

Comparisons between LFS Employment and QES Employee Jobs

The concept of employment (measured by the LFS as the number of people in work) differs from the concept of jobs, since a person can have more than one job, and some jobs may be shared by more than one person.

The LFS and QES measure employment in different ways. The LFS is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. The QES is a quarterly survey of businesses which provides short term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland. It surveys all public sector jobs, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. LFS employment figures are based on a rolling three month period and QES measures the number of jobs on a particular day.

LFS employment includes those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on Government supported training programmes. QES employee jobs include full-time and part-time jobs and those on a training scheme and excludes self-employed.

Vacancies – First Published April 2015

Headline figures are presented for vacancies which have been notified to JobCentres / Jobs & Benefits Offices (J&BO) of the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). A small proportion of vacancies notified are based in the UK mainland or in the Republic of Ireland. The statistics do not represent the total unsatisfied demand for staff by employers, but are only those vacant positions notified by employers to DEL. In December 2013 improvements were made to the methodology for recording and validating data on vacancies placed through the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). These changes led to a break in the time series for vacancy statistics. This is the first financial year of statistical data released from the new time series. As such, data within this publication should not be directly compared with those from the previous vacancy time series.

There were 13,897 vacancies notified in the 1st quarter of the 2014/15 financial year, 14,731 in quarter 2, 12,095 in the 3rd quarter and 13,953 in quarter 4.

Table 2: Monthly Notified Vacancies, 2014/15

Financial Year 2014/15	Notified Vacancies (1)			Total
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Casual	
Apr-14	2,615	1,253	310	4,178
May-14	2,844	1,547	445	4,836
Jun-14	2,934	1,597	352	4,883
Jul-14	2,717	1,195	298	4,210
Aug-14	2,827	1,691	352	4,870
Sep-14	3,118	2,052	481	5,651
Oct-14	3,032	2,030	450	5,512
Nov-14	2,160	1,301	342	3,803
Dec-14	1,823	763	194	2,780
Jan-15	2,638	1,460	368	4,466
Feb-15	2,677	1,451	364	4,492
Mar-15	2,915	1,648	432	4,995
Total	32,300	17,988	4,388	54,676

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

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(1) Monthly notified vacancies are all new vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres / Jobs & Benefits Offices of the Department for Employment and Learning. Notified is subdivided by financial years which run from 1st April to 31st March. All statistics are derived from data extracted from the Department for Employment and Learning Client Management System (CMS) on 3rd April 2015.

Further statistics are available on the DELNI website: [DEL Statistics](#)

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Economic Inactivity

LFS economic inactivity

Economically inactive: people who are neither in employment nor unemployed on the ILO measure. This group includes all those who are looking after a home, long term sick or disabled, students and retired.

Key Findings

- NI economic inactivity decreased over the quarter
- NI economic inactivity highest of the twelve UK regions
- Of the economically inactive, 17% wanted to work

Figure 10: Seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rates (16-64), Feb-Apr 2005 - Feb-Apr 2015

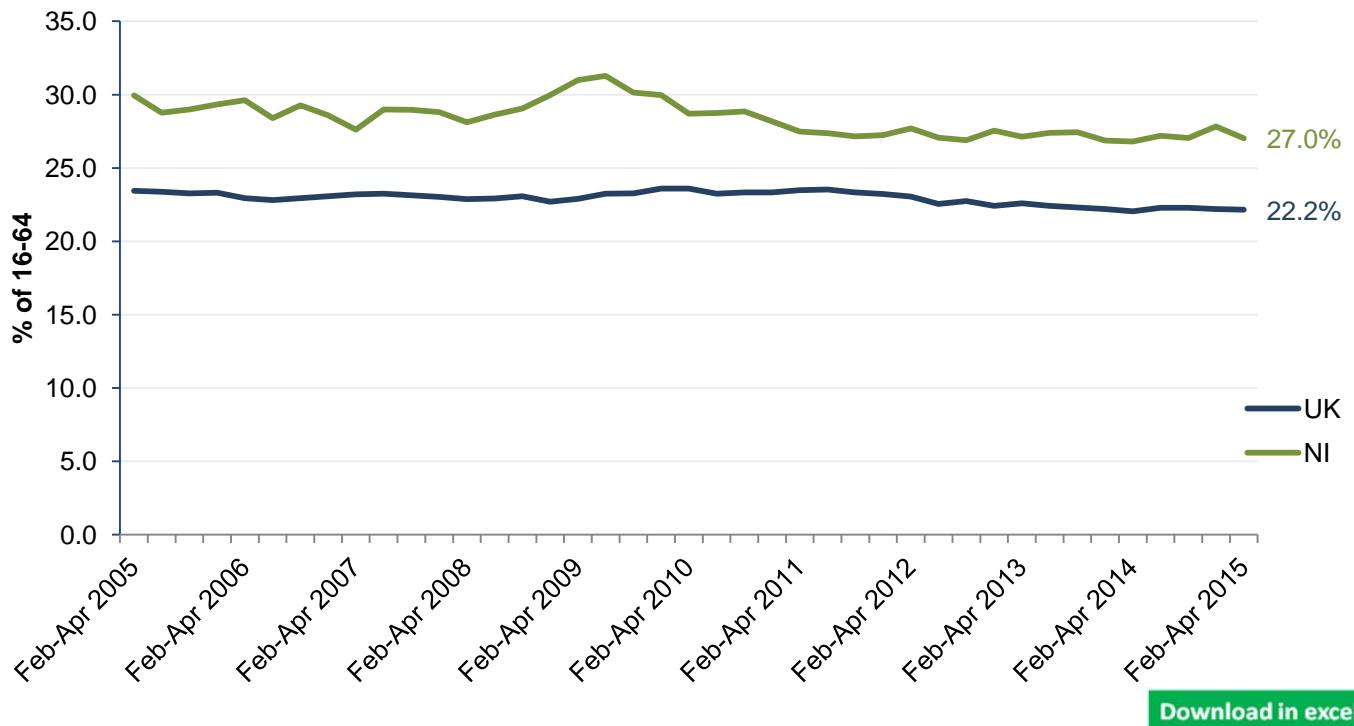


Figure 10 shows that over the last 10 years the NI economic inactivity rate was consistently higher than the UK.

Economically Inactive

The seasonally adjusted economically inactive rate (16-64) in the period February - April 2015 was estimated at 27.0%, which was:

- a decrease of 0.8 percentage points over the quarter and
- an increase of 0.2 percentage points over the year.

The number of economically inactive persons was estimated at 315,000. This was:

- a decrease of 9,000 over the quarter
- an increase of 3,000 over the year.

Of the economically inactive:

- 38% (121,000) were male and 62% (194,000) were female

Not seasonally adjusted figures show that, of the economically inactive:

- 83% did not want a job while 17% did
- 33% were sick / disabled, 26% were students, 24% were looking after the family / home, 10% were retired and 7% cited an 'other' reason for inactivity.

Regional comparison

The NI economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 stood at 27.0%. This was:

- significantly higher than the UK average rate (22.2%)
- the highest of the twelve UK regions.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website:

[LFS economic inactivity](#)

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Earnings

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

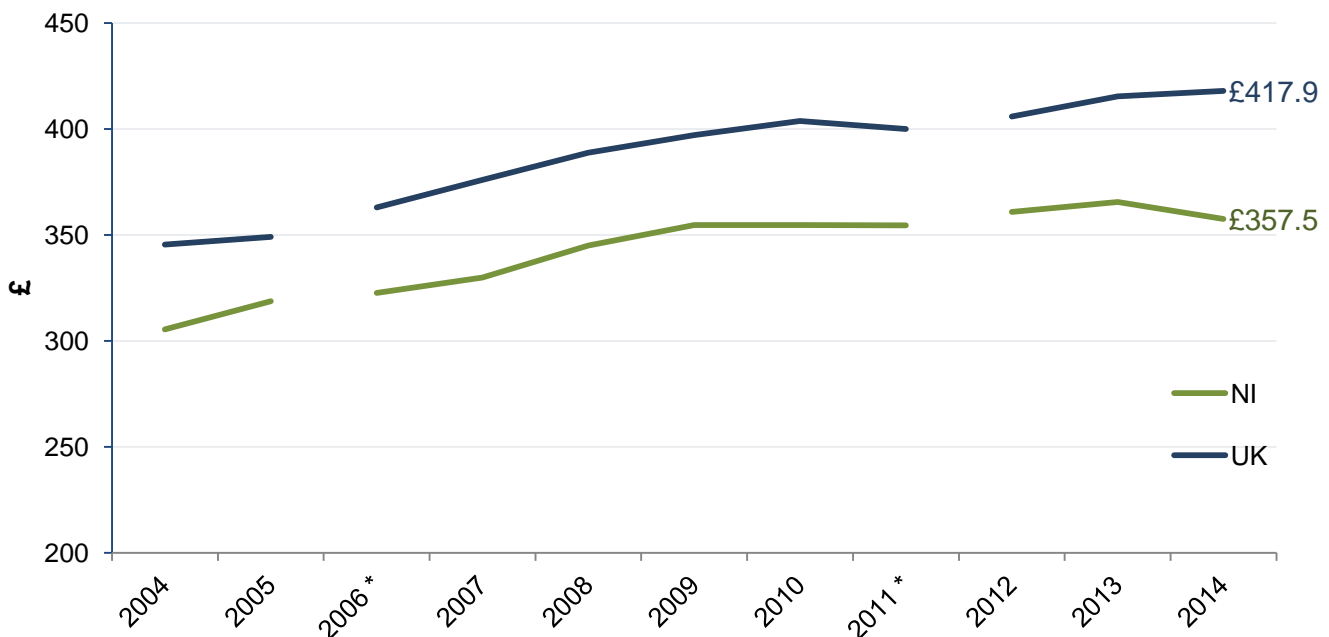
ASHE provides information on employees' hourly, weekly and annual earnings by gender, work pattern, industry and occupation. It has been designed by the Office for National Statistics and is carried out in Northern Ireland by NISRA statisticians.

Median earnings: Both median and mean results are reported by ASHE. The mean is the arithmetic average while the median is the value below which 50 per cent of employees fall. The median is often preferred for skewed data such as earnings as it is influenced less by extreme values.

Key Findings

- Median weekly earnings for all employees in NI at April 2014 were down from 2013
- Full-time weekly earnings in NI decreased over the year while part-time increased
- Weekly earnings for all employees decreased over the year in NI while the UK reported an increase

Figure 11: Median gross weekly earning for all employees, 2004 - 2014



* The introduction of methodological changes to improve the quality of ASHE data has resulted in discontinuities in trends.

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Earnings

Figure 11 shows that over the last 10 years the median gross weekly earnings in NI has consistently been below the UK average. Results for 2014 showed that:

- over the year to April 2014, median gross weekly earnings for all employees (i.e. both full- and part-time) in NI decreased by 2.2% (to £358)

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#)

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Further Information

LFS Unemployment

The definition of unemployment used in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is in accordance with that of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO unemployed includes those without a job who were able to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.

Unemployment rate - the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

Please note that it is possible for the number of unemployed to increase and the unemployment rate to fall during the same period, as the latter measure is a ratio e.g. if the number of economically active has increased at a faster rate than the number unemployed, the unemployment rate will fall.

LFS Employment

The definition of ILO employed applies to anyone (aged 16 or over) who has done at least one hour's paid work in the week prior to interview, or has a job they are temporarily away from (e.g. on holiday). Also included are people who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported employment training schemes.

The ILO measures are particularly useful for examining short term and long term trends over time and key LFS time series data are available both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted.

Sampling variability

The LFS is a sample survey, and as such, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability. If we drew many samples each would give a different result. The ranges shown for the LFS data in the table below represent 95% confidence intervals i.e. we would expect that in 95% of samples the range would contain the true value. These confidence intervals have been calculated using data that is not seasonally adjusted, with the relevant sampling errors produced applied to the seasonally adjusted data.

If the 'annual change' for an estimate has increased or decreased by more than the 'sampling variability of the change', this change would be statistically significant. The annual changes for the main LFS categories of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity were tested for statistical significance. The results showed that none of the annual changes, for February - April 2015, were statistically significant over the year, i.e. the recorded change did not exceed the variability expected from a sample survey of this size and was likely to reflect a real change.

Table 3: Sampling variable of labour market estimates, Feb-Apr 2015

	Period	Estimate	Sampling Variability of estimate	Change over year	Sampling Variability of change
Unemployment ¹	Feb-Apr 2015	54,000	+/-11,000	-7,000	+/-15,000
Employment ²	Feb-Apr 2015	827,000	+/-25,000	7,000	+/-32,000
Economically inactive ²	Feb-Apr 2015	563,000	+/-23,000	7,000	+/-29,000
Unemployment rate ¹	Feb-Apr 2015	6.1%	+/-1.2pps	-0.8pps	+/-1.7pps
Employment rate ²	Feb-Apr 2015	68.4%	+/-1.9pps	0.4pps	+/-2.4pps
Economic inactivity rate ²	Feb-Apr 2015	27.0%	+/-1.8pps	0.2pps	+/-2.3pps

¹ People aged 16 and over. Unemployment rate = total unemployed as a proportion of the economically active.

² Levels for all persons aged 16 and over, rates for working age (16-64).

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Please see attached link for further LFS notes and definitions:

[Labour Force Survey Background Information](#)

LFS Comparisons

Estimates of employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity are derived from the LFS, a survey of households. The most robust estimates of short-term movements in these estimates are obtained by comparing the estimates over rolling three month periods. For example the 3 months ending April 2015 should be compared with the estimates for November - January 2014, which were first published on 13 May 2015. This provides a more robust estimate than comparing with the estimates for January - March 2015. This is because the February and March data are included within both estimates, so effectively observed differences are those between the individual months of January 2015 and April 2015. The LFS is sampled such that it is representative of the NI population over a three month period, not for single month periods.

Seasonal adjustment

All estimates discussed in this Statistical Bulletin are seasonally adjusted except where otherwise stated. Like many economic indicators, the labour market is affected by factors that tend to occur at around the same time every year; for example school leavers entering the labour market in July and whether Easter falls in March or April. In order to compare movements other than annual changes in labour market statistics, such as since the previous quarter or since the previous month, the data are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of seasonal factors and the arrangement of the calendar.

LFS revisions

LFS microdata have recently been revised to incorporate estimates from the 2011 Census. The revisions affect LFS data from the period June to August 2001 onwards and were first published in October 2014. The magnitude of the revisions are relatively small, with the revisions to the unemployment rate falling within +/-0.1 percentage points and the working age employment rate within +/- 0.2 percentage points. The procedures being applied to the NI LFS results are consistent with those applied by the Office for National Statistics to other UK regions.

More information on the revision policy concerning labour market statistics can be found through the link below:

[Labour market statistics revisions policy](#)

Definition of 'working age'

The 'working age' definition, used in the calculation of employment and economic inactivity rates, was changed in August 2010 to include those aged from 16 to 64 for both men and women. Previously these rates were based on upper age limits of 59 for women and 64 for men, reflecting the state pension ages in the UK.

Claimant count definition

Claimant count figures are derived from records of claimants held at Jobs and Benefits Offices. The term 'claimants' in the claimant count is used to include those who claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits. The figures include severely disabled claimants, but exclude students seeking vacation work and the temporarily stopped. The claimant count is a very up-to-date measure of those eligible to claim a specific unemployment related benefit and data are available for a range of geographical sub-regions (e.g. District Council Areas, Parliamentary Constituency Areas, Travel-to-Work Areas and Wards). It also provides seasonally adjusted and unadjusted data and as a result is a useful measure for examining both short-term and long-term trends.

Seasonally adjusted claimant count figures are provisional when published and subject to revision, mainly the following month and are only available at NI level. Seasonally adjusted totals are subject to an annual update, which revises back for 3 years (usually May) to take account of latest assessment trends. The most recent revision took place on 17th June 2015. The magnitudes of the revisions are relatively small, with the change of the monthly total claimants within +/- 0.8%. For further information see: [Claimant Count Revisions](#)

Universal Credit

In November 2010 the government announced plans to reform the welfare system by creating a new Universal Credit (UC). The new benefit replaces many of the current separate welfare benefits, as well as subsuming in-work support currently administered through tax credits. Among those benefits being replaced is the means-tested element of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) which makes up a significant proportion of the monthly claimant count.

To date UC has not been implemented in NI. The first UC applications were processed in GB in 2013, with some new claimants initially beginning to move to UC instead of JSA. From June 2015, the seasonally adjusted claimant count series for GB includes people who continue to claim JSA, along with the subset of claimants of UC who are claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed, i.e. jobseeker UC claimants. The NI claimant count includes JSA claimants only. The claimant count series in NI and GB remain comparable.

Redundancy Legal Requirements

Under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Amended 8 October 2006) companies are only legally required to notify the Department of impending redundancies of 20 or more employees. Companies who propose less than 20 redundancies are not included in the statistics.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Please note, changes in NI earnings over the year and relative to the UK can be influenced by a range of factors including the timing of pay settlements, the extent of overtime, and differences in the composition of

the workforce. As ASHE is a sample survey, results are also subject to an associated level of sampling variability. Further information is available at:

[Northern Ireland Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#)

[ASHE Background Information](#)

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) Revisions

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided to the Department by employers. The December 2014 seasonally adjusted estimate first published in March 2015 has subsequently been revised down (-0.3%). For further details of QES revisions please see link below:

[QES Background Information](#)

For further information:

AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH ASSOCIATED HYPERLINKS IS AVAILABLE ON THE [NISRA – ECONOMIC AND LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS WEBSITE](#)

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2.1b	Labour Market Structure
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2.3	Economic Activity Rates by Age
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2.4b	Economically Inactive Who Do Not Want Work
2.5	Economically Inactive by Age
2.6	Employment by Category
2.7	Actual Weekly Hours of Work
2.8	Employment by Age
2.9	Unemployment by Age
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2.11	International Comparisons of Unemployment

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3.2	Latest Unadjusted
3.3	Seasonally adjusted over the year
3.4	Unadjusted over the year
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3.6	Youth Claimant Count Over the Year
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3.8a	District Council Area
3.8b	New District Council Area
3.9	Parliamentary Constituency Area
3.10	NUTS iii
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- 5.2 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1998 – 2015
- 5.3 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1998 – 2015
- 5.4 NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – March 2015
- 5.5 NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) March 2014, December 2014 and March 2015
- 5.6 Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)
- 5.7 Workforce in Employment 1983 - 2015
- 5.8 NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – March 2015
- 5.9 NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – March 2015
- 5.10 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.11 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.12 NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – March 2015 - by SIC code
- 5.13 NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – March 2015 - by broad industry sector
- 5.14 NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector – June 1974 – March 2015

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

- 1.1 ASHE 2014 (provisional)
- 2.1 ASHE 2014 (provisional) by industry
- 2.2 ASHE 2014 (provisional) by occupation (2 digit)
- 2.3 ASHE 2014 (provisional) by occupation (4 digit)
- 2.4 ASHE 2014 (provisional) by age
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- 2.6 ASHE 2014 (provisional) by skill level
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