



BELFAST

Profiling Health,
Wellbeing & Prosperity



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PROSPERITY

Contents

List of Figures	4
List of Tables.....	11
List of Maps	13

INTRODUCTION	14
---------------------------	----

SECTION 1: Labour Market

1.1 Employee Jobs: Public and Private Sector	18
1.2 Employee Jobs: Full-Time and Part-Time	23
1.3 Time-Related Underemployment.....	30
1.4 Employment of the Working-age Population	36
(16-64 years) by Industry	36
1.5 Employment of the Working-age Population (16-64 years) by Occupation.....	45
1.6 Economic Activity Rate (EAR).....	53
1.7 Employment Rate	57
1.8 Economic Inactivity Rate (EIR).....	65

SECTION 2: Income

2.1 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate.....	72
2.2 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate: 18-24 years.....	78
2.3 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate: Long-term Unemployed.....	84
2.4 Gross Disposable Household Income per Head of Population	89
2.5 Gross weekly pay: full-time median wage	93
2.6 Sources of Total Gross Weekly Household Income.....	102

SECTION 3: Poverty and Deprivation

3.1	Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs (BHC): all individuals	107
3.2	Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs (BHC): children	111
3.3	Relative low income or relative income poverty after housing costs (AHC): all individuals.....	115
3.4	Fuel poverty – 10% definition.....	119
3.5	Food poverty/food insecurity.....	123
3.6	Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017.....	126

SECTION 4: Education

4.1	Qualifications of the Working-Age Population (16-64 years)	136
4.2	Pupil suspensions.....	143
4.3	Primary pupils with special educational needs (SEN): SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5.....	153
4.4	Newcomer pupils.....	163
4.5	Ethnicity of Pupils	169
4.6	Free School Meal Entitlement: Primary Pupils.....	174
4.7	School Leavers Achieving At Least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	181
4.8	Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) School Leavers: achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	187
4.9	Difference between Non-FSME and FSME School Leavers: achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths	194
4.10	School Leavers' Destinations.....	201

Figures

SECTION 1: Labour Market

PROSPERITY FIGURE 1: Percentage (%) of people working part-time who would like to work more hours by LGD, 2019.....	33
PROSPERITY FIGURE 2: Percentage (%) of employees (16-64 years) who are underemployed by LGD, 2019	34
PROSPERITY FIGURE 3: Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) employed by industry in Belfast LGD, 2019	38
PROSPERITY FIGURE 4: Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) employed by industry in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	40
PROSPERITY FIGURE 5: Percentage (%) of Belfast's working-age population (16-64 years) employed by occupation, 2019	47
PROSPERITY FIGURE 6: Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by occupational category (SOC2010) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019	49
PROSPERITY FIGURE 7: Economic activity rate (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	54
PROSPERITY FIGURE 8: Economic activity rate (%) of working age population (16-64 years) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019	55
PROSPERITY FIGURE 9: Employment rate (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	59
PROSPERITY FIGURE 10: Employment rate (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by quintile of deprivation (NIMDM 2017) in Belfast LGD, 2014 and 2019.....	60

PROSPERITY FIGURE 11: Employment rate (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by LGD, 2019	62
PROSPERITY FIGURE 12: Employment rate in Quintile 1 and Quintile 5 of the working-age population (16-64 years) by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	63
PROSPERITY FIGURE 13: Economic inactivity rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	67
PROSPERITY FIGURE 14: Reasons for economic inactivity (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019.....	68
PROSPERITY FIGURE 15: Economic inactivity rate (%) by LGD, 2019.....	70

SECTION 2: Income

PROSPERITY FIGURE 16: Annual average claimant count rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2018 and 2019	74
PROSPERITY FIGURE 17: Annual average claimant count rate (%) by LGD, 2019	75
PROSPERITY FIGURE 18: Annual average claimant count rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019	77
PROSPERITY FIGURE 19: Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2018 and 2019	80
PROSPERITY FIGURE 20: Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years by LGD, 2019.....	81
PROSPERITY FIGURE 21: Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019.....	83

PROSPERITY FIGURE 22: Average annual claimant count rate (%) long-term unemployed in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2017.....	86
PROSPERITY FIGURE 23: Average annual claimant count rate (%) long-term unemployed by LGD, 2017	87
PROSPERITY FIGURE 24: Gross disposable household income per head of population (£) at current basic prices by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019.....	92
PROSPERITY FIGURE 25: Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of residence in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2019.....	95
PROSPERITY FIGURE 26: Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of work in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2019.....	96
PROSPERITY FIGURE 27: Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of residence and by place of work by LGD, 2019	100
PROSPERITY FIGURE 28: Sources of total gross weekly household income (%) in Belfast LGD, 2017/18-2019/20.....	103
PROSPERITY FIGURE 29: Percentage (%) of total gross weekly household income by source and LGD, and in Northern Ireland, 2019/20.....	105

SECTION 3: Poverty and Deprivation

PROSPERITY FIGURE 30:

Percentage (%) of all individuals in relative income poverty or relative low income (BHC) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2017/18-2019/20..... 109

PROSPERITY FIGURE 31:

Percentage (%) of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) by HSCT, and Northern Ireland, 2007/08-2009/10 to 2017/18-2019/20..... 114

PROSPERITY FIGURE 32:

Percentage (%) of households in fuel poverty (10% definition) by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2016 121

PROSPERITY FIGURE 33:

Percentage (%) of households in food poverty by HSCT, and Northern Ireland, 2013/14 and 2017/18..... 125

PROSPERITY FIGURE 34:

Percentage (%) of SOAs from each Northern Ireland deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2017..... 129

PROSPERITY FIGURE 35:

Percentage (%) of SOAs in Belfast's assembly areas from the most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1) in Northern Ireland by NIMDM deprivation domain, 2017..... 131

PROSPERITY FIGURE 36:

Percentage (%) of SOAs in each of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) by LGD, 2017 133

SECTION 4: Education

PROSPERITY FIGURE 37:

Percentage (%) of working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level in Belfast LGD, 2019..... 137

PROSPERITY FIGURE 38:

Percentage (%) of working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019..... 138

PROSPERITY FIGURE 39: Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level and LGD, 2019	141
PROSPERITY FIGURE 40: Rate of pupil suspensions by sex and DEA in Belfast LGD, and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18.....	147
PROSPERITY FIGURE 41: Rate (%) of pupil suspensions by age group and DEA in Belfast LGD, and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18.....	149
PROSPERITY FIGURE 42: Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland’s pupil suspensions by LGD, academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18.....	151
PROSPERITY FIGURE 43: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 in Belfast’s assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	157
PROSPERITY FIGURE 44: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5 in Belfast’s assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	157
PROSPERITY FIGURE 45: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5 by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20	159
PROSPERITY FIGURE 46: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with special educational needs, SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5, by LGD, academic year 2019/20	161
PROSPERITY FIGURE 47: Percentage (%) of pupils from non-White ethnic groups registered at schools in Belfast’s assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/20	172
PROSPERITY FIGURE 48: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME in Belfast’s assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20	176
PROSPERITY FIGURE 49: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20	177

PROSPERITY FIGURE 50: Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME by LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20.....	179
PROSPERITY FIGURE 51: Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	182
PROSPERITY FIGURE 52: Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20.....	183
PROSPERITY FIGURE 53: Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20.....	185
PROSPERITY FIGURE 54: Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	189
PROSPERITY FIGURE 55: Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20.....	190
PROSPERITY FIGURE 56: Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	192
PROSPERITY FIGURE 57: Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/20.....	196
PROSPERITY FIGURE 58: Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20.....	197
PROSPERITY FIGURE 59:	



Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2019/20	199
PROSPERITY FIGURE 60: Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20	202
PROSPERITY FIGURE 61: Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20	203
PROSPERITY FIGURE 62: Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast's assembly areas, academic year 2019/20	204
PROSPERITY FIGURE 63: Percentage (%) of school leavers by destination by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20.....	207
PROSPERITY FIGURE 64: Percentage (%) of school leavers by destination and by LGD, academic year 2019/20	209

Tables

SECTION 1: Labour Market

PROSPERITY TABLE 1:

Number and percentage (%) of employee jobs in the public and private sectors by assembly area in Belfast, 2019..... 19

PROSPERITY TABLE 2:

Number and percentage of employee jobs in the public and private sectors by LGD and in Northern Ireland, 2019 21

PROSPERITY TABLE 3:

Number and percentage (%) of full-time and part-time jobs held by men and women in Belfast LGD, 2019..... 24

PROSPERITY TABLE 4:

Percentage share (%) of employee jobs that were full-time and part-time held by men and women in Belfast LGD, 2011 and 2019 25

PROSPERITY TABLE 5:

Percentage (%) of full-time and part-time jobs by assembly area in Belfast, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland 2019..... 26

PROSPERITY TABLE 6:

Percentage share (%) of employee jobs, full-time and part-time, for men and women within the combined total of employee jobs in Belfast's assembly areas, 2019..... 27

SECTION 2: Income

PROSPERITY TABLE 7:

Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) in men and women by place of residence and by place of work in Belfast LGD, 2013 and 2019 97

SECTION 3: Poverty and Deprivation

PROSPERITY TABLE 8:

Percentage (%) of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) by LGD, 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20 117

PROSPERITY TABLE 9:

Percentage (%) of SOAs in Belfast LGD within each of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) by domain of deprivation, 2017..... 128

SECTION 4: Education

PROSPERITY TABLE 10:

Number of pupils suspended in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, and percentage share of Northern Ireland's total by assembly area and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18..... 145

PROSPERITY TABLE 11:

Number of pupils suspended by DEA in Belfast LGD, and pupils suspended as a percentage (%) of all pupils in the DEA, in Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18..... 146

PROSPERITY TABLE 12:

Number of newcomer pupils in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20..... 165

PROSPERITY TABLE 13:

Number of newcomer pupils in LGDs and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20 167

PROSPERITY TABLE 14:

Number and percentage (%) of pupils from non-White ethnic groups registered at schools in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20 171

PROSPERITY TABLE 15:

School leavers' destinations (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/2021 (data for academic year 2014/15 is in square brackets)..... 205

Maps

SECTION 3: Poverty and Deprivation

PROSPERITY MAP 1:

Belfast LGD showing deprivation (NIMDM 2017) by quintile of Northern Ireland's SOAs, from the most-deprived 20% (Quintile 1 in red) to the least-deprived 20% (Quintile 5 in green), 2017 130

Introduction

The core themes in Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization's European Healthy Cities Network are:

- 1. investing in the people who make up our cities;**
- 2. designing urban places that improve health and wellbeing;**
- 3. fostering greater participation and partnerships for health and wellbeing;**
- 4. improving community prosperity and access to common goods and services;**
- 5. promoting peace and security through inclusive societies; and**
- 6. protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production.**

These six themes are interdependent and mutually supportive. WHO advocate cities will achieve more in these areas by linking up policies, investments and services, and by focusing on leaving no one behind. Combining governance approaches to make health and wellbeing possible for everyone will foster innovation and orient investments towards promoting health and preventing disease.

Belfast was successfully designated to the WHO Phase VII Network in 2021 and, whilst developing a city health profile is a requirement of being a designated member of the WHO Network, the profile is an invaluable resource for agencies and citizens in the city.

A summary of the City Health Profile, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & [Prosperity](#)', for the city of Belfast, provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources according to this '6P' framework and, although a large amount of the comprehensive range of data provided are publicly available, the added value of the City Profile is the presentation in an accessible, concise, and integrated format. In addition to the summary document, a full chapter is available on each of the six P themes. The [People chapter](#) focuses on Demography; Population health; Pregnancy and early years; Adult health and wellbeing; Mental health and wellbeing and Use of health care services.

This chapter focuses on the theme of prosperity and provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources on the following:

- **Labour Market**
- **Income**
- **Poverty & Deprivation**
- **Education**

Where possible, trends over time are assessed, with an evaluation on whether those trends are favourable or unfavourable. The health inequalities potential for population groups is outlined, where feasible; this information provides the basis for targeted action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities across the many determinants affecting the lives of people in the city. Data on some issues referenced by WHO within the Prosperity theme are not routinely collected in Northern Ireland and are, therefore, not included in this chapter.

PROSPERITY: IMPROVING COMMUNITY PROSPERITY AND ACCESS TO COMMON GOODS AND SERVICES

A healthy city leads by example by striving for enhanced community prosperity and strengthened assets through values-based governance of common goods and services.

Priority issues

Under this theme, the following issues are highly relevant to most cities and represent areas of promise for improving health and well-being.

Community resilience

Building and unleashing resilience are key factors in protecting and promoting health at individual and community levels. Communities play a vital role in health promotion and disease prevention activities, and in the social inclusion of people with chronic diseases and/or disabilities.

Strong leadership and public investments in communities that build on local strengths and assets will raise levels of aspiration, build resilience, release potential and enable communities to take responsibility for their health and their lives. Asset-based approaches should form an integral part of city strategies to improve health and reduce health inequities.

Healthy older people

Lifelong financial hardship is associated with worse health outcomes later in life, and older people who have not been married throughout their adult lives are outlived by those who have. Effective measures to promote healthy ageing for all include legislation and social and economic policies that provide for adequate protection.

Mental health and well-being

Mental ill health is a major contributor to health inequity in Europe. It has serious consequences for individuals and their families, but also for the economy and the well-being of society. Poor mental health is both a consequence and a cause of inequity, poverty and exclusion. Challenges for mental health include sustaining population well-being during times of slow economic growth and reduced public expenditure.

Creating employment, either in the public sector or through incentives for expanding the private sector, is the most cost-effective intervention for mental well-being at the population level. Expanding debt advice services also play crucial roles in promoting good mental health.

Healthy housing and regeneration

Great health benefits can be achieved in the housing and construction sector through a mix of measures, including more effective use of active and passive natural ventilation for cooling; reductions in mould and damp; energy- efficient home heating, appliances and cooking; provision of safe drinking water; provision of outdoor space; improved sanitation; and stronger buildings. Regeneration programmes that provide improved social, economic and environmental opportunities can address some of the design disadvantage in cities.

Health and well-being as an indicator of success

In addition to the traditional economic metrics of successful urban development, healthy cities will explore the use of health and well-being measures as indicators of development and progress.

Transformative economic models for equitable, sustainable development.

Meeting complex challenges for modern cities means exploring new and more equitable models for development, such as achieving health and well-being through the circular economy, the silver economy and the green economy. The circular

economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy and keeps resources in use for as long as possible, and recovers and reuses materials at the end of the resource's lifespan.

Ethical investment for health-promoting, equitable and sustainable development.

Cities are significant investors of public funds in many countries, whether generated through direct income, pension funds or other modalities. Municipal financial and investment strategies that support health and well-being and align with the values of equality, fairness and adherence to human rights are key to achieving a systemic approach to health and well-being for all.

Universal social protection floors at the local level

Cities and local governments are at the frontline of service delivery and have a critical role to play in tackling the local drivers of health inequalities. Essential baskets of local services, transformative care models and integrated or joined-up services are examples of universal social protection floors at the local level that can improve health and well-being.

Commercial determinants of health

In addition to leveraging co-benefits with sectors and partners, addressing the commercial determinants of health is critical, particularly where economic benefits may come at a cost to health and well-being. These impacts may be direct or indirect, such as negative effects on social or environmental determinants.

SECTION 1

Labour Market

1.1 Employee Jobs: Public and Private Sector

IMPORTANCE

Since 1999, there has been an increase in private sector employment in the UK. Between 2010 and 2020, public sector employment in the UK decreased by 3.8% to 16.7%.¹

Prior to the financial crash of 2008, Northern Ireland was reliant on public sector employment for just over one-third of jobs.² Although expanding public sector employment can be an effective means of reducing unemployment and stabilising economies during recessions or in relatively disadvantaged regions, a dependence on public sector employment can also 'crowd out' private sector employment and may lower economic productivity.³

DEFINITION

Information is from the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES).⁴ In 2019, about 35,500 employers participated in the survey.⁵

1. Public sector employment by parliamentary constituency (Last accessed 12 May 2022)
2. Lane L et al (2016) Belfast City Story. Centre of the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), London School of Economics. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/46172836.pdf> (Last accessed 12 May 2022)
3. IZA World of Labor - The effects of public sector employment on the economy (Last accessed 12 May 2022)
4. BRES Publications and Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) and BRES publications and tables 2010-2015 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 12 May 2022)
5. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/annual-employee-jobs-surveys> (Last accessed 9 July 2021)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- 29% of employee jobs were in the public sector
- 71% of employee jobs were in the private sector

From 2011 to 2019, the share of public sector jobs in Belfast LGD decreased by 6 percentage points from 35% to 29%.

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation in employee jobs in the public and private sectors across Belfast's assembly areas (see Prosperity Table 1).

PROSPERITY TABLE 1:
Number and percentage (%) of employee jobs in the public and private sectors by assembly area in Belfast, 2019

Assembly area	Jobs in public sector	Jobs in private sector	Total number of jobs	Jobs in public sector (%)	Jobs in private sector (%)
Belfast East	17,133	38,436	55,569	31%	69%
Belfast North	13,723	32,770	46,493	30%	70%
Belfast South	33,696	85,587	119,283	28%	72%
Belfast West	15,454	21,849	37,303	41%	59%

Source: Table 1.5 BRES 2019.⁶

Although Belfast South had the highest number of employee jobs in the public sector at 33,696, it had the lowest percentage share of jobs in the public sector within an assembly area, whereas Belfast West had the highest percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector within an assembly area.

6. Percentages for Belfast East, Belfast North, Belfast South, and Belfast West have been calculated from the numbers of jobs

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of employee jobs in the public sector was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 29% compared with 27% (see Prosperity Table 2).

Between 2011 and 2019, the percentage of employee jobs in the public sector decreased:

- In Belfast by 6 percentage points, from 35% to 29% (a percentage decrease of 17.14%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4 percentage points, from 31% to 27% (a percentage decrease of 12.90%)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector within an LGD
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector
- Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage share of jobs in the private sector within an LGD
- Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage share of employee jobs in the private sector (see Prosperity Table 2)

Seven LGDs had a percentage share of employee jobs in the private sector of 75% or more.

PROSPERITY TABLE 2:

Number and percentage of employee jobs in the public and private sectors by LGD and in Northern Ireland, 2019

LGD	Jobs in public sector	Jobs in private sector	Total number of jobs	Jobs in public sector (%)	Jobs in private sector (%)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	13,772	47,650	61,422	22%	78%
Ards & North Down	9,745	29,473	39,218	25%	75%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	19,476	58,373	77,849	25%	75%
Belfast	67,932	162,717	230,649	29%	71%
Causeway Coast & Glens	10,730	31,403	42,133	25%	75%
Derry City & Strabane	20,032	40,468	60,500	33%	67%
Fermanagh & Omagh	12,608	29,850	42,458	30%	70%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	19,159	40,000	59,159	32%	68%
Mid & East Antrim	10,901	33,143	44,044	25%	75%
Mid Ulster	10,183	48,231	58,414	17%	83%
Newry, Mourne & Down	14,368	43,745	58,113	25%	75%
Northern Ireland	208,906	565,053	773,960 ⁷	27%	73%

Source: Table 1.2 BRES 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, 3 in every 10 jobs were in the public sector, compared with almost 3 in every 10 jobs in Northern Ireland.

Between 2011 and 2019, the percentage share of public-sector jobs in Belfast and in Northern Ireland decreased, but the decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed.

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the fourth highest percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector.

7. Total provided in BRES 2019

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

Among Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast West had the highest percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector; however, all Belfast's assembly areas had a higher percentage share of employee jobs in the public sector than that for Northern Ireland.

1.2 Employee Jobs: Full-Time and Part-Time

IMPORTANCE

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), full-time employment is a standard employment, a type of work that is continuous and part of a direct and subordinate relationship between employer and employee. Part-time employment is where normal working hours are fewer than full-time equivalents and is categorised as one of four main types of non-standard employment. One concern about non-standard employment is greater insecurity for workers.⁸

Part-time work is associated with 'low-quality jobs' that have worse working conditions and lower pay. Part-time employment, however, offers flexibility, and allows some groups of people, such as women, older people, and younger people, to participate in the labour market while managing other responsibilities and/or participating in other activities. An increase in part-time jobs is seen during recessions, which is mainly involuntary and reflects a reduction in working hours due to the economic shock, and during which men aged 25-54 years are also likely to be affected, as well as women, older people, and younger people.⁹

DEFINITION

Full-time is defined as working more than 30 hours per week, and part-time is defined as working 30 hours or fewer per week. People on government-supported training and employment programmes who are at college in the survey reference week are counted as part-time.

Information is from the BRES.¹⁰ In 2019, about 35,500 employers in Northern Ireland participated in the BRES.

8. [wcms_534496.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#) (Last accessed 13 May 2022)

9. [IZA World of Labor - Why does part-time employment increase in recessions?](#) (Last accessed 13 May 2022)

10. [BRES Publications and Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) and [BRES Publications and Tables 2015 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](#) (Last accessed 12 May 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, Belfast LGD had 29.8% of Northern Ireland's employee jobs.

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, 69.4% of employee jobs were full-time and 30.6% were part-time.

Between 2011 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage share of employee jobs that were full-time increased slightly by 0.1 percentage points from 69.3% to 69.4%.

Differences by sex

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- Of employee jobs held by men, 81.4% were full-time and 18.6% were part-time
- Of employee jobs held by women, 57.6% were full-time and 42.4% were part-time (see Prosperity Table 3)

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- Of the full-time employee jobs, 58.0% were held by men and 42.0% were held by women
- Of the part-time employee jobs, 30.0% were held by men and 70.0% were held by women (calculated from data in Prosperity Table 3)

PROSPERITY TABLE 3:

Number and percentage (%) of full-time and part-time jobs held by men and women in Belfast LGD, 2019

Employee jobs	Men		Women		Belfast LGD
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Full-time	92,845	81.4%	67,169	57.6%	160,014
Part-time	21,202	18.6%	49,433	42.4%	70,635
Total	114,047	100%	116,602	100%	230,649

Source: Table 1.1 BRES 2019 Publication Tables

In 2019, of all employee jobs in Belfast LGD:

- Full-time jobs held by men comprised the highest percentage share, and this was 11.13 percentage points higher than the percentage share of full-time jobs held by women
- The percentage share of part-time employee jobs held by women, however, was 12.24 percentage points higher than the percentage share of part-time jobs held by men (see Prosperity Table 4)

Between 2011 and 2019, there was only a small change in these percentage shares of full-time and part-time employee jobs for men and women in Belfast LGD (see Prosperity Table 4), even though the number of employee jobs increased by 23,953 over this time-period – a percentage increase in employee jobs of 11.59%.

PROSPERITY TABLE 4:

Percentage share (%) of employee jobs that were full-time and part-time held by men and women in Belfast LGD, 2011 and 2019

Population group	BRES 2011		BRES 2019	
	Full-time (%)	Part-time (%)	Full-time (%)	Part-time (%)
Men	40.05	7.77	40.25	9.19
Women	29.26	22.91	29.12	21.43

Source: Table 1.1 BRES 2019 Publication Tables, and BRES2015-sex-work-pattern table Tab 2011(LGD14)

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, Belfast South had more than twice the number of full-time jobs and about twice the number of part-time jobs than Belfast East, Belfast North, and Belfast West.

In 2019, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in terms of the percentages of full-time and part-time jobs.

- The highest percentage share of full-time jobs was in Belfast South, followed by Belfast East
- The lowest percentage share of full-time jobs was in Belfast West, followed by Belfast North (see Prosperity Table 5)

PROSPERITY TABLE 5:

Percentage (%) of full-time and part-time jobs by assembly area in Belfast, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland 2019

Assembly area	Full-time jobs (%)	Part-time jobs (%)
Belfast East	68.88%	31.12%
Belfast North	65.15%	34.85%
Belfast South	71.10%	28.90%
Belfast West	60.46%	39.54%
Belfast LGD	69.4%	30.6%
Northern Ireland	65.8%	34.2%

Source: Table 1.4 BRES 2019 Publication Tables

Differences by sex and assembly area

In 2019, the total number of employee jobs in Belfast's four assembly areas¹¹ was 258,648. Of this combined total, Belfast South had:

- The highest percentage shares of full-time and part-time employee jobs
- The highest percentage shares of full-time and part-time jobs held by men
- The highest percentage shares of full-time and part-time jobs held by women (see Prosperity Table 6)

Belfast West had the lowest percentage share of employee jobs for all the categories listed above; however, Belfast West was the only assembly area where the percentage share of full-time jobs was similar for men and women. Belfast East, Belfast North, and Belfast South had higher percentage shares of full-time employee jobs held by men when compared with those held by women.

11. The combined geographical area of Belfast's four assembly areas is different from the geographical area of Belfast LGD

PROSPERITY TABLE 6:

Percentage share (%) of employee jobs, full-time and part-time, for men and women within the combined total of employee jobs in Belfast's assembly areas, 2019

Assembly area	Employee jobs held by men			Employee jobs held by women			Total (%)
	Full-time	Part-time	Total for men	Full-time	Part-time	Total for women	
Belfast East	9.25%	2.19%	11.44%	5.54%	4.49%	10.03%	21.47%
Belfast North	6.91%	1.83%	8.74%	4.80%	4.44%	9.24%	17.98%
Belfast South	18.54%	4.03%	22.57%	14.25%	9.30%	23.55%	46.12%
Belfast West	4.22%	1.37%	5.59%	4.50%	4.33%	8.83%	14.42%
Total (%)	38.92%	9.42%	48.34%	29.09%	22.56%	51.65%	100%

Source: Table 1.4 BRES 2019 Publication Tables

KEY COMPARISONS**Comparison with Northern Ireland**

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of employee jobs that were full-time was 3.6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 69.4% compared with 65.8%.

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland:

- Of all employee jobs held by men, the percentage share of full-time employee jobs was 0.6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 81.4% compared with 80.8%
- Of all employee jobs held by women, the percentage share of full-time employee jobs was 6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 57.6% compared with 51.6%

Between 2011 and 2019, the percentage share of full-time employee jobs:

- Increased by 0.1 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 69.3% to 69.4%
- Increased by 0.2 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 65.6% to 65.8%

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- **Belfast had the second highest percentage of full-time employee jobs at 69.4%, and conversely the second lowest percentage of part-time jobs at 30.6%**
- **Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage of full-time employee jobs at 70.1%, and conversely the lowest percentage of part-time jobs 29.9%**

For the remaining LGDs, the percentage of full-time employee jobs ranged from 62.1% in Derry City & Strabane LGD to 66.7% in Mid & East Antrim LGD.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, 7 out of every 10 employee jobs in Belfast were full-time, and 3 out of every 10 were part-time, compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 employee jobs in Northern Ireland being full-time, and between 3 and 4 out of every 10 jobs being part-time.

In 2019:

- **8 out of every 10 employee jobs held by men were full-time in both Belfast and Northern Ireland**
- **Almost 6 out of every 10 employee jobs held by women were full-time in Belfast compared with 5 out of every 10 jobs held by women in Northern Ireland**

Between 2011 and 2019, the percentage share of full-time employee jobs increased slightly in Belfast and Northern Ireland, with a narrowing of the gap between the two as Northern Ireland had a slightly larger percentage increase and is nearing the value for Belfast.

The percentage share of full-time employee jobs in Belfast was the second highest among LGDs.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

Although in Belfast there were greater percentages of both men and women in full-time when compared with part-time employee jobs, there was a difference in the balance between full-time and part-time employee jobs for men and for women:

- **6 out of every 10 full-time jobs in Belfast were held by men, whereas 4 out of 10 were held by women**
- **3 out of every 10 part-time jobs in Belfast were held by men, whereas 7 out of 10 were held by women**

Of the employee jobs held by men, 8 out of every 10 were full-time, whereas of employee jobs held by women, only 6 out of every 10 were full-time.

Thus, men in Belfast were more likely to be in full-time employee jobs than women, whereas women were more likely to be in part-time employee jobs than men.

Across the combined total of employee jobs for Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast West:

- **Had the lowest total percentage share of employee jobs**
- **The lowest percentage shares of full-time and part-time employee jobs held by men**
- **The lowest percentage shares of full-time and part-time employee jobs held by women**

1.3 Time-Related Underemployment

IMPORTANCE

Underemployment is a social problem that affects job growth, business growth, poverty levels, and the psychological health of people who are underemployed.¹²

There are several measures of underemployment, but the focus for this section is time-related underemployment. Time-related underemployment is one way of measuring the underutilisation of labour.¹³

The Health Foundation has called for greater understanding of the impact of underemployment because it may be a growing feature of the UK labour market.¹⁴ For instance, there may be a difference between the way in which underemployment affects men and the way it affects women.

- The probability of underemployment is growing at a faster rate among women when compared with men
- Underemployment is most common in the jobs that women are more likely to hold, such as jobs in occupations dominated by women, in the public sector, and in small organisations
- Underemployment is least common in occupations and industries dominated by men, and in the private sector
- For employees with longer tenures, underemployment has more negative relationships with the subjective wellbeing of women than with that of men¹⁵

12. Underemployment - Definition, Types, and Causes (corporatefinanceinstitute.com) (Last accessed 27 May 2022)

13. Unemployment and labour underutilization - ILOSTAT (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

14. <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/unemployment> (Last accessed 9 July 2021)

15. <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/42283/1/HR%20FINAL%20Accepted.pdf> (Last accessed 13 May 2022)

DEFINITION

People working part-time who would like to work more hours

Persons who are employees working less than the working time regulation (that is, relates to a limit of 48 working hours per week for those aged 18 years and over, and 40 working hours per week for those aged between 16 and 17 years), who want to work more hours in their current job or a different job and could start in the next 2 weeks.

Information is from the LFS 2019.¹⁶ In 2019, the sample size was approximately 11,000 individuals (sampling error decreases with increasing sample size).

Employees (aged 16-64 years) who are underemployed

Employees working less than the working time regulation (a limit of 48 hours per week for those aged 18 and over, and 40 working hours per week for those aged between 16 and 17) who want to work more hours in their current job or a different job and could start in the next 2 weeks.

Information is from the LFS, a short topic paper entitled "Underemployment in Northern Ireland".¹⁷

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- **18.0% of people working part-time would like to work more hours**
- **8.3% of employees (aged 16-64 years) were underemployed**

Between 2012 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people working part-time who would like to work more hours increased by 3.7 percentage points, from 14.3% to 18.0%.

16. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) Indicator 33 sub-population tables 2019 (Last accessed 13 May 2022)
17. Underemployment in Northern Ireland | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) Tables UND1 and UND4 (Last accessed 13 May 2022)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

People working part-time who would like to work more hours

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people working part-time who would like to work more hours was 2.4 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, at 18.0% compared with 15.6%.

Between 2012 and 2019, the percentage of people working part-time who would like to work more hours:

- In Belfast LGD, increased by 3.7 percentage points from 14.3% to 18.0% (a percentage increase of 25.9%)
- In Northern Ireland, decreased by 4.4 percentage points, from 20.0% to 15.6% (a percentage decrease of 22.0%)

Employees (16-64 years) who are underemployed

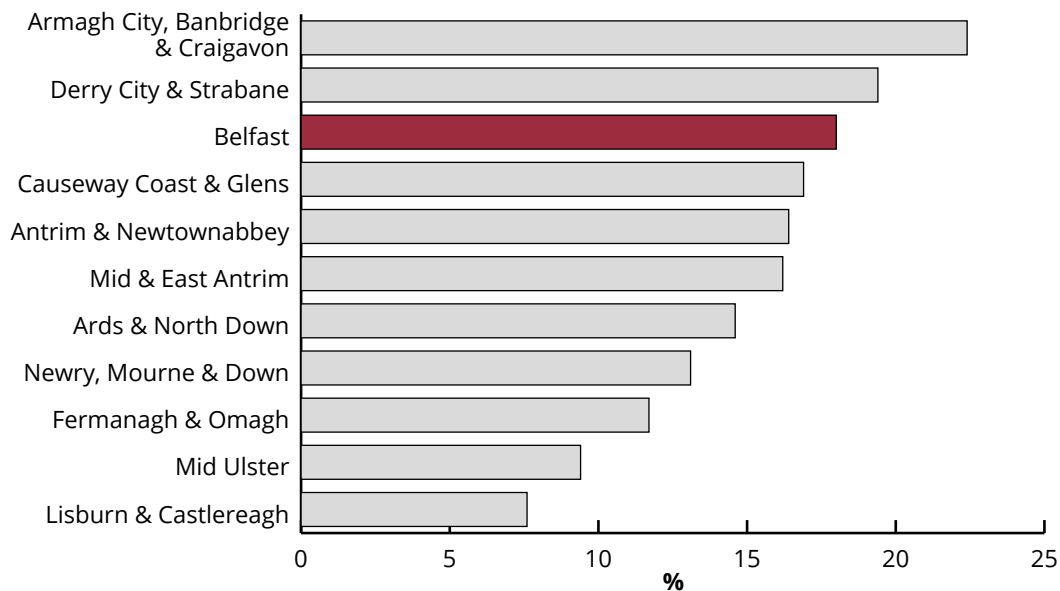
In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of the working-age population who were underemployed was 1.5 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 8.3% compared with 6.8%.

Comparison with other LGDs

People working part-time who would like to work more hours

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage of people working part-time who would like to work more hours at 18.0%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the highest percentage at 22.4%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 7.6%
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median value at 16.2% (see Prosperity Figure 1)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 1:**Percentage (%) of people working part-time who would like to work more hours by LGD, 2019**

Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; Indicator 33 sub-population tables 2019

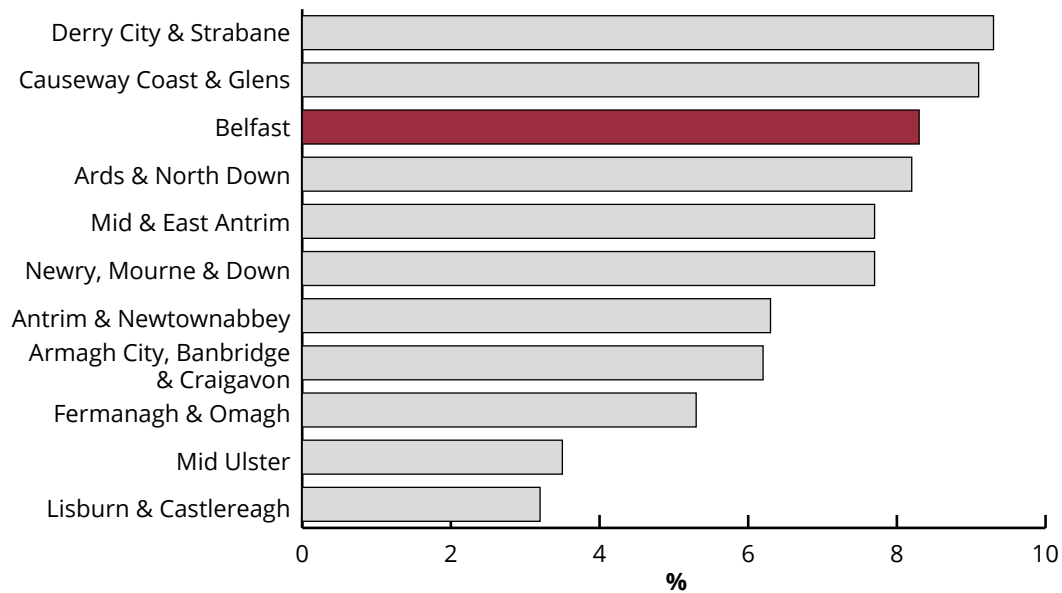
Employees (16-64 years) who are underemployed

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage of employees (aged 16-64 years) who were underemployed at 8.3%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 9.3%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 3.2%
- Mid & East Antrim LGD and Newry Mourne & Down had the median value 7.7% (see Prosperity Figure 2)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 2:

Percentage (%) of employees (16-64 years) who are underemployed by LGD, 2019



Source: LFS, Topic Paper entitled "Underemployment in Northern Ireland"

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast:

- Nearly 2 in every 10 people working part-time would like to work more hours, compared with between 1 and 2 people working part-time in Northern Ireland
- Slightly less than 1 in every 10 working-age employees were underemployed

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

People working part-time who would like to work more hours

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people working part-time who would like to work more hours was higher in:

- Men than women (22.0% compared with 13.5%)
- People aged 16-24 and 25-34 years than people aged 35-44 and 45-54 years (22.6% and 21.4%, respectively, compared with 14.4% and 12.3%, respectively)
- People with disability than people with no disability (20.3% compared with 14.7%)

Employees (16-64 years) who are underemployed

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of working-age employees who are underemployed was higher in:

- Women than men (7.1% compared with 6.5%)
- People aged 16-24 years compared with people aged 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64 years (13.5% compared with 6.9%, 4.9%, 5.7%, and 4.8%, respectively)

Thus, people who may be at risk of the consequences of underemployment are part-time employees who are men, younger people, and people with a disability, and working-age employees of younger age, and working-age employees who are women.

1.4 Employment of the Working-age Population (16-64 years) by Industry

IMPORTANCE

Information on a city's labour market makes an important contribution to supporting the city's prosperity in several ways:

- By helping to build a skilled workforce that stimulates competitiveness and economic growth
- By strengthening career pathways and guiding skills attainment to enable access to good jobs, economic opportunity, and career growth
- By providing insights into the changing nature of work and its impact on the workforce and the economy
- By monitoring the effectiveness of expenditure on workforce training and education, especially to meet the needs of local business¹⁸

DEFINITION

Information is from the LFS Annual Report Tables 2019, and LFS Annual Reports containing Historical Data.^{19,20} The sample size in the LFS 2019 dataset was approximately 11,000 individuals.²¹

18. Informational_Handout.pdf (dol.gov) (Last accessed 22 May 2022)

19. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 27 May 2022)

20. Labour Force Survey Annual Report - Historical | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 22 May 2022)

21. Different estimates for the number of jobs by headline industry are available from the BRES 2019; in BRES 2019, 35,500 employers were surveyed compared with 11,000 individuals in the LFS 2019

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the three industries in which the largest percentages of the working-age population (16-64 years) were employed were:

- **Public Administration, Education and Health**
- **Banking and Finance**
- **Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants**

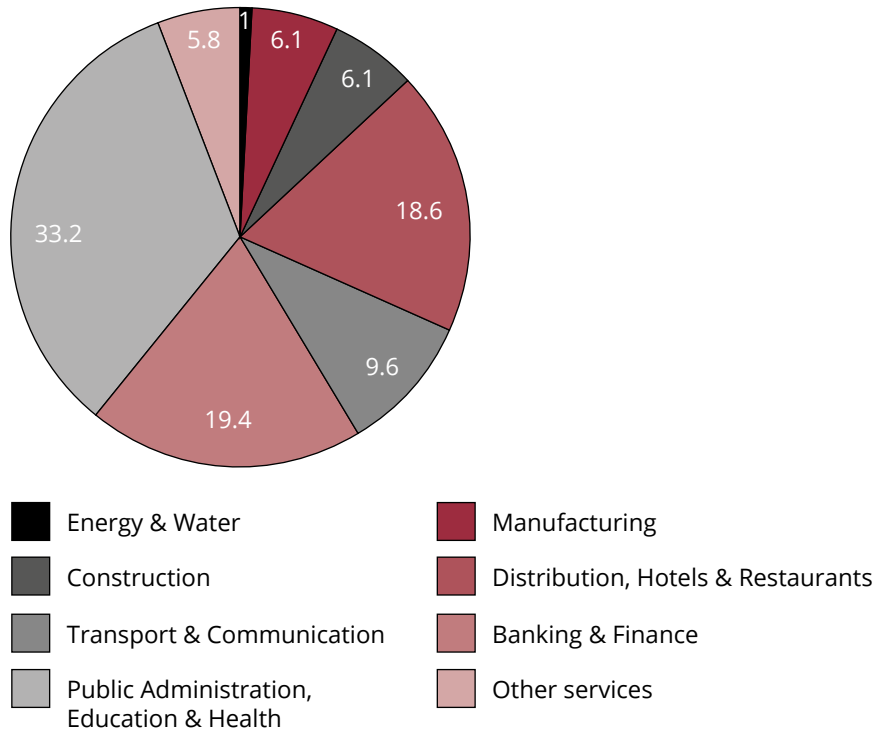
The combined percentage of employment for these three industries was 71.2% (see Prosperity Figure 3).

For the industries where there is information available to provide a time trend, between 2017 and 2019, the percentage of Belfast's working-age population employed decreased in the following industries:

- **Manufacturing by 1.3 percentage points, from 7.4% to 6.1%**
- **Distribution, Hotels, and Restaurants by 2.6 percentage points, from 21.2% to 18.6%**
- **Banking and Finance by 1.2 percentage points, from 20.6% to 19.4%**
- **Public Administration, Education, and Health by 0.4 percentage points, from 33.6% to 33.2%**
- **Other Services by 1.9 percentage points, from 7.7% to 5.8%**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 3:

Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) employed by industry in Belfast LGD, 2019²²



Source: LFS Annual Review 2019 Table 2.2

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, the three industries employing the largest percentages of the working-age population (16-64 years) across Belfast's assembly areas were:

- **Public Administration, Education and Health**
- **Banking and Finance**
- **Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants (see Prosperity Figure 4)**

22. Owing to a small number of people of working age employed in the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' industry in Belfast LGD, the data have been suppressed to prevent disclosure

For these three main industries:

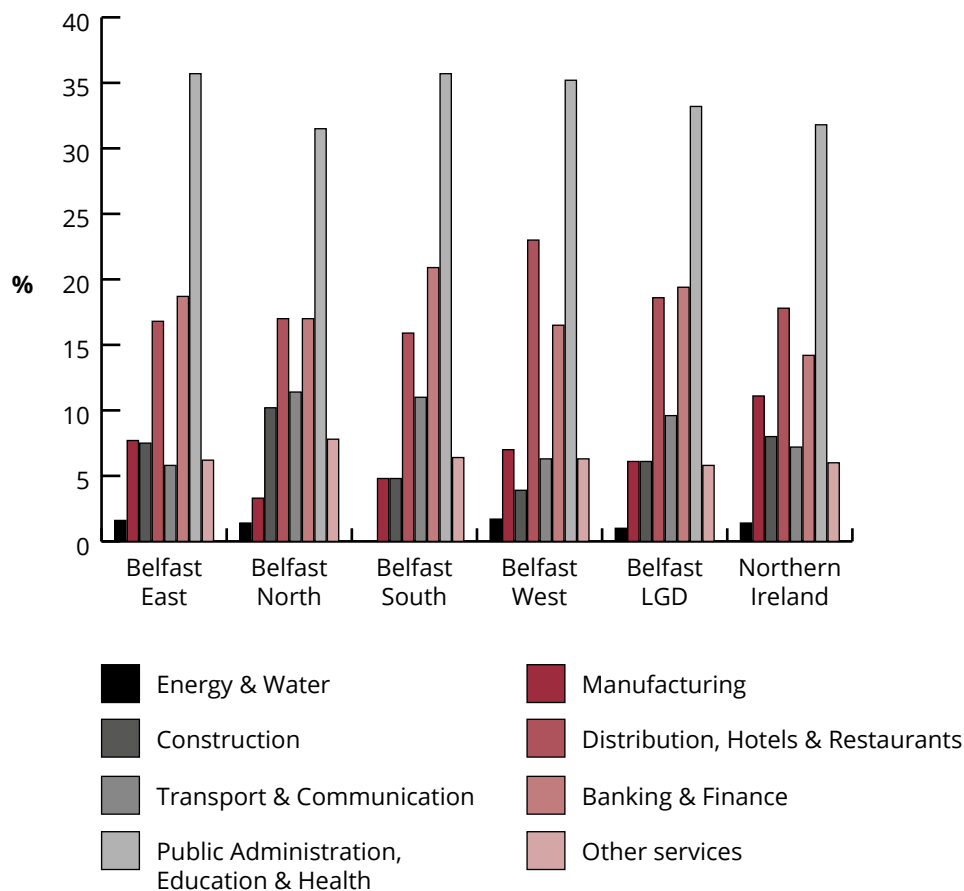
- Belfast East and Belfast South had the highest percentages of working-age population employed in Public Administration, Education and Health, both at 35.7%
- Belfast South had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in Banking and Finance, at 20.9%
- Belfast West had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants, at 23.0%

For the other industries:

- Belfast East had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in Manufacturing
- Belfast North had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in:
 - Construction
 - Transport and Communication
 - Other Services
- Belfast West had the highest percentage of the working-age population employed in Energy and Water

PROSPERITY FIGURE 4:

Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) employed by industry in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: LFS Annual Review 2019 Table 2.2

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had:

- A higher percentage of working-age people in the 'Banking and Finance' industry by 5.2 percentage points, 19.4% compared with 14.2%
- A higher percentage of working-age people in the 'Transport and Communication' industry by 2.4 percentage points, 9.6% compared with 7.2%
- A slightly higher percentage of people of working age in the 'Public Administration, Education and Health' industry by 1.4 percentage points, 33.2% compared with 31.8%

- A lower percentage of working-age people in the 'Manufacturing' industry by 5.0 percentage points, 6.1% compared with 11.1%
- A lower percentage of working-age people in the 'Construction' industry by 1.9 percentage points, 6.1% compared with 8.0%

For all other industries, the difference between Northern Ireland and Belfast LGD was less than 1 percentage point, either higher or lower (see Prosperity Figure 4).

For the industries where there is information available to provide a time trend, between 2017 and 2019, the percentage of the working-age population:

- In Manufacturing, decreased by 1.3 percentage points in Belfast LGD from 7.4% to 6.1% (a percentage decrease of 17.57%), whereas it decreased by 0.3% in Northern Ireland, from 11.4% to 11.1% (a percentage decrease of 2.63%)
- In Distribution, Hotels, and Restaurants, decreased by 2.6 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 21.2% to 18.6% (a percentage decrease of 12.26%), whereas it decreased by 1.6 percentage points in Northern Ireland from 19.4% to 17.8% (a percentage decrease of 8.25%)
- In Banking and Finance, decreased by 1.2 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 20.6% to 19.4% (a percentage decrease of 5.83%), whereas it decreased by 0.7 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 14.9% to 14.2% (a percentage decrease 4.70%)
- Public Administration, Education and Health, decreased by 0.4 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 33.6% to 33.2% (a percentage decrease of 1.19%), whereas it increased by 0.8 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 31.0% to 31.8% (a percentage increase of 2.58%)
- In Other Services, decreased by 1.9 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 7.7% to 5.8% (a percentage decrease of 24.68%), whereas it decreased by 0.6 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 6.6% to 6.0% (a percentage decrease of 9.09%)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- In the 'Banking and Finance' industry, the highest percentage of employment at 19.4%; the lowest was in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD at 10.0%

- In the 'Transport and Communication' industry, the second highest percentage of employment at 9.6%; the highest was in Mid & East Antrim LGD at 11.9%, and the lowest was in Mid Ulster LGD at 2.8%
- In the 'Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants' industry, the fourth highest percentage of employment at 18.6%; the highest was in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD at 20.8%, and the lowest was in Mid Ulster LGD at 15.4%
- In the 'Public Administration, Education & Health' industry, the fifth highest percentage of employment at 33.2%; the highest was in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD at 36.8%, and the lowest was in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 23.5%
- In the 'Other Services' industry, the third equal-lowest percentage of employment at 5.8%; the highest was in Mid & East Antrim LGD at 9.4%, and the lowest was in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD at 4.1%
- In the 'Manufacturing' industry, the second lowest percentage of employment at 6.1%; the highest was in Mid Ulster LGD at 21.1%, and the lowest was in Ards & North Down LGD at 5.2%
- In the 'Construction' industry, the lowest percentage of employment at 6.1%; the highest was in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD at 12.8%
- In the 'Energy & Water' industry, the equal lowest percentage of employment at 1.0%, together with Mid Ulster LGD; the highest percentage was in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD at 2.4%

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, of the working-age population who were employed:

- Over 3 out of every 10 were in the 'Public Administration, Education and Health' industry
- 2 out of every 10 were in the 'Banking and Finance' industry
- Almost 2 out of every 10 were in the 'Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants' industry
- 1 out of every 10 were in the 'Transport and Communication' industry

When compared with Northern Ireland, for Belfast's working-age population there were higher percentages of jobs in the following industries:

- **Banking and Finance**
- **Transport and Communication**
- **Public Administration, Education and Health**

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had percentages of the working-age population employed in the following industries that were greater than the median:

- **Banking and Finance**
- **Transport and Communication**
- **Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants**
- **Public Administration, Education and Health**

Between 2017 and 2019, there were decreases in the percentages of the working-age population employed in the following industries:

- **Manufacturing**
- **Distribution, Hotels, and Restaurants**
- **Banking and Finance**
- **Public Administration, Education and Health**
- **Other Services**

Northern Ireland also had decreases in the percentages of the working-age population employed in these industries apart from Public Administration, Education and Health, where there was a small increase. For the four industries where there was a decrease in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, the percentage decreases were greater in Belfast.

Differences across assembly areas

Belfast East had the highest percentages of the working-age population employed within:

- **Manufacturing**
- **Public Administration, Education and Health (joint with Belfast South)**

Belfast North had the highest percentages of the working-age population employed within:

- **Construction**
- **Transport and Communication**
- **Other Services**

Belfast South had the highest percentages of the working-age population employed within:

- **Banking and Finance**
- **Public Administration, Education and Health (joint with Belfast East)**

Belfast West had the highest percentages of the working-age population employed within:

- **Energy and Water**
- **Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants**

1.5 Employment of the Working-age Population (16-64 years) by Occupation

IMPORTANCE

Health is distributed unequally by occupation. People in occupations requiring a lower level of skills report worse health, have a higher probability of disability, and die earlier than people in occupations requiring a higher level of skills. Potential mechanisms underlying these disparities include:

- Selection into occupation based on initial wealth, education, and health
- Behavioural responses to adverse working conditions
- Workplace conditions, which can increase health inequalities if people with lower levels of skills have harmful occupations and do not offset any detrimental health effects²³

Information about the occupational categories of the workforce is also important when considering the skill sets required in a city's working-age population.

DEFINITION

Occupational classifications have been derived from Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (SOC2010)²⁴:

- Managers, Directors & Senior Officials
- Professional Occupations
- Associate Professional & Technical Occupations
- Administrative & Secretarial Occupations
- Skilled Trades Occupations
- Caring, Leisure & Other Service Occupations
- Sales & Customer Service Occupations

23. The contribution of occupation to health inequality - PMC (nih.gov) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

24. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc> (Last accessed 15 July 2021)

- Process Plant & Machine Operatives
- Elementary Occupations²⁵

Information is from the LFS Annual Report Tables 2019.²⁶ The sample size in the LFS 2019 dataset was approximately 11,000 individuals.

PROFILE FINDINGS

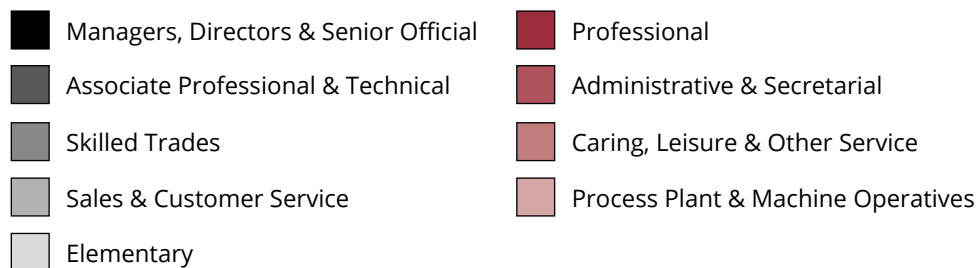
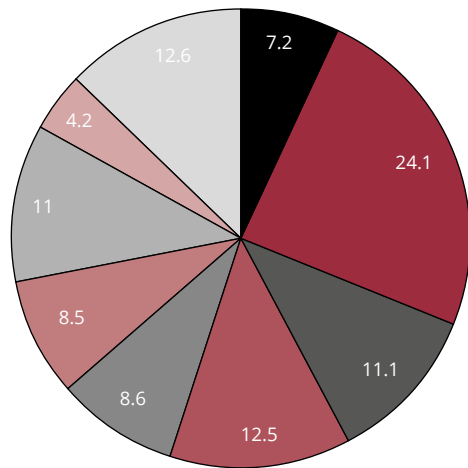
In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the highest percentages of the working-age population were employed in the following occupations:

- Professional at 24.1%
- Elementary at 12.6%
- Administrative and Secretarial at 12.5%
- Associate Professional and Technical at 11.1%
- Sales and Customer Service at 11.0% (see Prosperity Figure 5)

25. Elementary occupations encompass routine tasks, often requiring the use of hand-held tools and some physical effort, for example, cleaning, rubbish collection, and door-to-door sales.
 26. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 22 May 2022)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 5:

Percentage (%) of Belfast’s working-age population (16-64 years) employed by occupation, 2019



Source: LFSAR3 Occupation 2019 Table 3.2 (LFSAR-3-Occupation-2019.XLSX)

Between 2017 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of the working-age population employed:

- **Increased in four occupational categories: Managers, Directors, and Senior Officials, Professional, Associate Professional and Technical, and Skilled Trade**
- **Decreased in five occupational categories: Administrative and Secretarial, Caring, Leisure, and Other Service, Sales and Customer Service, Process Plant and Machine Operatives, and Elementary**

Differences by assembly area

Percentages of the working-age population in specific occupations varied across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast West had the highest percentage in Managers, Directors, and Senior Official occupations, whereas Belfast North had the lowest
- Belfast South, followed by Belfast East, had the highest percentages in Professional, and Associate Professional and Technical occupations, whereas Belfast North and Belfast West had the lowest
- Belfast West and Belfast East had the highest percentages in Administrative and Secretarial occupations, whereas Belfast South had the lowest
- Belfast North had the highest percentages in Skilled Trade, and Caring, Leisure and Other Service occupations, whereas Belfast South had the lowest
- Belfast North had the highest percentage in Elementary occupations, whereas Belfast East had the lowest
- Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest percentages in Sales and Customer Service, and Process Plant and Machine Operatives occupations (see Prosperity Figure 6)

In Belfast East, the largest percentages of the working-age population were in Professional (27.9%), and Administrative and Secretarial (15.7%) occupations.

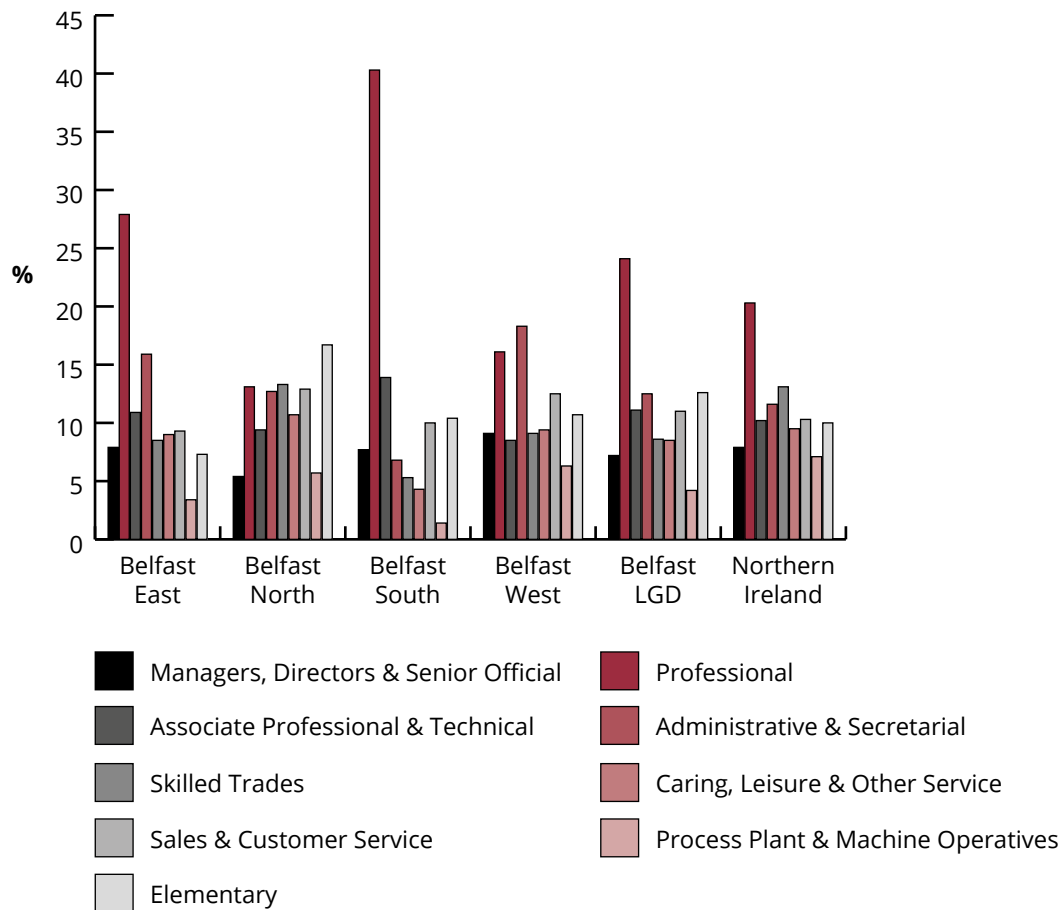
In Belfast North, the largest percentages of the working-age population were in a range of occupations: Elementary (16.7%), Skilled Trade (13.3%), Professional (13.1%), Sales and Customer Service (12.9%), and Administrative and Secretarial (12.7%).

In Belfast South, the largest percentages of the working-age population were in Professional (40.3%), and Associate Professional and Technical (13.9%) occupations.

In Belfast West, the largest percentages of the working-age population were in Administrative and Secretarial (18.3%), Professional (16.1%), and Sales and Customer Service (12.5%) occupations.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 6:

Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by occupational category (SOC2010) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: LFSAR3 Occupation 2019 Table 3.5 (LFSAR-3-Occupation-2019.XLSX)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the main differences in occupation were Belfast LGD had:

- A higher percentage of working-age people in Professional occupations by 3.8 percentage points, 24.1% compared with 20.3%
- A lower percentage of working-age people in Skilled Trades occupations by 4.5 percentage points, 8.6% compared with 13.1%

- A higher percentage of working-age people in Elementary occupations by 2.6 percentage points, 12.6% compared with 10.0%
- A lower percentage of working-age people in Process Plant & Machine Operatives occupations by 2.9 percentage points, 4.2% compared with 7.1% (see Prosperity Figure 6)

Between 2017 and 2019:

- For the Managers, Directors, and Senior Official, and Professional occupations, the percentages of the working-age population employed increased in both Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increases were greater for both occupations in Northern Ireland
- For the Caring, Leisure, and Other, Process Plant and Machine Operative, and Elementary occupations, the percentages of the working-age population employed decreased in both Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland – the percentage decreases were greater in Northern Ireland for Process Plant and Machine Operative, and Elementary occupations, whereas it was greater in Belfast for the Caring, Leisure, and Other Service occupations
- For the Associate Professional and Technical, and Skilled Trade occupations the percentage of the working-age population employed increased in Belfast LGD but decreased in Northern Ireland
- For Administrative and Secretarial, and Sales and Customer Service occupation the percentage of the working-age population employed decreased in Belfast LGD but increased in Northern Ireland

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage of working-age people in Professional occupations at 24.1%; Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest percentage at 29.3%, while Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 15.5%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of working-age people in Skilled Trades occupations at 8.6%, whereas Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 24.2%
- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of working-age people in Elementary occupations at 12.6%, whereas Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 4.9%

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, of the working-age population:

- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 were employed in Professional occupations
- More than 1 out of every 10 were employed in Associate Professional and Technical, Administrative and Secretarial, Sales and Customer Service, and Elementary occupations
- Less than 1 out of every 10 were employed in Managers, Directors, and Senior Officials, Caring, Leisure and Other Service, and Skilled Trade occupations
- Less than 1 out of every 20 were employed in Process Plant and Machine Operative occupations

Between 2017 and 2019, in Belfast, the percentages of the working-age population employed:

- Increased for the Managers, Directors, and Senior Officials, Professional, Associate Professional and Technical, and Skilled Trade occupations
- Decreased for the Administrative and Secretarial, Caring, Leisure and Other Service, Sales and Customer Service, Process Plant and Machine Operatives, and Elementary occupations

Differences across assembly areas

In 2019, of the working-age population:

- In Belfast East, more than 4 out of every 10 were employed in Professional occupations and Associate Professional and Technical occupations combined
- In Belfast North, although over 2 out of every 10 were employed in Professional occupations and Associate Professional and Technical occupations combined, approaching 2 out of every 10 were employed in Elementary occupations
- In Belfast South, between 5 and 6 out of every 10 were employed in Professional occupations and Associate Professional and Technical occupations combined

- In Belfast West, between 2 and 3 out of every 10 were employed in Professional occupations and Associate Professional and Technical occupations combined

Thus, Belfast South and Belfast East had the highest percentages of working-age people in Professional occupations and Associate Professional and Technical occupations combined when compared with Belfast North and Belfast West.

This distribution of occupations within Belfast could contribute to the variation in health outcomes observed across the city, where people in Belfast South and Belfast East generally have better health outcomes and a longer life expectancy than people in Belfast West and Belfast North (see [People Chapter](#)).

1.6 Economic Activity Rate (EAR)

IMPORTANCE

The labour supply for a local economy consists not only of people who are employed, but also of people defined as unemployed or economically active, who can be considered as part of the potential labour supply. Therefore, people who are economically active can be in employment or unemployed.

Lower levels of economic activity can highlight:

- Lower levels of health and wellbeing and higher levels of disability in a population
- Lower levels of participation in the labour market by people with poor health and wellbeing and disability
- Higher levels of deprivation – people in deprived areas are more likely to have lower levels of labour market participation and poorer health and wellbeing outcomes

DEFINITION

The economic activity rate (EAR) is the percentage of people who are economically active. Persons who are economically active meet either the definition for employed or unemployed.

Information is from the LFS Annual Report Tables 2019, and LFS Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020.²⁷

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the EAR of the working-age population (aged 16-64 years) was 69.5%.

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the EAR of the working-age population increased by 5.2 percentage points, from 64.3% to 69.5%.

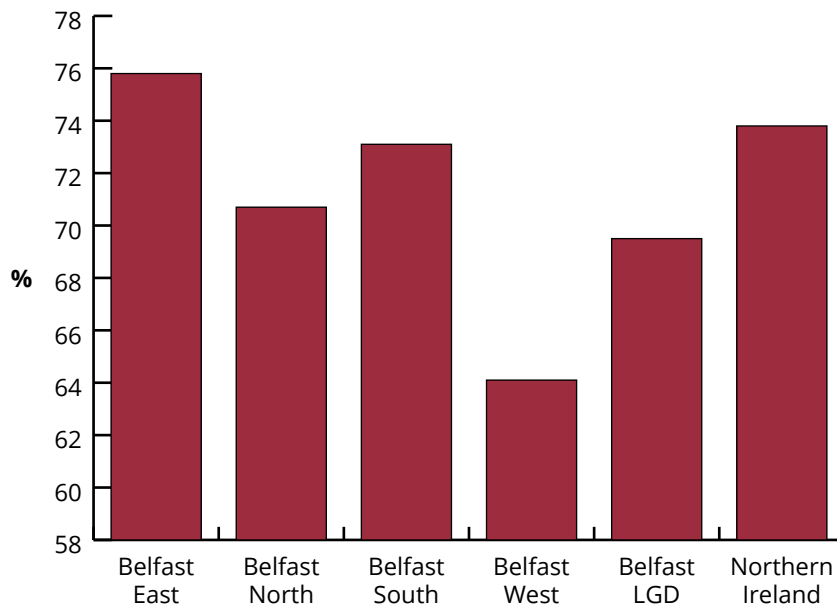
27. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) and Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 28 May 2022)

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation in the EAR across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast East had the highest EAR at 75.8%, followed by Belfast South at 73.1%
- Belfast West had the lowest EAR at 64.1%, followed by Belfast North at 70.7% (see Prosperity Figure 7)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 7:
Economic activity rate (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; LFSAR1 Labour Market Status 2019 Tables 1.1 & 1.8

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the EAR of the working-age population (aged 16-64 years) was 4.3 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 69.5% compared with 73.8%.

Between 2009 and 2019, the EAR increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 5.2 percentage points, from 64.3% to 69.5% (a percentage increase of 8.09%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3.9 percentage points, from 69.9% to 73.8% (a percentage increase of 5.58%)

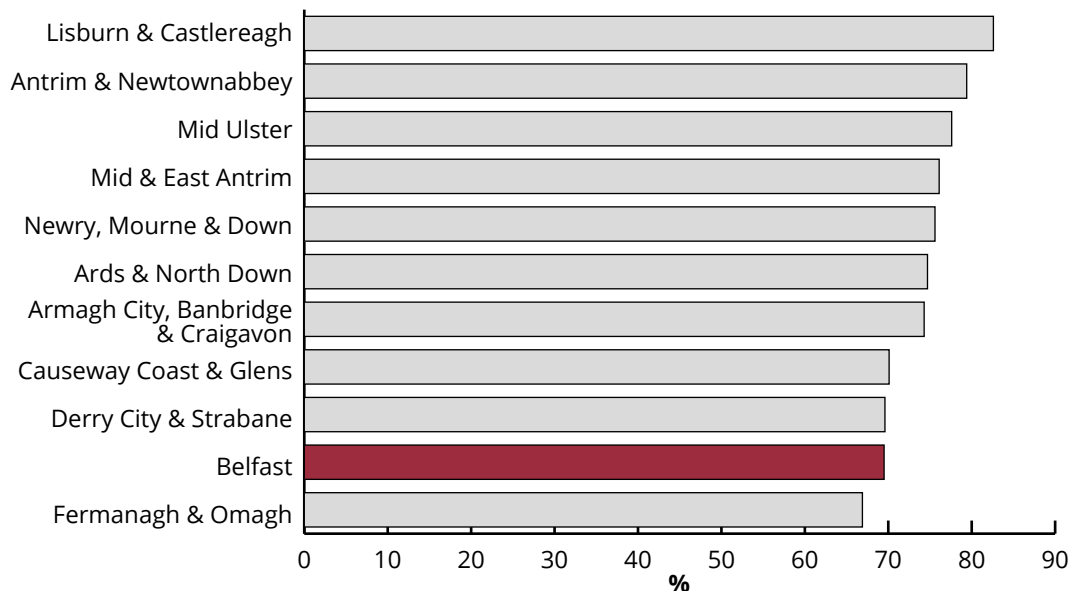
Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second lowest EAR at 69.5%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest rate at 82.6%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest rate at 66.9%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 74.7% (see Prosperity Figure 8)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 8:

Economic activity rate (%) of working age population (16-64 years) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; LFSAR1 Labour Market Status 2019 Table 1.1

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, 7 out of every 10 people of working age were economically active, which was similar to Northern Ireland, whereas in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD 8 out of every 10 people of working age were economically active.

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the second lowest EAR.

Between 2009 and 2019, although there was an increase in the EAR in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, the difference between the two decreased due to a greater percentage increase for Belfast.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West and Belfast North had the lowest EARs.

The EAR for Belfast West was lower than that in Belfast and in Northern Ireland.

1.7 Employment Rate

IMPORTANCE

Employment is one of the most important determinants of physical and mental health,²⁸ and is particularly beneficial for depression and general mental health.²⁹

Being in 'good work' is better for health than being out of work. 'Good work' is defined as having a safe and secure job with good working hours and conditions, supportive management and opportunities for training and development. 'Good work' improves health and wellbeing across people's lives and protects against social exclusion through the provision of income, social interaction, a "core" role, and identity and purpose.³⁰

Lower levels of employment can highlight:

- Lower levels of health and wellbeing and higher levels of disability in a population
- Lower levels of participation in the labour market by people with poor health and wellbeing and disability
- Higher levels of deprivation – people in deprived areas are more likely to have lower levels of labour market participation and poorer health outcomes

DEFINITION

In the LFS, the employment rate is defined as the percentage of all working-age (16-64 years) people who are employed. People defined as employed are aged 16 years or over and:

- Did at least one hour of paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed)
- Had a paid job that they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example)

28. Chapter 6: social determinants of health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

29. Health effects of employment: a systematic review of prospective studies | Occupational & Environmental Medicine (bmj.com) (Last accessed 19 May 2022)

30. Health matters: health and work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 May 2022)

- Were on government-supported training and employee programmes
- Were doing unpaid family work

The indicator excludes working-age people who are economically inactive.

Information is from the LFS Annual Report Tables 2019, including that about deprivation from “Indicator 34: Employment rate by council area – sub-population tables – 2019”, and LFS Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020.³¹

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the employment rate for the working-age population (aged 16-64 years) was 67.6%.

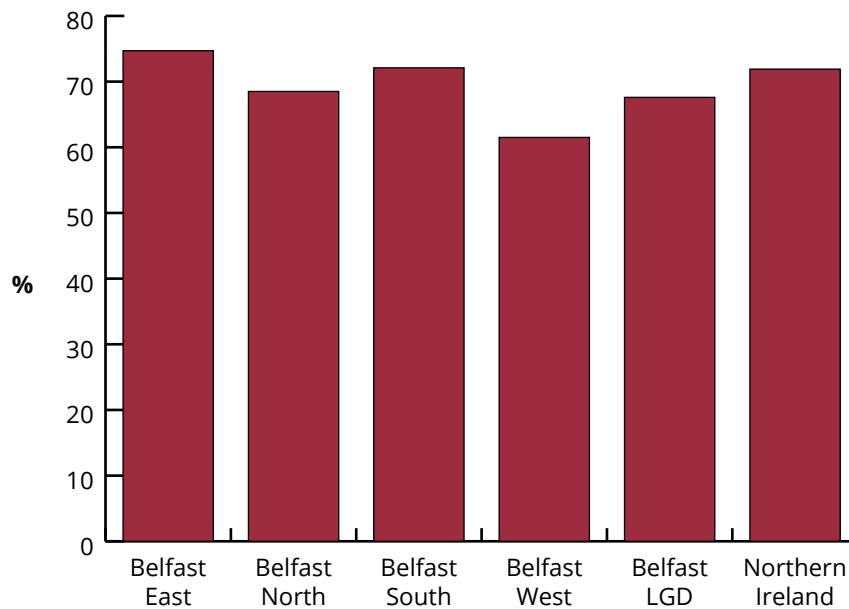
Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the employment rate of the working-age population increased by 9.3 percentage points, from 58.3% to 67.6%.

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation in the employment rate of the working-age population across Belfast’s assembly areas:

- Belfast East had the highest rate at 74.7%, followed by Belfast South at 72.1%
- Belfast West had the lowest rate at 61.5%, followed by Belfast North at 68.5% (see Prosperity Figure 9)

31. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) and Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 28 May 2022)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 9:**Employment rate (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019**

Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; LFSAR1 Labour Market Status 2019 Tables 1.1 & 1.8

Differences by deprivation

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, there was variation in the employment rate of the working-age population across quintiles³² of area deprivation:

- Quintile 5 – the least-deprived areas in Belfast LGD – had the highest employment rate at 81.2%
- Quintile 1 – the most-deprived areas – had the lowest employment rate at 57.1%
- Quintile 4 – the second least-deprived areas – had the median value for employment rate at 71.1% (see Prosperity Figure 10)

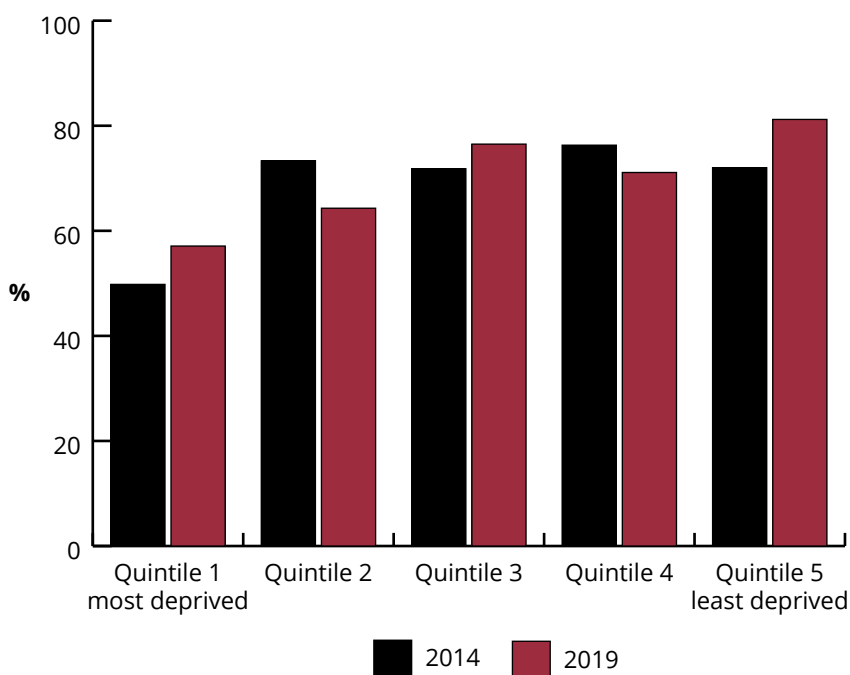
32. A quintile is “any of five equal groups into which a population can be divided according to the distribution of values of a particular variable” (see Glossary); in this case the variable is the level of area deprivation

Between 2014 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, there was variation in the changes to the employment rate of the working-age population across quintiles of area deprivation

- It increased in:
 - Quintile 1, most-deprived areas
 - Quintile 5, least-deprived areas
 - Quintile 3, middle quintile
 - The largest percentage increase was in Quintile 1, the most-deprived areas, at 14.66%
- It decreased in:
 - Quintile 2, second most-deprived areas
 - Quintile 4, second least-deprived areas
 - The largest percentage decrease was in Quintile 2, the second most-deprived areas at 12.28% (see Prosperity Figure 10)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 10:

Employment rate (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by quintile of deprivation (NIMDM 2017) in Belfast LGD, 2014 and 2019



Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; Indicator 34 sub population tables

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the employment rate of the working-age population (16-64 years) was 4.3 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 67.6% compared with 71.9%.

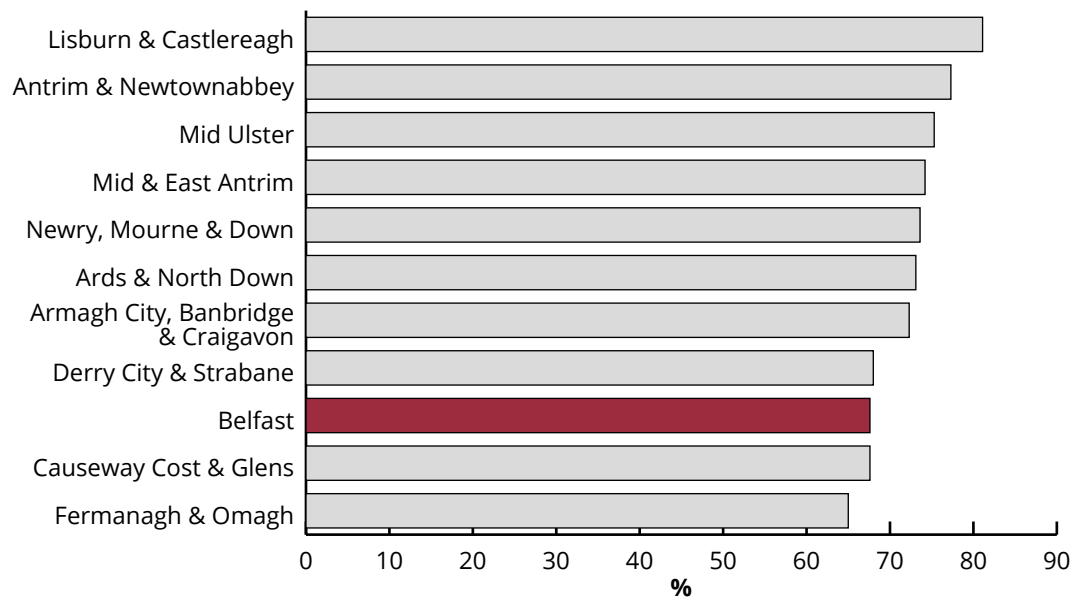
Between 2009 and 2019, the employment rate increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 9.3 percentage points, from 58.3% to 67.6% (a percentage increase of 15.95%)
- In Northern Ireland by 6.8 percentage points, from 65.1% to 71.9% (a percentage increase of 10.45%)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second lowest employment rate, at 67.6%, together with Causeway Coast & Glens LGD
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest rate at 65.0%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest rate at 81.1%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 73.1% (see Prosperity Figure 11)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 11:**Employment rate (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by LGD, 2019**

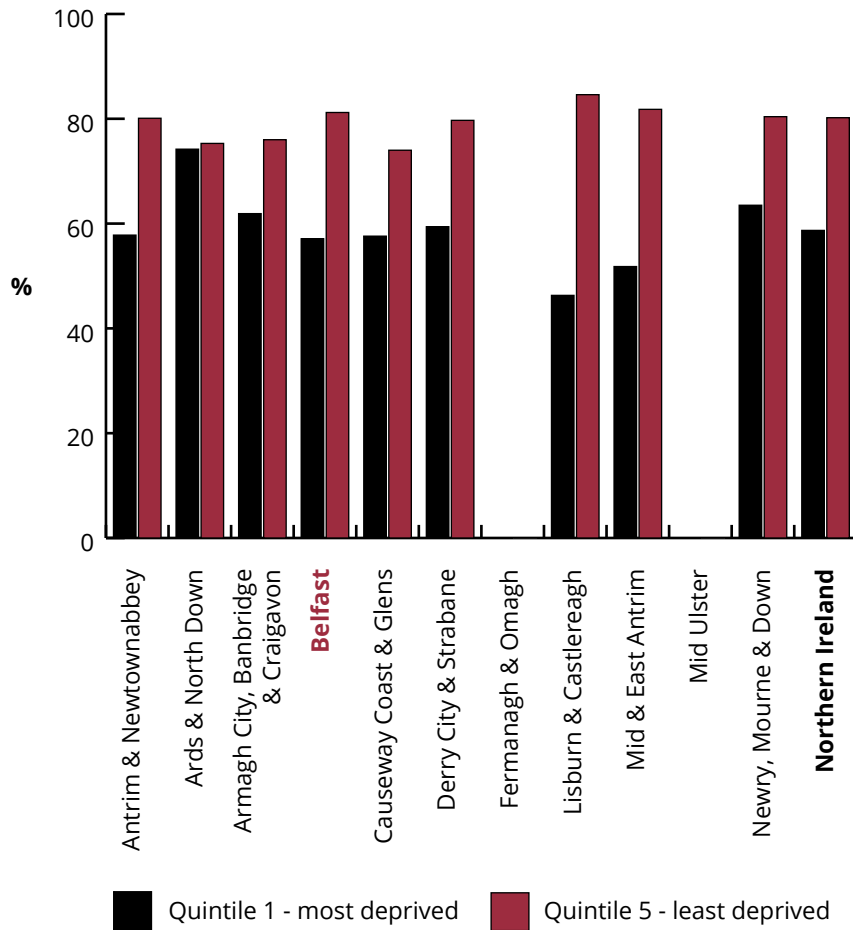
Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; LFSAR1 Labour Market Status 2019 Table 1.1

In 2019, there was variation across LGDs in the gap in employment rate between the working-age population in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1) and that in least-deprived areas (Quintile 5):

- Belfast LGD had the third largest gap of 24.1 percentage points, the employment rate ranging from 57.1% in Quintile 1, the most-deprived areas, to 81.2% in Quintile 5, the least-deprived areas
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the largest gap of 38.3 percentage points, ranging from 46.3% in Quintile 1 to 84.6% in Quintile 5
- Ards & North Down LGD had the smallest gap of 1.1 percentage points, ranging from 74.2% in Quintile 1 to 75.3% in Quintile 5 (see Prosperity Figure 12)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 12:

Employment rate in Quintile 1 and Quintile 5 of the working-age population (16-64 years) by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019³³



Source: LFS Annual Report Tables 2019; Indicator 34 sub population tables

33. Datapoints for Quintile 1 in Antrim & Newtownabbey, Ards & North Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh and Mid & East Antrim LGDs and for Quintile 5 for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, are based on a small sample size. In addition, data have been suppressed for two LGDs (Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD) due to a sample size of <3 for one or both datapoints for Quintiles 1 and 5

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, almost 7 out of every 10 people of working age were employed, almost the same as Northern Ireland.

Between 2009 and 2019, there was an increase in the employment rate in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater for Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed.

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- **The equal second lowest employment rate – in Lisburn & Castlereagh, 8 out of every 10 people of working age were employed compared with almost 7 out of every 10 in Belfast**
- **One of the largest gaps between the employment rate in the most-deprived areas and that in the least-deprived areas of the LGD**

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West and Belfast North had the lowest employment rates. The employment rate in Belfast West was lower than that for both Belfast and Northern Ireland.

In 2019, there was a relatively large gap between the employment rate in the least-deprived and most-deprived areas in Belfast: 8 out of every 10 people of working age in the least-deprived areas were employed compared with almost 6 out of every 10 in the most-deprived areas.

Between 2014 and 2019, the employment rate in both Belfast's most-deprived and least-deprived areas increased, but the percentage increase was greater in the most-deprived areas, 14.66% compared with 12.78%, and on this basis the gap between the two narrowed; however, the gap between the two increased in terms of the percentage-point difference.

Between 2014 and 2019, the employment rate in the second most-deprived areas, decreased, with the result that in 2019 the gap in employment rate between the most-deprived areas and the second most-deprived areas narrowed substantially with improving outcomes for people in the most-deprived areas but worsening outcomes for people in the second most-deprived areas.

Between 2014 and 2019, the employment rate in the second least-deprived areas also decreased, with the result that in 2019 the gap in employment between the second least-deprived areas and the middle quintile (Quintile 3) reversed with worsening outcomes in the second least-deprived areas and improving outcomes for the middle quintile.

1.8 Economic Inactivity Rate (EIR)

IMPORTANCE

People who are economically inactive are not part of the labour supply, that is, they are neither in employment nor unemployed, for example, people who are:

- Looking after a home
- Long-term sick or disabled
- Retired
- A student

In 2017, the OECD and Centre for Cities undertook a deep dive into regional trends in economic activity in the UK, including the EIR. When compared with other UK cities, Belfast had one of the highest EIRs at 31%, the same as that for Blackburn. The EIRs were relatively lower in the South East and South West of England: for instance, it was 21% in London, and 16% in Swindon.

The OECD and Centre for Cities also found that, in the UK, population groups that were more likely to be economically inactive were:

- Women compared with men (an EIR of 27% compared with 17%)
- People from ethnic minorities compared with people from a White background (an EIR of 30% compared with 21%)
- Younger people aged 16-24 years and people aged 50-64 years when compared with people aged 25-49 years

For people who are economically inactive, the probability of finding employment is 20%, which is half that of finding employment for people who are unemployed.³⁴

Between 2008 and 2018, economic inactivity in Northern Ireland was consistently higher than that in the UK, moreover, it has been persistently higher than that in the UK for the last 30 years. In 2018, Belfast was in the top 2% of economically inactive districts in the UK.³⁵

-
34. Barr J, Magrini E & Meghnagi M (2019) Trends in economic inactivity across the OECD. The importance of the local dimension and a spotlight on the United Kingdom. OECD Local Economic and Employment Development Working Papers. OECD and Centre for Cities. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/trends-in-economic-inactivity-across-the-oecd_cd51acab-en;jsessionid=do4O1K3D69DvCZzj0le0fnBR.ip-10-240-5-52 (Last accessed 28 May 2022)
35. NISRA. Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland. 4 June 2019 <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/economic-inactivity-northern-ireland-2018> (Last accessed 16 August 2021)

DEFINITION

The economic inactivity rate (EIR) is the percentage of people of working age (16-64 years) who are economically inactive. Data can be presented either including or excluding students; information presented in this section includes students.

Information is from the LFS Annual Report Tables 2019, and LFS Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020.³⁶

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the EIR of the working-age population (including students) was 30.5% (see Prosperity Figure 13).

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, among the working-age population (16-64 years), the main reasons for economic inactivity were:

- Permanently sick or disabled (11.3%)
- Caring for home/family (7.8%)
- Being a student (7.0%)
- Being retired (2.8%)
- Other (1.6%)

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the EIR for working-age people (including students) decreased by 5.2 percentage points, from 35.7% to 30.5%.

Differences by assembly area

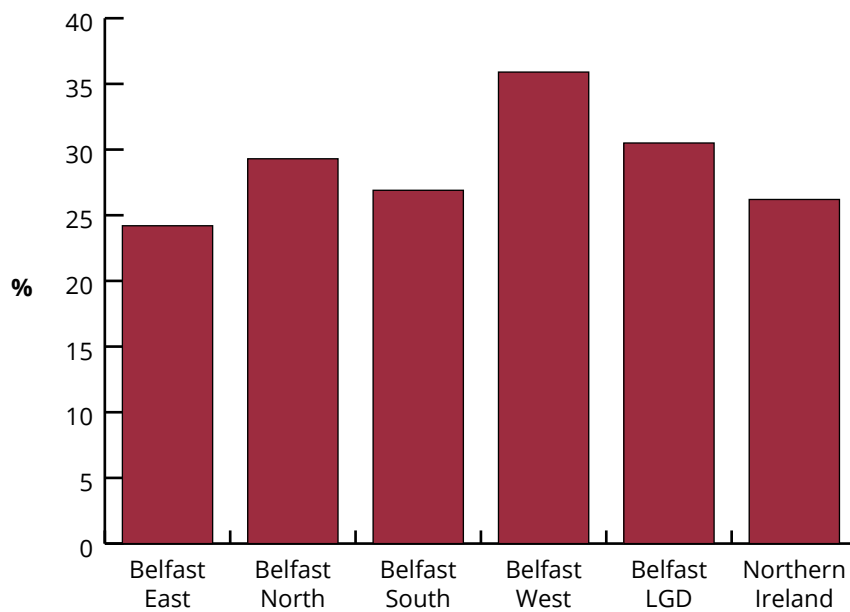
In 2019, there was variation in the EIR of the working-age population (including students) across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast West had the highest EIR at 35.9%, followed by Belfast North at 29.3%
- Belfast East had the lowest EIR at 24.2%, followed by Belfast South at 26.9% (see Prosperity Figure 13)

36. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) and Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 28 May 2022)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 13:

Economic inactivity rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019



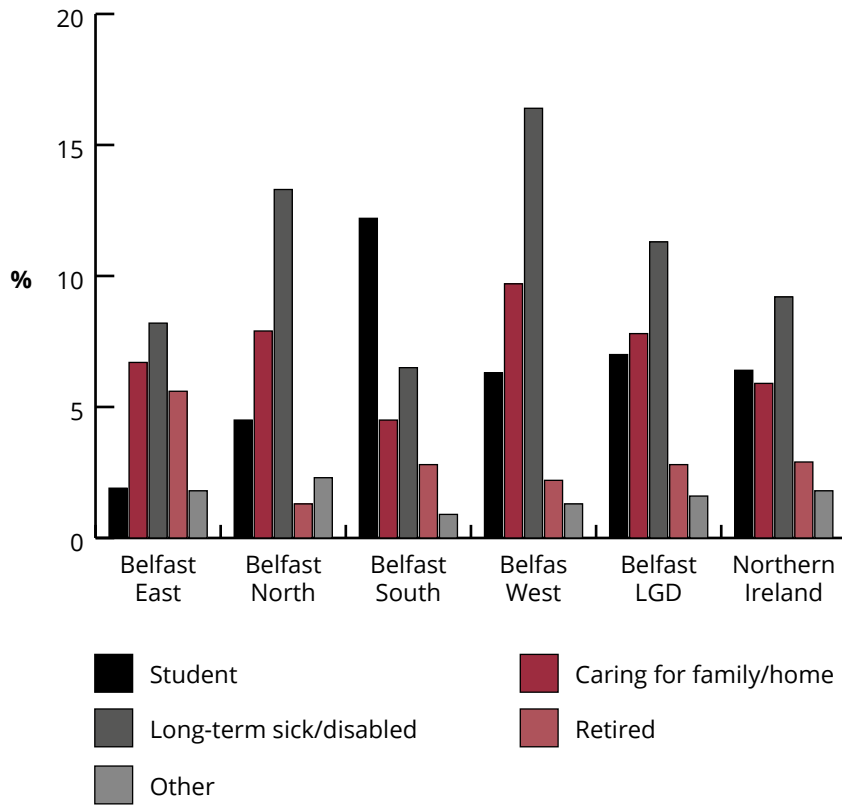
Source: LFSAR19 Table 1.1 Labour market structure by council area, 2019

The main reasons for economic inactivity in Belfast West, Belfast North, and Belfast East were:

- Long-term sickness or disability
- Caring for family/home (see Prosperity Figure 14)

In Belfast South, the main reason for economic inactivity was being a student, followed by long-term sickness or disability (see Prosperity Figure 14).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 14:
Reasons for economic inactivity (%) by Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019³⁷



Source: LFS: Tb1LFS969_inactivity38

37. Most of the estimates for Belfast's assembly areas (14/20) are based on a small sample size, which may result in less precise estimates, and should be used with caution
 38. https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/Tb1LFS969_inactivity.XLSX (Last accessed 29 May 2022)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the EIR of the working-age population (including students) was 4.3 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 30.5% compared with 26.2%.

Although the main reasons for economic inactivity were similar in Belfast LGD and in Northern Ireland, for three of the reasons the levels were higher in Belfast LGD as follows:

- Long-term sickness or disability
- Caring for home/family
- Being a student (see Prosperity Figure 14)

Between 2009 and 2019, the economic inactivity rate decreased:

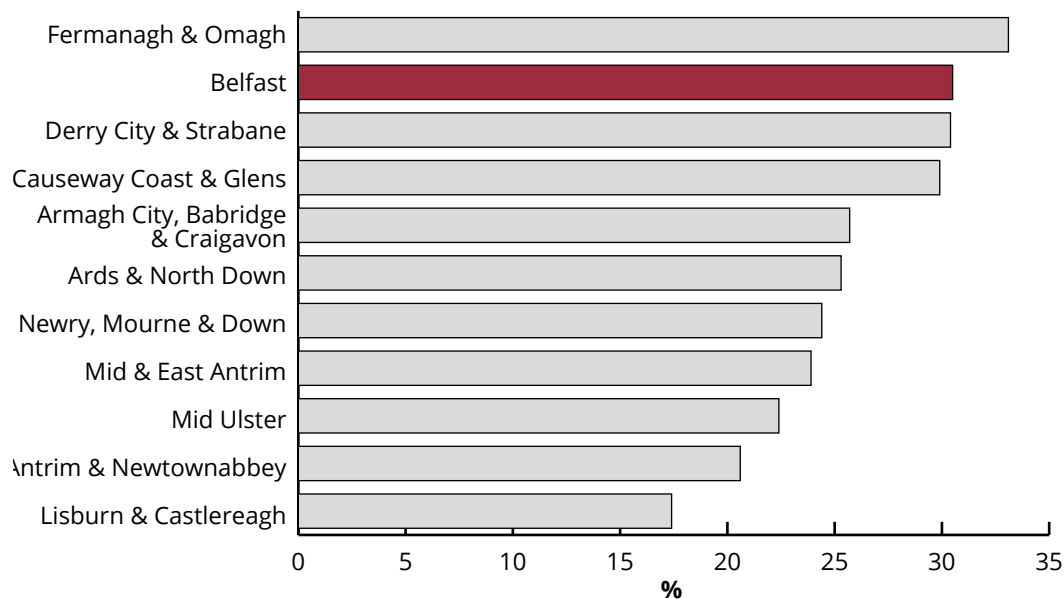
- In Belfast by 5.6 percentage points, from 35.7% to 30.5% (a percentage decrease of 15.69%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3.9 percentage points, from 30.1% to 26.2% (a percentage decrease of 12.96%)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest EIR at 30.5%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest rate at 33.1%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate at 17.4%
- Ards & North Down LHD had the median value at 25.3% (see Prosperity Figure 15)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 15:
Economic inactivity rate (%) by LGD, 2019



Source: LFSAR19 Table 1.1 Labour market structure by council area, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast, 3 out of every 10 people of working age were economically inactive, compared with between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland, and between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD.

The main reason for economic inactivity in working-age people in Belfast was long-term sickness or disability.

Between 2009 and 2019, there was a decrease in the EIR in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two decreased due to a greater percentage decrease for Belfast.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West had the highest EIR of Belfast's assembly areas, followed by Belfast North:

- In Belfast West, between 3 and 4 out of every 10 people of working age were economically inactive
- In Belfast North, 3 out of every 10 people of working age were economically inactive

In Belfast West and Belfast North, the main reason for economic inactivity was long-term sickness or disability.

Although long-term sickness or disability was the main reason for economic inactivity in Belfast East, it was at a relatively similar level with other reasons for economic inactivity such as caring for family or home, and retirement.

In 2019, Belfast South was the only assembly area where the main reason for economic inactivity was not long-term sickness or disability but being a student.

SECTION 2

Income

2.1 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate

IMPORTANCE

People who are unemployed commonly experience mental and physical health problems. Unemployment is bad for health and wellbeing because it is associated with an increased risk of mortality and morbidity including:

- limiting long-term illness
- cardiovascular disease
- poor mental health
- suicide
- health-harming behaviours.³⁹

Unemployed people live on a low income. In 2019, the New Style Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) for people aged:

- 25 years or over was £73.10 per week
- Under 25 years was £57.90 per week

Unemployment can have an impact on people other than the individual concerned. Children growing up in workless households are almost twice as likely to fail at all stages of education compared with children growing up in working families.⁴⁰

39. Health matters: health and work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

40. Chapter 6: social determinants of health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

High rates of unemployment have negative impacts on the economy, including:

- **The cost of benefit payments**
- **A reduction of spending power in the economy, with the potential to lead to job losses, economic contraction, and a decrease in tax revenue**

Long-term health conditions including musculoskeletal conditions such as back pain can also be the cause of unemployment, known as 'health-related worklessness'.⁴¹

DEFINITION

Claimant count (%) is an experimental statistic. It measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. From 2018, the claimant count measure in Northern Ireland has been based on the number of JSA claimants and on the number of Universal Credit (UC) claimants who are claiming it principally for the reason of being unemployed (people in the 'Searching for Work' conditionality regime).⁴²

Information is from NISRA Claimant Count.⁴³

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate was 2.9%.

Between 2018 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points, from 3.1% to 2.9%.

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the annual average claimant count rate:

- **Belfast West had the highest rate at 4.2%, followed by Belfast North at 3.1%**
- **Belfast South had the lowest rate at 1.8%, followed by Belfast East at 2.2% (see Prosperity Figure 16)**

41. Health matters: health and work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

42. LFS unemployment and experimental claimant count measure in Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 May 2022)

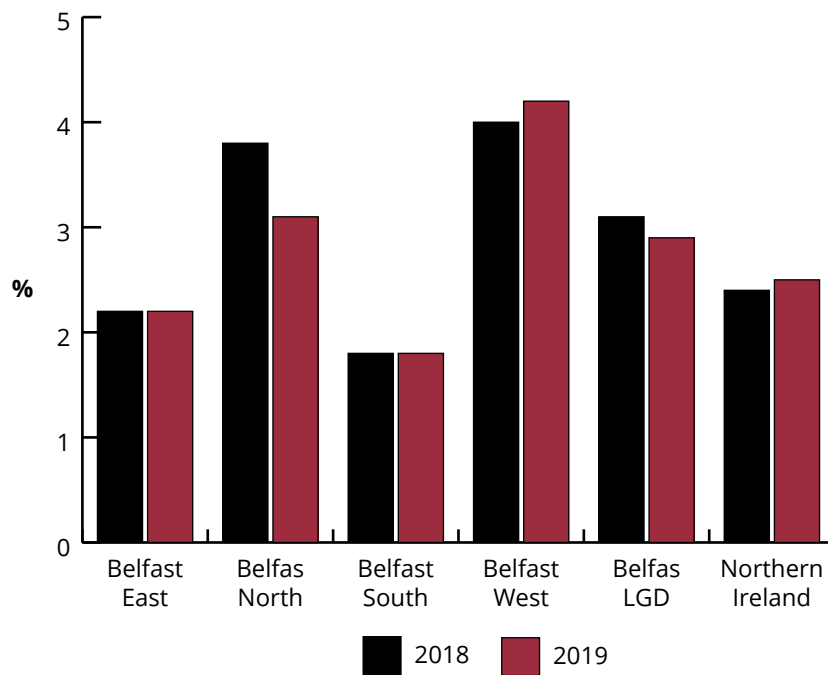
43. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/claimant-count> (Last accessed 14 May 2022)

Between 2018 and 2019, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the change in annual average claimant count rate:

- In Belfast East and Belfast South, it remained the same, at 2.2% and 1.8%, respectively
- In Belfast North, it decreased by 0.7 percentage points from 3.8% to 3.1%
- In Belfast West, it increased by 0.2 percentage points, from 4.0% to 4.2%

PROSPERITY FIGURE 16:

Annual average claimant count rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2018 and 2019



Source: NISRA Claimant Count Interactive Maps: Annual average for parliamentary constituency area

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the annual average claimant count rate was higher by 0.4 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 2.9% compared with 2.5%.

Between 2018 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rate of working-age people:

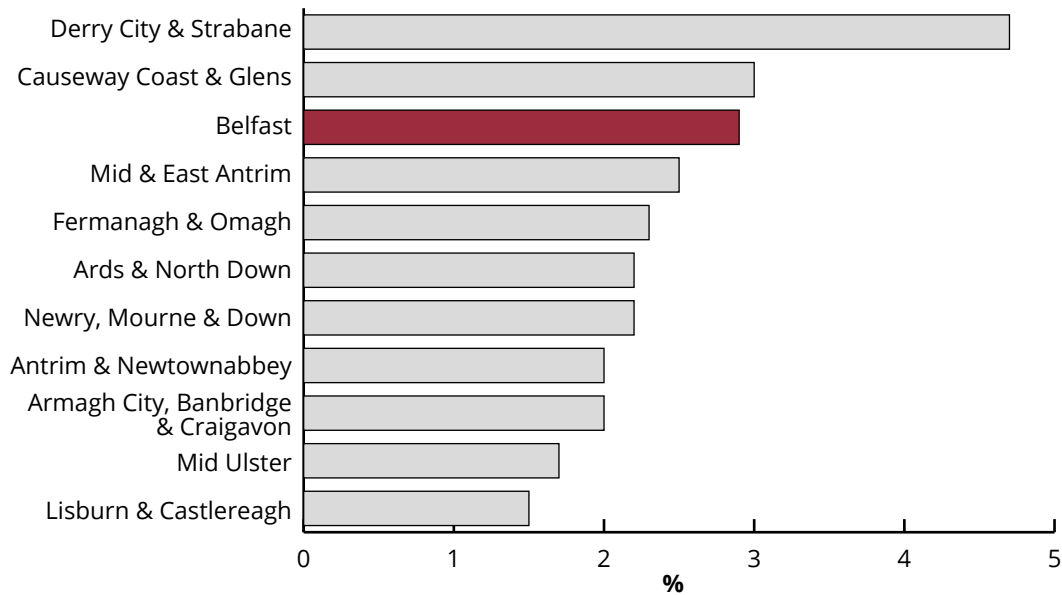
- Decreased in Belfast LGD by 0.2 percentage points from 3.1% to 2.9% (a percentage decrease of 6.45%)
- Increased by 0.1 percentage point from 2.4% to 2.5% (a percentage increase of 4.17%; see Prosperity Figure 16)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest annual average claimant count rate at 2.9%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest rate at 4.7%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate at 1.5%
- Ards -& North Down LGD and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median value at 2.2% (see Prosperity Figure 17)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 17:
Annual average claimant count rate (%) by LGD, 2019



Source: NISRA Claimant Count Interactive Maps: Annual average for council area

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, Belfast had a higher annual average claimant count rate than that in Northern Ireland, and the third highest rate when compared with other LGDs.

Between 2018 and 2009, the annual average claimant count rate decreased in Belfast but increased in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest annual average claimant count rates.

HISTORICAL DATA

Owing to two changes in the methodology for calculating this indicator, the following information is presented as indicative of the time trend for the annual average claimant count rate from 2009 to 2019.

Between 2009 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rate decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 2.4 percentage points from 5.3% to 2.9% (a percentage decrease of 45.28%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1.7 percentage points, from 4.2% to 2.5% (a percentage decrease of 40.48%)

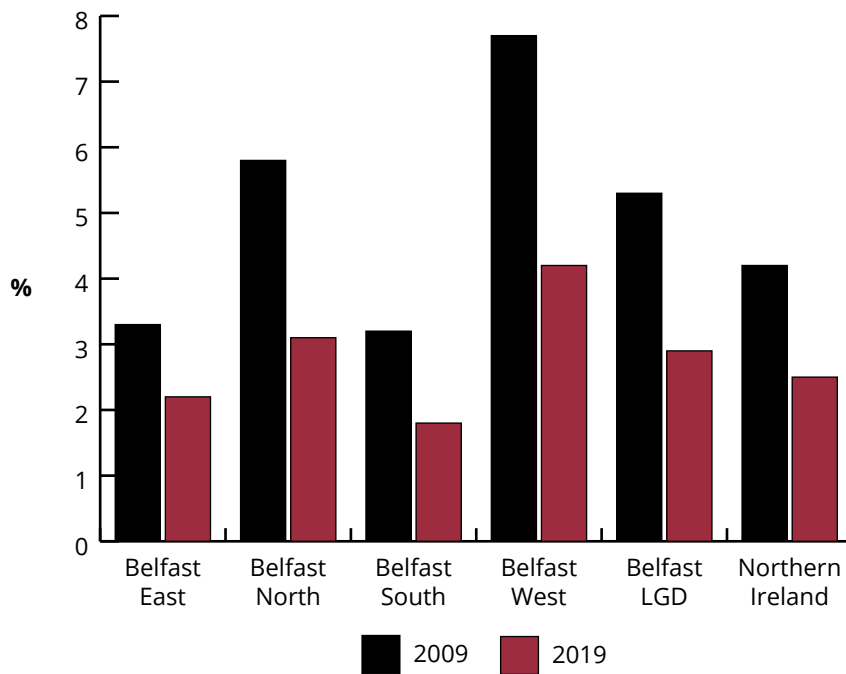
As the percentage decrease in annual average claimant count rate was greater in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, the gap between the two narrowed (see Prosperity Figure 18).

Between 2009 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rate decreased in all Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast North had the largest percentage decrease at 46.55%, closely followed by Belfast West at 45.45% and Belfast South at 43.75%.
- Belfast West had the largest percentage-point difference in claimant count rates at 3.5 percentage points, followed by Belfast North at 2.7 percentage points (see Prosperity Figure 18)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 18:

Annual average claimant count rate (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019



Source: NINIS Claimant Count Interactive Maps: Annual average for parliamentary constituency area

2.2 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate: 18-24 years

IMPORTANCE

Young people (16-24 years) who are not in employment, education, or training are at greater risk of poor physical and mental health, being unemployed, and having low-quality and low-wage work in later life.⁴⁴

Youth unemployment also limits the future economic prosperity not only of local communities but also of society.⁴⁵

High levels of young people claiming unemployment-related benefits can:

- **Indicate problems with the system of education and training such that young people have not been equipped with the skills and/or knowledge necessary to undertake jobs in the current labour market**
- **Highlight underlying cyclical and structural economic problems**

Young people who are unemployed live on a low income. In 2019, the new-style JSA for people up to 24 years of age was £57.90 per week.

DEFINITION

Claimant count (%) is an experimental statistic. It measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. From 2018, the claimant count measure in Northern Ireland has been based on the number of JSA claimants and on the number of Universal Credit (UC) claimants who are claiming it principally for the reason of being unemployed (people in the 'Searching for Work' conditionality regime).⁴⁶

The annual average claimant count rate 18-24 years measures people aged 18-24 years who are claimants of new-style JSA, or who are UC claimants required to search for work under the 'Searching for Work' conditionality regime.

Information is from NINIS.

44. Chapter 6: social determinants of health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (last accessed 8 June 2022)

45. Youth Unemployment - Youth Employment UK (Last Accessed 29 May 2022)

46. LFS unemployment and experimental claimant count measure in Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 29 May 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years was 3.1%.

Between 2018 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years decreased by 0.6 percentage points from 3.7% to 3.1%.

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, the annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years varied among Belfast's assembly areas:

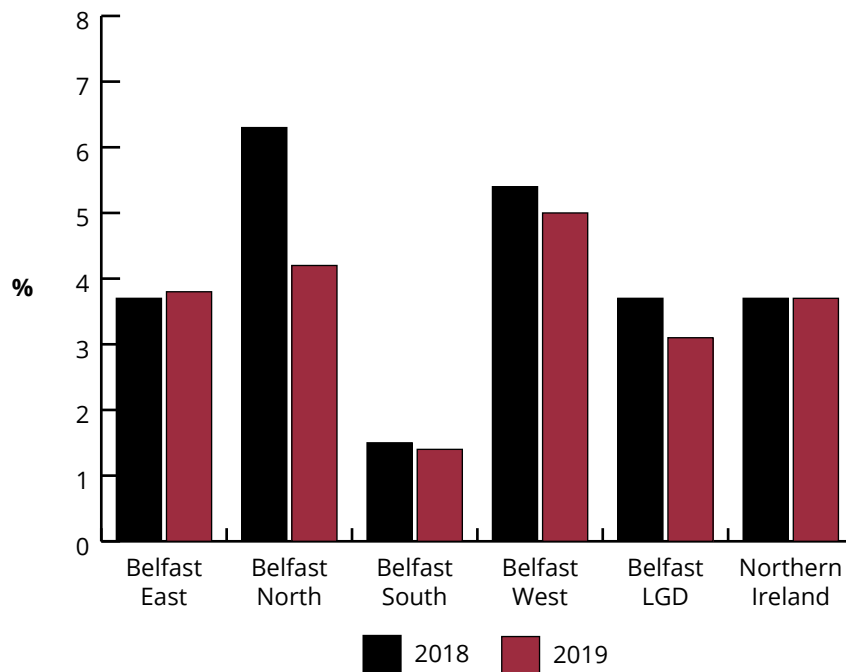
- **Belfast West had the highest claimant count rate at 5.0%, followed by Belfast North at 4.2% and Belfast East at 3.8%**
- **Belfast South had the lowest claimant count rate at 1.4% (see Prosperity Figure 19)**

Between 2018 and 2019, there was variation in the change in the annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years across Belfast's assembly areas.

- **In Belfast North, Belfast South, and Belfast West, there was a decrease in rates, but the largest percentage decrease was in Belfast North at 33.33%, and the smallest percentage decrease was in Belfast South at 6.67%**
- **In Belfast East, however, there was a small increase in the rate (a percentage increase of 2.70%)**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 19:

Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2018 and 2019



Source: NINIS "Claimant Count Annual Averages: 18-24 Years – Experimental (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years was 0.6 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 3.1% compared with 3.7%.

Between 2018 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years:

- Decreased in Belfast LGD, by 0.6 percentage points from 3.7% to 3.1% (a percentage decrease of 16.22%)
- Stayed the same in Northern Ireland at 3.7%

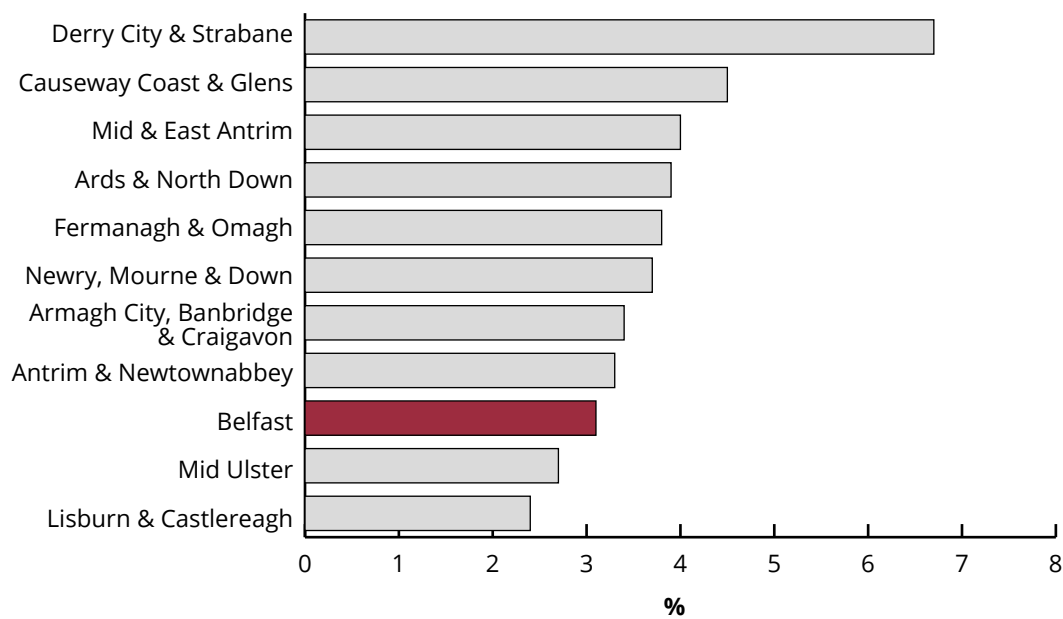
Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third lowest annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years at 3.1%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest rate at 6.7%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest rate at 2.4%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median value at 3.7% (see Prosperity Figure 20)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 20:

Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years by LGD, 2019



Source: NINIS - Claimant Count Long Term Unemployed Annual Averages - Experimental (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, Belfast had a lower annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years than that in Northern Ireland, and it was the third lowest among LGDs.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest annual average claimant count rates of people aged 18-24 years.

The annual average claimant count rate in Belfast West was more than three times that of Belfast South, and that in Belfast North was three times that of Belfast South.

HISTORICAL DATA

Owing to two changes in the methodology for calculating this indicator, the following information is presented as indicative of the time trend for the annual average claimant count rate from 2009 to 2019.

Between 2009 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rate of people aged 18-24 years decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 6.9 percentage points, from 10.0% to 3.1% (a percentage decrease of 69.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5.52 percentage points, from 9.22% to 3.7% (a percentage decrease of 59.87%)

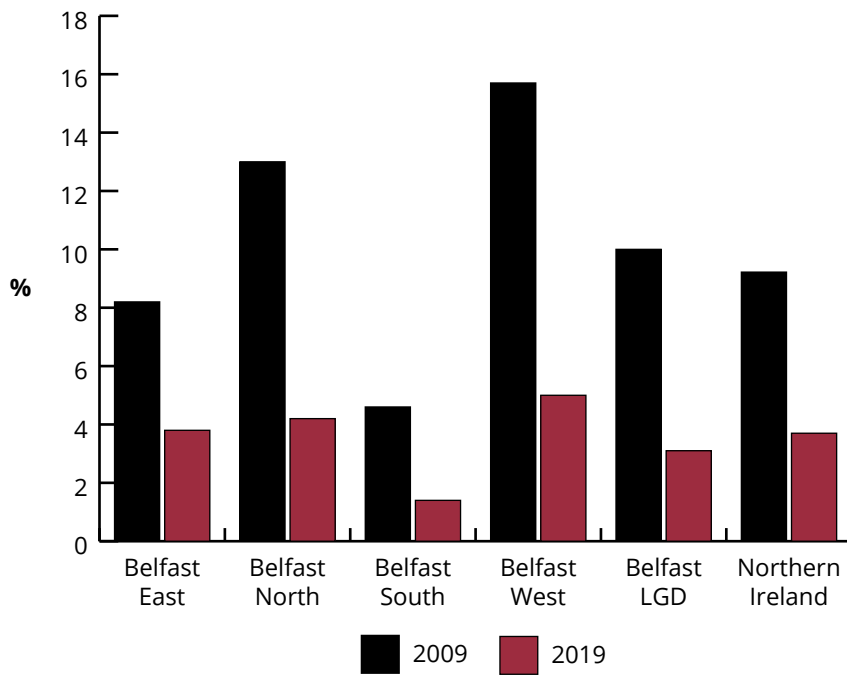
As the percentage decrease in annual average claimant count rate for people aged 18-24 years was greater in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, the gap between the two narrowed to the extent that Belfast had a lower value than Northern Ireland (see Prosperity Figure 21).

Between 2009 and 2019, the annual average claimant count rates of people aged 18-24 years decreased markedly in all Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast South had the largest percentage decrease at 69.57%, closely followed by Belfast West at 68.15%, and Belfast North at 67.69%
- Belfast West had the largest percentage-point difference at 10.7 percentage points, followed by Belfast North at 8.8 percentage points (see Prosperity Figure 21)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 21:

Annual average claimant count rate (%) 18-24 years in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019



Source: NINIS: "Claimant Count Annual: 18-24 Years – Experimental (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

2.3 Annual Average Claimant Count Rate: Long-term Unemployed

IMPORTANCE

Unemployment is associated with an increased risk of mortality and morbidity, including:

- Limiting long-term illness
- Cardiovascular disease
- Poor mental health
- Suicide
- Health-harming behaviours⁴⁷

People who are long-term unemployed have a lower life expectancy and worse health than people in work.⁴⁸ They also have a markedly higher burden of disease, particularly mental illness, than employed people and people who are unemployed for only a short time. The burden of disease increases with the duration of unemployment. The link between unemployment and poorer health is strengthened by macroeconomic crises and weakened by governmental social interventions.⁴⁹

In a Swedish study of the effects of unemployment on health-related quality of life, health deterioration was almost 10% worse in absolute terms due to a person being unemployed when compared with a person being employed.⁵⁰

In a US survey:

- 80% of people who were long-term unemployed experienced a negative change in their lifestyle, 50% of whom described this change as a major upheaval
- 60% reported strained relationships with friends and family because of their employment situation⁵¹

In 2017, the JSA was £73.10 for a person aged 25 years or over.

47. Health matters: health and work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)
48. Chapter 6: social determinants of health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)
49. Health in the Long-Term Unemployed - PMC (nih.gov) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)
50. Does unemployment contribute to poorer health-related quality of life among Swedish adults? | BMC Public Health | Full Text (biomedcentral.com) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)
51. Left Behind: The Long-term Unemployed Struggle in an Improving Economy | Heldrich Center (rutgers.edu)

DEFINITION

The claimant count for people who are long-term unemployed is the percentage of people who have been unemployed for more than one year and are claimants of JSA. Data on long-term claimants are not available from the new claimant count.

Information is from NINIS.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term unemployed was 31.4%.

Between 2013 and 2017, in Belfast LGD, the annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term unemployed decreased by 2.0 percentage points, from 33.4% to 31.4%.

Differences by assembly area

In 2017, there was variation in the annual average claimant count rates for people who were long-term unemployed across Belfast's assembly areas:

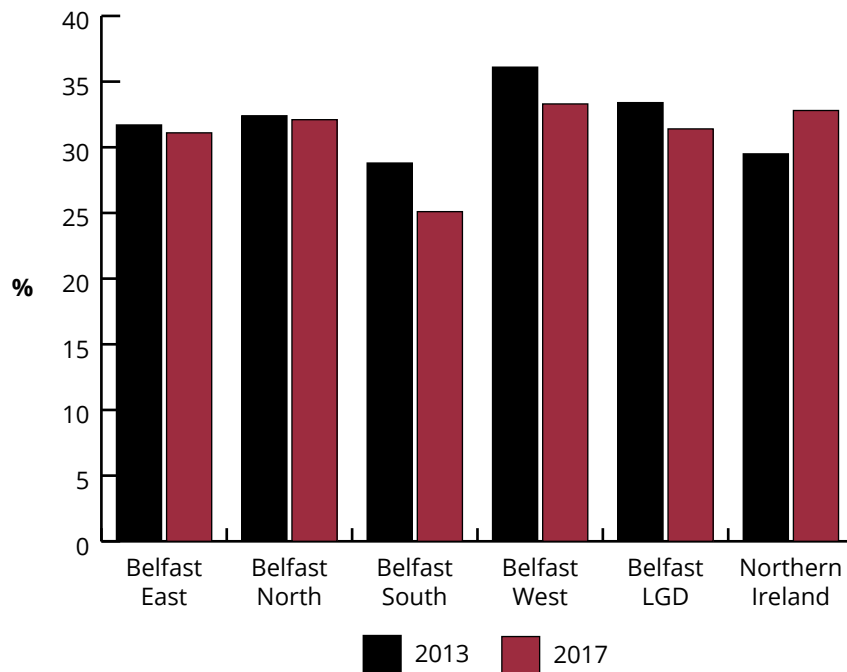
- **Belfast West had the highest percentage, followed by Belfast North and Belfast East**
- **Belfast South had the lowest percentage (see Prosperity Figure 22)**

Between 2013 and 2017, the annual average claimant count rates of people who were long-term unemployed decreased across Belfast's assembly areas:

- **Belfast South and Belfast West had the largest percentage decreases, at 12.85% and 7.76%, respectively**
- **Belfast East and Belfast North had the smallest percentage decreases, at 1.89% and 0.93%, respectively (see Prosperity Figure 22)**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 22:

Average annual claimant count rate (%) long-term unemployed in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2017



Source: NINIS: "Claimant Count Long Term Unemployed Annual Averages - Experimental (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017, when compared with Northern Ireland, the annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term employed was lower by 1.4 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 31.4% compared with 32.8%.

Between 2013 and 2017, the annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term employed:

- In Belfast LGD decreased by 2.0 percentage points, from 33.4% to 31.4% (a percentage increase of 5.99%)
- In Northern Ireland, increased by 3.3 percentage points, from 29.5% to 32.8% (a percentage increase of 11.19%)

Comparison with other LGDs

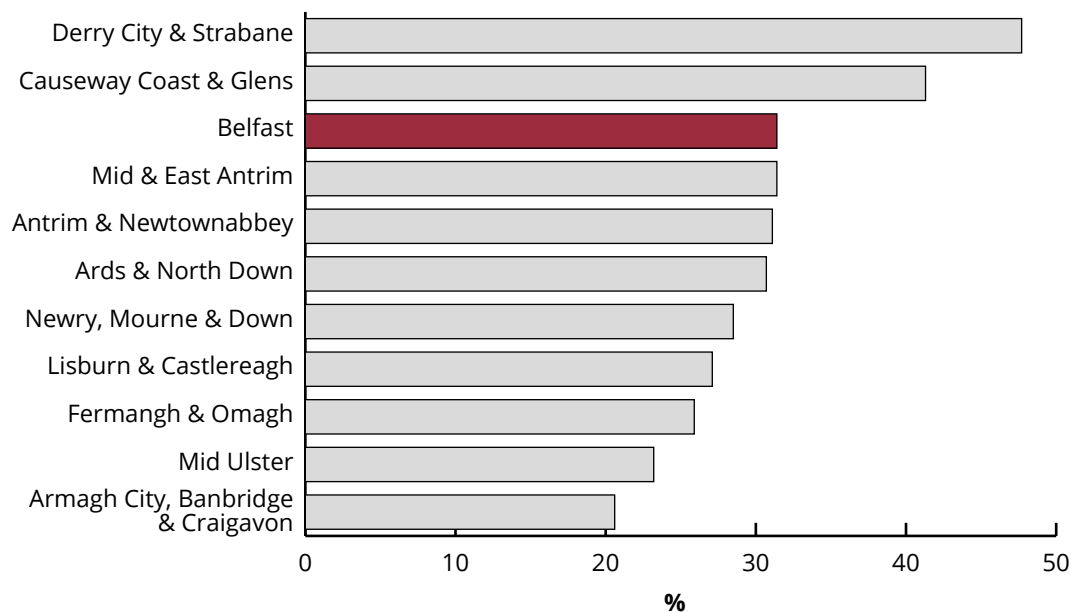
In 2017, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third equal highest annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term unemployed at 31.4%.
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest claimant count rate at 47.7%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the lowest claimant count rate at 20.6%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 30.7% (see Prosperity Figure 23)

Between 2013 and 2017, there was variation in the change in annual average claimant count rates for people who were long-term unemployed. It increased in seven LGDs and decreased in four, including Belfast LGD.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 23:

Average annual claimant count rate (%) long-term unemployed by LGD, 2017



Source: NINIS: "Claimant Count Long Term Unemployed Annual Averages – Experimental (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, in Belfast, 3 out of every 10 people claiming benefits related to unemployment were long-term unemployed, similar to Northern Ireland.

In 2017, Belfast had the third equal highest annual average claimant count rate of people who were long-term unemployed among LGDs.

Between 2013 and 2017, the annual average claimant count rate for people who were long-term unemployed decreased in Belfast but increased Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed to the extent that the value for Northern Ireland became higher than that for Belfast.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2017, Belfast West, Belfast North, and Belfast East had the highest annual average claimant count rates of people who were long-term unemployed.

Between 2013 and 2017, Belfast North and Belfast East had the lowest and only small percentage decreases in annual average claimant count rates for people who were long-term unemployed.

2.4 Gross Disposable Household Income per Head of Population

IMPORTANCE

There is evidence to show that lower income and greater poverty are more strongly associated with higher mortality rates than is the unemployment rate.⁵²

Disposable income is one of the most widely used household income measures. Disposable income is the amount of money that households have available for spending and saving after direct taxes (such as Income Tax, National Insurance and Council Tax) have been accounted for. It includes earnings from employment, private pensions, and investments as well as cash benefits provided by the state.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is a concept that reflects the "material welfare" of the household sector. The household sector includes residents of traditional households, as well as those living in communal establishments. The GDHI also includes the business income of self-employed people.

When GDHI estimates are divided by the resident population to give a value per head, it enables a comparison of areas of different sizes. Because GDHI is measured according to the residence of a person, not their place of work, GDHI per head is not subject to distortion from commuting. It does, however, encompass the entire population of an area, including children and retired people.⁵³

The GDHI comprises the sum of two balances, the balances of primary and secondary incomes:

- **The balance of primary incomes is mainly employment income, self-employment income, rental income and income from deposits and investments, less interest paid**
- **The balance of secondary incomes is mainly income from benefits, pensions, and insurance claims less income tax, council tax, pension contributions and insurance premia**

Overall, direct taxes and cash benefits lead to income being shared more equally between households.⁵⁴

52. How the Economy Affects Health | JAMA | JAMA Network (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

53. Regional gross disposable household income, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 16 May 2022)

54. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/bulletins/householddisposableincomeandinequality/financialyearending2017> (Last accessed 21 August 2021)

DEFINITION

The GDHI is the amount of money that all the individuals in the household sector have available after they have paid direct and indirect taxes and received any direct benefits. It is produced and published at current basic prices (including inflation).

Estimates relate to totals for all individuals within the household sector for a geographical area rather than to an average household or family unit.

The GDHI per head of population is calculated by dividing the total GDHI (£) of a geographical area by the number of people in the area's population. As such, the GDHI per head of population is an estimate of value for each person, not each household.

Information is from the ONS.⁵⁵

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the GDHI per head of population was £16,974.

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the GDHI per head of population increased by £3,244 from £13,730 to £16,974.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the GDHI per head of population was lower by £357 in Belfast LGD, £16,974 compared with £17,331

Between 2009 and 2019, the GDHI per head of population increased:

- In Belfast LGD by £3,244, from £13,730 to £16,974 (a percentage increase of 23.63%)
- In Northern Ireland by £4,054, from £13,277 to £17,331 (a percentage increase of 30.53%)

55. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/regionalaccounts/grossdisposablehouseholdincome/datasets/regionalgrossdisposablehouseholdincomebylocalauthoritiesbynuts1region> (Last accessed 21 August 2021)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

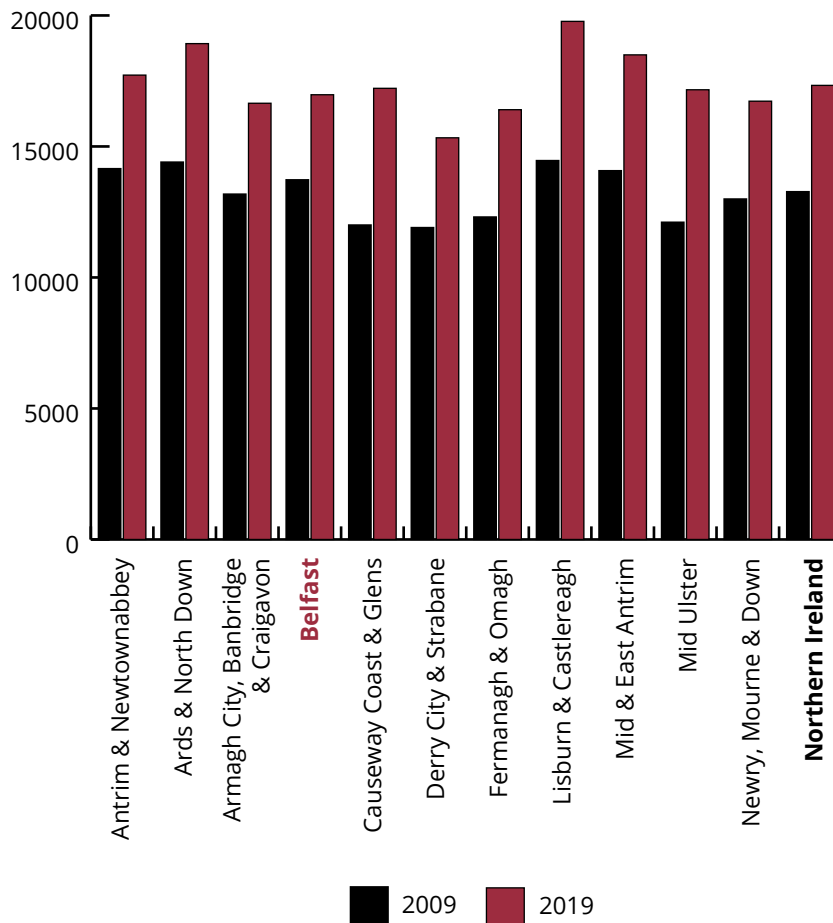
- Belfast LGD had the fifth lowest GDHI per head of population at £16,974
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest GDHI at £19,774
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the lowest GDHI at £15,331
- Mid Ulster LGD had the median value at £17,164 (see Prosperity Figure 24)

Between 2009 and 2019, GDHI per head of population increased in all LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage increase in GDHI per head of population at 23.63%
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the highest percentage increase at 43.43%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage increase at 31.37% (see Prosperity Figure 24)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 24:

Gross disposable household income per head of population (£) at current basic prices by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2019



Source: ONS: Regional gross disposable income: local authorities by ITL1 region: TLN Northern Ireland; Table 1.2 GDHI per head of population at current basic prices

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, the GDHI per head of population was lower in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, and it had one of the lower GDHIs among LGDs.

Between 2009 and 2019, GDHI per head of population increased in both Belfast and Northern Ireland; however, the percentage increase was greater for Northern Ireland and the GDHI in Northern Ireland became higher than that for Belfast (Belfast's GDHI was higher in 2009).

Between 2009 and 2019, Belfast had the lowest percentage increase in GDHI per head of population among LGDs, such that Belfast went from having the fifth highest GDHI in 2009 to having the fifth lowest in 2019.

2.5 Gross weekly pay: full-time median wage

IMPORTANCE

There is evidence to show that lower income and greater poverty are more strongly associated with higher mortality rates than is the unemployment rate.⁵⁶

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees can indicate the types of jobs available to a population. Higher levels of median gross weekly earnings could point to higher quality jobs with relatively higher skills requirements and higher levels of pay in the local economy; an increase in the median gross weekly earnings could reflect an improvement in the quality of jobs and the levels of pay available.

Variation in this indicator does not indicate whether full-time employees are being paid differing amounts to perform the same job.

DEFINITION

Median weekly earnings are the amount at which, if all individuals were ranked according to weekly earnings, 50% of individuals would earn more and 50% of individuals would earn less than this amount.

Gross weekly pay includes basic pay, overtime pay, commissions, shift premium pay, bonus or incentive payment allowances and is before deductions for PAYE, national insurance (NI), pension schemes, student loan repayments and voluntary deductions. The data are not adjusted for inflation.

Full-time employees are people working more than 30 hours per week, excluding overtime and main meal breaks. The earnings of self-employed people are not included in this indicator.

By place of residence is an employed person's pay by the location of where they live (home postcode).

By place of work is an employed person's pay by the location of where they perform their job (work postcode).

Information is from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2019 Tables and 2013 Tables.⁵⁷

56. How the Economy Affects Health | JAMA | JAMA Network (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

57. NI geographies, by place of work and place of residence | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nirsra.gov.uk) 2019 Tables: ashe-2019-revised-home-lgd14, ashe-2019-revised-home-pc, ashe-2019-revised-work-lgd14, ashe-2019-revised-work-pc; 2013 Tables: ASHE 2013 (revised) by Home Postcode, Local Government District (2014) Table 2, ASHE 2013 (revised) by Home Postcode, Parliamentary Constituency Table 4, ASHE 2013 (revised) by Work Postcode, Local Government District (2014) Table 1, ASHE 2013 (revised) by Work Postcode, Parliamentary Constituency Table 3 (Last accessed 16 May 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage:

- By place of residence was £527.6
- By place of work was £575.5

This difference of £47.9 between gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence and that by place of work reflects the difference between the median earnings of residents in Belfast LGD and the median earnings of people who commute into Belfast LGD for work.

Between 2013 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, gross weekly pay full-time median wage increased:

- By place of residence by £57.1, from £470.5 to £527.6
- By place of work by £54.6, from £520.9 to £575.5

Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation in the gross weekly pay full-time median wage across Belfast's assembly areas:

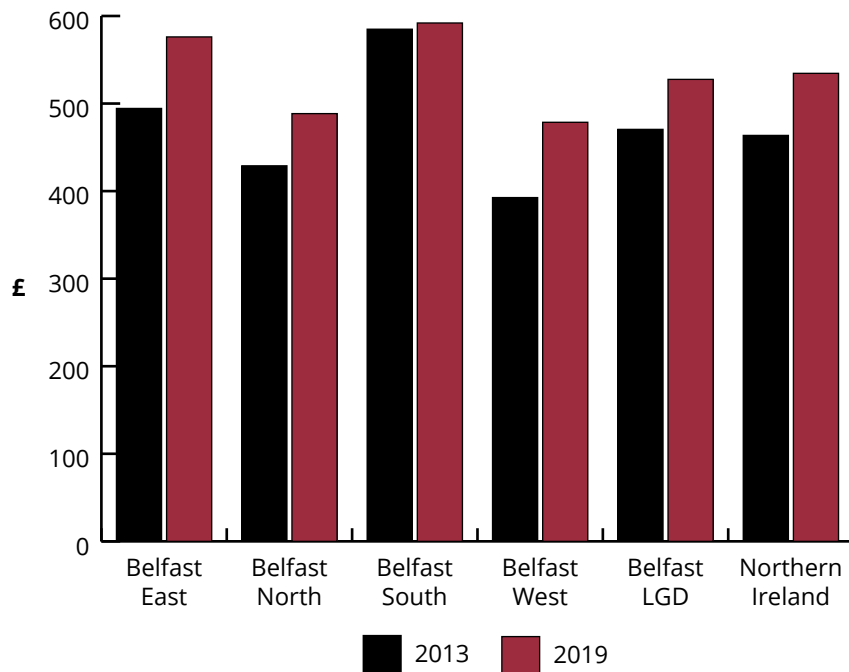
- By place of residence, it was highest in Belfast South, followed by Belfast East, and it was lowest in Belfast West, followed by Belfast North (see Prosperity Figure 25)
- By place of work, it was highest in Belfast East, closely followed by Belfast South, and lowest in Belfast West, followed by Belfast North (see Prosperity Figure 26)

Between 2013 and 2019, there was variation in the change in gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence across Belfast's assembly areas. It increased:

- In Belfast East by £81.7 (a percentage increase of 16.53%)
- In Belfast North, by £59.6 (a percentage increase of 13.90%)
- In Belfast South, by £7.1 (a percentage increase of 1.21%)
- In Belfast West, by £86.0 (a percentage increase of 21.91%; see Prosperity Figure 25)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 25:

Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of residence in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2019⁵⁸



Source: ASHE 2019 and 2013 Tables (revised) by Home

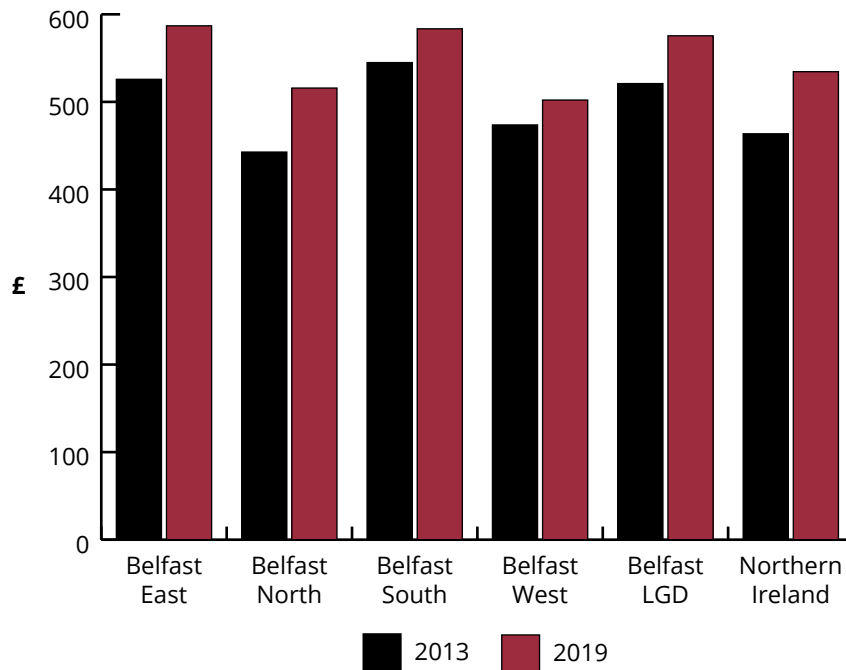
Between 2013 and 2019, there was also variation in the change in gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of work across Belfast's assembly areas. It increased:

- In Belfast East, by £61.1 (a percentage increase of 11.62%)
- In Belfast North, by £73.1 (a percentage increase of 16.51%)
- In Belfast South, by £38.6 (a percentage increase of 7.08%)
- In Belfast West, by £28.4 (a percentage increase of 6.00%; see Prosperity Figure 26)

58. For Belfast East, Belfast North, Belfast South, and Belfast West, place of residence data 2013 and 2019 are 'reasonably precise'; for Northern Ireland, place of residence data 2013 are 'acceptable'

PROSPERITY FIGURE 26:

Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of work in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2013 and 2019⁵⁹



Source: ASHE 2019 and 2013 Tables (revised) by Work

Differences by sex

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage:

- For men was £555.2 by place of residence and £600.9 by place of work
- For women was £491.9 by place of residence and £536.6 by place of work

Thus, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage for men was higher when compared with that for women by £63.3 by place of residence and by £64.3 by place of work.

Between 2013 and 2019, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence:

- For men increased by £65.0 (a percentage increase of 13.26%)
- For women increased by £35.1 (a percentage increase of 7.68%; see Prosperity Table 7)

59. Belfast North, place of work data 2013 and 2019 are 'reasonably precise'; for Belfast West, place of work data 2019 are 'reasonably precise', and place of work data 2013 are 'acceptable'; for Northern Ireland, place of work data 2013 are 'reasonably precise'

Between 2013 and 2019, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of work:

- For men increased by £50.0 (a percentage increase of 9.08%)
- For women increased by £53.3 (a percentage increase of 11.03%; see Prosperity Table 7)

PROSPERITY TABLE 7:

Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) in men and women by place of residence and by place of work in Belfast LGD, 2013 and 2019⁶⁰

Population group	Gross weekly pay: full-time median wage (£)			
	2013		2019	
	By place of residence	By place of work	By place of residence	By place of work
Men	490.2	550.9	555.2	600.9
Women	456.8	483.3	491.9	536.6

Source: ASHE 2019 Tables (ashe-2019-revised-home-lgd14, and ashe-2019-revised-work-lgd14) and 2013 Tables [ASHE 2013 (revised) by Home Postcode, Local Government District (2014), and ASHE 2013 (revised) by Work Postcode, Local Government District (2014)]

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage:

- By place of residence was £6.9 lower in Belfast LGD, £527.6 compared with £534.5
- By place of work was £41.0 higher in Belfast LGD, £575.5 compared with £534.5

60. Place of residence data 2013 and 2019 are 'reasonably precise' for men and women

Between 2013 and 2019, the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage by place of residence increased:

- In Belfast LGD by £57.1, from £470.5 to £527.6 (a percentage increase of 12.14%)
- In Northern Ireland by £70.9, from £463.6 to £534.5 (a percentage increase of 15.29%; see Prosperity Figure 25)

Between 2013 and 2019, the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage by place of work also increased:

- In Belfast LGD by £54.6, from £520.9 to £575.5 (a percentage increase of 10.48%)
- In Northern Ireland by £70.9, from £463.6 to £534.5 (a percentage increase of 15.29%; see Prosperity Figure 26)

Differences by sex

In 2019, when compared with men in Northern Ireland, the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage for men:

- By place of residence was higher by £6.5 in Belfast LGD, £555.2 compared with £548.7
- By place of work, was higher by £52.2 in Belfast LGD, £600.9 compared with £548.7

In 2019, when compared with women in Northern Ireland, the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage for women:

- By place of residence was lower by £16.4 in Belfast LGD, £491.9 compared with £508.3
- By place of work, was higher by £28.3 in Belfast LGD, £536.6 compared with £508.3

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, there was variation in the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage by place of residence:

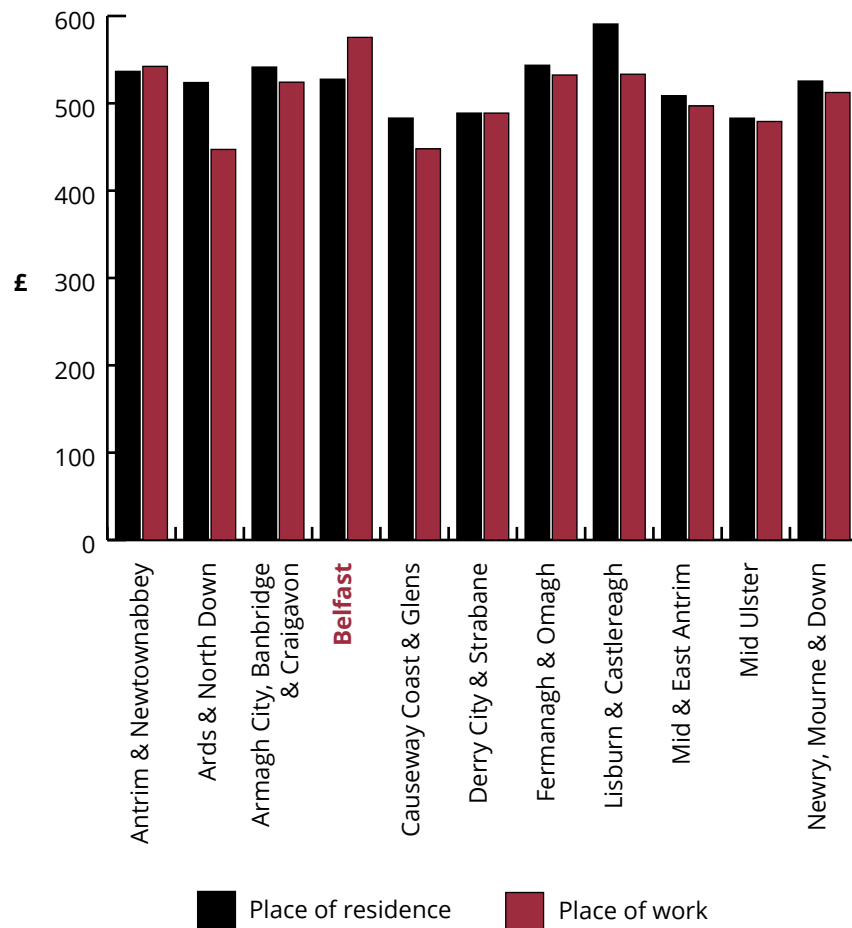
- Belfast LGD had the fifth highest gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence at £527.6
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest at £590.8
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest at £483.0
- Newry, Mourne & Down had the median value £525.5 (see Prosperity Figure 27)

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, there was also variation in the gross weekly pay-full-time median wage by place of work:

- Belfast LGD had the highest gross weekly pay-full-time median wage by place of work at £575.5
- Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest at £447.2
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median value at £512.4 (see Prosperity Figure 27)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 27:

Gross weekly pay full-time median wage (£) by place of residence and by place of work by LGD, 2019⁶¹



Source: ASHE 2019 Tables (ashe-2019-revised-home-igd14, and ashe-2019-revised-work-igd14)

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage for Belfast was higher by place of work, but slightly lower by place of residence.

61. For place of residence, data are 'reasonably precise' for Causeway Coast & Glens, Derry City & Strabane, Mid & East Antrim, Mid Ulster, and Newry Mourne & Down LGDs; for place of work, data are 'relatively precise' for Antrim & Newtownabbey, Ards & North Down, Causeway Coast & Glens, Derry City & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid Ulster, and Newry, Mourne & Down LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- **Belfast had the highest gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of work, but only the fifth highest full-time median wage by place of residence**
- **Lisburn & Castlereagh had the highest full-time median wage by place of residence, which was higher than that in Belfast by £63.2 a week, a difference of more than £3,000 a year**

Between 2013 and 2019, although the gross weekly pay full-time wage by place of residence and place of work increased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, there were greater percentage increases in Northern Ireland than in Belfast such that the gap for full-time median wage:

- **By place of residence widened with a lower wage in Belfast compared with Northern Ireland**
- **By place of work narrowed with Northern Ireland approaching the value for Belfast**

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019, Belfast West and Belfast North had the lowest gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence and by place of work.

Between 2013 and 2019, for gross weekly pay full-time median wage:

- **By place of residence, Belfast South had the lowest percentage increase**
- **By place of work, Belfast West and Belfast South had the lowest percentage increases**

In 2019, in Belfast, the gross weekly pay full-time median wage for men was higher by place of residence and by place of work than those for women by more than £60 a week in both cases, which equates to a difference of more than £3,000 a year.

Between 2013 and 2019, men had a greater percentage increase in gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of residence, and the gap between the two widened, whereas women had a greater percentage increase in gross weekly pay full-time median wage by place of work, and the gap between the two narrowed.

Overall, this indicator shows that people who commute into Belfast for work have a higher gross median full-time pay than people who live in Belfast.

2.6 Sources of Total Gross Weekly Household Income

IMPORTANCE

The majority of household income in the UK comes from either earnings or state support. Higher income households receive a larger proportion of their income from earnings, a trend which builds moving up the income distribution. Lower income households receive more of their income from state support.⁶²

An increase in the percentage of income from state support could indicate one or more contributing factors, such as:

- A reduction in the level of wages and salaries
- A challenging labour market
- An increase in poverty

An increase in the percentage of income from employment can indicate more favourable labour market conditions.

DEFINITION

In the Family Resources Survey (FRS), household income is the combined 'gross' income (that is, before tax and other deductions) of all household members. A household consists of one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address, who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area. A household will consist of one or more benefit units. Where a total value for a household is presented, such as total household income, this includes income from adults plus any income from children.

There are four main sources of household income:

1. Employment representing all wages, salaries, and self-employed income
2. State support comprising all benefits and tax credits
3. Non-state pension including both workplace and personal pensions
4. Other income, for example, savings and investments

Information is from the FRS reports 2019/20 and 2015/16.⁶³

62. Households below average income: an analysis of the income distribution FYE 1995 to FYE 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 June 2022)

63. Family Resources Survey report 2019 - 2020 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Family Resources Survey report 2015 - 2016 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 6 May 2022)

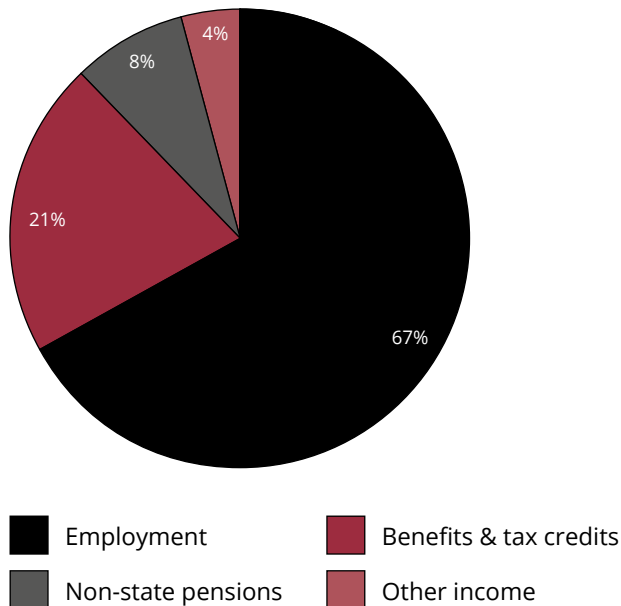
PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the main sources of total gross weekly household income were:

- Employment at 67%
- Benefits and tax credits 21% (see Prosperity Figure 28)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 28:

Sources of total gross weekly household income (%) in Belfast LGD, 2017/18-2019/20



Source: FRS report 2019/20

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there was:

- A decrease of 2 percentage points in total gross weekly household income from employment, from 69% to 67%
- No change in income from benefits and tax credits – it remained at 21%
- An increase of 2 percentage points in income from non-state pensions, from 6% to 8%
- No change in income from other sources

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of total gross weekly household income from:

- Wages, salaries, and self-employment was lower by 3 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 67% compared with 70%
- Benefits and tax credits was higher by 2 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 21% compared with 19%
- Non-state pensions was the same
- Other sources was higher by 1 percentage point in Belfast LGD, 4% compared with 3% (see Prosperity Figure 29)

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of total gross weekly household income from wages, salaries, and self-employment:

- In Belfast LGD decreased by 2 percentage points from 69% to 67% (a percentage decrease of 2.90%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 1 percentage point from 69% to 70% (a percentage increase of 1.45%)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

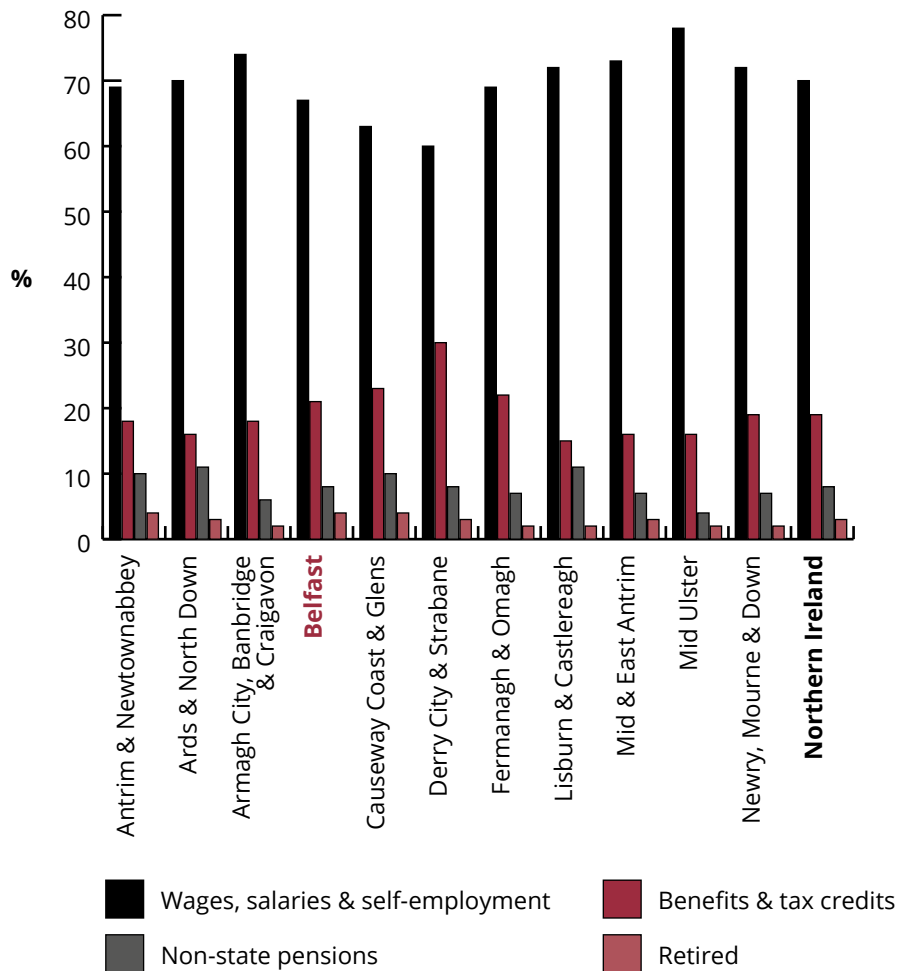
- Belfast LGD had the third lowest percentage of total gross weekly household income from wages, salaries, and self-employment at 67%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 78%
- Derry City & Strabane had the lowest percentage at 60%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 70% (see Prosperity Figure 29)

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage of total gross weekly household income from benefits and tax credits at 21%
- Derry City & Strabane had the highest percentage at 30%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 15%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD had the median value at 18% (see Prosperity Figure 29)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 29:

Percentage (%) of total gross weekly household income by source and LGD, and in Northern Ireland, 2019/20



Source: Family Resources Survey Table S2.8 frs-state-supp-1920-tables.ods

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast, two-thirds of total gross weekly household income was derived from wages, salaries, and self-employment and one-fifth was derived from benefits and tax credits, which was relatively similar to Northern Ireland.

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of total gross weekly household income:

- **From employment decreased in Belfast but increased in Northern Ireland, widening the gap between the two**
- **From benefits and tax credits stayed the same in Belfast but decreased in Northern Ireland, widening the gap**
- **From non-state pensions increased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but to a greater extent in Belfast, closing the gap between the two**

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the decrease in income from wages, salaries and self-employment in Belfast was reflected in an increase in income from non-state pensions.

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had a relatively higher level of income from benefits and tax credits and a relatively lower income from wages, salaries, and self-employment.

SECTION 3

Poverty and Deprivation

3.1 Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs (BHC): all individuals

IMPORTANCE

There is evidence to show that lower income and greater poverty are more strongly associated with higher mortality rates than is the unemployment rate.⁶⁴

In 2019/20, in the UK:

- 11.7 million people (18%) were in relative low income before housing costs (BHC), equating to almost 2 in every 10 people
- About 40% of working-age adults living in workless families were in relative low income or relative income poverty compared with 11% in families where at least one adult works; working-age adults living in families where at least one person works, however, comprise the majority (58%) of all working-age adults in relative low income, reflecting the fact that there are many more working households than workless households (84% of working-age adults live in families where at least one person works).⁶⁵

Poverty has a profound impact on people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Moreover, a lack of resources may reduce people's experiences, and compromise their capacity to participate in society, thereby reducing their feelings of self-worth and inclusion.

Relative low income or relative income poverty can be used to identify people who lack the minimum amount of income needed to maintain an 'average' standard of living.

64. How the Economy Affects Health | JAMA | JAMA Network (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

65. Francis-Devine, B. (2021) Poverty in the UK: Statistics. Briefing Paper Number 7096 31 March 2021. House of Commons Library. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf> (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

DEFINITION

Relative low income or relative income poverty is defined as living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of the UK median income (BHC) for the financial year/s in question.

A BHC measure is useful when considering that some households may choose to spend more on housing to enjoy a better quality of accommodation.

Information is from the FRS, Households below average income (HBAI),⁶⁶ extracted from NINIS: "Poverty Grouped Years (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) was 18%.

Between 2007/08-2009/10⁶⁷ and 2017/18-2019/20⁶⁸, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) decreased by 4.37 percentage points, from 22.37% to 18%.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast LGD, 18% compared with 17%.

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) decreased:

- **In Belfast LGD by 4.37 percentage points, from 22.37% to 18%**
(a percentage decrease of 19.54%)
- **In Northern Ireland by 3.43 percentage points, from 20.43% to 17%**
(a percentage decrease of 16.79%)

66 Households below Average Income Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

67 Data for these financial years given to 2 decimal points

68 Data for these financial years given to 0 decimal points

Comparison with other LGDs

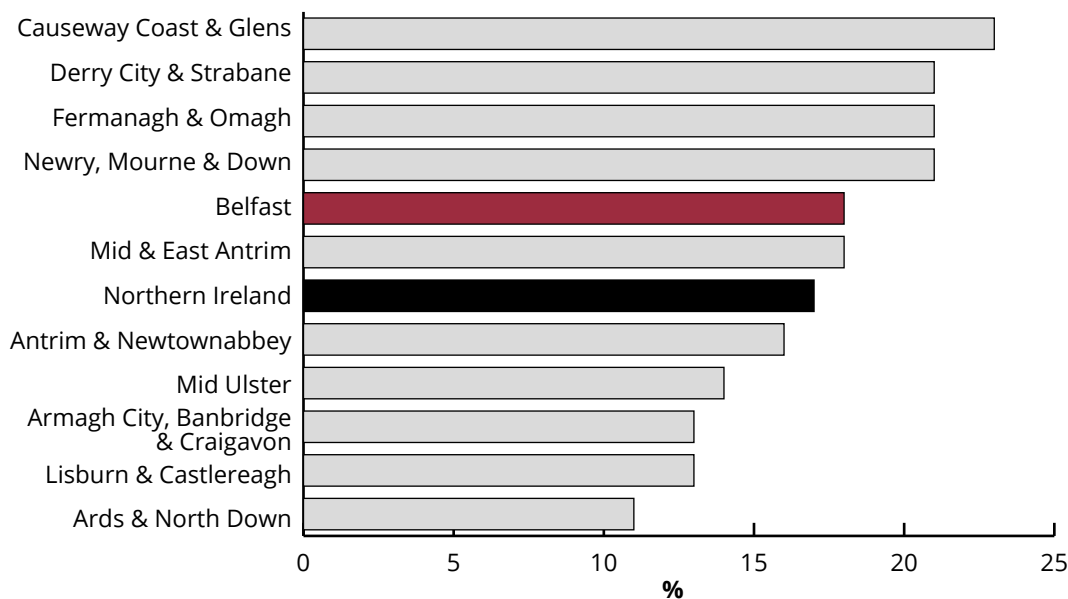
In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the equal fifth highest percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) at 18%, together with Mid & East Antrim LGD
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the highest percentage at 23%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 11% (see Prosperity Figure 30)

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2016/17-2018/19, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) decreased in ten LGDs including Belfast, and increased in only one, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 30:

Percentage (%) of all individuals in relative income poverty or relative low income (BHC) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2017/18-2019/20



Source: Households below average income 2019-20 Northern Ireland, Table 3.9

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18-2019/, almost 2 out of every 10 individuals in Belfast were living in relative poverty (BHC), similar to Northern Ireland.

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of all individuals in relative poverty (BHC) decreased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast, thereby narrowing the gap with Northern Ireland.

Among LGDs, Belfast had one of the higher percentages of all individuals in relative poverty (BHC), but not the highest.

3.2 Relative low income or relative income poverty before housing costs (BHC): children

IMPORTANCE

In 2019/20, in the UK:

- 3.2 million children (23%) were in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC), equating to more than 2 in every 10 children
- 53% of children in workless families were in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) when compared with 19% in families where at least one person worked. As there are many more working than workless families, however, children living in working families comprise the majority (73%) of children in relative low income⁶⁹

In a literature review for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), it was found that the experience of childhood poverty can be highly damaging, and the effects of poverty are both pervasive and disruptive. Poverty permeates every facet of children's lives from economic and material disadvantages, through social and relational constraints and exclusions, to the personal and more hidden aspects of poverty associated with shame, sadness and the fear of difference and stigma.⁷⁰

A child growing up in poverty is likely to experience a lack of food and access to a nutritious diet, warmth, and other basic resources, as well as low levels of participation in activities enjoyed by their peers. Child poverty has a negative impact on educational outcomes, affecting their future earnings, and health over the life-course.

Economic policies affect childhood wellbeing principally through:

- **Public services provision, where fiscal policy decisions determine the level and progressivity of taxation and spending, and prioritisation determines the share of spending accorded to basic services for children, such as education and health**
- **The household economy, since children are affected by changes in household income, assets, and livelihoods and by the household's response strategies to changing economic conditions, particularly where these impact on household structure and carers' time-use.⁷¹**

69. Francis-Devine, B. (2021) Poverty in the UK: Statistics. Briefing Paper Number 7096, 31 March 2021. House of Commons Library. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf> (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

70. Ridge, T. (2009) Living with poverty. A review of the literature on children's and families' experiences of poverty. Research Report No 594, Department for Work and Pensions <http://www.bris.ac.uk/poverty/downloads/keyofficialdocuments/Child%20Poverty%20lit%20review%20DWP.pdf> (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

71. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08ca8ed915d3cfd00150c/Hugh_final_pdf.pdf (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

DEFINITION

A child is considered to be in relative low income or relative income poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of the UK median income (BHC) for the financial year/s in question.

A dependent child is defined as an individual aged under 16 years. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16 to 19-years old and they are:

- **Not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and**
- **Living with parents/a responsible adult; and**
- **In full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training⁷²**

A BHC measure is useful when taking account that some households may choose to spend more on housing to enjoy a better quality of accommodation.

Information is from NINIS: "Poverty Grouped Years (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast HSCT73, the percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) was 24%.

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, the percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) increased by 1 percentage point from 23% to 24%.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of children living in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast HSCT, 24% compared with 22%.

72. Household below average income series: quality and methodology information report FYE 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 June 2022)

73. Child poverty is not analysed at LGD level due to high levels of uncertainty surrounding estimates

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC):

- In Belfast HSCT increased by 1 percentage point from 23% to 24% (a percentage increase of 4.35%)
- In Northern Ireland decreased by 2 percentage points, from 24% to 22% (a percentage decrease of 8.33%; see Prosperity Figure 31)

Comparison with other HSCTs

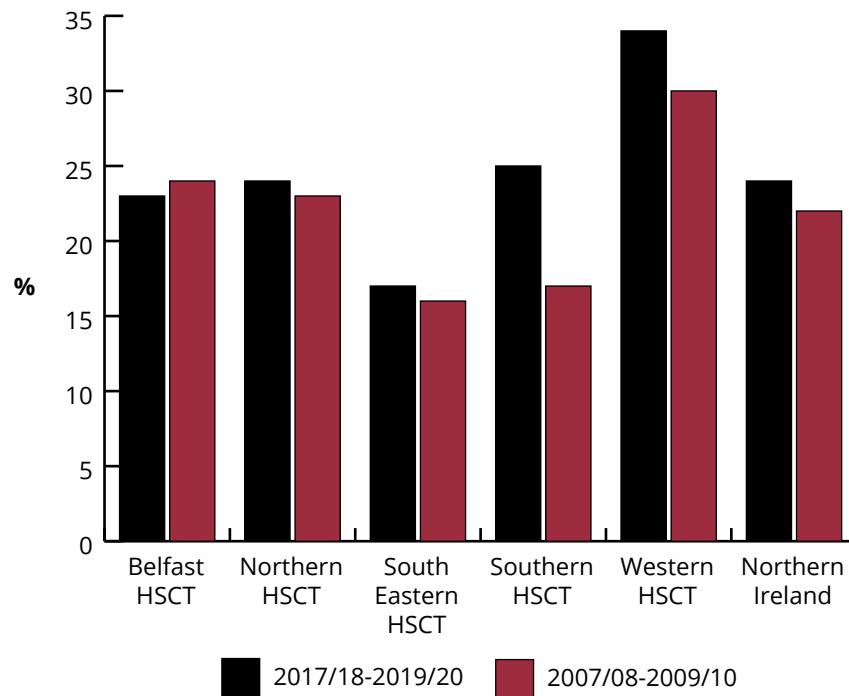
In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with other HSCTs, the percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC):

- Belfast HSCT had the second highest percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC)
- Western HSCT had the highest percentage at 30%
- South Eastern HSCT had the lowest percentage at 16%
- Northern HSCT had the median value at 23% (see Prosperity Figure 31)

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, Belfast HSCT was the only HSCT to have an increase in the percentage of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC); in all other HSCTs the percentage decreased (see Prosperity Figure 31).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 31:

Percentage (%) of children in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) by HSCT, and Northern Ireland, 2007/08-2009/10 to 2017/18-2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Poverty Grouped Years (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, between 2 and 3 in every 10 children were living in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC), compared with just over 2 in every 10 children in Northern Ireland.

Between 2007/08-2009/10 and 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast HSCT, the percentage of children living in relative low income or relative income poverty (BHC) increased, whereas it decreased in all other HSCTs and in Northern Ireland, and the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland widened.

3.3 Relative low income or relative income poverty after housing costs (AHC): all individuals

IMPORTANCE

There is evidence to show that lower income and greater poverty are more strongly associated with higher mortality rates than is the unemployment rate.⁷⁴

Poverty levels are generally higher when household incomes are measured using the variable 'after housing costs' (AHC), because households at the lower end of the income distribution tend to spend a larger share of their income on housing than higher-income households.⁷⁵

This indicator can show how changes in income for the lowest income households compare to changes in incomes near the 'average'.⁷⁶

DEFINITION

Relative low income measures the number and proportion of individuals who have household incomes below a certain proportion (the convention is to use 60%) of the average in that year.⁷⁷

An AHC measure is useful when variations in housing costs do not reflect differences in the quality of accommodation. For example, geographical differences mean two households could face very different costs for a comparable standard of housing.⁷⁸

Information is from the Northern Ireland FRS, Households below Average Income Northern Ireland 2019/20, and 2015/16.⁷⁹

74. How the Economy Affects Health | JAMA | JAMA Network (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

75. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf> (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

76. Household below average income series: quality and methodology information report FYE 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 June 2022)

77. Household below average income series: quality and methodology information report FYE 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 June 2022)

78. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf> (Last accessed 24 August 2021)

79. Households below Average Income Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Households below Average Income Northern Ireland 2015/16 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 June 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) was 20% (see Prosperity Table 8).

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) decreased by 5 percentage points, from 25% to 20% (see Prosperity Table 8).

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 20% compared with 18% (see Prosperity Table 8).

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC):

- In Belfast LGD decreased by 5 percentage points, from 25% to 20% (a percentage decrease of 20.00%)
- In Northern Ireland decreased by 2 percentage points, from 20% to 18% (a percentage decrease of 10.00%; see Prosperity Table 8)

Comparison with other LGDs

In 2017/18-2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fifth-equal highest and median percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC), together with Mid & East Antrim LGD
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage
- Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest percentage (see Prosperity Table 8).

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC):

- Increased in three LGDs
- Remained the same in one LGD
- Decreased in seven LGDs, including Belfast (see Prosperity Table 8)
 - Belfast LGD had the median percentage decrease at 20.00%
 - Mid Ulster LGD had the largest percentage decrease at 39.13%
 - Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 4.55%

PROSPERITY TABLE 8:
Percentage (%) of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) by LGD, 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20

LGD	2013/14-2015/16	2017/18-2019/20
Antrim & Newtownabbey	15	17
Ards & North Down	16	12
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	20	13
Belfast	25	20
Causeway Coast & Glens	26	21
Derry City & Strabane	24	22
Fermanagh & Omagh	22	21
Lisburn & Castlereagh	11	15
Mid & East Antrim	16	20
Mid Ulster	23	14
Newry, Mourne & Down	21	21
Northern Ireland	20	18

Source: DfC Households below Average Income Northern Ireland 2019/20, and 2015/16; Households below average income 2019-20 supporting data tables (zip file) and Households below average income 2015-16 supporting data tables (zip file); for 2019/20, Tables C3 Whole population 1920; for 2015/16, Tables C3; refer to "Table 3.9 Percentage of individuals in low-income groups by Local Government District" for data from each time-period

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Belfast, 2 out of every 10 people were in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC), similar to Northern Ireland where it was almost 2 out of every 10 people.

Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2017/18-2019/20, the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC) decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease in Belfast was double that in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed.

Among LGDs:

- In 2017/18-2019/20, Belfast had the fifth-equal highest and median percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC)
- Between 2013/14-2015/16 and 2019/20, Belfast had the fourth largest and median percentage decrease in the percentage of all individuals in relative low income or relative income poverty (AHC)

3.4 Fuel poverty – 10% definition

IMPORTANCE

Growing up and living in cold homes and poor housing have a direct and detrimental effect on health. For older people, living in cold temperatures increases the risk of strokes and heart attacks. Respiratory diseases, including flu, are more common, as are falls, injuries, and hypothermia. Children growing up in cold, damp, and mouldy homes with inadequate ventilation have higher than average rates of respiratory infections and asthma, chronic ill health, and disability. They are also more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and slower physical growth.⁸⁰

For this indicator of fuel poverty (10% definition), there are three main contributing factors, as outlined in the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016:

1. Fuel prices
2. Energy consumption
3. Household income

The characteristics of Northern Ireland households in fuel poverty are:

- Low income – 78% of households in fuel poverty had incomes of £15,599 per year or less
- Older dwellings (pre-1919) – 52% of households in older dwellings were in fuel poverty
- Headed by an older person (75 years and over) – 38% of households headed by an older person were in fuel poverty
- Older household types – 34% of older household types were in fuel poverty
- The household reference person (HRP) is unemployed or retired – 32% of households where the HRP was unemployed and 31% of households where the HRP was retired were in fuel poverty

Between 2011 and 2016, the Northern Ireland Government invested £298 million in domestic energy efficiency in private (£117 million) and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) housing stock (£181 million). This contributed to a decrease in domestic energy consumption and, thereby, the percentage of households in fuel poverty.⁸¹

80. Fuel poverty is intimately linked to poor health | The BMJ (Last accessed 19 May 2022)

81. Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (2016) Main Report (Last accessed 18 May 2022)

DEFINITION

The definition of fuel poverty for this indicator is the percentage of households required to spend in excess of 10% of household income on all fuel use to maintain satisfactory heating levels (21°C in the main living area and 18°C in other occupied rooms). Income is defined as that of all household members, net of tax, including all social security benefits, housing benefit, income support for mortgage interest (ISMI) and tax credits.

Information is from the House Condition Survey 2016.⁸²

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of households in fuel poverty (10% definition) was 14.6%.

Between 2009 and 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of households in fuel poverty decreased by 30.8 percentage points, from 45.4% to 14.6%.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in fuel poverty (10% definition) was 7.4 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 14.6% compared with 22.0% (see Prosperity Figure 32).

Between 2009 and 2016, the percentage of households in fuel poverty decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 30.8 percentage points, from 45.4% to 14.6% (a percentage decrease of 67.84%)
- In Northern Ireland by 21.7 percentage points, from 43.7% to 22.0% (a percentage decrease of 49.66%; see Prosperity Figure 32)

82. Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (2016) Main Report (Last accessed 18 May 2022)

Comparison with other LGDs

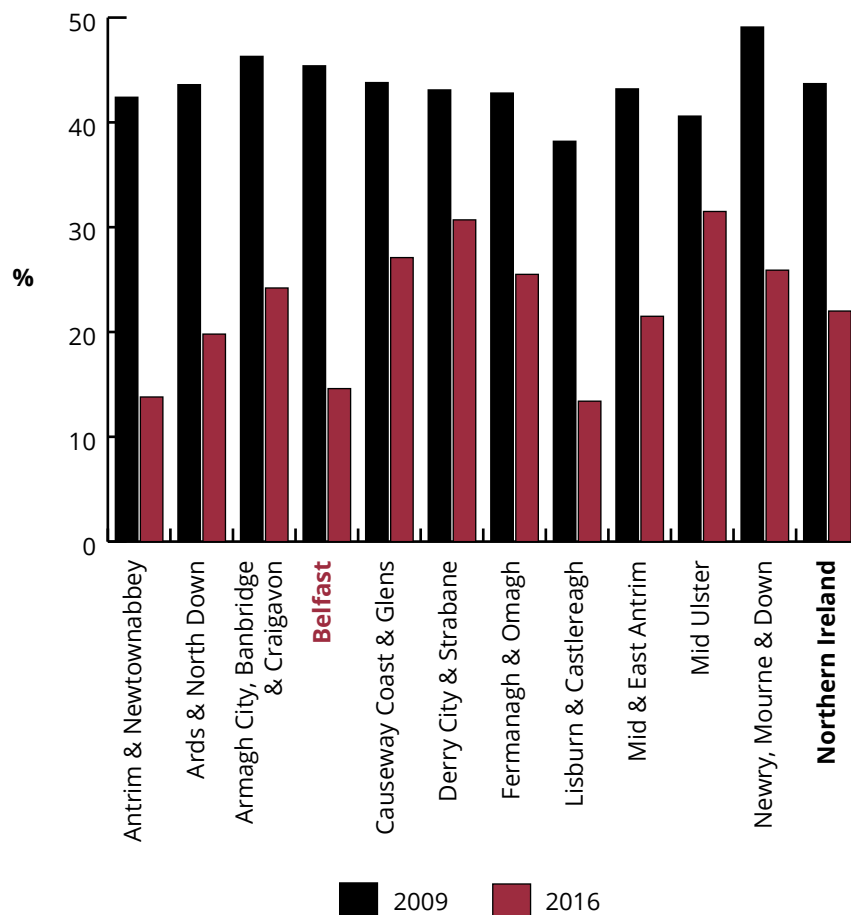
In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third lowest percentage of households in fuel poverty (10% definition) at 14.6%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 31.5%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 13.4%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median value at 24.2% (see Prosperity Figure 32)

Between 2009 and 2016, there were marked decreases in the percentage of households in fuel poverty in all LGDs, but Belfast LGD had the highest percentage decrease at 67.84%, very closely followed by Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD at 67.45% (see Prosperity Figure 32).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 32:

Percentage (%) of households in fuel poverty (10% definition) by LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2009 and 2016



Source: NINIS: "Fuel Poverty (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, in Belfast, between 1 and 2 out of every 10 households were in fuel poverty, compared with over 2 out of every 10 households in Northern Ireland.

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had a relatively low level of households in fuel poverty.

Between 2009 and 2016, the percentage of households in fuel poverty decreased in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, and the gap between them widened with Belfast having better outcomes.

3.5 Food poverty/food insecurity

IMPORTANCE

Food insecurity affects physical and mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing. For children experiencing food insecurity, there are potentially negative developmental consequences. The link between food insecurity and poverty is clear and it mainly affects unemployed people and people in the lowest income quartile. Some population groups are especially vulnerable to food insecurity for example, disabled people, people living in a household affected by ill health and households headed by a lone parent.⁸³

In April 2019, the DWP introduced questions on household food insecurity into the UK FRS.⁸⁴ In this survey, household food security is a measure of whether households have sufficient food to facilitate an active and healthy lifestyle:

- Households with high or marginal food security are “food secure”, considered to have sufficient, varied food to facilitate an active and healthy lifestyle
- Households with low and very low food security are “food insecure”, with a risk of, or lack of access to, sufficient, varied food

In 2019/20, in the UK, 8% of households were food insecure with low household insecurity (4%) or very low household insecurity (4%).⁸⁵

DEFINITION

Information in this section is from the Health Survey for Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, households were deemed to be showing signs of food poverty if they answered one or more of Questions 1-3 with the following responses:

1. Does your household eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day? Answer - No, because cannot afford
2. Does your household have a roast joint (or its equivalent) once a week? Answer - No, because cannot afford
3. During the last fortnight was there ever a day (i.e., from getting up to going to bed) when you did not have a substantial meal due to lack of money? Answer - Yes

83. 20/48 Food insecurity – health impacts and mitigation | NIHR (Last accessed 6 June 2022)

84. <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/National-measurement-of-food-insecurity-release.pdf> (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

85. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2019-to-2020/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2019-to-2020> (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

Health Survey data may exclude groups who are at high risk of food poverty (e.g., the homeless, people living in temporary accommodation, travellers, immigrants), because the sample includes only people who live in private households. As such, this indicator may be affected by under-reporting of the level of food poverty/food insecurity.

Information was extracted from NINIS: "Food Poverty – Health Survey (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18, In Belfast HSCT, the percentage of households in food poverty was 6.50%.

Between 2013/14 and 2017/18, in Belfast HSCT, the percentage of households in food poverty decreased by 4.99 percentage points, from 11.49% to 6.50%.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017/18, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in food poverty in Belfast HSCT was 1.88 percentage points higher, 6.50% compared with 4.62%.

Between 2013/14 and 2017/18, the percentage of households in food poverty decreased:

- In Belfast HSCT, by 4.99 percentage points, from 11.49% to 6.50% (a percentage decrease of 43.42%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 4.85 percentage points, from 9.47% to 4.62% (a percentage decrease of 51.21%; see Prosperity Figure 33)

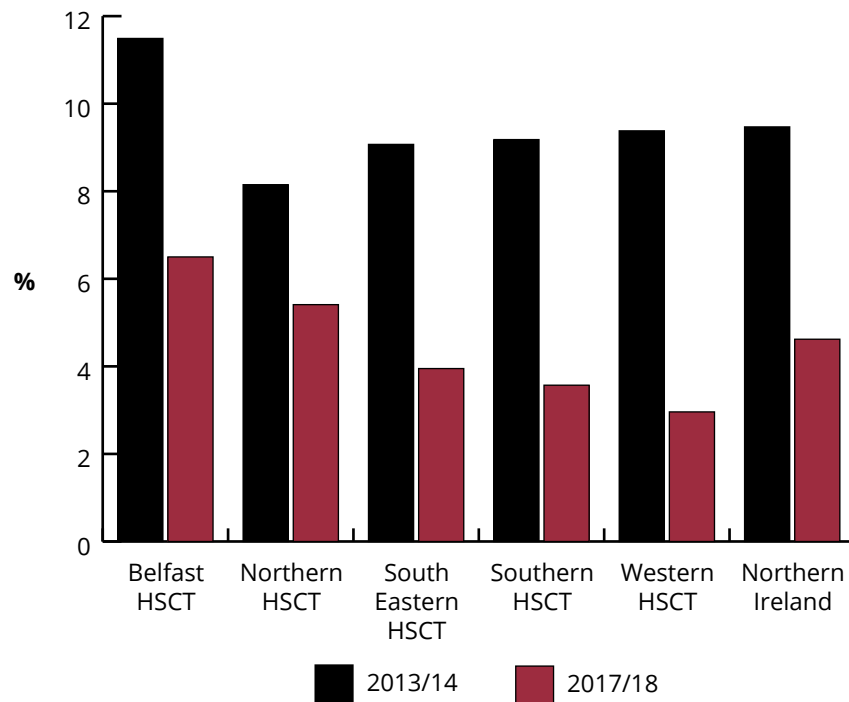
Comparison with other HSCTs

In 2017/18, when compared with other HSCTs:

- Belfast HSCT had the highest percentage of households in food poverty at 6.50%
- Western HSCT had the lowest percentage at 2.96%
- South Eastern HSCT had the median value at 3.95% (see Prosperity Figure 33)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 33:

Percentage (%) of households in food poverty by HSCT, and Northern Ireland, 2013/14 and 2017/18



Source: NINIS: "Food Poverty - Health Survey (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18, Belfast had a higher percentage of households in food poverty than in Northern Ireland and in the other four HSCTs.

From 2013/14 to 2017/18, the percentage of households in food poverty decreased in Belfast and Northern Ireland. The gap between the two widened according to the relative percentage decreases, with a greater percentage decrease in Northern Ireland, however, the gap narrowed slightly with respect to the percentage-point difference between the two rates.

3.6 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017

IMPORTANCE

High levels of deprivation are associated with poorer health and wellbeing outcomes. In the Northern Ireland Health Inequalities Annual Report 2021, the gap in healthy life expectancy between the most- and least-deprived areas in Northern Ireland was 15.4 years for women and 13.5 years for men, meaning that people living in the most-deprived areas are likely to experience 13-15 fewer years of good health when compared with people living in the least-deprived areas.⁸⁶

Since the 1970s, various measures have been used to identify levels of deprivation across Northern Ireland as part of tackling inequalities and targeting resources to improve conditions in areas with greater levels of deprivation.⁸⁷

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 is an area-based measure, identifying local areas where there are concentrations or spatial clusters of several different types of deprivation, which provides a mechanism for ranking small areas in the order of the most deprived to the least deprived.

The measure is relative and does not quantify the extent to which one area is more or less deprived than another. Thus, using the NIMDM, it is possible to state that “area A is more deprived than area B”, but it is not possible to state by how much. It is also not possible to make a direct comparison across two time periods because the measure provides a spatial ranking at a single point in time.⁸⁸

DEFINITION

The NIMDM 2017 comprises 38 indicators across seven domains:

1. Income (weighted by 25%)
2. Employment (weighted by 25%)
3. Health Deprivation and Disability (weighted by 15%)
4. Education, Skills, and Training (weighted by 15%)
5. Access to Services (weighted by 10%)
6. Living Environment (weighted by 5%)
7. Crime and Disorder (weighted by 5%)

86. https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-report-2021_1.pdf (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

87. Deprivation | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

88. <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2017-2022/2018/0118.pdf> (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

The NIMDM results are presented by super output area (SOA). Northern Ireland is divided into 890 SOAs, with an average population size of 2,100. For the NIMDM 2017, and for each domain of deprivation, each SOA is ranked from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (rank 890).⁸⁹

Deprivation is expressed according to quintiles of deprivation (from Quintile 1 to Quintile 5, ranging from the most deprived to the least deprived, respectively), overall or by each of the seven domains of deprivation. A quintile is any of five equal groups into which a population is divided according to the distribution of values for a particular variable; in this case, the variable is the level of area deprivation.

Information is from NISRA. The NIMDM 2017 Analysis Package was used to derive some of the information for this indicator.⁹⁰

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017, there were 174 SOAs in Belfast LGD91, ranging in population size from 1,213 (New Lodge 3) to 3,552 (Ligoniel 1).⁹²

In 2017, the percentage of SOAs in Belfast LGD that were in:

- **Quintile 1, the most-deprived areas in Northern Ireland, was 41%**
- **Quintile 5, the least-deprived areas in Northern Ireland was 24%** (see Prosperity Table 9)

In 2017, in Belfast LGD, there was some variation in the percentages of SOAs that were in each quintile of Northern Ireland's seven deprivation domains, although Belfast LGD had high percentages of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile for:

- **Employment**
- **Health Deprivation and Disability**
- **Education, Skills, and Training**
- **Living Environment**
- **Crime and Disorder (see Prosperity Table 9)**

89. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017> (Last accessed 17 August 2021)

90. NIMDM 2017- Analysis Package | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 May 2022)

91. NIMDM17- with ns.pdf (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 30 May 2022)

92. NISRA-NINIS Population Totals Interactive Map; Persons (2017) Belfast. InstantAtlas™ Report (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 30 May 2022)

PROSPERITY TABLE 9:

Percentage (%) of SOAs in Belfast LGD within each of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) by domain of deprivation, 2017

Deprivation domain	Northern Ireland quintiles of deprivation				
	Q1 Most-deprived	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5 Least-deprived
Income	22	14	15	19	30
Employment	40	17	11	8	24
Health Deprivation and Disability	47	15	12	7	19
Education, Skills, and Training	46	16	9	7	22
Access to Services	0	4	8	24	64
Living Environment	45	22	15	10	8
Crime and Disorder	43	26	17	7	6
NIMDM 2017	41	11	10	14	24

Source: NIMDM 2017 – Analysis Package

In 2017, of the 10 most-deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland:

- For the overall deprivation measure, 5 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Education, Skills, and Training Domain, all 10 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Health and Disability Domain, 9 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Living Environment Domain, 8 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Crime and Disorder Domain, 5 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Employment Domain, 4 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD
- In the Income Domain, 2 of those SOAs were in Belfast LGD⁹³

93. Deprivation - A&N (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 17 May 2022)

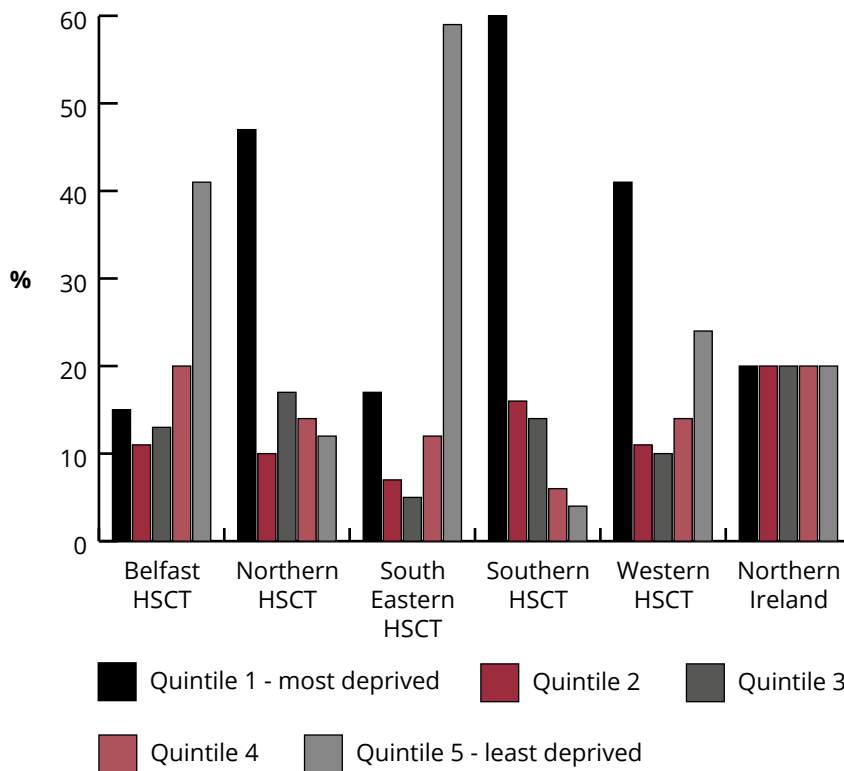
Differences by assembly area

In 2017, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the percentage of SOAs in each of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles:

- Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentages of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1) and the lowest percentages of SOAs in Northern Ireland's least-deprived quintile (Quintile 5)
- Belfast East had the lowest percentage of SOAs in the most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1), followed by Belfast South, whereas Belfast South had the highest percentage of SOAs in the least-deprived quintile (Quintile 5), followed by Belfast East (see Prosperity Figure 34)

This difference between assembly areas is most marked between Belfast West and Belfast South: Belfast West has 60 SOAs in the most-deprived quintile of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles, whereas Belfast South has 59 SOAs in the least-deprived quintile.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 34:
Percentage (%) of SOAs from each Northern Ireland deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2017



Source: NIMDM 2017 Analysis Package

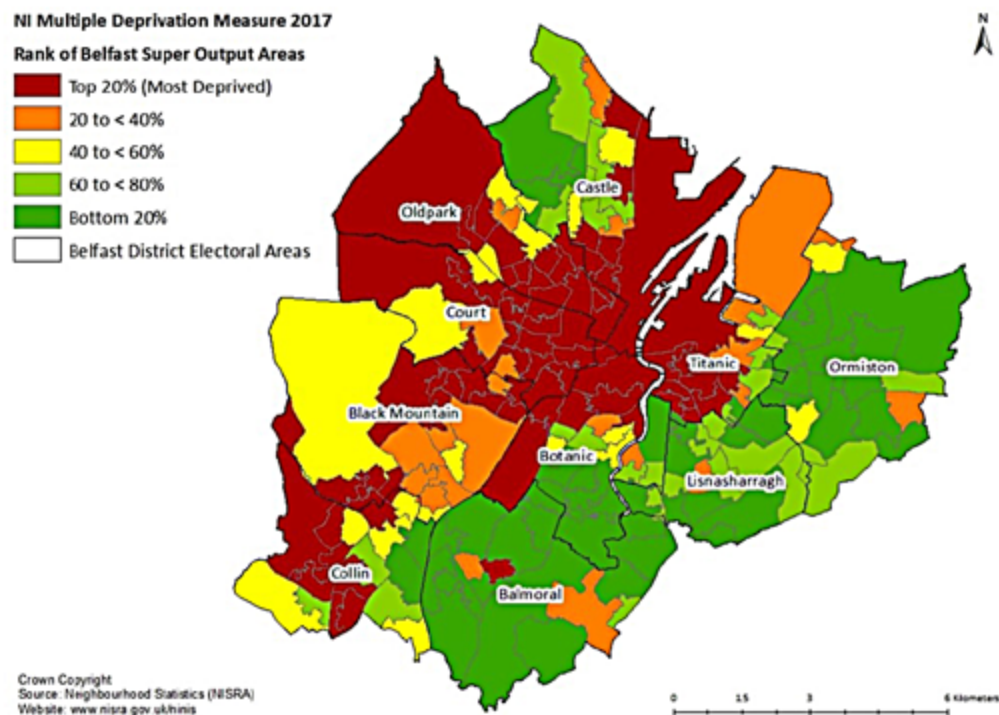
In Prosperity Map 1, the map of Belfast LGD shows:

The concentration of deprivation in Belfast West and Belfast North

Pockets of deprivation in Belfast East [Titanic District Electoral Area (DEA)] and Belfast South (Botanic and Balmoral DEAs)

PROSPERITY MAP 1:

Belfast LGD showing deprivation (NIMDM 2017) by quintile of Northern Ireland's SOAs, from the most-deprived 20% (Quintile 1 in red) to the least-deprived 20% (Quintile 5 in green), 2017



Source: NISRA-NINIS www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis © Crown Copyright

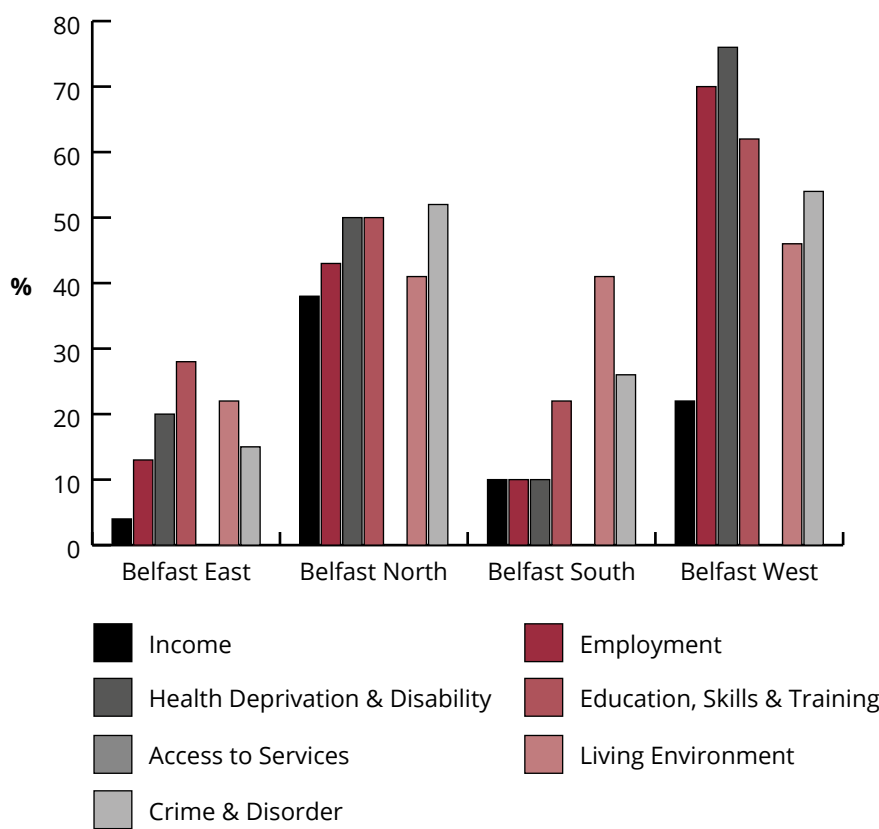
In 2017, Belfast West and Belfast North had relatively high percentages of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile of SOAs (>20%) for the following NIMDM deprivation domains:

- Income
- Employment
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Education, Skills and Training
- Living Environment
- Crime and Disorder

Belfast East had a relatively high percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland’s most-deprived quintile (>20%) for the Education, Skills and Training and Living Environment domains.

Belfast South had a relatively high percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland’s most-deprived quintile (>20%) for the Education, Skills and Training, Living Environment and the Crime and Disorder domains (see Prosperity Figure 35).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 35:
Percentage (%) of SOAs in Belfast’s assembly areas from the most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1) in Northern Ireland by NIMDM deprivation domain, 2017⁹⁴



Source: NIMDM 2017 – Analysis Package

94 The value for the NIMDM 2017 domain, ‘Access to Services’, is ‘0’ for all Belfast’s assembly areas

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with other LGDs

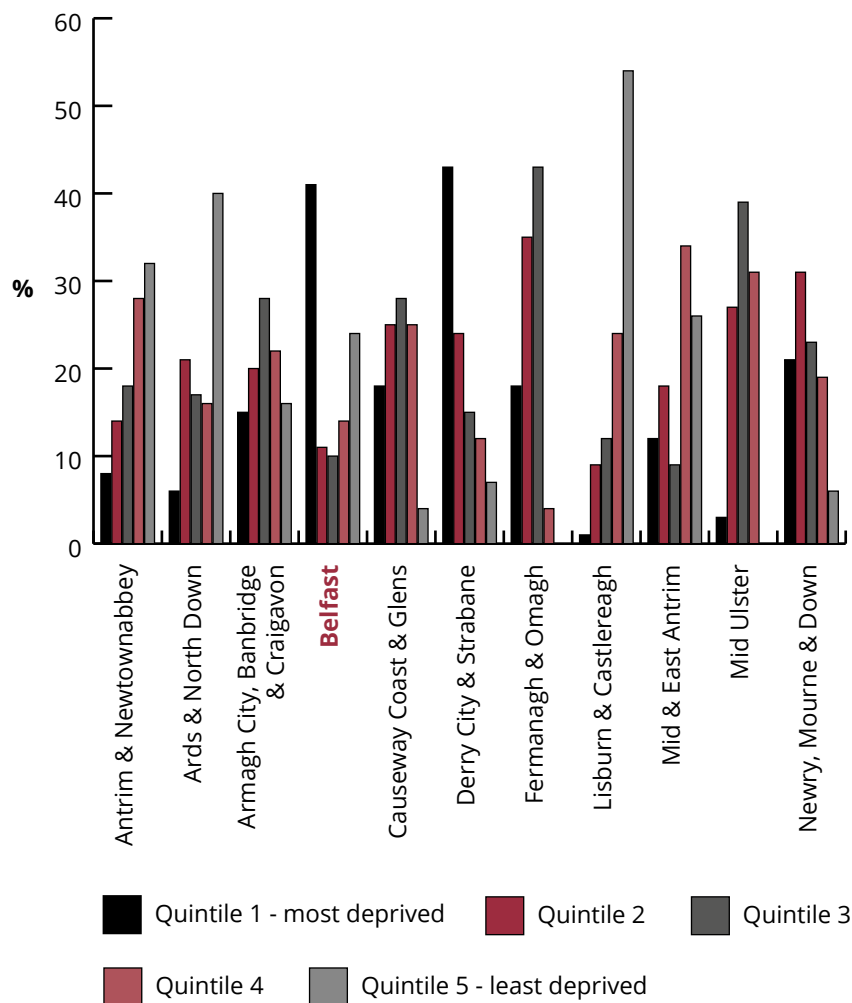
In 2017, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile of SOAs (Quintile 1) at 41%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 43%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 1%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median value at 15% (see Prosperity Figure 36)

In 2017, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fifth highest percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's least-deprived quintile of SOAs (Quintile 5) at 24%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest percentage 54%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the equal lowest percentage at 0%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median value at 16% (see Prosperity Figure 36)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 36:
Percentage (%) of SOAs in each of Northern Ireland's deprivation quintiles (Quintile 1-Quintile 5) by LGD, 2017



Source: NIMDM 2017 Analysis Package

In 2017, of the top 100 most-deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland:

- 50 were in Belfast LGD
- 20 were in Derry City & Strabane LGD
- There were none in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD
- The median number of the top 100 most-deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland for an LGD was 3, which occurred in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD, Mid & East Antrim LGD, and Ards & North Down LGD.⁹⁵

95. NIMDM17- with ns.pdf (nisra.gov.uk) and NIMDM17- SOA level results | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

In 2017, of the top 100 most-deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had:

- **The highest percentage for the NIMDM 2017 overall, for the Health Deprivation and Disability domain, for the Education, Skills & Training domain, for the Living Environment domain, and for the Crime & Disorder domain**
- **The second highest percentage for the Employment domain**
- **The fifth highest percentage for the Income domain**

The only domain for which Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of Northern Ireland's 100 most-deprived SOAs was Access to Services.⁹⁶

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, in Belfast, 4 out of every 10 SOAs were in the most-deprived quintile of all SOAs in Northern Ireland, whereas between 2 and 3 of every 10 SOAs were in the least-deprived quintile of all SOAs in Northern Ireland.

In 2017, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the second highest percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile (Quintile 1).

Of the 100 most-deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland, 50 were in Belfast, whereas there were none in Lisburn & Castlereagh.

Deprivation domains for which Belfast had relatively high percentages of SOAs in the most-deprived quintile of Northern Ireland's SOAs were:

- **Health Deprivation and Disability**
- **Employment**
- **Education, Skills, and Training**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Living Environment**

96. NIMDM17- with ns.pdf (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2017, 6 out of every 10 SOAs in Belfast West, and almost 5 out of every 10 SOAs in Belfast North were in the most-deprived quintile of SOAs in Northern Ireland.

In 2017, the domains of deprivation affecting a relatively large percentage of SOAs in Belfast West (22%-76%) and Belfast North (38%-52%) were Income, Employment, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education, Skills, and Training, Living Environment, and Crime and Disorder.

The highest levels of domain deprivation in terms of the percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's most-deprived quintile were in Belfast West for Health Deprivation and Disability (76%), Employment (70%), Education, Skills, and Training (62%), and then Crime and Disorder (54%).

As well as the relatively high levels of deprivation in Belfast West and Belfast North, there are pockets of deprivation in both Belfast East and Belfast South:

- In Belfast East, a relatively large percentage of SOAs were affected by deprivation in terms of the Education, Skills, and Training (28%) and Living Environment (22%) domains.
- In Belfast South a relatively large percentage of SOAs were affected by deprivation in relation to the Education, Skills, and Training (22%), Living Environment (41%) and Crime and Disorder (26%) domains.

SECTION 4

Education

4.1 Qualifications of the Working-Age Population (16-64 years)

IMPORTANCE

The OECD found that, in the UK in 2019, the gap in life expectancy between people with the highest education level and people with the lowest education level at 30 years of age was:

- 4.4 years for men
- 4.0 years for women⁹⁷

Improving the skills of the working-age population is a driver of economic growth and prosperity. Cities with a highly skilled labour force are more prosperous than those where the labour force has lower levels of skills. Investment in skills or human capital contributes to economic growth through increased productivity, innovation, and shared prosperity. Lower levels of skills in a labour force can constrain economic growth, innovation, inward investment, and increase inequalities.

DEFINITION

Qualifications of the working-age population (aged 16-64 years) are categorised into three groups:

- Degree level and above
- Below degree level
- No qualifications

Information is from the LFS 2019, and LFS Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020 (data are subject to sampling variability).⁹⁸

97. Life expectancy by sex and education level | Health at a Glance 2021 : OECD Indicators | OECD iLibrary (oecd-ilibrary.org) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

98. Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) and Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2020 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 May 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

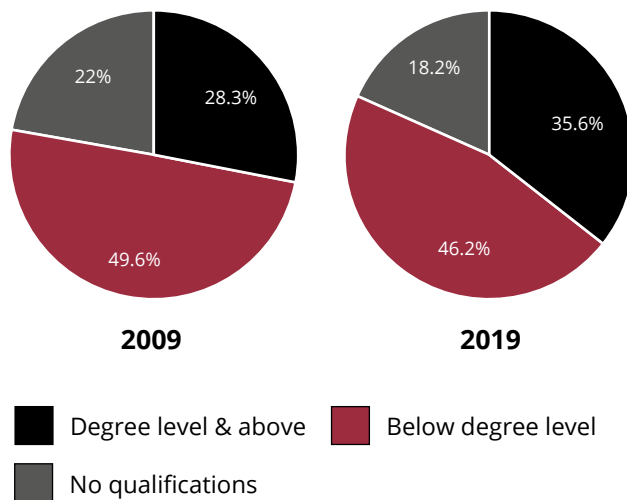
- 35.6% of working-age people (16-64 years) had a degree level and above qualification
- 46.2% had a below degree-level qualification
- 18.2% had no qualifications (see Prosperity Figure 37)

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of the working-age population (16-64 years) with:

- a degree-level and above qualification increased by 7.3 percentage points
- a below degree-level qualification decreased by 3.4 percentage points
- no qualification decreased by 3.8 percentage points (see Prosperity Figure 37)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 37:

Percentage (%) of working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level in Belfast LGD, 2019



Source: LFS-LGD-Tables-2009-2019-0.XLSX

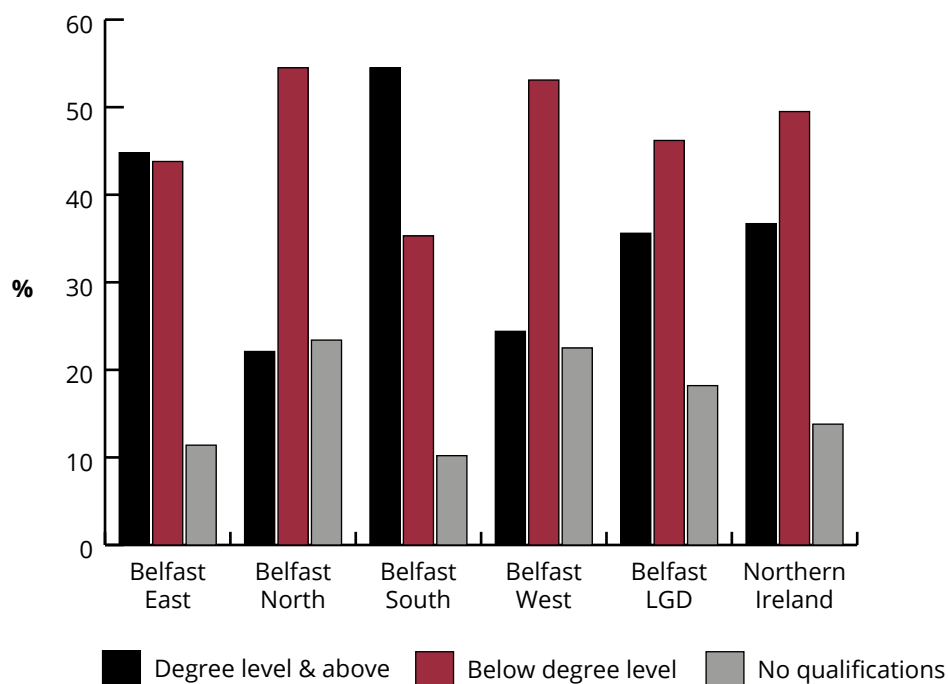
Differences by assembly area

In 2019, there was variation in qualification levels in the working-age population across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast South had the highest percentage with a degree-level and above qualification at 54.5%, whereas Belfast North and Belfast West had the lowest percentages at 22.1% and 24.4%, respectively
- Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest percentages with a below degree-level qualification at 54.5% and 53.1%, respectively whereas Belfast South had the lowest at 35.3%
- Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest percentages with no qualification at 23.4% and 22.5%, respectively, whereas Belfast South had the lowest at 10.2%, closely followed by Belfast East at 11.4% (see Prosperity Figure 38)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 38:

Percentage (%) of working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, 2019



Source: Labour Force Survey 2019; LFSAR4 Qualifications, Table 4.5 (LFSAR19 4.5)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Degree level and above qualification

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of the working-age population in Belfast LGD with a degree-level qualification or above was 1.1 percentage points lower, 35.6% compared with 36.7%.

Between 2009 and 2019, the percentage of working-age people with a degree-level qualification or above increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 7.3 percentage points, from 28.3% to 35.6% (a percentage increase of 25.80%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 10.8 percentage points from 25.9% to 36.7% (a percentage increase of 41.70%)

Below degree level qualification

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of working-age people in Belfast LGD with a below degree-level qualification was 3.3 percentage points lower, 46.2% compared with 49.5%.

Between 2009 and 2019, the percentage of working-age people with a below degree-level qualification decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 3.4 percentage points, from 49.6% to 46.2% (a percentage decrease of 6.85%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 1.8 percentage points from 51.3% to 49.5% (a percentage decrease of 3.51%)

No qualifications

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of working-age people in Belfast LGD with no qualifications was 4.4 percentage points higher, 18.2% compared with 13.8%.

Between 2009 and 2019, the percentage of working-age people with no qualifications decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 3.8 percentage points from 22.0% to 18.2% (a percentage decrease of 17.27%)
- In Northern Ireland by 8.9 percentage points from 22.7% to 13.8% (a percentage decrease of 39.21%)

Comparison with other LGDs

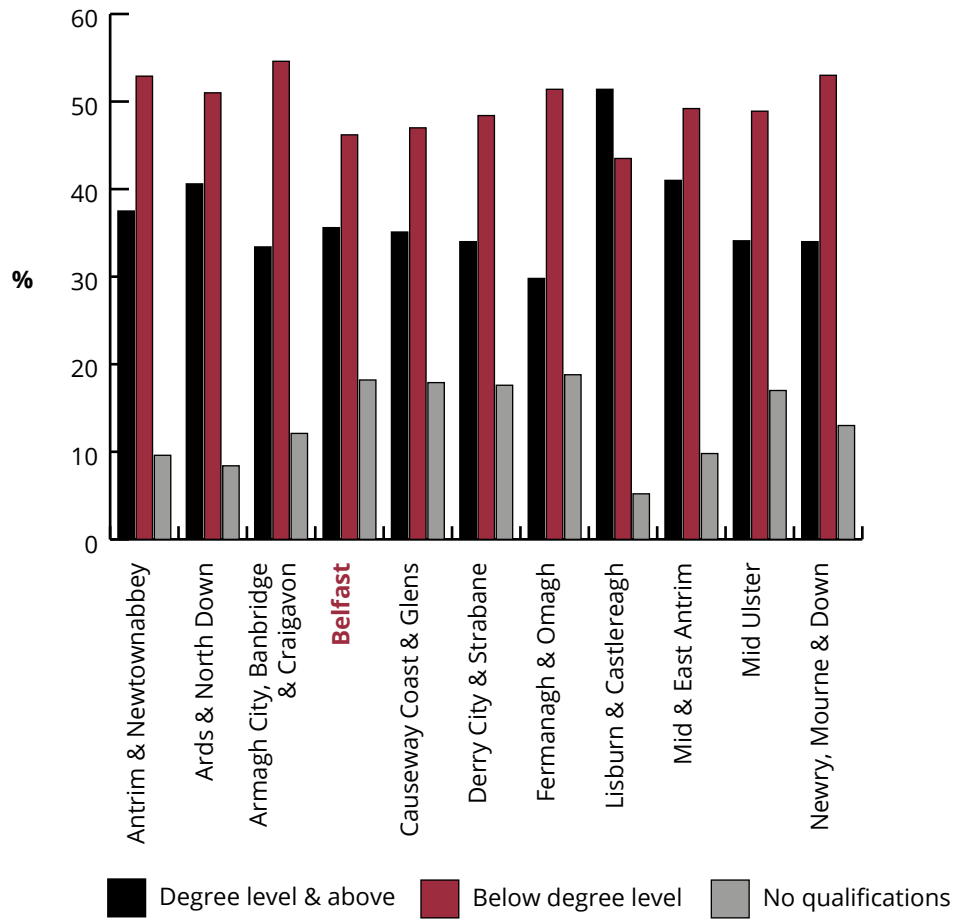
In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- The fifth highest percentage of working-age people with a degree-level or above qualification at 35.6%; Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest percentage at 51.4%, and Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 29.8%
- The second lowest percentage of working-age people with below degree-level qualification at 46.2%; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the highest percentage at 54.6%, and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 43.5%
- The second highest percentage of working-age people with no qualifications at 18.2%; Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 18.8%; Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 5.2% (see Prosperity Figure 39)

Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD was the only LGD to have the majority of working-age people with a degree-level or above qualification; all other LGDs, including Belfast, had a majority of working-age people with a below degree-level qualification.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 39:

Percentage (%) of the working-age population (16-64 years) by qualification level and LGD, 2019



Source: Labour Force Survey 2019; LFSAR4 Qualifications, Table 4.2 (LFSAR19 4.2)

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, in Belfast:

- Between 3 and 4 out of every 10 people of working age had a degree-level qualification or above
- Between 4 and 5 out of every 10 had a below degree-level qualification
- Almost 2 out of every 10 had no qualification

Although the percentage of working-age people with a degree-level and above qualification in Belfast was similar to that in Northern Ireland, the percentage of people with a below degree-level qualification was slightly less and the percentage of people with no qualification was greater.

Between 2009 and 2019, in Belfast and Northern Ireland, the percentage of working-age people with:

- A degree-level and above qualification increased, but the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland with better outcomes (in 2009 Belfast had better outcomes)
- A below degree-level qualification decreased, and the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened
- No qualification decreased, but the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs, although Belfast had the fifth highest percentage of working-age people with a degree-level and above qualification, it had the second lowest percentage of working-age people with a below-degree level qualification and the second highest percentage of working-age people with no qualification.

Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In 2019, in Belfast North and Belfast West:

- 2 out of every 10 working-age people had a degree-level qualification, whereas in Belfast South it was between 5 and 6 out of every 10
- Between 5 and 6 out of every 10 working-age people had a below degree-level qualification, whereas in Belfast South it was between 3 and 4 out of every 10
- Just over 2 out of every 10 working-age people had no qualification whereas in Belfast South it was 1 out of every 10

4.2 Pupil suspensions

IMPORTANCE

A child's suspension from school can contribute to educational and social inequalities. In a US-based meta-analysis of 53 cases from 34 studies, a statistically significant inverse relationship was found between suspension and achievement, together with a significant relationship between suspensions and dropout.⁹⁹

In Northern Ireland, a child who gets into serious trouble at school can be suspended for a fixed period of time. Schools can suspend a child if:

- They have seriously broken school rules
- Allowing them to stay in school would seriously harm their education or welfare, or the education or welfare of other pupils¹⁰⁰

DEFINITION

Information is from the Education Authority and relates to all pupils undertaking Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1-4 in primary, post-primary, and special schools; it excludes data on pupils from independent schools.

Some information from the 2017/18 School Census was analysed and provided by the Analytical Services Unit of the Department of Education in response to specific requests.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In academic year 2017/18, in Belfast LGD, 880 pupils were suspended, representing:

- 1.6% of pupils in Belfast LGD
- 21.63% of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland

99. Noltemeyer AL, Ward RM and Mcloughlin C (2015) Relationship between school suspension and student outcomes: a meta-analysis. *School Psychology Review* 44(2): 224-240. https://edsources.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Noltemeyer_Ward_2015_Meta-Analysis.pdf (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

100. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/school-discipline-suspensions-and-expulsions> (Last accessed 23 August 2021)

Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18:

- The number of pupils suspended in Belfast LGD decreased by 113, from 993 to 880
- Belfast's percentage share of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland decreased by 2.26%, from 23.89% to 21.63%

Differences by sex

In academic year 2017/18, in Belfast LGD, the rate of pupil suspensions was:

- 2.2% for boys
- 0.9% for girls (see Prosperity Figure 40)

Differences by age group

In academic year 2017/18, in Belfast LGD, the rate of pupil suspensions was:

- 0.3% in pupils aged under 10 years
- 3.2% in pupils aged 11-12 years
- 5.4% in pupils aged 13-14 years
- 2.3% in pupils aged 15 years and over (see Prosperity Figure 41)

Differences by type of school

In academic year 2017/18, of the pupils suspended in Belfast LGD:

- 73.75% were from secondary (non-grammar) schools
- 12.95% were from grammar schools
- 10.34% were from primary schools
- 2.95% were from special schools

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2017/18, there was variation in the numbers of pupils suspended, and the percentage shares of Northern Ireland's pupils suspended, across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest numbers of pupils suspended, and Belfast South had the lowest number
- Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentage shares of Northern Ireland's pupil suspensions, followed by Belfast East, and Belfast South had the lowest percentage share (see Prosperity Table 10)

Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, the number of pupils suspended:

- In Belfast East, Belfast North, and Belfast South decreased – the largest percentage decrease was in Belfast South at 27.78% and the lowest was in Belfast East at 13.38%
- In Belfast West increased – a percentage increase of 4.43% (see Prosperity Table 10)

PROSPERITY TABLE 10:

Number of pupils suspended in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, and percentage share of Northern Ireland's total by assembly area and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18

Assembly area	Number of pupils academic year 2015/16	Number of pupils academic year 2017/18	Percentage share of Northern Ireland's total, academic year 2017/18
Belfast East	269	233	5.73%
Belfast North	376	306	7.52%
Belfast South	198	143	3.51%
Belfast West	316	330	8.11%
Belfast LGD	993	880	21.63%
Northern Ireland	4,156	4,069	-

Sources: NINIS: "Pupil suspensions (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

Differences by district electoral area (DEA)

In academic year 2017/18, in Belfast LGD, there was variation among DEAs in the numbers of pupils suspended, and the pupils suspended as a percentage of all pupils in each DEA:

- Titanic DEA (Belfast East) had the highest percentage of pupils suspended of all pupils in the DEA
- Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) had the lowest percentage
- Castle DEA (Belfast North) and Collin DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) had the median value at 1.5% (see Prosperity Table 11)

PROSPERITY TABLE 11:

Number of pupils suspended by DEA in Belfast LGD, and pupils suspended as a percentage (%) of all pupils in the DEA, in Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18

DEA	Number of pupils suspended	Pupils suspended as a percentage of all pupils in DEA
Balmoral	38	1.0%
Black Mountain	122	1.7%
Botanic	53	1.1%
Castle	80	1.5%
Collin	112	1.5%
Court	128	2.1%
Lisnasharragh	47	1.1%
Oldpark	114	1.7%
Ormiston	62	1.1%
Titanic	124	2.3%

Source: NINIS: "Pupil Suspensions (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table, and specific data request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit, Department of Education

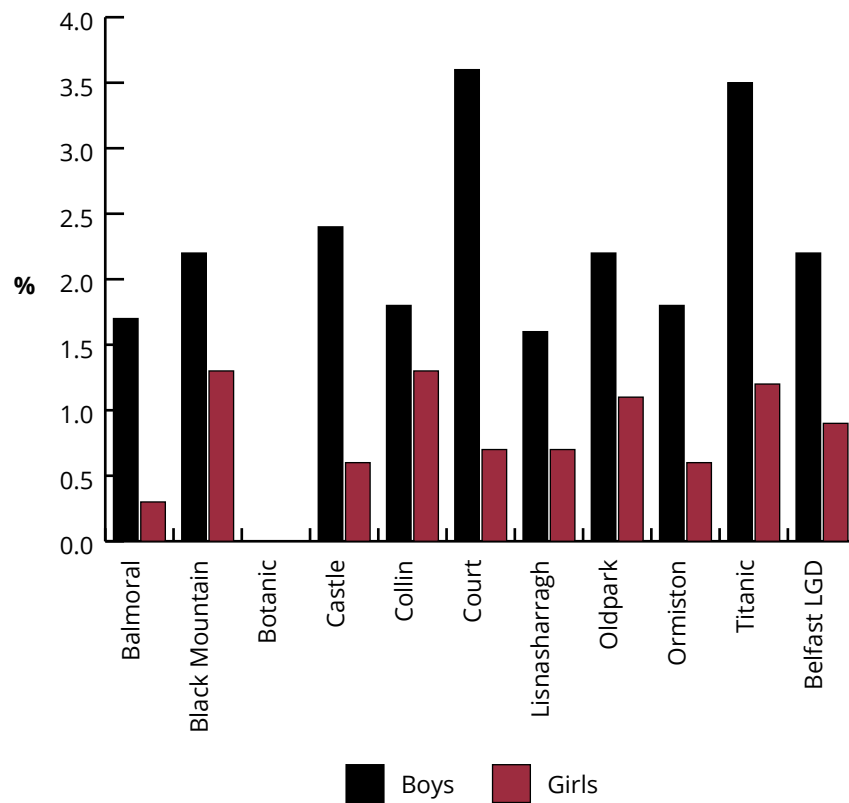
Differences by sex

In academic year 2017/18, the rate of pupil suspensions by sex varied across Belfast's LGDs. In all DEAs, the rates were higher for boys than for girls:

- For boys, the highest rate was in Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) at 3.6%, and the lowest was in Lisnasharragh DEA (some of the DEA in Belfast East, some in Belfast South) at 1.6%
- For girls, the highest rate was in Black Mountain DEA (Belfast West) and Collin DEA (Belfast West) at 1.3%, and the lowest rate was in Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) at 0.3% (see Prosperity Figure 40)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 40:

Rate of pupil suspensions by sex and DEA in Belfast LGD, and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18¹⁰¹



Source: Specific data request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit, Department of Education

101. Data have been suppressed due to small numbers for girls in Botanic DEA, and counter-suppressed for boys in Botanic DEA

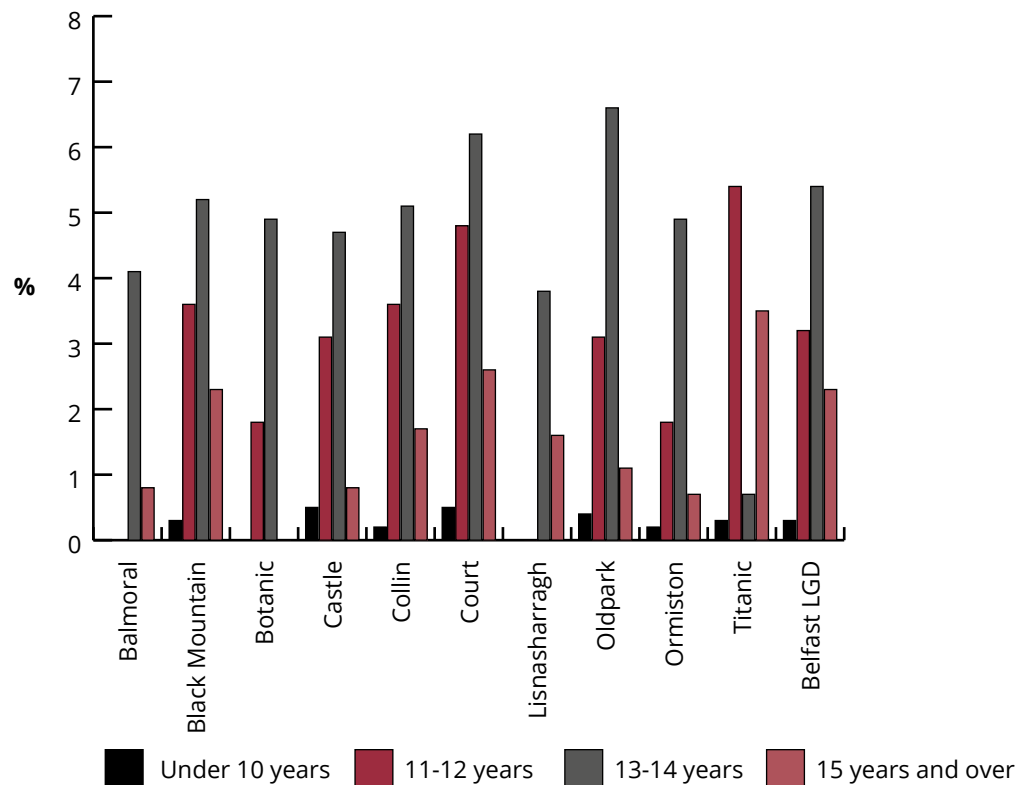
Differences by age group

In academic year 2017/18, there was also variation in the rate of pupil suspensions by age group across Belfast's DEAs. Rates were lowest for pupils under 10 years in all DEAs, and rates were highest in pupils aged 13-14 years in 9 out of 10 DEAs, except for Titanic DEA (East Belfast) in which the rate was highest for children aged 11-12 years. The highest rate of pupil suspensions overall was for pupils aged 13-14 years in Oldpark DEA (Belfast North).

- For pupils aged under 10 years, the highest rate was in Castle DEA (Belfast North) and Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) at 0.5%; the lowest rate was in Collin DEA (Belfast West) and Ormiston DEA (Belfast East) at 0.2%
- For pupils aged 11-12 years, the highest rate was in Titanic DEA at 5.4%, and the lowest rate was in Botanic DEA (Belfast South) and Ormiston DEA at 1.8%
- For pupils aged 13-14 years, the highest rate was in Oldpark DEA at 6.6%, and the lowest rate was in Titanic DEA at 0.7%
- For pupils aged 15 years and over, the highest rate was in Titanic DEA at 3.5%, and the lowest rate was in Ormiston DEA at 0.7% (see Prosperity Figure 41)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 41:

Rate (%) of pupil suspensions by age group and DEA in Belfast LGD, and Belfast LGD, academic year 2017/18¹⁰²



Source: Specific data request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit, Department of Education

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2017/18, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of pupils suspended was 0.2 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 1.6% compared with 1.4%.

Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, the number of pupils suspended decreased:

- In Belfast by 113 pupils, from 993 to 880 (a percentage decrease of 11.38%)
- In Northern Ireland by 87 pupils, from 4,156 to 4,069 (a percentage decrease of 2.09%)

102. Data have been suppressed due to small numbers for Balmoral DEA and Lisnasharragh DEA for pupils under 10 years, and for Botanic DEA for pupils aged 15 years and over; data have been counter-suppressed for Balmoral DEA and Lisnasharragh DEA for pupils aged 11-12 years

Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2017/18, when compared with other LGDs, of all pupils suspended in Northern Ireland:

- **Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share at 21.63%**
- **Newry Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest percentage share at 5.78%**
- **Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 6.64%**

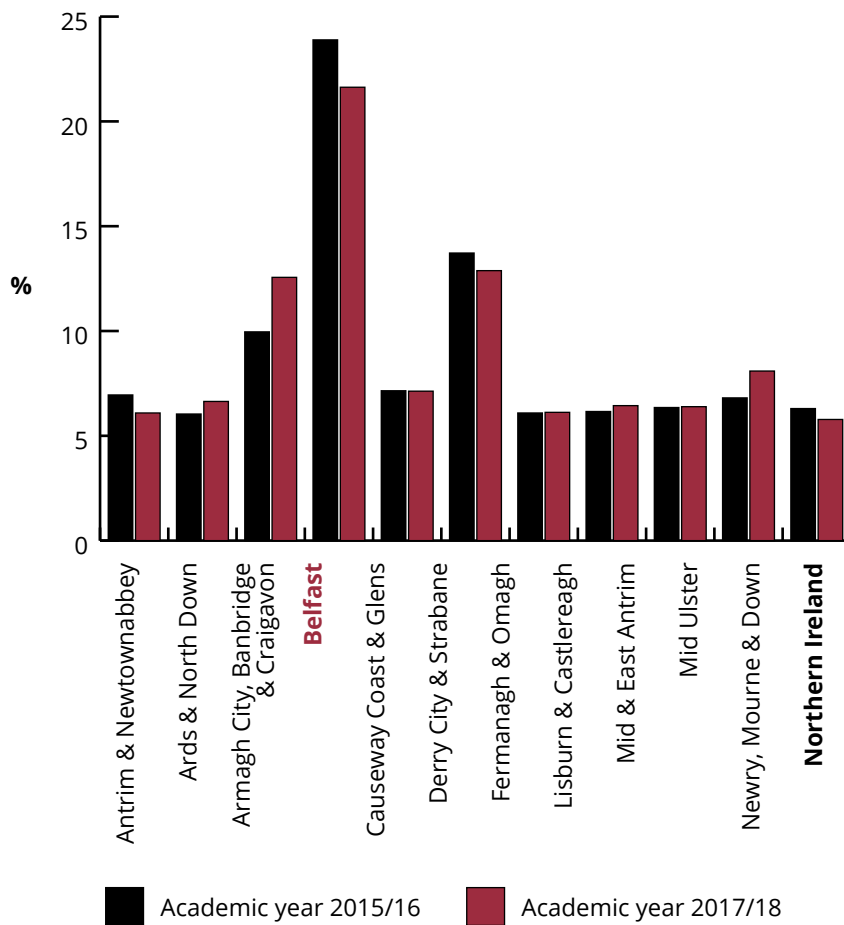
Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, the numbers of pupils suspended increased in four LGDs and decreased in seven LGDs, including Belfast:

- **Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage decrease at 11.38%, Antrim & Newtownabbey had the largest percentage decrease at 16.53%, and Mid & East Antrim LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 1.54%**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the largest percentage increase at 18.98%, and Ards & North Down LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 0.37% (see Prosperity Figure 42)**

Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18, the percentage share of Northern Ireland's pupil suspensions, however, increased in six LGDs and decreased in five, including Belfast (see Prosperity Figure 42).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 42:

Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's pupil suspensions by LGD, academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18



Source: NINIS: "Pupil Suspensions (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2017/18, Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland pupil suspensions, and it was about 2-3 times higher than that in eight of the other LGDs.

In academic year 2017/18, of all pupils suspended in Northern Ireland, just over 2 out of every 10 were in Belfast, compared with just over 1 in every 10 in Derry City & Strabane and in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, and less than 1 in every 10 in all other LGDs.

Between academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2017/18:

- The number of pupils suspended decreased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed
- Belfast's percentage share of Northern Ireland's pupils who were suspended decreased

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2017/18, in Belfast LGD, the groups of pupils most likely to be suspended were:

- Boys
- Pupils aged 13-14 years
- Pupils attending secondary (non-grammar) schools

In academic year 2017/18, among Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest numbers, and percentage shares of all pupils suspended from school in Northern Ireland.

In academic year 2017/18, among Belfast's DEAs, the groups of pupils most likely to be suspended were:

- Boys
- Pupils aged 13-14 years, except for Titanic DEA where it was pupils aged 11-12 years

In academic year 2017/18:

- Titanic DEA (Belfast East) had the highest percentage of pupils suspended out of all pupils in the DEA, followed by Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North), Oldpark (Belfast North), and Black Mountain (Belfast West)
- Oldpark DEA had the highest rate of suspensions for a particular population group – pupils aged 13-14 years – closely followed by Court DEA for the same population group

4.3 Primary pupils with special educational needs (SEN): SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5

IMPORTANCE

Special educational needs and disabilities can affect a child or young person's ability to learn, including their:

- behaviour or ability to socialise
- reading and writing
- ability to understand things
- concentration levels
- physical ability¹⁰³

A child is described as having special educational needs (SEN) if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than other children which calls for special educational provision to be made for them, that is additional to or otherwise different from provision that children of a similar age receive in an ordinary school. A child also has SEN if they have a disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, 19.3% of the school population had reported special educational need (SEN). Children with SEN or disabilities can thrive in mainstream schools with access to appropriate and effective support and educational provision.

The statutory responsibility for securing provision for pupils with SEN rests with schools and the Education Authority (EA), which are responsible under special education legislation for identifying, assessing and, in appropriate cases, making provision for children with SEN in their areas.

The quality of SEN services will contribute to the quality of education the child or young person receives and it can help to reduce or mitigate not only educational, but also social and health, inequalities.

In Northern Ireland, a Statement of SEN describes the child or young person's SEN, the provision and supports to help meet those needs, and the educational setting they should attend. The Statement of SEN is reviewed every year to ensure the provision continues to meet the child or young person's needs. The school has lead

103. Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND): Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

responsibility for providing support to the child or young person, which may be supplemented by EA SEN services and/or HSCT where relevant, as well as specific provisions funded by the EA.¹⁰⁴

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) published a Special Educational Needs report which highlighted that:

- **The number of children with SEN and the associated costs were continuing to rise**
- **Although the educational achievements of children with SEN were improving, there had been no strategic evaluation of the support provided to these children to ensure the best possible outcomes**
- **There were inconsistencies in the identification of children with SEN and unacceptable delays in the statementing process**

In the NIAO's "Impact Review of Special Educational Needs" published in 2020, it acknowledged that work was underway to address the initial recommendations, but that "significant issues identified in our 2017 report persist", including:

- **There is no evidence that schools are identifying children with SEN in a consistent and timely way**
- **Delays throughout the SEN process persist – in 2019/20, 85% of statements of SEN were issued outside the 26-week statutory limit**
- **The support provided has not been evaluated for effectiveness**
- **There is a need to review systematically SEN policies, processes, services, and funding model to ensure provision is sufficient to meet the needs of all children with SEN.**¹⁰⁵

DEFINITION

The legal definition of SEN refers to children with learning problems or disabilities that make it more difficult for them to learn than most children their age. If a pupil is believed to need extra support in school due to SEN, the EA carries out an assessment of their needs and provides a statement detailing the additional help to be provided at school.

104. <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/special-educational-needs-sen/statement-of-special-educational-needs> (Last accessed 25 August 2021)

105. 242135 NIAO Special Education Needs_Fnl Lw Rs (complete).pdf (niauditoffice.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 May 2022)

Stages of SEN

There are five stages of the SEN Code of Practice according to the level of support that children need to help them make progress in school:

- **Stage 1: Action Plan**
- **Stage 2: School Based Intervention**
- **Stage 3: School and External Help/Support**
- **Stage 4: Statutory Assessment**
- **Stage 5: Statement of Educational Need¹⁰⁶**

Information is collected separately about pupils assessed as being at SEN Stage 1-4 of the SEN Code of Practice, and pupils at SEN Stage 5, who have a Statement of Educational Need.

This indicator covers pupils in Years 1-7 and reception, and nursery class pupils in primary schools and preparatory departments.

Information is from the annual School Census, extracted from NINIS.

PROFILE FINDINGS

SEN Stage 1-4

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, 18.80% of primary pupils were assessed as Stage 1-4 SEN (5,975 pupils of 31,785 in Belfast LGD).

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 decreased by 3.7 percentage points, from 22.50% to 18.80%.

SEN Stage 5

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, 3.65% of primary pupils were assessed as SEN Stage 5, a Statement of Educational Need (1,160 pupils of 31,785 in Belfast LGD).

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5, remained almost the same at 3.64% in academic year 2014/15 and 3.65% in academic year 2019/20.

106. At the time of writing, the Department of Education is finalising a new Code of Practice which will replace the 1998 Code. In the new Code, schools will record children on the SEN register under three stages and not five. Stages of the Code of Practice | Education Authority Northern Ireland (eani.org.uk) (Last accessed 25 May 2022)

Differences by assembly area

SEN Stage 1-4

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4:

- Belfast North had the highest percentage at 21.64%, followed by Belfast West at 20.23%
- Belfast South had the lowest percentage at 12.65%, followed by Belfast East at 15.27% (see Prosperity Figure 43)

Between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 decreased in all Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast South had the largest percentage decrease at 26.32%, followed by Belfast West at 17.73%
- Belfast North had the smallest percentage decrease at 11.82%, followed by Belfast East at 15.96% (see Prosperity Figure 43)

SEN Stage 5

In academic year 2019/20, there was also variation across Belfast's assembly areas in the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5:

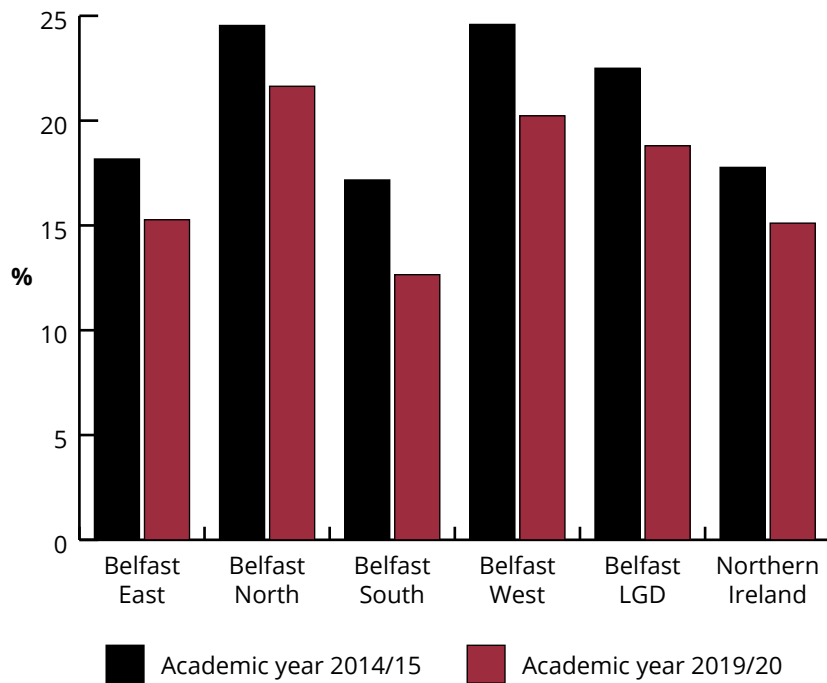
- Belfast West had the highest percentage at 4.15%, followed by Belfast North at 3.72%
- Belfast South had the lowest percentage at 3.00%, followed by Belfast East at 3.37% (see Prosperity Figure 44)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5:

- In Belfast East and Belfast North increased slightly
- In Belfast South and Belfast West decreased very slightly (see Prosperity Figure 44)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 43:

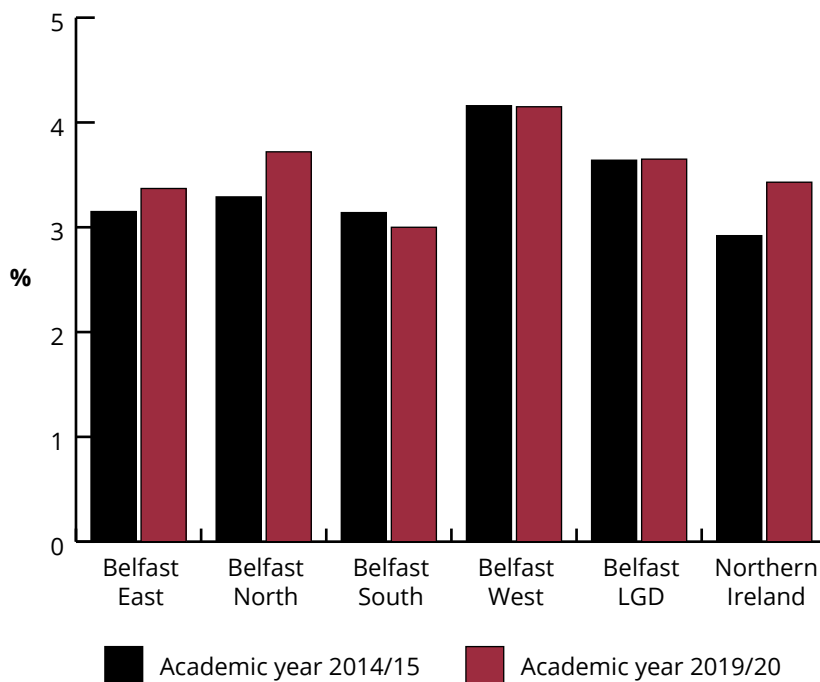
Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

PROSPERITY FIGURE 44:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5 in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

Differences by DEA

SEN Stage 1-4

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation across Belfast's DEAs in the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4:

- Oldpark DEA (Belfast North) had the highest percentage at 28.80%
- Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) had the lowest percentage at 10.14%
- The median value was 18.73% (see Prosperity Figure 45)

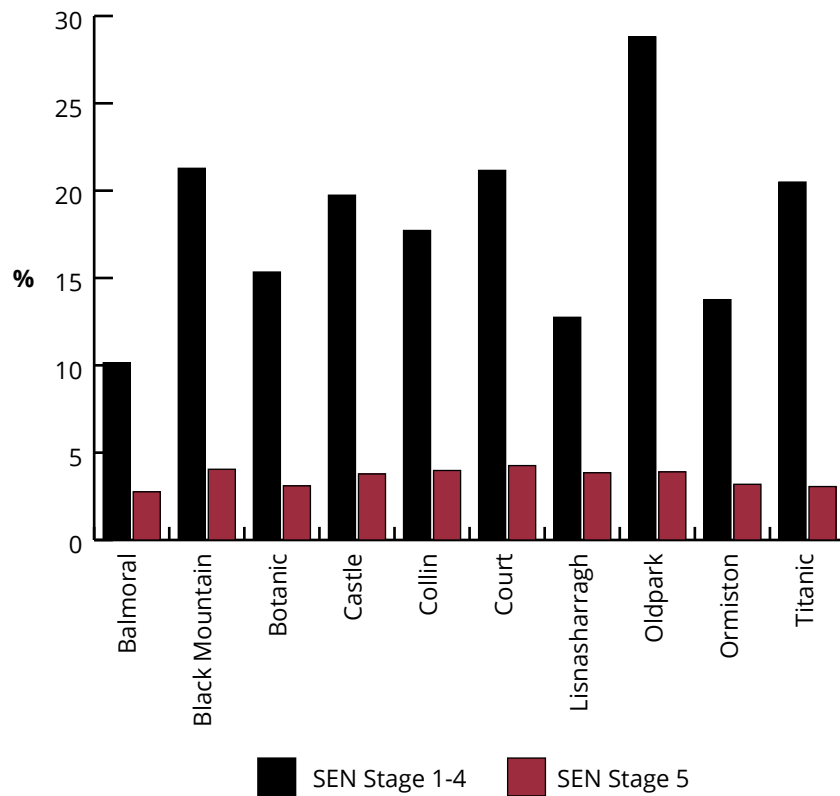
SEN Stage 5

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation across Belfast's DEAs in the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5:

- Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) had the highest percentage at 4.26%
- Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) had the lowest percentage at 2.76%
- The median value was 3.82% (see Prosperity Figure 45)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 45:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5 by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

SEN Stage 1-4

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 was 3.69 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 18.80% compared with 15.11%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 3.70 percentage points, from 22.50% to 18.80% (a percentage decrease of 16.44%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2.66 percentage points, from 17.77% to 15.11% (a percentage decrease of 14.97%)

SEN Stage 5

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5, was 0.22 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 3.65% compared with 3.43%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5:

- In Belfast LGD remained almost the same (3.64% and 3.65%, respectively – a percentage increase of 0.27%)
- In Northern Ireland increased by 0.51 percentage points, from 2.92% to 3.43% (a percentage increase of 17.47%)

Comparison with other LGDs

SEN Stage 1-4

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 at 18.80%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 12.58%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median value at 13.81% (see Prosperity Figure 46)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4 decreased in all LGDs.

SEN Stage 5

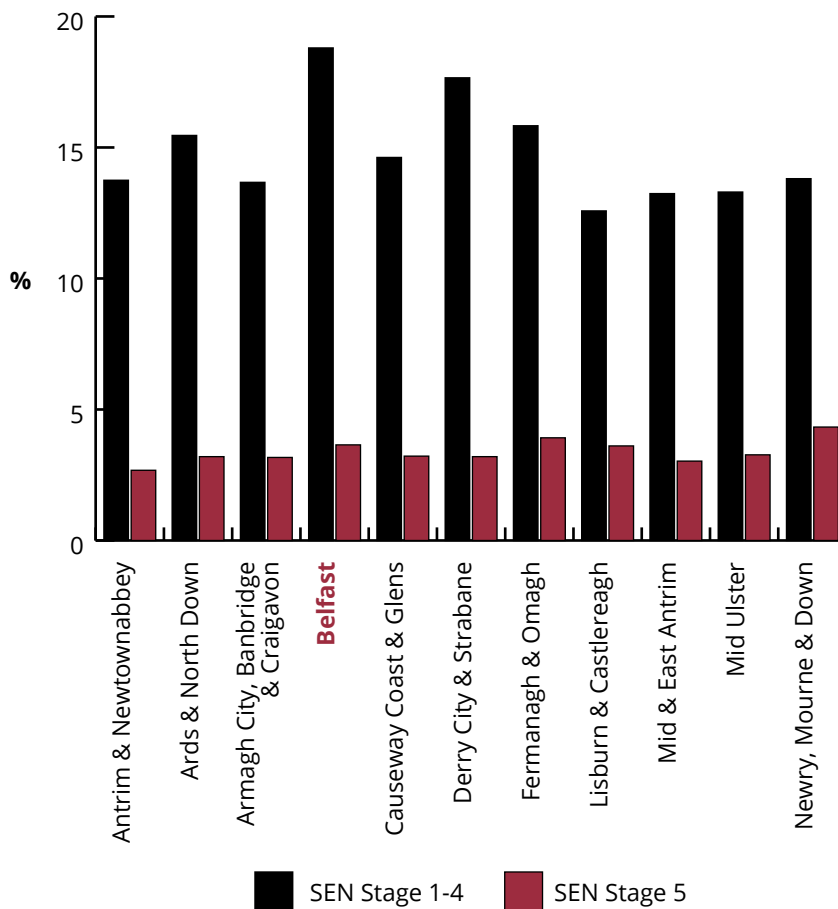
In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 5 at 3.65%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the highest percentage at 4.33%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the lowest percentage at 2.68%
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median value at 3.22% (see Prosperity Figure 46)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 5 increased in all LGDs; however, the increase in Belfast LGD was minimal at 0.01 percentage points, from 3.64% to 3.65% (a percentage increase of 0.27%).

PROSPERITY FIGURE 46:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with special educational needs, SEN Stage 1-4 and SEN Stage 5, by LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast had:

- A higher percentage of primary pupils with SEN Stage 1-4
- A slightly higher percentage of primary pupils with a Statement of Educational Need, SEN Stage 5

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with:

- SEN Stage 1-4 decreased in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed

- SEN Stage 5 almost remained the same in Belfast, but it increased in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed slightly

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 1-4
- The third highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 5

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20, Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest percentages of primary pupils with:

- SEN Stage 1-4
- SEN Stage 5

In academic year 2019/20, across Belfast's DEAs, the highest percentages of pupils with:

- SEN Stage 1-4 were in Oldpark (Belfast North), Black Mountain (Belfast West), Court (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North), and Titanic (Belfast East) DEAs
- SEN Stage 5 were in Court, Black Mountain, Collin (Belfast West), Oldpark, and Lisnasharragh (some of the DEA in Belfast East, some in Belfast South) DEAs

4.4 Newcomer pupils

IMPORTANCE

Inward migration to Northern Ireland has increased the diversity of the population, enriched cultural perspectives, and widened the range of languages spoken in schools.

In a study of newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland, it was found that while many newcomer pupils have adapted well and display average levels of emotional wellbeing, many have experienced a range of adversities that may negatively impact mental health. For future development, the authors recommend;

- Considering pre-existing stress and trauma, especially among refugees
- Respecting socio-cultural differences and perspectives
- Fostering relationships and collaboration
- Empowering and supporting schools¹⁰⁷

A steady growth in the enrolment of children from different countries in schools in Northern Ireland means additional resources are required to support the needs of newcomer pupils. In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, there were:

- 17,391 newcomer pupils, representing 5.07% of all pupils (n=342,700)
- 11,964 newcomer pupils in primary schools, representing 6.88% of all primary school pupils (n=173,856)¹⁰⁸

107. 'Sitting on a wobbly chair': mental health and wellbeing among newcomer pupils in Northern Irish schools: Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties: Vol 25, No 2 (tandfonline.com) (Last accessed 8 June 2022)

108. revised 3rd March 2020 - Annual enrolments at schools and in pre-schoolpdf (education-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

DEFINITION

A 'newcomer' pupil is defined as a child enrolled in a school who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum. Newcomer children's language skills are assessed each year. As the pupils learn and become fully integrated into the education system, the definition of a newcomer may no longer apply.

Information on newcomer pupils covers pupils attending:

- Voluntary and private pre-school centres (funded children only)
- Nursery schools
- Nursery classes and reception
- Primary schools and preparatory departments (Year 1-Year 7)
- Secondary (non-grammar) schools
- Grammar schools (Year 8-Year14)
- Special schools
- Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) centres¹⁰⁹

Information is from the annual School Census, extracted from NINIS. Profile Findings in academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD:

- There were 3,720 newcomer pupils, representing 21.39% of the newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland (see Prosperity Table 12)
- 2,650 (71.24%) of newcomer pupils were enrolled in primary schools

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of newcomer pupils increased by 1,200, from 2,520 to 3,720 (see Prosperity Table 12).

109. Data have been suppressed for special schools and EOTAS centres to avoid the identification of individual children due to small numbers

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the number of newcomer pupils across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast South had the highest number followed by Belfast North
- Belfast West had the lowest number, followed by Belfast East (see Prosperity Table 12)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the number of newcomer pupils increased across all Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast North had the largest increase in numbers, followed by Belfast South and Belfast West
- The smallest numerical increase was in Belfast East (see Prosperity Table 12)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in terms of a percentage increase in the number of newcomer pupils:

- Belfast West had the highest percentage increase, followed by Belfast North
- Belfast South had the lowest percentage increase, followed by Belfast East (see Prosperity Table 12)

PROSPERITY TABLE 12:

Number of newcomer pupils in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20

Assembly area	Number of newcomer pupils		
	2014/15	2019/20	Percentage increase
Belfast East	605	790	30.58%
Belfast North	580	985	69.83%
Belfast South	1,390	1,780	28.06%
Belfast West	265	645	143.40%
Belfast LGD	2,520	3,720	47.62%
Northern Ireland	11,900	17,390	46.13%

Source: NINIS: "Newcomers (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of newcomer pupils in primary school was higher by 2.44 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 71.24% compared with 68.80%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the number of newcomer pupils increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1,200, from 2,520 to 3,720 (a percentage increase of 47.62%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5490, from 11,900 to 17,390 (a percentage increase of 46.13%; see Prosperity Table 13)

Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest number of newcomer pupils, representing 21.39% of the newcomer pupils for Northern Ireland
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the lowest number at 440, representing 2.53% of newcomer pupils for Northern Ireland
- Antrim & Newtownabbey had the median number at 1,030, representing 5.93% of Northern Ireland's total (see Prosperity Table 13)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the number of newcomer pupils increased in all LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fifth highest percentage increase
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the largest increase
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the smallest percentage increase
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage increase at 45.16% (see Prosperity Table 13)

PROSPERITY TABLE 13:

Number of newcomer pupils in LGDs and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20

LGD	Number of newcomer pupils		
	2014/15	2019/20	Percentage increase
Antrim & Newtownabbey	665	1,030	54.89%
Ards & North Down	310	450	45.16%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	2,315	3,605	55.72%
Belfast	2,520	3,720	47.62%
Causeway Coast & Glens	560	565	0.89%
Derry City & Strabane	365	440	20.55%
Fermanagh & Omagh	695	915	31.65%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	715	955	33.57%
Mid & East Antrim	570	1,035	81.58%
Mid Ulster	2,175	3,065	40.92%
Newry, Mourne & Down	925	1,490	61.08%
Northern Ireland	11,900	17,390	46.13%

Source: NINIS: "Newcomers (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20:

- There were 3,720 newcomer pupils in Belfast
- Just over 2 out of every 10 of the newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland were in Belfast, similar to Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon
- 7 out of every 10 newcomer pupils in Belfast were primary school pupils, similar to Northern Ireland

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the number of newcomer pupils in Belfast increased by 1,200, the second highest numerical increase after Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, but the fifth highest percentage increase among LGDs.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20, the highest number of newcomer pupils was in Belfast South, which was double that in Belfast East and in Belfast West.

Although in academic year 2019/20 the smallest number of newcomer pupils was in Belfast West, the number of newcomer pupils in Belfast West more than doubled between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20.

4.5 Ethnicity of Pupils

IMPORTANCE

Inward migration to Northern Ireland has increased the diversity of the population, enriched cultural perspectives, and widened the range of languages spoken in schools.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, however, found that children from ethnic minority backgrounds face not only language barriers but also additional challenges accessing the curriculum, navigating academic selection for entry into grammar schools, bullying, racism, and hate crime.¹¹⁰

A higher percentage of minority ethnic pupils leave school with no GCSE qualifications in Northern Ireland when compared with all pupils.¹¹¹

Schools can create safe spaces for inclusive learning, the understanding of cultural and religious differences, and tolerance. At the time of writing, the Nuffield Foundation is funding research by Queen's University Belfast into the experiences of education among minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland (until April 2023).¹¹²

DEFINITION

Information is from the annual School Census by the Department of Education. Information about pupils in:

- **Belfast was a specific request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit at the Department of Education**
- **Northern Ireland is from Table 6a in 'Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2019-2020'**¹¹³

110. Burns S, Leitch R and Hughes J (2015) Education Inequalities in Northern Ireland. Belfast: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/EducationInequality-FullReportQUB.pdf> (Last accessed 6 September 2021)

111. <http://www.selb.org/equality/Documents/AuditofInequalities2ndEditionJune2012.pdf> (Last accessed 6 September 2021)

112. Experiences of education among minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland - Nuffield Foundation (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

113. revised 3rd March 2020 - Annual enrolments at schools and in pre-schoolpdf (education-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

In the annual School Census, categories for recording the ethnicity of pupils are:

- White
- Chinese
- Irish Traveller
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Black
- Other Ethnicity
- Mixed Ethnicity

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there were 59,836 pupils registered at school, 5,728 (9.6%) of whom were from a non-White ethnic group.

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, of the non-White ethnic groups recorded:

- The highest number of pupils were from the Mixed and Other ethnic groups combined
- The second highest number of pupils were of Black ethnicity
- Four of the ethnic groups comprised less than 800 pupils: Indian, Chinese, Irish Traveller, and Pakistani (see Prosperity Table 14)

PROSPERITY TABLE 14:

Number and percentage (%) of pupils from non-White ethnic groups registered at schools in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20

Non-White ethnic group	Pupils registered at schools in Belfast LGD		
	Number	As a percentage of pupils from non-White ethnic groups	As a percentage of all pupils
Chinese	527	9.2%	0.9%
Irish Traveller	122	2.1%	0.2%
Indian	768	13.4%	1.3%
Pakistani	104	1.8%	0.17%
Black	1,135	19.8%	1.9%
Mixed & Other ethnicity combined	3,047	53.2%	5.1%

Source: Specific data request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit, Department of Education

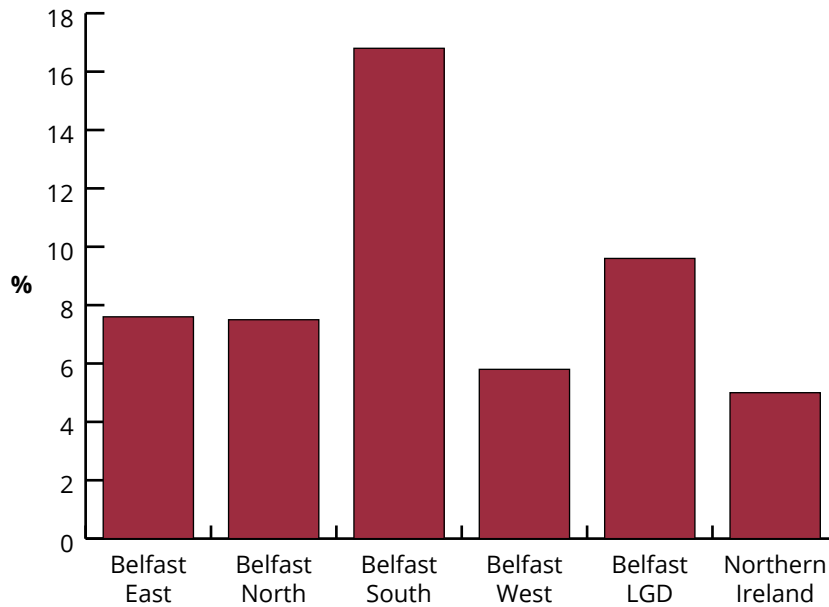
Differences by assembly area

In 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of pupils from non-White ethnic groups across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast South had the highest percentage
- Belfast West had the lowest percentage
- Belfast East and Belfast North had similar percentages (see Prosperity Figure 47)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 47:

Percentage (%) of pupils from non-White ethnic groups registered at schools in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/20



Source: Specific data request fulfilled by the Analytical Services Unit, Department of Education

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of pupils from non-White ethnic groups registered at schools was 4.6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 9.6% compared with 5.0%.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast, almost 1 in every 10 pupils registered at school was from a non-White ethnic group, whereas for Northern Ireland it was 1 in every 20 pupils.

In 2019/20, in Belfast, of the pupils from non-White ethnic groups:

- More than 5 out of every 10 were of mixed or other ethnicity
- 2 out of every 10 were from a Black ethnic group
- 1 in every 10 was of Chinese ethnicity
- More than 1 in every 10 were of Indian ethnicity

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019/20, Belfast South had the highest percentage of pupils from non-White ethnic groups, whereas Belfast West had the lowest. In Belfast South, almost 2 out of every 10 pupils were from a non-White ethnic group.

The percentage of pupils from non-White ethnic groups in Belfast South was nearly double that of Belfast LGD and more than triple that of Northern Ireland.

4.6 Free School Meal Entitlement: Primary Pupils

IMPORTANCE

Healthy eating contributes to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight and provides protection against chronic disease and premature mortality. Unhealthy eating early in life, particularly the over-consumption of energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods and drinks, as well as physical inactivity and a sedentary lifestyle, are predictors of overweight and obesity. Many other non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, osteoporosis, and hypertension, are also related to unhealthy eating habits and patterns formed during childhood. It is important to establish healthy eating behaviours early, as evidence shows that eating habits and patterns track into adulthood.¹¹⁴

In a Norwegian study, known as the “School Meal Project”, it was found that serving a free school meal for one year increased children’s intake of healthy foods, especially among children with lower socio-economic status and it was concluded the provision of free school meals could contribute to reducing health inequalities.¹¹⁵

The provision of free school meals in Northern Ireland is an important government policy to support the education of disadvantaged children.

DEFINITION

Free school meal entitlement is defined as when an application for free school meals is made on behalf of a pupil and the application is successful (which is different from eligibility – when a pupil within a family meets the criteria for free school meals – and uptake – when a pupil entitled to free school meal provision makes use of that provision and takes a free school meal).¹¹⁶

114. Teaching approaches and strategies that promote healthy eating in primary school children: a systematic review and meta-analysis | International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity | Full Text (biomedcentral.com) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)

115. Free school meals as an approach to reduce health inequalities among 10–12- year-old Norwegian children | BMC Public Health | Full Text (biomedcentral.com) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

116. School meals statistical bulletin - Apr 2020.PDF (education-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

Free school meal entitlement (FSME) is linked to the benefit system encompassing children in households in receipt of:

- **JSA or Income Support**
- **Working Tax Credits with an annual taxable income below £16,190 per year**
- **UC, earning less than £14,000 per year¹¹⁷**

This indicator covers pupils in Years 1-7 and Reception, and nursery class pupils in primary schools and preparatory departments.

Information is from the annual School Census and was extracted from NINIS.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of primary pupils with FSME was 45.79% (14,555 out of 31,785 pupils).

Between academic years 2016/17¹¹⁸ and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of primary pupils with FSME decreased by 1.68 percentage points, from 47.47% to 45.79%.

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of primary pupils with FSME across Belfast's assembly areas:

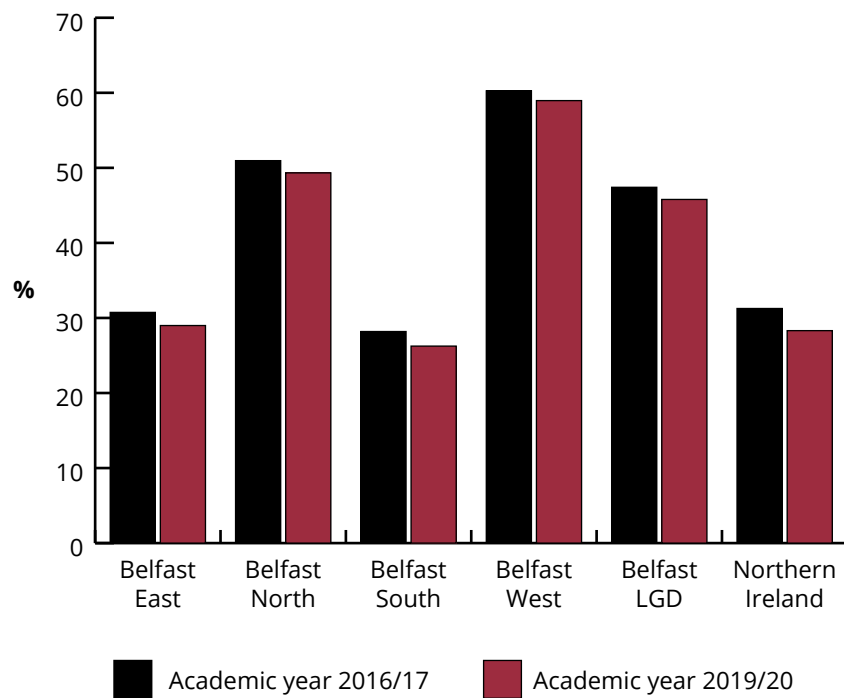
- **Belfast West had the highest percentage at 58.96%, followed by Belfast North**
- **Belfast South had the lowest percentage at 26.25%, followed by Belfast East (see Prosperity Figure 48)**

117. <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grant-eligibility> (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

118. There was a change in eligibility criteria for primary pupils in 2016; as such, any time-trend comparison before academic year 2016/17 would have to have been treated with caution

PROSPERITY FIGURE 48:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

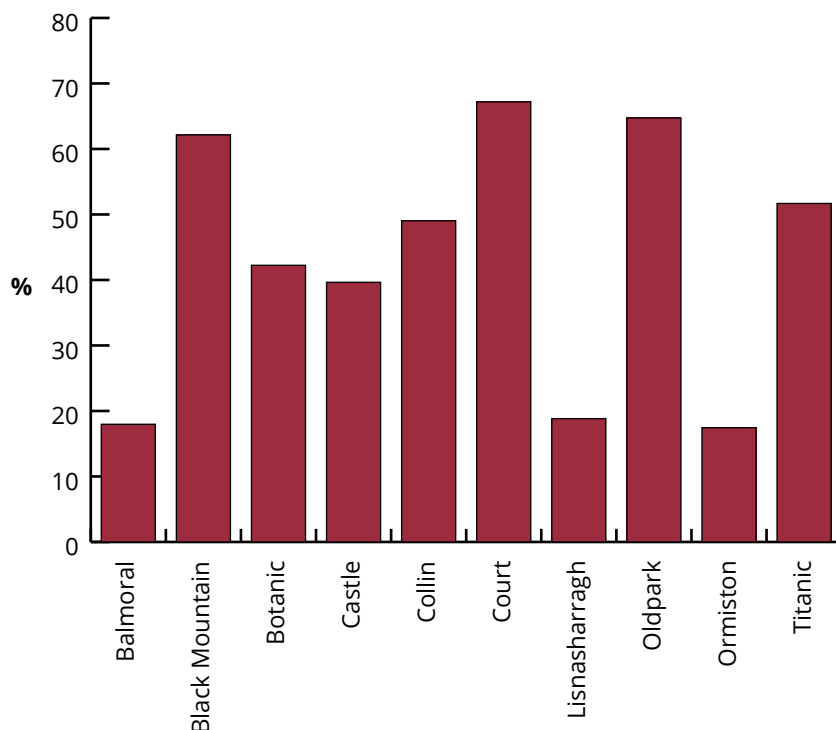
Differences by DEA

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of primary pupils with FSME across DEAs in Belfast LGD:

- Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) had the highest percentage at 67.19%
- Ormiston DEA (Belfast East) had the lowest percentage at 17.45%
- The median value was 45.64% (see Prosperity Figure 49)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 49:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of primary pupils with FSME was 17.48 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 45.79% compared with 28.31%.

Between academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of primary pupils with FSME decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1.62 percentage points, from 47.41% to 45.79% (a percentage decrease of 3.42%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2.95 percentage points, from 31.26% to 28.31% (a percentage decrease of 9.44%; see Prosperity Figure 50)

Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

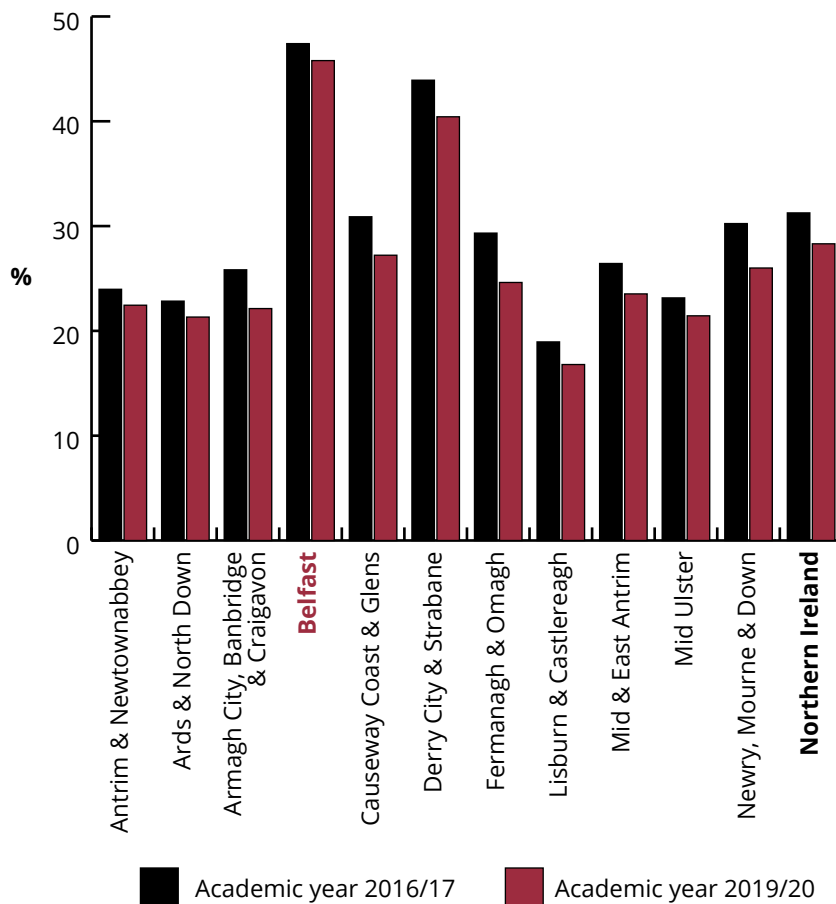
- **Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of primary pupils with FSME at 45.79%**
- **Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage 16.79%**
- **Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median value at 23.53% (see Prosperity Figure 50)**

Between academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of pupils with FSME decreased in all LGDs:

- **Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage decrease at 3.42%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the largest percentage decrease at 16.06%**
- **Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median percentage decrease at 10.97% (see Prosperity Figure 50)**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 50:

Percentage (%) of primary pupils with FSME by LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "Primary Pupils (administrative geographies" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast, between 4 and 5 out of every 10 primary school pupils had FSME, whereas it was almost 3 in every 10 in Northern Ireland.

Between academic year 2016/17 and academic year 2019/20, in both Belfast and Northern Ireland, the percentage of primary pupils with FSME decreased, but the percentage decrease was smaller in Belfast than that for Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened.

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the highest percentage of primary pupils with FSME, which was 18-29 percentage points higher than all other LGDs apart from Derry City & Strabane. Furthermore, between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20, Belfast had one of the smallest percentage decreases in primary pupils with FSME among LGDs.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20, the highest percentages of primary pupils with FSME were in Belfast West and Belfast North:

- In Belfast West, 6 out of every 10 primary pupils had FSME
- In Belfast North, 5 out of every 10 primary pupils had FSME

In academic year 2019/20, the percentage of pupils with FSME was highest in Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North), Oldpark DEA (Belfast North), Black Mountain DEA (Belfast West), Titanic DEA (Belfast East), and Collin DEA (Belfast West).

- In Court and Oldpark DEAs, between 6 and 7 out of every 10 primary pupils had FSME
- In Black Mountain DEA, just over 6 out of every 10 primary pupils had FSME
- In Titanic and Collin DEAs, about 5 out of every 10 primary pupils had FSME

4.7 School Leavers Achieving At Least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

IMPORTANCE

The contribution of education to long term health is:

- Both potentiating and protective; it can trigger healthier futures, mitigate social stressors, and provide access to employment opportunities and life chances that could protect individuals from later-life disadvantage
- The single most important modifiable social determinant of health¹¹⁹

The General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSEs) are national examinations, usually taken by pupils at the end of 12 years of compulsory schooling (Key Stage 4). Grades A*-C at GCSE including the core subjects of English and Maths, or equivalent, are known as Level 2 qualifications.

DEFINITION

The percentage of school leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths is collected in November each year.

Information is from NINIS.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths was 69.70%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased by 9.55 percentage points, from 60.15% to 69.70%.

119. How do our education and skills influence our health? (Last accessed 6 June 2022)

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths across Belfast's assembly areas:

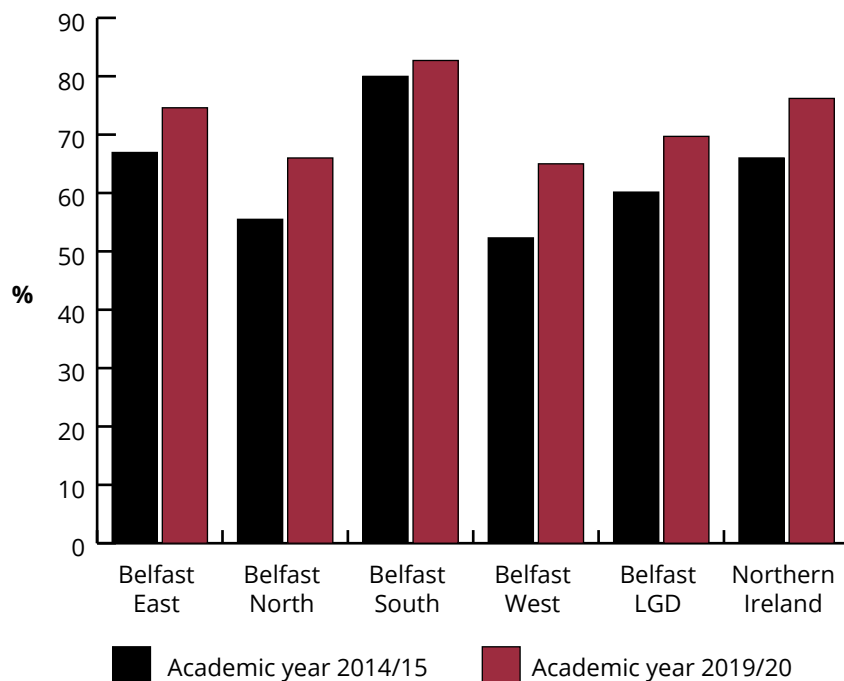
- Belfast South had the highest percentage at 82.70%, followed by Belfast East at 74.6%
- Belfast West had the lowest percentage 65.00%, closely followed by Belfast North at 66.00% (see Prosperity Figure 51)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased in all Belfast's assembly areas, but the percentage increase varied:

- Belfast West had the largest percentage increase at 24.26%, followed by Belfast North at 18.94%
- Belfast South had the smallest percentage increase at 3.40%, followed by Belfast East at 11.44% (see Prosperity Figure 51)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 51:

Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

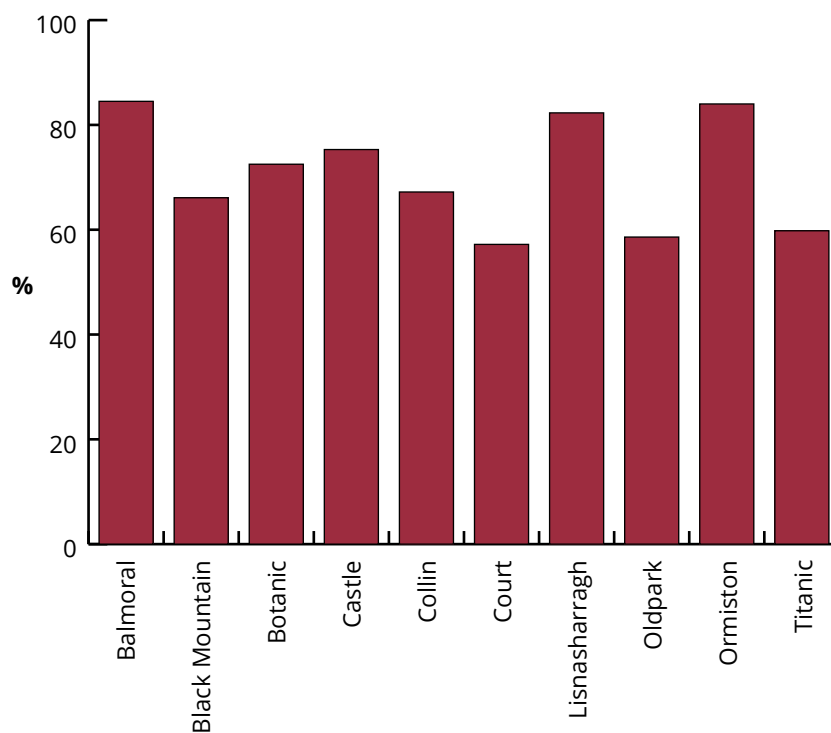
Differences by DEA

In academic year 2019/20, within Belfast LGD, there was variation in the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths among DEAs:

- Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) had the highest percentage at 84.5%
- Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) had the lowest percentage at 57.2%
- The median value was 69.85% (see Prosperity Figure 52)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 52:

Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers DEA (administrative geographies)" Excel spreadsheet

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths was 6.5 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 69.70% compared with 76.20%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic 2019/20, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 9.55 percentage points, from 60.15% to 69.70% (a percentage increase of 15.88%)
- In Northern Ireland by 10.20 percentage points, from 66.00% to 76.20% (a percentage increase of 15.45%; see Prosperity Figure 51)

Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

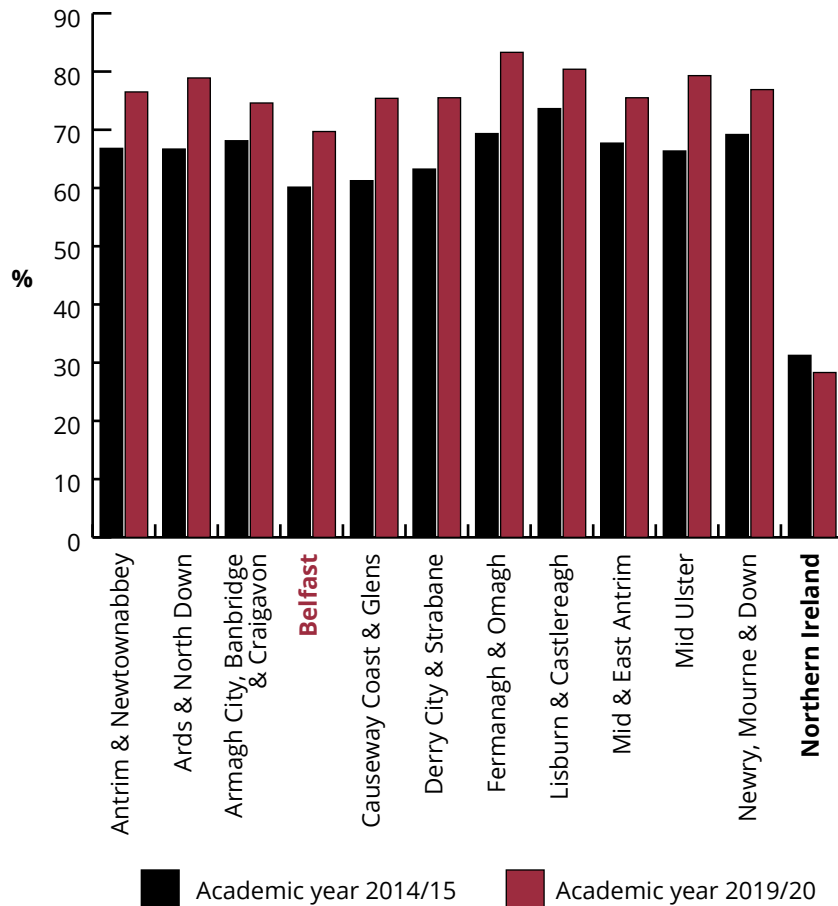
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths 69.70%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 83.30%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey had the median value at 76.5% (see Prosperity Figure 53)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased across LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the median value percentage increase at 15.88%
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the largest percentage increase at 23.08%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh had the smallest percentage increase at 9.18% (see Prosperity Figure 53)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 53:

Percentage (%) of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: School Leavers (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast, 7 out of every 10 school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, compared with between 7 and 8 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland, and just over 8 out of every 10 in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and 8 out of every 10 in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD.

In academic year 2019/20 Belfast had the lowest percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths among LGDs.

Between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20 the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland to very similar extent, meaning that the gap between the two remained very similar.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20, Belfast West and Belfast North had the lowest percentages of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, however, the greatest percentage increases in school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths were in Belfast West, followed by Belfast North.

In academic year 2019/20, within Belfast, the DEAs with the lowest percentages of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grade A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths were Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North), Oldpark DEA (Belfast North), and Titanic DEA (Belfast East), all of which were more than 20 percentage points lower than the percentages in Balmoral DEA (Belfast South), Ormiston DEA (Belfast East) and Lisnasharragh DEA (part of the DEA in Belfast East, and part in Belfast South).

4.8 Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) School Leavers: achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

IMPORTANCE

The relationship between deprivation and education is pivotal in understanding the impact deprivation has on later outcomes in adulthood. There is a pathway from childhood poverty to reduced employment opportunities, with earnings estimated to be reduced by between 15% and 28%, and the probability of being in employment at age 34 years reduced by between 4% and 7%. People with lower earnings lack skills and qualifications: deprivation has a negative impact on educational attainment, leaving young people with fewer qualifications and skills, which in turn affects future employment. Poor educational attainment has short- and longer-term consequences.

- **Direct effects on health include quality of diet, and the probability of smoking**
- **Indirect effects on health include the likelihood of lower-skilled people finding employment in hazardous occupations with an increased risk of accidents**

Education affects life expectancy: one more year of education has been shown to increase life expectancy in the United States by as much as 1.7 years. Lower levels of educational achievement can also affect an individual's engagement with society.¹²⁰

DEFINITION

The percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths is collected in November each year for both FSME pupils and non-FSME pupils.

Information is from NINIS.

120 Deprivation and Education. The evidence on pupils in England Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4. Department for Children, Schools and Families. 1 (ioe.ac.uk) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths was 52.40%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased by 16.88 percentage points, from 35.52% to 52.40%.

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths across Belfast's assembly areas:

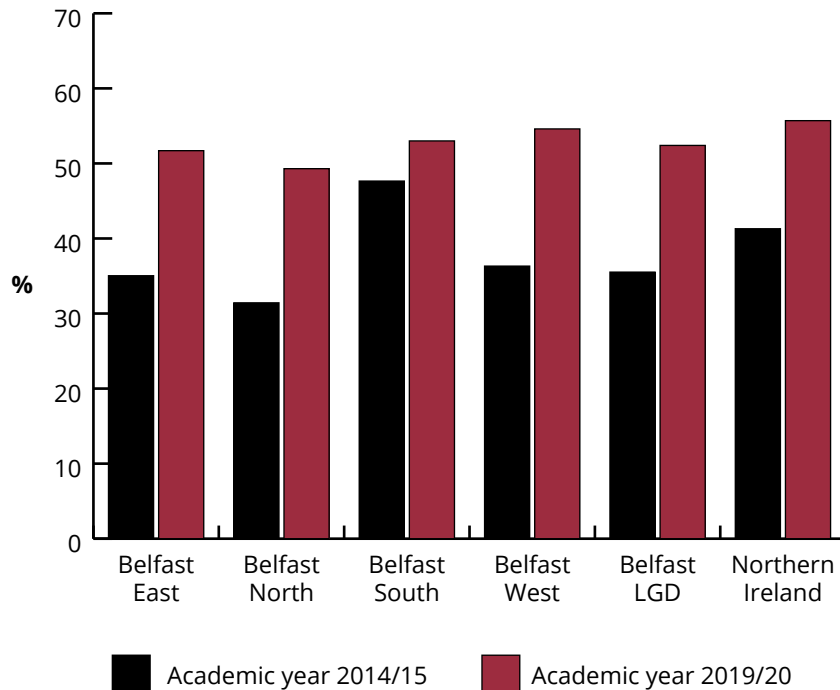
- **Belfast West had the highest percentage at 54.60%, followed by Belfast South at 53.00%**
- **Belfast North had the lowest percentage at 49.30%, followed by Belfast East at 51.70% (see Prosperity Figure 54)**

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic 2019/20, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased across Belfast's assembly areas, but the percentage increase varied:

- **Belfast North had the largest percentage increase at 56.86%, followed by Belfast West at 50.33% and Belfast East at 47.55%**
- **Belfast South had the lowest percentage increase at 11.23% (see Prosperity Figure 54)**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 54:

Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers Free School Meals Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

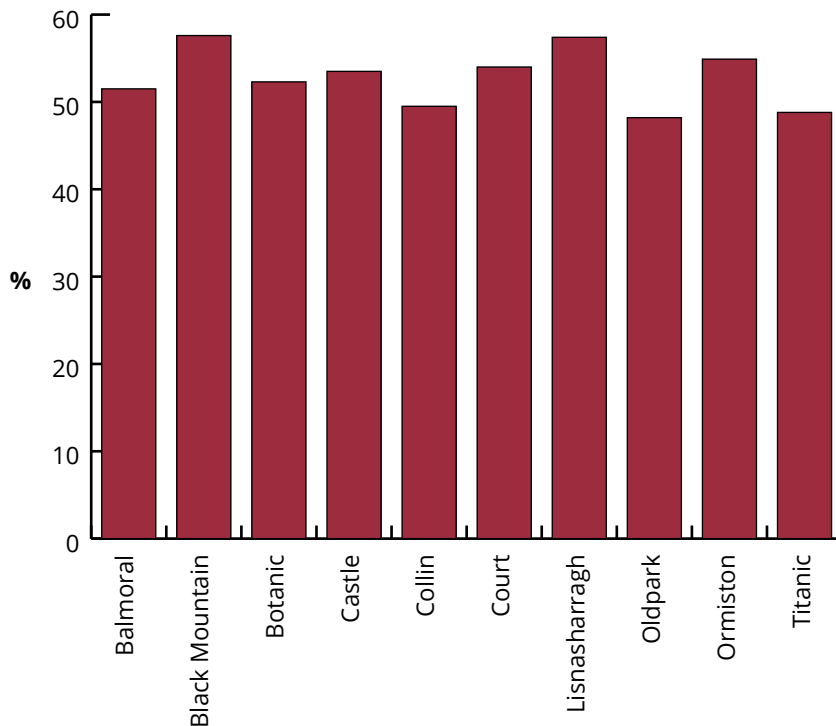
Differences by DEA

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths across Belfast's DEAs.

- Black Mountain DEA had the highest percentage at 57.60%
- Oldpark DEA had the lowest percentage at 48.20%
- The median value was 52.90% (see Prosperity Figure 55)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 55:

Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: School Leavers DEA Free School Meal Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths was 3.30 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 52.40% compared with 55.70%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 16.88 percentage points, from 35.52% to 52.40% (a percentage increase of 47.52%)
- In Northern Ireland by 14.40 percentage points, from 41.30% to 55.70% (a percentage increase of 34.87%; see Prosperity Figure 54)

Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

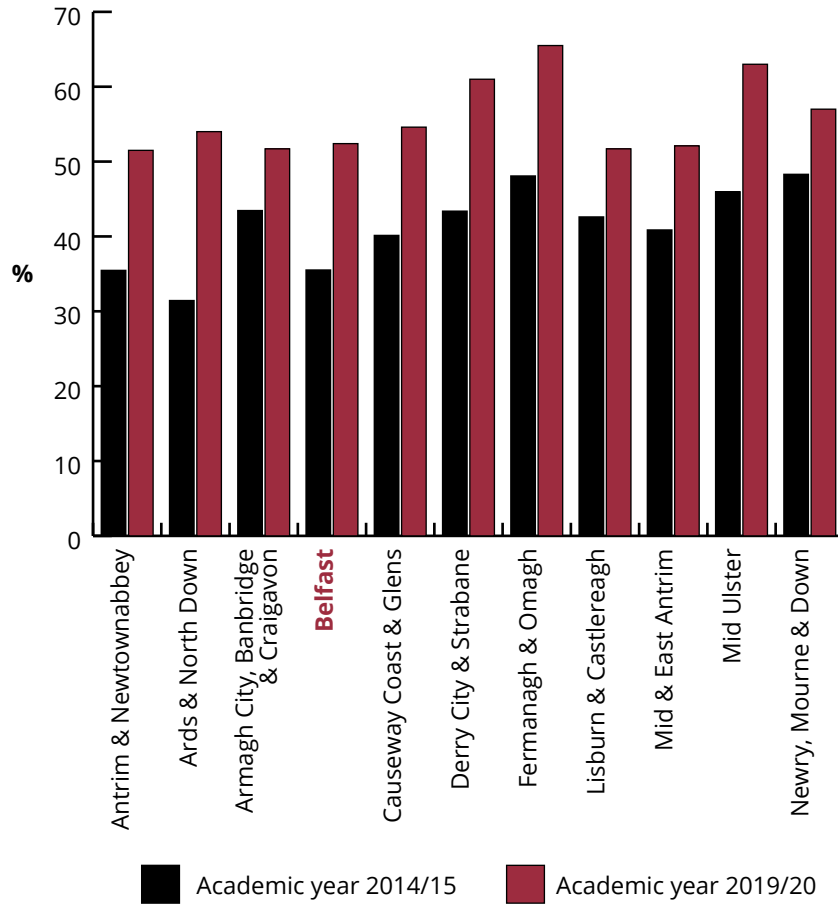
- **Belfast LGD had the fifth lowest percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths at 52.40%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 65.50%**
- **Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the lowest percentage at 51.50%,**
- **Ards & North Down LGD had the median value at 54.00% (see Prosperity Figure 56)**

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths increased across all LGDs, but the percentage increase varied:

- **Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage increase of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths at 47.52%**
- **Ards & North Down LGD had the highest percentage increase at 71.76%**
- **Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest percentage increase at 18.01%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the median percentage increase at 36.23% (see Prosperity Figure 56)**

PROSPERITY FIGURE 56:

Percentage (%) of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers Free School Meals Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast, just over 5 out of every 10 FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths, compared with between 5 and 6 out of every 10 FSME school leavers in Northern Ireland.

Between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths increased in Belfast LGD and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase in Belfast was greater than that in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed.

In academic year 2019/20, Belfast had the fifth lowest percentages of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths. In Fermanagh & Omagh, between 6 and 7 out of every 10 FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths compared with just over 5 out of every 10 in Belfast.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20, the lowest percentages of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths were in Belfast North and Belfast East.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths increased in all Belfast's assembly areas, however, the smallest percentage increase was in Belfast South, and the largest percentage increase was in Belfast North, closely followed by Belfast West and Belfast East.

In academic year 2019/20, Oldpark DEA (Belfast North), Titanic DEA (Belfast East) and Collin DEA (Belfast West) had the lowest percentages of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths.

4.9 Difference between Non-FSME and FSME School Leavers: achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

IMPORTANCE

The relationship between deprivation and education is pivotal in understanding the impact deprivation has on later outcomes in adulthood. There is a pathway from childhood poverty to reduced employment opportunities, with earnings estimated to be reduced by between 15% and 28%, and the probability of being in employment at age 34 years reduced by between 4% and 7%. People with lower earnings lack skills and qualifications: deprivation has a negative impact on educational attainment, leaving young people with fewer qualifications and skills, which in turn affects future employment. Poor educational attainment has short- and longer-term consequences.

Direct effects on health include quality of diet, and the probability of smoking. Indirect effects on health include the likelihood of lower-skilled people finding employment in hazardous occupations with an increased risk of accidents. Education affects life expectancy: one more year of education has been shown to increase life expectancy in the United States by as much as 1.7 years. Lower levels of educational achievement can also affect an individual's engagement with society.¹²¹

DEFINITION

The percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths is collected in November each year for both FSME pupils and non-FSME pupils.

Information is from NINIS.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths was 29.2 percentage points, 81.6% compared with 52.4%.

121. Deprivation and Education. The evidence on pupils in England Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4. Department for Children, Schools and Families. 1 (ioe.ac.uk) (Last accessed 6 June 2022)

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths decreased by 8.2 percentage points, from 37.4 to 29.2 percentage points.

Differences by assembly area

In academic year 2019/20, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths varied across Belfast's assembly areas:

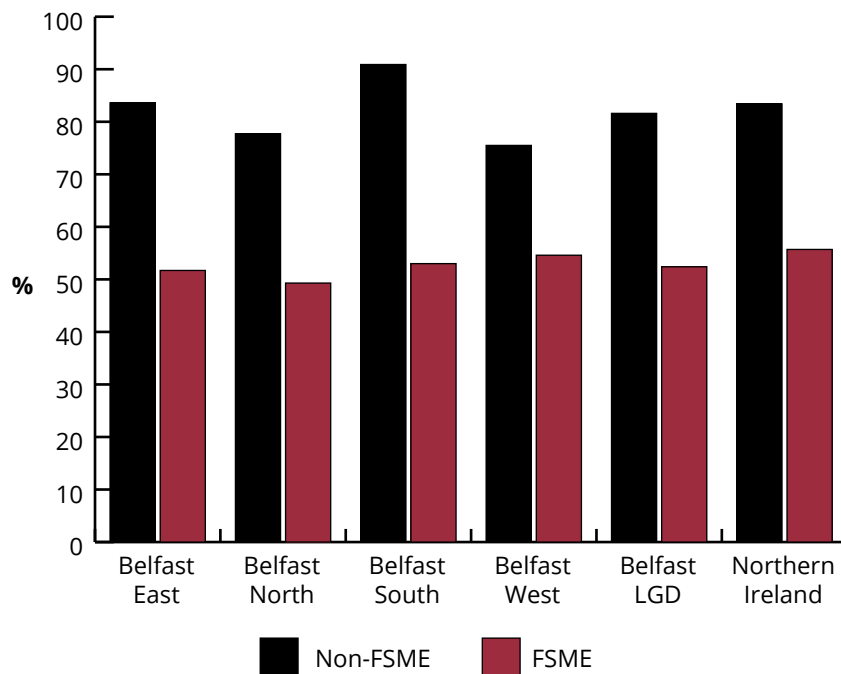
- **Belfast South had the largest percentage-point difference at 37.9 percentage points, followed by Belfast East**
- **Belfast West had the smallest percentage-point difference at 20.9 percentage points, followed by Belfast North (see Prosperity Figure 57)**

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic 2019/20, the difference between percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths decreased across Belfast's assembly areas: Belfast East had the largest numerical decrease in percentage-point difference at 9.95 percentage points, but Belfast West had the largest percentage decrease in percentage-point difference at 28.08%

Belfast South had the smallest decrease in percentage-point difference at 0.34 percentage points and the smallest percentage decrease in percentage-point difference at 0.89%

PROSPERITY FIGURE 57:

Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers Free School Meal Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

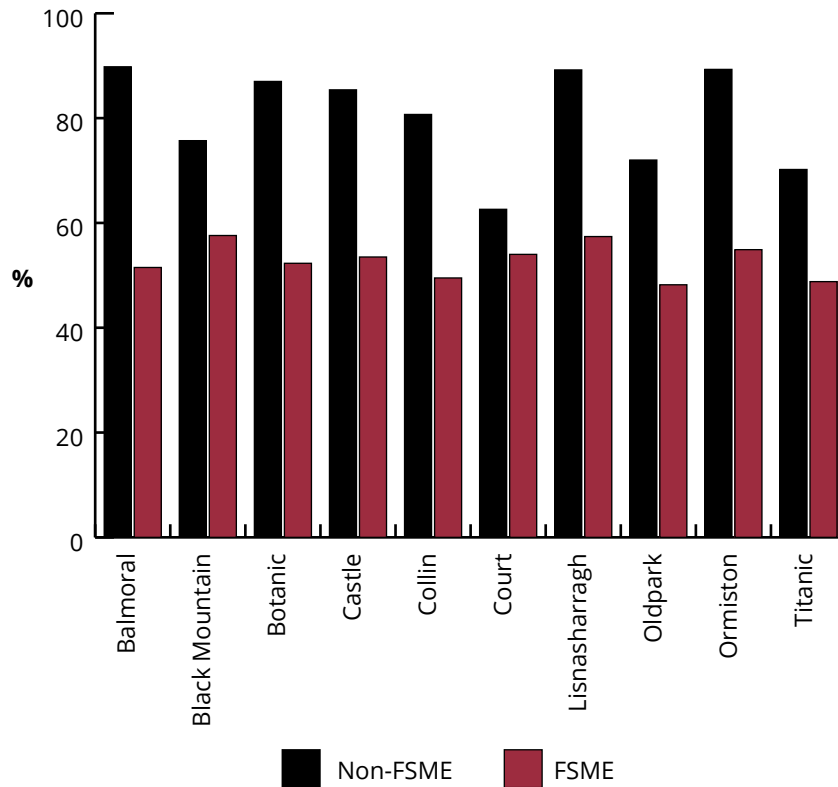
Differences by DEA

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation in the differences between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths across Belfast's DEAs:

- Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) had the largest percentage-point difference at 38.3 percentage points
- Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North) had the smallest percentage-point difference at 8.6 percentage points
- The median percentage-point difference was 31.5 percentage points (see Prosperity Figure 58)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 58:

Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers DEA Free School Meal Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

KEY COMPARISONS**Comparison with Northern Ireland**

In academic year 2019/20, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of non-FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths:

- In Belfast LGD was 29.20 percentage points, 81.60% compared with 52.40%
- In Northern Ireland was 27.70 percentage points, 83.40% compared with 55.70% (see Prosperity Figure 57)
- Thus, the percentage point difference was 1.5 percentage points larger in Belfast LGD, 29.20% compared with 27.70%.

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 8.2 percentage points, from 37.4 to 29.2 percentage points (a percentage decrease of 21.92%)
- In Northern Ireland by 4.7 percentage points, from 32.4 to 27.7 percentage points (a percentage decrease of 14.51%; see Prosperity Figure 57)

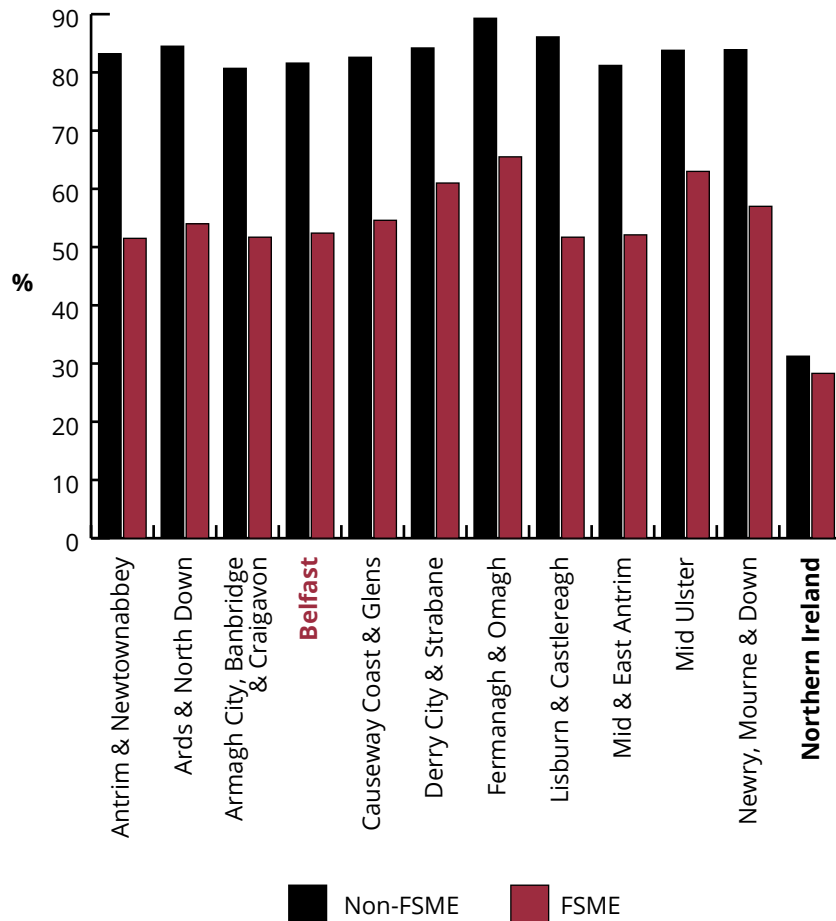
Comparison with other LGDs

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth largest percentage-point difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths at 29.2 percentage points
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the largest percentage-point difference at 34.4 percentage points
- Mid Ulster LGD had the smallest percentage-point difference at 20.8 percentage points
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage-point difference at 29.0 percentage points (see Prosperity Figure 59)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 59:

Difference between the percentages (%) of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers Free School Meal Entitlement (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast, there was a large difference between the percentage of FSME and non-FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths of almost 30 percentage points:

- In Belfast, just over 5 out of every 10 FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths compared with just over 8 out of every 10 non-FSME school leavers
- In Northern Ireland, between 5 and 6 out of every 10 FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths compared with over 8 out of every 10 non-FSME school leavers

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, the difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, however, the percentage decrease in Belfast was larger than that in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two decreased.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20:

- Across assembly areas, Belfast South had the largest percentage-point difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Across DEAs, Balmoral (Belfast South) had the largest percentage-point difference between the percentages of non-FSME and of FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

4.10 School Leavers' Destinations

IMPORTANCE

It is important to monitor school leavers' destinations. The information can be used to target adequate support, such as further training, education, or employment, for young people who need help entering and sustaining a 'positive' destination.

DEFINITION

Information on the highest qualifications and destinations of school leavers from grammar and secondary schools in Northern Ireland is collected according to the numbers entering:

- Higher education
- Further education
- Employment
- Training
- Unemployment/destination unknown

Information is from the Department of Education.¹²²

PROFILE FINDINGS

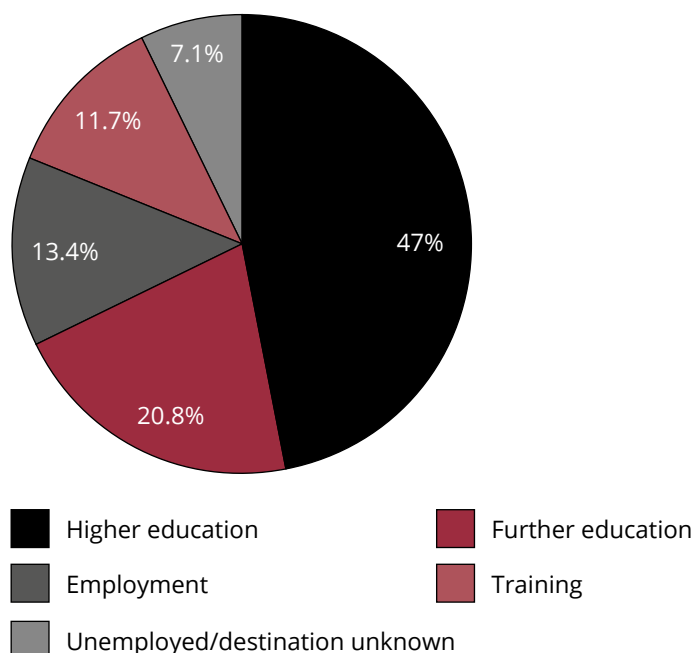
For the academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there were 3,212 school leavers:

- The highest percentage entered higher education, and the next highest percentage entered further education
- Lower percentages entered employment or enrolled in training
- The smallest percentage became unemployed or their destination was unknown (see Prosperity Figure 60)

122. School Leavers – 2019/20 statistical bulletin | Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 May 2022)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 60:

Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



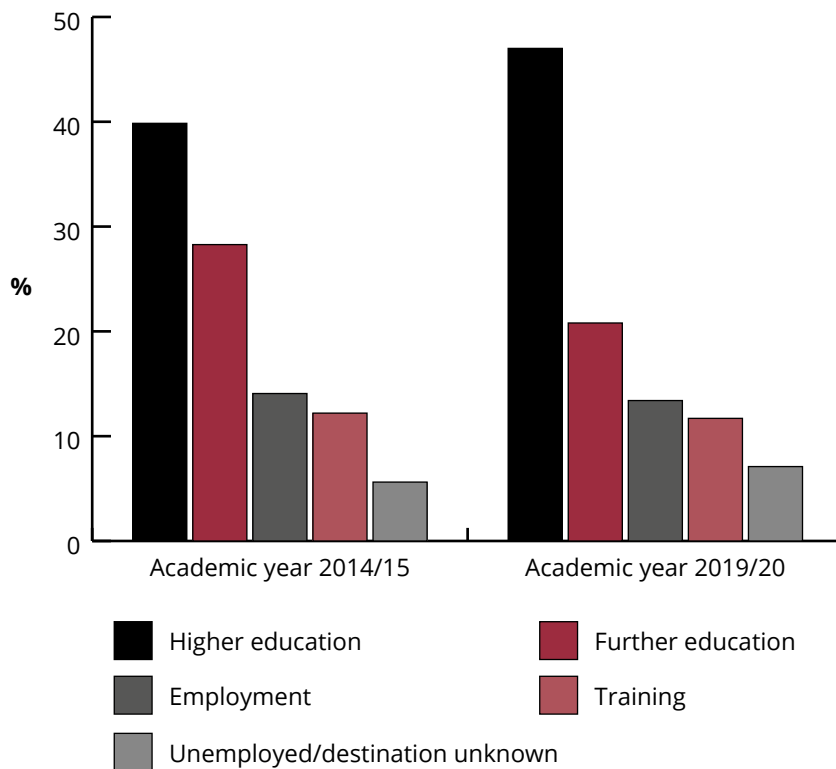
Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of school leavers entering:

- Entering higher education increased (by 7.15 percentage points, from 39.85% to 47.00%), as did the percentage becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown (by 1.48 percentage points, from 5.62% to 7.10%)
- Entering further education decreased (by 7.48 percentage points, from 28.28% to 20.80%), as did the percentages entering employment (by 0.67 percentage points, from 14.07% to 13.40%), and enrolling in training (by 0.5 percentage points, from 12.20% to 11.70%; see Prosperity Figure 61)

The percentage increase in school leavers entering higher education between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20 appears to have been associated with a percentage decrease in school leavers entering further education.

PROSPERITY FIGURE 61:

Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast LGD, academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS "School Leavers (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

Differences by assembly area

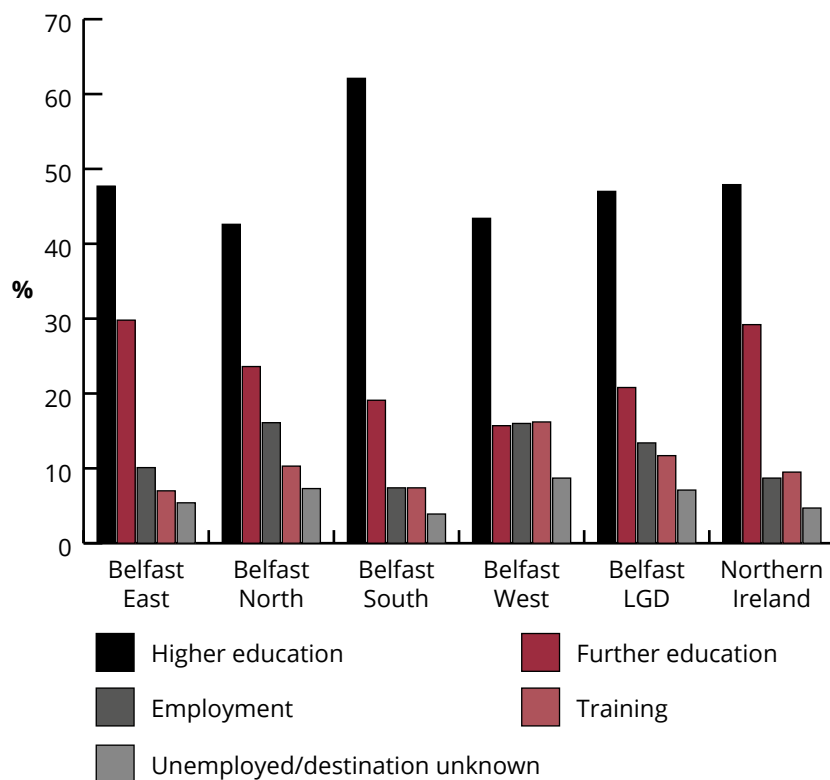
In academic year 2019/20, there was variation across Belfast's assembly areas in school leavers' destinations:

- Belfast South had the highest percentage entering higher education at 62.1%, whereas Belfast North and Belfast West had the lowest percentages at 42.6% and 43.4%, respectively
- Belfast East had the highest percentage entering further education at 29.8%, and Belfast West had the lowest percentage at 15.7%
- Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest percentages entering employment at 16.1% and 16.0%, respectively, whereas it was lowest in Belfast South at 7.4%
- Belfast West had the highest percentage enrolling in training at 16.2%, whereas it was lowest in Belfast East and Belfast South at 7.0% and 7.4%, respectively

- Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentages becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown at 8.7% and 7.3%, respectively, whereas it was lowest in Belfast South at 3.9% (see Prosperity Figure 62)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 62:

Percentage (%) of school leavers by destinations in Belfast’s assembly areas, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS “School Leavers (administrative geographies)” Pivot Table

Between academic year 2014/15 and academic year 2019/20, there were changes in school leavers’ destinations across Belfast’s assembly areas:

- In all assembly areas, the percentage of school leavers who entered higher education increased – the greatest increase was in Belfast North
- In all assembly areas, the percentage who entered further education decreased – the greatest decrease was in Belfast North
- Belfast South and Belfast North had slight increases in the percentage who entered employment, but in Belfast West and Belfast East there were slight decreases

- Belfast South and Belfast North had increases in the percentage who enrolled in training, but there was a decrease in Belfast West and Belfast East
- Belfast East, Belfast West, and Belfast South all had an increase in the percentage who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown, whereas this percentage decreased slightly in Belfast North (see Prosperity Table 15)

PROSPERITY TABLE 15:

School leavers' destinations (%) in Belfast's assembly areas, Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland, academic year 2019/2021 (data for academic year 2014/15 is in square brackets)

Geographical area	School leavers' destination (%)				
	Higher education	Further education	Employment	Training	Unemployment or unknown
Belfast East	47.70% [43.52%]	29.80% [34.30%]	10.10% [10.79%]	7.00% [8.48%]	5.40% [2.91%]
Belfast North	42.60% [31.12%]	23.60% [36.15%]	16.10% [15.83%]	10.30% [9.44%]	7.30% [7.46%]
Belfast South	62.10% [58.82%]	19.10% [26.97%]	7.40% [6.85%]	7.40% [4.56%]	3.90% [2.80%]
Belfast West	43.40% [36.34%]	15.70% [21.47%]	16.00% [17.14%]	16.20% [17.80%]	8.70% [7.25%]
Belfast LGD	47.00% [39.85%]	20.80% [28.28%]	13.40% [14.07%]	11.70% [12.20%]	7.10% [5.62%]
Northern Ireland	47.90% [42.30%]	29.20% [35.00%]	8.70% [8.40%]	9.50% [9.80%]	4.70% [4.50%]

Source: NINIS "School Leavers (administrative geographies)" Pivot Table

Differences by DEA

In academic year 2019/20, there was variation among DEAs in school leavers' destinations:

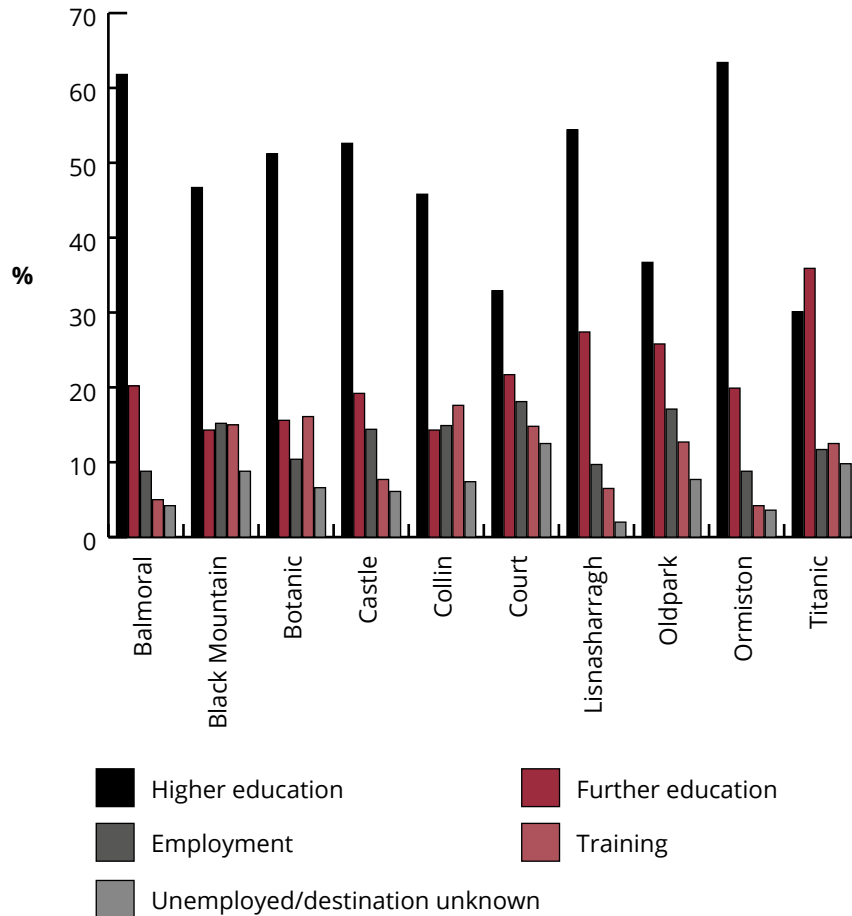
- Ormiston and Balmoral DEAs had the highest percentages entering higher education at 63.4% and 61.8%, respectively, whereas the lowest percentages were in Titanic, Court and Oldpark DEAs at 30.1%, 32.9%, and 36.7%, respectively
- Titanic, Lisnasharragh and Oldpark DEAs had the highest percentages entering further education, 35.9%, 27.4% and 25.8%, respectively,

whereas the lowest percentages were in Black Mountain and Collin DEAs both at 14.3%

- Court, Oldpark, and Black Mountain DEAs had the highest percentages entering employment, at 18.1%, 17.1%, and 15.2%, respectively, whereas the lowest percentages were in Balmoral and Ormiston DEAs both at 8.8%
- Collin, Botanic, Black Mountain and Court DEAs had the highest percentages enrolling in training, at 17.6%, 16.1%, 15.0% and 14.8%, respectively ¹²³
- Court, Titanic, and Black Mountain DEAs had the highest percentages becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown, at 12.5%, 9.8% and 8.8%, respectively, whereas the lowest percentages were in Lisnasharragh and Ormiston DEAs at 2.0% and 3.6%, respectively (see Prosperity Figure 63)

123. Source: NISRA-NINIS table "School Leavers DEA (administrative geographies)"

PROSPERITY FIGURE 63:
Percentage (%) of school leavers by destination by DEA in Belfast LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS: "School Leavers DEA (administrative geographies)" Excel Spreadsheet

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of school leavers in Belfast LGD who:

- Entered higher education was 0.9 percentage points lower, 47.00% compared with 47.90%
- Entered further education was 8.4 percentage points lower, 20.80% compared with 29.20%

- Entered employment was 4.7 percentage points higher, 13.40% compared with 8.70%
- Enrolled in training was 2.2 percentage points higher, 11.70% compared with 9.50%
- Became unemployed or whose destination was unknown was 2.4 percentage points higher, 7.10% compared with 4.70% (see Prosperity Figure 62)

Between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20, the percentage of school leavers:

- Entering higher education increased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase in Belfast was greater (17.94% compared with 13.24%) and the gap between the two narrowed
- Entering further education decreased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease in Belfast was greater (26.45% compared with 16.57%) and the gap between the two widened
- Entering employment decreased in Belfast but increased slightly in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed
- Enrolling in training decreased in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease in Belfast was greater (4.10% compared with 3.06%) and the gap between the two narrowed
- Becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown increased in Belfast and Northern Ireland but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast (26.33% compared with 4.44%) and the gap between the two widened (see Prosperity Table 14)

Comparison with other LGDs

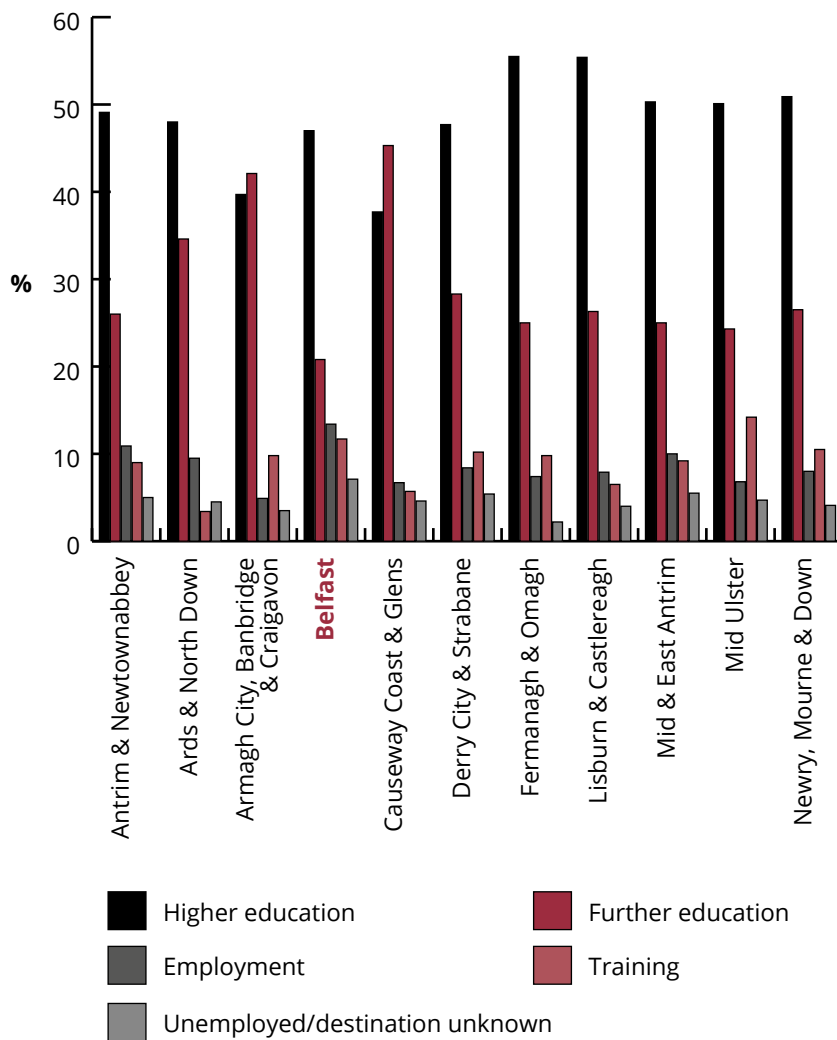
In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- The third lowest percentage of school leavers entering higher education at 47.0%; Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 55.5%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the lowest at 37.7%
- The lowest percentage of school leavers entering further education at 20.8%; Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the highest percentage at 45.3%

- The highest percentage of school leavers entering employment at 13.4%; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the lowest at 4.9%
- The second highest percentage of school leavers entering training at 11.7%; Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 14.2%, and Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest at 3.4%
- The highest percentage of school leavers who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown at 7.1%; Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest at 2.2% (see Prosperity Figure 64)

PROSPERITY FIGURE 64:

Percentage (%) of school leavers by destination and by LGD, academic year 2019/20



Source: NINIS “School Leavers (administrative geographies)” Pivot Table

HIGHLIGHTS

In academic year 2019/20, in Belfast:

- Almost 5 out of every 10 school leavers entered higher education
- 2 out of every 10 entered further education
- Over 1 out of every 10 entered employment
- 1 out of every 10 enrolled in training
- Less than 1 in every 10 were unemployed or their destination was unknown

Between academic years 2014/15 and 2019/20, in Belfast, the percentage of school leavers who:

- Entered higher education increased
- Entered further education decreased
- Entered employment decreased
- Entered training decreased
- Became unemployed or whose destination was unknown increased

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of school leavers in Belfast:

- Entering higher education was similar
- Entering further education was lower
- Entering employment was higher
- Enrolling in training was higher
- Becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown was higher

In academic year 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had relatively low percentages of school leavers entering higher and further education, and relatively high percentages of school leavers entering employment, and training, and who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown.

Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In academic year 2019/20:

- In Belfast North and Belfast West, just over 4 out of every 10 school leavers entered higher education compared with just over 6 out of every 10 in Belfast South
- In Belfast West, between 1 and 2 out of every 10 school leavers entered further education compared with 3 out of every 10 in Belfast East
- In Belfast North and Belfast West between 1 and 2 out of every 10 school leavers entered employment compared with less than 1 out of every 10 in Belfast South
- In Belfast West between 1 and 2 out of every 10 school leavers entered training compared with less than 1 out of every 10 in Belfast South and Belfast East

Belfast West and Belfast North had the highest percentages of school leavers who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown. The percentage in Belfast West was double that in Belfast South.

In academic year 2019/20:

- In Titanic DEA (Belfast East) and Court DEA (most of the DEA in Belfast West, some in Belfast North), 3 out of every 10 school leavers entered higher education compared with 6 out of every 10 in Ormiston and Balmoral DEAs
- In Titanic DEA, between 3 and 4 out of every 10 school leavers entered further education compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 school leavers in Black Mountain DEA (Belfast West) and Collin DEA ((Belfast West)
- In Court DEA, almost 2 in every 10 school leavers entered employment compared with almost 1 in every 10 in Balmoral DEA (Belfast South) and Ormiston DEA ((Belfast East)
- In Collin DEA, almost 2 in every 10 school leavers entered training compared with less than 1 in every 10 in Ormiston and Balmoral DEAs
- In Court, Titanic and Black Mountain DEAS, around 1 in every 10 school leavers became unemployed or their destination was unknown compared with much less than 1 in every 10 school leavers in Lisnasharragh (some of the DEA in Belfast East, some in Belfast South), Ormiston and Balmoral DEAs

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS FOR SOME DEAs

Titanic school leavers

- The lowest percentage entering higher education
- One of the highest percentages becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown
- The highest percentage entering further education

Black Mountain school leavers

- One of the lower percentages entering higher education
- The lowest percentage entering further education
- One of the higher percentages who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown
- One of the highest percentages entering employment
- One of the highest percentages enrolling in training

Court school leavers

- One of the lowest percentages of school leavers entering higher education
- The highest percentage becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown
- The highest percentage becoming employed

Oldpark school leavers

- One of the lowest percentages entering higher education
- One of the highest percentages entering further education
- One of the highest percentages entering employment

Ormiston school leavers

- The highest percentage entering higher education
- The lowest percentage entering employment
- One of the lowest percentages entering training
- One of the lowest percentages becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown

Lisnasharragh school leavers

- One of the highest percentages entering higher education
- One of the highest percentages entering further education
- One of the lowest percentages entering employment
- The lowest percentage becoming unemployed or whose destination was unknown

Balmoral school leavers

- One of the highest percentages entering higher education
- One of the lowest percentages entering training
- One of the lowest percentages who became unemployed or whose destination was unknown



Belfast Healthy Cities
Gordon House
22/24 Lombard Street
Belfast BT1 1RD

Telephone: +44 (0)28 9032 8811

www.belfasthealthycities.com
@belfasthealthy

Company Reg No. NI31042
Registered with The Charity Commission
for Northern Ireland NIC100587

