

NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS REVISION NOTICE - BREAK IN SERIES

The Quarter 1 2017 NI Construction Bulletin planned future changes indicated that, as of Quarter 2 2017, there will be a change to the way in which firms are sampled for the Quarterly Construction Enquiry. The change will bring QCE into line with the other NI Economic and Business surveys and reduce burden on small to medium construction firms (Strata 1-4).

The change will result in greater rotation of firms in the sampled element of the survey than before and give small to medium construction firms a break from the survey. The previous sampling methodology retained Strata 2-4 firms in the QCE sample, once selected, on a continuous basis as long as they stayed in business with no break from the survey. Previously, Stratum 1 firms were completely refreshed annually in Q1 of the survey cycle but will now be sampled in the same way as Strata 2-4 firms. This means that all Strata 1-4 firms will be rotated in the same manner each quarter.

Sampling will also move from an annual basis to a quarterly basis. This will ensure greater efficiency in the sampling process with the sampling frame more accurately reflecting the sampling population at the point of selection e.g. it will include any new firms started up over the quarter and exclude firms which are no longer trading.

Furthermore, previously, sampled firms were held in their strata based on their IDBR Turnover at the point of original selection. As of Q2 2017, construction firms will be re-stratified quarterly based on their most recent IDBR Turnover.

Large firms, with a turnover of £5.25million or more, will continue to be selected on a census basis as before.

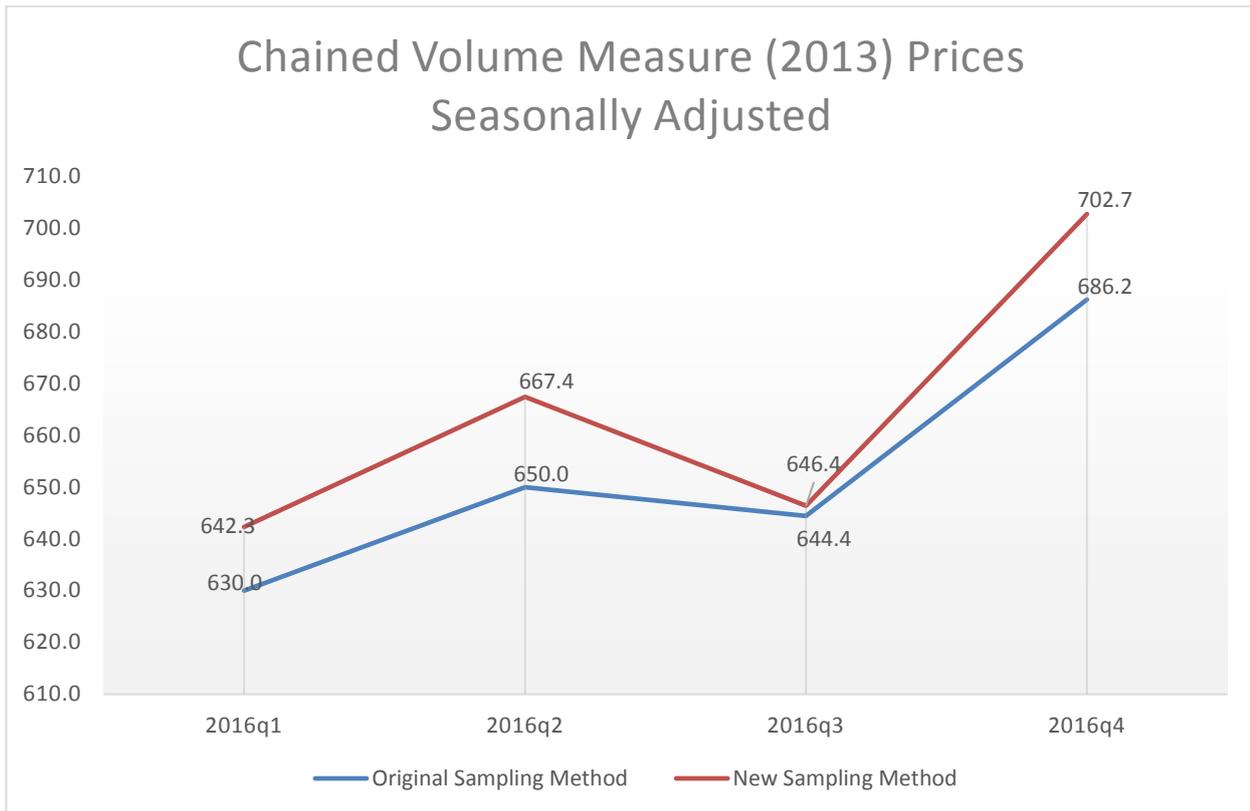
It is not possible to quantify the expected impact of these changes in Q2 2017. However, as of Q1 2016, data has been collected from firms under both the old and new sampling methods so that it is possible to provide some trend data in the **total volume** of construction output.

Table 1 and Figure 1 provide estimates of the volume of total construction output in Northern Ireland for the old sampling method and the new sampling method, as well as quarterly growth rates for both. Users should note that the volume measures and the growth rates are consistent with those previously published albeit with greater variability in the scale of change with the new sampling methodology. This is to be expected with the rules underpinning the new sampling methodology.

Table 1 – Revision in Volume of Construction Output in Northern Ireland

Year / Quarter	Chained Volume Measure (2013) Prices Seasonally Adjusted Published (old methodology)	Quarterly Change (%) Published (old methodology)	Chained Volume Measure (2013) Prices Seasonally Adjusted Revised (new methodology)	Quarterly Change (%) Revised (new methodology)
2016 Jan – Mar (Q1)	630.0		642.3	
2016 Apr – Jun (Q2)	650.0	+3.1%	667.4	+3.8%
2016 Jul – Sep (Q3)	644.4	-0.9%	646.4	-3.2%
2016 Oct – Dec (Q4)	686.2	+6.1%	702.7	+8.0%

Figure 1 – Revision in Volume of Construction Output in Northern Ireland



Users should be aware that the methodological changes noted above will cause a break in the total construction output volume series from Quarter 1 2016 onwards and this will be reflected in the published bulletins from Q2 2017 onwards. The Q2 2017 Bulletin will also contain revised data for Q1 2017 based on the new sampling methodology. The break in series from Q1 2016 onwards will be made evident throughout the relevant charts and tables of future publications.

Users should note that there will be no comparable data available at the sub-levels of construction prior to Q2 2017 and there will be a break in these series from Q2 2017.

More information on the current methodology used in the production of these statistics can be found at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/construction-output-statistics-methodology>

This will be revised upon publication of Q2 2017 to reflect the new methodology.

Further Information

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Construction Output website with previously published bulletin and data tables are available at:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/construction-output-statistics>