

Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2019

Theme: Labour Market
Frequency: Annual
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

This report provides key labour market results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the year ending 31 December 2019. Employment, unemployment and economic inactivity rates, disaggregated by local government district (LGD) are included. In addition, the report provides employment analyses in relation to industry, occupation and qualifications. Further, the report contains updates for six Outcomes Delivery Plan indicators (14, 16, 17, 32, 33 & 34) for Northern Ireland. Indicators 16 & 17 were first released in the [Annual Summary report](#) in March 2020.

Key points:

- In 2019, there were 839,000 people of working age (16-64) in employment in Northern Ireland (NI). This accounted for 71.9% of the working age population (the employment rate) and was the highest annual employment rate on record.
- The highest employment rate for a council area was recorded in Lisburn and Castlereagh (81.1%) and was 16.1 percentage points (pps) above the lowest rate, which was recorded in Fermanagh and Omagh (65.0%).
- In 2019, there were 306,000 economically inactive people of working age in NI, equivalent to 26.2% of the working age population (the economic inactivity rate).
- The highest inactivity rate for a council area was in Fermanagh and Omagh (33.1%) and was 15.6pps above the lowest rate, which was in Lisburn and Castlereagh (17.4%).
- In 2019, there were 23,000 people who were unemployed. This accounted for 2.6% of the economically active 16+ population, the lowest annual unemployment rate on record.
- The highest unemployment rate for a council area was in Causeway Coast and Glens (3.5%) and was 1.7pps above the lowest rate, which was in Lisburn and Castlereagh (1.7%).

Contents

1.	Draft Programme for Government	3
	- Commentary	6
	- Context	7
2.	Northern Ireland	8
3.	Antrim and Newtownabbey	9
4.	Ards and North Down	10
5.	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	11
6.	Belfast	12
7.	Causeway Coast and Glens	13
8.	Derry City and Strabane	14
9.	Fermanagh and Omagh	15
10.	Lisburn and Castlereagh	16
11.	Mid and East Antrim	17
12.	Mid Ulster	18
13.	Newry, Mourne and Down	19
14.	Further Information	20
15.	Index of web tables	25

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.



These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Redesigned the release of annual data outputs into both a summary and detailed report which has improved timeliness of dissemination of ODP indicators;
- Improved quality of the LFS data by boosting the sample size and improving precision around headline and geographical area estimates.

1 Draft Programme for Government

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used to help monitor seven indicators for the [Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government \(PfG\)/ NICS Outcomes Delivery Plan \(ODP\)](#). The [Outcomes Delivery Plan 2018/19](#) set out the actions that departments intended to take during 2018/19 to give effect to the previous Executive's stated objective of improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth. The [Outcomes Delivery Plan \(December 2019\)](#) is a further update which does not cover a fixed period with the intention to maintain it as a more responsive “live” document. The framework reflects population conditions in 12 key areas of economic and societal wellbeing identified through consultation as priorities, the 12 areas are then supported by 49 indicators. The LFS annual dataset informs seven indicators, two of which were detailed in the annual summary in March 2020. A further four indicators are reported for the first time in this report, initially due for publication in June 2020, postponed until October due to COVID-19. The 7th indicator (ODP 42, Life Satisfaction score of people with disabilities) is published in the [Personal Wellbeing](#) section of the NISRA website.

ODP Indicator 14: Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above and level 4 and above.*

Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs

Current position: In 2019 the proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to Level 1 and above was 90.8%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 2.2pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change would be an increase or decrease of 1.5pps.

The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to Level 2 and above was 80.0%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 4.8pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change would be an increase or decrease of 2.0pps.

The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 3 and above was 65.2%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 6.2pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change would be an increase or decrease of 2.3pps.

The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to Level 4 and above was 43.7%, this is an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 6.5pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change would be an increase or decrease of 2.3pps.

*qualification levels include:

Level 1 - O-level, GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent - less than 5

Level 2 - O-level, GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent - 5 or more

Level 3 - A-level or equivalent - more than 1

Level 4 and above - First degree/foundation degree and higher degrees

ODP Indicator 16: Seasonally adjusted employment rate (16-64).

Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs.

Current position:

The Northern Ireland employment rate for those aged 16-64 in 2019 was 71.9%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 3.5pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate would be an increase or decrease of 1.8pps.

ODP Indicator 17: Economic inactivity rate (16-64) excluding students.

Outcome 3 – We have a more equal society.

Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs.

Current position:

The Northern Ireland economic inactivity rate (16-64) excluding students in 2019 was 19.7%, a decrease from the baseline year (2015) of 0.4pps. This was not a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in economic inactivity rate excluding students would be an increase or decrease of 1.6pps.

ODP Indicator 32: Employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile.*

Outcome 3 – We have a more equal society.

Current position: The employment rate of deprivation quintile 1 in 2019 was 58.7, a decrease from the baseline year (2015) of 0.1pps. This was not a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate for deprivation quintile 1 would be an increase or decrease of 4.7pps.

The employment rate of deprivation quintile 2 in 2019 was 68.8%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 4.4pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate for deprivation quintile 2 would be an increase or decrease of 4.1pps.

The employment rate of deprivation quintile 3 in 2019 was 74.7, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 3.4pps. This was not a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate for deprivation quintile 3 would be an increase or decrease of 4.0pps.

The employment rate of deprivation quintile 4 in 2019 was 75.4%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 3.7pps. This was not a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate for deprivation quintile 4 would be an increase or decrease of 3.8pps.

The employment rate in deprivation quintile 5 in 2019 was 80.2%, an increase from the baseline year (2015) of 4.3pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change in the employment rate for deprivation quintile 5 would be an increase or decrease of 4.0pps.

Deprivation Quintiles 2 and 5 had increases in their employment rates which were statistically significant. The reported changes in all other deprivation quintiles were not statistically significant.

*Please note: The baseline year data (2015) are based on the 2010 multiple deprivation measure. Data from 2017 onwards are based on the 2017 multiple deprivation measure.

ODP Indicator 33: % people working part time who would like to work more hours.

Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs.

Current position: The Northern Ireland rate of people working part time (aged 16 and over) who would like more hours was 15.6% in 2019, a decrease from the baseline year (2015) of 4.8pps. This was a statistically significant change. A statistically significant change would be an increase or decrease of 3.7pps.

ODP Indicator 34: Employment rate by council area.

Outcome 1 – We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy.

Outcome 3 – We have a more equal society.

Outcome 6 – We have more people working in better jobs.

Current position:

The range between the highest two and lowest two LGDs was 12.3pps.

In 2019, Lisburn & Castlereagh and Antrim & Newtownabbey had the highest employment rates. Their combined employment rate was 79.2%. Fermanagh & Omagh and Belfast had the lowest employment rates. Their combined employment rate was 66.9%. The range between the highest two and lowest two LGDs was 12.3pps.

The range has decreased by 0.9pps since the baseline year (2015). This was not a statistically significant change. For the change to be statistically significant the range would need to increase or decrease by 5.3pps.

The overall Northern Ireland employment rate increased by 3.5pps which was a statistically significant increase.

Commentary

In 2019, the employment rate for NI was 71.9%, the economic inactivity rate was 26.2% and the unemployment rate was 2.6%. The employment and the unemployment rates were the highest and lowest annual rates on record respectively. Over a third (36.7%) of those aged 16-64 years were qualified to degree level or above while fewer than one in six (13.8%) had no qualifications.

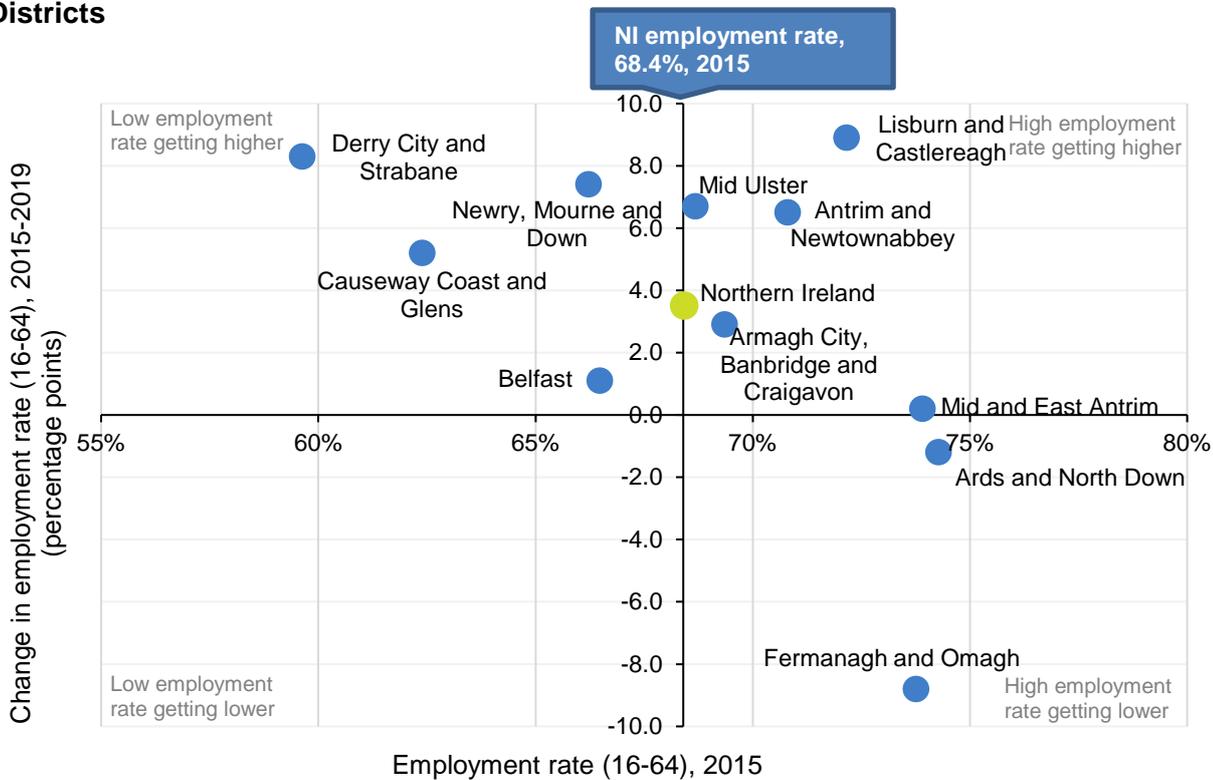
Performance against the key economic statistics varied across the Local Government Districts in 2019. Fermanagh and Omagh, and Belfast reported the lowest employment rates and the highest inactivity rates in NI. Fermanagh and Omagh had the lowest employment rate (65.0%), 2.6pps lower than Belfast (67.6%). Derry City and Strabane, and Causeway Coast and Glens also had employment rates below the NI rate and inactivity rates higher than the NI rate.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was the most similar to the NI averages, with an employment rate of 72.3% (within 0.4pps of the NI rate) and an inactivity rate (25.7%) within 0.5pps of the NI rate, followed by Ards and North Down and Newry, Mourne and Down.

Lisburn and Castlereagh, and Antrim and Newtownabbey had both the highest employment rates and lowest inactivity rates. Lisburn and Castlereagh's employment rate was 81.1% and was 3.8pps higher than the second highest, Antrim and Newtownabbey (77.3%). The difference in inactivity rate was similar, Lisburn and Castlereagh had the lowest inactivity rate in NI at 17.4%, which was 3.1pps lower than Antrim and Newtownabbey (20.6%).

Since 2015 (the draft PfG baseline year) the employment rate has increased in all councils apart from Ards and North Down, and Fermanagh and Omagh with a notable decrease of 8.8pps in Fermanagh and Omagh to 65.0%. Lisburn and Castlereagh's employment rate increased by 8.9pps over the period moving it from the 4th highest council employment rate in 2015 to the highest in 2019. Overall the difference between the highest and lowest council employment rates has increased from 14.7pps to 16.1pps.

Figure 1: Employment rate (16-64) and change from 2015, Northern Ireland Local Government Districts



Context

The latest LFS data covers the year from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 and therefore pre-dates COVID-19. This report provides updated economic headline estimates and includes trends over time, with comparisons made with 2018 and 2015 to coincide with the baseline year for PfG indicators in the commentary. The LFS is the largest regular household survey in Northern Ireland and is the primary source for information on the labour market using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.

This publication has been reorganised, and now includes snapshots of each of the 11 Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland. Feedback is welcome and can be addressed to the contact details at the end of this report or to our user group. **Registration is now open for the online Labour Market User Group, taking place on Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 10am.** Please sign up to the event via the [nidirect website](#) and include any topics or questions you would like addressed. The agenda will include plans and developments across a range of labour market statistics (employment, jobs, earnings, vacancies, redundancies and unemployment), and opportunities for discussion.

As the LFS is a sample survey estimates are subject to sampling error. Estimates under a cell count of 3 are disclosive and therefore suppressed. The Further Information section provides more detail on sampling variability (in the 'reporting change and sampling variability' section).

A recent Labour Market Outputs [consultation](#) showed labour market statistics are used for policy monitoring and research, academic and private sector research, service planning and delivery. Key users of Northern Ireland labour market statistics include government departments, in particular the Department for the Economy (DfE) which uses the statistics to design and monitor the impact of economic and labour market policy. Other Government departments such as the Executive Office (TEO), the Department of Finance (DoF) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), as well as bodies such as Invest NI and Belfast City Council, regularly require specific [ad hoc labour market analysis](#) in order to monitor policies for example, equality and employment. In addition, significant 'non-governmental' users of labour market statistics (including the media, banks, academics, private consultants and the general public) use the data primarily for reporting or researching the performance of the economy in general. Labour market statistics attract widespread media coverage, with a number of broadcasters publishing articles on the labour market on a monthly basis, generally on the publication day of the monthly [Labour Market Report](#).

Labour market statistics feature 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 NISRA website.

Further information on using labour market statistics can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

- [Guide to Labour Market Statistics](#)
- [Glossary](#)

2 Northern Ireland

Employment

In 2019:

- The Northern Ireland employment rate (16-64) was 71.9% - the highest annual rate on record. This was equivalent to 839,000 people who were employed and an increase of 1.9pps from 2018.
- the male employment rate was 75.8% and the female employment rate was 68.1%,
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Northern Ireland, 76.3% worked full-time and 23.7% worked part-time.
- Approximately a third (31.8%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector and almost a fifth (17.8%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. These were the two largest industry groups. The smallest industry group was energy and water, with 1.4% or 11,000 employed in this industry.
- A fifth (20.3%) of employed people aged 16-64 worked in the professional occupations group, the most common occupation. The least common occupation group was process, plant and machine operative occupations with 7.1% employed in this group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

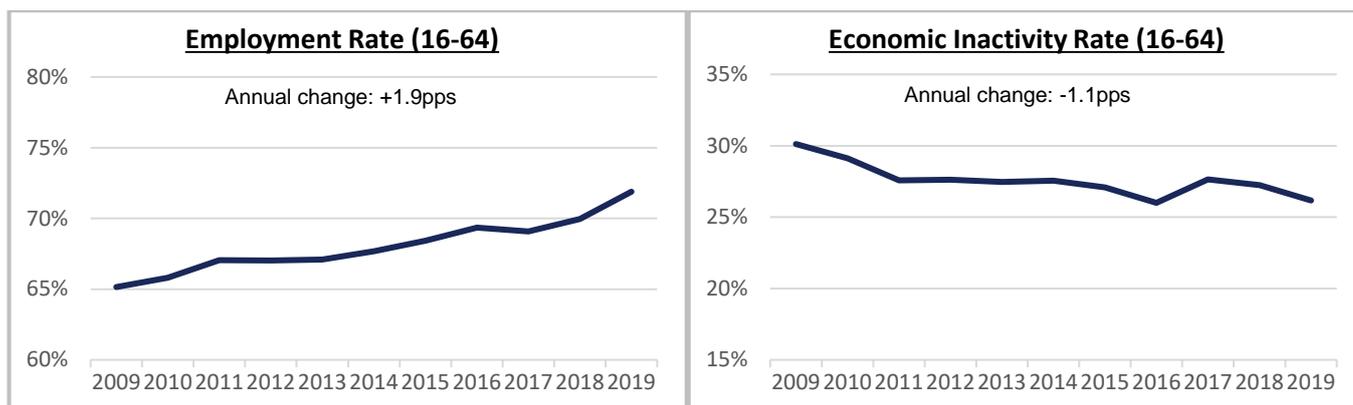
- half (49.5%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- 36.7% had a highest qualification of degree level or higher.
- 13.8% had no qualifications, equivalent to 158,000 people.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Northern Ireland was 2.6%, equivalent to 23,000 people, in 2019 – the lowest annual unemployment rate on record.

Economic Inactivity

- The NI economic inactivity rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 who were not working and not seeking or available to work) was 26.2% in 2019. This was equivalent to 306,000 economically inactive people and a decrease of 1.1pps from 2018.



3 Antrim and Newtownabbey

Employment

In 2019:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey had the 2nd highest employment rate (16-64) of the 11 councils at 77.3%. This was equivalent to 71,000 people who were employed. Lisburn and Castlereagh had the highest employment rate (81.1%) which was 3.8pps higher than Antrim and Newtownabbey.
- the male employment rate was 78.2% and the female employment rate was 76.3%, the 2nd highest employment rate for females in Northern Ireland.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Antrim and Newtownabbey, 75.8% worked full-time and 24.2% worked part-time.
- an estimated third (33.4%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector and approximately a fifth (18.7%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. This is in line with Northern Ireland overall, where these were the 2 largest industry groups.
- 18.5% of employed people aged 16-64 worked in the professional occupations group, the most common occupation. The least common occupation group was caring, leisure and other services occupations with 5.8% employed in this group. Of all councils, Antrim and Newtownabbey had the lowest proportion of people working in this occupation.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

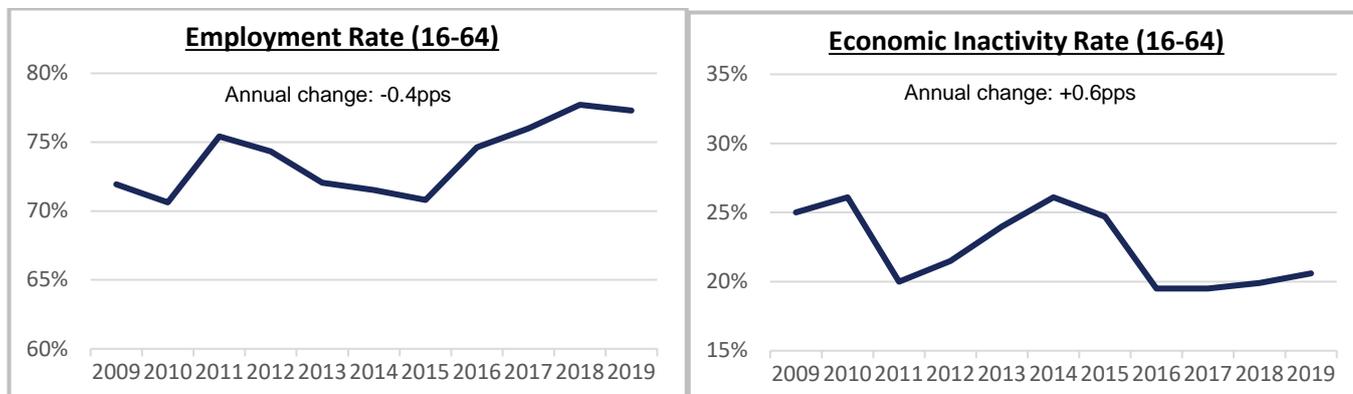
- over half (52.9%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- 37.5% had a highest qualification of degree level or higher, with Antrim & Newtownabbey being the council closest to the Northern Ireland average (36.7%).
- less than 10% had no qualifications, equivalent to 9,000 people.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Antrim and Newtownabbey was the same as the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Antrim & Newtownabbey was the 2nd lowest of all councils at 20.6%. Lisburn and Castlereagh was the only council with a lower economic inactivity rate at 17.4%.

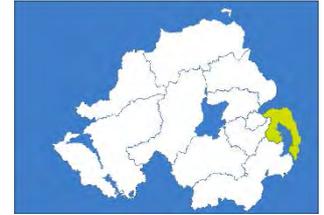


4 Ards and North Down

Employment

In 2019:

- Ards and North Down had an employment rate (16-64) of 73.1%. This was equivalent to 72,000 people who were employed. This was similar to the Northern Ireland average (71.9%) which was 1.2pps lower.
- the male employment rate was 77.0% and the female employment rate was 69.4%. The male employment rate was closest to the Northern Ireland average for males (75.8%), which was 1.2pps lower.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Ards and North Down, 72.7% worked full-time and 27.3% worked part-time. Of all councils, Ards and North Down had the largest percentage of people working part-time and therefore the smallest percentage of people working full-time.
- Over a third (35.9%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector and approximately a fifth (18.1%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. 5.2% worked in the manufacturing sector. This was the smallest percentage compared to all other councils in Northern Ireland, and the smallest number, equivalent to 4,000 people.
- Over a fifth (21.8%) were employed in the professional occupations group, the most common occupation. The least common occupation group was elementary occupations with less than 5% employed in this group. Ards and North Down was also the council with the smallest percentage working in this occupation.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

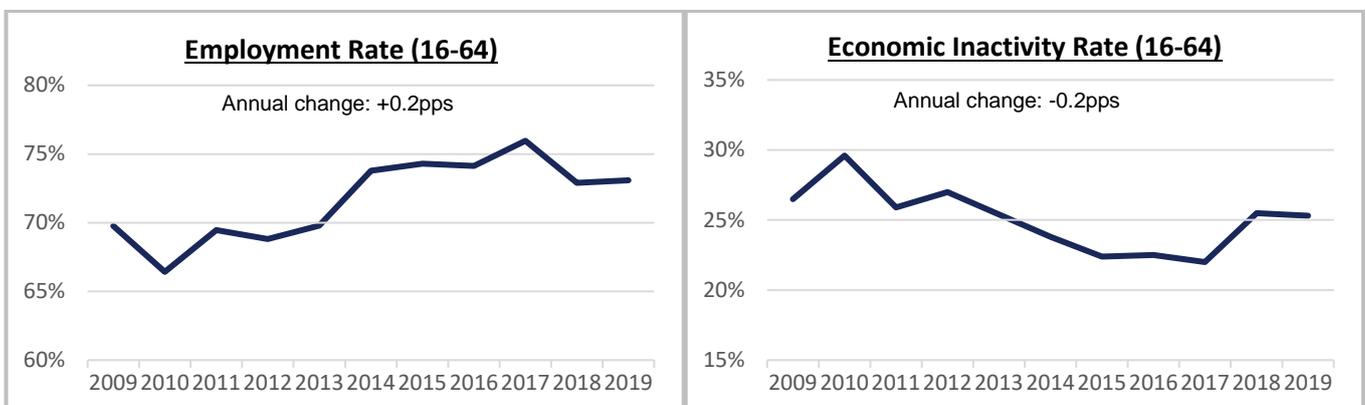
- over half (51.0%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- 40.6% had a highest qualification of degree level or higher.
- 8.4% had no qualifications, equivalent to 8,000 people, Ards and North Down was the council with the second lowest percentage of people with no qualifications, Lisburn and Castlereagh had a lower proportion (5.2%).

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Ards and North Down was 2.4%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019 and the second lowest of all councils.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Ards and North Down was 25.3%, similar to the Northern Ireland rate which was 26.2% (0.9pps higher).



5 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon

Employment

In 2019:

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had an employment rate (16-64) of 72.3%. This was equivalent to 96,000 people who were employed. This was the closest council to the Northern Ireland average (71.9%) which was 0.4pps lower.
- the male employment rate was 77.3% and the female employment rate was 67.5%. The female employment rate was closest to the Northern Ireland average for females (68.1%), which was 0.5pps higher.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 78.7% worked full-time and 21.3% worked part-time.
- almost a third (32.1%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector and approximately a fifth (18.2%) worked in the manufacturing sector, this was the council with the second highest proportion working in the manufacturing sector
- Less than a fifth (17.4%) were employed in the professional occupations group, the most common group. 10.5% worked in the process, plant and machine operatives group, which (along with Mid Ulster) was the council with the highest proportion working in this group. The least common occupation group was managers, directors and senior officials with 8.1% employed in this group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

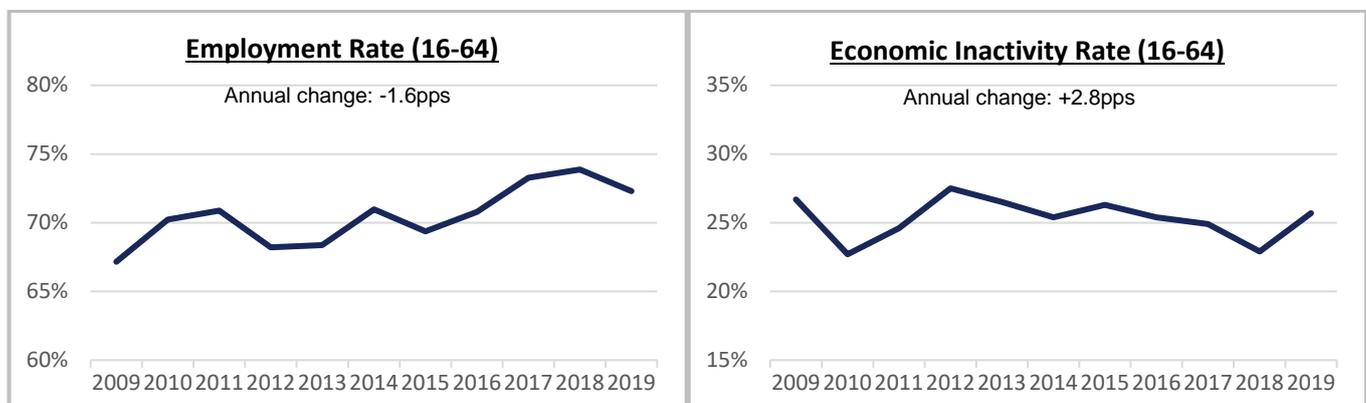
- over half (54.6%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was the council with the highest proportion educated to this level.
- A third (33.4%) had a highest qualification of degree level or higher, the second lowest amongst councils.
- 12.1% had no qualifications, equivalent to 16,000 people.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was 2.5%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon was 25.7%, the closest council to the Northern Ireland rate which was 26.2% (0.5pps higher).

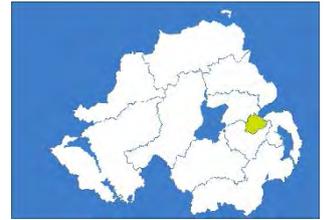


6 Belfast

Employment

In 2019:

- Belfast had an employment rate (16-64) of 67.6%. This was equivalent to 148,000 people who were employed. This was the joint second lowest employment rate of all councils with Causeway Coast and Glens and 4.3pps lower than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 70.1%, the second lowest male employment rate amongst the councils. The female employment rate was 65.1%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Belfast, 73.0% worked full-time and 27.0% worked part-time. Belfast had the second largest proportion of people working part-time.
- a third (33.2%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector and approximately a fifth (19.4%) worked in the banking and finance sector. Belfast was the council with the highest proportion working in the banking and finance sector.
- Almost a quarter (24.1%) were employed in the professional occupations group, the most common group. 4.2% worked in the process, plant and machine operatives group, the least common group in Belfast and the council with the lowest proportion working in this occupation.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

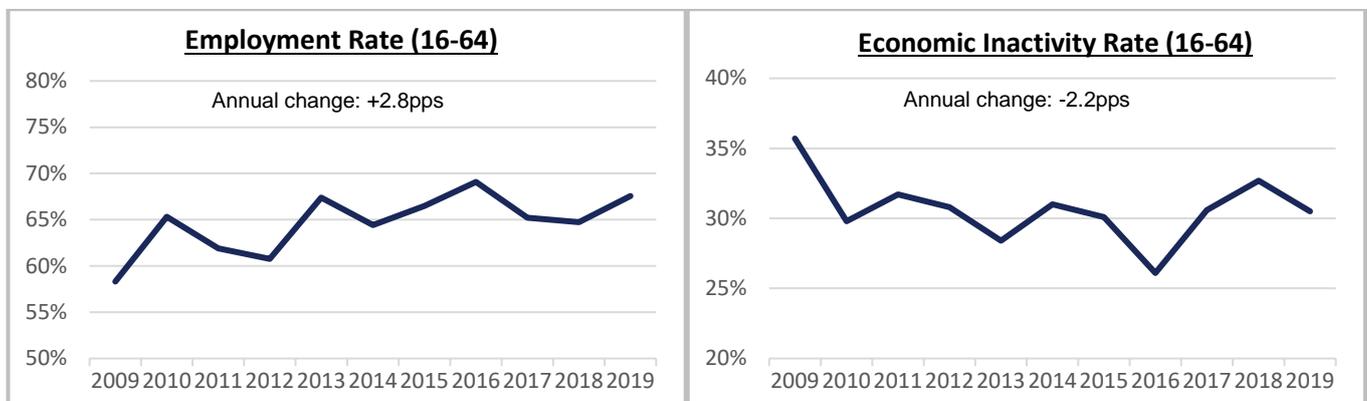
- Less than a half (46.2%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level, this was the council with the second lowest proportion educated to this level.
- Over a third (35.6%) had a highest qualification of degree level or higher.
- 18.2% had no qualifications, equivalent to 39,000 people, and the council with the second highest proportion with no qualifications.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Belfast was 2.7%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) in Belfast was 30.5%, the second highest economic inactivity rate amongst the councils. Fermanagh and Omagh was the highest with an inactivity rate of 33.1%.



7 Causeway Coast and Glens

Employment

In 2019:

- Causeway Coast and Glens had an employment rate (16-64) of 67.6%. This was equivalent to 55,000 people who were employed. This was the joint second lowest employment rate of all councils (with Belfast) and 4.3pps lower than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 70.4% and the female employment rate was 65.3%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Causeway Coast and Glens, 74.0% worked full-time and 26.0% worked part-time. Causeway Coast and Glens had the third largest proportion of people working part-time of all councils.
- over a third (36.8%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Causeway Coast and Glens, and the council with the largest proportion working in that sector. Approximately a fifth (20.8%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. Again, of all councils, Causeway Coast and Glens had the largest proportion of people working in this sector. Causeway Coast and Glens had the smallest proportion of all councils working in the banking and finances sector, at just 10.0% equivalent to 5,000 people.
- Less than a fifth (17.7%) were employed in the professional occupations group, the most common group. 5.9% worked in the process, plant and machine operatives group, the least common group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

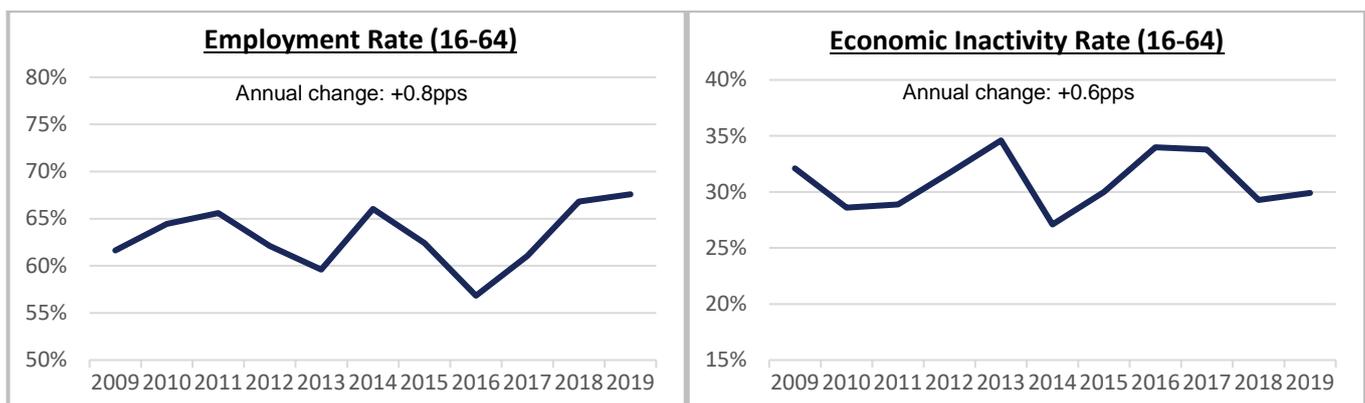
- Less than half (47.0%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level, this was the council with the third lowest proportion who had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- Over a third (35.1%) had a highest qualification of degree level or higher.
- 17.9% had no qualifications, equivalent to 14,000 people, and the council with the third highest proportion with no qualifications.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Causeway Coast and Glens was 3.5%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019, and the highest rate among the 11 councils.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 29.9%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019.



8 Derry City and Strabane

Employment

In 2019:

- Derry City and Strabane had an employment rate (16-64) of 68.0%. This was equivalent to 65,000 people who were employed. This was 3.9pps lower than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 72.1% and the female employment rate was 63.7%. Of the 11 councils, Derry City and Strabane had the second lowest female employment rate, 4.3pps below the Northern Ireland average for females at 68.1%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Derry City and Strabane, 75.2% worked full-time and 24.8% worked part-time.
- over a third (36.3%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Derry City and Strabane, and the council with the second largest proportion working in that sector. Approximately a fifth (20.1%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. The smallest sector was energy and water, with just 1.2% employed in this industry.
- Less than a fifth (17.4%) were employed in the professional occupations group, the most common group. 12.4% worked in the caring, leisure and other services group, Derry City and Strabane was the council with the second highest proportion working in this group, only Mid and East Antrim had a higher proportion (14.5%).



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

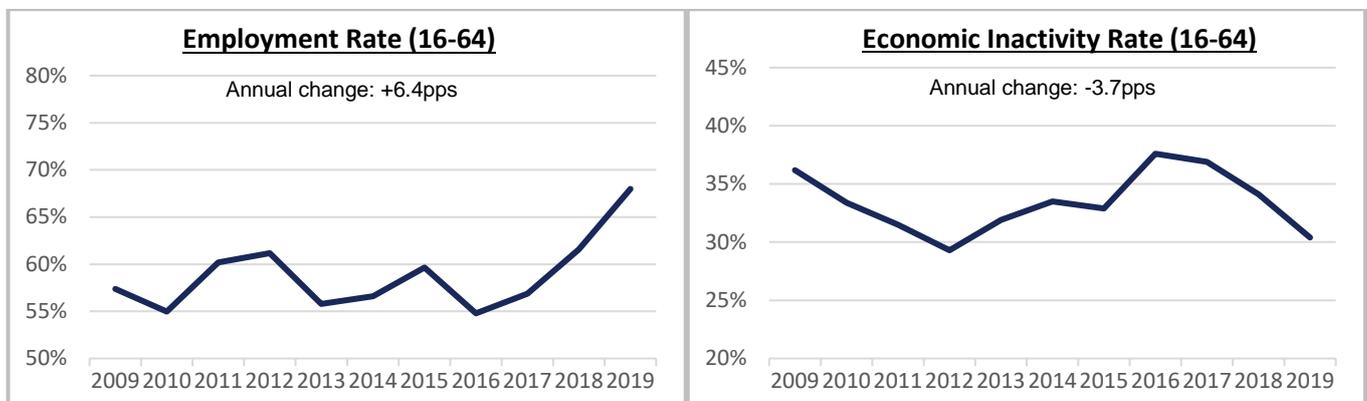
- Less than a half (48.4%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- Over a third (34.0%) had a highest qualification of degree level or higher.
- 17.6% had no qualifications, equivalent to 16,000 people. Mid Ulster had similar characteristics with 17.0% of those aged 16-64 with no qualifications.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Derry City and Strabane was 2.5%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 30.4%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019 and the third highest amongst the councils.



9 Fermanagh and Omagh

Employment

In 2019:

- Fermanagh and Omagh had an employment rate (16-64) of 65.0%. This was equivalent to 47,000 people who were employed. This was 6.9pps lower than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%), and the lowest employment rate of the 11 councils.
- the male employment rate was 68.9% and the female employment rate was 60.5%. Again, these were the lowest employment rates for both sexes amongst the councils.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Fermanagh and Omagh, 83.1% worked full-time, the highest proportion among the 11 councils, 16.9% worked part-time, the lowest proportion.
- Less than a quarter (23.5%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Fermanagh and Omagh, but the council with the lowest proportion working in that sector. Less than a fifth (17.5%) worked in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector. The smallest sector was energy and water, with 2.9% employed in this industry, Fermanagh and Omagh however was the council with the largest proportion working in this industry.
- Almost a quarter (24.2%) were employed in the skilled trades occupations group, Fermanagh and Omagh was also the council with the largest proportion working in this group. 15.5% worked in professional occupations, the council with the smallest proportion working in this occupation group, however this was still the second largest occupation group. Fermanagh and Omagh also had the largest proportion working in the sales and customer services group, with 13.6% working in this occupation.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

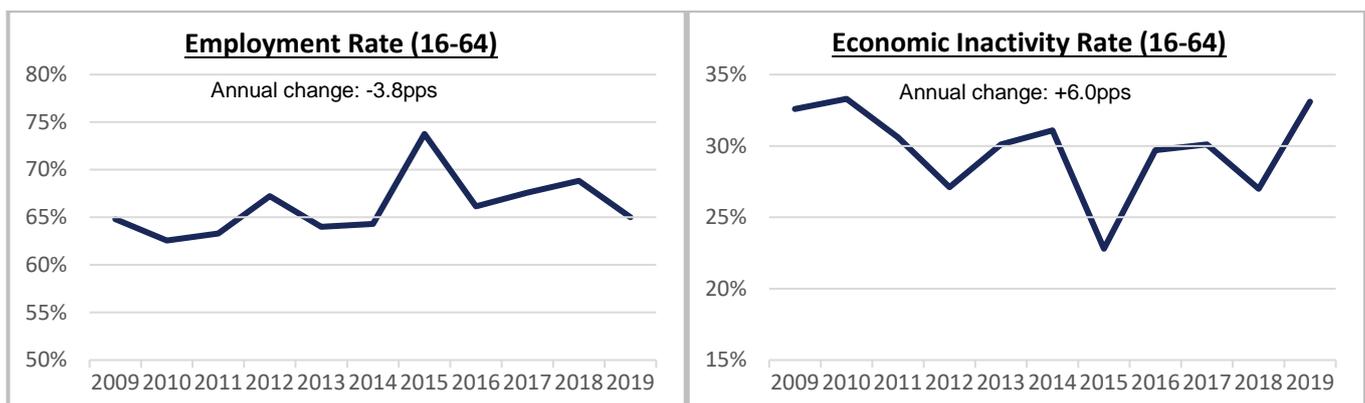
- Over half (51.4%) had a highest qualification which was below degree level.
- Less than a third (29.8%) had a highest qualification of degree level or higher, this was the smallest proportion amongst the 11 councils.
- 18.8% had no qualifications, equivalent to 13,000 people. Of all councils, Fermanagh and Omagh had the largest proportion of people with no qualifications.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Fermanagh and Omagh was 2.7%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 33.1%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019 and the highest rate amongst the councils.

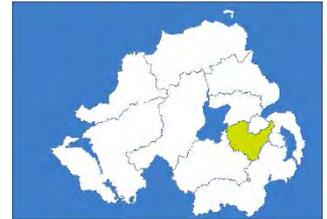


10 Lisburn and Castlereagh

Employment

In 2019:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh had an employment rate (16-64) of 81.1%. This was equivalent to 73,000 people who were employed. This was 9.2pps higher than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%), and the highest employment rate of the 11 councils.
- the male employment rate was 85.5% and the female employment rate was 76.9%. These were the highest employment rates for both sexes amongst the councils.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Lisburn and Castlereagh, 78.4% worked full-time and 21.6% worked part-time.
- Less than a third (32.1%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Approximately a fifth (19.2%) worked in the banking and finance sector, the second highest among the councils.
- Close to a third (29.3%) were employed in professional occupations, and 9.8% were employed in the managers, directors and senior officials group, Lisburn and Castlereagh was the council with the largest proportion working in these groups. The smallest occupation group was process, plant and machine operatives, with 4.8% employed in this group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

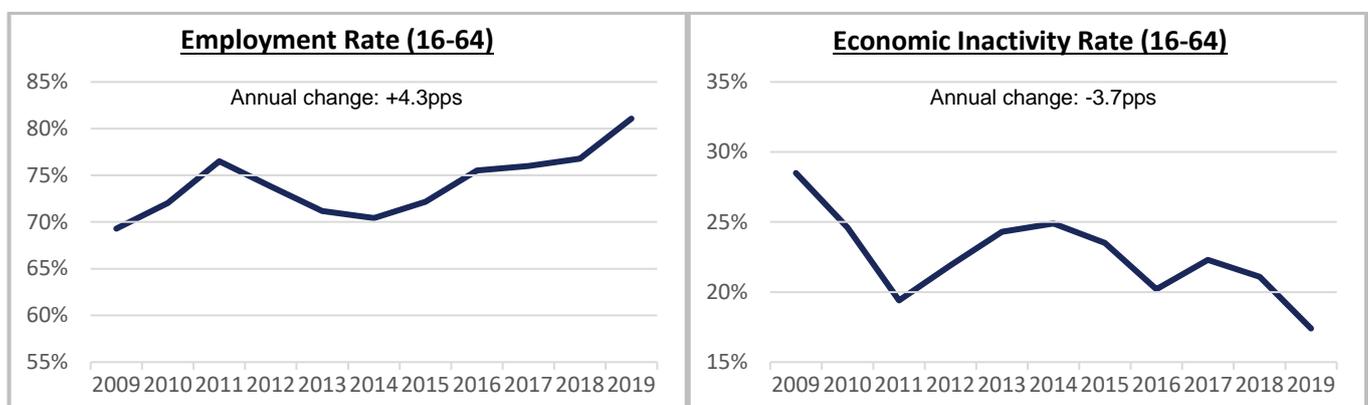
- 43.5% had a highest qualification of below degree level, this was the smallest proportion amongst all councils.
- Over half (51.4%) had a highest qualification which was degree level or above, the highest proportion of any council.
- 5.2% had no qualifications, equivalent to 5,000 people, this was the smallest proportion of people with no qualifications of all councils.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Lisburn and Castlereagh was 1.7%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019, and the lowest rate amongst all councils.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 17.4%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019 and the lowest rate amongst the councils.



11 Mid and East Antrim

Employment

In 2019:

- Mid and East Antrim had an employment rate (16-64) of 74.2%. This was equivalent to 62,000 people who were employed. This was 2.3pps higher than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 81.3%, one of the highest employment rates for males, second only to Lisburn and Castlereagh. The female employment rate was 67.4%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Mid And East Antrim, 76.5% worked full-time and 23.5% worked part-time.
- Less than a third (27.9%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Mid and East Antrim but lower than the Northern Ireland average of 31.8%. Of all councils, Mid and East Antrim had the highest proportion (11.9%) working in the transport and communication sector.
- Less than a fifth (17.5%) were employed in professional occupations, and 14.5% were employed in the caring, leisure and other services group, Mid and East Antrim was the council with the largest proportion working in this group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

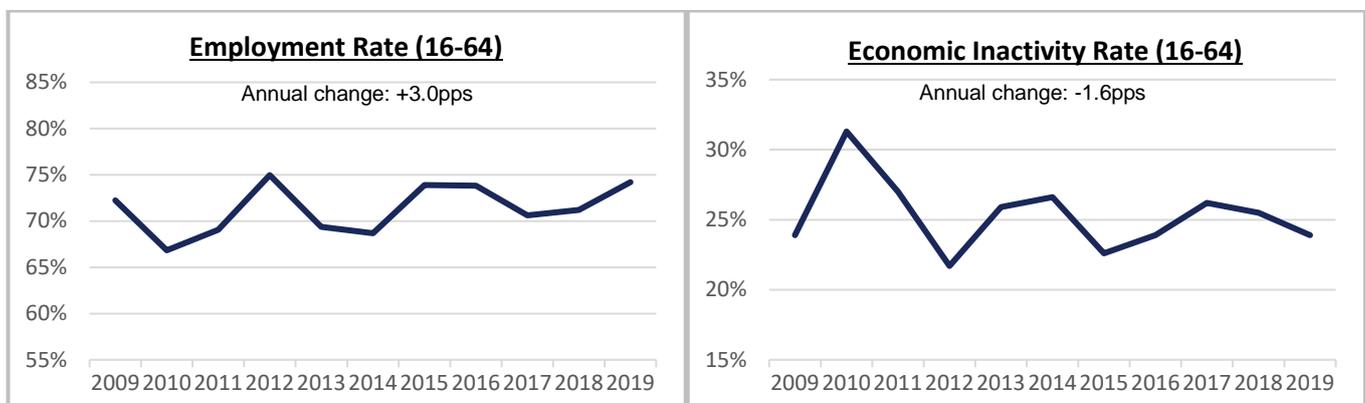
- 49.2% had a highest qualification of below degree level, this was similar to the Northern Ireland average of 49.5%.
- Over two-fifths (41.0%) had a highest qualification which was degree level or above, the second highest proportion amongst all councils.
- 9.8% had no qualifications, equivalent to 8,000 people.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Mid and East Antrim was 2.5%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 23.9%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019.



12 Mid Ulster

Employment

In 2019:

- Mid Ulster had an employment rate (16-64) of 75.3%. This was equivalent to 71,000 people who were employed. This was 3.4pps higher than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 77.4% and the female employment rate was 73.0%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Mid Ulster, 78.8% worked full-time and 21.2% worked part-time. Mid Ulster had the second highest proportion of employed working full-time, second only to Fermanagh and Omagh.
- approximately a quarter (25.9%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Mid Ulster but lower than the Northern Ireland average of 31.8%, and the second lowest amongst councils. Mid Ulster had both the highest proportion working in manufacturing (21.1%) and the lowest proportion working in transport and communication (2.8%) and distribution, hotels and restaurants (15.4%).
- Less than a fifth (19.2%) were employed in professional occupations and 19.1% were employed in the skilled trades group (the second highest amongst councils). Mid Ulster was the council with the smallest proportion working in the sales and customer services group.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

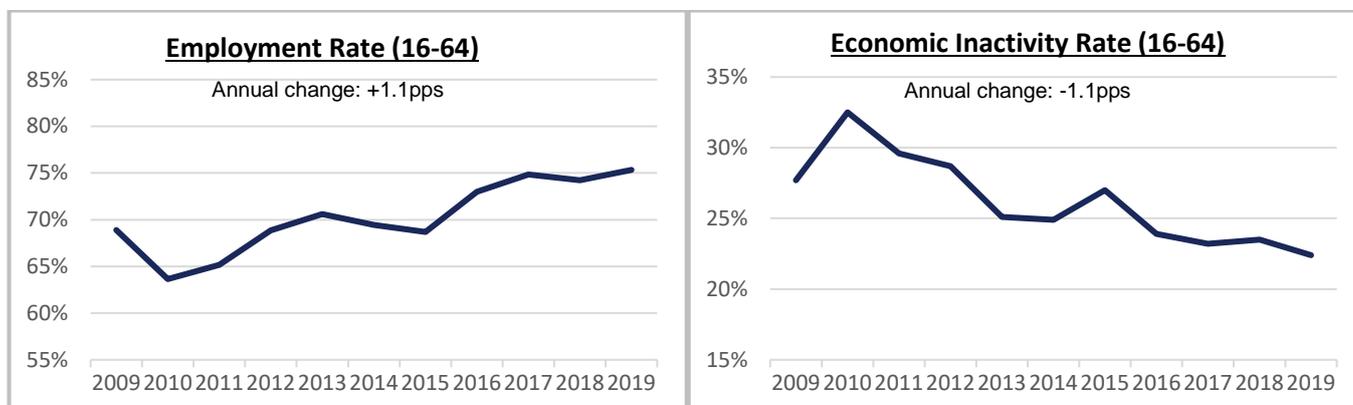
- 48.9% had a highest qualification of below degree level, this was similar to the Northern Ireland average of 49.5%.
- Over a third (34.1%) had a highest qualification which was degree level or above.
- 17.0% had no qualifications, equivalent to 16,000 people and higher than the Northern Ireland average of 13.8%.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Mid Ulster was 2.8%, higher than the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019 and the second highest amongst the 11 councils.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 22.4%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019.



13 Newry, Mourne and Down

Employment

In 2019:

- Newry, Mourne and Down had an employment rate (16-64) of 73.6%. This was equivalent to 81,000 people who were employed. This was 1.7pps higher than the Northern Ireland average (71.9%).
- the male employment rate was 80.6% and the female employment rate was 66.9%.
- of all the employed aged 16-64 in Newry, Mourne and Down, 77.6% worked full-time and 22.4% worked part-time.
- less than a third (29.9%) of people worked in the public administration, education and health sector, this was the largest sector in Newry, Mourne and Down. 10,000 people, or 12.8%, worked in the construction industry, the largest number and proportion of any council. 10.3% worked in the banking and finance sector, the second smallest proportion next to Causeway Coast and Glens where 10.0% worked in this sector.
- Less than a fifth (19.1%) were employed in professional occupations but this was still the largest group in Newry, Mourne and Down. 15.7% were employed in the skilled trades group, the third highest amongst councils and second highest group within Newry, Mourne and Down. 6.6% were employed in the managers, directors and senior officials occupations, the smallest group in Newry, Mourne and Down and the lowest of all council areas.



Qualifications

In terms of educational achievement, of those aged 16-64:

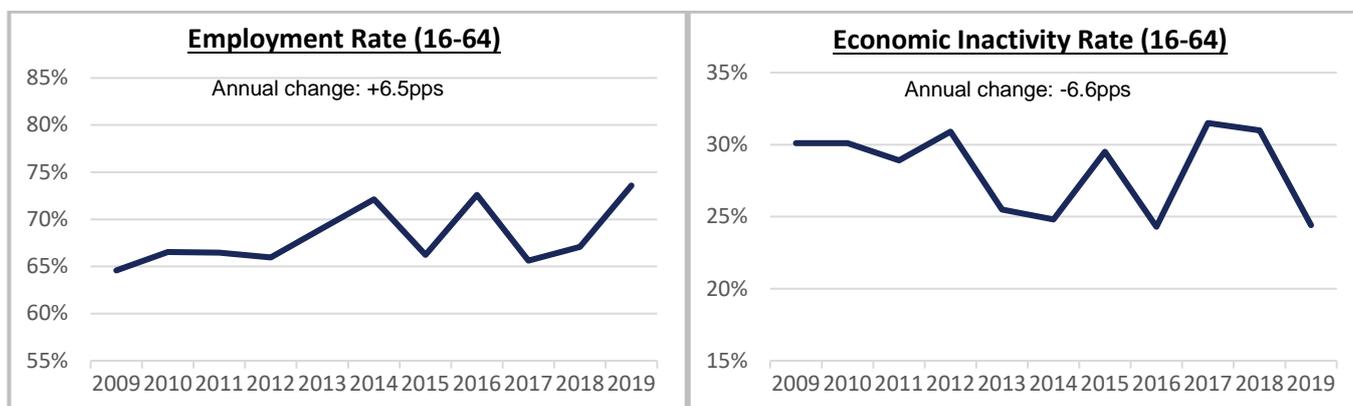
- 53.0% had a highest qualification of below degree level, this was higher than the Northern Ireland average of 49.5%, and the second highest amongst councils.
- Over a third (34.0%) had a highest qualification which was degree level or above.
- 13.0% had no qualifications, equivalent to 14,000 people and similar to the Northern Ireland average of 13.8%.

Unemployment

- The unemployment rate (16+) in Newry, Mourne and Down was the same as the Northern Ireland average at 2.6% in 2019.

Economic Inactivity

- The economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 24.4%, lower than the Northern Ireland average at 26.2% in 2019.



14 Further information

Background

The LFS annual dataset used for this publication is derived from four consecutive quarters of the LFS. 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. Individuals in each wave are interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any quarter one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one receiving their fifth and final interview. The annual dataset is created by selecting the relevant cases from each quarter and combining them to create a dataset of unique cases. Selecting all wave one and five interviews allows the maximum number of respondents over a one-year period to be included whilst avoiding double counting. The resulting sample size in the 2019 dataset is approximately 11,000 individuals.

The LFS collects information from a sample of the population living in households. To provide estimates for the entire population the data must be grossed. This is achieved by creating grossing factors often referred to as weights, that can be applied to each sampled individual so that grossed results match published population data in terms of age distribution, sex and region of residence. Mid-year population estimates and projections are used to ensure that the LFS is grossed to the most up to date population data available.

Reporting change and sampling variability

Reported change is calculated using unrounded data and is presented to 1 decimal place. When a change is less than 0.05pps, it is rounded to 0.0pps and the data is reported as unchanged.

The LFS is a sample survey and, as such, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability. If we drew many samples each would give a different result. The ranges shown for the LFS data in the tables LFSAR19 1.1 to 1.3 represent 95% confidence intervals i.e. we would expect that in 95% of samples the range would contain the true value. See the [Estimating and reporting uncertainty paper](#) for details. If the annual change of an estimate is larger than the 'confidence interval around the change', the change is statistically significant and is likely to reflect real change. If none of the reported changes over the year were statistically significant, then the recorded changes did not exceed the variability expected from a sample survey of this size.

Disclosure Control and Quality Indicators

Estimates under a cell count of 3 are disclosive and therefore suppressed. Shaded estimates are based on a small sample size. This may result in less precise estimates, which should be used with caution, particularly when comparing to other estimates of similar values. Unshaded estimates are based on a larger sample size. This is likely to result in estimates of higher precision, although they will still be subject to some sampling variability.

LFS revisions

LFS microdata are routinely revised to incorporate the latest population estimates. The latest annual revisions were published in March 2019 and affect annual datasets from 2012 onwards. In addition the 2018 and 2019 annual datasets include a boost to the LFS sample. More information on the revision policy concerning labour market statistics can be found through the following link: [Labour market statistics revisions policy](#).

LFS definitions

Employment: The definition of ILO employed applies to anyone (aged 16 or over) who has carried out at least one hour's paid work in the week prior to interview, or has a job they are temporarily away from (e.g. on holiday). Also included are people who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported employment training schemes. In this publication employment estimates are for the working age (16-64) population unless otherwise stated.

Employment rate: The employment rate is the percentage of all working age (16-64) people who are employed.

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

Unemployment rate: The unemployment rate is the percentage of economically active people (16+) who are unemployed.

Economic inactivity: Economic inactivity applies to those individuals who are neither in employment nor unemployed on the ILO measure. This group includes all those who were looking after a home, long term sick or disabled, students or retired.

Economic inactivity rate: The economic inactivity rate is the percentage of people of working age (16-64) who are economically inactive.

Economic inactivity excluding students: People who are neither in employment, nor unemployed on the ILO measure, nor economically inactive due to being a student. This group includes those who are looking after a home, long term sick or disabled and retired. The rate is calculated as all people of working age who are economically inactive, except those who are economically inactive due to being a student, as a proportion of all people of working age.

Industry: The classification of respondents' industry of employment is based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC07), further information on SIC07 classification can be found on the ONS website: [UK SIC 2007](#)

Occupation: The classification of respondents' occupations is based on the SOC2010 (Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since January – March 2011, further information on SOC2010 classification can be found on the ONS website: [SOC 2010](#)

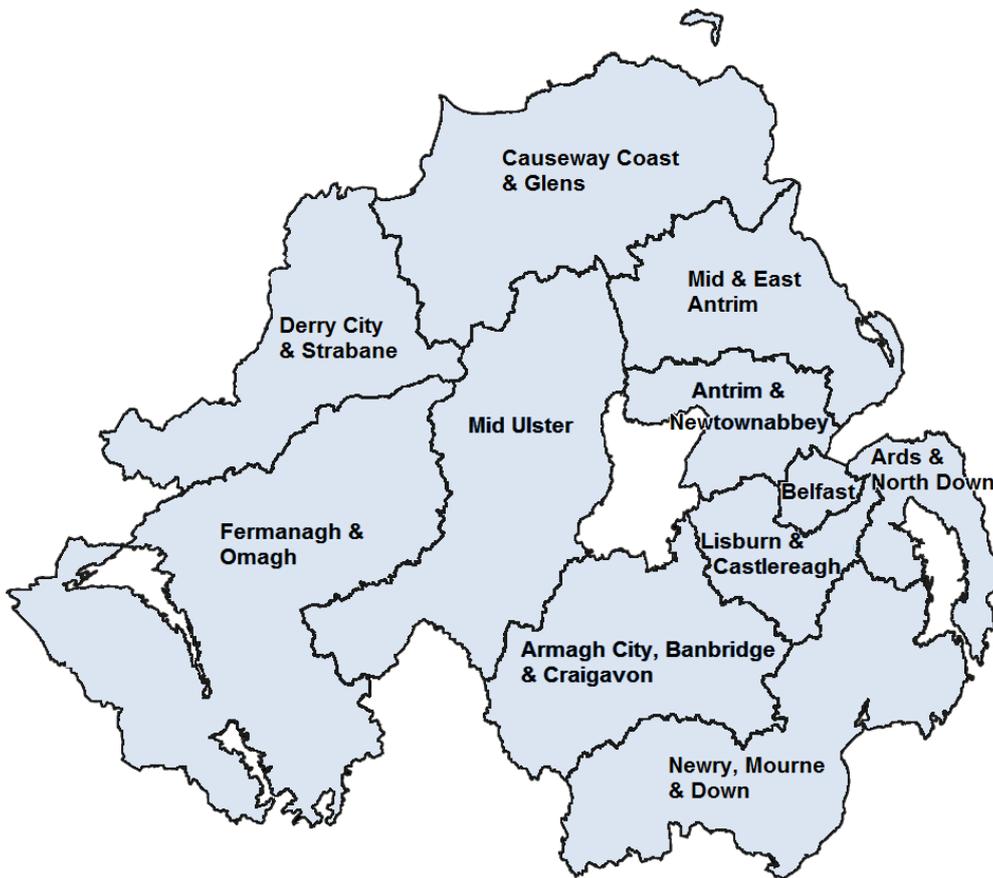
Deprivation quintile: The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure is the official measure of spatial deprivation for NI and comprises seven domains of deprivation as follows: income, employment, health, education, proximity to services, living environment and crime. Further information on deprivation can be found on the NISRA website: [Deprivation](#)

Local areas

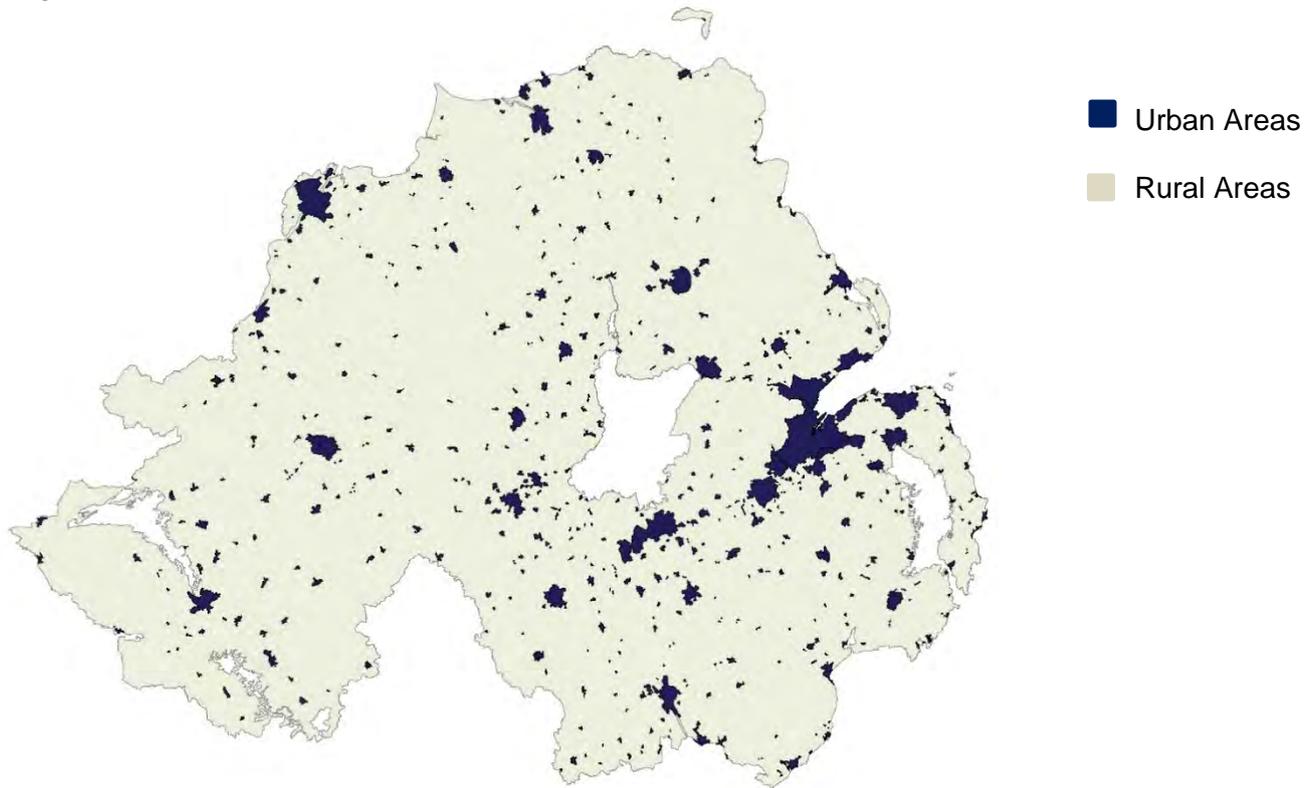
As far as possible the accompanying tables to this report (see Annex for list) are broken down by council areas (LGD2014). Geographies are attached to the annual dataset using NISRA's Central Postcode Directory (CPD) which provides the grid reference of the property closest to the average grid reference for all the properties within the postcode i.e. the address weighted centre of the postcode, which is commonly known as the Postcode centroid. This is a ready means of matching the postcode to a range of geographic areas. While accurate, the postcode geography does not take account of administrative boundaries – postal geography overlaps or straddles other boundaries. This straddling of boundaries means that many postcodes can only be assigned uniquely to administrative areas on a 'best fit' basis. If a unit postcode straddles a LGD boundary the Central Postcode Directory allocates this postcode to one LGD only. The result is that addresses lying close to administrative boundaries are sometimes assigned to the neighbouring area. In this publication a very small number are coded to neighbouring LGDs (approximately 15 cases of 11,087 or 0.1%). As such the impact on quality is very low. Further information on postal geographies and geo-referencing is available on the [CPD – supporting documents page of the NISRA website](#).

The accompanying tables also contain analysis for urban and rural areas (2015), deprivation quintiles according to the 2017 multiple deprivation measure, and parliamentary constituencies (2008). The following maps show the boundaries for the 2014 LGDs, 2015 urban and rural settlements, 2017 deprivation deciles and 2008 parliamentary constituencies.

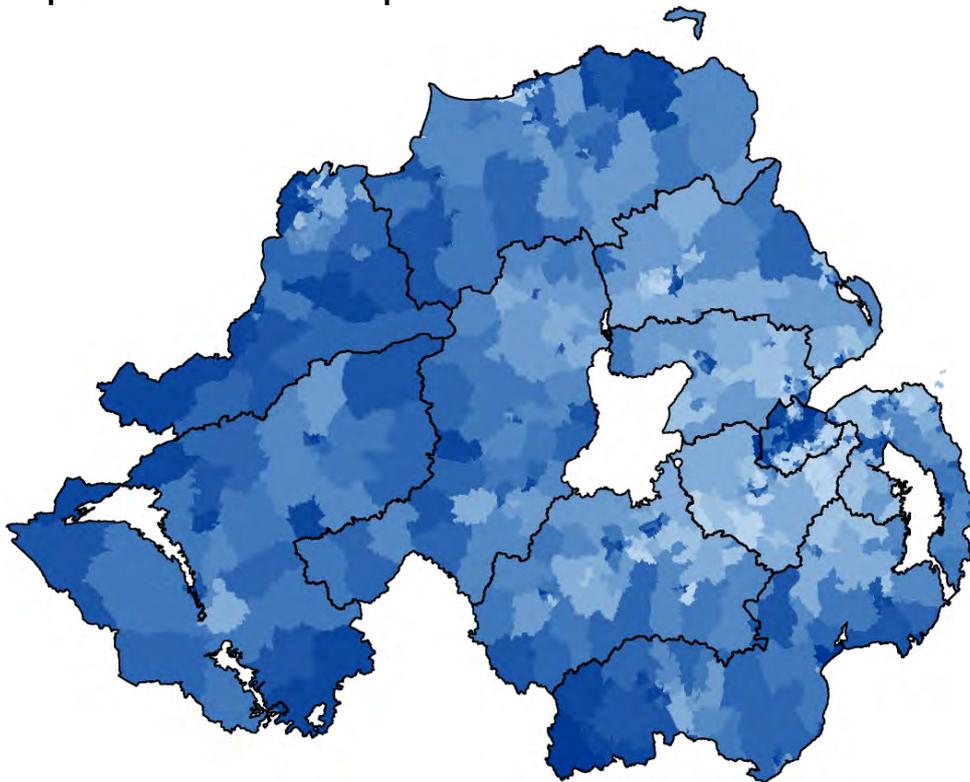
Map 1: Northern Ireland council (LGD2014) areas



Map 2: Northern Ireland Urban Rural Settlements

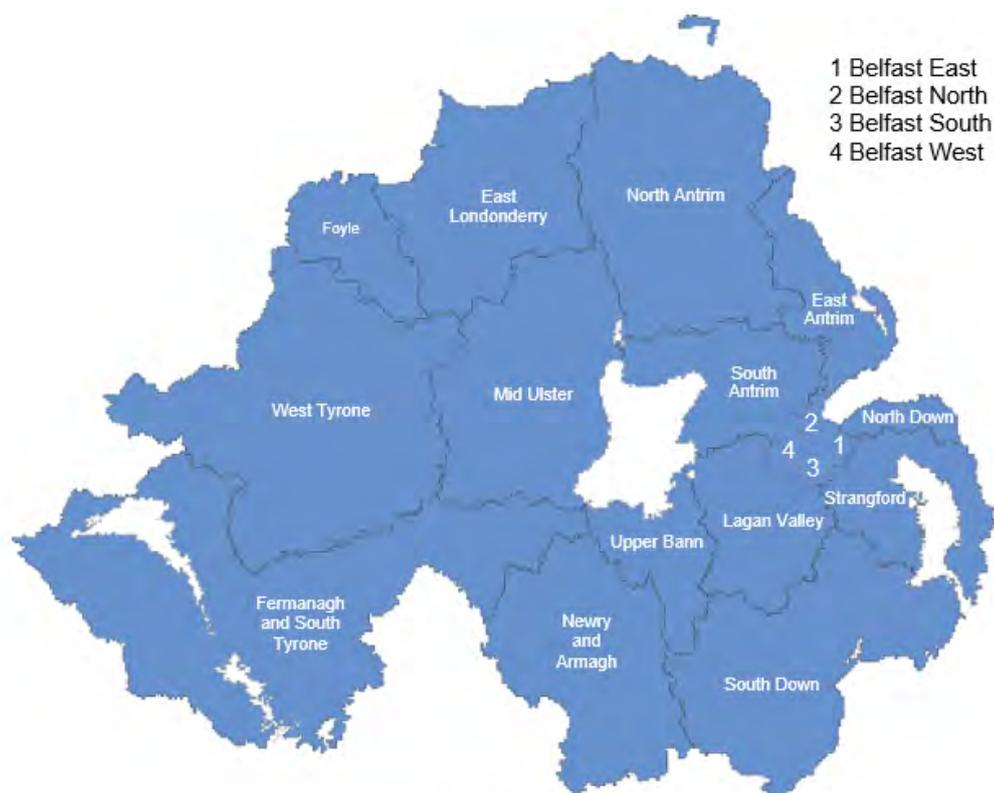


Map 3: Northern Ireland Deprivation Deciles¹



¹ Darkest areas are in the highest deprivation decile (1 – most deprived) and lightest areas are in the lowest deprivation decile (10 – least deprived) Deciles are grouped up into quintiles according to the following: Deciles 1 and 2 = Quintile 1, Deciles 3 and 4 = Quintile 2, Deciles 5 and 6 = Quintile 3, Deciles 7 and 8 = Quintile 4, Deciles 9 and 10 = Quintile 5

Map 4: Northern Ireland Parliamentary Constituencies



Further Information

If you require further information about the figures contained in this publication or the accompanying tables, or have feedback on the publication content please contact the Labour Force Survey section using the details below:

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Web: [Labour Force Survey](#)

15 Index of Web Tables

Table No. Title

Labour Market Structure

- [LFSAR19 1.1 Labour market structure by council area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.2 Labour market structure by council area, males, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.3 Labour market structure by council area, females, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.4 Full-time/part-time employment by sex and council area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.5 Labour market structure and full-time/part-time employment by age group, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.6 Labour market structure and full-time/part-time employment by urban/rural area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.7 Labour market structure and full-time/part-time employment by deprivation quintile, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 1.8 Labour market structure and full-time/part-time employment by parliamentary constituency, 2019](#)

Industry

- [LFSAR19 2.1 Employment \(16-64\) by industry, age and sex, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 2.2 Employment \(16-64\) by industry and council area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 2.3 Employment \(16-64\) by industry and urban/rural area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 2.4 Employment \(16-64\) by industry and deprivation quintile, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 2.5 Employment \(16-64\) by industry and parliamentary constituency, 2019](#)

Occupation

- [LFSAR19 3.1 Employment \(16-64\) by occupation, age and sex, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 3.2 Employment \(16-64\) by occupation and council area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 3.3 Employment \(16-64\) by occupation and urban/rural area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 3.4 Employment \(16-64\) by occupation and deprivation quintile, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 3.5 Employment \(16-64\) by occupation and parliamentary constituency, 2019](#)

Qualifications

- [LFSAR19 4.1 Persons aged 16-64 by qualification level, age and sex, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 4.2 Persons aged 16-64 by qualification level and council area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 4.3 Persons aged 16-64 by qualification level and urban/rural area, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 4.4 Persons aged 16-64 by qualification level and deprivation quintile, 2019](#)
- [LFSAR19 4.5 Persons aged 16-64 by qualification level and parliamentary constituency, 2019](#)

Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government (PfG)/ NICS Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP)

[Indicator 14 Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above – sub-national level, 2019](#)

[Indicator 16 Seasonally adjusted employment rate \(16-64\) – sub-national level, 2019](#)

[Indicator 17 Economic inactivity rate excluding students – sub-national level, 2019](#)

[Indicator 32 Employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile – sub-national level, 2019](#)

[Indicator 33 % of people working part-time who would like to work more hours – sub-national level, 2019](#)

[Indicator 34 Employment rate by council area – sub-national level, 2019](#)