


Lead Statistician

Norma Broomfield
Statistical Support Branch, NISRA
Colby House,
Stranmillis Court
Belfast, BT9 5RR

 028 9038 8481

 Norma.Broomfield@nisra.gov.uk

Published: 20 October 2022

Frequency: Annual

Coverage: Northern Ireland

Theme: Government

Public Awareness of and Trust in Official Statistics, Northern Ireland 2021

This report presents findings on public awareness of NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) and trust in official statistics in Northern Ireland. The questions were asked in the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) between September and November 2021. The report also monitors changes over time and includes comparisons with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), where appropriate. The figures presented in this report were obtained from a representative sample of the Northern Ireland population (1,186 persons) and are therefore estimates. The key findings are:

Awareness

- Public awareness of NISRA was moderate in 2021 with over half of respondents (55%) indicating that they had heard of the Agency before being contacted about the survey.
- While awareness of NISRA has decreased since 2020, when 58% of respondents had heard of NISRA, awareness of the Agency remains notably higher than in previous years (2009 to 2019) when 35% or less respondents had heard of NISRA.

Trust

- Public trust in NISRA, as an institution, is high (86%). Of those that had heard of NISRA, 94% stated that they trusted the Agency.
- Public trust in the statistics produced by NISRA is also high (86%).

Value

- The statistics produced by NISRA are valued, with 91% of respondents agreeing that statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland.

Political Interference

- Over four-fifths (83%) of respondents agreed that statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference.

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Awareness of NISRA
3. Awareness of NISRA Statistics
4. Trust – Institutions
5. Trust – NISRA Statistics
6. Value
7. Political Interference
8. Confidentiality
9. UK Statistics Authority and Office for Statistics Regulation

Appendix

- A. Methodology & Quality Information
- B. List of Detailed Tables
- C. Survey Questions

Tables

[Public Awareness of and Trust in Official Statistics 2021 – Detailed Tables](#)

Useful Links:

[Previous bulletins in this series](#)

[Code of Practice for Statistics](#)

[Statistics produced by NISRA](#)

[Public Confidence in Official Statistics \(ONS\)](#)

1. Introduction

Official Statistics in Northern Ireland are produced by Government Departments, and in some cases Arm's Length Bodies. The data collection, production, presentation and dissemination of official statistics are governed by the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#)¹.

This Code plays an essential role in ensuring that statistics published by government command public confidence through demonstrating trustworthiness and providing high quality statistics that enhance public value.

Preamble, Code of Practice

NISRA is an Agency within the Department of Finance and provides statistical services across government in Northern Ireland. The majority of Northern Ireland official statistics are produced by NISRA staff and NISRA branches can be found within all Northern Ireland Departments, and several Arm's Length Bodies². NISRA has been measuring the levels of public confidence or trust in the Agency and in the statistics it produces since the Code was produced in 2009. These levels are monitored by the Agency and used to inform communication and marketing strategies.

In the UK, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the largest producer of official statistics. Public trust in the ONS and the statistics it produces are also monitored and this report contains comparisons between NISRA and ONS. The ONS survey samples respondents in England, Scotland and Wales whilst the NISRA survey samples respondents in Northern Ireland. The most recent ONS survey was conducted in 2021 ([Public Confidence in Official Statistics 2021 \(ONS\)](#)³).

[Detailed tables](#) are published alongside this report. These include the source data for all the charts and commentary and additional breakdowns (see Appendix B for a list of tables).

Differences are only noted in the commentary when they are likely to represent a real difference taking account of the margin of error in the sample-based estimates (see 'Survey Estimates' in Appendix A for further detail).

¹ <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/>

² <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/official-statistics/northern-ireland-official-statistics>

³ <https://natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/public-confidence-in-official-statistics/>

2. Awareness of NISRA

Over half of respondents (55%) said they had heard of NISRA before being contacted about the survey.

This has decreased since 2020, when 58% of respondents had heard of NISRA (Chart 1). 2020 was the first year that awareness levels were measured after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although there has been a decrease since 2020, awareness of NISRA in 2021 was notably higher than in 2019 (35%) and previous years (Chart 1).

Public awareness of NISRA remains lower than awareness of ONS, with three quarters (75%) of respondents in 2021 reporting having heard of ONS. The difference between public awareness levels for NISRA and ONS has narrowed since 2018, which was prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (Chart 2).

Chart 1: Awareness of NISRA (2009-2021)

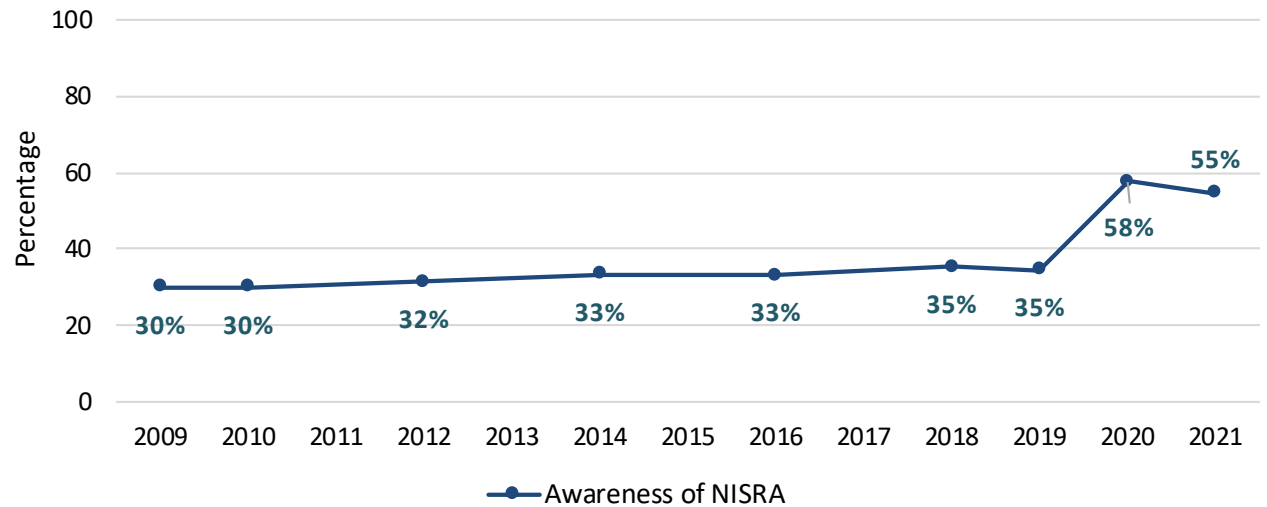
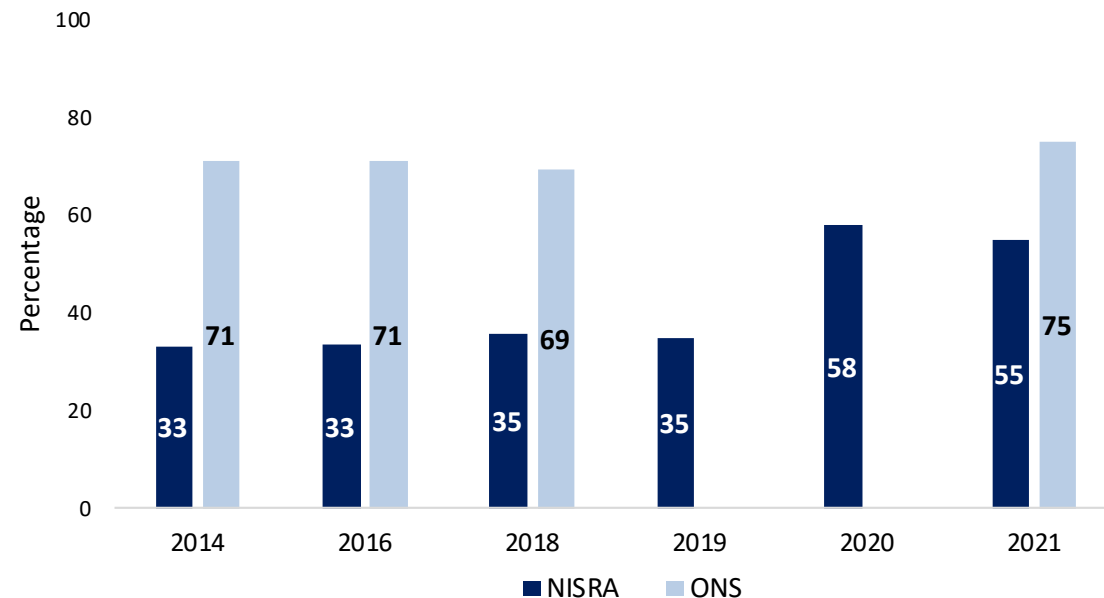


Chart 2: Awareness of NISRA (2014-2021) and ONS (2014-2021)

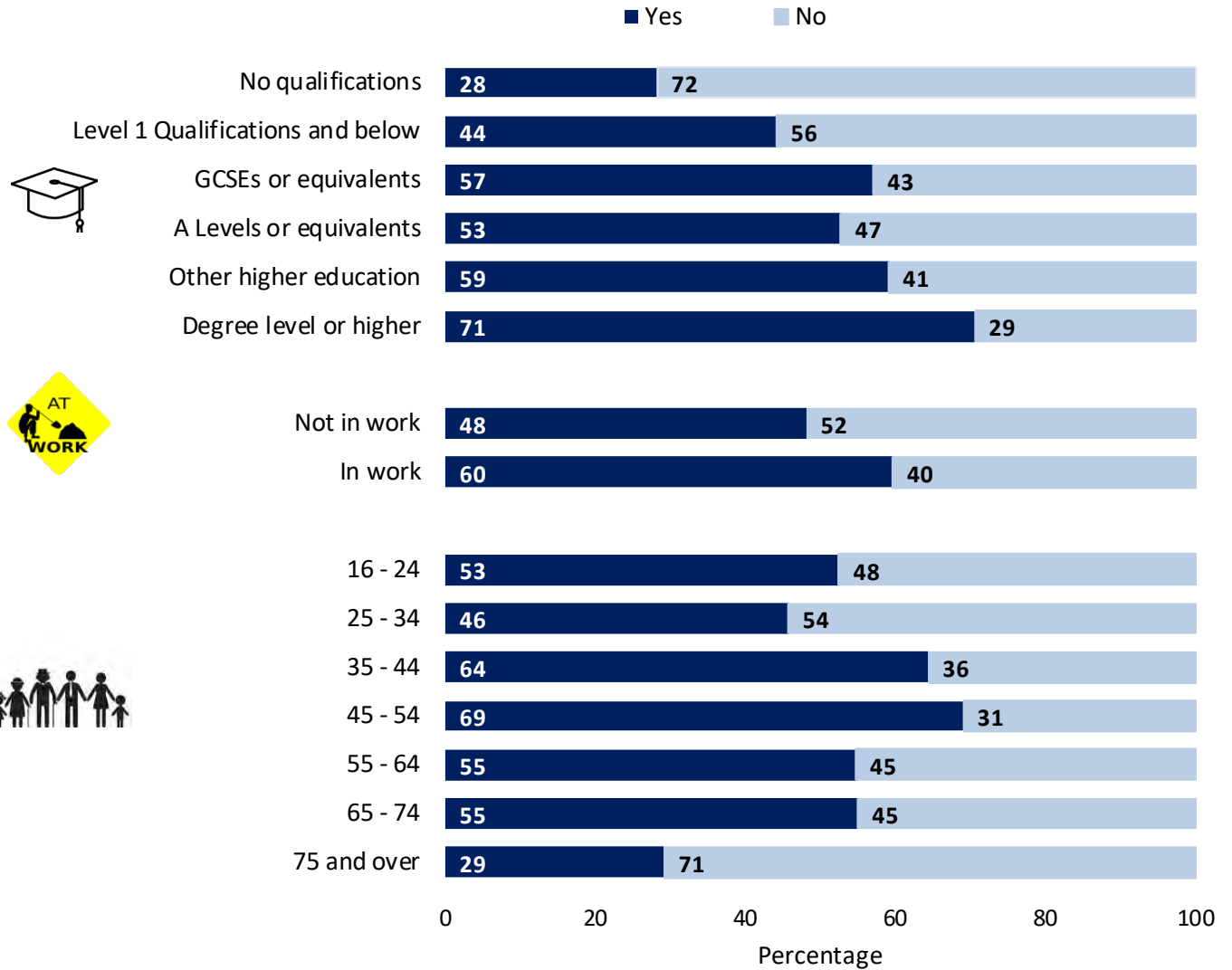


There is a clear relationship between highest educational qualification and awareness of NISRA. Respondents with a degree level qualification or higher were significantly more likely to have heard of NISRA (71%) than all other educational attainment groups. Similarly, those respondents with no qualifications were significantly less likely to be aware of NISRA (28%) than all other attainment groups (Chart 3).

Respondents who were in paid employment (60%) were more likely to be aware of NISRA compared to those who were not in paid employment (48%).

Awareness of NISRA is lowest among those aged 75 and over, with only 29% from this age group reporting that they had heard of NISRA – this is significantly lower than all other age ranges. In contrast, awareness of NISRA is highest among those aged between 45 and 54, with 69% from this age group having heard of NISRA. This is significantly higher than all other age ranges, apart from those aged between 35 and 44 (64%).

Chart 3: Awareness of NISRA by age, employment status and qualification of respondent, 2021



3. Awareness of NISRA Statistics

Respondents who had not previously heard of NISRA were asked whether they had heard of specific NISRA statistics. 36% of these respondents had not heard of any of the statistics listed, while 4% had heard of all the statistics⁴.

61% of respondents who had not previously heard of NISRA were aware of the Northern Ireland Census, while just over a third had heard of the unemployment rate and hospital waiting times (35% and 34% respectively). Only 7% of these respondents were aware of statistics on journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport in Northern Ireland (Chart 4).

Respondents who had heard of NISRA were asked whether they were aware that NISRA produced certain statistics. Of these respondents, 12% were aware that NISRA produced all the listed statistics while 9% were unaware that NISRA produced any of the listed statistics.

Awareness was highest for the Northern Ireland Census (85%), followed by the

Chart 4: Awareness of specific NISRA statistics for respondents who were not aware of NISRA, 2021

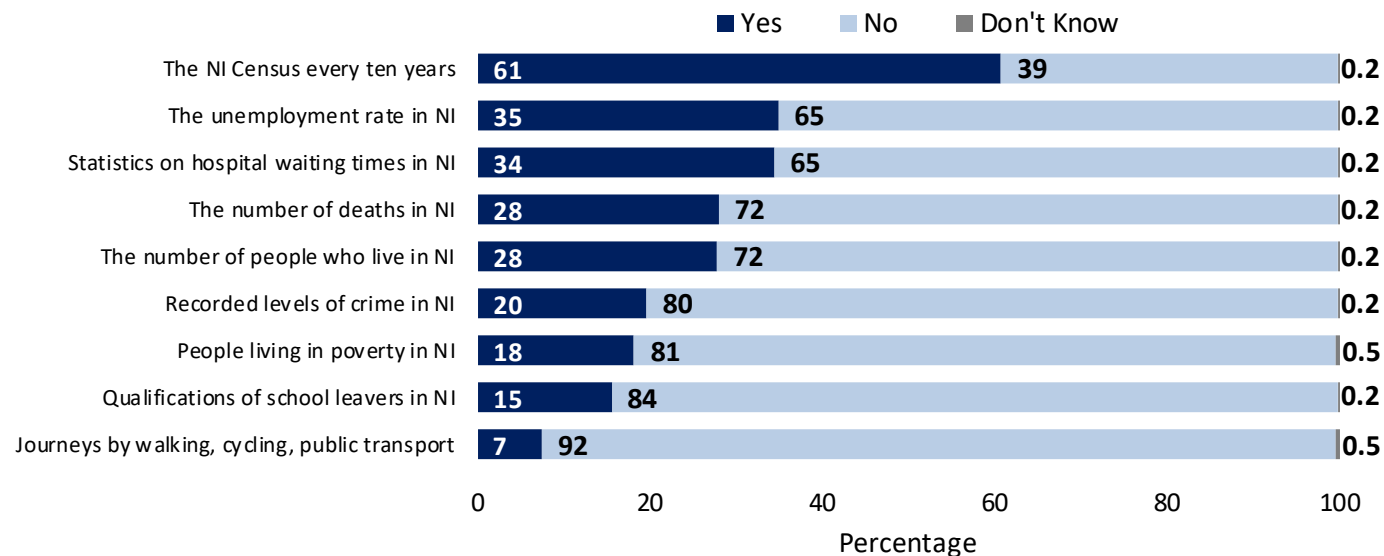
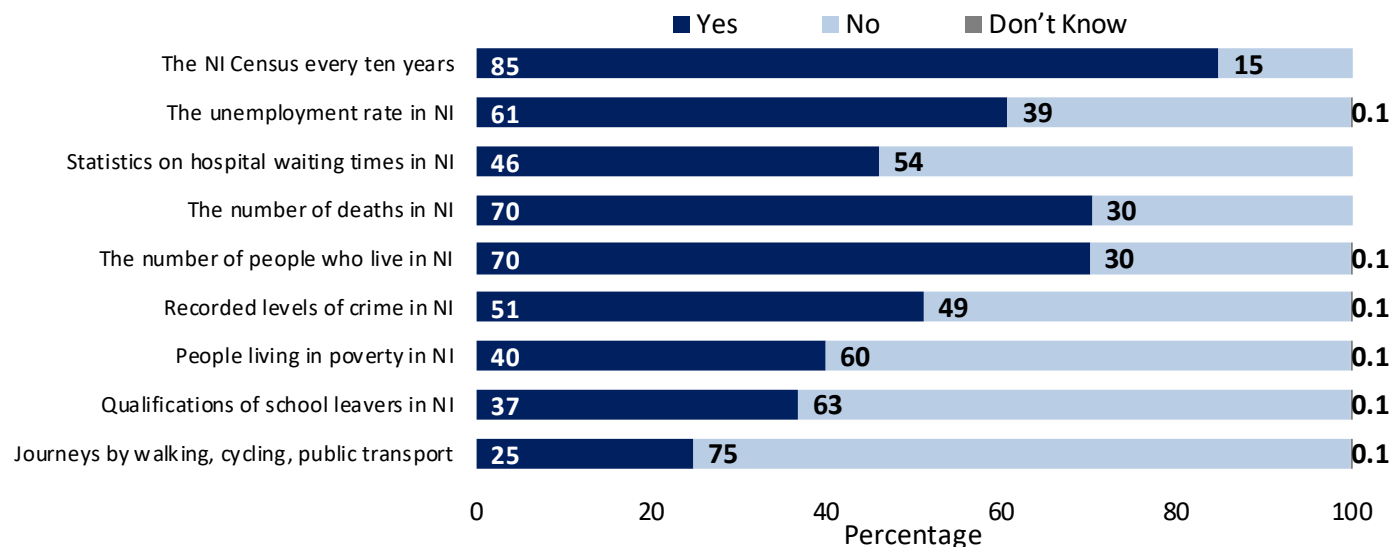


Chart 5: Aware NISRA produces specific statistics for respondents who were aware of NISRA, 2021



⁴ A more detailed breakdown is available in the accompanying tables (see Appendix B).

number of people who live in Northern Ireland (70%) and the number of deaths (70%). Statistics on qualifications of school leavers (37%) and the percentage of journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport (25%) were the least well recognised as being produced by NISRA statisticians by those who had heard of NISRA (Chart 5).

4. Trust in NISRA

Trust in NISRA as an institution is high, with 86% of all respondents trusting NISRA a great deal or tending to trust NISRA. Most of the remaining respondents (12%) didn't know whether they trusted NISRA or not, while 2% of respondents tended to distrust or distrusted NISRA greatly (Chart 6). Trust in NISRA is higher among those who had heard of NISRA (94%).

When only those who expressed an opinion are considered, i.e. excluding 'don't knows', there is no significant difference in trust in NISRA between 2021 and 2020. However, there has been a notable increase in the 'don't knows' between 2020 and 2021 (12% in 2021 compared to 7% in 2020) (Chart 6).

Chart 6: Trust in NISRA (2014-2021)

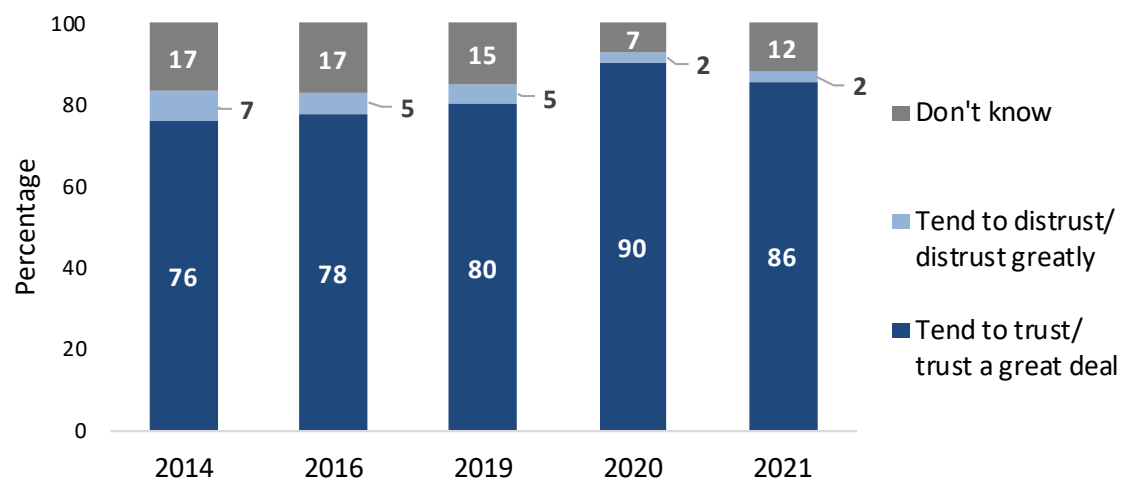
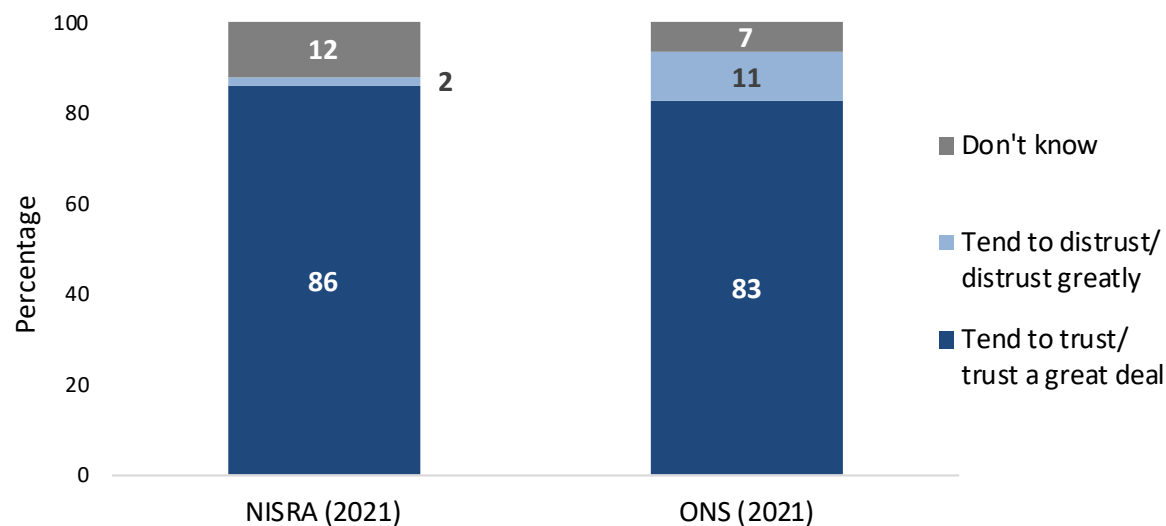


Chart 7: Trust in NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021) as institutions



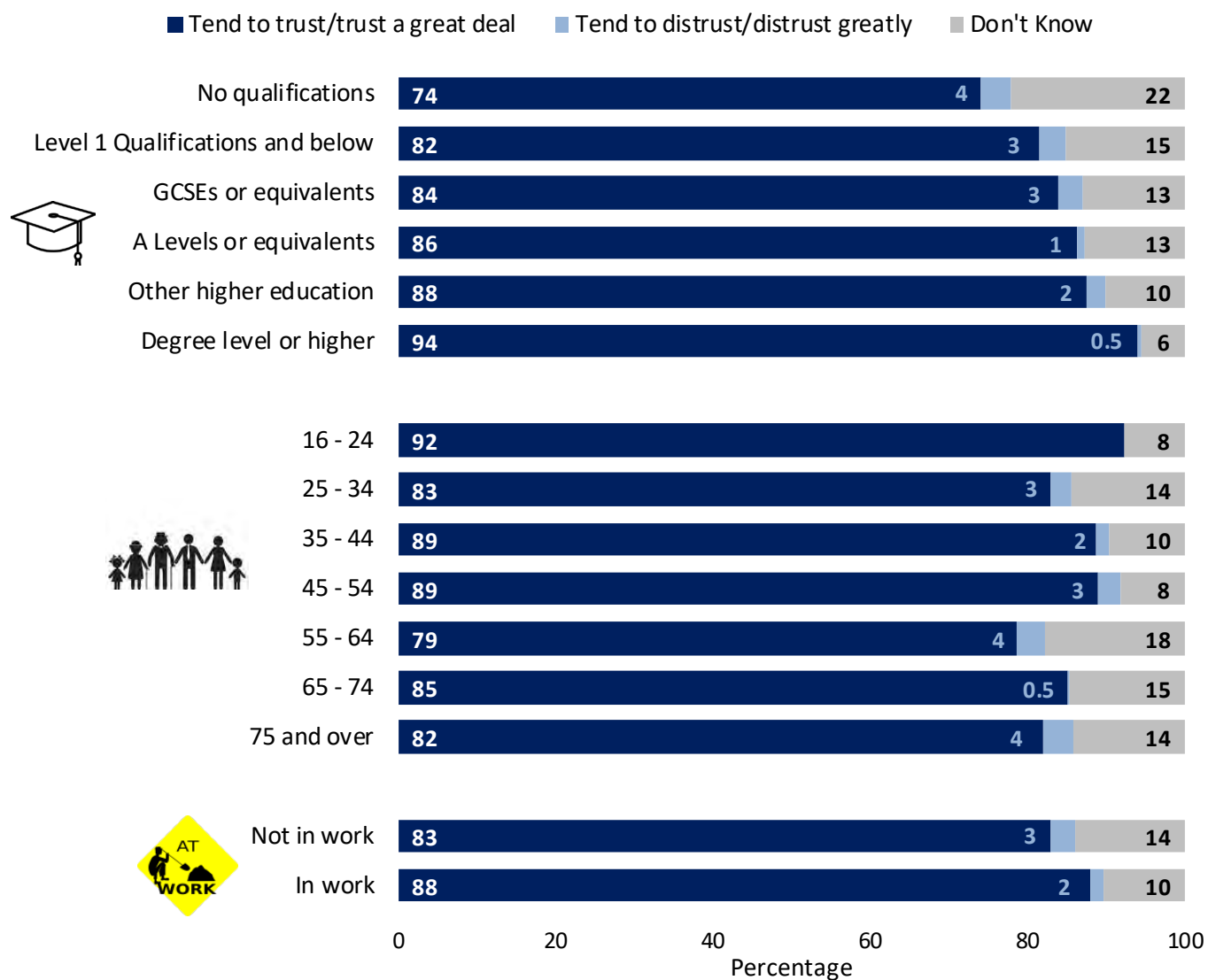
Trust in NISRA in 2020 and 2021 was significantly higher than in 2019, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trust in NISRA is similar to trust in ONS (83%) (Chart 7). However, when only those who gave an opinion are considered trust levels are higher for NISRA.

For respondents who expressed an opinion, there was no significant difference in the level of trust between those in paid employment and those not in paid employment. Similarly, there was no consistent pattern in the level of trust between different age groups. However, those aged 55-64 were significantly more likely to answer 'don't know' than those aged 35-44 and 45-54 (Chart 8).

Amongst those who expressed an opinion, respondents educated to degree level or above were significantly more likely to trust NISRA than respondents with GCSE qualifications and below, or no qualifications. Respondents with a degree level or higher qualification were also significantly less likely to say they didn't know whether or not they trusted NISRA compared to all other attainment categories,

Chart 8: Trust in NISRA by age, employment status and qualification of respondent, 2021



except those with other higher education qualifications (Chart 8).

The level of trust in NISRA is significantly higher compared with trust in the media, the NI Assembly and the Civil Service (Chart 9).

Across all institutions, the level of trust was lowest for the media (32%) and the NI Assembly (30%), whilst 81% of respondents said they trusted the Civil Service.

A higher proportion of respondents didn't know if they trusted NISRA or not (12%) compared to other institutions.

5. Trust in NISRA Statistics

The majority of respondents (86%) trust NISRA statistics a great deal or tend to trust them while 3% of respondents distrust greatly or tend to distrust them. The remaining respondents (11%) didn't know whether they trusted NISRA statistics or not (Chart 10). Trust levels in NISRA statistics are higher among those that had heard of NISRA as an institution (94%).

Chart 9: Trust in institutions, 2021

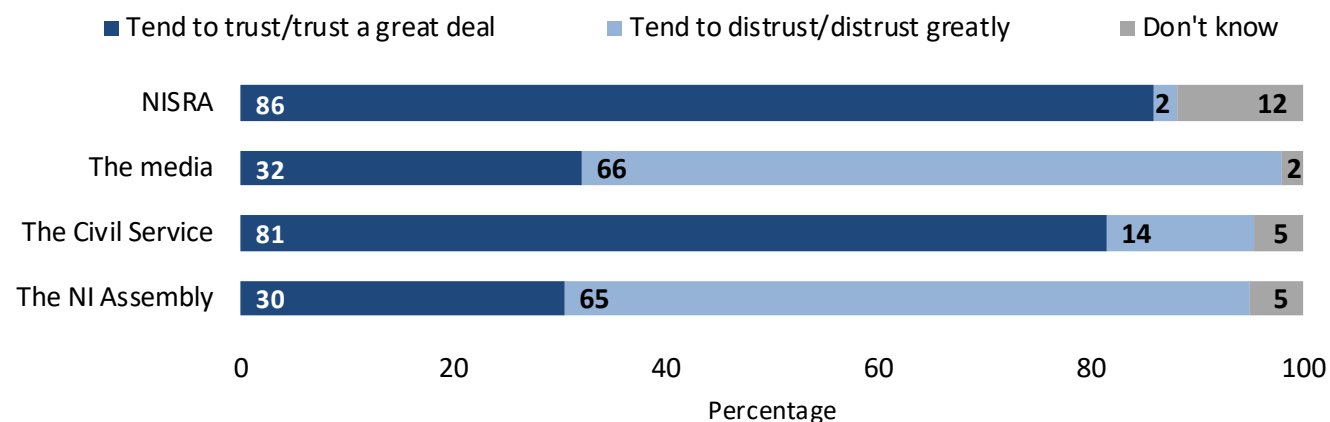
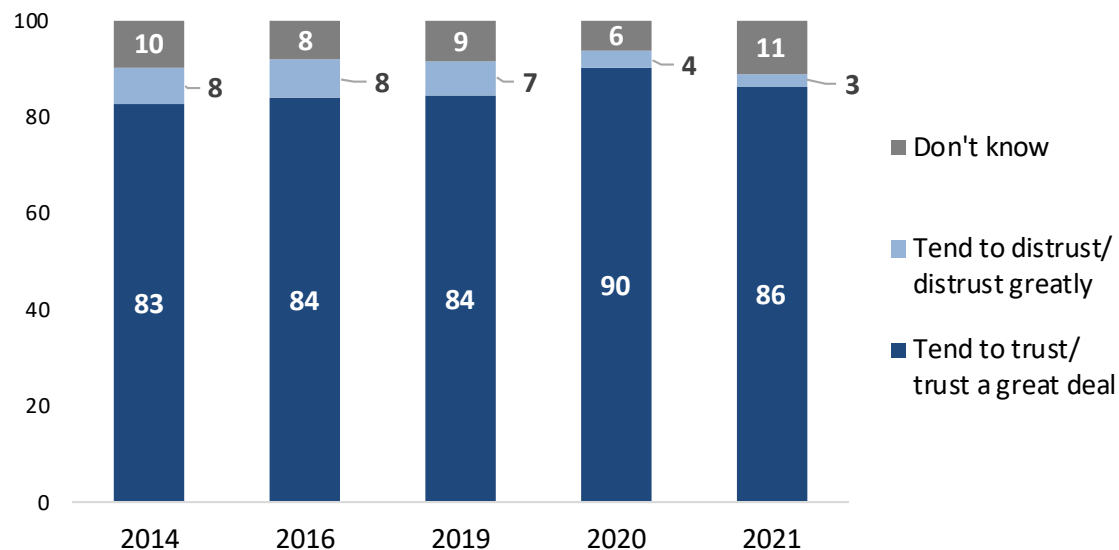


Chart 10: Trust in NISRA statistics (2014-2021)



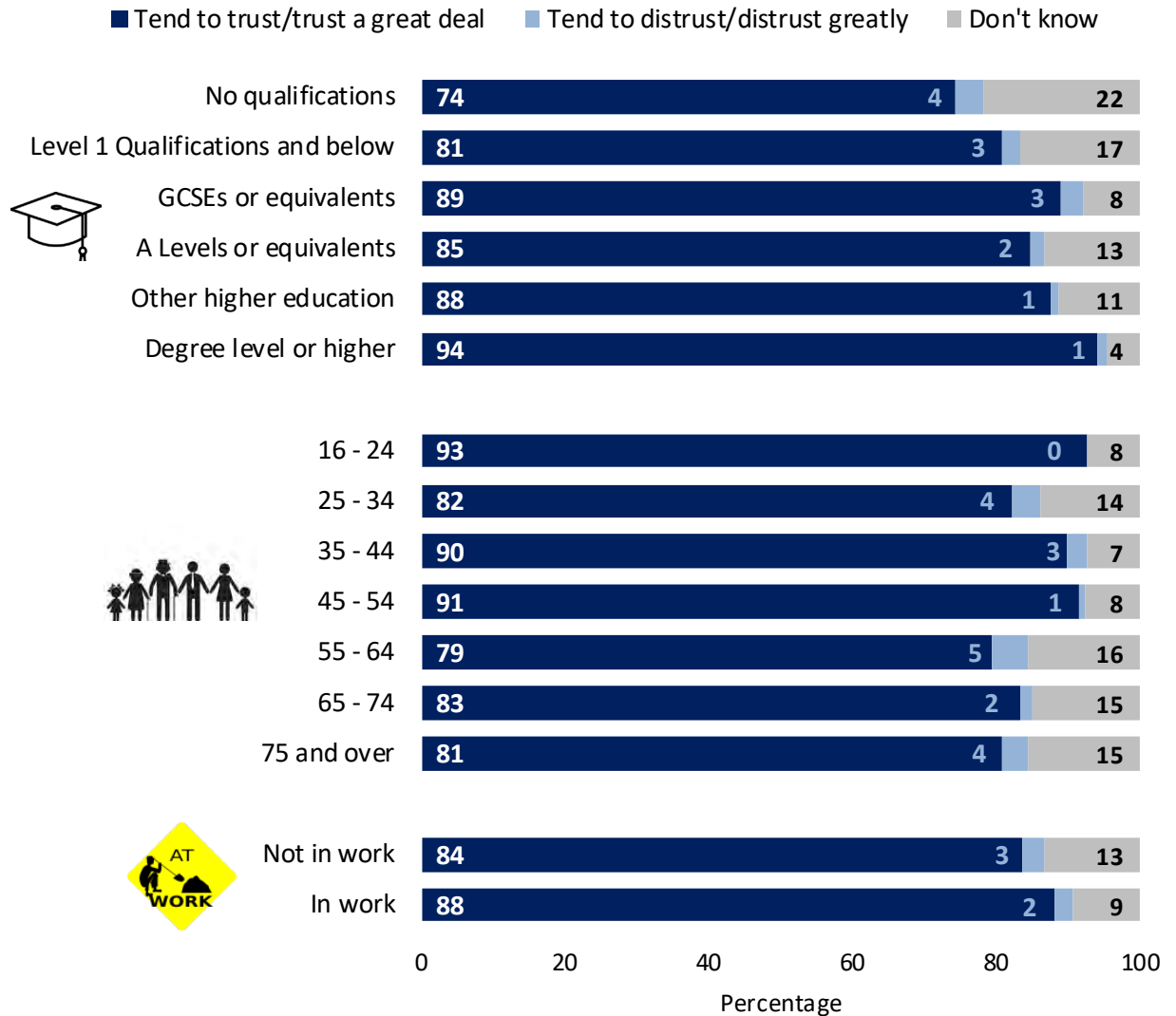
Amongst those who expressed an opinion, there is no significant difference in the level of trust in NISRA statistics between 2021 and 2020. There has however been a notable increase in the 'don't knows' in 2021 (11%, compared to 6% in 2020) (Chart 10).

The level of trust in NISRA statistics, amongst those who expressed an opinion, was significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 compared to 2019 and previous years.

For those respondents who expressed an opinion on trust in NISRA statistics, there was no consistent pattern by age (Chart 11). Similarly, there was no variation in trust levels by educational achievement. Respondents with a degree level or higher qualification were however significantly less likely to answer 'don't know' than all other categories, except those with GCSE or equivalent qualifications (Chart 11).

Amongst those who expressed an opinion there was also no significant difference between respondents in paid employment and those not in paid employment. However, respondents not in paid employment were more likely to answer 'don't know' to this question (Chart 11).

Chart 11: Trust in NISRA statistics by age, employment status and qualification of respondent, 2021



The level of trust in NISRA statistics (86%) is similar to the level of trust in ONS statistics (84%) (Chart 12). However, distrust in ONS statistics (12%) is significantly higher than distrust in NISRA statistics (3%).

More respondents answered ‘don’t know’ with regard to NISRA statistics (11%) than for ONS statistics (3%).

6. Value

The majority of people (91%) agreed that the statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland. Most of the remaining respondents (8%) didn’t know, while 2% of respondents disagreed that they are important to understand Northern Ireland (Chart 13).

When only those who expressed an opinion on the importance of NISRA statistics are considered, there is no significant difference between 2021 and 2020. However, there has been a notable increase in the ‘don’t knows’ between 2020 and 2021 (8% in 2021 compared to 4% in 2020) (Chart 13).

Chart 12: Trust in statistics produced by NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021)

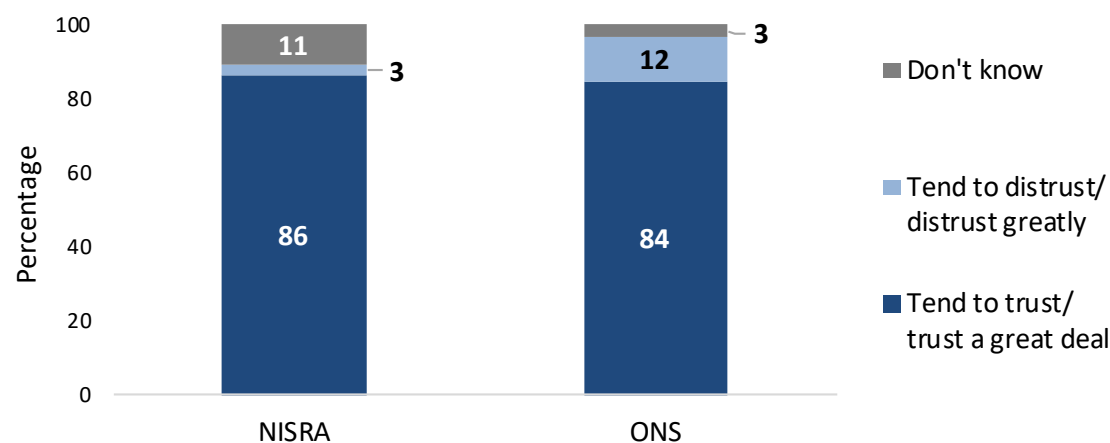
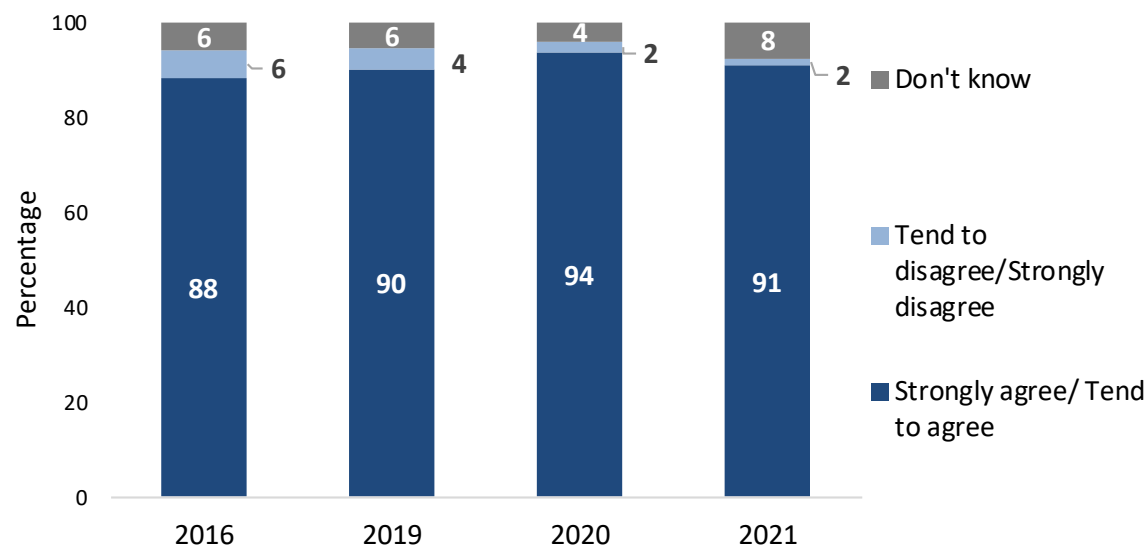


Chart 13: NISRA statistics are important to understand Northern Ireland (2016-2021)

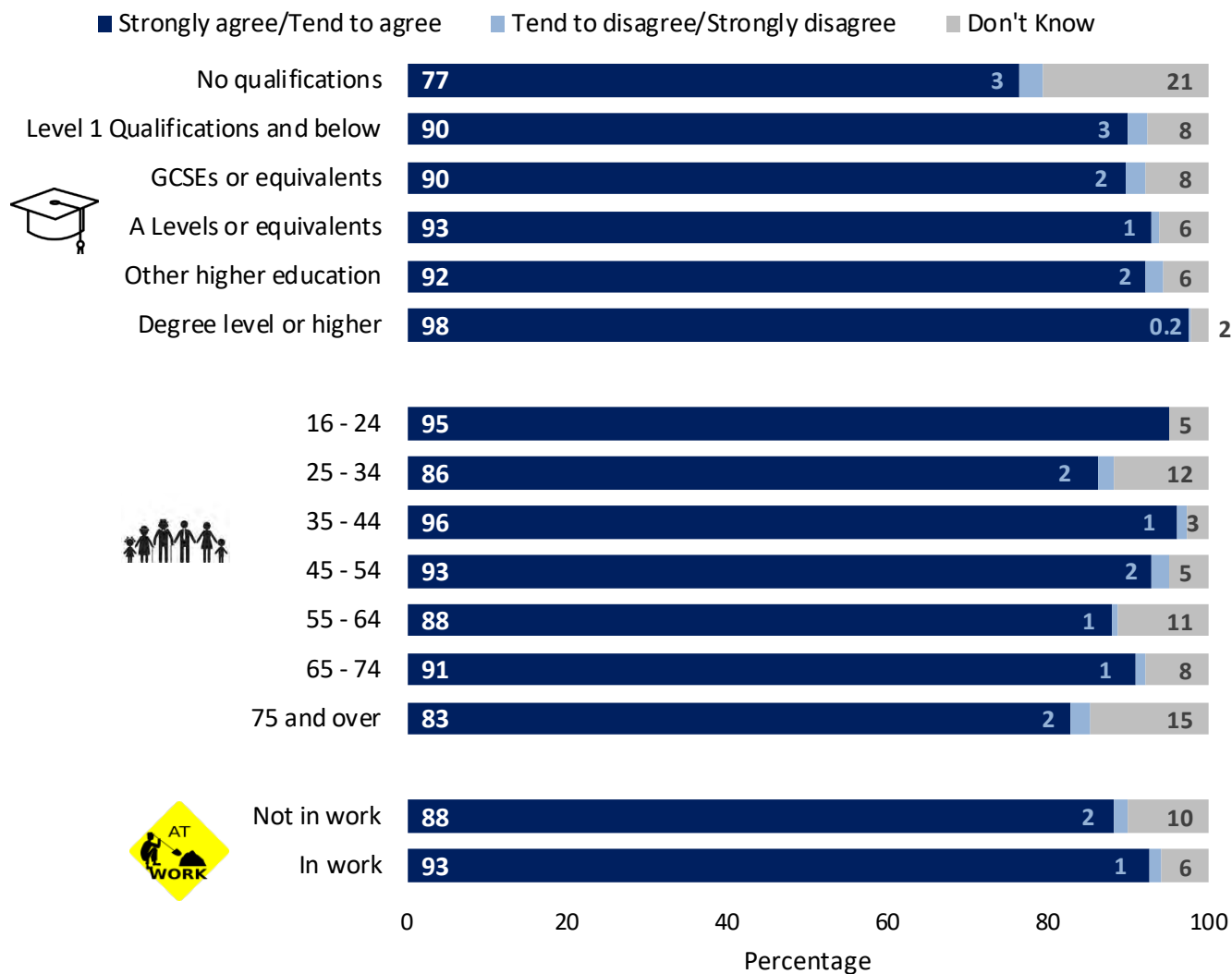


Amongst those who had a view on the importance of NISRA statistics, there was no consistent pattern by age, however, respondents aged 35-44 and 45-54 were significantly less likely to answer 'don't know' than those aged 25-34, 55-64 and 75 and over.

Similarly, there was no significant difference between the views of those in paid employment and not in paid employment. However, the level of 'don't knows' was significantly higher for those respondents not in paid employment (Chart 14).

For respondents who gave an opinion, those educated to degree level or above were more likely to agree that the statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland than all other categories except 'A Levels'. Respondents with a degree level qualification or above were also significantly less likely to answer 'don't know' than respondents with A Level qualifications or below. In contrast, those with no qualifications were significantly more likely to answer 'don't know' than all other groups (Chart 14).

Chart 14: NISRA statistics are important to understand NI by age, employment status and qualification of respondent, 2021



The percentage of respondents who agreed that the statistics produced are important to understand their country was similar for both ONS (88%) and NISRA (91%). However, the level of disagreement was significantly higher for ONS (9%) than for NISRA (2%). NISRA respondents were more likely to answer 'don't know' (8%) than ONS respondents (4%) (Chart 15).

7. Political Interference

Over four-fifths (83%) of respondents agreed that statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference. Four per cent of respondents disagreed that NISRA statistics are free from political interference whilst the remaining respondents (12%) indicated that they 'didn't know' (Chart 16).

For respondents who expressed an opinion, there was no significant difference in the level of agreement between 2021 and 2020. There has however been a notable increase in the 'don't knows' between 2021 and 2020 (12%, compared to 7% in 2020) (Chart 16).

The percentage of respondents agreeing that NISRA statistics are free from political interference, amongst those who gave an

Chart 15: Statistics produced are important to understand our country, NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021)

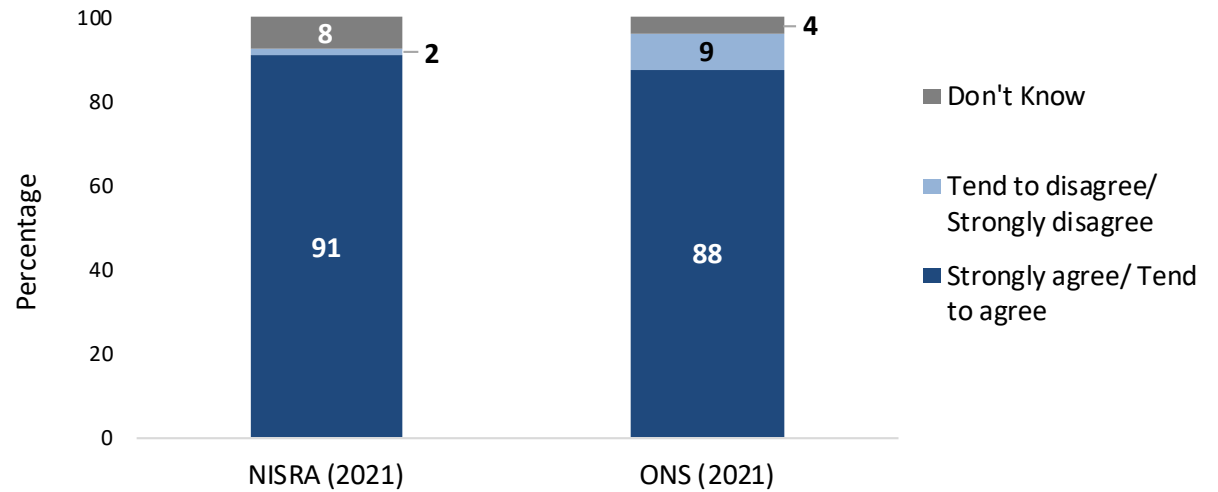
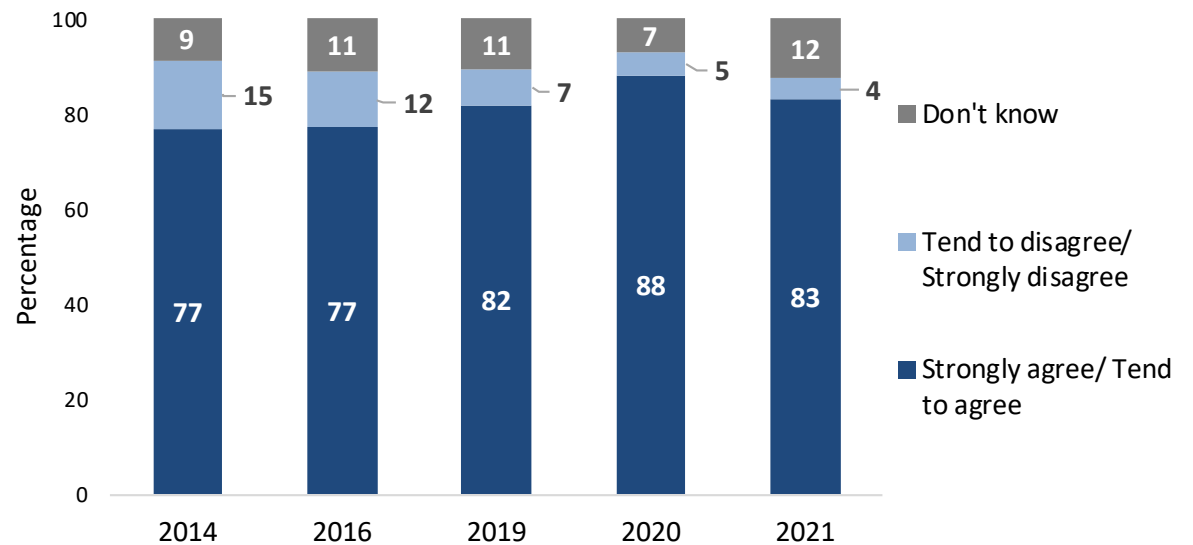


Chart 16: NISRA statistics are free from political interference (2014-2021)



opinion, was significantly higher in 2020 and 2021 than in 2019, before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When only respondents who expressed an opinion are considered, age group, employment status or highest educational qualification were found to have no impact on the level of agreement that statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference.

In comparison, 68% of respondents agreed that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference (Chart 17). This is significantly lower than the NISRA figure.

8. Confidentiality

Over nine out of every ten respondents (92%) agreed that personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential (Chart 18).

When only those who expressed an opinion were considered, there was no significant difference between 2021 and the two previous years (2020 or 2019). The level of agreement in 2021 was however significantly higher than in 2014 or 2016.

Chart 17: Statistics produced are free from political interference, NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021)

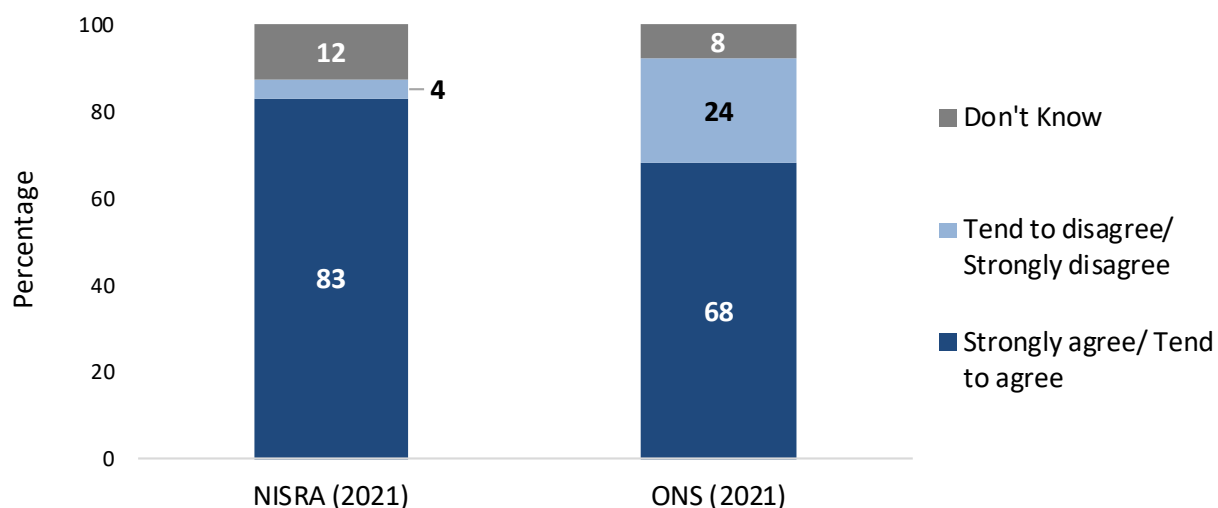
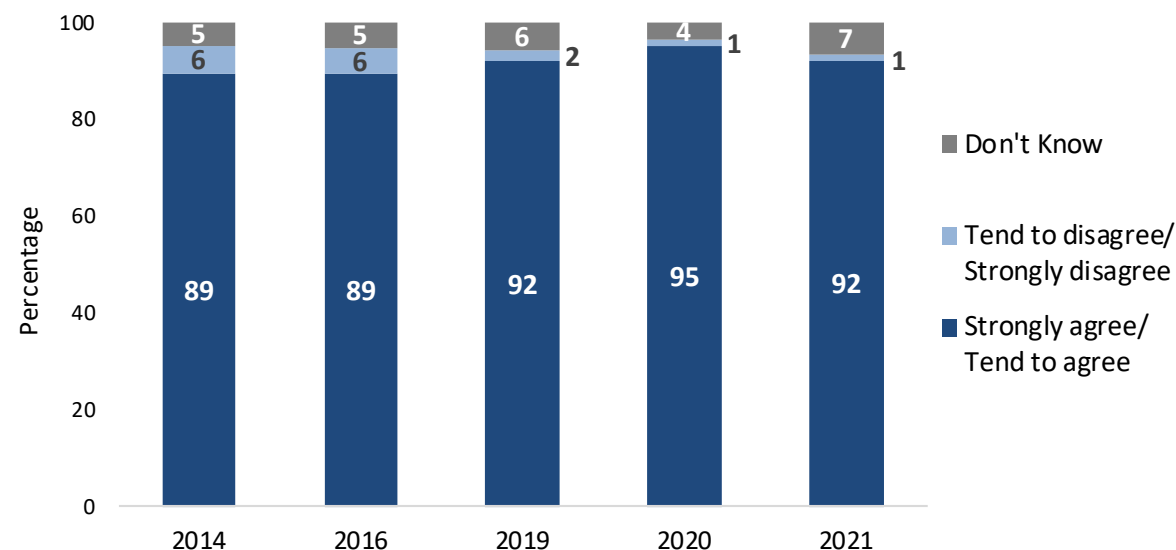


Chart 18: Personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential (2014-2021)



The majority of the remaining respondents indicated that they didn't know (7%) while 1 in every 100 (1%) respondents disagreed.

Amongst those respondents who expressed an opinion, there was no variation in the level of agreement between employment status or age group (although those aged 75 and over were significantly more likely to answer 'don't know' to this question than all other groups except those aged 16-24 and 25-34). There was also no consistent pattern by highest educational qualification.

In comparison, 89% of ONS respondents in 2021 agreed that personal information provided to ONS will be kept confidential. This is significantly lower than for NISRA (Chart 19).

9. UK Statistics Authority and Office for Statistics Regulation

In 2021, for the first time, respondents were asked if they were aware of the UK Statistics Authority and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

Chart 19: Belief that personal information provided will be kept confidential, NISRA and ONS (2021)

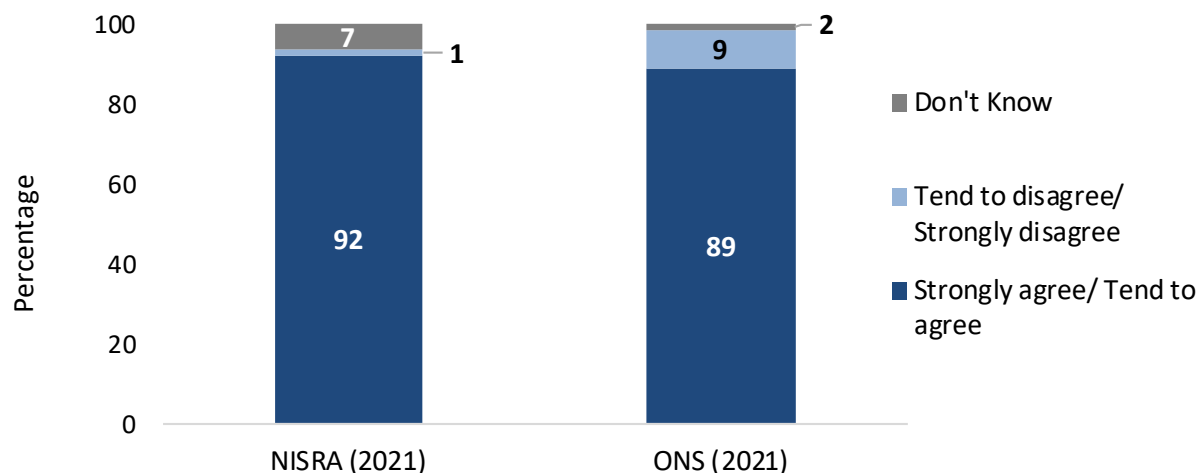
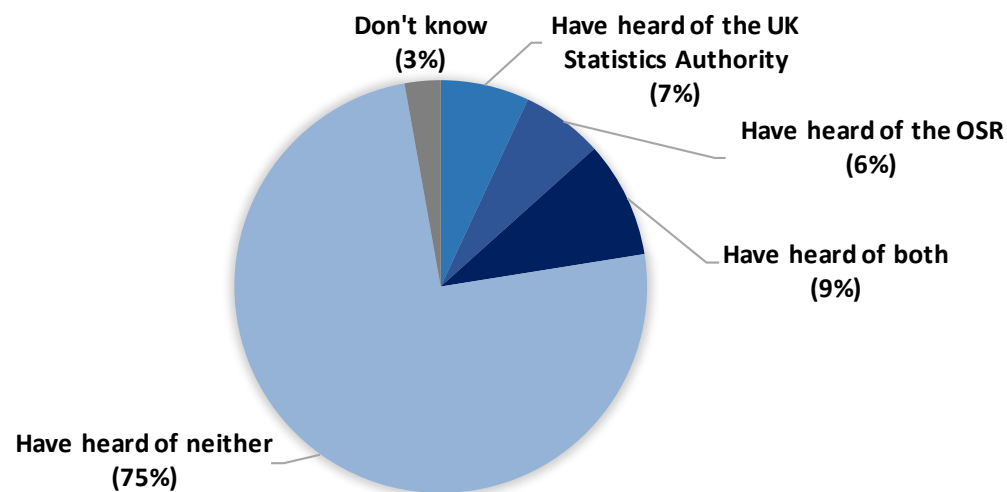


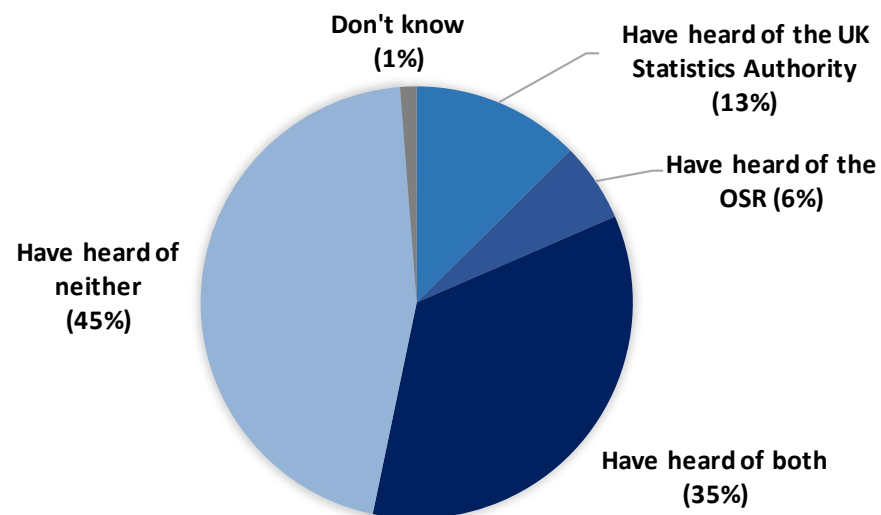
Chart 20: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), Northern Ireland (2021)



Awareness was low with 16% of respondents overall having heard of the UK Statistics Authority, and the same percentage having heard of the OSR. Less than one in ten respondents (9%) had heard of both, whilst three quarters of respondents (75%) had heard of neither organisation (Chart 20).

In comparison, the ONS survey found that awareness was higher amongst respondents in Great Britain. Almost half of respondents (47%) had heard of the UK Statistics Authority and slightly over two fifths (41%) had heard of the OSR, whilst over a third (35%) had heard of both (Chart 21).

Chart 21: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR), Great Britain (2021)



Appendix A: Methodology and Quality Information

Data Source

This report presents the results of questions relating to Public Awareness and Trust in Official Statistics in Northern Ireland that were included in the **Continuous Household Survey (CHS)**. The CHS is one of the largest continuous surveys carried out in Northern Ireland, designed and administered by the Central Survey Unit (CSU), NISRA. Prior to 2018, the questions were included as a module within the NI Omnibus Survey but following the temporary suspension of the NI Omnibus Survey in 2018, the questions were moved to the CHS. Both surveys use probabilistic sampling to select a representative sample of the general population, aged 16 and over, resident in private households. This meant that comparisons could continue to be made over time and significance tests carried out to determine if observed differences are likely to be real or due to sampling error.

Each year Central Survey Unit, NISRA, sets the content of the Continuous Household Survey questionnaire in consultation with clients. The questionnaire consists of both an overall 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, and modules that recur on a regular cycle. Core items include household and individual demographics, accommodation, tenure, internet access, environmental issues, domestic tourism, participation in sports, arts and leisure, employment status, health and section 75 classifications. Interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March, with the 'Public Awareness and Trust in Official Statistics' module normally included during the Autumn months (September to November). The questions included in the 2021 module are available in Appendix C of this report.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data collection for the Continuous Household Survey moved from face-to-face interviewing to telephone mode in March 2020. This required a reduction in the number of questions in the overall questionnaire. While the Public Awareness and Trust in Official Statistics questions were unaltered, the change in data collection mode and the number of questions may have altered how people responded to the survey.

The achieved response rate for the CHS was also lower than normal in 2020 (16% compared to 55%) and slightly lower than normal in 2021 (41%). As a result the Public Awareness and Trust in Official Statistics module for 2020 ran for an additional three months (October 2020 to March 2021). While this has maintained the precision of the 2020 estimates and enabled comparisons with 2021 and other years in the time series, the timing of the 2020 module does not align as well with other years. More information is available on the [NISRA website](#).

Sample

The Continuous Household Survey is based on a systematic random sample of 9,000 addresses drawn each year from the Pointer list of domestic addresses. Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland maintained by Land & Property Services (LPS). Data are collected by telephone interview using Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI), and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March. Of the 2,340 addresses selected for interview from September to November 2021, 1186 persons participated in this module of the survey.

Survey Estimates

Surveys gather information from a sample rather than from the whole population. Results from surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This means that they have a margin of error which can have an impact on how changes in the numbers should be interpreted, especially in the short term. An estimate of the amount of error due to the sampling process can be calculated and used to produce an interval of values known as a confidence interval. This has been taken into account when carrying out significance tests.

Significance tests were carried out to determine if there were differences in responses given by various respondent groups. The significance tests were carried out at 5% significance level and only differences which were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) are included in this report. This means that there is at least a 95% probability that there is a genuine difference between responses given by, for example, those in paid employment and those not in paid employment and the difference between the two groups is not simply explained by chance.

Weighting

The Continuous Household Survey aspires to interview everyone aged 16 or over at a selected household, but non-response either by the household as a whole or by individuals within the household introduce non-response bias to the results. To counter this, weights are applied to the analysis on the basis of age and gender. Weights are calculated based on how the age and gender profile of the survey respondents differ from that of the latest mid-year population estimates published by NISRA. Due to the later publication of the 2021 mid-year estimates, the 2020 mid-year estimates were used for both 2020/21 and 2021/22. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults across Northern Ireland, thus allowing inferences to be made about the population. The percentages given in the tables in this report are based on weighted data. The totals in the tables are not weighted.

Quality Checks

CATI allows plausibility and consistency checks to be incorporated within the questionnaire to improve data quality. Data returned is coded and fully validated by CHS statistical staff, including treatment of outliers and detailed consistency checking including non-credible checks. A 100% check of all coded data is undertaken to ensure that coding procedures are of a high standard.

On receipt of CHS data, Statistical Support Branch validate and perform quality checks on the data. Range and plausibility checks are performed for returned and derived variables and the data are also checked for 'missing values'. The data is compared with previous years to identify any unusual trends or distributions, or values that lie outside expected norms. All anomalies are queried with CHS staff who can re-check the coding and source data.

Further Information

More information on the methodology used to produce these official statistics and the quality of the data is available in the [Background Quality Report](#)⁵.

⁵ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/background-quality-report-public-awareness-and-trust-official-statistics>

Appendix B: List of Detailed Tables

[Detailed tables](#)⁶ including the source data for all the charts and commentary and additional breakdowns are published alongside this report. A full list of tables is provided below:

Awareness of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

Table 1: Awareness of NISRA, 2009-2021

Table 2: Awareness of NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021)

Table 3: Awareness of NISRA by age band, 2021

Table 4: Awareness of NISRA by employment status, 2021

Table 5: Awareness of NISRA by highest educational qualification, 2021

Awareness of NISRA statistics among those who had not previously heard of NISRA

Table 6: Aware of NISRA statistics on the number of deaths in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 7: Aware of NISRA statistics on recorded levels of crime in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 8: Aware of NISRA statistics on the qualifications of school leavers in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 9: Aware of NISRA statistics on the number of people who live in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 10: Aware of NISRA statistics on hospital waiting times in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 11: Aware of NISRA statistics on the Northern Ireland Census every ten years, 2021

Table 12: Aware of NISRA statistics on the unemployment rate in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 13: Aware of NISRA statistics on people living in poverty in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 14: Aware of NISRA statistics on percentage of journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport in Northern Ireland, 2021

Table 15: Number of selected NISRA statistics respondents had heard of (among those who were not previously aware of NISRA), 2021

Awareness that specified statistics are produced by NISRA statisticians among those who were aware of NISRA

Table 16: Aware that statistics on the number of deaths in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 17: Aware that statistics on recorded levels of crime in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 18: Aware that statistics on the qualifications of school leavers in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

⁶ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/public-awareness-and-trust-official-statistics-2021>

Table 19: Aware that statistics on the number of people who live in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 20: Aware that statistics on hospital waiting times in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 21: Aware that statistics on the Northern Ireland Census every ten years are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 22: Aware that statistics on the unemployment rate in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 23: Aware that statistics on people living in poverty in Northern Ireland are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 24: Aware that statistics on the percentage of journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport in NI are produced by NISRA statisticians, 2021

Table 25: Number of specified statistics respondents are aware are produced by NISRA statisticians (among those who had previously heard of NISRA), 2021

Trust in NISRA

Table 26: Trust in NISRA, 2014-2021

Table 27: Trust in NISRA (2021) and ONS (2021)

Table 28: Trust in NISRA by age band, 2021

Table 29: Trust in NISRA by employment status, 2021

Table 30: Trust in NISRA by highest educational qualification, 2021

Table 31: Trust in NISRA by respondent's awareness of NISRA, 2021

Trust in the Civil Service

Table 32: Trust in the Civil Service, 2014-2021

Table 33: Trust in the Civil Service by age band, 2021

Table 34: Trust in the Civil Service by employment status, 2021

Table 35: Trust in the Civil Service by highest educational qualification, 2021

Trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly

Table 36: Trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly, 2014-2021

Table 37: Trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly by age band, 2021

Table 38: Trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly by employment status, 2021

Table 39: Trust in the Northern Ireland Assembly by highest educational qualification, 2021

Trust in the Media

Table 40: Trust in the Media, 2014-2021

Table 41: Trust in the Media by age band, 2021

Table 42: Trust in the Media by employment status, 2021

Table 43: Trust in the Media by highest educational qualification, 2021

Trust in the statistics produced by NISRA

Table 44: Trust in NISRA Statistics, 2014-2021

Table 45: Trust in ONS (2021) and NISRA (2021) statistics

Table 46: Trust in NISRA statistics by age band, 2021

Table 47: Trust in NISRA statistics by employment status, 2021

Table 48: Trust in NISRA statistics by highest educational qualification, 2021

Table 49: Trust in NISRA by respondent's awareness of NISRA, 2021

Value

Table 50: Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland, 2016-2021

Table 51: Statistics produced are important to understand our country (ONS 2021 and NISRA 2021)

Table 52: Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland, by age band, 2021

Table 53: Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland, by employment status, 2021

Table 54: Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland, by highest educational qualification, 2021

Table 55: Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland, by whether or not the respondent had heard of NISRA, 2021

Political Interference

Table 56: Statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference, 2014-2021

Table 57: Statistics produced are free from political interference (ONS 2021 and NISRA 2021)

Table 58: Statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference, by age band, 2021

Table 59: Statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference, by employment status, 2021

Table 60: Statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference, by highest educational qualification, 2021

Confidentiality

Table 61: Personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential, 2021

Table 62: Personal information provided will be kept confidential (ONS 2021 and NISRA 2021)

Table 63: Personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential, by age band, 2021

Table 64: Personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential, by employment status, 2021

Table 65: Personal information provided to NISRA will be kept confidential, by highest educational qualification, 2021

UK Statistics Authority and the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR)

Table 66: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and Office for Statistics Regulation, 2021

Table 67: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and OSR (Great Britain 2021 and Northern Ireland 2021)

Table 68: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and OSR, by age band, 2021

Table 69: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and OSR, by employment status, 2021

Table 70: Awareness of the UK Statistics Authority and OSR, by highest educational qualification, 2021

Appendix C: Survey Questions

PCOS1

"Before being contacted about this survey had you heard of NISRA, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency?"

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

If answered 'yes' to PCOS1 then

PCOS1c NISRA produces official statistics for Northern Ireland on a wide range of issues.

I am going to list a number of these and want you to tell me if you knew before today that this information was produced by NISRA statisticians.

	Aware produced by NISRA?
• The number of deaths in NI	Yes/No
• Recorded levels of crime in NI	Yes/No
• Qualifications of school leavers in NI	Yes/No
• The number of people who live in NI	Yes/No
• Statistics on hospital waiting times in NI	Yes/No
• The NI Census every ten years	Yes/No
• The unemployment rate in NI	Yes/No
• People living in poverty in NI	Yes/No
• Percentage of journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport in NI	Yes/No

If answered 'no' to PCOS1 then

PCOS1d NISRA produces official statistics for Northern Ireland on a wide range of issues.

I am going to list a number of these and want you to tell me if you have heard of them or not.

	Heard of?
• The number of deaths in NI	Yes/No
• Recorded levels of crime in NI	Yes/No
• Qualifications of school leavers in NI	Yes/No
• The number of people who live in NI	Yes/No
• Statistics on hospital waiting times in NI	Yes/No
• The NI Census every ten years	Yes/No
• The unemployment rate in NI	Yes/No
• People living in poverty in NI	Yes/No
• Percentage of journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport in NI	Yes/No

PCOS2a

I will name a list of institutions. For each, please indicate whether you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

How much do you trust the Civil Service?

- 1 Trust a great deal
- 2 Tend to trust
- 3 Tend to distrust
- 4 Distrust greatly

PCOS2b

How much do you trust the NI Assembly?

- 1 Trust a great deal
- 2 Tend to trust
- 3 Tend to distrust
- 4 Distrust greatly

PCOS2c

How much do you trust the media?

- 1 Trust a great deal
- 2 Tend to trust
- 3 Tend to distrust
- 4 Distrust greatly

PCOS2d

How much do you trust NISRA?

- 1 Trust a great deal
- 2 Tend to trust
- 3 Tend to distrust
- 4 Distrust greatly

PCOS3

Personally, how much trust do you have in statistics produced by NISRA?

- 1 Trust them greatly
- 2 Tend to trust them
- 3 Tend not to trust them
- 4 Distrust them greatly

PCOS4

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement 'Statistics produced by NISRA are important to understand Northern Ireland?'

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Tend to agree
- 3 Tend to disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

PCOS5

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement 'I believe that the statistics produced by NISRA are free from political interference'

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Tend to agree
- 3 Tend to disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

PCOS6

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'I believe that personal information that is provided to NISRA will be kept confidential.'

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Tend to agree
- 3 Tend to disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

PCOS7

The UK Statistics Authority, which includes the Office for Statistics Regulation, is the independent body whose role is to safeguard official statistics and speak out publicly against the misuse of statistics.

Had you heard of either the UK Statistics Authority or the Office for Statistics Regulation before this survey?

- 1 Yes, I had heard of the UK Statistics Authority
- 2 Yes, I had heard of the Office for Statistics Regulation
- 3 Yes, I had heard of both
- 4 No, I hadn't heard of either