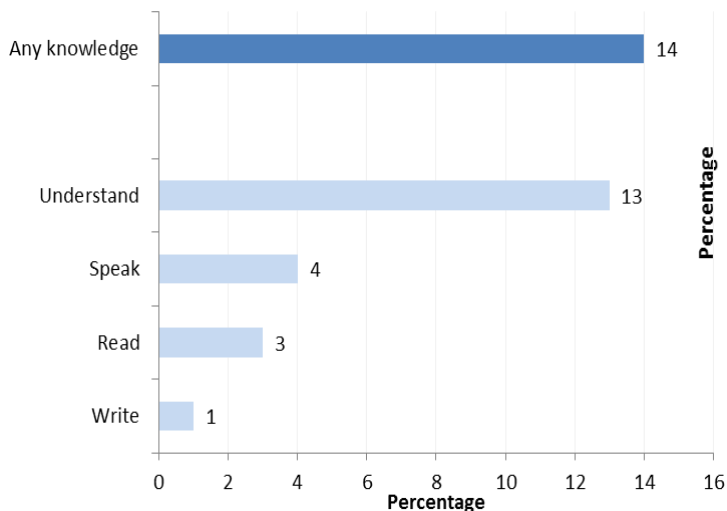


Main stories

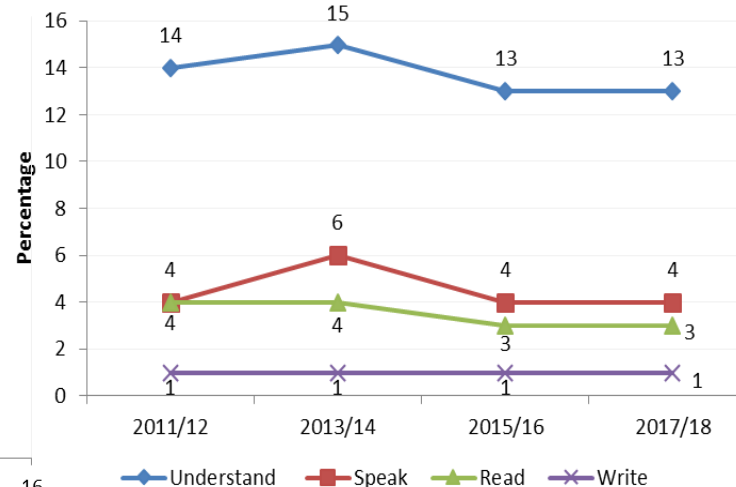
- In 2017/18, the proportion of the adult population who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots was similar to the proportion in 2015/16 (both 14%).
- Gender, age, religious background, having a disability, having dependants and where adults live are all related to whether they have knowledge of Ulster-Scots.
- Four out of every hundred adults in Northern Ireland (4%) use Ulster-Scots at home, conversing with family or housemates, while 5% use Ulster-Scots socially, to converse with friends or acquaintances, either on a daily basis or at least very occasionally.

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

No change from previous year's figure

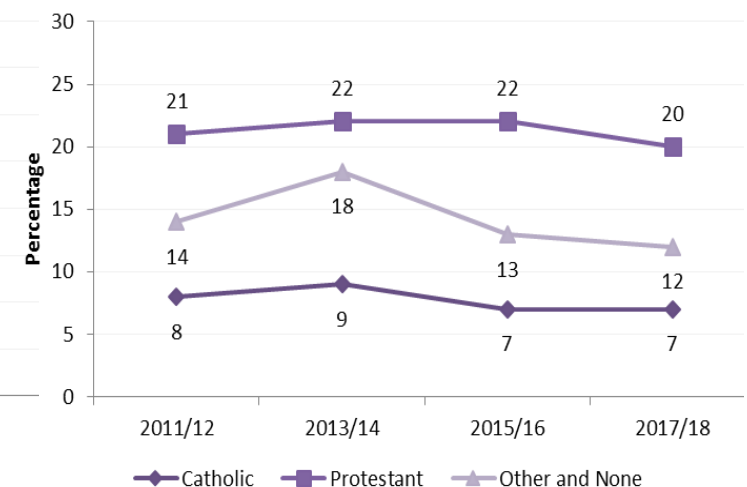


Level of ability in Ulster-Scots



Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Religious background



In 2017/18, 14% of the adult population had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots, i.e. can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots. This is a similar proportion of the population as seen in 2015/16.

Following a decline in 2015/16 from 2013/14 in the proportions of adults who understand, speak or read Ulster-Scots, the figures across all types of ability have remained consistent in 2017/18.

In 2017/18 the proportion of Protestants who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots remains greater than the proportions of Catholics and those who gave their religious background as other or none.

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Introduction

The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement committed the Government to 'recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic minorities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island or Ireland.'

Findings from the Continuous Household Survey

This report presents the findings from the 2017/18 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to the knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by the adult population in Northern Ireland. The information will be used to help inform policy making. More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions and the interpretation of the figures can be found in the definitions and technical notes section. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS](#) format. The questions that were asked in the CHS 2017/18 are available [here](#).

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Trends

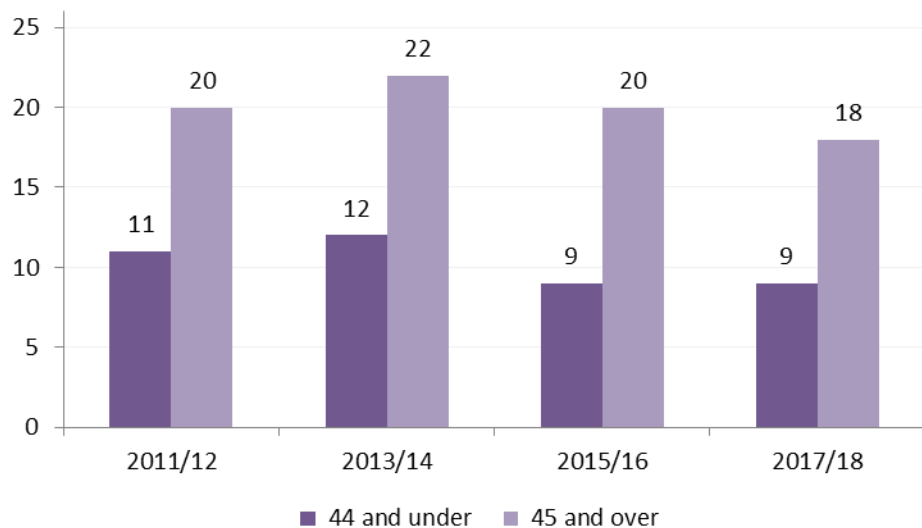
In 2017/18, 14% of the population had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots i.e. can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots. This is similar to the proportion in 2015/16 but is a slight decrease on that recorded in 2013/14.

The proportion of adults aged 65 and over who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots has decreased from 24% in 2015/16 to 19% in 2017/18.

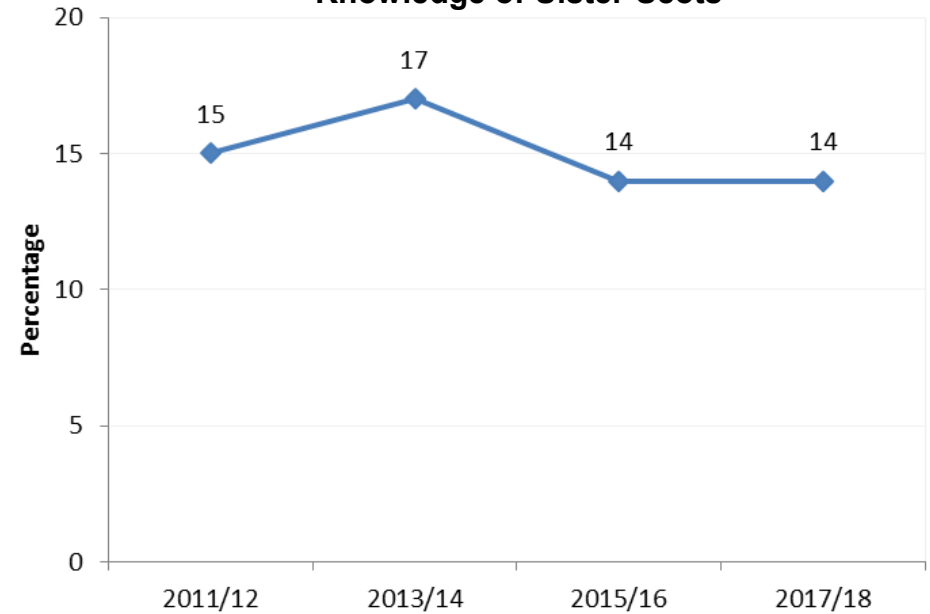
The proportion of adults living in the least deprived areas with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots has also decreased in 2017/18 when compared with 2015/16 (14% and 19% respectively).

Age

People aged 45 years and over are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those aged 16-44 years (18% and 9% respectively). A similar trend has been seen for the other years that CHS figures are available.

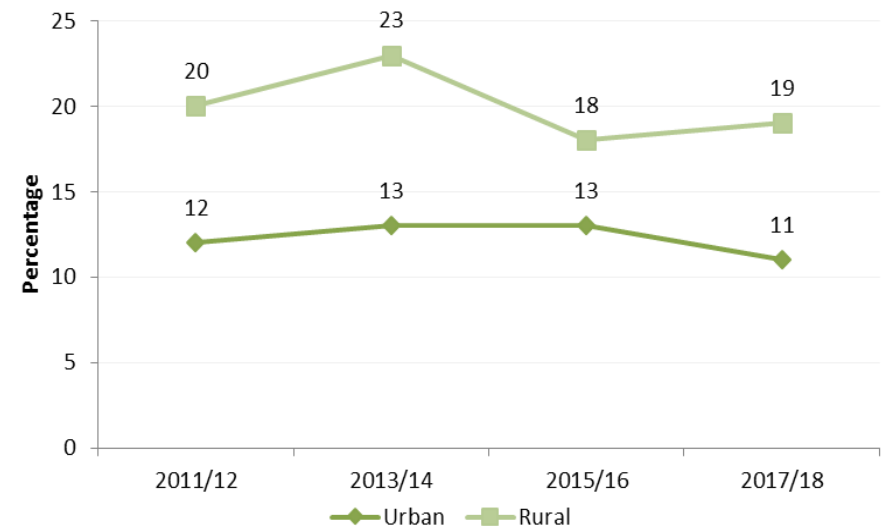


Knowledge of Ulster-Scots



Urban/Rural

In 2017/18, a higher proportion of the adult population living in rural areas have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than among those who live in urban areas, as has been the case for each year that figures are available.

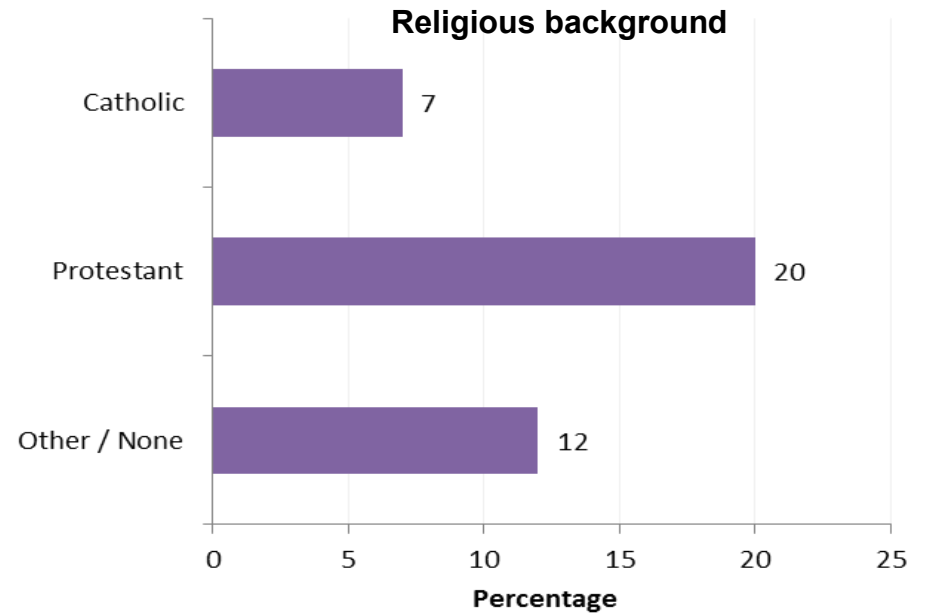


Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Gender, age, religious background, having a disability, having dependants and where adults live are all related to whether they have any knowledge of Ulster-Scots.

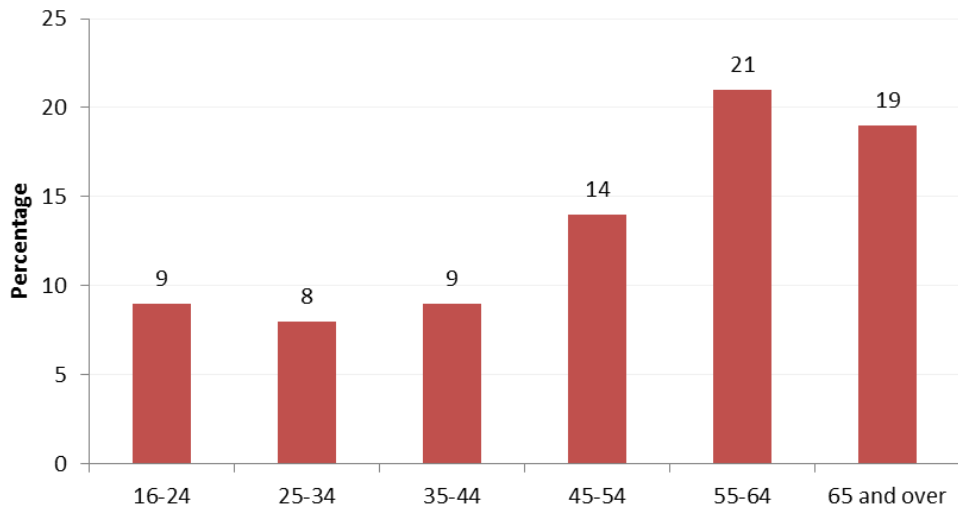
Males (16%) are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than females (12%). Similarly, knowledge of Ulster-Scots increases with age, with those aged 45 years and over being more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those aged 16-44 years (18% and 9% respectively).

A higher proportion of both Protestants (20%) and those with other or no religion (12%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than Catholics (7%). A higher proportion of adults who have a disability (17%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those who do not have a disability (12%). In addition, a higher proportion of adults who do not have dependants (15%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those who have dependants (12%).



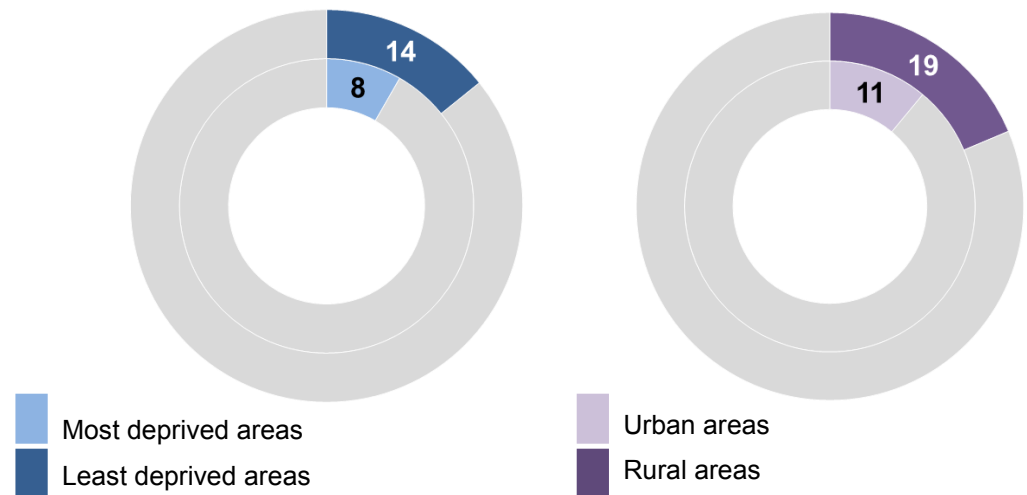
Age

As age increases, so too does knowledge of Ulster-Scots, with adults aged 45 and over more likely to have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those aged under 45 years.



Where people live

In 2017/18 adults living in the least deprived areas are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those living in the most deprived areas. Similarly, a higher proportion of adults living in rural areas have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those living in urban areas.



Understanding Ulster-Scots

More than one in every ten (13%) of the population can understand Ulster-Scots.

Two out of every hundred (2%) people in Northern Ireland can understand complicated spoken sentences, so could understand programmes in Ulster-Scots on the radio or television.

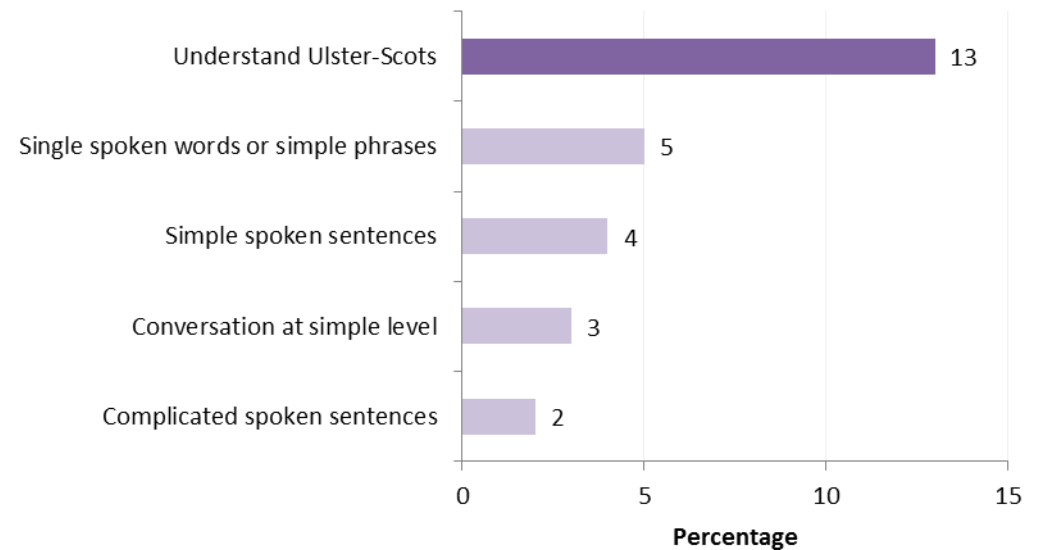
Three out of every hundred (3%) people can understand a conversation in Ulster-Scots conducted at a simple level so, for example, could understand directions given in the street.

Four per cent of the population can understand simple spoken sentences or passages, e.g. 'It's half past three', while a further 5% can understand single spoken words or simple phrases, e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'.

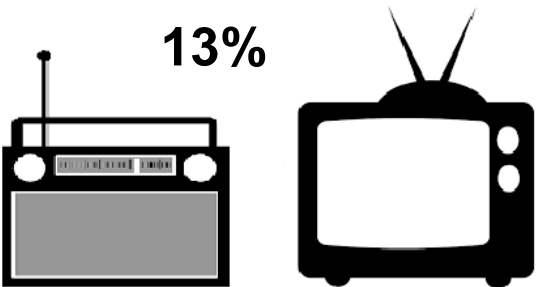
Those who can understand Ulster-Scots

Analysis of those adults in the population who can understand Ulster-Scots shows that over one third (35%) understand a conversation at either a simple or complicated level. The remaining two thirds (65%) understand simple spoken sentences or simple spoken words or phrases.

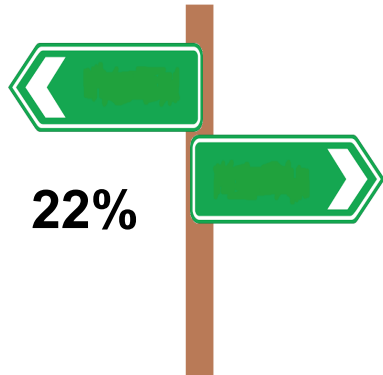
Level of understanding Ulster-Scots



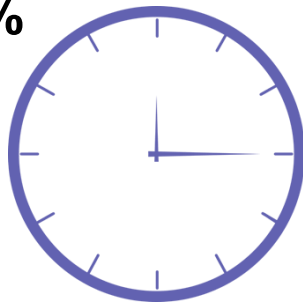
13%




22%



29%



36%



Complicated spoken sentences

Could understand programmes in Ulster-Scots on the radio or television.

Conversation at simple level

Could understand directions given in Ulster-Scots in the street

Simple spoken sentences

Understand simple spoken sentences or passages e.g. 'It's half past three'

Single spoken words or simple phrases

Understand simple spoken words or phrases e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'

Speaking Ulster-Scots

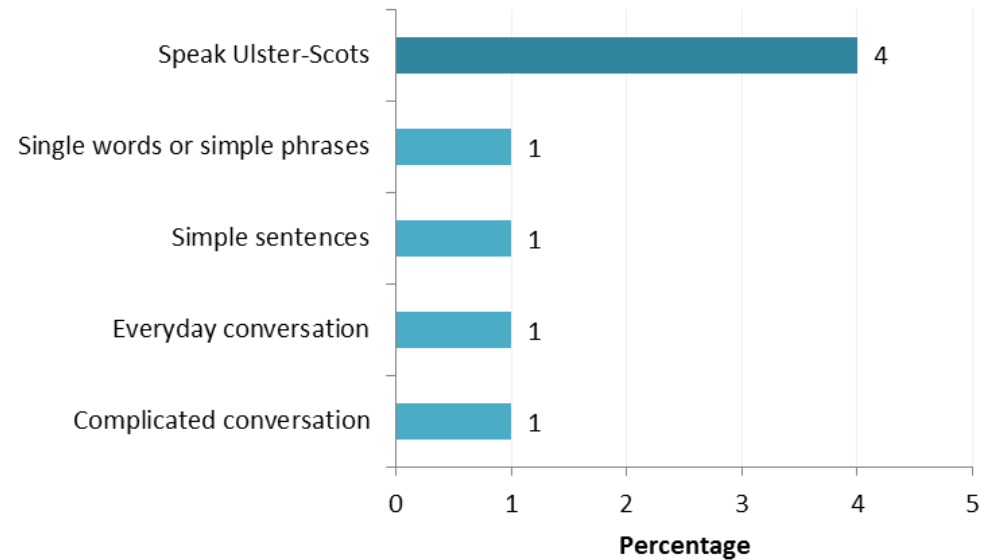
Four out of every hundred adults (4%) can speak Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred people (1%) can carry on a complicated conversation in Ulster-Scots, e.g. talking about any subject, with a similar proportion (1%) able to carry on an everyday conversation, e.g. could describe their day.

One out of every hundred (1%) can use simple sentences in Ulster-Scots, e.g. 'Can I have a cup of tea?'

A further 1% can use single words or simple phrases, e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'

Level of speaking Ulster-Scots



Those who can speak Ulster-Scots

Analysis of those adults in the population who can speak Ulster-Scots shows that about two fifths (42%) could carry on a conversation at either a simple or complicated level. The remaining three fifths (58%) can use simple sentences or single words or simple phrases.

15%



Complicated conversation

Could carry on a complicated conversation in Ulster-Scots e.g. Talking about any subject

27%



Everyday conversation

Could carry on an everyday conversation in Ulster-Scots e.g. Could describe their day

28%



Simple Sentences

Can use simple sentences in Ulster-Scots e.g. 'Can I have a cup of tea?'

30%



Single words or simple phrases

Can use single words or simple phrases e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'

Reading and writing Ulster-Scots

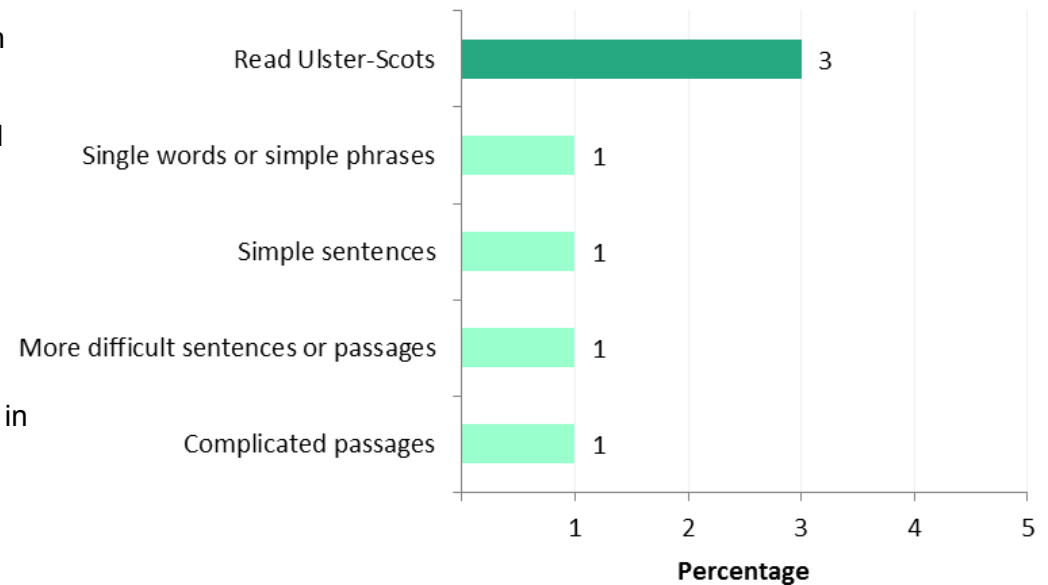
Three out of every hundred adults (3%) can read Ulster-Scots, while 1% can write Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred adults (1%) can read and understand complicated passages, so could read a book or a newspaper written in Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred adults (1%) can read and understand difficult sentences and less complicated passages, so could read a letter or email written in Ulster-Scots.

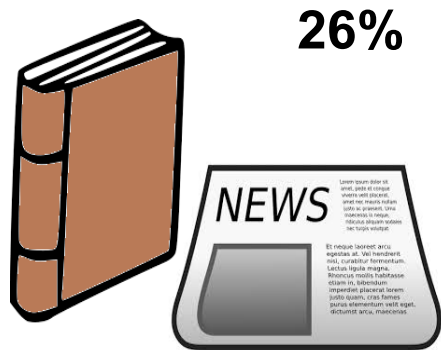
One out of every hundred (1%) of the adult population can read and understand simple sentences or passages, so could read a postcard written in Ulster-Scots. A further 1% can read and understand single word or simple phrases.

Level of reading Ulster-Scots



Those who that can read Ulster-Scots

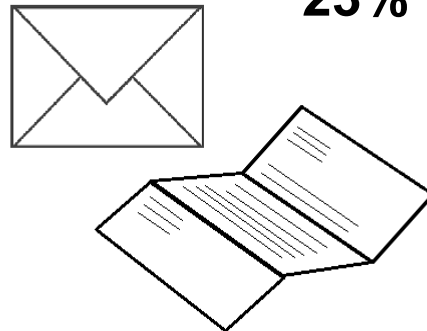
Analysis of those adults in the population who can read Ulster-Scots shows that about half (49%) can read and understand moderately difficult or complicated passages. The remaining half (51%) can read and understand simple sentences or single words or simple phrases.



26%

Complicated passages

Can read and understand complicated passages, so could read a book or newspaper written in Ulster-Scots



23%

Moderately difficult sentences or passages

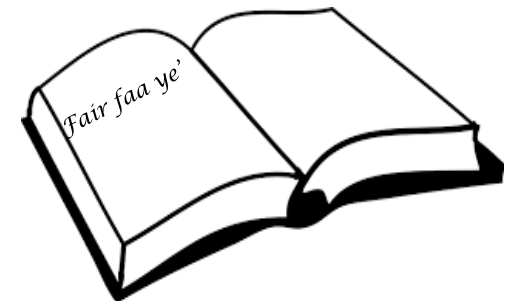
Could read a letter or email written in Ulster-Scots



27%

Simple Sentences

Can read and understand simple sentences, so could read a postcard written in Ulster-Scots



24%

Single words or simple phrases

Can read and understand singles words or simple phrases e.g. Hello

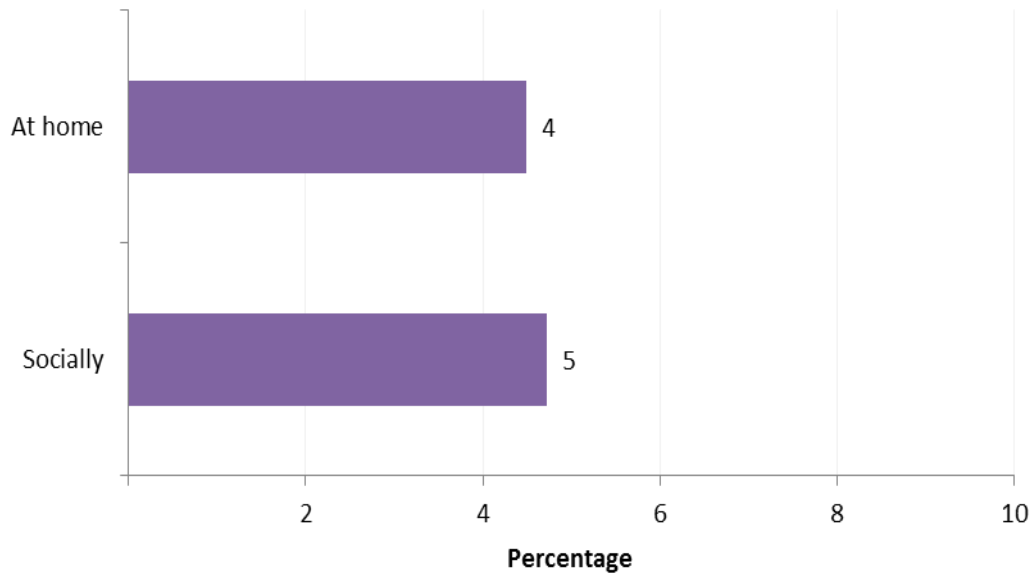
Use of Ulster-Scots

Four out of every hundred adults (4%) use Ulster-Scots at home, conversing with family or housemates, either on a daily basis or least very occasionally (less often than once a week).

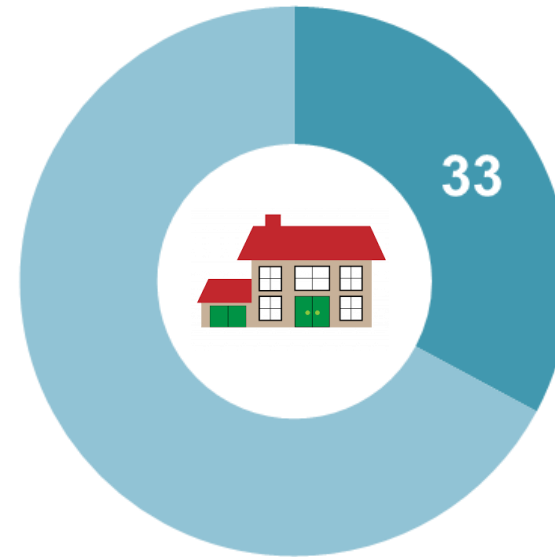
A similar proportion (5%) use Ulster-Scots socially, either on a daily basis or at least very occasionally, conversing with friends or acquaintances.

The proportions of adults using Irish at home and using Irish socially have remained similar to the figures reported in 2015/16, both 5%.

Use of Ulster-Scots

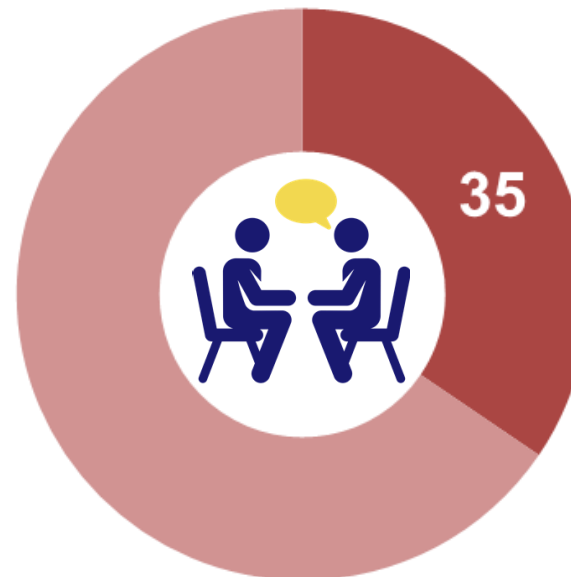


Using Ulster-Scots at home



Those with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots
One third (33%) of those who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots use Ulster-Scots at home at least very occasionally

Using Ulster-Scots socially



Those with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots
Over one third (35%) of those who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots use Ulster-Scots socially

Definitions and technical notes

Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey consists of a systematic random sample of 9,000 addresses selected from the Land and Property Service's list of private addresses. The findings reported for 2017/18 are based on 5,677 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the key questions required to measure progress against the draft Programme for Government indicator (arts, libraries, museums and PRONI questions) as well as the sport participation question on the survey. For the remaining questions (volunteering and places of historic interest as well as questions on the experience of engagement), the findings are based on 2,824 respondents.

Weighting the Continuous Household Survey

Analysis of the culture, arts and sport modules of the CHS have been weighted for non-response. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that neither the larger CHS sample (5,677) nor the smaller sample (2,824) were representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2016 (NISRA). As a result, six separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined three for each sample.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the culture, arts and sport modules of the CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting system are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots— Can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots or any combination of these skills

Deprivation— The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Area (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017¹ which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

¹ [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2017](#)

Urban / rural— The data have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in SOAs than have been categorised as either urban or rural as set out in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements report (2015)². This report classified each settlement in Northern Ireland into one of eight bands (A-H) and recommended that Government and other users should consider defining 'urban' and 'rural' areas in ways which are appropriate for different programmes and projects. In the absence of a programme-specific definition, Bands A-E can be defined as urban and Bands F-H as rural. This definition was applied in the analysis in this bulletin. 2 Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015 Report

² [Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015 Report](#)

Statistical significance in this report— Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as males and females, different age groups, religion etc., are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the size of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add up to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.