

Labour Market

Statistics Bulletin

Monthly Labour Market Report

May 2015



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Northern Ireland Statistics &
Research Agency

Monthly Labour Market Report

May 2015

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Contents

1
Labour Market
Pages 1-3

2
Labour Force Survey
Pages 4-6

3
Claimant Count
Pages 7-10

4
Redundancies
Page 11

5
Quarterly
Employment Survey -
QES
Pages 12-14

6
Annual Survey of
Hours and Earnings -
ASHE
Pages 15-17

7
Vacancy Statistics
and Employment &
Training measures
Page 18-19

8
International-
Regional Analysis
Pages 20-21

9
Further Information
Page 22-24

Labour Market

1

Seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Northern Ireland for the period January - March 2015 showed an increase over the quarter in the number of unemployed and employed while the number of economic inactive decreased. The seasonally adjusted claimant count in April 2015 decreased by 900 over the month to 44,300. There were 81 proposed redundancies notified in the latest reference period and 142 confirmed redundancies in April 2015.

Employment

The number of persons in employment in the period January - March 2015 was estimated at 832,000. This estimate increased by 17,000 over the quarter and by 20,000 over the year. The employment rate for those aged 16-64 was estimated at 68.3%; this increased by 0.5 percentage points over the quarter and increased by 0.6 percentage points over the year. The employment rate in NI was below the UK average (73.5%) and was the lowest rate among the twelve UK regions.

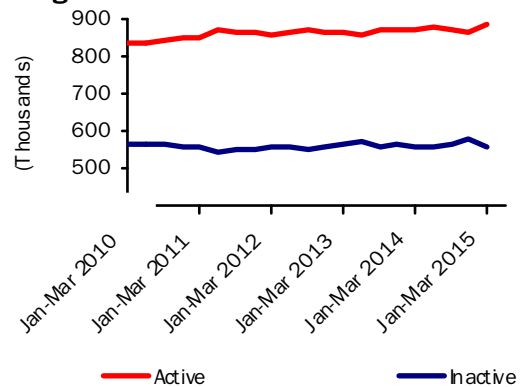
Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the period January - March 2015 was estimated at 6.2%. This estimate increased by 0.5 over the quarter but decreased by 1.0 percentage points over the year. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 55,000, up 6,000 over the quarter and down 8,000 over the year.

Unadjusted figures show that 62.1% of the unemployed have been unemployed for 1 year or more - up 14.5 percentage points over the year. They also estimate the unemployment rate for 18 - 24 year olds at 21.8% - up 3.2 percentage points over the year.

Seasonally Adjusted Labour Market Summary for Northern Ireland (16+)

Figure 1



Economically Inactive

The seasonally adjusted number of economically inactive persons in the period January - March 2015 was estimated at 557,000. This figure is down 20,000 over the quarter and down 4,000 over the year.

The NI economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 stood at 26.9%. This is significantly higher than the UK average rate (22.1%) and is the highest of the twelve UK regions. Unadjusted figures estimate that 32% of the economically inactive, aged 16-64, are sick/disabled, 26% are students, 25% are family/home, 11% are retired and 6% are 'other' reason.

Unadjusted figures, of all those economically inactive, show that while 90% of the inactive do not want work, the remaining 10% (53,000) want employment but do not satisfy the full ILO job search criteria (by actively seeking work and being available to start a job).

Estimates from the LFS have an associated

Northern Ireland Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

Table 1

	Period	Estimate	Sampling Variability of estimate	Change over year	Sampling Variability of change
Employment	Jan-Mar 2015	832,000	+/-26,000	20,000	+/-32,000
Unemployment	Jan-Mar 2015	55,000	+/-11,000	-8,000	+/-15,000
Economically inactive	Jan-Mar 2015	557,000	+/-23,000	-4,000	+/-29,000
Unemployment rate	Jan-Mar 2015	6.2%	+/-1.3pps	-1.0pps	+/-1.8pps
Employment rate ¹	Jan-Mar 2015	68.3%	+/-1.9pps	0.6pps	+/-2.4pps
Economic inactivity rate ¹	Jan-Mar 2015	26.9%	+/-1.8pps	0.1pps	+/-2.3pps
Claimant Count	April 2015	44,300		-11,700	

Note: pps = percentage points, ¹ Rates based on new definition of working age (i.e. 16-64 for males and females) - see Section 9 for details.

degree of statistical error as they are based on a sample of the population. 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 in the estimates were statistically significant i.e. the recorded change did not exceed the variability expected from a sample survey of this size (see table 1 and Section 9 for details).

Unemployment Regional Comparison

The latest NI seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (6.2%) is above the overall UK average rate (5.5%) and was the joint fifth highest rate among the twelve UK regions. The NI rate was below the European Union (9.8%) and Republic of Ireland (9.9%) rates for February 2015. Comparable figures for January - March 2015 estimate the NI unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds at 21.8%, compared to a UK average rate of 14.0%.

Claimant Count

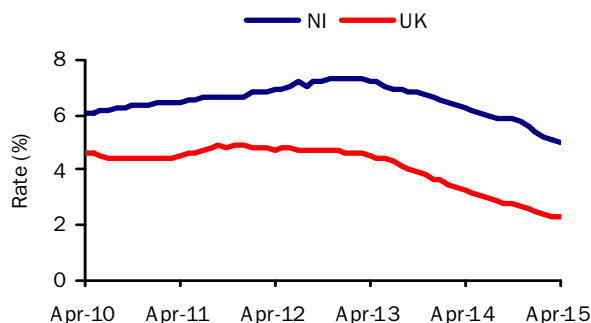
The more recent seasonally adjusted claimant count decreased by 900 from last month's revised total. It now stands at 44,300 (5.0% of the workforce) in April 2015. Over the year the Claimant Count in NI has decreased by 11,700 (20.9%) and the workforce unemployment rate has decreased by 1.3 percentage points. The claimant count has fallen 20,500 since its most recent peak in December 2012 and this is the first time there has been a fall in twenty-eight consecutive months since the series began.

Claimant Count Regional Comparison

The seasonally adjusted claimant count rate in NI (5.0%) was higher than the UK average rate (2.3%) and was the highest rate among the twelve UK regions. NI has had either the highest or second highest unemployment rate on this measure since April 2010. The monthly decrease in NI claimants (2.0%) was higher than the UK average decrease (1.6%) during the same period. The annual decrease in NI claimants (20.9%) was the lowest decrease of twelve UK regions (the annual decrease in the UK was 31.4%).

Seasonally Adjusted Claimant Count Monthly Rates

Figure 2



Claimant Count rates for District Council Areas

Figure 3 (unadjusted numbers as a percentage of the resident working age population) show that the highest rates at April 2015 were in Derry and Strabane (7.1%), Belfast (5.1%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (3.7%). All 11 Council Areas showed a decrease over year, with the largest decreases in Mid Ulster (28.0%), Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (27.3%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (24.8%).

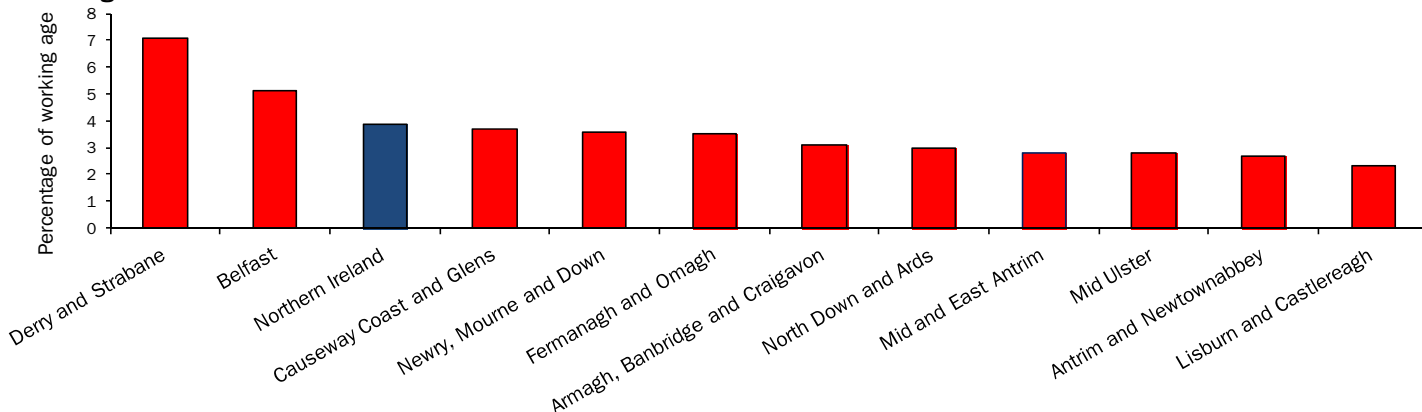
Context

Please note that although there is a large degree of overlap between the LFS and claimant count measures of unemployment, they measure unemployment using different criteria. While they are broadly consistent in terms of longer term trends, the results may differ in any given period. A full explanation of differences between the LFS and claimant count definitions of unemployment are provided at the following link http://www.detini.gov.uk/unemployment_measures.pdf.

It should also be noted that while the claimant count provides a complete census of all those in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance the LFS is a survey based measure which has an associated statistical margin of error around all estimates, including the level of unemployment.

Unadjusted Claimant Count Rates By Council Area

Figure 3



Redundancies

There were 81 proposed redundancies notified during the period mid April 2015 to mid May 2015. This compares to 202 proposed redundancies that were notified in the previous monthly period.

There were 142 confirmed redundancies in the month of April (Figure 5). Over the latest twelve month period there were a total of 1,905 confirmed redundancies, a decrease of 10% from the previous year (2,105).

Over the latest twelve month period there were a total of 3,726 proposed redundancies, an increase of 23% from the previous year (3,034). Currently there are 1,783 outstanding redundancies (that is, proposed but not confirmed), which is 23% higher than this time last year (1,448).

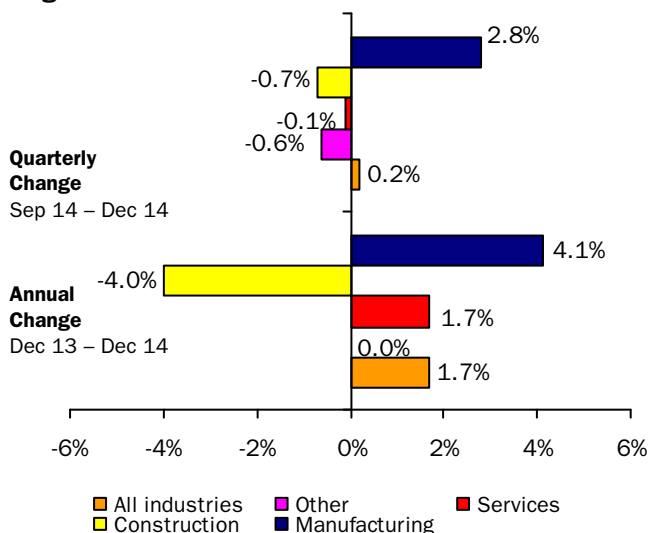
Note that since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses.

Quarterly Employment Survey

The estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in Northern Ireland at December 2014 was 720,130. This represents an increase (1,280 jobs) from the revised figure for the previous quarter and represents an increase of 11,990 jobs over the year (see Section 9 for details of QES revisions).

Annual and Quarterly changes in employee jobs (seasonally adjusted)

Figure 4



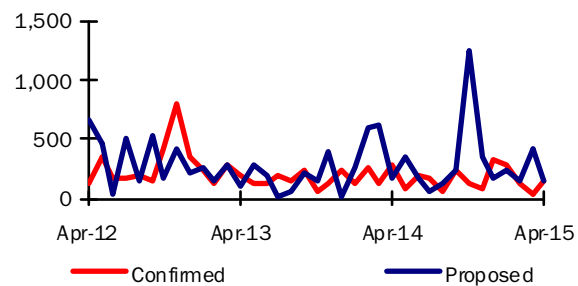
The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of an increase in the manufacturing sector (2,150 jobs) and decreases across the service sector (-540 jobs), the construction sector (-190 jobs), and the other Industries sector (-140 jobs). Over the same period the public sector increased by 550 jobs while the Private Sector decreased by 270 jobs.

Over the year to December 2014, the public sector decreased by 0.1% (-300 jobs) compared to an increase of 2.5% (12,210 jobs) in the private sector.

Confirmed and Proposed Redundancies

April 12 - April 15

Figure 5

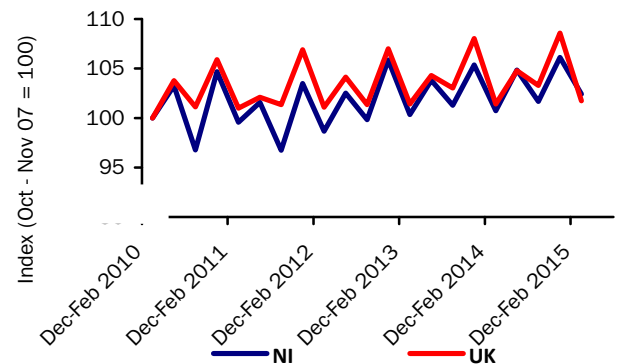


Hours worked

In the three months to February 2015, the average actual weekly hours worked in NI was 33.1 hours – higher than the UK average (31.3) for the same period. For full-time workers, in Northern Ireland, the average actual number of hours worked was 37.5 and was above that for the UK (36.5). For part-time workers in Northern Ireland, the average actual numbers of hours worked stood at 17.2 hours whereas the respective figure stood at 15.9 hours in the UK.

Index of average actual weekly hours worked, NI

Figure 6



Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Earnings results released on 19 November 2014 show 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), compared with growth of 0.6% in the UK (to £418). NI full-time employees' gross weekly earnings at April 2014 were £457, which was approximately 88.2% of the figure in the UK (£518). NI full-time earnings experienced a decrease of 1.4% over the period, compared with an increase of 0.1% in the UK.

Full-time weekly private sector earnings in NI declined over the year by 0.9%, to £405. This represented a small widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap, with the NI private sector at 82.2% of the UK figure. Part-time private sector earnings in NI grew 5.8% to £140 per week.

Labour Force Survey

2

Background

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. It provides a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed definitions. However, the estimates from it are subject to sampling error and care should be taken when making inferences from them (see section 9 for details).

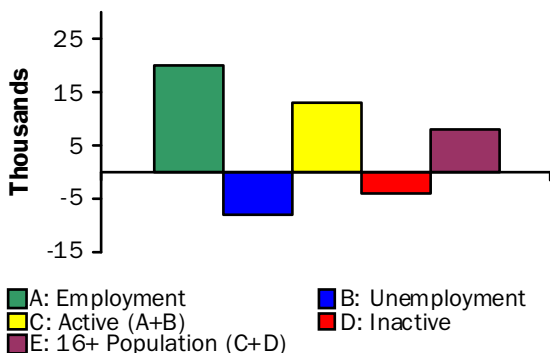
Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

The latest seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey estimates for January - March 2015 (see Table 2) estimated the unemployment rate at 6.2% (55,000 persons), up 0.5 percentage points from the previous quarter. The employment level increased by 17,000 over the quarter (832,000 persons).

Labour Market change over the year

In the year to January - March 2015 (see Figure 7), LFS figures estimated that total employment increased by 20,000, that unemployment decreased by 8,000, that numbers of economically active increased by 13,000 (figures may not sum due to rounding). The number economically inactive decreased by 4,000 over the year.

**Labour Market Structure
Change over the year
Figure 7**



Employment

Latest seasonally adjusted estimates show that there were 832,000 persons in employment, which is up 20,000 over the year. Of the total, 54% (445,000) were male and 46% (386,000) were female.

Male employment rate increased by 1.9 percentage points over the year while the female rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points.

Economic Inactivity

The number of economically inactive persons in the period January – March 2015 was estimated at 557,000. This figure includes those people that are past retirement age and are unlikely to re-engage with the labour market. Therefore it is the economically inactive of working age (i.e. those aged 16 – 64) that are of most interest to labour market analysts. In January – March 2015, there were an estimated 314,000 economically inactive people aged 16-64 in NI. Of the total, 38% (119,000) were male and 62% (195,000) were female.

To provide a more detailed analysis, the results below are unadjusted for seasonality, unless otherwise stated.

Unadjusted figures show that 84% of the economically inactive of working age do not want a job, while the remaining 16% want work, but are not actively seeking or available to start work.

**Economically Inactive of Working Age
Reason for not wanting work
Figure 8**

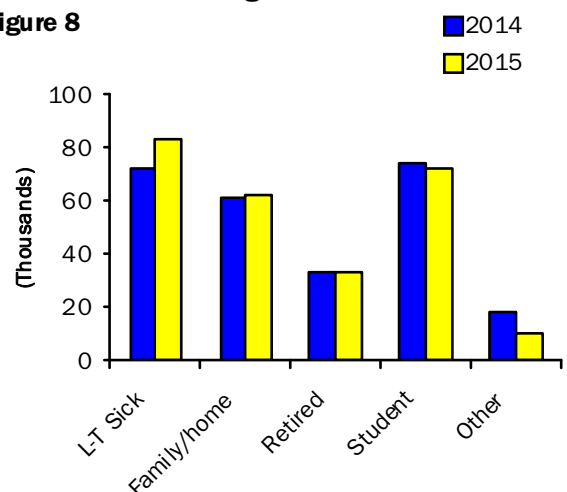


Figure 8 shows the reason given by these people for not wanting work. The largest categories were long-term sick (83,000), students (72,000) and those looking after family/home (62,000). Among these categories, the largest change over the year occurred for long-term sick (10,000 or 14.5%).

Labour Market Structure – Seasonally adjusted Table 2

(Thousands/Percentage)

	Total aged 16 and over	Total persons of working age 16-64	All aged 16+				All working age 16-64		
	A	B	Total economically active	Total in employment	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Unemployment rate (%)	Activity rate 16-64 (%)	Employment rate (%) 16-64
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ALL PERSONS									
Jan-Mar 2012	1,419	1,160	860	802	58	559	6.8	72.4	67.4
Jan-Mar 2013	1,427	1,162	863	794	70	564	8.1	72.4	66.5
Jan-Mar 2014	1,435	1,164	874	811	63	561	7.2	73.2	67.8
Apr-Jun 2014	1,437	1,164	879	820	58	559	6.6	73.2	68.2
Jul-Sep 2014	1,439	1,165	874	821	52	566	6.0	73.0	68.5
Oct-Dec 2014	1,441	1,165	864	815	50	577	5.7	72.0	67.8
Jan-Mar 2015	1,444	1,166	887	832	55	557	6.2	73.1	68.3
Change on Quarter	2	0	22	17	6	-20	0.5	1.0	0.5
Change on Year	8	2	13	20	-8	-4	-1.0	-0.1	0.6
MEN									
Jan-Mar 2012	688	573	460	421	39	228	8.5	78.3	71.5
Jan-Mar 2013	693	574	461	414	48	231	10.4	78.2	69.9
Jan-Mar 2014	697	576	468	424	43	230	9.3	79.0	71.5
Apr-Jun 2014	699	576	472	432	40	227	8.5	79.4	72.4
Jul-Sep 2014	700	576	466	432	35	233	7.4	78.6	72.6
Oct-Dec 2014	701	576	463	435	28	237	6.1	77.7	72.8
Jan-Mar 2015	702	577	479	445	34	223	7.1	79.3	73.4
WOMEN									
Jan-Mar 2012	731	587	400	381	19	331	4.7	66.7	63.4
Jan-Mar 2013	734	587	402	380	22	333	5.4	66.8	63.1
Jan-Mar 2014	738	588	406	387	19	331	4.8	67.4	64.1
Apr-Jun 2014	739	588	407	389	18	332	4.5	67.2	64.1
Jul-Sep 2014	740	589	407	390	18	332	4.4	67.5	64.5
Oct-Dec 2014	741	589	401	379	22	340	5.4	66.5	62.9
Jan-Mar 2015	742	589	407	386	21	334	5.2	66.9	63.4

Relationship between columns: A=C+F; C=D+E; G=E/C, H=economically active of working age/total population of working age, I=in employment of working age/total population of working age, * **A and B are underlying population estimates and are therefore not seasonally adjusted.**

The estimates above have been revised to incorporate latest population figures - see note on revisions policy in Section 9.

Working age rates based on 16-64 population for both males and females - see Section 9 for details.

Figures may not sum due to rounding. * - sample too small for a reliable estimate.

Labour Market Structure – Sample of data available on website

Table 3

Table Name	Description	File Size
2.1a	<u>Labour Market Structure - Seasonally Adjusted</u>	22KB
2.1b	<u>Labour Market Structure</u>	20KB
2.2	<u>Economic Activity by Age</u>	19KB
2.3	<u>Economic Activity Rates by Age</u>	19KB
2.4a	<u>Economically Inactive Who Want Work</u>	20KB
2.4b	<u>Economically Inactive Who Do Not Want Work</u>	18KB
2.5	<u>Economic Inactivity by Age</u>	18KB
2.6	<u>Employment by Category</u>	18KB
2.7	<u>Actual Weekly Hours of Work</u>	17KB
2.8	<u>Employment by Age</u>	18KB
2.9	<u>Unemployment by Age</u>	17KB
2.10	<u>Unemployment by Duration</u>	18KB
2.11	<u>International Comparisons of Employment and Unemployment</u>	23KB
	<u>Notes and Definitions</u>	16KB

Other Labour Force Survey Publications available on website

Table 4

Publication title	File Size
LFS Labour Market Statistics (January - March 2015)	210 KB
LFS Quarterly Supplement (October - December 2014)	268 KB
LFS Key Data Historical Series 1995 – present (please enable macros)	628 KB
LFS Historical Data 1984 - 1991	76 KB
Women in Northern Ireland Publication September 2014	674 KB
Labour Force Survey (LFS) Local Area Database 2013	587KB
LFS Archive data	**

Claimant Count

3

Unadjusted Claimant Count

The claimant count in NI at April 2015 was 44,172 (5.0% of the workforce), a decrease of 3.7% (1,713) over the previous month. There was a decrease of 21.2% (11,875) over the year and the rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points. Five years ago the total was 55,850 (6.1%). (The seasonally adjusted claimant count decreased by 900 from the previous month's revised figure).

Youth Claimants

A total of 11,369 under 25's (25.7% of all claimants) were claiming benefits in April 2015, representing a decrease of 3.7% (434 claimants) over the month and a decrease of 19.1% (2,686) over the year. Youth claimants represent 1.3% of the workforce.

Long-term Claimants

At April 2015, 16,076 (36.4% of all claimants) were claiming benefit for a year or more, representing a decrease of 2.0% (323 claimants) over the month and a decrease of 14.3% (2,680) over the year. Long-term claimants represent 1.8% of the workforce.

Flows out from Job Seekers Allowance

The success rate of job seekers leaving the count to obtain employment in April 2015 increased by 5.3 percentage points since the same time last year. Of the 5,730 flows from the count in April 2015, 2,585 (45.1%) found employment, compared to 2,885 (39.8%) of the 7,240 claimants who left the count in April 2014. This compares to 32.5% three months ago and 42.1% six months ago.

In the period from April 2014 to April 2015 the highest proportion (48.0%) of persons leaving JSA to find employment is in December 2014, while in January 2015 the proportion finding employment was at its lowest (32.5%). The highest proportion (20.9%) of persons leaving JSA to enter education or training occurred in July 2014. Those who left JSA to claim other benefits varied between 3.7% and 6.6% in the period. Those who left JSA because they failed to sign peaked at 29.4% in January 2015.

Flows on to Job Seekers Allowance

Of the 4,175 claimants who joined the count in April 2015, 31.8% were under 25, 28.7% were aged between 25-34 years, 16.1% were aged between 35-44 years, 14.7% were aged between 45-54 years and 8.7% were 55 and over. In April 2015, 2,730 males (65.4%) joined the count compared to 1,450 females (34.7%).

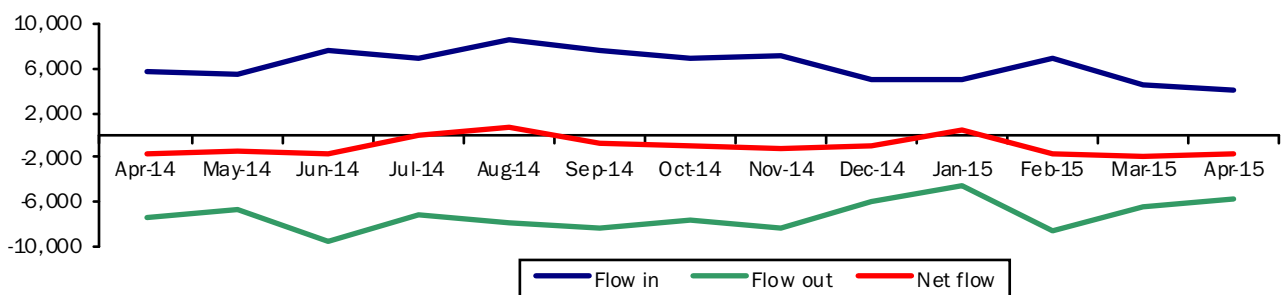
Net Flow

There was a net flow of persons out from Job Seekers for 11 months and a net flow onto Job Seekers for 2 months between April 2014 and April 2015. Net flows off Jobseekers peaked in March 2015 with a net off-flow of 1,855 persons, while net flows onto Jobseekers peaked in August 2014 with a net on-flow of 760.

Further information on flows data is available in section 9.

Flows in and out from JSA

Figure 9

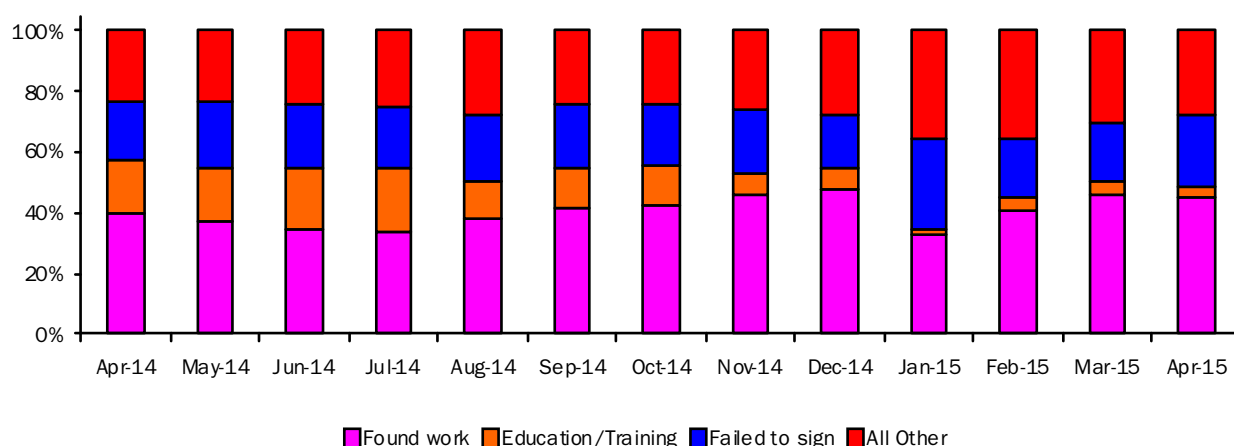


Claimant Count by District Council Area – April 2015
Number, Rate and % change over month and year
Table 5

District	Number of Claimants			% Of Working Age			Change over month		Change over Year	
Council Area	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Number	%	Number	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,707	686	2,393	3.9	1.5	2.7	-95	-3.8	-655	-21.5
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,724	1,268	3,992	4.2	2.0	3.1	-134	-3.2	-1,497	-27.3
Belfast	8,206	3,038	11,244	7.6	2.7	5.1	-447	-3.8	-3,132	-21.8
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,386	978	3,364	5.3	2.2	3.7	-203	-5.7	-828	-19.8
Derry and Strabane	4,693	2,077	6,770	9.9	4.3	7.1	-185	-2.7	-1,009	-13.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,745	819	2,564	4.8	2.3	3.5	-98	-3.7	-691	-21.2
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,359	664	2,023	3.2	1.5	2.3	-35	-1.7	-409	-16.8
Mid Ulster	1,515	856	2,371	3.6	2.0	2.8	-105	-4.2	-924	-28.0
Mid and East Antrim	1,764	796	2,560	3.9	1.8	2.8	-92	-3.5	-766	-23.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,782	1,161	3,943	5.0	2.1	3.6	-106	-2.6	-1,297	-24.8
North Down and Ards	2,103	845	2,948	4.4	1.7	3.0	-213	-6.7	-667	-18.5
NI TOTAL	30,984	13,188	44,172	5.4	2.2	3.8	-1,713	-3.7	-11,875	-21.2

Claimant spells ended by destination

Figure 10



Occupation Data

At April 2015, 32.6% (14,060) of all claimants defined their usual (or previous) occupation as an Elementary Occupation. Elementary Occupations includes elementary agricultural, construction, process plant, goods storage, administrative, personal services, cleaning, security and sales occupations. A further 18.4% (7,930) gave their usual occupation as working in Sales and Customer Service Occupations. These two groups account for approximately one half of all claimants in April 2015. The smallest occupation group, with 1.5% (645) of all claimants, was Managers and Senior Officials.

Overall the NI claimant count (computerised claims only) decreased by 3.7% over the month to April 2015. Eight of the nine occupational groups showed a decrease in levels, with the largest decrease in levels occurring in Elementary Occupations which decreased by 600 (4.1%), followed by Skilled Trades Occupations which decreased by 365 (6.6%). The group showing the only increase occurred in Professional Occupations, which increased by 5 (0.5%).

Claimant Count (unadjusted) by Usual Occupation – April 2015 (Computerised claims only)

Table 6

Occupational Groups (Usual Occupation)	April 2015		Change over month	
	Number of Claimants	% of Claimants	Number of claimants	% change
Managers and Senior Officials	645	1.5	-20	-3.0
Professional Occupations	925	2.1	5	0.5
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	2,065	4.8	-40	-1.9
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	3,695	8.6	-75	-2.0
Skilled Trade Occupations	5,140	11.9	-365	-6.6
Personal Service Occupations	3,150	7.3	-60	-1.9
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	7,930	18.4	-240	-2.9
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	5,475	12.7	-235	-4.1
Elementary Occupations	14,060	32.6	-600	-4.1
Not Known	30	0.1	-5	-14.3
NI Total	43,110	100	-1,640	-3.7

**Claimant Count - Data available on
website: Table 7**

Table Name	Description	File Size
Table 3.1	<u>Latest Seasonally Adjusted</u>	27KB
Table 3.2	<u>Latest Unadjusted</u>	22KB
Table 3.3	<u>Seasonally Adjusted Over the Year</u>	23KB
Table 3.4	<u>Unadjusted Over the Year</u>	21KB
Table 3.5	<u>Long-Term Claimant Count Over the Year</u>	20KB
Table 3.6	<u>Youth Claimant Count Over the Year</u>	21KB
Table 3.7	<u>Travel-to-Work-Area</u>	24KB
Table 3.8a	<u>District Council Area</u>	36KB
Table 3.8b	<u>NEW - District Council Area</u>	30KB
Table 3.9	<u>Parliamentary Constituency Area</u>	35KB
Table 3.10	<u>NUTSiii</u>	22KB
Table 3.11	<u>Usual Occupation</u>	13KB
Table 3.12	<u>Outflows by Destination (including percentage recycled)</u>	22KB
Table 3.13	<u>Total Annual Outflows by Destination</u>	18KB
Table 3.14	<u>On Flows by District Council Area and Age</u>	12KB
Table 3.15	<u>Ward Data</u>	150KB
Table 3.16	<u>Super Output Area</u>	108KB

Redundancies

4

There were 1,905 confirmed redundancies over the year to 30th April 2015, a decrease of 10% compared to the same period in the previous year (2,105). Of these, 142 confirmed redundancies took place during the calendar month of April 2015 and 32 in the previous month of March 2015. This compares to 275 in April 2014 (one year ago).

Table 8 shows the distribution of these confirmed redundancies by Council area. The largest number of redundancies occurred in Belfast (862), Newry, Mourne and Down (168) and Antrim and Newtownabbey (151) Council areas.

Confirmed redundancies by District Council in year to 30th April 2015
Table 8

District Council Area	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	151
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	50
Belfast	862
Causeway Coast and Glens	138
Derry and Strabane	39
Fermanagh and Omagh	77
Lisburn and Castlereagh	118
Mid and East Antrim	114
Mid Ulster	62
Newry, Mourne and Down	168
North Down and Ards	126
N.Ireland	1,905

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.

Of these 1,905 confirmed redundancies, 380 or 20% were in the Wholesale and Retail sector, with 332 redundancies (17% of all redundancies) occurring in Retail Trade, (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles). A further 159 redundancies (8% of all redundancies) occurred in the Construction sector.

Altogether there are 1,783 outstanding redundancies that have been notified, but have yet to take place. This compares with 1,448 this time one year ago – an increase of 23%.

Redundancies – Sample of Data Available on Website
Table 9

Regional Redundancy data	File size
District Council (Jan 2000 - date)	33.0KB
Parliamentary Constituency (Jan 2000 - date)	29.0KB
Travel-to-Work Area (Jan 2000 - date)	29.0KB

Industrial Sector	File size
Standard Industrial Classification (Jan 2000 - date)	70.0KB

Quarterly Employment Survey

5

Seasonally Adjusted

The December 2014 seasonally adjusted employee jobs figure stands at 720,130.

This represents an increase of 0.2% (1,280 jobs) from the revised September 2014 estimate of 718,850.

Over the quarter seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased in the manufacturing sector by 2.8% (2,150 jobs). There were decreases across the construction sector by 0.7% (-190 jobs), the services sector by 0.1% (-540 jobs) and in the 'other' industries sector by 0.6% (-140 jobs).

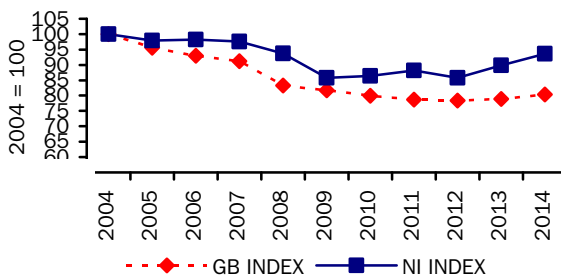
Unadjusted

The December 2014 unadjusted employee jobs estimate stands at 723,670.

This represents an increase of 0.8% (5,560 jobs) since September 2014 and an increase of 1.7% (11,900 jobs) in the past year.

Over the year, December 2013 to December 2014, there were increases in; the services sector by 1.7% (9,990 jobs) and in the manufacturing sector by 4.1% (3,170 jobs). There was a decrease in the construction sector by 4.1% (-1,250 jobs). The 'other' industries sector remained unchanged.

**Manufacturing jobs for NI & GB indexed
(December of each year)
Figure 11**



Manufacturing Employee Jobs

The level of jobs in the manufacturing sector in both NI and GB has declined over the past 10 years.

NI manufacturing jobs declined between 2004 and 2005 before increasing slightly in 2006 and then declining through to 2009, falling to 86% of the 2004 figure.

NI manufacturing employee jobs figures increased steadily from 2009 to 2011 before declining in 2012 and then increasing through to 2014 now standing at 94% of the 2004 figure.

Manufacturing jobs in GB were in decline from 2004 until 2012 declining by 21.7%. Between 2012 and 2014 there was some growth with the estimate standing at 80% of the 2004 level in December 2014.

Changes in the Structure of Manufacturing Jobs (NI)

Over the period 2004-2014, manufacturing jobs in NI decreased by 5,470, with 17 of the 23 manufacturing divisions recording a decrease. The largest decrease occurred in the manufacture of textiles, which recorded 2,110 fewer jobs. There were 1,490 fewer jobs in the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, 1,170 fewer jobs in the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products and 1,150 fewer in the manufacture of wearing apparel.

However, these decreases were partially offset by increases in the manufacture of food products (1,590 jobs), in the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (1,130 jobs) and in the manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. (660 jobs).

The large decline in the manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel and leather products sectors has impacted on the structure of Northern Ireland manufacturing jobs. In 2004 6.5% of manufacturing jobs were located in the textiles, wearing apparel and leather sectors; by 2014 this had fallen to 3.3%.

Quarterly Employment Survey
Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs December 2014

Table 10

				% change in total	
	Males	Females	All persons	since last quarter	since last year
Manufacturing	61,880	17,790	79,670	2.8	4.1
Construction	24,530	5,000	29,540	-0.7	-4.0
Services	245,720	344,550	590,270	-0.1	1.7
Other ¹	17,700	2,960	20,660	-0.6	0.0
Total	349,830	370,300	720,130	0.2	1.7

¹ Covers Industry Sections A, B, D and E which have not been seasonally adjusted
 Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding

Northern Ireland Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted Series

Table 11

		Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Other Industries ¹	All Industries	Public ^{2,3,4}	Private ^{2,3,4}
2010	March	73,030	37,050	579,800	19,850	709,730	223,480	486,300
	June	73,100	36,210	579,030	19,620	707,970	221,770	486,250
	September	73,070	35,540	575,910	19,800	704,330	219,720	484,890
	December	73,750	33,810	573,950	19,830	701,330	219,290	481,610
2011	March	73,570	33,410	573,370	19,850	700,190	218,150	482,180
	June	73,480	32,800	570,770	20,260	697,310	216,810	480,490
	September	73,970	32,610	568,480	20,000	695,070	215,340	480,030
	December	75,160	31,920	565,310	19,880	692,270	213,820	478,020
2012	March	74,280	31,400	566,100	20,050	691,830	214,280	477,680
	June	74,650	31,270	566,830	21,000	693,750	213,500	480,270
	September	74,410	30,550	567,770	21,060	693,800	213,360	480,750
	December	73,060	30,080	571,940	21,260	696,340	213,960	481,960
2013	March	73,090	29,380	572,810	21,300	696,580	214,470	482,190
	June	74,140	29,210	575,820	21,560	700,730	214,560	486,190
	September	75,130	29,020	578,710	21,810	704,670	214,710	490,320
	December	76,520	30,770	580,180	20,650	708,130	212,730	494,880
2014	March	78,330	29,420	583,570	20,600	711,920	211,460	500,510
	June	76,420	29,170	587,240	20,690	713,530	211,890	501,770
	September	77,520	29,730	590,800	20,790	718,850	211,880	507,360
	December	79,670	29,540	590,270	20,660	720,130	212,430	507,090

¹ Covers Industry Sections A, B, D and E which have not been seasonally adjusted. ² Public and Private splits may not sum to total. ³ Royal Mail plc was reclassified from the public sector to the private sector in October 2013. It is therefore included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods. ⁴ Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries were classified to the public sector from October 2008 to March 2013. They are therefore included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) – Sample of data available on website

**The Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey
Table 12**

Table Name	Description	File Size
	Industry Split Tables	
5.1	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted December 2014	14 KB
5.2	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1998 – 2014	23 KB
5.3	NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1998 – 2014	64 KB
5.4	NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – December 2014	13 KB
5.5	NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) December 2013, September 2014 and December 2014	13 KB
5.6	Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)	13 KB
5.7	Workforce in Employment 1983 - 2014	13 KB
5.8	NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – December 2014	27 KB
	Public – Private Sector Tables	
5.9	NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – December 2014	11 KB
5.10	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2014	16 KB
5.11	NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2014	64 KB
5.12	NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – December 2014 - by SIC code	1,337KB
5.13	NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – December 2014 - by broad industry sector	56KB
5.14	NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector - December 2007 – December 2014	324KB

**Other Quarterly Employment Survey Publications available on website
Table 13**

Publication title	File Size
Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) Supplement – December 2014	412 KB

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

6

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (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. Both median and mean results are reported by ASHE, where 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 earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.

The median gross weekly earnings for all (i.e. both full- and part-time) employees in NI in 2014 was £358, some 14.4% lower than the UK (£418). This represented a decline in NI median earnings for all employees of 2.2% over the year to April 2014, compared with growth of 0.6% in the UK.

NI full-time employees' median gross weekly earnings at April 2014 were £457, which was 88.2% of the figure in the UK (£518). NI full-time earnings experienced a decrease of 1.4% over the period, compared with growth of 0.1% in the UK. The median gross weekly part-time earnings in NI at April 2014 was £156, up 0.4% over the year, compared to a 0.8% increase in the UK (to £161).

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in the NI private sector decreased by 0.9% to £405 as equivalent figures for the UK grew slightly (0.7%) to £493. This represented a small widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap, with the NI private sector at 82.2% of the UK figure.

There has been a narrowing of the gender pay gap for all employees in NI over the period 2013-2014. Female median hourly earnings excluding overtime were 91.1% of male earnings at April 2014, compared to 90.5% a year earlier. The NI gender pay gap remains less marked than in the UK, where the equivalent female to male earnings ratio was 80.9% at April 2014. It should also be noted that gender pay differences continue to exist for various occupational and industry groupings in NI, as evidenced by weekly and annual earnings trends.

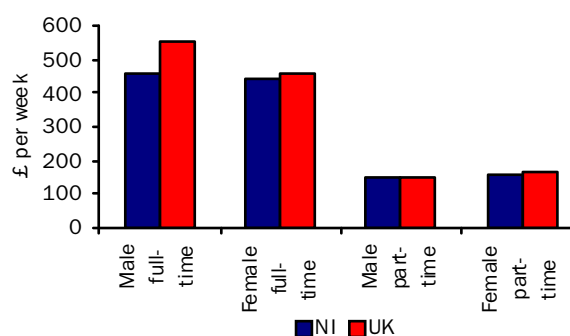
Please note, changes in NI earnings over the year and relative to the UK can be influenced by a range of factors including the timing of pay settlements, the extent of overtime, and differences in the

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 in section 13 (Background Notes) of the ASHE publication:

[NI ASHE 2014 Statistics Bulletin](#)

Median gross weekly earnings by full-/part-time and gender, April 2014

Figure 12



Median and mean gross weekly earnings 2010-14

Table 14

£ per week	Median			Mean		
	Full-time	Part-time	All	Full-time	Part-time	All
April 2014						
Men	460.5	151.4	416.4	550.8	175.9	484.6
Women	444.4	160.1	294.3	495.6	187.5	351.3
All	457.2	155.8	357.5	529.4	184.3	418.7
April 2013						
Men	479.1	144.9	431.2	568.7	176.7	504.4
Women	446.5	161.3	302.9	502.9	189.5	360.3
All	463.6	155.2	365.5	540.8	186.4	427.9
% Change 2013 - 14						
Men	-3.9	4.5	-3.4	-3.2	-0.5	-3.9
Women	-0.5	-0.7	-2.8	-1.4	-1.0	-2.5
All	-1.4	0.4	-2.2	-2.1	-1.1	-2.2
April 2012						
Men	477.7	138.8	420.0	558.9	172.0	492.2
Women	440.0	153.5	298.6	502.4	181.4	360.4
All	457.6	148.3	360.8	535.5	178.9	424.7
April 2011						
Men	461.8	139.2	412.7	557.9	179.2	496.1
Women	417.9	154.4	300.0	480.4	182.9	352.1
All	444.7	150.5	354.5	526.1	181.9	423.2
April 2010						
Men	455.6	132.4	410.8	537.1	191.2	487.8
Women	409.4	152.2	297.7	469.9	180.7	347.4
All	437.3	149.1	354.7	509.6	183.3	416.6

Average full-time earnings by occupation, April 2014, based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2010)

Table 15

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	48	670.8	754.7	37.7	38.6
Professional Occupations	111	704.4	733.1	37.4	36.9
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	58	534.7	562.8	37.8	39.0
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	64	401.8	412.6	37.5	38.6
Skilled Trades Occupations	59	439.6	477.9	40.0	42.2
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	28	327.2	349.1	37.5	39.2
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	28	295.1	329.6	39.0	39.0
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	57	380.0	410.6	40.0	42.1
Elementary Occupations	38	297.7	332.3	40.0	40.6

Average full-time earnings by industry, April 2014, based on the 2007 UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2007)

Table 16

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	x	299.8	370.9	40.0	41.5
Mining and quarrying	x	x	x	40.7	44.6
Manufacturing	87	449.6	537.4	40.0	41.6
Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	x	x	814.6	37.0	38.8
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	5	463.4	543.8	40.0	42.2
Construction	22	433.7	516.0	40.0	41.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	65	357.5	415.6	39.0	39.3
Transportation and storage	18	453.9	474.9	40.0	42.3
Accommodation and food service activities	15	280.1	322.4	38.0	39.4
Information and communication	17	623.1	642.2	37.5	38.0
Financial and insurance activities	13	537.6	655.7	35.0	35.6
Real estate activities	6	447.5	514.6	37.0	38.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	21	460.0	531.3	37.5	37.6
Administrative and support service activities	24	332.2	426.8	39.3	39.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	53	526.1	574.7	42.0	41.6
Education	56	704.4	675.4	32.5	34.3
Human health and social work activities	64	459.5	524.7	37.5	38.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	8	390.4	437.5	38.5	38.6
Other service activities	7	418.4	528.2	37.4	38.2
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use	x	x	x	x	x

x Coefficient of Variation too large to provide a reliable estimate.

Please note that the figures in the above two tables relating to numbers employed relate to PAYE employees as defined by ASHE and should not be considered an accurate estimate of employee job counts.

Sample of ASHE data available on website Table 17

Table name	Description	File size
6.1	<u>ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables (excluding supplementary information)</u>	51 KB
6.2	<u>ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables (including supplementary information)</u>	52 KB
6.3	<u>ASHE 2005 Headline Data for Key Variables</u>	52 KB
6.4	<u>ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables (consistent with 2005 methodology)</u>	168 KB
6.5	<u>ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables (consistent with 2007 methodology)</u>	176 KB
6.6	<u>ASHE 2007 Headline Data for Key Variables</u>	165 KB
6.7	<u>ASHE 2008 Headline Data for Key Variables</u>	165 KB
6.8	<u>ASHE 2009 Headline Data for Key Variables</u>	52 KB
6.9	<u>ASHE 2010 Headline Data for Key Variables (SOC2000 basis)</u>	54KB
6.10	<u>ASHE 2011 Headline Data for Key Variables (SOC2010 basis)</u>	64KB
6.11	<u>ASHE 2012 Headline Data for Key Variables</u>	51KB
6.12	<u>ASHE 2013 Headline Data for Key Variables (revised)</u>	52KB
6.13	<u>ASHE 2014 Headline Data for Key Variables (provisional)</u>	83KB

Vacancy Statistics and Employment & Training

7

Due to improved data validation and cleansing, the way we publish information is changing. Data will now only be published in this report following publication on the DEL website <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch.htm>. Information in Table 18 relating to Steps to Work and Training for Success will only be updated on a quarterly basis. The next Steps to Work Bulletin will be published on 24th June 2015 and the next Training for Success Bulletin will be published on 27th May 2015. A new series of Vacancy statistics commenced with the publication of a quarterly Employment Vacancies Factsheet on 28th January 2015. The first Employment Vacancies Bulletin of the new time series was published on 29th April 2015, providing vacancy data for the financial year 2014/15. The next Employment Vacancies Factsheet will be published on 29th July 2015.

Employment & Training Measures

Participation in the Department for Employment and Learning Schemes to March 2015

Table 18

	Steps to Work (2)	Future Managers	Employment Support	Training for Success (3)
<u>2013</u>				
March	15,100	100	600	16,200
<u>2014</u>				
March	15,600	200	550	13,450
April	15,200	150	550	13,100
May	13,550	100	550	12,750
June	9,200	150	550	12,350
July	7,750	150	550	11,950
August	5,300	150	550	11,450
September	4,000	150	550	14,000
October	2,950	150	550	13,900
November	2,450	150	550	-
December	2,050	100	500	-
<u>2015</u>				
January	-	100	500	-
February	-	100	500	-
March	-	100	500	-

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

(1) Figures are rounded to the nearest fifty.

(2) Steps to Work (StW) was widely introduced in NI in September 2008 and subsumed the main New Deal programmes. Referrals onto StW ended in May 2014 (with the exception of the Employer Subsidy strand) and the programme was subsequently replaced by DEL's new employment programme, Steps 2 Success, on 20th October 2014. Figures relate to the last Friday of each month and are revised on a quarterly basis. Statistics for January, February and March 2015 will be published in July 2015.

(3) Training for Success (TfS), was introduced in September 2007 and replaced the Jobskills programme. In September 2008, TfS was restructured into two separate provisions, TfS and ApprenticeshipsNI (AppsNI). Programme-Led Apprenticeships (PLA) were introduced from 7th September 2009 as an intervention measure to respond to the economic downturn. The figures presented in this table under the TfS heading include AppsNI, PLA and TfS. Figures relate to the last Friday of the month and are revised on a quarterly basis. Statistics for November and December 2014 and January 2015 will be published in June 2015, and statistics for February and March 2015 will be published in September 2015.

Vacancies Data

The information in Table 19 was first published in the Employment Vacancies Bulletin on 29th April 2015.

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 previous statistical bulletins.

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.

Notified Vacancies

From the data presented in Table 19 there is a clear pattern for all vacancy types, with the highest number of vacancies notified in September for full-time (3,118), part-time (2,052) and casual (481) vacancies. The September peak in notified vacancies for all vacancy types reflects the future demand for labour in the Christmas period, as vacancies are normally advertised months in advance of an employment start date. The lowest number of notified vacancies was recorded in December for full-time (1,823), part-time (763) and casual (194) vacancies. December is off season for notified vacancies, as the demand for labour is at its weakest in the period after Christmas.

Vacancies Notified: April 2014 to March 2015
Table 19

Notified Vacancies (1)	Full-Time	Part-Time	Casual	Total
<u>2014</u>				
April	2,615	1,253	310	4,178
May	2,844	1,547	445	4,836
June	2,934	1,597	352	4,883
July	2,717	1,195	298	4,210
August	2,827	1,691	352	4,870
September	3,118	2,052	481	5,651
October	3,032	2,030	450	5,512
November	2,160	1,301	342	3,803
December	1,823	763	194	2,780
<u>2015</u>				
January	2,638	1,460	368	4,466
February	2,677	1,451	364	4,492
March	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.

(1) All Notified statistics are derived from data extracted from the Department for Employment and Learning Client Management System (CMS) on 3rd April 2015. Notified vacancies are all vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres / Jobs & Benefits Offices of the Department for Employment and Learning. The vacancy database is built and updated from a live administrative system and statistics are revised on a quarterly basis.

For further details of Vacancy Statistics and Employment and Training Measures visit the DEL website at the following link: <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch.htm> or alternatively contact the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) by telephoning (028) 9025 7609.

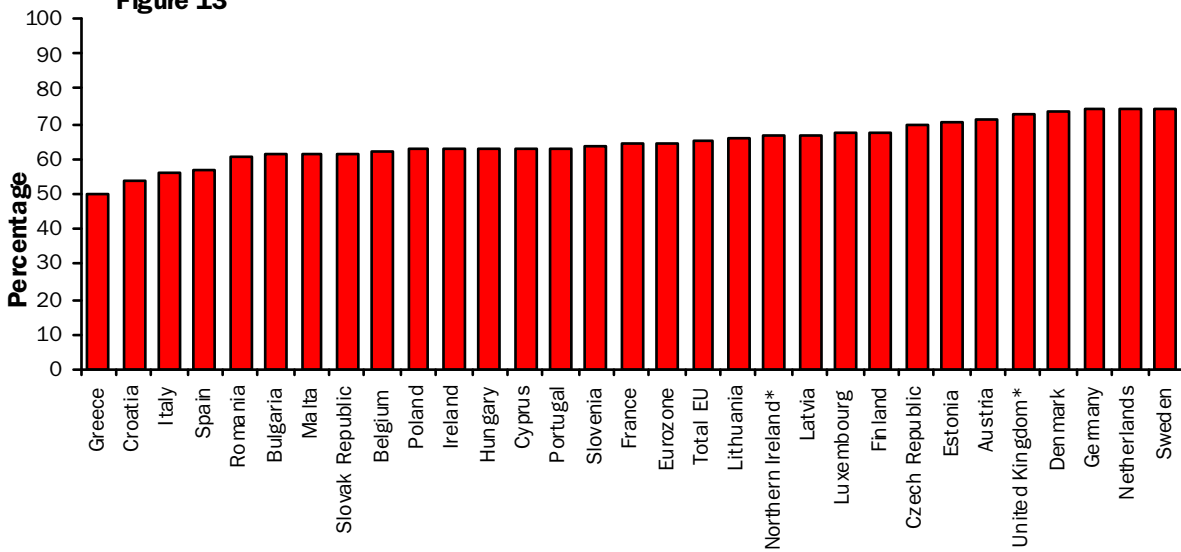
International - Regional Analysis



International Comparisons of ILO Employment and Unemployment

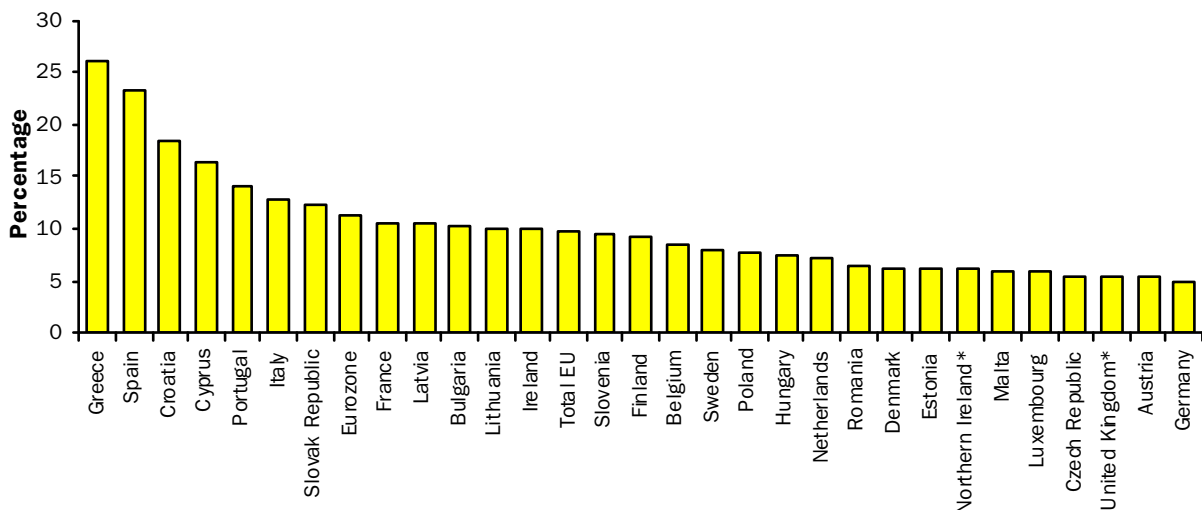
ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted

Figure 13



Unemployment Rates (%) - Seasonally Adjusted

Figure 14



Source: Eurostat

* A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 4 2014 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates published elsewhere in this publication, which take account of both the school-leaving and state pension age. The employment rate for the UK as published by EUROSTAT differs from the working age rate (16-64) published by ONS for the same reason. Figures behind the charts and further information can be found at;

[International Comparisons of Employment](#)

Seasonally Adjusted Regional Summary, January - March 2015

Table 20

	Labour Force Survey (LFS) ¹						Employee Jobs ³	Claimant count rate (%) ⁴	Claimant count level Percentage Change over the year	Claimant count level Percentage Change over the month	Jobs Density Indicator ⁵
	Employment		Unemployment		Economically Inactive						
	Rate	Annual Change ²	Rate	Annual Change ²	Rate	Annual Change ²					
North East	69.3	0.2	7.5	-2.4	24.9	1.9	1,035	3.9	-29.4	-1.3	0.67
North West	71.8	2.0	5.7	-1.9	23.8	-0.6	3,200	2.1	-45.2	-3.5	0.75
Yorkshire & the Humber	71.9	0.5	6.6	-1.5	22.9	0.8	2,221	3.2	-29.2	-1.4	0.73
East Midlands	73.8	0.9	4.9	-1.6	22.2	0.4	1,953	2.2	-32.6	-1.6	0.75
West Midlands	71.2	1.3	6.4	-1.5	23.7	-0.2	2,455	2.9	-31.1	-1.3	0.75
East of England	76.7	0.6	4.4	-1.0	19.7	0.3	2,539	1.6	-35.9	-1.4	0.77
London	72.1	1.0	6.2	-1.6	23.1	0.2	4,861	2.1	-27.5	-1.7	0.92
South East	77.2	1.0	4.2	-0.8	19.3	-0.4	3,945	1.3	-31.7	-1.0	0.81
South West	77.6	1.5	4.3	-0.6	18.9	-1.1	2,346	1.3	-35.5	-0.8	0.81
England	73.8	1.1	5.4	-1.3	21.9	0.0	24,458	2.1	-33.1	-1.6	0.79
Wales	69.4	-0.4	6.7	-0.1	25.4	0.5	1,200	3.1	-27.6	-1.3	0.71
Scotland	74.5	1.2	6.0	-0.5	20.7	-0.8	2,397	2.8	-24.6	-1.4	0.76
Great Britain	73.6	1.0	5.5	-1.2	21.9	0.0	28,152	2.2	-32.0	-1.6	0.78
N Ireland	68.3	0.6	6.2	-1.0	26.9	0.1	719	5.0	-20.9	-2.0	0.71
United Kingdom	73.5	1.0	5.5	-1.2	22.1	0.0	28,872	2.3	-31.4	-1.6	0.78

¹ Employment and economic inactivity rates are based on working age population (16-64); Unemployment rates are based on 16+ population.

² Data refer to percentage point change of respective rate.

³ As at December 2014 (thousands).

⁴ As at April 2015: percentage of the workforce.

⁵ Not seasonally adjusted – data relates to 2012. Jobs Density – total number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in that area.

Further Information

9

Unemployment

The definition of unemployment used in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is in accordance with that promulgated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO unemployed include 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.

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 table 1 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 unadjusted for seasonality, 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 January – March 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.

Please see attached link for further LFS notes and definitions:

[Labour Force Survey Notes and Definitions](#)

LFS revisions

LFS microdata have recently been revised to incorporate estimates from the 2011 Census. The revision effect 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.

Hours Worked

Due to current resource pressures, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has discontinued the publication of the Regional Workforce Hours data series. The Hours worked section now details data on the average actual hours worked as estimated by the LFS.

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 Northern Ireland level. Seasonally Adjusted totals are subject to an annual update, which revises back for 3 years (usually April) to take account of latest assessment trends. 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](#)

The 'Flows' data contained in section three is sourced to the Official of National Statistics (via the NOMIS website). Claimants appear as flows if they have either joined or left the count in the reference period or if they joined the count in a previous period, but were only processed during the reference period.

Universal Credit

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

Universal Credit will progressively roll out from October 2013 in GB and Initially new claimants will begin to move to Universal Credit instead of Jobseeker's Allowance, with a migration of the existing caseload and recipients of other welfare benefits following at a later date.

Further details will be available nearer the time.

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 September 2014 seasonally adjusted estimate first published in December 2014 has subsequently been revised down (0.2%). For further details of QES revisions please see link below:

[QES Background Information](#)

Government Targets

Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) are used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PSA targets) See [Programme for Government](#) for further details. The LFS and QES data feed into productivity estimates for NI and are therefore indirectly used to measure progress towards PSA 1: Productivity growth. In addition, LFS data is used to measure the proportion of the working age population qualified to Skill levels 2 and 3. This data therefore feeds into the measurement of PSA 2: Skills for prosperity.

Details of progress towards these targets can be found at:

[Programme for Government Delivery Report](#)

**For further information:
AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT
WITH ASSOCIATED HYPERLINKS IS AVAILABLE
ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE BRANCH WEBSITE
AT:**

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index.htm>

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