Administrative Geography

Administrative geographies are hierarchies of areas relating to national and local government in the UK. This hierarchy is complicated because there are several layers and the structure is different in each constituent country of the UK. In addition the boundaries of many of the layers in the hierarchy are subject to periodic or occasional change.

Northern Ireland is subject to the administration of both the UK Government in Westminster and also the Northern Ireland Executive in Belfast. Northern Ireland is subdivided into 26 district council areas (although within Northern Ireland they are also known as 'local government districts' (LGDs) and 18 Assembly Areas (also known as Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies). These in turn are divided into District Electoral Areas and electoral wards.
Statistical Geography

Smaller units have been created below the administrative areas for statistical purposes. The following diagram shows how all of the statistical geographies fit with the administrative geographies.
Local Government Districts (LGD)

Description:
Northern Ireland is divided into 26 districts for local government purposes. Their functions do include waste and recycling services, leisure and community services, building control and local economic and cultural development. The councils of the 26 districts are variously styled 'district councils', 'borough councils', 'city councils' and 'city and district councils'.

26 LGDs have remained unchanged since 1992 but the reform of local government will see the reduction of 26 councils to 11 by 2015 – see NI Direct for more details - [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Number:
26

Codes:
95AA (Antrim) ... 95GG (Belfast) ... 95ZZ (Strabane)

Population size:
Average of 65,000 (range 15,000 to 270,000) 2010 MYE

Average Number of Households:
Average of 25,000 (range 6,000 to 115,000)
**Local Government Districts 2014 (LGD2014)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS (LGD2014) also known as District Councils**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antrim and Newtownabbey</td>
<td>N09000001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>N09000003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Down and Ards</td>
<td>N09000011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causeway Coast and Glens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derry and Strabane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fermanagh and Omagh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid and East Antrim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artrim and Newtownabbey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Ulster</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisburn and Castlereagh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newry, Mourne and Down</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**

In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the 26 current Districts (LGD1992) to 11 new Districts (LGD2014), as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government. The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.


**Number:**

11

**Codes:**

N09000001 (Antrim and Newtownabbey) ... N09000003 (Belfast) ... N09000011 (North Down and Ards)

**Population size:**

Average of 165,000 (range 113,000 to 334,000) Census 2011

**Average Number of Households:**

Household information for LGD2014 has not yet been published
Wards 1992

Description:
The smallest unit of administrative geography in NI. Electoral Ward boundaries are determined by the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, and reviewed every 8-10 years. Northern Ireland is divided into 582 Wards since 1992.

Number:
582

Codes:
95AA01 (Aldergrove)...95GG12 (Botanic)...95ZZ16 (West (in Strabane))

Population size:
Average of 3,000 (range 700 to 9,500) 2010 MYE

Average Number of Households:
Average of 1,100 (range 300 to 3,700)
Super Output Areas

Super Output Areas (SOA) were a new geography in 2001, which were developed by NISRA to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Northern Ireland is divided into 890 Super Output Areas since 2001. SOAs areas are the main geography for the Deprivation Measures and were constructed at the smallest practicable spatial scale with similar sized populations. As part of the creation of the 2011 Small Areas, a very small number of realignments of underlying statistical geography boundaries were required affecting six of the 890 Super Output Areas. For further information a paper is available – http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/SOA.htm

Number:
890

Codes:
95AA01S1 (Aldergrove_1)...95GG12S2 (Botanic_2)...95ZZ16S2 (West_2 (in Strabane))

Population size:
Average of 2,000 (range 900 to 4,200) 2010 MYE

Average Number of Households:
Average of 700 (range 225 to 1,350)
Small Areas

**Description:**

Small Areas (SAs) were introduced in Northern Ireland after the 2011 Census. Small Areas were built from clusters of adjacent postcodes. Output Areas themselves nest within the 582 Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland and were designed to have similar population sizes of around 155 households and 400 people, they are also as socially similar as possible. Small Areas in Northern Ireland are based on postcodes as of January 2011.

**Number:**

4,537

**Codes:**

N00000001 (Aldergrove Ward) ... N00001006 (Botanic Ward) ... N00004537 (West Ward)

**Population size:**

Average of 400 (range 98 to 3,072) 2011 census

**Average Number of Households:**

Average of 155 (range 59 to 988)

**Further Information:**

[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/SmallAreas.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/SmallAreas.htm)
Census Output Areas

Description:

Output Areas (OAs) were introduced in Northern Ireland after the 2001 Census. Output Areas were built from clusters of adjacent postcodes. Output Areas themselves nest within the 582 Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland and were designed to have similar population sizes of around 125 households and 350 people, they are also as socially similar as possible. Output Areas in Northern Ireland are based on postcodes as of January 2000.

Number:

5,022

Codes:

95AA010001… 95GG120017 … 95ZZ160009

Population size:

Average of 350 (range 100 to 2,100) 2008 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 125 (range 50 to 500)
Assembly Areas

ASSEMBLY AREAS (AAs)

Description:

Northern Ireland is divided into 18 Assembly Areas – the latest set were created in 2008 but came into effect following the NI Assembly Elections on 5th May 2011. They were re-aligned to the current Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries which were in effect from the 2008 Westminster Parliamentary Elections.

NI Assembly Areas are the areas used to elect MLAs to the NI Assembly. Westminster parliamentary constituencies are the areas used to elect Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons in Westminster.

Number:

18

Codes:

N06000001 ... N06000009 ... N06000018

Population size:

Average of 100,000 (range 89,000 to 118,000) 2010 MYE

Average Number of Households:

Average of 35,000
**Description:**

5 Health and Social Care Trusts provide integrated health and social care services across Northern Ireland: Belfast HSC Trust, South Eastern HSC Trust, Western HSC Trust, Southern HSC Trust and Northern HSC Trust.

**Number:**

5

**Codes:**

BHSCT, NHSCT, SEHSCT, SHSCT, WHSCT

**Population size:**

Average of 362,173 (range 294,417 to 463,297) Census 2011

**Average Number of Households:**

Average of 140,655 (range 109,206 to 177,914)
NUTS 3

**Description:**
The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a geocode standard for referencing the subdivisions of countries for statistical purposes. The standard is developed and regulated by the European Union, and thus only covers the member states of the EU in detail. The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics is instrumental in European Union's Structural Fund delivery mechanisms. Northern Ireland is divided into 5 NUTS 3 areas. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomenclature_of_Territorial_Units_for_Statistics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomenclature_of_Territorial_Units_for_Statistics)

**Number:**
5

**Codes:**
UKN01 ... UKN03 ... UKN05

**Population size:**
Average of 360,000 (range 270,000 to 440,000) 2010 MYE

**Average Number of Households:**
Average of 125,000 (range 95,000 to 150,000)
Travel to Work Areas

Description:
Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) are zones defined where the bulk of their resident population work within the same area. The fundamental criterion used in their creation is that, of the resident economically active population, at least 75 per cent actually work in the area, and also, that of everyone working in the area, at least 75 per cent actually live in the area. TTWAs are used for those involved in labour market analysis and planning as it is useful to be able to use data for zones that are labour market areas. For more information on TTWAs, and a description of the methodology used in their creation, see http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/ttwa.asp

Number:
11

Codes:
UKN01 ... UKN03 ... UKN05

Population size:
Average of 165,000 (range 38,000 to 885,000) 2010 MYE

Average Number of Households:
Average of 55,000 (range 12,000 to 335,000)
**Description:**

DEAs are amalgams of 5, 6, or 7 wards, and are used for the election of councilors in Proportional Representation elections. Their boundaries are determined by the District Electoral Areas Commissioner, and reviewed every 8-10 years. Northern Ireland is divided into 101 DEAs.

**Number:**

101

**Codes:**

7 ... 64 ... 209

**Population size:**

Average of 360,000 (range 270,000 to 440,000) 2010 MYE

**Average Number of Households:**

Average of 125,000 (range 95,000 to 150,000)
Further information on where you can access and download a range of maps and digital products that support the use of geography in developing statistics:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/geography/home.htm

If you require digital boundaries for Local Government Districts, Electoral Wards (1984 and 1992) or Parliamentary Constituencies contact Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland (OSNI) Telephone 028-90255755, email product.management@dfpni.gov.uk or click on the logo above to visit the OSNI website. Administrative boundary maps can be purchased from the OSNI website or images downloaded free, please click HERE


Location information, such as hospitals, schools, and bus stops can be downloaded from the People and Places section: (http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=10&themeName=People%20and%20Places).

10 December 2013.