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Census 2011: Detailed Characteristics of Housing, the Labour Market, and Voluntary Work at the Northern Ireland Level

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This Paper focuses on the topics of Housing, the Labour Market and Voluntary Work. It considers how they interact with a series of variables, including age, religion, household size, tenure, health and education.

Executive Summary

Housing

- Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of households living in the Private rented sector doubled, from 9.2 per cent to 18 per cent, resulting in it becoming the second-largest tenure type, while the proportion living in social housing fell from 21 per cent to 15 per cent.
- There is a link between tenure and age. In general, young people are more likely to live in private or social rented accommodation, while older people predominate in owner-occupied households.
- Household structure has changed significantly over the past fifty years, with average household size falling from 3.70 in 1961 to 2.54 in 2011.
- On Census Day 2011, 59 per cent of households living in NIHE accommodation, and 61 per cent in Housing Association properties, had no access to a car or van.
- Migrant workers are typically living in private rental accommodation. While 13 per cent of Northern Ireland-born residents are renting privately, this figure rises to three-quarters (76 per cent) of those born in the EU A8 countries.
- In March 2011, nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of usual residents in social housing were living in accommodation that had been designed or adapted for a variety of medical conditions.
- The day-to-day activities of residents living in NIHE or Housing Association properties were more likely to be limited 'a lot' by a Long-term health problem or disability (25 per cent and 23 per cent respectively) than those of people who were living in either Owner-occupied or Private rented accommodation.
- The availability of a vehicle varies considerably depending upon the type of accommodation. While 59 per cent of residents living in a detached house or bungalow had access to two or more vehicles, over half (52 per cent) of residents living in a flat, maisonette or apartment had no access to a car or van.

Labour Market

- Owner-occupation was the predominate tenure type for those who were either employed (73 per cent) or self-employed (88 per cent). In contrast, unemployed householders were more likely to live in social housing (33 per cent).

- Half (50 per cent) of all usual residents aged 16 – 74 living in households had two or more cars or vans available to their households; this included 57 per cent of those who were economically active.
- In contrast, just over half (51 per cent) of NIHE tenants aged 16 – 74, and a similar proportion of Housing Association tenants (50 per cent), had no access to a car or van, compared with almost a third (32 per cent) of private sector tenants, and only 5.3 per cent of those living in owner-occupied households.
- Households living in owner-occupied accommodation typically work in higher status occupations than residents living in social housing. For example, over a third (36 per cent) of owner-occupied households were employed in managerial, administrative and professional occupations compared with 8.9 per cent of households renting from the NIHE. At the other end of the scale, one in five households (19 per cent) living in social housing had either never worked or were long-term unemployed.
- The highest level of qualification achieved varies inversely with age. In March 2011, people aged 25 to 34 were over twice as likely as those aged 65 to 74 (37 per cent compared with 16 per cent) to have achieved Level 4 or higher qualifications.

Voluntary Work

- Overall, 15 per cent of people aged 16 and over had undertaken voluntary work in the 12 months prior to Census Day 2011, with females (16 per cent) more likely than males (14 per cent) to have done so.
- Residents aged 16 – 24 were most likely to have carried out voluntary work (19 per cent), while at 7.1 per cent, those aged 75 and over were less likely than other age groups to have done so.
- Residents aged 16 and over who belonged to or had been brought up in 'Other' religions were most likely to have carried out voluntary work without pay in the previous year (19 per cent).
- Students were most likely to have carried out voluntary work, including 28 per cent of economically active full-time students and 22 per cent of economically inactive students. Among the economically active, Unemployed people were least likely to have carried out voluntary work (13 per cent), whereas, among the economically inactive, it was the Long-term sick or disabled (5.3 per cent).

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1 Housing

1.1 Introduction

Table 1.1 illustrates the significant changes which have occurred in the housing market since 2001.

Table 1.1: Housing Tenure in Northern Ireland: 2001 and 2011

Type of Household Tenure	2001 (%)	2011 (%)
Owner occupied (incl. shared)	69.6	67.5
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	18.6	11.5
Housing Associations	2.6	3.4
Private rented (incl. rent free / other)	9.2	17.6

Note: Private rental includes rent free accommodation and 'other' rental.

Source: NINIS, NISRA, Tables KS402 (2013) and KS18 (2003).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of households living in the Private rented sector (including those living rent free and 'other') doubled, from 9.2 per cent to 18 per cent, resulting in it becoming the second-largest tenure type, while the proportion living in social housing fell from 21 per cent to 15 per cent.

Key drivers in the increased demand for private rental accommodation include inward migration from the EU A8 countries; housing affordability issues associated with the mid-2000s surge in house prices; and the impact on the local housing market of the post-2007 economic downturn. The downturn saw a "... marked reduction in property values, risk aversion among mortgage lenders, and reduced confidence among prospective house purchasers, and, as a result, many households electing to rent rather than buy." ¹

1.2 Household Tenure and Age

Table 1.2 shows the association between tenure and age. In general, young people are more likely to live in private or social rented accommodation, while older people predominate in owner-occupied households.

In March 2011, 59 per cent of households in which the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 16 – 24 were living in private rental accommodation, compared with 9.4 per cent of those in which he or she was aged 65 – 74 ². In addition, a quarter (25

¹ NISRA (2013) Statistics Bulletin: Detailed characteristics for Northern Ireland on Housing, Labour Market and Voluntary Work, p. 13. Accessed from: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/detailedcharacteristics_stats_bulletin_3_2011.pdf

² In broad terms, the HRP denotes the 'head' of the household for Census purposes, and is generally the household member who completes the Census form. In a couple family, the HRP is chosen from the two people in the couple on the basis of their economic activity (in the priority order: full-time, part-time, unemployed, retired, other). If both people have the same

per cent) of households in which the HRP was aged 16 – 24 were living in social rented accommodation, compared with between 13 and 16 per cent of those in which the HRP belonged to older age groups. By contrast, the proportion of households living in Owner-occupied (including Shared ownership) accommodation ranged from 16 per cent of those in which the HRP was aged 16 – 24, to three-quarters (75 per cent) of those in which he or she was aged 45 – 74.

Table 1.2: Type of Tenure and Age of HRP, Census 2011

TYPE OF TENURE	Age of Household Reference Person (HRP)					
	16-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45-54 (%)	55-64 (%)	65-74 (%)
No. of Households	21,839	101,288	141,394	147,740	116,353	89,945
Owner occupied (incl. shared ownership)	15.9	47.9	68.4	74.1	76.5	75.2
Social rental (NIHE & Housing Assoc)	24.7	16.0	13.0	13.7	14.0	15.4
Private rental (incl. rent free)	59.5	36.1	18.6	12.2	9.5	9.4

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6401NI, Census 2011

1.3 Tenure and Household Size

Household structure has changed dramatically over the past fifty years. Whereas in 1961, around half of Northern Ireland's population lived in households containing 5 or more people, by 2011 this proportion had fallen to 10 per cent. Over the same period, the proportion of households containing up to two people increased from around a third (34 per cent) to 58 per cent. As a result, the average household size fell from 3.70 to 2.54 over the same period³.

Table 1.3 (overleaf) shows that, in March 2011, one-person households were the largest category for those renting from Housing Associations (51 per cent), the NIHE (43 per cent) and private rental (34 per cent). In contrast, households in the owner-occupied sector were more likely to contain 5 or more people (12 per cent), than other tenure types: Private rented (7.1 per cent), Housing Associations (6.8 per cent), and NIHE (6.2 per cent).

economic activity, the HRP is identified as the elder of the two, or if they are the same age, the first member of the couple on the form (NISRA 2011, Census Definitions and Output Classifications).

³ NISRA (2013) *Ibid.*

Table 1.3: Type of Tenure by Household Size, Census 2011

Persons in household	All households	TYPE OF TENURE				
		All (%)	Owner Occupied (%)	NIHE (%)	Housing Assoc (%)	Private Rented (%)
1 person	196,414	27.9	22.6	42.6	50.6	34.4
2 persons	212,286	30.2	30.9	27.8	22.1	30.6
3 persons	117,920	16.8	17.4	14.6	12.2	16.8
4 persons	103,137	14.7	16.9	8.7	8.3	11.0
5 persons	49,370	7.0	8.3	4.0	3.8	4.6
6 or more persons	24,148	3.4	3.9	2.2	3.0	2.5
Totals	703,275	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC4406NI, Census 2011

1.4 Tenure and Car / Van availability

Table 1.4 shows the relationship between type of tenure and access to a car or van. While 48 per cent of households living in owner-occupied accommodation had access to two or more vehicles, 59 per cent of households living in NIHE accommodation, and 61 per cent in Housing Association properties, had no car or van availability.

Table 1.4: Tenure by Car / Van availability, Census 2011

Type of Tenure	No of Cars or Vans available to household (%)		
	None	1 car or van	2 or more cars or vans
Owner occupied	10.5	41.5	48.0
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	58.8	36.3	4.9
Housing Associations	60.6	35.6	3.8
Private rented	38.7	45.5	15.9
All Households	22.7	41.4	35.9

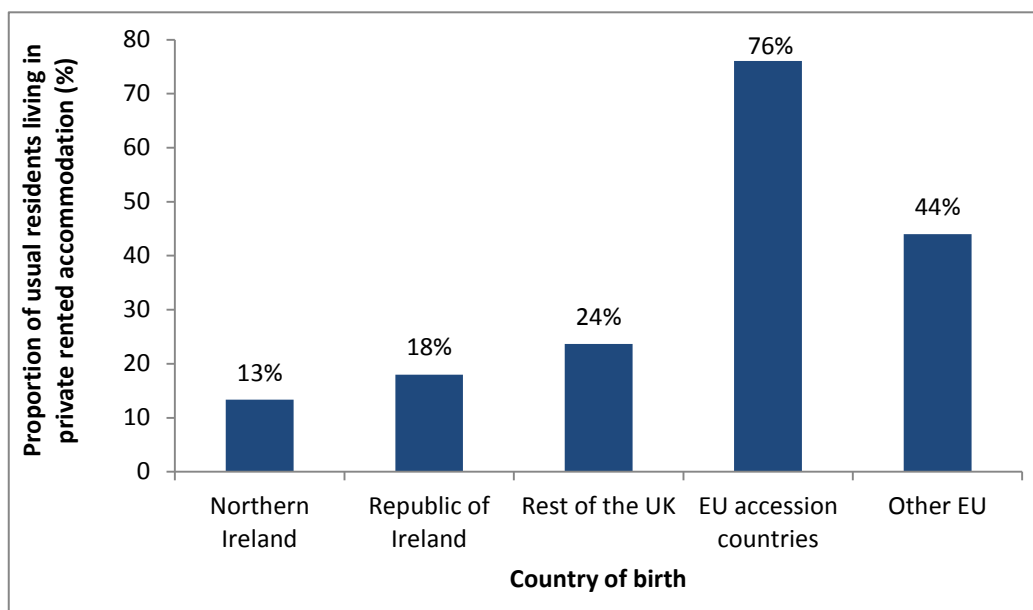
Source: NISRA, NINIS (2013) Table DC4410NI

1.5 Tenure and Country of Birth

Figure 1.1 presents the proportion of usual residents living in private rental accommodation on Census Day 2011, by selected country of birth. The statistics confirms that a substantial majority of new residents from the EU Accession countries, such as Poland and Slovakia, are living in the private sector.

While 13 per cent of Northern Ireland-born residents are renting privately, this figure rises to three-quarters (76 per cent) of those born in the A8 countries.

Figure: 1.1 Proportion of usual residents living in private rented accommodation by selected Countries of Birth, Census 2011



Source: NISRA (2013) Fig. 1.6, DC 3, Charts and Tables

1.6 Tenure and Adaptation of Accommodation

Census 2011 introduced a new question about the design or adaptation of household accommodation for a variety of conditions, for example: wheelchair usage, other physical or mobility difficulties, visual difficulties and / or hearing difficulties.

Overall, 11 per cent of usual residents in households were living in accommodation that had been designed or adapted for such circumstances or conditions. Table 1.5 shows that the adaptation rate was considerably higher for those living in Social rented accommodation (23 per cent), than for Owner-occupiers (10 per cent) or for those living in Private rental (6.9 per cent).

Table 1.5: Tenure by Adaptation of Household

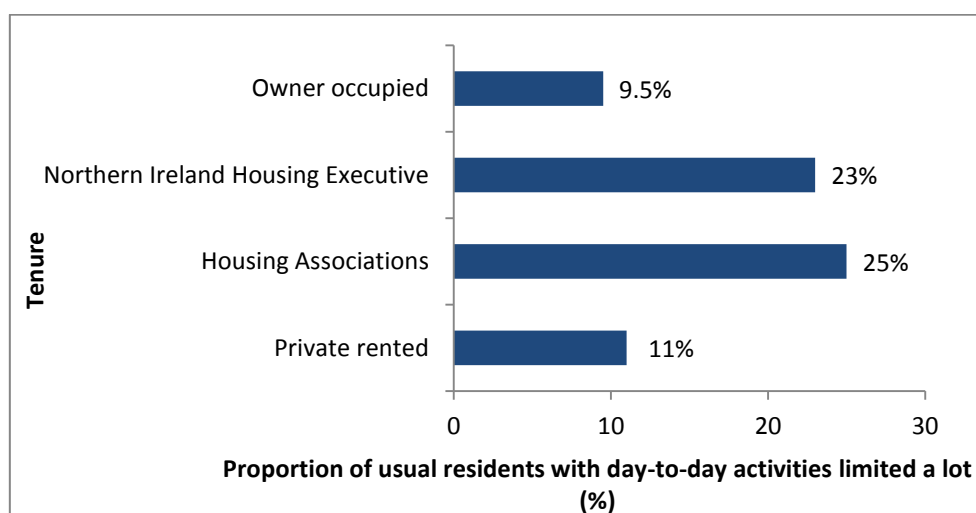
Type of Tenure	All usual residents in households	Proportion living in adapted households (%)
All usual residents in households	1,788,339	11.1
Owner occupied	1,285,113	10.1
Social rented	219,712	22.6
Private rented	283,514	6.9

Source: NISRA, NINIS (2013) Table DC4413NI

1.7 Tenure and Long-term health condition

Overall, in 2011 the day-to-day activities of 11 per cent of usual residents were limited 'a lot'. However, Figure 1.2 shows that the day-to-day activities of residents living in NIHE or Housing Association properties were more likely to be limited 'a lot' by a Long-term health problem or disability (25 per cent and 23 per cent respectively) than those of people who were living in either Owner-occupied or Private rented accommodation (9.5 per cent and 11 per cent respectively).

Figure 1.2 Proportion of usual residents with day-to-day activities limited a lot, Census 2011



Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Fig 1.7, DC 3, Charts and Tables

1.8 Accommodation Type and Car / Van availability

Table 1.6 reveals that access to a car or van varies considerably depending upon the type of accommodation. While 59 per cent of usual residents living in a detached house or bungalow had access to two or more vehicles, over half (52 per cent) of residents living in a flat, maisonette or apartment had no access to a car or van.

Table 1.6: Car / Van availability by type of accommodation, Census 2011

Type of Accommodation	None (%)	1 car or van (%)	2 or more cars or vans (%)
Detached house or bungalow	7.9	33.2	58.9
Semi-detached house or bungalow	20.0	48.3	31.7
Terraced house or bungalow	37.5	46.2	16.3
Flat, maisonette or apartment	52.4	40.1	7.5

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC4405NI.

2 Labour Market

2.1 Employment Status and Tenure

Table 2.1 illustrates the relationship between tenure type and employment status. In March 2011, there were a total of 443,000 households where the HRP was aged 16-74 and economically active. Owner-occupation (including shared ownership) was the predominate tenure type for those who were either employed (73 per cent) or self-employed (88 per cent). In contrast, unemployed householders were more likely to live in social housing (33 per cent) or renting privately (35 per cent), than in owner-occupied accommodation (30 per cent). Full-time students were typically living in private rental (58 per cent).

Table 2.1: Tenure by Economic Activity, Census 2011

Type of Tenure	Economically Active Categories				
	Total (%)	Employee (%)	Self-employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Full-time Student (%)
Households with HRP aged 16-64	443,114	335,390	78,258	24,707	4,759
Owner occupied	72.5	72.8	87.3	29.6	26.9
Shared ownership	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.9
Rented from NIHE	7.2	6.8	2.4	26.9	9.5
Rented from Housing Assoc	1.7	1.7	0.6	5.9	3.1
Private rented	16.6	16.7	8.2	34.7	58.2
Lives rent free	1.3	1.2	1.2	2.5	1.4

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6401NI

2.2 Employment Status and Car / Van availability

On Census Day 2011, half (50 per cent) of all usual residents aged 16 – 74 living in households had two or more cars or vans available to their households; this included 57 per cent of those who were economically active (Table 2.2). In contrast, almost a third of unemployed households (31 per cent) had no access to a car or van, compared with employees (9.5 per cent) and the self-employed (3.5 per cent).

Table 2.2: Number of Cars / Vans available by Economically Active category (aged 16-74), Census 2011

No. Cars / Vans	All Residents aged 16-74 (in households)	Economically Active Categories				
		Total (%)	Employee (%)	Self-employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Full-time students (%)
	1,301,310	865,281	638,191	116,432	64,985	45,673
No cars or vans	14.8	10.6	9.5	3.5	31.3	13.3
1 car or van	35.4	32.2	33.7	23.0	37.4	27.1
2 + cars or vans	49.8	57.2	56.7	73.4	31.3	59.6

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6402NI

2.3 Economic Activity, Tenure and Car / Van availability

When access to a vehicle is further broken down by tenure and economic activity, a clearer picture emerges of the impact of low income on households in Northern Ireland.

Table 2.3 contains an analysis of usual residents (aged 16 – 74) living in households with no access to a vehicle by tenure and economic activity categories. The table reveals that just over half (51 per cent) of NIHE tenants aged 16 – 74, and a similar proportion of Housing Association tenants (50 per cent), have no access to a car or van, compared with almost a third (32 per cent) of private sector tenants, and only 5.3 per cent of those living in owner-occupied households.

Table 2.3: All usual residents (aged 16-74) in households with no access to a car or van by Tenure and Economic Activity, Census 2011

Household Tenure	All Residents aged 16-74 (in households)	Economically Active Categories				
		Total (%)	Employee (%)	Self-employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Full-time students (%)
	1,301,310	865,281	638,191	116,432	64,985	45,673
Owner-occupied	5.3	3.9	3.9	1.6	9.9	3.7
NIHE rental	50.9	44.6	40.5	29.1	59.7	45.8
Housing Assoc rental	50.2	43.4	40.3	25.7	57.2	43.0
Private Rental	31.9	26.9	24.2	14.3	48.2	30.2

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6402NI

The disadvantage faced by social housing tenants becomes even clearer when car availability is further disaggregated by economic activity. For example, in March 2011,

60 per cent of unemployed NIHE tenants, and 57 per cent of unemployed Housing Association residents, had no access to a car or van. The comparable figures for unemployed residents aged 16 – 74 in owner-occupied households was 9.9 per cent.

2.4 NS-SeC Classification by Tenure

Table 2.4 presents data on the NS-SeC job classification by household tenure for HRPs aged 16-74. The table shows that households living in owner-occupied accommodation typically work in higher status occupations than residents living in social housing.

For example, over a third (36 per cent) of owner-occupied households were employed in managerial, administrative and professional occupations compared with 8.9 per cent of households renting from the NIHE. At the other end of the scale, one in five households (19 per cent) living in social housing had either never worked or were long-term unemployed. The corresponding figure for owner-occupied households was 1.5 per cent. The high proportion of 'never worked' and long-term unemployed in social housing is partially accounted for by the large number of disabled residents living in the social housing sector.

Table 2.4: NS-SEC Classification (age 16-74) by Tenure, Census 2011

NS-SEC Classification	Owner occupied (%)	NIHE rental (%)	Housing Assoc rental (%)	Private rental (%)
All HRPs aged 16 to 74	414,728	71,338	18,965	113,528
1. Higher managerial, admin and professional occupations	12.0	1.5	2.3	7.1
2. Lower managerial, admin and professional occupations	24.3	7.4	9.9	15.4
3. Intermediate occupations	12.4	8.3	10.6	10.8
4. Small employers	15.9	4.6	4.4	7.1
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	8.1	7.7	7.2	8.4
6. Semi-routine occupations	12.0	22.9	22.5	18.8
7. Routine occupations	12.2	26.8	22.1	17.0
8. Never worked & long-term unemployed	2.6	19.5	19.5	11.7
Not classified: L15 Full-time students	0.4	1.3	1.5	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6403NI

2.5 Highest level of Qualifications by Age

The highest level of qualification achieved varies inversely with age (Table 2.5). For instance, in March 2011 people aged 25 – 34 were over twice as likely as those aged 65 to 74 (37 per cent compared with 16 per cent) to have achieved Level 4 or higher qualifications. Conversely, people aged 65 – 74 were around six times as likely as those aged 25 – 34 to have no qualifications (59 per cent compared with 10 per cent)

Table 2.5: Highest level of Qualifications and Age, Census 2011

Age group	No Qualifications (%)	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)	Apprentices (%)	Level 3 (%)	Level 4 (%)	Other (%)
Age 16-24	14.8	15.3	27.2	3.0	25.3	12.4	2.0
Age 25-34	10.3	11.5	16.1	3.0	17.2	37.0	4.8
Age 35-44	16.8	15.6	15.9	3.8	12.5	31.1	4.2
Age 45-64	33.3	11.7	12.8	5.5	8.4	23.6	4.7
Age 65-74	58.6	5.0	6.9	5.1	3.6	15.6	5.3
Age 75+	70.0	2.7	4.3	4.1	2.2	12.0	4.8

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC5101NI, Census 2011

2.6 Highest level of Qualifications by Economic Activity

Among residents aged 16 to 74 who were economically active, employees were more likely to have achieved Level 4 or higher qualifications (35 per cent) than the self-employed (25 per cent), the unemployed (13 per cent) or full-time students (12 per cent). In contrast, 30 per cent of unemployed people had no qualifications, compared with 22 per cent of the self-employed, 12 per cent of employees and 5.9 per cent of economically active full-time students (Table 2.6).

Table 2.6: Highest level of Qualifications and the Economically Active, Census 2011

	Total (%)	Employee (%)	Self-employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Full-time students (%)
Economically active, all usual residents (16-74)	869,767	639,943	116,666	65,196	47,962
No qualifications	14.7	12.5	22.0	29.7	5.9
Level 1 qualifications	12.9	12.5	12.4	18.6	10.8
Level 2 qualifications	16.7	16.3	13.2	17.1	29.8
Apprenticeship	4.8	3.9	10.5	5.8	1.6
Level 3 qualifications	15.5	14.8	12.1	11.6	38.0
Level 4 and above	31.0	35.3	25.1	13.0	12.4
Other qualifications	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.2	1.4

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6501NI, Census 2011

3 Voluntary Work

A new question in the 2011 Census asked respondents aged 16 and over whether they had helped with, or carried out, any voluntary work without pay in the previous year.

3.1 Voluntary Work and Sex and Age

Overall, 15 per cent of people aged 16 and over had undertaken voluntary work in the 12 months prior to Census Day 2011, with females (16 per cent) more likely than males (14 per cent) to have done so.

Table 3.1: Voluntary work and Age and Sex, Census 2011

	All residents aged 16 +	Voluntary work without pay (%)	
		Yes	No
All residents aged 16 +	1,431,540	14.9	85.1
Aged 16 to 24	227,634	19.0	81.0
Aged 25 to 34	243,938	13.5	86.5
Aged 35 to 44	254,108	14.9	85.1
Aged 45 to 54	248,578	16.6	83.4
Aged 55 to 64	193,562	15.8	84.2
Aged 65 to 74	145,600	13.7	86.3
Aged 75 and over	118,120	7.1	92.9
Males	692,931	14.0	86.0
Females	738,609	15.8	84.2

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6116NI

Table 3.1 reveals that residents aged 16 – 24 were most likely to have carried out voluntary work (19 per cent), while at 7.1 per cent, those aged 75 and over were less likely than other age groups to have done so. However, the finding that young people are more likely to perform voluntary work than the oldest groups is probably influenced by a number of other factors, including general health status, and the mandatory requirement in some further and higher education courses for an unpaid placement or internship.

The influence of health status is illustrated by the fact that the proportion of residents aged 16 and over who had carried out voluntary work in the previous year ranged from 19 per cent of those who were in 'very good' health to 2.9 per cent whose health was 'very bad' (Table DC6302NI).

3.2 Voluntary Work and Religion or Religion Brought up in

Table 3.2: Voluntary work and Religion or Religion brought up in, Census 2011

	All residents aged 16 +	Voluntary work without pay (%)	
		Yes	No
All residents aged 16 +	1,431,540	14.9	85.1
Catholic	630,341	13.9	86.1
Protestant and Other Christians	725,460	15.9	84.1
Other religions	13,496	19.2	80.8
No religion	62,243	13.6	86.4

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6202NI, Census 2011

Residents aged 16 and over who belonged to or had been brought up in 'Other' religions were most likely to have carried out voluntary work without pay in the previous year (19 per cent), see Table 3.2. The equivalent rates for the other religion or religion brought up in categories were: Protestant and Other Christian (16 per cent); Catholic (14 per cent); and No religion (14 per cent) ⁴.

3.3 Voluntary Work and Economic Activity

Table 3.3 shows that economically active residents aged 16 and over were more likely than those who were economically inactive to have participated in voluntary work in the previous year (17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively).

Students were most likely to have carried out voluntary work, including 28 per cent of economically active full-time students and 22 per cent of economically inactive students. Among the economically active, Unemployed people were least likely to have carried out voluntary work (13 per cent), whereas, among the economically inactive, it was the Long-term sick or disabled (5.3 per cent).

⁴ NISRA (2013) Statistics Bulletin: Detailed characteristics for Northern Ireland on Housing, Labour Market and Voluntary Work, p. 73. Accessed from: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/detailedcharacteristics_stats_bulletin_3_2011.pdf

Table 3.3: Voluntary Work and Economic Activity, Census 2011

Economically active / inactive categories	All usual residents aged 16 to 74	Voluntary work without pay	
		Yes	No
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	1,313,420	15.6	84.4
Economically active	869,767	17.0	83.0
Employee - Part-time	172,138	17.2	82.8
Employee - Full-time	467,805	16.0	84.0
Self-employed - Part-time	26,759	22.2	77.8
Self-employed - Full-time	89,907	17.9	82.1
Unemployed	65,196	12.7	87.3
Full-time student	47,962	27.9	72.1
Economically inactive	443,653	13.0	87.0
Retired	170,016	14.2	85.8
Student (including full-time students)	81,158	22.4	77.6
Looking after home/family	58,398	10.4	89.6
Long-term sick/disabled	95,480	5.3	94.7
Other	38,601	10.3	89.7

Source: NINIS, NISRA (2013) Table DC6607NI, Census 2011