



2001 Question

7 Can you understand, speak, read or write Irish?

✓ all the boxes that apply.

- Understand spoken Irish
- Speak Irish
- Read Irish
- Write Irish
- None of the above

2011 Question

21 Can you understand, speak, read or write Irish or Ulster-Scots?

↻ Tick all that apply.

- | | No ability | Understand | Speak | Read | Write |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ulster-Scots | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NILS Representativeness in 2001	Census 2001 Published		NILS Members		Representativeness Ratio ¹
Persons aged 3+	1617957		429726		
Understand spoken Irish but cannot read, write or speak Irish	36479	2%	9390	2%	1.03
Speak but do not read or write Irish	24536	2%	3377	1%	1.93
Speak and read but do not write Irish	7183	0%	625	0%	3.05
Speak, read, write and understand Irish	75125	5%	19368	5%	1.03
Other combination of skills	24167	1%	10729	2%	0.60
Have No knowledge of Irish	1450467	90%	386237	90%	1.00

Source: *Census 2001*: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/> *NILS*: bespoke table created 050914

NILS Representativeness in 2011	Census 2011 Published		NILS Members		Representativeness Ratio
Persons aged 3+	1735711		456495		
Understand spoken Irish but cannot read, write or speak Irish	70501	4%	17983	4%	1.03
Speak but do not read or write Irish	24677	1%	2354	1%	2.76
Speak and read but do not write Irish	7414	0%	425	0%	4.59
Speak, read, write and understand Irish	64847	4%	16752	4%	1.02
Other combination of skills	17459	1%	9968	2%	0.46
Have No knowledge of Irish	1550813	89%	409013	89%	1.00

Source: *Census 2011*: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/> *NILS*: bespoke table created 050914

¹ Representativeness ratio = 1 if the proportion in the population is the same as the proportion in the NILS. If the ratio is greater than 1 then the proportion in the NILS is higher than the proportion in the population. If the ratio is lower than 1 then the proportion in the population is higher than the proportion in the NILS

Irish language ability in Transition (2001 to 2011) for those alive at both 2001 and 2011

The following table shows the transitions of Irish language ability of NILS members live at both censuses and aged 3 or over in 2001

		2011 Census Information (All persons aged 13+)						
		All aged 13+	Understand spoken Irish but cannot read, write or speak Irish	Speak but do not read or write Irish	Speak and read but do not write Irish	Speak, read, write and understand Irish	Other combination of skills	Have No knowledge of Irish
2001 Census Information (All persons aged 3+)	Aged 3+ years	343695	14104	1657	327	12389	7252	307966
	Understand spoken Irish but cannot read, write or speak Irish	7413	1497	149	23	484	522	4738
	Speak but do not read or write Irish	2660	378	111	11	223	208	1729
	Speak and read but do not write Irish	501	71	*10	*10	60	70	280
	Speak, read, write and understand Irish	15169	2094	284	69	4805	1900	6017
	Other combination of skills	8452	1475	196	54	1001	1127	4599
	Have No knowledge of Irish	309500	8589	907	160	5816	3425	290603

Source: NILS: bespoke table created 050914

Note: *cell counts have been rounded and related totals adjusted

Knowledge of Irish in the 2011 Census Quality Survey

The Census Quality Survey (CQS) was an independent voluntary survey targeted at a random sample of households that had responded to the Census to assess the level of quality of census responses. The actual responses reported in the Census regarding knowledge of Irish aligned with that reported in the CQS in 87.8% of cases. More detail is available at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/census/2011/census_quality_survey.pdf

Discussion

The 2001 and 2011 distribution of the Irish language ability variables within the NILS are representative of the overall population as published by Census Office.

Of those who reported having no knowledge of Irish in 2001, approximately 2% were able to speak, read, write and understand Irish a decade later. Approximately 94% of those who reported themselves as having no knowledge of Irish in 2001 reported themselves as still having no knowledge of Irish a decade later.

Of those who reported being able to speak, read, write and understand Irish in 2001, 32% reported themselves as having the same level Irish language ability a decade later. Of the same group, 29% retained some knowledge of the Irish language, but at a reduced level.

Of those who reported having some other combination of Irish language skills in 2001, 12% reported being able to speak, read, write and understand Irish a decade later.

NISRA

September 2014