

JRF Programme Paper
Poverty and ethnicity**EVIDENCE ON THE
EXPERIENCE OF
POVERTY AMONG
PEOPLE FROM MINORITY
ETHNIC GROUPS IN
NORTHERN IRELAND****David Owen**

This paper:

- presents a picture of the changing ethnic composition of Northern Ireland;
- explores evidence of poverty among people from minority ethnic groups from 2001 onwards; and
- identifies gaps in the evidence base for minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) commissioned this paper as part of its programme on poverty and ethnicity, which aims to understand the underlying reasons for variations in low income and deprivation among different ethnic groups in the UK and the problems caused.

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Section 1 Recent population change in Northern Ireland	2
Section 2 The ethnic composition of Northern Ireland in 2001	5
Section 3 Change in the ethnic minority population since 2001	19
Section 4 Socio-economic conditions for minority ethnic groups after 2001	28
Section 5 First information from the 2011 Census of Population	40
Section 6 Conclusion	46
Notes	47
References	48

Introduction

This paper presents a quantitative picture of the changing ethnic composition of Northern Ireland and the experience of poverty by people from minority ethnic groups over the period from 2001 onwards. This is a period of marked population growth influenced by high rates of migration and considerable change in the composition of the population. In a small population, short-term fluctuations in migration can have a relatively rapid impact on the ethnic composition of the resident population and the relative economic circumstances of ethnic groups.

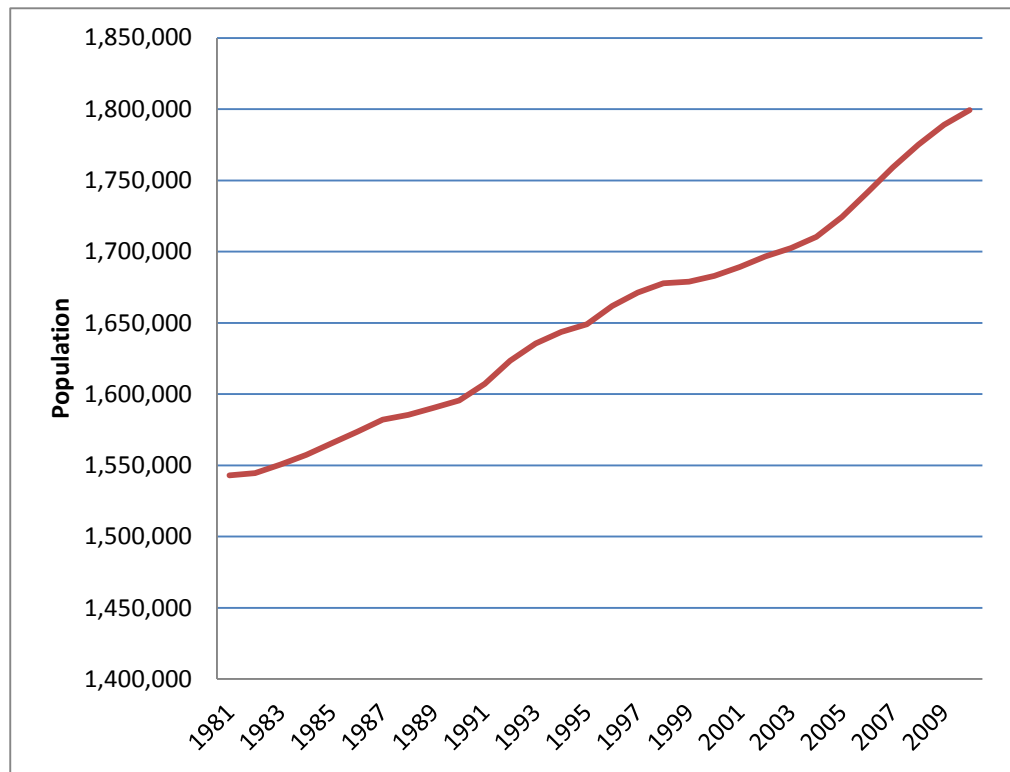
New minority populations have emerged in Northern Ireland in the period since 2001, as a result of changing international migration trends. These new populations also have different geographical origins from the established minority ethnic groups. It is important to attempt to establish the characteristics of this new population, but statistical data sources are predominantly oriented towards monitoring differences by 'community background' (i.e. religious affiliation or upbringing) and have only recently extended their coverage to encompass ethnicity.

Northern Ireland has the smallest population of any of the UK nations. It was created in 1921 following the Irish War of Independence. For nearly all of the subsequent period, the majority of the population had an allegiance to the UK, but there have been long periods of internal conflict as part of the Nationalist population have struggled to break the link with the UK. Affiliation to the UK or Irish Republic broadly followed the religious Protestant/Catholic divide. A Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive were established in 1998 to which powers were devolved in 2007. Legislation has been passed with the aim of eliminating discrimination on a range of dimensions, including gender, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation. The Fair Employment and Treatment Order (Northern Ireland) 1998 aimed at outlawing discrimination in employment, since the political conflict had resulted in the exclusion of the Nationalist community from many types of work. Addressing this disadvantage led to the routine inclusion of religion as a variable in many statistical surveys and exercises to monitor employment and service provision.

Questions on ethnicity have tended to appear only since 1997, when the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order came into force. The ethnic group classification also encompasses the Irish Traveller population, which is ethnically distinctive from other white people.

Recent population change in Northern Ireland

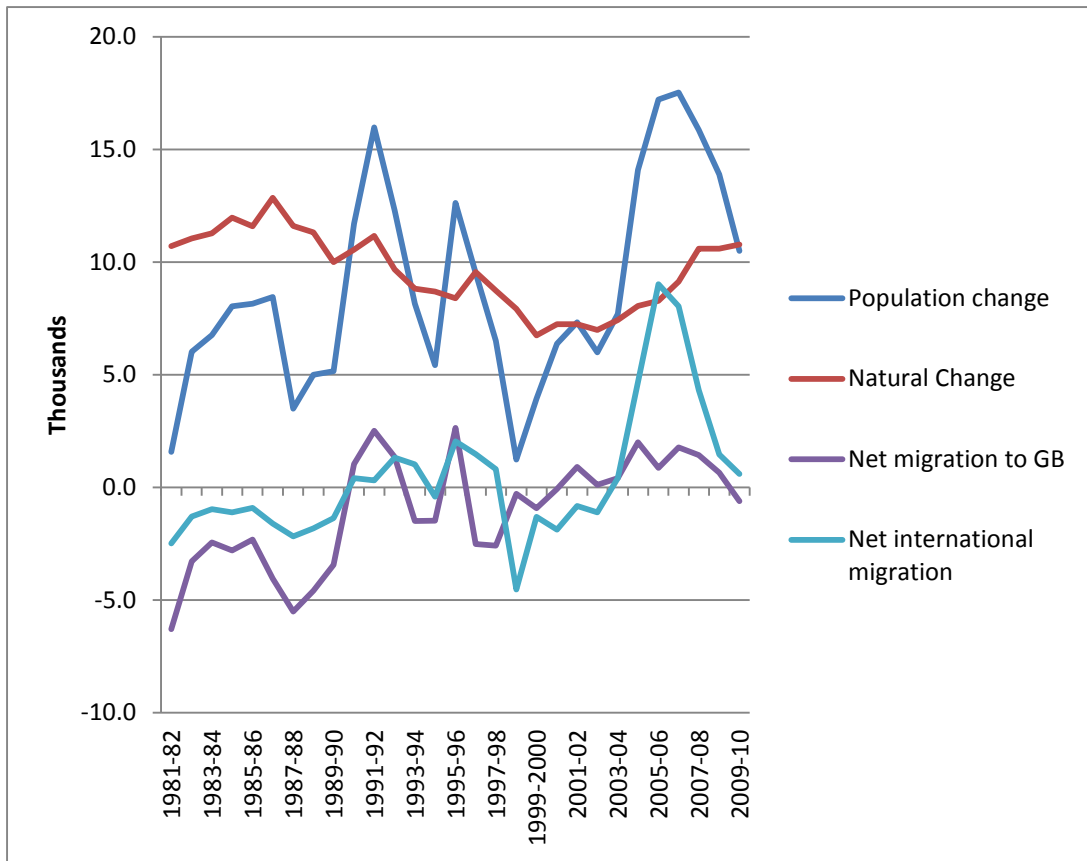
Figure 1: Northern Ireland population, 1981–2010



Source: NISRA

The population of Northern Ireland has grown throughout the period since 1981, but the rate of growth has accelerated in recent years. The population was 110 thousand (6.5 per cent) larger in 2010 than 2001 (NISRA, 2011a). The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) makes annual estimates of the population by age and sex, derived from registrations of births and deaths and estimates of migration. Figure 1 presents the overall trend in the population and Figure 2 the components of year-on-year change in the population between 1981 and 2010. Figure 2 demonstrates how population change results from natural change (the difference between births and deaths), net migration from the rest of Great Britain and net international migration.

Figure 2: Components of population change, 1981–2010



Source: NISRA

The annual change in Northern Ireland’s population has been positive throughout this 30 year period (with substantial annual fluctuations). However, there is a marked contrast between the 1990s, in which annual increases were declining, and the next decade, in which population growth followed an increasing trend. Natural change broadly follows this trend, having reached a peak in the late 1980s. It was smallest in 1999–2000, after which it has steadily increased. In the 1980s, net migration counteracted natural change, since there was net out-migration of people from Northern Ireland both to the rest of the UK and to the rest of the world. There has been net in-migration from Great Britain in most years since 1990, though there was a net loss of population in the mid-1990s and 2009–10.

Until 2003, Northern Ireland lost population to the rest of the world in most years, most notably in the late 1990s and early years of the twenty-first century. This pattern reversed after 2003 as international net in-migration increased, reaching a peak in 2005–7. This peak closely mirrors the peak in total population change. NISRA estimates that net international migration added 24.7 thousand people to the population of Northern Ireland between June 2001 and June 2010 (NISRA, 2011b). This indicates that migration from outside the UK is both increasing the population of Northern Ireland and also influencing the ethnic composition of the population as new non-British population groups settle. NISRA population projections

assume that there will be net migration to Northern Ireland of four thousand people per annum until the middle of the current decade, after which immigration and emigration are expected to balance.

The ethnic composition of Northern Ireland in 2001

Before considering the impact of migration since 2001 on the population of Northern Ireland, the ethnic composition of Northern Ireland in 2001 and the socio-economic characteristics of individual ethnic groups will be explored.

Table 1: Ethnic composition of the population of Northern Ireland, 2001

Ethnic group	Population	% of population	Males per 1000 females	Mean age (years)	% born in the UK	% in communal establishments
White	1,670,988	99.2	950	36.0	96.3	1.5
Irish Traveller	1,710	0.1	1,096	30.6	84.0	2.0
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>12,562</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>1,085</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>6.0</i>
Mixed parentage	3,320	0.2	1,017	20.4	76.7	2.6
Indian	1,569	0.1	1,149	35.1	35.2	3.3
Pakistani	668	0.0	1,303	28.4	51.0	3.1
Bangladeshi	251	0.0	1,282	24.6	46.3	-
Other Asian	190	0.0	727	31.0	11.5	7.4
Black Caribbean	256	0.0	1,151	33.6	58.3	6.6
Black African	491	0.0	1,294	30.3	27.9	4.9
Other Black	381	0.0	1,381	30.9	52.2	13.6
Chinese	4,145	0.2	1,123	29.1	31.2	8.8
Other ethnic group	1,291	0.1	863	30.7	15.6	9.0
All persons	1,685,260	100.0	951	35.9	95.9	1.6

Source: Northern Ireland Census of Population, 2001

The most comprehensive picture of the population of Northern Ireland is provided by the decennial Census of Population. This aims to enumerate the entire population and to identify its social and economic characteristics via a questionnaire delivered to every household, which collects information on every person present at that address on census night. The Northern Ireland Census has included a question on religion in each year which it was collected since 1841. This revealed that the largest religious minorities in 2001 followed the Muslim (1943), Hindu (825), Buddhist (533), Jewish (365), Baha'i (254) and Sikh (219) faiths.

The 2001 Census was the first in Northern Ireland to include a question on ethnic group (which was similar to the question used in the 1991 censuses for Great Britain, with the addition of the Irish Traveller category). The census revealed the minority ethnic group population (defined here as people from 'visible' ethnic minorities, i.e. with a skin colour other than white) to be just over 12.5 thousand, representing 0.7 per cent of the population (Table 1).¹ The largest minority ethnic groups were the Chinese, 'Mixed parentage' and Indian ethnic groups and a further 1.3 thousand people were classified as being from 'Other' ethnic groups (this included North Africans, Arabs and people whose ethnicity was not included in the main categories). In addition to non-white minority ethnic groups, there were 1.7 thousand Irish Travellers identified by the census, representing 0.1 per cent of the population.

White minority ethnic groups with origins outside Great Britain and Ireland fall into the 'White-Other' ethnic group. While there is some information on these groups from analysis of the 'write-in' answers to the census, the only (imperfect) way of identifying them from published census outputs is using the 'country of birth' tables. However, there is much less information available in the census on the country of origin of the population than for ethnic group. Overall, 151 thousand people (9 per cent of the population) had been born outside Northern Ireland in 2001, 124.3 thousand of whom had been born elsewhere in the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or Isle of Man. Of the remaining 26.6 thousand with more remote geographical origins, 19.8 thousand (74.2 per cent) were white people.

Females outnumbered males in the population as a whole, but in the Chinese, South Asian and Black ethnic groups, males formed the majority. On average, people from minority ethnic groups were 8.4 years younger than white people. This type of demographic structure is typical of migrant populations in which males of working age migrate first and are then joined by their families. However, 44.2 per cent of people from minority ethnic groups had been born in the UK. This percentage was largest by far for people of mixed parentage (which also had one of the smaller ratios of males to females) and smallest for the Other Asian, 'Other', Chinese, Black-African and Indian ethnic groups. The Indian and Black-Caribbean ethnic groups were the oldest on average, while people of mixed parentage were youngest on average. A relatively large percentage of people of mixed parentage and from the 'Black-Other' ethnic group had been born in Western Europe or in the United States.

Increasing international migration also means that the percentage of the population born outside the UK or with foreign nationality also increases. In 2001, 26.7 thousand people (1.6 per cent of the population) had been born outside the UK, Ireland and other neighbouring islands. The largest countries of origin were China (4317), Germany (3879), United States (3369), Canada (2449), Japan (1746), Australia (1544), South Africa (1301), India (1170), 'Asian countries in the former USSR' (846) and Hong Kong (756). The largest origins for minority ethnic groups were the Far East (3622), South Asia (1378) and Africa (762).

Table 2: Household structure of ethnic groups, 2001

Ethnic group	Percentages of all households						
	Couple family households	One-person households	Lone-parent households	Student households	Pensioner households	% households with dependent children	0–14 year olds per household
White	46.8	27.4	12.7	0.3	20.1	36.4	1.7
Irish Traveller	24.8	42.3	19.4	0.6	16.5	39.1	2.1
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>53.0</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>48.1</i>	<i>2.2</i>
Mixed parentage	39.6	30.3	13.8	1.9	12.4	40.7	6.6
Indian	59.5	20.8	6.0	0.5	9.6	45.0	1.2
Pakistani	61.2	16.3	6.2	-	1.7	61.2	2.1
Bangladeshi	64.4	13.7	4.1	-	5.5	61.6	2.1
Other Asian	47.1	15.7	5.7	4.3	4.3	42.9	1.0
Black Caribbean	30.6	47.6	9.7	-	13.7	25.8	1.3
Black African	48.4	29.3	9.8	-	9.8	46.2	1.6
Other Black	42.6	31.1	13.9	-	18.0	40.2	1.6
Chinese	58.7	17.0	8.3	2.1	5.7	54.1	1.5
Other ethnic group	53.8	21.1	7.2	2.4	7.4	48.3	1.3
All Households	46.8	27.4	12.7	0.3	20.0	36.5	1.7

Source: 2001 Census of Population

The minority ethnic group population was much more likely than the white population (6 per cent, compared with 1.6 per cent) to live in communal establishments, with the largest being educational establishments, followed by general hospitals, defence establishments and care homes.

Table 3: Labour market indicators for 16–74 year olds by ethnic group, 2001

Ethnic group	Economic activity rate	Employment rate	% employed part-time	Self-employment rate	Unemployment rate	% aged 16–74 students
White	62.3	55.8	20.3	8.2	6.6	5.6
Irish Traveller	35.0	23.2	24.4	5.3	27.1	4.5
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>61.4</i>	<i>53.3</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>14.9</i>
Mixed parentage	61.2	49.3	17.4	7.2	8.5	14.9
Indian	64.7	59.4	13.8	15.3	5.2	7.1
Pakistani	59.3	51.2	16.8	16.3	7.8	7.4
Bangladeshi	61.9	52.9	17.1	14.8	10.4	2.6
Other Asian	67.1	60.8	15.6	1.9	2.8	15.2
Black Caribbean	70.4	58.7	19.8	9.2	10.3	5.3
Black African	66.9	54.5	17.2	6.2	12.3	12.6
Other Black	59.9	50.5	16.0	2.0	10.1	5.1
Chinese	60.2	53.7	17.3	21.0	3.6	21.3
Other ethnic group	58.1	49.4	16.9	5.4	11.0	16.0
All persons	62.3	55.8	20.2	8.3	6.6	5.7

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Households containing couples were more common for minority ethnic groups than for white people, with this percentage particularly high for South Asian, Chinese and Other ethnic groups (see Table 2). One-person households were most common for Black-Caribbean people, while lone parent households were most common for people of mixed parentage and from the 'Other Black' ethnic group. Pensioner households were less common for minority ethnic groups than for white people, but this percentage was higher for the Black-Caribbean

and Other Black ethnic groups than for other minority ethnic groups. Conversely, minority ethnic group households (especially Pakistani and Bangladeshi households) were more likely to contain dependent children than white households. The average number of 0–14 year old children was particularly high for mixed parentage, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households.

The labour market experience of people from minority ethnic groups as a whole was very little different from that of white people in 2001 (see Table 3). The overall economic activity rate and employment rate was slightly lower than for white people, and the unemployment rate only marginally higher. The percentage working with part-time jobs was lower and the percentage self-employed was higher. The economic activity rate was highest of all for Black-Caribbean people, and while Black-African and Indian people also displayed higher economic activity rates than white people. Pakistani, Other Black and mixed parentage people were least likely to be economically active or employed. Black people, Bangladeshi people and people from Other ethnic groups were much more likely than white people to be unemployed, but for the Chinese, Indian and Other Asian ethnic groups, the unemployment rate was much lower. One reason for this differential was that Chinese and South Asian people displayed high percentages of self-employment. People from minority ethnic groups were far more likely than white people to be students, this percentage being particularly high for Chinese, Other Asian, mixed parentage and Black-African people.

Table 4: Socio-economic classification of 16–74 year olds by ethnic group, 2001

Ethnic group	Higher managerial and professional	Lower managerial and professional	Intermediate occupations	Small employers and own account workers	Lower supervisory and technical	Semi-routine occupations	Routine occupations	Never worked and long-term unemployed
	<i>Percentage of people aged 16–74 from each ethnic group</i>							
White	5.8	2.1	3.7	19.4	11.1	8.7	8.8	15.5
Irish Traveller	2.2	0.8	1.4	6.6	3.8	7.9	6.3	11.1
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>12.1</i>
Mixed parentage	8.5	1.8	6.7	17.3	9.3	6.8	6.8	12.9
Indian	31.6	3.0	28.5	13.6	5.5	15.4	3.2	7.2
Pakistani	16.4	1.4	15.0	10.3	4.0	19.6	5.4	10.5
Bangladeshi	6.5	-	6.5	13.6	6.5	16.2	7.8	14.9
Other Asian	20.0	2.5	17.5	33.8	5.6	1.9	3.8	5.0
Black Caribbean	6.9	2.9	3.9	23.5	10.8	11.3	7.8	13.2

Black African	21.5	2.9	18.6	14.2	8.1	4.1	4.9	10.8
Other Black	5.1	1.4	3.7	15.3	27.5	3.7	4.4	13.6
Chinese	8.9	1.1	7.7	6.5	3.6	23.9	5.1	15.2
Other ethnic group	15.2	3.5	11.7	24.3	6.4	5.6	5.1	8.7
All persons	5.9	2.1	3.8	19.3	11.1	8.7	8.8	15.4

Source: 2001 Census of Population

People from minority ethnic groups as a whole were much more likely to work in 'higher managerial and professional occupations', 'intermediate' and 'semi-routine' occupations and were much less likely to work in 'lower managerial', 'small employer' and 'routine' occupations (see Table 4). People from the Indian, Black-African, Other-Asian, Pakistani and Other ethnic groups were most likely to be working in the highest status jobs. However, people from these ethnic groups were also much more likely than white people to be found in intermediate and semi-routine occupations. Chinese people were most likely to be working in semi-routine occupations, as were Pakistani and Bangladeshi people. The percentage who had never worked or who were long-term unemployed was lower than for white people in all minority ethnic groups, and was lowest of all for Other Asian and Indian people.

People from minority ethnic groups were less likely than white people to live in social rented housing, but were also less likely to own their own homes and hence a higher percentage rented from private sector landlords (see Table 5). People of mixed parentage and Black-Caribbean people (and Black people in general) were most likely to be renting from social landlords, while Indian and Other Asian households were least likely to be social renters. South Asian people were much more likely than white people to own their own homes, while Black people were least likely to do so. The percentage of households who were private sector renters was higher for each minority group than for white households, with Other Asians, Other ethnic groups and Black-Africans displaying the highest percentages.

The percentage of households with two or more cars has been used as an indicator of differences in wealth (though this is a less good indicator in rural areas, where public transport is poor). For minority ethnic groups as a whole, this percentage was only two-thirds that for the white population. However, there were large differentials between minority ethnic groups, with Indians, Pakistanis and Chinese people displaying an above average rate of car ownership and Black people, Bangladeshis and Other Asians displaying a below average rate.

Table 5: Housing tenure and deprivation indicators, 2001

Ethnic group	Percentage of households					
	Social rented	Private rented	Owner-occupied	With 2+ cars	Over-crowded	No central heating
White	21.2	9.1	69.7	29.3	7.2	4.9
Irish Traveller	39.7	21.4	38.9	9.6	31.0	22.3
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>25.2</i>	<i>60.4</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>6.5</i>
Mixed parentage	26.0	23.5	50.5	29.2	18.1	8.4
Indian	6.8	19.3	73.9	41.1	9.3	4.1
Pakistani	10.9	16.0	73.1	37.1	19.9	1.7
Bangladeshi	14.7	12.0	73.3	13.5	19.2	6.8
Other Asian	4.2	49.3	46.5	20.3	24.6	4.3
Black Caribbean	24.0	27.9	48.1	10.3	11.2	10.4
Black African	19.5	38.4	42.2	18.3	19.7	10.1
Other Black	20.2	31.1	48.7	13.1	19.5	7.3
Chinese	11.9	21.4	66.7	34.0	17.8	5.5
Other ethnic group	10.8	42.3	46.9	28.6	18.8	6.7
All households	21.2	9.2	69.6	29.2	7.3	4.9

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Overcrowding (more than one person per bedroom) is also used as an indicator of deprivation, but it also reflects differences in household size. Thus, for all minority ethnic groups, the percentage of households overcrowded was much higher than for white households. The highest rates were displayed by the Other Asian ethnic group, with a

fifth of Black-African, Black Other and South Asian households (other than Indian) experiencing overcrowding. The percentage for Indian households was only slightly higher than for white people. Lack of central heating is an indicator of poor housing. This pattern was more complex. Black, Other and Bangladeshi households were much more likely than white households to lack central heating, but Indian and Pakistani households were less likely to lack central heating. This probably reflects differences in the percentages of households renting from private sector landlords.

Table 6: People with a limiting long-term illness by ethnic group, 2001

	All ages	Percentage of age group			
		Aged 0–15	Aged 16–44	Aged 45–64	Aged 65+
White	20.4	5.6	11.2	31.2	57.9
Irish Traveller	27.5	8.2	25.5	53.6	55.7
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>54.6</i>
Mixed parentage	12.0	5.8	11.6	37.4	58.9
Indian	14.3	4.3	7.7	26.2	43.4
Pakistani	14.1	3.1	10.5	33.7	71.0
Bangladeshi	9.0	-	10.5	31.6	33.3
Other Asian	9.2	9.1	4.5	23.1	100.0
Black Caribbean	17.1	6.8	8.9	50.0	45.8
Black African	8.7	-	6.4	16.5	56.0
Other Black	16.2	-	13.2	29.3	51.2
Chinese	8.0	3.3	3.6	23.0	55.5
Other ethnic group	7.9	3.8	4.1	18.4	64.3
All persons	20.4	5.5	11.2	31.2	57.9

Source: 2001 Census of Population

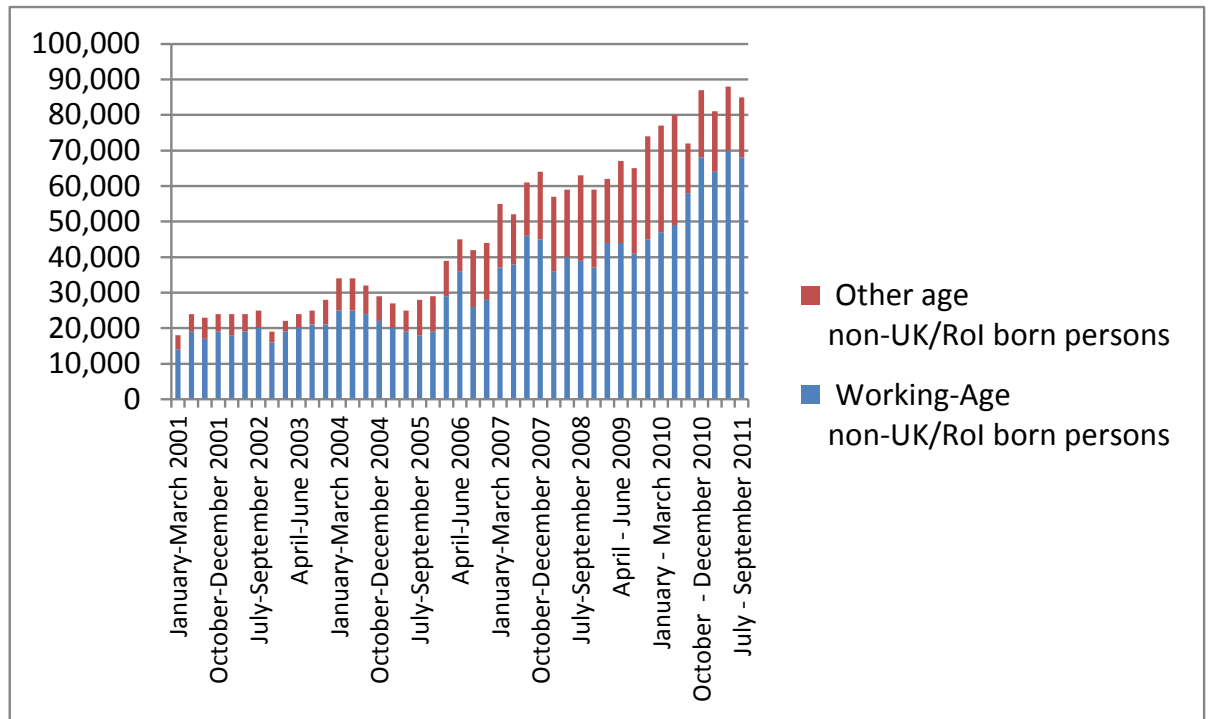
People from minority ethnic groups generally displayed better health than white people, in terms of the percentage reporting a limiting long-term illness (see Table 6). Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi were healthier at all ages, but older Pakistani and Black-African people were as or more likely to report health problems than white people and the health of people of mixed parentage was similar to that of white people.

In summary, minority ethnic groups represented a small percentage of the population of Northern Ireland in 2001. The ethnic composition of the minority ethnic group population was very different from that of Great Britain, with a much larger percentage from Chinese, Other and mixed ethnic groups. Across a number of socio-economic indicators, the situation of people from minority ethnic groups as a whole was relatively favourable and certainly much better than that of the Irish Traveller population. However, there was considerable diversity in experience between individual minority ethnic groups. Unemployment rates were higher than average for Black people, but lower for Chinese, Indian and Pakistani people. Rates of self-employment were relatively high, and workers were more likely than average to work in high-status occupations. The Indian, Pakistani, Other-Asian and Chinese ethnic groups were more economically successful than the Black ethnic groups.

Change in the ethnic minority population since 2001

Sources which record the ethnic composition of the population in the inter-censal period are very limited. In England and Wales, the Office for National Statistics has created an experimental series of annual estimates of the population for the 16 census ethnic groups (also broken down by age group and gender), produced for local authority districts. The equivalent does not exist for Northern Ireland. The Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey and NISRA population estimates provide the best indications of population change.

Figure 3: Change in the overseas-born population of Northern Ireland, 2001–2010



Source: NISRA

Table 7: Northern Ireland population by ethnic group and country of origin, 2004–2010

Year	Population	White UK-born	White non-UK born	Minority UK-born	Minority overseas-born	Ethnic minorities
2004	1,686,000	1,608,800	61,600	5,100	10,600	15,700
2005	1,699,900	1,632,900	51,800	5,300	10,000	15,300
2006	1,716,600	1,634,300	63,100	5,000	14,200	19,200
2007	1,733,000	1,633,700	77,900	4,900	16,600	21,500
2008	1,749,100	1,643,500	76,200	7,300	22,200	29,500
2009	1,762,700	1,656,300	78,000	6,000	22,300	28,300
2010	1,772,900	1,666,600	80,500	8,400	17,400	25,800

Source: NISRA

Figure 3 shows how the overseas-born population of Northern Ireland is estimated to have quadrupled over the period from 2001 to 2011, with continuous growth since the expansion of the European Union in 2004. The bulk of this new population is of working age, but during 2007–2010 the share of people of non-working age (representing dependents) was increasing markedly.

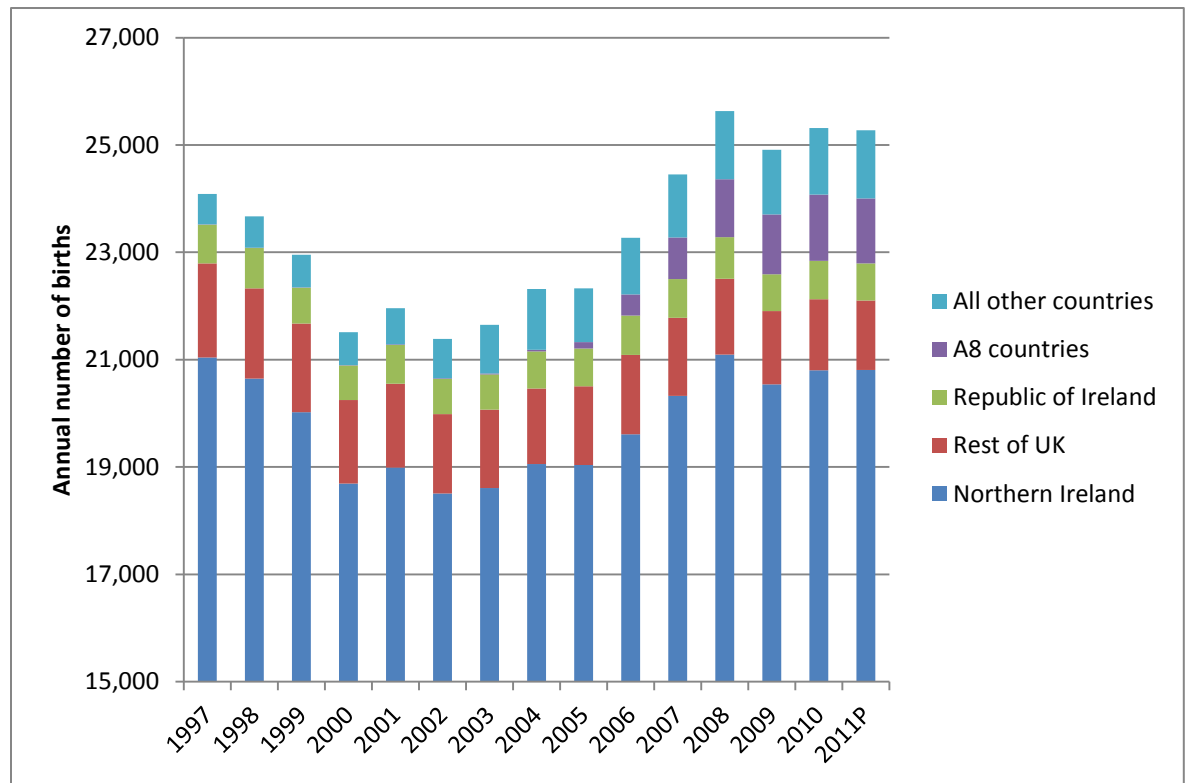
Table 8: Northern Ireland population by ethnic group and country of origin, 2004–2010 (percentages)

Year	Population	White UK-born	White non-UK born	Minority UK-born	Minority overseas -born	Ethnic minorities
2004	1,686,000	95.4	3.7	0.3	0.6	0.9
2005	1,699,900	96.1	3.0	0.3	0.6	0.9
2006	1,716,600	95.2	3.7	0.3	0.8	1.1
2007	1,733,000	94.3	4.5	0.3	1.0	1.3
2008	1,749,100	94.0	4.4	0.4	1.3	1.7
2009	1,762,700	94.0	4.4	0.3	1.3	1.6
2010	1,772,900	94.0	4.5	0.5	1.0	1.5

Source: NISRA

Tables 7 and 8 present change in the population by ethnic origin and country of birth over the period from 2004 to 2010 as measured by the Annual Population Survey. During this period, the population of Northern Ireland grew by 5.2 per cent. The white UK-born population accounted for two-thirds of population growth, 21.7 per cent was due to the increase in the white population born overseas and 11.6 per cent due to the growth of the minority ethnic group population. The number of people from minority ethnic groups is estimated to have increased by two-thirds over this period, from 15.7 to 25.8 thousand. The population born outside the UK is estimated to have increased from 72.2 to 97.9 thousand between 2004 and 2010. The minority share of the population is estimated to have increased from 0.9 to 1.5 per cent. The share of the population represented by white people born overseas is estimated to have increased from 3.7 to 4.5 per cent over the same period, representing an additional 18.9 thousand people.

Figure 4: Births in Northern Ireland by country of birth of mother, 1997–2011 (provisional)



Source: NISRA

Figure 4 demonstrates how migrants also added to population growth through births in Northern Ireland. There has been a considerable increase since 2007 in the number of births to mothers born in all countries, but in particular the eight eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 (the ‘Accession 8’ or ‘A8’ countries). Hence, the number of people from novel white minority ethnic groups has increased rapidly, due both to immigration and relatively high numbers of births. NISRA (2008) estimated the ‘A8’ population of Northern Ireland to be 30 thousand in December 2007 (1.7 per cent of the population), with five thousand in Belfast and the remainder widely distributed across the province.

The main sources of information on migration trends by country of origin are from administrative records. A8 workers were required to register under the Workers’ Registration Scheme (WRS) in order to work in the UK. The statistics generated provide information on in-migration by nationality, together with some information on their demographic characteristics and details of the industry and occupation in which they work

(not using the standard industrial classification (SIC) and standard occupational classification (SOC)). Table 9 presents the number of WRS registrations in Northern Ireland by nationality and year.

Table 9: Migrants to Northern Ireland under the Workers Registration Scheme, 2004–2011

Nationality	2004–5	2005–6	2006–7	2007–8	2008–9	2009–10	2010–11	Total
Czech Republic	390	390	305	290	150	55	50	1,630
Estonia	20	40	15	5	-	20	20	120
Hungary	80	110	210	245	210	160	150	1,165
Latvia	430	470	360	235	255	375	355	2,480
Lithuania	1,545	1,735	1,485	1,100	765	700	660	7,990
Poland	2,150	4,980	5,660	5,055	2,775	1,465	1,380	23,465
Slovakia	875	1,315	1,230	985	665	305	285	5,660
Slovenia	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	5,495	9,045	9,270	7,900	4,815	3,090	2,910	42,525

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest five
Source: NISRA

The largest component of A8 migration is by Polish people, who formed more than half of all people who registered with the WRS between 2004 and 2011. The second largest nationality is Lithuanians, followed by Slovaks. The number of migrants was greatest during 2005–6 and 2006–7 (around nine thousand), after which the number of migrants declined rapidly, stabilising at around three thousand in 2009–10 and 2010–11. The number of Polish and Slovakian migrants in 2010–11 was under a quarter of the peak numbers. Migration from Slovakia and Lithuania started to decline earlier than that from Poland, as did the number of migrants from the Czech Republic. The number of migrants from Latvia and Hungary is much smaller, but has been more stable over this time period.

Romania and Bulgaria (the 'Accession 2' or 'A2' countries) joined the EU in January 2007, but restrictions were placed on their right to work in the UK. The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme was restricted to workers from these countries, who could also enter if they were self-employed. Table 10 presents the number of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who were granted accession workers cards and registration certificates between 2008 and 2011. In total, 718 Bulgarians and 580 Romanians entered through these routes over this period. The numbers making applications were highest in 2008–9, declining in each of the subsequent years.

Table 10: Number of A2 nationals approved for accession and registration cards in Northern Ireland, 2008–2011

Time period	Approved applications for accession worker cards in Northern Ireland			Approved applications for registration certificates in Northern Ireland		
	Bulgarian Nationals	Romanian Nationals	Total	Bulgarian Nationals	Romanian Nationals	Total
2008–9	210	22	232	143	197	340
2009–10	37	19	56	225	215	440
2010–11	52	18	70	51	109	160
Total	299	59	358	419	521	940

Source: NISRA

All people working or receiving benefits in the UK have to obtain a National Insurance number (NINo). Table 11 presents the nationality of those of non-UK nationality allocated a National Insurance number in Northern Ireland in each year. This source provides the most geographically comprehensive picture of work-related international migration. Migration was at its peak in 2006–7, reflecting the surge in migration from the EU Accession countries, but even in 2010 it was nearly four times greater than in 2002. Around two thousand people per annum migrated from rest of the 'EU15' (this would include Portuguese people) and around half as many from Asia and the Middle East. Migration from each of the other regions of the world amounted to a few hundred per year.

Table 11: National Insurance number registrations by nationality in Northern Ireland by year and world region, 2002–2010 (thousands)

Year	Total	EU15	A8 and A2	Other Europe	Africa	Asia and Middle East	The Americas	Australia/Oceania
2002	2.26	1.2	0.06	0.07	0.14	0.49	0.16	0.14
2003	3.49	1.71	0.13	0.1	0.17	1.01	0.2	0.17
2004	5.77	2.25	0.96	0.33	0.25	1.51	0.27	0.19
2005	11.42	1.98	6.91	0.33	0.28	1.4	0.32	0.19
2006	21.17	2.37	15.75	0.32	0.34	1.76	0.37	0.26
2007	18.39	2.07	13.8	0.25	0.25	1.42	0.34	0.26
2008	13.77	2.01	9.53	0.12	0.24	1.34	0.31	0.21
2009	8.96	2.13	5.02	0.11	0.25	1.03	0.26	0.15
2010	8.83	2.17	4.92	0.1	0.28	1.03	0.23	0.09

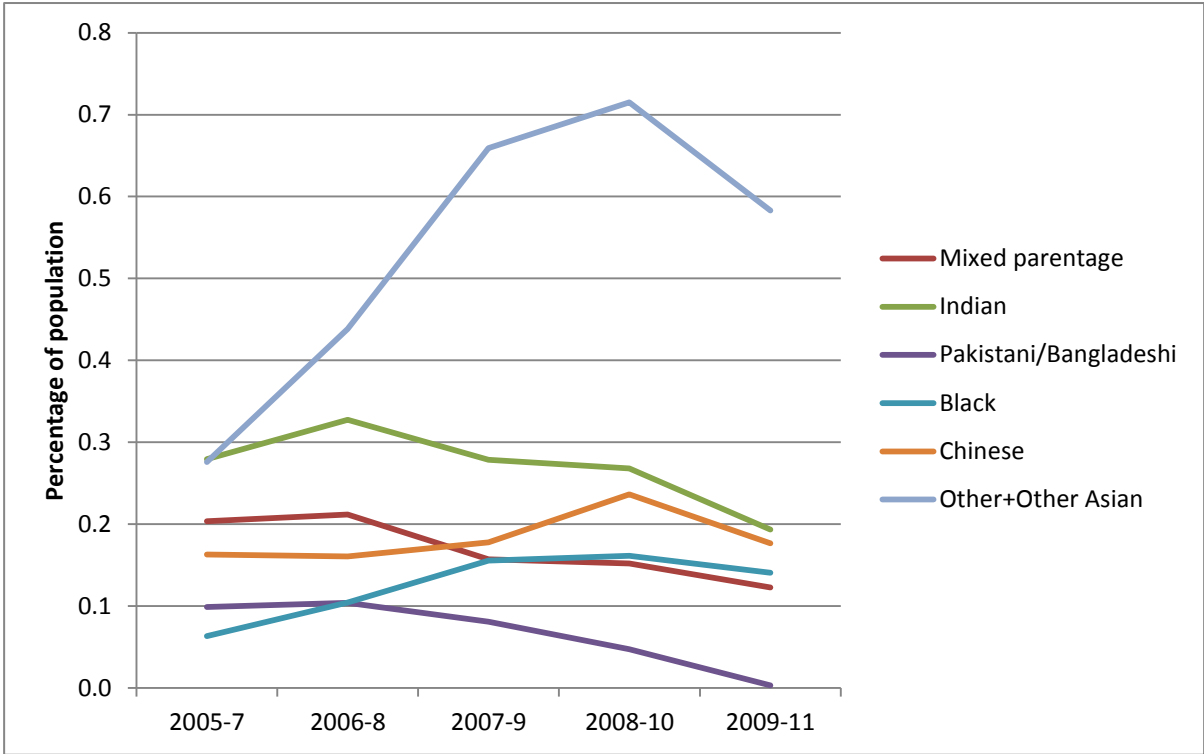
Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

The Annual Population Survey (APS) also provides information on the changing size of individual minority ethnic groups within Northern Ireland over the period from 2004 to 2010 (see Figure 5). The APS sample, though large, is not large enough² to yield information for some of the individual ethnic groups identified by the Census of Population and hence ethnic groups are aggregated in this diagram. The average share of the total population represented by each ethnic grouping is presented for successive rolling three-year periods, in order to reduce the effect of year-on-year fluctuations. The number of people from the 'Other and Other Asian' (which includes smaller ethnic groups of non-European geographical origin) ethnic categories increased strongly during this period, to represent 0.7 per cent of the population during 2008–2010. The number of Black people increased slightly and the Chinese ethnic group remained fairly stable.

However, the number of people of mixed parentage and from both the Indian and Pakistani/Bangladeshi categories declined.³

Figure 5: Percentage share of the Northern Ireland population from individual minority ethnic groups, 2004–2010



Source: Annual Population Survey

Socio-economic conditions for minority ethnic groups after 2001

This section presents results from a number of statistical sources, which contain information on the social and economic circumstances of minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland over the period since 2011. With a small population and small sample sizes available for analysis of the minority ethnic group population, studies of poverty in minority ethnic groups have been limited.

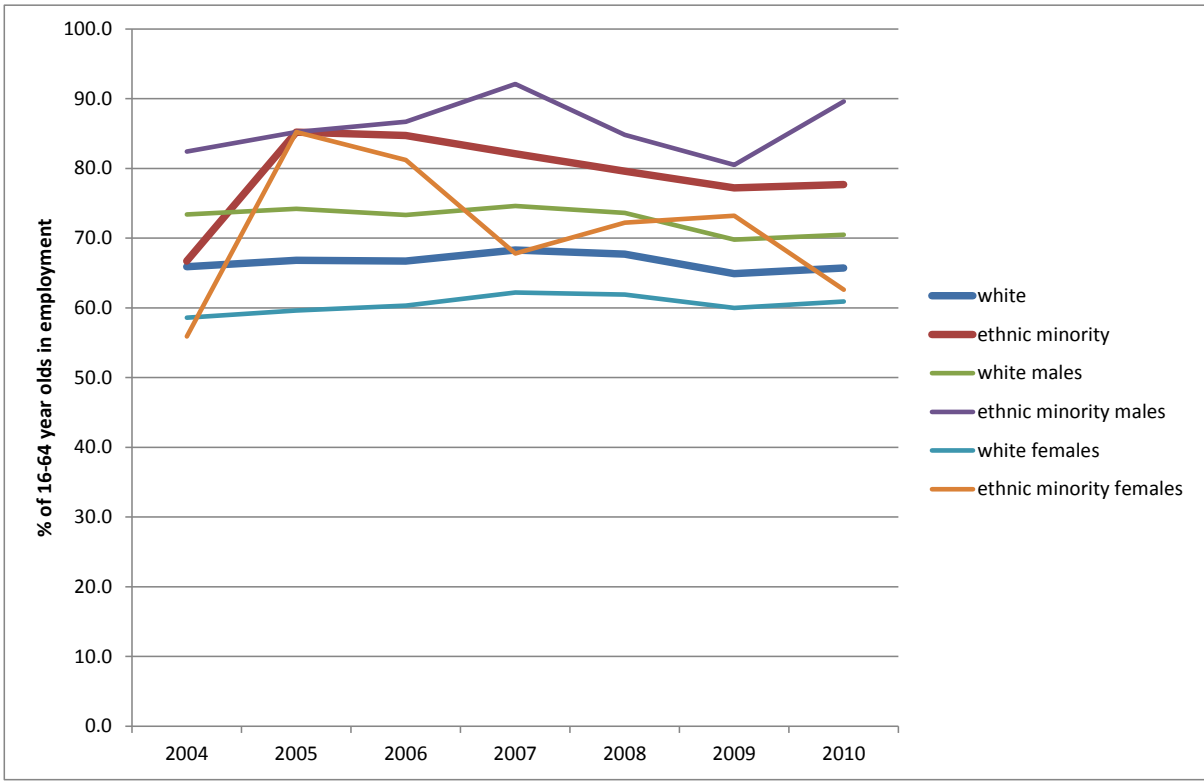
There are also few quantitative research studies on the income of minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland. One example undertaken during this period is the 'bare necessities' research conducted by Democratic Dialogue in 2002–3. This estimated (on the basis of a small sample) that 19 per cent of ethnic minority households were in poverty, compared to 29.6 per cent for all households in Northern Ireland (Hillyard *et al.*, 2003, p.52). Their conclusions are consistent with the 2001 Census of Population data, which showed that minority ethnic groups had a relatively favourable position in the labour market and census indicators of income suggested that some minority ethnic groups had a more favourable situation than white people.

This section illustrates the relative position of minority ethnic groups, based on a number of dimensions of socio-economic phenomena.

The labour market

In this section, an overview of labour market trends for people from minority ethnic groups is presented, drawing upon data from the APS. Figure 6 presents the employment rate for people from white and minority ethnic groups, and also compares the employment rate of men and women from the majority and minority ethnic groups over the period 2004 to 2010. This reveals that both men and women from minority ethnic groups were more likely than their white counterparts to be in employment.

Figure 6: Employment rate of white and minority ethnic group males and females, 2004–2010



Source: Annual Population Survey

The number of people from minority ethnic groups aged 16 and over in employment more than doubled between 2004 and 2008, but declined by a sixth between 2008 and 2010 (Table 12). In 2004, minority ethnic groups were overwhelmingly concentrated in the service sector, predominantly in public services. Employment in public services contracted sharply after 2007, partly counterbalanced by growing employment in manufacturing, but this sector also declined after 2009. The second largest source of employment is the distribution, hotels and restaurants sector, which employed more than a third of workers from minority ethnic groups in 2004 and 2010. There were substantial fluctuations in this share within this period, following an inverse pattern to the growth and decline of public sector employment.

Table 12: People from minority ethnic groups aged 16 or over in employment working in each industry sector

SIC 2007 sector	Percentage of employees per year						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A: agriculture and fishing	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
B,D,E: energy and water	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
C: manufacturing	!	15.3	12.2	10.8	20.6	26.8	17.7
F: construction	!	!	!	5.7	!	!	!
G,I: distribution, hotels and restaurants	35.5	17.6	32.1	22.2	28.7	27	34.7
H,J: transport and communication	13.6	!	!	!	7.5	!	!
K-N: banking, finance and insurance	!	!	!	!	!	!	7.3
O-Q: public administration, education and health	41.6	49.3	40.6	51.4	37.3	39.8	25.7
R-U: other services	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
G-Q: total services	93.6	84.7	85	83.5	76.8	73.2	77.8
<i>Persons aged 16+ in employment (000s)</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>12.6</i>

Note: ! indicates sample size too small for a percentage to be calculated

Source: Annual Population Survey

Table 13 presents the changing occupational profile of workers from minority ethnic groups over the period 2004–2010, using the SOC 2010 occupational classification. Even though there were large fluctuations from year to year and substantial problems in rounding percentages due to small sample size, some fairly clear patterns emerge. The largest occupational categories are professional and administrative and secretarial occupations, with a consistently high percentage in caring, leisure and other occupations,

skilled trades and process, plant and machine operative occupations. It is striking that the percentage working as managers, directors or senior officials is much lower than the 2001 Census indicated.

Table 13: Percentage of people from minority ethnic groups aged 16 or over in employment working in each occupation

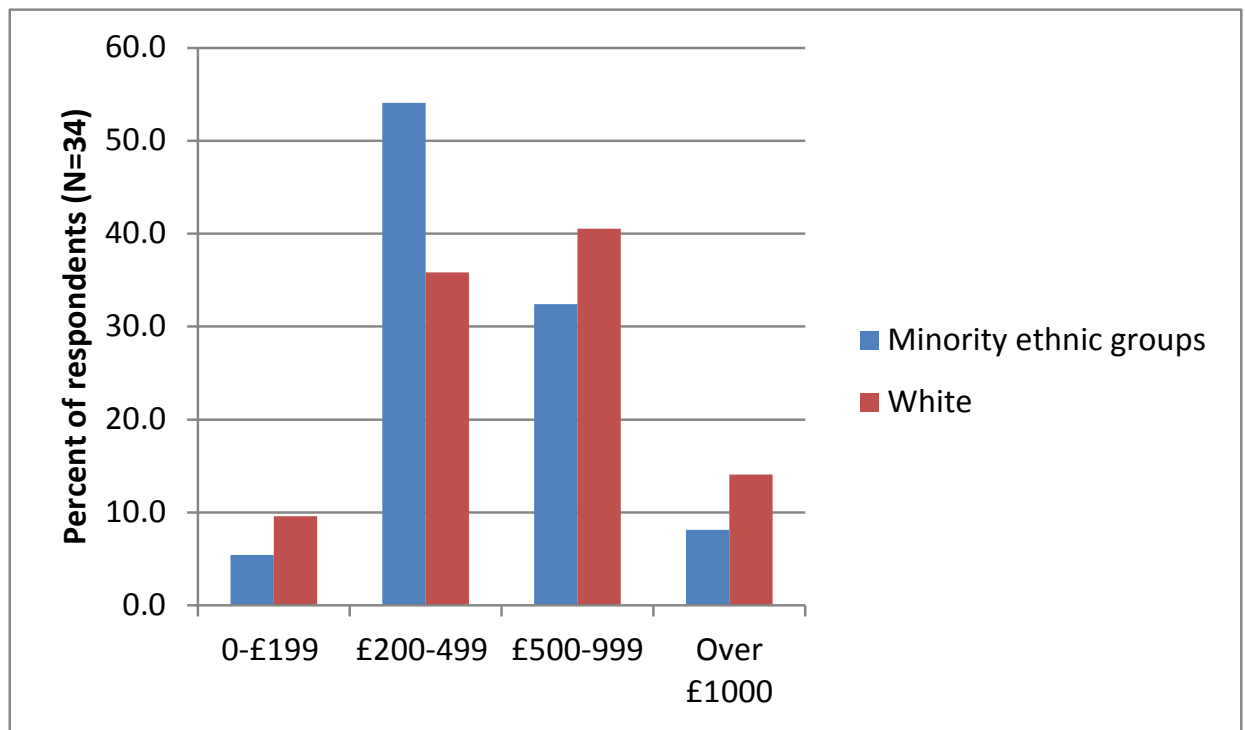
SOC 2010 major group	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Managers, directors and senior officials	17.9	!	!	!	5.4	5.0	7.3
Professional occupations	50.9	32.1	25.5	38.1	32.8	27.6	25.8
Associate professional and technical occupations	!	8.8	!	!	!	!	7.1
Administrative and secretarial occupations	50.2	27.6	20.1	23	10.4	10.1	7.8
Skilled trades occupations	!	10.8	23.3	14.1	17.1	14.4	20.6
Caring, leisure and other occupations	!	18.8	8.5	12.8	4.3	7.9	10.0
Sales and consumer service occupations	!	!	!	!	8.2	!	6.9
Process, plant and machine operatives	!	9.8	10.3	9.3	15.7	27.4	17.9
Elementary occupations	!	!	18.9	7.7	9.0	7.1	!
<i>Persons aged 16+ in employment (000s)</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>12.6</i>

Note: ! indicates sample size too small for a percentage to be calculated

Source: Annual Population Survey

The pattern presented here suggests that as the South Asian population declined, the occupational profile of minority ethnic groups shifted towards lower status occupations and hence lower incomes. This might also have resulted from a shift of employment from public sector services towards the private sector and manufacturing industry. Some confirmation of this trend is provided by the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey for 2010. This showed that the percentage of black and minority ethnic people with household incomes greater than £500 per week was somewhat lower than that for white people, while the percentage with household incomes of less than £200 per week was also slightly higher than for white people (see Figure 7). However, this result is based on a very small sample – only 34 people from minority ethnic groups who were willing to answer the household income question.

Figure 7: Weekly household income of white and minority people, 2010



Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, 2010

Housing

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive Equality Unit (2012) produces a regular update on the housing circumstances of 'Black and Minority Ethnic [people] and Migrant Workers', drawing upon a range of statistical sources and returns of applications for social housing. The profile of social rented tenants revealed that 779 migrant worker households were tenants on 31 July 2011, an increase of 19 per cent over the previous year. The largest nationalities within this total were Polish (258), Portuguese (134), Lithuanian (130) and Latvian (98) households. Most migrant workers applying for social housing had been living in Northern Ireland for some time and planned to continue to live in the province. The number of applications had steadily increased, from 998 in 2006/7, to 1,055 during 2007/8, 1,225 during 2008/9, 1,368 during 2009/10 and 1,870 during 2010/11. Over the year August 2010 to July 2011, 795 migrant workers applied as homeless, an increase of over 50 per cent on the previous year. Out of this total, 269 were Polish, 132 Lithuanian, 83 Portuguese and 71 Latvian nationals.

Table 14: Housing of Black and Minority Ethnic households in social housing, 2009–2011

Ethnic group	Applicants housed in social housing			Applicants on the waiting list for social housing		
	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	31/3/2009	31/3/2010	31/2/2011
Black and Minority Ethnic	112	160	156	749	766	873
Traveller	38	51	30	142	132	127
White	7,470	8,456	7,520	34,836	34,567	36,565
Undisclosed	508	507	356	3,185	2,522	2,301
Total	8,128	9,174	8,062	38,912	37,987	39,866

Source: NI Housing Executive (2012)

The number of people from minority ethnic groups who are social renters remains small. The 2006 Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey found that 0.8 per cent of tenants in Northern Ireland were from Black and Minority ethnic groups (0.4 per cent Chinese and 0.3 per cent from other ethnic groups). In the 2010 survey, the minority share of all tenancies had fallen to 0.6 per cent. However, there were increases in the number of households from Black and Minority Ethnic groups housed in social housing and on the waiting list for social housing during the period from 2009 to 2011, possibly indicating the detrimental effect of the current recession upon their employment (see Table 14).

Education

One of the most comprehensive sources of data classified by ethnicity is the annual Schools Census. Schools Census data can give an indication of the growth of the minority population, its ethnic composition and the relative poverty of parts of the minority ethnic group population. The Schools Census provides reports on the characteristics of school pupils by ethnic group, which also distinguish whether a child is eligible for free school meals (FSM) and whether they are defined as a 'newcomer'.

Eligibility for FSM is an indicator of household poverty, because children are entitled to receive FSM if their parents are claiming state benefits, receive Child Tax Credit, are on a low income or are an asylum seeker supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS). It also applies to children who have Special Educational Needs or who board at a special school.

A 'newcomer' pupil is a pupil who does not have satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum and does not have a language in common with the teacher. Children of migrant households with origins outside the UK and Ireland may thus be defined as newcomers. It is possible for a pupil to be both classified as from a minority ethnic group and defined as a newcomer. However, statistical reports generally do not give a breakdown of minority ethnic group by newcomer status and eligibility for FSM, because small numbers are involved (especially if the data is broken down by geographical area) and hence there is a risk of disclosing information about identifiable individuals. This is particularly relevant if the ethnicity and newcomer definitions are cross-tabulated.

Table 15: Summary of characteristics of white, minority ethnic and newcomer pupils, 2011/12

Category	Type of school	
	Primary	Post-Primary
% pupils from minority ethnic groups	3.5	2.2
% of pupils who are newcomers	3.4	1.7
% of white pupils entitled to FSM	26.9	18.5
% of minority pupils entitled to FSM	26.9	17.3
% of newcomer pupils entitled to FSM	17.5	8.2
Pupils from minority ethnic groups	5,850	3,236
Newcomer pupils	5,632	2,482

Source: Annual Schools Census

Table 15 presents a summary of the pattern. In 2011/12, minority ethnic groups represented 3.5 per cent of the primary school and 2.2 per cent of the post-primary school population. Both percentages are higher than the minority share of the general population, reflecting recent migration and higher birth rates in the minority ethnic group population. The much higher share of newcomer (migrant) children in primary than post-primary schools might also suggest that birth rates in the minority ethnic group population increased in the early years of this century.

Table 16: Summary of characteristics of minority ethnic and newcomer pupils, 2011/12

Ethnic group	Total	% of all pupils	% of pupils newcomers	% of pupils on FSM	% of newcomer pupils on FSM
White	302,473	97.1	1.7	22.9	13.7
Irish Traveller	861	0.3	0.0	76.7	-
Roma	84	0.0	92.9	14.3	-
Chinese/Hong Kong	1,051	0.3	42.3	10.2	13.7
Indian/Sri Lankan	1,135	0.4	49.0	2.5	1.4
Pakistani	278	0.1	34.9	16.2	22.7
Bangladeshi	632	0.2	14.7	25.8	16.1
Black Caribbean	54	0.0	40.7	13.0	-
Black African	468	0.2	31.4	28.0	34.0
Black other	315	0.1	57.5	26.7	23.8
Korean	21	0.0	61.9	0.0	0.0
Mixed parentage	2,227	0.7	15.3	26.9	27.9
Other ethnic group	1,960	0.6	47.3	15.3	18.3
Total	311,559	100.0	2.6	22.9	14.6

Source: Annual Schools Census

More than a quarter of white pupils in primary schools and just under a fifth in post-primary schools are eligible for FSM. The corresponding percentages for pupils from minority ethnic groups are very similar. However, newcomers in both primary and post-primary schools are much less likely to be eligible for FSM, indicating that migrant households are either more prosperous, less likely to be claiming state benefits or otherwise do not meet the criteria for FSM.

Table 16 examines these patterns in greater detail, listing all the ethnic groups reported in the Schools Census. This identifies three ethnic groups not recognised in other ethnic data collection exercises – Koreans and Roma (as well as the Sri Lankan/Indian category). Overall, 2.9 per cent of pupils in 2011/12 were from minority ethnic groups and 1.7 per cent were newcomers. The largest minority ethnic groups are the mixed parentage, Other, Indian/Sri Lankan and Chinese/Hong Kong ethnic groups. Pupils from the Roma, Korean, Black Other, Indian/Sri Lankan and Other ethnic groups are most likely to be newcomers. Over three-quarters of Irish Traveller pupils are on FSM, with pupils from the Black-African, mixed parentage, Black-Other and Bangladeshi ethnic groups being more likely than average to be eligible for FSM. Amongst newcomer pupils, those most likely to be eligible for FSM were from the Black-African, mixed parentage, Black-Other, Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups. White newcomers were less likely than average to be eligible for FSM.

The share of minority ethnic groups among all school pupils rose steadily, from 0.9 per cent in 2004/5 to 1.4 per cent in 2008/9 (see Table 17), doubling to 2.9 per cent in 2011/12. Table 17 presents the outcomes of school education for white and minority (including Irish Travellers) ethnic groups. The percentage of white pupils going on to higher education steadily rose, from 38 per cent in 2004/5 to 42.8 per cent in 2008/9. However, nearly half of pupils from minority ethnic groups went on to higher education in 2004/5. This percentage then fell to around 40 per cent in the next two years before rising again to 50 per cent in 2008/9. For minority ethnic group pupils, the percentage going on to further education and employment was highest in 2005/6 and 2006/7, afterwards declining. For white pupils, these percentages were more stable, but there was an increase in the number going into further education and a fall in the numbers going into employment in 2008/9 as the current recession started. The percentage of pupils becoming unemployed after leaving school was slightly higher for minority ethnic groups than for white pupils during this period, but this percentage was also rather volatile for pupils from minority ethnic groups.

**Table 17: Destinations of school leavers, 2004/5 to 2008/9
(percentages)**

Ethnic group and destination of pupil	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
<i>White</i>					
Higher education	38.0	37.4	38.4	39.8	42.8
Further education	27.5	28.1	27.5	29.5	32.5
Employment	10.1	11.3	12.1	10.2	6.7
Unemployment	4.4	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.1
Training	17.6	17.8	16.0	14.9	12.8
<i>Total (thousands)</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>25.2</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>22.9</i>
<i>Minority ethnic groups and Irish Travellers</i>					
Higher education	48.9	40.4	39.9	49.8	50.0
Further education	27.4	30.9	24.4	26.5	27.6
Employment	6.4	11.0	8.9	12.0	7.9
Unemployment	7.3	4.6	8.3	2.6	5.2
Training	10.0	8.5	12.5	7.1	5.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>330</i>
Percentage of all pupils who are Irish Travellers or from minority ethnic groups	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4

Source: Annual Schools Census – Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers

First information from the 2011 Census of Population

The first information on ethnicity and migration from the 2011 Census of Population was released in December 2012. This was part of the 'second release' of census data and only contained 'headline' information on each aspect of population and households, for local authority districts and health boards (equivalent small area data was to be published in January 2013). Detailed information from the census will be published from March 2013 onwards.

Table 18: Ethnic breakdown of Northern Ireland, 2011

Ethnic group	Number	Percentage
White	1,778,449	98.2
Irish Traveller	1,301	0.1
<i>Minority ethnic groups</i>	<i>31,113</i>	<i>1.7</i>
<i>Asian and Asian British</i>	<i>19,130</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Chinese	6,303	0.3
Indian	6,198	0.3
Pakistani	1,091	0.1
Bangladeshi	540	0.0
Other Asian	4,998	0.3
<i>Black and Black British</i>	<i>3,616</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Black Caribbean	372	0.0
Black African	2,345	0.1
Black other	899	0.0
<i>Mixed parentage</i>	<i>6,014</i>	<i>0.3</i>
<i>Other ethnic group</i>	<i>2,353</i>	<i>0.1</i>
All usual residents	1,810,863	100.0

Source: 2011 Census of Population (Table KS201NI)

The census revealed that the (usually resident) population of Northern Ireland had increased to 1.78 million in 2011 (see Table 18). Responses were received from 94 per

cent of households, which contained 92 per cent of the usually resident population. The census data was adjusted for this 'undercount' using responses to the Census Coverage Survey which was conducted soon after the census.

The minority ethnic group population in 2011 was 31.1 thousand, or 1.7 per cent of the population. The Asian and Asian British category was the largest of the four minority categories (mixed parentage, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Other ethnic groups). The 2011 Census moved the Chinese ethnic group from the Chinese and Other to the Asian and Asian British category, hence the increase in the relative size of the latter category. People of mixed parentage or multiple ethnic groups formed 0.3 per cent of the population (6 thousand) and Black or Black British people (mainly African) represented 0.2 per cent of the population.

The largest individual minority ethnic group was Indian people (6.3 thousand), followed by Chinese people (6.2 thousand), people of mixed parentage (6 thousand) and Other Asian people (5 thousand). Each of these four ethnic groups formed about 0.3 per cent of the population. People from Other ethnic groups (2.3 thousand), Black-African people (2.3 thousand) and Pakistani people (1.1 thousand) each represented around 0.1 per cent of the population.

Though the 2001 and 2011 censuses are not strictly comparable in detail (because of differences in definition of the population base and questions used), it is useful to compare the headline totals for ethnic group populations. This reveals a very rapid increase in the minority ethnic group population as a whole, which increased by over 18 thousand or 147.7 per cent between 2001 and 2011. The minority ethnic group population was 2.5 times larger in 2011 than 2001 and its share of the total population increased from 0.7 to 1.7 per cent over this period. The population of most minority ethnic groups doubled between 2001 and 2011. The Indian and Black-African populations quadrupled over this period while the Other Asian population grew from 200 to 5 thousand to become one of the largest minority ethnic groups. The Chinese and Black-Caribbean ethnic groups grew much more slowly than other minority ethnic groups.

This demonstrates that the APS was rather unsuccessful in measuring the ethnic composition of the population in the intervening years. The increase in the minority share of the population was dampened because the White population also grew by 107 thousand or 6.4 per cent, certainly bolstered by the growth of the White population of non-UK origin (though the 2011 Census ethnic group question for Northern Ireland does not recognise these groups). The Irish Traveller population fell from 1.7 to 1.3 thousand over this period.

Table 19: Religious breakdown of Northern Ireland, 2011

Religion	Persons	Percentage of all persons	Percentage of those stating a religion
<i>Catholic</i>	738,033	40.8	43.7
<i>Protestant</i>	752,555	41.6	44.6
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	345,101	19.1	20.4
Church of Ireland	248,821	13.7	14.7
Methodist Church in Ireland	54,253	3.0	3.2
Other Christian	104,380	5.8	6.2
<i>Other religions</i>	14,859	0.8	0.9
<i>No religion</i>	183,164	10.1	10.8
<i>Religion not stated</i>	122,252	6.8	-
<i>All usual residents</i>	1,810,863	100.0	1688611

Source: 2011 Census of Population (Table KS211NI)

The question on religious identity was again asked in 2011 (see Table 19). It revealed that 82.4 per cent of the population professed themselves to be Christian, with Protestants just outnumbering Catholics. As in the rest of the UK, a substantial minority had no religion or did not answer the question. A question was also asked about the religion a person was brought up in. This found that 48.4 per cent of the population had been raised as a Protestant, 45.1 per cent Catholic, 5.6 per cent with no religion and 0.9 per cent in a non-Christian religious tradition. There were nearly 15 thousand people (0.8 per cent of the population) with a non-Christian religion. This was around three times larger than 2011. The number of people raised in a non-Christian religion was about two thousand greater than the number stating that their religion was non-Christian.

Table 20: Nationality of passport, Northern Ireland, 2011

Nationality	Persons	Percent
United Kingdom	1,411,841	78.0
<i>UK passport</i>	<i>1,070,413</i>	<i>59.1</i>
<i>No passport</i>	<i>341,428</i>	<i>18.9</i>
Ireland	375,826	20.8
EU countries	39,527	2.2
Non-EU Europe	1,085	0.1
Africa	2,134	0.1
Middle East and Asia	9,189	0.5
North America and the Caribbean	5,989	0.3
Central America	120	0.0
South America	477	0.0
Antarctica and Oceania	2,280	0.1
All persons	1,810,863	100.0

Source: 2011 Census of Population (Table KS205NI)

The headline information from the question on country of birth (Key Statistics table KS204NI) reveals that 9,703 people (0.5 per cent) had been born in EU member countries prior to the 2004 expansion, 35,704 (2 per cent) had been born in countries joining the EU from 2004 onward and 36,046 people (2 per cent) had been born outside the EU27. This is an indication both of the growth of white minority ethnic groups and the increasing geographical diversity of international migration flows in the previous decade. More detailed information on the geographical origins of the population is the information on passports held, taken from Key Statistics table KS205NI (see Table 20). This shows that the Middle East and Asia was the most common non-European nationality group, representing 9.2 thousand people, or 0.5 per cent of the population. The second largest category (with 6 thousand people or 0.3 per cent of the population) was North America and the Caribbean.

Table 21: Main language used, Northern Ireland, 2011

Language	Persons aged 3 and over	% of population aged 3 and over
English	1,681,171	96.9
Polish	17,731	1.0
Lithuanian	6,250	0.4
Irish (Gaelic)	4,164	0.2
Portuguese	2,293	0.1
Slovak	2,257	0.1
Chinese	2,214	0.1
Tagalog/ Filipino	1,895	0.1
Latvian	1,273	0.1
Russian	1,191	0.1
Malayalam	1,174	0.1
Hungarian	1,008	0.1
Other	13,090	0.8
All people	1,735,711	100.0

Source: 2011 Census of Population (Table KS207NI)

A new question in the 2011 Census on the main language used by people aged 3 and over provides more information on the geographical origin of the population (Table 21). The largest minority language identified by this question is Polish, with 17.7 thousand (1 per cent of those aged 3 or more) people using this as their main language. The impact of migration from Eastern Europe is apparent, with Lithuanian the second largest language spoken. There were 2.2 thousand Portuguese speakers (including those from Portugal, Brazil and African former Portuguese colonies), while the presence of Chinese,

Tagalog/Filipino and Malayalam indicate the impact of South East Asian migration. Irish (Gaelic)-speakers comprised 4.2 thousand people, or 0.2 per cent of people aged 3 or more.

Conclusion

The overall message from the evidence presented here is that the evidence base for minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland is quite limited, resulting in considerable uncertainty over their relative socio-economic position. The most robust evidence is concerned with the total population and migration, while the available information on the ethnic composition of the population is much less certain. The minority ethnic group population remains small, but is growing quickly. The mixed parentage and Other ethnic groups are relatively large and appear to have grown fastest since 2001. The apparent decline of the South Asian population may be a consequence of deficiencies in the sample used by the Annual Population Survey.

The minority ethnic group population does not appear to be as economically disadvantaged as the equivalent population in Great Britain. Their occupational profile in 2001 was relatively favourable and census deprivation indicators did not reveal systematic disadvantage. Some ethnic groups (notably Indian and Chinese people and to some extent Pakistani people) are relatively well-off, but Black-African, Black-Other and Bangladeshi people tend to fare quite badly. In school education, pupils from minority ethnic groups as a whole fare better than white pupils.

The major gap in the data relates to the socio-economic circumstances of new migrant groups. Migrants from the A8 countries and those with refugee origins are not identifiable in the data sources analysed and hence there is little information on the relative socio-economic position of this section of the population, which has grown rapidly since 2001.

The first information from the 2011 Census of Population reveals that the minority ethnic group population more than doubled between 2001 and 2011. In addition, the white minority population (as revealed by the number of people with a first language other than English) also grew strongly, largely as a result of migration from Eastern Europe. The South Asian (mainly Indian) and South-East Asian populations also grew substantially. The South Asian population became larger in relative terms than the Chinese population. The census also confirmed the growth of the Portuguese-speaking and Filipino communities.

The census results indicate that the APS was yielding misleading information on the ethnic composition of the population. This suggests the need for a further boost to the survey, aimed at increasing the coverage of minority ethnic groups. This is necessary in order to have a more accurate source of information on the ethnic composition of the population between censuses.

Notes

1. This was actually slightly smaller than the estimate of 15 thousand in Hansson *et al.* (2002)
2. The total APS sample was typically 6.5 to 7.5 thousand per annum during this period. Out of this total, less than 100 individuals were from minority ethnic groups. The sample size for the APS was reduced markedly from 2009 onwards, and this had a disproportionate effect for minority ethnic groups.
3. Unfortunately, no further breakdown of the national composition of the 'Other' categories is available.

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