

Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government District: 2017/18 to 2021/22



This statistical fact sheet presents a range of analysis regarding enrolments and students in the Northern Ireland Further Education Sector covering academic years 2017/18 to 2021/22.

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Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government District: 2017/18 to 2021/22

The analysis covers all enrolments, regulated enrolments, Higher Education enrolments as well as qualifications and performance (retention, achievement and success rates) in the FE Sector by Local Government District. There is also analysis regarding students, those enrolled on regulated and higher education courses and the qualifications they have achieved. This is the fifth edition of this fact sheet and it is released annually. As we want to engage with users of our statistics, we invite you to feedback your comments on this publication.

This fact sheet is designed to complement our main Further Education Sector Activity bulletin, which is available on the DfE web page:

[Further education sector activity in Northern Ireland: 2017/18 to 2021/22](#)

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Detailed Additional Tables covering the characteristics of those enrolling in FE Colleges and trends across a range of variables, including sex, age, mode of attendance, provision area, level of study, subject area, deprivation quintile and performance (retention, achievement and success rates) are available on the DfE web page:

[Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government District: 2017/18 to 2021/22](#)

Table 1: All enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District and FE College in 2021/22

Local Government District	FE College						Total
	Belfast Metropolitan	Northern Regional	North West Regional	South Eastern Regional	Southern Regional	South West	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2,418	3,449	37	690	65	62	6,721
Ards and North Down	1,544	106	21	6,960	58	50	8,739
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,151	69	36	1,439	13,317	661	16,673
Belfast	11,355	626	66	2,102	134	67	14,350
Causeway Coast and Glens	312	3,944	3,209	176	16	45	7,702
Derry City and Strabane	200	63	7,635	157	14	2,128	10,197
Fermanagh and Omagh	148	30	126	78	29	8,867	9,278
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,515	98	28	4,023	328	31	7,023
Mid and East Antrim	1,267	4,268	54	360	39	34	6,022
Mid Ulster	424	2,035	167	202	615	6,156	9,599
Newry, Mourne and Down	930	39	39	3,488	7,404	211	12,111
Unknown*	191	42	1,382	134	218	451	2,418
FE Sector Total	22,455	14,769	12,800	19,809	22,237	18,763	110,833

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments (75.8%, 1,833).

- In 2021/22, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD had the highest proportion of the 110,833 enrolments, accounting for 15.0% (16,673), and Mid and East Antrim the lowest, with 5.4% (6,022).
- In all eleven LGDs, over half of student enrolments were at one particular college. However, this ranged from Causeway Coast and Glens, where 51.2% of student enrolments were at Northern Regional College, to Fermanagh and Omagh, where 95.6% of student enrolments were at South West College.
- Over a third of enrolments from students residing in either Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD or Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD were at Belfast Metropolitan College (36.0% and 35.8% respectively).
- Notably, in North West Regional College, a relatively large number of enrolments did not have an associated postcode (1,382), accounted for mainly by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students (91.9%, 1,270).

Table 2: All enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	9,131	8,679	7,819	5,985	6,721
Ards and North Down	12,890	12,949	11,981	8,810	8,739
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	22,262	19,084	17,764	12,750	16,673
Belfast	18,369	17,145	15,918	12,892	14,350
Causeway Coast and Glens	10,450	10,270	8,938	6,623	7,702
Derry City and Strabane	13,797	14,705	12,659	8,994	10,197
Fermanagh and Omagh	11,725	11,666	10,567	7,335	9,278
Lisburn and Castlereagh	11,112	10,493	9,001	6,570	7,023
Mid and East Antrim	8,599	7,975	7,341	5,435	6,022
Mid Ulster	13,971	14,176	11,612	8,461	9,599
Newry, Mourne and Down	19,312	17,158	15,646	11,269	12,111
Unknown*	3,892	3,702	3,108	2,408	2,418
FE Sector Total	155,510	148,002	132,354	97,532	110,833

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 70.6% in 2017/18 to 80.7% in 2018/19.)

- Following a decline of 57,978 (37.3%) between 2017/18 (155,510) and 2020/21 (97,532), including a 34,822 (26.3%) drop between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the number of FE College enrolments increased by 13,301 (13.6%) in 2021/22, to 110,833. Overall enrolments continued to be impacted by a longer-term decrease in part-time enrolments, the relatively low number of 16-19 year-olds and pandemic-related GCSE and GCE grading arrangements.
- Since 2017/18, enrolments have decreased in net terms in each of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Newry, Mourne and Down (37.3%), from 19,312 in 2017/18 to 12,111 in 2021/22, while the smallest has been in Belfast (21.9%), from 18,369 to 14,350.

Table 3: Regulated enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	7,813	7,085	6,647	5,496	5,916
Ards and North Down	11,407	10,624	10,017	8,131	7,661
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	18,841	15,639	14,550	11,315	13,006
Belfast	16,256	15,126	14,245	11,524	12,428
Causeway Coast and Glens	9,429	9,137	7,982	6,134	6,889
Derry City and Strabane	10,229	10,286	8,887	7,608	7,630
Fermanagh and Omagh	8,314	8,251	7,150	6,139	6,607
Lisburn and Castlereagh	9,538	8,700	7,745	6,046	6,198
Mid and East Antrim	7,454	6,721	6,421	5,113	5,240
Mid Ulster	10,760	10,363	9,267	7,686	7,963
Newry, Mourne and Down	15,577	13,030	12,289	9,986	9,753
Unknown*	3,436	3,198	2,560	2,190	2,112
FE Sector Total	129,054	118,160	107,760	87,368	91,403

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 70.2% in 2017/18 to 82.3% in 2018/19.)

- Regulated enrolments at FE Colleges decreased by a net 29.2% between 2017/18 (129,054) and 2021/22 (91,403).
- Since 2017/18, regulated enrolments have decreased in net terms in each of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Newry, Mourne and Down (37.4%), from 15,577 in 2017/18 to 9,753 in 2021/22.
- The smallest net percentage decrease has been in Fermanagh and Omagh (20.5%), from 8,314 in 2017/18 to 6,607 in 2021/22.

Table 4: Higher Education enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	658	623	609	521	599
Ards and North Down	734	752	777	788	800
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,849	1,412	1,350	1,303	1,377
Belfast	1,417	1,333	1,319	1,250	1,205
Causeway Coast and Glens	699	598	595	594	564
Derry City and Strabane	1,115	963	841	988	887
Fermanagh and Omagh	966	1,026	913	845	786
Lisburn and Castlereagh	726	654	691	700	672
Mid and East Antrim	583	590	603	554	557
Mid Ulster	1,075	1,124	1,033	969	928
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,615	1,296	1,301	1,238	1,135
Unknown*	411	333	291	284	272
FE Sector Total	11,848	10,704	10,323	10,034	9,782

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 69.0% in 2020/21 to 82.9% in 2018/19.)

- Higher Education enrolments at FE Colleges decreased by 17.4% between 2017/18 (11,848) and 2021/22 (9,782).
- Since 2017/18, Higher Education enrolments have decreased in net terms in ten of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Newry, Mourne and Down (29.7%), from 1,615 in 2017/18 to 1,135 in 2021/22.
- The sole net percentage increase has been in Ards and North Down (9.0%), from 734 in 2017/18 to 800 in 2021/22.

Table 5: Number of qualifications achieved in the FE Sector by Local Government District and FE College in 2021/22

Local Government District	FE College						Total
	Belfast Metropolitan	Northern Regional	North West Regional	South Eastern Regional	Southern Regional	South West	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,489	1,567	9	376	41	24	3,506
Ards and North Down	945	40	6	3,823	29	15	4,858
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	616	40	16	714	6,039	219	7,644
Belfast	6,594	281	21	1,022	62	23	8,003
Causeway Coast and Glens	178	1,926	1,761	78	8	20	3,971
Derry City and Strabane	96	34	3,288	53	6	525	4,002
Fermanagh and Omagh	69	23	55	45	14	3,070	3,276
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,440	44	7	2,242	164	16	3,913
Mid and East Antrim	760	1,942	26	183	23	11	2,945
Mid Ulster	230	879	96	102	225	2,535	4,067
Newry, Mourne and Down	507	21	21	1,774	3,485	21	5,829
Unknown*	93	21	704	60	117	220	1,215
FE Sector Total	13,017	6,818	6,010	10,472	10,213	6,699	53,229

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by qualifications gained by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students (75.0%, 911).

- In 2021/22, Belfast had the highest proportion of the 53,229 qualifications achieved, accounting for 15.0% (8,003), and Mid and East Antrim the lowest, with 5.5% (2,945).
- In nine of the eleven LGDs, over half of student qualifications achieved were at one particular college, with the largest concentration being in Fermanagh and Omagh, where 93.7% of qualifications were at South West College. However, in Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD, 44.7% of qualifications were at Northern Regional College.
- Many qualifications achieved by students residing in either Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD or Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD were undertaken at Belfast Metropolitan College (42.5% and 36.8% respectively).
- Notably, in North West Regional College, a relatively large number of qualifications awarded did not have an associated postcode (704), accounted for mainly by those gained by RoI domiciled students (90.6%, 638).

Table 6: Number of qualifications achieved in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4,794	4,268	3,886	3,358	3,506
Ards and North Down	8,195	7,479	6,980	5,643	4,858
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	12,723	10,322	9,268	7,104	7,644
Belfast	10,752	10,162	9,068	7,450	8,003
Causeway Coast and Glens	5,798	5,632	4,482	3,298	3,971
Derry City and Strabane	5,673	5,880	4,569	3,568	4,002
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,812	4,693	4,022	2,887	3,276
Lisburn and Castlereagh	6,549	6,043	5,301	4,058	3,913
Mid and East Antrim	4,480	3,780	3,628	3,053	2,945
Mid Ulster	6,512	5,845	5,033	3,970	4,067
Newry, Mourne and Down	10,408	8,526	7,911	6,395	5,829
Unknown*	2,074	1,949	1,511	1,215	1,215
FE Sector Total	82,770	74,579	65,659	51,999	53,229

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by qualifications gained by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 69.0% in 2017/18 to 80.7% in 2018/19.)

- The number of qualifications achieved at FE Colleges decreased by a net 35.7% between 2017/18 (82,770) and 2021/22 (53,229).
- Since 2017/18, the number of qualifications awarded has decreased in net terms in all eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Newry, Mourne and Down (44.0%), from 10,408 in 2017/18 to 5,829 in 2021/22.
- The smallest net percentage decrease has been in Belfast (25.6%), from 10,752 in 2017/18 to 8,003 in 2021/22.

Table 7: Performance rates of final year regulated enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District in 2021/22

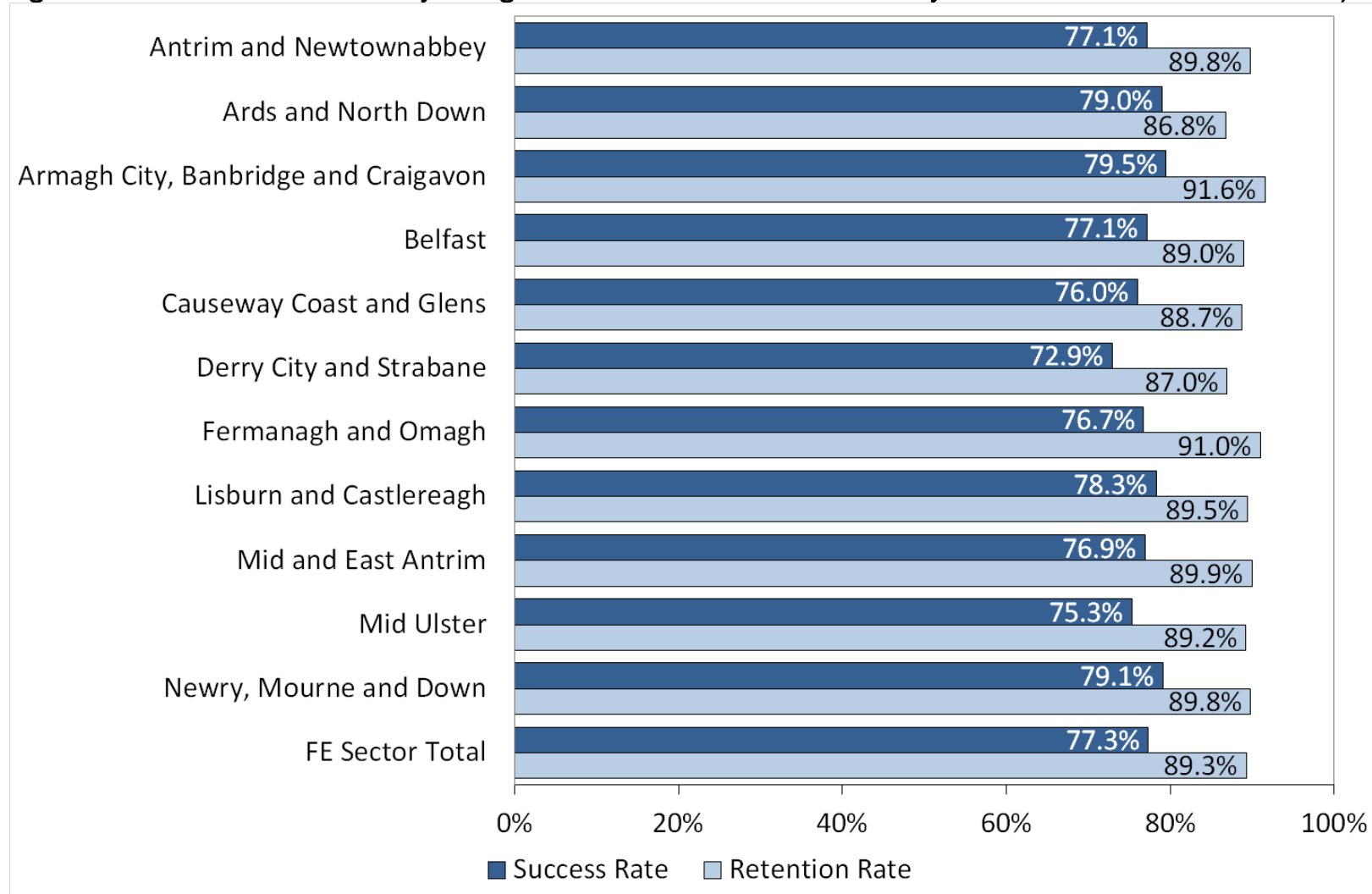
Local Government District	Final Year Enrolments	Final Year Completers	Retention Rate	Achievements	Achievement Rate	Success Rate
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4,545	4,082	89.8%	3,506	85.9%	77.1%
Ards and North Down	6,150	5,337	86.8%	4,858	91.0%	79.0%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	9,615	8,803	91.6%	7,644	86.8%	79.5%
Belfast	10,376	9,234	89.0%	8,003	86.7%	77.1%
Causeway Coast and Glens	5,226	4,638	88.7%	3,971	85.6%	76.0%
Derry City and Strabane	5,487	4,771	87.0%	4,002	83.9%	72.9%
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,270	3,886	91.0%	3,276	84.3%	76.7%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4,999	4,472	89.5%	3,913	87.5%	78.3%
Mid and East Antrim	3,828	3,443	89.9%	2,945	85.5%	76.9%
Mid Ulster	5,402	4,821	89.2%	4,067	84.4%	75.3%
Newry, Mourne and Down	7,369	6,617	89.8%	5,829	88.1%	79.1%
Unknown*	1,592	1,380	86.7%	1,215	88.0%	76.3%
Total	68,859	61,484	89.3%	53,229	86.6%	77.3%

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments [final year enrolments (76.6%), final year completers (75.7%) and qualifications achieved (75.0%)].

- The retention rate for the FE Sector was 89.3% in 2021/22, while those across the eleven LGDs ranged from 86.8% in Ards and North Down to 91.6% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- While the success rate for the FE Sector was 77.3% in 2021/22, the success rates across the eleven LGDs ranged from 72.9% in Derry City and Strabane to 79.5% in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- In 2021/22, both retention rates and success rates were relatively similar across the eleven LGDs. The retention rate range was 4.8 percentage points, while the success rate range was 6.6 percentage points.

Figure 1: Performance rates of final year regulated enrolments in the FE Sector by Local Government District in 2021/22



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 2% of final year enrolments/completers/achievements have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 7.

Table 8: All students enrolled in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4,697	4,693	4,179	3,389	3,702
Ards and North Down	5,419	5,406	5,274	4,568	4,783
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	9,660	9,145	8,422	7,193	7,958
Belfast	9,403	9,220	8,783	7,237	7,968
Causeway Coast and Glens	5,743	5,594	5,225	4,229	4,508
Derry City and Strabane	8,513	9,068	8,065	5,865	6,781
Fermanagh and Omagh	6,909	6,673	6,532	4,268	5,738
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4,746	4,738	4,257	3,469	3,791
Mid and East Antrim	4,596	4,467	4,110	3,351	3,396
Mid Ulster	7,422	7,506	6,491	4,633	5,132
Newry, Mourne and Down	8,455	8,002	7,559	6,146	6,447
Unknown*	2,351	2,158	1,950	1,623	1,492
FE Sector Total	77,914	76,670	70,847	55,971	61,696

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 71.2% in 2019/20 to 79.4% in 2018/19.)

- After falling by 21,943 (28.2%) between 2017/18 (77,914) and 2020/21 (55,971), most noticeably between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the number of students increased by 5,725 (10.2%) in 2021/22, to 61,696. Overall student numbers continued to be impacted by a longer-term decrease in part-time study, the relatively low number of 16-19 year-olds and pandemic-related GCSE and GCE grading arrangements.
- Since 2017/18, student numbers have decreased in net terms in each of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Mid Ulster (30.9%), from 7,422 in 2017/18 to 5,132 in 2021/22, while the smallest has been in Ards and North Down (11.7%), from 5,419 to 4,783.

Table 9: Students enrolled on regulated courses in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	3,881	3,710	3,459	3,150	3,231
Ards and North Down	4,822	4,682	4,611	4,238	4,212
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	8,004	7,650	7,205	6,610	6,861
Belfast	8,305	7,984	7,802	6,531	6,822
Causeway Coast and Glens	5,192	4,919	4,686	3,984	4,167
Derry City and Strabane	6,455	6,148	5,491	5,061	5,099
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,562	4,342	3,990	3,480	3,672
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4,199	4,090	3,763	3,204	3,356
Mid and East Antrim	3,897	3,669	3,494	3,183	3,009
Mid Ulster	5,663	5,472	4,930	4,278	4,249
Newry, Mourne and Down	6,880	6,514	6,141	5,600	5,483
Unknown*	2,066	1,877	1,613	1,489	1,322
FE Sector Total	63,926	61,057	57,185	50,808	51,483

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 71.7% in 2017/18 to 81.6% in 2018/19.)

- The number of students enrolled on regulated courses at FE Colleges has decreased by a net 19.5% between 2017/18 (63,926) and 2021/22 (51,483).
- Since 2017/18, student numbers on regulated courses have decreased in net terms in each of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Mid Ulster (25.0%), from 5,663 in 2017/18 to 4,249 in 2021/22.
- The smallest net percentage decrease has been in Ards and North Down (12.7%), from 4,822 in 2017/18 to 4,212 in 2021/22.

Table 10: Students enrolled on Higher Education courses in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	644	619	593	504	530
Ards and North Down	725	738	757	767	752
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,270	1,244	1,211	1,174	1,225
Belfast	1,387	1,297	1,279	1,203	1,129
Causeway Coast and Glens	678	592	579	567	540
Derry City and Strabane	1,050	917	819	956	855
Fermanagh and Omagh	888	853	846	801	724
Lisburn and Castlereagh	687	634	671	668	620
Mid and East Antrim	578	583	592	540	509
Mid Ulster	1,011	985	984	922	842
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,099	1,082	1,088	1,027	933
Unknown*	392	321	277	278	256
FE Sector Total	10,409	9,865	9,696	9,407	8,915

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 68.3% in 2020/21 to 83.3% in 2018/19.)

- The number of students enrolled on Higher Education courses at FE Colleges decreased by 14.4% between 2017/18 (10,409) and 2021/22 (8,915).
- Since 2017/18, student numbers on Higher Education courses have decreased in net terms in ten of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Causeway Coast and Glens (20.4%), from 678 in 2017/18 to 540 in 2021/22.
- The sole net percentage increase has been in Ards and North Down (3.7%), from 725 in 2017/18 to 752 in 2021/22.

Table 11: Students achieving regulated qualifications in the FE Sector by Local Government District (2017/18 to 2021/22)

Local Government District	Academic Year				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2,772	2,597	2,343	2,177	2,192
Ards and North Down	3,806	3,662	3,498	3,216	3,034
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	6,348	5,779	5,207	4,509	4,829
Belfast	6,411	6,135	5,574	4,740	5,017
Causeway Coast and Glens	3,704	3,501	2,999	2,412	2,745
Derry City and Strabane	4,266	4,142	3,403	2,804	3,040
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,048	2,906	2,680	2,016	2,178
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3,275	3,200	2,864	2,420	2,385
Mid and East Antrim	2,739	2,428	2,327	2,150	1,990
Mid Ulster	3,834	3,583	3,165	2,655	2,600
Newry, Mourne and Down	5,411	4,909	4,442	3,935	3,815
Unknown*	1,414	1,261	1,075	890	884
FE Sector Total	47,028	44,103	39,577	33,924	34,709

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by qualifications gained by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 69.8% in 2017/18 to 79.5% in 2018/19.)

- The number of students achieving regulated qualifications at FE Colleges has decreased by a net 26.2% between 2017/18 (47,028) and 2021/22 (34,709).
- Since 2017/18, student numbers achieving regulated qualifications has decreased in net terms in all eleven LGDs.
- The largest net percentage decrease has been in Mid Ulster (32.2%), from 3,834 in 2017/18 to 2,600 in 2021/22.
- The smallest net percentage decrease has been in Ards and North Down (20.3%), from 3,806 in 2017/18 to 3,034 in 2021/22.

Table 12: All students enrolled in the FE Sector and NI Population aged 16+ by Local Government District in 2021/22

Local Government District	Students	% of NI FE sector students	Population aged 16+	% of NI population (aged 16+)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	3,702	6.0%	116,635	7.7%
Ards and North Down	4,783	7.8%	134,189	8.8%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	7,958	12.9%	170,882	11.3%
Belfast	7,968	12.9%	279,071	18.4%
Causeway Coast and Glens	4,508	7.3%	114,114	7.5%
Derry City and Strabane	6,781	11.0%	118,917	7.8%
Fermanagh and Omagh	5,738	9.3%	92,151	6.1%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3,791	6.1%	119,114	7.9%
Mid and East Antrim	3,396	5.5%	113,206	7.5%
Mid Ulster	5,132	8.3%	115,942	7.6%
Newry, Mourne and Down	6,447	10.4%	142,187	9.4%
Unknown*	1,492	2.4%	0	n/a
Northern Ireland	61,696	100.0%	1,516,387	100.0%

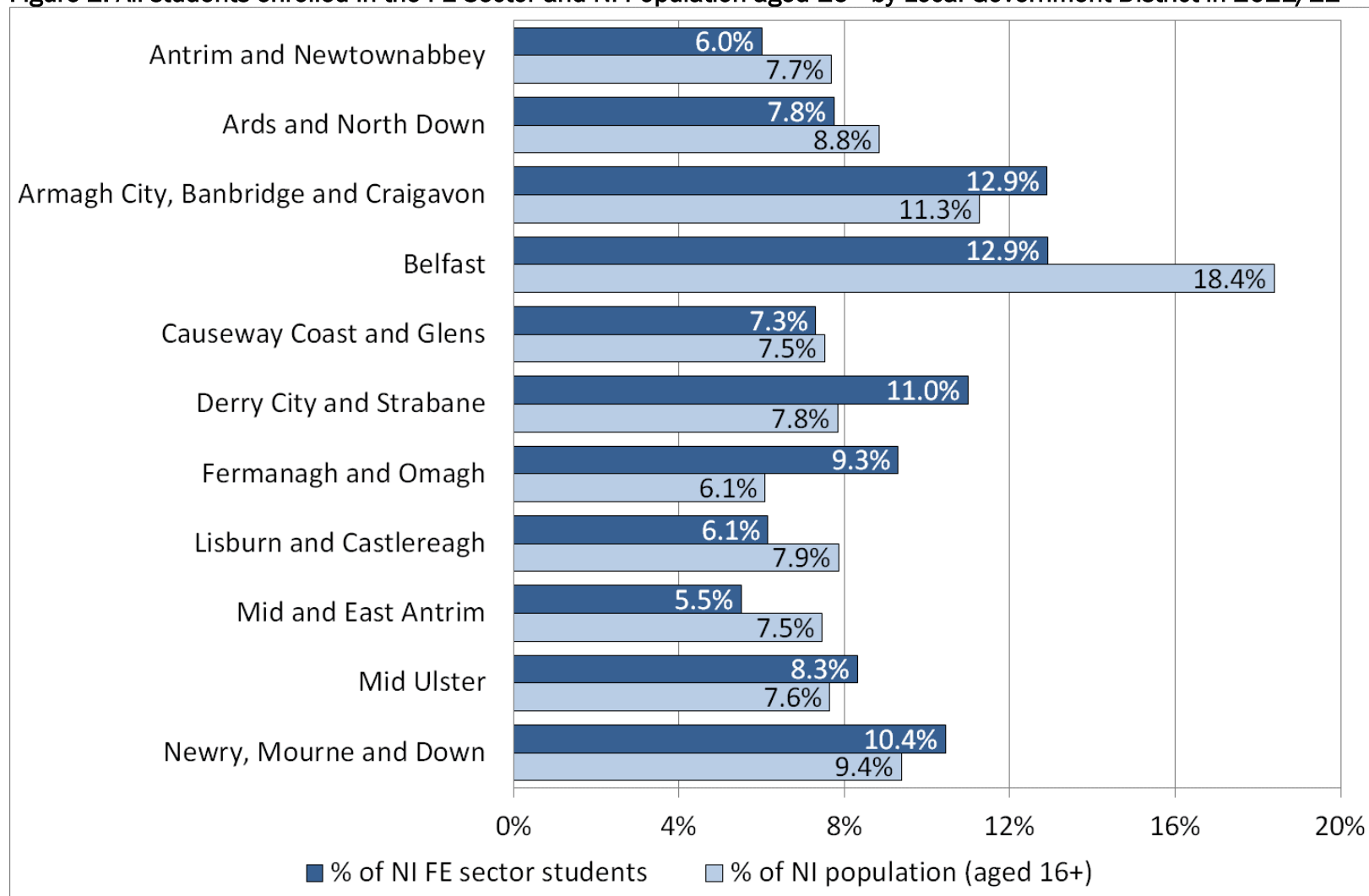
Sources: Consolidated Data Return (CDR) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2021

Unknown*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students (75.2%, 1,122).

The sum of the LGD population aged 16+ differs from the NI total due to rounding issues. Further explanation is included in the additional excel tables.

- In 2021/22, almost a fifth (18.4%) of the NI population (aged 16 and over) lived in the Belfast LGD, whereas Belfast residents made up 12.9% (7,968) of the 61,696 students enrolled in the NI FE Sector.
- In contrast, while 6.1% of the NI population (aged 16 and over) lived in Fermanagh and Omagh, people living in this LGD accounted for 9.3% (5,738) of the 61,696 students enrolled in the NI FE Sector.
- When considering the LGD proportions of the NI population against the LGD proportions of students enrolled in the NI FE Sector, it should be noted there are no unknown postcodes for population, but there are 2.4% unknown postcodes with regards to FE Sector students. Of the 1,492 students with unknown postcodes in the FE Sector, 1,122 were RoI domiciled students, accounting for 1.8% of students within the sector.

Figure 2: All students enrolled in the FE Sector and NI Population aged 16+ by Local Government District in 2021/22



Sources: Consolidated Data Return (CDR) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2021
 Please note 2.4% of all students have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 12.

Notes

1. Figures are correct as at 14th October 2022.
2. The Local Government District (LGD) is based on the postcode provided by the student at the time of enrolment.
3. The level of study indicates the nationally recognised qualification level of the course.
4. 'Regulated enrolments' consist of Higher Education courses ('Level 4 or above') and courses at 'Level 3 or below' that appear on either the Register of Regulated Qualifications (RRQ) or DfE's Prescribed List of Approved Qualifications (PLAQ).
5. Geographical data have been sourced from the Central Postcode Directory to assign LGDs to each enrolment. Approximately 2% of all enrolments are not assigned to LGDs due to invalid geo-referencing or non-Northern Ireland domiciled students.
6. Performance analysis is based on Final Year Enrolments and excludes transfers.
7. Withdrawals are included where there is an achieved outcome.
8. Enrolments of students in their final year of a course who have completed the course and subsequently achieve are regarded as final year achievements.
9. Retention rate is defined as the percentage of final year regulated enrolments completed by students.
10. Achievement rate relates to the percentage of final year regulated enrolments completed by students who achieve a qualification.
11. Success rate (or overall measure of performance) is the percentage of final year regulated enrolments of students who complete and achieve a qualification.
12. Achievement and success rates are based on final year full and partial achievements.
13. The number of students enrolled at FE Colleges has been determined by a unique identifier for each academic year.
14. Tables for lower geographies, for example, Assembly Area, District Electoral Area and Ward are available from [NISRA's Neighbourhood Information Service \(NINIS\)](#).

More Further Education Sector statistics are available from:-

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/further-education-statistics>