

Experience of heritage by adults in Northern Ireland

Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2019/20

Annual publication

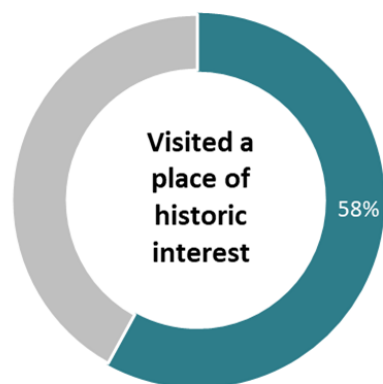
Published: 26 November 2020

Coverage: Northern Ireland

Main Stories

- In 2019/20, 58% of adults had visited a place of historic interest within the last 12 months, a higher proportion compared to the previous three years.
- Over half (53%) of adults who visited a place of historic interest visited at least 3 or 4 times a year.
- The most popular sites visited were a historic park or garden open to the public (32%) and a city or town with historic character (31%).

Visited a place of historic interest



In 2019/20, 58% of adults had visited a place of historic interest within the last 12 months.

Most popular sites visited



A historic park or garden open to the public: 32%



A city or town with historic character: 31%

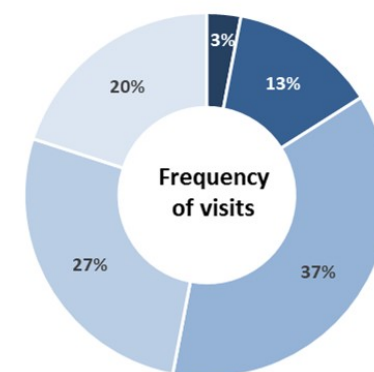


A monument such as a castle, fort, or ruin: 26%



A historic building open to the public (non-religious): 22%

Frequency of Visits



- At least once a week
- Less often than once a week but at least once a month
- Less often than once a month but at least 3 or 4 times a year
- Twice in the last 12 months
- Once in the last 12 months

Contents

Page

Introduction

Experience of heritage

3

Trends

5

Definitions and technical notes

6

Lead Statistician: Clair Stewart
psu@communities-ni.gov.uk

First published 26 November 2020

This report presents the findings from the 2019/20 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to experience of heritage by adults in Northern Ireland.

The Department for Communities (DfC) is the lead department for Historic Environment. DfC is responsible for the recording, conservation and protection of built heritage in Northern Ireland. Questions on heritage were added to the CHS in September 2016, following the establishment of DfC and consequent joining of heritage to culture, arts and sports development.

The 2017/18 edition of this report included an analysis of the relationship of life satisfaction and self-efficacy to the experience of heritage. From 2018/19, the analysis moved to the series of reports entitled '*Wellbeing and engagement in culture, arts and sport by adults in Northern Ireland*'.

Continuous Household Survey

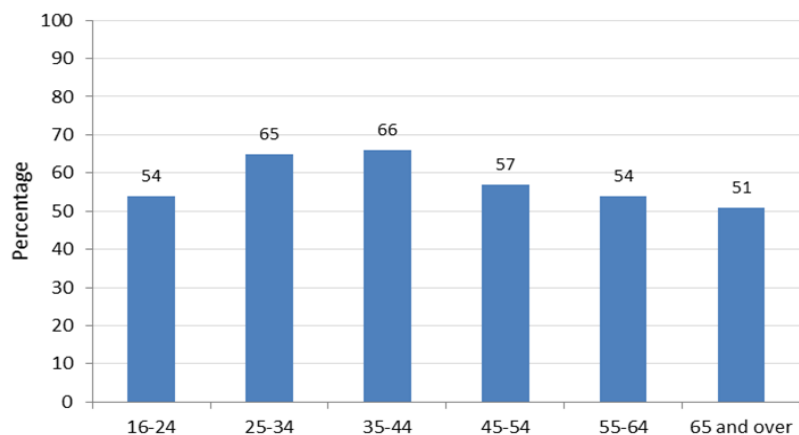
More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions and the interpretation of figures can be found in the definitions and technical notes section. The questions that were asked in the CHS 2019/20 relating to culture, arts and sport (including heritage) are available [here](#). Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS format](#).

Experience of heritage

In 2019/20, 58% of adults had visited a place of historic interest within the last 12 months, a higher figure than 2018/19 (55%) and also than the previous two years (2017/18 and 2016/17).

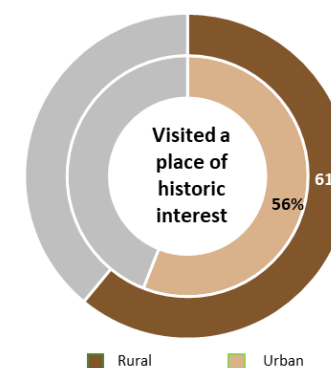
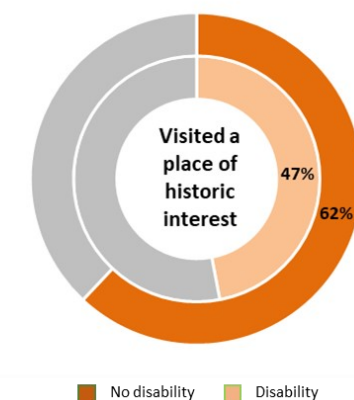
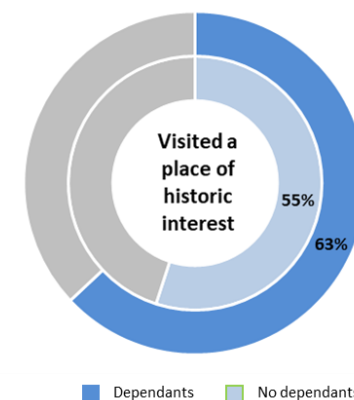
Similar proportions of men and women visited places of historic interest in the past year (59% and 57% respectively). Higher proportions of those aged 25-34 years and 35-44 years visited places of historic interest in 2019/20 in comparison with those aged 16-24 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and 65 and over.

Experience of heritage by age group



Adults from the Protestant community (60%) and those of other religion/none (64%) were more likely to visit a place of historic interest in 2019/20 compared to those from the Catholic community (54%). Adults who have a disability were less likely to visit a place of historic interest in 2019/20 (47%) than those who do not have a disability (62%).

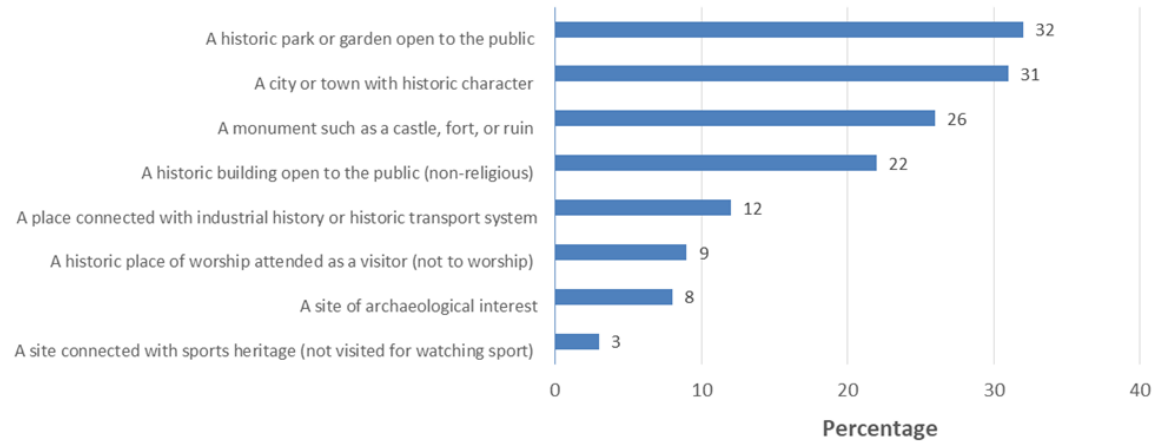
Higher proportions of those who lived in the least deprived (72%) or rural areas (61%) visited a place of historic interest within the previous year compared with those who lived in the most deprived or urban areas (45% or 56% respectively). In 2019/20, a higher proportion of adults who have dependants (63%) visited a place of historic interest compared to those who do not have dependants (55%).



Popular sites and frequency of visits

The top three most popular places of historic interest visited in 2019/20 were a historic park or garden open to the public (32%), a city or town with historic character (31%) and a monument such as a castle, fort or ruin (26%).

Over half (53%) of adults who visited a place of historic interest visited at least 3 or 4 times a year.



Experience of heritage and engagement in culture, arts and sport

Almost all adults who visited a place of historic interest in the past year also engaged with culture, arts and sport (97%). Engagement in culture, arts and sport includes participation in sport, engagement with the arts, use of the public library service, visits to museums and use of PRONI services.

In 2019/20, of adults who had visited a place of historic interest, 93% also engaged with the arts, while 66% also participated in sport and 48% had also visited a museum¹ or science centre.

Visited a place of historic interest & engaged with the arts
93%

Visited a place of historic interest & participated in sport
66%

Visited a place of historic interest & visited a museum¹ or science centre
48%

Visited a place of historic interest & used the public library service
28%

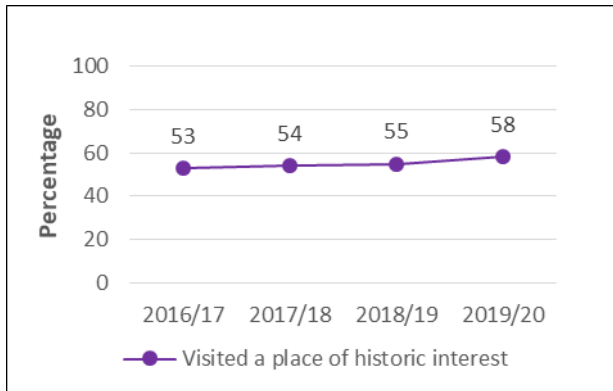
Visited a place of historic interest & used PRONI services
7%

1. In 2019/20, the questions on visits to museums were revised to include a question to estimate the length of time from the last visit to a museum. As a result of the inclusion of this question, figures for visits to museums in 2019/20 are not comparable with previous years.

Trends

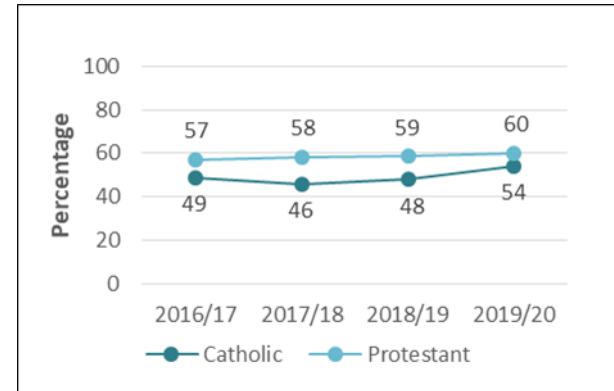
Experience of heritage

A higher proportion of adults visited a place of historic interest in 2019/20 (58%) in comparison to the previous three years.



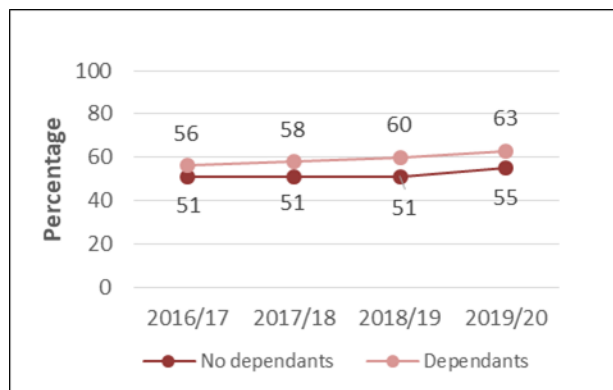
Religious Background

Protestants (60%) were more likely to have visited places of historic interest than Catholics (54%). This difference has remained consistent over the trend period.



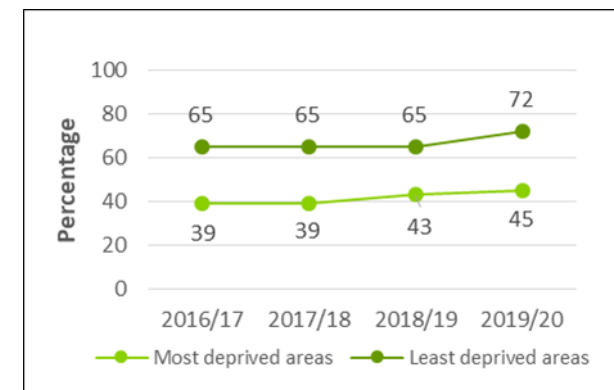
Dependants

Adults who have dependants (63%) were more likely to have visited places of historic interest than those who do not have dependants (55%). As with religious background this difference has remained consistent over the trend period.



Deprivation

Adults who lived in the least deprived areas (72%) were more likely to have visited places of historic interest than those who lived in the most deprived areas (45%). This difference has also remained consistent over the trend period.



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 2019/20 in these tables are based on 2,950 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the questions relating to places of historic interest that were first included as part of the culture, arts and sport module of the survey in 2016/17.

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 the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2019 (NISRA). As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

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 CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems 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.

Visited a place of historic interest – Visited one of the following places in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- A city or town with historic character
- A historic building open to the public (non-religious)
- A historic park or garden open to the public
- A place connected with industrial history (e.g. an old factory, dockyard or mine) or historic transport system (e.g. an old ship, canal or railway)
- A historic place of worship attended as a visitor (not to worship)
- A monument such as a castle, fort or ruin
- A site of archaeological interest (i.e. an earthen fort ancient burial site)
- A site connected with sports heritage (e.g. a historic cricket pitch) (not visited for the purposes of watching sport)

Deprivation

The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 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. The NI Multiple Deprivation Report can be accessed at: [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2017](#).

Disability

The questions used to ascertain whether or not a person has a disability are harmonised with the definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010. This states that a disabled population is classified on the basis of having a long-lasting physical or mental health condition or illness which restricts day-to-day activities. The disabled population in this report are those who have answered yes to both the questions below:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?

Does your condition or illness / do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Statistical significance in this report

Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups 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. The base numbers and sizes of percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other 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 has not just arisen by chance.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.