

# Liquor Licences in Northern Ireland 2021

Annual publication

Published: 30 June 2022

Coverage: Northern Ireland

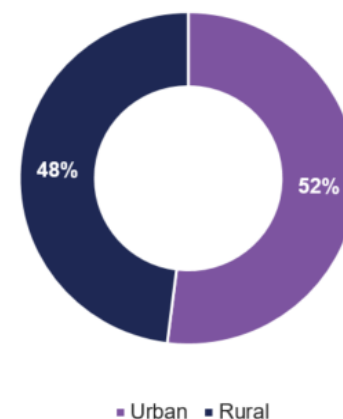
## Key points:

- At December 2021, there were 1,193 liquor licences for public houses.
- The Local Government District (LGD) with the most liquor licences for public houses was Newry, Mourne and Down (178).
- The split between urban and rural locations was 48% rural and 52% urban.
- The District Electoral Area (DEA) with the most liquor licences for public houses was Botanic in Belfast LGD (59).
- At December 2021, there were 637 liquor licences for off-licences.

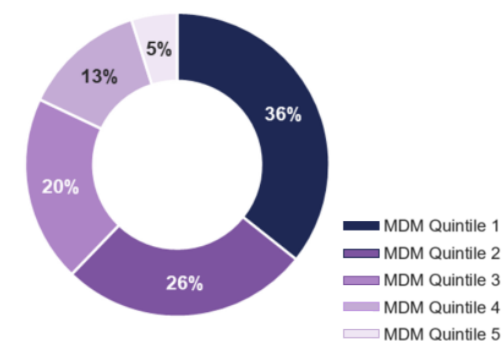
## Northern Ireland



### Urban / Rural Classification



### Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) Rank



\*Where Quintile 1 is most deprived and Quintile 5 is least deprived

In Northern Ireland there were 1,193 liquor licences for public houses as of December 2021. Of these, 52% were in areas classified as urban and 48% were in areas classified as rural. More than a third, 36%, were located in areas within the most deprived quintile, based on Multiple Deprivation Measures (MDM), while one in twenty were located in areas within the least deprived quintile based on MDM. There were 637 liquor licences for off-licences in Northern Ireland as of December 2021.

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## Introduction

This is the first publication providing the number of liquor licences in Northern Ireland. Legislation passed by the NI Assembly specified that the Department for Communities (DfC) must publish information on the number of liquor licences held by off-licences, and the number of liquor licences held by public houses annually. It further specified that data in relation to public houses should be available at the District Electoral Area (DEA) level<sup>1</sup>.

This publication includes information on:

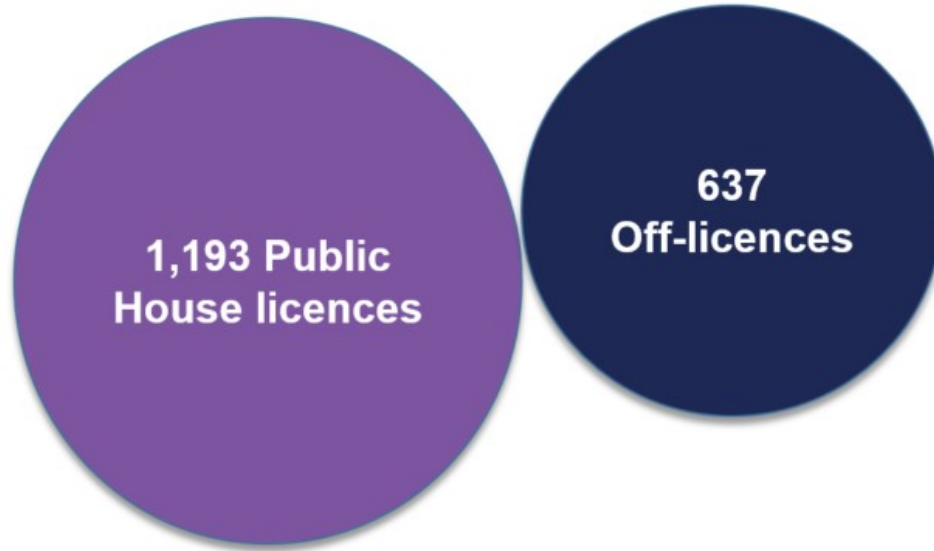
- Number of liquor licences by public house by various geographies
- Number of liquor licences by off-licence

Data in relation to liquor licences was provided to DfC by the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICtS). The NICtS hold data on the number of liquor licences that are held in Northern Ireland by various types of premises. As more data becomes available analysis of trends will be incorporated into the commentary.

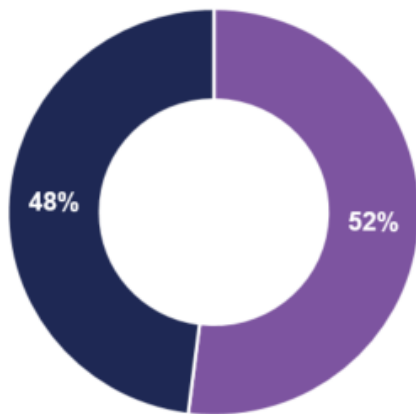
More information relating to the data, definitions and the interpretation of the figures can be found in the [Definitions and technical notes](#) section. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS](#) format on the publication web page..

1. There are 80 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) in Northern Ireland. All Local Government Districts have 7 DEAs in total, with the exception of Belfast which has 10.

## Liquor licences at Northern Ireland level

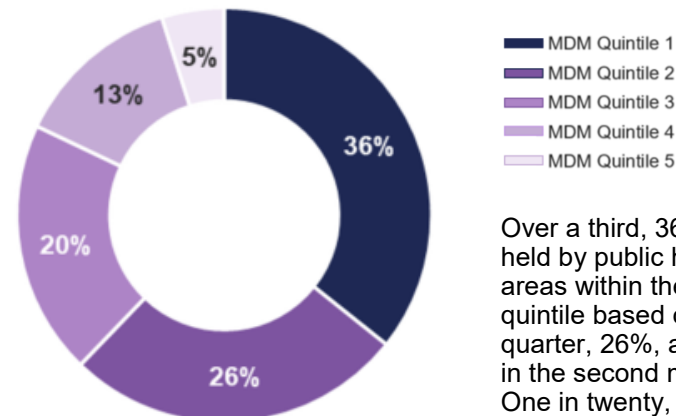


As of December 2021, there were 1,193 liquor licences for public houses and 637 for off-licences.



■ Urban ■ Rural

Just over half, 52%, of liquor licences held by public houses are located in areas classified as urban, with the remaining 48% in areas classified as rural.

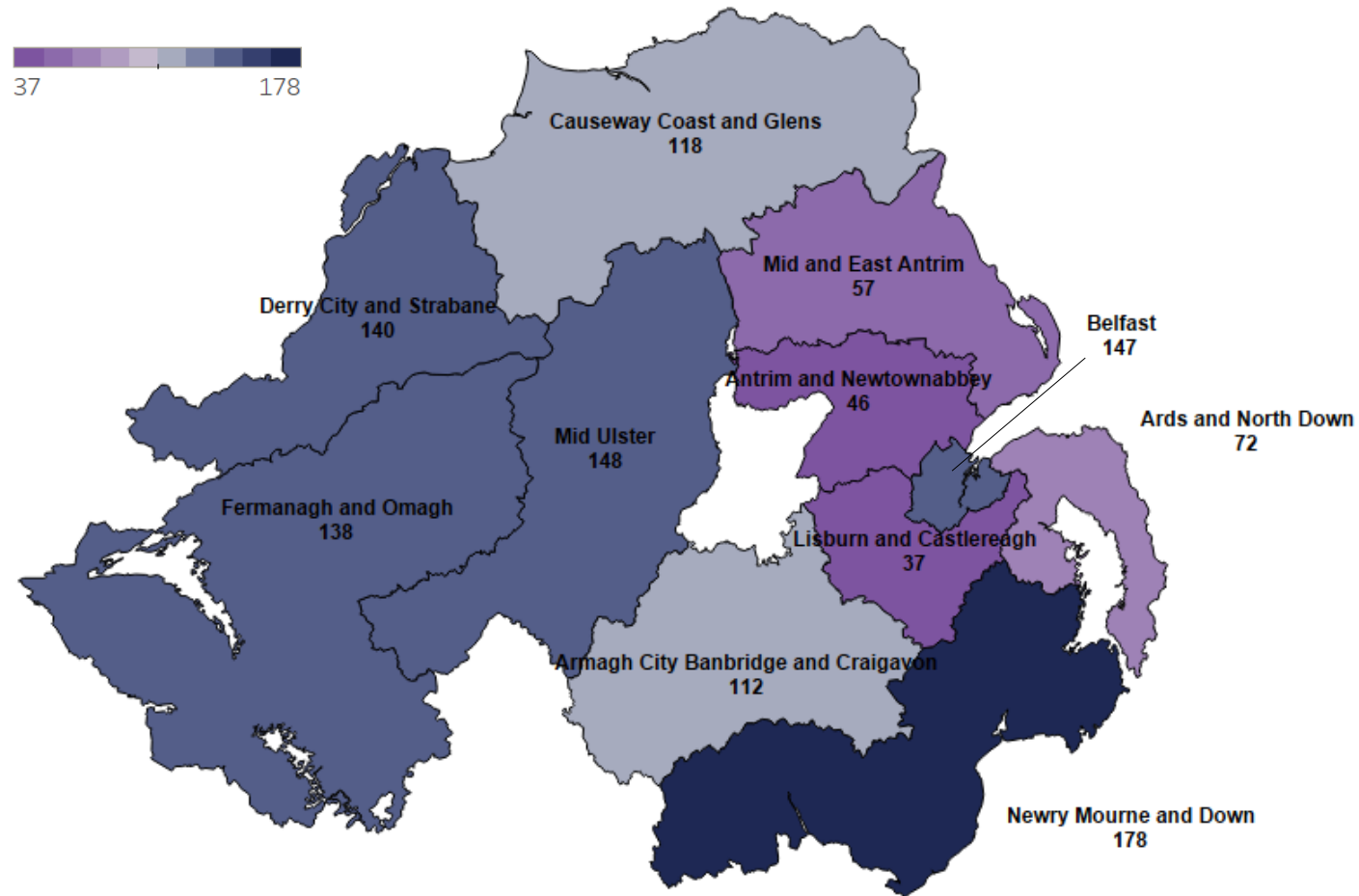


■ MDM Quintile 1  
 ■ MDM Quintile 2  
 ■ MDM Quintile 3  
 ■ MDM Quintile 4  
 ■ MDM Quintile 5

Over a third, 36%, of liquor licences held by public houses are located in areas within the most deprived quintile based on MDM. Just over a quarter, 26%, are located within areas in the second most deprived quintile. One in twenty, 5%, liquor licences held by public houses are located in the least deprived quintile.

# Liquor licences at Local Government District (LGD) level

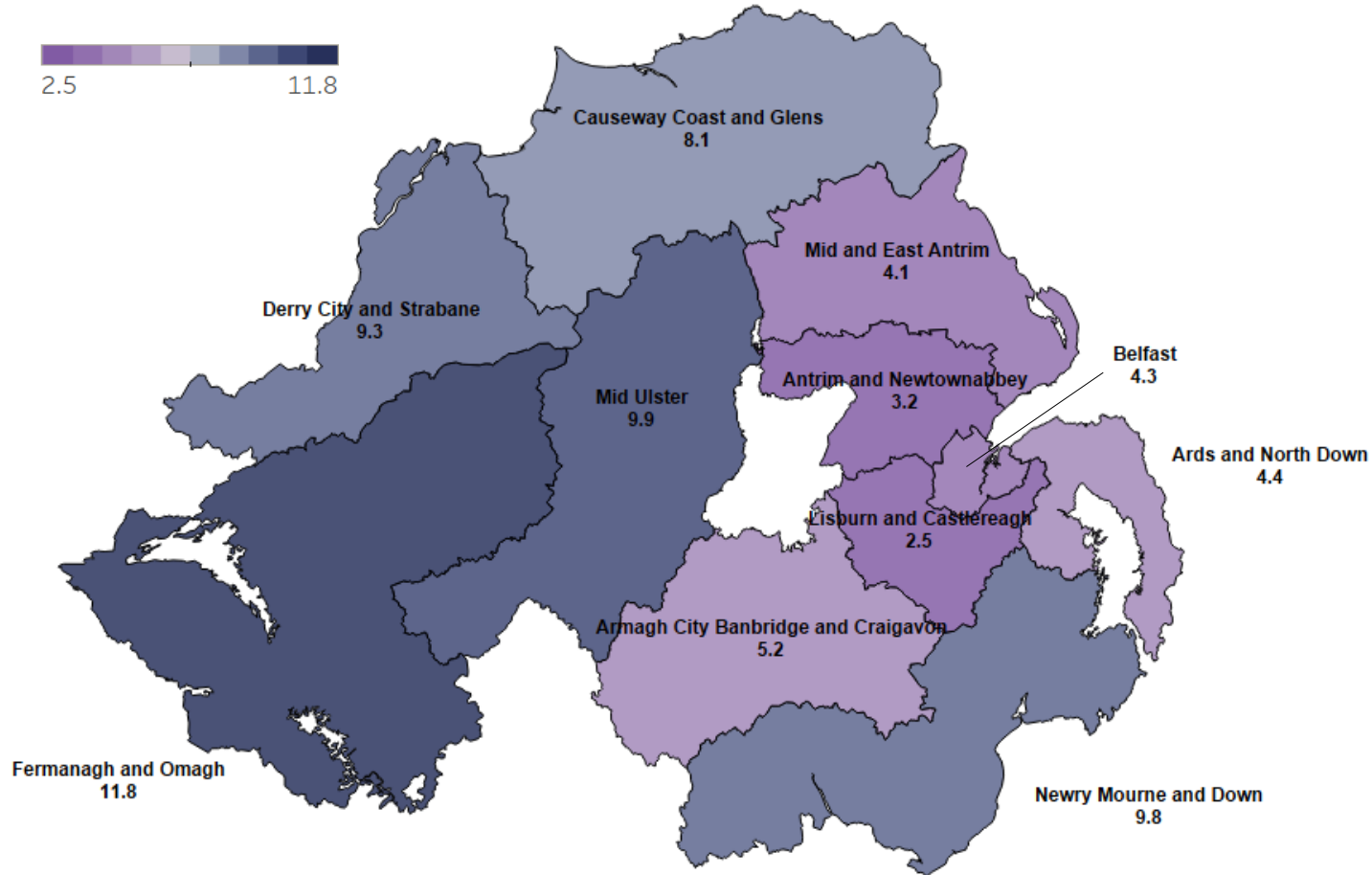
## Liquor licences held by public houses by LGD



There is variation in the number of liquor licences held by public houses in each LGD, with 37 in Lisburn and Castlereagh and 178 in Newry, Mourne and Down.

## Liquor licences at Local Government District (LGD) level

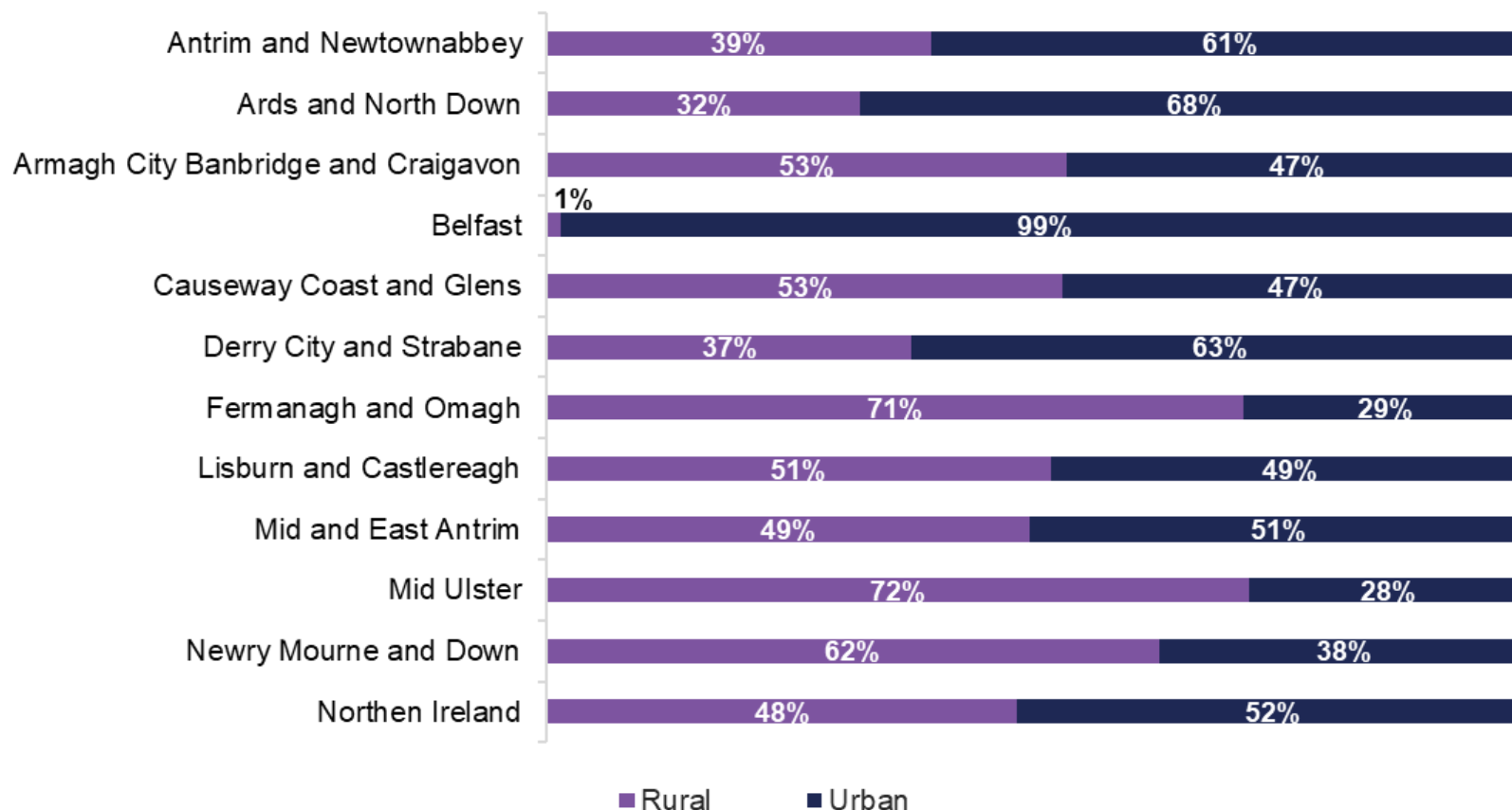
Liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of population by LGD



Analysis of the number of liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of the population, shows a range from 11.8 in Fermanagh and Omagh to 2.5 in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

## Liquor licences at Local Government District (LGD) level - Urban / Rural Classification

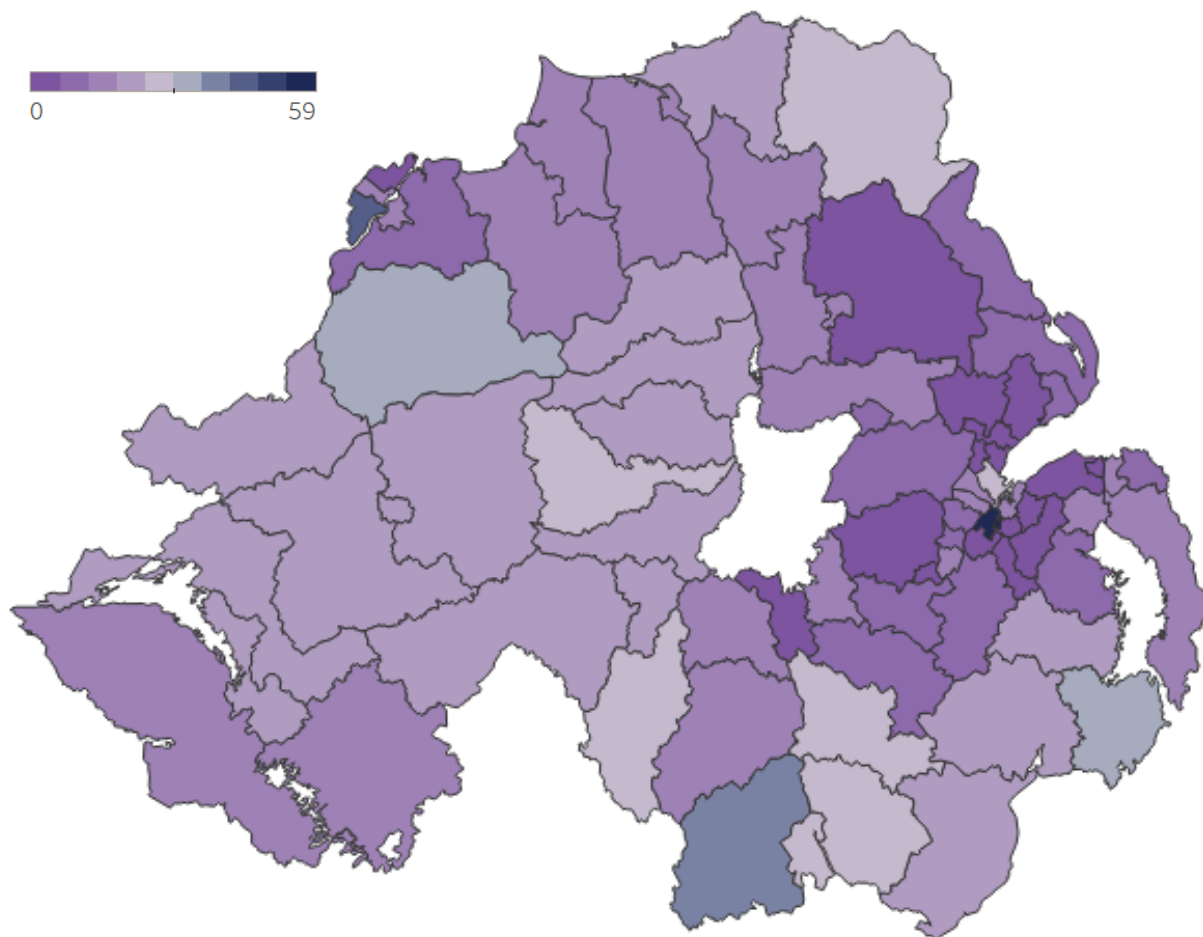
Percentage of liquor licences for public houses by Urban / Rural Classification per LGD



- Of the eleven LGDs, six have a higher percentage of liquor licences held by public houses within areas classified as rural.
- Almost all (99%) of liquor licences held by public houses in Belfast are in areas classified as urban.
- More than seven in every ten liquor licences held by public houses in Mid Ulster (72%) and Fermanagh and Omagh (71%) are in rural areas.

## Liquor licences at District Electoral Area (DEA) level

### Liquor licences held by public houses by DEA

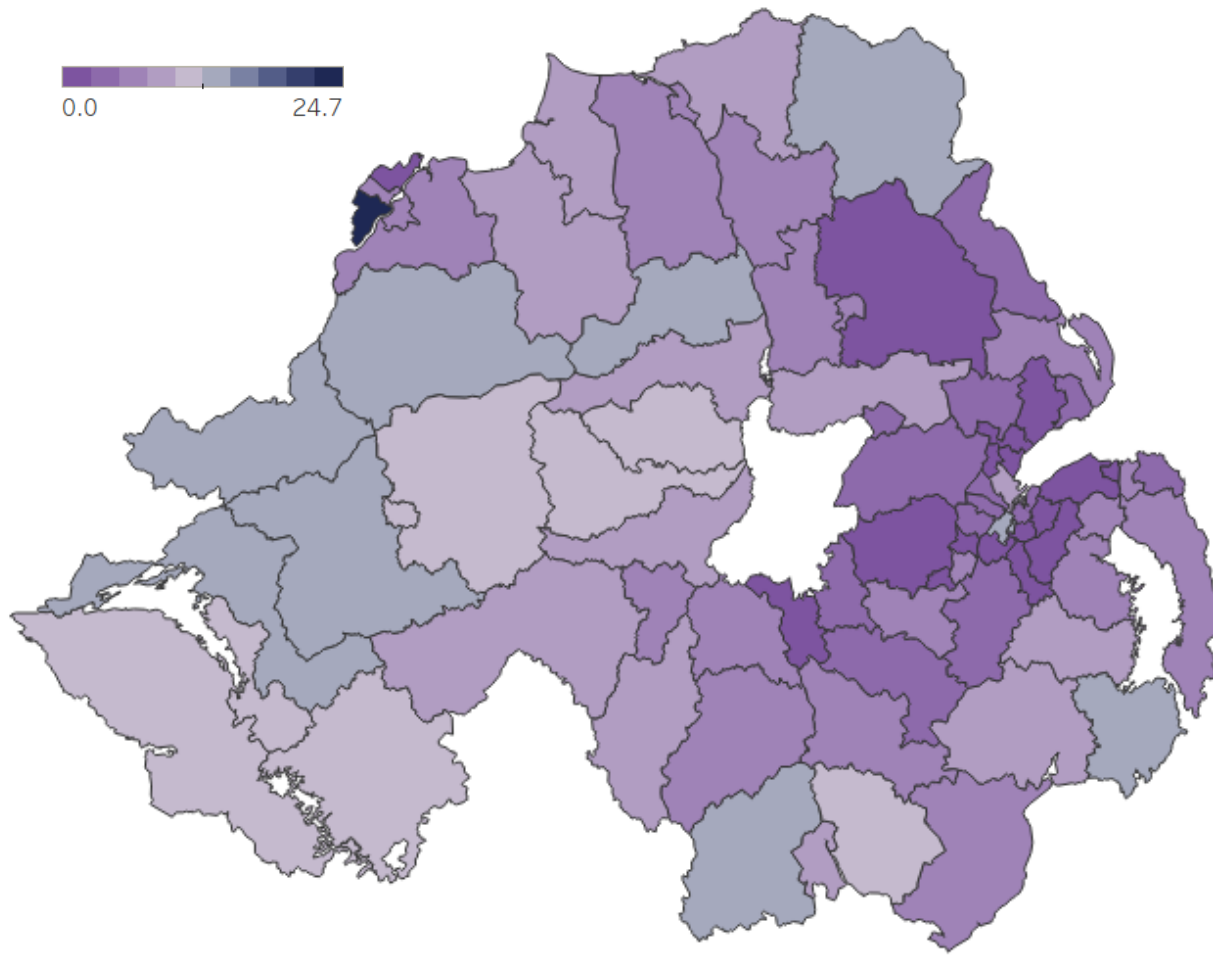


The DEA with the highest number of liquor licences held by public houses is Botanic, in Belfast LGD, with 59. This is followed by The Moor, in Derry City and Strabane LGD, which has 42.

There are no public houses holding a liquor licence in Lisburn South DEA (Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD), while there is only one public house holding a liquor licence in each of Bangor West (Ards and North Down LGD), Knockagh (Mid and East Antrim LGD), Lisnasharragh (Belfast LGD) and Three Mile Water (Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD).

## Liquor licences at District Electoral Area (DEA) level

### Liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of the population by DEA



The DEA with the highest number of liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of the population was The Moor (Derry City and Strabane LGD), with 24.7. This is followed by Erne North (Fermanagh and Omagh LGD) which has 14.4.

Lisburn South (Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD) has no liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of the population. Lisnasharragh (Belfast LGD) has the second lowest concentration of liquor licences held by public houses per 10,000 of the population, with 0.3.



# Definitions and technical notes

## Basis for publication

The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 states that the Department for Communities must, as soon as reasonably practicable, publish a statement of each of the following as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in the previous year –

- (a) the number of licences in force for premises of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(a) of the Licensing Order;
- (b) the number of licences in force for premises of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(b) of the Licensing Order;
- (c) the number of premises of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(a) of the Licensing Order in each district electoral area or, if the Department considers that it is feasible to reckon the number of such premises by reference to smaller areas, in each of those areas;
- (d) the trends which may be observed from the numbers referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c).

Premises under article 5(1)(a) are premises in which the business carried on under the licence is the business of selling intoxicating liquor by retail for consumption either in or off the premises i.e. public houses.

Premises under article 5(1)(b) are premises in which the business carried on under the licence is the business of selling intoxicating liquor by retail for consumption off the premises i.e. off-licences.

## District Electoral Area (DEA)

There are a total of 80 DEAs across Northern Ireland. Ten of the eleven Local Government Districts have seven DEAs, while Belfast has a total of ten.

## Urban/rural classification

The urban or rural classification of a public house has been determined by using the property postcode, the Central Postcode Directory and the [Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements](#) published by NISRA.

## Deprivation

The data have been analysed by which deprivation quintile the public house is located in. This is estimated using the [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017](#) 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. These are then grouped into 'quintiles', with the first quintile being the most deprived and the fifth quintile being the least deprived.

## Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.