

# Key Rural Issues, Northern Ireland 2025



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

An Roinn  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

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## Key Findings

### Population and Education

- Population growth in rural areas from 2001-20 outstripped that in urban areas by a factor of almost 3 to 1 (20% to 7%). Discussions are ongoing regarding the availability of updated population estimates based on the 2021 Census.
- Young people from rural areas are more likely to leave school with 5 or more GCSEs at A\* to C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths (77%, 68% in urban areas).
- School leavers in rural areas are more likely to enter further or higher education (73%) than their urban peers (69%).

### Employment and Industry

- Rural people of working age are more likely to be in full-time employment (62%) and less likely to be economically inactive (22%) than those living in urban areas.
- Workers from rural areas report being more highly skilled (55%) and are more likely to report high job satisfaction than urban workers (85% to 82%).
- In 2025, the median annual salaries of private and public sector workers in urban areas were higher than those in rural areas.
- In 2025, more than half (58%) of NI businesses are located in rural areas, yet rural businesses account for just 21% of employees, and just 31% of all business turnover
- Rural businesses predominantly engage in agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction (57%), with urban businesses more widely spread across a variety of sectors.

### Tourism and Connectivity

- Rural residents (89%) were much more likely to use their own transport to commute than those from urban areas (77%).
- In 2023, rural dwellers had a much longer average commute than urban residents, with rural residents also travelling on average more than 500 additional miles per year to their workplace.
- In 2022, five of the top ten most visited paid attractions in NI were in rural areas.
- Broadband availability and speeds in rural areas continue to increase rapidly, with full-fibre services available to 91% of rural NI households in 2025 (from 65% in 2022).

## Health and Wellbeing

- People living in rural areas are consistently more likely to rate their happiness and life satisfaction as high, and their anxiety levels as low.  
In 2025, life expectancy is higher in rural areas (80.4 years for males, 83.9 years for females). Rural dwellers continue to wait longer for emergency service response than their urban counterparts.

## Crime

- People from rural areas are less likely to directly experience several crime types than those in urban areas (including burglary, vandalism and violent crime).
- In rural areas, recorded crimes with a racist motivation more than tripled from 59 in 2023/24 to 200 in 2024/25.

## Poverty, Housing, and Household Income

- Similar proportions of urban and rural households are in relative poverty (18% urban, 17% rural) or absolute poverty (15% urban, 14% rural).
- Rural children in 2023-24 were less likely to experience absolute poverty than their urban counterparts (16% in rural areas, 25% in urban areas).
- Levels of home ownership are higher in rural than in urban areas (77% to 66%), with house prices in rural areas continuing to outstrip those in towns and cities.

# Northern Ireland Urban-Rural Statistics

● = Urban   ● = Mixed   ● = Rural

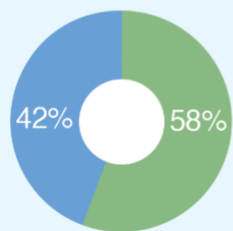
## Population Growth, 2001-2020\*



## Job Quality 2024



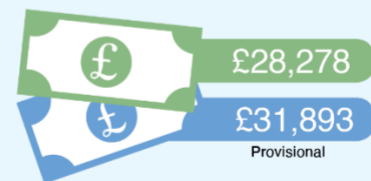
## Businesses 2025



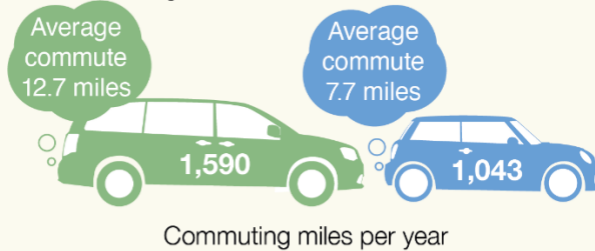
## Tourism Expenditure 2024



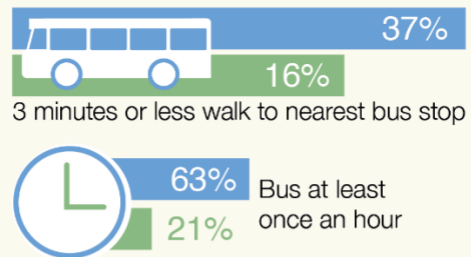
## Median Annual Salary 2025\*



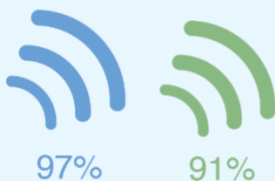
## Average Commute (miles) 2023



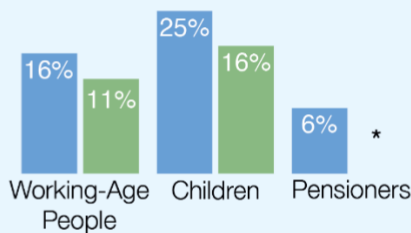
## Public Transport 2023



## Coverage of Full-Fibre Broadband 2025

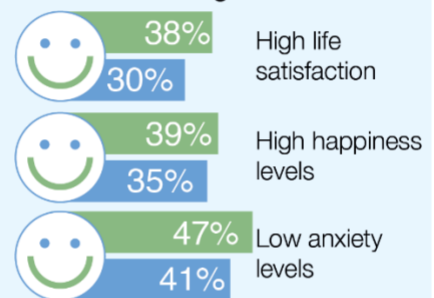


## People in Absolute Poverty (after Housing Costs) 2023-24



\*Figure unavailable due to small sample size.

## Wellbeing 2024-25\*



\*Self reported

## Introduction

NISRA's 2020 mid-year estimates of population suggest that more than a third (36%) of Northern Ireland's (NI) population lives in a rural area. Despite similarities in many aspects of urban and rural life, there are also challenges which tend to be more pronounced in rural areas outside of Belfast.

The nature of rural industry and employment differs from that of towns and cities. Difficulties with access to services, and issues with connectivity, social and digital, can have a disproportionate impact on rural dwellers.

The cost of living also tends to be higher in rural areas, and rural households are more likely to experience fuel poverty. Despite the unique challenges presented by rural life, those living in rural areas on average enjoy a better self-reported quality of life than their urban counterparts, in terms of health, happiness and life satisfaction.

## Key Rural Issues – Background and Aim

A considerable amount of data is regularly collected across Government Departments, from both survey data and administrative sources. This publication will co-ordinate relevant, publicly available data from a unique urban/rural perspective, to highlight key urban/rural differences and disparities across a range of domains.

In doing so, the publication will provide a robust evidence base to inform the future direction of rural policy in NI, to underpin the Rural Needs Act (2016), and to support the equitable treatment of rural communities in policies and programmes across Government.

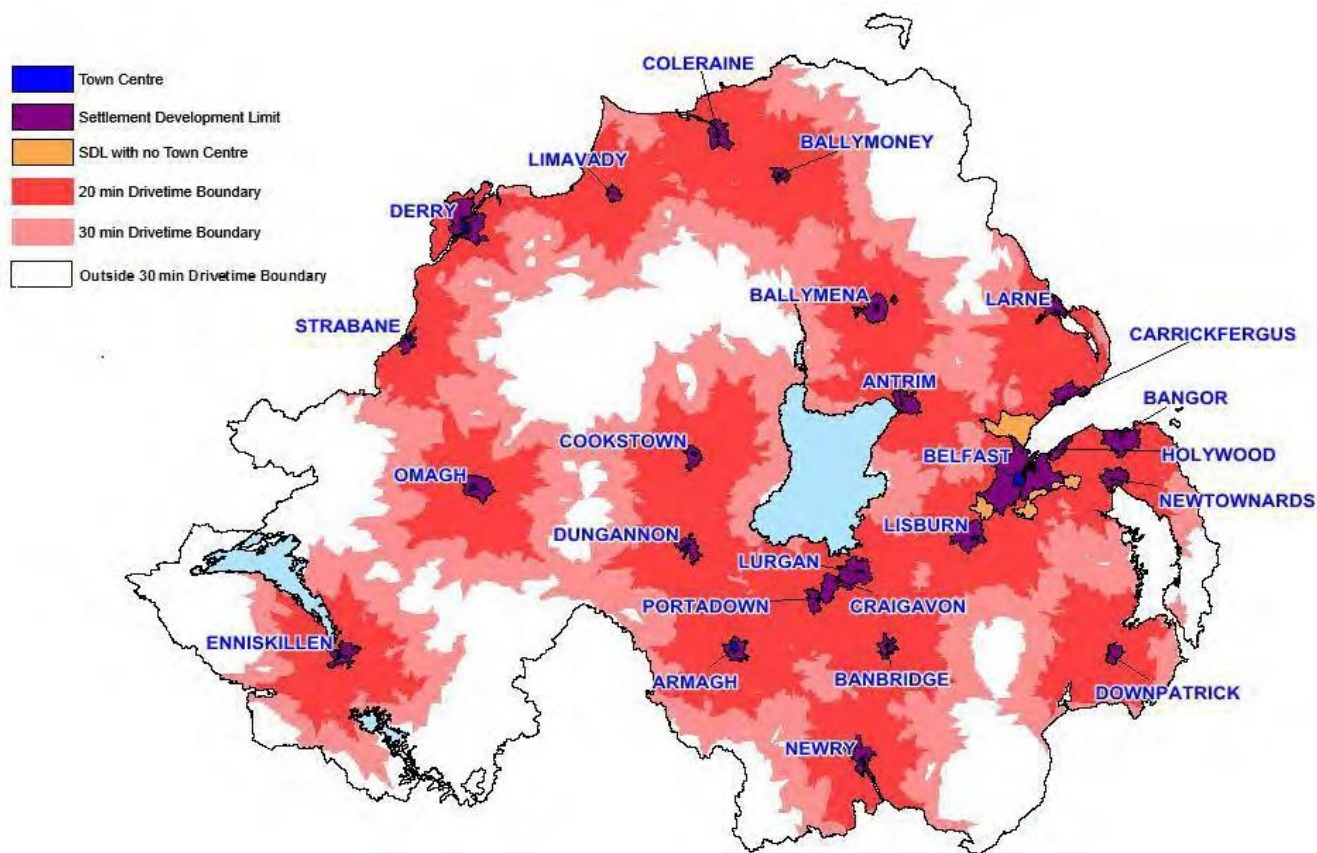
The collection and timeliness of statistical data across Government continues to be impacted by both methodological changes arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and resource pressures across NISRA. In some instances, updated urban/rural data has been limited or has not been available at the time of publication. This will be clearly indicated in each instance and for the latter, the most recent published data will be provided instead.

The domains explored in this publication in terms of urban/rural comparison include:

- Population
- Education
- Employment
- Industry
- Travel and Tourism
- Crime and Poverty
- Connectivity and access to services
- Health and Wellbeing
- Household Income, Housing and Poverty

## Urban/Rural - Populations and Definition

**Figure 1: NI Urban and Rural areas with 20 and 30 minute 'drive time' boundaries from settlements with a population of 10,000 or more**



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Source: *Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2015*

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) carried out a review of settlement classification in 2015<sup>1</sup>, which recommended a default urban/rural boundary at a population level of 5,000.

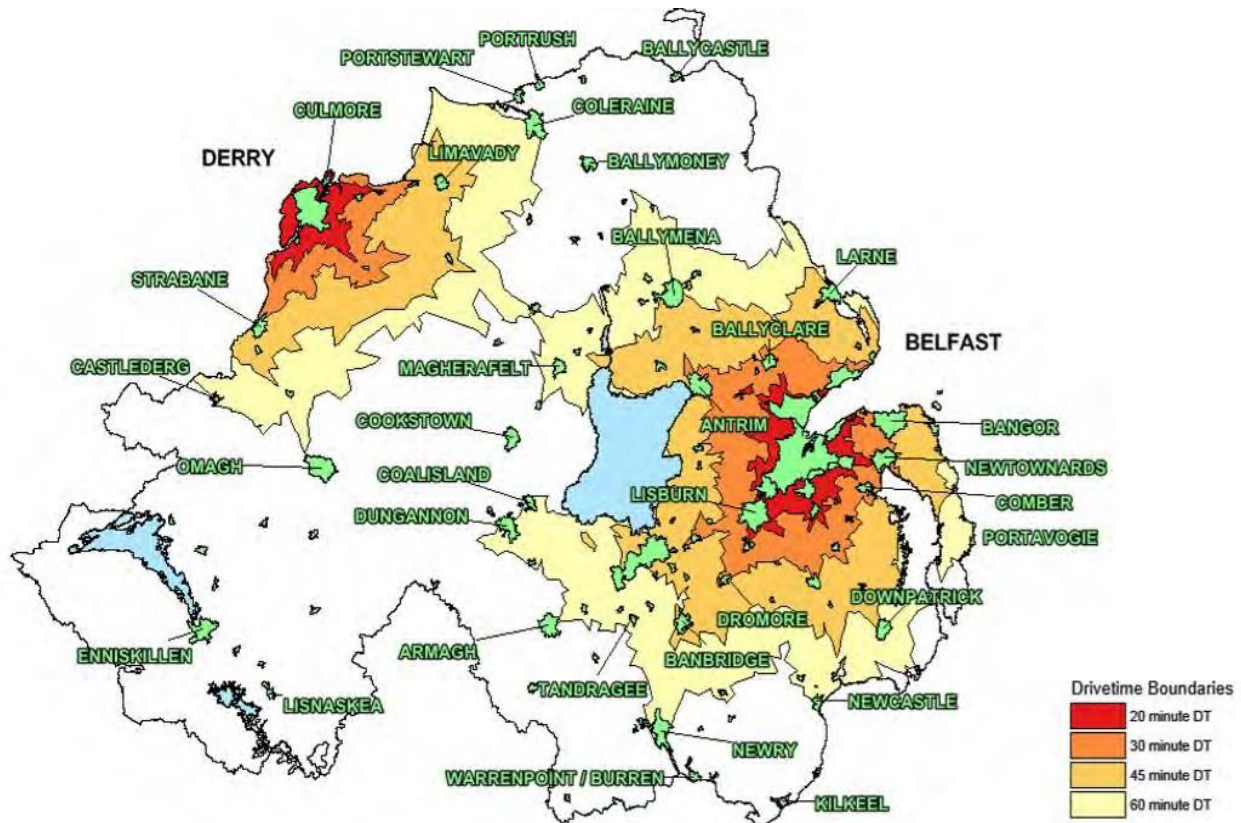
All settlements with a population of less than 5,000, and areas of open countryside, were defined as rural. The classification also incorporated measures of distance to settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. These measures were intended as proxies for accessibility, as previous research had indicated that towns of this size are large enough to

<sup>1</sup> *Review of the statistical classification and delineation of Settlements, NISRA 2015*  
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/review-statistical-classification-and-delineation-settlements>

provide access to all key services, and that rural areas in their vicinity are likely to thrive. Market towns are likely to have connections with city regions, and linkages between urban and rural areas are beneficial to both.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1 shows rural and urban areas of NI as defined by the review, as well as 20 and 30 minute drive time boundaries to urban settlements, above the 10,000 population threshold. In 2018, 41% of the rural population in NI lived further than 20 minutes from a settlement of this size.

**Figure 2: Drive-time boundaries to Belfast and Derry/Londonderry**

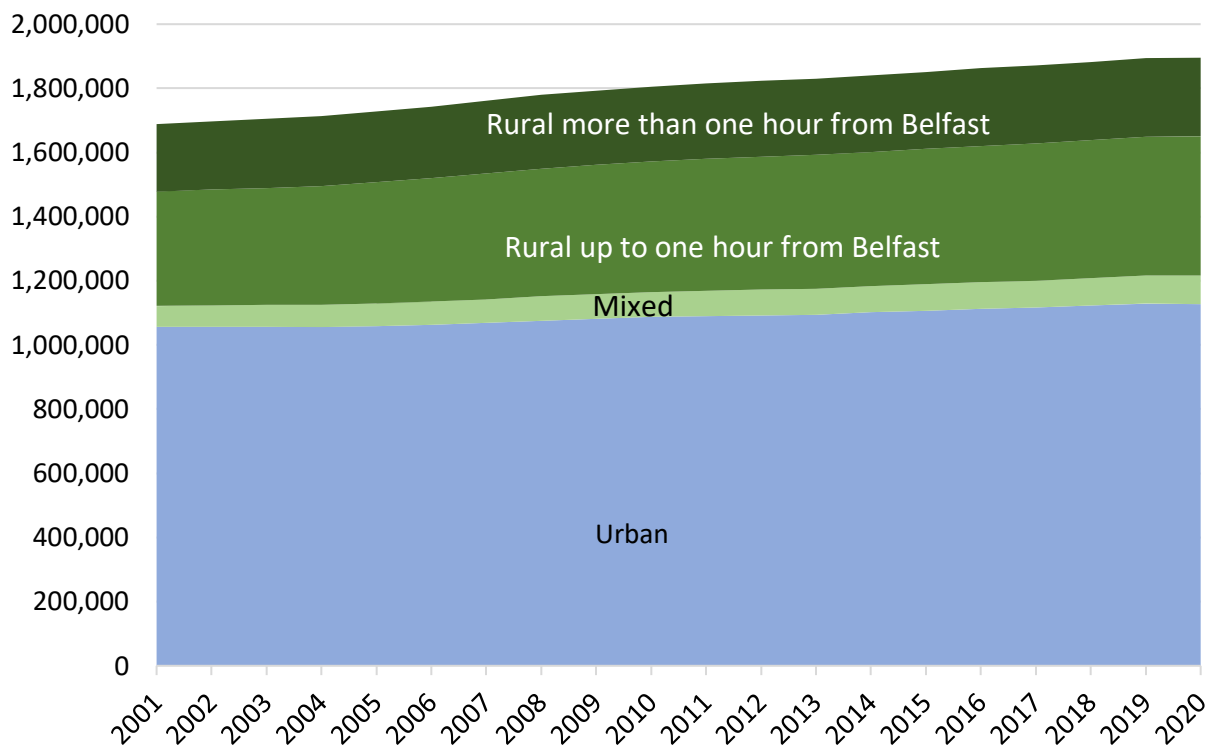


© Crown copyright and database rights NIMA MOU207.2 Source: Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2015 <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/review-of-the-statistical-classification-and-delineation-of-settlements-march-2015%20%281%29.pdf>

The 2015 settlement classification also incorporated specific drive times to Belfast and Londonderry, as the two major urban centres in NI (Figure 2). Belfast is regarded as the main regional economic driver, most important employment centre, and focus for administration and commerce in NI<sup>3</sup>. In 2020, more than a third (36%) of the rural population in NI lived more than a 60 minute drive from Belfast.

<sup>2</sup> Rural Policy and Evidence. A report prepared for the Rural Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Sally Shortall, QUB, 2

**Figure 3: Urban and Rural Population Growth, 2001-2020**



Source: NISRA Mid-year Population Estimates 2020

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population>

Under the 2015 settlement classification definition, more than 80% of the NI land mass is rural. Although more than a third of NI’s population lives in a rural area, the rate of population growth in rural areas has been higher than in urban areas.

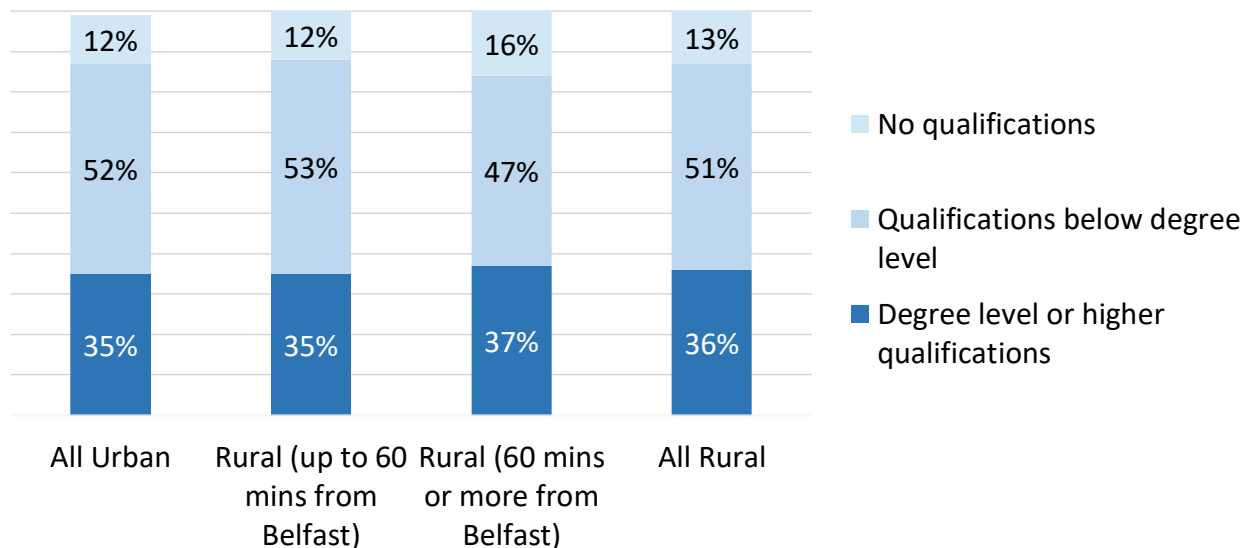
At the time of publication, updated mid-year population estimates by urban/rural breakdowns based on 2021 Census data are not yet available. The analysis below is based on the most recent published urban/rural population estimates.

Between 2001 and 2020, the population of rural areas rose by 20%, compared to an increase of just 7% for urban areas. 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 (36%) or less than an hour’s commute from Belfast (22%).

3 Regional Development Strategy 2035, Department for Infrastructure NI  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/regional-development-strategy-2035>

## Education

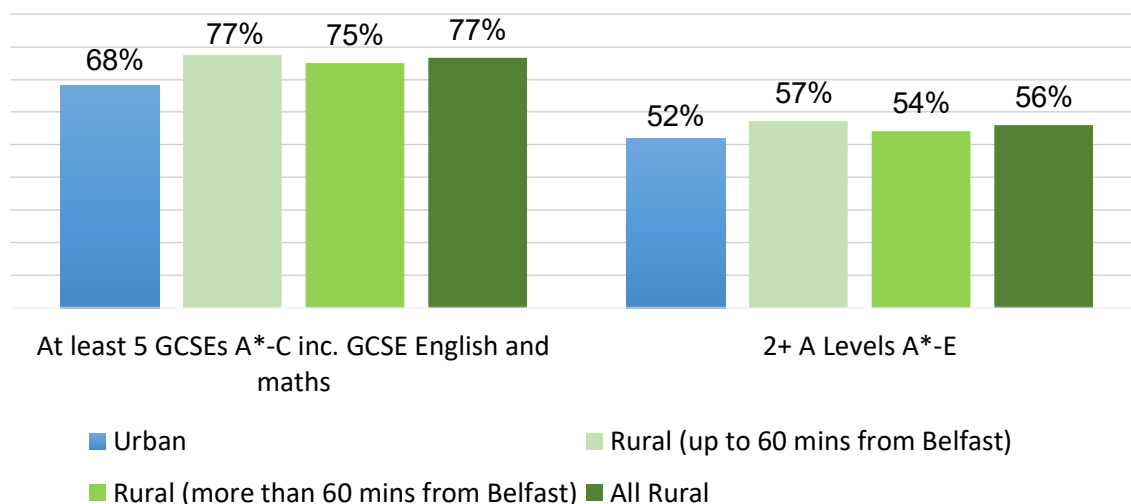
**Figure 4: Highest Educational Qualification (persons aged 16 and over), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



Source: Continuous Household Survey (NISRA), 2024-25 (figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding)

In 2024-25, the adult populations of rural and urban areas were similar in terms of overall educational attainment. However, there appear to be intra-rural differences in qualification levels. In 2024-25, rural dwellers who live more than an hour's drive from Belfast were slightly more likely to have achieved 'degree level or higher' qualifications (37%) than their urban counterparts (35%) and were more likely to have no formal qualifications (16% compared to 12%).

**Figure 5: Qualifications of School Leavers by Pupil Residence, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023-24**

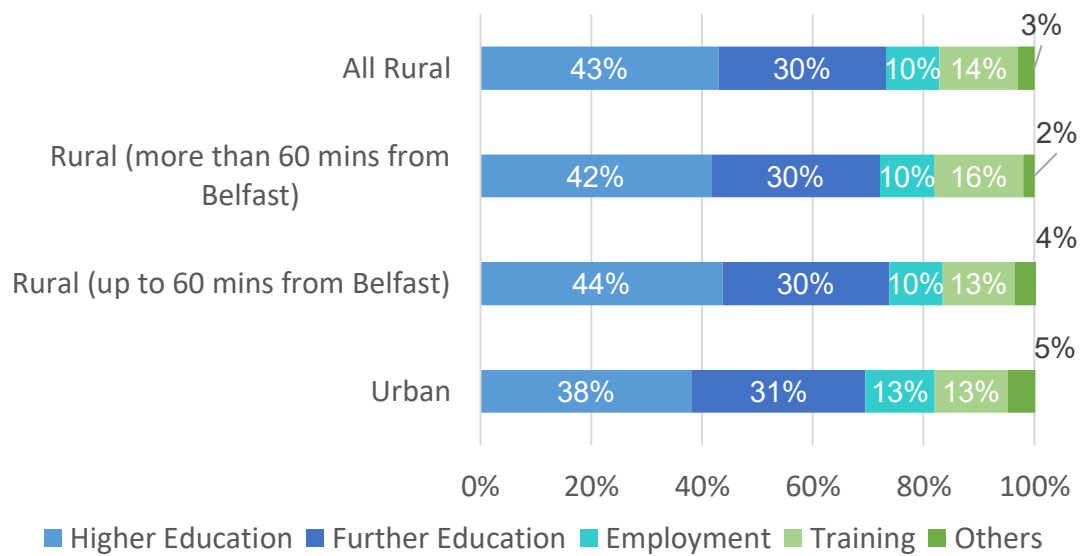


Source: NI School Leavers Survey, Department of Education (DE), 2023-24

In 2023-24, GCSE students from rural areas were more successful on average than their urban counterparts, in terms of exam pass rates. More than three quarters (77%) of students from rural areas left school with at least 5 GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths, compared to 68% of students from urban areas (Figure 5).

The urban/rural attainment gap at A-level was narrower, with 56% of rural school leavers having achieved two or more passes, compared to just over half of urban school leavers (52%, Figure 5).

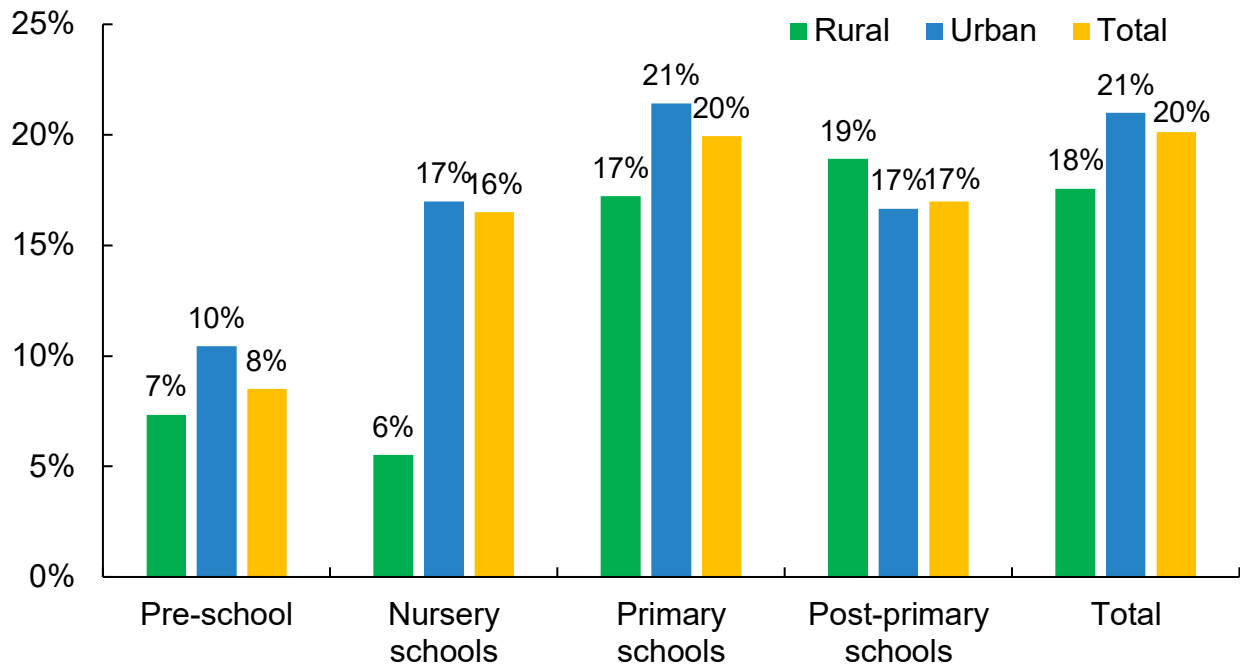
**Figure 6: Destination of School Leavers by Pupil Residence, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023-24**



Source: NI School Leavers Survey, Department of Education (DE), 2023-24

In 2023-24, school leavers from rural areas were more likely than those from urban areas to enter higher education (Figure 6). However, this gap has been narrowing since 2021-22, with 43% of pupils living in rural areas proceeding to higher education in 2023-24, compared with 38% of school leavers from urban areas.

**Figure 7: Percentage of Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Stage 1-3 on SEN Code of Practice, Urban/Rural/NI Comparison, 2025-26**



Source: NI School Enrolments Data, Department of Education (DE), 2025-26

Overall, Special Educational Needs (SEN) prevalence is higher in urban schools (21%) than in rural schools (18%). This difference is driven primarily by patterns in the larger primary and post-primary sectors, rather than by early years provision. Although the percentage difference at nursery level is large, absolute pupil numbers are small, meaning differences at this stage have little impact on overall SEN proportions (Figure 7).

The primary sector contributes most to the overall pattern due to both its size and the gap in SEN prevalence between urban (21%) and rural (17%) schools. While rural areas account for a greater share of primary schools (55%), a smaller share of enrolments are rural (35%), indicating a greater number of generally smaller schools.

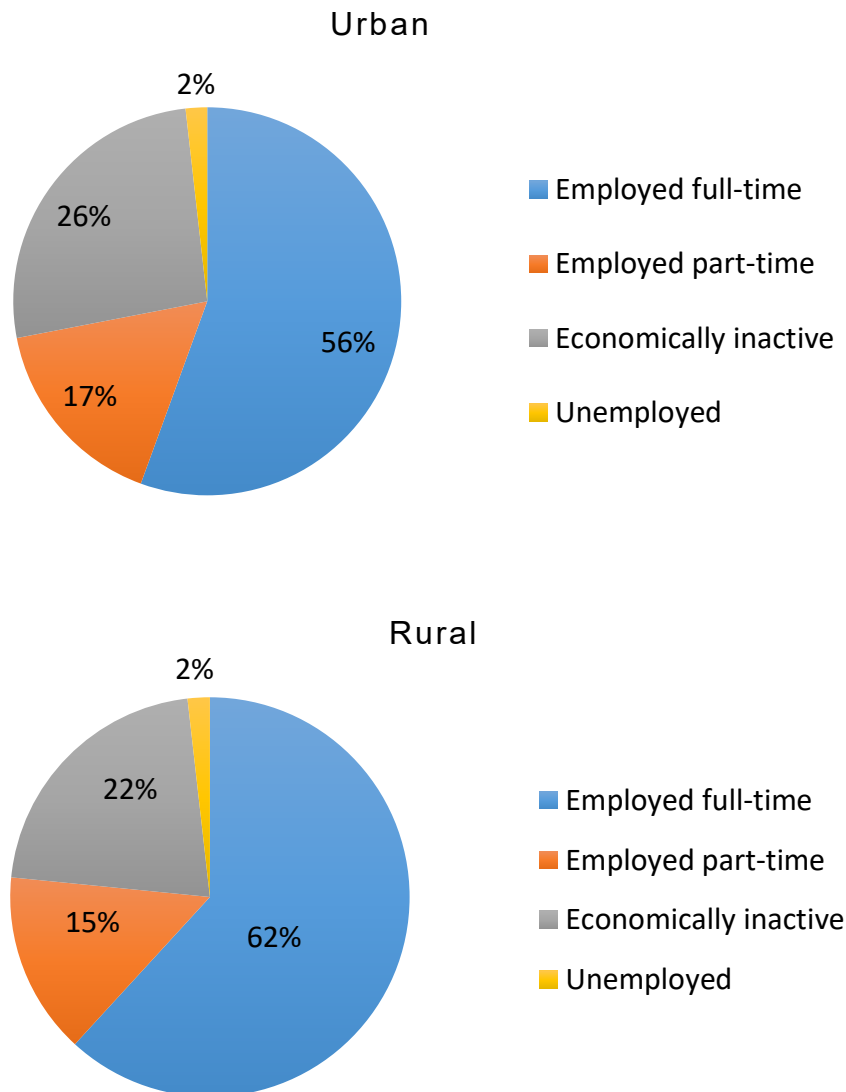
In contrast, SEN prevalence at post-primary level is slightly higher in rural schools (19%) than in urban schools (17%). Rural post-primary provision is concentrated in fewer schools serving a smaller share of enrolments.

In absolute terms, urban schools enrol more than three times as many SEN pupils as rural schools (55,091 compared with 15,593), reflecting both population distribution and the geographic concentration of provision.

Further information on the SEN Code of Practice is available [here](#).

## Employment

Figure 8: Economic Activity Status of NI Working Age Population, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024



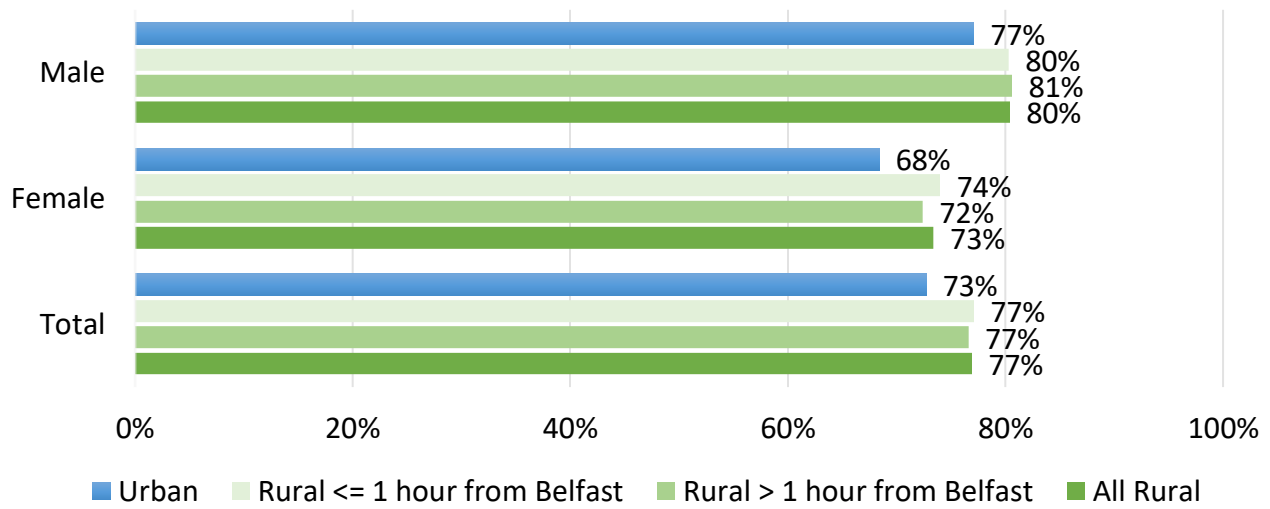
*\*Economic inactivity is defined as "people who are neither in employment nor unemployed as determined by the ILO measure. This group includes all those who are looking after a home, are long term sick or disabled, or are students, or retired."*

*\*\*Percentages may not sum due to rounding*

Source: NI Labour Force Survey, January-December 2024

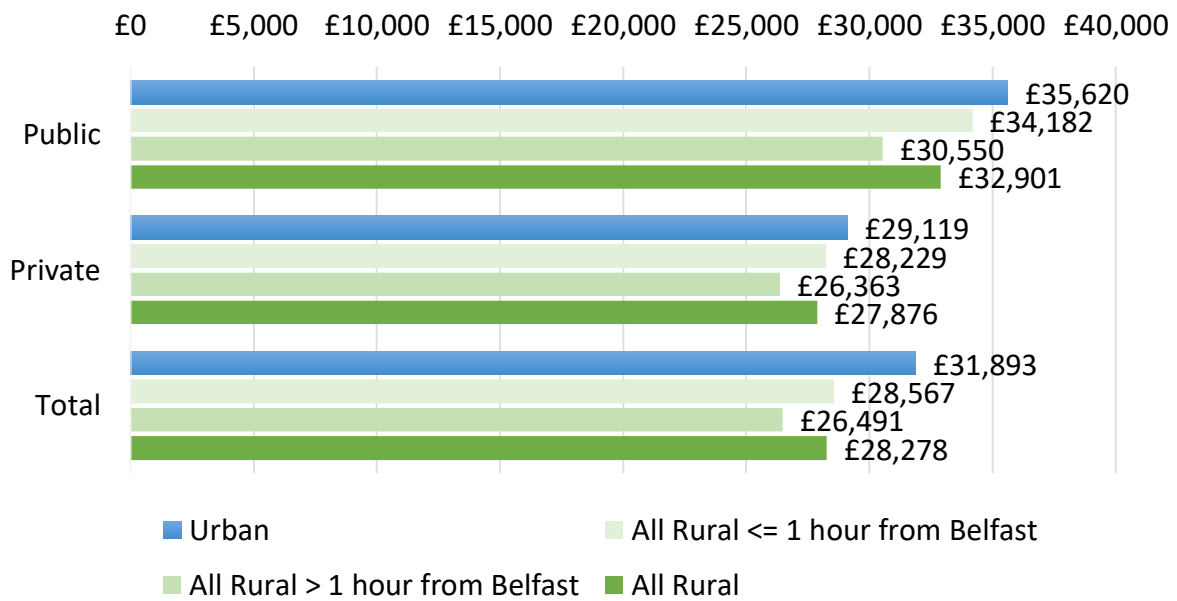
In 2024, people living in rural areas were more likely to be in full-time employment compared with those in urban areas (62% to 56%, Figure 8). Rural areas also saw slightly lower levels of economic inactivity (22%) than urban areas (26%). Overall employment levels for both men and women were higher in the rural (77%) than the urban population (73%, Figure 9). At 77%, employment levels were the same in both rural areas within an hour's commute of Belfast and in rural areas more than an hour's drive from Belfast.

**Figure 9: Percentage of Working Age Population in Employment by Sex, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024**



Source: NI Labour Force Survey, January-December 2024

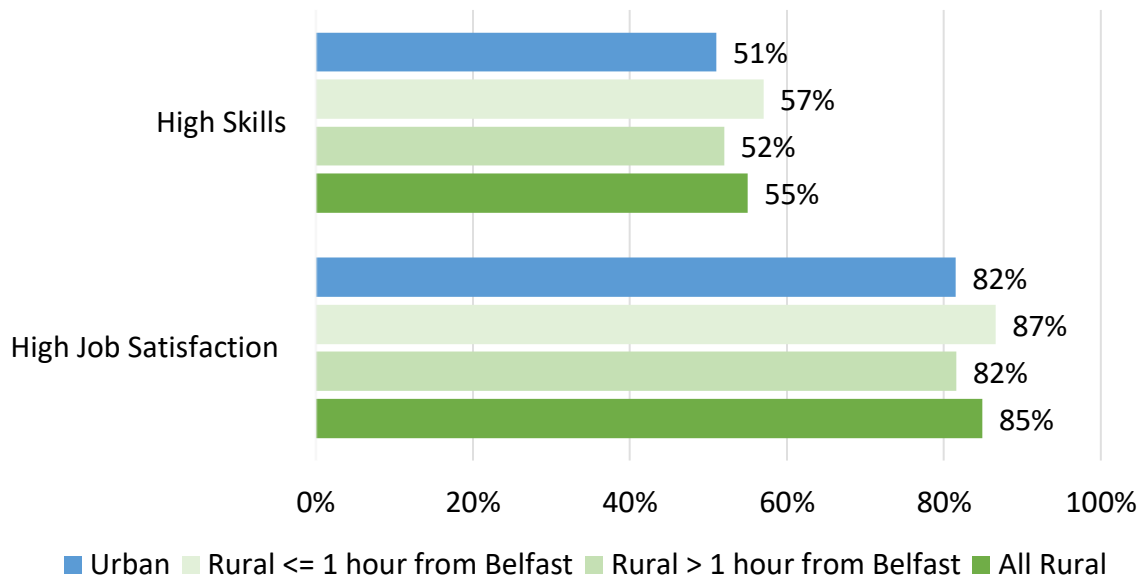
**Figure 10: Median Annual Salary by Workplace Address/Sector, Urban/Rural/NI Comparison, 2025**



Source: NI Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE - provisional) 2025, NISRA

In 2025, provisional figures for the median annual salaries of public sector workers in urban areas were £2,719 higher than those in rural areas, with the gap increasing from £1,074 in 2024. In the private sector, median salaries in urban workplaces were £1,243 higher than in rural workplaces, with the gap decreasing from £1,972 in 2024 (Figure 9).

**Figure 11: Job Skills and Job Satisfaction, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024**



*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 4 or 5 out of 5.*

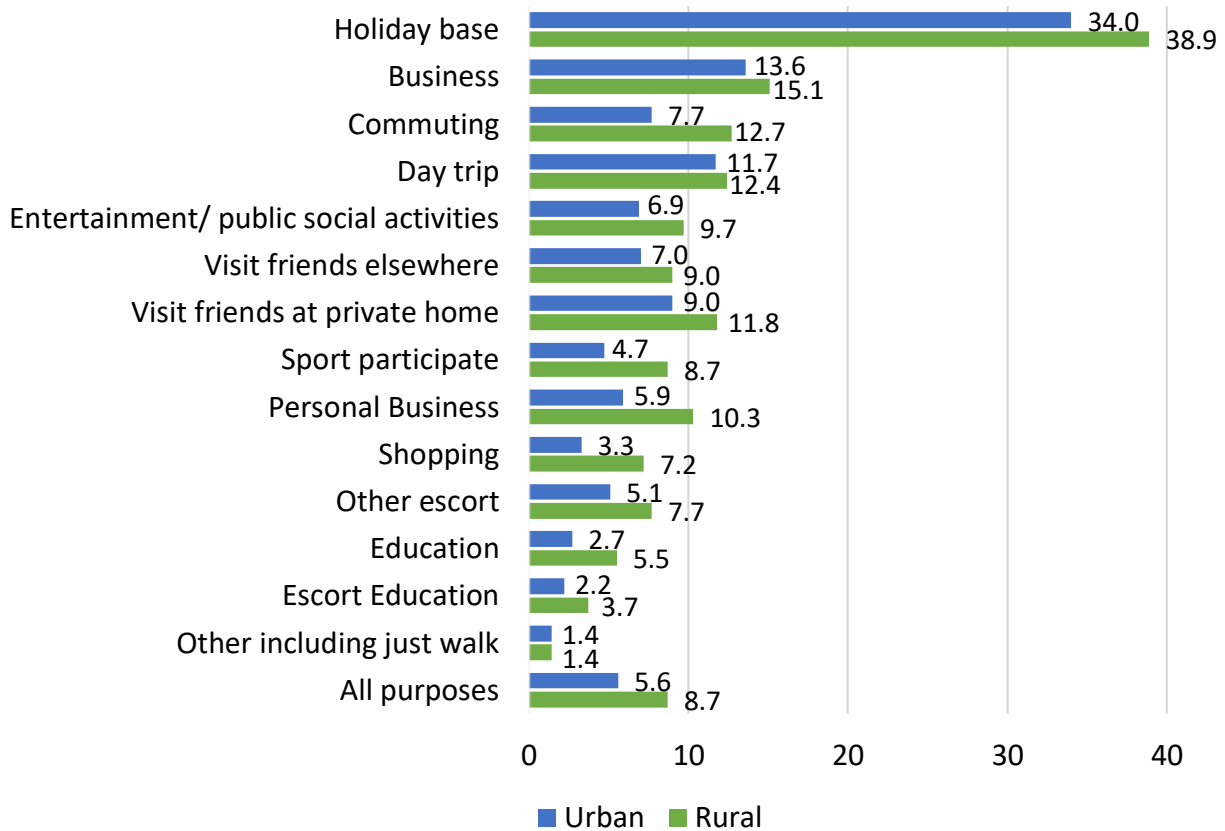
*Source: NI Labour Force Survey, January-December 2024*

Figure 11 provides an urban/rural comparison of the skill level of workers and self-reported job satisfaction levels in 2024. Workers who lived in rural areas were more likely to have ‘High Skills’ and more likely to report high job satisfaction (85%) than their urban counterparts (82%).

Between 2023 and 2024, self-reported ‘high’ job satisfaction levels increased in urban areas by 2 percentage points. Over the same period, there was no change in job satisfaction levels in rural areas, and self-reported ‘high’ job satisfaction levels increased by 3 percentage points in rural areas less than an hour’s drive from Belfast. In rural areas more than an hour’s drive from Belfast, ‘high’ job satisfaction levels decreased by 5 percentage points from the previous year.

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 better paid employment than is available locally.

**Figure 12: Average Distance Travelled (miles) for Business and Leisure, by purpose of journey, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023<sup>1</sup>**



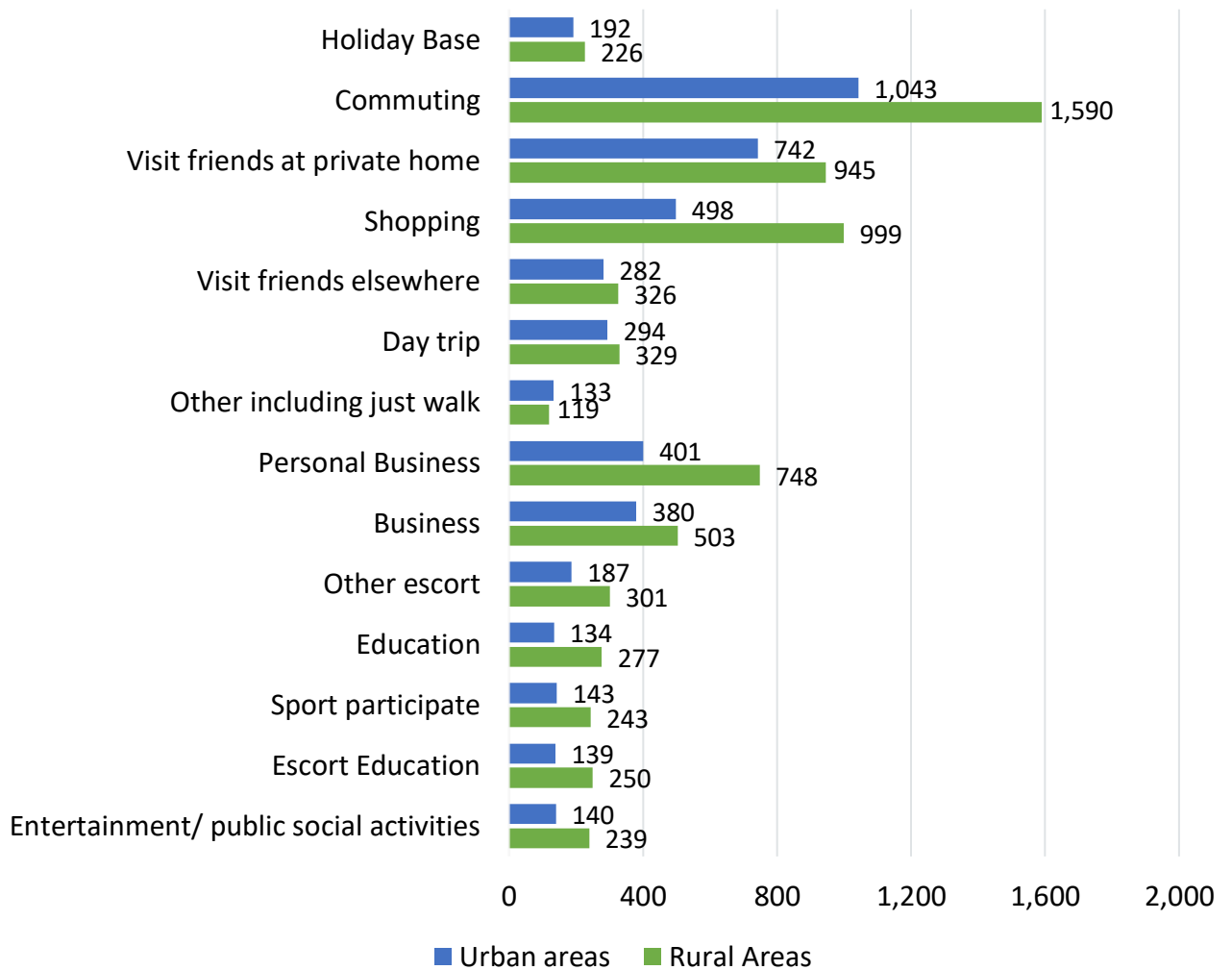
<sup>1</sup> 2020 to 2023 TSNi results can be compared to each other. However, care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on these data and comparisons to previous years. This is due to significant changes to the survey methodology, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change to reporting data as a single year.

Definitions and further information are available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsn>

Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2022 and 2023, DfI

As in 2021, the 2023 Travel Survey showed that rural dwellers had a much longer average commute than residents in towns and cities, with residents from rural areas commuting an average of 12.7 miles in comparison to the 7.7 miles commuted by their urban counterparts (Figure 12). Rural dwellers travelled on average more than 500 additional miles per year to their workplace (Figure 13). Rural residents also travelled on average 999 miles per year for shopping, compared to just 498 miles for urban residents (Figure 13).

**Figure 13: Total Miles Travelled (per person per year), by Journey Purpose, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023<sup>1</sup>**



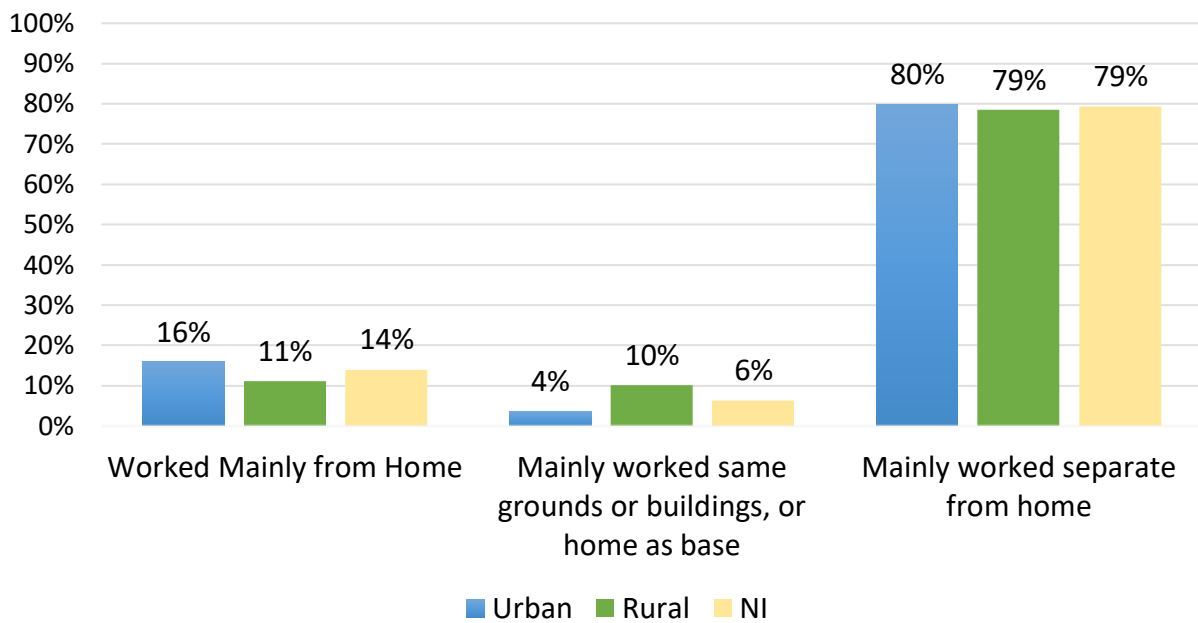
<sup>1</sup> 2020 to 2023 TSNI results can be compared to each other. However, care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on these data and comparisons to previous years. This is due to significant changes to the survey methodology, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change to reporting data as a single year.

Definitions and further information are available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsn>

Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2022 and 2023, DfI

Findings from the 2024 NI Labour Force Survey show that the proportion of urban employees that worked primarily from home increased from 14% in 2023 to 16% in 2024, while the proportion of rural employees that worked primarily from home decreased slightly from 12% to 11% over the same period (Figure 14).

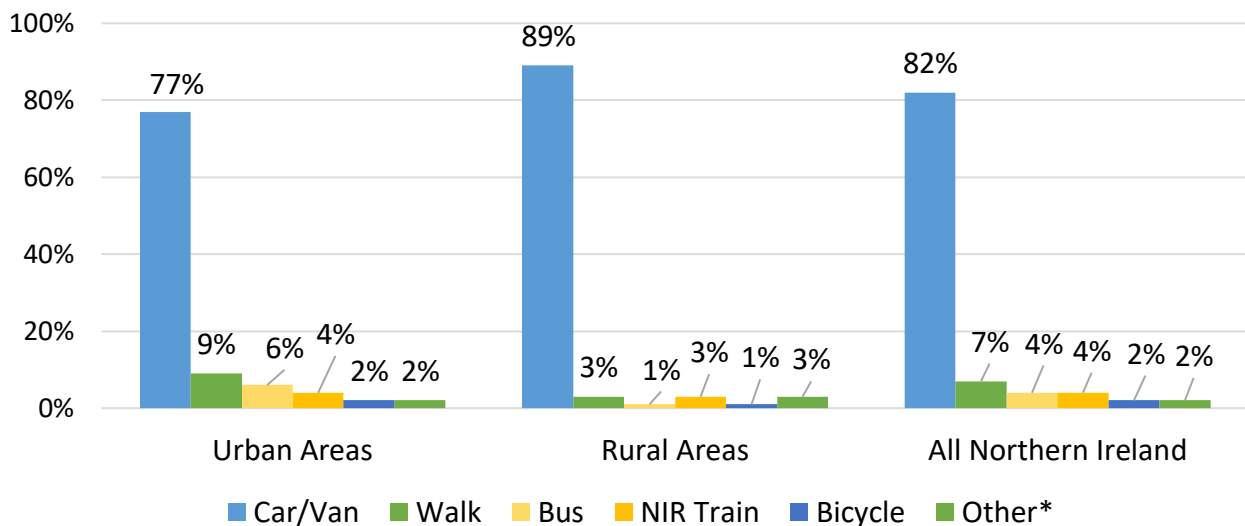
**Figure 14: Physical Location of Main Job, Urban/Rural/NI Comparison, 2024**



Note: Employed persons aged 16 and over  
 \*Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Source: NI Labour Force Survey January-December 2024

**Figure 15: Method of Travel to Work, Urban/Rural/NI Comparison, 2023<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> 2020 to 2023 TSNI results can be compared to each other. However, care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on these data and comparisons to previous years. This is due to significant changes to the survey methodology, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change to reporting data as a single year.

\*Other includes Taxi, Minicab, Scooter, Motorbike and Moped  
 Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Definitions and further information are available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsn>

Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2022 and 2023, DfI

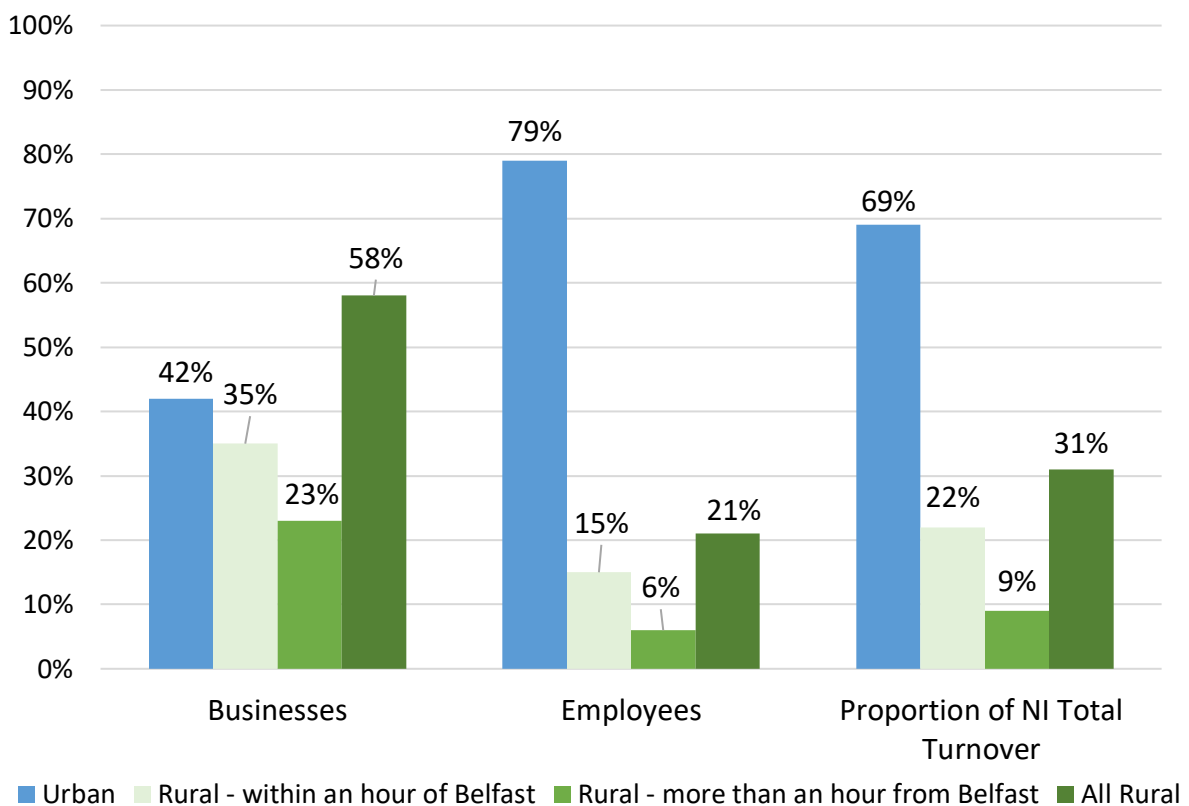
In terms of methods of travel to work, in urban areas the use of a private car or van declined from 82% in 2021 to 77% in 2023. Over the same period, the use of a private car or van declined by 1 percentage point in rural areas. Since 2021, commuting by NIR train increased by 3 percentage points in urban areas, and commuting by train also increased by 2 percentage points in rural areas.

Private car or van continued to be the most common commuting method for both urban and rural residents (Figure 15). The preference of a large majority of rural residents (89%) for private transport may have been influenced by longer average journey distances and the availability of public transport in rural areas. Urban workers were more likely to walk to work (9%) or to travel by bus (6%) than those from rural areas (3% and 1% respectively).

## Industry

In 2025, more than half (58%) of NI businesses were located in rural areas, yet rural businesses accounted for just 21% of employees, and just 31% of all business turnover (Figure 15).

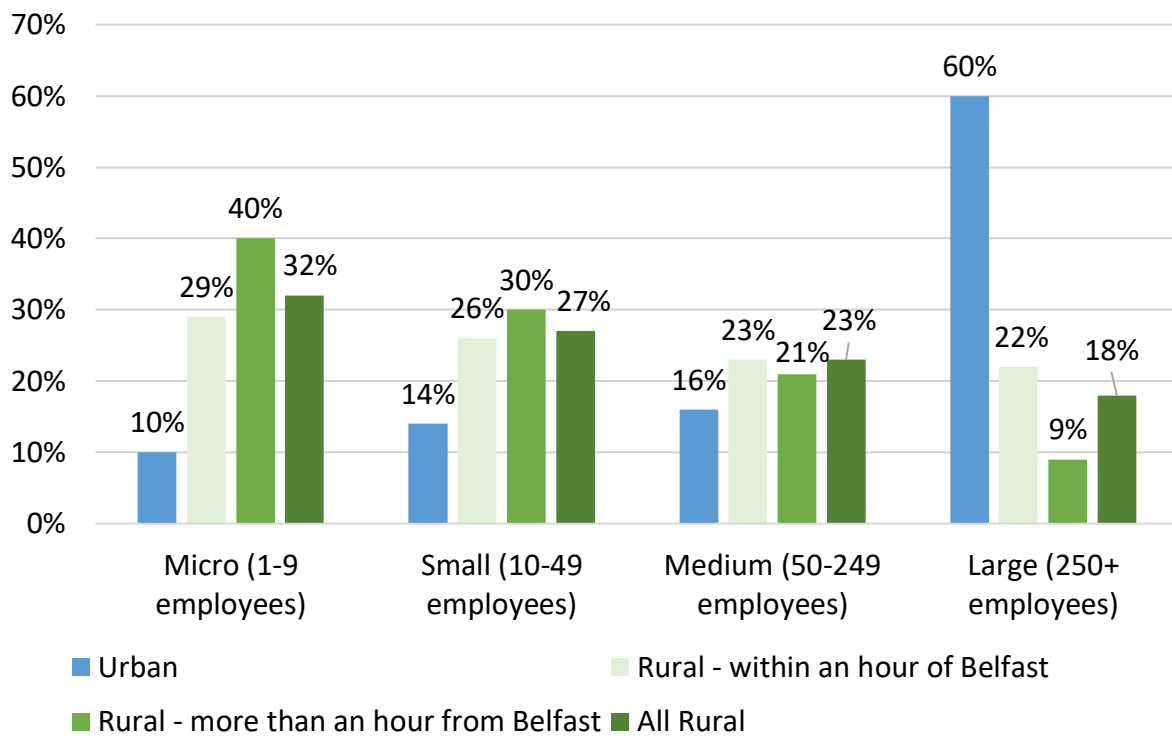
**Figure 16: Urban and Rural Businesses, Employees and Turnover, NI 2025**



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register 2025, DoF

Rural businesses in 2025 were typically small - around a third (32%) of all rural businesses were classed as 'micro', and had between one and nine employees, with just 18% of rural businesses classified as 'Large' (with 250 or more employees), while 60% of urban businesses belonged in this category (Figure 16). Consequently, urban businesses accounted for approximately 69% of all business turnover in NI in 2025.

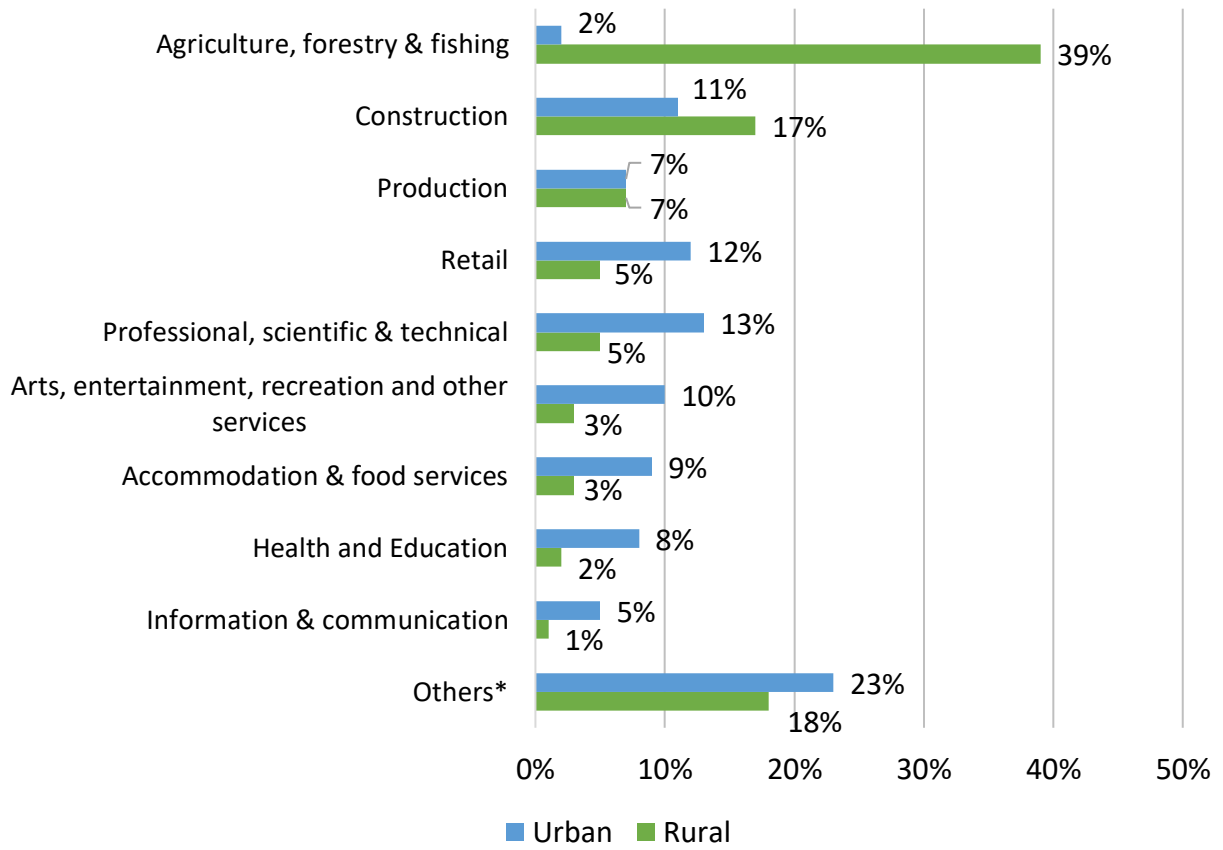
**Figure 17: Business Size (Number of Employees), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2025**



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register 2025, DoF

In 2025, as in previous years, the rural and urban economies also differed substantially in terms of dominant sectors (Figure 18), with 39% of rural businesses belonging to the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, with construction as the next largest sector in rural areas (17%). Urban businesses encompassed a broad variety of industries, with professional, scientific and technical businesses (13%) the largest, closely followed by retail (12%), construction (11%), and arts, entertainment and recreation (10%).

**Figure 18: NI Industry Sector Representation, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2025**



\*'Others' include Finance, Insurance, Property, Public Administration, Transport and Storage

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register 2025, DoF

The predominance of agriculture businesses was even more pronounced in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast. Almost half (46%) of all businesses in these areas were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, with a further 17% in construction (Table 1).

**Table 1: Businesses by Industry Group, Urban and Rural, 2025**

Broad Industry Group <sup>(1)</sup>	Urban	Rural			Total
		Rural - up to an hour from Belfast	Rural - over an hour from Belfast	All Rural	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2%	35%	46%	39%	<b>23%</b>
Production	7%	8%	6%	7%	<b>7%</b>
Construction	11%	17%	17%	17%	<b>14%</b>
Retail	12%	5%	5%	5%	<b>8%</b>
Accommodation & food services	9%	3%	3%	3%	<b>5%</b>
Information & communication	5%	1%	1%	1%	<b>3%</b>
Professional, scientific & technical	13%	6%	4%	5%	<b>8%</b>
Health and Education	8%	3%	1%	2%	<b>5%</b>
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	3%	3%	<b>6%</b>
Others*	23%	18%	14%	18%	<b>21%</b>
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>33,955</b>	<b>28,205</b>	<b>18,975</b>	<b>47,185</b>	<b>81,135</b>

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

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

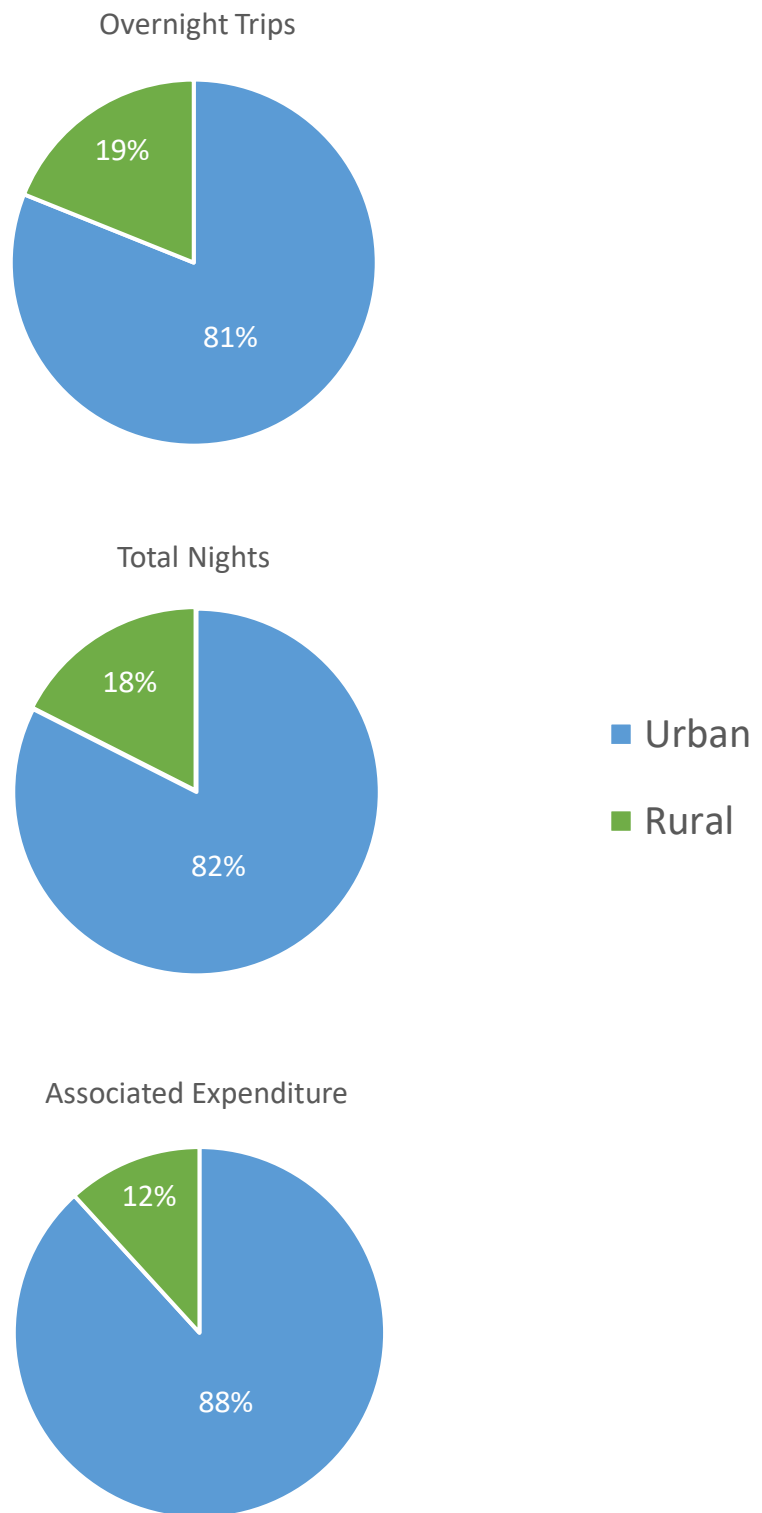
\*Others' include Finance, Insurance, Property, Public Administration

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register 2025, DoF

## Tourism

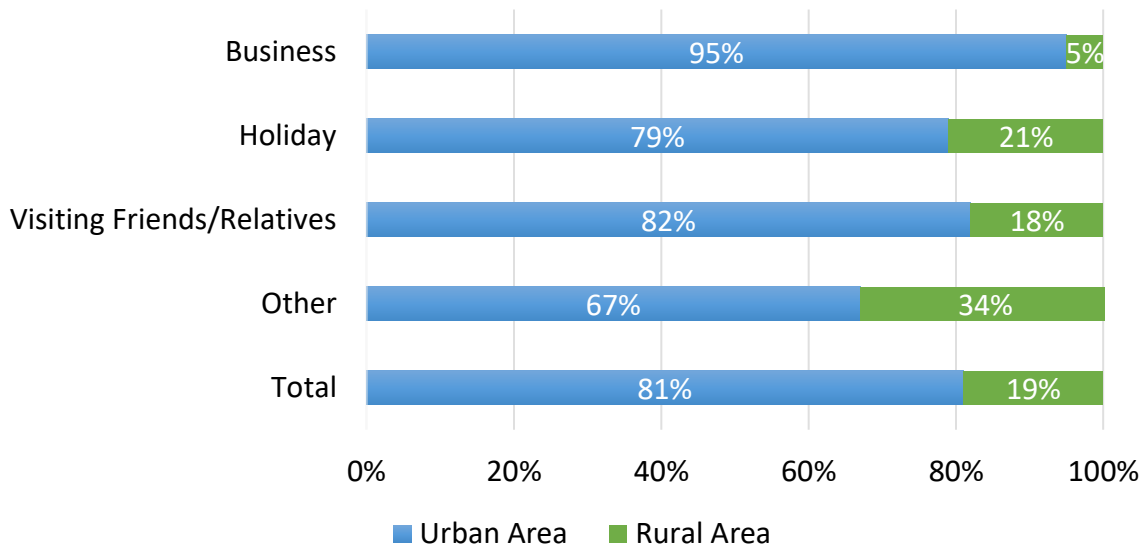
Figure 19: Overnight Trips to NI (Visits to Urban and Rural Areas), 2024<sup>1</sup>



Sources: NI Tourism Statistics (NISRA) 2024, 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 (CSO)

In 2024, just 19% of all overnight visits and 12% of total tourist expenditure occurred in rural locations (Figure 19). This illustrates the predominance of urban settings in NI tourism.

**Figure 20: Overnight Trips to NI by Purpose of Visit, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024**

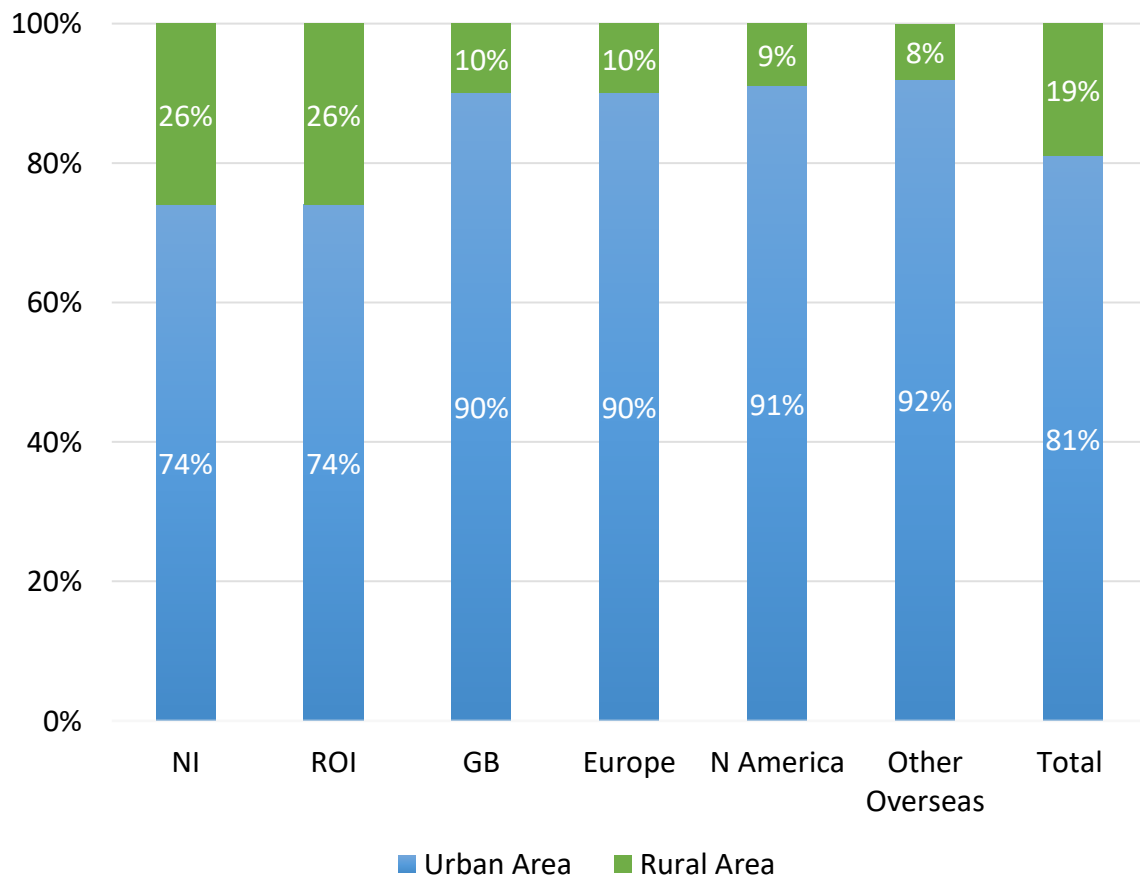


*Percentages may not sum due to rounding*

*Sources: NI Tourism Statistics (NISRA) 2024, 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 (CSO)*

In 2024, 19% of all overnight visits were to rural areas, with a similar proportion of overnight visits (18%) comprising visits to friends and relatives. Just 5% of trips for business purposes were to a rural area, however holiday visits to rural areas have increased from 15% in 2019 to 21% in 2024 (Figure 20).

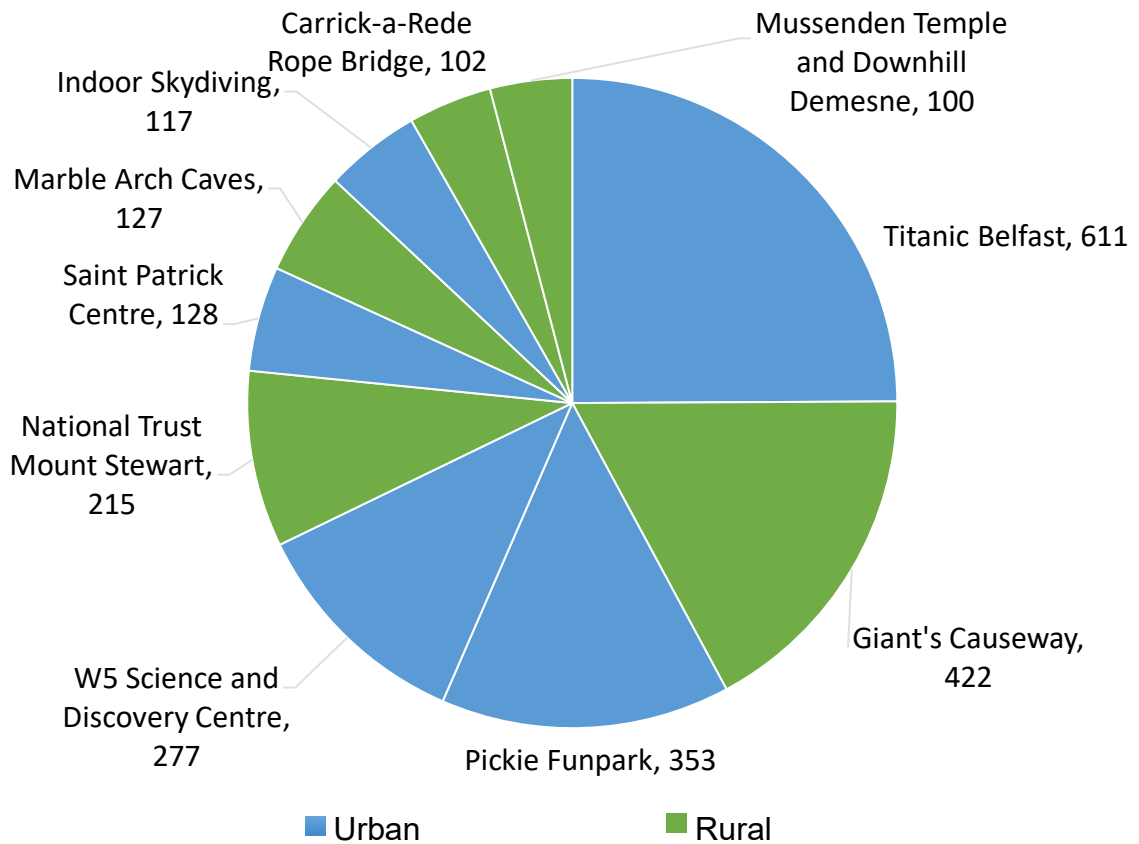
**Figure 21: Overnight Trips to NI by Country of Residence, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024**



Sources: NI Tourism Statistics (NISRA) 2024, 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 (CSO)

Overnight trips by NI residents to a rural location increased from 20% in 2019 to 26% in 2024. The same proportion of visitors from the Republic of Ireland made overnight trips to rural areas in 2024, increasing from 21% in 2019 (Figure 21). Visits made by those coming from outside the island of Ireland were less likely to be to a rural location, with just 9% of North American visitors making overnight trips to rural areas.

**Figure 22: Number of Visits (000s) to the Top 10 Paid NI Attractions (Urban and Rural), 2022**

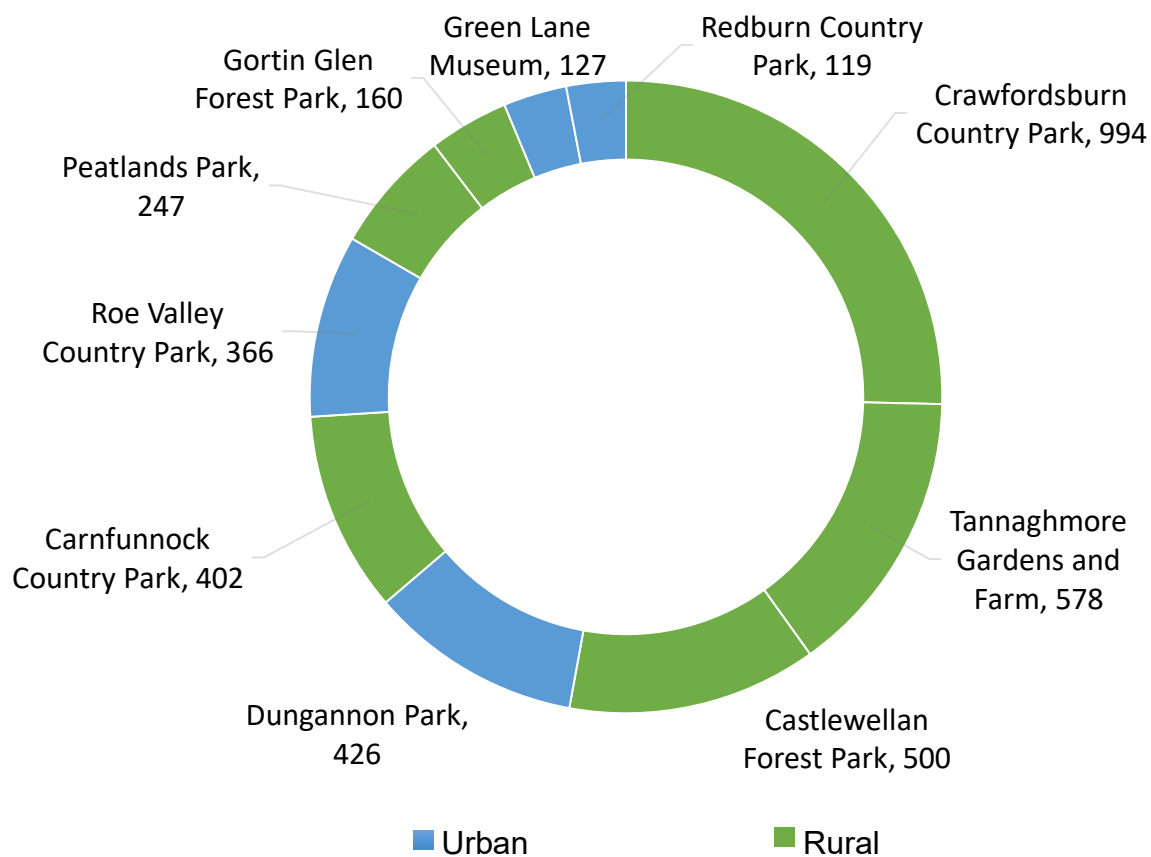


Source: NI Visitor Attraction Survey (NISRA) 2022

A review of statistical outputs carried out by NISRA has meant that the NI Visitor Attraction Survey has not taken place since 2022, with no indication at present as to when it may be reinstated. As a result, Figures 22 and 23 and the associated commentary are based on the most recent published data (from the 2022 survey).

In 2022, 39% of all visits to the top ten tourist attractions in NI (Figure 21), were to attractions in rural locations. Five of the top ten paid attractions overall in 2022 were located in rural areas. 74% of all visits to the top ten country parks, forests and gardens were to those in rural areas (Figure 23).

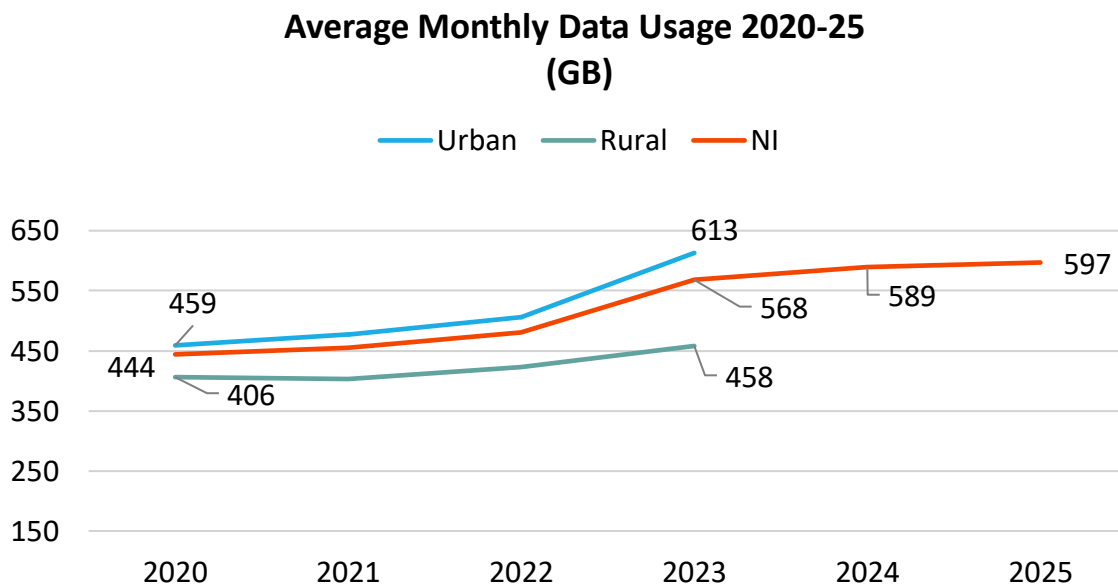
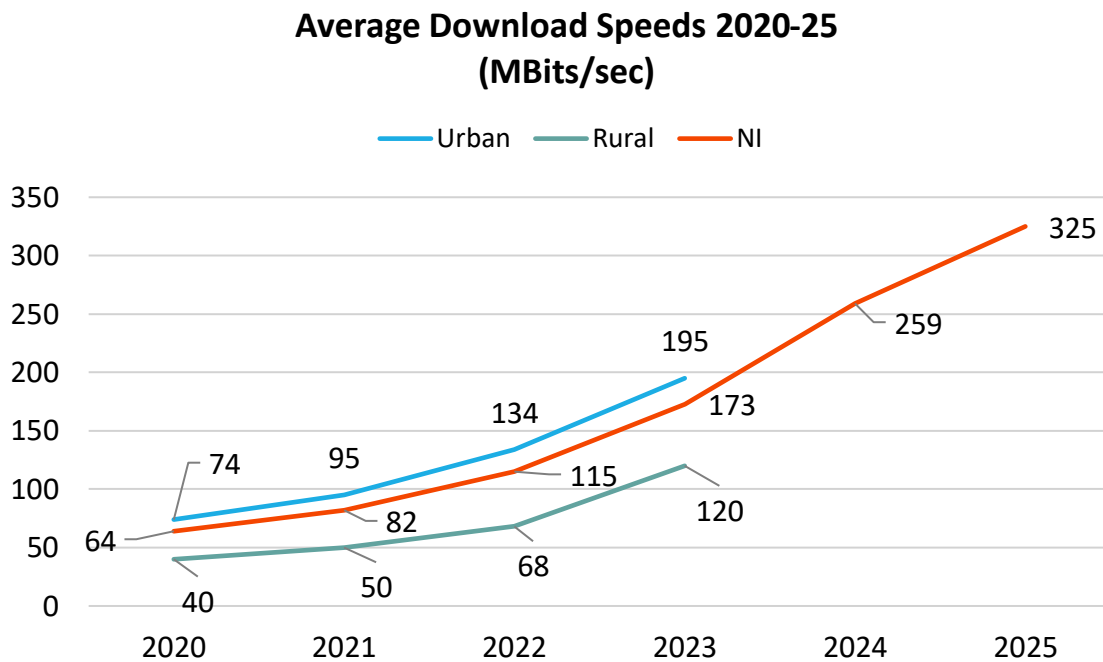
**Figure 23: Visits (000s) to Top 10 Parks, Country Parks, Forests and Gardens (Urban and Rural), 2022**



Source: NI Visitor Attraction Survey (NISRA) 2022

## Connectivity

**Figure 24: NI Average Broadband Download Speeds, Average Data Usage and Superfast Broadband Coverage, Urban/NI/Rural Comparison, 2020-25\***



\*Urban and Rural breakdowns of average download speeds and data usage are not available for 2024 and 2025

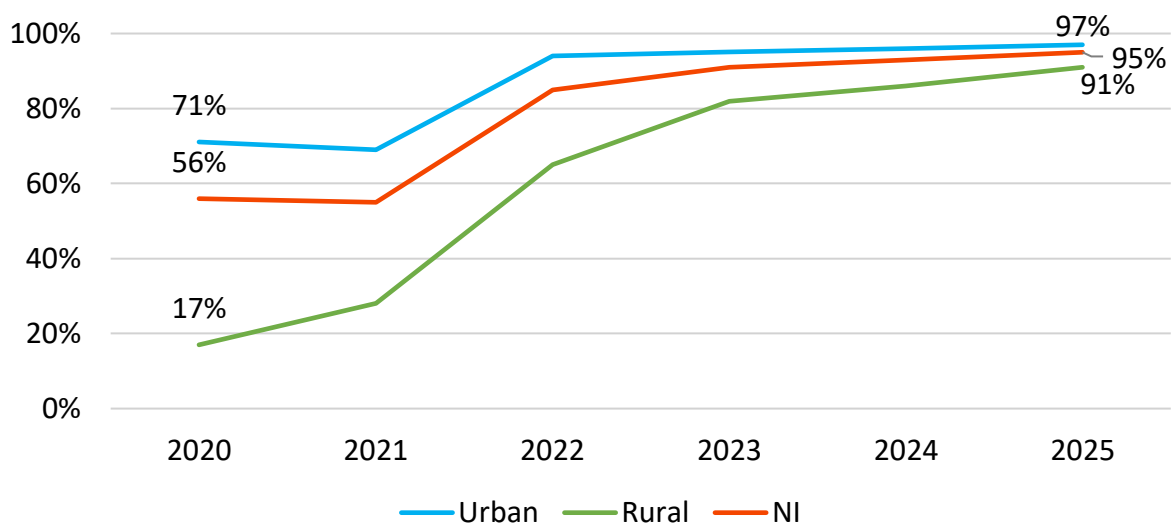
Source: Connected Nations Report 2025 (Northern Ireland), Ofcom

Average download speeds in Northern Ireland have increased dramatically in recent years (Figure 24), and public investment projects have rapidly increased access to full-fibre services, with 97% of urban residential properties and 91% of rural households having access to a full-fibre connection in 2025 (Figure 25).

Analysis by Ofcom suggests that 99% of Northern Ireland premises could have access to full-fibre services (99%+ in urban areas and 97% in rural) by 2028. As of 2025, Northern Ireland has the highest availability (95% of premises) of full-fibre services of the four UK nations, ahead of England (79%), Wales (78%) and Scotland (71%).

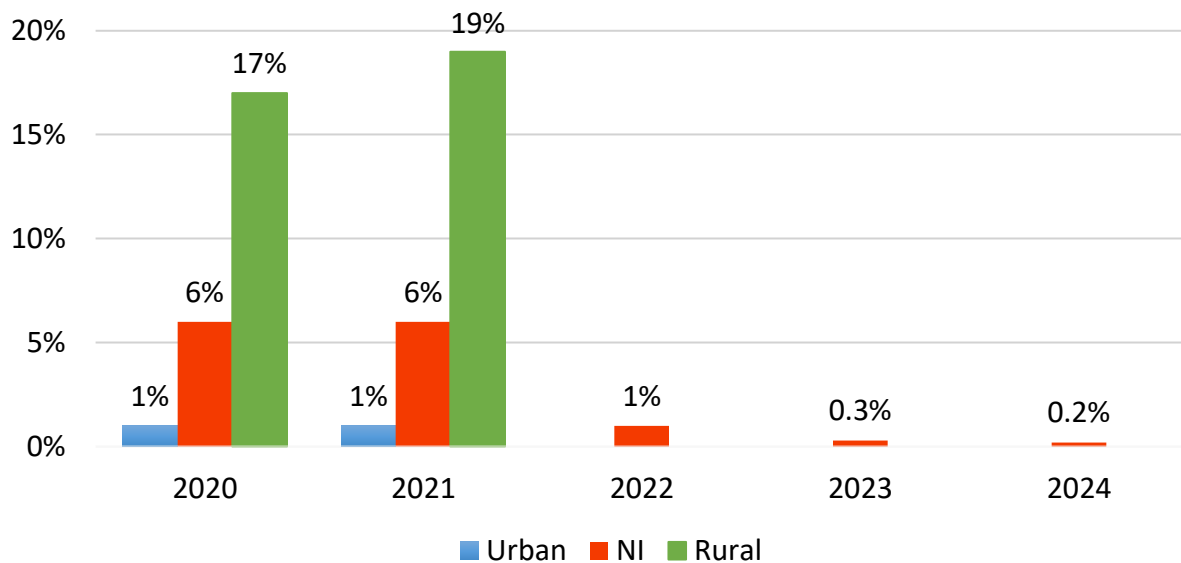
With 91% of rural premises in Northern Ireland having access to full-fibre networks, the region also has the highest availability of rural full-fibre services of the four UK nations, ahead of England (60%), Wales (59%) and Scotland (50%).

**Figure 25: Coverage of Full-Fibre Broadband, Urban/Rural/NI Comparison (% of residential properties) 2020-25**



Source: Connected Nations Report 2025 (Northern Ireland), Ofcom

**Figure 26: Percentage of NI Properties unable to achieve a ‘Decent’ Broadband Service, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2020-24<sup>1</sup>**



*1 Urban/Rural breakdowns are not available from 2022 onward due to small sample size*

*\*Decent service is defined by Ofcom as at least 10Mbit/s download, and 1Mbit/s upload speeds  
Based on ‘Locale’ classification of Urban and Rural*

**Source: Ofcom Connected Nations 2020-24, Northern Ireland Reports**

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/249287/connected-nations-northern-ireland.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0032/249287/connected-nations-northern-ireland.pdf)

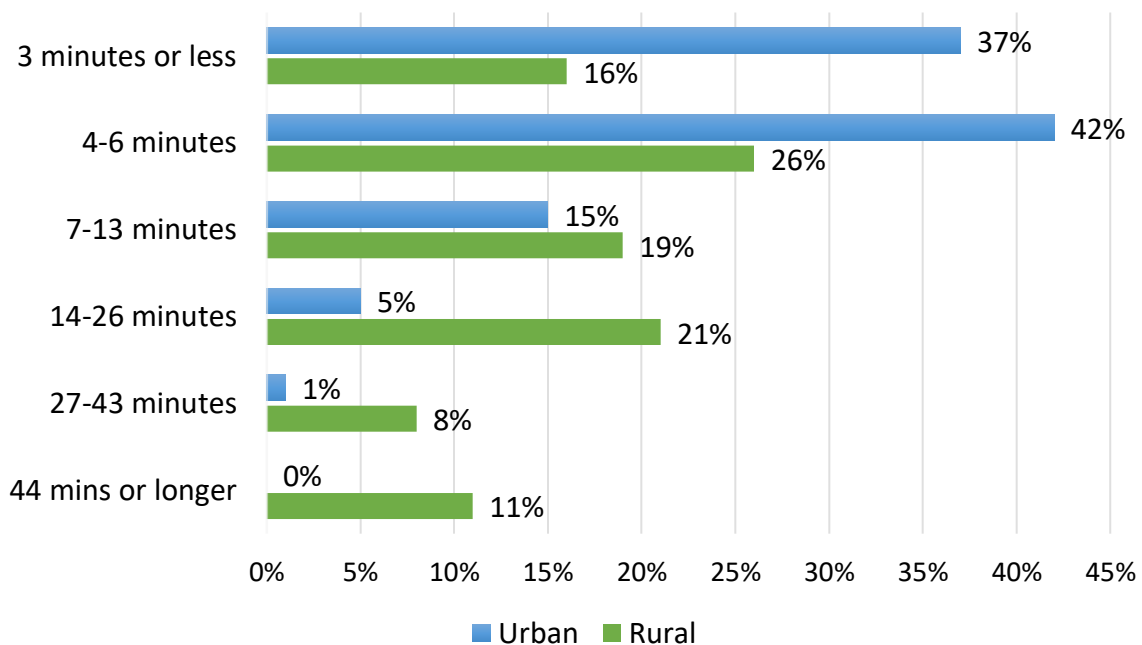
There was a substantial drop in the number of properties unable to achieve a ‘decent’ broadband connection from either a fixed or fixed wireless access (FWA) network between 2020 and 2024. Ofcom estimates indicate that in 2024, the NI figure stood at fewer than 2,000 premises (residential and commercial), or approximately 0.2% of all premises (Figure 26).

## Physical Connectivity and Public Transport

Access to public transport in rural areas is often considerably more difficult when compared with towns and cities, with the 2023 Travel Survey showing that just 16% of rural dwellers lived within a 3-minute walk of the nearest bus stop, compared with 37% of those living in urban areas.

Since 2021, the proportion of rural residents living a 44-minute or longer walk to their nearest stop has increased from 8% to 11% (Figure 27), which may account for the large majority of adults living in rural areas who report holding a full driving licence (91%, compared with 76% of urban dwellers).

**Figure 27: Walking time to nearest bus stop, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> 2020 to 2023 TSNI results can be compared to each other. However, care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on these data and comparisons to previous years. This is due to significant changes to the survey methodology, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change to reporting data as a single year.

Definitions and further information are available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsnj>

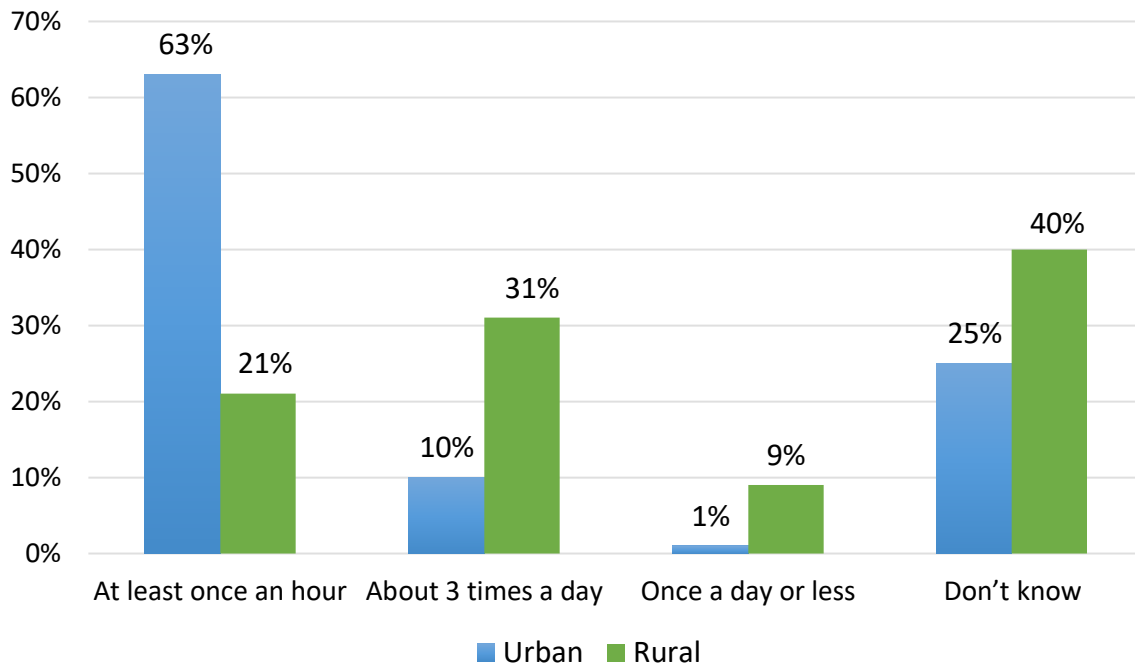
Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2022 and 2023, DfI

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Distances to railway stations were even longer for rural dwellers. An overwhelming majority (90%) of rural dwellers responded either that they would have to walk for 44 minutes or more to reach the nearest station, or that the distance was so great that the question did not apply.

The frequency of public transport services also differed greatly between urban and rural areas. Although the proportion of rural dwellers reporting a bus service frequency of at least once an hour increased from 18% in 2021 to 21% in 2023, this was substantially lower than the proportion of urban residents (63%) reporting a bus service frequency of at least once an hour (Figure 28). The frequency of rail services may be of less significance to the rural population, as railway stations tend to be concentrated in urban areas.

**Figure 28: Bus Service Frequency, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> 2020 to 2023 TSNi results can be compared to each other. However, care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on these data and comparisons to previous years. This is due to significant changes to the survey methodology, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change to reporting data as a single year.

Definitions and further information are available at:  
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsnj>

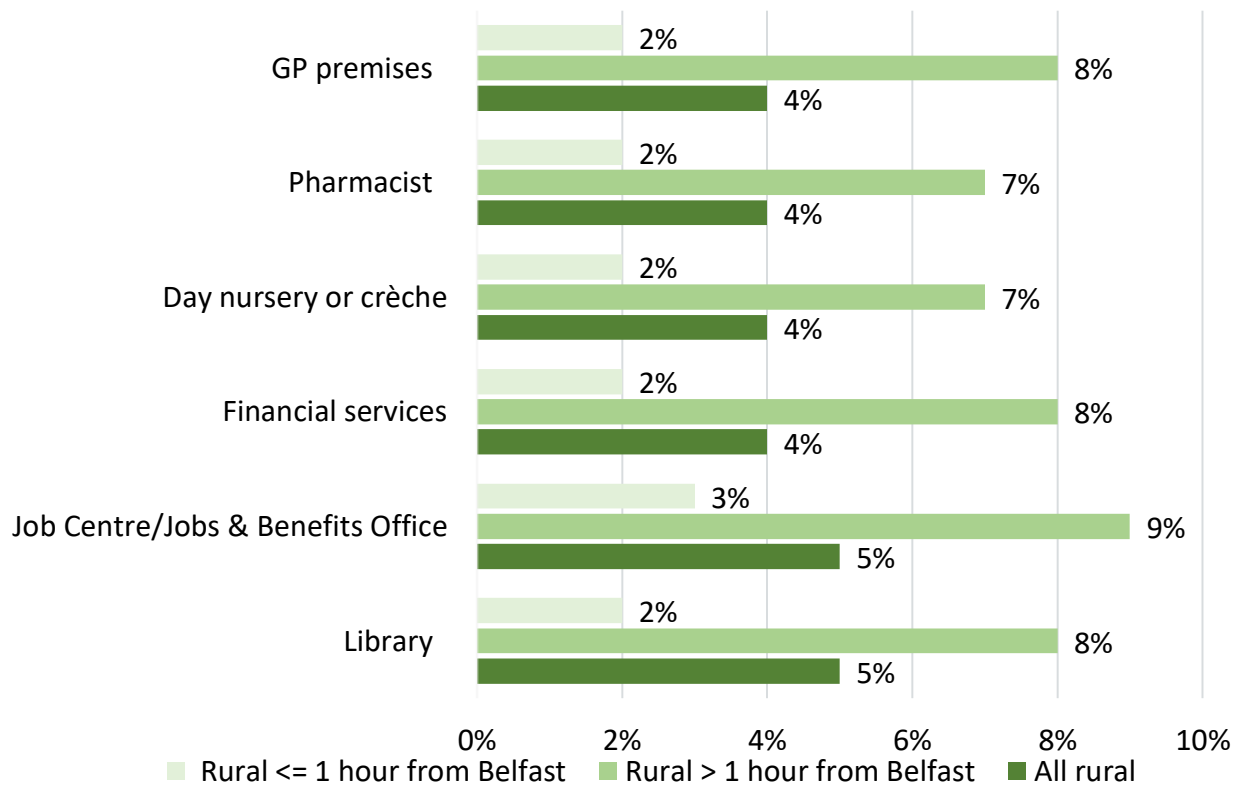
Source: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2022 and 2023, DfI  
 Percentages may not sum due to rounding

## Access to Services

Charts and commentary in this section are based on the 2017 NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) produced by NISRA, which is the most recent edition. NISRA is currently in the process of refreshing the MDM using updated data sources to account for new data, including the 2021 Census geographies, and hopes to publish this within the next 12 months. As such, data in Figures 29 and 30 is sourced from the 2017 MDM.

Access to key services can be a marker 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, the 2017 NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) indicated that access to key services by public transport was particularly poor at this time (Figure 29) - while for others, journeys made by public transport were simply impractical due to a combination of journey length and remote location.

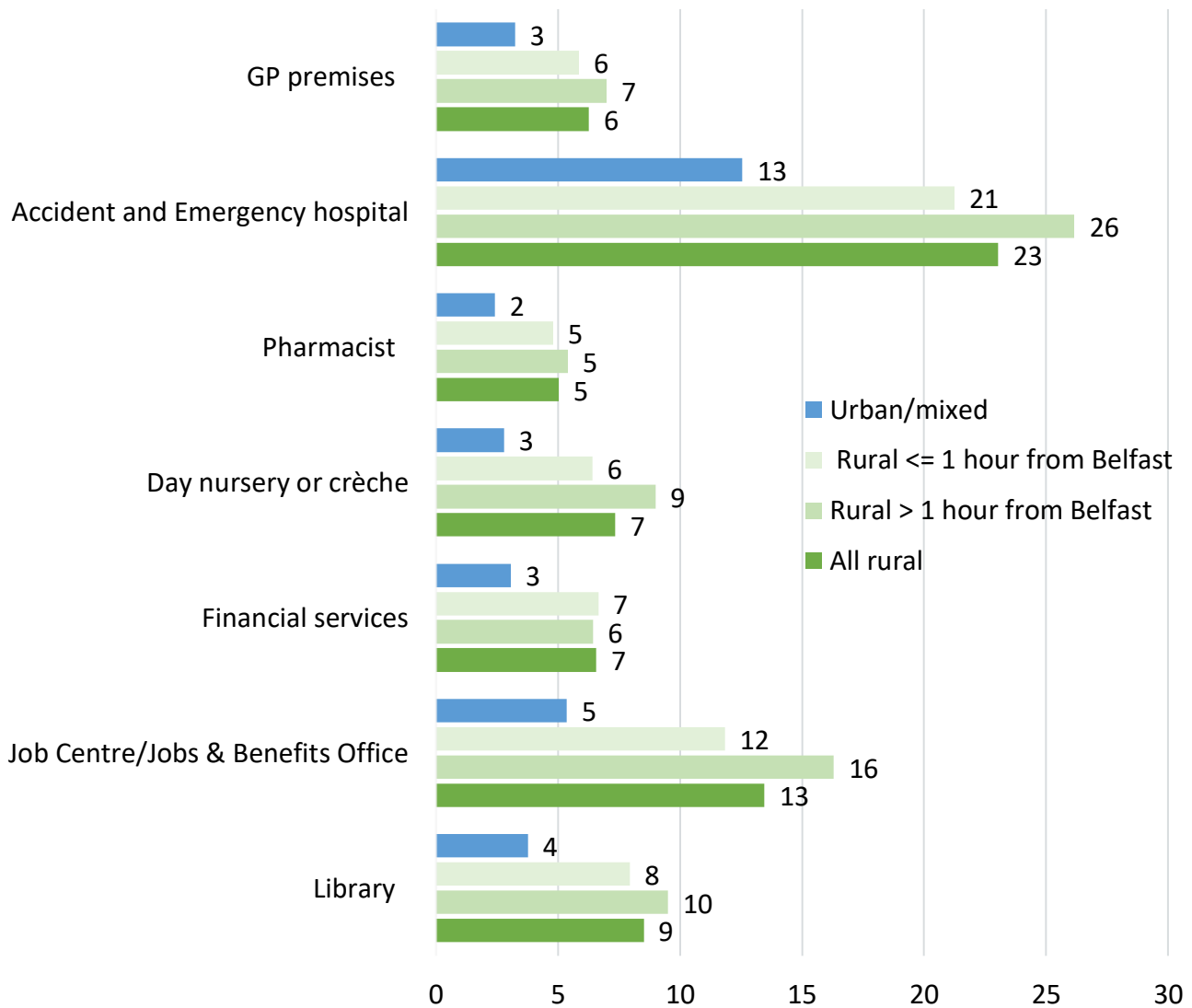
**Figure 29: Proportion of Small Areas without Public Transport Access to selected services, 2017**



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

Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM), 2017

**Figure 30: Average Journey Times (in minutes, by car) to selected services, 2017**



Notes: 'Financial Services' includes ATMs, banks, building societies and credit unions.

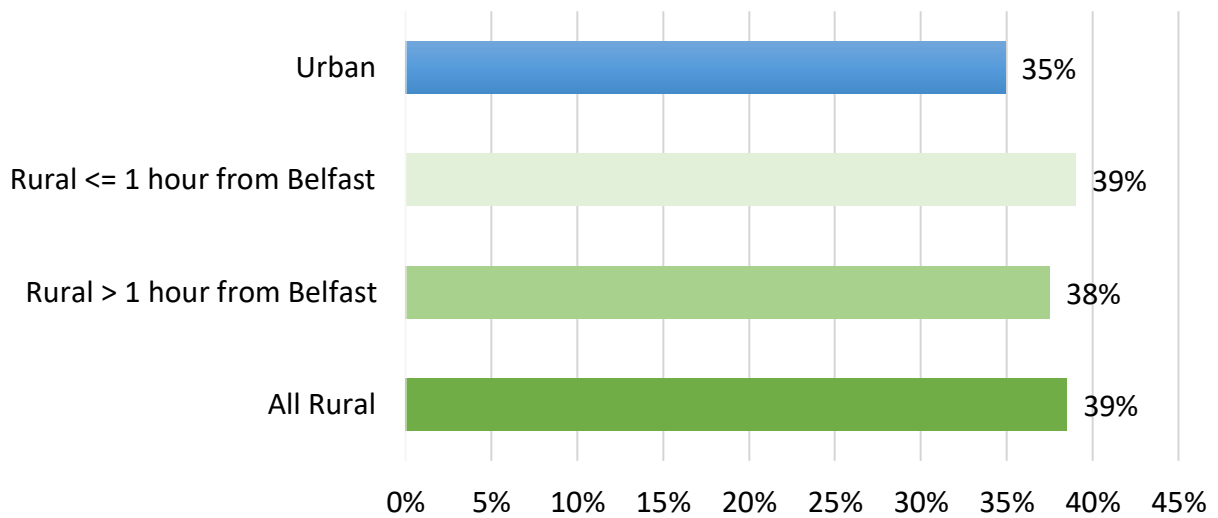
Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM), 2017

According to the 2017 MDM, for those living rural areas travelling by car, journey times to key services were substantially higher than for those living in towns and cities - sometimes double or greater. This disparity was again more pronounced in those rural areas further from Belfast.

The greatest urban/rural disparity in travel times were to hospitals with an accident and emergency facility, and to job centres/jobs and benefits offices. Those living in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast, were on average, a 26-minute drive away from an Accident and Emergency Department, compared to an average 13-minute drive time for those living in urban areas (Figure 30).

## Health and Wellbeing

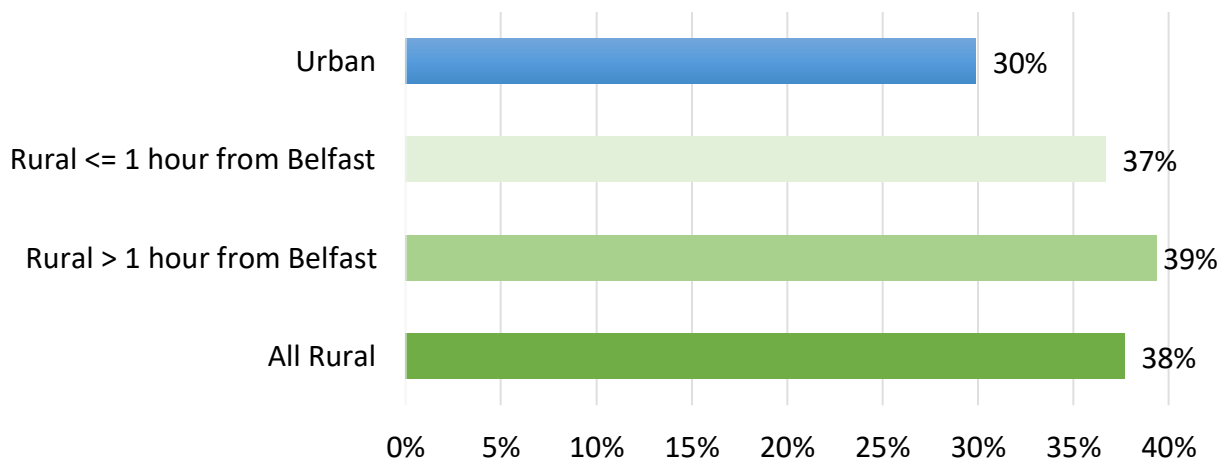
**Figure 31: Self-Reported 'High' Personal Happiness, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



*Note: Based on those scoring 9-10 on the question: 'Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.*

*Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA 2024-25*

**Figure 32: Self-Reported 'High' Life Satisfaction, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



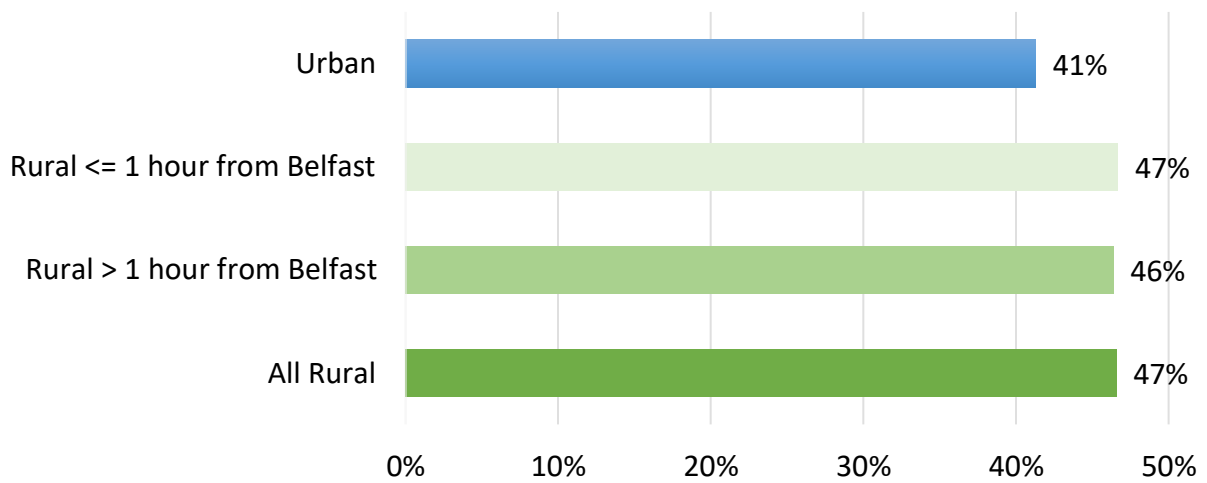
*Note: Based on those scoring 9-10 on the question: 'Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Where 0 is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.*

*Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA 2024-25*

Findings from the 2024-25 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) showed that 39% of respondents living in rural areas reported high happiness levels, compared with 35% in urban areas (Figure 31). The proportion of rural respondents (38%) reporting high life satisfaction had decreased by 2 percentage points since 2023/24, while the proportion of urban respondents reporting high life satisfaction was unchanged at 30% (Figure 32).

The proportion of rural dwellers reporting low anxiety levels had decreased by 3 percentage points since 2023/24 to 47%, while the proportion of urban respondents reporting low anxiety levels remained relatively unchanged at 41% (Figure 33).

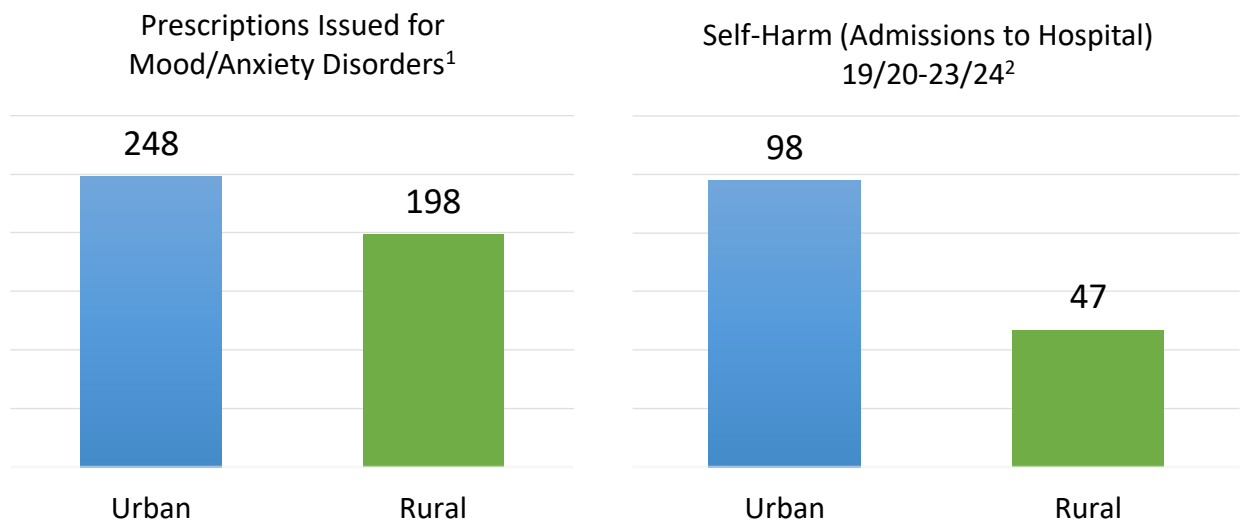
**Figure 33: Self-Reported 'Low' Anxiety, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



*Note: Based on those scoring 0-1 on the question: 'Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.*

*Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA 2024-25*

**Figure 34: Prescriptions Issued for Mood Disorders (2023), Hospital Admissions for Self-Harm (to 2023-24), Urban/Rural Comparison**



Notes: 1. Persons prescribed per 1,000 population 2. Per 100,000 population

Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2025, Department of Health (DoH)

**Figure 35: Number of Deaths Registered by Suicide in Northern Ireland, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2015-23**



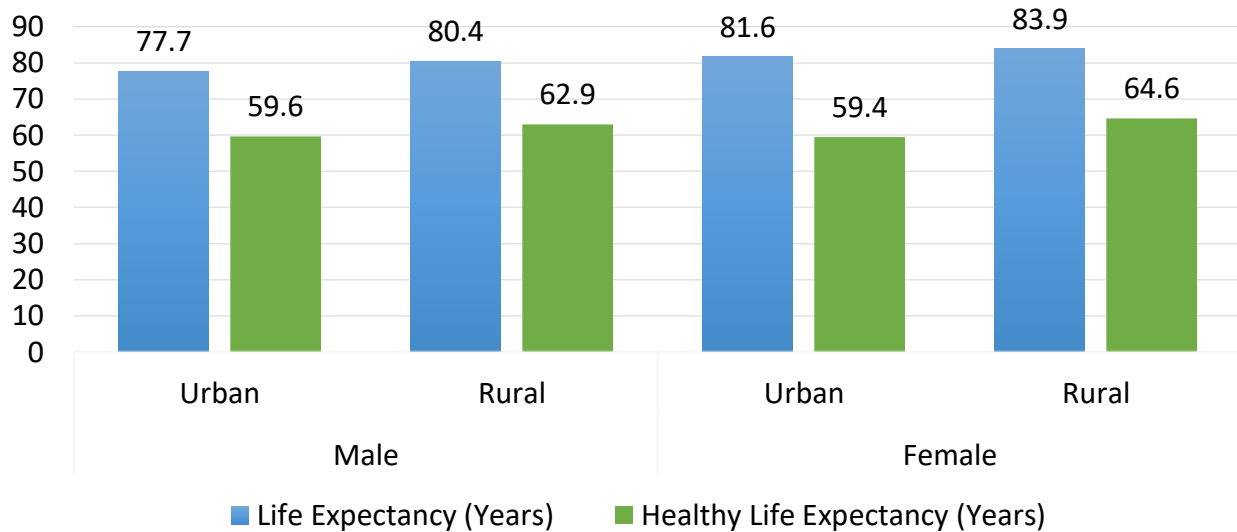
*Note: All deaths data supplied by NISRA Vital Statistics Unit is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time, therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.*

*Source: NISRA Vital Statistics Unit (DoF), 2025*

Up to 2023-24, the rate of hospital admissions due to self-harm in rural areas was less than half that in urban areas (Figure 34). Similarly, the number of prescriptions issued for medications to treat mood and anxiety disorders (per 1,000 population) in rural areas, was around 20% lower than in urban areas.

Since 2015, a higher number of deaths by suicide have been registered annually in urban areas than in rural areas in NI. There was a notable increase in the number of registered suicides in rural areas between 2020 and 2022, and a small decline of 4% from 2022 to 2023. The number of deaths by suicide in urban areas increased by 17% over the corresponding 2022 to 2023 period (Figure 35).

**Figure 36: Life Expectancy at Birth, and ‘Healthy’ Life Expectancy<sup>1</sup> (Years), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2021-23**



1. This is the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health. HLE provides an estimate of lifetime spent in 'Very Good' or 'Good' health, calculated using respondents' perception of their own health according to the Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI).

Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2025, Department of Health (DoH)

Health inequalities monitoring data from DoH (covering 2021-23) suggests that life expectancy continues to be notably higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Life expectancy for males living in urban areas increased from 77.2 years in 2020-22 to 77.7 years in 2021-23, with males living in rural areas living more than two and a half years longer (80.4 years) on average. Females in rural areas could also expect to live almost two and a half years longer than their urban counterparts.

This urban/rural disparity is further emphasised in the projected ‘healthy’ years of life – males in rural areas could expect more than three additional years of ‘healthy’ life, and females more than five years, on average, than urban dwellers (Figure 36).

**Table 2: Median Emergency Service (Ambulance and Fire Service) Response Times (Minutes and Seconds), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2020-24**

Ambulance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Urban	00:15:01	00:22:45	00:20:59	00:22:12	00:25:14
Rural	00:22:34	00:28:46	00:27:53	00:31:39	00:31:18
Fire Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Urban	00:07:04	00:07:22	00:07:27	00:07:18	00:07:31
Rural	00:14:09	00:14:33	00:14:52	00:15:01	00:15:08

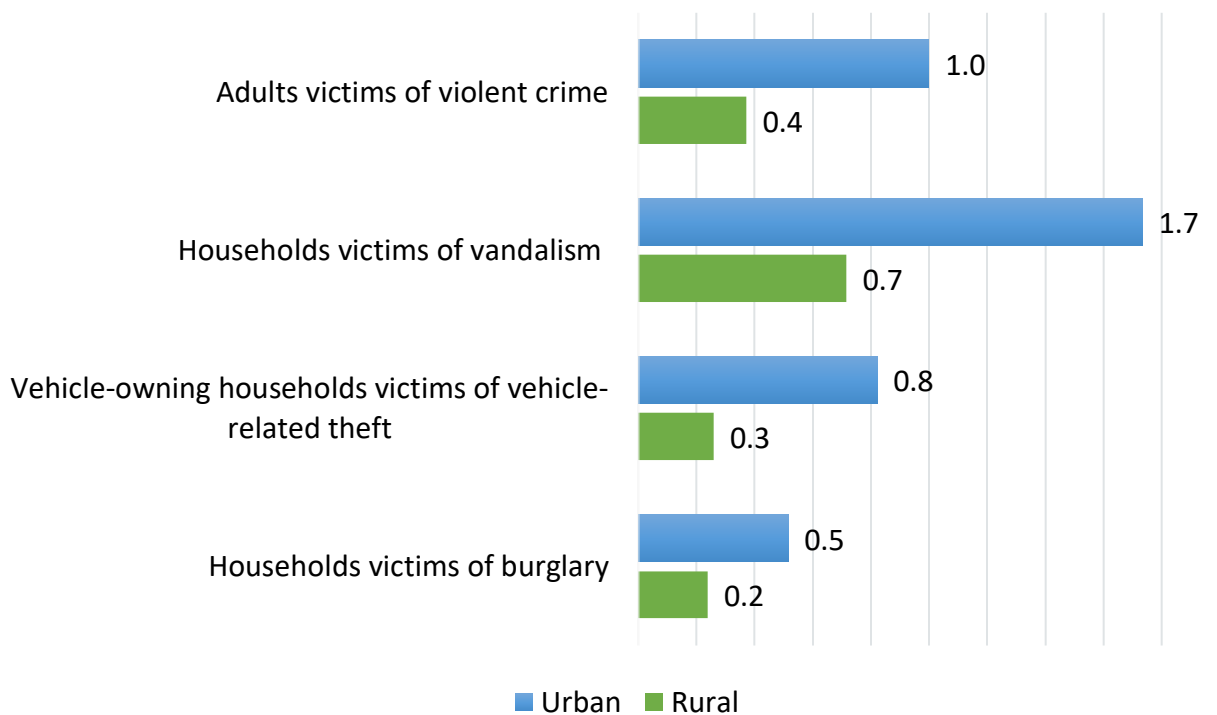
Source: Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2025, Department of Health (DoH)

In terms of access to emergency services, ambulance and fire service response times continued to be notably longer in rural than in urban areas (Table 2). Average response times for ambulances remained largely consistent from 2023 to 2024, average waiting time for an ambulance in rural areas in 2024 was more than 30 minutes.

Average fire service response times had seen relatively little change over the same period. In 2023/24, people living in rural areas waited on average approximately 15 minutes for fire service response, approximately twice as long as those living in urban areas (7 minutes 31 seconds on average).

## Crime

**Figure 37: NI Crime Victimization Rates (as % of those surveyed), Urban/Rural Comparison 2023-24**

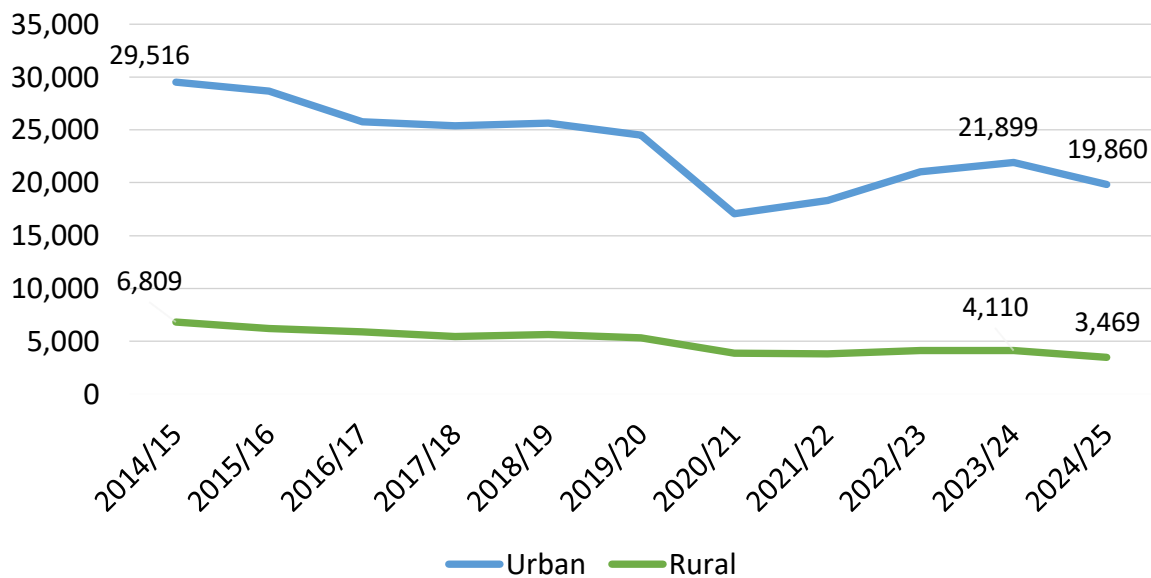


*\*Bases for vehicle-related theft will be lower as they are based on vehicle owners only.*

Source: NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (DoJ), 2023-24

The 2023-24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey results suggested that people living in urban areas were much more likely to experience certain types of crime than their rural counterparts, although the proportion of those surveyed having experienced each crime type was generally low. Urban households were more than twice as likely to have experienced incidents of vandalism, vehicle related theft, burglary and violent crime than their rural counterparts.

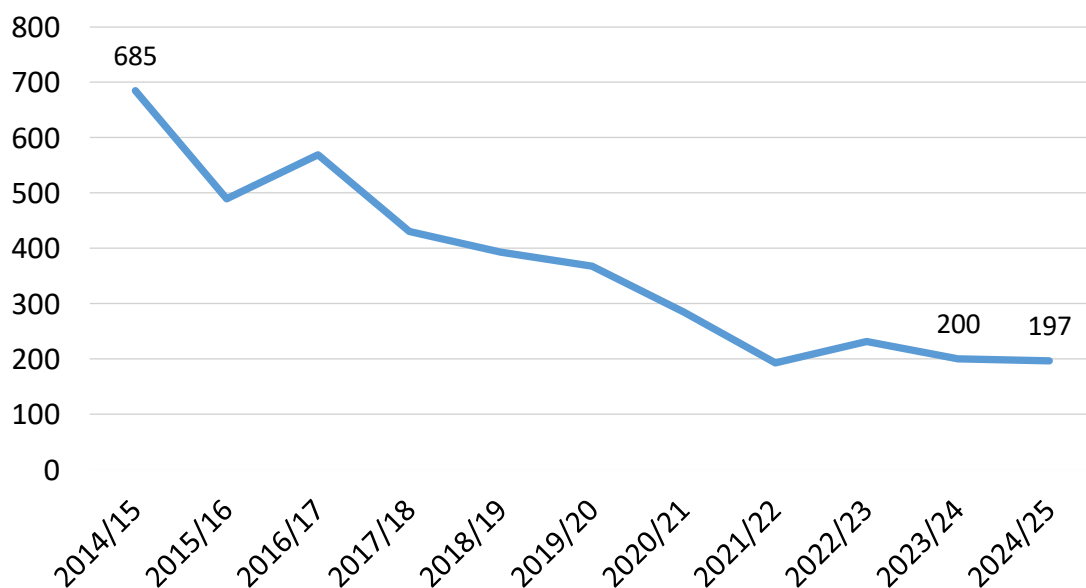
**Figure 38: Trends in Burglary, Robbery and Theft Offences, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2014/15 to 2024/25**



Source: *Agricultural and Rural Crime in NI Bulletin (PSNI), January 2026*

Between 2014/15 and 2024/25, the number of burglary, robbery and theft offences had fallen substantially in both rural and urban areas. Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, the number of offences in urban areas had decreased by 9% to 19,860. Over the same period, the number of offences in rural areas decreased by 16% to 3,469 (Figure 38).

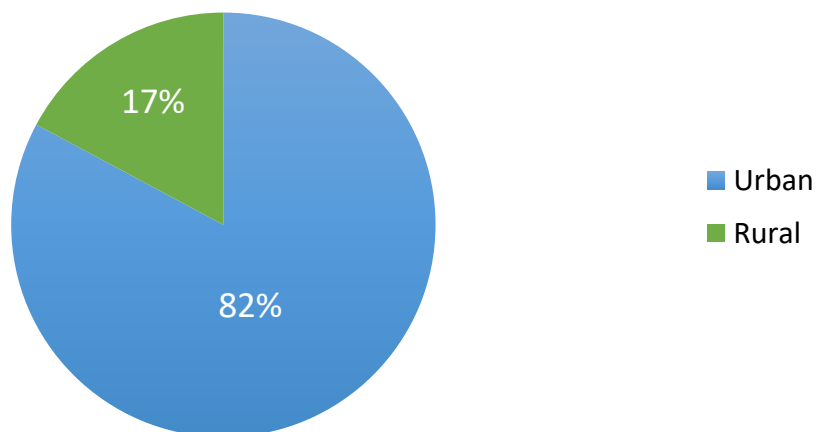
**Figure 39: NI Trends in Agriculture Crime (Burglary, Robbery and Theft Offences for Agricultural - based Activity), Rural Areas, 2014/15 to 2024/25**



Source: *Agricultural and Rural Crime in NI Bulletin (PSNI), January 2026*

Agriculture-related crimes occur mainly, though not exclusively in rural areas. The number of recorded offences relating to agricultural crime (burglary, robbery, and theft offences from agricultural premises) in rural areas declined from 685 in 2014/15 to 197 in 2024/25 (Figure 39). There was little fluctuation in the number of offences recorded between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**Figure 40: Police Recorded Crime (all offences), Urban/Rural Split, 2024-25\***

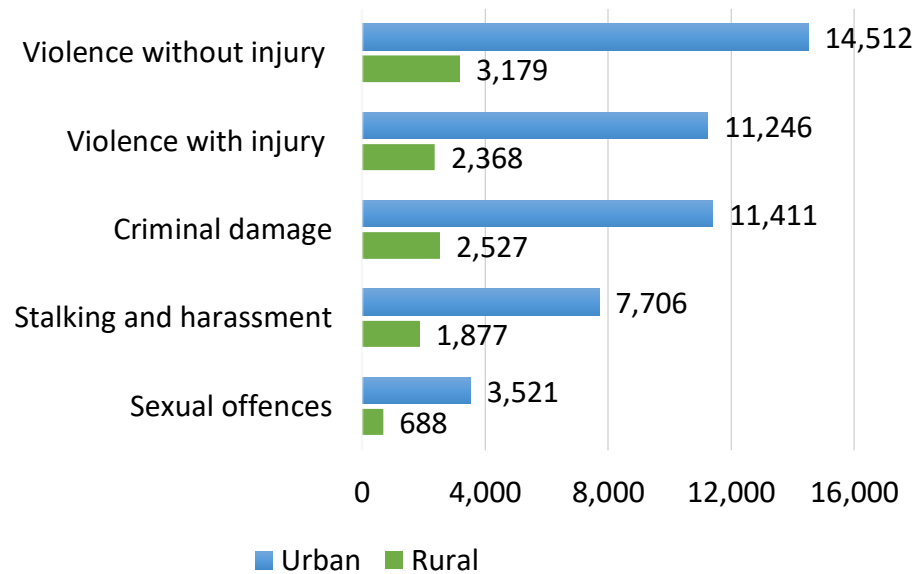


*\*1% of cases could not be classified due to missing postcode*

Source: PSNI, 2025

The 2024-25 Police Recorded Crime statistics from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) show that more than three quarters (82%) of all recorded offences occurred in urban areas, with 17% of all recorded offences occurring in rural areas (Figure 40). The total number of recorded crimes in rural areas decreased by around 11% from 2023-24, with the total number of recorded crimes in NI decreasing by approximately 9% over the same period.

**Figure 41: Police Recorded Crime (Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Harassment and Sexual Offences), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**

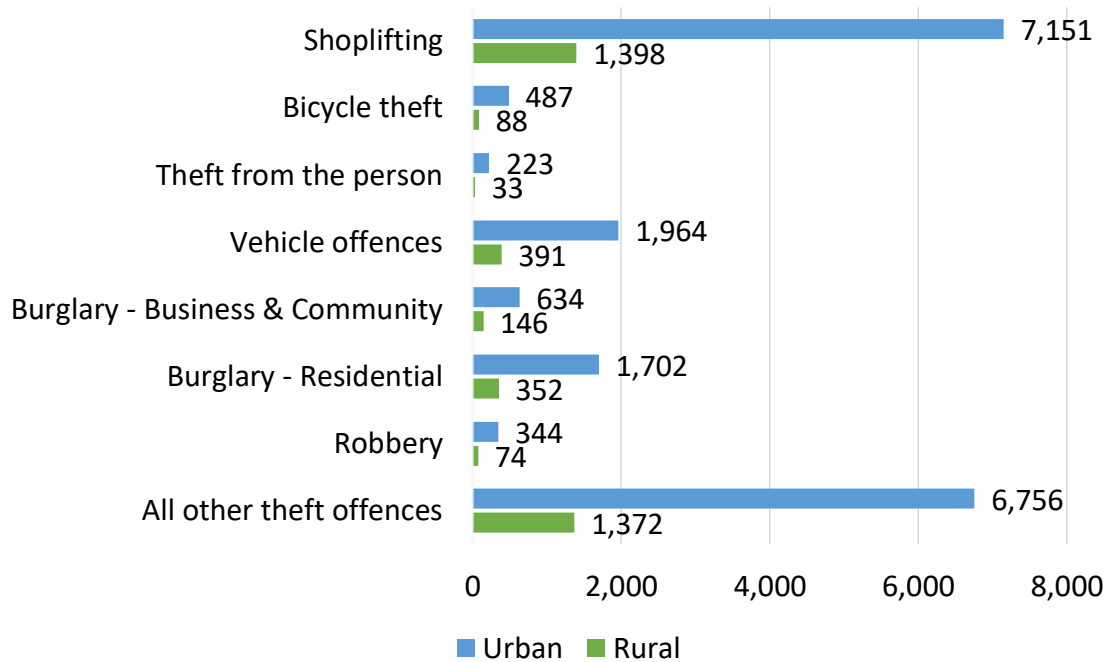


Source: PSNI, 2025

In 2024-25, violent crime, criminal damage, harassment and sexual offences were much more likely to be recorded in urban areas, with over 80% of recorded violent crimes with injury, criminal damage and violent crimes without injury occurring in urban areas.

The majority of recorded stalking and harassment (80%) and sexual offences (84%) occurred in urban areas (Figure 41). There was a small increase in the recorded number of violent crimes without injury in rural areas from 2023-24, however there has been a decrease in total recorded crime across all other categories over the same period, mirroring a decrease in the total number of recorded crimes in rural areas from the previous year.

**Figure 42: Police Recorded Crime (Robbery, Burglary and Theft Offences), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**

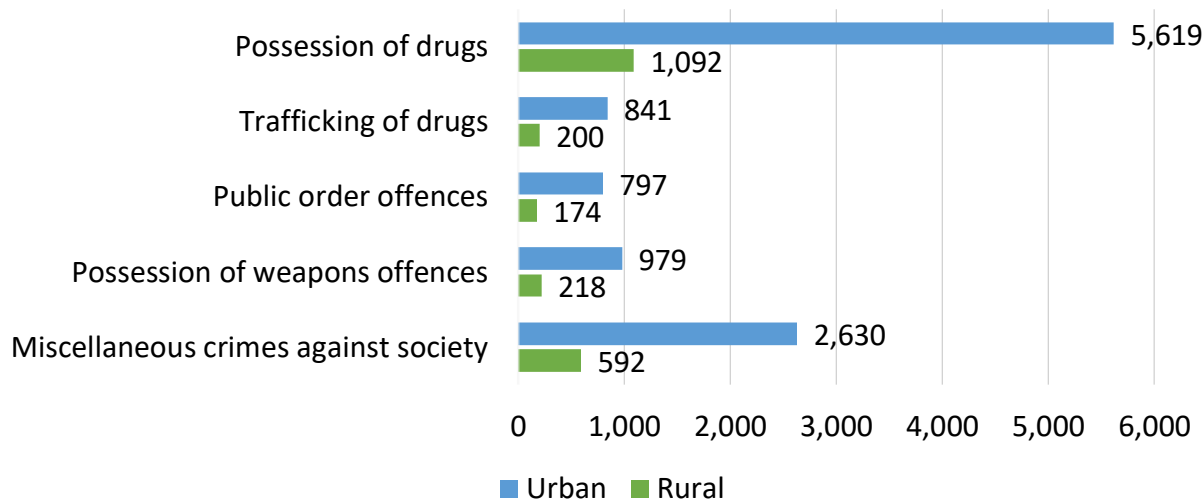


Source: PSNI, 2025

Recorded robbery, burglary and theft offences were substantially more likely to have occurred in urban areas in 2024-25 (Figure 42). Shoplifting offences recorded in urban areas continued to dwarf the total for rural areas, although the number of recorded shoplifting offences in rural areas had more than doubled from 529 in 2023-24 to 1,398 in 2024-25.

Recorded offences for bicycle theft and theft from the person had almost tripled in rural areas since 2023-24, and there was a 48% increase in recorded robbery offences over the same period. There was a general trend of decline however in recorded vehicle offences, burglary and other theft offences.

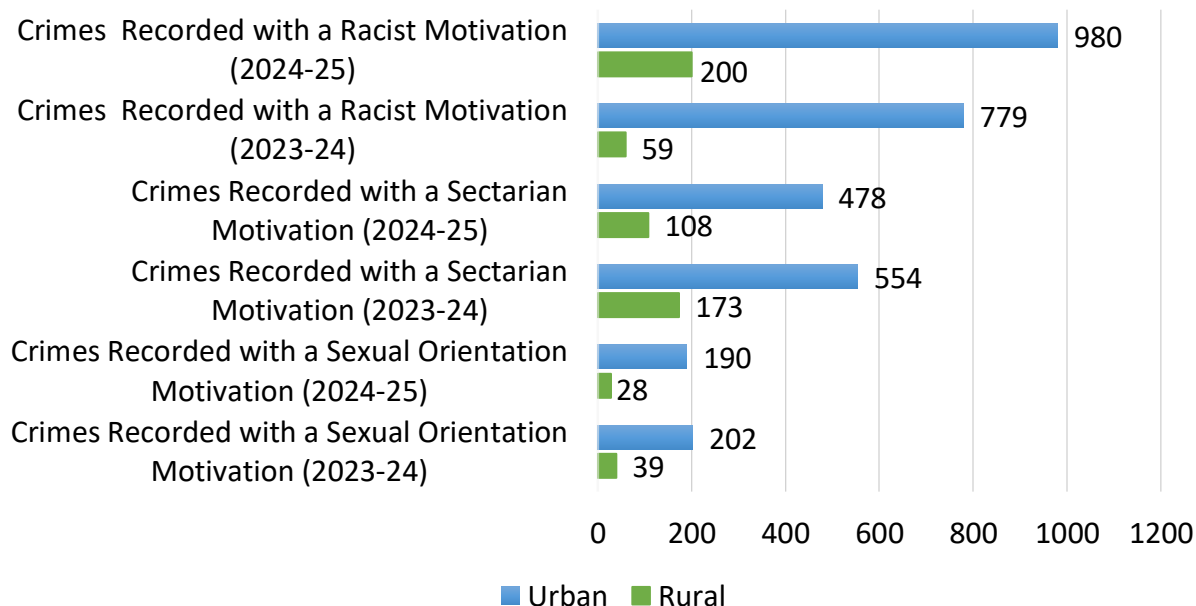
**Figure 43: Police Recorded Crime (Drugs, Weapons, Public Order and Miscellaneous Offences), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



Source: PSNI, 2025

A much higher proportion of drug and weapon possession offences were recorded in urban areas in 2024-25 (Figure 43). However, since 2023-24, recorded drug possession offences had decreased by 7% in urban areas and 21% in rural areas.

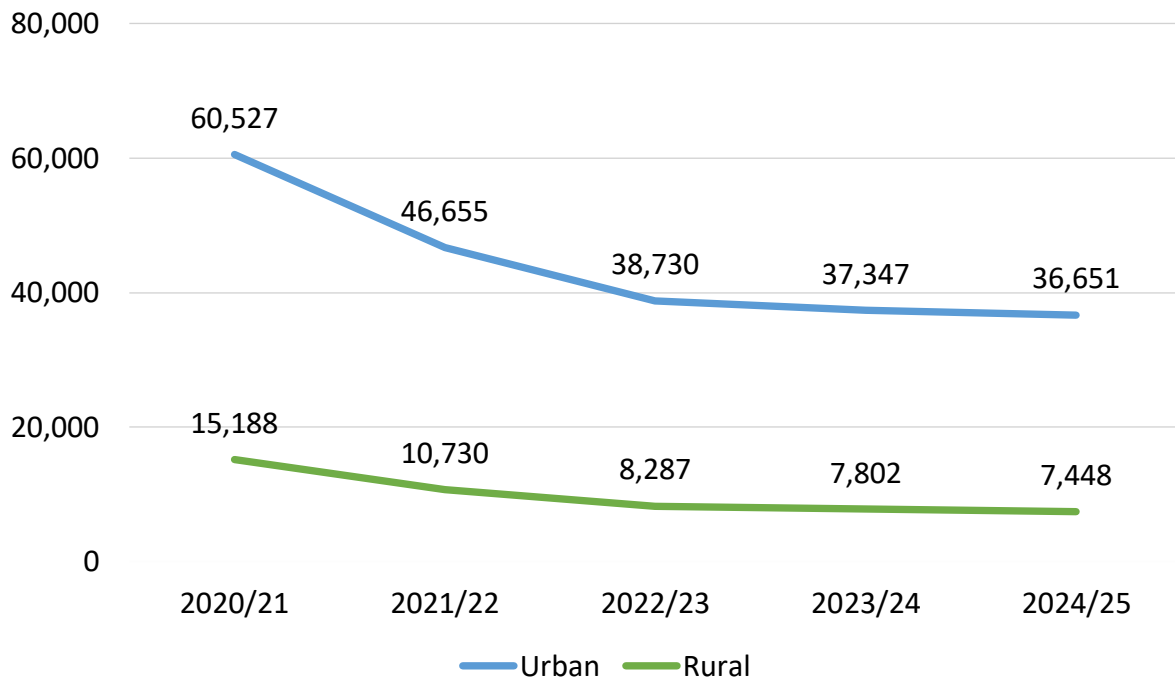
**Figure 44: Recorded Crimes with a Hate Motivation, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023-24 to 2024-25**



Source: PSNI, 2025

In 2024/25, the number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation in NI reached the highest level since 2004/05. Racially motivated crimes in urban areas increased by just over a quarter (26%) from 2023/24 to 2024/25. In rural areas, recorded crimes with a racist motivation more than tripled from 59 in 2023/24 to 200 in 2024/25. Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation fell between 2023/24 and 2024/25, particularly in rural areas (173 to 108, Figure 43).

**Figure 45: Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2020/21 - 2024/25**

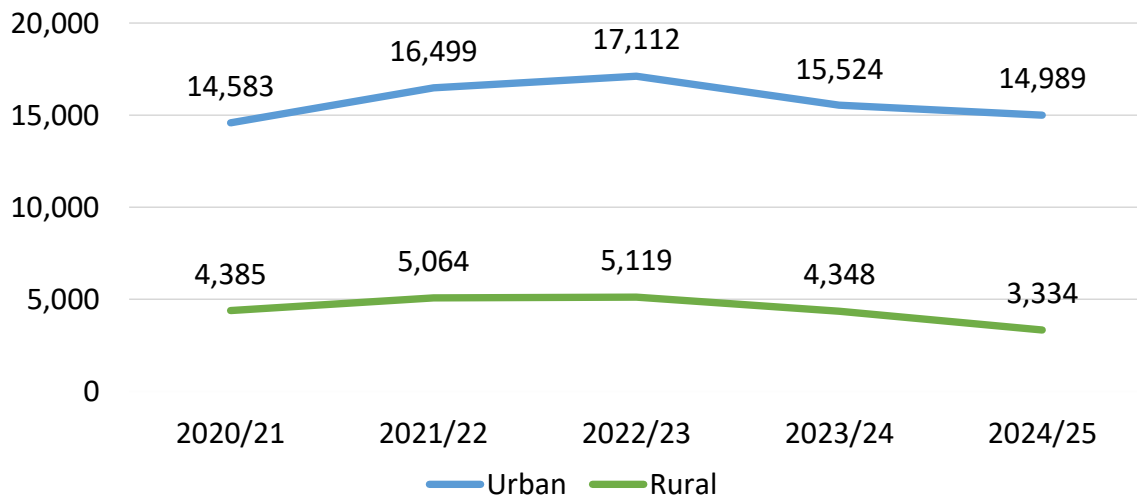


Source: PSNI, 2025

The introduction of lockdown measures and other restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic coincided with a substantial increase in recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents in 2020/21. In subsequent years following the removal of restrictions, there has been a downwards trend in recorded anti-social behaviour incidents, with 2024/25 recording the lowest number of incidents since 2006/07 in both urban and rural areas. There has been a 39% and 51% decrease in recorded ASB incidents in urban and rural areas respectively since 2020/21 (Figure 45).

Since 2020/21, the number of recorded domestic abuse incidents in NI as a whole peaked in 2022/23, before falling in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 in both urban and rural areas (Figure 46).

**Figure 46: Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2020/21 - 2024/25**

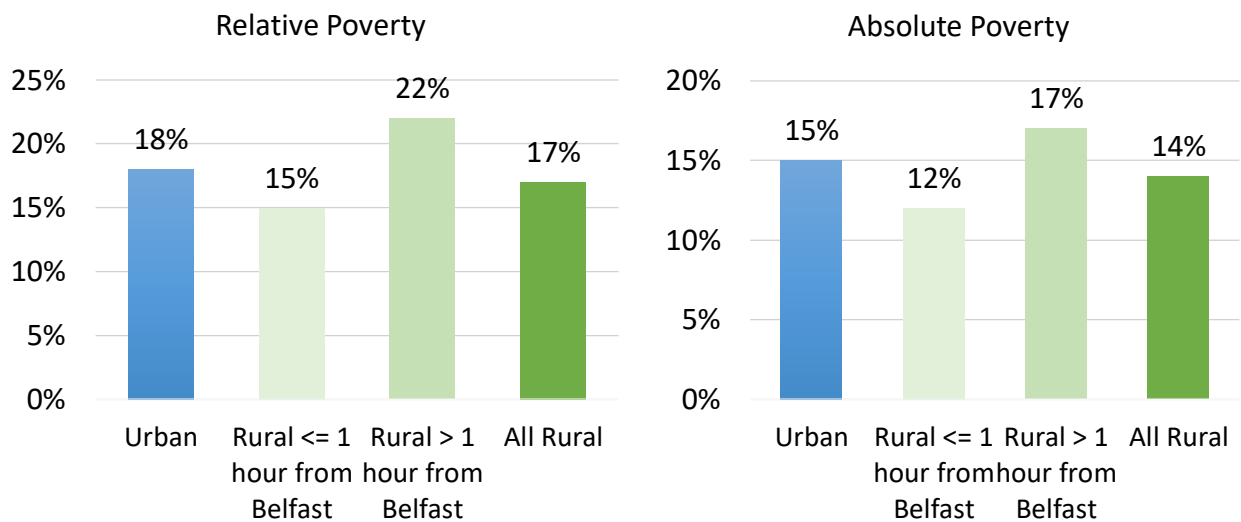


Source: PSNI, 2025

## Household Income, Housing and Poverty

Both rural and urban household incomes can at times fall below either relative or absolute poverty levels. However, overall figures for rural areas can disguise intra-rural differences in the experience of poverty. In 2023-24, relative and absolute poverty levels in rural households more than an hour's journey from Belfast were higher than those of rural areas closer to the city (Figure 47).

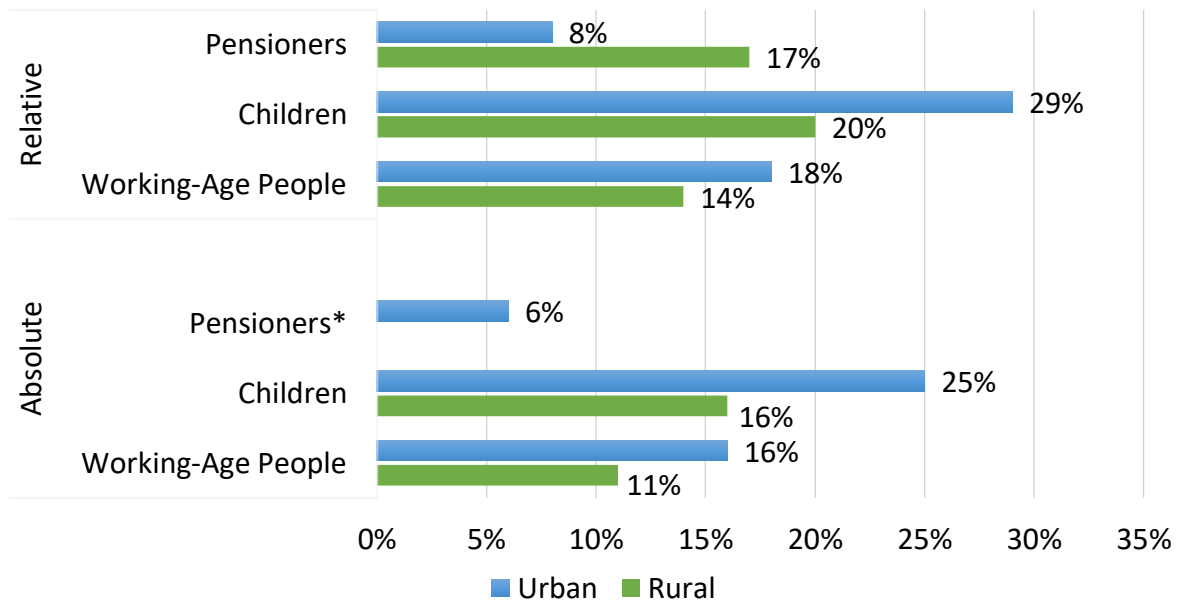
**Figure 47: Proportion of Households in Poverty (after Housing Costs), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023-24**



Source: *Poverty and Income Inequality Report (PII), Department for Communities (DfC), 2023-24*

In 2023-24, a greater proportion of the 'children' group was in relative poverty in urban areas than rural areas, with more than a quarter (29%) of the urban 'children' group in this category. This trend is mirrored in the 'working age' groups across both poverty types, with those in urban areas substantially more likely to be in relative or absolute poverty than their rural counterparts. In 2023-24, rural pensioners were substantially more likely to be in relative poverty (17%) compared to their urban counterparts (8%) (Figure 48).

**Figure 48: Proportion of Individuals in Relative and Absolute Poverty (after Housing Costs), Urban/Rural Comparison, 2023-24**



\*Figure unavailable due to small sample size

Source: Poverty and Income Inequality Report (PII), Department for Communities (DfC), 2023-24

**Table 3: Social Welfare Benefit Claimants/Recipients, Urban/Rural Comparison, August 2025**

	DLA Recipients	PIP Claimants	ESA Recipients	Carer’s Allowance Recipients	Income Support Claimants	Pension Credit Claimants	Universal Credit Claimants
<b>Urban</b>	48,700	156,910	53,860	31,920	80	39,280	149,940
<b>Rural</b>	22,990	67,510	23,690	15,030	30	20,910	50,330
<i>Unknown</i>	40	500	30	30	0	30	620
<b>NI</b>	71,730	224,920	77,580	46,970	100	60,220	200,890

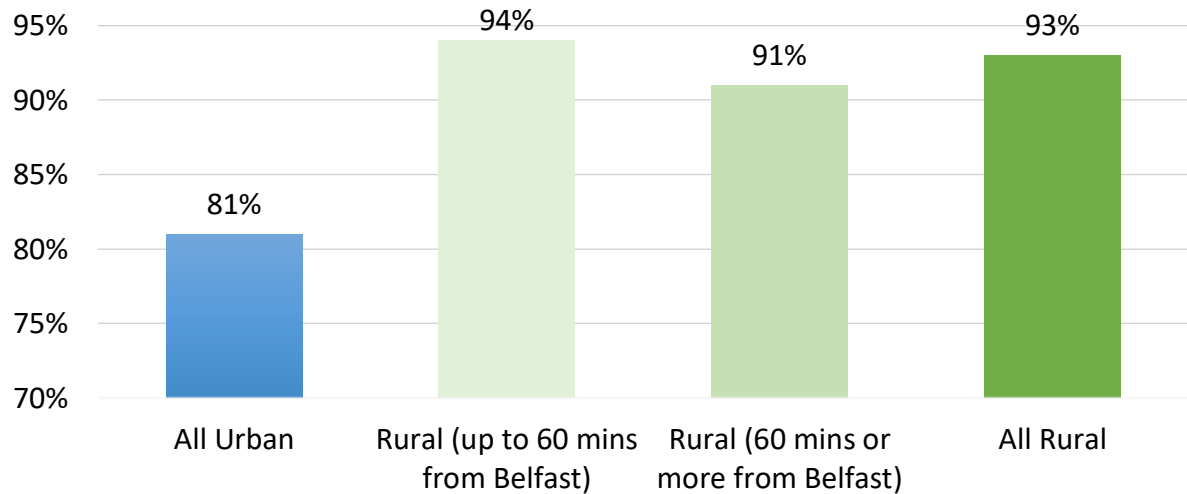
All figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding. In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed to a LGD or as Urban/Rural on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated using this method, and some cannot be allocated at all.

Source: Professional Services Unit (PSU), Department for Communities, 2025

The recently implemented move to Universal Credit has led to the migration of legacy benefit claimants to Universal Credit. Northern Ireland wide, the number of claimants in receipt of Income Support has decreased by 99% over the past year, and the number of claimants in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) decreased by 13% over the same period.

Across Northern Ireland, the number of Universal Credit claimants increased by 17% over the past year. This increase is reflected in the Universal Credit statistics for both urban and rural areas, with a 20% increase in the number of claimants in urban areas, and a 15% increase in rural areas. Since 2024, the number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) claimants increased by around 5% in both urban and rural areas (Table 3).

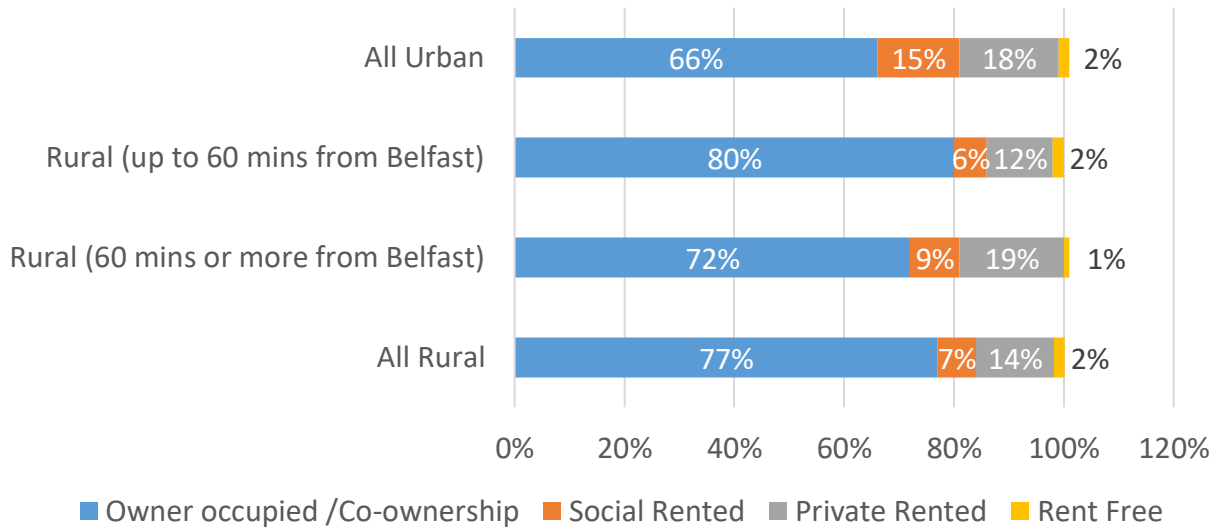
**Figure 49: Household Car/Van Ownership, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**



Source: Continuous Household Survey 2024-25, NISRA

Private transport can be a necessity in rural areas to enable access to employment and basic services. Data from NISRA’s Continuous Household Survey (CHS) indicates that 93% of rural households had access to at least one car or van in 2024-25 (Figure 49), compared with 81% of urban households. As a result, vehicle ownership and running costs may consume a greater share of available household income for rural dwellers.

**Figure 50: Housing Tenure, Urban/Rural Comparison, 2024-25**

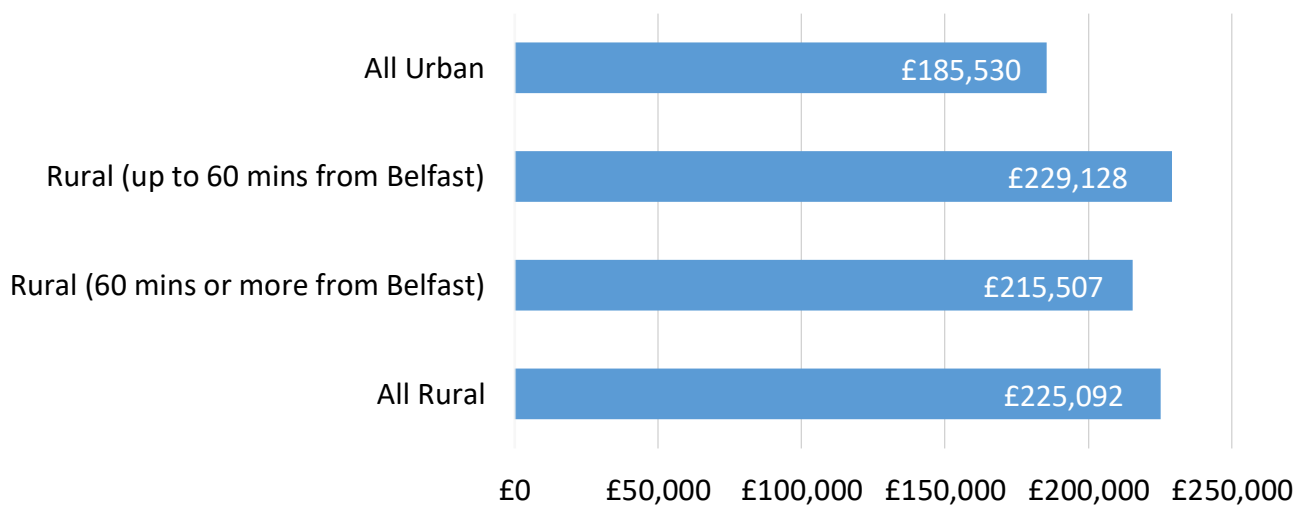


Source: Continuous Household Survey 2024-25, NISRA

In 2024-25, rural dwellers (7%) were less likely to live in a socially rented property than their urban counterparts (15%), according to findings from NISRA’s Continuous Household Survey (CHS). This is perhaps unsurprising as access to social housing is more limited in rural areas. Rates of owner-occupation remained substantially higher in rural (77%) than in urban areas (66%, Figure 50).

As of Quarter 4 in 2025, average house prices were substantially higher in rural than in urban areas, with property in rural areas within an hour’s drive of Belfast most expensive of all (Figure 51). House prices in rural areas increased by 8% between Q4 2024 and Q4 2025. A combination of high demand and relatively low supply continues to drive prices upward in both urban and rural areas.

**Figure 51: Average House Prices (NI), Urban/Rural Comparison, Q4 2025**



Source: NI House Price Index, Land and Property Services (LPS) NISRA, Q4 2025

## Rural Insights – An Introduction to the Rural Data Hub

### What is the Rural Data Hub?

- The [Rural Data Hub](#) is an online tool for exploring population statistics across Northern Ireland's rural and urban areas.
- The Hub is designed for all stakeholders interested in rural issues, supporting informed decision-making with granular data.
- The Hub allows users to manually select areas of interest in NI, and to view and analyse a range of population level data for those areas.

### Data Sources

- The Rural Data Hub mainly reports Census 2021 data and recent Mid-Year Population Estimates for accurate demographic information.

### Small-Area Geographical Data

- The Hub allows users to view and amalgamate data at low-level geographies to reflect local variation.
- Data is presented visually to support interpretation.

### What kind of questions can the Hub help answer?

- How do metrics such as age or education level differ between rural and urban areas?
- What does the data show for specific rural localities (data zones or super data zones) and how do these compare to other areas?
- How does a particular bespoke area compare with the NI average?

### How do I access the Rural Data Hub?

- The Rural Data Hub can be found at this link [Rural Data Hub](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/rural-data-hub) (https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/rural-data-hub)

## Development and Features of the Rural Data Hub

In 2025, a need was identified to obtain rural data based on Northern Ireland small area geographies to enhance the information that was routinely reported by established urban and rural definitions, as discussed earlier in this report (page 7). Data for small and bespoke areas was needed to support informed, evidence-based insights for rural data users.

To address this need, the Rural Data Hub was developed as a new resource, using Census 2021 data sourced from NISRA, under four domains:

- Demography
- Education
- Economy
- Health

The Rural Data Hub provides data at the new Census 2021 statistical output geographies of Data Zone (DZ) and Super Data Zone (SDZ) on a map interface, where the user can select as many individual geographies as they need. Further information on statistical geographies is available from [NISRA](#).

The Rural Data Hub presents granular urban/rural data to better understand and address the needs of rural data users in a single, user-friendly dashboard.

Users can access several key features including:

- the ability to create bespoke areas for analysis, built on data zones or super data zones. This enables localised analysis and comparisons between various bespoke areas, and urban/rural and Northern Ireland averages.
- The option to select desired statistics from 28 different population level variables, enabling tailored data analysis.
- Exploring different views of bespoke area profiles including chart and table views, with and without 'Urban/Rural/Mixed' area breakdowns.
- The option to download data as Excel or image files as a snapshot of your area profile for further analysis, comparison and reporting.
- Links to further information on all datasets available in the Rural Data Hub including sources for reference, metadata and further documentation.

## Feedback

We are keen to hear from users about their experience of using the Rural Data Hub. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments or questions on the Hub or for support and guidance on its use.

### Contact:

Rural Statistics Team, Statistics and Analytical Services Branch

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Telephone: 028 9052 4144

## Further Information

This publication provides an overview of the wide range of information collected across Government to support the development of rural policy. Further sources of information on rural NI are provided below.

### DAERA Rural Statistics

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

### Rural Development

*Management and implementation of the Rural Development Programme and the Rural White Paper Action Plan*

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

### Rural Needs

*Advice and guidance for public authorities in relation to their duties under the Rural Need Act (NI) 2016*

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

### Bespoke Research

#### Farmer Equality Indicators

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-indicators-report>

*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*

#### 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation'

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

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## Other 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>



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An Roinn

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

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