**Table 6.1: Projected households by size, Northern Ireland, 2016–2041**

**Table 6.2: Projected households by type, Northern Ireland, 2016–2041**

**Table 6.3: Projected households by 11 new local government districts, Northern Ireland, 2016–2041**

Tables 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) include data taken from the 2016 Based Northern Ireland Household Projections (a National Statistics report). Household projections are based on population projections published by the Office for National Statistics and NISRA. Population projections are based on future fertility, mortality and migration assumptions. The projections are based on the 2016 population estimates and the trends in household formation from the 2001 and 2011 Census. Refer to the following report for information on the methodology used:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-household-projections-2016-based>

**Table 6.4: Accommodation by tenure 2018-2019**

**Description of data**

The information contained in Table 6.4 is derived from the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey. The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland. The survey is designed, conducted and analysed by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It is based on a sample of the general population resident in private households and has been running since 1983. The survey is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of social and economic issues relevant to Northern Ireland. The sample for Table 6.4 contained 4,458 households.

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

Each year CSU sets the content of the questionnaire in consultation with client departments. The questionnaire consists of both a household interview and an individual interview with each person aged 16 and over. Both the household and individual questionnaires consist of core items that are included each year, modules that recur on a regular cycle and ad hoc modules. Core items include accommodation, tenure, employment status, employment activity, educational qualifications, adult health and family information. Non-core items include attitudes to environmental issues, prevalence of overnight and day trips, prevalence of smoking and sports and leisure activities.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

Information from the CHS is published on the CSU website: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/continuous-household-survey>. A bespoke information request service is available to all users of CHS. CHS data is deposited annually in the UK Data Archive and is available to any user wishing to carry out individual analysis.

*Accuracy*

**Coverage Errors -** There are no major coverage issues. The CHS sample is drawn from the Pointer Database which contains address information for every property in NI. People living in institutions are excluded.

**Proportion of Missing Values** - Missing values or item non-response to the data contained in Table 6.4 are negligible.

**Information on data processing** - Data is collected by personal interview using CAPI (Blaise), and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March. Data is returned from the field via FTP dial up. Data is downloaded onto secure network drives and processed through the CHS data management system. Data is coded and fully validated by CSU statistical staff.

**Information on quality control and quality assurance** - The CHS uses the ONS Primary and Secondary Harmonised questions as far as possible and where appropriate. Questions are pre-tested before they go into field. The CAPI questionnaire is scripted in Blaise which allows CSU staff to define range and consistency checks for each question and to control routing throughout the questionnaire. The data is subject to further validation checks including treatment of outliers and detailed consistency checking including non-credible checks. A 100% check of all coded data is undertaken by statistical staff to ensure that coding procedures are of a high standard. All completed CHS interviews are back-checked with respondents to ensure that interviews are valid. Interviewers undergo intensive induction training and are trained (face-to-face) before working on CHS. The quality of data returned by interviewers is assessed and is scored as part of their performance management.

**Sample Design and Sampling Frame** - The CHS is based on a systematic random sample of 9,000 addresses drawn each year from the Pointer Database. Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland and is maintained by Land & Property Services (LPS), with input from Local Councils and Royal Mail (RM). This is now the common standard address for every property in Northern Ireland. The addresses on the Pointer Database are sorted by district council and ward, so the sample is effectively stratified geographically. A starting point in the sampling frame is randomly selected and then every nth (fixed interval) is selected by counting through the frame.

**Response Rate -** The target response rate on CHS is 60%. That is, obtaining interviews at 60% of eligible addresses. Addresses which are vacant, derelict etc and which do not contain people are deemed to be ineligible. The response rate achieved on the 2018/19 CHS was 58%.

**Non Response Error/Bias** - Non-response bias on CHS is measured by comparing the characteristics of the achieved sample with the distribution of the same characteristics in the sampling frame or Census. Typically, CHS data is unweighted although some clients choose to apply weights to the data because of the nature of the topic under analysis. The data contained in Table 6.4 is unweighted.

**Proxy responses** - on CHS, there are no proxy interviews. The household schedule, from which the data in Table 6.4 is collected, is answered by the Household Reference Person (HRP) or spouse on behalf of the whole household.

**Imputation rates** - no imputation of data occurs on CHS.

**Sampling Error** - Because CHS data is based on a sample rather than the whole populations it is subject to sampling error. Sampling error is the difference between the estimate derived from a sample and the 'true' value that would result if a census of the whole population were taken under the same conditions.

*Timeliness*

The CHS runs on a financial year cycle (Apr-Mar) and the data is updated three months after the close of the data collection cycle. The latest CHS results, based on CHS 2018/19 became available in July 2019.

*Coherence and Comparability*

CHS data has been collected annually since 1983 and this data can be compared over time.

**Table 6.5: Household Type by Dwelling Tenure 2016**

**Table 6.6: Household Type by Dwelling Type 2016**

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

Tables 6.5 and 6.6 report on House Condition Survey data. This survey of housing stock across all tenures and house types is carried out by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. It is the most comprehensive source of information on the housing stock in Northern Ireland. In 2016 a HCS User Engagement Group was set up to ensure that the survey and analysis meets users’ needs.

Users of this table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

The 2016 NI House Condition Survey was assessed for compliance with the ***Code of Practice for Statistics*** between 2016 and 2018 and was awarded National Statistic status from the UK Statistics Authority on the 29 May 2018. The HCS methodology, survey process, report and tabular analysis, were included in the assessment.

The main HCS report and Appendix tables for 2016 were published on the Housing Executive’s website on the 31 May 2018.

The annual Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report, published by the DfC, includes HCS findings as tables and are available in pdf, open source and Word format. Requests for the information in different formats can be made by contacting the Department for Communities.

The *House Condition Survey 2016* report and accompanying statistical annex are available to download as pdf documents from the Housing Executive web site:

[www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Research/House-Condition-Survey](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Research/House-Condition-Survey)

The report is available in ‘accessible’ format. Tables are available in Excel. Hardcopies are also available by contacting the Housing Executive’s Research Unit.

*Accuracy*

The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (HCS) is a survey based on a stratified random disproportionate sample of 3,000 dwellings. The House Condition Survey Steering Group provides guidance in relation to sample size and design while working within the constraints of the budget. The published data provide estimates for the Northern Ireland housing stock based on this sample. The sampling was completed in two stages.

* The first stage involved including all the full surveys completed as part of the 2011 HCS (resample: 1,434 surveys).
* The second stage was a fresh random sample of 1,566 properties selected by council area to ensure that each total (fresh and resample) added to approximately 200. However, in Belfast 635 households were selected. In addition, the Causeway Coast Council area was divided into two areas to allow for more detailed information on holiday homes in Northern Ireland. The fresh sample frame, in 2016, was Pointer which contained a subset of the computerised records for domestic residential property maintained by Land & Property Services.

Weighting and grossing translates the information gathered in a sample survey and translates it into figures that reflect the real world. The weighting and grossing process reflects the separate stages of sampling and the survey process.

The gross response rate, for the 2016 Survey, was 67%. Where comparisons are made, particularly between current and previous years, potential sample error is calculated to determine whether there are real differences. This helps to ensure statistics are robust.

Quality assurance (QA) checks were carried out by the producers/suppliers of the administrative data which is used to select the sample for the HCS. QA checks were also carried out at various stages of the survey by the Housing Executive’s HCS team, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and by HCS surveyors and supervisors. The Housing Executive has produced a document which sets out the quality assurance processes carried out at each stage of the survey. It has also produced a background quality report which shows the degree to which the NIHCS statistics meet the European Statistical System’s five dimensions of quality. Both documents are available on the Housing Executive’s website:

[www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Research/NIHCS-statistics-quality-information](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Research/NIHCS-statistics-quality-information)

[www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Research/HCS-Main-Reports-2016/HCS-Main-Report-2016.aspx](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Research/HCS-Main-Reports-2016/HCS-Main-Report-2016.aspx)

*Timeliness*

Field work for the 2016 House Condition Survey was carried out between May and November (2016). Preliminary key findings were first published on the Housing Executive web site in May 2017 and updated in October 2017. The main HCS report for 2016 was published to the Housing Executive’s website on the 31 May 2018. There are a series of checks and processes in place to ensure the timeliness and punctuality of NIHCS statistics.

This is in line with producers of other national House Condition Surveys in England and Scotland.

*Coherence and Comparability*

The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey is produced with the assistance of the Building Research Establishment in London (BRE). This ensures comparability (as far as possible) of survey questions, methodology and key findings with other House Condition Surveys conducted in England, Wales and Scotland.

The NIHCS surveyors receive the same training as the English surveyors, this reduces surveyor variability.

Many aspects of the form remain the same over time to allow longitudinal analysis.

The number of household types has been reduced because of smaller samples over time. However, previous years have been recoded so longitudinal analysis is still possible.

Household types were classified into three groups as follows:

* **Adult Households** – which consists of the following categories:

##### ***Lone Adult***

One adult below pensionable age (65).

##### ***Two Adults***

Two people, related or unrelated, below pensionable age (65).

##### ***Large Adult***

Three or more adults, related or unrelated, and no dependent children aged under 16.

* **Households with children** - which consists of the following categories:

##### ***Lone Parent***

One adult living with one or more dependent children aged under 16.

##### ***Small Family***

Two adults, related or unrelated, living with one or two dependent children aged under 16.

##### ***Large Family***

Two adults, related or unrelated, living with three or more dependent children aged under 16; OR three or more adults living with one or more dependent children aged under 16.

* **Older Households** - which consists of the following categories:

##### ***Two Person Older***

Two people, related or unrelated, at least one of whom is of pensionable age (65 plus).

##### ***Lone Older***

One person of pensionable age or older (65).

It should be noted that in the 2016 House Condition Survey the pension age for females changed to 65. This mainly affected the small group of females (aged 60 to 64) who are now below pension age. This should be taken into consideration when comparing with previous results.

**Table 6.7: Average gross weekly household income and expenditure by UK region, financial year ending 2016 to financial year ending 2018**

**Table 6.8: Average weekly household expenditure by commodity or service, Northern Ireland and UK, financial year ending 2016 to financial year ending 2018**

**Tables 6.7 and 6.8** provide information from the Living Costs and Food Survey.

From 2001-02, the Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) was introduced in the Living Costs and Food Survey as a new coding frame for expenditure items. COICOP is the internationally agreed classification system for reporting household consumption expenditure. Further information on COICOP can be found on the [United Nations Statistics Division](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm) website. Under COICOP, household consumption expenditure is categorised into the following 12 headings:

1. Food and non-alcoholic drinks

2. Alcoholic drinks, tobacco and narcotics

3. Clothing and footwear

4. Housing (net), fuel and power

5. Household goods and services

6. Health

7. Transport

8. Communication

9. Recreation and culture

10. Education

11. Restaurants and hotels

12. Miscellaneous goods and services

It is important to note that COICOP classified housing costs do not include what is considered to be non-consumption expenditure, for example, mortgage interest payments, mortgage capital repayments, mortgage protection premiums, council tax and domestic rates. Total expenditure is made up from the total of the COICOP expenditure groups (1 to 12) plus ‘Other expenditure items’. Further information on the items included in each category can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/methodologies/livingcostsandfoodsurvey>

Please note that the Living Costs and Food Survey changed from a calendar year to a financial year basis in 2016. The release of this data on the ONS website changed from a compendium to a bulletin format, although individual tables are still available.

Further information on the survey methodology can be found in the Family Spending, 2018 edition:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/financialyearending2018>

Figures for Table 6.7 ‘average gross weekly household income’ for financial year ending March 2016 to financial year ending March 2018 are not directly comparable to data published within the Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report in previous years. This is due to a change in methodology. Data for the financial year ending 2018 are based on person-level analysis, while years previous are based on household-level, and are not directly comparable. For a consistent measure for gross income, based on the new person-level approach, in the UK between financial year end 2017 and financial year end 2018, please see: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/datasets/effectoftaxesandbenefitsonhouseholdincomehistoricalpersonleveldatasets>.

**Table 6.9: Total weekly household income, sources of income and housing costs by tenure 2017-18**

Table 6.9 provides information from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This survey collects detailed information on the incomes and circumstances of private households from April to March each year. The survey has been carried out in Great Britain since 1992, but 2002-03 saw the introduction of Northern Ireland for the first time. The survey contains information which is of interest to researchers and analysts from a wide range of disciplines in both the public and private sectors. The database can be accessed through the UK Data Archive.

The FRS sample size for Table 6.9 is 1,868. Further information on the survey can be found at the following link:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/family-resources-survey>

Information relating to the methodology of the survey can be found in the methodology section of the individual reports.

The latest United Kingdom version of the survey can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-201718

**Table 6.10: Percentage of households in low-income before housing costs 2017-18**

**Table 6.11: Percentage of households in low-income after housing costs 2017-18**

Tables 6.10 and 6.11 provide information from the Households below Average Income (HBAI) publication. The HBAI uses data collected in the Family Resources Survey (FRS) in Northern Ireland.  Household disposable incomes are adjusted for household size and composition, as a proxy for material living standards or, more precisely, for the level of consumption of goods and services that people could attain given the disposable income of the household in which they live. The statistics and commentary give an insight into the standard of living of the household population in Northern Ireland, focusing on the lower part of income distribution.

The sample sizes used in the HBAI data analysis are 1,856 1,921 2,027 1,888 1,932, 1,885 1,959 1,866 1,925 1,975 1,864 for the years 2007-08 to 2017-18 respectively.

These tables have been produced using revised grossing factors therefore data may not match previous publications. For more information see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-resources-survey-grossing-methodology-review-and-2011-census-updates> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-grossed-households-below-average-income-hbai-estimates-200203-to-201112>

Further information on the HBAI can be found at the following link:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/households-below-average-income-northern-ireland-201415>

Information relating to the methodology of the HBAI can be found in the methodology section on the link above.

The latest United Kingdom version of the survey can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-199495-to-201718>

**Table 6.12: Average rates bill by new local government district 2018-19**

**Description of the data**

Table 6.12 provides the average rates bill for each local government district. Rates are a property tax based on the valuation of homes in Northern Ireland. The income from rates provides funding for services at both local (Council) and regional (NI Assembly) levels.

For 2004-05 and 2005-06 the figures have been calculated by taking the total sum of rates assessed for occupied domestic properties in each district council area and dividing that sum by the number of occupied domestic properties as supplied by the previous Rates Collection Agency.

For 2006-07 onwards the figures have been calculated by taking the sum of the district rate and the regional rate, which is then multiplied by the average capital value for the local government district to generate the average total bill. The rate values are provided by local government division (LGD) in the Department for Communities (DfC), in their local government circulars.

This information is also published by Department of Finance for Northern Ireland (DoF) and is also available at the following link:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/property-rating>

Average capital values are available from LPS via the NINIS website (<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>). Local government districts determine district rates to reflect their revenue needs while the regional rate is uniform. The type of property in each local government district affects the average rate bill and as such the overall average.

For 2006-07 and 2007-08 the average capital value for each local government district was calculated by Rating Policy Division in the Department of Finance (DoF) based upon the total capital value for all domestic properties divided by the number of domestic properties in the area as supplied by Land and Property Services (LPS). For 2008-09 onwards the average capital value data which is calculated by LPS has been used.

**Data Quality**

The district rates provided by the DfC are robust, given that they have been finalised and agreed between district councils and DfC before publication.

The property counts and total values of property provided by LPS are extracted from a live database at a given moment in time, and so are liable to change.

Due to the change in calculation method, data prior to 2008-09 is not directly comparable with previous years.