



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**
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Business Activity

Statistics Bulletin

Local Unit results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry 2011

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National Statistics

The publication 'Results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry' is a National Statistic.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

From 1st April 2011, responsibility for the production of official statistics on the economy and labour market became the responsibility of Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). Those powers previously exercised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 are now exercised by DFP from this date, as a result of the Departments (Transfer of Functions) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011. While DFP exercise the powers of the 1988 Order, in practice the operational responsibility for statistics production will reside with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an Agency of DFP.

1: Context

This release contains 2010 and 2011 provisional local unit results as well as 2009 revised results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI). The NIABI is a key resource for measuring the size, performance and structure of the Northern Ireland business economy. It is an annual survey of businesses covering the production, construction, distribution and service industries. This covers roughly two thirds of the total NI economy. Further information on survey coverage is contained in the background notes section.

The published estimates include the total value of sales and work completed by businesses (turnover), the value of the purchase of goods, materials and services, approximate Gross Value Added at basic prices and employment. These estimates are further disaggregated at industry level, providing users with an insight into the size and evolution of the overall business economy from 2009 to 2011 as well as a measure of the contribution made by different industry sectors. The financial estimates are collected and presented as monetary values.

The NIABI originally existed as a subcomponent of the UK Annual Business Survey and while the central structure and periodicity of the NIABI is still driven by the legal requirement to provide data for the UK ABS, the NIABI has operated as a stand-alone Northern Ireland survey conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) since 2002.

Improvements to both methodology and output have been implemented to enhance the quality of the 2011 NIABI statistical output. For more information on this please consult the background notes in section 5 of this publication.

The business economy is constantly changing, as businesses merge, are taken over, or change the main focus of their activity. These changes can result in the industry classification of a business changing over time. In industries where movements are common, or where large businesses are involved, these changes can themselves cause large changes in the NIABI estimates. This should be taken into consideration when changes over time are being considered.

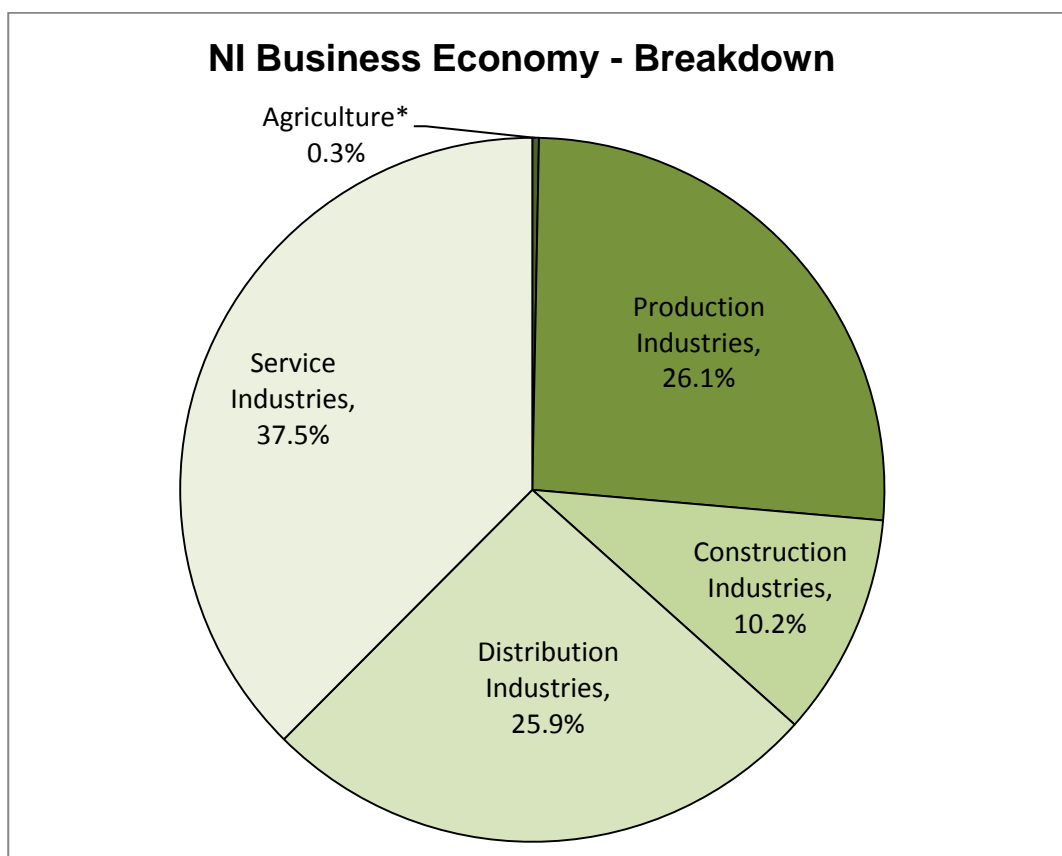
When interpreting NIABI results, users are advised to refer to the quality indicators provided alongside the estimates in the tables. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of statistical error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results. Users should also be aware that methodological improvements governing the treatment of business closures have been introduced for the 2011 report. These improvements have been implemented for the 2011 and the revised 2009 and 2010 data. Consequently, although 2008 figures are included in this report, users should exercise caution when making comparisons.

Following user feedback and consultation with the Statistics Advisory Committee and the DFP official statistics user group, the NIABI sample size was boosted from approximately 5,000 in the 2010 survey reference year to 9,000 in 2011. This has resulted in improvements to the precision of the estimates, as indicated by the accompanying quality indicators for 2011. This improvement should also be borne in mind when interpreting the annual change.

2: Main Messages

- The Northern Ireland business economy, as measured by the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry, recorded a fall of 2.7% in approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA), dropping by £479 million from £17,968 million in 2010 to £17,490 million in 2011.
- Turnover increased by 1.1% during 2010-11, to £59,159 million. This is 0.4% below the level recorded in 2009 (£59,375 million).
- Higher spending was a primary factor behind the fall in aGVA, with Purchases of Goods and Services increasing by 2.2% to £38,589 million between 2010 and 2011.
- At the Industry level the results were more varied, with drops in both construction (-11.9%) and manufacturing (-7.0%) accounting for the decline in the total NI aGVA.
- Figure 1 shows the percentage contribution of each industry to Northern Ireland's aGVA:

Figure 1: NI Business Economy - aGVA by Industry



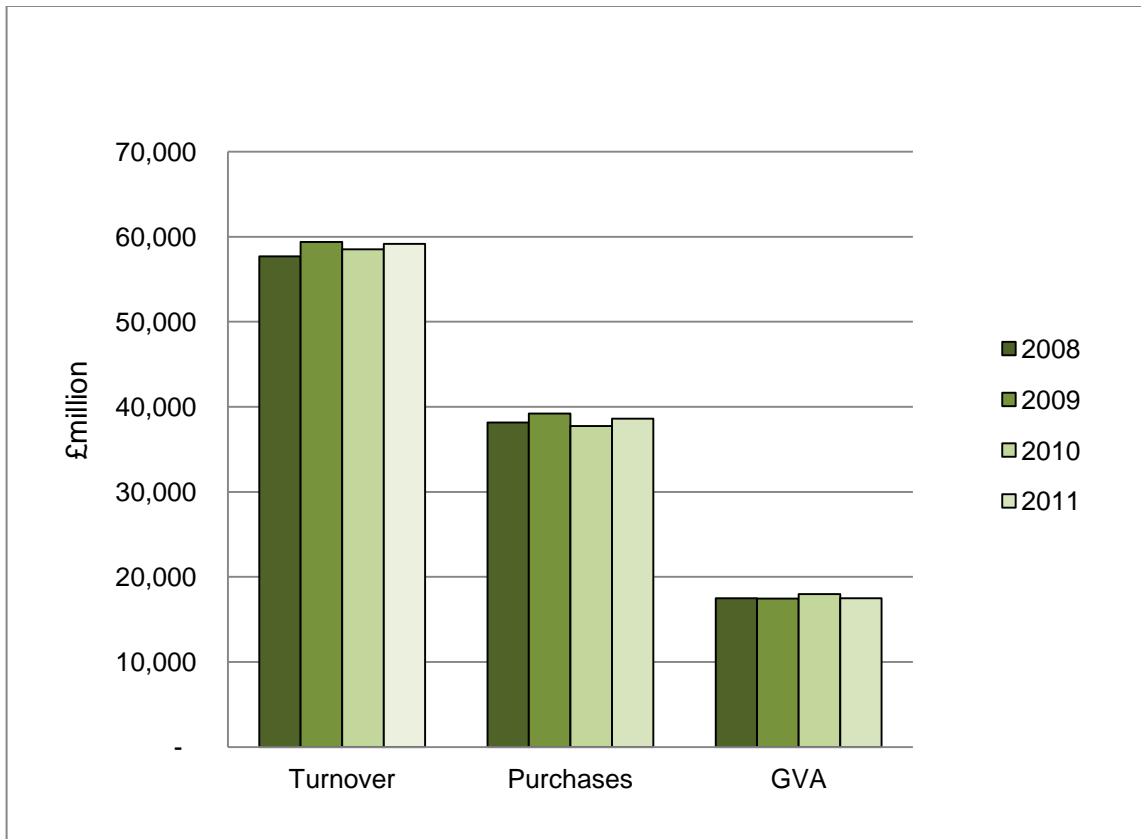
* Excludes Farming

3: Summary and Commentary

Overall Results

Approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) for the Northern Ireland Business Economy as measured by the NIABI was estimated to be worth £17,490 million in 2011, a 2.7% decline on 2010. While results show a slight increase in the total value of NI private sector sales (1.1%) this has not translated in to increased income in terms of aGVA mainly due to increased costs.

Figure 2: NI Business Economy - Overview



Production Industries (Sections B-E)

As the largest single contributor to the NI Production Industry, variations in manufacturing performance have a large impact on the overall industry figures. Manufacturing purchases increased more than turnover (9.5% compared to 4.2%) contributing to a decrease in GVA (by 7.0%). Rising costs of raw materials and the price of oil are reported to have particularly impacted businesses in this section.

Figure 3: Income and Expenditure – Production Industries 2008 – 2011

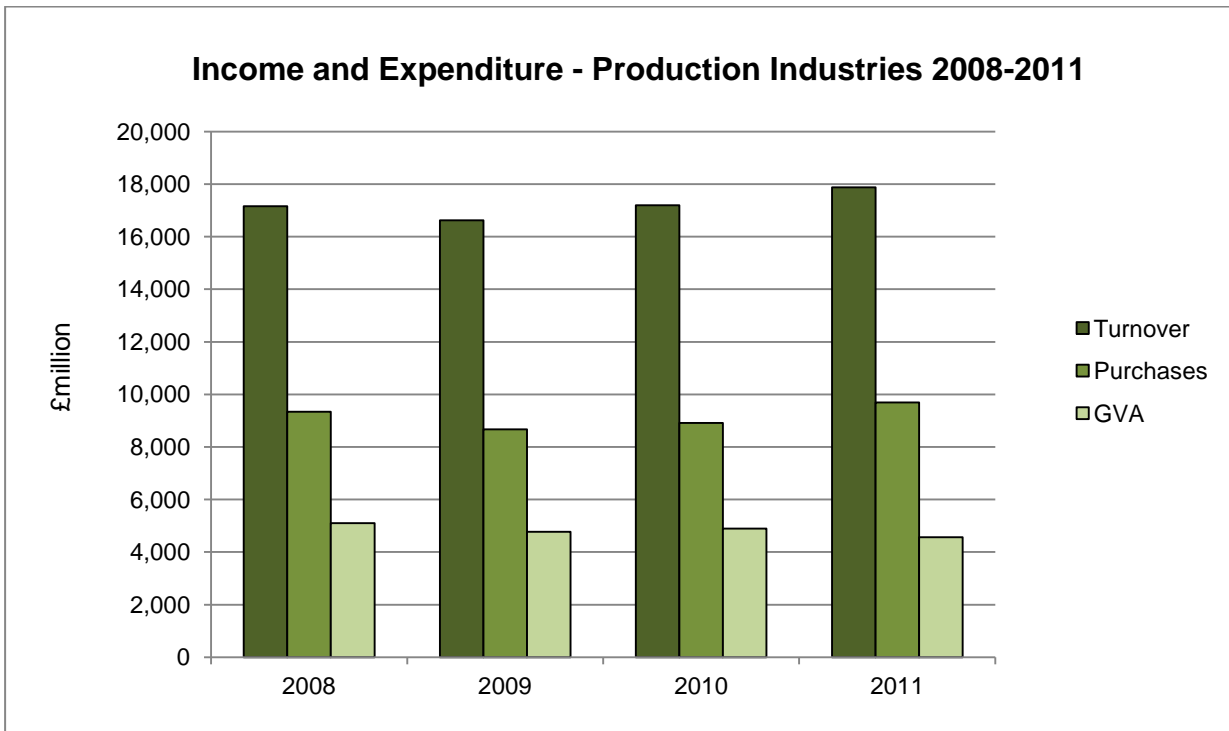
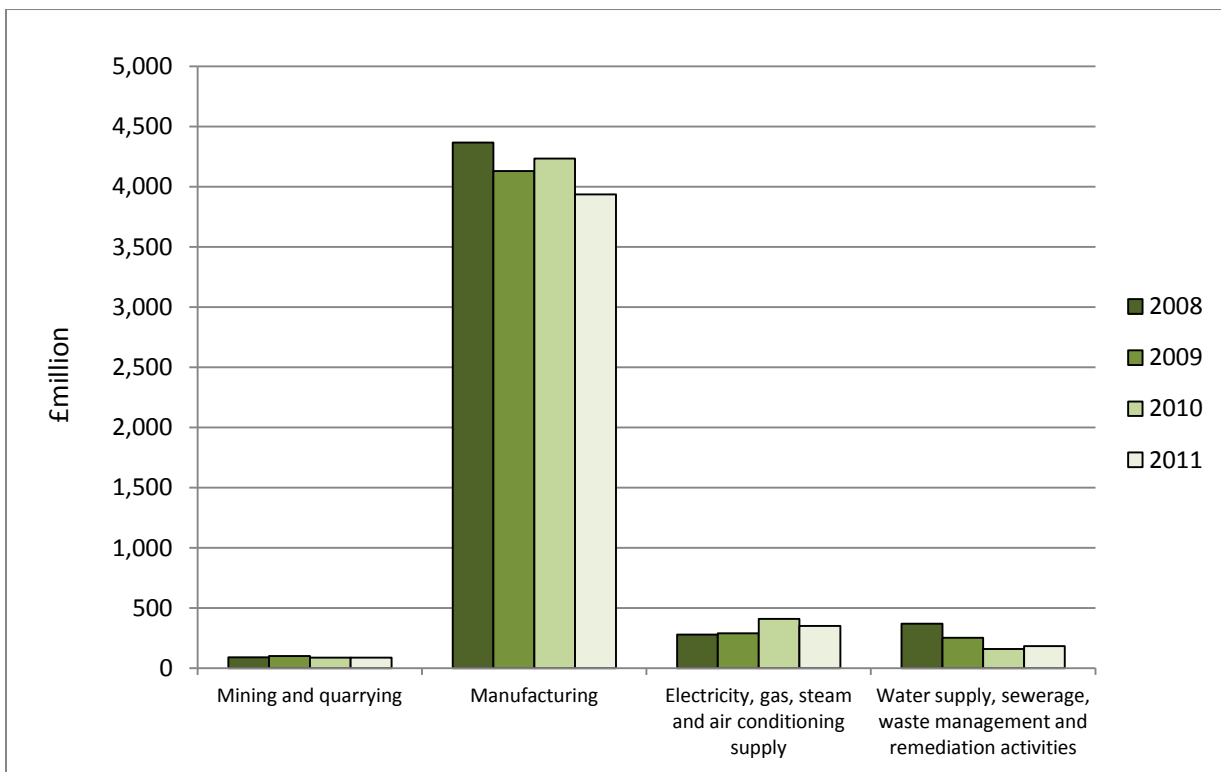


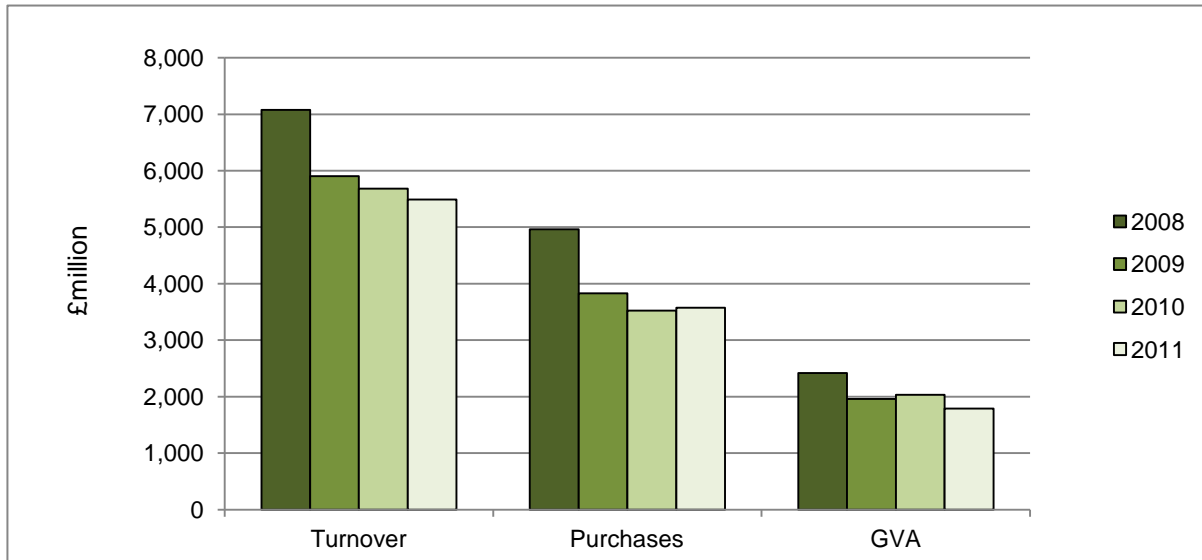
Figure 4: Production Industry – GVA by Sector



Construction Industries (Section F)

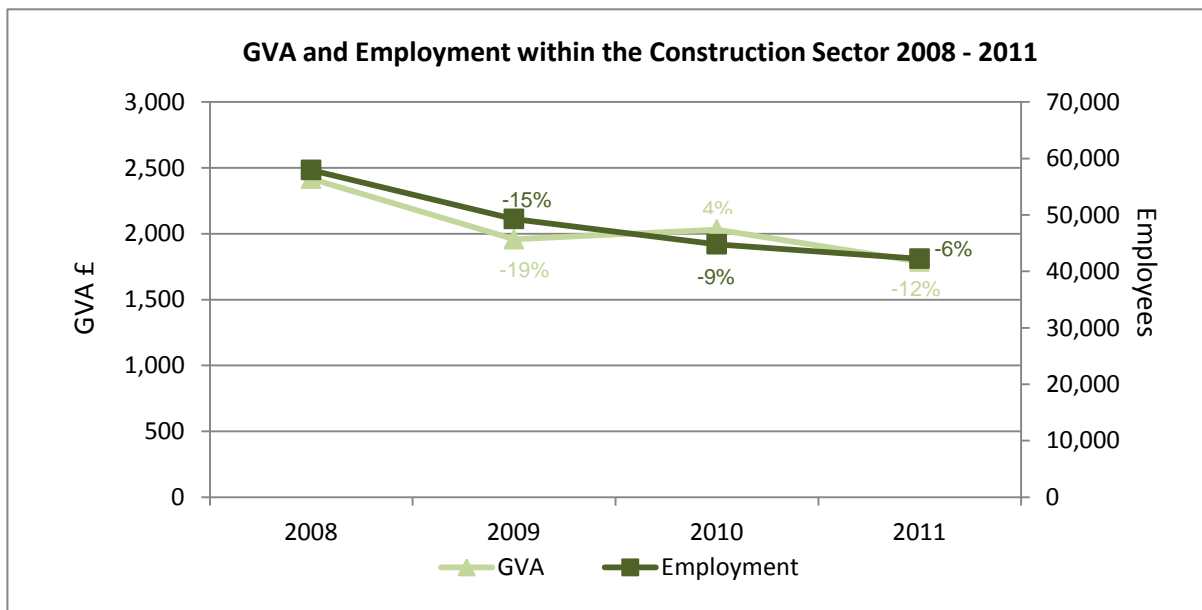
With falling revenue and aGVA, the Northern Ireland construction sector has suffered an acute drop in output in recent years. During 2010-11 the cost of purchases increased by 1.4% while turnover decreased by 3.4%, contributing to a decline of 11.9% in aGVA.

Figure 5: Income and Expenditure - Construction Industries 2008-2011



This downturn has contributed to a sharp decline in the number of people employed within the construction sector. During 2011 employment was estimated to be 42,248, a 5.7% fall on 2010 and 14.3% lower than in 2009. (However, see background notes for alternative sources of information on employee jobs.)

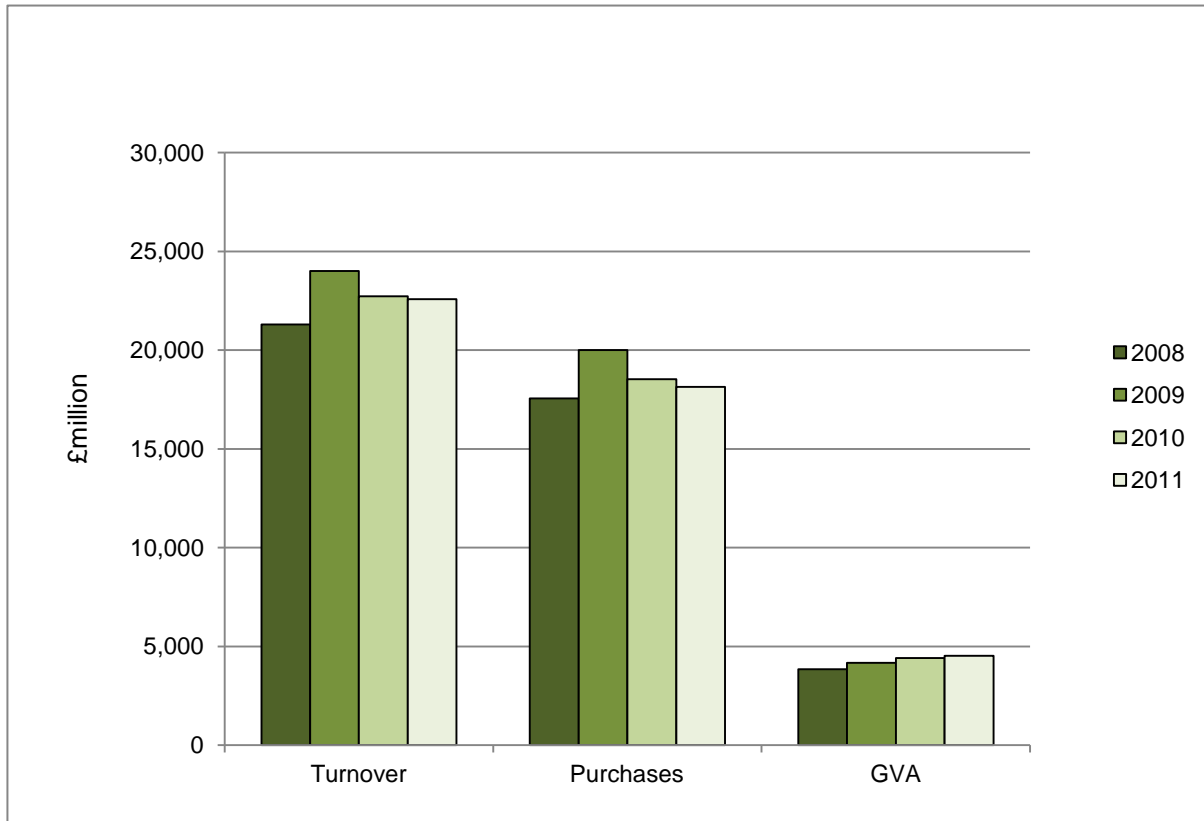
Figure 6: GVA and Employment within the Construction Sector 2008 - 2011



Distribution Industries (Section G)

Approximate Gross Value Added for the Distribution Industries (wholesale and retail trade) grew by 2.5% to £4,521 million between 2010 and 2011. Turnover for the sector decreased marginally (by 0.6% to £22,578 million); this was offset by larger falls in spending, with Purchases declining by 2.1% to £18,138 million. In addition to reduced spending on purchases, employment within the Distribution Industries fell by 1.9% to an estimated 137,443.

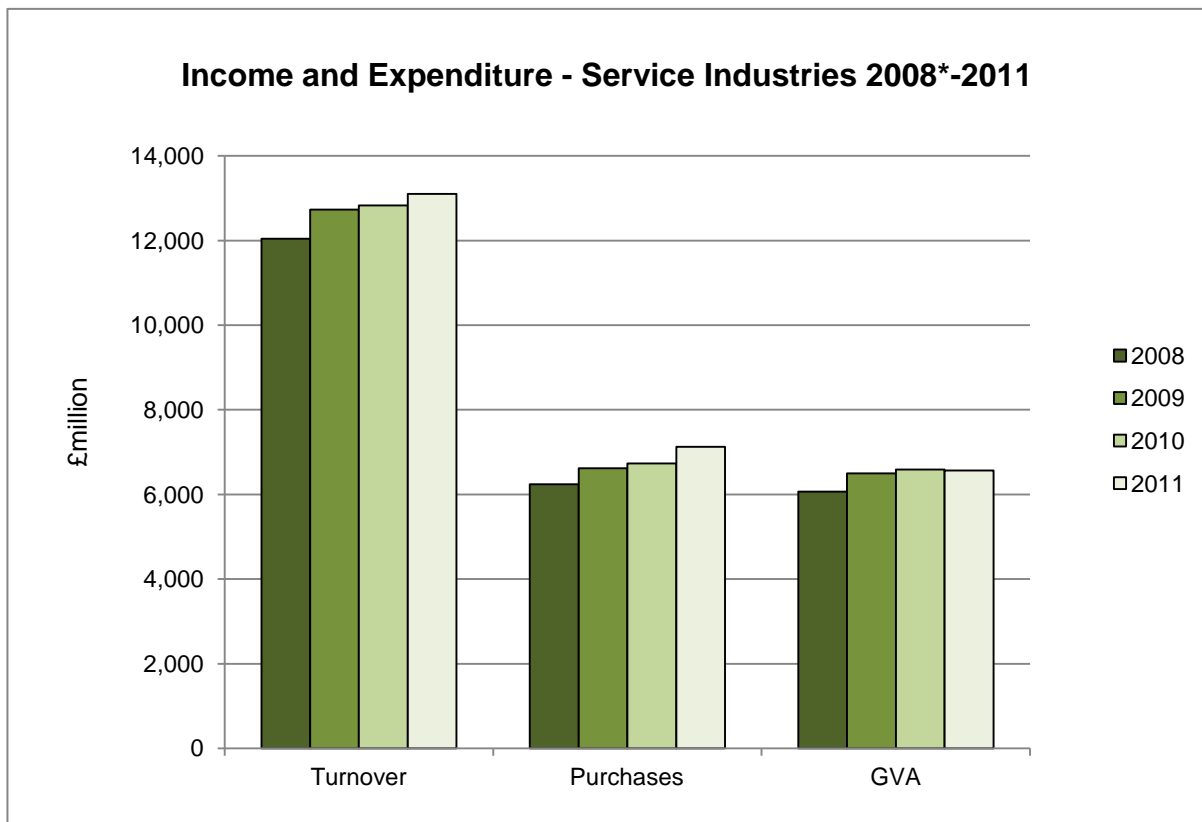
Figure 7: Income and Expenditure - Distribution Industries 2008-2011



Service Industries (Section H–S)

Approximate Gross Value Added for the Service Industries was estimated to be £6,564 million for the calendar year 2011, a marginal decline of 0.4% on 2010. Turnover increased by 2.2% (to £13,102 million), while purchases increased by 5.9% (to £7,127 million). In line with the overall and the Production business economy, the marginal decrease in aGVA within the Service Sector was largely driven by an increase in purchases.

Figure 8: Income and Expenditure - Service Industries 2008-2011



* 2008 data does not include section K

The Services Industry is composed of Transport and storage; Accommodation and food service activities; Information and communication; Real estate activities; Professional scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support service activities; and Others (n.b. Others are sections that are grouped to avoid disclosure of returns). Performance within the sector varied, with strong aGVA growth in Transport and storage (+3.9%) and Accommodation and food services (+15.6%). Both sections experienced at least 8% growth in turnover and purchases over the year.

4: Results by Industry

	CV ≤ 5%
	5% < CV ≤ 10%
	10% < CV ≤ 20%
	CV > 20%

Table 1: NIABI results by industry, 2009, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2009	A – S	Agriculture, fishing, production, construction, distribution and services	59,375	17,435	39,197	520,275
2010			58,523	17,968	37,749	521,291
2011			59,159	17,490	38,589	516,816
10/11 growth			1.1%	-2.7%	2.2%	-0.9%
2009	A (part)	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	114	42	73	1,201
2010			95	47	49	1,253
2011			110	53	57	1,285
10/11 growth			15.3%	13.1%	15.4%	2.6%
2009	B – E	Production Industries	16,618	4,776	8,670	86,351
2010			17,201	4,889	8,919	85,538
2011			17,878	4,562	9,696	84,743
10/11 growth			3.9%	-6.7%	8.7%	-0.9%
2009	B	Mining and quarrying	265	101	164	1,902
2010			278	87	194	1,869
2011			293	89	200	1,911
10/11 growth			5.1%	1.5%	2.9%	2.3%
2009	C	Manufacturing	15,064	4,131	7,555	78,586
2010			15,323	4,233	7,601	77,794
2011			15,969	3,937	8,320	76,527
10/11 growth			4.2%	-7.0%	9.5%	-1.6%
2009	D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	892	290	606	1,312
2010			1,145	409	738	1,506
2011			1,159	353	806	1,560
10/11 growth			1.2%	-13.9%	9.2%	3.6%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2009, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2009	E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	397	254	345	4,551
2010			455	159	385	4,370
2011			458	183	370	4,745
10/11 growth			0.7%	15.4%	-4.0%	8.6%
2009	F	Construction	5,903	1,958	3,828	49,291
2010			5,682	2,032	3,523	44,803
2011			5,490	1,789	3,573	42,248
10/11 growth			-3.4%	-11.9%	1.4%	-5.7%
2009	G – S	Distribution and service industries	36,740	10,658	26,626	383,431
2010			35,544	11,001	25,258	389,697
2011			35,680	11,086	25,264	388,540
10/11 growth			0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	-0.3%
2009	G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	24,011	4,163	20,008	135,755
2010			22,718	4,411	18,526	140,077
2011			22,578	4,521	18,138	137,443
10/11 growth			-0.6%	2.5%	-2.1%	-1.9%
2009	H - S	Other service Industries	12,729	6,496	6,618	247,676
2010			12,826	6,590	6,732	249,621
2011			13,102	6,564	7,127	251,096
10/11 growth			2.2%	-0.4%	5.9%	0.6%
2009	H	Transport and storage	2,924	1,059	1,894	26,782
2010			2,791	1,243	1,631	27,365
2011			3,013	1,291	1,837	27,894
10/11 growth			8.0%	3.9%	12.6%	1.9%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2009, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2009	I	Accommodation and food service activities	1,388	630	761	44,521
2010			1,132	552	585	40,718
2011			1,267	638	636	41,328
10/11 growth			11.9%	15.6%	8.7%	1.5%
2009	J	Information and communication	1,362	785	603	16,489
2010			1,326	823	538	15,468
2011			1,414	825	606	17,371
10/11 growth			6.7%	0.3%	12.6%	12.3%
2009	L	Real estate activities	833	407	426	9,380
2010			851	508	348	9,391
2011			851	481	382	9,515
10/11 growth			0.0%	-5.3%	9.9%	1.3%
2009	M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	2,008	1,440	669	28,766
2010			2,004	1,118	928	27,191
2011			1,987	1,087	979	27,297
10/11 growth			-0.8%	-2.8%	5.4%	0.4%
2009	N	Administrative and support service activities	1,445	851	661	40,788
2010			1,633	939	774	43,665
2011			1,699	917	829	43,328
10/11 growth			4.1%	-2.4%	7.1%	-0.8%
2009	K (part), P - S	Others	2,768	1,323	1,605	80,950
2010			3,090	1,408	1,928	85,823
2011			2,870	1,325	1,858	84,363
10/11 growth			-7.1%	-5.9%	-3.6%	-1.7%

*Data suppressed to prevent disclosure of individual company returns

Table 2: NIABI results by manufacturing division, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	10 - 12	Manufacture of food, beverages and tobacco	8,151	1,555	3,048	19,133
2011			8,054	1,348	2,955	17,179
10/11 growth			-1.2%	-13.3%	-3.1%	-10.2%
2010	13	Manufacture of textiles	180	57	125	2,018
2011			198	98	129	2,029
10/11 growth			10.0%	72.3%	3.0%	0.6%
2010	14	Manufacture of wearing apparel	103	42	65	1,060
2011			119	49	71	836
10/11 growth			15.1%	18.0%	9.3%	-21.2%
2010	15	Manufacture of leather and related products	*	*	*	*
2011			*	*	*	*
10/11 growth			*	*	*	*
2010	16	Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	336	94	245	2,733
2011			321	94	236	2,895
10/11 growth			-4.6%	-0.2%	-3.5%	5.9%
2010	17	Manufacture of paper and paper products	203	72	132	1,486
2011			226	65	161	1,388
10/11 growth			11.5%	-10.2%	21.6%	-6.6%
2010	18	Printing and reproduction of recorded media	128	65	63	1,830
2011			170	82	89	2,014
10/11 growth			32.6%	24.9%	41.9%	10.1%
2010	19	Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	*	*	*	*
2011			*	*	*	*
10/11 growth			*	*	*	*
2010	20	Manufactures of chemicals and chemical products	287	173	117	1,565
2011			284	136	146	1,689
10/11 growth			-1.2%	-21.4%	24.8%	8.0%

Table 2 (continued): NIABI results by manufacturing division, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	21	Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	260	86	174	1,933
2011			271	105	165	2,064
10/11 growth			4.3%	22.0%	-5.1%	6.8%
2010	22	Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	688	239	442	5,801
2011			716	220	500	5,207
10/11 growth			4.1%	-7.8%	13.0%	-10.2%
2010	23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	506	199	328	4,827
2011			445	156	296	4,168
10/11 growth			-12.0%	-21.7%	-9.7%	-13.7%
2010	24	Manufacture of basic metals	79	32	47	735
2011			97	54	44	659
10/11 growth			23.5%	70.5%	-6.2%	-10.4%
2010	25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	769	291	479	8,394
2011			865	302	578	8,435
10/11 growth			12.5%	3.6%	20.7%	0.5%
2010	26	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	567	265	315	3,969
2011			575	281	300	3,907
10/11 growth			1.5%	6.0%	-4.7%	-1.5%
2010	27	Manufacture of electrical equipment	774	179	*	3,381
2011			946	195	776	3,757
10/11 growth			22.2%	8.7%	*	11.1%
2010	28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified	743	234	510	4,302
2011			1033	273	762	5,707
10/11 growth			39.0%	17.0%	49.3%	32.7%

Table 2 (continued): NIABI results by manufacturing division, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	29	Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	412	126	286	3,212
2011			402	106	301	3,185
10/11 growth			-2.4%	-16.0%	5.2%	-0.9%
2010	30	Manufacture of other transport equipment	775	350	410	6,446
2011			835	194	572	6,397
10/11 growth			7.7%	-44.7%	39.5%	-0.8%
2010	31	Manufacture of furniture	226	84	140	2,930
2011			210	79	132	2,858
10/11 growth			-7.0%	-5.5%	-5.6%	-2.4%
2010	32	Other manufacturing	72	56	*	1,067
2011			98	63	45	1,221
10/11 growth			36.1%	11.7%	*	14.4%
2010	33	Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	66	35	30	974
2011			71	34	37	832
10/11 growth			7.8%	-1.5%	24.3%	-14.6%

*Data suppressed to prevent disclosure of individual company returns

Coefficient of Variation

The coefficient of variation (cv) measures the variability of the values in the table above by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the parameter estimate:

$$\text{Coefficient of Variation} = \frac{\text{Standard Error}}{|\text{Parameter Estimate}|}$$

Unlike confidence intervals, which measure variability by providing the range of values between which the mean value for a predetermined percentage of all possible samples would fall, the coefficient of variation expresses variability as an easily comparable percentage. As the coefficient of variation is not measured in any specific unit, it facilitates comparison between surveys measuring different underlying variables. A larger coefficient of variation implies a larger variability.

5: Background Notes

(i) About the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry

The Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI) collects both financial and employment information from businesses and other establishments and covers about two thirds of the economy. This includes the Production, Construction, Distribution and Service industries in Northern Ireland but excludes public sector activity for the most part. The Coverage of the survey is detailed at section (iv) below.

The 2011 NIABI sampled approximately 9,000 businesses in Northern Ireland from a population of approximately 52,000 businesses in the sample frame: the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR consists of companies, partnerships, sole proprietors, public authorities, central government departments, local authorities and non-profit making bodies in the UK. The NIABI is reliant on the IDBR receiving accurate and timely updates and providing a true reflection of the Northern Ireland business population. Businesses not registered for either Pay As You Earn or VAT are excluded from the frame. Additional information about the IDBR and the characteristics of the businesses covered by the IDBR is available at the link:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/edition_15_-_facts_and_figures_from_the_idbr-2.pdf

(ii) Survey reference period

For survey reference period 2011, businesses were asked to make returns for the calendar year 2011. Where this was not possible, returns for business years ending between 6 April 2011 and 5 April 2012 were accepted. Similar procedures operated in previous years. Returns covering fewer than twelve months were accepted for businesses which had started or ceased trading during the year. Estimates were made for those firms providing returns for more than six months while firms providing less than six months were treated as closures in the results process.

(iii) NIABI sample

Following user feedback and consultation with the Statistics Advisory Committee and the DFP official statistics user group, the NIABI sample size was boosted from approximately 5,000 in the 2010 survey reference year to 9,000 in 2011.

To maximise survey precision, the Neyman allocation approach to sampling was utilised. Neyman allocation is a sample allocation method that may be used with stratified samples. The purpose of the method is to maximize survey precision, given a fixed sample size. The survey universe was stratified by 2 digit SIC code and employee size band, and all businesses with 50+ employees, or 20+ employees and more than one local unit, were fully enumerated. The current NIABI sample design includes all Manufacturing businesses with 6 or more employees. Businesses falling below the threshold of complete enumeration are selected on a stratified random basis. In addition, certain companies of special interest to policymakers and government agencies (for example, certain Invest NI clients) are added to the sample.

(iv) Standard Industrial Classification and the coverage of the NIABI

NIABI results are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC) system. The UK is required by European legislation to have a system of classification consistent with the European Union's Industrial classification system. A review of the system was completed in 2007 and implemented in 2008. UK SIC 2007 is divided into 21 sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. Below this, further levels of detail are provided at division (denoted by 2 digits), groups (three digits), classes (four digits) and subclasses (five digits).

The SIC 2007 sections covered by the NIABI are as follows:

- A. Agriculture (support activities), forestry and fishing
- B. Mining and quarrying
- C. Manufacturing
- D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- E. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- F. Construction
- G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles
(Distribution industries)
- H. Transport and storage
- I. Accommodation and food service activities
- J. Information and communication
- K. Financial and Insurance Activities
- L. Real estate activities
- M. Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N. Administrative and support service activities
- P. Education (excludes local authority and central government bodies)
- Q. Human health and social work activities (excludes local authority and central government, and medical and dental practice activities (group 86.2))
- R. Arts, entertainment and recreation
- S. Other service activities

Production Industries are comprised of sections B – E

Service Industries are comprised of sections H, I, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R and S

In line with improvements made to the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Annual Business Survey, data for groups 65.1 (Insurance) and 65.2 (Reinsurance) within Financial and Insurance Activities (section K) are included since survey reference year 2010 though the rest of this sector continues to be excluded. The other main areas that are *excluded* are Public Administration and Defence (section O) while Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (section A) excludes farming (groups 01.1, 01.2, 01.3, 01.4 and 01.5). Local authority and central Government bodies in Education (section P) and Human Health and Social Work Activities (section Q) have also been excluded from this publication, as has 86.2 (Medical and Dental Practice Activities) within section Q.

(v) Data collection, validation and calculation of NIABI results

Just over 9,000 forms were issued from Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch, DFP, in April 2012 and the returned forms were subjected to a range of validation and congruency checks. The 2011 response rate was 75.4%.

Data validation was carried out on the returned forms ensuring internal consistency within the form, checking data fell within expected limits or by contacting the company for clarification where appropriate. For non-returns above a selected employment threshold, data were imputed using a methodology which takes account of previous returned data and the performance of other similar businesses. This information is then grossed up to the local unit population, to ensure that results are representative of the sampled population.

Please note that the information presented throughout this bulletin is based on local unit information, and is therefore not directly comparable with the April 2013 reporting unit publication. Reporting and local unit definitions can be found at: http://www.detini.gov.uk/stats_bus_register_3.doc

Also, to better meet user needs, and in consultation with ONS Methodology Consultancy Service, DFP produced these results using Statistics Canada's Generalized Estimation System. This allows DFP to produce estimates, with an associated measure of their quality. For more detail of the estimation methodology please consult: http://www.detini.gov.uk/review_of_the_abi_-_quality_improvement_fund_project.pdf

The series has been developed to National Statistics standards but the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 statistics should be considered as experimental in nature. As such, the statistics are subject to ongoing development and hence some caution should be used when interpreting results. In particular, users are advised to take into account the quality indicators associated with the estimates when considering the significance of annual changes. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of STATISTICAL error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results.

Ongoing development of the methodology will be informed by user feedback, both in terms of the usefulness and reliability of the estimates and their comparability with other sources. Any comments should be sent to Brian.Spence@dfpni.gov.uk

(vi) Definitions

Approximate Gross Value Added at Basic prices represents the income generated by businesses, out of which is paid wages and salaries, the cost of capital investment and financial charges before arriving at a figure for profit. It includes taxes on production (e.g. business rates), net of subsidies but excludes subsidies and taxes on products (e.g. VAT and excise duty). This is an output-based measure of GVA. All published GVA is given at basic prices. Please find below calculation applied to derive GVA.

The calculations used in the NIABI are:

- GVA AT BASIC PRICES: GVA at factor cost + business rates + vehicle excise duty
- GVA AT MARKET PRICES: Total turnover + insurance claims + change in stocks + own account capital expenditure – total purchases
- GVA AT FACTOR COST: GVA at market prices + subsidies – total taxes + customs & excise drawback

(Please note that GVA at basic prices is the only published GVA from the NIABI.)

Turnover is defined as total sales and work done. This is calculated by adding to the value of sales of goods produced, goods purchased and resold without further processing, work done and industrial and non-industrial services rendered.

Purchases represent the value of all goods, materials and services purchased during the year.

(vii) NIABI “Approximate Gross Value Added” and “Regional Gross Value Added”

The financial information from the Regional NIABI provides a measure of approximate GVA, which is ultimately used to contribute to the picture of the whole economy to be built up for National Accounts purposes at the United Kingdom level. When regional economic accounts are subsequently derived, the resulting measure of Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is a much broader based measure relating to the whole economy in a region, taking into account information from a series of economic and labour market surveys. The results of the NIABI only comprise one element of the regional economic account figures, and a number of adjustments are made in line with National Accounts methodologies before estimates of Regional GVA are produced. The most recent Regional GVA estimates for Northern Ireland at industry level by ONS relating to 2011 were released on 25th July 2013. The NIABI provides more detailed industry information than is possible in Regional Accounts measures.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/abs/annual-business-survey/2011-provisional-regional-results/index.html>

(viii) Comparability with statistics from other sources

The NIABI is conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency and while the survey process is similar to that for Great Britain, it is not identical. ONS receive data from NISRA in September and February of each survey year. These data are processed with the Great Britain data to produce UK-wide estimates as well as producing regional estimates. NISRA separately process the Northern Ireland data to produce their own regional estimates. These differ from the ONS estimates for a number of reasons:

- Calculation of the weights used to estimate figures for the total population:
 - Calculation of the design or a-weights: The ONS National System computes the design weights for all UK data using the sample design of the GB sample. The NI sample design is quite different from that used by the ONS. The design weights calculated by the ONS system for NI units can therefore differ from those calculated by the NI system.
 - Calculation of the g-weights: The ONS National System computes two sets of g-weights: one based on IDBR turnover and another based on IDBR employment. The latter is used for employment costs, whereas the former is used for all the other variables. The Regional System computes g-weights based on local unit employment. In the new NI methodology there is no distinction between national and regional weights: estimates at all levels are based on the same weights, with the g-weights computed with respect to local unit register employment but using a different calibration method to that used in the ONS regional system.
- Regional apportionment: ONS collects all ABS data at reporting unit (RU) level; the regional system apportions RU returns between local units using factors obtained from models. The NIABI collects turnover data at local unit level data; data of other variables are collected at RU level and then apportioned between the local units.

When NI data are processed in the ONS system, new apportioned local unit values, based on the ONS methodology, are obtained and used to produce estimates.

- The NIABI does not collect data for all the variables in the GB questionnaire; in the ONS system, values are derived for the missing variables using a model, and these values contribute towards the estimation of some derived variables.

(ix) Comparability with other NISRA ELMSB publications

The NIABI provides estimates of employment to enable per head calculations to be made. Preferred estimates of the changes in employment and employee jobs are provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Quarterly Employment Survey (QES). As dedicated employment surveys, the LFS and QES provide more frequent and accurate measures of the change in employment. By utilising internationally recognised definitions the LFS provides employment figures consistent with international standards. The LFS and QES can be found on the DETI website at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys.htm> and <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-qes.htm> respectively.

Within the relevant sectors the turnover figures provided by the NIABI are the most up to date available from ELMSB statistical publications, and ultimately contribute to updating the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). However for a more comprehensive measure of turnover within the NI economy users are recommended to refer to the IDBR. The IDBR contains information on all businesses in the UK which are VAT registered or operate a PAYE scheme; consequently the IDBR provides a more complete picture of the Northern Ireland business population. The IDBR can be accessed through the DETI website at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-inter-dept-business-register.htm>

(x) Other sources of information

ONS has responsibility for the production of the recently published UK regional and revised national results for 2011. The revised UK national estimates for 2011 can be found at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/abs/annual-business-survey/2011-revised-results/abs-2011---revised-results-statistical-bulletin--june-2013-.html> while ONS' regional estimates for 2011 are available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/abs/annual-business-survey/2011-provisional-regional-results/index.html>

Please note that differences exist between the ONS and DFP methodologies for producing results, and hence some disparity in the estimates is to be expected. This includes but is not limited to differing approaches to imputation and estimation, weighting, outliers and the timing of the results. However, a review of the two production processes is currently underway, with a view to ensuring that differences between the estimates are minimised in future releases. The outcome of this harmonisation will be published by DFP and ONS in due course.

The latest Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) Economic Commentary (July 2013) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in a global context. This can be found at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4.htm>

The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the Economic Overview page of the DETI website at

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-2.htm>

Information relating to financial activity in the Northern Ireland Manufacturing industry is available from the Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey (MSES), which provides estimates of the sales and exports generated by all businesses within the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland. These statistics can be accessed at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-manufacturing-sales-exports.htm>

The link below provides information relating to the integration of the MSES and NIABI in survey reference period 2011. It should be noted however that the latest MSES publication was produced on the same methodology as previous years, which differs to the methodology used by the NIABI. Table 1 of the link below provides some detail about the size of the difference yielded. Work is ongoing to provide more consistent measures of common variables.

http://www.detini.gov.uk/notice_to_users_-_integration_of_the_annual_business_inquiry_and_the_manufacturing_sales_and_exports_survey.pdf

Further information on the output of Manufacturing, along with Electricity, Gas, Water and Mining & Quarrying industries is available from the Northern Ireland Index of Production (<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-index-of-production.htm>) while the Northern Ireland Index of Services (<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-ios.htm>) provides a general measure of changes in the output of the private sector service industries in Northern Ireland.

The Construction Output Statistics published in the Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin are intended to provide a general measure of quarterly changes in the volume and value of construction output in Northern Ireland. These statistics can be accessed at <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp11.htm>

The Composite Economic Index provides a weighted measure of output by broad industry sector and employee jobs in the public sector to provide an overall measure of change in the Northern Ireland economic activity

http://www.detini.gov.uk/ni_composite_economic_index_statistical_bulletin_q1_2013.pdf

(xi) Uses of the NIABI

- The central structure and periodicity of the NIABI is driven by the legal requirements to provide data for the UK Annual Business Survey, UK National Accounts and European Structural Business Statistics (SBS)
- Additionally the NIABI is used by the Government as a means of monitoring the progress of economic policy and to help set and measure economic targets.
- Outside government the data is used by a variety of different private sector and academic analysts to assist with industrial and investment decisions.

For a more comprehensive explanation of customers' use of the NIABI please follow the link below:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/summary_of_usage_of_the_northern_ireland_annual_business_inquiry.pdf

(xii) User feedback

Development of the NIABI is designed to meet the needs of data users as identified during statistical user group meetings. Recent enhancements to the survey including an increase in the sample size for the 2011 reporting period have been driven by feedback received through these consultations. Minutes of the meetings are available using the link below:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-national-statistics/user-consultation-and-information.htm>

(xiii) Quality reporting

A summary quality report for the NIABI can be found at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/niabi_quality_report_december_2011.pdf

This report describes in detail the quality of the statistics presented in this publication (in terms of relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability, trade-offs between output quality components, assessment of user needs and perceptions, performance, cost and respondent burden and confidentiality, transparency and security).

(xiv) Status of figures in current bulletin

It is normal practice to revise the data from the previous year based on ongoing data validation and clarification of responses from individual businesses. This bulletin contains detailed provisional results for the Northern Ireland ABI industries (2010 and 2011). These 2010 and 2011 provisional figures will be subject to revision to take account of additional information. The NIABI revisions policy can be accessed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/niabi_revisions_policy.pdf

In line with this and with the NIABI revisions policy, provisional NIABI estimates for 2009 have been revised throughout this publication. The table below provides details of revisions to 2009 data.

Size of revisions to previously published 2009 data

	Provisional 2009*	Revised 2009*	% change
Turnover	£55,081	£59,375	7.8
Purchases	£35,086	£39,197	11.7
aGVA	£17,237	£17,435	1.1
Employment	516,215	520,275	0.8

* Turnover, Purchases and aGVA are reported in £'000.

Turnover, Purchases and GVA values are reported in £ million unless otherwise specified.

The Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch statistics publication schedule is available at http://www.detini.gov.uk/publication_schedule_13-18.pdf

The list of people given pre-release access to NISRA ELMSB publications is available at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/publication_pre-release_access_list_250712.pdf

(xv) Disclosure

The NIABI is conducted under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and great care is taken to avoid disclosing information about individual

enterprises (in line with the stipulations in Article 7 of the Order). Figures which would be likely to disclose particulars relating to an enterprise are not published (i.e. they are suppressed) unless prior written consent for their publication has been obtained directly from the business. The Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency Economic & Labour Market Statistics confidentiality statement can be accessed at the following link: http://www.detini.gov.uk/data_confidentiality_statement_principle_5_of_the_code_of_practice_for_official_statistics_-2.pdf

(xvi) Next publication

The next reporting unit publication will be published in December 2013. The local unit publication for 2012 will be published in Spring 2014.

For further information

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