

Special Feature: Households

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This feature looks specifically at household level data for the period April – June 2008. Datasets specifically designed for analyses at the household level are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

- **NI had an average of 2.51 persons per private household compared to a UK average of 2.36 persons per household. London (2.52) was the regions with the highest number of persons per household.**

At April - June 2008 there were 696,000 private households in Northern Ireland (NI). There were 1,746,000 persons living in these households, giving an average of 2.51 persons per household. This compared with a UK average of 2.36 as a whole. Indeed, NI (2.51) and London (2.52) were the regions with the highest number of persons per household.

Figure 19 looks at household types according to the relationships between the persons living in them, for both NI and the UK. The most common type of household in NI consisted of a couple with children, which accounted for 33.1% of all households. The other two main household types were one person households (26.9%), followed by couples with no children (24.1%).

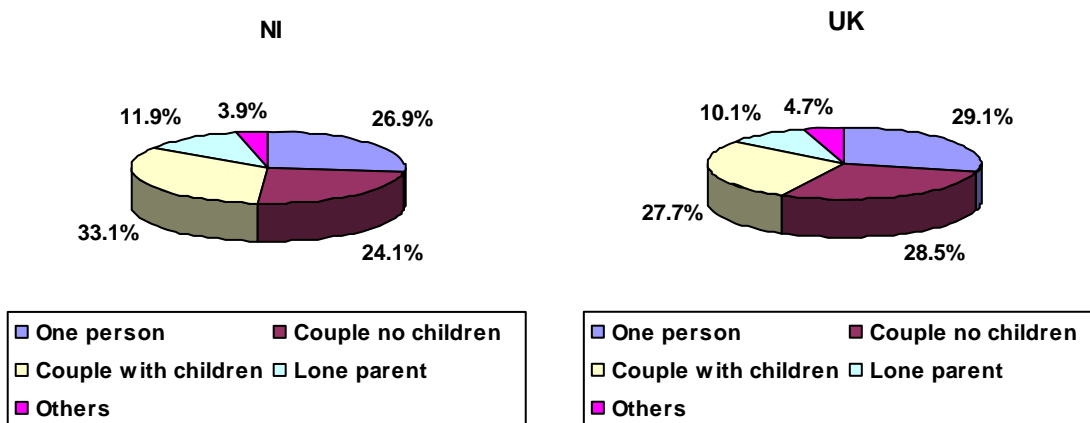
- **Couples with children accounted for the largest proportion (33.1%) of NI households, while one person households (29.1%) were the most common for the UK as a whole.**

The main difference between the distribution of household types in NI and the UK is the higher proportion of households in NI composed of couples with children than in the UK (33.1% compared with 27.7%). This is balanced by a lower proportion of households composed of couples with no children in NI (24.1% compared with 28.5% in the UK).

- **Proportionally there were more lone parent households in NI than in the UK (11.9% compared with 10.1%).**

There were an estimated 83,000 lone parent households in NI. NI has a higher proportion of lone parent households than the UK (11.9% compared with 10.1%).

Household Types, NI and UK, April - June 2008
Figure 19



“Others” comprise households with two or more people in all different family units, two or more family units and same sex couples.

Table 17 shows the proportions of working age households according to the economic activity of their members. (A working age household is defined as a household with at least one person of working age in it.)

- **50% of all NI working age households are classified as workrich households where all persons are in employment.**

The most common type of household in NI was one where all persons were employed (referred to as a workrich household), accounting for 50% of all working age households. Note these households may contain only one person who is employed, or several persons, all of whom are employed. There is an 8 percentage point difference between the proportion of workrich working age households in NI and the UK. In fact, NI has the lowest proportion of working age households of all UK regions in this category.

The other two main categories of households were those containing employed and economically inactive persons (30%) and those where all persons were economically inactive (15%). Both of these proportions were higher than the equivalent figures for the UK as a whole. A workless household is defined as a household where no one is in employment and comprises types 3, 5 and 6 from Table 18.

- **NI had the sixth highest proportion of working age workless households (17.4%) among the UK regions. This compared to 16.1% in the UK as a whole.**

In April - June 2008, there were 94,000 workless working age households, or 17.4% of all working age households in NI. This compared with 16.1% in the UK as a whole and was the sixth highest proportion among the UK regions.

Working age Households by Combined Economic Activity, April - June 2008

Table 17

Type of Economic Activity	NI	UK
1. All Employed	50%	58%
2. Employed and Economically Inactive	30%	22%
3. All Economically Inactive	15%	13%
4. Employed and Unemployed	2%	3%
5. All Unemployed	*	2%
6. Unemployed and Economically Inactive	*	1%
7. Employed, Unemployed and Econ. Inactive	2%	1%
All households (100%) ¹	539,000	18,050,000

¹ Excludes cases where the combined household economic activity is not known.

* Too small for a reliable estimate.

Note that the proportions in these household categories are affected by the number of persons in a household. Consequently the fact that NI has a larger average number of persons per household and a smaller proportion of one person households than the UK, means that there is more likely to be a combination of economic activity states within households than all persons of one activity state.