

Economic Activity in Northern Ireland

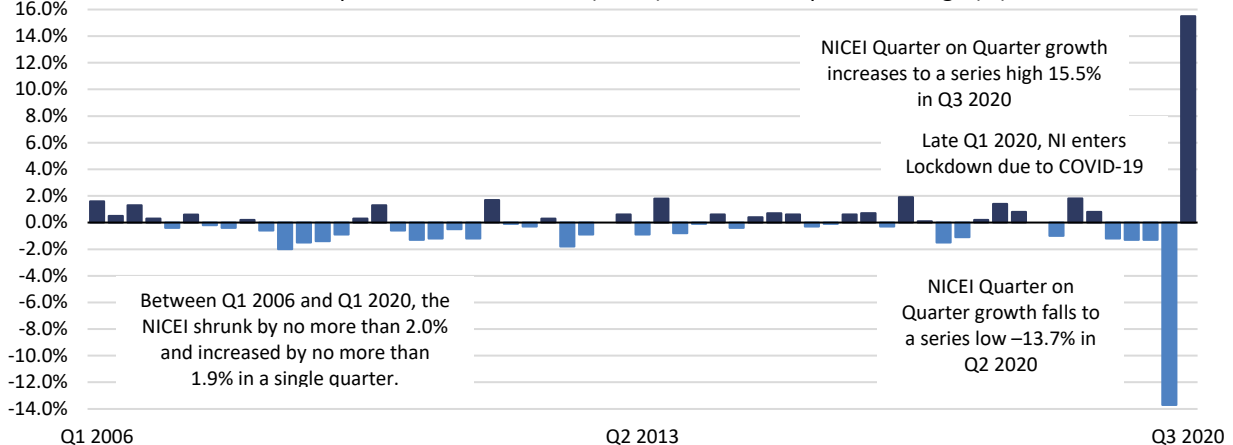
by quarterly NI Composite Economic Index (NICEI)

Quarter 3 (July – September) 2020

Experimental statistics

Economic activity increased in real terms over the quarter to Quarter 3 2020. Achieving the highest quarter on quarter growth in the series, following the lowest quarter on quarter growth in the previous Quarter.

Chart 1: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI), Quarter on quarter change (%), Q1 2006 – Q3 2020



| Quarterly growth | Annual growth | Annualised growth | Private Sector | | Public Sector | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Quarterly | Annual | Quarterly | Annual |
| 15.5% | -2.9% | -5.7% | 21.4% | -3.8% | -0.4% | 0.5% |
| Q3 2020 compared with Q2 2020 | Q3 2020 compared with Q3 2019 | Q4 2019 to Q3 2020 compared with Q4 2018 to Q3 2019 | Annualised -7.7% | | Annualised 1.2% | |

The results for the NICEI for Quarter 3 2020 show that economic output in Northern Ireland in real terms, increased by 15.5% over the quarter and decreased by 2.9% over the year to Quarter 3 2020. Annualised average growth (average of the four quarters to Quarter 3 2020 compared with the previous four quarters) equated to -5.7%.

Although the measures are not produced on a fully equivalent basis, [UK Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) increased by 16.0% over the quarter and decreased by 8.6% over the year to Quarter 3 2020. GDP increased in [Ireland](#), at a comparatively slower rate over the quarter (11.1%) and at a faster rate over the year (8.1%) to Quarter 3 2020.

Context

The Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI) is a quarterly measure of economic activity in NI based on available official statistics¹. The NICEI statistics in this release are experimental statistics which are still undergoing evaluation and are subject to revision (please refer to the background notes for further information).

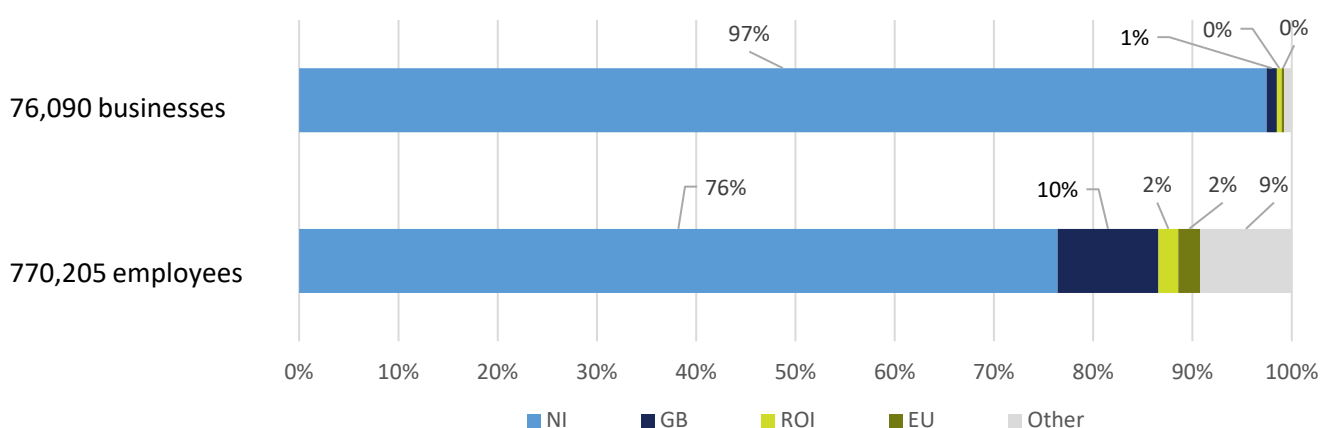
This report covers the period 1st July to 30th September 2020 (Q3 2020) and is the third NICEI release to cover the COVID-19 shock to the economy. Q2 2020 featured some of the strictest lockdown restrictions for the majority of the period resulting in the NICEI dropping to an all-time low point in Q2. Restrictions were relaxed during Q3 meaning that business activity was able to resume to a certain extent resulting in an increase in output. A timeline of the restrictions put in place in NI is detailed on pages 10 and 11.

NICEI estimates for Quarter 3 2020 are subject to more uncertainty than usual due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent periods of business closure. Further information is available in the Quality and methodology section of this release.

Profile of the Northern Ireland Economy

Latest figures from the NISRA [Inter Departmental Business Register](#) (IDBR) show that the number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Northern Ireland in 2020 is estimated to be 76,090; with 1,935 (2.5%) of these businesses having an ownership based outside of Northern Ireland. However despite the small share of the overall number of businesses, these organisations employ 181,740 (23.6%) of all employees in NI as demonstrated below.

Chart 2: Breakdown of NI Businesses & Employees by country of ownership

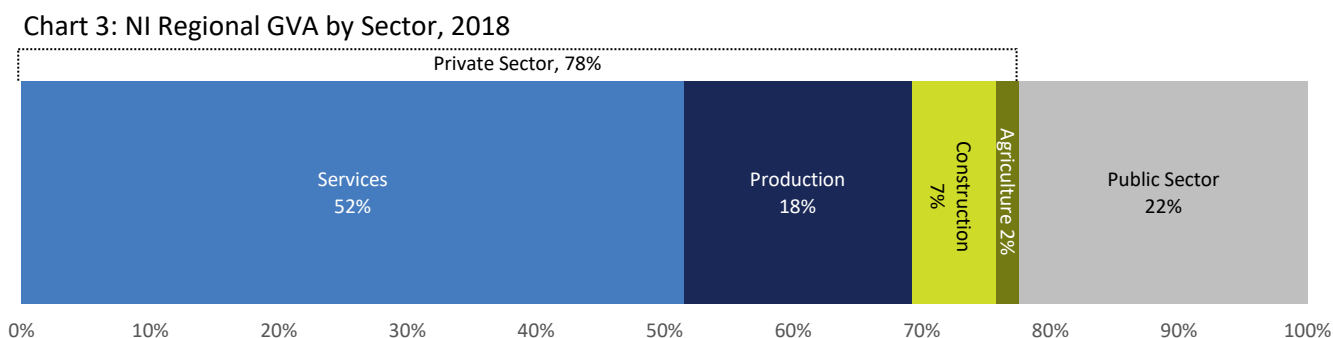


Source: NISRA [Inter Departmental Business Register](#); June 2020

¹ Published quarterly indices (Index of Services, Index of Production, Quarterly Construction Enquiry), public sector employee jobs data from the Quarterly Employment Survey, plus unpublished agricultural output data from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, are weighted using the ONS Regional Accounts Gross Value Added (GVA) data and combined to provide a proxy measure of total economic output.

Furthermore, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) estimates that in 2019 there were approximately 77,000 unregistered businesses, employing 83,000 people² which is in addition to the figures reported by the IDBR.

In terms of the value of the Northern Ireland economy, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate that in 2018 Gross Value Added (GVA)³ was £42.2bn. The below illustrates the sectoral breakdown of the NI Economy based on ONS regional GVA data. These figures are used to weight the respective industries' contribution to the overall output calculations for NI.



Uses of the NICEI

The NICEI is broadly equivalent to the output measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is used to measure the performance of the NI economy.

The NICEI is used to help monitor progress of a range of key government strategies in NI, notably the draft [Programme for Government](#) and [Industrial Strategy](#). The statistics in this release are also used by a broad range of users with an interest in assessing and reporting on the level of economic activity here, such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS), economists in the public and private sector, academics, media and the general public.

We welcome feedback to help us improve and add value to these statistics. Users with an in-depth interest in the area are also welcome to join our economic accounts user group. Contact David.Leonard@nisra.gov.uk.

The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview](#) section of the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics \(ELMS\)](#) section of the NISRA website.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/business-population-estimates-2020>

³ As measured using the balanced approach. Further information can be found [here](#).

Draft Programme for Government - Wellbeing Framework

Outcomes: *We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy*

Indicator: *Private sector NI Composite Economic Index*

Private sector NICEI is a population indicator included in the wellbeing framework overarching the draft Programme for Government. The indicator is updated on an annual basis and is based on the average of the 4 quarters in the relevant calendar year.

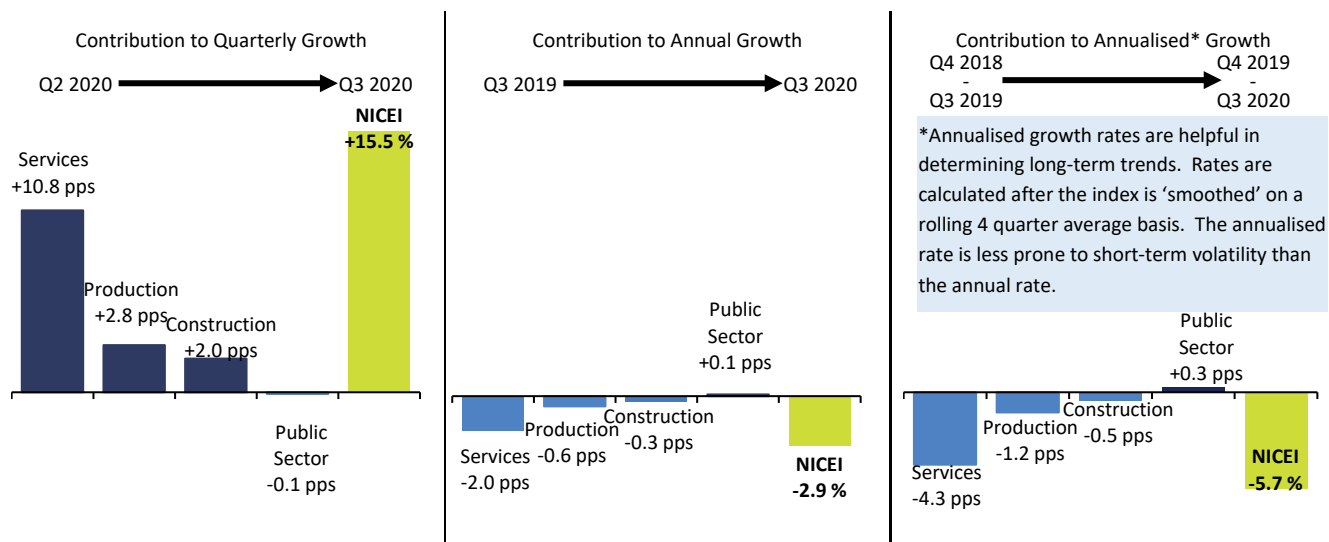
Latest position: Following the publication of this statistical bulletin (Q3 2020), Private sector NICEI stood at 100.8 in 2019, 4.1% higher than the position in the 2015 baseline year (96.8).

The latest position in relation to all population indicators in the wellbeing framework is available at this [link](#).

Contribution of sectors to overall NICEI growth

The increase in economic growth over the quarter to Q3 2020 was driven by increases in all the private sector components of the economy. Meanwhile the reduction in economic growth over the year and rolling annual average was driven by decreases in all the private sector components of the economy.

Chart 4: NICEI, Contribution to quarterly, annual and annualised growth



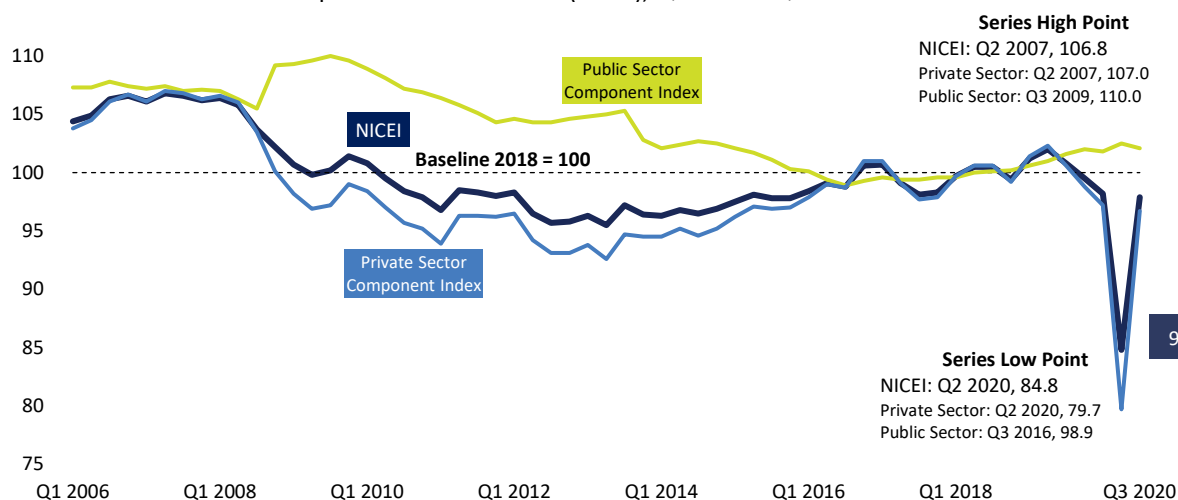
The increase in the NICEI over the latest quarter (15.5%) was driven by increased activity in the Services, Production and Construction sectors; which had positive contributions of 10.8 percentage points (pps), 2.8 pps and 2.0 pps respectively. This was partially offset by a reduction in the Public sector (a contribution of 0.1 pps).

The 5.7% annualised decrease in the NICEI (i.e. average of the four quarters to Quarter 3 2020 compared with the previous four quarters) was driven by decreased activity in the Services (a negative contribution of 4.3 pps), Production (a negative contribution of 1.2 pps) and Construction sectors (a negative contribution of 0.5 pps). This was partially offset by growth in the Public sector (a contribution of 0.3 pps).

Long-term NICEI trend

Economic activity had increased gradually in recent years, following the prolonged downturn post 2007. In Q3 2020, the NICEI and Private Sector Component Index achieved the highest Q on Q growth in the series, following the lowest Q on Q growth in the previous Quarter. This resulted in a pronounced 'V' in the indices, which coincides with the period of strict lockdown followed by a relaxation of restrictions.

Chart 5: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI), Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

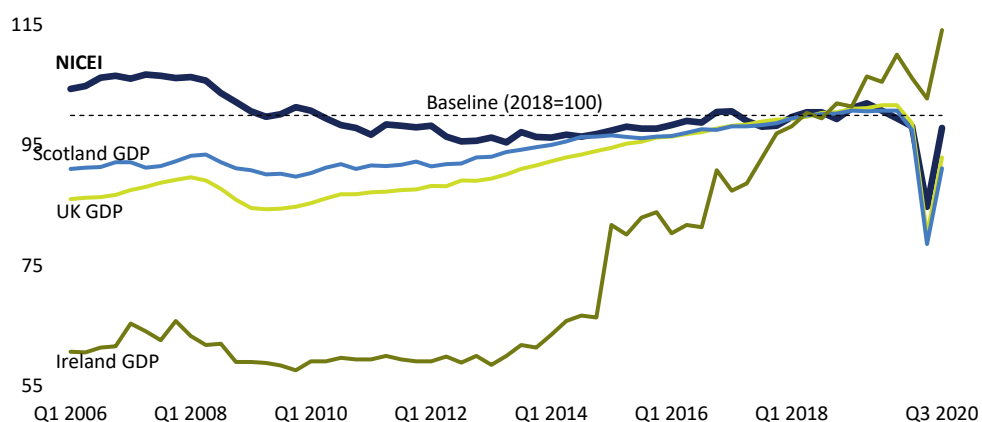


NICEI is currently 8.3% below the maximum value recorded in Quarter 2 2007. Over the last 5 calendar years, annualised growth has ranged between -5.7% and 1.8%, averaging 0.2% annualised growth per annum. The notable sharp increase in growth over the last quarter follows a reduction in the previous quarter to the series lows of the NICEI and Private Sector Component Index, this trend coincides with the period of imposing and relaxing lockdown restrictions in response to COVID-19. The NICEI time series is available in Table 1 in Appendix 1 and the accompanying data spreadsheet.

Comparison with measures of GDP

The level of economic activity in NI has increased sharply following the sudden decline to the series low in the previous quarter. NI is currently 8.3% below the maximum value recorded in Q2 2007. UK GDP also experienced a pronounced ‘V’ shape trend over the last few quarters and is now estimated to be 8.6% below its maximum in Q4 2019.

Chart 6: NICEI, comparison with selected GDP measures Q1 2006 – Q3 2020



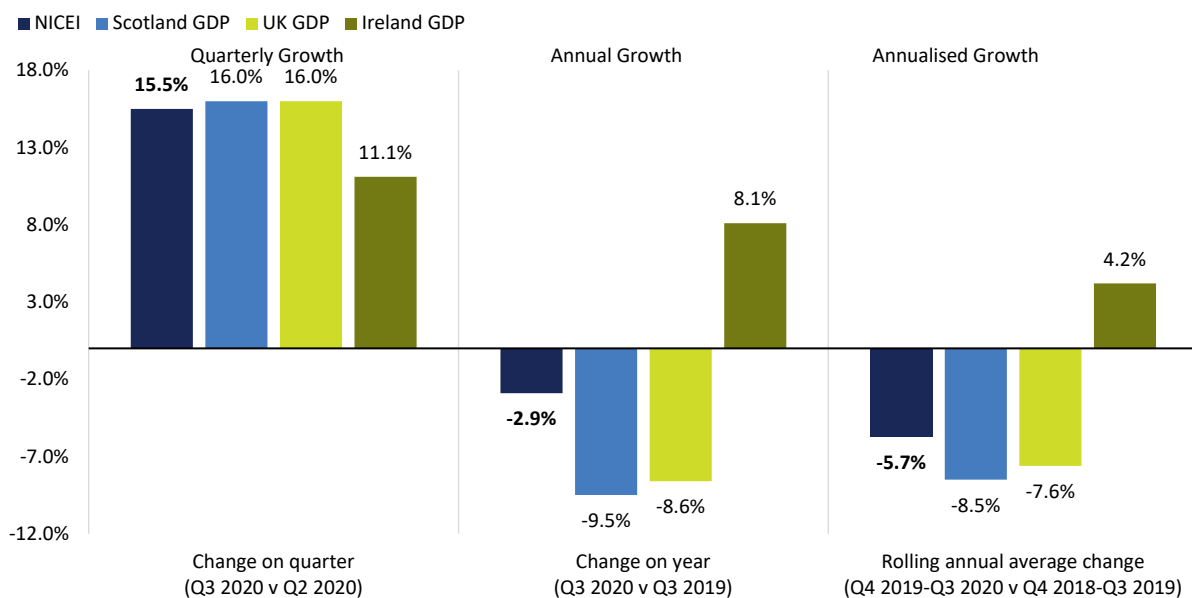
Although the [NICEI methodology](#) has been shown to provide a close short term approximation to the UK GDP series, readers are advised that due to differences in the underlying methodologies the measures presented here should not be considered as precisely like-for-like. The data are provided to give readers an indicative comparison of the levels of economic activity in the relevant countries.

Over the last 10 years, the UK has reported GDP growth in 34 of the last 40 quarters, whereas the NICEI has reported growth in 18 of the last 40 quarters. Recently growth has been slowing and over the last 2 years, NI has experienced ‘negative growth’ in 5 of the last 8 quarters. Over the same period the UK experienced 2 quarters of ‘negative growth’.

While NICEI is currently 8.3% below the maximum value recorded in Quarter 2 2007, UK GDP in Quarter 3 2020 is estimated to be 3.7% higher than its pre-economic downturn peak of Quarter 1 2008. That said, it’s worth noting in Chart 6, the NICEI achieved its series high in Q2 2007, whereas the UK reached its series high much more recently in Q4 2019. This suggests that the UK has had a shorter downturn since the 2008 recession and a faster recovery.

NI experienced slightly lower growth over the quarter compared to the UK and Scotland but performed relatively better over the year and rolling annual average. Economic activity in Ireland was positive over the quarter, year and annualised 4 quarters.

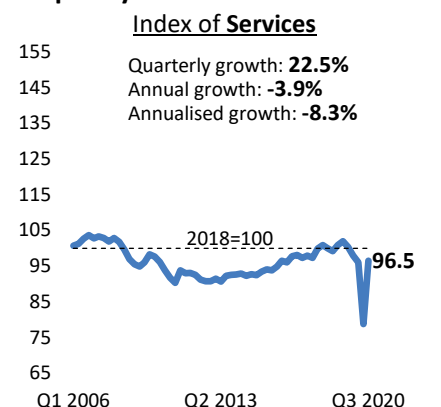
Chart 7: Quarterly, annual and annualised change, NICEI compared with selected GDP measures to Q3 2020



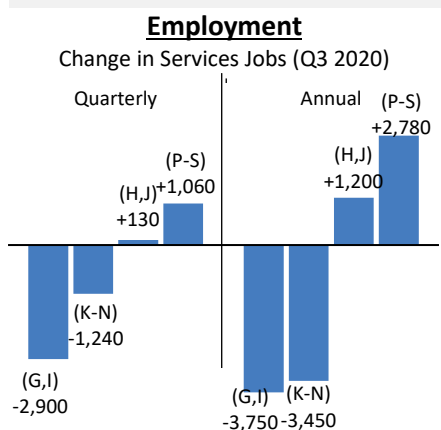
The NICEI indicates NI Economic Activity increased at a slower rate than UK GDP over the quarter (15.5% vs 16.0%), however UK GDP declined at a faster rate than the NICEI over the year (-8.6% vs -2.9%) and as measured through the average annualised growth (-7.6% vs -5.7%). In terms of growth rates, Ireland performed the best across the year and annualised 4 quarters.

Economic context to Q3 2020

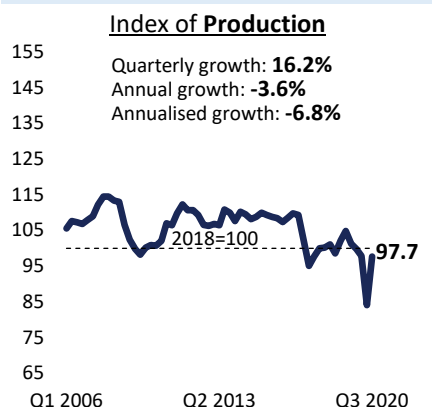
Output by sector



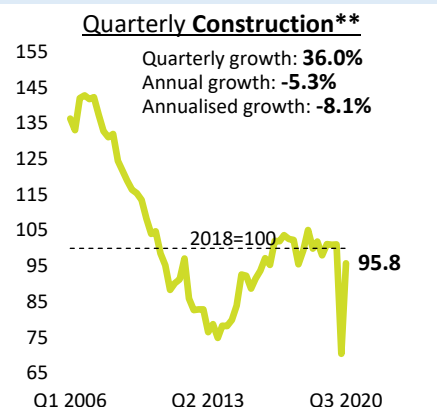
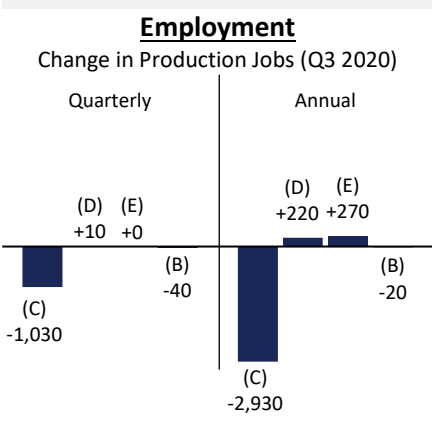
| Growth by Sector | Quarterly | Annual | Annualised |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| (G,I) Wholesale & retail, motor vehicle repair, accommodation & food | 26.7% | 0.3% | -6.5% |
| (K-N) Business services & finance | 9.9% | -9.0% | -9.7% |
| (H,J) Transport, storage, Information & communication | 17.3% | -6.6% | -7.6% |
| (P-S) Other services | 50.4% | -18.2% | -18.8% |



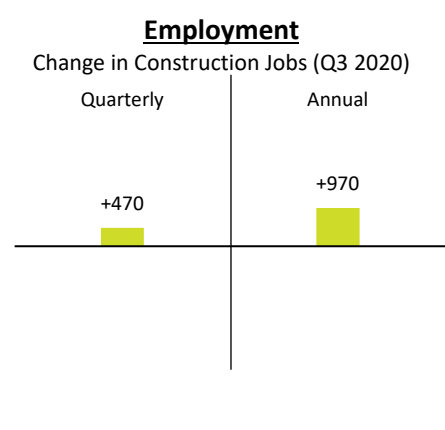
To access further detail, click on the underlined titles which link to the publications on the [NISRA website](#)



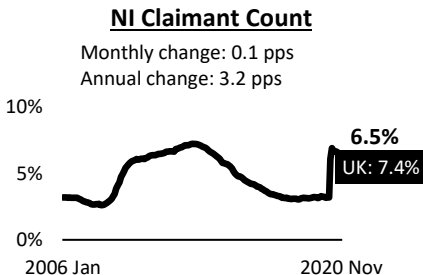
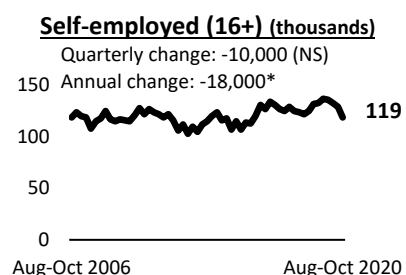
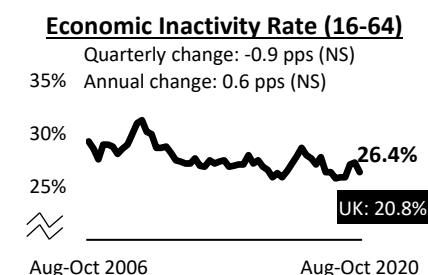
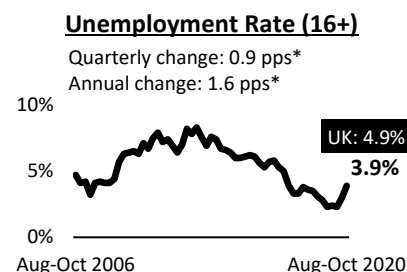
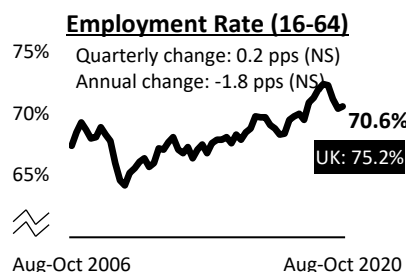
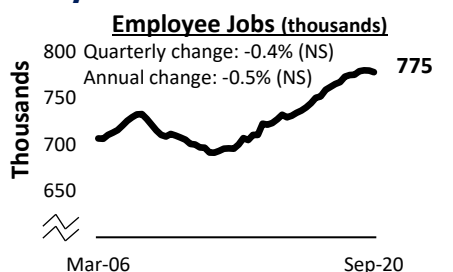
| Growth by Sector | Quarterly | Annual | Annualised |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| (C) Manufacturing | 18.0% | -2.3% | -5.8% |
| (D) Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning | 5.5% | -4.1% | -6.3% |
| (E) Water supply, sewerage & waste | 7.1% | -16.9% | -15.2% |
| (B) Mining & quarrying | 50.0% | 15.3% | -8.9% |



| Growth by Sector | Quarterly | Annual | Annualised |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| New work | 32.8% | -5.1% | -6.4% |
| Repair & Maintenance | 31.7% | -6.2% | -11.5% |



Key Labour Market Indicators



*statistically significant change (NS) not a statistically significant change **All construction i.e. including public sector

Economic commentary

The following section discusses the performance of the NI economy, how the NICEI component sub-sectors have performed and how the NICEI results compare with comparable figures for the UK, Scotland and Ireland.

This section provides an overview of how other important indicators, such as the labour market, mobility of people, consumer confidence and trade have performed since our last publication. These indicators all play a role in illustrating how the NI economy is affected by the current climate and help to understand what is driving the NICEI results.

We also provide an overview of government interventions in place to support businesses in these challenging times and provide the most up to date information on the uptake of these initiatives which again helps to understand the climate in which NI businesses are operating and the state of the local economy.

This is discussed under the following sub-sections:

- NICEI results in context;
- The NICEI and sub-sector results;
- Labour market performance;
- Impact on Mobility;
- Consumer spending;
- Measures implemented in response to COVID-19;
- Trade; and
- Looking forward.

NICEI results in context

This report covers the period 1st July to 30th September 2020 (Q3 2020) and is the third NICEI release to cover the COVID-19 shock to the economy.

Q2 2020 featured the implementation of some of the strictest lockdown measures in response to COVID-19 which placed restrictions on people movement and business operations. This situation resulted in reduced economic activity across the board with all types of business activity experiencing unprecedented shocks. Whilst the restrictions around the opening of businesses and retailers began to ease in June, the extent of the shock to the economy during the quarter is reflected in the NICEI reporting the largest quarterly decrease ever recorded (-13.7%) over the quarter to Q2 2020 coinciding with the NICEI hitting an all-time series low point in Q2 2020.

Entering Q3 2020 the restrictions continued to ease with hotels, bars (that serve food), restaurants and cafes, alongside close contact services permitted to reopen during July 2020. The Eat Out To Help Out scheme was introduced during the month of August to boost consumer confidence and stimulate demand to support the struggling hospitality industry and by mid-September wet bars were permitted to reopen.

However during September the number of cases of Covid-19 and associated deaths began to rise again resulting in further restrictions on people movement and socialising being implemented.

Given the above context it is not surprising that when the economy moved from a period of strict lockdown measures including large scale business closures during Q2 to the relaxation of many measures and the reopening of businesses during Q3 that there would be a demonstrable increase in output in Q3 compared to Q2.

The table below provides an overview of when specific restrictions were implemented/eased in NI since March 2020.

| Timeline of NI Lockdown measures: March - December 2020 | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Quarter 1 2020 | 23 March 2020 | The Prime Minister announces a nationwide lockdown to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Measures included the closure of all shops selling non-essential items. People were only permitted to leave their home to shop for basic necessities, to exercise, for a medical need or to commute to work, but only where it is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home. |
| | 28 March 2020 | The Executive agreed to adopt new powers from 11pm in response to the threat to public health posed by COVID-19. The powers compelled the closure of certain premises, prohibited anyone from leaving home without a reasonable excuse and gatherings of more than two people were banned. |
| Quarter 2 2020 | 14 May 2020 | Lockdown measures begin to be eased, with garden centres and household recycling centres permitted to open the following week. Marriage ceremonies were permitted in certain circumstances. |
| | 18 May 2020 | Further restrictions lifted - outdoor gatherings are permitted for up to six people not from the same household. Churches were allowed to open for private prayer, sports such as golf and tennis were permitted. |
| | 11 June 2020 | Restrictions lifted included indoor visits with one other household for those living alone, the provision of day-care places of worship and community centres, the opening up of the remainder of the retail sector and the housing market. |
| Quarter 3 2020 | 3 July 2020 | Hotels, pubs, cafes and restaurants were permitted to open their doors for the first time since lockdown. |
| | 9 July 2020 | A number of announcements relating to further easing lockdown was announced including: The reopening of indoor fitness studios and gyms; bingo halls and amusement arcades; outdoor leisure playgrounds, courts and gyms; and cinemas from 10 July. The resumption of horse racing and outdoor equestrian competitions and outdoor competitive games and sporting events from July 11 for grassroots and professional sport but with no spectators allowed. The reopening of libraries from July 16, with protocols enacted to ensure social distancing. The reopening of indoor sport and leisure facilities, including skating rinks and leisure centres on July 17, but excluding swimming pools. |
| | 24 July 2020 | Further easing of lockdown restrictions, including: The maximum number of people who can gather in a residential setting increased from six to 10, with a requirement that they come from no more than four different households and an expectation that social distancing and other public health advice is observed. Spectators will be able to attend outdoor competitive games with numbers to be determined by the venue in line with public health advice. Swimming pools in leisure centres, hotels and private facilities will be able to open. |

| Timeline of NI Lockdown measures: March - December 2020 | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | Wet treatments in spas, such as saunas, steam rooms and hydrotherapy pools will be permitted to resume. Bowling alleys will be allowed to reopen. |
| | 20 August 2020 | Restrictions tightened to reduce the number of people that can meet indoors to six people from two households. The number of people that can participate in an outdoor gathering, including in a private garden, reduces to 15 people. |
| | 21 September 2020 | Further restrictions announced including no mixing of households in private dwellings with certain exemptions and no more than six people from two different households to gather in a garden. |
| | 23 September 2020 | Restrictions eased wet pubs permitted to open. |
| | 29 September 2020 | Restrictions announced for Hospitality sector pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes must close at 11pm. |
| Quarter 4 2020 | 14 October 2020 | Further restrictions announced including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of hospitality sector apart from deliveries and takeaways for food, closing time of 11pm remains. • Close contact services such as hairdressers and beauticians not permitted to open. • Gyms may remain open for individual training only. • Work from home unless unable to do so. • No unnecessary travel should be undertaken. • Half term break for schools and colleges extended to a two week break to run from 19th to 30th October. |
| | 19 November 2020 | Two-week circuit breaker announced which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of all retail except essential retail. • Closure of close contact services and driving instruction (not motorcyles). • Closure of all hospitality (except for accommodation for essential travel), Takeaway and delivery services permitted to remain open. • Closure of all leisure and entertainment. • Schools and childcare to remain open. |
| | 4 December 2020 | Restrictions eased. Shops, hairdressers, restaurants, places of worship and hotels permitted to re-open from 11 th December. |
| | 8 December 2020 | NI COVID-19 Vaccination programme begins. |
| | 26 December 2020 | Restrictions increased for a period of 6 weeks from December 26 th to 6 th February with a review on 21 st January. Staying at home is a legal requirement, unless there is a reasonable excuse to leave. All retail businesses are required to close, except for essential retail. Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs must remain closed with the exception of takeaway, drive through and delivery. Leisure and entertainment venues are not permitted to open. Pre-school, primary and post primary schools are required to provide remote learning to pupils until the half term break in mid-February. |

NICEI and sub-sector results

In terms of NI's economic performance to Q3 2020, the NICEI indicates NI economic output increased by 15.5% in real terms over the quarter and decreased by 2.9% over the year to Quarter 3 2020.

The annualised rate of growth (i.e. the most recent four quarters compared to the previous four quarters) decreased by 5.7% over the period. The general trend particularly with the annualised rate of growth was indicating that the NI economy was slowing before the onset of the pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions (see Chart 5).

It is evident in Chart 4 that the private sector, which accounts for 78% of NI GVA, has been driving the positive growth over the quarter and driving the negative growth over the year and rolling four quarter average.

Over the shorter term (i.e. quarter) the private sub-sectors provided a positive contribution to overall NICEI growth, driven primarily by the Service sector (10.8 pps) with the Production and Construction sectors contributing 2.8 pps and 2.0 pps, respectively. Meanwhile over the medium term (i.e. annual) the private sub-sector elements provided a negative contribution to overall NICEI growth, this was driven by the Services sector (-2.0 pps), the Production sector (-0.6 pps) and Construction (-0.3 pps).

Looking at the performance of the sub-sectors of the Index of Services in the Economic Context to Q3 2020 section (Page 8), across all sub categories growth was positive for the quarter. Most significantly there was a 50.4% increase in (P-S) Other Services. The 'Other Services' category accounts for 16.7% of the overall Service sector. The (G,I) Wholesale & retail, motor vehicle repair, accommodation & food, which accounts for 36.1% of the Service sector grew 26.7% over the quarter.

With the exception of (G,I) Wholesale & retail, motor vehicle repair, accommodation & food which increased by 0.3% over the year to Q3 2020. The remaining sub categories reduced over the year, including (P-S) Other Services (-18.2%) and (K-N) Business services & finance which fell by -9.0%.

Similarly, the sub-sectors of the Index of Production experienced growth over the quarter and a reduction over the year. With the exception of (B) Mining & Quarrying which experienced the highest positive growth over the quarter (50.0%) and increased by 15.3% over the year.

Manufacturing (C) output increased by 18.0% over the quarter and fell by -2.3% over the year. Meanwhile (E) Water supply, sewerage & waste sector increased by 7.1% over the quarter but experienced largest reduction in the Index of Production over the year (-16.9%) to Q3 2020.

Looking at the breakdown of the Construction sector, (via the Quarterly Construction Enquiry) on page 8, the increase over the quarter was driven by increases in 'New Work' 32.8% and 'Repair & Maintenance' 31.7%. Over the year to Q3 2020 these sub sectors reduced by -5.1% and -6.2% respectively.

Furthermore comparisons with the GDP of the UK, Scotland and Ireland (see chart 7) indicates NI experienced a slightly lower increase in growth over the quarter (15.5%) compared to the UK and Scotland (both 16.0%). However over the year and rolling four quarters NI output reduced at a lower rate -2.9% and -5.7% respectively compared to the UK (-8.6% and -7.6%) and Scotland (-9.5% and -8.5%). Economic activity in Ireland remained positive over the quarter, year and annualised 4 quarters.

Chart 6 indicates NI, Scotland and UK output all fell to their minimum level over the time period in Q2 2020. It can also be seen that the NICEI achieved its series high in Q2 2007 whereas the UK reached its series high much more recently in Q4 2019. This suggests that the UK has had a shorter downturn since the 2008 recession and a faster recovery prior to COVID-19.

Labour market performance

Looking at the recent trends from the latest [labour market statistics](#) published by NISRA, the NI Claimant Count, which includes Jobseeker's Allowance claimants and those claimants of Universal Credit who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed, increased to 6.5% in November 2020 (59,900 people). This is more than double the number recorded in March (29,800 people). Since May 2020, the claimant count has been at a similar level to those seen in 2012 and 2013.

Data for August-October 2020 shows that there were statistically significant changes to the NI Unemployment Rate (16+) over the quarter (+0.9 pps) and the year (+1.6 pps). The annual change in Self-employed (16+) over this period of -18,000 was also statistically significant.

The increases in the unemployment rate, claimant count and self-employment all indicate a weakening of the NI labour market which is consistent with the current economic shock arising from COVID-19. In addition, at 30.6 hours, the average number of hours worked per week is estimated to be 3.1 hours lower than the same period last year. It should be noted that the employment rate and also employee jobs figures quoted both include furloughed workers, as those who are temporarily away from work and expected to return to are included within the Employment definition (further detail on the number of furloughed workers and those claiming through the self-employed support scheme is available on page 16).

The remaining changes across the Self-employed (16+), Employment Rate (16-64) and Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64) were not statistically significant to August to October 2020; this is also the case for Employee Jobs to September 2020.

Impact on Mobility

One of the key features of the lockdown restrictions put in place has been the impact on mobility, people movement and transportation. There has been large reductions in the volume of traffic around the NI and Ireland border, air traffic and commercial footfall. All of this reduced activity has ultimately contributed to reduced consumer spending, tourism and general business activity, contributing to a fall in economic output.

- **Cross Border Traffic flows**

Latest figures from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic Data website which is collected from 15 traffic counters at border locations⁴ on the National Road Network of Ireland show a sharp decline in all traffic at these border locations compared with the same month in the previous year between July and September 2020 (Q3 2020).

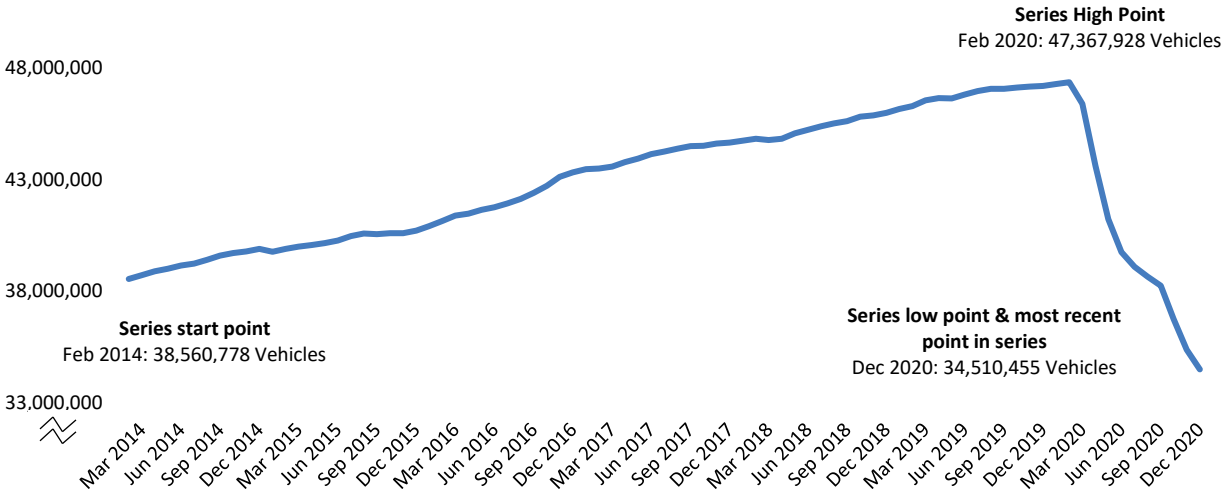
The chart below shows the rolling 12 month volumes for all traffic from March 2014; the impact of the pandemic and associated lockdown measures can be clearly seen from March 2020. Further NISRA analysis of the data⁵ shows that in March 2020 the volume of traffic dropped from 2.9m vehicles in March to 1.1m in April, a decrease of 61.3%. In April 2020, the volume of traffic has reduced by 71.2% compared to April 2019.

⁴ Users should note that the data is collected at fifteen border locations, and are therefore a subset of all border crossings and would not present full coverage of all vehicle border crossings. Due to the location of the traffic counters, it is possible that vehicles captured in the data do not cross the Northern Ireland-Ireland border.

⁵ More detailed analysis by vehicle types and month can be found [here](#).

There has been a sharp 27.1% reduction in all vehicle traffic at border locations on the National Road Network of Ireland between February and December 2020 as measured by the rolling 12 month counts.

Chart 8: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) traffic count of all vehicles at the fifteen NI-IE border sites; rolling 12 months Feb 2014 onwards



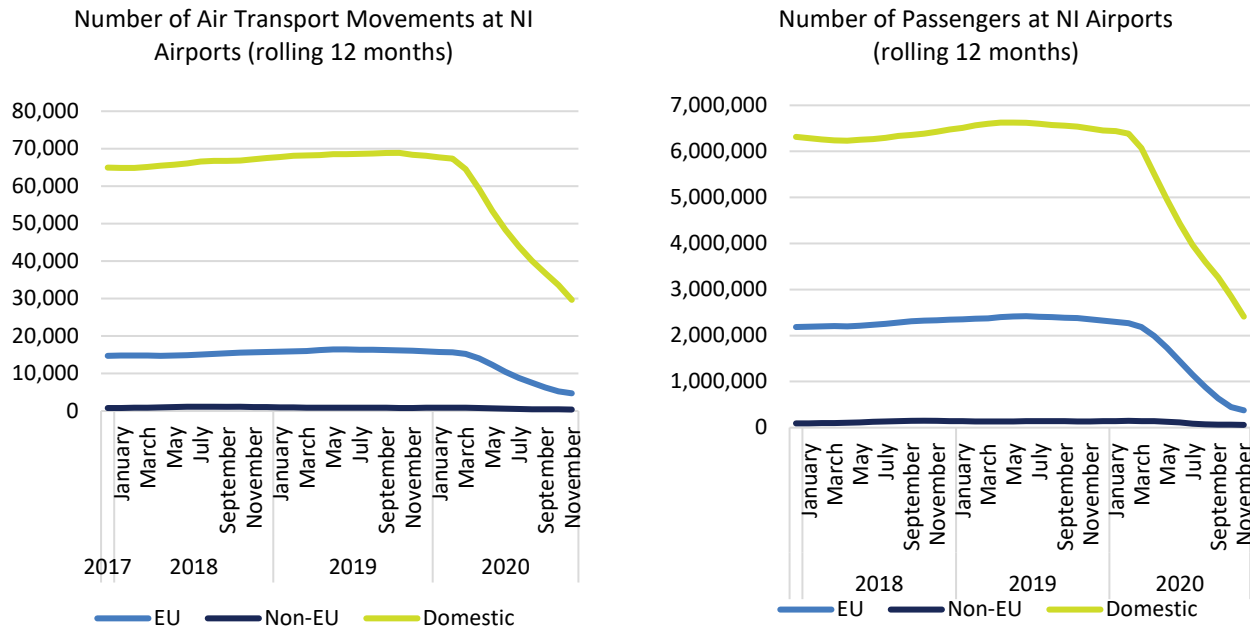
- Activity at NI airports

Similarly, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) data shows a sharp decline in the number of air transport movements at NI airports since February. Air travel has dropped significantly since lockdown was introduced. In February 2020 there were 559,213 passengers moving through NI airports; this fell to 296,860 in March, a 46.9% reduction. The numbers have continued to fall to May 2020 when there were only 6,078 passengers recorded across all three of NI’s airports. This represents a reduction of 99.3% compared to May 2019. That said, passenger numbers had started to increase since May rising to 254,499 in August, since then passengers numbers has continued to fall to 68,557 in November 2020. This represents a significant 88.4% reduction when compared to November 2019 when 590,950 passengers passed through NI airports.

The scale of the decline in activity is clear when you look at the rolling 12-month numbers of transport movements and passenger numbers at NI airports i.e. the sum of movements over the 12 months up to the current period.

There has been a significant reduction in air transport movements and the number of passengers at NI Airports since February. Falling 58.6% and 67.7% respectively between February and November 2020 as measured by the rolling 12 month figure

Chart 9: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) number of transport movements and air passengers at NI airports, December 2017 – November 2020



Source: [Airport Data, Civil Aviation Authority](#)

Consumer spending

Uncertainty around job security combined with the imposition and relaxation of restrictions on people movement and business operations has meant that consumer spending has been volatile over the last couple of quarters. This is apparent in the 26.7% increase over the quarter (a series growth high) to Q3 2020 experienced by the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; accommodation and food service (sectors G & I) following a 17.5% decrease over the quarter (a series growth low) in the previous quarter as reported by the NISRA [Index of Services](#).

- **Consumer confidence**

Danske Bank report there has been a decline in NI consumer confidence to the third quarter of 2020 as a result of the pandemic, Brexit and the performance of the economy. The Danske Bank Northern Ireland Consumer Confidence Index⁶ decreased to 119 in Q3 2020, down from 122 in Q2 2020 and below the value of 131 for Q3 2019.

Other salient points from the report include a reported fall in consumers' expectations regarding their financial position over the next 12 months with 26% of respondents reporting that they expected their finances to worsen over the next twelve months. This compares to 18% reporting that they expected their financial position to improve. It was also reported that 15% of respondents expected their job security to worsen.

⁶ [Danske Bank Consumer Confidence Index 2020 Q3](#) Note that the survey was carried out during September, before the four-week period of more stringent coronavirus restrictions was announced.

- Car registrations

According to [The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders](#) there has been a notable reduction in new car registrations at the UK level. To the end of December 2020 there has been a 29.4% reduction in new car registrations over the year to date (1,631,064), compared with the same period last year (2,311,140).

Measures implemented in response to COVID-19

Although the full effects of COVID-19 on the local economy aren't known at this stage, the impact is likely to be significant. Government has been implementing a range of measures to support businesses and workers to help mitigate the economic shock. An update on a number of these measures is provided below.

- **UK Government Measures**

In response to the pandemic the UK government has implemented a range of support packages to help businesses to survive the sudden shock to the economy. The uptake of these schemes also provides a further indication of the scale of the downturn in economic activity.

The UK government implemented the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)⁷ on the 20th March 2020 in order to support employers who have been unable to undertake their normal activities through the COVID-19 period. The CJRS has recently been extended until 30th April 2021.

HMRC report that up to the 30th September (end of Q3 2020) 54,100 staff in Northern Ireland were either fully or partially furloughed through the CJRS. Out of 791,000 eligible employments, an up take rate of 6.8%.

In addition, the government also introduced the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) which provides support for self-employed individuals whose business has been adversely affected by COVID-19. A third SEISS grant is available to eligible self-employed individuals whose business has had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021, which will result in a significant reduction in profits. The third grant must be claimed on or before 29 January and is worth 80% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.

To the 30th September (end of Q3 2020) 66,000 claims were made (out of 96,000 potentially eligible population, an up take rate of 69%) to the second Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS); these claims totalled £163m⁸.

- **NI Government Measures**

At the Northern Ireland level, the Executive announced a further suite of support packages specifically aimed at NI businesses.

In November 2020, the Executive announced a [number of business support packages](#). Which include:

- £95 million for a High Street Voucher Scheme for a pre-paid card for use on the high street,
- £20 million to support company directors who have been without support up until now,

⁷ [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics: November 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme statistics: October 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- £20 million to extend the 12 month rate holiday to the manufacturing sector,
- £10.6 million to support 1,000 wet pubs which are experiencing additional financial hardship,
- £5 million to top-up the Tourism and Hospitality Scheme
- £4.1 million for Bed and Breakfast which previously missed out on business support because they pay domestic rates, and
- £3 million to help local businesses grow their online sales.

In November, the closing date for applications to the [Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme \(CRBSS\)](#) was extended to mid-December to cover the latest restrictions agreed by the Executive. The CRBSS provides financial support to eligible businesses who are required to close or severely limit their business.

The Executive announced on the 8th January 2021 a [Localised Restrictions Support Scheme \(LRSS\)](#), which subject to eligibility, provides top up payments to businesses impacted by the six week period of restrictions which came into effect on 26 December 2020. Depending on the rateable value (Net Annual Value) of the business, businesses will receive a payment of between £800 and £1,600 per week for the six week period of restrictions.

A [Newly Self-Employed Support Scheme \(NSESS\)](#) was also announced which provides a one-off taxable grant of £3,500 to newly self-employed individuals whose businesses have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and who have not been able to access support from the UK government's Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

Trade

Most recent figures from the [HMRC Regional Trade Statistics](#)⁹ show that in the year to September 2020, the overall value of UK trade in goods exports decreased by 14% compared with the same period last year and the overall value of imports decreased by 16%.

At the NI level, exports of goods during the year to Q3 2020 (i.e. Q4 2019-Q3 2020) equated to £8.0 bn which represents a 13.5% decrease compared to the value of exports during the year to Q3 2019. NI's imports during the same period were £6.8bn which represents a decrease of 16.0% compared to the year to Q3 2019.

All UK countries (and English regions) experienced a decrease in exports and imports over the year to Q3 2020.

During this period NI's top export market was the Republic of Ireland (£3.0bn) and the top import market was also the Republic of Ireland (£2.1bn).

The top commodities traded by NI businesses was 'Machinery and transport equipment' with £2.8bn of exports (down 17.0% compared to the year to Q3 2019) and £1.6bn of imports (down 22.9% compared to the year to Q3 2019).

HMRC also report that when comparing Q3 2020 with Q3 2019, the total number of businesses exporting from the UK decreased by 11%. The number of businesses exporting decreased across all UK countries and all English regions also experienced a decrease in the number of businesses exporting. Similarly, the total number of businesses importing to the UK decreased by 6.4% in Q3 2020 compared to Q3 2019. Again, all UK countries and English regions experienced a decrease in the number of businesses importing.

⁹ Note that HMRC do not collect any data on trade between NI and GB

Looking forward....

The Q3 2020 figures represent a significant increase in output when compared to the Q2 results which reflected the impact of the extensive shock to the economy brought about by the imposition of lockdown measures. The growth in output during Q3 2020 was a result of an easing of lockdown restrictions. However given the rising rates of infection and substantial demands placed on the health service, restrictions have been tightened during the period beyond Q3. Indeed NI is currently in another lockdown scenario since December 26th which is expected to last until mid-February 2021. These restrictions are aimed at limiting the chances for the virus to spread between households and are due to be reviewed on the 21st January. Further information is available on the [NI Direct website](#).

The roll-out of the vaccination programme is a welcome development and in time is anticipated to improve the situation and ultimately have a positive impact on economic output.

In addition, the signing of a trade deal between the UK and EU in December removed the uncertainties posed by a no-deal BREXIT. However the implementation of the arrangements set out in the [NI Protocol](#) will inevitably create issues while traders in NI and GB become familiar with what the new requirements mean for them, what documentation is required and what they need to do to ensure goods flow effectively between Great Britain and NI.

Adapting to the new landscape created by COVID-19 on a global scale in addition to the uncertainties alongside the complexities posed by EU Exit means that NI businesses are faced with a challenging time ahead.

The extent of the full impact of the pandemic and EU Exit will become clearer as more data becomes available in the future.

Recent ELMS publications you may have missed...

[Research & Development Survey](#) - 08/12

[Work Quality](#) - 08/12

[Labour Market Report](#) - 15/12

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#) - 15/12

[Index of Services](#) – 17/12

[Index of Production](#) – 17/12

Other NISRA publications can be found on the [NISRA website](#).

Recent DfE publications you may have missed...

[Economic Impact of the four-week circuit breaker](#) –11/11

[Direct economic impact of Northern Ireland \(NI\) Protocol on the NI economy](#) – 14/12

[Research Bulletin 20/1: Analysing HGV movements between NI and GB using mobile network data](#) – 17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/2: International Competitiveness - Inclusive, sustainable growth](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/3: International Competitiveness – Succeeding Globally](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/4: Investment Levels in Northern Ireland](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/5: Exploring Labour Productivity in Northern Ireland](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/6: International Trade in Services](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/7: External Selling of Goods and Services: Rewards and Risks](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/8: Understanding Economic Shocks Using the FAI HEM Model for Northern Ireland](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/9: Impact of Coronavirus and the Latest Indicators for the UK Economy and Society](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/10: Skills Demanded by the Digital IT Sector](#) –17/12

[Research Bulletin 20/11: Covid-19 and the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#) –17/12
[Research Bulletin 20/12: The Impact of Covid-19 on Northern Ireland Business Activity](#) –17/12
[Economic and sectoral impact of eight weeks of autumn 2020 restrictions](#) –21/12
[The Impact of Covid-19 on the NI Economy: Modelled Results for Q3 2020](#) –21/12

Recent ONS publications you may have missed...

[Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society](#) –07/01
[Quarterly economic commentary: July to September 2020](#) –22/12

Upcoming ELMS releases

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Labour Market Review - 26/01 | Index of Services & Index of Production - 18/03 | Quarterly Construction Enquiry & NICEI – 08/04 |
|---|--|--|

David Leonard,
 Economist, NISRA Economic & Labour Market Statistics
David.leonard@nisra.gov.uk

Quality and methodology

Uncertainty

All estimates are subject to statistical uncertainty and for many well-established statistics we measure and publish the sampling error and non-sampling error associated with the estimate, using this as an indicator of accuracy.

Unlike many indicators that NISRA publish, there is no simple way of measuring the accuracy of the NICEI. The NICEI is constructed from a variety of data sources, some of which are not based on random samples or do not have published sampling and non-sampling errors available. As such it is very difficult to measure both error aspects and their impact on the NICEI. As a result we don't publish a measure of the sampling error or non-sampling error associated with the NICEI.

One dimension of measuring accuracy is reliability, which can be measured using evidence from analyses of revisions to assess the closeness of earlier to subsequent estimates. Revisions are an inevitable consequence of the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy. It is our role to produce the best possible estimate of the NICEI using all of the available information at that time. Therefore, the only way to avoid subsequent revisions would be to either delay publication until all the relevant information has been received, or to publish an estimate and then ignore any subsequent new data and any methodological improvements. So, revisions should be treated as generally a good thing, as long as we document the reasons for them and communicate this to users.

All NICEI estimates are provisional and subject to revision in light of:

- Ongoing data validation and clarification of responses from individual businesses and late responses to surveys and administrative sources which form input to the Index.
- Revisions to seasonal adjustment factors, which are re-estimated every month and reviewed annually.
- Changes to the methodological processes used to gather and process the data and other revisions and developments implemented by the input sources.
- Incorporating new annual GVA data from the ONS.

The NICEI back series is calculated each quarter, typically the revisions to the NICEI are reasonably minor. That said comparing the Q3 2020 NICEI back series with the Q2 2020 back series, revisions to each quarter of the index ranged between -1.2 and 2.0 index points between Q3 2018 and Q2 2020. Prior to Q3 2018, each quarter of the index was revised between -0.3 to 2.1 index points.

This variance was driven by larger than normal revisions in the Index of Production and Index of Services. Normally, revisions in the IOS and IOP back series data are relatively minor but throughout 2020 these revisions have been larger. This is due to lower response rates and an increased number of late returns from businesses. There have also been revisions to the IOP deflators which created larger than normal changes in the back series data. Additionally, the update to the base year for both IOS and IOP in Quarter 3 2020 (from 2016 to 2018) has caused some minor revisions in the back series data. Further information on the revisions to these input sources can be found in the [IoS](#) and [IoP](#) bulletins.

A full comparison of the NICEI Series at Q3 2020 and Q2 2020 is available in Table 12 of the [NICEI spreadsheet](#).

Comparability with ONS regional annual GDP

ONS released [balanced estimates of Gross Value Added \(GVA \(B\)\) and GDP for the countries and regions of the UK](#) on 19th December 2019. This is the first annual estimate of GDP published by ONS at this level of disaggregation. Users should be aware that NISRA acknowledge that the trends presented by the NICEI do not align with these new experimental Regional GDP figures from ONS. This is due to methodological differences. NISRA statistics are produced on a bottom-up basis whereas the ONS figures are produced on a top-down basis,

where UK level GVA and GDP figures are apportioned to regions using various apportionment methods. NISRA are engaging with ONS to better understand the differences and the drivers behind their figures.

NICEI component data

Agricultural Output Index: The agricultural output index is an unpublished dataset based on survey and administrative sources held by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

HMF: The number of Her Majesty's Forces (HMF) stationed in Northern Ireland is included in the NICEI. This data is published by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and further information can be found [here](#).

IOP: The quarterly NI Index of Production (IOP) is currently based on a sample of around 1,100 businesses out of a population of c. 5,000. This covers approximately 93% of the turnover of the population at the time of selection and a response rate of around 85%. This includes a census of all companies employing 40 or more employees as well as those employing 0 to 39 employees and having a turnover of £10 million or more. The new sample has been designed to have a minimum precision of 10% for each of the production subsectors.

IOS: The quarterly NI Index of Services (IOS) is currently based on a sample of around 3,400 businesses out of a population of c. 39,000. The sample consists of a census of dominant companies and a Neyman stratified random sample of the remaining companies and covers approximately 70% of turnover. The census element consists of all companies employing 100 or more employees as well as those employing 0 to 99 employees and having a turnover of £10 million or more.

LFS: The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work. Each quarter's LFS sample of around 4,500 households in NI is made up of 5 waves with around 1,300 private households selected for the first time in wave 1 and the remaining 3,200 private households spread across waves 2 to 5. This results in a total of around 7,000 individuals included each quarter. Self-employed estimates from the LFS are incorporated into the NICEI.

QCE: From a sampling universe of approximately 10,000 firms, a disproportionate sample of 700 construction firms is randomly selected to take part in the NI Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE). The sample is disproportionately stratified (into six strata) using Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) turnover as the stratification variable. This includes a census of all companies with a turnover of £5.25m or greater. Further information on the QCE sample coverage and methodology can be found [here](#). NICEI includes private sector construction only.

QES: The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland. It has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all private sector firms with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms. The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and training for success trainees without a contract of employment (non-employed status). The number of jobs are counted rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

Weighting the components

Weights are based on the balanced estimate of Gross Value Added (GVA (B)) by industry obtained from [Regional Accounts produced by ONS](#). The latest available GVA by industry published in December 2019 includes provisional figures for 2018. The NICEI calculations are based on GVA balanced figures up to and including the 2018 year.

Annual chain-linking

Annual chain-linking is a method for aggregating volume measures on a yearly basis - it can be thought of as rebasing every year rather than having a fixed base year to which all subsequent years are weighted. In this way

dynamic changes in the structure of the economy are better reflected in the index. Instead of referring back to value shares from a base year, volume measures for each year are produced in prices of the previous year. These volume measures are then “chain-linked” together to produce a continuous time series, preserving the growth rates of the underlying component series. The use of annual chain-linking is standard National Accounts practice. Using chained volume measures makes use of more up-to-date weights and is therefore more relevant. Rebasing will affect the relative movements between periods.

Re-referencing

The reference year for the index is currently 2018 (i.e. 2018=100). NISRA changes the NICEI reference period (a process known as re-referencing) from time to time, but not frequently. This is because frequently changing the reference base is inconvenient for users. Re-referencing should not be confused with rebasing. Re-referencing does not change the relative movements between periods

Seasonal adjustment

The indirect method of seasonal adjustment was employed. Seasonally adjusted figures were input (where possible) and when the combined output series were tested for seasonality there was no residual seasonality found, therefore no seasonal adjustment was required.

Experimental Statistics

These statistics are experimental statistics which are still undergoing evaluation and are subject to revision. NISRA is currently working to develop a quarterly measure of GDP for NI which builds upon the NICEI. It is our goal that the new quarterly measure of GDP will undergo assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation to ensure compliance with the standards of the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

Please refer to the [NICEI Methodology report](#) for further information.

Appendix 1

Table 1: NICEI and component indices by quarter, Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

| Year | Quarter | NICEI | Component Indices | | | | |
|------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| | | | Private Sector | Public Sector | Services | Production | Construction |
| 2006 | 1 | 104.4 | 103.8 | 107.3 | 100.7 | 105.6 | 135.6 |
| | 2 | 104.9 | 104.5 | 107.3 | 101.3 | 107.6 | 135.5 |
| | 3 | 106.3 | 106.1 | 107.8 | 102.7 | 107.3 | 143.9 |
| | 4 | 106.6 | 106.7 | 107.4 | 103.7 | 106.8 | 143.9 |
| 2007 | 1 | 106.1 | 106.1 | 107.2 | 102.8 | 107.9 | 138.7 |
| | 2 | 106.8 | 107.0 | 107.4 | 103.3 | 109.0 | 144.0 |
| | 3 | 106.6 | 106.8 | 107.0 | 102.9 | 112.2 | 137.9 |
| | 4 | 106.2 | 106.3 | 107.1 | 101.9 | 114.5 | 132.2 |
| 2008 | 1 | 106.4 | 106.6 | 107.0 | 102.9 | 114.5 | 128.3 |
| | 2 | 105.8 | 106.0 | 106.3 | 101.8 | 113.4 | 132.2 |
| | 3 | 103.7 | 103.5 | 105.5 | 99.7 | 113.0 | 122.9 |
| | 4 | 102.2 | 100.1 | 109.2 | 97.0 | 106.6 | 119.6 |
| 2009 | 1 | 100.7 | 98.2 | 109.3 | 95.5 | 102.4 | 117.9 |
| | 2 | 99.8 | 96.9 | 109.6 | 94.9 | 99.8 | 115.8 |
| | 3 | 100.2 | 97.2 | 110.0 | 96.1 | 98.2 | 115.1 |
| | 4 | 101.4 | 99.0 | 109.6 | 98.3 | 100.2 | 112.8 |
| 2010 | 1 | 100.8 | 98.4 | 108.9 | 97.7 | 100.9 | 107.3 |
| | 2 | 99.5 | 97.0 | 108.1 | 96.2 | 100.7 | 102.8 |
| | 3 | 98.4 | 95.7 | 107.2 | 93.8 | 102.1 | 103.4 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 4 | 97.9 | 95.2 | 106.9 | 91.8 | 107.0 | 96.8 |
| 2011 | 1 | 96.8 | 93.9 | 106.4 | 90.3 | 106.5 | 93.2 |
| | 2 | 98.5 | 96.3 | 105.8 | 93.8 | 109.8 | 86.1 |
| | 3 | 98.3 | 96.3 | 105.1 | 93.0 | 112.3 | 87.9 |
| | 4 | 98.0 | 96.2 | 104.3 | 93.1 | 110.7 | 88.6 |
| 2012 | 1 | 98.3 | 96.5 | 104.6 | 92.6 | 110.7 | 94.8 |
| | 2 | 96.5 | 94.2 | 104.3 | 91.2 | 109.3 | 83.7 |
| | 3 | 95.7 | 93.1 | 104.3 | 90.8 | 106.6 | 81.4 |
| | 4 | 95.8 | 93.1 | 104.6 | 90.8 | 106.3 | 81.1 |
| 2013 | 1 | 96.3 | 93.8 | 104.8 | 91.5 | 106.8 | 80.5 |
| | 2 | 95.5 | 92.6 | 105.0 | 90.7 | 106.5 | 74.6 |
| | 3 | 97.2 | 94.7 | 105.3 | 92.3 | 110.9 | 77.3 |
| | 4 | 96.4 | 94.5 | 102.8 | 92.6 | 110.0 | 72.7 |
| 2014 | 1 | 96.3 | 94.5 | 102.1 | 92.7 | 107.6 | 76.7 |
| | 2 | 96.8 | 95.2 | 102.4 | 92.9 | 110.2 | 76.9 |
| | 3 | 96.5 | 94.6 | 102.7 | 92.3 | 109.5 | 78.4 |
| | 4 | 96.9 | 95.2 | 102.5 | 92.8 | 108.2 | 82.8 |
| 2015 | 1 | 97.5 | 96.2 | 102.1 | 92.5 | 108.8 | 92.2 |
| | 2 | 98.1 | 97.1 | 101.7 | 93.5 | 110.0 | 92.7 |
| | 3 | 97.8 | 96.9 | 101.1 | 94.1 | 109.3 | 88.8 |
| | 4 | 97.8 | 97.0 | 100.3 | 93.8 | 108.8 | 91.7 |
| 2016 | 1 | 98.4 | 97.9 | 100.1 | 94.9 | 108.4 | 93.7 |
| | 2 | 99.1 | 99.0 | 99.4 | 96.5 | 107.4 | 97.8 |
| | 3 | 98.8 | 98.7 | 98.9 | 96.1 | 108.5 | 96.1 |
| | 4 | 100.6 | 101.0 | 99.3 | 97.8 | 109.8 | 102.9 |
| 2017 | 1 | 100.7 | 101.0 | 99.6 | 98.1 | 109.3 | 102.2 |
| | 2 | 99.1 | 99.1 | 99.4 | 97.3 | 102.4 | 104.8 |
| | 3 | 98.1 | 97.7 | 99.4 | 98.0 | 95.1 | 103.5 |
| | 4 | 98.3 | 97.9 | 99.6 | 97.3 | 97.7 | 102.8 |
| 2018 | 1 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.6 | 99.9 | 100.0 | 94.9 |
| | 2 | 100.5 | 100.6 | 100.0 | 100.9 | 100.2 | 99.7 |
| | 3 | 100.5 | 100.6 | 100.1 | 100.0 | 101.1 | 105.5 |
| | 4 | 99.4 | 99.2 | 100.2 | 99.2 | 98.6 | 99.9 |
| 2019 | 1 | 101.2 | 101.4 | 100.6 | 100.9 | 102.2 | 101.1 |
| | 2 | 102.0 | 102.3 | 101.0 | 102.0 | 104.9 | 98.5 |
| | 3 | 100.8 | 100.6 | 101.6 | 100.4 | 101.3 | 101.5 |
| | 4 | 99.5 | 98.8 | 102.0 | 98.0 | 99.8 | 101.5 |
| 2020 | 1 | 98.2 | 97.2 | 101.8 | 96.1 | 97.9 | 100.8 |
| | 2 | 84.8 | 79.7 | 102.5 | 78.8 | 84.1 | 70.3 |
| | 3 | 97.9 | 96.7 | 102.1 | 96.5 | 97.7 | 96.3 |

Table 2: NICEI and component indices by year, 2006 – 2019

| Year | NICEI | Component Indices | | | | |
|------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| | | Private Sector | Public Sector | Services | Production | Construction |
| 2006 | 105.6 | 105.3 | 107.5 | 102.1 | 106.8 | 139.7 |
| 2007 | 106.4 | 106.5 | 107.2 | 102.7 | 110.9 | 138.2 |
| 2008 | 104.5 | 104.0 | 107.0 | 100.4 | 111.9 | 125.8 |
| 2009 | 100.5 | 97.8 | 109.6 | 96.2 | 100.1 | 115.4 |
| 2010 | 99.2 | 96.6 | 107.8 | 94.9 | 102.7 | 102.6 |
| 2011 | 97.9 | 95.7 | 105.4 | 92.5 | 109.8 | 89.0 |
| 2012 | 96.6 | 94.2 | 104.4 | 91.3 | 108.2 | 85.2 |
| 2013 | 96.3 | 93.9 | 104.5 | 91.8 | 108.6 | 76.3 |
| 2014 | 96.6 | 94.9 | 102.4 | 92.7 | 108.9 | 78.7 |
| 2015 | 97.8 | 96.8 | 101.3 | 93.5 | 109.2 | 91.4 |
| 2016 | 99.2 | 99.1 | 99.4 | 96.3 | 108.5 | 97.6 |
| 2017 | 99.1 | 98.9 | 99.5 | 97.7 | 101.1 | 103.3 |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 2019 | 100.9 | 100.8 | 101.3 | 100.4 | 102.1 | 100.6 |

List of Tables

Data accompanying this bulletin are available from the [NISRA website](#) in both Open Document and Excel formats. The spreadsheet includes the following tables.

Table 1: NICEI and component indices by quarter, Q1 2006 – Q3 2020 (2018=100)

Table 2: NICEI and component indices by year, 2006 – 2019 (2018=100)

Table 3: Data for Chart 1: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI), Quarter on quarter change (%), Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

Table 4: Data for Chart 2: Breakdown of NI Businesses & Employees by country of ownership, 2020

Table 5: Data for Chart 3: Proportion of NI Regional GVA by Sector, 2018

Table 6: Data for Chart 4: NICEI, Contribution to quarterly, annual and annualized growth

Table 7: Data for Chart 5: Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI), Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

Table 8: Data for Chart 6: NICEI, comparison with selected GDP measures Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

Table 9: Data for Chart 7: Quarterly, annual and annualised change, NICEI compared with selected GDP measures to Q3 2020

Table 10: Data for Chart 8: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) traffic count of all vehicles at the fifteen NI-IE border sites; rolling 12 months Feb 2014 onwards

Table 11: Data for Chart 9: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) number of transport movements and air passengers at NI airports, December 2017 – November 2020

Table 12: Comparison of the NICEI Series at Q3 2020 and Q2 2020, Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

Table 13: NICEI Sector Contributions to Quarterly Change, Q1 2006 – Q3 2020

Contact Details

Economic and Labour Market Statistics,
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency,
Colby House,
Stranmillis Court,
Belfast BT9 5RR

Email: economicstats@nisra.gov.uk

Twitter: @NISRA

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics>

Next NICEI publication: 8th April 2021

Statistics Contact: User's comments and feedback are welcome and can be provided to:

David Leonard (David.Leonard@nisra.gov.uk , Tel: 028 9052 9385)

