

# Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland  
Theme: Labour Market  
Frequency: Quarterly

## Key Points

Employee jobs estimates are calculated from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) aspect of the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QES has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms.

- The total number of seasonally adjusted employee jobs were estimated at 765,880, an increase of 2,240 jobs over the quarter and 14,700 jobs over the year in September 2018. The annual change in employee jobs is statistically significant i.e. the recorded change exceeded the variability expected from a survey of this size and was likely to reflect real change. Increases were experienced in all sectors over the year, with the services sector accounting for the majority of the growth.
- The number of employee jobs in the services sector (621,970 jobs) reached the highest level on record in September 2018 in the seasonally adjusted series.
- Private sector jobs increased over the quarter (0.6% or 3,520 jobs) and year (2.6% or 13,900 jobs) to their highest level (559,110) on record.
- Public sector jobs decreased over the quarter (0.2% or 370 jobs) and increased over the year (0.6% or 1,160 jobs). There are now 20,830 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009 (-9.1%).
- In the last five years, employee jobs have increased by 8.4% (59,160 jobs) and by 10.7% (74,310 jobs) from the low in December 2011.
- The annualised growth rate of 2.1% between 2017 and 2018 is higher than growth rates between 2016 and 2017, but at a similar level to the growth in employee jobs between 2014 and 2015.

## **The Quarterly Employment Survey Bulletin contains the following chapters:**

### **1. Summary**

- Employee jobs summary
- Infographic summary
- Context

### **2. NI Employee Jobs**

- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs by sector

### **3. Seasonally adjusted series public / private**

- NI public and private sector jobs

### **4. Composition of employee jobs**

- Full-time/part-time employees

### **5. Further Information**

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## **National Statistics**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

# 1 Summary of Employee Jobs

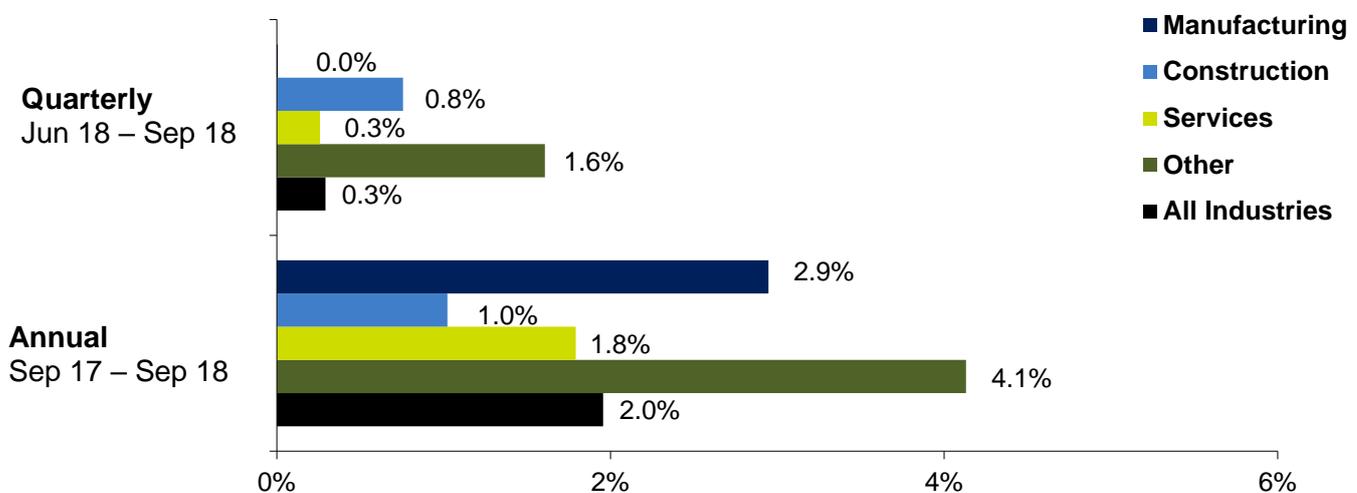
Updated December 2018

## Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at September 2018 was 765,880 (+/-6,700<sup>1</sup>). This was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,240 jobs) over the quarter from the June 2018 estimate of 763,640.
- an increase of 2.0% (14,700 jobs) over the year from the revised September 2017 estimate of 751,180.
- The annual increase in employee jobs was statistically significant.

Fig 1.1 Annual and Quarterly Changes in Employee Jobs at Sector Level



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## Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2018 employee jobs to the June 2018 estimates showed:

- no change in the manufacturing sector, which remains at 86,160 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 0.8% (260 jobs) to 34,340 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 0.3% (1,610 jobs) to 621,970 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 1.6% (370 jobs) to 23,410 jobs.

## Change over the year

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2018 employee jobs to the revised September 2017 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 2.9% (2,470 jobs) to 86,160 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 1.0% (350 jobs) to 34,340 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 1.8% (10,950 jobs) to 621,970 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 4.1% (930 jobs) to 23,410 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; (ii) food and beverage service activities and (iii) human health activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 31.0% of all increases in employee jobs.

<sup>1</sup> Represents 95% Confidence interval around estimate

- (i) Office administrative, office support and other business support activities; (ii) manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials and (iii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 38.6% of all decreases.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase of 14,520 in employee jobs.

### **Change over the past five years**

Over the period September 2013 to September 2018, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 8.4% (59,160 jobs). Increases were seen across the four main industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 14.7% (11,040 jobs).
- an increase in the construction sector by 16.9% (4,960 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 7.2% (41,560 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector 7.3% (1,600 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data (at the 2 digit SIC level (lowest level available)) over this five year period, estimates show:

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) food and beverage service activities, (iii) employment activities accounted for 34.6% of all increases over the five year period.
- (i) Human health activities, (ii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security, and (iii) manufacture of beverages and tobacco products accounted for 82.0% of all the decreases over the five year period.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase of 58,740 in employee jobs.

### **Public / private sector changes**

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at September 2018 show:

- a decrease of 0.2% (370 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 0.6% (1,160 jobs) over the year to 207,290 jobs.
- an increase of 0.6% (3,520 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.6% (13,900 jobs) over the year to 559,110 jobs.

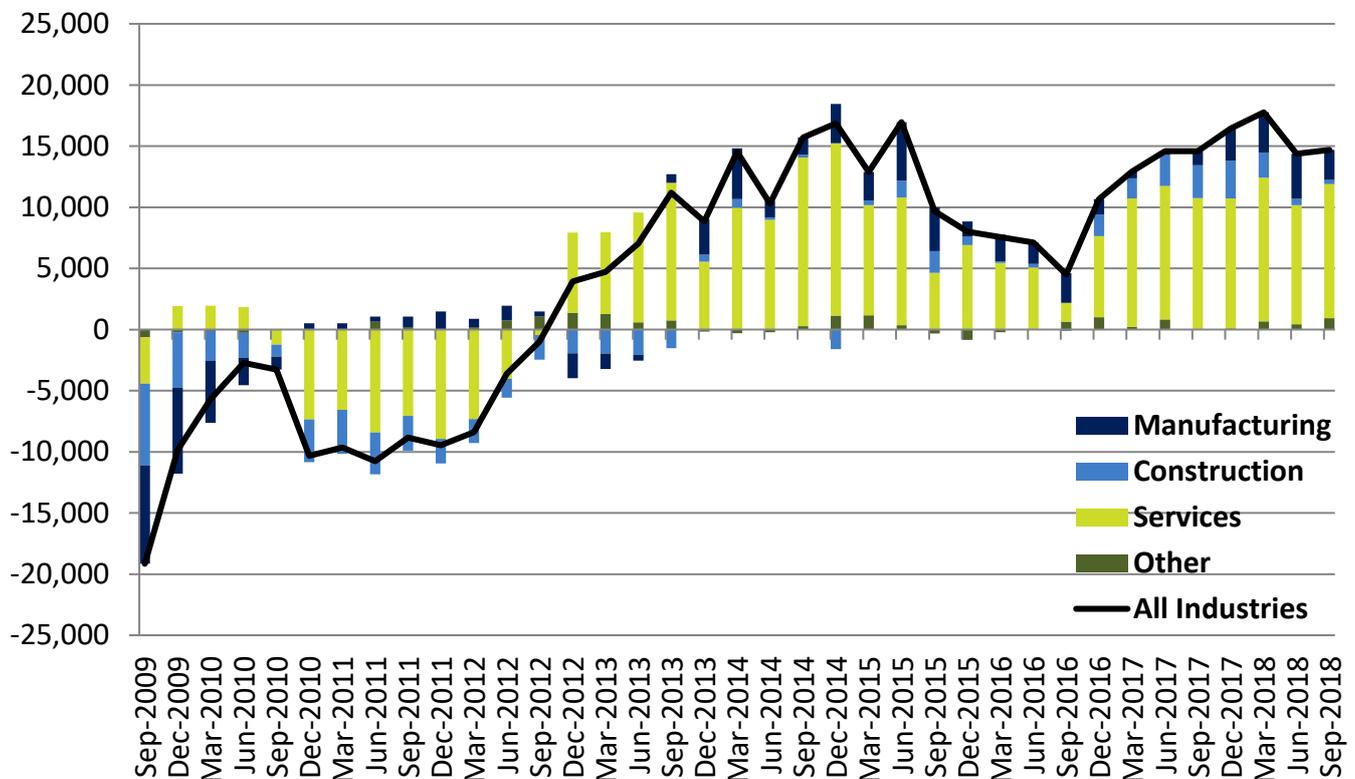
## Commentary

Northern Ireland (NI) employee jobs increased over the quarter and the year to a high of 765,880 in September 2018 in the seasonally adjusted series. The number of jobs in NI surpassed the pre-downturn peak in June 2008, and has shown quarter on quarter growth since December 2015.

Over the quarter increases in employee jobs were seen in the services, construction and other industry sectors, while the manufacturing sector showed no change. However, all four broad industry sectors showed an increase over the year (Fig 1.2). The services sector which accounts for 81% of jobs in NI, accounted for the majority of the annual growth (75%). This is consistent with trends since recovery began in 2012. Within the services sector the greatest increases over the year were within human health and social work activities, wholesale and trade; repair of motor vehicles/cycles and accommodation and food service activities.

The number of both full and part time jobs increased over the year; full time jobs accounted for 55% of the annual increases and accounted for two thirds of total employee jobs.

**Fig 1.2 Annual Change in Employee Jobs in NI, September 2009 – September 2018**



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Private sector jobs continued to grow over the quarter and year and are now 9% above the pre-downturn peak in June 2008. Public sector jobs showed a decrease over the quarter and increased over the year to September 2018. There are now approximately 20,830 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009.

The trend of increasing numbers of jobs in the NI economy is consistent with the UK experience, which is also reporting increases over the quarter and year to a record high (30.5 million).

### Date of next publication

The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

# NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – September 2018

Total employee jobs: 765,880



## Change on quarter



## Change on year



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.  
Data published on 11th December 2018 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA).

## Context

This bulletin presents data from the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which is conducted by the Economic & Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) Branch of the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland and covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. As it is a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval bounds for the headline employee jobs estimate is +/- 0.4%.

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 survey collects information on the number of males/females in full-time and part-time employment by business activity and the results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). 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.

Figures from the QES are included in the Labour Market Report (LMR) alongside figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Claimant Count, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data. The current version of the LMR can be found on the ELMS website [LMR](#).

QES employee jobs are also a component of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) quarterly workforce jobs estimates for the UK. [UK Labour Market Publications](#)

QES employee jobs are included in the [DfE Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview section](#) of the website.

## Revisions

Results are provisional and subject to revision as more up-to-date data becomes available (e.g. through late returns). Figures can also change as a result of the seasonal adjustment process, methodological changes or changes to classifications.

**Further information on the revisions can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#)**

**Further information on using QES employee jobs statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)**

## Alternative measures of employment

QES is only one of the measures of employment for Northern Ireland. Other measures include the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In addition the Farm Census and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Employee Bulletin provide information on specific sub-groups of employees.

## Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

The BRES is a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES and alternates between sample and census coverage biennially. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as

BRES. Breakdowns of employee jobs by geographical location and industry are available from the BRES.

The BRES and QES cover employee jobs only, excluding the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and training for success trainees without a contract of employment.

**Further information can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)**

### **Labour Force Survey (LFS)**

The LFS is a household survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. The LFS defines employment as the number of people in work. This differs from the concept of jobs measured by business surveys as a person can have more than one job, and some jobs may be shared by more than one person. LFS employment figures are based on a rolling three month period whereas QES measures the number of jobs on a particular day. LFS employment figures include those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on Government supported training programmes.

**Further information on using LFS statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [LFS employment](#)**

### **Farm Census**

Figures for the number of employees in agriculture are available separately from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm Census. The Census is conducted in June of each year, with the results published in the January of the following year. The QES includes farm census figures in the total number of employee jobs.

Further information on using Farm Census statistics can be found on the DAERA website: [Farm Census](#)

### **Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Employee Bulletin**

NICS employee jobs figures are included in the QES employee jobs figures and breakdowns can be found in Table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website (in the historical data section): [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Further information on NICS employee jobs can be found in the NICS Employee Bulletin. This bulletin provides details on NICS staff numbers on a quarterly basis and provides comparisons with the previous quarter, the wider public sector, as well as a comparison with the previous year. The survey dates for the NICS Employee Bulletin differ from the QES survey dates. As such the figures for the NICS employee jobs may differ.

**Further information on employment within the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) is available from the NICS Employment bulletin [NICS Employment bulletin](#).**

## 2 NI Employee Jobs

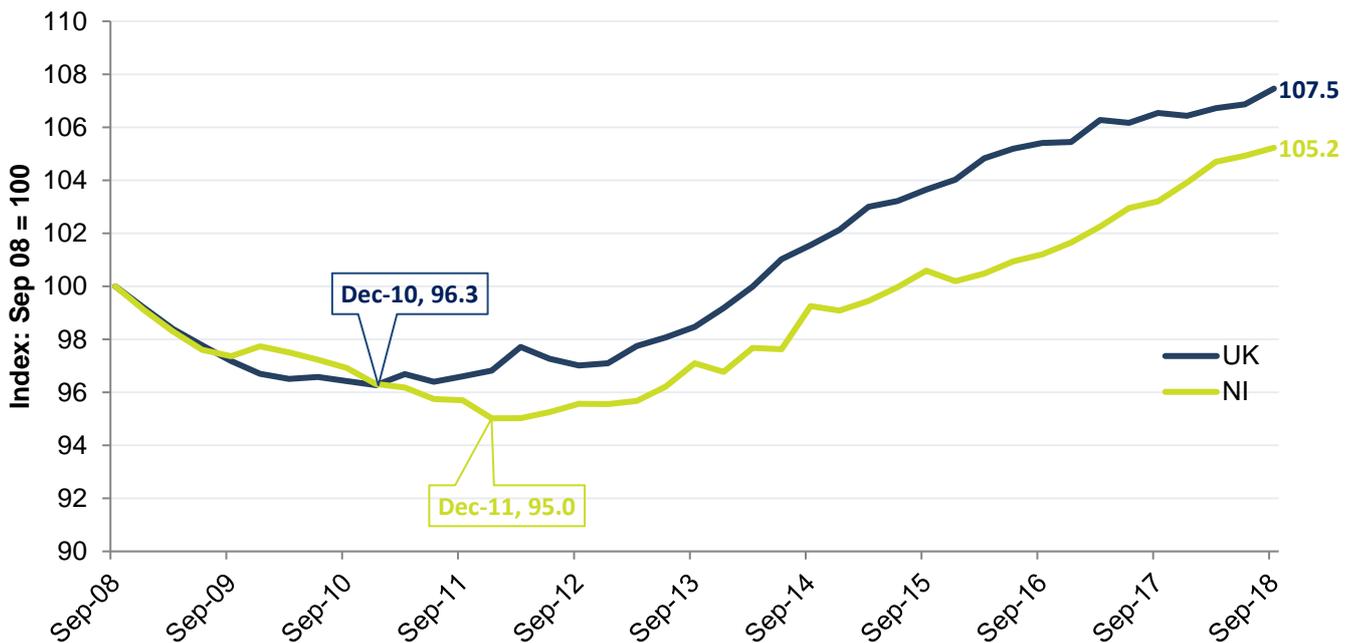
**Employee:** An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

Employee jobs counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs.

### Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter by 0.3% (2,240 jobs) and over the year by 2.0% (14,700 jobs) to a series high of 765,880.

Figure 2.1: Index of Employee Jobs, September 2008 – September 2018



Figures are indexed to September 2008

[Download in excel](#)

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. For NI the pre-downturn peak was in June 2008 (not on chart range) and the UK in September 2008. The UK reached its lowest point in December 2010, one year before the NI low in December 2011. Both NI and the UK have surpassed their pre-downturn peaks; NI jobs are now 4.5% above their June 2008 level while UK jobs are 7.5% above.

### Employee Jobs

The September 2018 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 765,880 which was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,240 jobs) from the June 2018 estimate of 763,640
- an increase of 2.0% (14,700 jobs) over the year from the September 2017 estimate of 751,180.
- The annual increase in employee jobs was statistically significant.

### Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- an increase of 0.8% in the construction sector (260 jobs) to 34,340 jobs
- an increase of 0.3% in the services sector (1,610 jobs) to 621,970 jobs
- an increase of 1.6% in the other industries sector (370 jobs) to 23,410 jobs
- no change in the manufacturing sector, which remains at 86,160 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 2.9% in the manufacturing sector (2,470 jobs) to 86,160 jobs
- an increase of 1.0% in the construction sector (350 jobs) to 34,340 jobs
- an increase of 1.8% in the services sector (10,950 jobs) to 621,970 jobs
- an increase of 4.1% in the other industries sector (930 jobs) to 23,410 jobs.

The number of employee jobs has been increasing since December 2015 in the seasonally adjusted series, with the services sector accounting for almost two thirds of the growth in employee jobs since this point.

# Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q3 2017 - Q3 2018

## Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

### Manufacturing



**+2.9% (2,470 jobs)**  
total jobs 86,160

### Construction



**+1.0% (350 jobs)**  
total jobs 34,340

### Services



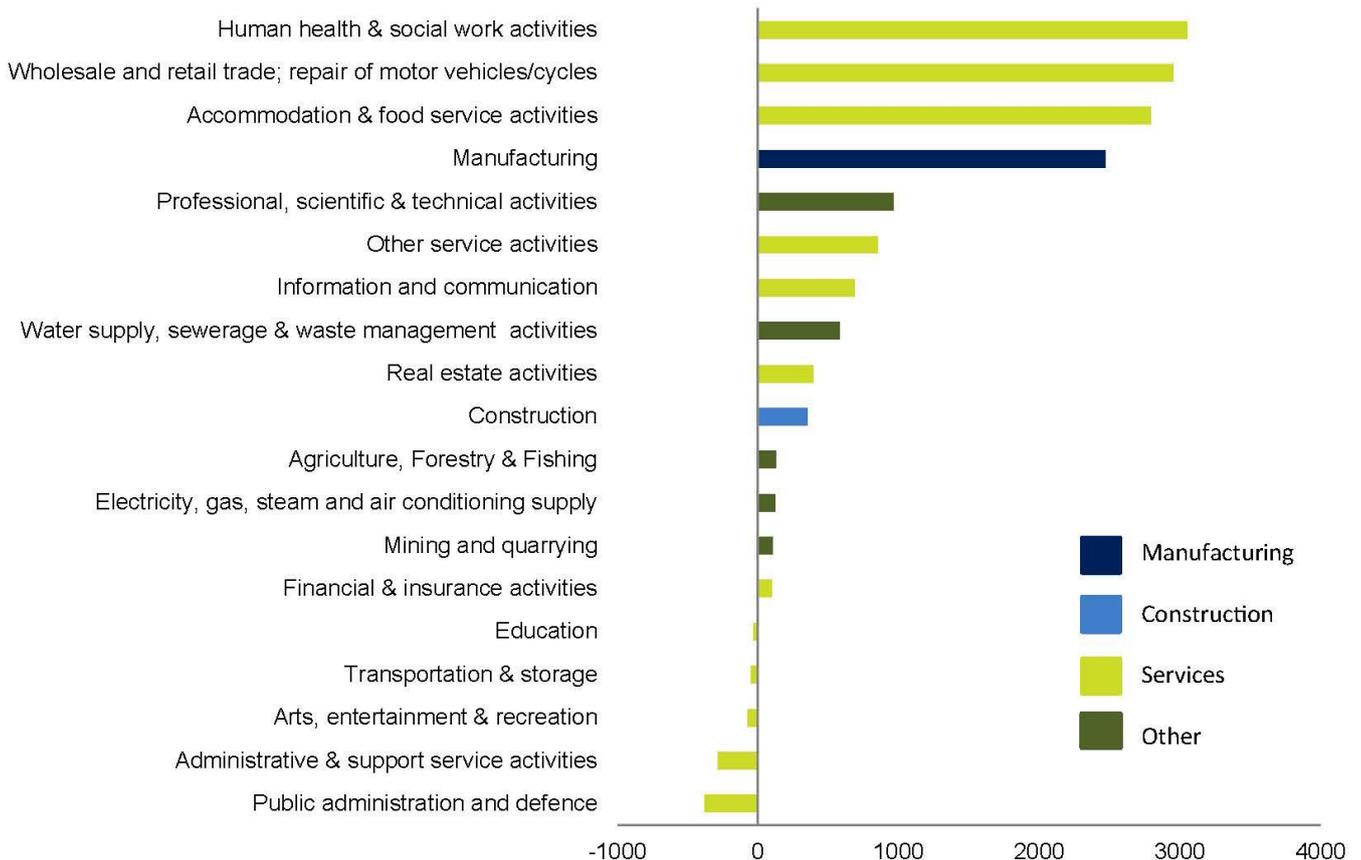
**+1.8% (10,950 jobs)**  
total jobs 621,970

### Other



**+4.1% (930 jobs)**  
total jobs 23,410

## Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



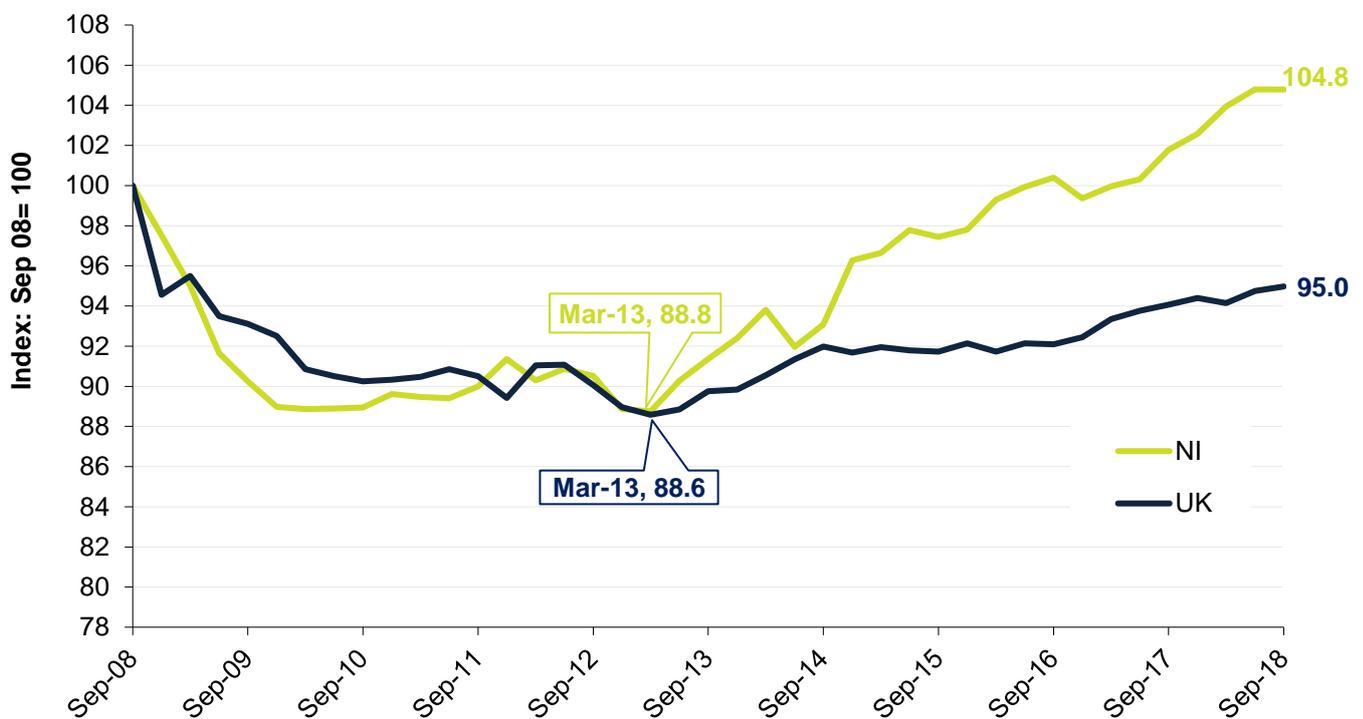
## Manufacturing sector

**Manufacturing sector:** the manufacturing sector contains businesses which produce merchandise for use or sale. It also contains businesses with activity of printing and reproduction of recorded media and businesses that repair and install machinery and equipment.

### Key Findings:

- The total number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector showed no change in September 2018 in the seasonally adjusted series.
- The manufacturing sector accounted for 11.2% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 2.9% in the manufacturing sector over the year to September 2018 to 86,160 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, September 2008 – September 2018



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to September 2008

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 whilst the UK showed a sharp decrease in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector between September and December 2008. Both NI and the UK reached a series low in March 2013, and NI jobs are now 18.1% above this level.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector showed no overall change over the quarter to September 2018 and increased by 2.9% (2,470 jobs) over the year to 86,160.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

### Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 3.0% (2,500 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 4.5% (890 jobs) in the manufacture of food products
- an increase of 56.1% (850 jobs) in the manufacture of textiles
- an increase of 7.4% (620 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the manufacturing sector; the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 21.1% (-620 jobs) in the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials
- a decrease of 7.4% (-440 jobs) in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products
- a decrease of 5.6% (-160 jobs) in the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

## Construction sector

**Construction sector:** construction is the process of creating and building infrastructure or a facility. It differs from manufacturing in that manufacturing typically involves mass production of similar items without a designated purchaser and construction is typically done on location for a known client. The construction sector consists of businesses with activity in the construction of buildings, civil engineering or specialised construction activities.

### Key Findings:

- The construction sector made up 4.5% of the total employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.8% over the quarter to September 2018 and an increase of 1.0% over the year to 34,340 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, September 2008 – September 2018



Figures are indexed to September 2008

[Download in excel](#)

The most recent low in the construction sector was in December 2014 (28,660 jobs). Most recent estimates show a 19.8% improvement on this level; however the number of employee jobs in the construction sector is currently 26.6% lower than the series peak in December 2007 (not on chart range).

## **Key Findings**

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 0.8% (260 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.0% (350 jobs) over the year to 34,340.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC construction data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

## **Changes over the year**

Over the year to September 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 1.0% (350 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 1.7% (310 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 2.4% (180 jobs) in construction of buildings
- a decrease of 1.6% (-140 jobs) in civil engineering

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

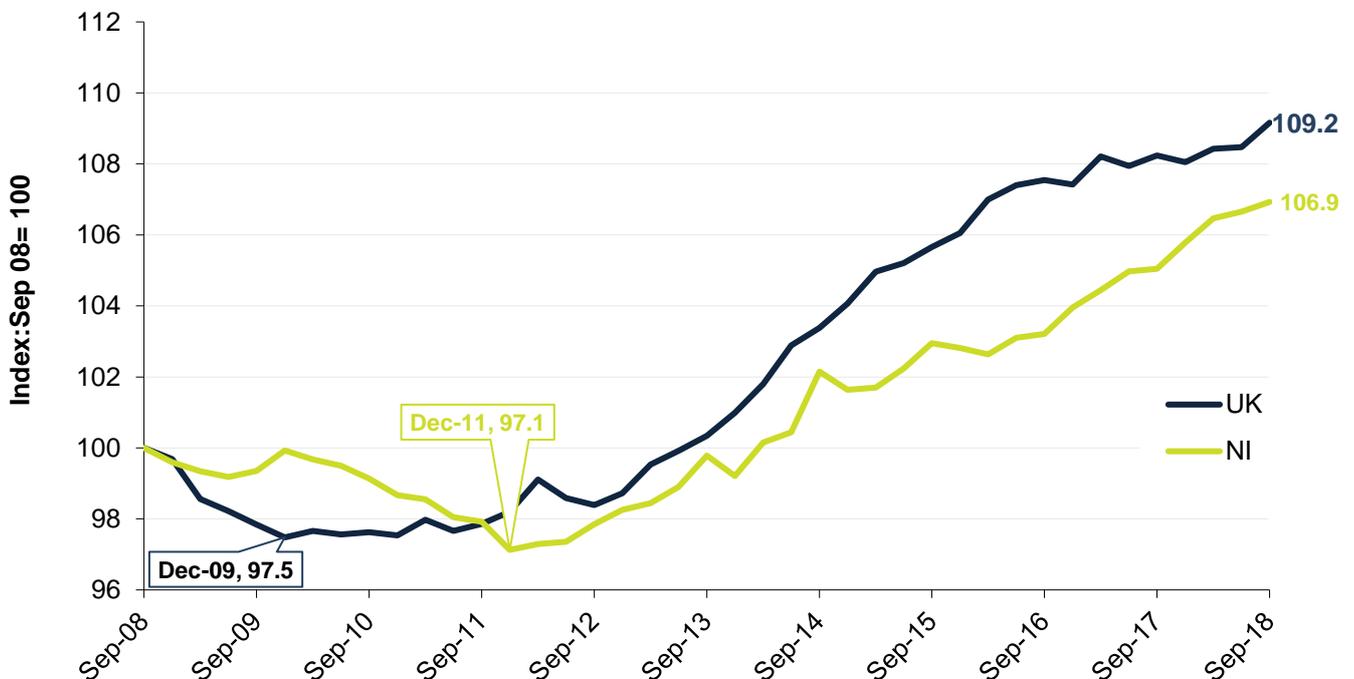
## Services sector

The services sector contains businesses which sell services and skills; and includes education, public administration and health and social work activities. A full list of the industry sections G-S which are included in the services sector can be found in table 5.5 within the supplementary tables on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

### Key Findings:

- The services sector is recording a peak number of employee jobs during September 2018.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.3% over the quarter to September 2018 and an increase of 1.8% over the year to 621,970 service sector jobs.
- The services sector accounted for the majority (74.5%) of growth over the year and has been driving the recovery since the series low in employee jobs in December 2011.
- The services sector accounted for 81.2% of all employee jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, September 2008 - September 2018



Figures are indexed to September 2008

[Download in excel](#)

Over the last 5 years the services sector in both NI and the UK increased overall, with NI and UK both recording a peak level in employee jobs in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 41,560 over the last 5 years.

When considering the pre-downturn period, employee jobs in the services sector reached a peak in June 2008 (not on chart range); declining to a series low in December 2011. The decline of 3.3% during this period is notably smaller than the declines experienced in the manufacturing or construction sectors during the downturn. There has been an increase of 10.1% in employee jobs in the services sector since the low in December 2011.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.3% (1,610 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.8% (10,950 jobs) over the year to 621,970 in September 2018.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

### Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2018 the unadjusted figures reported an increase of 1.8% (10,740 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 3.0% (2,580 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 5.8% (2,190 jobs) in food and beverage service activities
- an increase of 2.1% (1,430 jobs) in human health activities

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the services sector, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 9.3% (-1030 jobs) in office administrative, office support and other business support activities.
- a decrease of 1.8% (-470 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- a decrease of 19.2% (-410 jobs) in other professional, scientific and technical activities

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

## Other industries sector

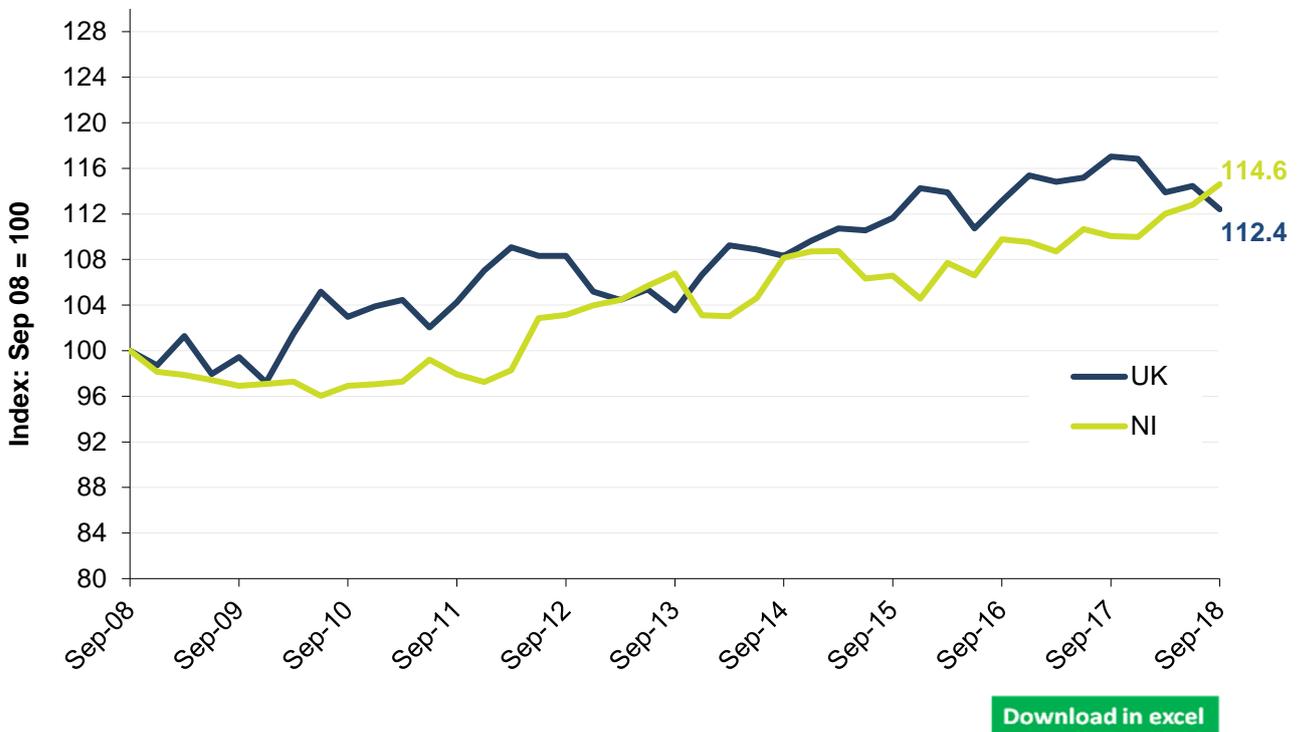
**Other industries sector:** the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for 91% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are published annually in January and included in the next QES publication.

### Key Findings:

- **Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 1.6% in the other industries sector over the quarter to September 2018 and an increase of 4.1% over the year to 23,410 jobs.**
- **The other industries sector made up 3.1% of all employee jobs.**

**Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, September 2008 - September 2018**



Figures are indexed to September 2008

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 2,980 over the 10 year period to September 2018.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 1.6% (370 jobs) over the quarter and by 4.1% (930 jobs) over the year to 23,410 jobs.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC other industries data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

### Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 4.2% (940 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 12.8% (540 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery
- an increase of 6.9% (130 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- an increase of 54.4% (120 jobs) in forestry and logging

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the following other industries sectors:

- a decrease of 14.6% (-30 jobs) in fishing and aquaculture
- a decrease of 9.0% (-30 jobs) in sewerage

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

### 3 Public / private sector employee jobs

**Public sector:** The NI public sector can be broken down into five areas:

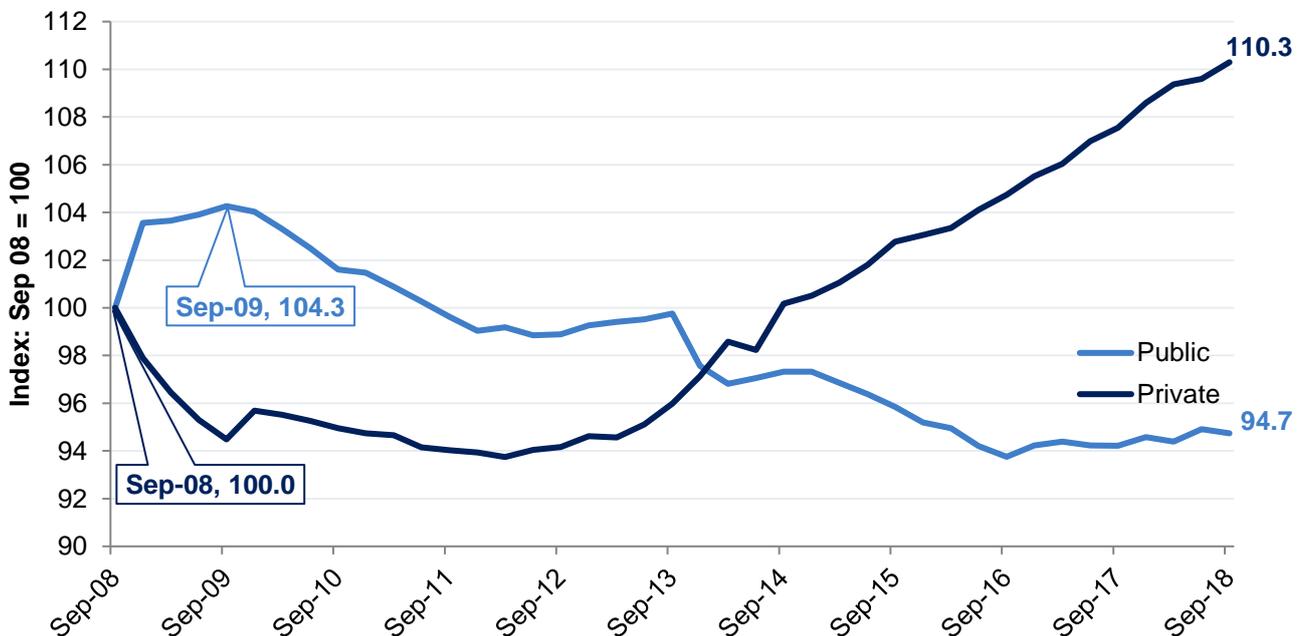
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

**Private sector:** The private sector encompasses all for-profit businesses (that are not owned or operated by the government) and the voluntary sector; which includes charities and other non-profit organisations.

#### Key findings:

- The NI public sector made up 27% and the private sector made up 73% of all employee jobs. NI Public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population was 11%. This compares to 8% in the UK.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector decreased over the quarter and increased over the year to 207,290 jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 559,110 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI Private and Public Sector Jobs, September 2008 – September 2018



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to September 2008

#### Note:

- <sup>1</sup> Royal Mail plc is included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods.
- <sup>2</sup> Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries are included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.
- <sup>3</sup> All registered housing associations in Northern Ireland have been reclassified to public sector from Q3 1992 onwards, more detail on the decision to reclassify can be found on the [ONS website](#).
- <sup>4</sup> Latest population estimates available – June 2017.

The latest seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures estimate that there are:

- 207,290 employees in the NI public sector.
- 559,110 employees in the NI private sector.

#### **Changes over the quarter**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- a decrease of 0.2% (-370 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.6% (3,520 jobs) in the private sector.

#### **Changes over the year**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.6% (1,160 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 2.6% (13,900 jobs) in the private sector.

## 4 Composition of employee jobs

**Please note: data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.**

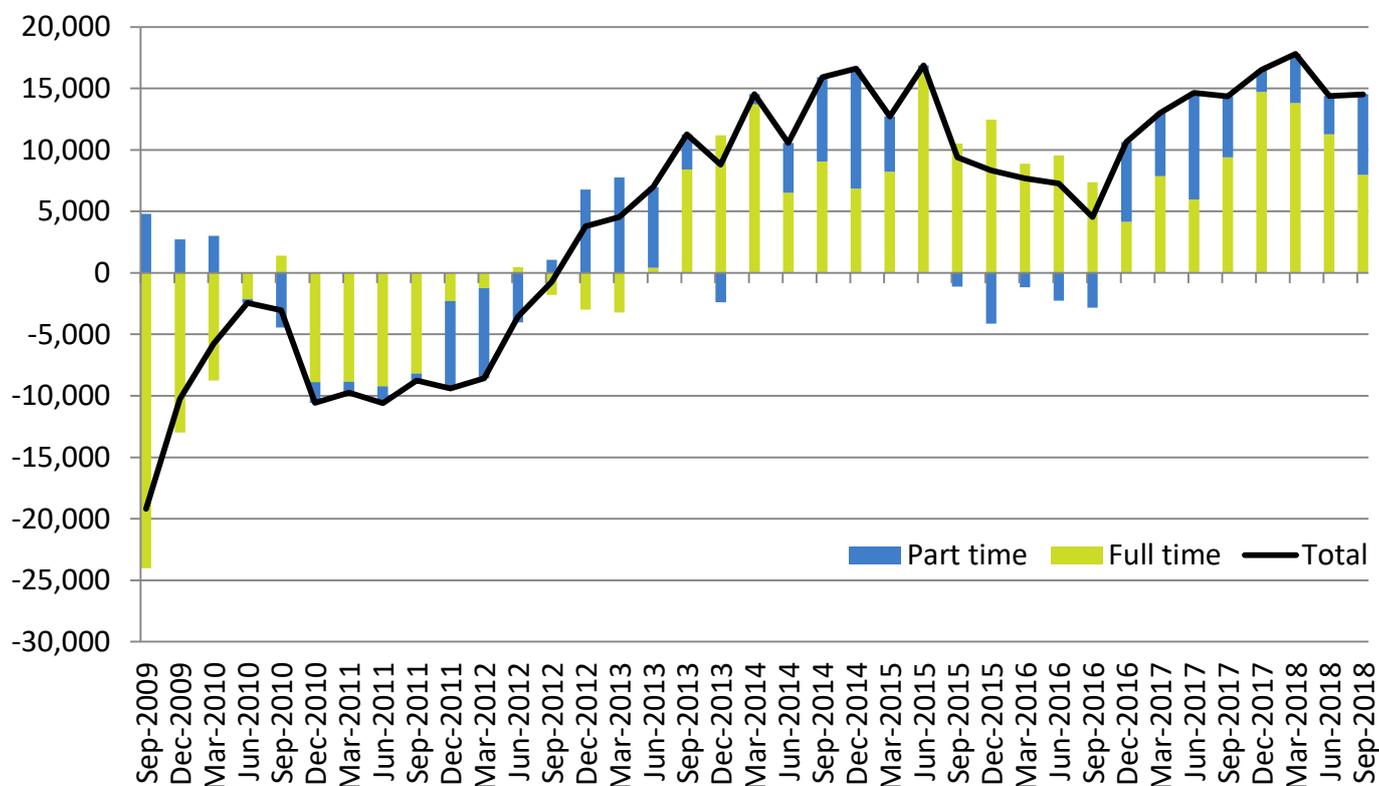
**Part-time:** Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

**Full-time:** Full-time means those who normally work more than 30 hours a week.

### Key Findings

- Full-time jobs accounted for 55% of the growth in all employee jobs over the year
- Increase in full-time (1.6% or 7,970 jobs) and part-time jobs (2.6% or 6,560 jobs) over the year
- Full-time jobs accounted for 65% of all employee jobs, with part-time accounting for 35% in September 2018

**Fig 4.1: Full-Time and Part-Time jobs annual change, September 2009 – September 2018**



[Download in excel](#)

The latest estimates showed that:

- Part-time jobs increased by 9.1% (22,060 jobs) since the recent low point in March 2012.
- The recent low point for full-time jobs was a year later (March 2013) than for part-time jobs. The number of full-time jobs has increased by 12.0% (53,400 jobs) since this point.

### Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 7,970 full-time jobs and an increase of 6,560 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 2,800 jobs in the manufacturing sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 590 jobs in the construction sector whilst part-time jobs decreased by 240 jobs over the year.

- full-time employee jobs increased by 3,820 jobs (35% of the increase) in the services sector over the year; whilst part-time employee jobs increased by 6,910 jobs (65% of the increase).
- full-time employee jobs in the other industries sector increased by 760 jobs (81% of the increase) and part-time jobs increased by 180 jobs (19% of the increase) over the year.

**Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website:**  
[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

## 5 Further Information

### Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey issued under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and is designed to collect information on employees and turnover. The main outputs are published in four quarterly publications – The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), Index of Services (IOS), Index of Production (IOP) and Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE).

### Sample

The QES, IOS, IOP and QCE are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP/QCE of approximately 2,250 businesses.

The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The quarterly survey covers all industrial sections apart from agriculture. Employee estimates for the agricultural sector are provided, on an annual basis (figures for June are provided in the January of the following year), from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm Census. Agriculture employees include all workers on agricultural businesses other than (a) part-time farmers and partners and (b) farmers' spouses. They include full-time, part-time and casual workers, both paid and unpaid.

The QES sample is drawn from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), as follows:

Employment Size/Sector	Coverage
0-9 employees	Sample (4%)
10-24 employees	Sample (9%)
Multiple Industry Activities	Full Count (100%)
25+ employees	Full Count (100%)
Public Sector	Full Count (100%)

As the QES is a sample survey, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability i.e. if we drew many similar samples each would give a different result. Confidence intervals provide a measure of the size of the sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval for the September 2018 employee jobs estimate is 765,880 +/- 6,700. This means that in 100 similar samples we would expect 95 (95%) of the confidence intervals to contain the true population value of the number of employee jobs.

The survey collects information on numbers of persons in full-time and part-time employment. It should be noted that the survey counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and a part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

Employment results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). As a result, no individual business can be identified.

### Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data

Please note it is likely that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 has contributed to the volatility of the series. To counteract these effects from March 2016 the number of businesses selected in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and size bands experiencing the greatest impact of rotation has increased.

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). This new information helps to improve the industry estimates of employee jobs each quarter but also adds volatility to quarterly and annual changes, particularly at 2 digit SIC level. It is therefore recommended that changes in employee jobs estimates at 2 digit SIC level are considered in the context of a longer time series.

### Discontinuity

The sample coverage used to derive employee jobs estimates in NI was extended in 2009. This change was introduced to provide more comprehensive estimates of employee jobs and also to ensure a consistency of methodology between the QES and BRES. The extension in sample coverage has resulted in a discontinuity in the employee jobs series from the reference period Q3 2009 onwards. A more detailed note on these changes and their impact are available at the following link: [Discontinuity](#)

### Revisions Policy

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided by employers. The June 2018 seasonally adjusted estimate published in September 2018 has been revised down (-0.2%).

Benchmarking to BRES was carried out in December 2016 and so all quarters prior to and including Q3 2015 are now fixed. Subsequent quarters (Q4 2015 onwards) are provisional and subject to revision in light of (a) late responses to surveys and administrative sources, (b) where cross survey congruence checks provide more accurate data and (c) there are revisions to seasonal adjustment factors which are re-estimated every quarter. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur. For further details of QES revisions please see link below: [QES Revisions](#)

### Public Sector Reclassifications

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations.

The following table summarises the changes announced by the Public Sector Classification Committee and the date the changes took place.

Date of change	Summary	Revision applied from
December 2006	NI Housing Executive reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70	March 2004
January 2012	Water service became a Government owned company, as a result employees transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government"	April 2007
December 2013	Royal Mail plc reclassified to private sector	October 2013
March 2014	Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries reclassified to private sector	December 2013
September 2017	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to public sector	September 1992
September 2018	Registered housing associations in NI moved from section N to L in sections level data	March 2005 (in line with seasonally adjusted series)

## **Seasonal Adjustment**

A seasonally adjusted employment series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Figures by section are shown in the tables on the website ([Quarterly Employment Survey](#)) and a time series of main industrial sector from 2005 onwards are also shown in the tables on the website. Section and main industrial sector are seasonally adjusted where seasonality exists. At the latest review of our seasonal adjustment process, it was found that there was no seasonality in sections A, F, J, K, L, S, T or U.

A review of the QES seasonal adjustment will be taking place within the next quarter and it is anticipated that results of this will be contained within the next publication in March 2019. The impact of the seasonal adjustment review will be described.

## **Business Register and Employment Survey**

Information on employee jobs at a sub Northern Ireland level (e.g. District Council Area (DCA), Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA), Ward Level) and at the 5-digit SIC07 level are available from the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey. Details of the Business Register and Employment Survey results are available from NISRA ELMS Tel: (028) 9052 9474 or on the ELMS website [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

The QES sample size is designed so that estimates of total employee jobs are within +/- 1% of the [Business Register and Employment Survey](#) total.

## **Annualised or Rolling 4 Quarters**

Annualised growth or rolling 4 quarters figures are calculated by taking the average over the most recent 4 quarters and subtracting the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year. For example annualised growth of 2.1% reported in this publication is the average of jobs figures from Q4 2017 to Q3 2018 minus the average of jobs figures from Q4 2016 to Q3 2017 divided by the average of jobs figures from Q4 2016 to Q3 2017. (This has been referred to as growth rate between 2017 and 2018 for ease of reporting). This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

## **Further Information**

For further information on the methodology of the QES, please see link below to the background notes and methodology guide.

## **[Background Information](#)**

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

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# Annex - Index of Web Tables

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## Quarterly Employment Survey

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- [5.2 Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section March 2005 – September 2018](#)
- [5.3 Northern Ireland Unadjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section - March 2005 – September 2018](#)
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