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Main Statistics for Northern Ireland Phase 3

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This is the latest version. [View previous version \(PDF, 713 KB\).](#)

Correction note

9 May 2024 11:00

We have corrected a chart on slide 12, regarding marital and civil partnership status, as a result of the misclassification of historical data.

‘Married’ category at 45.8% should have read ‘Married/Separated’ at 49.5%
and

‘Other status’ at 16.2% should have read ‘Divorced/Widowed’ at 12.4%

Further details can be found in [DC005 of our Census 2021 Quality notes, issues and corrections page](#).

- Census Day - 21 March 2021
- Statistics accredited and independently produced



Release	Topics
First results	Population and household estimates
Main statistics - Phase 1	Ethnicity, identity, language and religion
Main statistics - Phase 2	Health, disability and unpaid care Housing and accommodation
Main statistics - Phase 3	Labour market, qualifications, marital and civil partnership status, sexual orientation

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Labour market

www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021

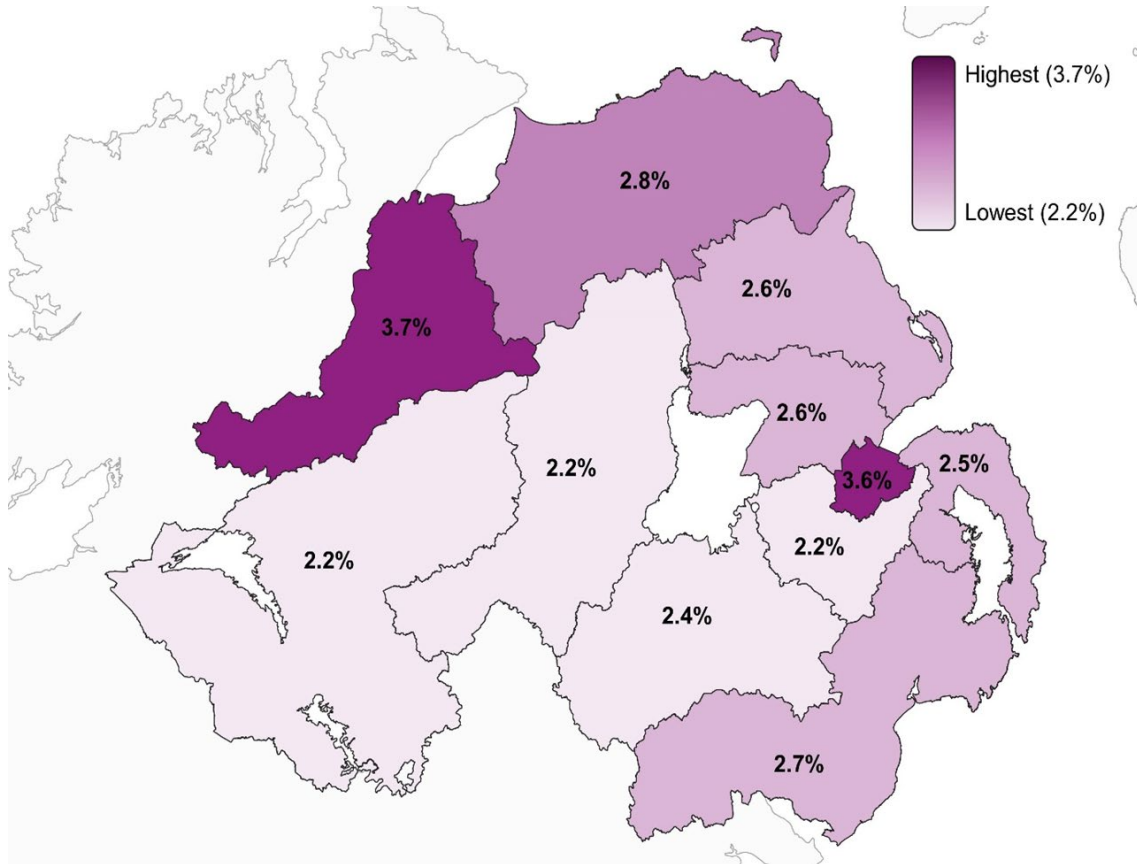
- results on economic status, occupation, industry, hours worked, qualifications etc...
- labour market questions asked of adults (aged 16 and over)
- similar results available for 2011, areas – comparisons

Economic status

Economic status	Population (Census 2021)	Percent
In employment	849,000	56.1%
Employee	687,000	45.3%
Self-employed	127,000	8.4%
Full-time student in employment	35,000	2.3%
Unemployed	42,000	2.8%
Economically inactive	624,000	41.2%
Population aged 16 and over	1,515,000	100.0%

Unemployment of 42,000 in 1.515 million or 2.8%

Unemployment (%)



- varies across Northern Ireland
- high Derry City and Strabane (3.7%)
- low Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh, Lisburn and Castlereagh (2.2%)

Qualifications

- 1 in 3 adults (486,000) had degree level/NVQ 4 or above
- 1 in 4 adults (361,000) had no qualifications
- qualifications level has changed from 2011 to 2021
 - No qualifications fell from 29% to 24%
 - Degree/NVQ 4 rose from 24% to 32% (+150,000 people)

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Marital and civil partnership status

www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021

census Marital and civil partnership status question 2021

What is your marital or civil partnership status?

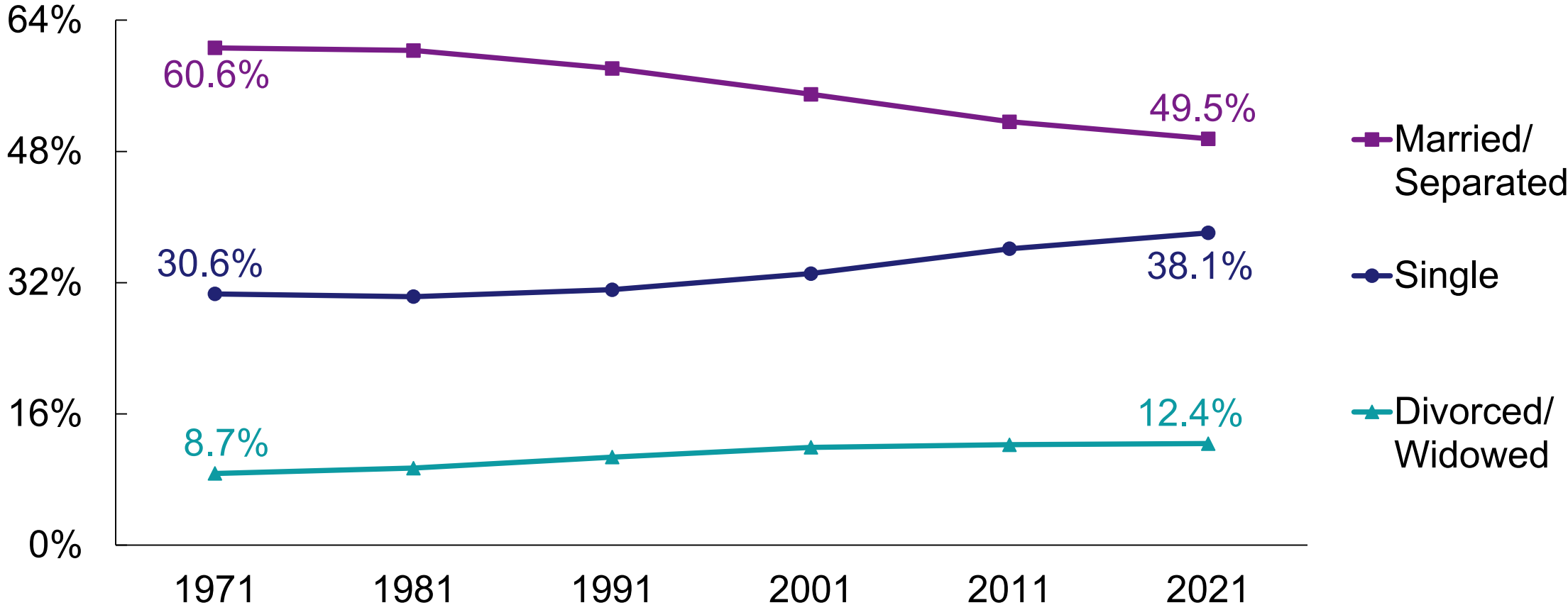
- Single, never married and never in a civil partnership
- Married
- In a civil partnership
- Separated, but still legally married
- Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership
- Divorced
- Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Widowed
- Surviving partner from a civil partnership

- question asked of adults only (aged 16 and over)
- available for areas and comparisons over time

Marital and civil partnership status

Marital and civil partnership status	Population (Census 2021)	Percent
Married or in a civil partnership	693,000	46%
Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	571,000	38%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	57,000	4%
Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	91,000	6%
Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership	96,000	6%
Population aged 16 and over	1,515,000	100%

Marital and civil partnership status for population aged 16 and over (Census 1971 to 2021)



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Sexual orientation

www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021

Sexual orientation question

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Straight or Heterosexual

Gay or Lesbian

Bisexual

Other sexual orientation
Enter sexual orientation

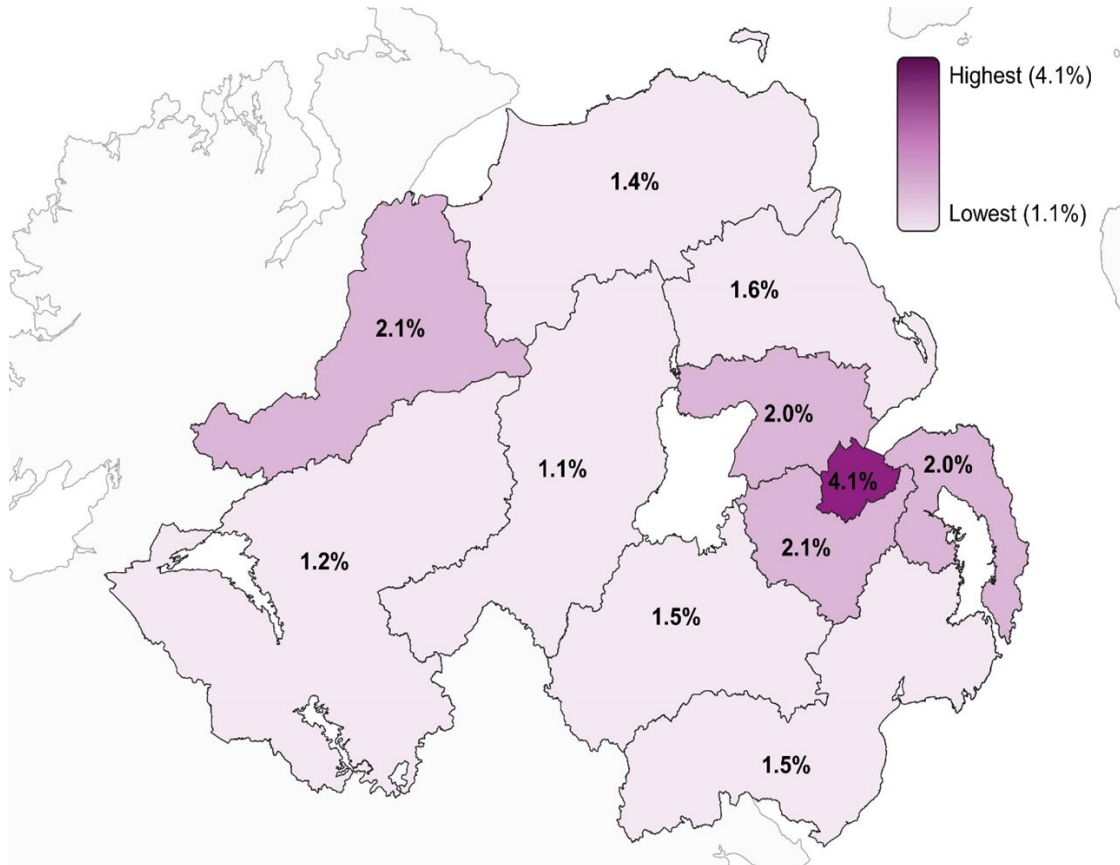
or

Prefer not to say

- new question in Census 2021
- only asked of people aged 16 and over
- while census is compulsory - sexual orientation question had no statutory penalty
- also asked for first time in Census 2021 in England and Wales

Sexual orientation

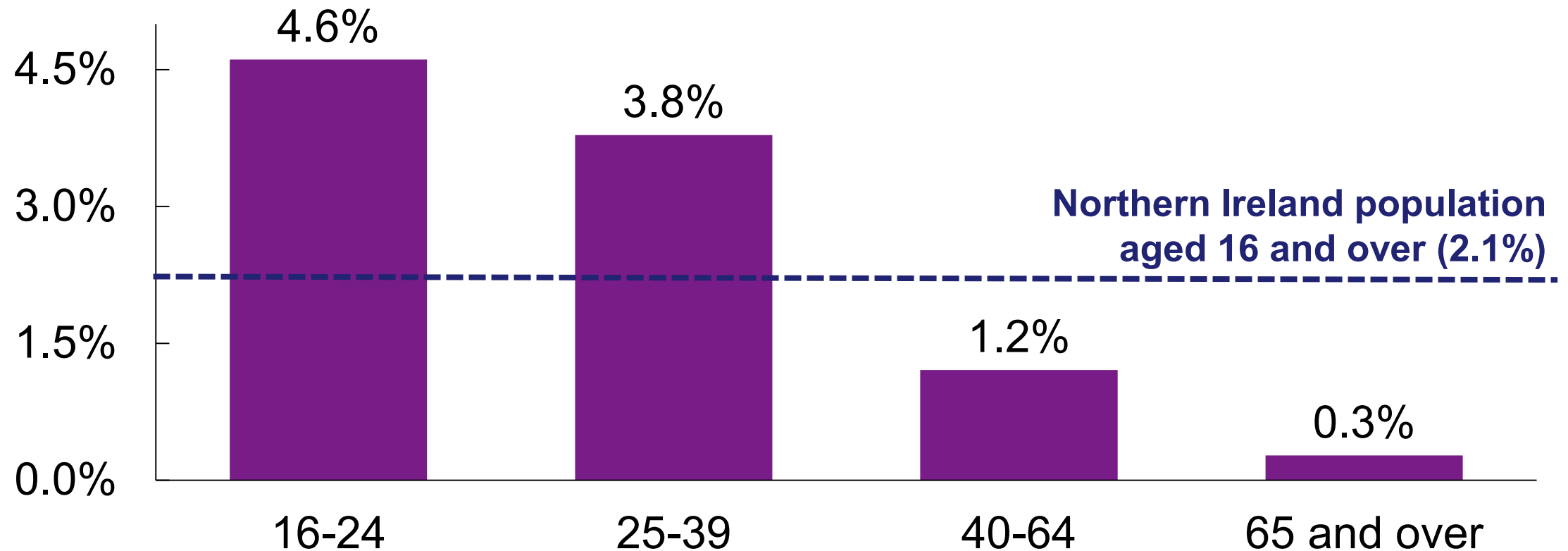
Sexual orientation	Population (Census 2021)	Percent
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)	32,000	2.1%
Gay or lesbian	18,000	1.2%
Bisexual	11,000	0.7%
Other sexual orientation	3,000	0.2%
Straight or heterosexual	1,364,000	90.0%
No sexual orientation stated	119,000	7.9%
Prefer not to say	69,000	4.6%
No answer stated	50,000	3.3%
Population aged 16 and over	1,515,000	100.0%



- varies across Northern Ireland
- high Belfast (4.1%)
- low Mid Ulster (1.1%)

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Percentage of population, within age bands, who identify as LGB+



Sexual orientation comparison

Country	Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)
Northern Ireland	2.1%
Wales	3.0%
England	3.2%

- Highest LGB+ area in:
 - England: Brighton & Hove = 10.7%
 - Wales: Cardiff = 5.3%
 - Northern Ireland: Belfast = 4.1%

Belfast broadly similar to Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield

What happens next

- Reports: www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021
- Interactive application: explore.nisra.gov.uk (from 5 April)

Next releases

- Supplementary tables: May 2023
- Table Builder and detailed geography: Summer 2023