

Introduction:

This report presents information from the 2017 Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market characteristics of Protestants and Catholics across the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) in Northern Ireland (Figure 1).

Following the reform of local government in Northern Ireland, the 11 new LGDs replaced the previous 26 from 1 April 2015.

Geographical analysis within the main Labour Force Survey Religion Report¹ relates to the five NUTS 3 regions of Northern Ireland: Belfast; Outer Belfast; East of NI; North of NI; and the West and South of NI (NUTS 2013 classification). This report focuses on the 11 new LGDs, which constitute NUTS 3 areas in the amended NUTS 2016 classification (valid from January 2018).²

Figure 1: Local Government Districts, Northern Ireland



This publication presents estimates for the 11 LGDs for 2017 on:

1. The religious composition of the 16+ population.³
2. The religious composition of the working age population.
3. The working age employment rates for Protestants and Catholics (2014, 2015 and 2016 data are also included for context).

¹ Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2017, <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2017>

² For more information on NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics), please see: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/background>

³ All population data presented in this report are grossed estimates based on the LFS sample of private households.

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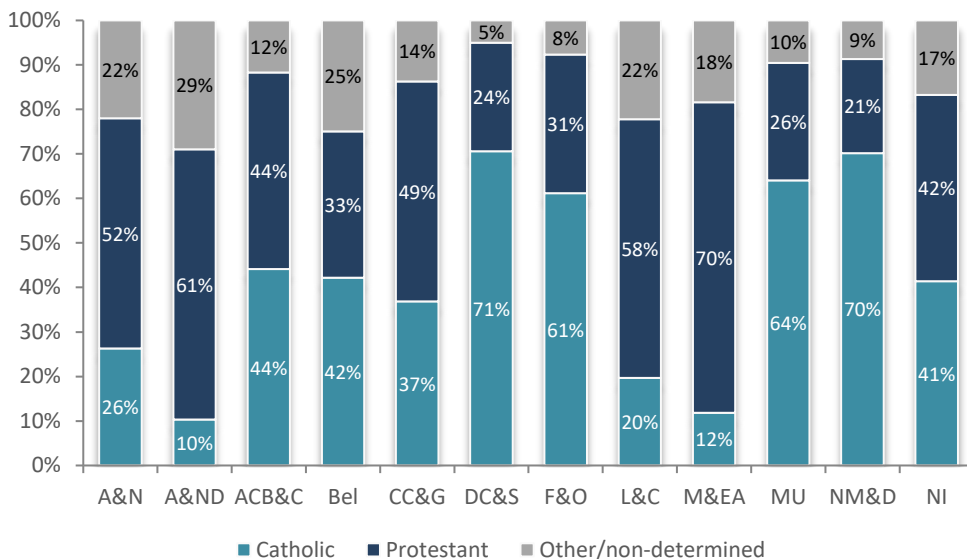
Population aged 16+:

Mid and East Antrim (70%) and Ards and North Down (61%) had the largest proportion of Protestants among the population aged 16 and over in 2017. Protestants made up the majority of people aged 16 and over in two other LGDs; Lisburn and Castlereagh (58%), and Antrim and Newtownabbey (52%).

Catholics constituted the majority of the population aged 16 and over in Derry City and Strabane (71%), Newry, Mourne and Down (70%), Mid Ulster (64%), and Fermanagh and Omagh (61%).

The highest proportion of 'other/non-determined' in the population aged 16 and over were in Ards and North Down (29%), Belfast (25%), Antrim and Newtownabbey (22%), and Lisburn and Castlereagh (22%) (Figure 2 and Table A.1).

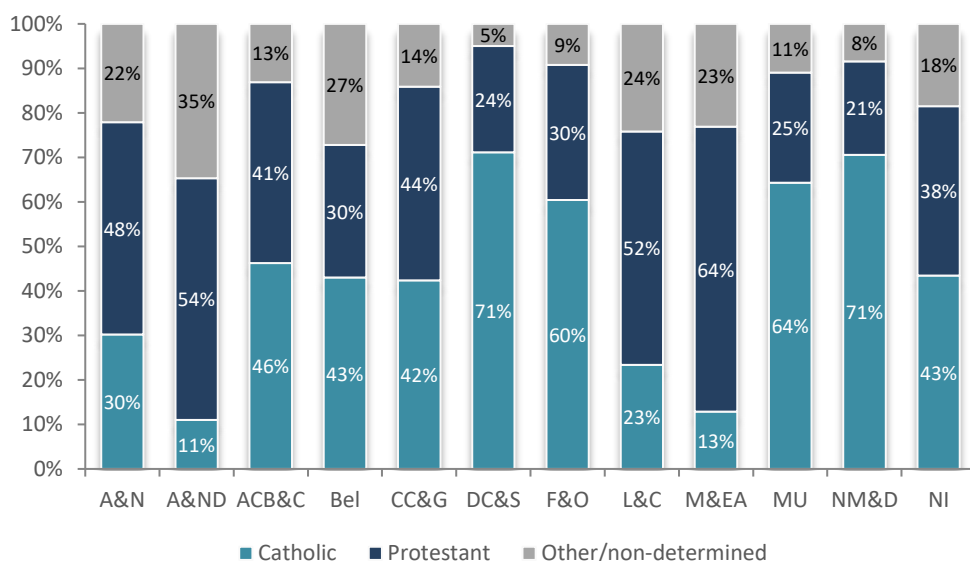
Figure 2: Religious composition of the population aged 16+ by LGD, 2017



Note: For Derry City and Strabane the number of individuals categorised as 'other/non-determined' was below the threshold for robustness and therefore should be treated with caution.

LGD key:	
Antrim and Newtownabbey (A&N)	Fermanagh and Omagh (F&O)
Ards and North Down (A&ND)	Lisburn and Castlereagh (L&C)
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (ACB&C)	Mid and East Antrim (M&EA)
Belfast (Bel)	Mid Ulster (MU)
Causeway Coast and Glens (CC&G)	Newry, Mourne and Down (NM&D)
Derry City and Strabane (DC&S)	Northern Ireland (NI)

Figure 3: Religious composition of the working age population by LGD, 2017



Note: For Derry City and Strabane the number of individuals categorised as 'other/non-determined' was below the threshold for robustness and therefore should be treated with caution.

Working age population:

In Mid and East Antrim (64%), Ards and North Down (54%), and Lisburn and Castlereagh (52%) in 2017, it was estimated that the majority of the working age population were Protestant.

Catholic majorities were estimated in Derry City and Strabane (71%), Newry, Mourne and Down (71%), Mid Ulster (64%), and Fermanagh and Omagh (60%).

The highest proportions of working age population estimates for 'other/non-determined' in 2017 were in Ards and North Down (35%) and Belfast (27%) (Figure 3 and Table A.2).

Note: Owing to the small numbers involved, the confidence intervals associated with a number of the estimates presented in this report are relatively wide. As a result, most of the changes/differences discussed are not statistically significant. Where significant changes/differences exist, this is explicitly stated in the commentary.

Protestant working age employment rates by LGD:

In 2017, the highest employment rate for Protestants was in Lisburn and Castlereagh, where 77% of working age Protestants were employed.

In Causeway Coast and Glens the employment rate was 58% among working age Protestants; the lowest across all LGDs.

In Northern Ireland as a whole, it was estimated that 70% of working age Protestants were in employment (Figure 4 and Table A.3).

Figure 4: Protestant working age employment rates by LGD, 2017

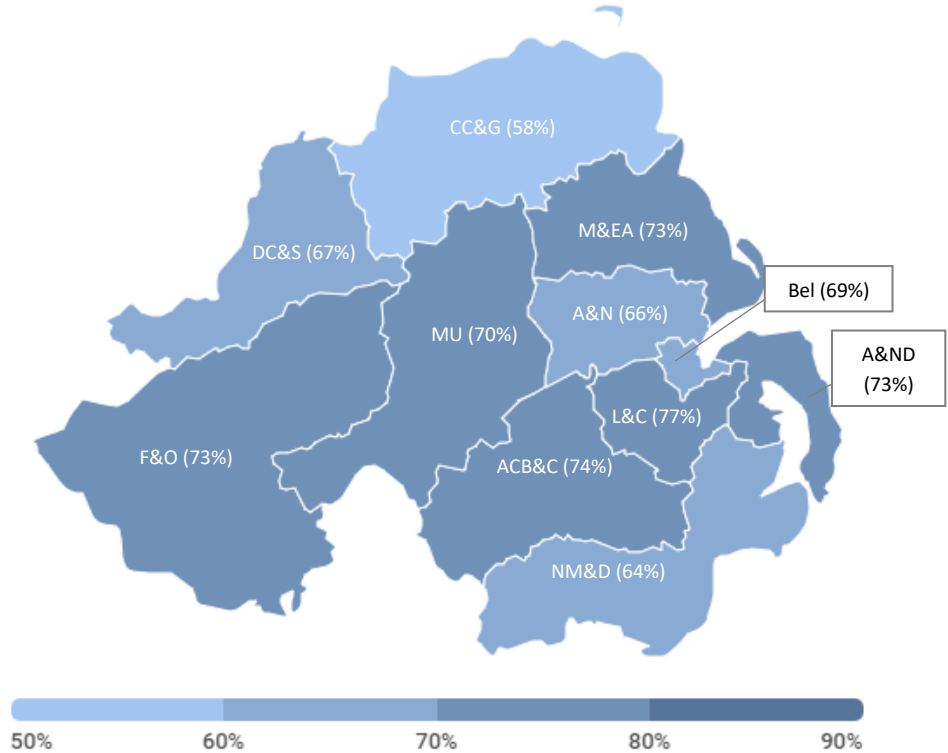
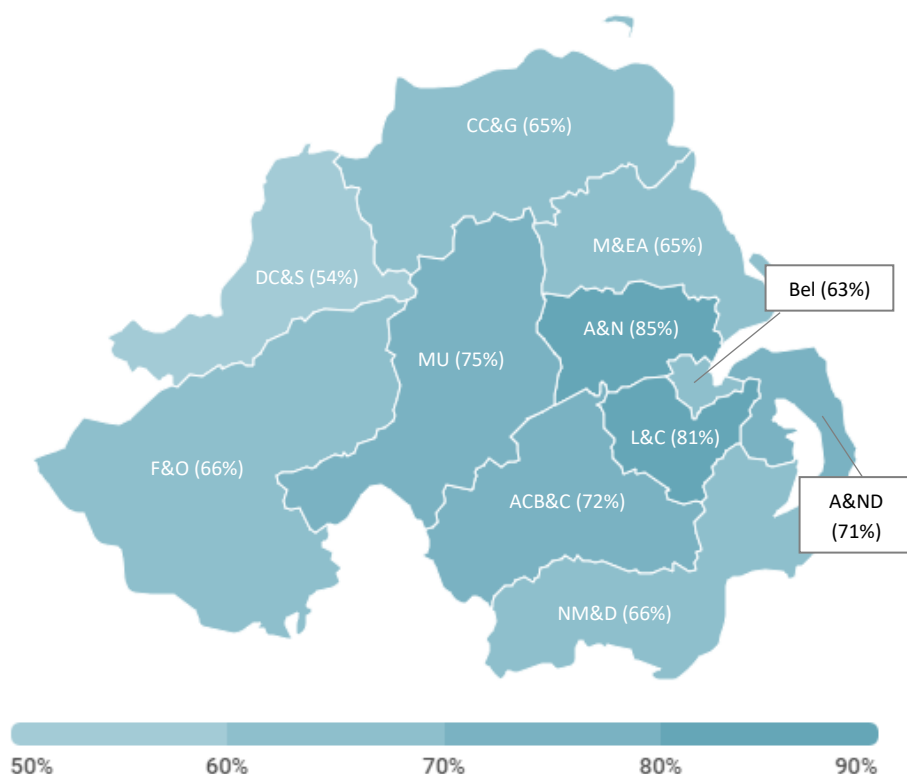


Figure 5: Catholic working age employment rates by LGD, 2017



Catholic working age employment rates by LGD:

In 2017, the highest working age employment rates for Catholics were in Antrim and Newtownabbey (85%) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (81%).

In Derry City and Strabane 54% of working age Catholics were employed; the lowest across all LGDs.

In Northern Ireland as a whole, it was estimated that 67% of working age Catholics were in employment (Figure 5 and Table A.3).

The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey:

In 2014, 65% of working age Protestants in Antrim and Newtownabbey were in employment, compared with 66% in 2017 – this change was not statistically significant. The employment rate for working age Catholics was 85% in both 2014 and 2017.

Working age Catholics in Antrim and Newtownabbey had a significantly higher employment rate than their Protestant counterparts in 2017; 85% and 66% respectively (Figure 6 and Table A.4).

Figure 6: Working age employment rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey, 2014 to 2017

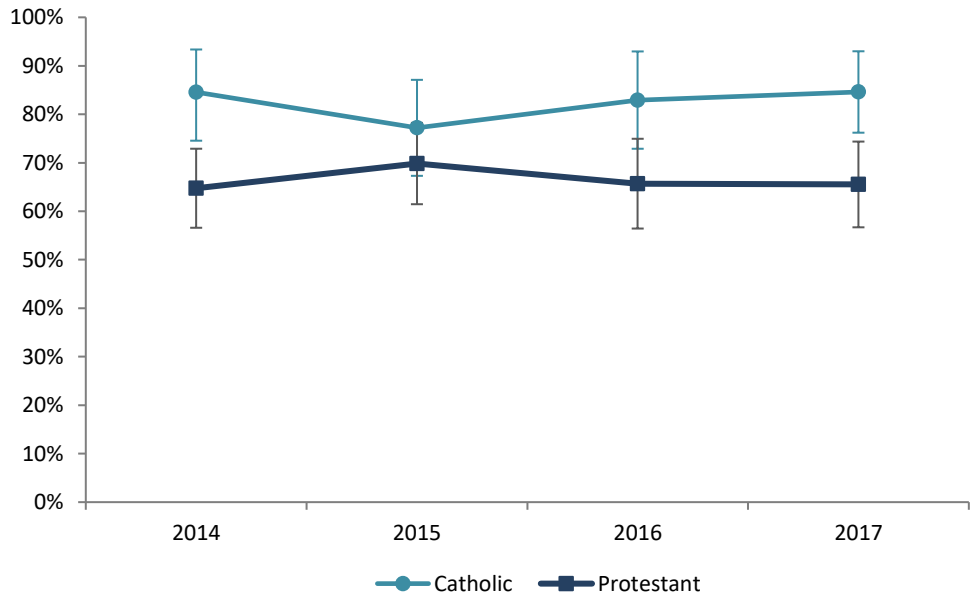
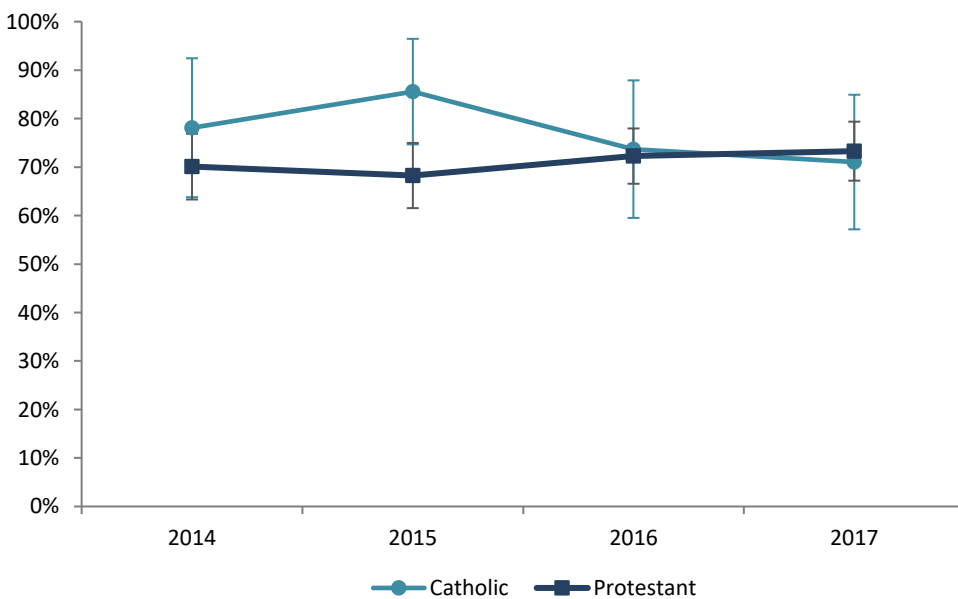


Figure 7: Working age employment rates for Ards and North Down, 2014 to 2017



Working age employment rates for Ards and North Down:

In 2014, 70% of working age Protestants in Ards and North Down were in employment, compared with 73% in 2017. For working age Catholics, 78% were in employment in 2014, compared with 71% in 2017. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 73% and 71% respectively (Figure 7 and Table A.5).

The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon:

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon the working age employment rate in 2014 was 73% for Protestants and 65% for Catholics. In 2017, these rates were 74% and 72% respectively. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 74% and 72% respectively (Figure 8 and Table A.6).

Figure 8: Working age employment rates for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2014 to 2017

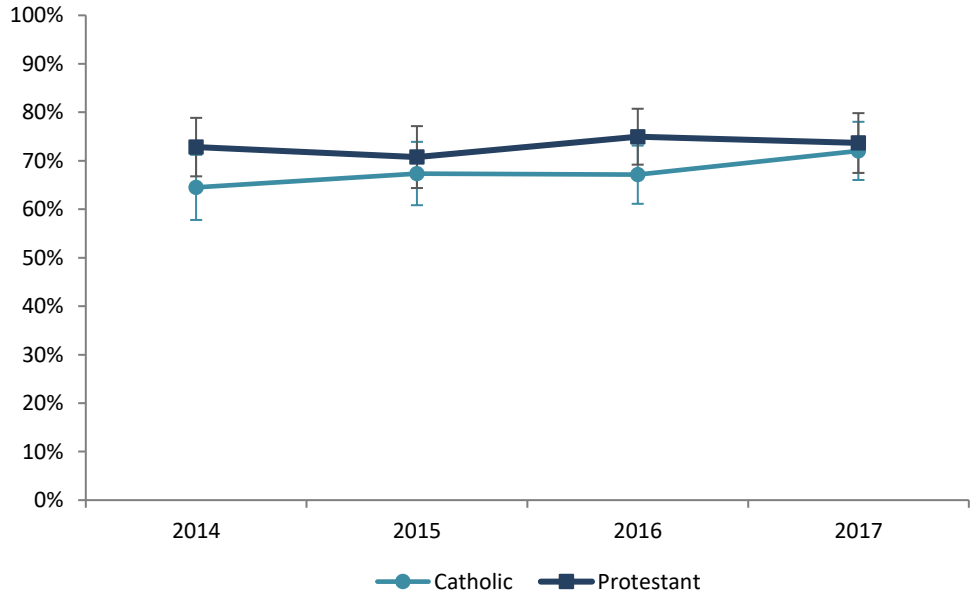
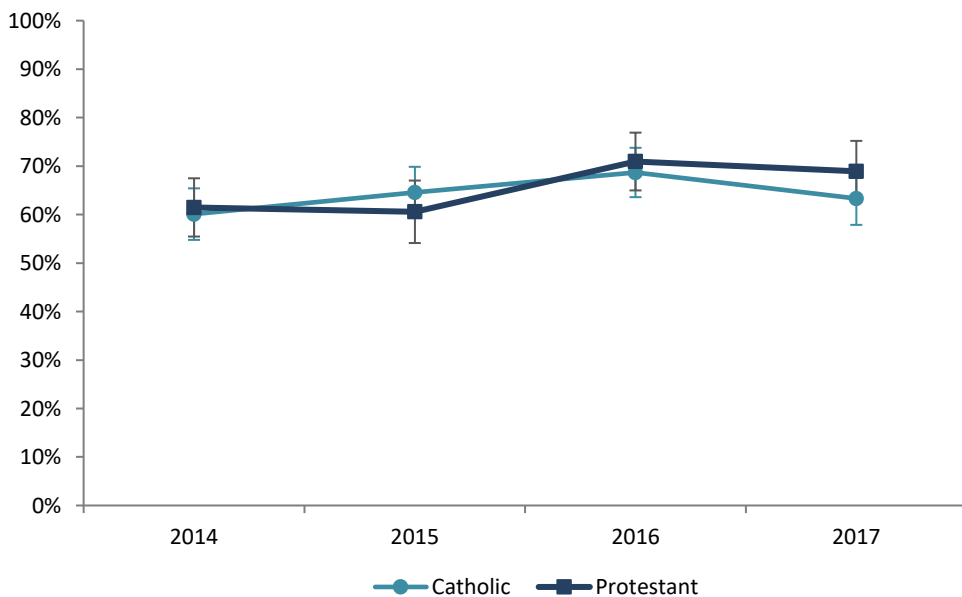


Figure 9: Working age employment rates for Belfast, 2014 to 2017



Working age employment rates for Belfast:

In 2014, 61% of working age Protestants in Belfast were in employment, compared with 69% in 2017; this increase was not statistically significant. The working age employment rate for Catholics was 60% in 2014 compared with 63% in 2017; again this was not a statistically significant increase.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 69% and 63% respectively (Figure 9 and Table A.7).

The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Causeway Coast and Glens:

In Causeway Coast and Glens the working age employment rate in 2014 was 68% for Protestants and 66% for Catholics. In 2017, these rates were 58% and 65% respectively. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 58% and 65% respectively (Figure 10 and Table A.8).

Figure 10: Working age employment rates for Causeway Coast and Glens, 2014 to 2017

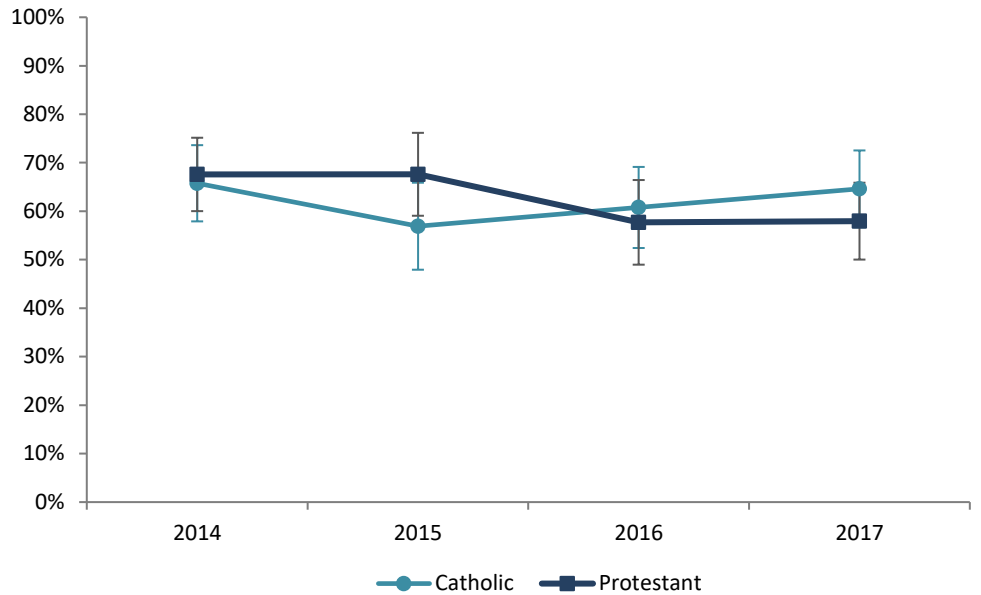
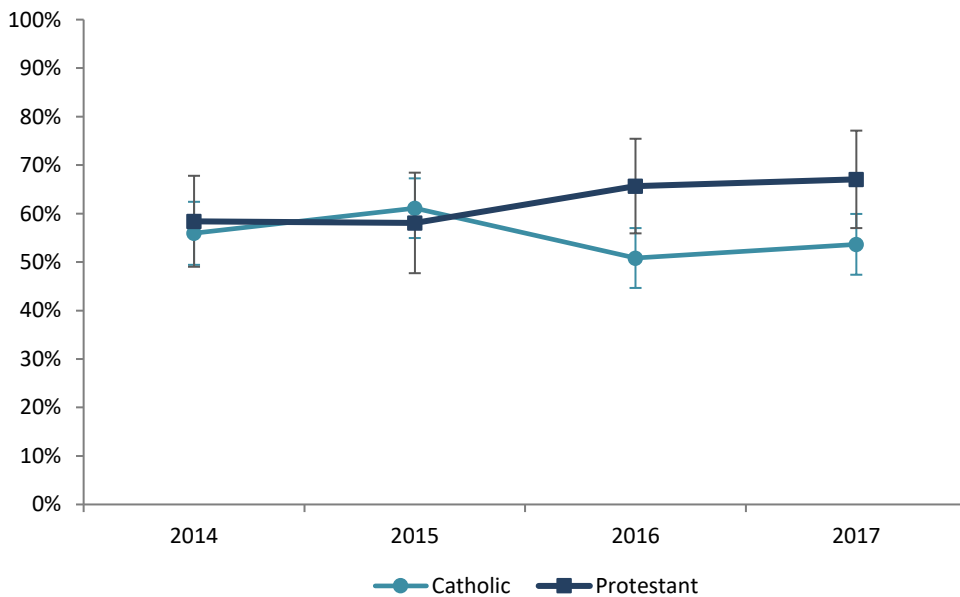


Figure 11: Working age employment rates for Derry City and Strabane, 2014 to 2017



Working age employment rates for Derry City and Strabane:

In Derry City and Strabane the working age employment rate in 2014 was 58% for Protestants and 56% for Catholics. In 2017, these rates were 67% and 54% respectively. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

Working age Protestants in Derry City and Strabane had a significantly higher employment rate than their Catholic counterparts in 2017; 67% and 54% respectively (Figure 11 and Table A.9).

The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Fermanagh and Omagh

In 2014, 64% of Protestants in Fermanagh and Omagh were in employment, compared with 73% in 2017. For working age Catholics, 65% were in employment in 2014, compared with 66% in 2017. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 73% and 66% respectively (Figure 12 and Table A.10).

Figure 12: Working age employment rates for Fermanagh and Omagh, 2014 to 2017

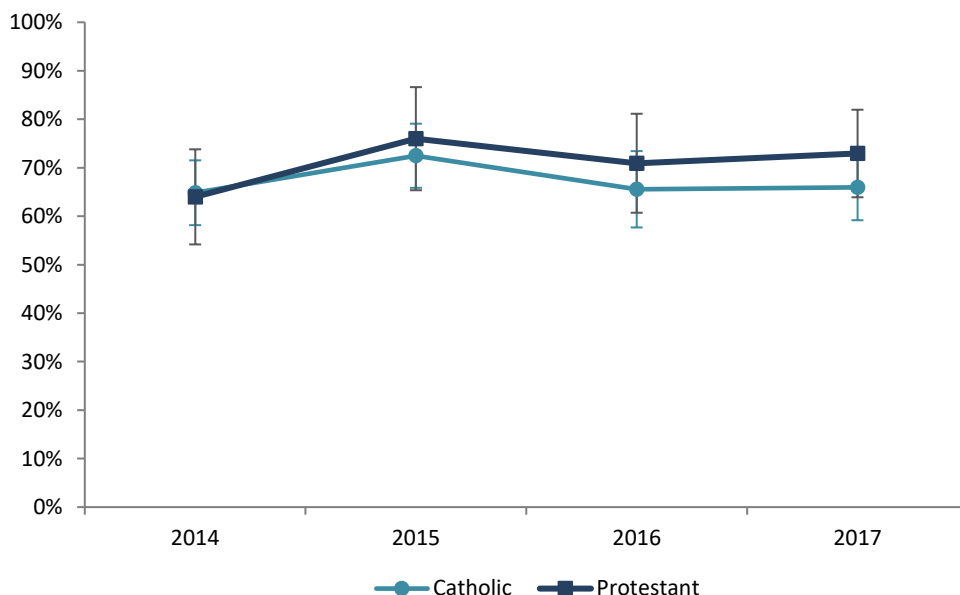
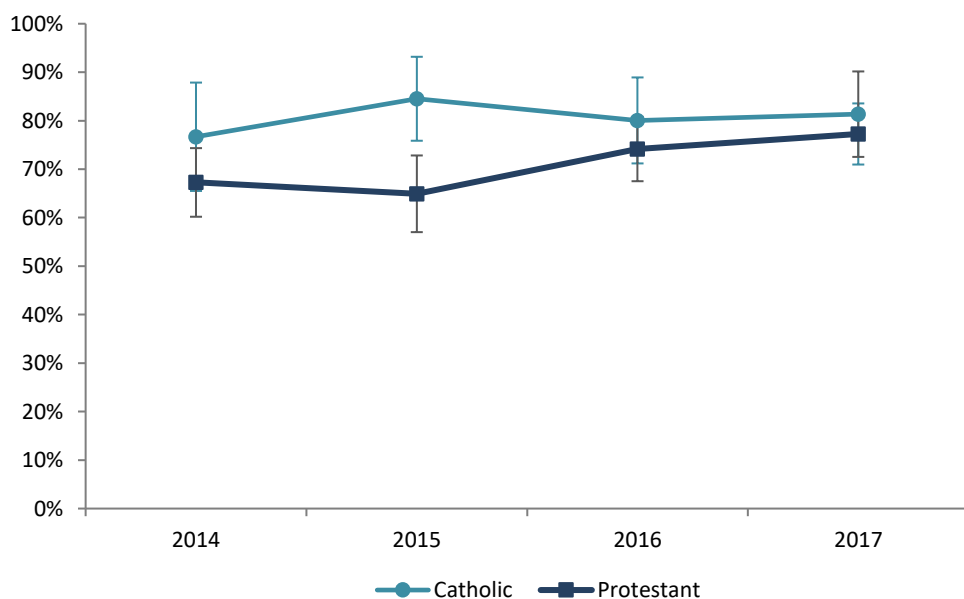


Figure 13: Working age employment rates for Lisburn and Castlereagh, 2014 to 2017



Working age employment rates for Lisburn and Castlereagh:

In 2014, 67% of working age Protestants in Lisburn and Castlereagh were in employment, compared with 77% in 2017; this increase was statistically significant. The working age employment rate for Catholics in 2014 was 77% compared with 81% in 2017; this change was not statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 77% and 81% respectively (Figure 13 and Table A.11).

The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Mid and East Antrim:

In Mid and East Antrim the working age employment rate in 2014 was 66% for Protestants and 72% for Catholics. In 2017, these rates were 73% and 65% respectively. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 73% and 65% respectively (Figure 14 and Table A.12).

Figure 14: Working age employment rates for Mid and East Antrim, 2014 to 2017

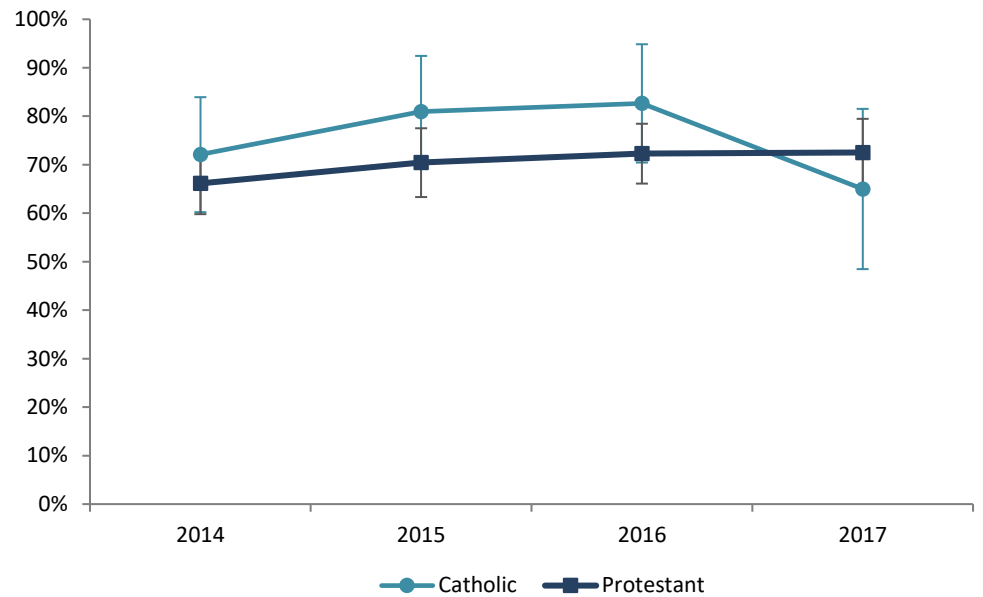
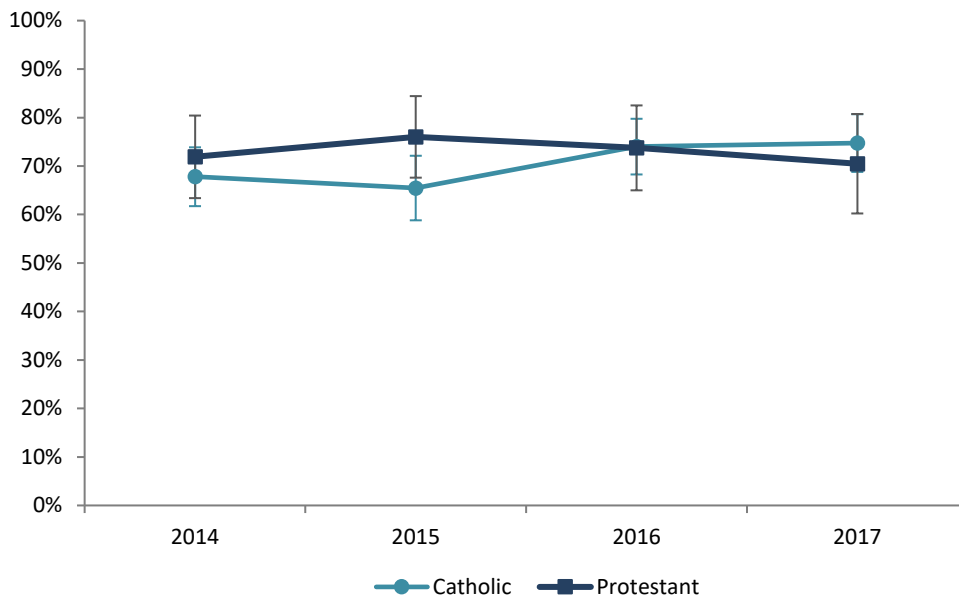


Figure 15: Working age employment rates for Mid Ulster, 2014 to 2017



Working age employment rates for Mid Ulster:

In 2014, 72% of working age Protestants in Mid Ulster were in employment, compared with 70% in 2017. For working age Catholics, 68% were in employment in 2014, compared with 75% in 2017. Neither of these changes was statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rate for Protestants was not statistically different from the rate for Catholics, 70% and 75% respectively. (Figure 15 and Table A.13).

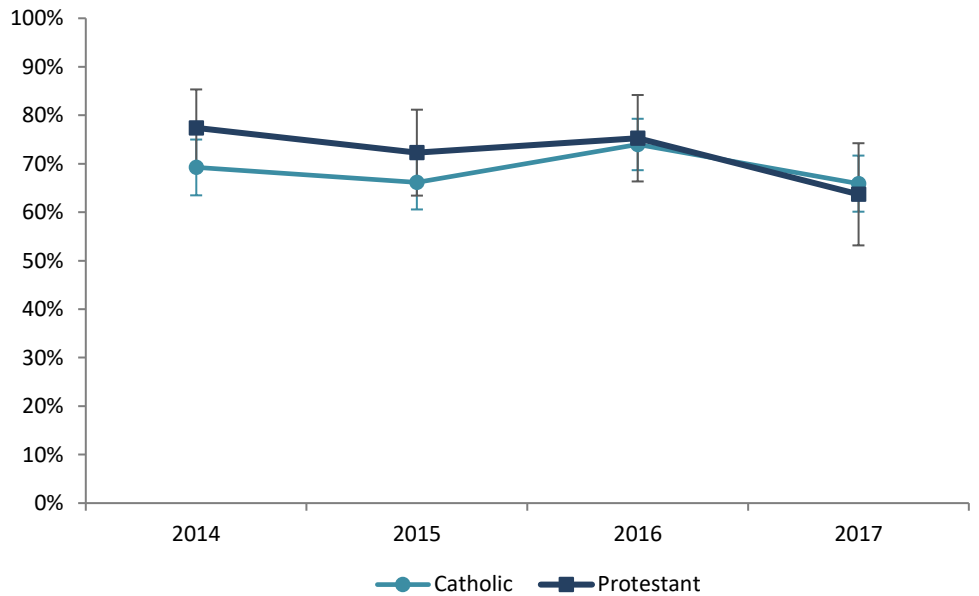
The 95% confidence interval bars for each estimate have been included. These confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values for the population.

Working age employment rates for Newry, Mourne and Down:

In Newry, Mourne and Down the working age employment rate for Protestants was 77% in 2014 and 64% in 2017; this decrease was statistically significant. The working age employment rate for Catholics was 69% in 2014 and 66% in 2017; this decrease was not statistically significant.

In 2017, the working age employment rates for Protestants was not statistically significantly different from the rate for Catholics, 64% and 66% respectively (Figure 16 and Table A.14).

Figure 16: Working age employment rates for Newry, Mourne and Down, 2014 to 2017



Definitions

Working age population: The ‘working age’ definition was changed in August 2010 to include those aged from 16 to 64 for both men and women. Previously these rates were based on upper age limits of 59 for women and 64 for men. However, with the state pension age for women increasing from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2018, a change in definition was necessary.

Religious classification: Interviewers collected information on the religion of residents aged 16 and over in each household. The religious categories coded were as follows:

Catholic	Presbyterian	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other Protestant
Other religion	No denomination	Under 16 years	Unwilling to answer	

The ‘Protestant’ category consists of those classed as, ‘Presbyterian’, ‘Church of Ireland’, ‘Methodist’ and ‘Other Protestant’. Those respondents who reported a religion other than Protestant or Catholic (‘Other religion’), those who report no denomination, and those for whom no religion could be determined, are classified as ‘Other/Non-determined’.

Sampling:

Sampling Error: Because the LFS is a sample survey, results are subject to sampling error, i.e. the actual proportion of the population in private households with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion of the LFS sample with that characteristic. Accordingly, although percentages in tables are rounded, they should not be regarded as having this degree of accuracy. In the [associated tables](#) for this report, the 95% confidence intervals for each reported estimate have been included.

Results:

Percentages in this report and the accompanying data tables are rounded to the nearest whole number. Percentage and percentage change calculations have been undertaken on the basis of unrounded numbers, which will, in some instances, give rise to apparent discrepancies. It is also important to note that percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Further Information:

For further information please refer to ‘Appendix A – Technical Notes’ in the main ‘Labour Force Survey Religion Report, 2017’ - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2017>.

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