

Settlement Population Statistics: 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2008



1. Introduction

1. The current standard geographies for statistical outputs in Northern Ireland range from 26 Local Government Districts, through 582 Electoral Wards to the smallest which are the 5,022 Output Areas defined from the 2001 Census.
2. Through the provision of local services, the majority of the public know which Local Government District they live in. However fewer of the public know the electoral ward they live in and even fewer the Output Area. The most widely known local unit is the neighbourhood, be that the town/village of residence or the location of local services.
3. Towns and villages – referred to as settlements – are therefore much easier to relate to. From a statistical perspective however, these definitions are less useful as their boundaries change over time, primarily through expansion. These changes are defined in statute through the changing of settlement planning boundaries by the Northern Ireland Planning Service¹. These statutory settlement boundaries do not match the standard administrative and statistical geographies.
4. However there is significant user demand for statistics on the population of settlements. This document provides some background documentation to settlement population figures from the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses, as well as recently published settlement population figures for mid-2008.

¹ See the Planning Service website http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/dev_plans/devplans_az.htm which shows the latest development plans for each local area.

2. Methodology

Census 1971-2001

5. Settlement population counts were published from each of the last four Censuses 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. However there are some differences in each Census with regards to methodology of how the population was counted and the spatial definition of each settlement. This section outlines
- (i) the main characteristics of each Census, to allow users to judge the comparability of how the population was counted; and
 - (ii) the step change improvement in the geographical delineation of settlements introduced for the 2001 Census.

1971 Census

6. The reference point of the 1971 Census was midnight Sunday 25 April 1971. Returns from the 1971 Census were collected on a population present basis. Returns comprised all living persons, irrespective of their usual address, who spent Census Night in the household or place of enumeration. The enumerated population of Northern Ireland in 1971 was 1,536,065.

1981 Census

7. The reference point of the 1981 Census was midnight Sunday 5 April 1981². As in 1971, returns for the Census were collected on a population present basis. It comprised all living persons, irrespective of their usual address, who spent Census Night in the household or place of enumeration. However, reported population counts were *generally* based on the concept of usual residency. There were some exceptions, most notably students living away from home during term-time who were instructed to regard their (parental) home address as their usual residence. This change created a discontinuity from 1971 for some groups of people and can affect some of the results presented. The enumerated population of Northern Ireland in 1981 was 1,532,619.

² It is important to remember that the 1981 Census was affected by a campaign of active public non-response. The 1981 Census summary report notes this issue – the settlement population figures does not allow for this non-response.

1991 Census

8. The reference point of the 1991 Census was midnight Sunday 21 April 1991. The process in 1991 was similar to 1981 with returns collected on a population present basis, but reported population counts were generally based on the concept of usual residency. There were some exceptions most notably students living away from home during term-time who were to regard their home address as their usual residence.
9. For the first time in 1991, a post-Census Validation Survey was held to check the coverage and quality of the information collected by the Census. This showed that the Census did not collect information from all persons with around 2% of the population not counted in the Census. This finding was not used to amend the Census figures and thus the settlement figures are as counted by the enumeration. The enumerated population of Northern Ireland in 1991 was 1,573,282.

2001 Census

10. Results from the 2001 Census relate to Sunday 29 April 2001. There are two main changes compared to the previous censuses. Unlike the 1971, 1981 and 1991 censuses, in 2001, students were recorded at their term-time address not their home address. This will impact on the population counts of settlements with relatively large numbers of students, such as Coleraine.
11. In addition, as in 1991, a post Census Coverage Survey was undertaken after the enumeration. This Coverage Survey was used to adjust the 2001 Census database. In total around 5% of the population were included by this method, with additional returns generated using a statistical algorithm. This issue will marginally affect the comparison between the 2001 Census and previous Census figures, although generally it is relatively small compared to the size of the population being measured, however, it is considerable with regards to the population growth between 1991 and 2001. The enumerated population of Northern Ireland in 2001 was 1,685,267.

Census Settlement Geographies

12. Settlement population statistics reported from the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses were based on a rectangle approximately covering the settlement at that time on a best fit basis. These rectangles were built up from 1 kilometre and 100 metre grid-squares. The rectangle definition is imprecise. In some cases households from the rural hinterland were included within the settlement rectangle.
13. Settlement population statistics reported from the 2001 Census were based on the more accurate Settlement Development Limit³, as defined by the Northern Ireland Planning Service. Population figures from the 2001 Census based on the Settlement Development Limit are thus more accurate. Maps for each settlement showing the settlement development limit are given on the NINIS website⁴.
14. As a result of this 2001 improvement, population statistics for all settlements with a population of at least 50 persons are available from the 2001 Census, whilst in the 1971, 1981, 1991 Censuses only settlements with a population of 1,000 or more were reported.
15. The use of Settlement Development Limits has led to some settlements to merge. Population estimates presented from the 2001 Census for Newry includes the settlement of Bessbrook and for Newtownabbey includes the settlement of Mossley. These settlements were reported separately in the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses. Similarly, the previously separately reported settlements of Bleary, Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown are combined in 2001 by the Settlement Development Limit of the Craigavon Urban Area. This is also the case for Derriaghy and Dunmurry, which in 2001 are included in Lisburn Urban Area.
16. Some settlements were not reported in the earlier Censuses, as their population did not exceed 1,000 persons at the time. For some of these settlements, a second source of figures is available. A fixed grid rectangle was used with the grid-square statistics from the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses to define settlement population statistics. For settlements that have grown in size since 1991, this data source would use grid rectangles that were generally larger than those drawn at the time of the censuses, hence covering more of the settlements' hinterland and its population. This issue is generally thought to be small, as domestic properties in hinterlands are sparsely spread out.

³ See http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme_towns/Reports/ur_report.pdf for further details

⁴ See http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme_towns/default.asp

2008 Population Estimates for Settlements

17. NISRA produces annual estimates of the resident population. The population estimates refer to the number of people in the population at 30 June each year, the statistics are therefore often referred to as the mid-year estimates. The population statistics refer to the usually resident population. The definition of usual residence is based on United Nations guidelines⁵; in the United Kingdom population statistics are benchmarked to the results to the 2001 Census.
18. Each year population estimates are updated using a standard technique known as the cohort component method⁶. As a starting point the figures are based on updating the resident population from the 2001 Census. In simple terms the previous year's population estimate is "aged on" by one year, with adjustments made for births, deaths and migration. Mid-year population estimates are produced for Northern Ireland as a whole, and for the 26 Local Government Districts and 18 Parliamentary Constituencies. The mid-year estimate of the Northern Ireland population in 2008 was 1,775,003.
19. The Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) project⁷ was initiated primarily to meet the requirements for the NI Measures of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (NIMDM). Population estimates were created for 582 Electoral Wards, 890 Super Output Areas, and 5,022 Output Areas. These are the standard statistical and administrative geographies in Northern Ireland. Small Area Population Estimates were constrained to add up to the published mid-year population estimates for each Local Government District.
20. As settlement boundaries do not match those of the commonly used statistical and administrative geographies, NISRA undertook a subsequent exercise to create settlement population estimates from these small area figures.

⁵ See "Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. UN 1998" available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/migrmethods.htm#B>

⁶ Further detail on the mid-year population estimates methodology is available at: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/midyear/mye_methodology.pdf

⁷ See detailed Small Area Population Estimates report on NISRA website at: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/small_area/SAPEdocFinal.pdf

21. Population estimates for each settlement were created from population estimates of each Output Area and proportions of domestic properties in each Output Area residing within the settlement boundary, as derived from the POINTER⁸ database. Clearly this methodology is most robust for larger settlements, as they encompass entire Output Areas within their settlement boundaries. Therefore, statistics are only presented for settlements with a population of at least 1,000 persons.

22. To assist the user the detail of this methodology is given in Annex A.

3. Interpretation of the Results

23. Annex B details population figures for 112 settlements in Northern Ireland for 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2008. With the exception of Belfast Urban Area, Greenisland, Larne, and Strathfoyle (part of Derry Urban Area), all settlements have grown in population since 1971. There are 29 settlements whose population has more than doubled between 1971 and 2008. The fastest growing settlements are Culmore, Glenavy and Moira.

24. The remainder of this section will look at groups of settlements of the same types as defined in the 2005 NISRA Urban Rural Definition report. For settlements outside Belfast Metropolitan and Derry Urban Areas, their types are defined by their population size at the time of the 2001 Census.

Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA)

25. Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area includes 13 settlements, of which Belfast Urban Area is by far the largest, accounting for 47 per cent of its population in 2008. There are no population figures available for Milltown (Lisburn LGD), Seahill and Castlereagh Urban Area from the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses. Out of the remaining settlements, the population of Carryduff has grown fastest from 2,300 in 1971 to 6,600 in 2008. Whilst the population of Belfast Urban Area has fallen, the populations of some of the larger settlements within the BMUA such as Bangor, Carrickfergus and Lisburn, have grown by around 60 to 70 per cent between 1971 and 2008.

⁸ For further details on the POINTER database, see:
http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps/lps_marketing_-_product_guide_-_pointer.pdf.pdf

Derry Urban Area

26. Derry Urban Area consists of four settlements, of which Londonderry is by far the largest, accounting for 91 per cent of its population in 2008. At each data point, around 5 per cent of the Northern Ireland population resided in Derry Urban Area. The population of Culmore has grown from 200 in 1971 to 3,900 in 2008, making it the fastest growing settlement in Northern Ireland.

Large Towns

27. In 2001 there were eight Large Towns in Northern Ireland, defined by a population in excess of 18,000 persons. From 1981 onwards, the proportion of the Northern Ireland population residing in these eight large towns has remained stable at 13 per cent of the population. Antrim started with a low population base in 1971 of 8,300 people, before increasing to 22,300 people in 1981 and remaining stable thereafter. Larne has stayed at a relatively stable level with a population of around 18,000 people at each of the data points.

Medium Town

28. In 2001 there were eight Medium Towns in Northern Ireland, which are defined by a population between 10,000 and 18,000 persons. Among medium towns, the populations of both Banbridge and Limavady more than doubled between 1971 and 2008. The smallest increase can be observed in Armagh City, the only medium town whose starting population in 1971 (13,600) lies within the definition band of medium town.

Small Town

29. In 2001 there were 15 Small Towns in Northern Ireland, which are defined by a population between 4,500 and 10,000 persons. Only seven small towns had a population exceeding 5,000 people in 1971. Portrush had a relatively modest population growth between 1971 and 2008, from 5,400 to 6,600 persons. On the other hand, the fastest growing small towns were Ballycastle, Magherafelt and Randalstown with population increases of around 90 per cent.

Intermediate Settlement

30. In 2001 there were 22 Intermediate Settlements in Northern Ireland, which are defined by a population between 2,250 and 4,500 persons. The population of half of these settlements more than doubled when comparing 1971 with 2008. In fact, the proportion of the Northern Ireland population residing in these 22 settlements has increased from 2 per cent in 1971 to 4 per cent in 2001 and 2008. In 1971, three intermediate settlements (Ballygowan, Moira and Waringstown) had populations of less than 1,000 persons.

Village

31. In 2001 there were 48 Villages in Northern Ireland, defined by a population between 1,000 and 2,250 persons. For three villages, no population figures are available for the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses, as their populations were too small to be included in the Census reports. In addition, 24 of the 48 villages had a population of less than 1,000 persons in 1971.

4. Conclusions

32. Over the last forty years, there have been changes in the measurement of the population and the geographical delineation of settlement limits. This paper has brought together population figures of 112 settlements and their collection methods since 1971 to meet user demand for settlement population statistics. The 2009 Small Area Population Estimates, including settlement population estimates for that year, will be published in Spring 2011.

33. The next Census will be held on 27 March 2011, with the first outputs planned for publication in Summer 2012. Its enumeration method and population basis will be broadly similar to that of the 2001 Census. Whilst the Settlement Development Limits will be used to define the settlement – the changes by the Planning Service boundaries since 2001 will require revised definitions for all settlements. NISRA will publish settlement population statistics with these new definitions as part of the 2011 Census Output.

NISRA

February 2011

Annex A: Summary of settlement population statistics

| Population Statistic (Geography) | Population definition | Geography definition |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1971 Census (grid) | Present at Census night | Settlement boundary as defined by the grid rectangle |
| 1981 Census (grid) | Usual Resident | |
| 1991 Census (grid) | Usual Resident | |
| 2001 Census (SDL) | Usual Resident | Settlement development limit as defined by the Northern Ireland Planning Service local area plans at the time of the 2001 Census |
| 2008 Small Area Population Estimate (SDL) | Usual Resident | |

Annex B: Settlement Population Statistics[†]: 1971 Census (Grid), 1981 Census(Grid), 1991 Census(Grid), 2001 Census (SDL) and 2008 Small Area Population Estimate (SDL)

| Settlement Names⁹ | 1971 Census (grid) | 1981 Census (grid) | 1991 Census (grid) | 2001 Census (SDL) | 2008 SAPE (SDL) | Settlement Type (2001) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ahoghill | 1,043 [†] | 1,082 | 1,686 | 3,027 | 3,335 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Annahilt | 352 [†] | 357 [†] | 1,110 [†] | 1,131 | 1,115 | Village |
| Annalong | 1,001 | 1,823 | 1,832 | 1,761 | 1,919 | Village |
| Antrim | 8,351 | 22,342 | 20,878 | 19,986 | 21,819 | Large Town |
| Ardglass | 1,052 | 1,282 | 1,651 | 1,659 | 1,605 | Village |
| Armagh City | 13,606 | 12,700 | 14,265 | 14,517 | 15,020 | Medium Town |
| Ballinamallard | 580 [†] | 686 [†] | 1,068 [†] | 1,326 | 1,490 | Village |
| Ballycastle | 2,899 | 3,284 | 4,005 | 5,073 | 5,480 | Small Town |
| Ballyclare | 5,155 | 6,159 | 7,108 | 8,772 | 9,729 | Small Town |
| Ballygowan | 988 [†] | 1,123 | 2,289 | 2,670 | 2,828 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Ballykelly | 1,116 | 1,166 [†] | 2,140 | 1,827 | 1,872 | Village |
| Ballymena | 23,386 | 28,166 | 28,112 | 28,704 | 29,782 | Large Town |
| Ballymoney | 5,697 | 5,679 | 7,818 | 9,009 | 10,355 | Small Town |
| Ballynahinch | 3,485 | 3,721 | 4,591 | 5,334 | 5,633 | Small Town |
| Ballywalter | 964 [†] | 1,019 | 1,073 | 1,419 | 1,647 | Village |
| Banbridge | 7,968 | 9,650 | 11,448 | 14,748 | 15,989 | Medium Town |
| Bangor | 35,260 | 46,585 | 52,437 | 58,368 | 60,260 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Belfast UA ¹⁰ | 416,679 | 295,223 | 279,237 | 276,705 | 267,742 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Bellaghy | 965 [†] | 905 [†] | 1,041 | 1,071 | 1,107 | Village |
| Broughshane | 1,288 | 1,503 | 1,873 | 2,349 | 2,746 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Bushmills | 1,288 | 1,381 | 1,348 | 1,314 | 1,343 | Village |
| Carnlough | 1,416 | 1,462 | 1,493 | 1,440 | 1,464 | Village |
| Carrickfergus | 16,603 | 17,633 | 22,786 | 27,192 | 28,853 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Carryduff | 2,281 | 2,666 | 4,270 | 6,564 | 6,566 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Castledawson | 1,162 | 1,460 | 1,691 | 2,085 | 2,342 | Village |
| Castlederg | 1,766 | 1,730 | 2,579 | 2,739 | 2,935 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Castlerock | 801 [†] | 999 [†] | 1,023 | 1,326 | 1,324 | Village |
| Castlewellan | 1,488 | 2,105 | 2,133 | 2,367 | 2,909 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Claudy | 620 [†] | 913 [†] | 970 [†] | 1,323 | 1,445 | Village |

[†] Population statistics for settlements/years marked with [†] were not published at the time of the Census, but have been defined by a fixed grid rectangle (see paragraph 16).

⁹ Settlement names in the table are taken from those used by the Planning Service

¹⁰ Population figures for 1971, 1981 and 1991 are based on the entire Belfast Local Government District.

| Settlement Names | 1971 Census (grid) | 1981 Census (grid) | 1991 Census (grid) | 2001 Census (SDL) | 2008 SAPE (SDL) | Settlement Type (2001) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cloughmills | 933 [†] | 951 [†] | 933 [†] | 1,224 | 1,391 | Village |
| Coalisland | 3,614 | 3,324 | 3,802 | 4,872 | 5,555 | Small Town |
| Coleraine | 16,354 | 15,967 | 20,721 | 24,042 | 24,455 | Large Town |
| Comber | 5,575 | 7,600 | 8,333 | 8,952 | 8,933 | Small Town |
| Cookstown | 6,965 | 7,649 | 9,842 | 10,566 | 12,006 | Medium Town |
| Craigavon UA ¹¹ | 51,203 | 53,049 | 53,434 | 57,651 | 65,136 | Large Town |
| Crossgar | 1,098 | 1,225 | 1,246 | 1,542 | 1,860 | Village |
| Crossmaglen | 1,085 | 1,333 | 1,586 | 1,449 | 1,592 | Village |
| Crumlin | 1,450 | 1,708 | 1,762 | 4,248 | 5,117 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Cullybackey | 1,649 | 2,098 | 2,167 | 2,388 | 2,595 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Culmore | 195 [†] | 217 [†] | 1,116 | 2,937 | 3,858 | Derry Urban Area (DUA) |
| Cushendall | 1,005 [†] | 1,077 [†] | 1,285 | 1,242 | 1,363 | Village |
| Doagh | 630 [†] | 689 [†] | 961 [†] | 1,119 | 1,296 | Village |
| Dollingstown | 613 [†] | 604 [†] | 877 [†] | 1,830 | 2,081 | Village |
| Donaghadee | 4,008 | 3,874 | 4,455 | 6,474 | 6,856 | Small Town |
| Downpatrick | 7,918 | 8,245 | 10,113 | 10,320 | 10,737 | Medium Town |
| Draperstown | 989 [†] | 1,300 | 1,409 | 1,626 | 1,815 | Village |
| Dromore (Banbridge LGD) | 2,848 | 3,089 | 3,434 | 4,959 | 5,602 | Small Town |
| Drumaness | 751 [†] | 700 [†] | 1,026 [†] | 1,269 | 1,300 | Village |
| Dundrum | 858 [†] | 1,037 [†] | 1,004 | 1,062 | 1,522 | Village |
| Dungannon | 8,190 | 8,295 | 9,190 | 10,983 | 14,380 | Medium Town |
| Dungiven | 1,536 | 2,249 | 2,812 | 2,988 | 3,244 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Dunloy | 884 [†] | 1,089 [†] | 1,119 [†] | 1,044 | 1,263 | Village |
| Eglinton | 1,105 | 1,252 | 1,658 | 3,150 | 3,821 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Enniskillen | 9,679 | 10,429 | 11,436 | 13,560 | 13,757 | Medium Town |
| Fintona | 1,190 | 1,353 | 1,324 | 1,344 | 1,407 | Village |
| Fivemiletown | - | 976 [†] | 1,107 | 1,104 | 1,356 | Village |
| Garvagh | 1,120 [†] | 1,214 [†] | 1,091 | 1,278 | 1,322 | Village |
| Gilford | 1,592 | 1,512 | 1,551 | 1,548 | 1,893 | Village |
| Glenavy | 286 [†] | 396 [†] | 497 [†] | 1,071 | 1,597 | Village |
| Greenisland UA | 5,638 | 5,103 | 4,967 | 5,067 | 5,498 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |

[†] Population statistics for settlements/years marked with [†] were not published at the time of the Census, but have been defined by a fixed grid rectangle (see paragraph 16).

¹¹ Craigavon Urban Area is the aggregate of the separately reported settlements of Bleary, Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown.

| Settlement Names | 1971 Census (grid) | 1981 Census (grid) | 1991 Census (grid) | 2001 Census (SDL) | 2008 SAPE (SDL) | Settlement Type (2001) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Greyabbey | 626 [†] | 750 [†] | 697 [†] | 1,002 | 1,037 | Village |
| Greysteel | 654 [†] | 958 [†] | 1,029 | 1,224 | 1,504 | Village |
| Groomsport & Crawfordsburn | 1,440 [†] | 1,038 [†] | 1,436 [†] | 1,401 | 1,676 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Helen's Bay | 828 [†] | 1,249 | 1,268 | 1,356 | 1,447 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Hillsborough | 1,021 | 1,190 | 2,407 | 3,396 | 3,738 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Hollywood UA | 9,892 | 9,462 | 9,252 | 12,027 | 12,131 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Irvinestown | 1,457 | 1,827 | 1,906 | 1,797 | 2,081 | Village |
| Keady | 2,145 | 2,561 | 2,467 | 2,937 | 3,262 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Kilkeel | 4,090 | 6,036 | 6,024 | 6,297 | 6,574 | Small Town |
| Killyleagh | 2,359 | 2,094 | 2,221 | 2,490 | 3,028 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Kilrea | 1,196 | 1,320 | 1,271 | 1,509 | 1,544 | Village |
| Kircubbin | 1,075 | 1,081 | 1,098 [†] | 1,218 | 1,188 | Village |
| Larne | 18,482 | 18,224 | 17,575 | 18,210 | 18,323 | Large Town |
| Limavady | 6,004 | 8,015 | 10,350 | 12,075 | 12,669 | Medium Town |
| Lisbellaw | 529 [†] | 511 [†] | 632 [†] | 1,041 | 1,277 | Village |
| Lisburn UA ¹² | 31,836 | 40,391 | 42,110 | 71,403 | 72,315 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Lisnaskea | 1,443 | 1,568 | 2,367 | 2,730 | 2,880 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Londonderry | 66,645 | 62,697 | 72,334 | 83,652 | 85,016 | Derry Urban Area (DUA) |
| Maghaberry | - | - | 1,009 | 1,692 | 2,363 | Village |
| Maghera | 2,085 | 1,953 | 2,876 | 3,648 | 3,886 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Magherafelt | 4,704 | 5,044 | 6,682 | 8,289 | 8,881 | Small Town |
| Magheralin | 770 [†] | 911 [†] | 1,075 | 1,134 | 1,403 | Village |
| Markethill | 993 [†] | 1,264 | 1,337 | 1,290 | 1,594 | Village |
| Millisle | 1,172 | 1,373 | 1,531 | 1,791 | 2,089 | Village |
| Moira | 853 [†] | 1,453 [†] | 2,772 | 3,669 | 4,221 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Moneymore | 1,178 | 1,266 | 1,231 | 1,371 | 1,877 | Village |
| Moy | 896 [†] | 852 [†] | 875 [†] | 1,209 | 1,621 | Village |
| Newbuildings | 976 [†] | 1,815 | 2,025 | 2,496 | 2,626 | Derry Urban Area (DUA) |
| Newcastle | 4,647 | 6,246 | 7,214 | 7,431 | 7,723 | Small Town |

[†] Population statistics for settlements/years marked with [†] were not published at the time of the Census, but have been defined by a fixed grid rectangle (see paragraph 16).

¹² Population figures for 1971, 1981 and 1991 for Lisburn Urban Area is the aggregate of the separately reported settlements of Derriaghy, Dunmurry and Lisburn.

| Settlement Names | 1971 Census (grid) | 1981 Census (grid) | 1991 Census (grid) | 2001 Census (SDL) | 2008 SAPE (SDL) | Settlement Type (2001) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Newry City ¹³ | 22,898 | 22,182 | 24,765 | 27,300 | 29,946 | Large Town |
| Newtownabbey | | | | | | |
| Urban Area ¹⁴ | 59,797 | 58,666 | 58,231 | 62,022 | 61,713 | Belfast Metropolitan UA |
| Newtownards | 15,484 | 20,531 | 23,869 | 27,795 | 28,437 | Large Town |
| Newtownstewart | 1,433 | 1,425 | 1,520 | 1,467 | 1,541 | Village |
| Omagh | 14,594 | 14,627 | 17,280 | 19,836 | 21,297 | Large Town |
| Portaferry | 1,730 | 2,148 | 2,324 | 2,478 | 2,514 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Portavogie | 1,310 | 1,420 | 1,482 | 1,593 | 2,042 | Village |
| Portglenone | 945 [†] | 969 [†] | 1,193 | 1,191 | 1,261 | Village |
| Portrush | 5,376 | 5,114 | 5,598 | 6,345 | 6,640 | Small Town |
| Portstewart | 5,085 | 5,312 | 6,459 | 7,803 | 7,368 | Small Town |
| Randalstown | 2,799 | 3,591 | 3,925 | 4,944 | 5,356 | Small Town |
| Rathfriland | 1,886 | 2,243 | 2,126 | 2,061 | 2,575 | Village |
| Richhill | 879 [†] | 1,728 | 2,709 | 2,808 | 2,679 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Rostrevor | 1,617 | 1,852 | 2,269 | 2,433 | 2,556 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Saintfield | 956 [†] | 1,419 | 2,168 | 2,955 | 3,445 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Sion Mills | 1,588 | 1,771 | 1,676 | 2,073 | 1,933 | Village |
| Strabane | 9,413 | 10,340 | 11,670 | 13,380 | 13,875 | Medium Town |
| Strathfoyle | 2,263 | 2,050 | 1,703 | 1,578 | 2,011 | Derry Urban Area (DUA) |
| Tandragee | 1,725 | 2,224 | 2,871 | 3,018 | 3,249 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Templepatrick | 795 [†] | 991 [†] | 1,383 | 1,551 | 1,528 | Village |
| Waringstown | 783 [†] | 1,167 [†] | 1,831 | 2,523 | 3,196 | Intermediate Settlement |
| Warrenpoint | 4,291 | 4,798 | 5,408 | 6,981 | 7,605 | Small Town |
| Whitehead | 2,642 | 3,546 | 3,761 | 3,711 | 3,869 | Intermediate Settlement |

[†] Population statistics for settlements/years marked with [†] were not published at the time of the Census, but have been defined by a fixed grid rectangle (see paragraph 16).

¹³ Newry City population figures for 1971, 1981 and 1991 include those for Bessbrook, which currently lies within the Settlement Development Limit of Newry City.

¹⁴ Newtownabbey population figures for 1971, 1981 and 1991 include those for Mossley, which currently lies within the Settlement Development Limit of Newtownabbey Urban Area.