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2003 Labour Force Survey Religion Report Update

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Labour Market

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Introduction

This update presents information from the 2003 Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market characteristics of Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland.

In the main, this update is comprised of tabular data. It is expected that a more detailed report will be published later this year reflecting views expressed by users. Development of the detailed report will also be informed by a range of ongoing commissioned research. Previous reports can be accessed through the NISRA website at: (www.nisra.gov.uk).

The LFS is a sample survey conducted in all member states of the European Union (EU). Its main purpose is to obtain comparable data on the characteristics of the workforce in each country and region of the EU.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI) is responsible for conducting the survey in Northern Ireland and produces a range of publications relating to the labour force in general. Analysis of the survey by religion was introduced in 1990 and is undertaken by statisticians in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The day-to-day management of the fieldwork, including data collection and database creation, is undertaken by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) within NISRA.

The survey was first carried out in Northern Ireland in 1973 and was repeated biennially from 1973 to 1983. From 1984 to 1994 an annual survey was conducted and results referred to the spring months of each year. Since December 1994 the LFS has been conducted on a quarterly basis in Northern Ireland. The results in this report for 1990 to 1994 refer to the spring months of each year. The results for 1995 to 2003 refer to the aggregation of the four quarterly surveys, comprising Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter quarters.

Table 7 Economic activity rates (working age)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	85.4	80.6	66.9	54.5	76.5	67.8
1991 LFS	87.2	78.8	65.2	56.1	76.6	67.7
1992 LFS ¹	84.8	77.3	67.6	55.1	76.5	66.2
1993 LFS ¹	83.2	79.6	62.5	53.9	73.1	67.1
1994 LFS ¹	83.2	74.6	63.1	53.5	73.4	64.2
1995 LFS	83.8	75.7	66.8	55.7	75.6	65.7
1996 LFS	83.5	74.8	68.4	55.6	76.2	65.4
1997 LFS	82.7	78.4	68.5	58.3	75.7	68.7
1998 LFS	82.4	76.5	67.3	61.5	75.1	69.1
1999 LFS	81.0	76.7	68.1	59.1	74.9	67.8
2000 LFS ¹	82.5	75.1	66.1	57.7	74.5	66.3
2001 LFS ¹	80.3	75.9	68.0	57.7	74.4	66.8
2002 LFS ¹	81.6	76.3	68.6	58.2	75.2	67.4
2003 LFS	82.4	77.6	69.8	58.1	76.4	67.9

Table 8 Religious composition of those in employment (aged 16+)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	61.8	38.2	62.4	37.6	62.1	37.9
1991 LFS	62.1	37.9	60.8	39.2	61.5	38.5
1992 LFS ¹	65.4	34.6	63.4	36.6	64.5	35.5
1993 LFS ¹	61.9	38.1	62.0	38.0	61.9	38.1
1994 LFS ¹	63.1	36.9	60.7	39.3	62.0	38.0
1995 LFS	61.1	38.9	60.2	39.8	60.7	39.3
1996 LFS	60.4	39.6	61.8	38.2	61.1	38.9
1997 LFS	59.9	40.1	61.1	38.9	60.4	39.6
1998 LFS	60.1	39.9	58.4	41.6	59.3	40.7
1999 LFS	59.4	40.6	57.9	42.1	58.8	41.2
2000 LFS ¹	58.6	41.4	58.0	42.0	58.3	41.7
2001 LFS ¹	57.0	43.0	57.7	42.3	57.3	42.7
2002 LFS ¹	57.9	42.1	59.8	40.2	58.8	41.2
2003 LFS	55.1	44.9	56.9	43.1	55.9	44.1

Table 9 Proportion of each religion in employment (all economically active and inactive of working age)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	76.4	63.8	62.5	49.4	69.7	56.7
1991 LFS	79.1	60.6	61.5	49.4	70.6	55.1
1992 LFS ¹	76.3	58.7	62.2	49.4	69.5	54.0
1993 LFS ¹	73.7	60.8	58.0	48.2	66.0	54.6
1994 LFS ¹	74.0	57.9	59.6	49.2	67.0	53.6
1995 LFS	75.0	60.2	63.0	49.7	69.2	55.0
1996 LFS	75.2	63.1	64.7	50.3	70.1	56.8
1997 LFS	78.0	65.7	65.0	54.2	71.6	60.2
1998 LFS	77.8	66.7	63.6	56.9	71.0	61.8
1999 LFS	76.4	68.5	65.0	55.0	71.0	61.7
2000 LFS ¹	77.5	68.0	63.1	52.9	70.5	60.4
2001 LFS ¹	76.6	68.8	65.0	53.9	71.0	61.3
2002 LFS ¹	77.4	69.0	66.3	54.4	71.9	61.8
2003 LFS	77.4	70.9	67.3	54.7	72.5	62.9

Table 10 The employment gap (Roman Catholic community) (aged 16+)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	2.8	0.8	0.8		2.0	
1991 LFS	3.9	1.6	1.6		2.9	
1992 LFS ¹	3.8	0.6	0.6		2.4	
1993 LFS ¹	3.5	0.9	0.9		2.4	
1994 LFS ¹	3.2	0.6	0.6		2.0	
1995 LFS	2.8	1.3	1.3		2.1	
1996 LFS	1.5	1.0	1.0		1.4	
1997 LFS	2.8	0.5	0.5		1.8	
1998 LFS	2.0	0.5	0.5		1.3	
1999 LFS	1.2	0.6	0.6		1.0	
2000 LFS ¹	0.9	1.0	1.0		0.9	
2001 LFS ¹	1.2	0.6	0.6		1.0	
2002 LFS ¹	1.1	0.8	0.8		1.0	
2003 LFS	0.7	0.6	0.6		0.6	

Table 11 Religious composition of part-time workers (aged 16+)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	58.3	-	64.6	35.4	63.7	36.3
1991 LFS	50.9	-	65.4	34.6	63.5	36.5
1992 LFS ¹	61.2	-	65.9	34.1	65.3	34.7
1993 LFS ¹	59.0	41.0	62.9	37.1	62.3	37.7
1994 LFS ¹	68.7	-	62.8	37.2	63.6	36.4
1995 LFS	48.8	51.2	61.0	39.0	59.0	41.0
1996 LFS	46.8	53.2	63.7	36.3	60.7	39.3
1997 LFS	58.0	42.0	63.8	36.2	62.6	37.4
1998 LFS	57.0	43.0	59.7	40.3	59.2	40.8
1999 LFS	46.6	53.4	59.5	40.5	57.1	42.9
2000 LFS ¹	55.9	44.1	56.1	43.9	56.1	43.9
2001 LFS ¹	53.9	46.1	57.2	42.8	56.7	43.3
2002 LFS ¹	63.2	36.8	58.7	41.3	59.5	40.5
2003 LFS	41.4	58.6	58.3	41.7	55.2	44.8

Table 12 Unemployment rates (all economically active 16+)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	10.4	20.5	6.3	9.2	8.6	16.0
1991 LFS	9.3	22.9	5.6	11.9	7.8	18.4
1992 LFS ¹	9.9	23.6	7.6	10.1	8.9	17.9
1993 LFS ¹	11.2	23.4	7.1	10.5	9.5	18.3
1994 LFS ¹	10.8	22.0	5.6	7.8	8.6	16.1
1995 LFS	10.1	20.0	5.5	10.4	8.1	15.9
1996 LFS	9.8	15.4	5.3	9.4	7.8	12.8
1997 LFS	5.5	16.0	4.9	6.9	5.3	12.2
1998 LFS	5.4	12.6	5.5	7.6	5.4	10.4
1999 LFS	5.6	10.4	4.3	6.9	5.0	8.8
2000 LFS ¹	5.9	9.2	4.3	8.2	5.2	8.8
2001 LFS ¹	4.6	9.3	4.2	6.5	4.5	8.1
2002 LFS ¹	5.0	9.4	3.4	6.4	4.3	8.1
2003 LFS	5.9	8.4	3.4	5.7	4.8	7.2

Table 13 Religious composition of the unemployed (aged 16+)

	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	P	RC	P	RC	P	RC
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1990 LFS	42.1	57.9	52.4	47.6	44.9	55.1
1991 LFS	36.2	63.8	40.4	59.6	37.3	62.7
1992 LFS ¹	40.3	59.7	56.1	43.9	44.9	55.1
1993 LFS ¹	40.1	59.9	51.4	48.6	43.1	56.9
1994 LFS ¹	42.2	57.8	51.9	48.1	44.5	55.5
1995 LFS	41.4	58.6	43.1	56.9	41.9	58.1
1996 LFS	47.7	52.3	46.7	53.3	47.4	52.6
1997 LFS	31.6	68.4	52.3	47.7	37.8	62.2
1998 LFS	37.3	62.7	49.7	50.3	41.9	58.1
1999 LFS	42.7	57.3	45.9	54.1	43.9	56.1
2000 LFS ¹	46.6	53.4	40.5	59.5	44.2	55.8
2001 LFS ¹	38.6	61.4	46.5	53.5	41.6	58.4
2002 LFS ¹	41.5	58.5	43.6	56.4	42.2	57.8
2003 LFS	45.6	54.4	43.7	56.3	45.0	55.0

¹ Estimates may differ from those previously published as a result of regressing to reflect more up-to-date population estimate

N.B. Results for 1990 to 1994 refer to the Spring months of each year. Results for 1995 to 2003 refer to aggregation of the four quarterly surveys conducted each year. Regressed data for the years 1995-1999 is currently not available.

Table 14 Unemployment gap (all economically active aged 16+)

	Males	Females	Both Sexes
	%	%	%
1990 LFS	10.1	2.9	7.3
1991 LFS	13.6	6.4	10.7
1992 LFS ¹	13.7	2.5	9.0
1993 LFS ¹	12.2	3.4	8.8
1994 LFS ¹	11.2	2.2	7.5
1995 LFS	9.9	4.9	7.8
1996 LFS	5.6	4.1	5.0
1997 LFS	10.4	2.0	7.0
1998 LFS	7.2	2.1	5.0
1999 LFS	4.8	2.5	3.8
2000 LFS ¹	3.3	4.0	3.6
2001 LFS ¹	4.7	2.3	3.6
2002 LFS ¹	4.3	3.0	3.8
2003 LFS	2.5	2.3	2.4

Table 15 Unemployment differential (ratio of rates) (all economically active aged 16+)

	Males	Females	Both Sexes
1990 LFS	2.0	1.5	1.8
1991 LFS	2.5	2.1	2.4
1992 LFS ¹	2.4	1.3	2.0
1993 LFS ¹	2.1	1.5	1.9
1994 LFS ¹	2.0	1.4	1.9
1995 LFS	2.0	1.9	2.0
1996 LFS	1.6	1.8	1.6
1997 LFS	2.9	1.4	2.3
1998 LFS	2.3	1.4	1.9
1999 LFS	1.9	1.6	1.8
2000 LFS ¹	1.6	1.9	1.7
2001 LFS ¹	2.0	1.5	1.8
2002 LFS ¹	1.9	1.9	1.9
2003 LFS	1.4	1.7	1.5

Technical Notes

Sample

The sample of addresses for the 2003 LFS was chosen at random from the Rating Valuation list of domestic properties with an achieved sample of approximately 2,000 households. The sample was stratified by region to ensure proportional representation across Northern Ireland. The strata used were Belfast (District Council area), East of the Province and West of the Province. Within these strata a systematic random sample of addresses was chosen. The population covered was all persons resident in private households and young people living away from the parental home in a student hall of residence or similar institution during term time.

The 2003 annual database that this report is based upon is derived from the four consecutive quarters of the LFS, i.e. Spring 2003, Summer 2003, Autumn 2003 and Winter 2003/04 (December 2003, January 2004 & February 2004). Each quarter's LFS sample is made up from five 'waves' each of approximately 400 responding households. Individuals in each wave were interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any one quarter those in one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second interview and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview.

The annual database is created by taking waves one and five from each of four consecutive quarters to give an annually representative sample. Over a period of four quarters, eight different waves are interviewed at least once. Selecting waves one and five allows the maximum number of respondents over a one year period to be included. The resulting sample size is approximately 3,000 households where each household is only interviewed once.

At each address LFS interviewers collected information on the economic status and activity of all residents aged 16 and over

during the week prior to the date of the interview (termed the reference week). In addition, at each address interviewers asked about the religious denomination of all persons aged 16 and over. Further details on the religious classification used are provided later in this appendix.

Some of the figures attached are based on relatively few respondents. As a result, and in order to ensure that these small sample sizes are not misinterpreted, guidelines relating to suppression criteria have been put in place, based on a method adopted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the LFS at the UK level. The suppression criteria recommends that only figures based on a grossed estimate of 6,000 or more respondents in the annual file, are deemed sufficiently reliable for release/publication. Several tables in this report consequently may have some results suppressed, as they fail to meet the 6,000 minimum requirement in the sample.

Response rates in each quarter for the 2003 LFS

A total of 6,208 interviews were achieved with respondents aged 16 or older across the four quarters in the 2003 LFS religion report. Due to the fact that the 2003 LFS religion report is comprised of two fifths of the households surveyed each quarter, response rates relating specifically to the households included in the LFS religion report are not available. However response rates for each quarter relating to the full LFS (all five waves) are provided below to give an indication of the response rates to be expected.

Response rates in each quarter for the full 2003 LFS¹				
	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Autumn 2003	Winter 2003/04
Fully and partially responding households	1,841	1,882	1,888	1,838
Eligible sample	2,541	2,431	2,402	2,351
Response rate	72.5	77.4	78.6	78.2

¹ The LFS religion update is based on two fifths of the sample in each quarter to exclude repeat interviews.

Results have been weighted on the basis of population estimates to correct for any differences in response rates among males and females and in the various age groups. The following table compares the age profile of LFS respondents with that of the estimated private household population used to weight the results to correct for any differential non-response by age group and sex.

Comparison by age group between LFS respondents & the Population, 2003

Age Group	Percentage of respondents in age group	Percentage of estimated private household population in age group
Under 16	24.8	23
16 - 19	6.3	6.3
20 - 24	6	6.7
25 - 29	5.2	6.3
30 - 34	6.6	7.3
35 - 39	7.8	7.7
40 - 44	7.5	7.3
45 - 49	6.3	6.4
50 - 54	6	5.8
55 - 59	5.4	5.6
60 - 64	4.5	4.6
65+	13.8	12.9
All ages	100.00%	100.00%

Religious classification

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

- Roman Catholic
- Presbyterian
- Church of Ireland
- Methodist
- Other Protestant
- Other Religion
- No denomination
- Unwilling to answer.

‘Other Protestant’ was taken to include Baptist, Free Presbyterian, Unitarian, Congregational, Plymouth Brethren, Church of the Nazarene, Church of England, Pentecostal and Mormon.

‘Other Religion’ was taken to include Jewish, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist.

Those classed as ‘Presbyterian’, ‘Church of Ireland’, ‘Methodist’, and ‘Other Protestant’, were categorised as ‘Protestant’, for the purposes of this survey. The ‘Protestant’ label was therefore a composite of a number of different religious denominations and traditions with possibly differing labour market characteristics.

Religion data was obtained in respect of 98% of those aged 16 and over in the responding households.

Definitions

Working Age

Working age is taken as ages 16 to 59 for females and 16 to 64 for males.

Economically Active

An economic activity rate (or labour force participation rate) expresses the number of economically active persons as a percentage of all those economically active or inactive. The economically active includes all those aged 16 or over who are in paid employment, (both employees and the self-employed), those on Government training or work schemes, those doing unpaid family work and also all those classed as unemployed and seeking work.

Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment used throughout this statistics notice refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS 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. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and promulgated by the ILO in 1987.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed on the ILO measure.

Unemployment gap

The difference in the unemployment rates of the two communities can be expressed as a percentage. It is calculated by subtracting the unemployment rate of Protestants from the unemployment rate of Catholics.

Unemployment differential (ratio of rates)

The difference in the unemployment rates of the two communities can be expressed as a ratio. It is calculated by dividing the unemployment rate of Roman Catholics by that of Protestants.

In Employment

In employment refers to those aged 16 and over who did some paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job which they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

Employment Gap

The extent of Roman Catholic under-representation in employment is commonly expressed in terms of an 'employment gap'- the shortfall between the proportion of the economically active population who are Roman Catholic and the proportion of those in employment who are Roman Catholic.

Economically Inactive

People aged 16 and over who are not in employment and are not unemployed are classified as economically inactive.

Full-time/Part-time

The classification of employees, self-employed, those on government work-related training programmes and unpaid family workers in their main job as full-time or part-time is on the basis of self-assessment. People on Government supported training and employment programmes who are at college in the survey reference week are classified, by convention, as part-time.

Sampling error

Because the LFS is a sample survey, results are subject to sampling error, i.e. the actual proportion of the population in private households with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion of the LFS sample with that characteristic. Accordingly, although percentages in tables are quoted to the nearest decimal point, they should not be regarded as having this degree of accuracy.

The following table shows the proportions obtained from the LFS religion 2003 survey for some key LFS variables and indicates their sampling accuracy. The confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the LFS proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values of the quantities estimated e.g. the 95% confidence interval for economic activity for Protestant males is interpreted as follows:

'We can be 95% certain that the true level of economic activity for Protestant males is between 80.2% and 84.5%'.

Confidence intervals for economic activity rates (Working age) 2003

	Rate	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
P Males	82.4%	+/-2.2	80.2%	84.5%
RC Males	77.6%	+/-2.5	75.1%	80.1%
P Females	69.8%	+/-2.7	67.2%	72.5%
RC Females	58.1%	+/-2.9	55.2%	61.0%
P both sexes	76.4%	+/-1.7	74.6%	78.1%
RC both sexes	67.9%	+/-2.0	65.9%	69.9%

Confidence intervals for unemployment rates (All ages 16+) 2003

	Rate	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
P Males	5.9%	+/-1.5	4.5%	7.4%
RC Males	8.4%	+/-1.9	6.5%	10.3%
P Females	3.4%	+/-1.2	2.2%	4.6%
RC Females	5.7%	+/-1.8	3.9%	7.4%
P both sexes	4.8%	+/-1.0	3.8%	5.8%
RC both sexes	7.2%	+/-1.3	5.9%	8.5%

Confidence intervals for unemployment Differential (ratio of rates) 2003

	Ratio	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
RC Males	1.4	+/-0.5	0.9%	1.9%
RC Females	1.7	+/-0.8	0.9%	2.5%
RC both sexes	1.5	+/-0.4	1.1%	1.9%

Confidence intervals for unemployment Differential (gap measure) 2003

	Rate	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Males	2.5%	+/-2.3	0.2%	4.8%
Females	2.3%	+/-2.2	0.1%	4.5%
Both sexes	2.4%	+/-1.6	0.8%	4.0%

Confidence intervals for religious composition of those in employment (16+) 2003

	Rate	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
P Males	55.1%	+/-2.6	52.7	57.4
RC Males	44.9%	+/-2.6	42.6	47.3
P Females	56.9%	+/-2.4	54.4	59.5
RC Females	43.1%	+/-2.4	40.5	45.6
P both sexes	55.9%	+/-1.7	54.2	57.6
RC both sexes	44.1%	+/-1.7	42.4	45.8

Confidence intervals for religious composition of the economically active (16+) 2003

	Rate	Confidence Interval	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
P Males	54.4%	+/-2.3	52.1	56.7
RC Males	45.6%	+/-2.3	43.3	47.9
P Females	56.4%	+/-2.5	53.9	58.9
RC Females	43.6%	+/-2.5	41.1	46.1
P both sexes	55.3%	+/-1.7	53.6	56.9
RC both sexes	44.7%	+/-1.7	43.1	46.4

Publication Threshold

It is the nature of a sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is. LFS estimates of under 6,000 are not published in this report as they are likely to be unreliable.

Grossing to population totals

Most of the results presented in this report are expressed in terms of percentages, following the grossing of sample numbers to population levels. Each individual participating in the survey is given a weight or "grossing factor" which is related to that person's age and sex. In this way the final grossed results give the population total for Northern Ireland and reflect the distributions by sex and age shown by the population figures.

Census 2001 Regrossing

The full regrossing of LFS estimates in line with the 2001 Census of Population have been calculated for the years 1992 to 1994, and 2000 to 2003. Re-grossed estimates for the years 1995 to 1999 are currently unavailable. These re-grossed estimates replace the previous 1991 Census based estimates which appeared in previous publications. The purpose of the regrossing exercise was to ensure that estimates reflect the most up to date population information available, thus improving the overall quality of the data.

The impact on the headline employment and unemployment rates as a result of the 2001 Census re-weighting is negligible over the entire period and effects on levels are also extremely small.

