

# LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FRAMEWORK

## BASELINE REPORT

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# Key Points Summary

## BACKGROUND

This monitoring framework presents a range of statistical targets and indicators endorsed by the Northern Ireland Executive Sub-Committee on Poverty and Social Inclusion in support of the Executive's anti poverty and social inclusion strategy 'Lifetime Opportunities'.

Building on similar developments at EU and UK levels the monitoring framework is structured around three 'layers':

- Child poverty targets
- Poverty and social inclusion indicators
- Public service agreement targets

Reflecting the lifecycle approach of the Lifetime Opportunities strategy, analyses of statistics are on a lifecycle basis when possible covering children, working-age adults and pensioners. In addition, NI statistics are benchmarked against other jurisdictions when possible to enable comparative change over time to be assessed.

## CHILD POVERTY TARGETS

### *Child relative income poverty target*

Relative income poverty is defined as the proportion of children living in a household whose income is less than 60% of UK median household income not including housing costs.

In other words, child relative income poverty is the proportion or number of children who live in households below the income poverty line in each year.

The relative income poverty measure reflects the extent to which the incomes of the poorest households with children are keeping pace with the UK population as a whole.

Child relative income poverty rates have fallen from 29% in the baseline year (1998/99) to 25% in 2008/09. Progress has, as with the UK as a whole, not maintained the earlier momentum seen between

1998/99 and 2004/05. On the basis of current trends it is unlikely that the target to halve child relative income poverty by 2010/11, that is, to achieve a child relative income poverty rate of around 15% (approximately 67,500 children), will be achieved.

### *Child absolute income poverty target*

A child is living in absolute income poverty if the household in which they live has an income less than the base year (1998/99) income poverty level after adjustment year-on-year, for the effects of inflation.

This measure reflects the extent to which the incomes of the poorest households with children are rising in real terms after adjusting for price rises.

In other words, child absolute income poverty is the proportion or number of children who still live in income poor households based on the income poverty threshold for 1998/99.

Child absolute income poverty rates have declined compared to the 1998/99 baseline year. However, on the basis of current established trends and particularly those seen between 2006/07 and 2008/09, it would appear unlikely that the 2010/11 target to achieve a two-thirds reduction in the number of children in absolute income poverty will be achieved.

### *Child low income and material deprivation poverty target*

As a wider measure of the living standards of children, a child is defined as poor on this measure if the household in which they live has an income below 70% of the contemporary UK median household income and has a material deprivation score of 25 or more reflected by enforced lack of adult and child goods and services.

The 2010/11 target associated with this measure is to establish a downward trend. Whilst only 5 years of data are available with this measure there is some uncertainty as to whether it will be achieved. It is possible that a marginal downward trend is achieved by 2010/11 however it may not represent a

strong enough trend in terms of the changes required to meet the 2020/21 target levels as detailed in the Child Poverty Act (March 2010).

## **POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION INDICATORS**

### **Income poverty and income inequality indicators**

#### ***Overall Summary***

The level of income inequality has gradually increased from 2002/03 to 2008/09 with the incomes of the top 20% of households now around 4.1 times greater than those of the bottom 20% compared to 3.8 in 2002/03. In 2008/09, income inequality was highest amongst pensioner households.

Overall relative income poverty levels have remained stable between 2002/03 and 2008/09. Whilst child relative income poverty levels in NI are currently below those estimated for the baseline year of 1998/99, over the period 2002/03 to 2008/09 the child relative income poverty level has remained broadly stable. In contrast, the relative income poverty level of pensioners has increased over the period 2002/03 to 2008/09 and now stands at 31%.

Of all lifecycle groups, pensioners are the only group with a higher absolute poverty rate in 2008/09 compared to 2002/03. Furthermore pensioners, as a group, display the greatest extent of clustering just above the relative income poverty line. That is, a greater proportion of pensioners as a group are at more immediate risk of falling into relative income poverty.

Of all lifecycle groups, pensioners are reliant to the greatest extent on income from state social transfers as an insulator against income poverty. As a group however, they also report the highest incidence of savings although the level of savings for all lifecycle groups in NI is lower than that for the UK as a whole.

#### ***Relative income poverty***

The standard measure of relative income poverty is defined as those individuals living in households whose income is 60% or less of UK median household income. On this measure, overall relative income poverty rates in NI remained stable over the period 2002/03 to 2008/09. However, between 2002/03 and 2008/09, pensioner relative income poverty increased from 24% to 31% whilst the rates for children and working-age adults were on a par with rates in 2002/03.

The levels of child relative income poverty for both NI and the UK are broadly the same in 2008/09 and in 2002/03 although both are reduced compared to the child poverty levels of the 1998/99 baseline year.

The impact of calculating relative income poverty rates using a NI median is to reduce poverty rates amongst all groups given the lower median household income of NI compared to that of the UK as a whole. This impact is driven in part by the earnings gap between employees in NI and the UK as a whole. Pensioners here on both the NI and UK median-based measures of relative income poverty have the highest poverty rates reflecting the underlying upward trend seen since 2002/03.

#### ***Absolute income poverty***

Overall absolute income poverty levels remained broadly unchanged between 2002/03 and 2008/09. In 2008/09, pensioners (22%) and children (17%) had higher absolute income poverty rates compared to working-age adults (13%). However, pensioners as a group are the only ones with higher absolute poverty rates in 2008/09 (22%) in comparison to 2002/03 (18%). The level of child absolute poverty was 19% in 2002/03 and 17% in 2008/09.

#### ***Urban and Rural poverty comparisons***

Poverty rates using the three measures of relative poverty, absolute poverty, and child mixed low income and material deprivation poverty were compared geographically across NI comprising the areas of: all of NI; Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA); Rural NI; and Urban NI.

Relative income poverty rates in these geographic areas are somewhat volatile over time. Whilst the underlying trends in each of the areas appear broadly stable, averaged relative income poverty rates over the period seem slightly higher in rural areas with pensioner relative income poverty rates particularly high in rural areas.

Over time, absolute poverty rates in rural areas of NI appear slightly higher.

The mixed low income and material deprivation poverty measure for children across these geographic areas, is somewhat erratic over time. However, decline over time in rates in urban areas appear mirrored by increase over time in rural areas.

### ***Distribution of income***

The level of inequality in the distribution of household income for all individuals in NI has gradually increased between 2002/03 and 2008/09. In 2002/03 those households in the top 20% of the income distribution had a weekly household income around 3.8 times greater than the bottom 20%. By 2008/09, the household incomes of the top 20% were some 4.1 times greater than those of the bottom 20%. Income inequality in this measure was greater amongst pensioner households at 4.7 compared to the NI average of 4.1.

### ***Relative median poverty gap***

The relative median poverty gap measures the difference between the median household income of households below the poverty threshold and the poverty threshold itself. On that basis, this is a measure of intensity of poverty. Reductions in the relative median poverty gap reflecting reducing intensity of poverty between 2002/03 and 2004/05 has been mirrored by an increase between 2005/06 and 2008/09. On that basis the intensity of poverty in 2008/09 is on a par with levels found in 2002/03, reflecting an upward trend since 2005/06.

### ***Dispersion around the poverty threshold***

This measure examines the extent to which the population and sub groups are clustered

both just above and just below the poverty line. As such, this measure reflects the relative risk of groups of falling into income poverty and the relative intensity of that groups' poverty.

In comparison to the UK as a whole, NI has persistently had a higher proportion of people concentrated just above the poverty line and who are at risk of falling into poverty.

Within NI, a higher proportion of pensioners live in households below 70% of household median income. That is, pensioners, as a group, have a greater immediate risk of falling into relative income poverty. In addition, pensioners are concentrated to a greater extent just below 50% of household median income. That is, a greater proportion of pensioners are concentrated somewhat below the poverty line, reflecting a comparatively more intense experience of income poverty.

### ***Relative income poverty rate before social transfers***

Social transfers including state pensions, social security benefits and tax credits, exert a significant insulating effect against income poverty for those with low household incomes. This measure examines the impact of excluding social transfers from household income on contemporary poverty rates. In NI the relative income poverty rate excluding social transfers for all individuals was 49% in 2002/03 and 52% in 2008/09. This can be contrasted with the actual income poverty rates of 20% and 21% respectively which include income from social transfers. The group which social transfers impact most strongly on is pensioners. That is, pensioners as a group are most strongly reliant on income from the state as an insulator against income poverty. Direct comparisons between NI and the UK as a whole indicate the greater reliance of households in NI on income from state transfers as an insulator against income poverty.

### ***Receipt of out of work benefits***

The number of people in NI in receipt of out of work benefits for two years or more

increased by approximately 4,000 (3%) from 138,493 in 2002 to 142,471 in 2009. In GB, the number of people in receipt of out-of-work benefits decreased by 130,000 (4%) from 3,000,000 in 2002 to 2,870,000 in 2009.

### **Savings**

The proportion of all individuals that lived in households reporting no savings has remained relatively stable between 2002/03 and 2007/08 before increasing between 2007/08 and 2008/09. A lower proportion of pensioners live in households which report no savings compared to children and working-age adults.

The proportion of individuals living in households with no savings is higher in NI compared to the UK. In 2008/09 over half of all individuals in NI (53%) lived in households with no savings compared to 33% of those living in the UK.

### **Percentage of household weekly spend on necessities**

Pensioner households spend a higher proportion of their weekly income on necessities than any other type of household.

## **Economic activity indicators**

### **Overall Summary**

In general terms, the overall picture of the NI labour force was one of improvement and growth between 2000 and 2007. However, between 2007 and 2009 many of these improvements were halted or indeed showed some subsequent decline. These changes were not uniform across all areas of NI.

The hourly earnings gap between workers in NI compared to the UK as a whole persists for full-time employees whilst NI part-time employees' earnings are similar to those for the UK as a whole.

### **Employment rates**

Despite increases seen between 2000 and 2007, the employment rate for adults aged 16 and over in NI was 54.6% in 2000 and 54.9% in 2009.

The changes observed to employment rates for individuals aged 15-64 years in NI between 2000 and 2009 follows similar broad trends seen in the RoI and the European Union (EU) 25 member state average. That is, rates in all regions increased between 2000 and 2007 with employment rates tending to decrease after 2007. The level of fall in employment rates post 2007 was greatest in the RoI and least for the EU 25. The pattern in the UK was relative stability between 2000 and 2008 with a drop in the rate after 2008.

### **Regional labour force cohesion**

Changes to the labour force were examined between the five NUTS III regions of NI which include: Belfast, Outer Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, North of Northern Ireland and West & South of Northern Ireland. Trends in the employment rates for each area between 2000 and 2008 have been either stable or positive. However, between 2008 and 2009, all regions with the exception of the West and South experienced a fall.

Economic inactivity rates were higher in Belfast and Outer Belfast in 2009 compared to 2000 with rates in the remaining three areas lower in 2009 compared to 2000.

The overall unemployment rate had fallen to 4.0% in 2008 before increasing between 2008 and 2009. The North of NI (9.6%) and Belfast (9.5%) had unemployment rates above the NI average in 2009. The remaining three regions had rates below the NI average with the lowest rate in Outer Belfast (4.2%)

### **Long term unemployment rate**

The long-term unemployment rate (unemployed for 12 months or more) for the working-age population in NI decreased from 3.1% in 2001 to 1.3% in 2008 and rose to 2.3% in 2009. In comparison, long term

unemployment rates rose between 2008 and 2009 in NI, the UK, RoI and the EU 25 with the increase greatest for the RoI.

### ***Concentration of employment within households***

On this measure, working households are defined as households with all adults in employment, mixed households defined as households with some adults in employment, and workless households defined as households with no adults in employment.

In NI between 2000 and 2007, the increase in household concentration of work was reflected by an increase in the proportion of working households and reductions in proportions of workless and mixed households. After 2007, the proportion of working households fell with a simultaneous increase in mixed and workless households.

In 2009, NI had a lower proportion of working-age individuals (40.5%) and children (44.2%) living in working households compared to the UK (51.9% and 51.5% respectively).

### ***Working-age economic inactivity rates***

The proportion of working-age adults who are economically inactive was 41.5% in 2000 and 41.1% in 2009. The economic inactivity rate for working-age adults in NI has been consistently higher than the UK rate.

### ***Earnings gaps***

Full-time workers in NI have consistently earned less than the UK gross median hourly rate. In 2009 NI full-time employees earned 89.8% of the UK average compared to 89.9% in 2000.

In contrast, during the period 1997 to 2009 part-time employees in NI earned around the same gross hourly rate as all UK part-time employees.

## **Education and qualifications**

### ***Overall Summary***

In comparison with the UK, RoI and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, the mean scores of 15 year old students in NI on an international basis, compares reasonably well for science, mathematics and reading. However, in such comparisons the gap between the highest and lowest scoring students tends to be greater for NI students.

The educational achievement of schoolchildren continues to improve on a range of measures. The gap in attainment between those entitled to free school meals (FSME) and all schoolchildren has narrowed in relation to school leavers with no formal qualifications. The gap in achievement between FSME children and all children persists in relation to the proportion of school leavers achieving less than five GCSEs grade A\*-G and less than five GCSEs grades A\*-C. A persistently higher proportion of children in NI achieve five or more GCSEs grades A\*-C compared to England and Wales.

The rate of exclusion of young people from employment, full-time education and training has risen over time.

The proportion of adults with no formal qualifications in NI, whilst fallen, remains persistently behind that for the UK as a whole.

### ***Educational achievement for students aged 15***

On an international measure of science, mathematics and reading ability, the average score of NI students is broadly comparable to those from the RoI, the UK and the OECD average. However, the difference between the scores of the highest and lowest scoring students is greater in NI compared to the RoI, the UK and the OECD on measures of science, mathematics and reading. That is, whilst the NI average scores are enhanced by the better performing students, there is greater disparity in NI between the scores of the highest and lowest.

### ***Low educational achievement in children***

Between 2000/01 and 2008/09 the proportion of all school leavers that had no formal qualifications decreased from 4.8% to 2.3%. For children entitled to free school meals (FSM) the figure decreased from 10.4% to 4.7%.

In 2008/09, 21.1% of children entitled to FSM obtained less than five GCSE passes at grades A\*-G compared to 8.7% for all children. Looking specifically at GCSE attainment, 57.1% of children entitled to FSM obtained less than five GCSE passes at grades A\*-C compared to 29.9% for all children.

The proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C has increased over time with proportions in NI higher than those in England and Wales.

### ***Exclusion of young people from employment, full-time education and training***

The proportion of young people aged 16 to 19 not in employment, full-time education or training was 8% in 2000 and 11% in 2008. For 16 to 24 year olds as a group, the respective figures were 13% and 15%.

### ***Low adult educational achievement***

The proportion of adults aged 20 to retirement age with no qualifications decreased from 27% in 2000 to 20% in 2009.

NI has had a consistently higher rate of adults with no educational qualifications compared to the UK as a whole with 20% of adults in NI having no qualifications compared to 11% in the UK as a whole in 2009.

## **Health**

### ***Overall Summary***

Health indicators such as those reported here are longer-term indicators which tend not to reflect much short-term change. Whilst life expectancy continues to rise, the

relative impacts of social advantage/disadvantage on mortality rates persist. Overall premature mortality rates remained stable over the period. The age specific fertility rate for young mothers aged under 20 in NI shows a marginal downward trend over time and is below that for other countries of the UK.

### ***Life expectancy***

Life expectancy continues to rise. In the period 1996-1998 life expectancy at birth was 79.5 for women and 74.2 for men. In the period 2006-2008 life expectancy at birth was 81.2 for women and 76.3 for men.

### ***Standardised mortality rates and the impact of disadvantage***

People living in the most relatively deprived areas of NI are more likely to die than a similar person living in a non-deprived area. In the period 2004-2008, a person aged under 75 years of age living in the most deprived areas was 40% more likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall. Conversely a person aged under 75 years of age, living in a non-deprived area was 10% less likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall.

### ***Premature mortality rate***

Premature mortality rates between 1997 and 2008 in NI have remained broadly stable. As in NI, premature mortality rates are higher for males than females in GB. However, male premature mortality rates in GB show a downward trend over time with a slight downward trend also for females.

### ***Infant mortality rates***

Overall, there has been some suggestion of a downward trend in infant mortality rates between 1997 and 2008. Overall infant mortality rates in NI have been at approximately the same level as those in the other countries within the UK, the RoI and the EU 25.

### ***Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) for mothers aged under 20***

The overall ASFR for women aged under 20 in NI has shown a downward trend from 25.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 2000, to 23 per 1,000 in 2008. The ASFR for women aged under 20 in NI has been below that for the other countries of the UK over the period 2000 to 2008.

## **Housing**

### ***Overall Summary***

While the standard of the housing stock continues to improve and overcrowded households have reduced to marginal levels, the level of fuel poverty continues to rise and to exceed that of England and Scotland.

### ***Decent homes standard***

The proportion of households that live in a home which did not meet the set standard of decency was 29.7% in 2001 and had decreased to 21.4% by 2006. A higher proportion of pensioner households lived in a non decent home. A lower proportion of households with children lived in non decent homes than any other household type.

The proportion of dwellings failing the Decent Homes standard is lower in NI compared to England.

### ***Overcrowded households***

The proportion of overcrowded households in NI has decreased from approximately 4.1% in 2000/01 to 2% in 2008/09, a similar rate to that in GB.

### ***Fuel poverty***

The proportion of households living in fuel poverty in NI increased from 27% in 2001 to 34% in 2006.

Pensioner households have the highest rate of fuel poverty across all household types. In 2006 half of pensioner households lived in fuel poverty compared to 27% of working-age households and 27% of households with children.

Levels of fuel poverty in NI are higher than those for both England and Scotland.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT TARGETS**

A range of 43 Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets were identified which appeared to be supportive of the aims and objectives of the Lifetime Opportunities strategy. These PSA targets span a range of PSA Objectives, and a number of Departments.

Based on PSA target monitoring from Quarter 4 2008/09 to Quarter 4 2009/10, and bearing in mind that developments in respect of many of these targets are ongoing, it would appear that of the 43 PSA targets identified as at Quarter 4 2009/10:

- 23 are achieved or appear currently to be on track for achievement;
- 4 are broadly on track and broadly meeting interim milestones;
- 9 where the rate of progress is less than planned against the targeted outcome; and
- 7 for which little or no progress has been observed.

# Introduction

## LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FRAMEWORK

'Lifetime Opportunities' is the Northern Ireland Executive's anti poverty and social inclusion strategy.

In June 2009 a proposal paper outlining a monitoring framework for Lifetime Opportunities was presented to, and subsequently endorsed by, the Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion.

This is the first report to present the range of poverty and social inclusion statistical targets and indicators endorsed by the Executive Sub-Committee.

### Lifetime Opportunities

Lifetime Opportunities has two overall strategic objectives<sup>1</sup>:

- **To work towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and**
- **To end child poverty by 2020**

The strategy itself is structured around key lifecycle groups comprised of: early years; children and young people; working-age adults; and older citizens. For each lifecycle group, a set of specific over-arching goals was outlined:

**Early Years (0-4):** To ensure that every child should have a chance to develop their full potential in infancy regardless of social background.

**Children and Young People (5-16):** To ensure all children and young people experience a happy and fulfilling childhood, while equipping them with the education, skills and experience to achieve their potential to be citizens of tomorrow.

**Working-age Adults:** To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fully participate in economic, social and cultural life.

**Older Citizens – Beyond Working-age:** To ensure that older people are valued and

respected, remain independent, participate as active citizens and enjoy a good quality of life in a safe and shared community.

### Developing a monitoring framework

The development of the proposals for this monitoring framework drew heavily on a number of related developments including: the Open Method of Coordination deployed within the European Union's reporting framework under the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion (NAPSIIncl); and the UK Government's policy agenda outlined in "Opportunity for All"<sup>2</sup> and "Reaching Out, An Action Plan on Social Exclusion"<sup>3</sup>.

As outlined in the development of both EU and UK monitoring and reporting frameworks, there are many important factors to consider when choosing statistical indicators and the following high-level guidelines are relevant. A good indicator must:

- be relevant to the Government's strategy;
- relate to the outcomes the Government wants to achieve rather than the processes;
- be based on publicly available and statistically robust data; and
- be subject to unambiguous interpretation.

In addition to these guidelines, the Social Protection Committee of the European Union agreed methodological principles for the NAPSIIncl statistical indicators, some of which are specific to EU processes:

- an indicator should capture the essence of the problem and have a clear and accepted normative interpretation;
- an indicator should be responsive to policy interventions but not subject to manipulation;
- an indicator should be measurable in a sufficiently comparable way across

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<sup>2</sup> See: [www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa)

<sup>3</sup> See:

[www.socialinclusion.org.uk/publications/reaching\\_out\\_full.pdf](http://www.socialinclusion.org.uk/publications/reaching_out_full.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> See: [www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/antipovertynov06.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/antipovertynov06.pdf)

Member States and be comparable as far as practicable with the standards applied internationally;

- an indicator should be timely and susceptible to revision; and
- the measurement of an indicator should not impose too large a burden on Member States, on enterprises, nor on the Union's citizens.

Work continued on developing the EU indicators with a view to refining and consolidating the original list of indicators. In June 2006, the Social Protection Committee adopted a report which outlined a way forward to streamline the Open Method of Coordination on social protection and social inclusion<sup>4</sup>. Based on the original criteria for the selection of indicators a new typology was agreed:

**Commonly agreed EU indicators:** which contribute to a comparative assessment of Member States' progress towards the common objectives;

**Commonly agreed national indicators:** based on commonly agreed definitions although not allowing for a direct cross-country comparison; and

**Context information:** an indicative list of context information and any other background information which aids the framing and understanding of the national context.

An example of these indicators can be found in the 2007 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> See: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/docs/2006/indicators\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/2006/indicators_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> See: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/docs/social\\_inclusion/2007/joint\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/docs/social_inclusion/2007/joint_report_en.pdf)

## **Lifetime Opportunities Monitoring proposal**

The proposal for monitoring progress under Lifetime Opportunities comprised 3 distinct 'layers':

**Specific child poverty targets:** reflecting the UK child poverty measures as outlined in the Child Poverty Act 2010 of: relative income poverty, absolute income poverty, and mixed low income and material deprivation;

**General poverty and social exclusion indicators:** taking a lifecycle approach and reflecting many of the commonly agreed EU indicators and commonly agreed national indicators, but also including a number of additional indicators reflecting specific social inclusion challenges faced in Northern Ireland; and

**Public Service Agreement targets:** comprising Public Service Agreement targets of relevance to Lifetime Opportunities anti-poverty and social inclusion objectives.

## **Benefits of approach**

There are a number of direct benefits in adopting the approach to monitoring progress under Lifetime Opportunities as outlined here. These include:

- The child poverty targets are clear and unambiguous and the measures are fully in line with both Lifetime Opportunities and the Child Poverty Act 2010
- The poverty and social exclusion indicators are broadly consistent with commonly agreed EU indicators and commonly agreed national indicators and these have been developed drawing on substantial EU-wide academic and Governmental expertise
- The coverage of the poverty and social exclusion indicators explicitly acknowledges the many dimensions of poverty and social exclusion

- The monitoring indicators attempt to reflect the overarching goals and targets in Lifetime Opportunities at the highest level possible in both a parsimonious and efficient manner
- The indicators are consistent with the guidelines and methodological approaches recommended for developing indicators of progress both in European and UK terms
- The indicators will enable a perspective to be taken on the direction of change in Northern Ireland in comparison to not only the UK, but also to EU averages and to the RoI
- The outlined approach retains flexibility to accommodate future changes and developments in relation to Lifetime Opportunities and in relation to Public Service Agreement targets

In geographic comparisons, final year data for the EU and RoI sometimes lag a year behind the data for the UK and NI.

On that basis, it is hoped that these statistical targets and indicators will facilitate the monitoring of progress against the Lifetime Opportunities strategy. In turn, these reports will facilitate any interim assessment of the strategy or any *ex post* evaluation of the strategy. Such evaluations will necessarily rely on a broad information base and these statistical indicators and targets represent one potential component of any assessment.

## Issues of Interpretation

The treatment of statistical indicators reported here is, in the main, descriptive with little or no attempt made to fully reflect or assess the complex interplay of the various social, economic and individual characteristics which result in the statistical outcomes reported.

In reporting these indicators, disaggregation of the data is conducted primarily by lifecycle group to maintain the ability to communicate clear high level messages consistent with the Lifetime Opportunities strategy. In addition, the Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion felt that it was important to benchmark progress in NI against other jurisdictions when possible.

To maintain clarity and simplicity and in line with the presentation of targets within the Child Poverty Act 2010, income poverty estimates are reported Before Housing Costs, that is, without deducting housing costs from net household income. In considering these figures, it should be borne in mind that the impact of housing costs on household income can vary geographically and for different population groups.

# Child Poverty Targets

## Child relative income poverty target

### 'Are relatively fewer children experiencing income poverty?'

Lifetime Opportunities contains a specific focus on children in poverty reflected by the Northern Ireland Programme for Government (2008 - 2011). The accompanying Public Service Agreements (PSA) reflect this specific focus on children and their families in poverty through PSA 7 'Making Peoples' Lives Better' objective 1 which commits to:

*"Take forward action to provide for measurable reductions in the levels of poverty and particularly child poverty".*

The target in support of this PSA objective states the intention to:

*"Work towards the elimination of poverty in Northern Ireland by 2020 and reducing child poverty by 50% by 2010".*

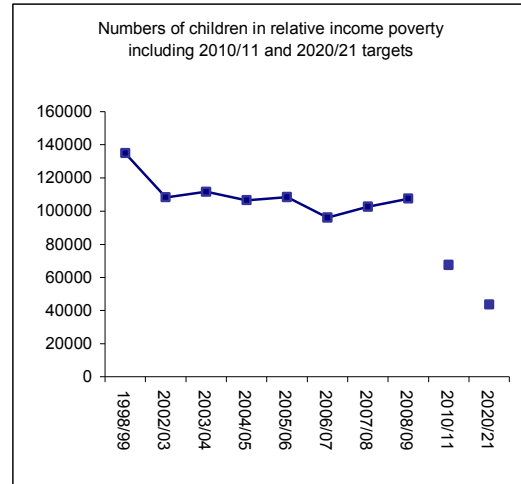
The commitment to achieve a child relative poverty rate of less than 10% by 2020/21 mirrors that articulated in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Relative income poverty is defined as the proportion of children living in a household whose income is less than 60% of UK median household income before housing costs are deducted from net household income.

The relative income poverty measure reflects the extent to which the incomes of the poorest households with children are keeping pace with the UK population as a whole.

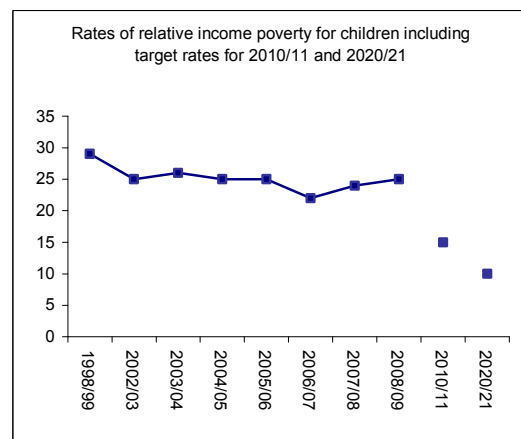
Given that it is not possible to reach zero on a relative income measure, elimination of relative income poverty for children is operationalised as having a child relative poverty rate of less than 10% by 2020/21.

The number of children in NI experiencing relative income poverty has fallen from 135,000 in 1998/99 to 107,500 in 2008/09.



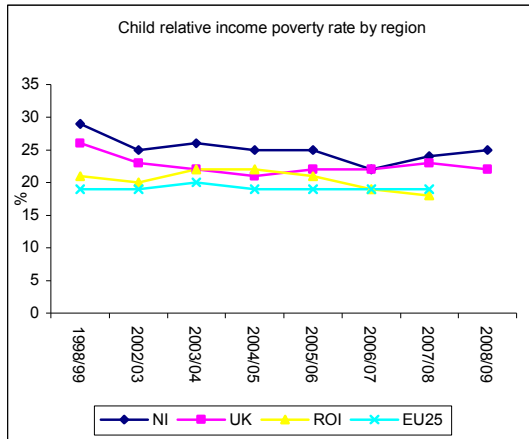
The graph above indicates the required changes need to achieve the 2010/11 target to halve child poverty, translating to around 67,500 children. The 2020/21 target translates to less than approximately 43,700 children experiencing relative income poverty at that time.

In terms of the percentages of children in poverty, the 29% rate of relative income poverty for children in 1998/99 has decreased to 25% in 2008/09 but will need to decline to around 15% by 2010/11 to meet the target to halve child poverty and to be below 10% by 2020/21.



## Geographic comparisons

The overall trend in child relative income poverty rates in NI, the ROI and the UK has been modestly downwards although increases have been seen in NI over the last two years.



Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**  
**Eurostat.**

## Child absolute income poverty target

'Have the incomes of poorer households with children increased over time?'

Child poverty may also be measured in terms of absolute child poverty. A child is living in absolute income poverty if the household in which they live has an income level less than the base (1998/99) year income poverty level after adjustment year-on-year, for the effects of inflation.

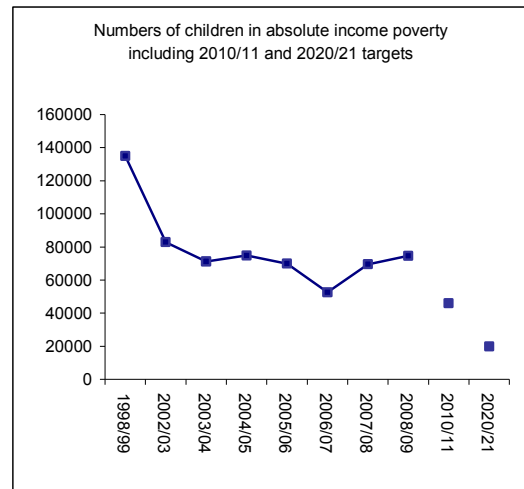
This measure reflects the extent to which the poorest household incomes in NI are rising in real terms after adjusting for price rises.

In the proposals for monitoring progress under Lifetime Opportunities, a child absolute poverty target for NI was expressed in terms of:

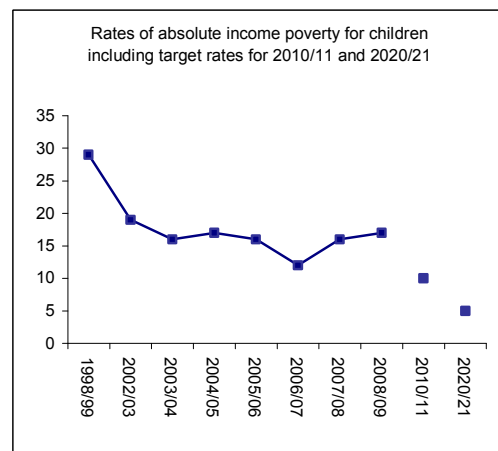
*"Two-thirds reduction in the number of children in absolute income poverty baselined at 1998/99 with a child absolute low income rate of 5% or less by 2020".*

The target to achieve a child absolute poverty rate of less than 5% is mirrored by the Child Poverty Act 2010 although the baseline year differs.

In the baseline year of 1998/99 there were 135,000 children living in income poverty. In 2008/09 there were an estimated 74,600 children living in absolute income poverty. A two-thirds reduction by 2010/11 implies approximately 46,000 children living in absolute income poverty. Achieving a rate of 5% in 2020 implies around 20,000 children living in absolute income poverty at that time baselined at 1998/99.



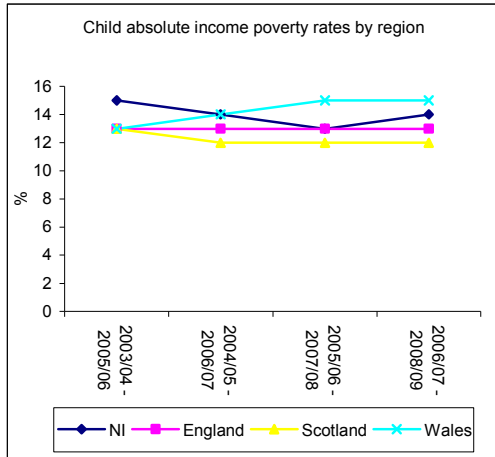
In percentage terms, the rate of absolute income poverty for children has fallen from 29% in 1998/99 to 17% in 2008/09. A two-thirds reduction in the number of children experiencing absolute child poverty by 2010/11 implies an absolute child poverty rate of around 10% with a 2020/21 target rate of 5% or less.



## Geographic comparisons

Comparisons on absolute child poverty are only possible with the constituent countries of the UK given that absolute poverty is driven by national income levels and national inflation rates.

Over the recent period between 2003/04 and 2008/09, Scottish and Northern Irish child absolute income poverty rates have fallen marginally whilst those in England remained static and in Wales rose by 2 percentage points over the period.



Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**

## Child combined low income and material deprivation poverty target

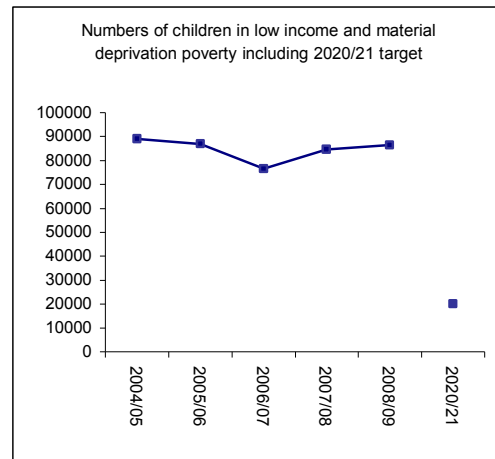
'Is the number of children experiencing both low income and material deprivation decreasing?'

As a wider measure of the living standards of children, a combined low income and material deprivation, or mixed measure, was outlined within the proposals for monitoring progress under Lifetime Opportunities.

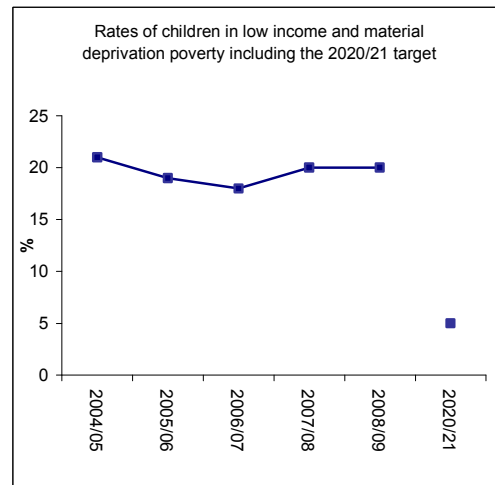
A child is currently defined as poor on this measure if the household in which they live has an income below 70% of the contemporary UK median household income and has a material deprivation score of 25 or more reflected by enforced lack of adult and child goods and services.

Such goods and services, for example, include; enough money to keep a home in decent décor; a hobby or leisure activity and holidays away from home one week a year (not staying with relatives).

In the proposals for monitoring progress under Lifetime Opportunities, a child combined low income and material deprivation target was included to establish a downward trend by 2010/11 and by 2020/21 to achieve a rate based on this measure of 5% or less. This commitment is mirrored in the targets expressed within the 2010 Child Poverty Act.

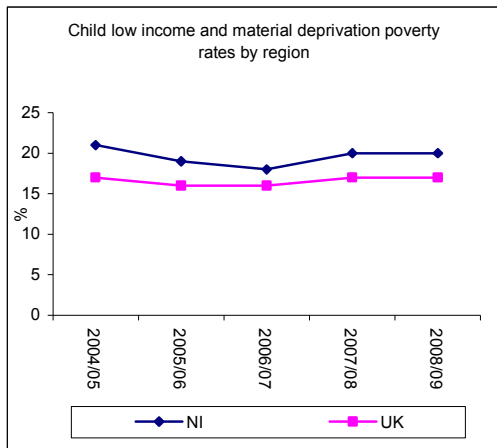


On this measure of poverty 89,100 children (21%) were classed as poor in 2004/05, the first year for which data for this measure was available. The overall trend between 2004/05 and 2008/09 appears stable. In 2008/09 the number of children poor on this measure was 86,500 representing 20% of all children.



## Geographic comparisons

The rates of children experiencing combined low income and material deprivation poverty over the five years to date have been higher in NI compared to that for the UK as a whole.



Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**

# Poverty and Social Exclusion Indicators

Income  
Poverty and  
Income Inequality

## Indicator 1: Relative income poverty rate (UK median)

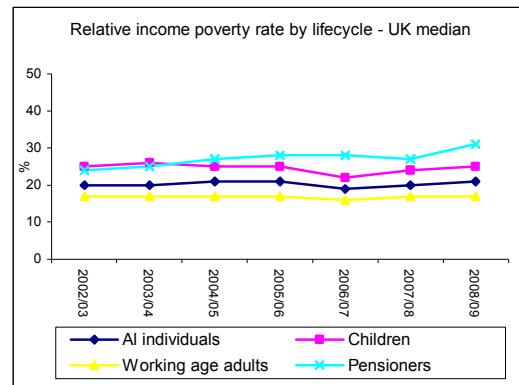
'Is relative income poverty decreasing benchmarked with the UK poverty line?'

The relative income poverty rate is defined as the proportion of people in NI who live in households whose income is below 60% of the UK median equivalised<sup>6</sup> household income. In other words, if the household incomes of the entire UK population were placed in order from lowest to highest, the median household income is the mid point of this range. Those categorised as being in relative income poverty live in a household whose income is 60% or less of this mid point. These figures are calculated on a Before Housing Costs basis, that is, without deducting housing costs from net household income. The impact of housing costs on relative income poverty rates (After Housing Costs) will differ geographically and for particular population groups.

The relative income poverty measure reflects the extent to which the incomes of people within the poorest households are keeping pace with the UK population as a whole.

### Lifecycle groups

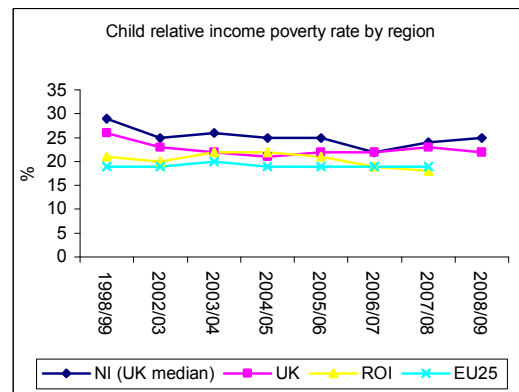
Of the three lifecycle groups, pensioners and children have higher relative income poverty rates compared to working-age adults. The relative income poverty rate for pensioners increased from 24% in 2002/03 to 31% 2008/09. The rate for children was 25% in 2002/03 and 25% in 2008/09. Overall relative income poverty rates remained relatively stable over the period.



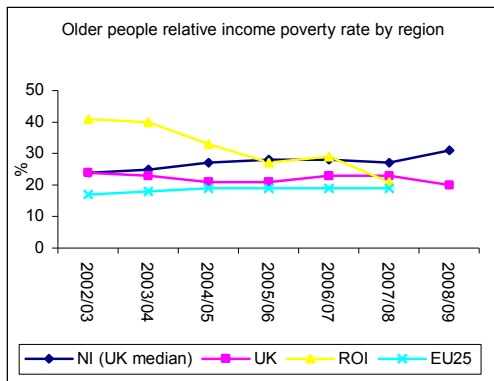
### Geographic comparisons

In comparing change over time between the UK, Republic of Ireland (RoI) and EU 25 (European Union 25 States) in terms of all individuals, the decrease in the relative income poverty rate in the RoI over the period, has been matched by relative stability elsewhere.

Child relative income poverty rates in NI the UK and RoI have reduced somewhat over the period 1998/99 to 2008/09 whilst those of the EU 25 have remained broadly stable.



<sup>6</sup> Equivalisation is the process by which household income is adjusted to account for variation in household size and composition.



The relative income poverty rates for older people in the ROI and the UK are reduced in 2007/08 and 2008/09 compared to 2002/03. The relative income poverty rates of older people in NI and the EU 25 have increased over time.

## Tables

NI relative poverty rates (UK median) by lifecycle								%
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
All individuals	20	20	21	21	19	20	21	
Children	25	26	25	25	22	24	25	
Working age adults	17	17	17	17	16	17	17	
Pensioners	24	25	27	28	28	27	31	

Relative poverty rates by region and lifecycle									%
	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
<i>All individuals</i>									
NI (UK median)	n/a	20	20	21	21	19	20	21	
UK	n/a	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	
ROI	n/a	20	21	20	18	18	16	n/a	
EU25	n/a	15	16	16	16	16	16	n/a	
<i>Children</i>									
NI (UK median)	29	25	26	25	25	22	24	25	
UK	26	23	22	21	22	22	23	22	
ROI	21	20	22	22	21	19	18	n/a	
EU25	19	19	20	19	19	19	19	n/a	
<i>Working age adults</i>									
NI (UK median)	n/a	17	17	17	17	16	17	17	
UK	n/a	15	15	14	15	15	15	16	
ROI	n/a	17	17	16	15	15	14	n/a	
EU25	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	15	15	15	n/a	
<i>Pensioners</i>									
NI (UK median)	n/a	24	25	27	28	28	27	31	
UK	n/a	24	23	21	21	23	23	20	
ROI	n/a	41	40	33	27	29	21	n/a	
EU25	n/a	17	18	19	19	19	19	n/a	

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**  
**Eurostat.**

Notes:

1. Whilst figures for NI and the UK are comparable, comparisons between EU nation states and to the EU average are possible only in relation to change over time given that relative income poverty rates are nation-specific.
2. Children for the ROI and EU 25 are defined as those aged under 16. Older people in the ROI and the EU 25 are defined as those aged 65 and over.
3. Children for NI and the UK are defined as those aged under sixteen years of age, or an unmarried sixteen to nineteen year old in full-time education. Older people for NI and the UK are defined as those aged above current retirement age (males aged 65+ and females 60+).
4. Eurostat data relates to the final year, for example the data for the column 2002/03 relates to 2003.
5. n/a, not available.

## Indicator 2: Relative income poverty rate (NI median)

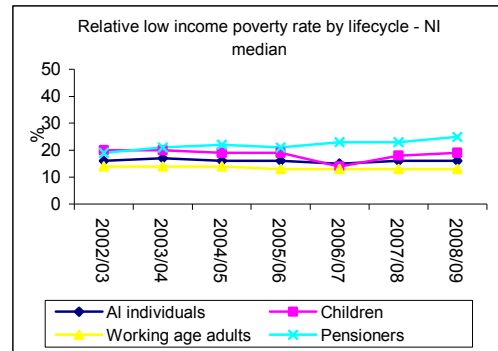
'Is relative income poverty decreasing benchmarked with the NI poverty line?'

For this indicator, the relative income poverty rate is defined as the proportion of people who live in households whose income is below 60% of the NI median equivalised household income. In other words, if the household incomes of the entire NI population were placed in order from lowest to highest, the median household income is the mid point of this range. Those categorised as being in relative low income poverty live in a household whose income is 60% or less of this mid point. These figures are calculated on a Before Housing Costs basis, that is, without deducting housing costs from net household income. The impact of housing costs on relative income poverty rates (After Housing Costs) will differ geographically and for particular population groups.

The relative income poverty measure for NI, using NI median income, reflects the extent to which the incomes of people within the poorest households are keeping pace with those in the NI population as a whole in contrast to Indicator 1 which utilizes UK median income.

NI median household income has historically been below that for the UK as a whole. On that basis, poverty rates estimated using a NI median will have a tendency to be lower than rates estimated using a UK median.

## Lifecycle groups

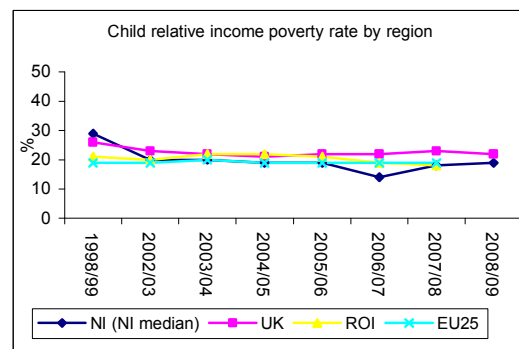


Of the three lifecycle groups, pensioners and children have higher relative income poverty rates compared to working-age adults. The relative income poverty rate for pensioners increased from 19% in 2002/03 to 25% 2008/09. The rate for children was 20% in 2002/03 and 19% in 2008/09. Overall relative income poverty rates remained stable over the period.

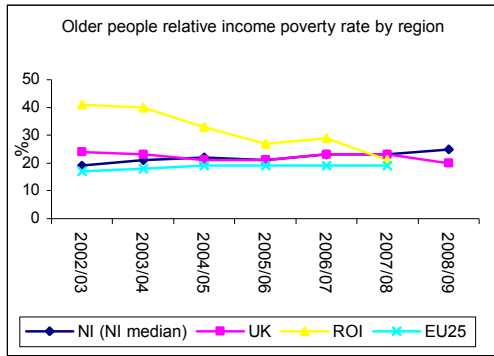
## Geographic comparisons

In comparing change over time with the UK, RoI and EU 25, the overall population relative income poverty rates have remained relatively stable although that for the RoI decreased by four percentage points between 2002/03 and 2007/08.

Whilst child relative income poverty rates in NI, the UK and the RoI are lower in 2008/09 compared to 1998/99, the child poverty rate in the EU 25 has remained stable.



The relative income poverty rate for older people in the ROI has declined sharply over time with a modest downward trend for the UK as a whole. The relative income poverty rate of older people within the EU 25 has shown a modest increase compared to the stronger increase over time seen in NI.



## Tables

NI relative poverty rates (NI median) by lifecycle								%
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
All individuals	16	17	16	16	15	16	16	
Children	20	20	19	19	14	18	19	
Working age adults	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	
Pensioners	19	21	22	21	23	23	25	

Relative poverty rates by region and lifecycle									%
	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
<i>All individuals</i>									
NI (NI median)	n/a	16	17	16	16	15	16	16	
UK	n/a	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	
ROI	n/a	20	21	20	18	18	16	n/a	
EU25	n/a	15	16	16	16	16	16	n/a	
<i>Children</i>									
NI (NI median)	29	20	20	19	19	14	18	19	
UK	26	23	22	21	22	22	23	22	
ROI	21	20	22	22	21	19	18	n/a	
EU25	19	19	20	19	19	19	19	n/a	
<i>Working age adults</i>									
NI (NI median)	n/a	14	14	13	14	13	13	13	
UK	n/a	15	15	14	15	15	15	16	
ROI	n/a	17	17	16	15	15	14	n/a	
EU25	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	15	15	15	n/a	
<i>Pensioners</i>									
NI (NI median)	n/a	19	21	22	21	23	23	25	
UK	n/a	24	23	21	21	23	23	20	
ROI	n/a	41	40	33	27	29	21	n/a	
EU25	n/a	17	18	19	19	19	19	n/a	

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**  
**Eurostat.**

Notes:

1. Whilst figures for NI and the UK are comparable, comparisons between EU nation states and to the EU average are possible only in relation to change over time given that relative income poverty rates are nation-specific.
2. Children for the ROI and EU 25 are defined as those aged under 16. Older people in the ROI and the EU 25 are defined as those aged 65 and over.
3. Children for NI and the UK are defined as those aged under sixteen years of age, or an unmarried sixteen to nineteen year old in full-time education. Older people for NI and the UK are defined as those aged above current retirement aged (males aged 65+ and females 60+).
4. Eurostat data relates to the final year, for example the data for the column 2002/03 relates to 2003.
5. n/a, not available

### Indicator 3: Absolute income poverty rate

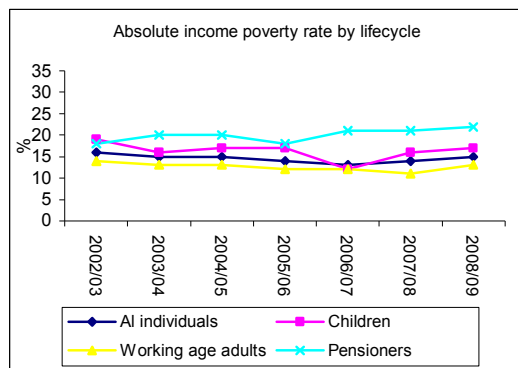
'Have the incomes of poorer households risen over time?'

The absolute income poverty rate is defined as the proportion of people who live in NI households whose income is below 60% of the UK median equivalised household income, Before Housing Costs, baselined at 1998/99 levels and adjusted year-on-year for price inflation.

This measure reflects the extent to which the poorest household incomes in NI are rising in real terms after adjusting for price rises.

#### Lifecycle groups

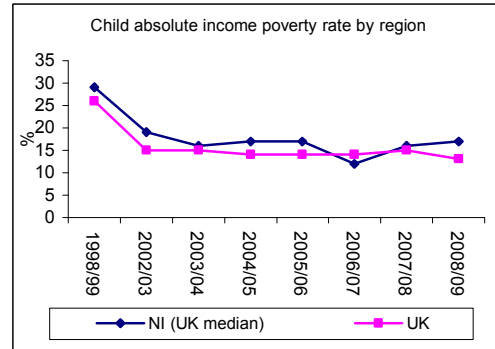
Of the three lifecycle groups, pensioners have the highest absolute income poverty rate. The absolute income poverty rate for pensioners increased from 18% in 2002/03 to 22% in 2008/09. The rate for children decreased from 19% to 17% during the same period. The overall absolute low income poverty rate was 16% in 2002/03 and 15% in 2008/09.



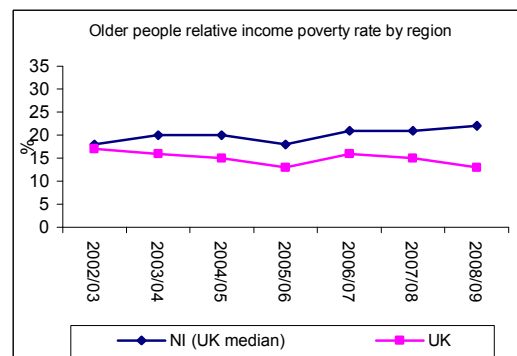
#### Geographic comparisons

Comparisons on absolute poverty are only possible between NI and the UK given comparable figures are not available for the RoI or EU.

Overall absolute income poverty rates in NI and the UK remained relatively stable between 2002/03 and 2008/09. However, there are specific differences in relation to changes over time for both children and older people.



Child absolute income poverty rates in both NI and the UK have reduced over time. In NI the child absolute income poverty rate decreased from 29% in 1998/99 to 17% in 2008/09. Corresponding figures for the UK<sup>7</sup> were 26% in 1998/99 and 13% in 2008/09.



The absolute income poverty rate for older people in the UK has reduced from 17% in 2002/03 to 13% in 2008/09. In NI however, the absolute poverty rate for older people increased from 18% in 2002/03 to 22% in 2008/09.

<sup>7</sup> GB figure for 1998/99

## Tables

Table 5							
NI absolute poverty rates (UK median) by lifecycle							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
All individuals	16	15	15	14	13	14	15
Children	19	16	17	17	12	16	17
Working age adults	14	13	13	12	12	11	13
Pensioners	18	20	20	18	21	21	22

Table 6								
Absolute poverty rates (baselined at 1998/99) by region								
	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<i>All individuals</i>								
NI (UK median)	n/a	16	15	15	14	13	14	15
UK	n/a	13	13	12	12	12	13	12
<i>Children</i>								
NI (UK median)	29	19	16	17	17	12	16	17
UK	26	15	15	14	14	14	15	13
<i>Working age adults</i>								
NI (UK median)	n/a	14	13	13	12	12	11	13
UK	n/a	11	11	10	11	11	11	11
<i>Pensioners</i>								
NI (UK median)	n/a	18	20	20	18	21	21	22
UK	n/a	17	16	15	13	16	15	13

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**

Notes:

1. The Households below Average Income included NI from 2002/03 onwards. Earlier years are for Great Britain only.
2. Absolute income poverty rate data is not available for the ROI or the EU on a comparable basis.
3. n/a, not available

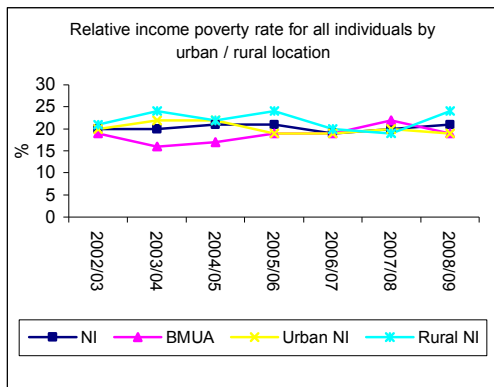
## Indicator 4: Urban / rural poverty comparisons

'Are poverty rates different between rural and urban households?'

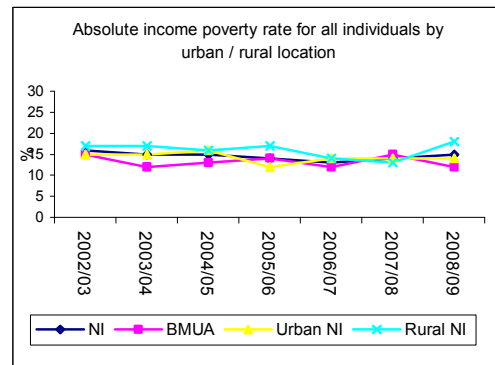
Poverty rates using the three measures of relative income poverty, absolute income poverty, and child mixed low income and material deprivation poverty were compared geographically across NI comprising the four areas of: all of NI; Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA); Rural NI; and Urban NI.

Comparisons of relative income poverty rates for all individuals across these geographic areas are somewhat volatile over time. Whilst the underlying trends in each of the areas appear stable, averaged relative income poverty rates over the period seem slightly higher in rural areas of NI.

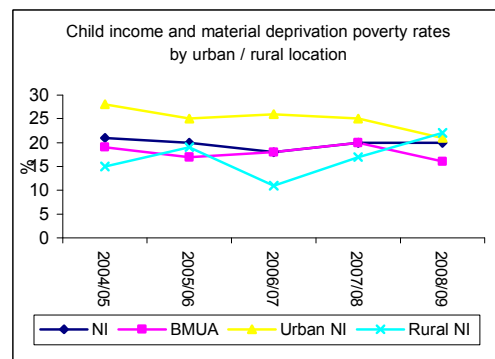
Pensioner relative income poverty rates appear particularly high in rural areas of NI.



Over time, absolute poverty rates in rural areas of NI appear slightly higher.



By area, the mixed low income and material deprivation poverty measure for children is somewhat erratic over time. However, decline over time in rates in urban areas appear mirrored by increase over time in rural areas.



## Tables

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<i>All individuals</i>							
NI	20	20	21	21	19	20	21
BMUA	19	16	17	19	19	22	19
Urban NI	20	22	22	19	19	20	19
Rural NI	21	24	22	24	20	19	24
<i>Children</i>							
NI	25	26	25	25	22	24	25
BMUA	25	20	22	20	22	24	22
Urban NI	27	32	30	28	21	25	23
Rural NI	22	24	22	27	23	23	28
<i>Working age adults</i>							
NI	17	17	17	17	16	17	17
BMUA	16	12	15	16	15	20	16
Urban NI	17	17	19	16	16	16	15
Rural NI	18	21	16	20	17	15	19
<i>Pensioners</i>							
NI	24	25	27	28	28	27	31
BMUA	21	22	18	30	27	27	26
Urban NI	21	19	19	18	25	29	31
Rural NI	30	33	43	35	30	26	36

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<i>All individuals</i>							
NI	16	15	15	14	13	14	15
BMUA	15	12	13	14	12	15	12
Urban NI	15	15	16	12	14	14	14
Rural NI	17	17	16	17	14	13	18
<i>Children</i>							
NI	19	16	17	17	12	16	17
BMUA	19	13	15	14	11	16	13
Urban NI	20	20	21	15	12	16	17
Rural NI	18	16	15	19	14	17	20
<i>Working age adults</i>							
NI	14	13	13	12	12	11	13
BMUA	13	10	12	12	10	13	11
Urban NI	13	13	14	10	12	11	11
Rural NI	14	16	12	14	12	10	15
<i>Pensioners</i>							
NI	18	20	20	18	21	21	22
BMUA	15	17	13	20	19	21	17
Urban NI	12	16	15	12	22	23	16
Rural NI	27	25	32	23	22	21	28

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
NI	21	20	18	20	20
BMUA	19	17	18	20	16
Urban NI	28	25	26	25	21
Rural NI	15	19	11	17	22

Source:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**

## Indicator 5: Distribution of income

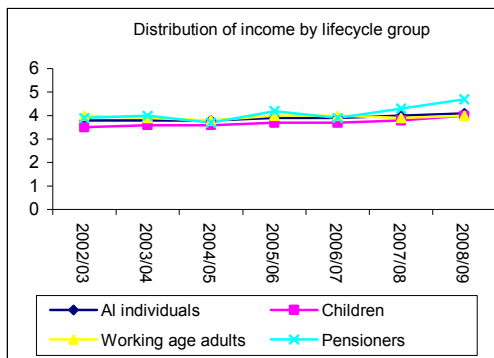
'Is income inequality between the households with the highest and lowest incomes decreasing?'

The distribution of income indicator is defined as the ratio between the total equivalised household income of the top 20% of the income distribution to the bottom 20% (also known as the 80:20 measure).

This measure reflects the extent to which the difference between the highest and lowest household incomes is increasing, decreasing or staying the same over time.

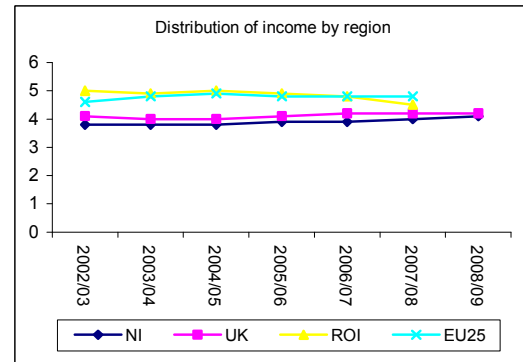
Income inequality for all individuals in NI has increased slightly between 2002/03 and 2008/09. In 2002/03 those households in the top 20% of the income distribution had a weekly household income 3.8 times higher than the bottom 20%. In 2008/09 this figure was 4.1.

### Lifecycle groups



Income inequality across the lifecycle groups in 2008/09 is more pronounced for pensioner households. In 2008/09 the household income of the top 20% of households was greater than that of households in the bottom 20% by a factor of 4.0 for both children and working-age adult households and 4.7 for pensioner households.

## Geographic comparisons



The distribution of income over time has remained relatively stable across the UK and the EU 25 in comparison to increases in NI and decreases in the ROI. However in direct comparison with the UK as a whole, NI has consistently had lower inequality ratios over time.

## Tables

Table 10

Distribution of income by lifecycle								%
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
All individuals	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	
Children	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.0	
Working age adults	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	
Pensioners	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.7	

Table 11

Distribution of income by region								%
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
NI	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	
UK	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	
ROI	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.5	n/a	
EU25	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	n/a	

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.  
Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.  
Eurostat.**

Notes

1. n/a, not available.

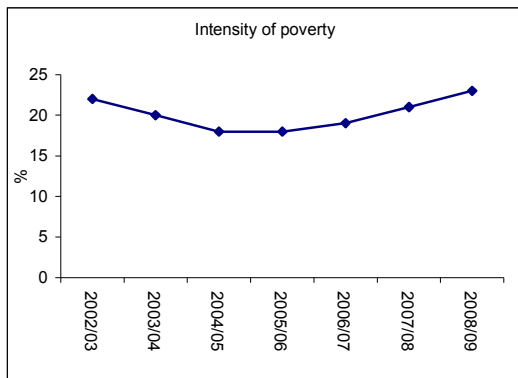
## Indicator 6: Relative median poverty gap

'Are the household incomes of poor households increasing relative to the income poverty line?'

The relative median poverty gap measures the difference between the median household income of households in NI who are below the relative income poverty line and the poverty line itself, expressed as a percentage.

This measure reflects how far below the income poverty line the typical income of poor NI households are. Essentially, this is a measure of the distribution of households in income poverty and the intensity of income poverty.

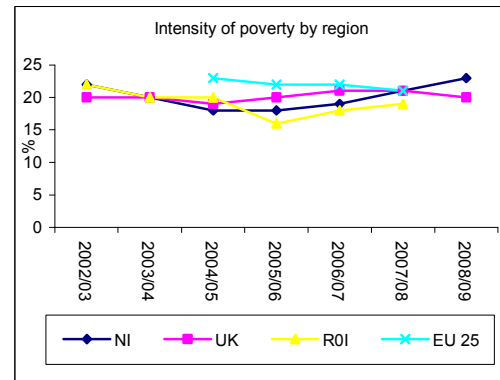
So, for example, in 2008/09, 60% of the UK median weekly equivalised household income, before housing costs, was £244<sup>8</sup> and represents the overall relative income poverty line. The median weekly equivalised income for households falling below this line was £188, the difference being £56, or 23% expressed as a percentage of the poverty line itself.



<sup>8</sup> The median figures are rounded to the nearest pound. The calculated figures i.e. the monetary difference and the associated percentage are calculated from the unrounded medians.

The NI relative median poverty gap was 22% in 2002/03 and 23% in 2008/09. Falls in the median poverty gap between 2002/03 and 2004/05 have been mirrored by increases between 2005/06 and 2008/09.

### Geographic comparisons



The intensity of poverty measure over time in the UK has been relatively stable whilst there has been a slight downward trend in the ROI and the EU 25.

## Tables

Table 12							
Intensity of poverty (UK median)							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
NI	22	20	18	18	19	21	23
UK	20	20	19	20	21	21	20
ROI	22	20	20	16	18	19	n/a
EU 25	n/a	n/a	23	22	22	21	n/a

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**  
**Eurostat.**

Notes

1. UK/ROI/EU 25 data sourced from Eurostat. Eurostat data relates to the final year, for example for 2002/03, Eurostat sourced data relates to 2003.

2. n/a not available.

## Indicator 7: Dispersion around the poverty threshold

'Are the numbers at risk of moving into income poverty decreasing and is income poverty becoming less entrenched?'

The dispersion around the poverty threshold indicator is defined as the proportion of people in NI who live in households whose income is below 50% and 70% respectively of the overall UK median household income.

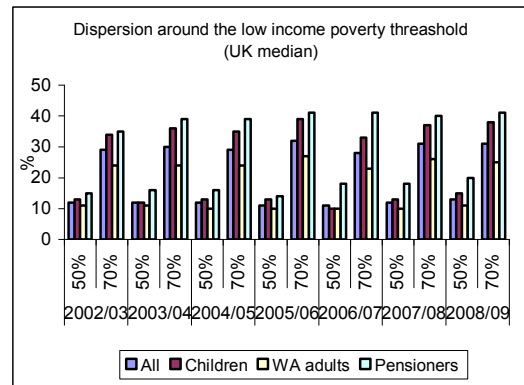
This measure gives an indication of the distribution of poor households around the poverty line of 60% of median income. This measure reflects the extent to which people and groups are concentrated just above and just below the income poverty line.

### Lifecycle groups

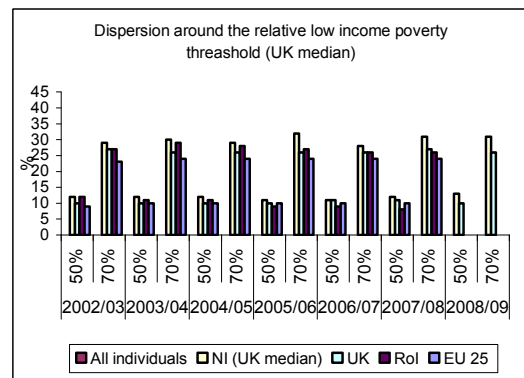
Of the three lifecycle groups a higher proportion of pensioners live in households below both 50% and 70% of the median household income. That is, pensioner households are more tightly concentrated just above and just below the poverty line.

The proportion of pensioners that live in households below 50% and 70% of the UK median has shown an upward trend over time. In 2002/03 15% of pensioners lived in households with less than 50% of the UK median income and 35% lived in households with less than 70% of the median income. By 2008/09 these figures had increased to 20% and 41% respectively.

The proportion of children living in households with less than 50% of the UK median household was 13% in 2002/03 and 15% in 2008/09. The proportion of children living in households whose income was less than 70% of the UK median household income was 34% in 2002/03 and 38% in 2008/09.



### Geographic comparisons



The proportion of all individuals in both the UK and NI living in households with incomes less than 50% of the median income has been stable over time as has been the proportion of individuals living in households with incomes less than 70% of the median.

While trends over time for the EU 25 have been stable in respect of the proportion of individuals living below 50% and 70% of the median income, the proportion of those households in the RoI living below 50% of the median income has decreased over time.

NI, in year-on-year comparison only to the UK, tends to exhibit higher rates of individuals living in households whose income is less than 70% of the UK median. That is, a higher proportion of people in NI compared to the UK as a whole are concentrated just above the poverty line.

**Tables:**

Table 13														
Proportion of individuals living in households with incomes below 50% and 70% of UK median by lifecycle														
	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%
All	12	29	12	30	12	29	11	32	11	28	12	31	13	31
Children	13	34	12	36	13	35	13	39	10	33	13	37	15	38
WA adults	11	24	11	24	10	24	10	27	10	23	10	26	11	25
Pensioners	15	35	16	39	16	39	14	41	18	41	18	40	20	41

Table 14														
Proportion of individuals living in households with incomes below 50% and 70% of the UK median by region														
	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%	50%	70%
<i>All individuals</i>														
NI (UK median)	12	29	12	30	12	29	11	32	11	28	12	31	13	31
UK	10	27	10	26	10	26	10	26	11	26	11	27	10	26
Rol	12	27	11	29	11	28	9	27	9	26	8	26	n/a	n/a
EU 25	9	23	10	24	10	24	10	24	10	24	10	24	n/a	n/a

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.  
Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.  
Eurostat.**

Notes:

1. The figures given for those living below the 50% UK median household income need to be treated with caution due to low sample sizes.
2. n/a not available.

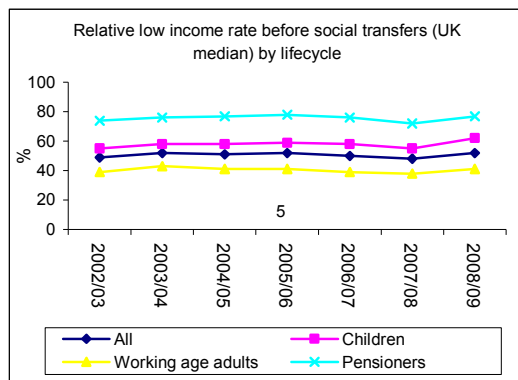
## Indicator 8: Relative income poverty rate before social transfers

'Is the reliance of poorer households on income from the state decreasing?'

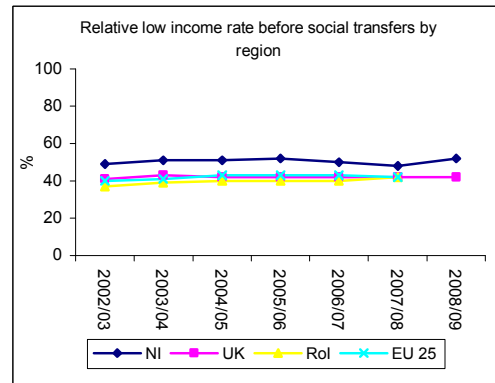
The relative income poverty rate before social transfers indicator reflects the proportion of people living in households below 60% of the UK median equivalised household income, Before Housing Costs, after the exclusion of social transfers including state pensions and state benefits. That is, this indicator reflects the impact of social transfers as an insulator against income poverty. As one would expect, poverty rates are higher when income from social transfers are excluded.

### Lifecycle Groups

Pensioners as a group have the highest relative income poverty rate when income from social transfers is removed. That is, pensioners as a group are the most reliant on income from the state as an insulator against income poverty. The relative income poverty rate for pensioners excluding state social transfers was 77% in 2008/09 compared to 62% for children and 41% for working-age adults.



## Geographic comparisons



In the RoI, the rate of relative income poverty excluding social transfers has risen over time with a small rise for the EU 25.

Comparing NI to the UK only, the impact of excluding state transfers from relative income poverty rates is consistently greater for NI. That is, people in NI are reliant to a greater extent on the insulating effect of social transfers compared to the UK as a whole.

## Tables

Table 15							
Relative low income rate before social transfers							
(UK median)							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
All	49	52	51	52	50	48	52
Children	55	58	58	59	58	55	62
Working age adults	39	43	41	41	39	38	41
Pensioners	74	76	77	78	76	72	77

Table 16							
Relative low income rate before social transfers							
%							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
NI (UK median)	49	52	51	52	50	48	52
UK	41	43	42	42	42	42	42
RoI	37	39	40	40	40	42	n/a
EU 25	40	41	43	43	43	42	n/a

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.  
Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.  
Eurostat.**

Notes

1. Eurostat data relates to the final year for example in 2002/03 Eurostat sourced data relates to 2003
2. n/a not available.

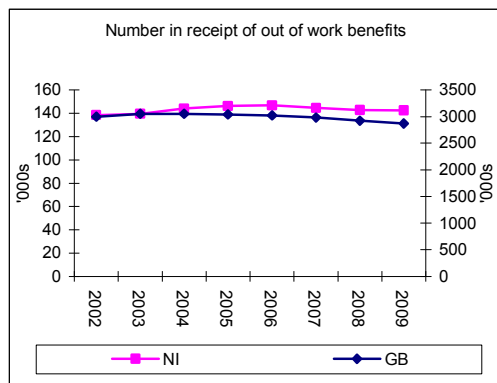
## Indicator 9: Receipt of out of work benefits

'Are the numbers receiving out of work benefits for two years or more decreasing?'

The receipt of out of work benefits indicator reflects the number of working-age people in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit / Employment Support Allowance, Severe Disablement Benefit and Carer's Allowance for two years or more.

The number of people in NI in receipt of out of work benefits for two years or more increased by approximately 4,000 (3%) from 138,493 in 2002 to 142,471 in 2009.

### Geographic comparisons



In GB, the number of people in receipt of out of work benefits for two years or more decreased by 130,000 (4%) from 3,000,000 in 2002 to 2,870,000 in 2009.

## Tables

Table 17

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NI	138,493	139,411	143,932	146,029	146,664	144,393	142,729	142,471
GB	3,000,000	3,050,000	3,050,000	3,040,000	3,020,000	2,980,000	2,920,000	2,870,000

Sources:

**DSD  
Statistical Summaries, DWP.**

## Indicator 10: Savings

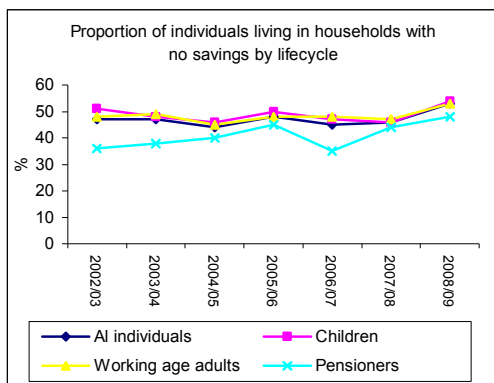
'Are more people saving for the future?'

This indicator relates to the proportion of people living in households who report having no savings.

### Lifecycle groups

The proportion of all individuals that lived in households with no savings remained relatively stable between 2002/03 and 2007/08. Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 there was an increase from 46% to 53%.

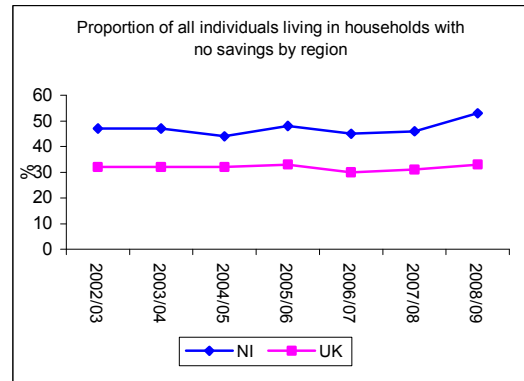
Of the three lifecycle groups, a lower proportion of pensioners live in households which report no savings compared to children and working-age adults. In 2008/09 48% of pensioners lived in households which had no savings compared to 54% of children and 53% of working-age adults. Over time however, the upward trend in people living in households reporting no savings has been strongest amongst pensioners.



Across lifecycle groups, the same trends are found within the UK as in NI, with a lower proportion of pensioners reporting no savings compared to working-age adults and children.

## Geographic comparisons

The proportion of individuals living in households reporting no savings is higher in NI compared to the UK. In 2008/09 over half of all individuals in NI (53%) lived in households with no savings compared to one third (33%) of those living in the UK.



## Tables

Table 18							
Proportion of population without savings by lifecycle							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
All individuals	47	47	44	48	45	46	53
Children	51	48	46	50	47	46	54
Working age adults	48	49	45	48	48	47	53
Pensioners	36	38	40	45	35	44	48

Table 19							
Proportion of the population without savings by region and lifecycle							
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<u>All individuals</u>							
NI	47	47	44	48	45	46	53
UK	32	32	32	33	30	31	33
<u>Children</u>							
NI	51	48	46	50	47	46	54
UK	39	39	38	40	36	38	40
<u>Working age adults</u>							
NI	48	49	45	48	48	47	53
UK	33	32	33	34	32	33	34
<u>Pensioners</u>							
NI	36	38	40	45	35	44	48
UK	21	21	20	21	17	20	21

Sources:

**Households Below Average Income (NI), DSD.**  
**Households Below Average Income (UK), DWP.**

## Indicator 11: Percentage of household weekly expenditure on necessities

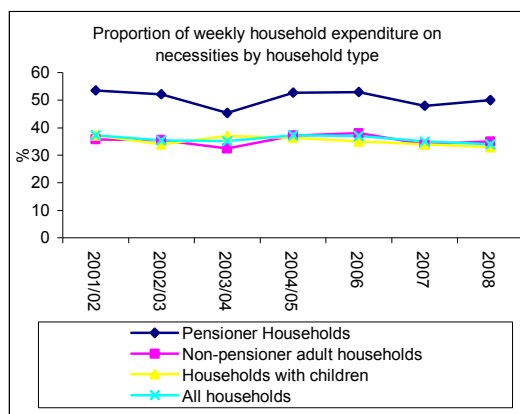
'Are household incomes better able to meet basic needs?'

The proportion of weekly household expenditure on necessities indicator is the proportion of total weekly household expenditure specifically on: food and non alcoholic drinks; clothing and footwear; housing fuel and power and household goods and services.

This measure reflects the extent to which household income is consumed through expenditure on goods and services which could be viewed as necessities.

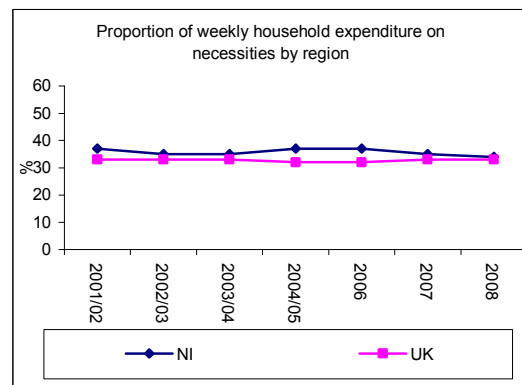
### Lifecycle groups

Pensioner households have a higher proportion of weekly spend on necessities than any other type of household. In 2001/02 54% of pensioner households' weekly expenditure was on necessities. This is in contrast to households with children where 37% of weekly expenditure was on necessities. Comparable figures for 2008 were 50% and 33% respectively.



### Geographic comparisons

The percentage of household weekly expenditure on necessities in NI has been persistently higher than that for the UK though converged in 2008. In 2001/02, 37% of weekly expenditure in NI was on necessities compared to 33% for the UK as a whole. Comparable figures for 2008 were 34% and 33% respectively.



## Tables

Table 20							
Proportion of household weekly expenditure spend on necessities							%
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2006	2007	2008
Pensioner Households	54	52	45	53	53	48	50
Non-pensioner adult households	36	36	33	37	38	34	35
Households with children	37	34	37	36	35	34	33
All households	37	35	35	37	37	35	34

Table 21							
Proportion of household weekly expenditure spend on necessities							%
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2006	2007	2008
NI	37	35	35	37	37	35	34
UK	33	33	33	32	32	33	33

Sources:

**Expenditure and Food Survey (NISRA).  
Family Spending Report, ONS.**

Notes:

1. There was a change in the reporting period from financial to calendar years. The figures are for financial years 2001/02 to 2004/05 and subsequently for calendar years.

# Economic Activity

## Indicator 12: Employment rates

### 'Are employment levels increasing?'

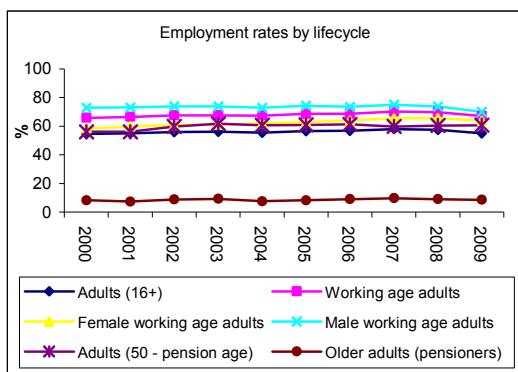
The employment rate is the proportion of people who: did at least one hour of paid work in the survey reference week (whether as an employee or self-employed); had a job that they were temporarily away from (on holiday, for example); on government-supported training and employment programmes; or doing unpaid family work.

### Lifecycle groups

The employment rate for adults aged 16 and over in NI was 54.6% in 2000 and 57.3% in 2008 compared to 54.9% in 2009.

The pattern of increasing employment rates between 2000 and 2007/2008 and decreasing after 2008 was common for both male and females. The employment rate for adults aged 50 to pension age did not show a decrease between 2007/2008 and 2009. The employment rate for pensioners has remained similar throughout the period at approximately 9%.

Over the period the employment rate for working-age males was consistently above that of working-age females. In 2009 the employment rate for working-age males was 70% compared to 64% for working-age females.



## Geographic comparisons

The changes observed to employment rates for individuals aged 15-64 years in NI between 2000 and 2009 follows similar broad trends seen in the ROI and the EU 25. That is, rates in all regions increasing between 2000 and 2007 with employment rates tending to decrease after 2007. The level of fall in employment rates post 2007 was greatest in the ROI and least for the EU25. The pattern in the UK was relative stability between 2000 and 2008 and a drop in the rate after 2008.



## Tables

Sources:

**Labour Force Survey.  
Eurostat.**

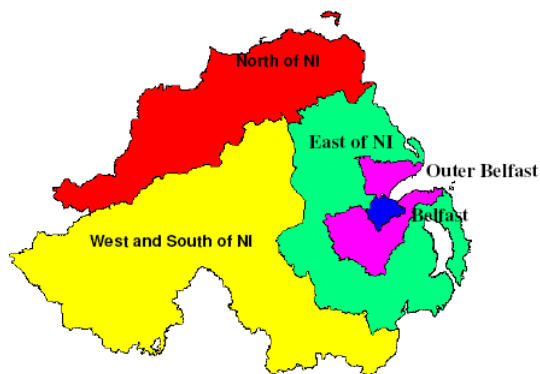
Table 22										
Employment rates by lifecycle										%
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adults (16+)	54.6	54.9	55.9	56.1	55.5	56.6	56.8	58.0	57.3	54.9
Working age adults	65.9	66.5	67.6	67.7	67.5	68.8	68.8	70.3	69.7	67.1
Female working age adults	58.5	59.7	60.9	61.1	61.9	62.9	63.9	65.5	65.7	64.0
Male working age adults	72.9	73.0	73.9	73.9	72.8	74.3	73.5	74.9	73.6	70.0
Adults (50 - pension age)	56.0	56.1	59.8	61.7	60.7	60.8	61.2	59.8	60.5	60.7
Older adults (pensioners)	8.3	7.5	8.9	9.3	7.7	8.3	9.2	9.7	9.2	8.6

Table 23										
Employment rates by region - persons aged 15 - 64 years										%
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NI	62.7	63.4	64.2	64.1	64.3	65.6	65.3	66.9	66.2	63.9
UK	71.2	71.4	71.4	71.5	71.7	71.7	71.6	71.5	71.5	69.9
ROI	65.2	65.8	65.5	65.5	66.3	67.6	68.6	69.1	67.6	61.8
EU25	62.4	62.8	62.8	63	63.4	64	64.8	65.8	66.3	65

## Indicator 13: Regional labour force cohesion

'Are trends in the labour force different between areas within Northern Ireland?'

The regional cohesion indicator is a measure of the difference in employment, inactivity and unemployment rates of the NUTS III (nomenclature of territorial statistics) regions for Northern Ireland. These regions shown below are: Belfast, Outer Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, North of Northern Ireland and West & South of Northern Ireland.



The employment rate is the proportion of people aged 16 or over who: did at least one hour of paid work in the survey reference week (whether as an employee or self-employed); had a job that they were temporarily away from (on holiday, for example); on government-supported training and employment programmes; or those doing unpaid family work.

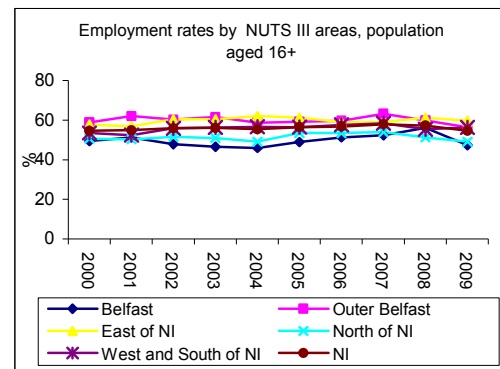
The unemployment rate is the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure. The ILO measure of unemployment refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their Labour Force Survey interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview, or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.

The inactivity rate is the proportion of people who are neither in employment nor unemployed on the ILO measure.

### Employment rate

In 2009 the East of NI (59.7%), Outer Belfast (56.5%) and the West & South of NI (56.3%) regions had employment rates above the NI average (54.7%). Belfast had the lowest employment rate of all regions in 2009 (47.4%).

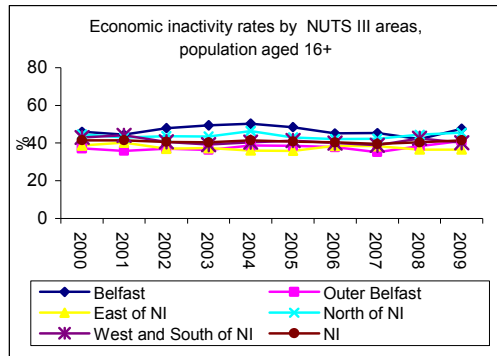
The employment rate in each of the five areas was higher in 2008 compared to 2000 although there have been mixed fortunes during the time period. Nevertheless, trends in employment rates of the five areas between 2000 and 2008 are stable or positive. Between 2008 and 2009 all regions of NI with the exception of the West & South of NI, where the rate increased marginally, experienced a fall in the employment rate. The fall in the employment rate in Belfast was the largest, at approximately 9 percentage points and the fall in Outer Belfast had the next largest fall at 3.4 percentage points. For NI as a whole the employment rate fell by 2.6 percentage points between 2008 and 2009.



### Economic inactivity rate

In 2009, the rate of economic inactivity was above the NI average (41.5%) in Belfast (47.6%) and the North of NI (45.5%). The rates in the East of NI (36.6%) and the West & south of NI (40.2%) were below the NI average. The rate in Outer Belfast (41.1%) was on a par with the NI average.

Between 2000 and 2009 the rates of economic inactivity increased in Outer Belfast by 3.9 percentage points and by 1.6 percentage points in Belfast. Rates fell in the West & South of NI by 2.7 percentage points and by 2.1 percentage points in the East of NI. The rate in the North of NI was 44.6% in 2000 and 45.5% in 2009.



### ILO Unemployment Rates

The ILO unemployment rate in NI was 6.8% in 2000 and 6.6% in 2009. The rate had fallen to 4.0% in 2008 before increasing between 2008 and 2009.

The North of NI (9.6%) and Belfast (9.5%) had ILO unemployment rates above the NI average in 2009. The remaining three regions had rates below the NI average with the lowest rate in Outer Belfast (4.2%)

Between 2000 and 2009 the ILO unemployment rate increased by 1.2 percentage points in both Belfast and the North of NI. The rate in outer Belfast fell by 1.9 percentage points and the rates in the remaining regions were similar in 2000 and 2009.

## Tables

Sources:

Labour Force Survey Local Area Database.

Table 24

Employment rates by NUTS3 area population aged 16+ %										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belfast	49.5	51.3	47.8	46.6	46	48.9	51.4	52.5	56.1	47.4
Outer Belfast	58.9	62.0	60.3	61.6	58.8	59.2	59.7	63.3	59.9	56.5
East of NI	57.8	57.0	60.4	60.5	62.0	61.3	59.0	59.1	61.2	59.7
North of NI	50.7	50.4	51.7	51.1	49.1	53.6	53.5	54.0	51.3	49.2
West and South of NI	53.5	52.5	55.9	56.3	56.7	56.5	57.6	58.5	55.5	56.3
NI	54.6	54.9	55.9	56.1	55.5	56.6	56.8	58.0	57.3	54.7

Table 25

Economic inactivity rates by NUTS3 area population aged 16+ %										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belfast	46.0	44.4	47.9	49.5	50.2	48.4	45.1	45.3	42.1	47.6
Outer Belfast	37.2	35.9	37.1	36.3	38.6	38.5	37.9	35.2	38.3	41.1
East of NI	38.7	40.1	37.1	37.3	36.0	35.8	38.5	38.3	36.5	36.6
North of NI	44.6	43.0	43.6	43.4	46.5	42.9	42.2	42.3	44.4	45.5
West and South of NI	42.9	44.2	40.6	39.1	40.5	41.4	40.0	38.8	42.4	40.2
NI	41.5	41.5	40.7	40.4	41.5	40.8	40.3	39.5	40.4	41.5

Table 26

ILO unemployment rates by NUTS3 area population aged 16+ %										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belfast	8.3	7.7	8.1	7.8	7.5	*	6.5	*	*	9.5
Outer Belfast	6.1	*	4.2	*	4.2	3.7	3.8	*	*	4.2
East of NI	5.8	4.8	3.9	3.5	3.2	4.6	4.0	4.2	3.6	5.8
North of NI	8.4	11.5	8.4	9.7	8.3	6.0	7.6	6.4	7.6	9.6
West and South of NI	6.3	5.8	6.0	7.6	4.8	*	3.9	4.3	3.5	5.9
NI	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.1	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.0	6.6

\* indicates the sample size was below release protocols.

## Indicator 14: Long term unemployment rate

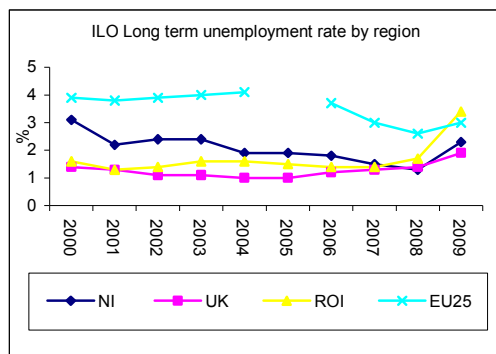
'Is the level of long term unemployment decreasing?'

Long term unemployment is defined as the proportion of the economically active population aged 16 and over that have been unemployed on the International Labour Organisation unemployment measure for 12 months or more.

The long-term unemployment rate for the working-age population in Northern Ireland decreased from 3.1% in 2001 to 2.3% in 2009. The lowest rate over the period was in 2008 (1.3%).

### Geographic comparisons

The long-term unemployment rate across NI in 2009 was above the UK rate (1.9%) and in 2009 the rates in both the UK and NI were below the rates both in the ROI (3.4%) and the EU 25 (3%). The comparative picture between NI, the UK, ROI and EU25 has shown some volatility post 2007.



## Tables

Table 27

Long term unemployment rates by region											%
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
NI	3.1	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.3	2.3	
UK	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.9	
ROI	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	3.4	
EU25	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	n/a	3.7	3	2.6	3	

Sources:

**Labour Force Survey.  
Eurostat**

Notes

1. n/a not available.

## Indicator 15: Concentration of employment within households

'Is employment becoming more, or less, concentrated within households?'

These estimates on the economic status of households are for only those households that include at least one person of working-age.

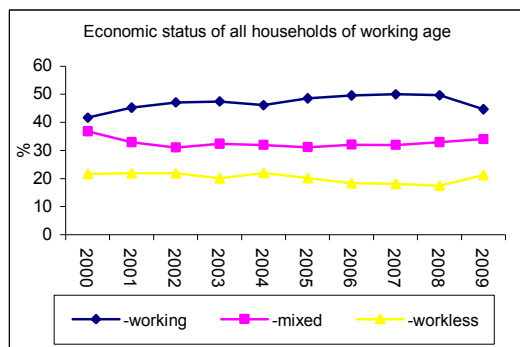
A **working household** is one where all adults are in employment.

A **mixed household** is one where at least one adult is in employment and at least one other is either unemployed or economically inactive.

A **workless household** is one where no adults are in employment.

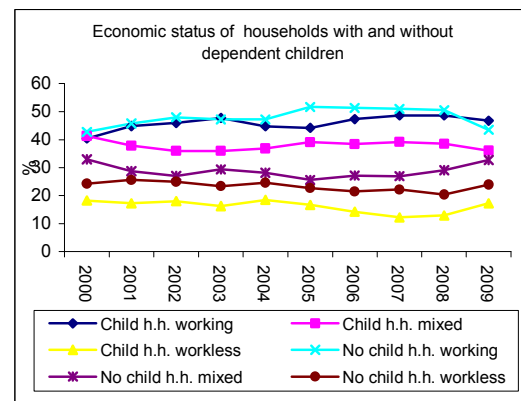
In 2000 41.7% of households in NI were working, 36.8% were mixed and 21.6% were workless. In 2009 the respective figures were 44.7%, 34.1% and 21.2%.

Between 2008 and 2009 there was a fall in the proportion of households that were working of 5 percentage points, an increase of 3.8 percentage points in the proportion of households that were workless and the proportion that were mixed was 32.9% in 2008 and 34.1% in 2009.



## Households with and without dependent children

In 2009 a higher proportion of households with dependent children (46.7%) were working than households with no dependent children (43.5%). Approximately one quarter of households with no dependent children (23.9%) were workless compared to 17.2% of households with dependent children. A further third of households with no dependent children (32.7%) were mixed compared to 36.1% of households with dependent children.



Between 2000 and 2009 the proportion of households with dependent children that were working increased from 40.4% to 46.7%. The proportion of such households that were mixed decreased from 41.3% to 36.1% and the proportion that was workless was 18.3% in 2000 and 17.2% in 2009.

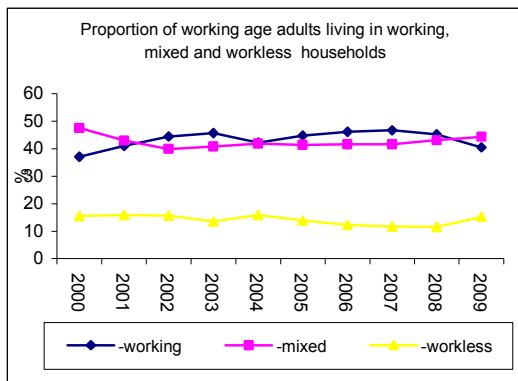
In 2009, 43.5% of households without dependent children were working compared to 42.7% in 2000. One third of households without dependent children were mixed in 2000 (33%) and 2009 (32.7%). Approximately one quarter of households without dependent children were workless in both 2000 (24.3%) and 2009 (23.9%).

Between 2008 and 2009 there was a decrease of 7 percentage points in the proportion of households without dependent children that were working and an increase of 3.5 percentage points in the proportion of such households that were workless.

## People in households

The previous analyses related to the number and characteristics of households. It is also possible to analyse the data on an individual basis.

In 2009, 40.5% of working-age adults lived in working households, 44.3% in mixed households and 15.2% in workless households.

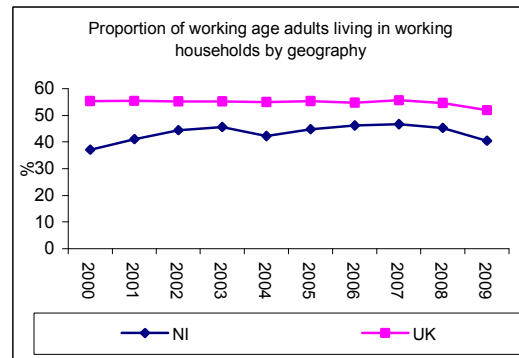


In 2009, 44.2% of children lived in working households, 38% in mixed households and 17.8% in workless households.

## Geographic comparisons

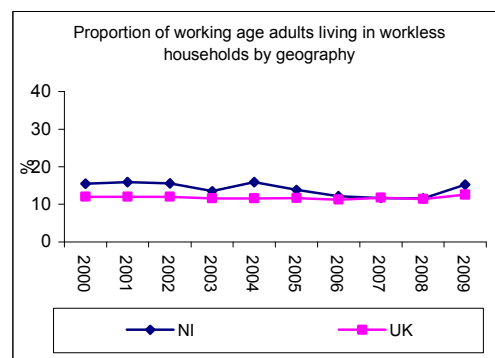
In 2009, a lower proportion of working-age adults in NI (40.5%) lived in working households compared to the UK as a whole (51.9%) and this pattern was evident across the period 2000-2009.

The proportion of working-age adults living in working households increased by 3.4 percentage points between 2000 and 2009 in NI. For the UK as a whole this proportion fell by 3.4 percentage points over the same period.

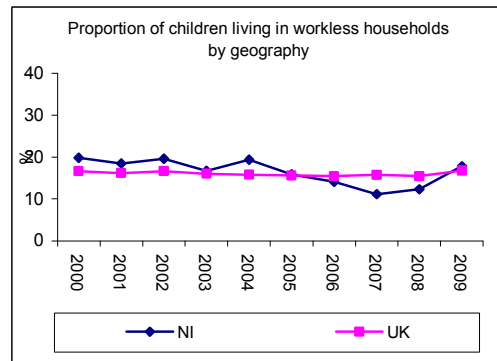
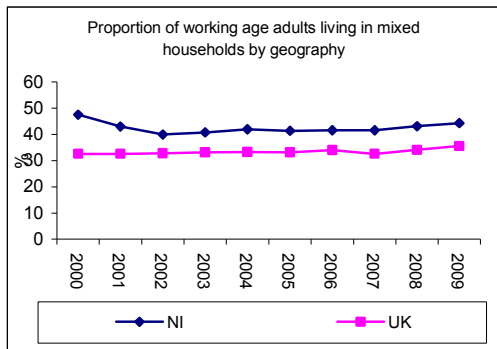


In NI in 2009 there was a higher proportion of working-age adults living in workless households (15.2%) compared to the UK (12.6%).

The proportion of working-age adults living in workless households decreased in NI between 2000 and 2008. In 2008 the proportion in NI and the UK as a whole were similar (11.6% and 11.4% respectively) before increasing in both regions with the rate of increase higher in NI.



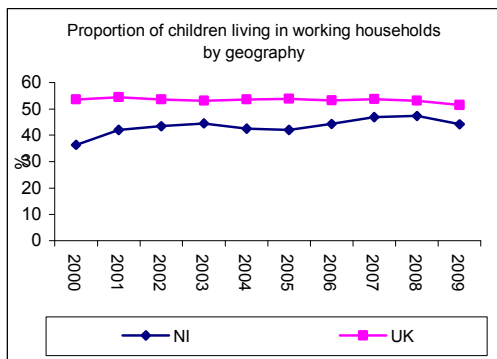
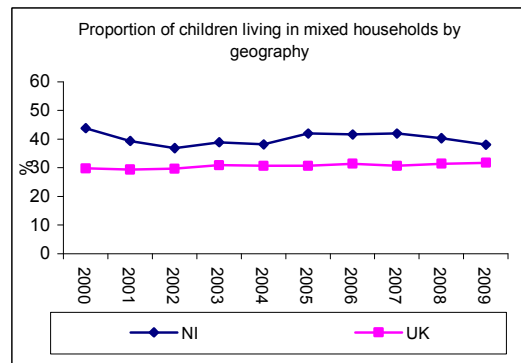
Between 2000 and 2009 a higher proportion of working-age adults in NI lived in mixed households compared to the UK.



In 2009, a higher proportion of children lived in working households in the UK (51.5%) compared to NI (44.2%) and this pattern was evident across the period 2000 to 2009.

Between 2000 and 2009 a higher proportion of children in NI lived in mixed households compared to the UK.

However, the proportion of children living in working households in NI increased by 7.8 percentage points between 2000 and 2009 whilst for the UK as a whole this proportion fell by 2.1 percentage points over the same period.



In 2009 in NI, 17.8% of children lived in workless households compared to 16.8% in the UK. Comparable figures for 2000 were 19.8% and 16.6% respectively.

Between 2008 and 2009 the proportion of children living in workless households in NI increased by 5.5 percentage points. For the UK the increase was of a smaller magnitude (1.4 percentage points).

## Tables

Table 28										
Economic status of working age households with and without dependent children NI										
	%									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<u>Households with dependent children</u>										
-working	40.4	44.9	46.0	47.8	44.7	44.2	47.3	48.6	48.6	46.7
-mixed	41.3	37.8	36.0	35.9	36.8	39.1	38.4	39.2	38.5	36.1
-workless	18.3	17.3	18	16.3	18.5	16.7	14.2	12.2	12.9	17.2
<u>Households without dependent children</u>										
-working	42.7	45.7	48.0	47.2	47.2	51.7	51.3	51.0	50.5	43.5
-mixed	33	28.7	27.1	29.4	28.2	25.6	27.2	26.9	29.1	32.7
-workless	24.3	25.6	24.9	23.4	24.6	22.7	21.5	22.1	20.4	23.9
<u>All households</u>										
-working	41.7	45.3	47.1	47.5	46.1	48.6	49.6	50.0	49.7	44.7
-mixed	36.8	32.9	31.1	32.4	31.9	31.2	32.1	31.9	32.9	34.1
-workless	21.6	21.8	21.8	20.1	22.0	20.2	18.3	18.1	17.4	21.2

Table 29										
Proportion of working age adults and children living in working, mixed and workless households NI										
	%									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<u>Working age adults</u>										
-working	37.1	41.1	44.5	45.7	42.2	44.8	46.2	46.7	45.3	40.5
-mixed	47.5	43.0	39.9	40.8	41.9	41.4	41.6	41.6	43.1	44.3
-workless	15.5	15.9	15.6	13.5	15.9	13.8	12.2	11.7	11.6	15.2
<u>Children</u>										
-working	36.4	42.1	43.5	44.5	42.5	42.1	44.3	46.9	47.4	44.2
-mixed	43.8	39.4	36.9	38.9	38.1	42.0	41.6	42.0	40.3	38.0
-workless	19.8	18.5	19.6	16.7	19.4	15.9	14.1	11.1	12.3	17.8

Table 30										
Proportion of working age adults and children living in working, mixed and workless households- UK										
	%									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<u>Working age adults</u>										
-working	55.3	55.5	55.2	55.2	55.0	55.3	54.7	55.7	54.6	51.9
-mixed	32.6	32.5	32.8	33.2	33.3	33.1	34.0	32.5	34.1	35.5
-workless	12	12	12	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.3	11.8	11.4	12.6
<u>Children</u>										
-working	53.6	54.4	53.6	53.1	53.6	53.8	53.3	53.7	53.2	51.5
-mixed	29.8	29.4	29.7	30.9	30.6	30.7	31.4	30.6	31.4	31.7
-workless	16.6	16.2	16.6	16.0	15.8	15.6	15.4	15.7	15.4	16.8

Sources:

**Labour Force Survey.**  
**Work and workless among households, 2009, ONS.**

## Indicator 16: Working-age economic inactivity rates

'Is participation of people in the labour market increasing?'

The working-age economic inactivity rate is the proportion of people who are neither in employment nor unemployed on the International Labour Organisation measure. This group includes, for example, all those not working or unemployed who were looking after a home, students or people with illness or disability.

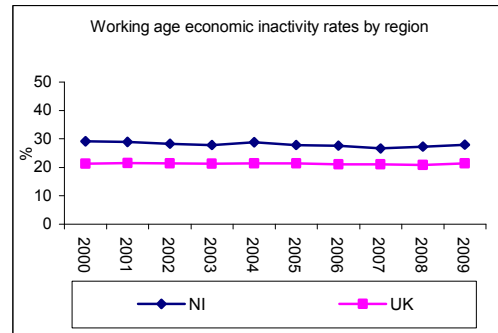
The proportion of adults aged 16 years and over who were economically inactive was 41.5% in 2000 and 41.1% in 2009.

By comparison, the proportion of working-age adults who were economically inactive was 29.2% in 2000 and 28.0% in 2009

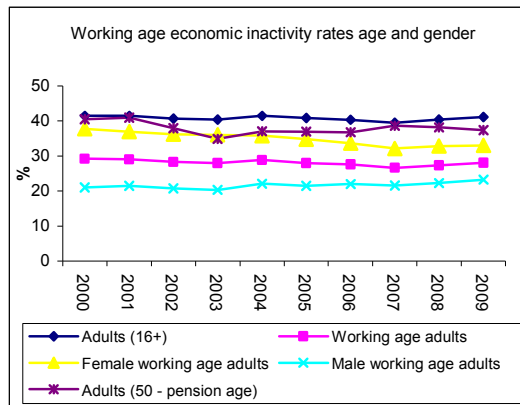
The working-age economic inactivity rate for females fell from 37.7% in 2000 to 33% in 2009. Males had a lower economic inactivity rate than females over the period. In 2000, 21% of working-age males were inactive and in 2009 the corresponding rate was 23.2%.

The rate of economic inactivity for adults aged 50 years to pensionable age was 40.5% in 2000 and 37.4% in 2009.

## Geographic comparisons



The economic inactivity rate for working-age adults in NI has been consistently higher than the UK rate. The UK economic inactivity rate for the working-age population was 21.3% in 2000 and 21.4% in 2009. This compares with 29.2% and 28% respectively in NI.



## Tables

Table 31											
Economic inactivity rates											%
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Adults (16+)	41.5	41.5	40.7	40.4	41.5	40.8	40.3	39.5	40.4	41.1	
Working age adults	29.2	29.0	28.3	27.9	28.8	27.9	27.6	26.6	27.3	28.0	
Female working age adults	37.7	36.9	36.2	36.0	35.8	34.8	33.6	32.1	32.8	33.0	
Male working age adults	21.0	21.4	20.7	20.3	22.1	21.4	22.0	21.5	22.2	23.2	
Adults (50 - pension age)	40.5	40.9	37.9	34.9	37.0	36.9	36.7	38.6	38.2	37.4	

Table 32											
Working age economic inactivity rates by region											%
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
NI	29.2	29.0	28.3	27.9	28.8	27.9	27.6	26.6	27.3	28	
UK	21.3	21.5	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.4	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.4	

## Sources

### Labour Force Survey

## Indicator 17: Earnings gaps

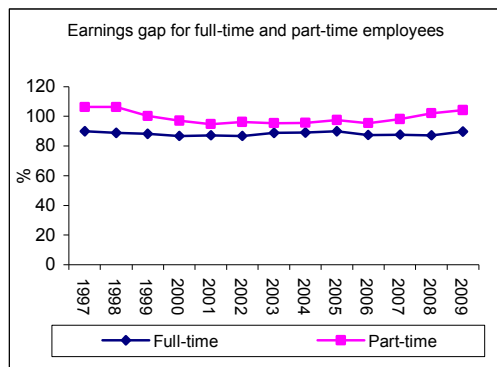
### 'Are earnings in NI catching up with the UK?'

This measure reflects the extent to which earnings from work differ between NI and the UK average.

The difference in the gross median hourly rate for full-time and part-time employees in NI and the UK are compared separately.

Full-time workers in NI consistently earned less than the UK gross median hourly rate. In 2009 NI full-time employees earned 89.8% of the UK average compared to 89.9% in 2000.

By contrast, during the period 1997 to 2009, part-time employees in NI earned approximately the same gross hourly rate as all UK part-time employees. In 2009 NI part-time employees earned 104.3% of the UK part-time gross median hourly rate.



## Tables

Table 33													
Earnings gaps for full and part time NI employees compared to UK employees													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Full-time	89.9	89.0	88.2	86.7	87.2	86.9	88.8	89.1	90.0	87.4	87.6	87.3	89.8
Part-time	106.4	106.4	100.2	97.0	94.7	96.2	95.4	95.7	97.5	95.4	98.1	102.2	104.3

Sources:

### Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

#### Notes

1. The introduction of methodological changes to improve the quality of ASHE data resulted in discontinuities in trends in 2004 and 2006. More details of this can be found in the ASHE publication [http://www.detini.gov.uk/ashe\\_2009\\_ni\\_statistical\\_bulletin-3.pdf](http://www.detini.gov.uk/ashe_2009_ni_statistical_bulletin-3.pdf)

# Education and Qualifications

**Indicator 18: Educational achievement for students aged 15**

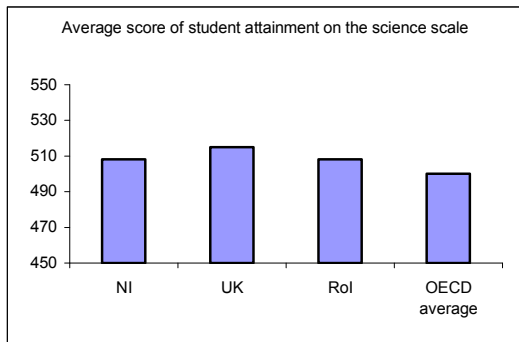
'How does the achievement of NI students in science, mathematics and reading compare internationally?'

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a survey of the educational achievement of 15-year-olds by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The PISA survey assesses students in science, reading and mathematics. The most recent year for which assessment information is available is 2006.

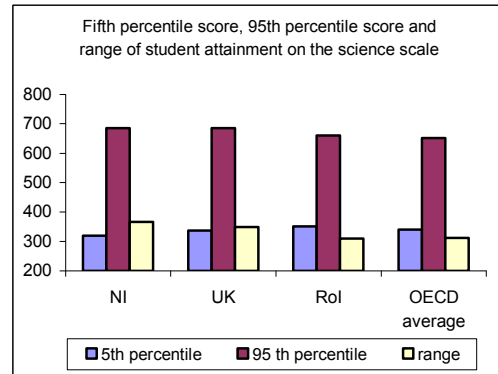
**Science**

NI students achieved a mean score of 508 in science, significantly above the OECD average of 500 and on a par with the Rol (508) but below the UK as a whole (515) (although this difference was not statistically significant).



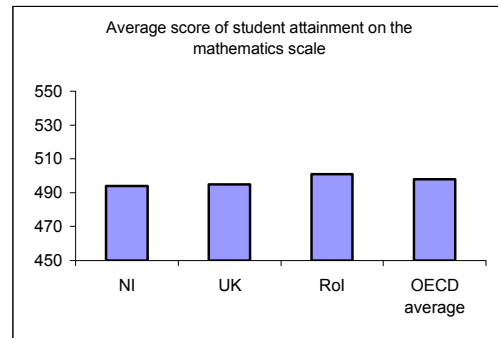
NI had a wider spread of attainment<sup>9</sup> (367) than all other countries participating in PISA. As well as high achievers, Northern Ireland had a substantial 'tail' of low-scoring students. In the Rol (309), the spread of

attainment was much narrower and was close to the average for OECD countries (311). The spread of attainment in the UK (348) was also above the OECD average.



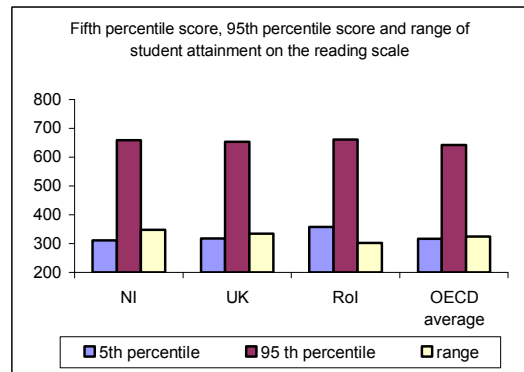
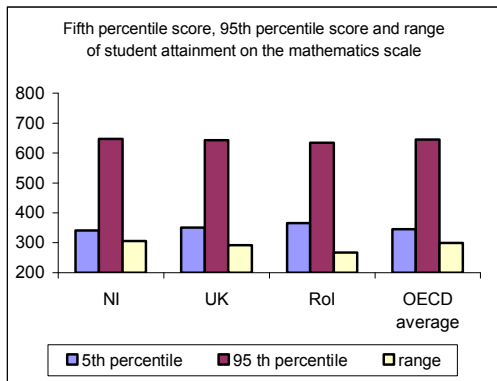
**Mathematics**

NI students achieved a mean score of 494 in mathematics around the OECD average of 498 and on a par with the Rol (501) and UK (495).



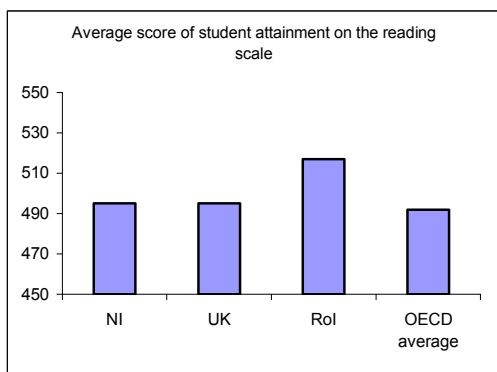
In contrast to science, the spread of attainment in mathematics for NI (306) was similar to the average for OECD countries (300) although it should be noted that two thirds of participating countries had lower scale point differences. The spread of attainment in the Rol (268) was much lower than the OECD average and the spread for the UK (292) was slightly below the OECD average.

<sup>9</sup> The spread of attainment is the score of 95<sup>th</sup> percentile student minus the score of the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile student, in other words the difference in attainment between the highest performing and the lowest performing students.



## Reading

NI students achieved a mean score of 495 in reading, as did students in the UK as a whole. The score for students in the Rol of 517 was above that for students in both NI and the UK and also above the OECD average of 492.



As with science, the spread of attainment in reading was wide in NI.

The spread of attainment for NI students (348) was above that for the OECD (324), above the range for the UK as a whole (335) and above that for the Rol (303).

## Tables

Table 34

Student attainment on the science scale

	Mean score	5th percentile	95 th percentile	range
NI	508	320	686	366
UK	515	337	685	348
RoI	508	351	660	309
OECD average	500	340	652	311

Table 35

Student attainment on the mathematics scale

	Mean score	5th percentile	95 th percentile	range
NI	494	341	647	306
UK	495	351	643	292
RoI	501	366	634	268
OECD average	498	346	645	300

Table 36

Student attainment on the reading scale

	Mean score	5th percentile	95 th percentile	range
NI	495	311	659	348
UK	495	318	653	335
RoI	517	358	661	303
OECD average	492	317	642	324

Sources:

**Programme for International Student Assessment: Student Achievement in NI, National Foundation for Educational Research, 2007.**

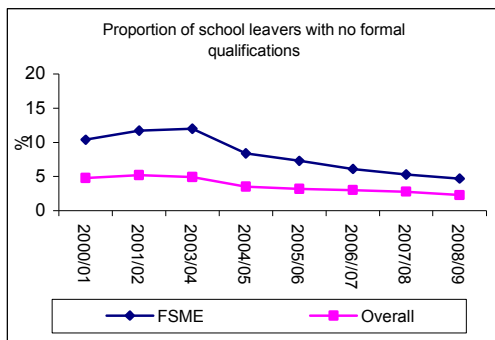
Notes

1. The 5th percentile marks the score attained by the participant in a country for whom 1 in 20 (or 5%) of the sample had a lower score. Conversely the 95th percentile marks the score attained by the participant for whom 19 out of 20 (95%) of participants had a lower score

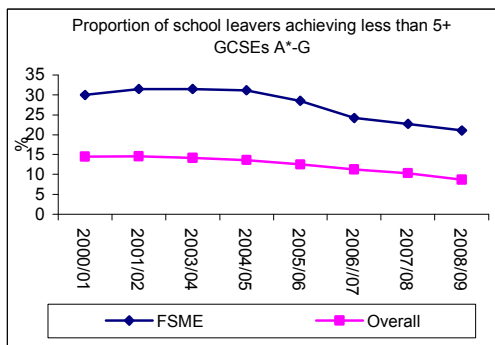
## Indicator 19: Low educational achievement in children

'Is low educational achievement amongst children improving?'

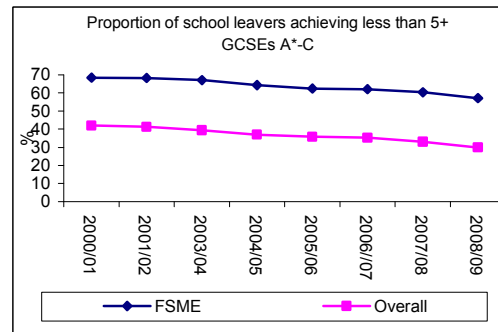
Between 2000/01 and 2008/09 the proportion of all school leavers that had no formal qualifications decreased from 4.8% to 2.3%. For children with free school meal entitlement (FSME) the figure decreased from 10.4% to 4.7%.



In 2008/09, 21.1% of FSME school leavers achieved fewer than 5 GCSE passes at grades A\*-G compared to 8.7% for all children.

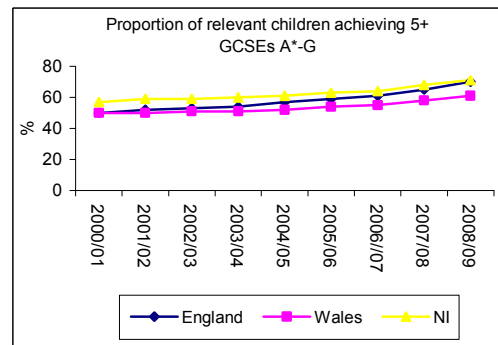


In 2008/09, 57.1% of school leavers entitled to FSM obtained less than 5 GCSEs passes at grades A\*-C compared to 29.9% for all children.



## Geographic comparisons

In common with NI, the proportion of children<sup>10</sup> achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C in England and Wales, has increased over the period 2000/01 to 2008/09. In 2008/09, 70% of relevant children in England achieved 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C with 61% in Wales compared to 71% in NI.



<sup>10</sup> The base of children differs across the UK. For the specific base refer to notes to tables 37 and 38

## Tables

Table 37									
Low educational achievement in children									
	2000/01	2001/02	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	%
No formal qualifications									
FSME	10.4	11.7	12.0	8.4	7.3	6.1	5.3	4.7	
Overall	4.8	5.2	4.9	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.3	
Less than 5 GCSEs A* - G									
FSME	30.0	31.5	31.5	31.2	28.5	24.2	22.7	21.1	
Overall	14.5	14.6	14.2	13.6	12.5	11.3	10.3	8.7	
Less than 5 GCSEs A* - C									
FSME	68.5	68.3	67.0	64.4	62.4	62.1	60.3	57.1	
Overall	42.0	41.3	39.3	37.0	35.8	35.3	33.1	29.9	

Table 38									
Educational achievement by geography									
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Percentage of all pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - C									
England	50	52	53	54	57	59	61	65	70
Wales	50	50	51	51	52	54	55	58	61
NI	57	59	59	60	61	63	64	68	71

Sources:

### School Leavers' Survey, DENI. Summary of Annual Examination Results, DENI

Notes

1. Data for NI from the School Leavers survey in 2002/03 is not available due to technical difficulties.
2. Excludes special and independent schools in Northern Ireland.
3. GCSE figures are expressed as a percentage of pupils in year 12 in Northern Ireland, and as a percentage of 15 year olds in England (pre 2004/05) and Wales. From 2004/05 England figures are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

## Indicator 20: Exclusion of young people from employment, full-time education and training

'Are fewer young people excluded from employment, full-time education and training?'

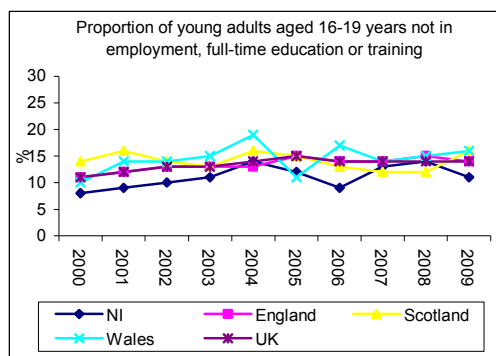
This indicator shows the proportion of young people who are not in employment, full-time education or training. Figures are shown separately for young people aged between 16 and 19 years and for those aged between 16 and 24 years.

The proportion of young people aged 16-19 not in employment, full-time education or training was 8% in 2000 and 11% in 2009.

The proportion of young people aged 16-24 not in employment, full-time education or training was 13% in 2000 and 15% in 2009.

### Geographic comparisons

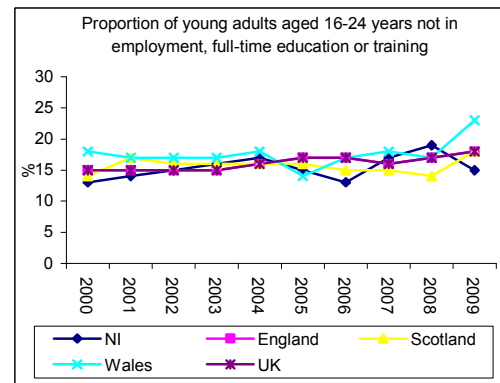
All countries of the UK have higher rates of young adults aged 16 – 19 not in employment, full-time education or training in 2009 compared to 2000.



In 2009 Wales and Scotland had the highest proportion of young adults aged 16 – 19 years not in employment, full-time education or training (16%) and NI the lowest (11%).

All countries of the UK have higher rates of young adults aged 16 – 24 years not in employment, full-time education or training in 2009 compared to 2000.

The increase of 5 percentage points in Wales was the highest of all UK countries between 2000 and 2009 with the increase mainly between 2008 (17%) and 2009 (23%).



NI had the lowest proportion of young adults aged 16 – 24 years not in employment, full-time education or training in both 2000 (13%) and 2009 (15%). In both 2000 (18%) and 2009 (23%) Wales had the highest proportion of young adults aged 16 – 24 years not in employment full-time education or training.

## Tables

Table 39

Exclusion of young people aged 16-19 from employment full-time education  
training %

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NI	8	9	10	11	14	12	9	13	14	11
England	11	12	13	13	13	15	14	14	15	14
Scotland	14	16	14	13	16	15	13	12	12	16
Wales	10	14	14	15	19	11	17	14	15	16
UK	11	12	13	13	14	15	14	14	14	14

Table 40

Exclusion of young people aged 16-24 from employment full-time education  
and training %

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NI	13	14	15	16	17	15	13	17	19	15
England	15	15	15	15	16	17	17	16	17	18
Scotland	14	17	16	16	16	16	15	15	14	18
Wales	18	17	17	17	18	14	17	18	17	23
UK	15	15	15	15	16	17	17	16	17	18

## Sources

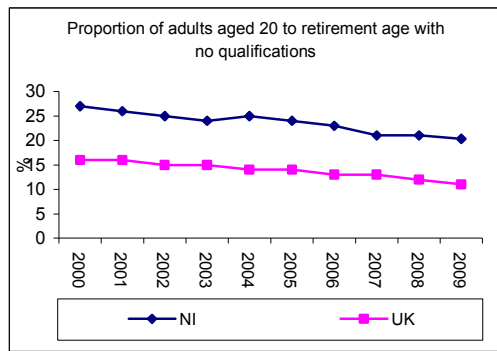
Labour Force Survey, DETI.

## Indicator 21: Low adult educational achievement

'Are the qualification levels of adults improving?'

The proportion of adults aged 20 to retirement age with no qualifications decreased from 27% in 2000 to 20% in 2009.

### Geographic comparisons



NI has persistently had a higher proportion of adults aged 20 to retirement age without educational qualifications compared to the UK as a whole. In 2009, 20% of adults in NI had no qualifications compared to 11% in the UK as a whole.

The proportion of adults aged 20 to retirement age without educational qualifications fell over the period 2000 to 2009 in both NI and the UK.

## Tables

Table 41

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NI	27	26	25	24	25	24	23	21	21	20
UK	16	16	15	15	14	14	13	13	12	11

## Sources

### Labour Force Survey

## Notes

1. UK figures are derived from the Labour Force Survey and published at [www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk)

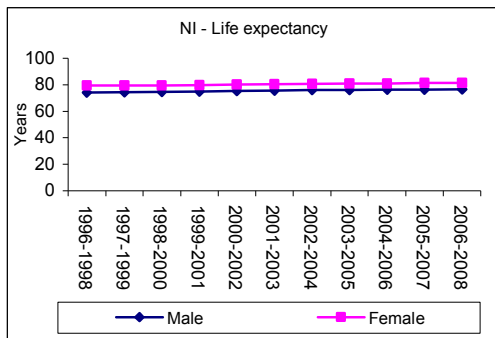
# Health

## Indicator 22: Life expectancy

'Are people continuing to live longer?'

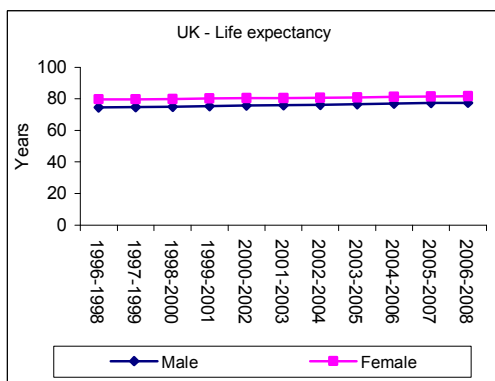
Life expectancy is the expected years of life at birth based on the mortality rates for the period in question for men and women.

Life expectancy is higher for women than it is for men. In 1996-1998 life expectancy was 79.6 for women and 74.2 for men. In 2006-2008 life expectancy was 81.2 for women and 76.3 for men.

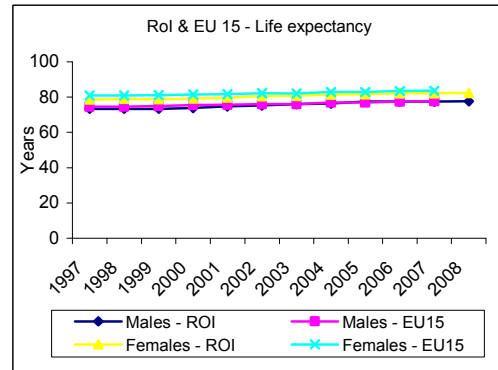


### Geographic comparisons

Due to the differences in presentation of life expectancy data only a direct comparison of NI with the UK is possible. Data for NI and the UK are produced using three years averaged data and that for the EU and ROI are calculated using a single year's data.



In comparing NI with the UK, life expectancy for both males and females is higher for the UK compared to NI with the difference greatest between males.



In common with NI and the UK, across the EU 15 and the ROI females have a higher life expectancy than males. There has been an increasing trend in life expectancy for both males and females.

## Tables

Table 42											
NI Life expectancy at birth by gender											Years
	1996-1998	1997-1999	1998-2000	1999-2001	2000-2002	2001-2003	2002-2004	2003-2005	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008
Male	74.2	74.3	74.5	74.8	75.2	75.6	75.8	76	76.2	76.2	76.3
Female	79.5	79.5	79.6	79.8	80.1	80.4	80.6	80.8	81	81.2	81.2

Table 43											
UK Life expectancy at birth by gender											Years
	1996-1998	1997-1999	1998-2000	1999-2001	2000-2002	2001-2003	2002-2004	2003-2005	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008
Male	74.5	74.8	75	75.4	75.7	75.9	76.2	76.6	77	77.3	77.5
Female	79.6	79.7	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.5	80.7	80.9	81.3	81.5	81.7

Table 44												
Life expectancy at birth by region and gender											Years	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<u>Males</u>												
Males - ROI	73.3	73.4	73.4	73.9	74.7	75.2	75.9	76.4	77.3	77.4	77.4	77.5
Males - EU15	74.6	74.6	74.9	75.5	75.7	76.0	76.8	76.9	77.4	77.6	N/A	
<u>Females</u>												
Females - ROI	78.6	79	78.8	79.1	79.7	80.5	80.8	81.4	81.7	82.2	82.1	82.3
Females - EU15	80.9	80.9	81.1	81.4	81.6	82.2	82.0	82.8	82.8	83.4	83.5	N/A

Sources:

Registrar General's Annual Reports, NISRA.  
Office for National Statistics.  
Key figures in Europe: 2009 Edition, Eurostat.

Notes

1. Life expectancy figures for NI and the UK are based on three year averages. Figures for EU 15 and RoI are produced using data for a single year. Direct comparisons are not therefore possible.

## Indicator 23: Standardised Mortality Rate (SMR) and impacts of disadvantage

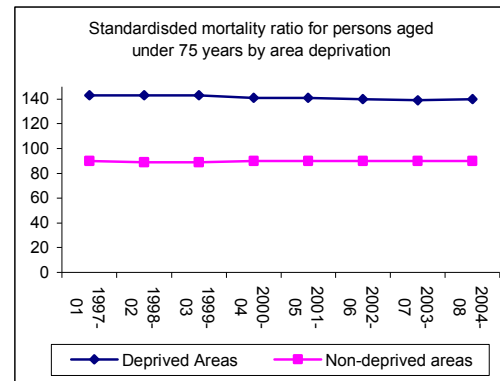
'Is the impact of disadvantage on mortality rates decreasing?'

The Standardised Mortality Rate (SMR) is a method of comparing mortality levels in different years, or for different sub-populations in the same year, while taking account of differences in population structure. The ratio is of observed to expected deaths, multiplied conventionally by 100. Thus if mortality levels are higher in the population being studied than would be expected, the SMR will be greater than 100.

A standard set of age-specific mortality rates is chosen, and these are applied to the population for each year. This gives the (expected) number of deaths in each case - that is, the number of deaths there would have been if these rates had applied. In this instance, the SMR relates to persons aged under 75 years.

For this indicator the SMR for deprived areas is compared with that for non deprived areas with the NI average equal to 100.

The classification of an area as deprived is based on the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2005<sup>11</sup>. The NIMDM 2005 provides a relative ranking of small areas across NI (bringing together 43 different indicators covering aspects of Income, Employment, Health, Education, Proximity to Services, Living Environment and Crime & Disorder) allowing the most relatively deprived areas to be identified. It is based on the small area geography of Super Output Areas (SOAs). For the purposes of this indicator deprived areas are the 20% most relatively deprived SOAs across NI.



For the period 1997-2001 a person aged under 75 years of age, living in the most deprived areas was 43% more likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall. Conversely a person aged under 75 years of age, living in non deprived areas was 10% less likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall.

In the most recent period 2004-2008, a person aged under 75 years of age, living in the most deprived areas was 40% more likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall. Conversely a person aged under 75 years of age, living in non deprived areas was 10% less likely to die than a similar person living in NI overall.

<sup>11</sup> Data presented under this indicator to date has been calculated using the NIMDM 2005. The NIMDM has subsequently been updated to NIMDM 2010

## Tables

Table 45

Standardised mortality ratio for persons aged under 75 years by area deprivation

	1997-01	1998-02	1999-03	2000-04	2001-05	2002-06	2003-07	2004-08
Deprived Areas	143	143	143	141	141	140	139	140
Non-deprived areas	90	89	89	90	90	90	90	90
NI	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source:

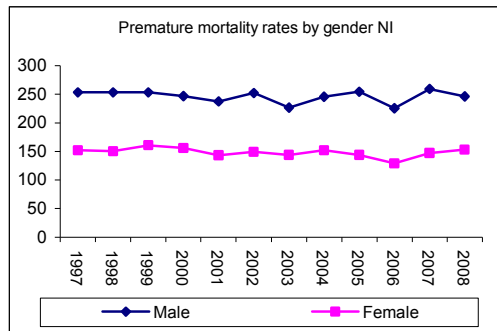
Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System , DHSSPS.

## Indicator 24: Premature mortality rate

'Are fewer people dying early?'

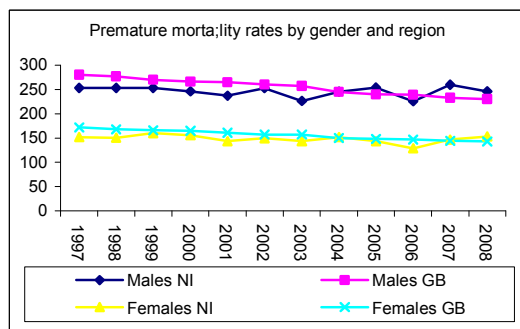
The premature mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths of those aged under 65 per 100,000 of population.

Premature mortality rates for men were 253 deaths per 100,000 population in 1997 and 246 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008. For women, premature mortality rates were 152 per 100,000 population in 1997 and 153 per 100,000 population in 2008.



### Geographic comparisons

As in NI, premature mortality rates are higher for males than females in GB. However, male premature mortality rates in GB show a downward trend over time with a slight downward trend for females also. Comparative rates for NI are broadly stable over time.



## Tables

Table 46												
NI Premature mortality rate												%
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	253	253	253	246	237	252	226	246	254	226	259	246
Female	152	150	161	156	143	149	144	152	144	129	147	153

Table 47												
GB Premature mortality rate												%
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	280	277	270	266	265	260	257	245	240	239	233	230
Female	172	168	166	165	161	157	157	150	148	147	144	143

Sources:

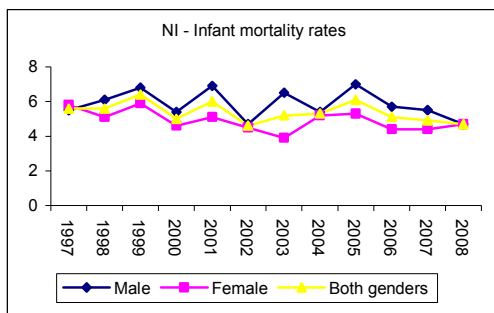
Registrar General's Annual Reports, NISRA.  
[www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk).

## Indicator 25: Infant mortality rate

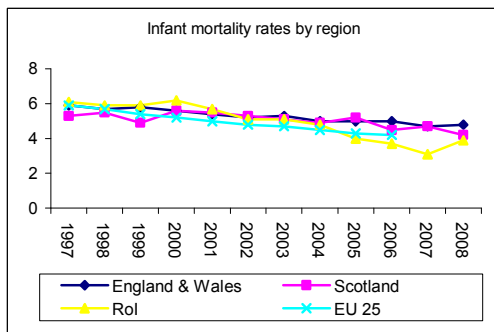
### 'Are fewer children dying in infancy?'

The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infant deaths (in first year of life) per 1,000 live births.

The infant mortality rate for NI was 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997. In 2008 the infant mortality rate was 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births for both genders.



### Geographic comparisons



Overall infant mortality rates in NI have been at approximately the same level as those in the other countries within the UK.

All regions have exhibited reduced infant mortality over time with the reduction greatest in the RoI. In 2008, the RoI had the lowest infant mortality rate at 3.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

## Tables

Table 48

Infant mortality rate

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	5.5	6.1	6.8	5.4	6.9	4.7	6.5	5.4	7	5.7	5.5	4.7
Female	5.8	5.1	5.9	4.6	5.1	4.5	3.9	5.2	5.3	4.4	4.4	4.7
Both genders	5.6	5.6	6.4	5	6	4.6	5.2	5.3	6.1	5.1	4.9	4.7

Table 49

Infant mortality rate

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England & Wales	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.3	5	5	5	4.7	4.8
Scotland	5.3	5.5	4.9	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.2
RoI	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.7	5.1	5.1	4.8	4	3.7	3.1	3.9
EU 25	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.2	5	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.2	n/a	n/a

Sources:

NI Registrar General's Annual Reports, NISRA.  
 Statistical Bulletin: Infant and perinatal mortality  
 2009: health areas, England and Wales, Office for  
 National Statistics.  
 Registrar General's Annual Reports, Scottish  
 Executive.  
 Eurostat.

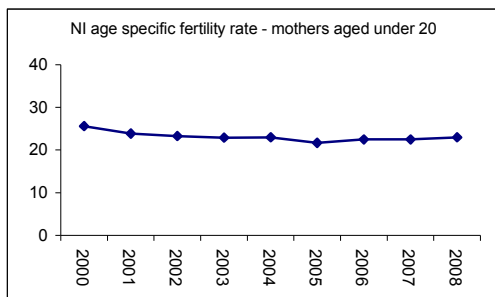
Notes

1. n/a not available.

## Indicator 26: Age specific fertility rates for mothers aged under 20

'Are fewer young women giving birth?'

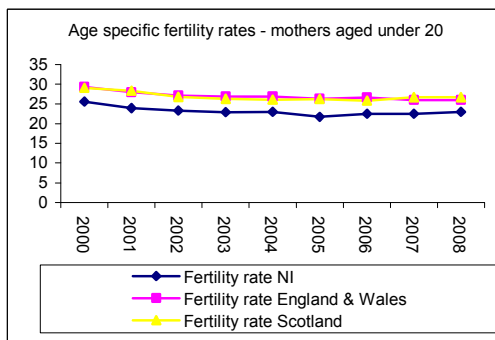
The Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) is the number of births to mothers aged under 20 years per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years for any particular year.



The ASFR for women aged under 20 has decreased from 25.6 in 2000 to 23.0 in 2008.

### Geographic comparisons

The ASFR for women aged under 20 in NI has been below that for the other countries of the UK over the period 2000 to 2008



## Table

Table 50

Age specific fertility rates - mothers aged under 20

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fertility rate NI	25.6	23.9	23.3	22.9	23.0	21.7	22.5	22.5	23.0
Fertility rate England & Wales	29.3	28.0	27.1	26.9	26.9	26.3	26.6	26.0	26.0
Fertility rate Scotland	29.1	28.4	26.8	26.3	26.1	26.2	25.8	26.7	26.7

Sources:

NI Registrar General's Annual Reports, NISRA.  
England and Wales Population Trend, ONS.  
Scotland Registrar General's Annual Reports.

# Housing

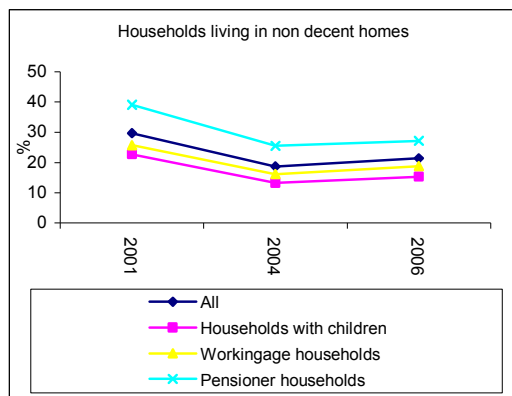
## Indicator 27: Decent homes standard

'Are fewer people living in homes which are not considered decent?'

The definition of a decent home is one that meets all of the following criteria:

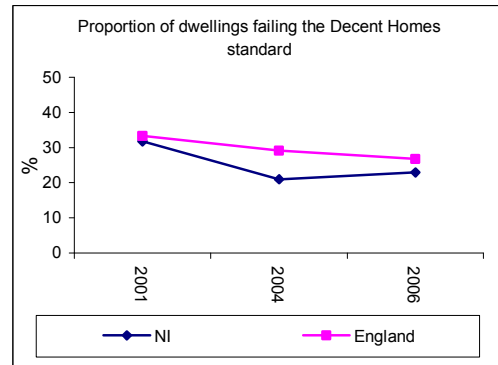
- it is above the current statutory minimum standard for housing;
- it is in a reasonable state of repair;
- it has reasonably modern facilities and services; and
- it provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

The proportion of households that live in a home which did not meet the set standard of decency was 29.7% in 2001 and had decreased to 21.4% by 2006.



A higher proportion of pensioner households lived in non decent homes in each year in question. A lower proportion of households with children lived in non decent homes in each year than any other household type.

## Geographic comparisons



A higher proportion of dwellings in England failed the Decent Homes standard than in NI. In 2006, 26.8% of dwellings in England the Decent Homes standard compared to 23% of dwellings in NI.

## Tables

Table 51			
Households living in non decent homes	%		
	2001	2004	2006
All	29.7	18.7	21.4
Households with children	22.7	13.3	15.3
Workingage households	25.7	16.2	18.8
Pensioner households	39.1	25.5	27.2

Table 52			
Proportion of all dwellings failing the Decent Homes standard	%		
	2001	2004	2006
NI	31.8	21.0	23.0
England	33.3	29.2	26.8

Sources:

**House Condition Survey, NI Housing Executive.  
English House Condition Survey, Department of  
Communities and Local Government.**

Notes

1. Table 51 provides figures for the proportion of households in NI that live in non decent homes. Table 52 relates to the proportion of all dwellings, whether occupied or not, that fail the decent homes standard.

2. The decent homes standard used is the original incorporating dwelling unfitness.

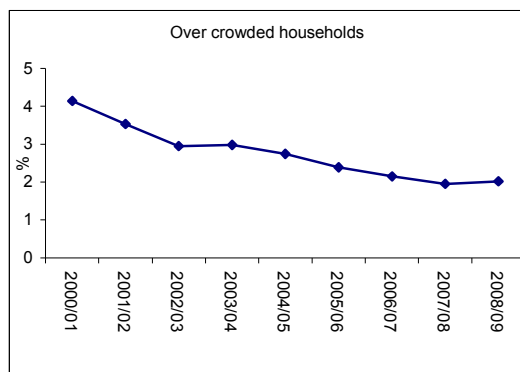
**Indicator 28: Overcrowded housing**

**'Are fewer households living in overcrowded conditions?'**

Over crowded households are defined against the bedroom standard definition of overcrowding. The bedroom standard is used to estimate occupation density by allocating a standard number of bedrooms to each household in accordance with its age/sex/marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another.

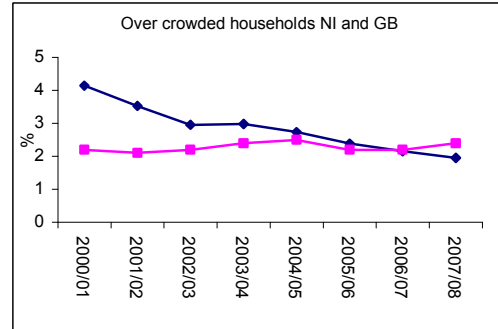
A separate bedroom is allocated to each married or cohabiting couple, any other person aged 21 or over, each pair of adolescents aged 10–20 of the same sex, and each pair of children under 10. Any unpaired person aged 10–20 is paired if possible with a child under 10 of the same sex, or, if that is not possible, is given a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under 10.

This standard is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms (including bed sitters) available for the sole use of the household and deficiencies or excesses are tabulated. Bedrooms converted to other uses are not counted as available unless they have been denoted as bedrooms by the respondents; bedrooms not actually in use are counted unless uninhabitable.



The proportion of over crowded households in NI has decreased from approximately 4% in 2000/01 to approximately 2% in 2008/09.

**Geographic comparisons**



At the start of the period (2000/01) the rate of over crowded households in NI (4.1%) was greater than the rate for GB (2.2%). In 2007/08 the rate for NI (2.0%) was marginally lower than that for GB (2.4%).

## Tables

Table 53										
Over crowded households										
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	%
All	4.1	3.5	3	3	2.7	2.4	2.2	2	2	

Table 54										
Over crowded households										
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		%
NI	4.1	3.5	3	3	2.7	2.4	2.2	2		
GB	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4		

Sources:

Continuous Household Survey, Central Survey Unit,  
NISRA.  
[www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk)

Notes

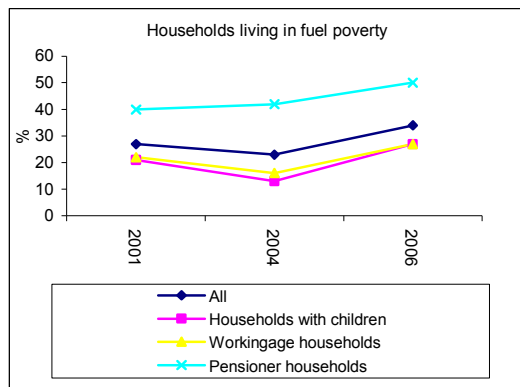
1. After the financial year 2004/05 GB data relates to calendar year. i.e. 2005, 2006, 2007

## Indicator 29: Fuel Poverty

### 'Are fewer households experiencing fuel poverty?'

A household is experiencing fuel poverty if, in order to maintain an acceptable level of temperature throughout the home, the occupants would have to spend more than 10% of their income on all household fuel use.

#### Lifecycle groups

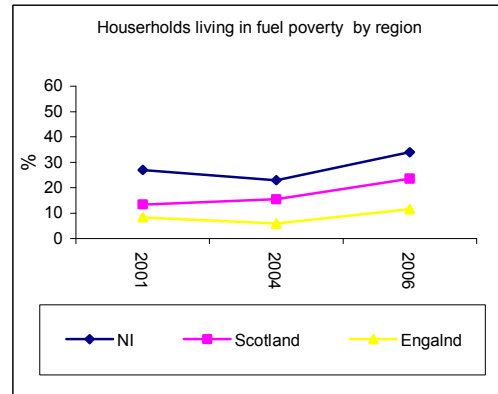


The proportion of households living in fuel poverty in NI has increased from 27% in 2001 to 34% in 2006.

Pensioner households have the highest rate of fuel poverty across all household types. In 2001 40% of pensioner households lived in fuel poverty compared to 22% of working-age households and 21% of households with children. In 2006 half of pensioner households lived in fuel poverty compared to 27% of working-age households and 27% of households with children.

#### Geographic comparisons

Levels of fuel poverty in NI are higher than those for both England and Scotland.



In the most recent year approximately 12% of households in England and 24% of households in Scotland were in fuel poverty compared to more than one third of households in NI.

## Tables

Table 55			
Households living in fuel poverty	%		
	2001	2004	2006
All	27	23	34
Households with children	21	13	27
Workingage households	22	16	27
Pensioner households	40	42	50

Table 56			
Households living in fuel poverty by region	%		
	2001	2004	2006
NI	27	23	34
Scotland	13	15	24
England	8	6	12

Sources:

**House Condition Survey, NI Housing Executive.  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
Scottish House Condition Survey, Communities  
Analytical Services.**

Notes

1. Figures for Scotland relate to 2002, 2003/04 and 2005/06

# Supportive Public Service Agreement Targets

## Supportive Public Service Agreement Targets

The third layer of monitoring within the framework comprises Public Service Agreement targets within the Executive's Programme for Government 2008/09 to 2010/11. A review of these PSA targets identified 43 individual targets which appeared supportive of the Lifetime Opportunities strategy and suitable for inclusion here.

The criteria for including a PSA target within this monitoring framework included the extent to which the target appeared relevant, explicit, and measurable. Whilst this inevitably represents something of a subjective process in selecting PSA targets for inclusion in this monitoring framework, it nevertheless provides tangible evidence of the linkage of the work of Departments with the aims and objectives of Lifetime Opportunities.

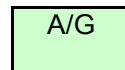
Derived from PSA target monitoring between quarter 4 in 2008/09 and quarter 4 in 2009/10, the assessment of progress for each target utilizes a 'traffic light' system of monitoring with:

### Green:



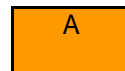
- Where targets have already been met (and, if relevant, should continue to be met);
- Where progress is on track and interim milestones are being achieved or exceeded;
- Where there is significant confidence, drawing on robust monitoring systems/data, around the prospects for delivering the targeted outcome on schedule;
- For level of service indicators also;
  - The target level of service is currently being met;
  - The target level of service is expected to continue to be met.

### Amber/Green:



- Where progress is broadly on track and is broadly meeting interim milestones, perhaps with small but redeemable deviations from plan;
- Progress has been good but there is diminished confidence around sustaining future progress towards the targets;
- There is significant confidence around the prospects of getting close to the targeted outcome.
- For level of service indicators also;
  - The target level of service is currently very close to being met (and no more than 5% away from the target);
  - There is confidence around meeting the target level of service in the in future

### Amber:



- Where there is a lack of robust information on progress, or the rate of progress is less than planned, against the targeted outcome;
- Where some measurable progress has been made but the rate of progress is less than anticipated or falling appreciably short of interim milestones;
- Where there is significant doubt around the achievement of the target outcomes in the targeted timeframe.
- For level of service indicators also;
  - There is a lack of information on the current level of service;
  - The target level of service is within 10% of being met;
  - There is confidence around improving performance against the standard in the (near) future.

**Red:**



- Where little or no progress has been observed;
- Where the measured rate of progress is highly unlikely to lead to the achievement of the targeted outcome;
- Where delivery of the targeted outcome is likely to be achieved, but with significant delay;
- Where confirmed baselines and/or milestones have not been established;
- Where data on progress is not available or is not provided;
- For level of service indicators also;
  - The current level of service is some distance away from the level targeted - in excess of 10% (as opposed to 10 percentage points).
  - The service standard is within 10% of being met but not expected to exhibit any real improvement in the future.

On that basis, the table below summarises changes reflected by the monitoring of these PSA targets over time. Details relating to each individual PSA Target are provided in the subsequent table.

***Lifetime Opportunities-related Public Service Agreement targets overall progress***

	<b>Qtr4 08/09</b>	<b>Qtr1 09/10</b>	<b>Qtr2 09/10</b>	<b>Qtr3 09/10</b>	<b>Qtr4 09/10</b>
<b>Green</b>	16	17	16	19	23
<b>Amber/ Green</b>	17	13	12	9	4
<b>Amber</b>	8	9	10	11	9
<b>Red</b>	2	4	5	4	7

## LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT TARGETS

### Monitoring Quarter 4 2008/09 to Quarter 4 2009/10

Public Service Agreement Objective	Objective	Target	Lead Department	PSA Target History					
				Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10	
<b>PSA 1 Productivity Growth</b>									
Improve Northern Ireland's manufacturing and private services productivity	Attract and support high quality investment, both foreign and locally owned	6,500 new jobs from inward investment of which 5,500 will provide salaries above the NI Private Sector median.	DETI	A	A	A	A/G	A	R
		6,500 new jobs from inward investment of which 2,750 will have salaries at least 25% above the NI Private Sector Median	DETI	A	A/G	A/G	G	G	G
		70% of new FDI projects secured to locate within 10 miles of an area of economic disadvantage	DETI	G	G	G	G	G	G
<b>PSA 2 Skills for prosperity</b>									
Ensure our people have the right skills to deliver economic prosperity now and in the future and increase skills and careers choices in STEM subjects	Improve the skill level of the workforce	By March 2011, 42,000 adult learners will have achieved a recognised qualification in Essential Skills	DEL	A/G	G	G	G	G	G
		Increase the proportion of the working-age population who are qualified at skill level 2 and above to 80% by 2015	DEL	A	A	A	A	A	A

	Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
DEL	A	A	A	A	A
DEL	A/G	A	A	A	A
DEL	G	G	G	G	G
DEL	G	G	G	G	G
DE	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G
DE	G	G	G	G	G
DEL	A/G	A/G	A/G	G	G

<p><b>PSA 3 Increasing Employment</b>  Subject to economic conditions, increase employment levels and reduce economic inactivity by addressing the barriers to employment and providing effective careers advice at all levels</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of FE enrolments at Level 2 from 29% in 2005/06 to 32% in 2010/11</p> <p>Increase the proportion of the working-age population who are qualified at skill level 3 and above to 60% by 2015</p> <p>Increase the proportion of FE enrolments at level 3 from 57% in 2005/06 to 60% in 2010/11</p> <p>Increase Apprenticeship training completion rates under Training for Success to 44% at Level 3 by 2009/10</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>DE</p>
<p>Tackle the skills barriers to employment and employability</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of FE enrolments from the more deprived NI regions from 22% in 2005/06 to 24% in 2010/11</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>
<p>Deliver a high quality employment service providing support for employers and helping people return to work</p>	<p>By 2015, increase the proportion of working-age population in NI renewal areas qualified to Level 2</p> <p>Assist 70,000 working-age benefit clients to move into employment by March 2011</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>	<p>DE</p>

				Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
	Increase employment opportunities by attracting high quality investment and supporting domestic investment	75% of land acquisition (acres) in areas of economic disadvantage	DEL	G	G	G	G	G
<b>PSA 4 Supporting rural businesses</b>	Help agri-food businesses and rural SMEs develop and grow and contribute to a more sustainable environment	1600 people or more either entering employment or working in the agri-food sector with a new qualification at level 2 or above for each year between 2008 and 2011	DARD	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G
<b>PSA 6 Children and Family</b>	To ensure that children are cared for, live in safety, are protected from abuse, receive the support they need to achieve their full potential, become more independent and grow into well adjusted adults, taking their place in the community	By 2011 to have 125,000 children participating in sport and physical recreation	DCAL	A/G	A/G	A	A	A
	Improve the life chances of children leaving care	By 2011, provide family support intervention to 3,500 families in vulnerable	DHSSPS	G	G	G	G	G
		By 2011, increase by 50% the proportion of care leavers in education, training, or employment at age 19	DHSSPS	A	A	A	A	R

	Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
<p><b>PSA 7 Making people's lives better</b>            Drive a programme across Government to reduce poverty and address inequality and disadvantage</p>	<p>DHSSPS</p> <p>By 2011, increase by 25% the number of care leavers aged 18-20 living with their former foster carers or supported family</p> <p>DHSSPS</p> <p>By 2011, reduce by 12% the number of children requiring to be placed on the child protection register</p>	<p>G</p> <p>A</p>	<p>G</p> <p>A</p>	<p>G</p> <p>A</p>	<p>G</p> <p>A</p>
<p>Provide a safer environment for children, both in the family setting and for those in foster care</p>					
<p>Reduce levels of fuel poverty</p>	<p>DSD</p> <p>Alleviate fuel poverty in approximately 9,000 households each year through implementing energy efficiency measures</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>G</p>
<p><b>PSA 8 Promoting health and addressing health inequalities</b>            Promote healthy lifestyles, address the causes of poor health and wellbeing and achieve measurable reductions in health inequalities and preventable illnesses</p>	<p>DHSSPS</p> <p>By 2012 increase average life expectancy by 2 years for women.</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>G</p>
<p>Promote smoking cessation and measures to tackle obesity and physical inactivity, particularly among children, and reduce health inequalities</p>	<p>DHSSPS</p> <p>By 2012 increase average life expectancy by 3 years men.</p> <p>DHSSPS</p> <p>Facilitate a 50% reduction in the life expectancy differential (percentage point gap) between the most disadvantaged and the NI average</p>	<p>G</p> <p>A</p>	<p>G</p> <p>R</p>	<p>G</p> <p>R</p>	<p>G</p> <p>R</p>

	Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
DHSSPS	A/G	R	R	A	A
DHSSPS	A	R	R	R	R
DHSSPS	G	G	G	G	G
DHSSPS	G	G	G	G	G
DHSSPS	A/G	A	A	A	A
DHSSPS	R	R	R	R	R
DHSSPS	R	R	R	R	R
DHSSPS	A/G	A	A	A	R

By 2011, reduce to 21% the proportion of adults who smoke  
 By 2011, reduce to 25% the proportion of manual workers who smoke  
 By 2010, ensure a 5% reduction in the proportion of adults who binge drink

Reduce binge drinking and illicit drug use, particularly among young people and vulnerable groups

By 2010, ensure a 10% reduction in the proportion of young people who drink and who report getting drunk  
 By 2010, ensure a 5% reduction in the proportion of young adults taking illegal drugs  
 By 2011, ensure a 10% reduction in the number of children at risk from parental alcohol and/or drug dependency

Reduce the incidence of suicide  
 Expand education and awareness-raising programmes in schools, workplaces and community settings on sexual health issues and teenage pregnancies

By 2011 achieve a reduction of at least 15% in the suicide rate  
 By 2010, achieve a 40% reduction in the rate of births to mothers under 17

	Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
<p><b>PSA 10 helping our children and young people to achieve through education</b>            Encourage all our children to realise their potential by improving access to formal and non formal education and provision and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged children and young people</p>	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	G
<p>Reduce the gap in educational outcomes by addressing the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people</p>					
<p>DE            Increase to 30% the percentage of students by 2011, with entitlement to Free School Meals, gaining a level 2 qualification by the time they leave school</p>					
<p>DE            By 2010 bring the attainment levels of primary and post primary schools identified as having 51% or more pupils living at a postcode within a neighbourhood renewal area, up to within 5 percentage points of the NI average at key stage 2 and 3 percentage points of the NI average at GCSE level</p>	A/G	A/G	A/G	A	A
<p>DE            By 2010 bring the attainment levels of primary and post primary schools identified as having 51% or more pupils living at a postcode within a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, up to within 3 percentage points of the NI average at GCSE.</p>	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G

<p><b>PSA 17 The rural infrastructure</b> Improving the rural infrastructure</p>	<p>By 2010, reduce the number of pupils achieving no GCSEs attending schools identified as having 51% or more of their pupils living at a postcode within a neighbourhood renewal area, to within 1 percentage point of the NI average</p>	DE	Q4 2008/09	A/G	Q1 2009/10	A/G	Q2 2009/10	A/G	Q3 2009/10	A/G	Q4 2009/10	G
<p><b>PSA 17 The rural infrastructure</b> Improving the rural infrastructure</p>	<p>By 2013 5,000 people benefiting socio-economic initiatives</p>	DARD		A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	G	
<p><b>PSA 19 raising standards in our schools</b> Educate and develop our young people to the highest possible standards to deliver improved outcomes for all young people, including measurable reductions in the gap in educational outcomes between the highest and lowest attainers</p>	<p>By 2011, 68% of students gaining a level 2 qualification by the time they leave school</p>	DE		G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	
<p>By 2011, 65% of students undertaking A level examinations gaining 3+ A levels A-C or equivalent I year 14</p>		DE		A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	

	Q4 2008/09	Q1 2009/10	Q2 2009/10	Q3 2009/10	Q4 2009/10
<p>DE</p> <p>Raise the participation rate of 16/17 year olds in full-time education or vocational training to 95% by 2011</p>	A/G	A/G	A/G	A	A
<p>DE</p> <p>55% of students gaining a level 2 qualification including GCSEs A*-C in English/Irish and Maths by the time they leave school by 2011</p>	G	G	G	G	G
<p>DE</p> <p>30% of students with entitlement to free school meals gaining GCSEs A*-C in English/Irish and Maths by the time they leave school by 2011</p>	G	G	G	G	G
<p>DE</p> <p>90% of students gaining GCSE A*-G in English/Irish and Maths by the time they leave school by 2011</p>	G	G	G	G	G
<p>DE</p> <p>Reduce percentage of year 12 pupils with no qualifications at GCSE level or equivalent to 1.5% by 2011</p>	A/G	A/G	A/G	A/G	G
<p>DE</p> <p>Improve the fundamental skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT, with particular focus on those schools currently with low levels of achievement or which draw their pupils from areas of high socio economic deprivation</p>					
<p>DE</p> <p>Ensure that mainstream pupils leave schools with formal qualifications</p>					