

#### Introduction:

This report presents information from the 2015 Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market characteristics of Protestants and Catholics across the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) in Northern Ireland.

Geographical analysis within the main Labour Force Survey Religion Report<sup>1</sup> relates to the five NUTS 3<sup>2</sup> regions of Northern Ireland: Belfast; Outer Belfast; East of NI; North of NI; and the West and South of NI.

Following the reform of local government in Northern Ireland<sup>3</sup>, the 11 new LGDs replaced the previous 26 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Figure 1 displays these 11 new LGDs. It is possible to provide data from the LFS on the labour market characteristics of Protestants and Catholics across these 11 LGDs.

Although they came into effect on 1 April 2015, elections to these LGDs were held in May 2014. The new LGDs therefore operated in shadow form during 2014-15.

Figure 1: Local Government Districts, 2015



This publication, presents estimates for 2015 on:

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

<sup>1</sup> Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2015: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2015>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on NUTS3, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/overview>

<sup>3</sup> For further information, see: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/local-councils>

# LFS RELIGION REPORT 2015 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

## Protestant working age population



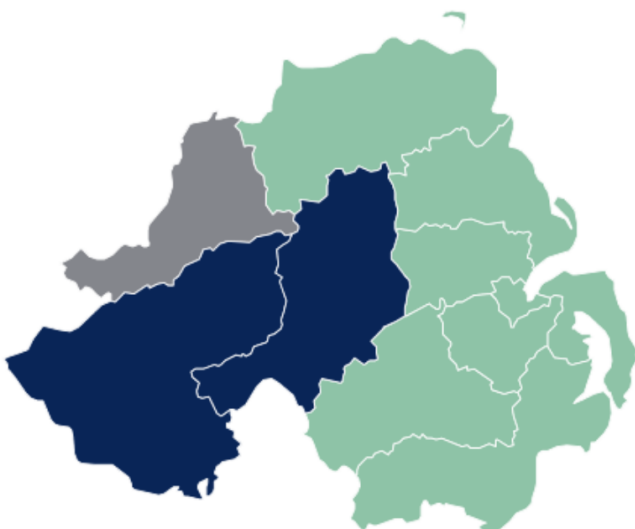
In 2015, the LGDs with the largest proportion of Protestants among the working age population were Mid and East Antrim (66%) Ards and North Down (66%).

## Catholic working age population



In 2015, the LGDs with the largest proportion of Catholics among the working age population were Derry and Strabane and Newry, Mourne and Down (69% and 70%, respectively).

## Protestant employment



The Protestant working age employment rate in 2015 was highest in Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster; 76% of working age Protestants were in employment in both LGDs. The lowest employment rate for working age Protestants was in Derry and Strabane (58%).

## Catholic employment



The Catholic working age employment rate was highest in Ards and North Down, at 86%, and lowest in the Causeway Coast & Glens LGD (57%) in 2015.

## Population aged 16+:

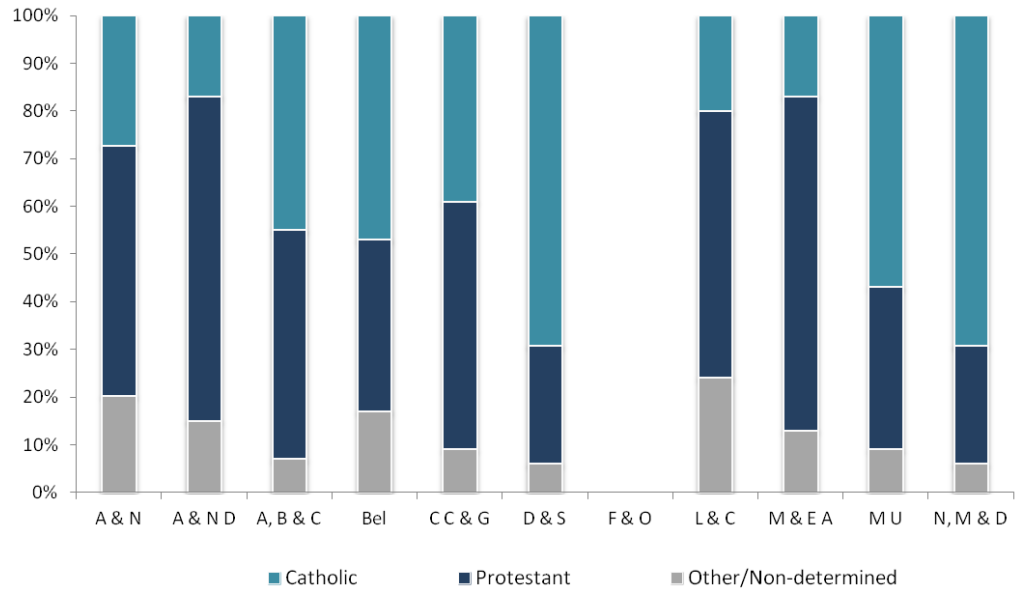
Figure 2 shows the composition of the population aged 16 and over in each of the LGDs for 2015.

The Mid and East Antrim (70%) and Ards and North Down (68%) districts had the largest proportion of Protestants among the 16 and over population. Three other LGDs recorded Protestant majorities in 2015; Antrim and Newtownabbey; Causeway Coast and Glens; and Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Catholics made up 70% of the population aged 16 and over in Derry and Strabane and Newry, Mourne and Down. The Mid Ulster (57%) LGD also had a majority Catholic population aged 16 and over.

In Lisburn and Castlereagh, almost a quarter of individuals (24%) were categorised as 'Other/Non-determined'; the highest across all LGDs. (See Table A.1)

Figure 2: Religious composition of the population aged 16+ by LGD, 2015



**Note: For Fermanagh & Omagh the number of individuals categorised as 'Other/Non-determined' did not meet the threshold for publication; as a result, figures have been suppressed.**

Local Government Districts Key:	
Derry & Strabane (D & S)	
Antrim & Newtownabbey (A & N)	Fermanagh & Omagh (F & O)
Ards and North Down (A & N D)	Lisburn & Castlereagh (L & C)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (A, B & C)	Mid & East Antrim (M & E A)
Belfast (Bel)	Mid Ulster (M U)
Causeway Coast & Glens (C C & G)	Newry, Mourne & Down (N, M & D)

## Working age population:

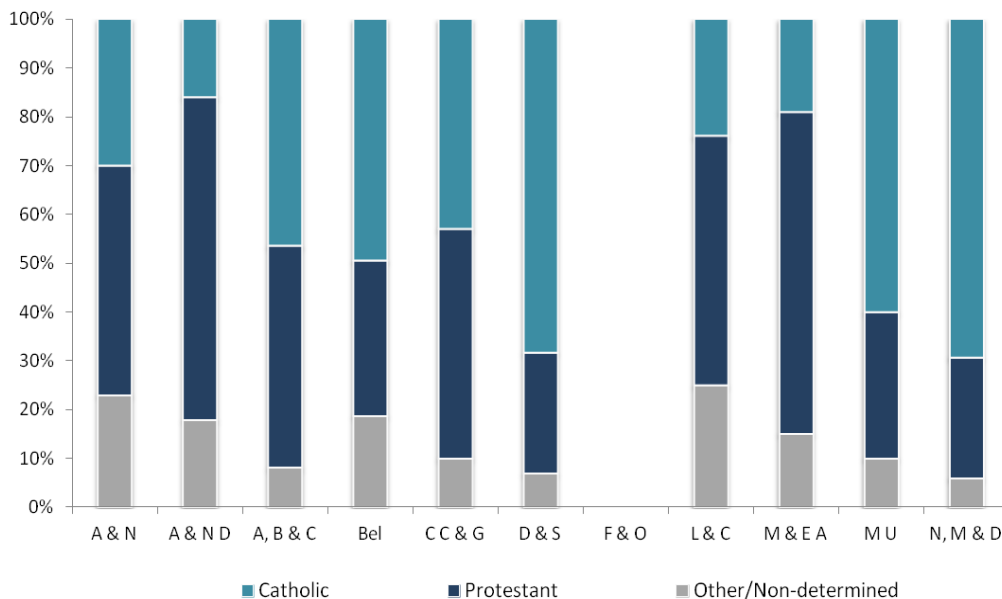
Figure 3 shows the religious composition of the working age population for each of the LGDs in 2015.

Similar to the 16+ population, working age Protestant majorities were most prominent in Mid and East Antrim and Ards and North Down (66% for both).

The most prominent working age Catholic majorities were in Derry and Strabane (69%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (70%), again similar to the 16+ population.

In Lisburn and Castlereagh, 25% of the population were categorised as 'Other/Non-determined', followed closely by Antrim and Newtownabbey (23%). (See Table A.2)

Figure 3: Religious composition of the working age population by LGD, 2015



**Note: For Fermanagh & Omagh the number of individuals categorised as 'Other/Non-determined' did not meet the threshold for publication; as a result, figures have been suppressed.**

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

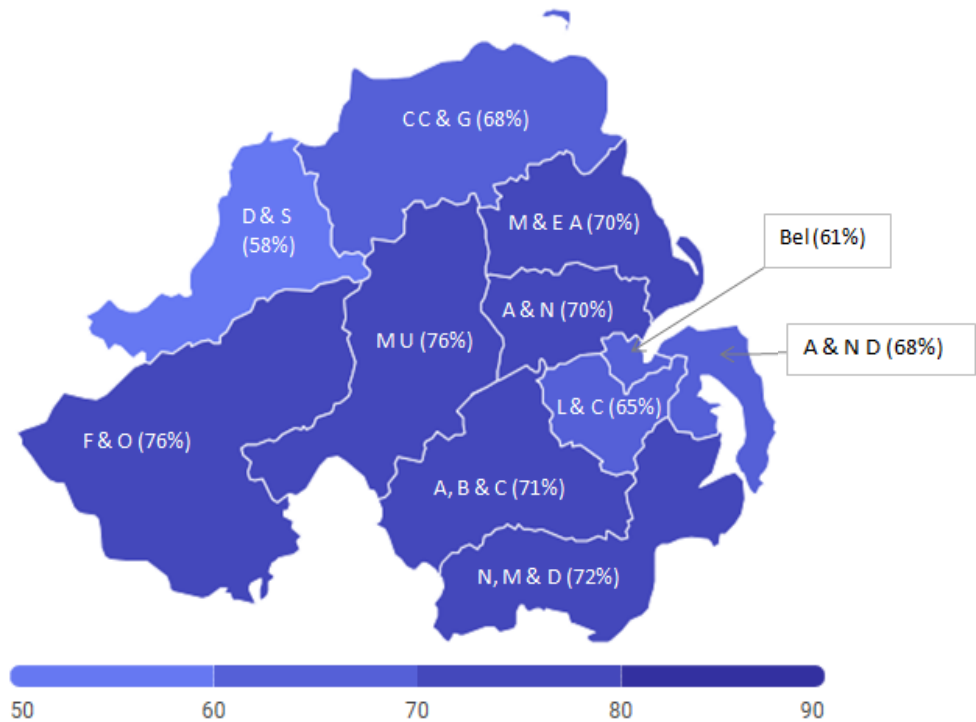
## Protestant working age employment rate by LGD:

Figure 4 shows the working age employment rates for Protestants across the LGDs in 2015.

The highest employment rates for Protestants were in Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster, where over three quarters of working age Protestants were employed.

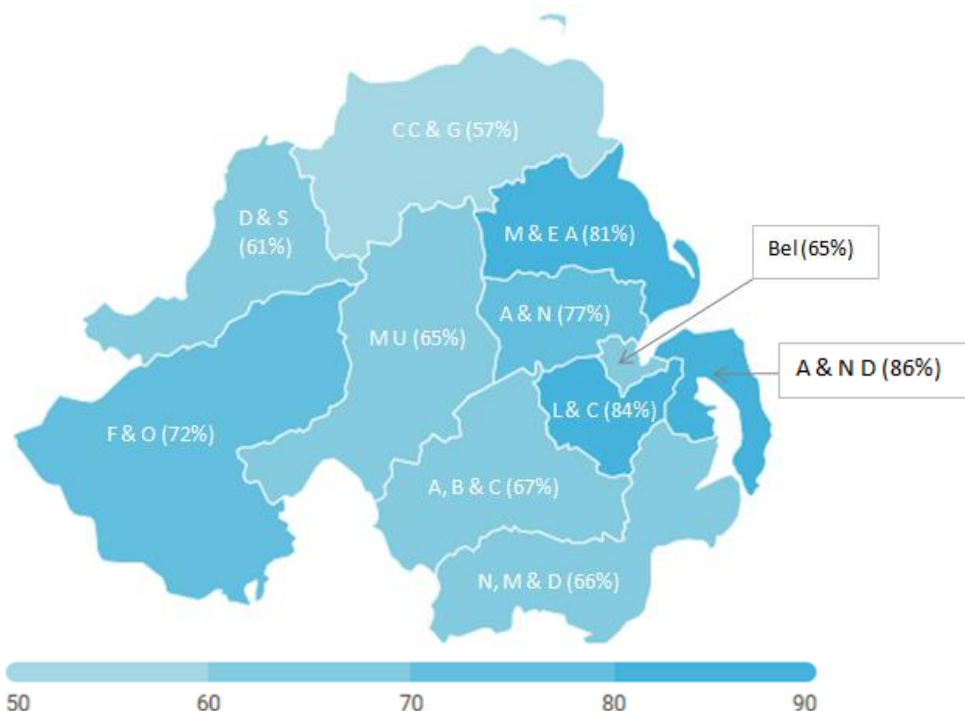
The lowest employment rates for working age Protestants were in Belfast (61%) and Derry and Strabane (58%). (See Table A.3)

Figure 4: Protestant working age employment rates by LGD, 2015



Local Government Districts Key:	
Antrim & Newtownabbey (A & N)	Derry & Strabane (D & S)
Ards and North Down (A & N D)	Fermanagh & Omagh (F & O)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (A, B & C)	Lisburn & Castlereagh (L & C)
Belfast (Bel)	Mid & East Antrim (M & E A)
Causeway Coast & Glens (C C & G)	Mid Ulster (M U)
	Newry, Mourne & Down (N, M & D)

Figure 5: Catholic working age employment rates by LGD, 2015



## Catholic working age employment rate by LGD:

Figure 5 shows the working age employment rates for Catholics across the LGDs in 2015.

The highest employment rates for Catholics were in Ards and North Down (86%), Lisburn and Castlereagh (84%) and Mid and East Antrim (81%).

The lowest employment rates for working age Catholics were in Causeway Coast and Glens (57%) and Derry and Strabane (61%).

(See Table A.3)

## Working age employment rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey:

Figure 6 shows the working age employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in the Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD in 2014 and 2015.

In 2014, the employment rate for working age Protestants was 65%, and this increased to 70% in 2015. For working age Catholics, the employment rate was 85% in 2014, and this decreased to 77% in 2015. Neither of these changes was statistically significant, however.

Working age Catholics had a **significantly** higher employment rate than their Protestant counterparts in 2014.

Figure 6: Working age employment rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey, 2014 and 2015

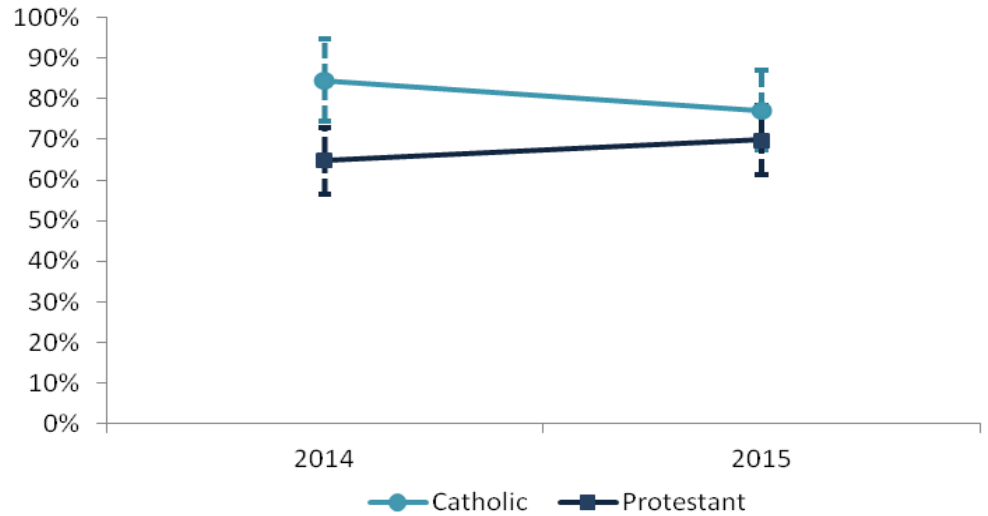


Table 1

Working age employment rates for Antrim and Newtownabbey, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	85%	65%
2015	77%	70%

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

Figure 7: Working age employment rates for Ards & North Down, 2014 and 2015

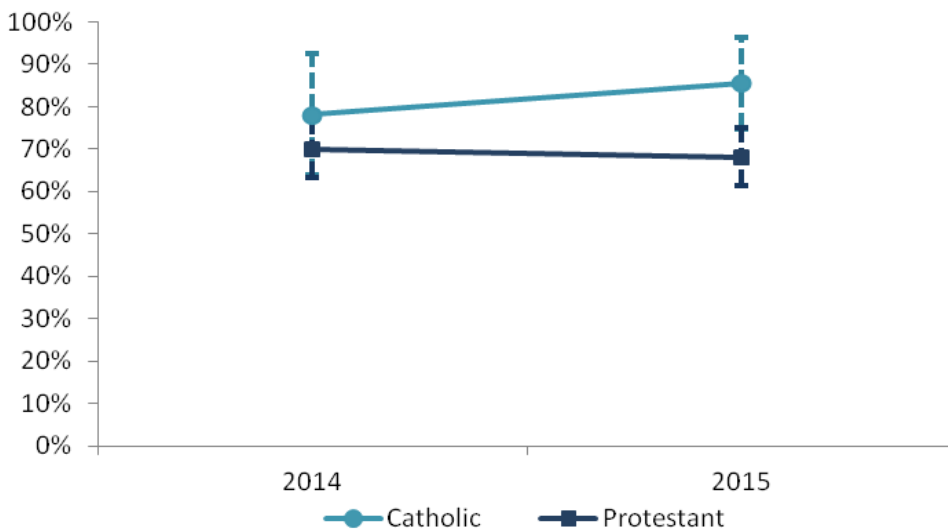


Table 2

Working age employment rates for Ards & North Down, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	78%	70%
2015	86%	68%

## Working age employment rates for Ards and North Down:

Figure 7 shows the working age employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in Ards and North Down for 2014 and 2015.

In 2014, 70% of working age Protestants were in employment, and this decreased to 68% in 2015. For working age Catholics, 78% were in employment in 2014, and this increased to 86% in 2015. Neither change was statistically significant, however.

In 2015, a **significantly** higher proportion of working age Catholics were in employment than Protestants.

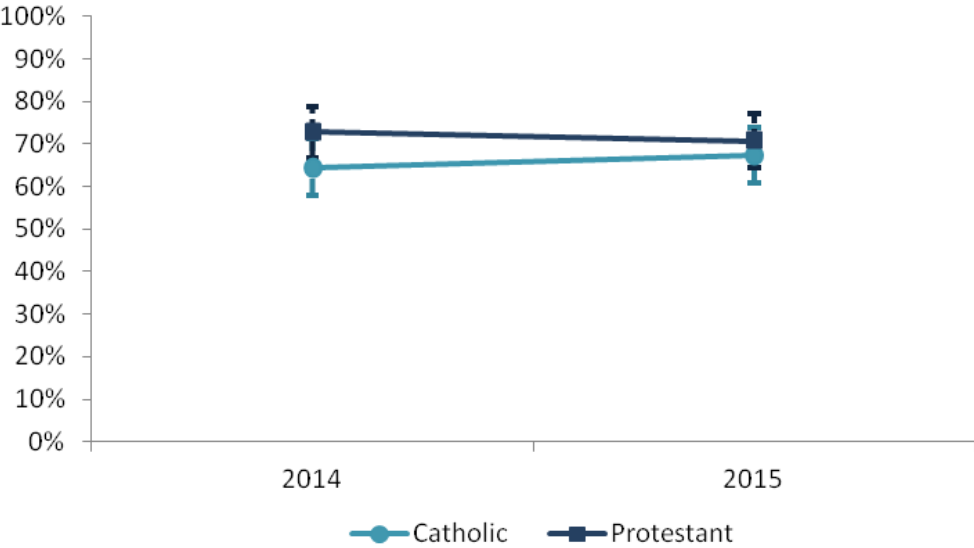
### Working age employment rates for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon:

Figure 8 shows the working age employment rates for Protestants and Catholics in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD in 2014 and 2015.

There was no statistically significant change in the Protestant employment rate between 2014 and 2015 (73% and 71%, respectively).

Likewise, there was no significant change in the employment rate for working age Catholics; 65% in 2014 and 67% in 2015.

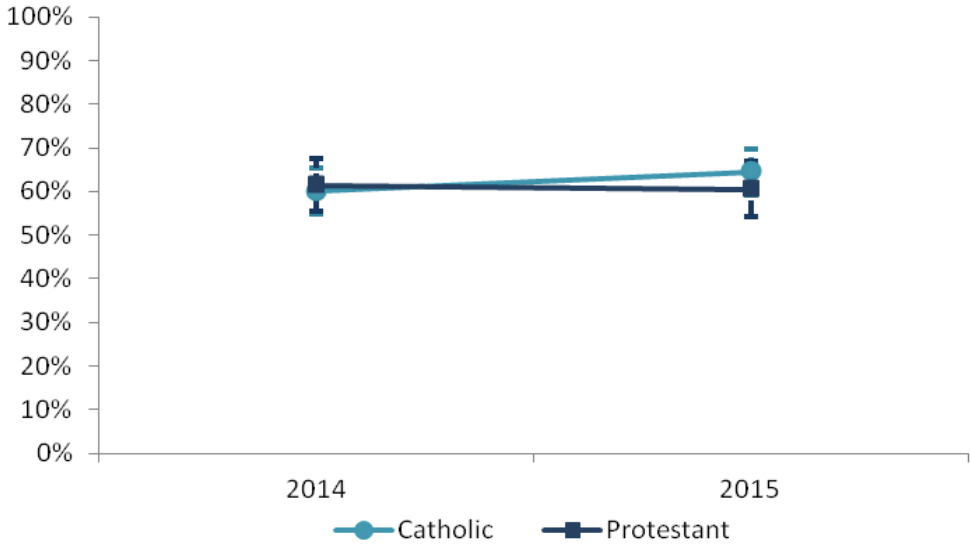
Figure 8: Working age employment rates for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2014 and 2015



**Table 3**  
Working age employment rates for Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	65%	73%
2015	67%	71%

Figure 9: Working age employment rates for Belfast, 2014 and 2015



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

### Working age employment rates for Belfast:

Figure 9 shows the working age employment rates for Protestants and Catholics in Belfast LGD for 2014 and 2015.

The employment rate for working age Protestants was 61% in both 2014 and 2015.

For Catholics, the working age employment rate increased from 60% in 2014 to 65% in 2015. However, this increase did not represent a statistically significant change.

**Table 4**  
Working age employment rates for Belfast, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	60%	61%
2015	65%	61%



## Working age employment rates for Causeway Coast and Glens:

Figure 10 shows the working age employment rates for Protestants and Catholics in the Causeway Coast and Glens LGD for 2014 and 2015.

The working age employment rate for Protestants remained at 68% for both years.

For Catholics, the working age employment rate decreased from 66% in 2014 to 57% in 2015. This change was not statistically significant.

Figure 10: Working age employment rates for Causeway Coast and Glens, 2014 and 2015

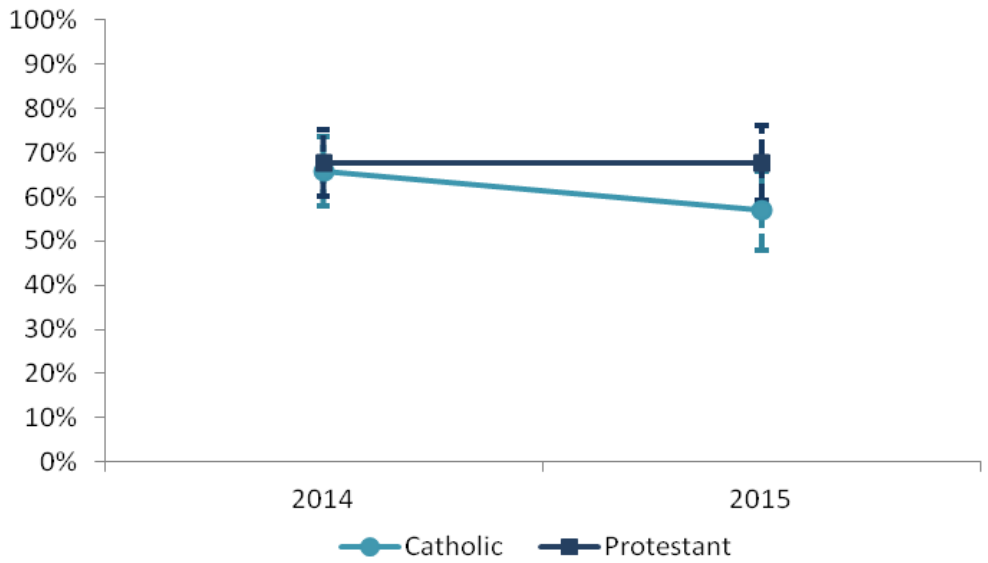


Table 5

Working age employment rates for Causeway Coast & Glens, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	66%	68%
2015	57%	68%

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

Figure 11: Working age employment rates for Derry and Strabane, 2014 and 2015

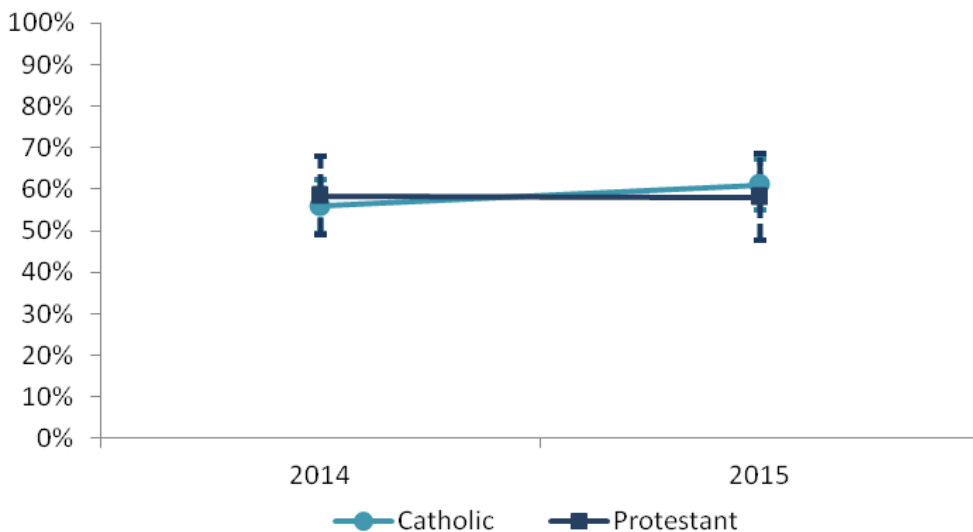


Table 6

Working age employment rates for Derry & Strabane, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	56%	58%
2015	61%	58%

## Working age employment rates for Derry and Strabane:

Figure 11 shows the working age employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in Derry and Strabane for 2014 and 2015.

The employment rate for working age Protestants in Derry and Strabane was 58% in both 2014 and 2015.

Fifty-six per cent of working age Catholics in Derry and Strabane were in employment in 2014 and this increased to 61% in 2015. This increase was not statistically significant.

## Working age employment rates for Fermanagh and Omagh:

Figure 12 shows the employment rate for working age Protestants and Catholics in Fermanagh and Omagh for 2014 and 2015.

Sixty-four per cent of working age Protestants in Fermanagh and Omagh were in employment in 2014. By 2015, this figure had increased to 76%.

Sixty-five per cent of working age Catholics in Fermanagh and Omagh were in employment in 2014. By 2015, this had increased to 72%.

Neither change was statistically significant, however.

Figure 12: Working age employment rates for Fermanagh and Omagh, 2014 and 2015

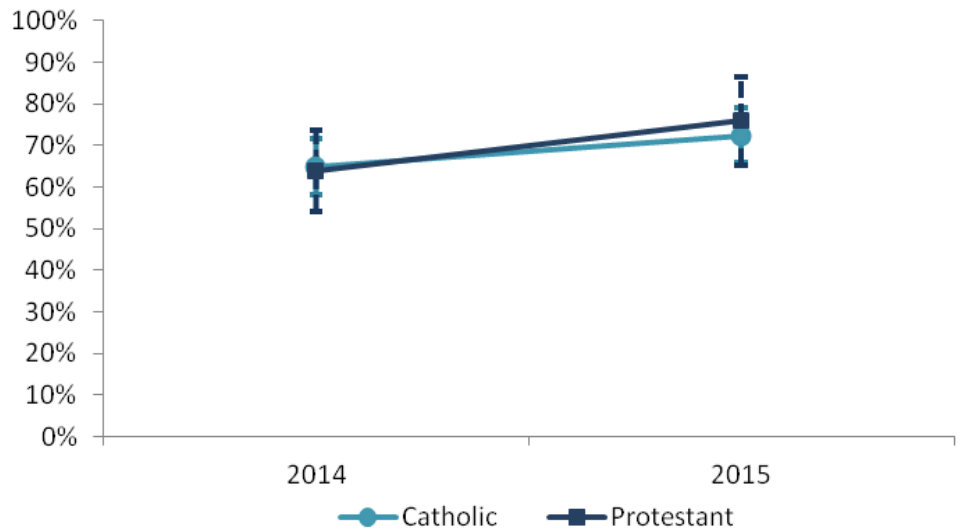


Table 7

Working age employment rates for Fermanagh & Omagh, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	65%	64%
2015	72%	76%

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

Figure 13: Working age employment rates for Lisburn and Castlereagh, 2014 and 2015

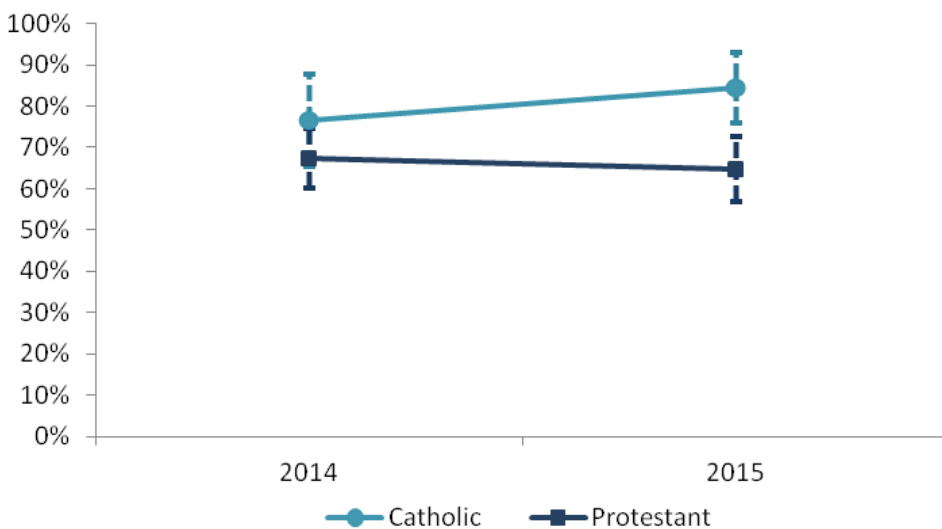


Table 8

Working age employment rates for Lisburn & Castlereagh, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	77%	67%
2015	84%	65%

## Working age employment rates for Lisburn and Castlereagh:

Figure 13 shows the working age employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2014 and 2015.

In 2014, the employment rate for working age Protestants was 67%, and this decreased to 65% in 2015. For working age Catholics, 77% were in employment in 2014, and this rate increased to 84% in 2015. Neither change was statistically significant, however.

In 2015, working age Catholics had a **significantly** higher employment rate than Protestants.



## Working age employment rates for Mid and East Antrim:

Figure 14 shows the employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in Mid and East Antrim for 2014 and 2015.

In 2014, the employment rate for working age Protestants was 66%, and this increased to 70% in 2015.

Seventy-two per cent of working age Catholics were in employment in Mid and East Antrim in 2014. This proportion increased to 81% in 2015.

Neither change was statistically significant.

Figure 14: Working age employment rates for Mid and East Antrim, 2014 and 2015

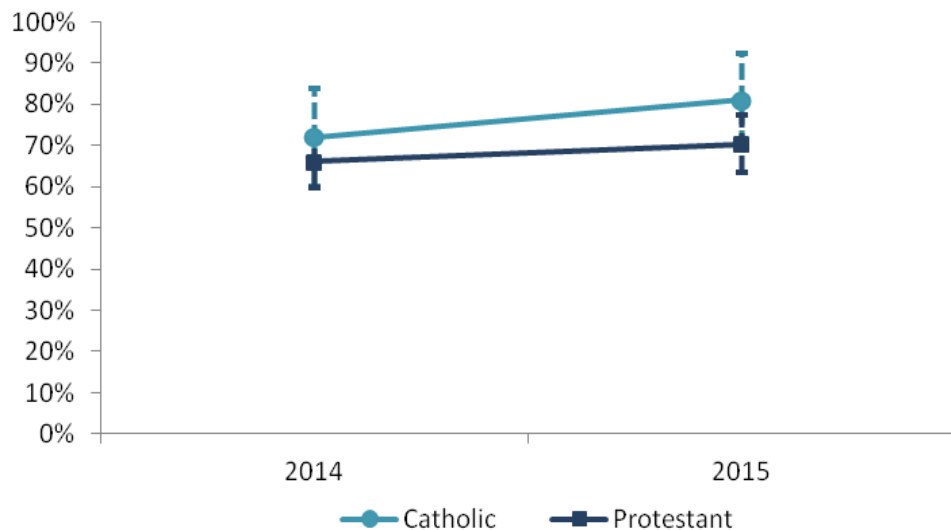


Table 9 Working age employment rates for Mid & East Antrim, 2014 & 2015		
Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	72%	66%
2015	81%	70%

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

Figure 15: Working age employment rates for Mid Ulster, 2014 and 2015

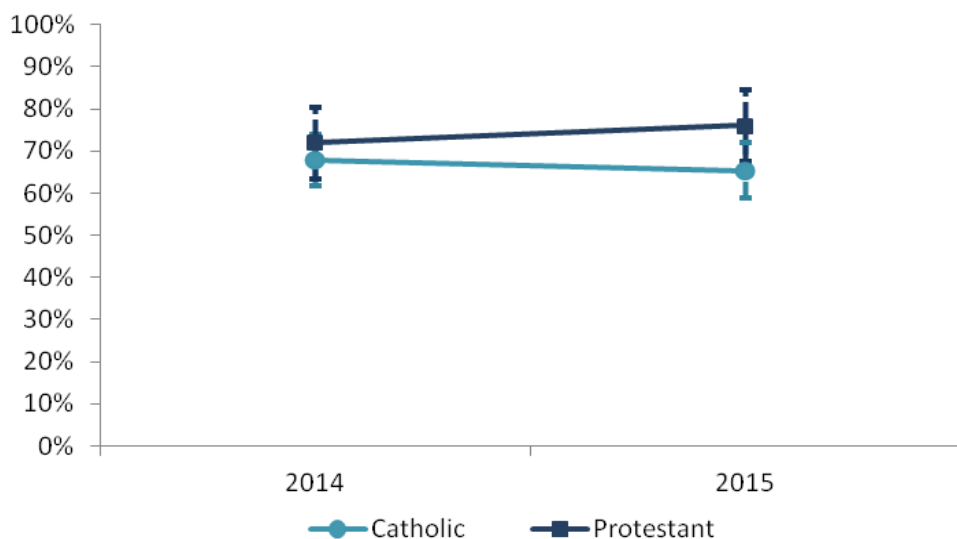


Table 10 Working age employment rates for Mid Ulster, 2014 & 2015		
Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	68%	72%
2015	65%	76%

## Working age employment rates for Mid Ulster:

Figure 15 shows the working age employment rate for Protestants and Catholics in Mid Ulster for 2014 and 2015.

The working age employment rate for Protestants in Mid Ulster for 2014 was 72%; this increased by four percentage points to 76% in 2015.

Working age Catholics in Mid Ulster had an employment rate of 68% in 2014, and this decreased to 65% in 2015.

Neither change in employment rate was statistically significant, however.

### Working age employment rates for Newry, Mourne and Down:

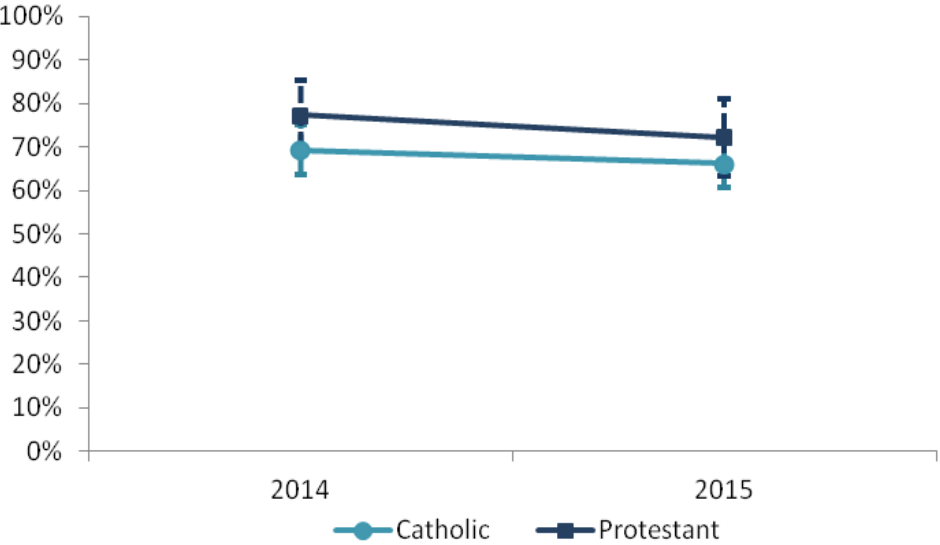
Figure 16 shows the working age employment rates for Catholics and Protestants in Newry, Mourne and Down for 2014 and 2015.

Protestants of working age in 2014 had an employment rate of 77%. This decreased to 72% in 2015.

Sixty-nine per cent of working age Catholics in Newry, Mourne and Down were in employment in 2014. In 2015, this decreased to 66%.

However, neither change was statistically significant.

Figure 16: Working age employment rates for Newry, Mourne and Down, 2014 and 2015



**Table 11**  
Working age employment rates for Newry, Mourne & Down, 2014 & 2015

Year	Catholic	Protestant
2014	69%	77%
2015	66%	72%

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

## Definitions

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

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

Catholic	Presbyterian	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other Protestant
Other Religion	No Denomination	Under 16	Unwilling to answer	

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

## Sampling:

**Sample size:** Suppression criteria for the LFS recommends that only figures based on a grossed estimate of 6,000 or more in the annual dataset are deemed sufficiently reliable for release. Consequently, this report presents data on the religious composition of the 16+ and working age populations, and the working age employment rate for Catholics and Protestants only.

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

## Results:

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

## Further Information:

For further information please refer to Appendix A – Technical Notes in the main Labour Force Survey Religion Report, 2015 - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2015>.

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