weekly expenditure on services, goods and other expenditure (36% compared with 33% for NI households) and alcohol (6% compared with 4% for NI households). Conversely, households in Northern Ireland spent marginally higher proportions of their weekly expenditure on food, tobacco, clothing and footwear, and fuel and light.

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**Table 2.1 Household size**

*Percentages and numbers*

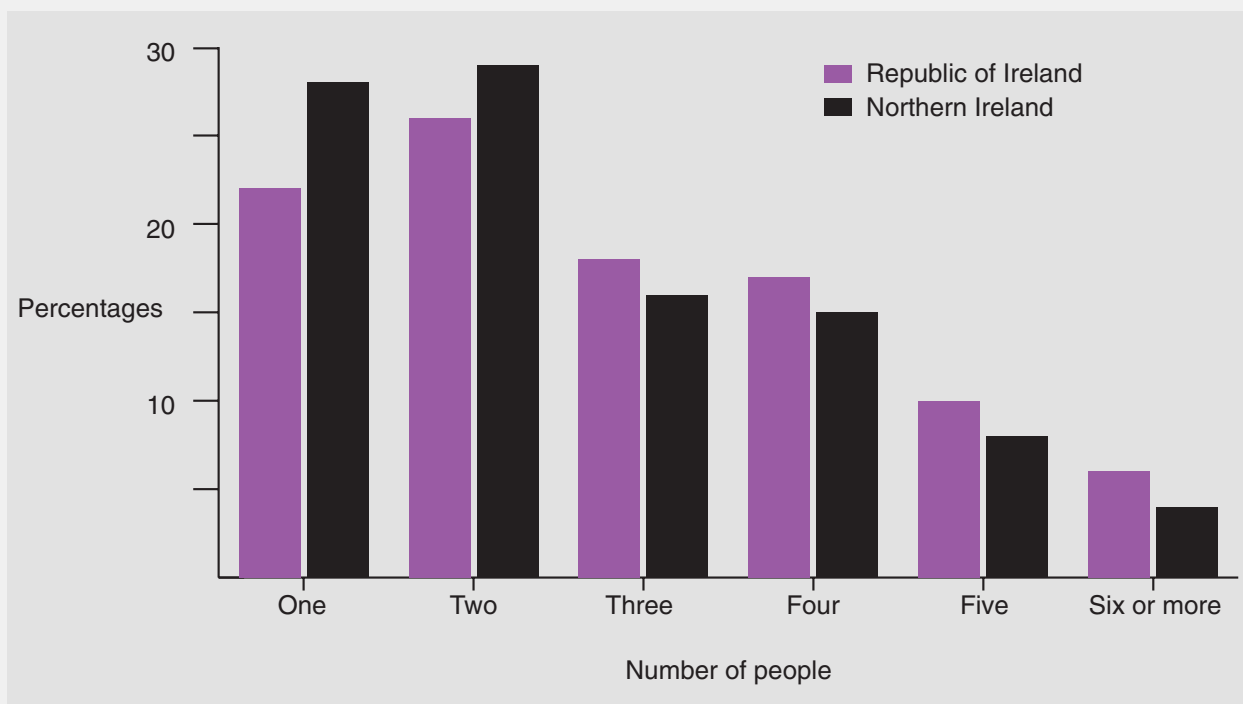
Number of persons	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>						
1	23	22	22	23	22	22
2	24	24	24	24	26	26
3	16	17	17	17	17	18
4	17	17	18	18	18	17
5	11	11	11	11	11	10
6 or more	9	9	8	7	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Average household size	3.02	3.02	3.00	2.97	2.97	2.94
Sample base (households)	47,665	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
<b>Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup></b>						
1	26	25	26	25	26	28
2	27	30	30	28	29	29
3	16	16	15	16	18	16
4	16	16	16	16	15	15
5	8	8	8	9	7	8
6 or more	6	5	5	5	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Average household size	2.74	2.71	2.67	2.72	2.67	2.58
Sample base (households)	3,024	2,809	3,039	2,800	2,805	2,782

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland figures are for financial years.

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Figure 2.1 Household size, 2002



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**Table 2.2 Household tenure, 1999-2000**

		<i>Percentages and numbers</i>	
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>		<b>Northern Ireland</b>	
Owned outright	47	Owned outright	30
Owned with mortgage	35	Owned with mortgage	37
Rented from local authority	8	Rented from local authority	23
Rented other	9	Rented other	8
Rent free	1	Rent free	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
Sample base (households)	7,644	Sample base (households)	3,039

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency*

**Table 2.3 Dwellings completed**

						<i>Numbers</i>
<b>Description</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>						
<b>Dwellings completed</b>						
Private	35,454	39,093	43,024	46,657	47,727	51,932
Social housing	3,388	3,256	3,488	3,155	4,875	5,763
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,842</b>	<b>42,349</b>	<b>46,512</b>	<b>49,812</b>	<b>52,602</b>	<b>57,695</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>						
<b>Dwellings completed</b>						
Private	8,346	8,581	8,183	10,420	12,120	12,937
Social housing	1,822	1,496	1,314	992	1,530	910
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>10,077</b>	<b>9,497</b>	<b>11,412</b>	<b>13,650</b>	<b>13,847</b>

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office*  
*Northern Ireland: Department for Social Development*

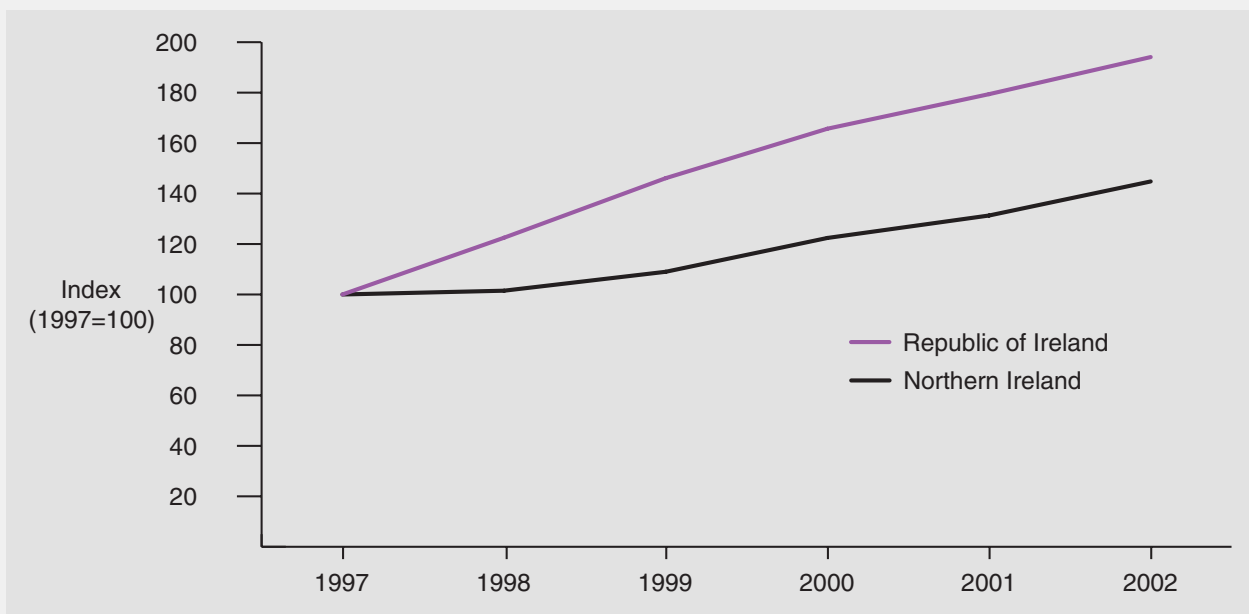
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**Table 2.4 Average new house prices**

	<i>Units as indicated</i>					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Republic of Ireland (€)</b>	102,000	125,000	149,000	169,000	183,000	198,000
<b>Northern Ireland (£stg)</b>	67,000	68,000	73,000	82,000	88,000	97,000

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Department for Social Development*

**Figure 2.2 Index of average new house prices, 1997-2002**



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**Table 2.5 Average gross weekly household income by source, 1999-2000**

*Percentages and numbers*

Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
<b>Income source</b>		<b>Income source</b>	
Wages and salaries	67	Wages and salaries	62
State transfers	12	Social security benefits	22
Other sources	21	Other sources	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
Sample base	7,644	Sample base	587

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

**Table 2.6 Average weekly household expenditure on goods and services, 1999-2000**

*Percentages and numbers*

Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
Food	20	Food	21
Alcohol	6	Alcohol	4
Tobacco	2	Tobacco	3
Clothing and footwear	6	Clothing and footwear	8
Fuel and light	4	Fuel and light	5
Housing	10	Housing	9
Transport	16	Transport	16
Services, goods & other expenditure (not elsewhere specified)	36	Services, goods & other expenditure (not elsewhere specified)	33
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>100</b>
Sample base	7,644	Sample base	587

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

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**Table 2.7 Weekly expenditure per household on various food items, 1999-2000**

*Units as indicated*

	Republic of Ireland (€)	Northern Ireland (£) <sup>1</sup>
Bread	5.22	2.17
Milk and cream	8.85	4.03
Cheese	1.82	0.94
Eggs	0.92	0.47
Biscuits, cakes and buns	5.17	2.45
Beef and veal	3.84	2.60
Mutton and lamb	1.75	0.29
Pork	1.47	0.65
Fresh potatoes	2.42	1.33
Fresh fruit	3.64	2.03
Other food items <sup>2</sup>	82.60	20.76
<b>Total expenditure on food</b>	<b>117.70</b>	<b>37.72</b>

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland figures are for the calendar year.

<sup>2</sup> Republic of Ireland data for the category 'other food items' includes a figure of €24.07 for meals away from home.

**Table 2.8 Households with consumer durables**

*Percentages*

	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	1994-95	1999-00	1994-95	1999-00
Washing machine	86	93	89	92
Tumble drier	26	42	34	43
Dishwasher	19	32	16	26
Microwave oven	47	72	60	82
Home computer	16	29	15	28
Video	61	85	69	81
Hi-fi/Music centre	52	66	59	68
Compact disc player	..	56	29	52
Television (at least one colour set)	88	96	94	96

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office  
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency



## **Technical Notes**

### **Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.8**

Republic of Ireland data are from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS – formerly the Labour Force Survey) and the Household Budget Survey.

Northern Ireland data for household size, tenure and consumer durables are taken from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). The CHS, which began in 1983, is based on a simple random sample of the general population resident in private households in Northern Ireland.

### **Tables 2.3 and 2.4**

Social housing in the Republic of Ireland includes Local Authority houses and Voluntary and Co-operative houses. Voluntary and Co-operative houses consist of completions under the capital loan and subsidy; and capital assistance schemes.

In Northern Ireland, social housing includes Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) houses and Housing Association dwellings.

Republic of Ireland house price figures are average prices for the year and are derived from the data supplied by mortgage lending agencies on loans approved by them.

Northern Ireland data for new house sales and prices are derived from transactions for new dwellings notified by solicitors to the National House Building Council (NHBC). While NHBC-registered builders account for a very high proportion of newly built dwellings, their coverage is less comprehensive in rural areas. Private sector completion figures for Northern Ireland have been adjusted by statistical methods to correct as far as possible, the proven under-recording of private sector completions.

### **Tables 2.5 and 2.6**

The Irish Household Budget Survey (HBS) is based on stratified random samples. The HBS covers approximately 8,000 urban and rural households throughout the country. The main purpose of the HBS is to determine in detail the current pattern of household expenditure for the purpose of updating the weighting basis of the Consumer Price Index. Extensive additional information is collected concerning household income, accommodation occupied, existence of appliances and facilities, etc.

The Northern Ireland Family Expenditure Survey (FES) is based on a simple random sample and covers 1,200 private households per annum. The survey collects information on income, expenditure and related social characteristics. Miscellaneous expenditure includes expenditure not assignable elsewhere.

