

Key Rural Issues, Northern Ireland 2019



A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

Key rural issues

Main findings

More than a third of the Northern Ireland (NI) population live in rural areas, and although their circumstances are in many ways very similar to those of urban dwellers, there are also distinct urban/rural differences which tend to be more pronounced in rural areas distant from Belfast. Rural industry and employment differ in nature from that of towns and cities, and difficulties with accessibility and connectivity are almost uniquely rural. Fewer rural than urban households are in poverty, although overall figures for poverty in rural areas disguise significant intra-rural and intra-generational differences. The cost of living is also higher in rural than urban areas and rural households are more likely to experience fuel poverty. Nevertheless, the rural population on average enjoy a better quality of life than town and city dwellers, in terms of health, happiness and life satisfaction.

Key points:

- Over 80% of the NI land mass is rural and more than one in three of the population live in rural areas. Population growth in rural areas outstrips that in urban areas.
- The adult populations of rural and urban areas are very similar in terms of educational achievement, but on average, young people from rural areas leave school with higher qualifications and are more likely to enter higher education than their urban peers. There are also intra-rural differences in qualifications and destinations of school leavers.
- Rural people of working age are more likely to be in full-time employment, and less likely to be economically inactive than those living in towns and cities.
- Earnings levels for public sector workers are on average higher in urban than in rural areas, while for those in the private sector, salaries in rural and urban workplaces are very similar. People working in rural areas more than an hour's drive from Belfast have lowest average earnings of all, whether in the public or the private sector.
- Workers who live (but not necessarily work) in rural areas are on average more highly skilled and enjoy higher job satisfaction than those who live in towns and cities.
- Workers from rural areas have an average commute of almost one and a half times that of workers in towns and cities, and travel on average over 400 miles more annually to get to work. Rural workers (91%) are also far more likely to use private transport to commute than those from urban areas (74%).
- More than half (58%) of all businesses in NI are located in rural areas, yet rural businesses account for only around a fifth of employees and roughly a quarter of total business turnover. Almost half (46%) of all rural businesses have no employees, compared to only 12% of businesses in urban areas.

- The rural and urban economies also differ in terms of industry sector, with rural businesses predominantly engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and construction, whereas urban businesses are more widely spread across a variety of sectors.
- Tourism is important in terms of employment and economic growth, but less than a fifth (18%) of all overnight tourism visits to NI and only 14% of associated expenditure take place in rural locations.
- Broadband speed and availability, though improving, are still much lower in rural than in urban areas. Access to public transport in rural areas is also much lower than that in towns and cities.
- Accessing key services is more difficult for the rural than the urban population. In some rural areas, services are simply inaccessible without private transport, and journey times to key services by car are on average twice as long for rural dwellers as for those living in towns and cities. The disparity in access is greater for those living in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast than those living closer to the city.
- People living in rural areas are consistently more likely than those in urban areas to rate their happiness and life satisfaction as high and their health as good.
- Life expectancy is much higher in rural areas and a number of indicators point to better overall mental health and wellbeing in the rural than the urban population. However, people living in rural areas on average wait much longer for emergency services than those living in towns and cities.
- People from rural locations are less likely to worry about, or to experience crime and anti-social behaviour than those living in towns and cities.
- Fewer rural than urban households are in relative or absolute poverty. However, overall figures for rural areas disguise intra-rural and intra-generational differences in the experience of poverty. Levels of poverty in households in rural areas distant from Belfast are just as high as those of households in urban areas.
- Poverty levels in both children and adults of working age are much higher in urban than in rural areas as a whole. However, the reverse is true for pensioners. Rural pensioners are nearly twice as likely to experience relative poverty and more than twice as likely to fall below the absolute poverty threshold as their urban counterparts.
- The cost of living is higher in rural areas. Private transport is often a necessity and car ownership and running costs may consume a disproportionate share of household income. Rural households are also twice as likely as urban households to be in fuel poverty.
- Access to social housing is much more limited and levels of home ownership are much higher in rural than urban areas. House prices in rural areas are on average higher than in towns and cities.

Northern Ireland Urban-Rural Statistics

● = Urban ● = Mixed ● = Rural

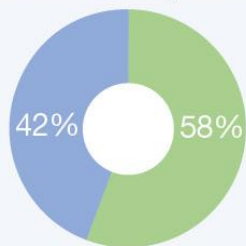
Population growth, 2001-2017



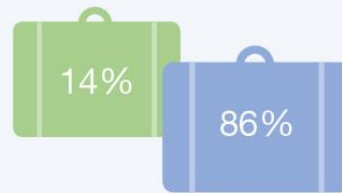
Job quality, 2018



Businesses, 2018



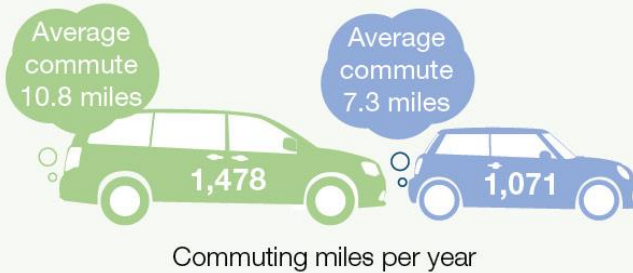
Tourism expenditure, 2018



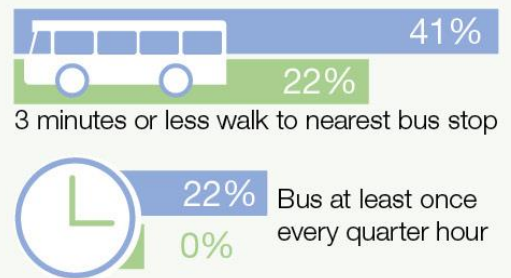
Median annual salary, 2018



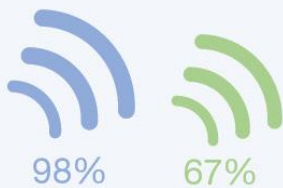
2015-17



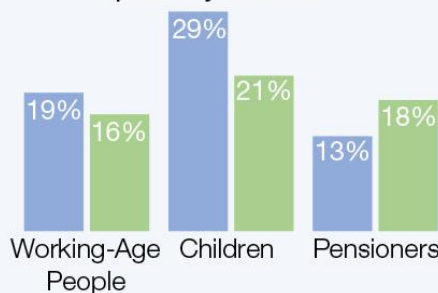
Public Transport, 2015-17



Coverage of Superfast Broadband, 2018



People in absolute poverty 2016/17



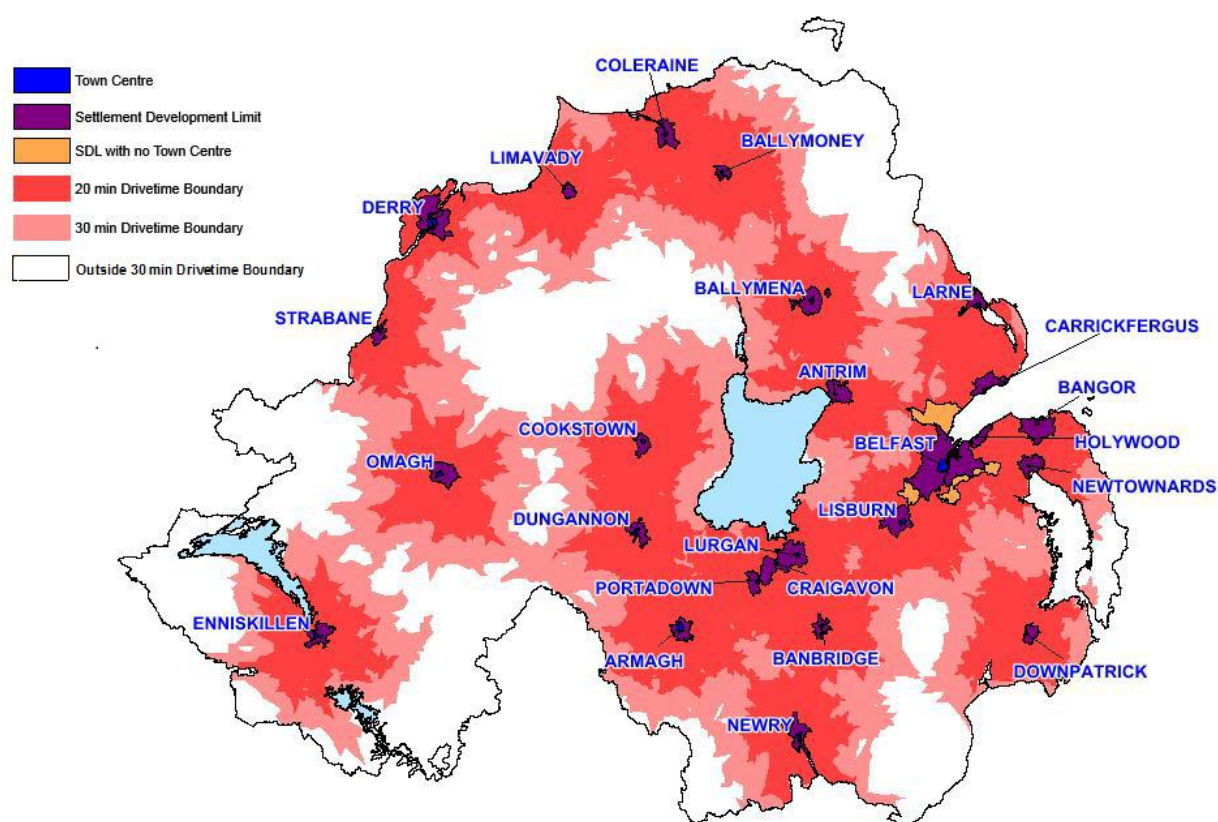
A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Introduction

This paper aims to provide evidence to inform the future direction of rural policy in NI, to underpin the Rural Needs Act (2016) and to support equitable treatment of rural communities in policies and programmes across government. A considerable body of information is available from survey and administrative sources across government and this paper attempts to draw on, and merge some of this data in order to highlight urban/rural differences and address key rural policy themes. Statistics are provided on Rural definition, land area and population; Education; Employment; Industry; Tourism; Connectivity; Access to services; Quality of life; Crime and Poverty. As the rural population is not homogeneous and intra-rural variations can be substantial, where possible, the paper illustrates within-rural as well as urban-rural differences.

Rural definition, land area and population

Figure 1: Northern Ireland rural and urban areas with 20 and 30 minute boundaries from settlements with population of 10,000 or more

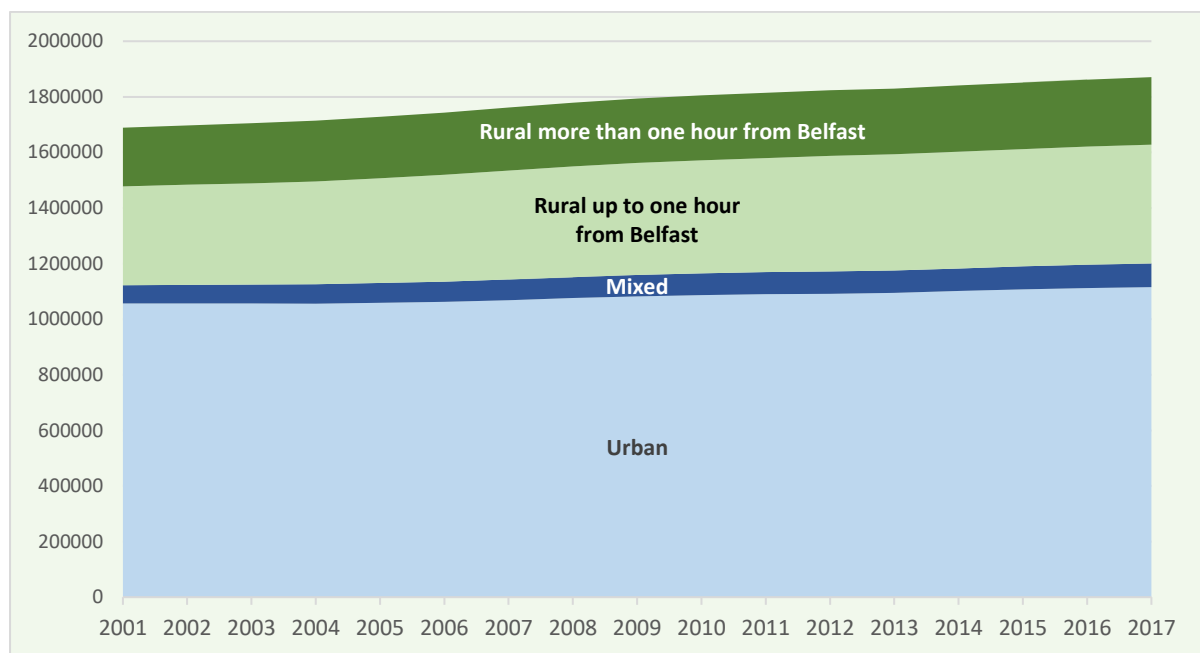


© Crown copyright and database rights NIMA MOU207.2

Source: Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2015
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/review-of-the-statistical-classification-and-delineation-of-settlements-march-2015%20%281%29.pdf>

The 2015 settlement classification also incorporated drive times to Belfast and Londonderry (Figure 2). Belfast is regarded as the main regional economic driver, most important employment centre, and focus for administration and commerce in NI³. Where data is available, this paper contrasts the circumstances of rural dwellers close to, and those more distant from the city. More than a third (36%) of the rural population live more than an hour's drive from Belfast.

Figure 3: Northern Ireland rural and urban population trends



Source: NISRA Mid-year estimates 2017, <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population>
 Small area look up table, urban/rural status 2015, <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=10&themeName=People+and+Places>

Over 80% of the NI land mass is rural and more than one in three people live in rural areas. Population growth in rural areas is much higher than in urban areas.

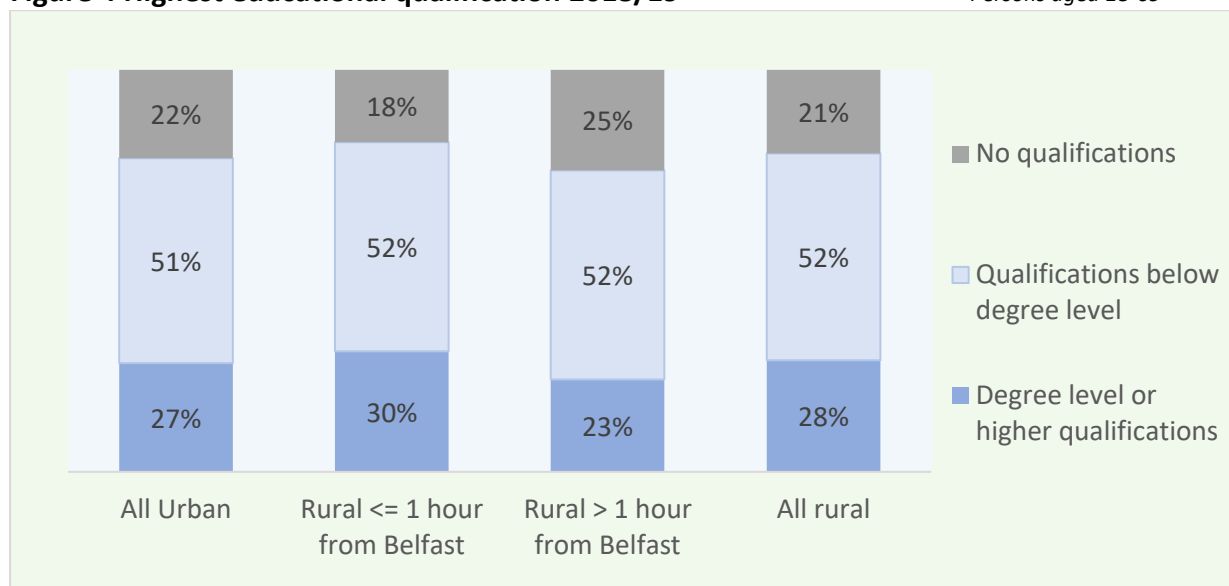
Between 2001 and 2017, the population of rural areas rose by 18%, while that of urban areas increased by only 6%. As a result, the rural share of the overall NI population grew from 34% to 36%. Areas with fastest growth were those close to urban centres, either in mixed rural/urban areas (29%) or less than an hour's commute from Belfast (20%).

³ Regional Development Strategy 2035, Department for Regional Development 2010 <https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/rds2035.pdf>

Education

Figure 4 Highest educational qualification 2018/19

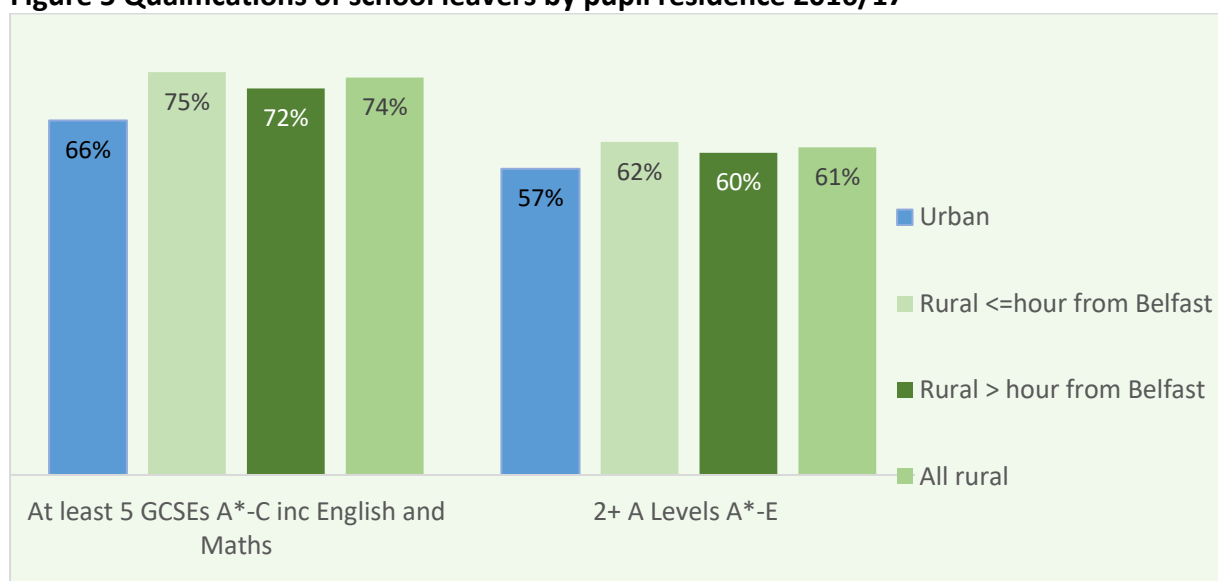
Persons aged 18-69



Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA, 2019

Growth and innovation are driven by education and skills and the adult populations of rural and urban areas are very similar in terms of educational attainment. However, there are clear intra-rural differences in qualification levels. People living in rural areas more than an hour's drive from Belfast are less likely than those living closer to the city to have achieved degree level or higher qualifications (23% compared to 30%) and more likely to have failed to gain any formal qualifications (25% compared to 18%).

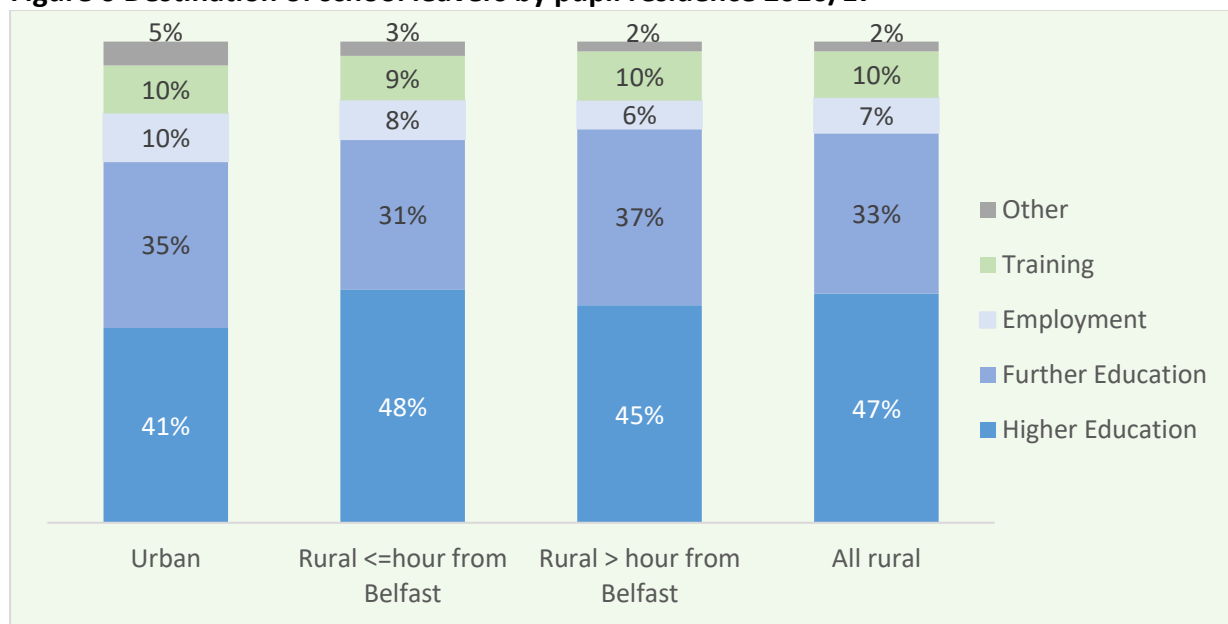
Figure 5 Qualifications of school leavers by pupil residence 2016/17



Source: NI School leavers survey, DE, 2018

Rural school leavers are on average more academically successful than their urban counterparts. In 2016/17, almost three quarters (74%) of young people from rural areas left school with at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths, compared to two-thirds (66%) of young people from urban areas. At 'A' level, 61% of rural school leavers achieved two or more passes, compared to 57% of urban school leavers. The proportion of those living in rural areas close to Belfast who achieved qualifications at these levels was slightly higher than that of those living further away.

Figure 6 Destination of school leavers by pupil residence 2016/17

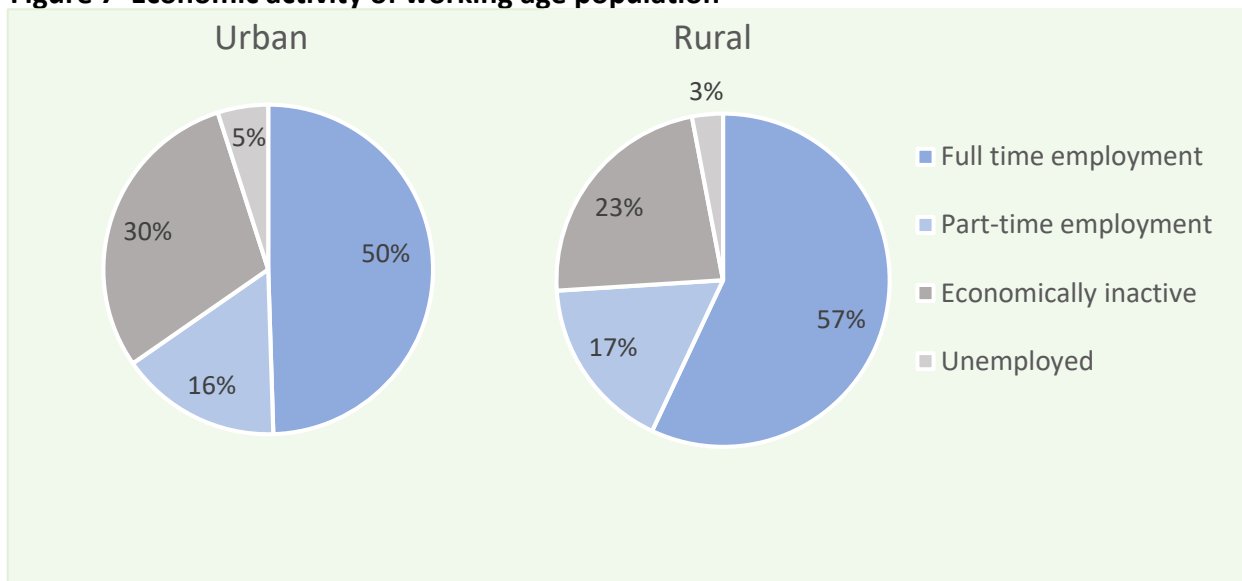


Source: NI School leavers survey, DE, 2018

School leavers from rural areas are also more likely than those from urban areas to enter higher education. Almost half (48%) of pupils living in rural areas within an hour of Belfast went on to higher education, compared to 45% of those in rural areas more distant from Belfast, and 41% of school leavers from urban areas.

Employment

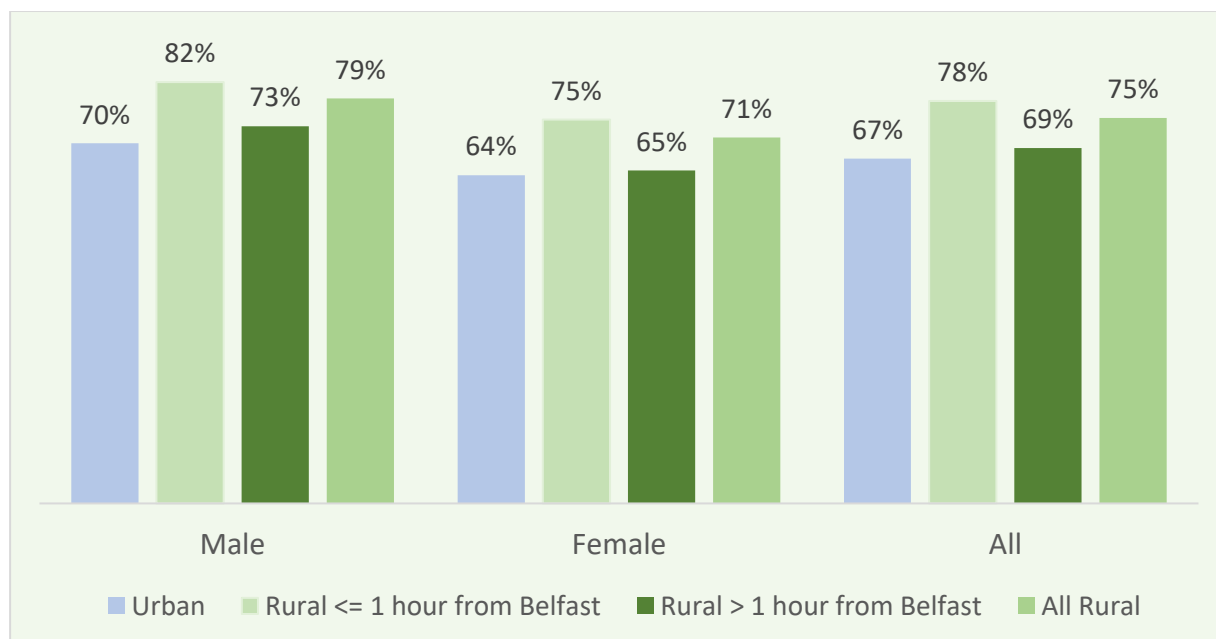
Figure 7 Economic activity of working age population



Source: Labour Force Survey, January-December 2018

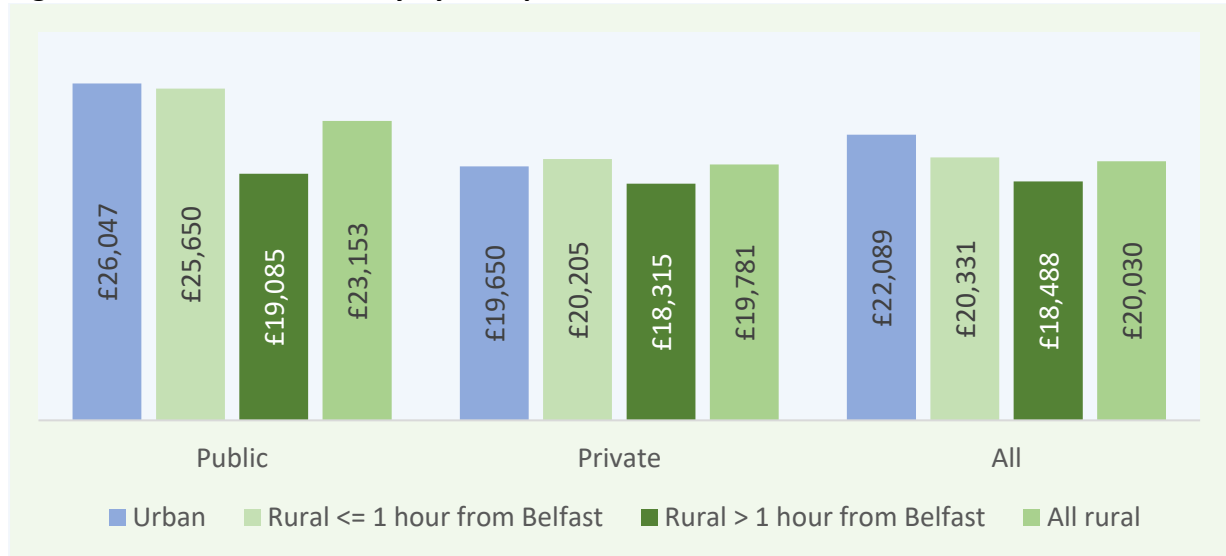
People living in rural areas are more likely to be in full-time employment, and less likely to be economically inactive than those living in towns and cities. Employment levels for both men and women are higher in the rural than the urban population and highest of all among those living in rural areas within an hour's commute of Belfast.

Figure 8 Percentage of working age population in employment



Source: Labour Force Survey, January-December 2018

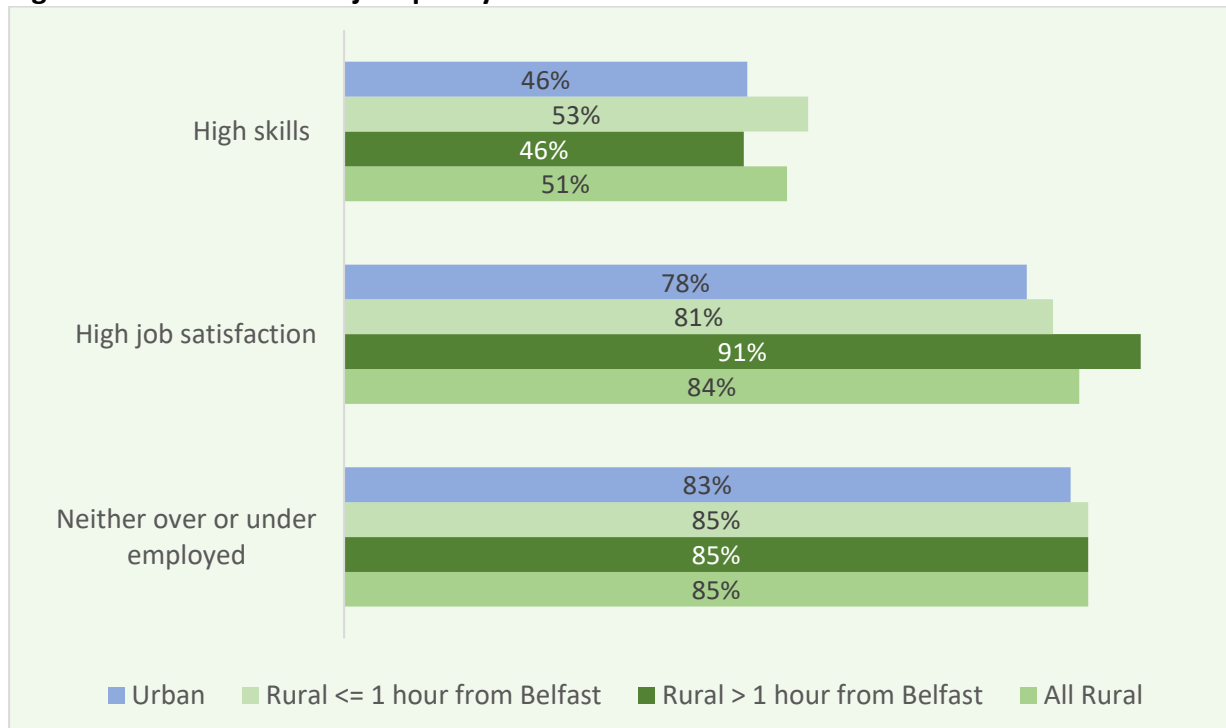
Figure 9 Median annual salary by workplace address



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2018, NISRA

Earnings levels for public sector workers are on average higher in urban than in rural areas, while for those in the private sector, median annual salaries in rural and urban workplaces are very similar. People working in rural areas more than an hour’s drive from Belfast have lowest average earnings of all, whether in the public or the private sector.

Figure 10 Skills levels and job quality



Source: Labour Force Survey, DoF, Jan-Dec 2018

Notes: Based on employee address

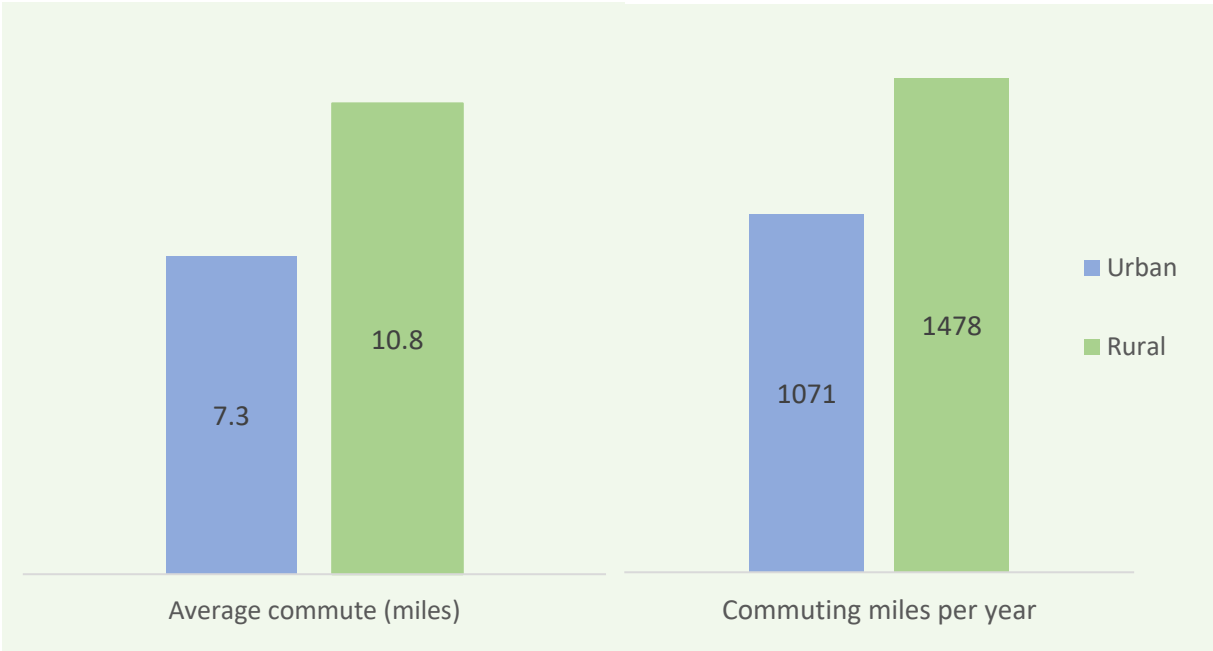
Skills level figures exclude self-employed and those who did not state a skills level

High job satisfaction defined as score of 7 out of 10 or above

Figure 10 compares aspects of job quality for rural and urban workers. Workers who live in rural areas are on average more highly skilled and enjoy higher job satisfaction than those who live in towns and cities. Those from rural areas more than an hour’s distance from Belfast report by far the highest levels of job satisfaction. Likelihood of under- or over-employment is very similar in workers from rural and urban areas.

It is important to note that this information is based on the home address rather than the work address of respondents. Workers may commute long distances for more highly skilled and well paid employment than is available locally and therefore this data reflects the quality of jobs in individuals’ work areas, rather than in their home areas.

Figure 11 Commuting distances

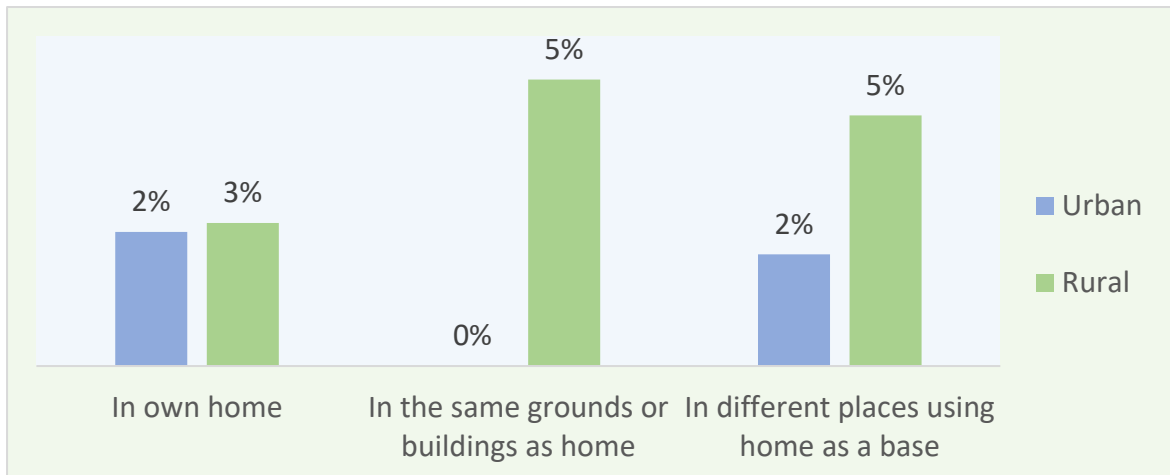


Source: Travel survey for Northern Ireland, In-depth report, DfI, 2015-2017

Workers from rural areas have an average commute of almost one and a half times that of workers in towns and cities, and travel on average over 400 miles more per year to get to work.

Technological advances have enabled some workers to avoid the daily commute and work from home, and for workers in more remote rural areas this might seem a particularly attractive option. However, only very small proportions of rural (3%) and urban (2%) employees work at home, although workers in rural areas are more likely than those in urban areas to work in the same grounds or buildings as their home and to use their home as a base when working.

Figure 12 Work location of main job¹

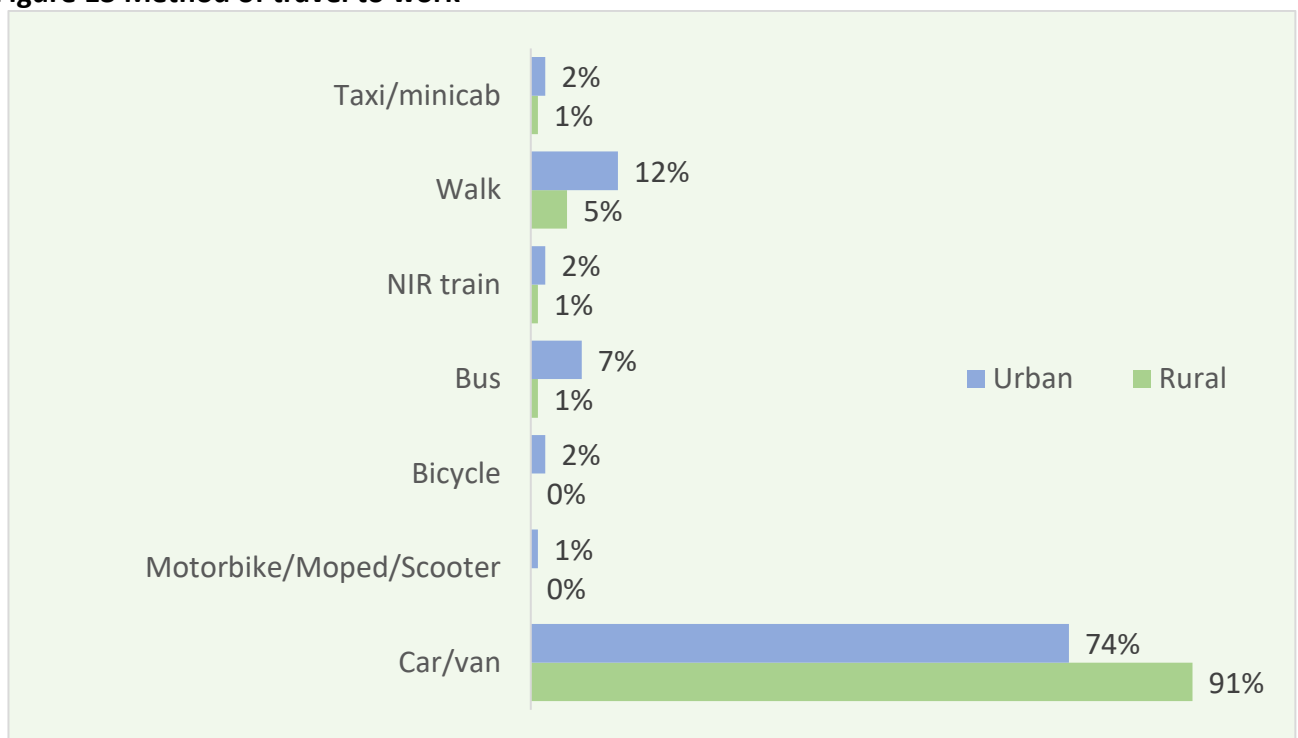


Note: Employed persons aged 16-64

Source: Labour Force Survey January-December 2017

Despite growing environmental concerns, private car or van is still by far the most common method of commute in NI. The greater tendency of rural (91%) than urban workers (74%) to use private transport may be influenced by longer journey distances and reduced availability of public transport in rural areas. Urban workers are much more likely to walk to work or to travel by bus than those from rural areas.

Figure 13 Method of travel to work



Notes:

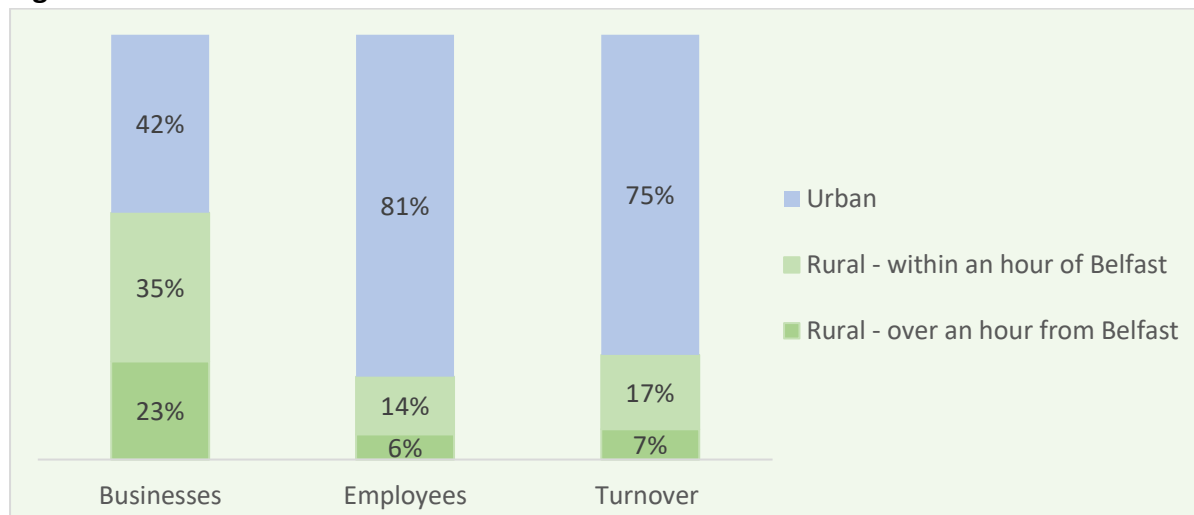
Workers are respondents aged 16 and over who stated that they were in paid employment (or self-employed) in the week ending last Sunday, excluding those who worked at home

Source: Travel survey for Northern Ireland, In-depth report, DfI, 2015-2017

Industry

More than half (58%) of all business in NI are located in rural areas, yet rural businesses account for only around a fifth of employees and roughly a quarter of all business turnover.

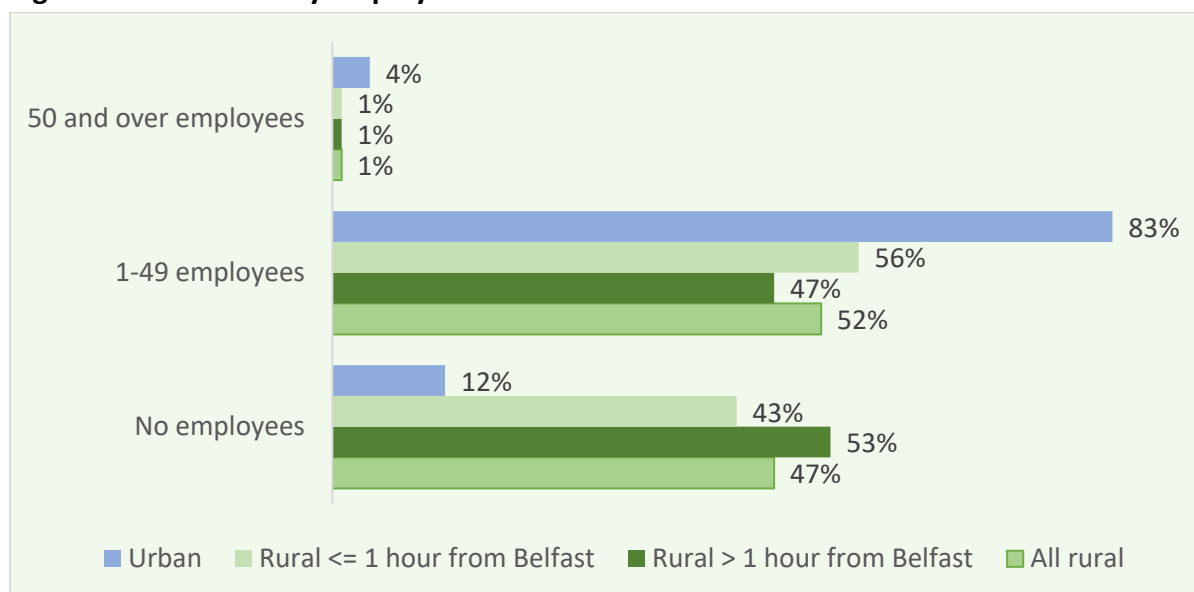
Figure 14 Northern Ireland urban and rural businesses 2018



Source: Interdepartmental Business Register, 2018, DoF

Businesses in rural areas are typically small. Almost half (47%) of all rural businesses have no employees, and this figure rises to 53% in rural businesses more than an hour away from Belfast. In contrast, only 12% of businesses in urban areas are without employees.

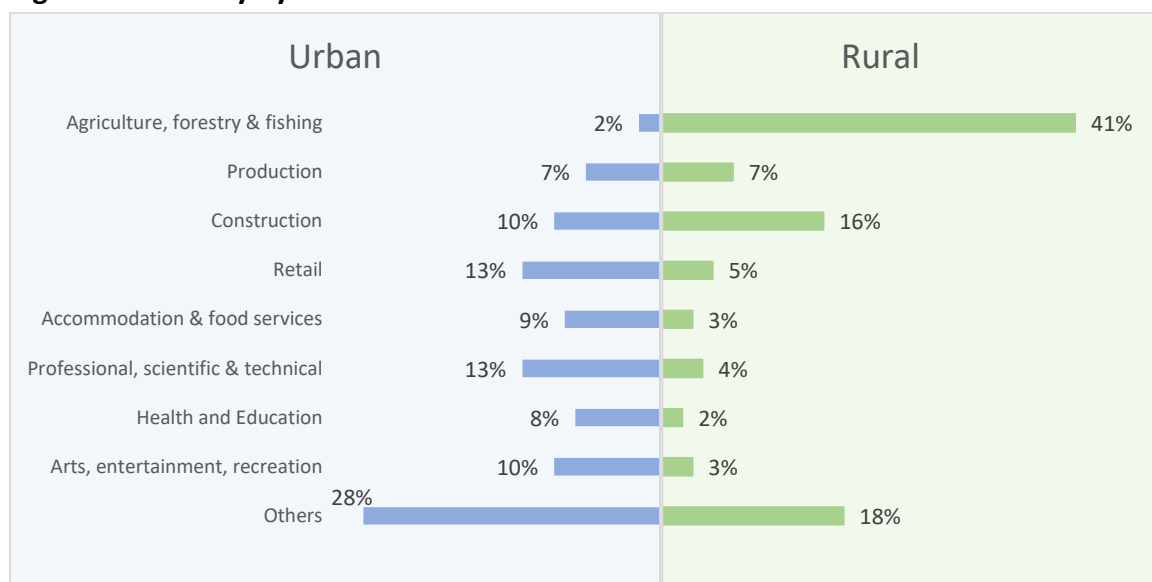
Figure 15 Businesses by employee size-band



Source: Interdepartmental Business Register, 2019, DoF

The rural and urban economies also differ in terms of industry sector, with rural businesses dominated by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and construction, whereas urban businesses are more widely spread across a variety of industries, the largest being retail, and professional/scientific/technical businesses.

Figure 16 Industry by sector 2018



Source: Interdepartmental Business Register, 2018, DoF

Agriculture is even more predominant in rural areas distant from Belfast. Almost half of all businesses in these areas are engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, with a further 16% in construction.

Table 1 Businesses by industry group 2018

Broad Industry Group ⁽¹⁾	Urban	Rural			Total
		<=Hour from Belfast	> Hour from Belfast	All Rural	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2%	37%	48%	41%	25%
Production	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%
Construction	10%	16%	16%	16%	14%
Retail	13%	5%	5%	5%	8%
Accommodation & food services	9%	3%	3%	3%	5%
Professional, scientific & technical	13%	5%	3%	4%	8%
Health and Education	8%	3%	2%	2%	5%
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	2%	3%	6%
Others	28%	20%	15%	18%	22%
All Industries	31,060	25,875	17,125	43,000	74,060

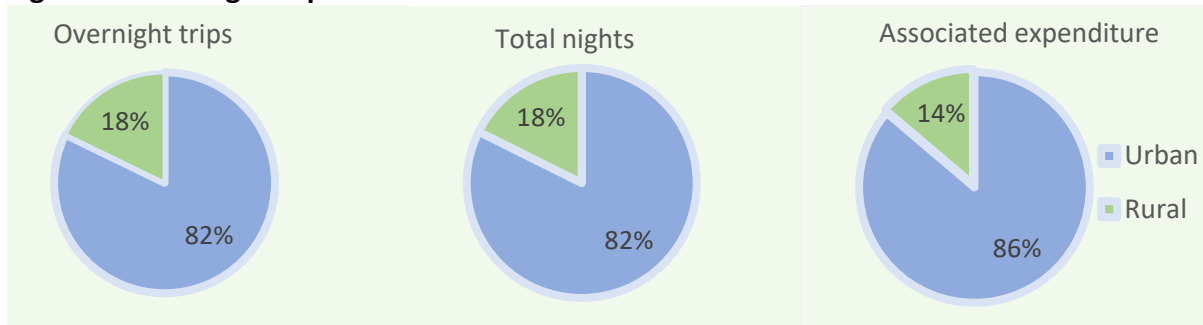
1. For full description of standard industrial classification (2007) see Office for National Statistics:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007>

Source: Interdepartmental Business Register, 2018, DoF

Tourism

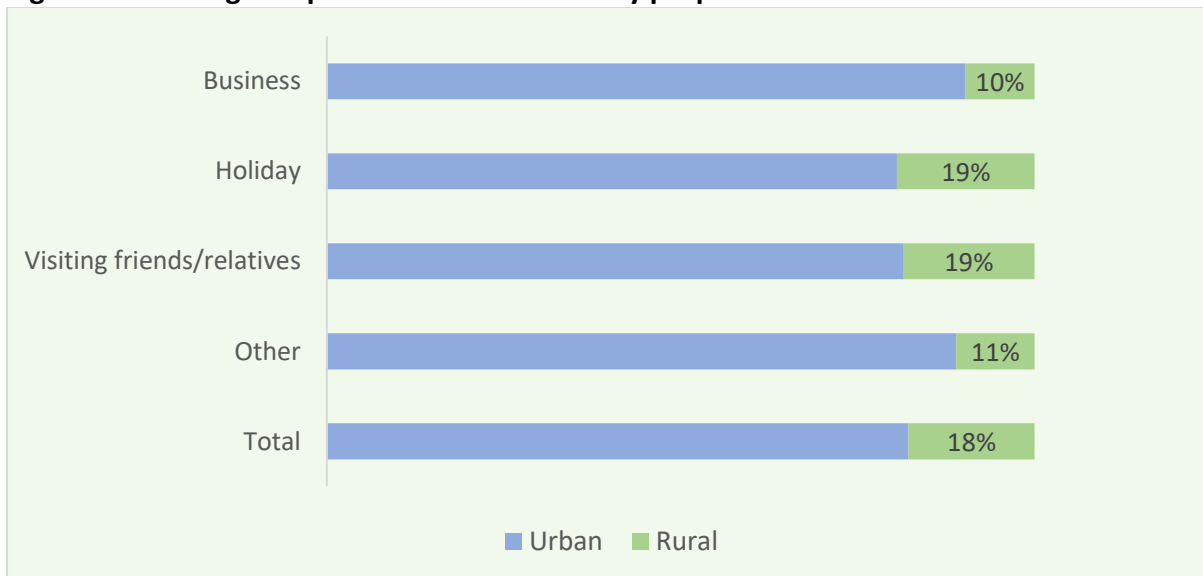
Figure 17 Overnight trips to Northern Ireland



Sources: NI Tourism Statistics, NISRA, 2018, Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS), NISRA, Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA, Survey of Overseas Travellers (SOT), Failte Ireland, Household Travel Survey (HTS), Central Statistics Office

Less than a fifth (18%) of all overnight visits to NI and only 14% of associated expenditure takes place in rural locations. These figures include trips by local residents as well as by visitors from other countries. The total tourist expenditure on overnight trips in rural areas in 2018 was much smaller than in urban areas - £134m compared to £835m.

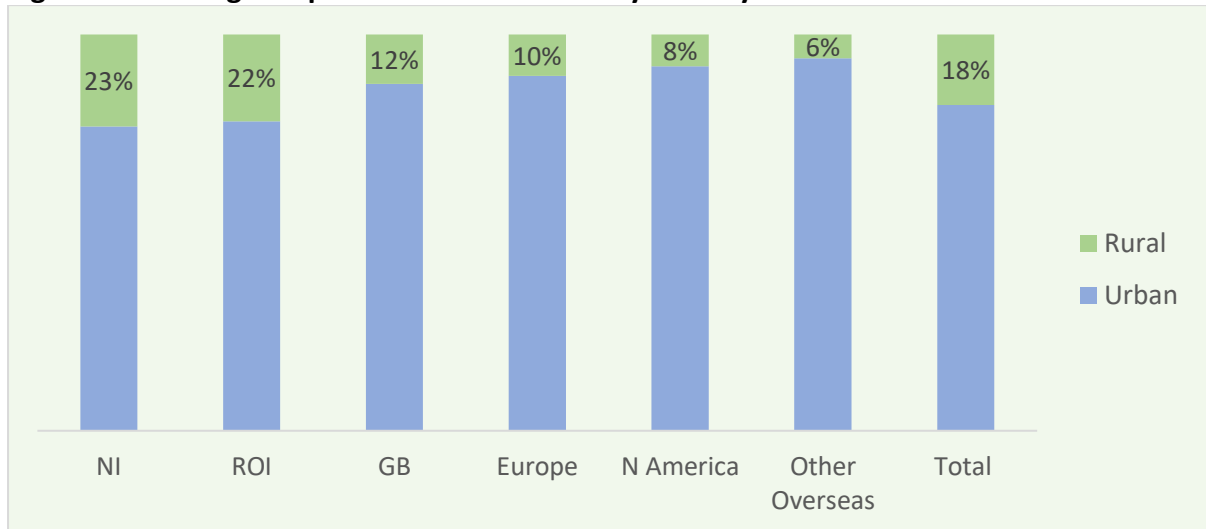
Figure 18 Overnight trips to Northern Ireland by purpose of visit



Sources: NI Tourism Statistics, NISRA, 2018, Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS), NISRA, Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA, Survey of Overseas Travellers (SOT), Failte Ireland, Household Travel Survey (HTS), Central Statistics Office

Less than a fifth (19%) of overnight visits by holidaymakers and visits to friends and relatives, and only a tenth (10%) of business trips to NI are to rural areas.

Figure 19 Overnight trips to Northern Ireland by country of residence

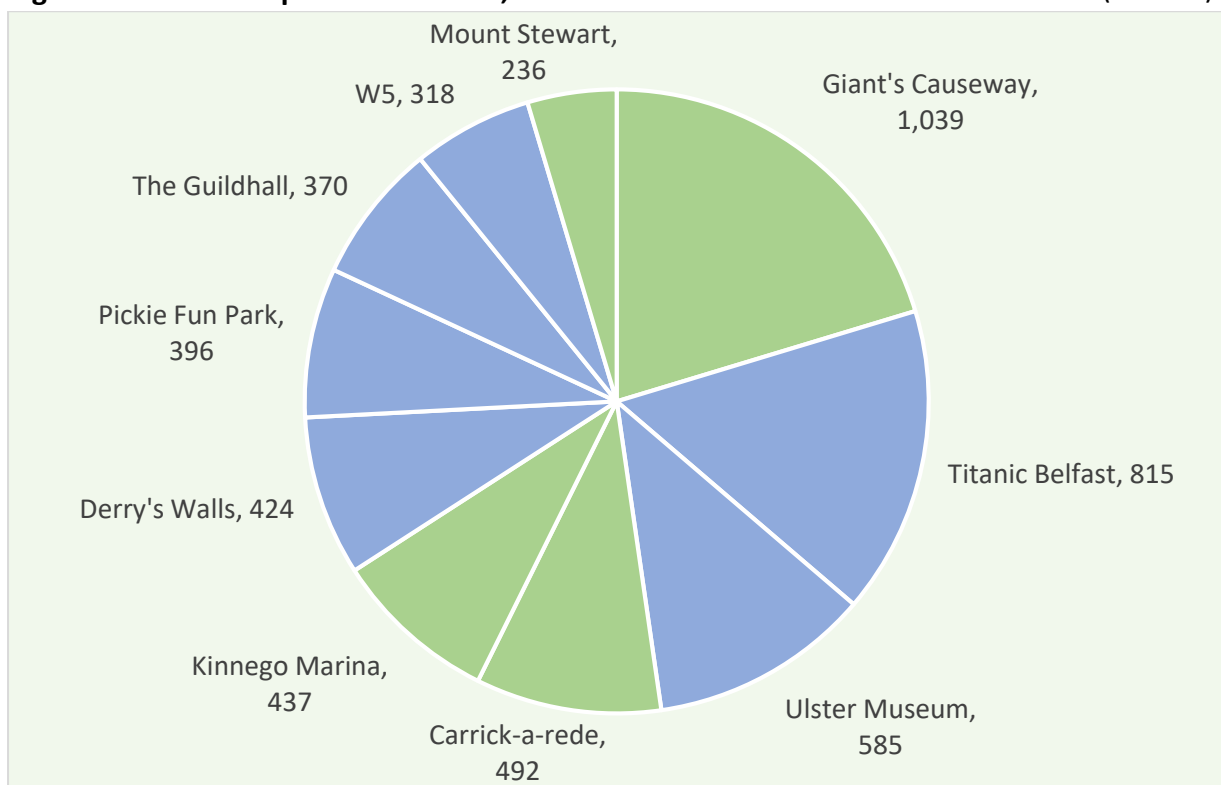


Sources: NI Tourism Statistics, NISRA, 2018, Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS), NISRA, Continuous Household Survey (CHS), NISRA, Survey of Overseas Travellers (SOT), Failte Ireland, Household Travel Survey (HTS), Central Statistics Office

Over a fifth of overnight trips by local residents (23%) and by visitors from the Republic of Ireland (22%) are to rural locations. Visits by residents of other countries are much less likely to be to rural areas.

Figure 20 Visits to top ten attractions, 2018

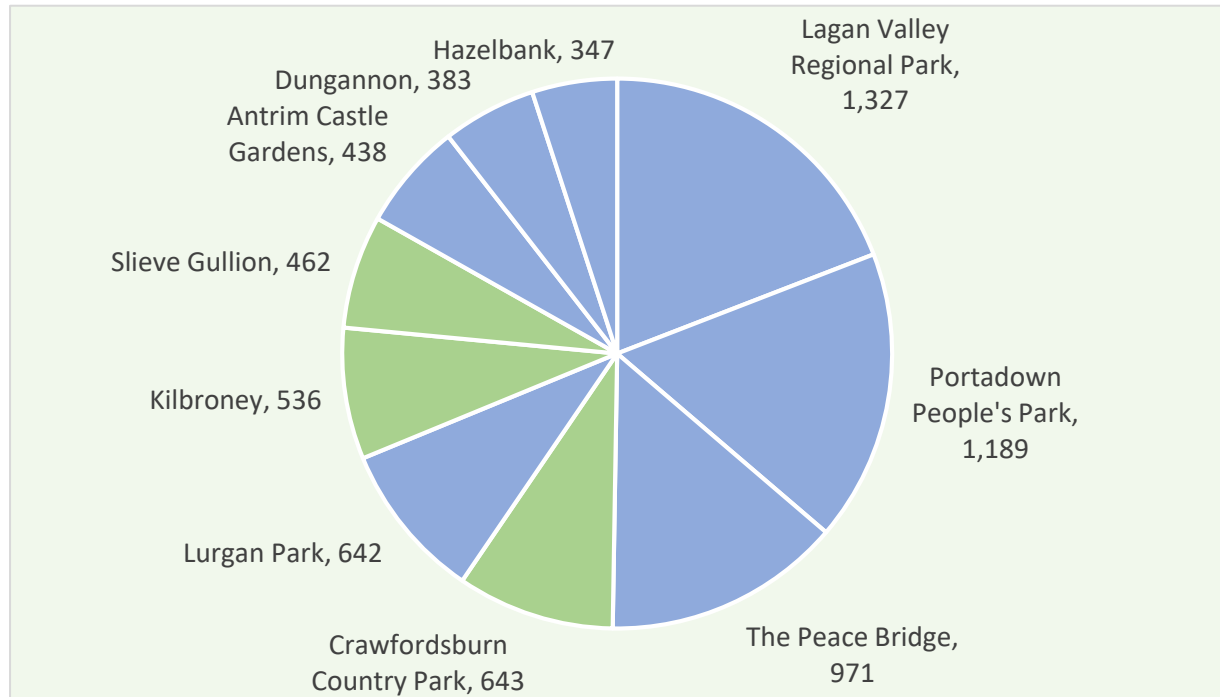
(Thousands)



Source: Visitor Attraction Survey, NISRA, 2018,

More than half of visits to the top ten tourist attractions in NI and three quarters of those to the top ten parks, country parks, forests and gardens are in urban locations. However, the greater popularity of urban parks and gardens may simply reflect the more concentrated populations of towns and cities and the greater convenience of local amenities for urban dwellers.

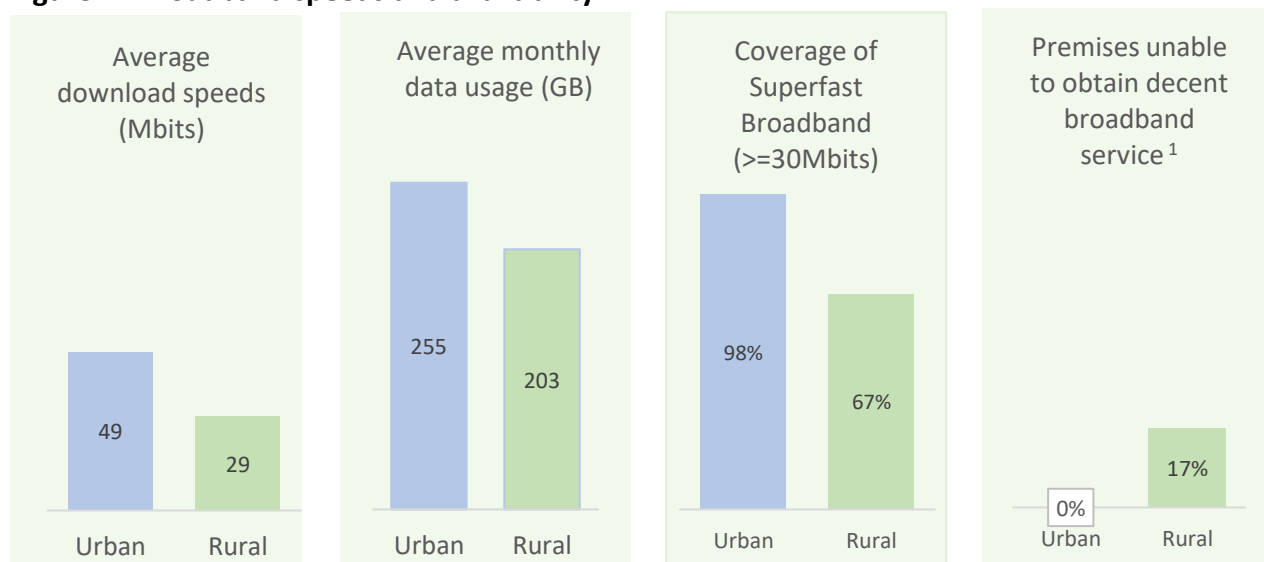
Figure 21 Visits to top ten parks, country parks, forests and gardens, 2018 (Thousands)



Source: Visitor Attraction Survey, NISRA, 2018,

Connectivity

Figure 22 Broadband speeds and availability



1. At least 10Mbit/s download and 1Mbit/s upload speeds

Based on Locale classification of Urban and Rural

Source: Ofcom, 2018: *Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland report*,

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/130820/Connected-Nations-2018-Northern-Ireland.pdf

Broadband speeds and availability, though improving, are still much lower in rural than in urban areas, due in part to the disparity in infrastructure costs. Average download speeds, data usage and coverage of superfast broadband are all reduced in rural compared to urban areas, and 17% of rural premises are still unable to access a decent broadband speed⁴.

The availability of public transport in rural areas is also much inferior to that in towns and cities, and crucial rural bus services are under increasing threat due to unprofitability and reductions in subsidies⁵. Just over half the proportion of rural (22%) as urban (40%) dwellers live within a 3 minute walk of the nearest bus stop and almost a tenth (9%) of the rural population have a walk of at least three quarters of an hour to their nearest stop. Not surprisingly, more than half (52%) of rural households report 'never' using bus services.⁶

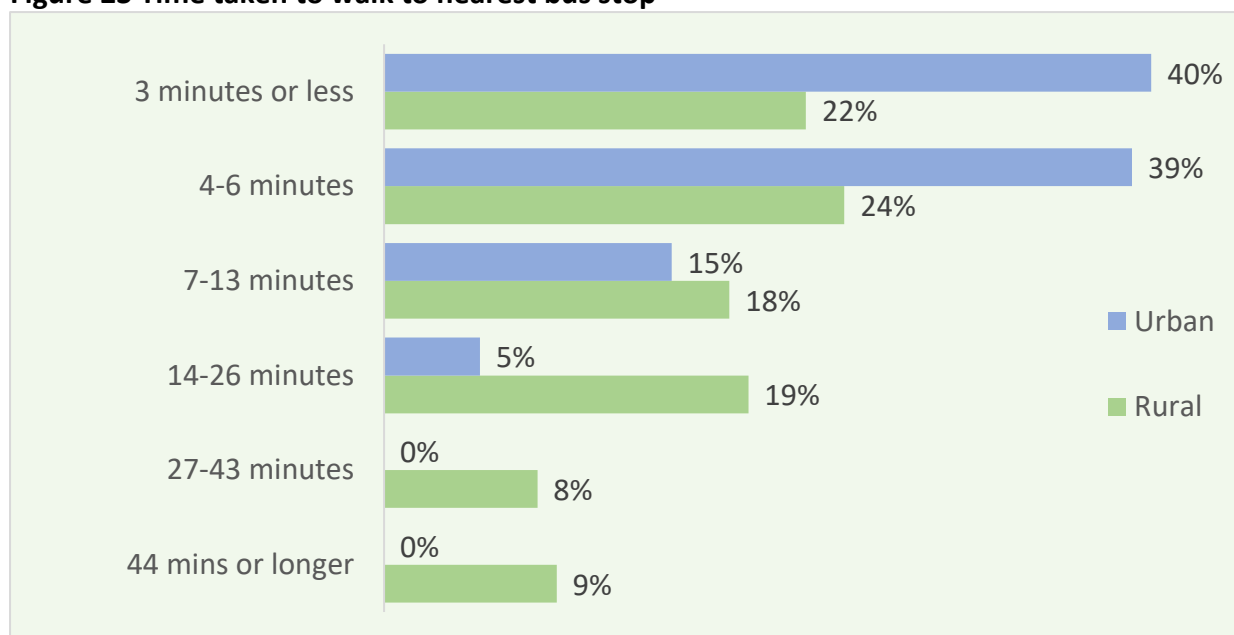
Distances to railway stations tend to be even longer for rural dwellers. When asked about walking distance from a railway station, the majority (92%) of rural dwellers responded either that they would have to walk for at least three quarters of an hour or that the distance was so great that the question did not apply.

⁴ Defined by Ofcom as at least 10Mbit/s download and 1Mbit/s upload speeds, *Ofcom, 2018: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland report*,

⁵ *Belfast Telegraph, January 23, 2018*

⁶ *Jack, C and Patten, N. The contribution of key basic services to rural dwellers' quality of life in Northern Ireland; a baseline review, Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, 2014.*

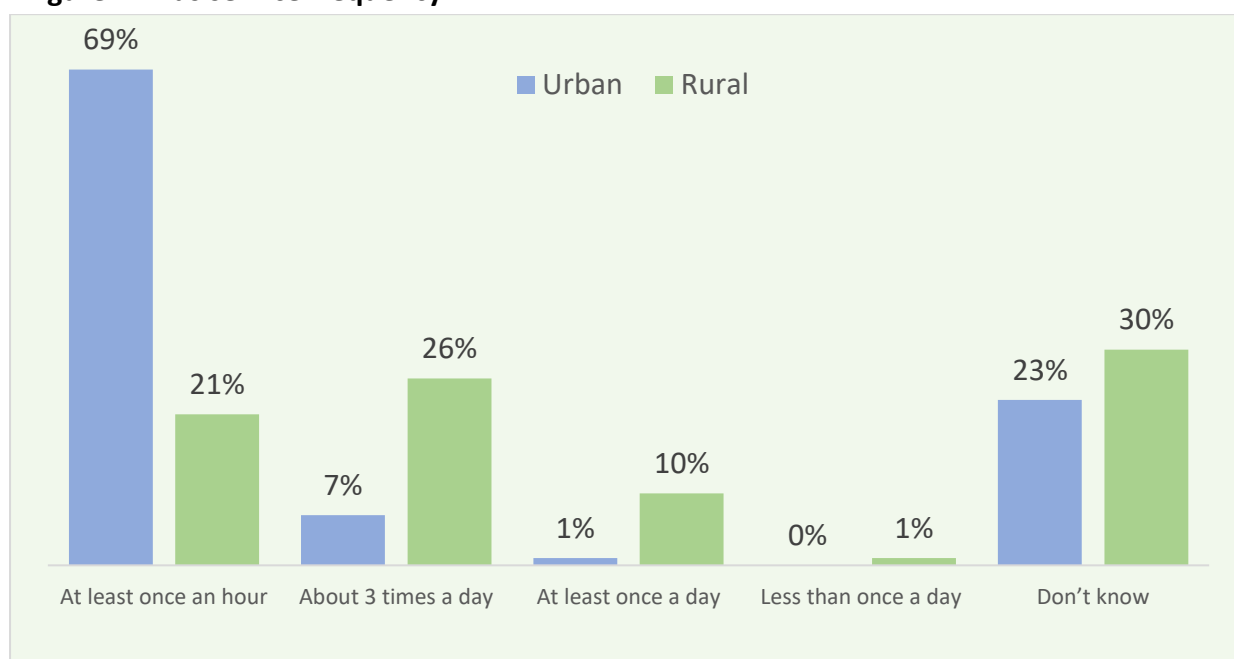
Figure 23 Time taken to walk to nearest bus stop



Source: Northern Ireland Travel Survey, DfI, 2015/17

Public transport services in rural areas is also inadequate in terms of frequency. The vast majority (69%) of urban dwellers report a bus service frequency of at least once an hour, whereas rural services are much less frequent. Frequency of trains may be of less significance to the rural population since most do not live within a reasonable distance of a railway station.

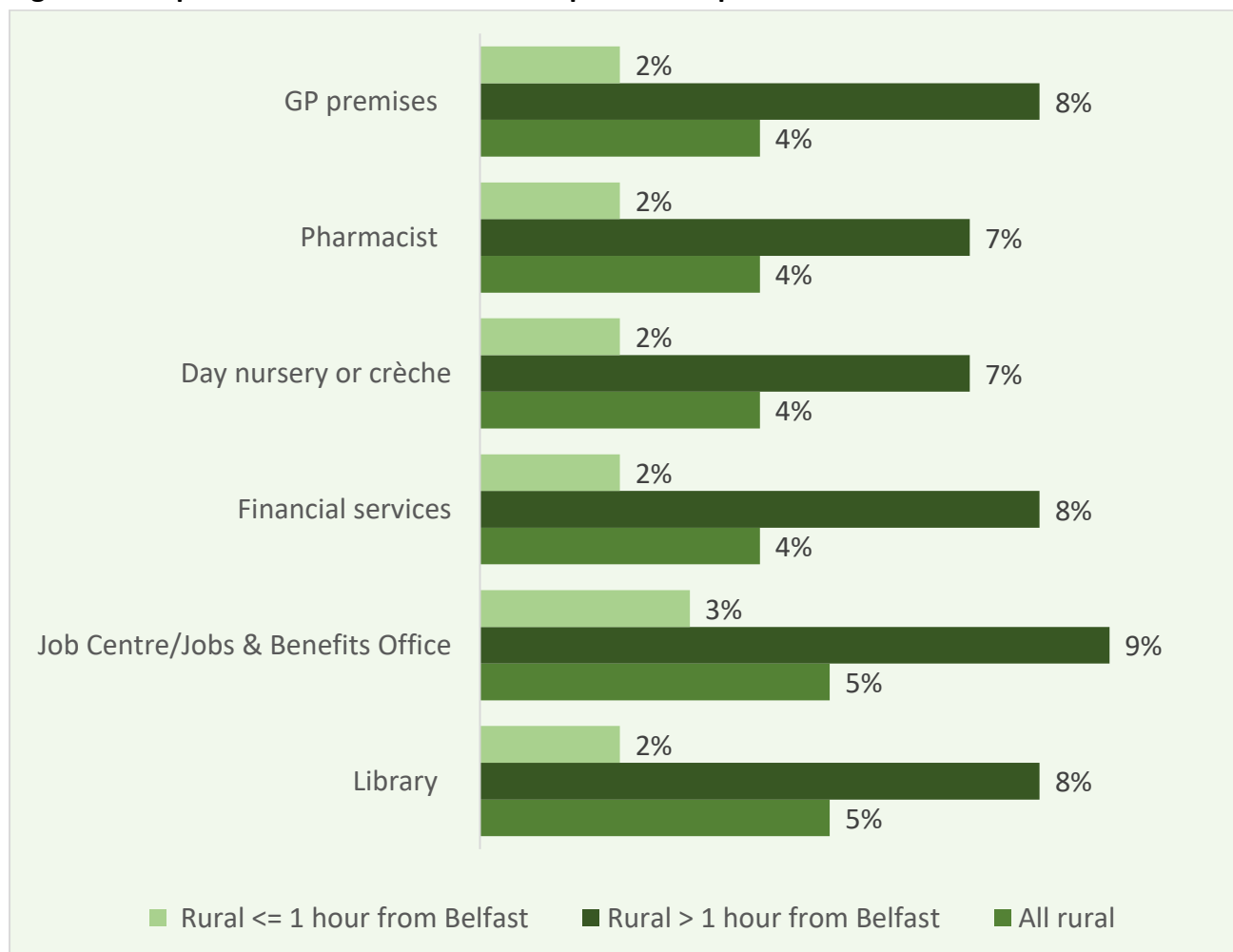
Figure 24 Bus service frequency



Source: Northern Ireland Travel Survey, DfI, 2015/17

Access to services

Figure 25 Proportion of small areas with no public transport access to selected services

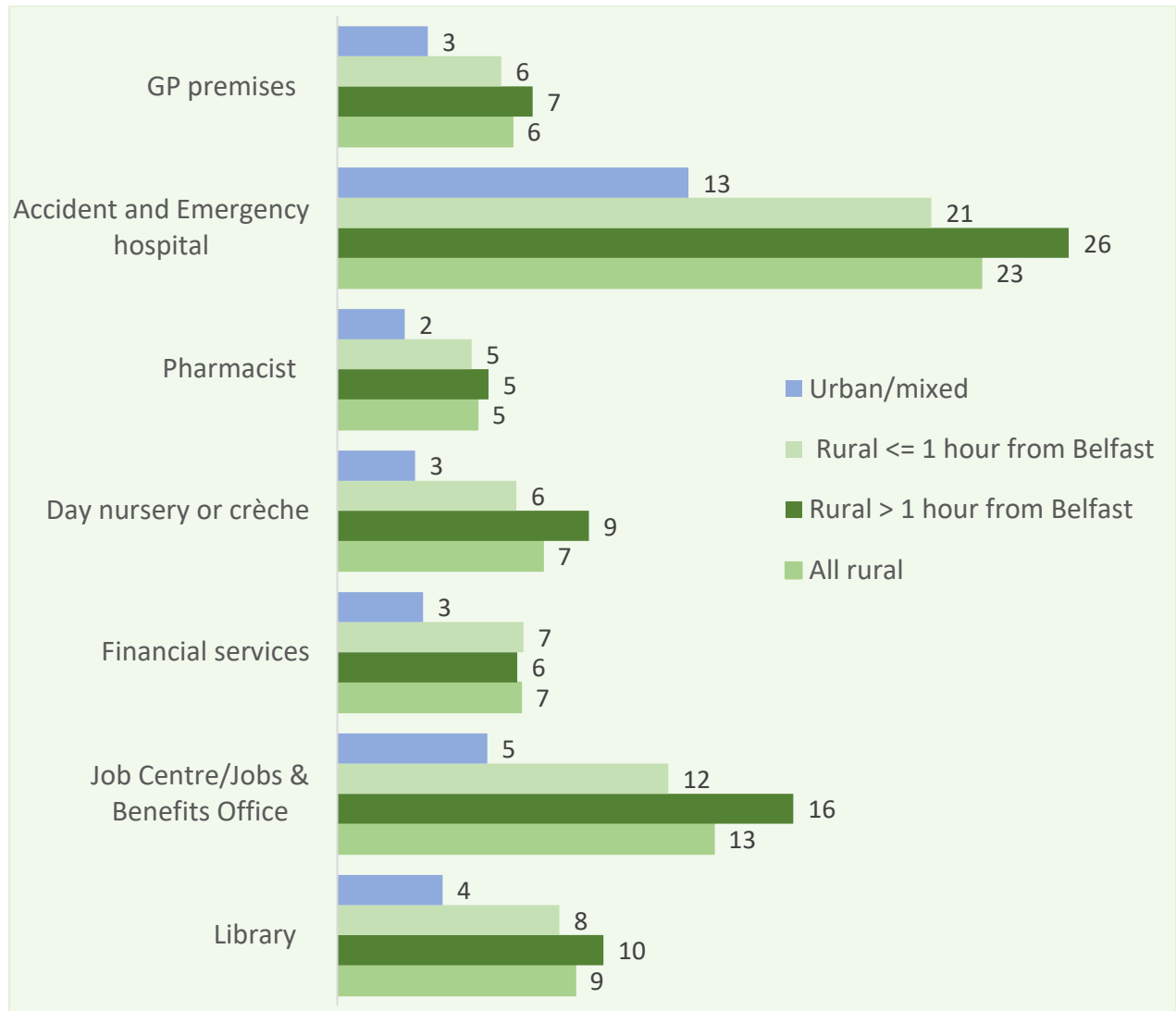


Note: Financial services includes ATMs, banks, building societies and credit unions.

Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, 2017, NISRA

Difficulty in accessing services may be a source of disadvantage for people in rural communities, particularly for those living in more remote areas and for those without private transport. In rural areas more than an hour from Belfast, access to key services by public transport is particularly poor, with some unable to access key services at all by this means (Figure 25) while for many others journeys by public transport may be so long and/or difficult as to be impractical.

Figure 26 Average journey times by car to selected services

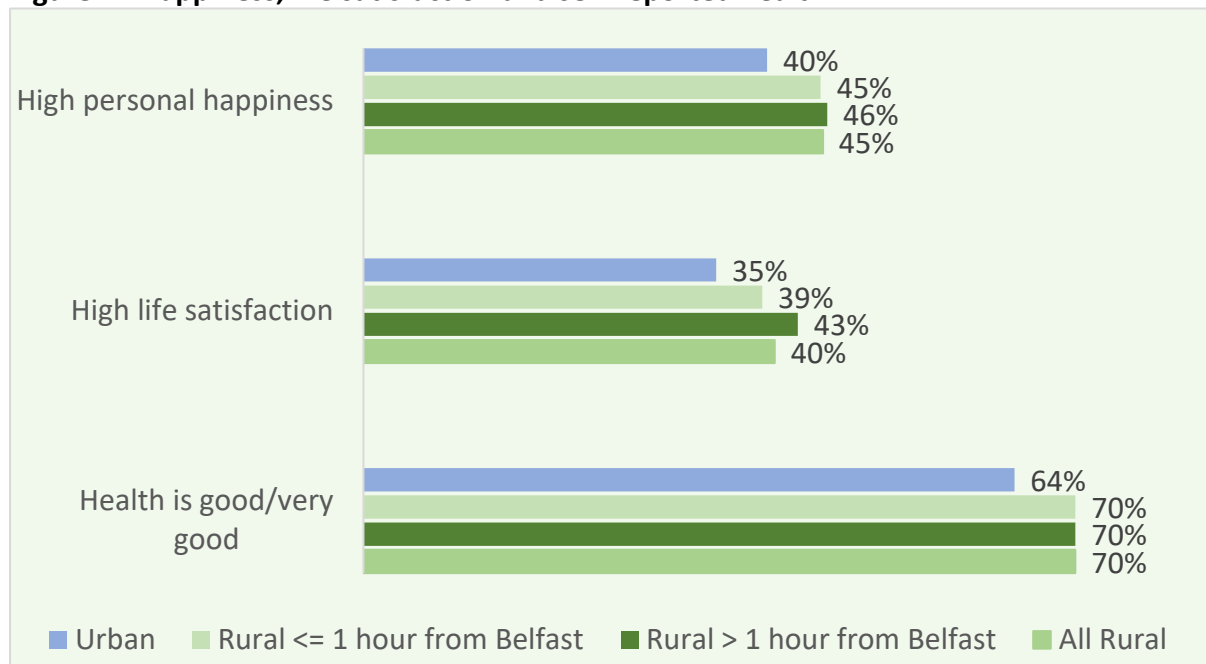


Notes: Financial services includes ATMs, banks, building societies and credit unions.
 Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, 2017, NISRA

For rural dwellers who can travel by private transport, journey times to key services are on average twice as long as for those living in towns and cities, and this disparity is again more pronounced in rural areas distant from Belfast. The greatest differences in travel times are to accident and emergency hospitals and to job centres/jobs and benefits offices. Those living in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast are on average 26 minutes away from an Accident and Emergency department, compared to an average 13 minute drive time for those living in urban areas.

Quality of life

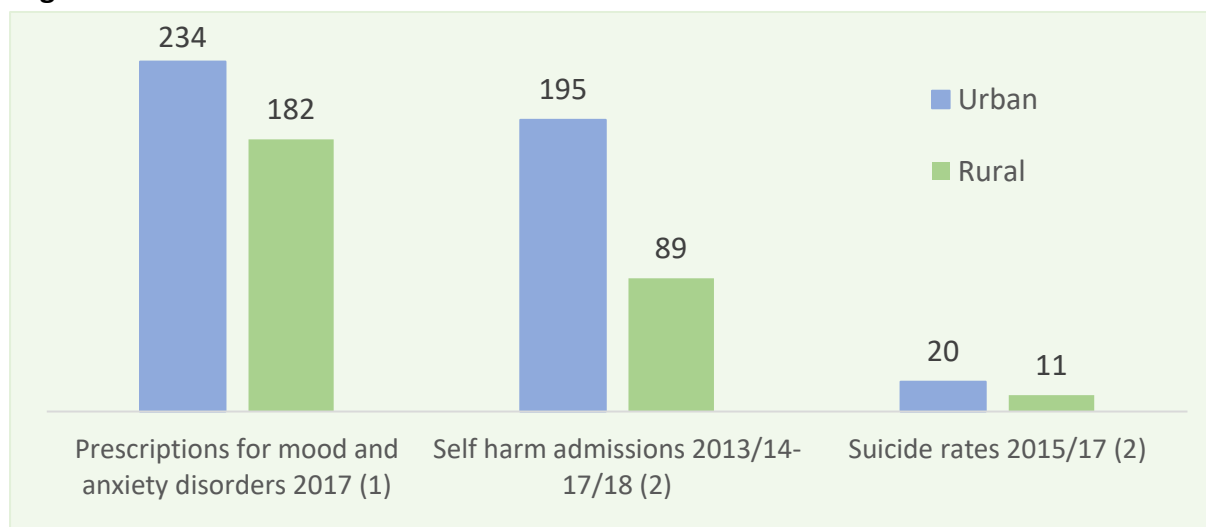
Figure 27 Happiness, life satisfaction and self-reported health



Sources Annual Population Survey, ONS 2017/18, Continuous Household Survey, NISRA 2018/19

People living in rural areas are consistently more likely than those in urban areas to rate their happiness and life satisfaction as high and their health as good or very good. Suicide rates are also lower in rural areas, as are the incidence of self-harm admissions to hospital and the receipt of medications for mood and anxiety disorders. All these indicators point to better mental health in the rural than in the urban population.

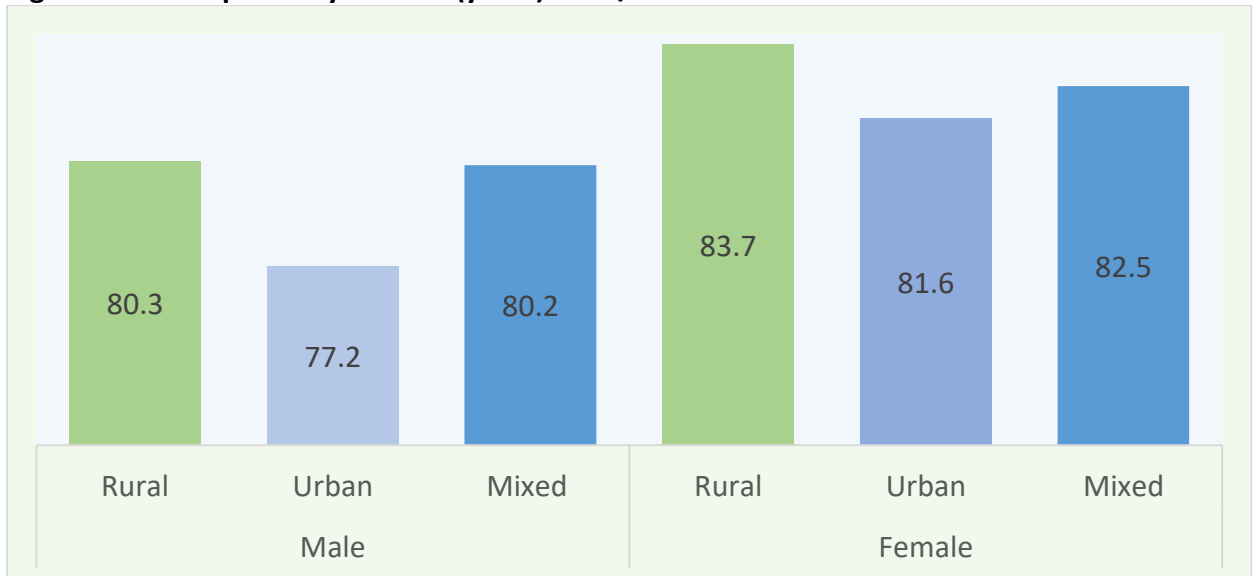
Figure 28 Mental health



Notes: 1.Per 1,000 population, 2.Per 100,000 population

Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2019, DH, 2019

Figure 29 Life expectancy at birth (years) 2015/17

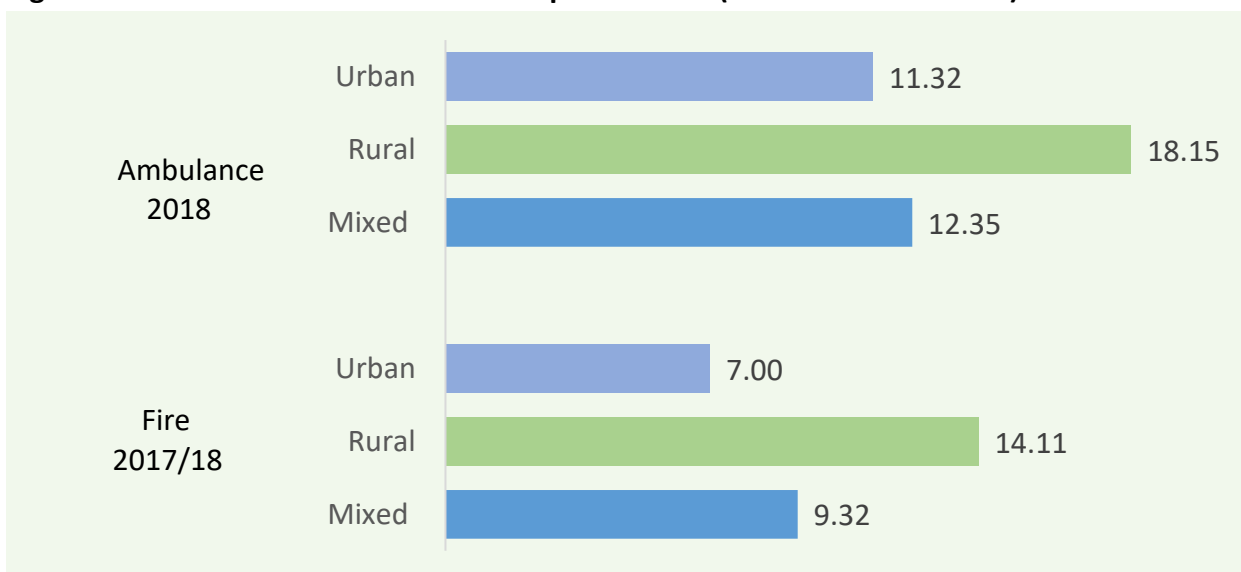


Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2019, DH, 2019

Life expectancy is much higher in rural and in mixed urban/rural areas than in towns and cities in NI, again reflecting better overall health in the rural population. Men living in rural areas can on average expect to live more than three years longer and rural women over two years longer than their urban counterparts.

In terms of safety however, ambulance and fire response times are much longer in rural than in urban and mixed urban/rural areas. People living in rural areas wait on average around 7 minutes longer for ambulance and fire brigade services than those living in towns and cities, and these extra minutes can of course, be crucial in cases of emergency.

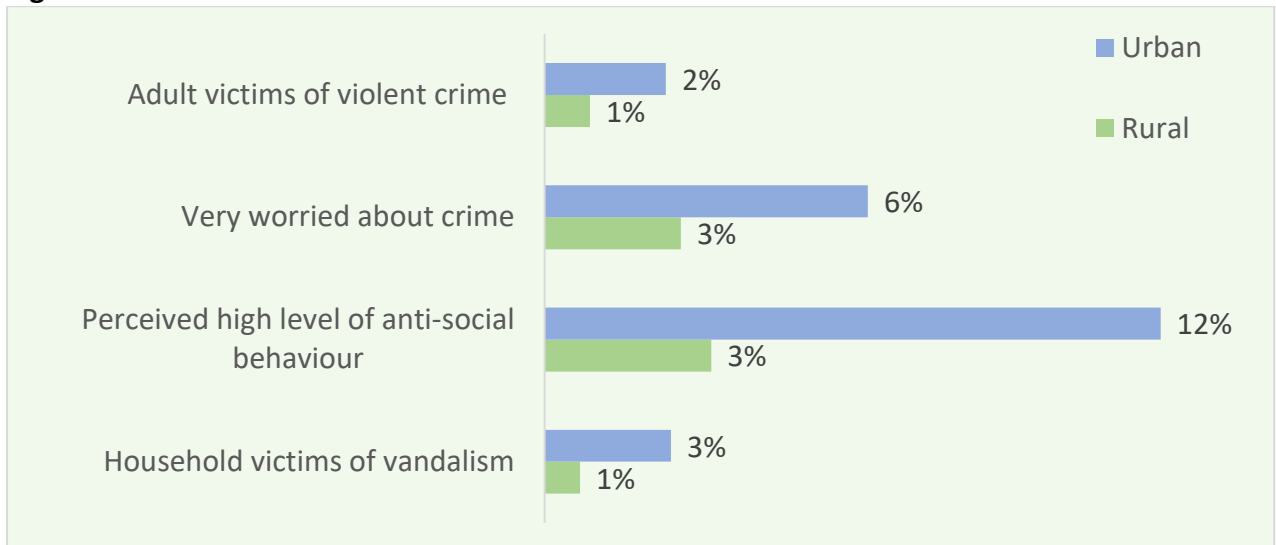
Figure 30 Median ambulance and fire response times (Minutes and seconds)



Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2019, DH, 2019

Crime

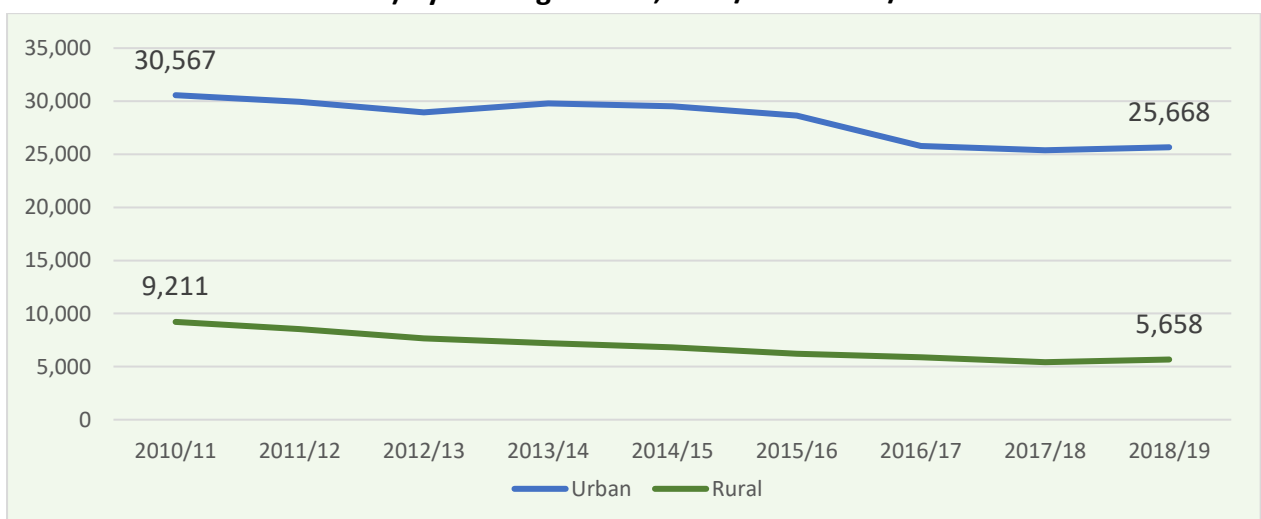
Figure 31 Crime and anti-social behaviour



Source: NI Crime Survey 2017/18, DoJ, 2019

People living in rural locations are less likely to worry about, or to experience crime and anti-social behaviour than those living in towns and cities.

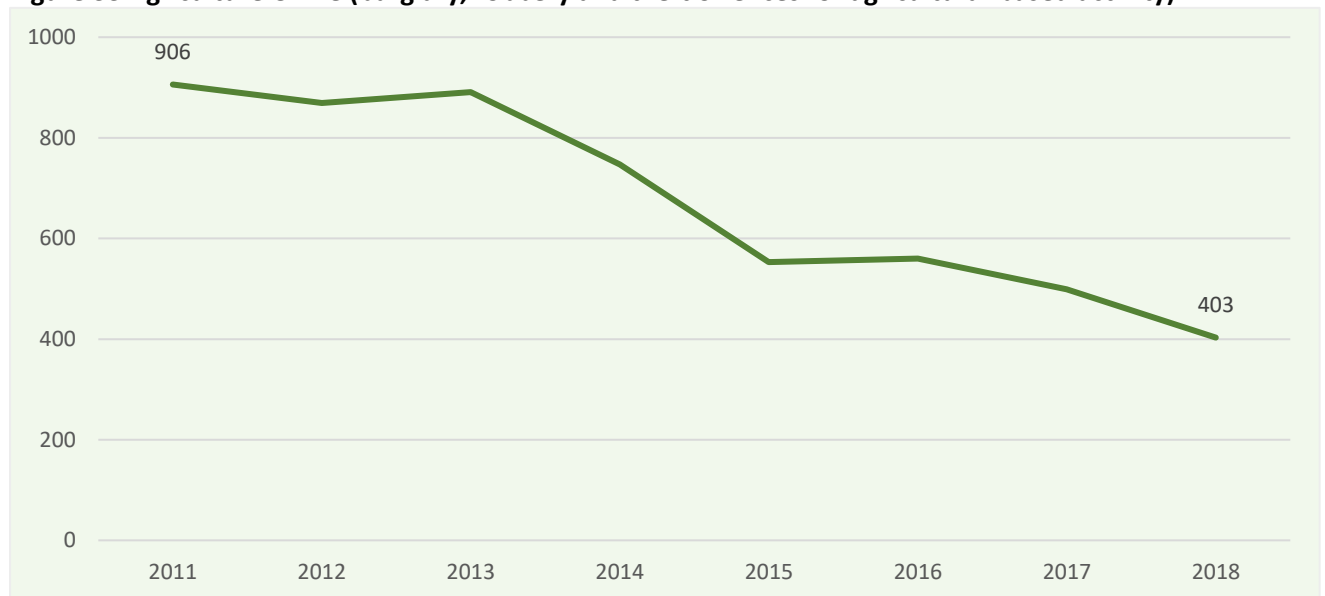
Figure 32 Urban/Rural Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences based on geographical location) by Policing District, 2010/11 to 2018/19



Source: Agricultural crime update to September 2019, DoJ, 2019

There has been a general downward trend in burglary, robbery and theft offences in NI since 2010/11 although rates have steadied in recent years. The decline in crime has been proportionately steeper in rural than in urban areas. Between 2010/11 and 2018/19 the proportion of burglary, robbery and theft offences occurring in rural settlements fell from 23% to 18% of the NI total.

Figure 33 Agriculture Crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity)



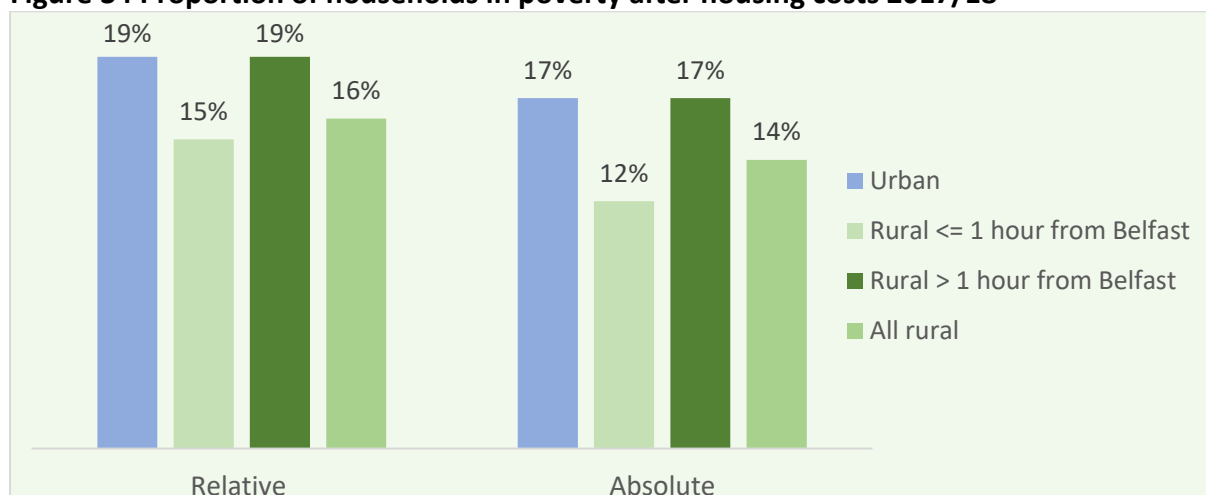
Source: *Agricultural crime update to September 2019, DoJ, 2019*

Over approximately the same time period, agricultural crime (burglary, robbery and theft offences for agricultural-based activity) has declined by more than half.

Poverty

Rural households are on average less likely than those in urban areas to fall below either relative or absolute poverty levels. However, overall figures for rural areas disguise intra-rural differences in the experience of poverty. Levels of poverty in households in rural areas more than an hour’s journey from Belfast are just as high as those in urban areas and much higher than those of rural areas closer to the city.

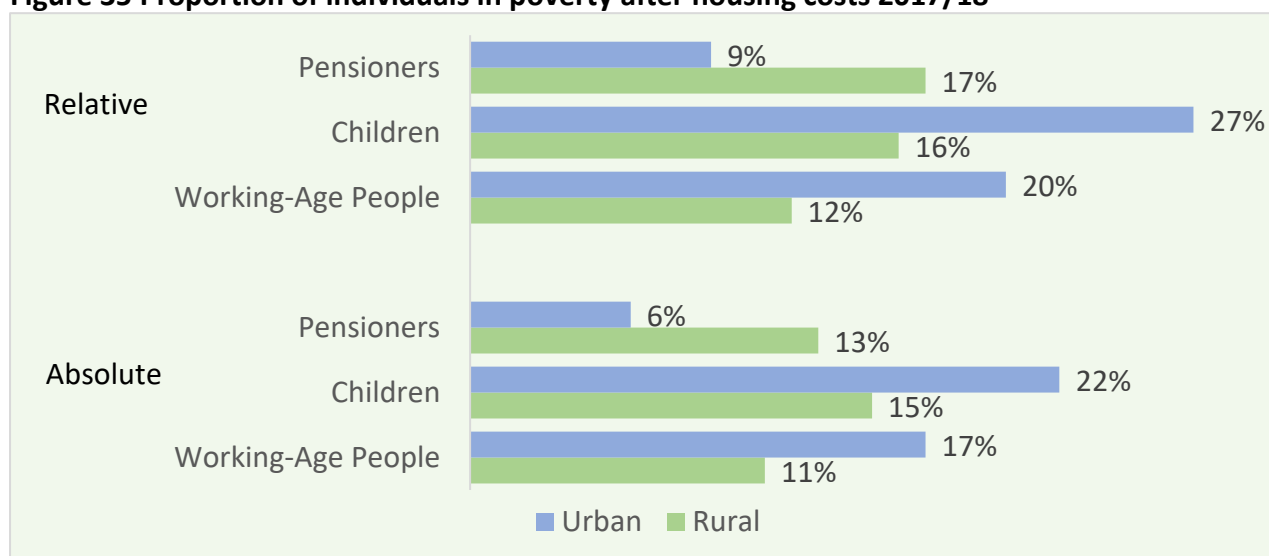
Figure 34 Proportion of households in poverty after housing costs 2017/18



Source: *Households Below Average Income, DfC, 2017/18*

Poverty levels in both children and adults of working age are higher in urban than rural areas as a whole. However, the reverse is true for older people. Rural pensioners are almost twice as likely to be in relative and more than twice as likely to be in absolute poverty as their urban counterparts.

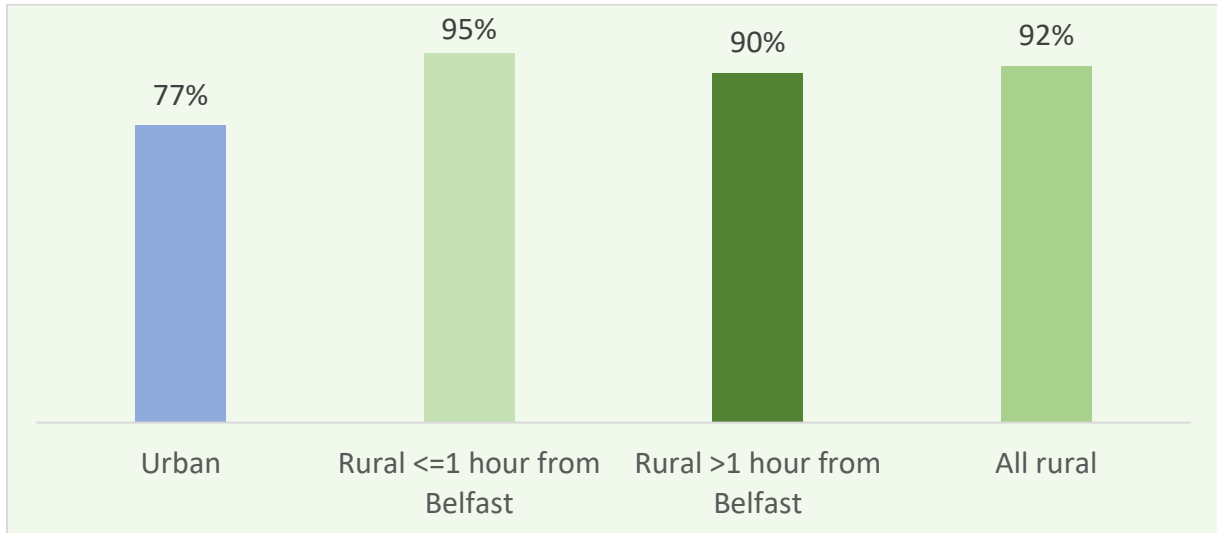
Figure 35 Proportion of individuals in poverty after housing costs 2017/18



Source: *Households Below Average Income, DfI, 2017/18*

The cost of living is also higher in rural areas⁷ and rural households are twice as likely as urban households to be in fuel poverty. Almost a third (32%) of rural households experience fuel poverty compared to 16% of those in urban areas.⁸ Private transport is also a necessity in many rural areas in terms of access to employment and basic services, and car ownership and running costs may consume a disproportionate share of available household income.

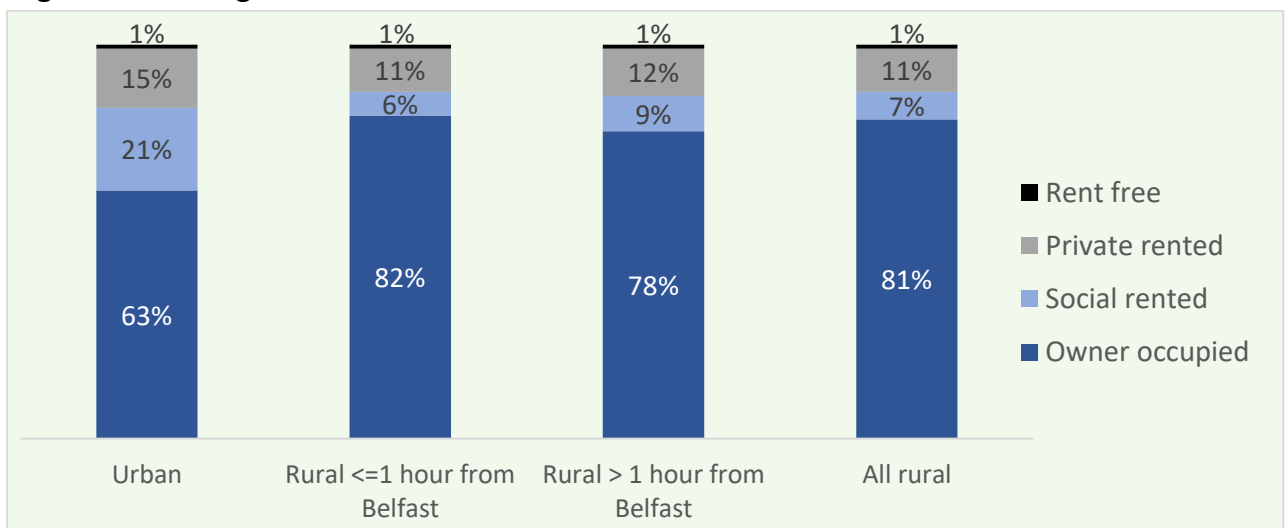
Figure 36 Household car/van ownership



Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19, NISRA

Access to social housing is much more limited and home ownership is much higher in rural than urban areas.

Figure 37 Housing Tenure



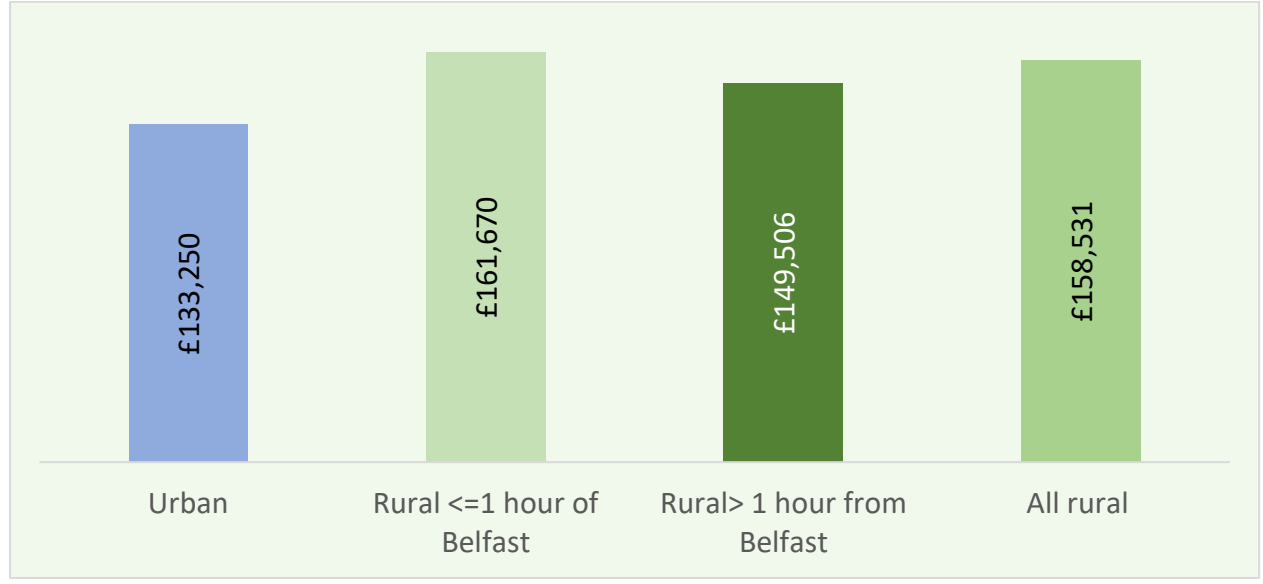
Source: Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19, NISRA

⁷A minimum income standard for rural areas, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2010

⁸ Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 2018

Average house prices are also higher and are rising faster in rural than in urban areas. Property in rural areas within an hour's drive of Belfast is most expensive of all.

Figure 38 Average house prices



Source: NI House Price Index, NISRA, Quarter 3, 2019

Further information

The evidence in this paper gives a flavour of the wide range of information which is available from across government to support rural policy. For sources of more information on rural NI see overleaf.

For queries and further information contact:

Statistics and Analytical Services Branch,
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs,
Room 816, Dundonald House Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT4 3SB
Statistician: Patricia McDowell
Telephone: 028 9052 4144
Email: ruralstats.PED@daera-ni.gov.uk

Rural statistics and farmer equality indicators

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/rural-statistics-and-farmer-equality-indicators#toc-1>

Contains information on the farming population and rural/urban comparative data on demography, households below average income, the economy and labour market, earnings, industry, tourism, telecommunications, investment, health, education, housing, travel and transport, wellbeing and experience of crime

Rural Development

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/rural-development>

Rural needs

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/rural-development/rural-needs>

Tackling rural poverty and social isolation

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/rural-development/tackling-rural-poverty-and-social-isolation>

Research reports

Skills, education and training: Results from the AFBI farm household survey: Jack, C, Anderson, D, Patten, N and Miller, C, AFBI, 2014

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/skills-education-and-training-results-from-the-afbi-farm-household-survey-2014.pdf>

On-Farm and Off-Farm Returns to Education among Farm Operators in Northern Ireland: A Non-Technical Summary and Policy Discussion Document: Jack, C and Wallace, M, AFBI, 2011

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/returns-to-education-report.pdf>



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**