

Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland

Annual report



Headline findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2014/15

DCAL Findings 2/2015-16

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This report provides headline figures on engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland. More detail on each of the areas covered by the survey will be provided in area-specific reports.

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Key findings

Culture, arts and leisure

- In 2014/15, just over nine out of every ten adults (91%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts and leisure. This figure showed no change on the 2013/14 figure.
- Adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to engage with culture, arts and leisure than those living in the least deprived areas (86% and 94%, respectively).

Sport

- In 2014/15, more than half of adults in Northern Ireland (55%) had participated in sport and physical activity within the last 12 months, a similar figure to 2013/14 (54%).
- Almost a half of adults (49%) normally participate in sport and physical activity on at least one day a week. Again, this figure was similar in 2013/14 (48%).
- Just under a quarter of adults (23%) were members of a sports club in 2014/15, a similar figure to the 24% in 2013/14.
- Adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to have participated in sport, to normally participate in sport on at least one day a week and to be a member of a sports club than adults living in the least deprived areas.

Arts

- In 2014/15, more than eight in every ten adults (83%) had engaged with the arts within the previous year, a similar figure to that in 2013/14 (82%).
- Just over a third of adults (35%) had participated in arts activities within the last 12 months, while eight out of every ten adults (80%) had attended an arts event. Both figures are similar to those in 2013/14 (34% and 79%, respectively).
- Adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to have engaged with the arts through participation in arts activities or attending arts events than adults living in the least deprived areas.

Libraries

- In 2014/15, just under three in every ten adults (29%) had used the public library service at least once within the last 12 months. This figure showed no change on the 2013/14 figure.
- The proportions of adults living in the most deprived areas and adults living in the least deprived areas who had used the public library service were similar.

Museums

- In 2014/15, just under a half of adults (48%) had visited a museum or science centre within the last 12 months, while more than a third of adults (35%) had visited a National Museum. Both figures showed no change on 2013/14.
- Adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to have visited any museum or science centre and a National Museum than adults living in the least deprived areas.

Angling and inland waterways

- In 2014/15, one in every twenty adults (5%) had fished in Northern Ireland waters where a DCAL or Loughs Agency licence or permit was required. There was no change in this figure when compared with 2013/14.
- More than a third of adults (36%) had visited an inland waterway in Northern Ireland within the last 12 months, a similar figure to the 34% in 2013/14.
- There was no difference in the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas who had fished and those living in the least deprived areas. However, adults living in the most deprived areas were less likely to have visited an inland waterway than those living in the least deprived areas.

PRONI

- In 2014/15, three per cent of adults had visited PRONI within the last 12 months. This figure showed no change on the 2013/14.
- There was no difference in the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas who had visited PRONI and those living in the least deprived areas.

Appendix 1 Data tables

Table 1 Engagement¹ in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland, 2013/14-2014/15

	Adults				Significant difference
	2013/14		2014/15		
	%	Base	%	Base	
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure	90	3,750	91	3,349	-
Sport					
Sport participation	54	3,753	55	3,348	-
Normally participates in sport or physical activity at least one day per week ²	48	3,753	49	3,349	-
Member of a sports club or organisation	24	3,752	23	3,349	-
Arts					
Arts engagement	82	3,753	83	3,345	-
Arts participation	34	3,753	35	3,346	-
Arts attendance	79	3,752	80	3,347	-
Libraries					
Used the public library service	29	3,753	29	3,348	-
Museums					
Visited a museum or science centre	48	3,745	48	3,347	-
Visited a National Museum	35	3,753	35	3,347	-
Angling					
Fished in Northern Ireland waters	5	3,751	5	3,346	-
Inland waterways					
Visited an inland waterway	34	3,750	36	3,344	-
PRONI					
Visited PRONI	3	3,750	3	3,346	-

Source: Continuous Household Survey

¹ Data presented relates to participation, attendance and visits in the last 12 months unless otherwise stated.

² Participation at least one day per week excludes those who had walked for recreation only.

Table 2 Engagement¹ in culture, arts and leisure by adults living in the most and least deprived areas, 2014/15

	Adults				Significant difference
	Living in most deprived areas		Living in least deprived areas		
	%	Base	%	Base	
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure	86	599	94	648	Significant
Sport					
Sport participation	43	598	62	648	Significant
Normally participates in sport or physical activity at least one day per week ²	38	599	57	648	Significant
Member of a sports club or organisation	19	599	25	648	Significant
Arts					
Arts engagement	77	599	88	648	Significant
Arts participation	28	599	40	648	Significant
Arts attendance	75	599	86	648	Significant
Libraries					
Used the public library service	28	599	32	648	Not significant
Museums					
Visited a museum or science centre	40	598	63	648	Significant
Visited a National Museum	31	598	49	648	Significant
Angling					
Fished in Northern Ireland waters	4	598	5	648	Not significant
Inland waterways					
Visited an inland waterway	23	599	47	647	Significant
PRONI					
Visited PRONI	3	598	5	648	Not significant

Source: Continuous Household Survey

¹ Data presented relates to participation, attendance and visits in the last 12 months unless otherwise stated.

² Participation at least one day per week excludes those who had walked for recreation only.

Appendix 2 Technical notes

Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey in 2014/15 consisted of a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected from the Land and Property Service's list of private addresses. The findings reported for 2014/15 are based on 3,349 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the culture, arts and leisure modules of the survey. The 2014/15 questions can be accessed [here](#).

Weighting the DCAL module of the Continuous Household Survey (CHS)

Analysis of the DCAL module of the CHS has been weighted for non-response. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2014¹ (NISRA). As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the DCAL module of CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the

¹ [Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2014](#)

assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

Definitions

Engaged in culture, arts and leisure - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Participated in sport
- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre
- Fished in Northern Ireland waters
- Visited an inland waterway
- Visited PRONI

Sport participation - Participated in at least one of the following activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Rugby Union or league
- American football
- Football indoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Football outdoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Gaelic football
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Cricket
- Hockey (EXCLUDE ICE, ROLLER OR STREET HOCKEY)
- Netball
- Tennis
- Badminton
- Squash
- Basketball
- Table tennis
- Track and field athletics
- Jogging
- Cycling for recreation
- Indoor bowls
- Outdoor (lawn) bowls
- Tenpin bowling
- Swimming or diving
- Angling/fishing
- Yachting or dinghy sailing
- Canoeing
- Windsurfing/boardsailing
- Keepfit, aerobics, yoga, dance exercise
- Martial Arts (INCLUDE SELF DEFENCE)
- Weight training/lifting/body building
- Gymnastics
- Snooker, pool, billiards
- Ice skating (IF ROLLER EXCLUDE)
- Darts

- Golf, pitch and putt, putting
(EXCLUDE CRAZY/MINIATURE GOLF)
- Skiing
- Horse riding (EXCLUDE POLO)
- Motor sports
- Shooting
- Boxing
- Other

Member of a sports club – Member of a sports club or organisation.

Arts engagement – Either participated in arts activities or attended arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

Arts participation – Participated in at least one of the following arts activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ballet
- Other dance (not for fitness)
- Sang to an audience or rehearsed for a performance (not karaoke)
- Played a musical instrument to an audience or rehearse for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Written music
- Rehearsed or performed in play/drama
- Rehearsed or performed in opera/operetta
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
- Photography as an artistic activity (not family or holiday snaps)
- Made films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday)
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making
- Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making
- Written any stories or plays
- Written any poetry

Arts attendance – Attended at least one of the following arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture
- Craft exhibition (not a crafts market)
- Event connected with books or writing (such as poetry reading or storytelling)
- Circus
- Carnival
- An arts festival
- A community festival
- Play or drama
- Other theatre performance (such as a musical or pantomime)
- Opera/operetta
- Classical music performance
- Rock or pop music performance
- Jazz performance
- Folk, or traditional or world music performance
- Other live music event
- Ballet
- An Irish dance performance
- Other dance event
- A museum

Used the public library service – Used the public library service at least once in the 12 months prior to the CHS, e.g. visited a public library or mobile library; used the Libraries NI website; attended a library event outside a library. Public library does NOT include school, college, or university libraries. A library event outside a library is an event run by Libraries NI which has taken place in a venue other than a library.

Visited a museum or science centre – Visited one of the following museums or science centres in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park
- W5, Odyssey Centre
- Armagh County Museum
- Andrew Jackson & US Rangers Centre
- Ardress House
- Argory
- Armagh Planetarium
- Armagh Public Library
- Ballycastle Museum
- Ballymoney Museum
- Barn Museum
- Carrickfergus Museum
- Castle Ward
- Coleraine Museum
- Craigavon Museum
- Down County Museum
- Downpatrick & County Down Railway Museum
- FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio
- Fermanagh County Museum
- Flame - the Gasworks Museum of Ireland
- Florencecourt

- Green Lane Museum
- Hezlett House
- Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum
- Larne Museum
- Mid Antrim Museum, The Braid
- Milford House Museum
- Mount Stewart
- Naughton Gallery, Queen's University
- Newry & Mourne Museum
- North Down Museum
- Police Museum
- Railway Preservation Society of Ireland
- Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum
- Royal Ulster Rifles Museum
- Sentry Hill House
- Somme Heritage Centre
- Springhill
- Strabane District Council Museum Service
- The Inniskillings Museum
- The Northern Ireland War Memorial
- Tower Museum
- Some other museum not mentioned

Visited a National Museum – Visited one of the following museums in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park
- Armagh County Museum

Fished in Northern Ireland waters – Taken part in angling in Northern Ireland on any waters where a DCAL or Lough's Agency permit was required in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

Visited an inland waterway – Have been to any of Northern Ireland's inland waterways (rivers, lakes, canal towpaths, etc.) for sport, leisure or recreation in the 12 months prior to the CHS. Examples of inland waterways include The Lakelands, Lagan Towpath, Lough Neagh. Excludes places like Bangor Marina.

Visited PRONI – Have been to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

Deprivation – The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived areas. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010² which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

Statistical significance in this report

Any statements regarding differences between years or the most and least deprived areas are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

² Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2010

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.