

1.0 Population

1.1 Population Change

Based on the findings of the 2001 Census, the Cookstown District Council area has a current population of 32,581, representing a growth rate of 4.8% from 31,082 in 1991(see Table 1.1).

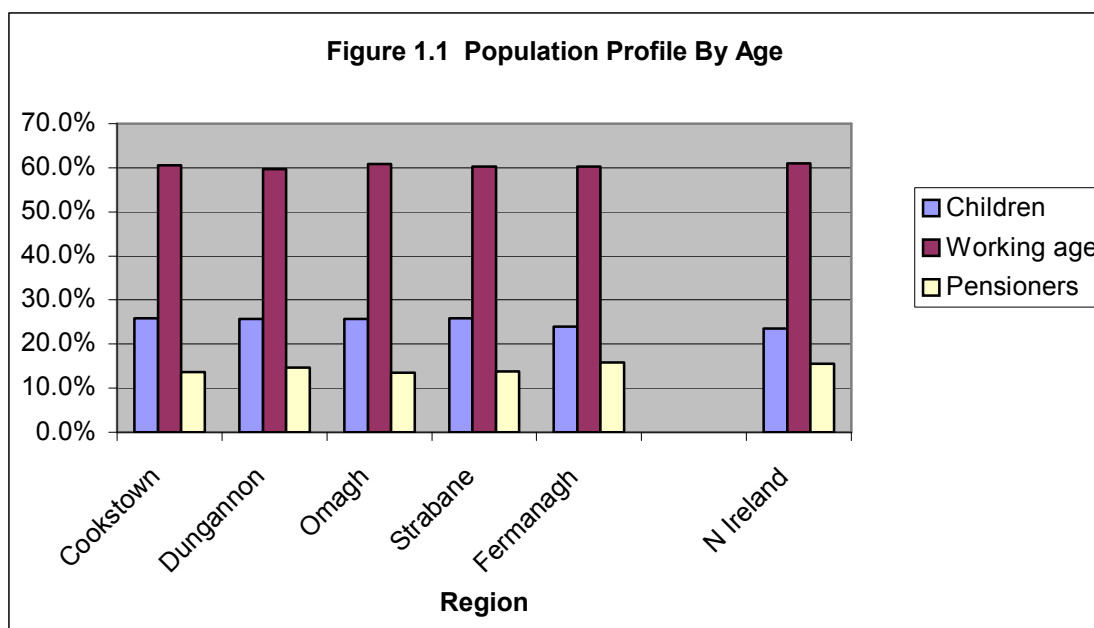
Table 1.1 Population Change 1991 – 2001

	1991	2001	%Change
Cookstown	31,082	32,581	4.8%
Dungannon	45,428	47,735	5.1%
Omagh	45,809	47,952	4.7%
Strabane	36,141	38,248	5.8%
Fermanagh	54,033	57,527	6.4%
Tyrone	158,460	166,516	5.1%
Tyrone/Fermanagh	212,493	224,043	5.4%
Northern Ireland	1,577,836	1,685,267	6.8%

Source: The Northern Ireland Census 1991 & 2001 General Register Office 2002

1.2 Population Age Profile

The population age profile of the Cookstown District Council area is largely similar to that for Northern Ireland as a whole (see Tables 1.2 and 1.3). Almost 26% of the District's population (8,455) are children, just over 60% (19,700) are of working age, with the remaining 14% (4,426) being of pensionable age. Despite there being small deviations in the age profiles of each of the other four district council areas in the Tyrone and Fermanagh region, generally speaking, they all conform to this broad regional age profile.



Source: The Northern Ireland Census 2001 – General Register Office 2002

Table 1.2 Population Age Profile by District Council Area - 2001

	Cookstown	Dungannon	Omagh	Strabane	Fermanagh	N Ireland
Children	8455	12315	12399	9957	13864	398056
Working age	19700	28434	29055	23017	34514	1025700
Pensioners	4426	6986	6498	5274	9149	261511
Total	32581	47735	47952	38248	57527	1685267

Source: The Northern Ireland Census 2001 – General Register Office

Notes: Children are defined as those in the population aged under 16.
 Working age is defined as the female population aged 16 to 59 and the male population aged 16 to 64.
 Pensioners are defined as the female population aged 60 and over and the male population aged 65 and over.

Table 1.3 – Population Age Profile (In Percentages) by District Council Area - 2001

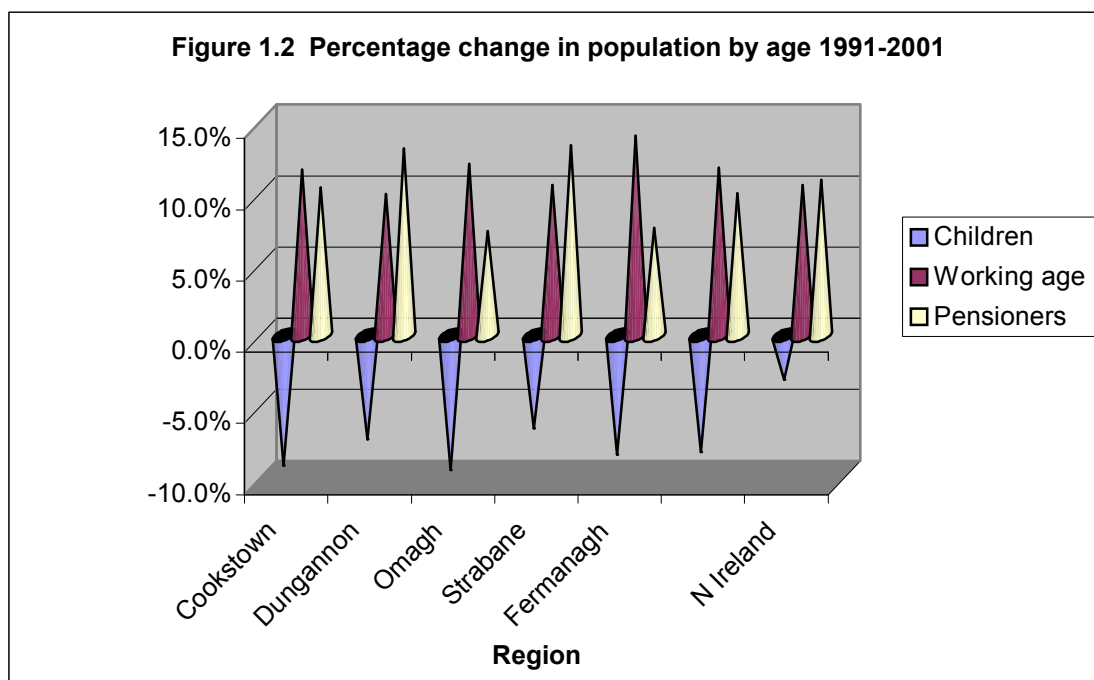
	Cookstown	Dungannon	Omagh	Strabane	Fermanagh	N Ireland
Children	25.9%	25.8%	25.9%	26.0%	24.1%	23.6%
Working age	60.5%	59.6%	60.6%	60.2%	60.0%	60.9%
Pensioners	13.6%	14.6%	13.6%	13.8%	15.9%	15.5%

Source: The Northern Ireland Census 2001 – General Register Office

Notes: Children are defined as those in the population aged under 16.
 Working age is defined as the female population aged 16 to 59 and the male population aged 16 to 64.
 Pensioners are defined as the female population aged 60 and over and the male population aged 65 and over.

Table 1.4 – Percentage change in population by age per District Council – 1991-2001

	Cookstown	Dungannon	Omagh	Strabane	Fermanagh	N Ireland
Children	-9.0%	-7.1%	-9.0%	-6.1%	-8.0%	-2.9%
Working age	11.0%	9.5%	11.2%	10.3%	13.3%	10.1%
Pensioners	9.7%	12.6%	7.2%	13.1%	7.6%	10.6%
All Persons	4.8%	5.1%	4.7%	5.8%	6.5%	6.8%



The growth in the District’s population over the past ten years has been largely fuelled by the increase in the number of people of working age living in the area (see Figure 1.2). Between 1991 and 2001 the number of people of working age living in the Cookstown area increased by 1,947 from 17,753 to 19,700 a rise of 11%. This was slightly higher than the overall increase in the population of this age group across Northern Ireland as a whole (10.1%).

1.3 Distribution of Population By Key Towns

The Cookstown District Council area occupies a central position in Northern Ireland. Covering an area of some 197 square miles (510 square kilometres) it is the 11th largest district in terms of area. To the east, the district's rich and diverse landscape is one of flat lowlands stretching out along the shores of Lough Neagh and to the west it rises to the uplands of the Sperrin Mountains.

The town of Cookstown is the commercial and administrative heart of the district and is home to almost one third of the districts' population (based on 1991 Census Figures). Just over two thirds of the districts' population live in small rural towns and villages or in dispersed rural communities. This has helped to retain the strong rural character, culture and sense of community identity that has long been associated with the region.

Table 1.5 Main Towns in each District Council area with a Population of 1000 or more based on 1991 Census Figures (See Notes Below)

Area	Total	Male	Female
<u>Cookstown DCA</u>			
Cookstown	9,842	4,797	5,045
Moneymore	1231	583	648
Coagh	1,835	886	949
Stewartstown	1,683	814	869
<u>Dungannon DCA</u>			
Coalisland	3,802	1,848	1,954
Dungannon	9,190	4,407	4,783
Fivemiletown	1,107	533	574
Moygashel	1,178	551	627
<u>Strabane DCA</u>			
Castledearg	2,579	1,221	1,358
Newtownstewart	1,520	751	769
Sion Mills	1,676	833	843
Strabane	11,670	5,624	6,046
<u>Omagh DCA</u>			
Fintona	1,324	661	663
Omagh	17,280	8,448	8,832
<u>Fermanagh DCA</u>			
Enniskillen	11,436	5,470	5,966
Irvinestown	1,906	911	995
Lisnaskea	2,367	1,120	1,247

Source: *The Northern Ireland Census 1991*

Notes: More recent figures based on the 2001 Northern Ireland Census are not due to be published until Spring 2003

1.4 Population By Religion

The three main churches in Cookstown (see Table 1.6), the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church represent the religious affiliations of 85% of the people living within the district, with the Roman Catholic Church being the predominant religion overall.

The Church of Ireland is the largest Protestant denomination in Cookstown (17%) followed by the Presbyterian Church (15%).

Table 1.6 Population Breakdown by Religion

	Cookstown	Tyrone	Northern Ireland
Catholic	53%	59%	38%
Church of Ireland	17%	15%	18%
Presbyterian	15%	14%	21%
Methodist	1%	2%	4%
Other	7%	5%	8%
None	1%	1%	4%
Not Stated	5%	5%	7%

Source: The Northern Ireland Census 1991

Notes: More recent figures based on the 2001 Northern Ireland Census are not due to be published until early 2003