

WWW.AGESTATS.IE
UPDATE 2014

C|A|R|D|I

Centre for Ageing Research
and Development in Ireland

OVERVIEW

CARDI has recently updated its website AgeStats.ie. The update involved adding 19 new surveys to the 2012 database bringing the total number of searchable surveys to 50.

The website provides an overview of selected datasets on ageing in Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (RoI). It is designed to be used by researchers who are engaged in comparative research on ageing.

KEY STATS

- Agestats.ie now includes 50 surveys (27 NI; 23 RoI) covering:
 - 9 themes
 - 190 sub-themes (compared with 187 in Nov 2012)
 - 1659 measures in total
- 7427 individual data points identified across 50 surveys

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

A number of points need to be borne in mind when using the database:

- First, not all data is available for all survey questionnaires. Some contain sensitive information, which is either removed from the publicly released datasets or top-coded.
- Second, there are a number of derived variables in each survey dataset which do not appear in survey questionnaires, but can be found in the codebooks and/or survey datasets.
- Third, the extent to which survey datasets match survey questionnaires depends very much on the data collector/sponsor, the public release of data (eg. crime survey data, health survey data), nature/content of the survey, the questions asked, whether persons and/or household level information is being sought, the period in which data were collected, the sample size, geographic location, the lag between the collection of data and its public release, and use(s) to which data can be put.

In short, there are many inconsistencies in the type and level of information initially collected and that which is ultimately released for use by academic and policy researchers.

Table 1: Summary table of updated datasets for Agestats.ie (June 2014)

Dataset	Nov 2012	Dec 2013
Northern Ireland		
Continuous Household Survey (CHS)	2009-10	2011-12
Family Resources (FRS)	2009-10	2011-12
Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI)	2010-11	2011-12
Living Costs and Food Survey (LCFS)	2010	2011 (agreed)
2012 (actual)		
Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS)	2010-11	2011-12 (agreed)
2012-13 (actual)		
Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (NIHCS)	2009	2011
Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILTS)	2010	2012
Northern Ireland Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey (NIPSE)	2002-03	2012
Travel Survey Northern Ireland (TSNI)	2008-10	2010-12
Understanding Society (US)	2010-11	2011-13
Republic of Ireland		
Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)	2010	2011
Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) – Module on Financial Distress	2009-11	2012 (Q3)
Household Budget Survey (HBS)	2004-05	2009-10 (added)
Household Travel Survey (HTS)	2009	May-13
The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)	2010	2012 (Data Not available)**
Eurobarometer – EB 79.4 Special topic on Social climate	2011	2013
Living in Ireland (LII)	Not applicable	2001
Both		
National Psychological Wellbeing and Distress Survey (NPWDS)	Not applicable	2008

*Note: Northern Ireland Health Survey 2010-11 initially agreed, but this is a duplicate of HSNI.

** Database populated with Draft Wave 2 CAPI questionnaire. Self completion questionnaire not available.

KEY CHANGES

During the course of updating Agestats.ie, several notable changes (additions and revisions) were made, which are summarised fully in Table 2.

- Minor revisions to wording of sub-themes and/or measures.
- Reference periods (where applicable) added to sub-themes and/or measures
- Added new measures to some sub-themes (e.g. two meals a day & fresh fruit and vegetables everyday added as measures of material deprivation).
- Added new sub-themes and measures (e.g. retirement planning).
- Some measures removed as they do not appear in updated survey/datasets, whilst other measures moved from existing sub-themes into new sub-themes (e.g. some measures in retirement history moved in to new retirement planning sub-theme).
- Expanded measure indicators to identify (to the extent possible) whether: derived variables exist in the survey dataset (d); measures can be created using variable(s) existing in the survey datasets (c); net rateable value (nrV) used to estimate value of asset; measure available in the survey dataset (npa). Note: specification of the measure indicators were based on availability of updated survey datasets.

Table 2: Summary of major and minor revisions/additions (May 2014)

Demographics	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Person		
Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)	✓	
Household reference person/head of household/chief income earner/chief economic supporter		
Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)	✓	
Household		
Number of families/benefit units in the household	✓	
Family type/composition (cycle)	✓	
Economic and Material	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Household		
Number of families/benefit units in the household		✓
Family type/composition (cycle)	✓	
Family supports		
Maternity Benefit/Allowance/Grant	✓	
Other types of family supports (Child maintenance/Alimony)	✓	
Family Income Supplement		✓
Other support/allowances		
Bottled Gas Refill Vouchers		✓

Illness/disability support		
Illness Benefit (formerly known as Disability Benefit)/Incapacity Benefit	✓	
Invalidity Pension/Benefit	✓	
Injury (Industrial) Benefit	✓	
(Severe) Disablement Benefit/Attendance Allowance	✓	
Pension scheme		
Current value of occupational pension		✓
Current value of private pension		✓
Housing costs		
Housing insurance (structure/dwelling) premiums (amount)	✓	
Non-consumption		
National insurance/social insurance (amount)	✓	
Borrowing/financial assistance		
Different ways household maintains its current level of spending (e.g. credit card, overdraft, loans from family friends, etc.)		✓
Household budgeting		
Satisfaction with how household finances are managed		✓
Subjective assessment of persona/household financial situation		
Future financial situation		✓
Able to pay an unexpected expense of £200 (FRS pensioners) £500 (NIPSE) €1122 (SILC)	✓	
How to deal with unexpected expense		✓
Restricted in buying non-essential item (spot purchase) (£150)		✓
Satisfaction with income/financial situation	✓	
Social class (working, middle, upper) household belongs to		✓
Material deprivation (have and affordability)		
Two meals a day		✓
Fresh fruit and vegetables everyday		✓
Keep the home adequately warm (FRS pensioners) in winter	✓	
Curtain or window blinds		✓
Table and chairs at which all family can eat		✓
Replace or repair broken electrical goods (FRS pensioners = cooker)	✓	
Regular savings of at least £10-£20 a month or more for rainy days or retirement	✓	
Ability to afford unexpected expenses (FRS pensioners)	✓	
Unable to afford regular payments into an occupational or private pension scheme		✓
Unable to afford private health insurance		✓

Economising behaviours		✓
Gone without a substantial meal		
Impact of economic climate/Financial distress (past year)		
Change in savings behaviour as a result of the economic climate (reference period)		✓
Level of concern about current level of debt (credit cards, store cards, overdraft, mortgage or other loans)		✓
Change in level of concern about current level of debt (past 12 months)		✓
Applied for a loan or other credit card/turned down for a loan or other credit card (past 12 months)		✓
Level of difficulty keeping up with keeping up with bills and/or debts at the moment		✓
Reasons for difficulties in keeping up with bills and/or debts		✓
Reasons for loss of income, which has caused difficulties keeping up with bills and/or debts (cut in hourly pay, retirement etc.)		✓
Reasons for higher than expected or additional costs, which has caused difficulties keeping up with bills and/or debts (loan/mortgage repayments, utility bills, medical expenses, etc.)		✓
Other reasons (besides loss of income and higher costs), which caused difficulties keeping up with bills and/or debts		✓
Actions taken to to resolve the difficulties your household has in keeping up with bills and/or debts (taking out another loan or mortgage, selling family home etc.)		✓
Cut back household spending as a result of economic climate (various items and activities)	✓	
Car usage or ownership		✓
Unable to make a mortgage repayment/pay rent on time due to financial difficulties		✓
Education and Training	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
*No additions/revisions		
Employment and Work	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Unemployment history		
Number of years/months unemployed	✓	
Reasons unemployed/left last job	✓	
Retirement planning		
Number of years/months unemployed		✓
Reasons unemployed/left last job		✓
Looking for work		
Number of jobs applied for (reference period)	✓	
Reasons turned down for a job (sex, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation etc.)		✓
Effects of discriminatory experiences		✓
Unemployment supports		
Jobseeker's Benefit (JSB)	✓	

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)	✓	
Quality of working life		
Actual work itself/Type of work done	✓	
Receive recognition deserving for my work	✓	
Working conditions/environment		✓
Distance to job/commuting		✓
Health and Wellbeing	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Memory and concentration	✓	
Concentration test(s)		✓
Emotional, psychological and mental health	✓	
WHO Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI-SF Major Depressive Episode)	✓	
WHO Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI-GAD General Anxiety Disorder)		✓
Type of emotional, nervous or psychiatric problems		✓
Mental, nervous, or emotional problems limit physical activities (last year)		✓
Mental, nervous, or emotional problems limit social activities (last year)		✓
Sense control over one's life (plus Pearlin Mastery Scale, 7 items)	✓	
Other chronic conditions		
Alcohol or drug (substance) abuse	✓	
Drug (substance) abuse		✓
Thyroid problems		✓
Healthcare coverage		
Medical card (GP visit card) holder	✓	
Health care utilisation		
Number of times spoken with a GP about being anxious or depressed, or about mental, nervous, or emotional problems (last 12 months)		✓
Factors preventing you from seeing a GP (last 12 months)		✓
Total days/nights stayed in hospital (last 12 months)	✓	
Preventative health		
Reasons did not get seasonal flu vaccine		✓
Mental health services and supports		
Outpatient clinic		✓
Day centre		✓
Day hospital		✓
Inpatient psychiatric hospital / unit		✓
Various types of supports used for help with a mental, nervous, or emotional problem (psychiatrist, nurse, psychologist, social worker, counsellor etc.) (last 12 months)		✓

Effectiveness of various types of supports used for help with a mental, nervous, or emotional problem (psychiatrist, nurse, psychologist, social worker, counsellor etc.) (last 12 months)		✓
Potential use of various types of supports for help with a mental, nervous, or emotional problem (psychiatrist, nurse, psychologist, social worker, counsellor etc.)		✓
Any prescribed medication for a mental, nervous, or emotional problem (last 12 months)		✓
Effective of prescribed medication for a mental, nervous, or emotional problem (last 12 months)		✓
Community health and public health services		
Amount paid for home help		✓
Medication/prescription drugs		
Prescription for hormones (menopause/other)		✓
Lifestyle changes to improve health		
Which lifestyle changes would you like to make to improve your health (e.g. cut down/stop smoking, control weight, eat more healthily)		✓
Sexual health		
Sexually active (last 12 months)	✓	
Any STDs/STIs	✓	
Subjective well-being		
Where you would place yourself in society (lowest to highest level in society)		✓
Living Environment	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
General information		
Type of dwelling/accommodation	✓	
Mortgage and renting		
Mortgage allowance (Mortgage interest supplement) receive (last 12 months)	✓	
Top-up/Remortgage		✓
Built environment accessibility and adaptations		
Types of specialised features (adaptations) in/around home (for disability)	✓	
Problems in area		
Air pollution/quality	✓	
Homes broken into		✓
Vehicles stolen/broken into	✓	
Abandoned/Burnt out cars	✓	
People attacked on street		✓
Knowledge of and satisfaction with living environment		
Satisfaction with housing/accommodation	✓	
Reasons decided to live in this area		✓

Perceptions of crime and criminal justice		
Fear/worry of crime (home broke into, being mugged or robbed etc.)	✓	
Crime and abuse		
Social climate (in country)	✓	
Past, current, and future ratings - pension provision		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - unemployment benefits		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - relations between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds or nationalities		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - way inequalities and poverty are addressed		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - affordable energy		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - way public administration runs		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - situation of national economy		✓
Past, current, and future ratings - employment situation		✓
Political and Civic	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
*No additions/revisions		
Family, Social Networks, Support and Participation	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Social network		
Number of co-resident children		✓
Difficult to visit family and friends when you need to		✓
Unpaid personal care and support provided		
Total number of persons (sick, disabled, elderly) cared for (inside/outside the household)	✓	
Financial help provided and received (family, friends and neighbours)		
Receive inheritance	✓	
Common social activities (do and/or affordability)		
Social meal once a week/month	✓	
Trips and tourism		
Cost of each overnight trip	✓	
Day trips (various information)		✓
Leisure trips (various information)		✓
Reasons for no overnight/day trips		✓
Factors preventing participation in common social activities	✓	

Values, Attitudes and Opinions	Revised / additional wording	New sub-theme and/or measure
Equality and social attitudes		
Irish Travellers		✓
Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, transgender (LGBT) issues		✓
Autism		✓
Social, cultural and environmental		
Cyber security		✓
Environmental action taken		✓
Smoke-free legislation		✓

LIST OF SURVEYS

Northern Ireland:

1. Ageism and Ageing in Northern Ireland 2008
2. Census of Population of Northern Ireland 2011
3. Continuous Household Survey 2009 – 10
4. Continuous Household Survey 2011 - 2012
5. European Values Study 2008
6. Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010/2011
7. Health Survey Northern Ireland 2011/2012
8. Living Costs and Food Survey 2010
9. Living Costs and Food Survey 2012
10. National Psychological Wellbeing and Distress Survey 2008
11. Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010 - 2011
12. Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2012 - 2013
13. Northern Ireland Family Resources Survey 2011 - 2012
14. Northern Ireland Family Resources Survey 2009 - 2010
15. Northern Ireland Health and Social Well-being Survey 2005 - 2006
16. Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2009
17. Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2011
18. Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey 2009
19. Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2010
20. Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2012
21. Northern Ireland Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey 2002 – 2003
22. Northern Ireland Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey 2012
23. Northern Ireland Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability 2006 - 2007
24. Travel Survey Northern Ireland - 2008 - 2010
25. Travel Survey Northern Ireland 2010 - 2012
26. Understanding Society - 2010-11
27. Understanding Society – 2011 - 2013

Republic of Ireland:

28. Ageism and Ageing in the Republic of Ireland 2008
29. Census of Population of Republic of Ireland 2011
30. Eurobarometer 2011
31. Eurobarometer 2013
32. European Values Study 2008
33. Household Budget Survey 2004 - 2005
34. Household Budget Survey 2009 - 2010
35. Household Travel Survey 2009
36. Household Travel Survey 2013
37. Living in Ireland Survey 2001
38. National Disability Survey 2006
39. National Psychological Wellbeing and Distress Survey 2008
40. National Survey of Housing Quality
41. National Travel Survey 2001 - 2002
42. Public Attitudes to Disability Survey 2011
43. Quarterly National Household Survey 2009-2011
44. Quarterly National Household Survey 2012
45. Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe 2007 - 2007
46. Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition 2007
47. Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2010
48. Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2011
49. The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing 2010
50. The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing 2012

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