

IMPORTANT NOTICE – AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT POPULATION

Users of Northern Ireland Census of Employment (CoE) data should be aware that the coverage used to derive employee jobs estimates has been extended. This change has been introduced to provide more comprehensive estimates of employee jobs and also to ensure a consistency of methodology between the main sources of this employee jobs, namely the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), the CoE, the new NI Business Register Employment Survey (BRES) and the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI).

This harmonisation of the survey methodologies means that there are now two estimates from the CoE for the number of employee jobs at September 2009. This ensures that users can compare the 2009 CoE figures with those published previously and have one overlapping period to show the impact of the revised methodology. September 2009 is the last date for which figures are available on the original basis.

The two main changes to the population are explained below.

Inclusion of “Old VAT Only” Businesses previously outside the scope of the selection

The CoE is drawn biennially from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which is a register held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), combining information from the VAT business register and the HM Revenue and Customs’ computerised PAYE system. The Original CoE population excluded all businesses registered for **VAT only** that had made a previous CoE return to the Department stating they had no employees and whose PAYE status had not changed on the IDBR since. Including these “Old VAT Only” businesses increased the CoE population by over 8,000 businesses.

Move to Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC2007)

The 2009 CoE used the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007). This system uses a series of codes to classify all individual businesses within the business register population. The 2007 CoE used the previous classification SIC2003. The 2003 and 2007 classifications are similar in structure however, there are differences with the codes. The 2007 CoE used sic2003 range 01420 – 93059 and the 2009 CoE used sic2007 range 01629 – 96090. The change from SIC2003 to SIC2007 meant that Landscape Service Activities was included in the CoE for the first time in 2009. Landscape Gardening under SIC2003 is 01410 (outside the CoE range) while under SIC2007 is 81300 (inside the CoE range).

Further information on Standard Industrial Classification is available at.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=14012>

Impact of Changes

The 2009 Census of Employment was carried out using both the old and new coverage which allows the impact of the changes in methodology to be quantified. The following table shows the employee jobs estimate at September 2009 on both the old and new population coverage.

Table 1: Impact of Population Change

		Old Population	New Population
A	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	12,062	12,100
B	Mining and quarrying	1,880	1,880
C	Manufacturing	74,281	74,509
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1,312	1,312
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	4,544	4,561
F	Construction	36,778	37,290
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	125,309	126,505
H	Transportation and storage	24,974	25,065
I	Accommodation and food service activities	43,144	43,504
J	Information and communication	15,888	16,028
K	Financial and insurance activities	19,561	19,570
L	Real estate activities	6,629	6,776
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	23,105	23,226
N	Administrative and support service activities	40,388	40,581
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	58,962	58,962
P	Education	70,596	70,603
Q	Human health and social work activities	117,551	117,574
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	13,980	14,033
S	Other service activities	13,910	13,975
	All Industries	704,851	708,054

For further Information please contact Jonathan Irwin.

E-mail: Jonathan.Irwin@dfpni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9052 9474