



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
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Labour Market

Statistics Bulletin

Monthly Labour Market Report

June 2009



Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Investment

Monthly Labour Market Report

June 2009

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Labour Market

1

Seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for Northern Ireland for the period February - April 2009 estimated increases over the quarter in the number of unemployed and economically inactive persons, while there was a decrease in the number of employed. The seasonally adjusted claimant count in May 2009 increased by 1,900 over the month to 48,000 and the Department was notified of 59 proposed redundancies in the latest reference period and 321 confirmed redundancies in May 2009.

Employment

The number of persons in employment in the period February - April 2009 was estimated at 751,000. This estimate represented a fall of 14,000 over the quarter and a decrease of 41,000 over the year. The working age employment rate was estimated at 66.5%, down 1.5 percentage points over the quarter and 3.9 percentage points over the year. NI's working age employment rate remained well below the UK average (73.3%) and was the lowest of the UK regions.

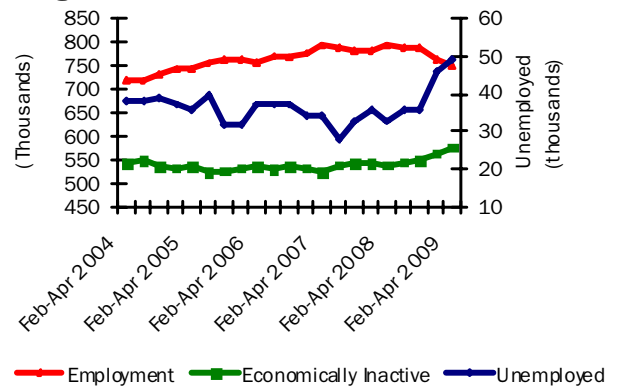
Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the period February - April 2009 was estimated at 6.2%. The latest figure showed an increase of 0.5 percentage points over the quarter and 2.1 percentage points over the year. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 49,000, up 3,000 over the quarter and 16,000 over the year.

Unadjusted figures show that 30.8% of the unemployed have been unemployed for 1 year or more – a decrease of 0.7 percentage points over the year. They also estimate the unemployment

Seasonally Adjusted Labour Market Summary of Northern Ireland

Figure 1



rate for 18-24 year olds at 15.6% – an increase of 5.6 percentage points over the year.

Economically Inactive

The seasonally adjusted number of economically inactive persons in the period February – April 2009 was estimated at 578,000. This figure has increased by 14,000 over the quarter and by 38,000 over the year.

The working age economic inactivity rate for NI stands at 29.0%. This is significantly higher than the UK average rate (20.8%) and is the highest of the 12 UK regions.

Unadjusted figures show that while 92% of the inactive do not want work, the remaining 8% want employment but do not satisfy the full ILO job search criteria (by actively seeking work and being available to start a job). The number of economically inactive persons that want a job (47,000) is almost as large as the number

Northern Ireland Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

Table 1

	Period	Estimate	Sampling Variability of estimate	Change over year	Sampling Variability of change
Employment	Feb-Apr 2009	751,000	+/-22,000	-41,000	+/-27,000
Unemployment	Feb-Apr 2009	49,000	+/-9,000	16,000	+/-12,000
Economically inactive	Feb-Apr 2009	578,000	+/-20,000	38,000	+/-25,000
Unemployment rate	Feb-Apr 2009	6.2%	+/-1.2pps	2.1pps	+/-1.5pps
Employment rate ¹	Feb-Apr 2009	66.5%	+/-1.8pps	-3.9pps	+/-2.2pps
Economic inactivity rate ¹	Feb-Apr 2009	29.0%	+/-1.7pps	2.5pps	+/-2.1pps
Claimant Count	May 2009	48,000		23,100	

Note: pps = percentage points, ¹ Rates based on working age population (16-59/64), see Section 9 for further information

officially classified as unemployed.

Estimates from the LFS have an associated degree of statistical error as they are based on a sample of the population. The annual changes for the main LFS categories of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity were tested for statistical significance. The results showed that the annual change in each of these categories was statistically significant i.e. the recorded change exceeded the variability expected from a sample survey of this size and was likely to reflect a real change (see table 1 and Section 9 for further details).

Regional

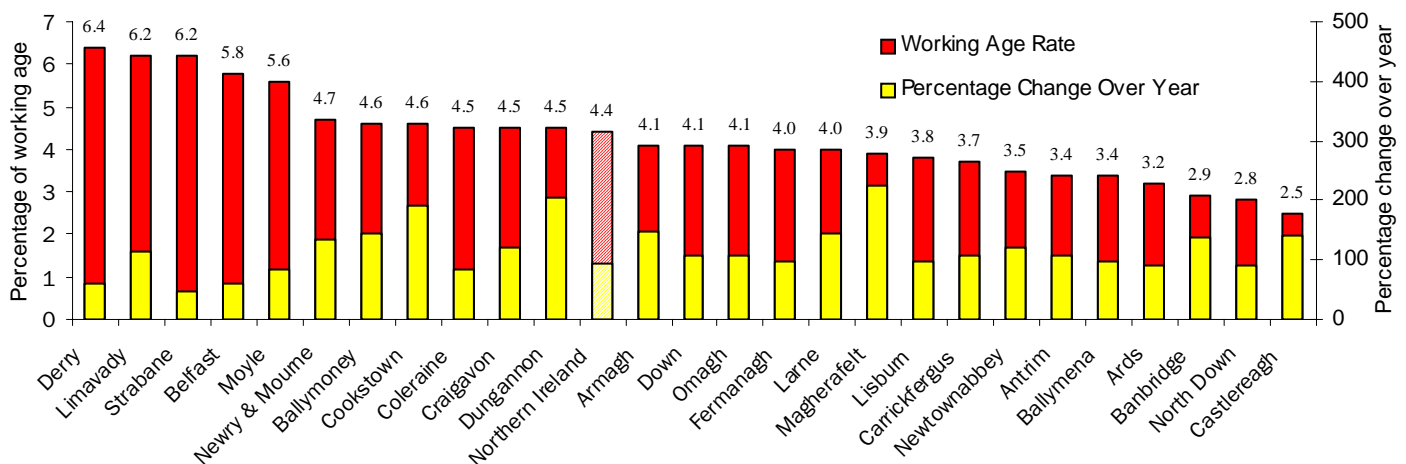
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (6.2%) remained below the UK average rate (7.2%) and was fourth lowest rate among the UK regions. The NI rate also compared to the European Union rate of 8.3% and the Republic of Ireland rate of 10.6% for March 2009.

Claimant Count

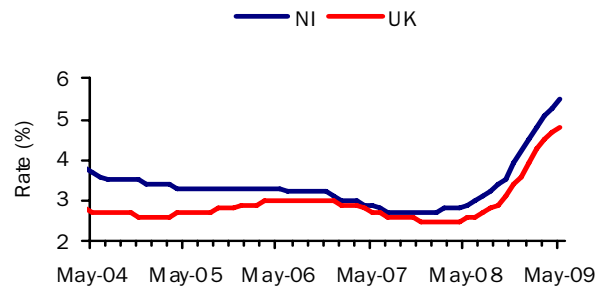
The more recent seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 1,900 over the month to May 2009 to 48,000 (5.5% of the workforce). The monthly increase was similar to the previous monthly increase (2,000) and was the smallest increase in the last seven months. The percentage increase over the month to May in Northern Ireland (4.1%) was higher than the equivalent UK increase (2.6%). There has been an increase of 92.8% (23,100) since May 2008. This yearly increase was slightly larger than that recorded for the UK (88.7%). Over the last nine months the rise in the unemployment claimant count has been at least 0.2 percentage points each month and currently stands at 5.5% of the workforce. This compares to the UK rate of 4.8%. This month's increase is the fifteenth consecutive monthly increase since the minimum level of 23,500 in February 2008 (and also reached in November 2007).

Unadjusted Claimant Count Rates By District Council Area

Figure 3



Seasonally Adjusted Claimant Count Monthly Rates Figure 2



Claimant count rates for District Council Areas

Figure 3 (unadjusted numbers as a percentage of the resident working age population) show that the highest rates at May 2009 were in Derry (6.4%), Limavady (6.2%) and Strabane (6.2%). Those that showed the highest percentage increase in levels over the year to May 2009 were Magherafelt (224.0%), Dungannon (204.2%) and Cookstown (190.9%), but their unemployment rates were still in the region of the Northern Ireland rate (4.4%).

Employment and Training Measures

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) provides a number of services and programmes to help jobseekers find work. In September 2008 Steps to Work, the Department's new flexible approach to helping people to find work, was introduced in Northern Ireland and subsumes the main New Deal programmes. Overall, there has been an increase of 89.1% (3,131 persons) to 6,646 over the year to May 2009 in the number of those claimants who are eligible for mandatory participation on Steps to Work. However anyone over 18 years old (or lone parents aged 16 years old or over) who is not working (or working less than 16 hours each week) is eligible. New Deal statistics are currently accessible via the DEL web link below - Steps to Work statistics will be published when data is available.

www.delni.gov.uk/index/statistics-and-research/labour-market/new-deal-statistics.htm

Redundancies

The Department was notified of 59 proposed redundancies over the period mid May 2009 to mid June 2009. This compares to 414 proposed redundancies notified to the Department in the previous monthly period.

There were 321 confirmed redundancies in the month of May (Figure 5). Over the twelve monthly period there were a total of 4,433 confirmed redundancies, an increase of 156% from the previous year (1,735). The highest number of confirmed redundancies took place in Belfast District Council area which had 19.1% (846) of all redundancies over the year.

Over the twelve monthly period there were a total of 5,325 proposed redundancies, an increase of 76% from the previous year (3,029).

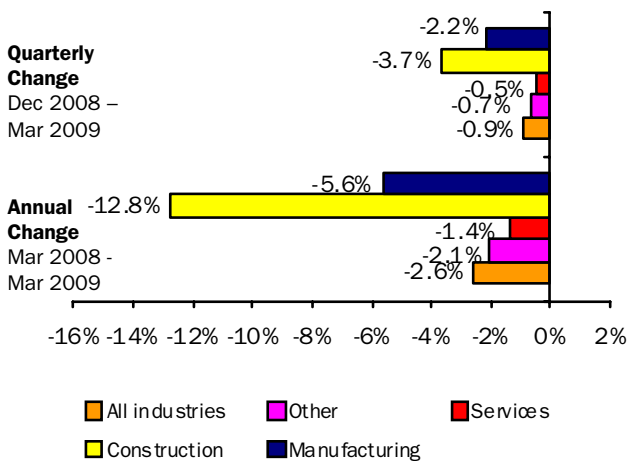
Since the start of 2009 to mid June there were a total of 3,312 proposed redundancies. Note that since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses.

Quarterly Employment Survey

The QES provides an estimate of the number of jobs (rather than persons in employment) and is the preferred measure of change in employee jobs. The estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in Northern Ireland at March 2009 was 715,050. This represents a decrease of 6,220 over the quarter and a decrease of 19,030 over the year.

Annual and Quarterly changes in employee jobs (seasonally adjusted)

Figure 4

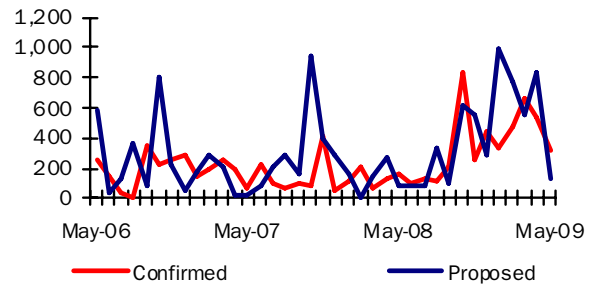


The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of decreases in the Service sector (-2,770), Manufacturing (-1,790) and Construction (-1,520) sectors.

Confirmed and Proposed Redundancies

May 06 - May 09

Figure 5

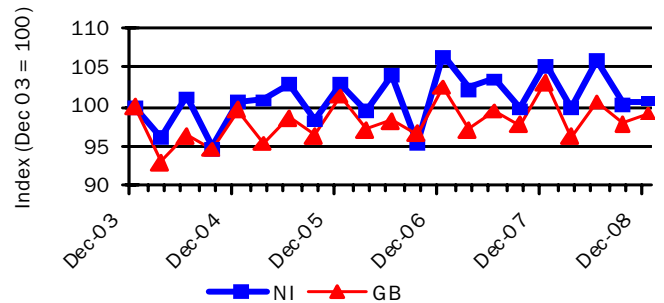


Hours Worked

The total workforce hours worked per week in Northern Ireland in December 2008 was estimated at 26.0 million hours, representing a decrease of 4.4% over the year (similar to the decrease experienced in GB of 3.9%). Between December 2003 and December 2008, NI's total workforce hours worked per week increased marginally by 0.8%. This was compared with a 0.9% decrease in GB (Figure 6). In the three months to March 2009, the average actual weekly hours worked in NI was 33.6 hours, compared with 31.7 hours in the UK.

Index of total workforce hours worked per week, NI & GB

Figure 6



Source: Employment, Earnings and Productivity Division, ONS

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Earnings results for April 2008, which were released on 14th November 2008, show that yearly growth in median gross weekly earnings for all employees (i.e. both full- and part-time) in NI was 5.1% (to £346.5) compared to 3.3% in the UK (to £388.4). NI full-time employees' gross weekly earnings in April 2008 were £417.6, which was approximately 87% of the figure in the UK (£478.6). NI full-time earnings increased by 4.3% over the period, which was relatively similar to the increase in the UK (4.6%).

Full-time private sector gross weekly earnings in NI were £377.1, or 82.0% of the figure in the UK (compared to 82.7% in April 2007), reflecting a slight widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap.

Labour Force Survey

2

Background

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

Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

The latest seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey estimates for February - April 2009 (see Table 2) record the unemployment rate at 6.2% (49,000 persons), up 0.5 percentage points from the previous quarter. Employment was estimated to have fallen by 14,000 (1.8%) over the quarter to 751,000.

Labour Market change over the year

In the year to February - April 2009 (see Figure 7), LFS figures show a fall of 41,000 in total employment and an increase of 16,000 in unemployment, leading to a fall of 25,000 in the economically active population (figures may not sum due to rounding). The number economically inactive rose by 38,000 over the year.

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



Employment

Latest seasonally adjusted estimates show that there were 751,000 persons in employment, which represents a fall of 5.2% (41,000 persons) over the year. Of the total, 54% (403,000) were male and 46% (349,000) were female.

There was a decrease of 6.3% (-27,000) in the estimate for male employment and a fall of 3.8% (-14,000) in female employment over the year.

Economic Inactivity

The number of economically inactive persons in the period February - April 2009 was estimated at 578,000. This figure includes those people that are past retirement age and are unlikely to re-engage with the labour market. Therefore it is the economically inactive of working age that are of most interest to labour market analysts. At February - April 2009 there were an estimated 317,000 economically inactive people of working age in NI. Of the total, 43% (137,000) were male and 57% (180,000) were female.

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

Unadjusted figures show that 86% of the economically inactive of working age do not want a job, while the remaining 14% want work, but are not actively seeking or available to start work.

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

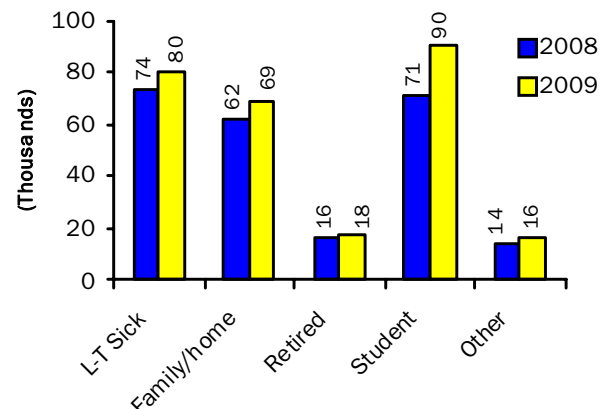


Figure 8 shows the reason given by these people for not wanting work. The largest categories were students (90,000), the long-term sick (80,000), and those looking after family/home (69,000). Among these categories, the largest change over the year occurred in those who were students (+19,000 or 27%).

Labour Market Structure – Seasonally adjusted
Table 2

(Thousands)

	Total aged 16 and over	Total persons of working age 16-59/64	All aged 16+				All working age 16-59/64		
			Total economically active	Total in employment	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Unemployment rate (%)	Activity rate 16-59/64 (%)	Employment rate (%) 16-59/64
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ALL PERSONS									
Feb-Apr 2006	1,333	1,064	796	758	37	537	4.7%	72.5%	69.0%
Feb -Apr 2007	1,350	1,076	826	792	34	524	4.2%	74.3%	71.1%
Feb -Apr 2008	1,365	1,085	825	792	33	540	4.0%	73.5%	70.4%
May-Jul 2008	1,369	1,087	821	786	36	547	4.4%	73.1%	69.8%
Aug-Oct 2008	1,372	1,089	823	788	36	549	4.3%	73.2%	70.0%
Nov-Jan 2009	1,376	1,091	811	765	46	565	5.7%	72.2%	68.0%
Feb-Apr 2009	1,379	1,092	800	751	49	578	6.2%	71.0%	66.5%
Change on Quarter	3	2	-11	-14	3	14	0.5	-1.2	-1.5
Change on Year	14	7	-25	-41	16	38	2.1	-2.5	-3.9
MALES									
Feb-Apr 2006	645	548	439	413	26	206	6.0%	78.3%	73.5%
Feb -Apr 2007	653	555	453	432	21	200	4.6%	79.7%	75.9%
Feb -Apr 2008	661	559	452	430	22	209	4.9%	79.2%	75.2%
May-Jul 2008	663	560	450	425	25	213	5.5%	78.7%	74.2%
Aug-Oct 2008	664	561	451	424	27	214	6.0%	78.6%	73.9%
Nov-Jan 2009	666	562	444	409	35	223	7.8%	77.3%	71.1%
Feb-Apr 2009	668	563	437	403	34	231	7.8%	75.7%	69.6%
FEMALES									
Feb-Apr 2006	688	516	357	346	11	332	3.0%	66.4%	64.3%
Feb -Apr 2007	697	522	373	360	13	324	3.6%	68.5%	66.0%
Feb -Apr 2008	705	526	373	363	11	331	2.9%	67.5%	65.4%
May-Jul 2008	706	527	372	361	11	335	3.0%	67.2%	65.1%
Aug-Oct 2008	708	528	373	364	8	335	2.3%	67.4%	65.9%
Nov-Jan 2009	709	529	367	356	11	342	3.1%	66.8%	64.7%
Feb-Apr 2009	711	529	364	349	15	347	4.2%	66.0%	63.2%

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

Labour Market Structure – Sample of data available on website
Table 3

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

Other Labour Force Survey Publications available on website
Table 4

Publication title	File Size
LFS Labour Market Statistics (Feb - Apr 2009)	98 KB
Labour Force Survey (LFS) Local Area Database 2007	386 KB
LFS Historical Supplement 2008	418 KB
Women in Northern Ireland – September 2008	203 KB
LFS Quarterly Supplement – January - March 2009	369 KB
LFS Special Feature - Graduates (Quarter 4 2008)	56 KB
LFS Special Feature – Households in NI (Quarter 2 2008)	200 KB
LFS Special Feature – Self Employed (Quarter 2 2008)	62 KB
LFS Special Feature – Health and Work (Quarter 1 2008)	56 KB
LFS Special Feature - Home Workers (Quarter 1 2009)	59 KB
LFS Reweighted Back Series 1992-2008 (please enable macros)	863 KB
LFS Historical Data 1995-2008 (please enable macros)	312 KB
LFS Historical Data 1984-1991	76 KB

Claimant Count

3

Unadjusted Claimant Count

The claimant count in NI at May 2009 was 48,057 (5.5% of the workforce), an increase of 2.6% (1,200) over the previous month. There was an increase of 94.9% (23,397) over the year and the rate increased by 2.7 percentage points. Five years ago the total was 30,414 (3.6%). (The seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 1,900 over the month.)

Youth Claimants

16,061 under 25's (33.4% of all claimants) were claiming benefits in May 2009, an increase of 0.7% (108 claimants) over the month and an increase of 97.3% (7,922) over the year. Youth claimants represent 1.8% of the workforce.

Long-term Claimants

At May 2009, 5,985 (12.5% of all claimants) were claiming benefit for a year or more, an increase of 6.7% (377 claimants) over the month and an increase of 44.3% (1,836) over the year. Long-term claimants represent 0.7% of the workforce.

Flows out from Job Seekers Allowance

The success rate of job seekers leaving the count to obtain employment in April 2009 increased by 0.2 percentage points (from 36.8% to 37.0%) since the same time last year. Of the 6,523 flows from the count in April 2009, 2,415 found employment compared to 2,076 of the 5,638 claimants who left the count in April 2008. This compares to 37.0% three months ago, and 40.4% five years ago.

In the period from April 2008 to April 2009 the highest proportion (47.5%) of persons leaving JSA to find employment was in November 2008, while in December 2008 the proportion finding employment was at its lowest (22.9%). The highest proportion (11.6%) of persons leaving JSA to enter education or training occurred in June 2008. Those who left JSA to claim other benefits varied between 3.9% and 10.3% in the period. Those who left JSA because they failed to sign peaked at 48.6% in December 2008.

Flows in to Job Seekers Allowance

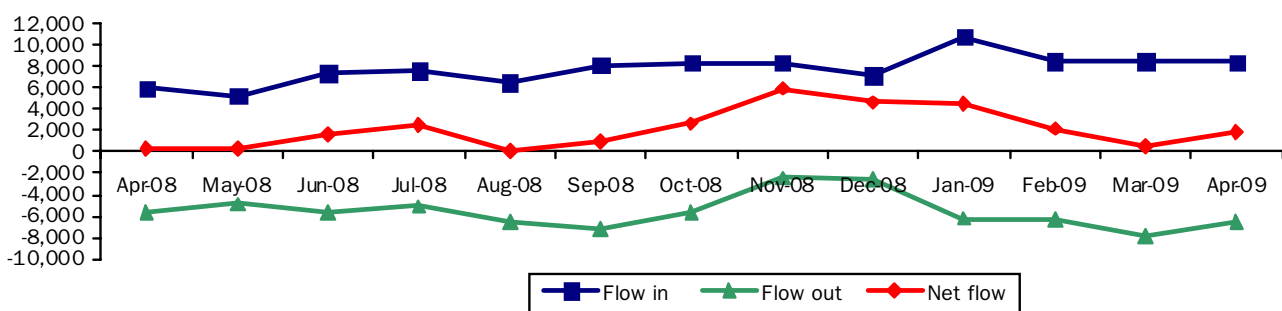
Of the 5,638 claimants who left the count in April 2008, 31.0% returned to the count within 3 months, 11.1% returned after 3-6 months and a further 14.1% returned after 6-12 months giving a total of 56.2% of those who left the count in April 2008 returned to claiming JSA within one year. This compares to 49.3% of leavers in April 2007 (1 year previously) and 48.8% of leavers in April 2003 (5 years previously) returning within one year.

Net Flow

Between April 2008 and April 2009 there was a net flow onto Job Seekers each month, for the entire 13 month period. Net flows on to Job Seekers in November (5,924), December 2008 (4,629) and January 2009 (4,535) were considerably higher than any other months in this period. In the latest period a net flow of 1,851 on to Job Seekers occurred in April 2009 which was more than three times higher than the previous month (544). The lowest net flow in the period occurred in August 2008 (18).

Flows in and out from JSA

Figure 9

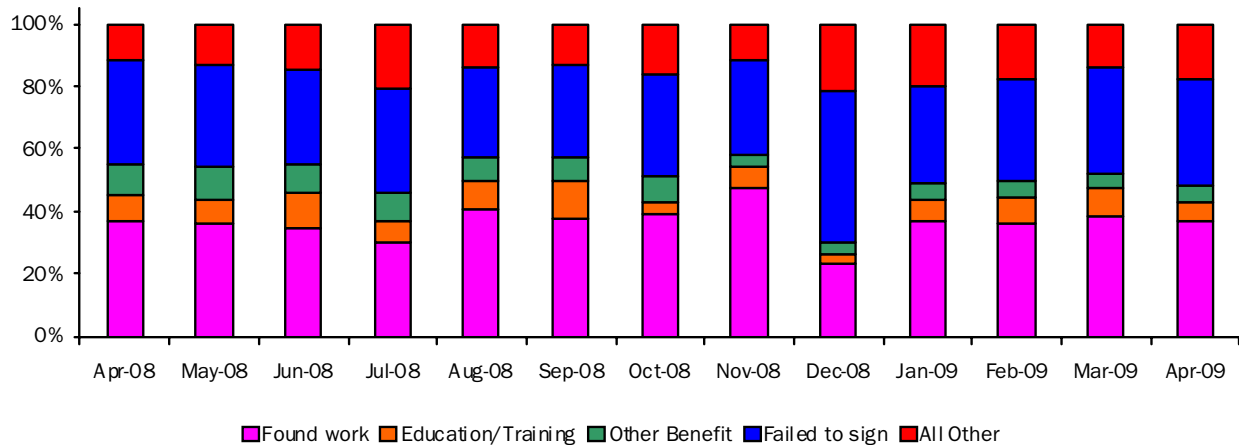


Claimant Count by District Council Area – May 2009
Number, Rate and % change over month and year (including jobs density indicator at 2007*)
Table 5

District	Number of Claimants			% Of Working Age			Change over month		Change over Year		Jobs Density
Council Area	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Number	%	Number	%	Indicator*
Antrim	891	236	1,127	5.2	1.5	3.4	16	1.4	581	106.4	0.93
Ards	1,183	340	1,523	4.7	1.5	3.2	24	1.6	721	89.9	0.44
Armagh	1,130	289	1,419	6.3	1.7	4.1	65	4.8	843	146.4	0.71
Ballymena	1,000	277	1,277	5.1	1.5	3.4	32	2.6	631	97.7	0.99
Ballymoney	653	182	835	6.8	2.1	4.6	16	2.0	491	142.7	0.51
Banbridge	681	159	840	4.4	1.2	2.9	-8	-0.9	488	138.6	0.51
Belfast	7,872	1,918	9,790	9.4	2.3	5.8	362	3.8	3724	61.4	1.36
Carrickfergus	725	191	916	5.7	1.6	3.7	-21	-2.2	471	105.8	0.39
Castlereagh	794	196	990	4.0	1.0	2.5	69	7.5	579	140.9	0.74
Coleraine	1,227	331	1,558	6.9	2.0	4.5	18	1.2	715	84.8	0.80
Cookstown	815	209	1,024	7.0	2.0	4.6	77	8.1	672	190.9	0.66
Craigavon	1,964	503	2,467	6.8	1.9	4.5	73	3.0	1349	120.7	0.79
Derry	3,441	954	4,395	9.8	2.8	6.4	137	3.2	1647	59.9	0.72
Down	1,463	304	1,767	6.5	1.5	4.1	79	4.7	910	106.2	0.54
Dungannon	1,184	349	1,533	6.6	2.2	4.5	30	2.0	1029	204.2	0.78
Fermanagh	1,194	317	1,511	5.9	1.8	4.0	1	0.1	748	98.0	0.73
Larne	607	169	776	6.0	1.8	4.0	-4	-0.5	459	144.8	0.54
Limavady	1,079	278	1,357	9.0	2.8	6.2	16	1.2	720	113.0	0.57
Lisburn	2,073	572	2,645	5.9	1.7	3.8	61	2.4	1294	95.8	0.69
Magherafelt	858	195	1,053	5.9	1.6	3.9	26	2.5	728	224.0	0.67
Moyle	442	124	566	8.4	2.6	5.6	11	2.0	257	83.2	0.47
Newry & Mourne	2,270	501	2,771	7.5	1.8	4.7	18	0.7	1583	133.2	0.70
Newtownabbey	1,401	378	1,779	5.4	1.5	3.5	36	2.1	976	121.5	0.70
North Down	1,004	327	1,331	4.0	1.4	2.8	19	1.4	633	90.7	0.54
Omagh	1,049	272	1,321	6.2	1.8	4.1	9	0.7	684	107.4	0.72
Strabane	1,189	297	1,486	9.3	2.6	6.2	38	2.6	464	45.4	0.48
NI TOTAL	38,189	9,868	48,057	6.8	1.9	4.4	1,200	2.6	23,397	94.9	0.78

* Data relates to 2007. Jobs Density = total number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in the area

Claimant spells ended by destination
Figure 10



Occupation Data

Publication of monthly claimant count figures by occupation had been deferred from March 2002, due to the switch in occupational coding in April 2002 from SOC 90 to SOC 2000. Work has now been completed to produce and validate the figures, and the latest results for May 2009 are shown below.

Note that the new SOC 2000 data cannot be compared directly with the previous SOC 90 data. A variety of claimant count data by occupation back to January 2005 is available on Nomis® .

At May 2009, 30.6% (14,565) of all claimants defined their usual (or previous) occupation as an Elementary Occupation. Elementary Occupations includes elementary agricultural, construction, process plant, goods storage, administrative, personal services, cleaning, security and sales

occupations. A further 21.3% (10,155) gave their usual occupation as working in the Skilled Trades. These two groups account for about one half of all claimants in May 2009. The smallest occupation group, with 2.3% (1,100) of all claimants, was Professional Occupations.

Overall the NI claimant count (computerised claims only) increased by 2.5% over the month to May 2009. All nine occupational groups showed an increase in levels with the largest increase occurring in Elementary Occupations which increased by 395 (2.8%), followed by Skilled Trade Occupations which increased by 325 (3.3%) and Sales and Customer Service Occupations which also increased by 120 (2.2%). The group that showed the smallest increase in levels was Professional Occupations which increased by 25 (2.3%).

Claimant Count (unadjusted) by Usual Occupation – May 2009 (Computerised claims only)
Table 6

Occupational Groups (Usual Occupation)	May 2009		Change over month	
	Number of Claimants	% of Claimants	Number of claimants	% change
Managers and Senior Officials	1,170	2.5	75	6.8
Professional Occupations	1,100	2.3	25	2.3
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	1,995	4.2	70	3.6
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	3,630	7.6	50	1.4
Skilled Trade Occupations	10,155	21.3	325	3.3
Personal Service Occupations	1,945	4.1	60	3.2
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	5,560	11.7	120	2.2
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	7,475	15.7	60	0.8
Elementary Occupations	14,565	30.6	395	2.8
Not Known	65	0.1	0	0
NI Total	47,660	100.0	1,185	2.5

Claimant Count -Sample of data available on website:

Table 7

Table Name	Description	File Size
Table 3.1	Seasonally Adjusted Claimant Count	17.5KB
Table 3.2	Total Claimant Count	16.0KB
Table 3.3	Claimant Count Trends – Seasonally Adjusted Claimant Count	18.0KB
Table 3.4	Claimant Count Trends – Total Claimant Count	17.0KB
Table 3.5	Claimant Count Trends – Long-Term Claimant Count	16.0KB
Table 3.6	Claimant Count Trends- Youth Claimant Count	14.5KB
Table 3.7	Claimant Count by Travel-to-Work-Area	19.5KB
Table 3.8	Claimant Count by District Council Area	21.0KB
Table 3.9	Claimant Count by Parliamentary Constituency Area	20.0KB
Table 3.10	Claimant Count by NUTSiii Area	18.5KB
Table 3.11	Claimant Count by Usual Occupation	17.0KB
Table 3.12	Outflows by Destination (including percentage recycled)	21.5KB
Table 3.13	Total Annual Outflows by Destination	20.0KB
Table 3.14	Recycling of Claimants by District Council Area	19.0KB
Table 3.15	Claimant Count by Ward	81.0KB

Redundancies

4

There were 4,433 confirmed redundancies over the year to 31st May 2009, an increase of 156% compared to the same period in the previous year (1,735). Of these, 321 confirmed redundancies took place during the calendar month of May 2009 and 545 in the previous month of April 2009. This compares to 155 in May 2008 (one year ago).

Table 8 shows the distribution of these confirmed redundancies by District Council area.

The largest number of redundancies occurred in Belfast (846), Limavady (754) and Craigavon (379) District Council areas.

Confirmed redundancies by District Council in year to 31 May 2009
Table 8

District Council Area	Total
Antrim	34
Ards	30
Armagh	0
Ballymena	37
Ballymoney	203
Banbridge	43
Belfast	846
Carrickfergus	161
Castlereagh	79
Coleraine	163
Cookstown	111
Craigavon	379
Derry	314
Down	0
Dungannon	244
Fermanagh	25
Larne	265
Limavady	754
Lisburn	132
Magherafelt	67
Moyle	0
Newry & Mourne	222
Newtownabbey	248
North Down	40
Omagh	36
Strabane	0
N.Ireland	4,433

Of these 4,433 confirmed redundancies, 3,410 or 77% were in the Manufacturing sector, with 1,419 redundancies (32% of all redundancies) occurring in the Manufacture of Electrical and Optical Equipment.

Altogether there have been 1,683 outstanding redundancies notified that have yet to take place compared with 1,496 this time one year ago (an increase of 13%).

Redundancies – Sample of Data Available on Website
Table 9

Regional Redundancy data	File size
District Council (Jan 2000 –date)	33.0KB
Parliamentary Constituency (Jan 2000-date)	29.0KB
Travel to Work Area (Jan 2000 – date)	29.0KB
Job Centre Area (Jan 1996 – Jun 2003)	68.5KB

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

Quarterly Employment Survey

5

Seasonally Adjusted

The March 2009 seasonally adjusted employee jobs figure stands at 715,050.

This represents a seasonally adjusted decrease of 0.9% (or 6,220 jobs) from the revised December 2008 estimate of 721,270.

Over the quarter seasonally adjusted employee jobs decreased in the Service Sector by 0.5% (2,770 jobs) while employee jobs in the Construction Sector fell by 3.7% (1,520 jobs) and the number of employee jobs in the Manufacturing Sector fell by 2.2% (1,790 jobs),

Unadjusted

The March 2009 seasonally unadjusted figure stands at 713,920.

This represents a decrease of 1.7% (or 12,680 jobs) from December 2008 and a decrease of 2.6% (19,220 jobs) in the past year.

Over the year, March 2008 to March 2009, the unadjusted employee jobs figure for Construction decreased by 12.9% (5,800 jobs), Manufacturing employee jobs decreased by 5.7% (4,740 jobs) while employee jobs in the Service Sector decreased by 1.4% (8,230 jobs).

Manufacturing Employee Jobs

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

NI manufacturing jobs recorded a marked decline between 1999 and 2006, with the figure for 2006 falling to 82% of the 1999 figure. Manufacturing employee jobs in NI were fairly stable between 2005 and 2008, with the 2008 figure remaining at 81% of the 1999 level. However manufacturing jobs have fallen again in 2009 to 76% of their 1999 level.

Manufacturing jobs in GB have been in sharp decline from 1999 and the 2009 estimate stands at 68% of the 1999 level.

Changes in the Structure of Manufacturing Jobs (NI)

Over the period 1999-2009, Manufacturing jobs in NI decreased by 24,280, with 17 of the 24 manufacturing divisions recording a decrease. The largest decrease occurred in the Manufacture of Wearing Apparel, with a fall of 11,530 jobs. There were 5,970 fewer jobs in the Manufacture of Textiles, 2,700 fewer in the Manufacture of Computer, Electronic and Optical Products, 1,080 fewer in the Manufacture of Other Transport Equipment and 920 fewer in the Manufacture of Motor Vehicles, Trailers and Semi-Trailers.

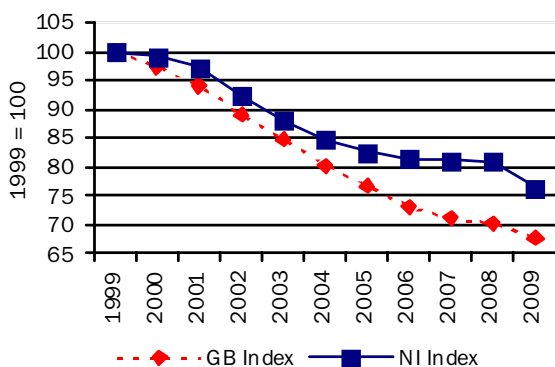
However these decreases were somewhat offset by an increase in the Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products, except Machinery and Equipment (+1,100), in the Manufacture of Basic Pharmaceutical Products And Pharmaceutical Preparations (+320), in the Manufacture of Wood And Of Products Of Wood And Cork, Except Furniture; Manufacture Of Articles Of Straw And Plaiting Materials (+280), in the Manufacture of Electrical Equipment (+220), and in the Repair and Installation Of Machinery And Equipment (+110 jobs).

The large decline in the Manufacture of Textiles and Wearing Apparel sectors has impacted on the structure of Northern Ireland Manufacturing jobs. In 1999 19% of Manufacturing jobs were located in the Textiles and Wearing Apparel sectors; by 2009 this had fallen to 3%.

Manufacturing jobs for NI & GB

indexed (March of each year)

Figure 11



Quarterly Employment Survey
Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs* March 2009
Table 10

				% change in total	
	Males	Females	All persons	since last quarter	since last year
Manufacturing	61,950	17,020	78,970	-2.2	-5.6
Construction ¹	34,970	4,570	39,550	-3.7	-12.8
Services	228,730	346,890	575,620	-0.5	-1.4
Other ²	18,260	2,650	20,910	-0.7	-2.1
Total	343,910	371,140	715,050	-0.9	-2.6

¹ Figures for females in the construction industry are not seasonally adjusted

² Covers Industry Sections A, B, D and E which have not been seasonally adjusted

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

Northern Ireland Employee Jobs* - Seasonally Adjusted Series
Table 11

		Manufacturing	Construction ¹	Services	Other Industries ²	All Industries
2003	March	90,790	35,940	521,070	21,900	669,690
	June	89,230	36,410	526,200	22,440	674,290
	September	88,710	36,430	528,370	22,380	675,890
	December	87,770	36,640	530,520	22,640	677,560
2004	March	87,320	37,190	533,910	22,610	681,030
	June	86,320	37,200	535,790	22,290	681,610
	September	85,900	37,290	541,410	22,480	687,080
	December	85,490	37,420	544,710	22,770	690,390
2005	March	85,170	37,870	550,960	22,430	696,430
	June	84,290	38,750	551,880	21,130	696,050
	September	84,150	39,330	553,870	21,310	698,660
	December	83,780	40,990	557,470	21,390	703,630
2006	March	83,990	41,940	559,080	21,390	706,400
	June	83,690	42,300	560,120	20,830	706,940
	September	83,820	42,700	562,740	20,910	710,170
	December	84,010	42,970	564,720	20,990	712,690
2007	March	83,850	43,630	566,890	21,050	715,430
	June	84,100	44,720	571,140	20,890	720,860
	September	83,890	45,300	575,170	21,070	725,440
	December	83,400	45,820	580,360	21,450	731,030
2008	March	83,630	45,330	583,750	21,370	734,080
	June	83,270	44,290	585,290	21,560	734,410
	September	81,950	42,850	581,350	21,630	727,770
	December	80,760	41,070	578,380	21,050	721,270
2009	March	78,970	39,550	575,620	20,910	715,050

¹ Figures for females in the construction industry are not seasonally adjusted

² Covers Industry Sections A, B, D and E which have not been seasonally adjusted

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

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

The Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey Table 12

Table Name	Description	File Size
5.1	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted March 2009	15.5 KB
5.2	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1998 – 2009	15.5 KB
5.3	NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1998 – 2009	15.5 KB
5.4	NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – March 2009	15.5 KB
5.5	NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – March 2009	13.5 KB
5.6	NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) March 2008, December 2008 and March 2009	15.5 KB
5.7	Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)	15.0 KB
5.8	Workforce in Employment 1983 – 2008	15.0 KB
5.9	NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – March 2009	31.5 KB

Other Quarterly Employment Survey Publications available on website Table 13

Publication title	File Size
Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) Supplement - March 2009	493 KB

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

6

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides information on employees' hourly, weekly and annual earnings by gender and working pattern. It has been designed by the Office for National Statistics and is carried out in Northern Ireland by statisticians within DETI. Both median and mean results are reported by ASHE, where the mean is the arithmetic average while the median is the value below which 50 per cent of employees fall. The median is often preferred for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.

The median gross weekly earnings for all (i.e. both full- and part-time) employees in NI in 2008 was £346.5, some 11% lower than the UK (£388.4). This represented a growth in NI median earnings for all employees of 5.1% over the year to April 2008, compared to growth in the UK of 3.3%.

NI full-time employees' median gross weekly earnings in April 2008 were £417.6, which was approximately 87% of the figure in the UK (£478.6). NI full-time earnings increased by 4.3% over the period, which was relatively similar to the increase in the UK (4.6%). The median gross weekly part-time earnings in NI at April 2008 was £150.3, over 2% higher than the figure in the UK (£147.0). As such, growth over the year was higher in NI (6.7%) than in the UK (2.3%) for part-time employees.

Slower growth in median private sector weekly earnings in NI (3.8%) compared to the UK (4.6%) has resulted in a slight widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap. Full-time private sector gross weekly earnings in NI at April 2008 (£377.1) were some 82.0% of the figure in the UK, compared to 82.7% in the previous year.

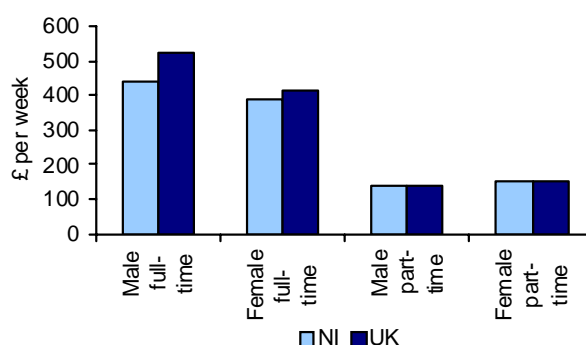
The gender pay gap has been relatively unchanged in NI over the period 2006-2008. Female full-time median hourly earnings excluding overtime were slightly less than male earnings (97.4% in NI compared to 87.2% in the UK) at April 2008. It should be noted that gender pay differences continue to exist for various occupational and industry groupings in NI, as evidenced by weekly and annual earnings trends.

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

extent of overtime, and changes in the composition of the workforce. As ASHE is a sample survey, results are also subject to an associated level of sampling error. Further information is available at: <http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/downdoc?id=4042>

Median gross weekly earnings by full-/part-time and gender, April 2008

Figure 12



Median and mean gross weekly earnings 2005-08

Table 14

£ per week	Median			Mean		
	Full-time	Part-time	All	Full-time	Part-time	All
April 2008						
Men	438.8	141.2	404.3	520.9	216.9	480.0
Women	385.5	152.7	287.5	439.4	190.2	336.9
All	417.6	150.3	346.5	487.9	196.8	408.6
April 2007						
Men	421.7	126.9	394.2	501.4	178.6	463.7
Women	367.7	145.3	272.6	427.9	173.8	321.1
All	400.3	140.8	329.9	471.7	174.8	391.3
% Change 07 - 08						
Men	4.1	11.2	2.6	3.9	21.4	3.5
Women	4.8	5.0	5.5	2.7	9.5	4.9
All	4.3	6.7	5.1	3.4	12.6	4.4
April 2006						
Men	421.6	122.3	390.7	500.9	169.7	456.9
Women	374.2	132.5	260.2	423.3	162.7	307.5
All	402.5	130.8	322.7	469.4	164.2	379.9
Excluding methodological changes introduced in 2007						
April 2006						
Men	424.3	122.5	392.8	502.9	172.6	459.0
Women	377.5	133.3	262.7	426.8	163.9	310.2
All	405.1	131.6	325.1	472.0	165.8	382.3
April 2005						
Men	409.5	131.3	384.8	486.5	186.8	453.6
Women	353.5	135.1	258.8	399.4	160.2	303.7
All	385.2	134.6	318.7	450.7	165.8	377.3

Average full-time earnings by occupation, April 2008

Table 15

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Managers and Senior Officials	69	554.8	653.4	37.7	38.8
Professional Occupations	78	660.1	686.0	37.0	36.8
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	85	545.3	575.0	38.4	39.9
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	61	322.2	348.5	37.6	38.9
Skilled Trades Occupations	54	399.4	438.1	40.0	41.9
Personal Service Occupations	31	296.1	321.8	37.5	38.3
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	20	253.8	298.7	37.6	38.6
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	60	359.9	382.6	40.5	43.5
Elementary Occupations	48	305.5	324.3	40.0	41.6

Average full-time earnings by industry, April 2008

Table 16

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	x	x	352.9	40.0	44.1
Mining and quarrying	x	369.7	419.7	41.3	45.9
Manufacturing	88	411.7	464.7	40.0	41.7
Electricity, gas and water supply	6	605.8	632.2	37.3	40.5
Construction	32	400.0	465.1	40.0	41.8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	68	341.1	414.8	39.8	39.8
Hotels and restaurants	14	267.7	309.3	38.7	39.1
Transport, storage and communication	20	402.1	479.5	40.0	42.0
Financial intermediation	13	439.8	552.4	35.0	36.1
Real estate, renting and business activities	48	402.5	474.8	37.5	39.0
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	54	556.3	582.0	42.0	42.9
Education	57	628.5	604.7	32.8	34.6
Health and social work	77	412.5	477.8	37.5	38.9
Other community, social and personal service activities	22	380.5	444.7	37.9	39.4
Private households with employed persons	x	274.6	292.0	33.6	35.2

x Coefficient of Variation too large to provide a reliable estimate

d Disclosive

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

Sample of ASHE data available on website

Table 17

Table name	Description	File size
6.1	ASHE 1997 Headline Data for Key Variables	42 KB
6.2	ASHE 1998 Headline Data for Key Variables	68 KB
6.3	ASHE 1999 Headline Data for Key Variables	72 KB
6.4	ASHE 2000 Headline Data for Key Variables	48 KB
6.5	ASHE 2001 Headline Data for Key Variables	72 KB
6.6	ASHE 2002 Headline Data for Key Variables	78 KB
6.7	ASHE 2003 Headline Data for Key Variables	163 KB
6.8	ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables excluding supplementary information	51 KB
6.9	ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables	52 KB
6.10	ASHE 2005 Headline Data for Key Variables	52 KB
6.11	ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables excluding methodological changes	168 KB
6.12	ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables	176 KB
6.13	ASHE 2007 Headline Data for Key Variables - revised	165 KB
6.14	ASHE 2008 Headline Data for Key Variables	157 KB

Vacancy Statistics and Employment & Training

7

Vacancy Statistics and Employment & Training Measures
Participation in the Department for Employment and Learning Schemes to April 2009
Table 18

	Adults			Employment Support	Young People			
	New Deal 18-24 (2, 3)	New Deal 25+ (2, 3)	Future Managers		Training for Success (4, 5)	Jobskills (4, 5)	% in Jobskills Access Training	% in Jobskills Mainstream Training
<u>2007</u>								
Apr	2,600	2,550	100	900	-	12,650	14	86
<u>2008</u>								
Apr	2,200	2,350	150	800	5,750	6,650	7	93
May	2,250	2,350	150	800	5,800	6,300	6	94
Jun	2,150	2,250	150	800	5,800	5,950	5	95
Jul	2,050	2,150	200	800	5,750	5,700	5	95
Aug	2,050	2,100	150	800	5,550	5,150	5	95
Sep	1,800	1,850	150	800	9,450	4,750	4	96
Oct	1,100	1,250	150	750	11,050	4,450	4	96
Nov	950	1,050	150	750	11,400	4,200	4	96
Dec	800	800	150	750	10,850	3,950	4	96
<u>2009</u>								
Jan	750	700	150	750	11,600	3,750	3	97
Feb	700	600	150	750	12,050	3,500	3	97
Mar	650	500	150	750	12,100	3,250	4	96
Apr	600	450	150	750	12,200	2,850	0	100

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

(1) Figures are rounded to the nearest fifty.

(2) New Deal 18-24 and 25+ figures relate to the last Sunday of each month and are revised on a monthly basis.

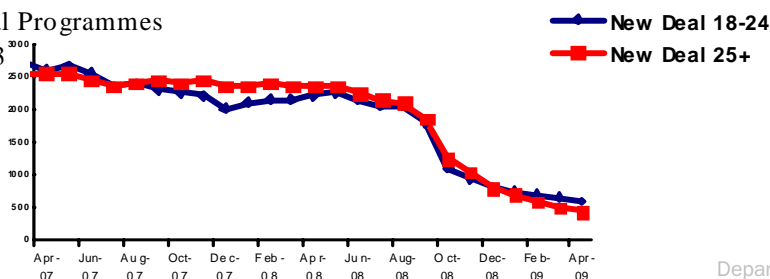
(3) Following the introduction of the Steps to Work (StW) initiative, participants starting New Deal 25+ in Knockbrea, Limavady, Lisburn and Shaftsbury Square (from April 2007) and in Carrickfergus and Magherafelt (from 28th January 2008) are not included in these statistics. From 25th February 2008, participants starting New Deal 18-24 in these six offices are also excluded. On 29th September 2008 StW was introduced in NI and subsumes New Deal – StW statistics are not yet available.

(4) Training for Success (TfS), was introduced in September 2007, and will ultimately replace Jobskills.

(5) April 2009 Jobskills and TfS figures are as at the 12th April 2009.

New Deal Programmes

Figure 13



Vacancies data

Headline figures are presented for vacancies which have been notified to JobCentres / Jobs & Benefits offices (JBO) of the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). This series of statistics takes into account the total number of notified vacancy positions in addition to those that have been subsequently added or cancelled. The statistics do not represent the total unsatisfied demand for staff by employers within Northern Ireland, but are only those vacant positions notified by employers to the Department. Vacancy inflow and outflow figures are shown on a standardised basis, where values are converted to a standard 4 1/3 week period.

Vacancies notified (Inflow)

There were 4,453 standardised vacancies notified in the period ending 3rd April 2009. This was 34%

lower than the number of standardised vacancies notified in April 2008 (6,729) and 26% less than the number of vacancies notified in April 2006 (5,991).

Vacancies filled and cancelled (Outflows)

The number of standardised placed and cancelled vacancies in the period ending 3rd April 2009 was 4,711. This was a decrease of 45% from April 2008 (8,562) and a decrease of 21% from the same period three years previously (5,965).

Unfilled Vacancies

A total of 6,264 unadjusted vacancies remained unfilled on 3rd April 2009, a decrease of 43% on the amount of unfilled vacancies in April 2008 (11,071) and a decrease of 36% on the amount unfilled in April 2006 (9,721).

Vacancies Notified, Outflow and Vacancies Unfilled: April 2006 to April 2009

Table 19

Report Period Ending		Vacancies notified (Inflows) (1)			Vacancies Filled and Cancelled (Outflows) (2)			Unfilled Vacancies (3)	
		Level Unadjusted (4)	Level (standardised) (5)	Change on same month in previous year	Level unadjusted (4)	Level (standardised) (5)	Change on same month in previous year	Level Unadjusted	Change on same month in previous year
2006	07-Apr	6,913	5,991	37%	6,883	5,965	14%	9,721	12%
2007	06-Apr	8,839	7,660	28%	9,138	7,920	33%	10,780	11%
2008	04-Apr	6,211	6,729	-12%	7,903	8,562	+8%	11,071	+3%
	02-May	7,508	8,134	-2%	8,070	8,743	+19%	10,509	-10%
	06-Jun	8,667	7,511	-8%	8,611	7,463	-8%	10,565	-10%
	04-Jul	5,785	6,267	-17%	6,696	7,254	-16%	9,654	-10%
	08-Aug	7,389	6,404	-13%	7,319	6,343	-14%	9,724	-9%
	05-Sep	6,591	7,140	-25%	5,878	6,368	-15%	10,437	-19%
	03-Oct	7,171	7,769	-47%	6,651	7,205	-44%	10,957	-25%
	07-Nov	7,155	6,201	-46%	8,714	7,552	-34%	9,398	-37%
2009	05-Dec	4,169	4,516	-45%	6,525	7,069	-35%	7,042	-40%
	02-Jan	2,137	2,315	-53%	4,551	4,930	-34%	4,628	-51%
	06-Feb	6,309	5,468	-45%	4,794	4,155	-45%	6,143	-49%
	06-Mar	5,138	5,566	-34%	4,778	5,176	-32%	6,503	-49%
	03-Apr	4,110	4,453	-34%	4,349	4,711	-45%	6,264	-43%

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

(1) Vacancies notified (inflow) are all vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres / JBOs of the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).

(2) Outflows are those vacancies that have been notified to JobCentres / JBOs of DEL and have been placed or cancelled. This includes vacancies filled by JobCentres / JBOs or other recruitment channels and vacancies that have been withdrawn.

(3) Vacancies unfilled are those vacancies notified to JobCentres / JBOs of DEL remaining unfilled on the count date (the first Friday after the first Thursday of every month).

(4) Monthly flow data is collected for a 4 or 5 week period between count dates. Unadjusted levels reflect either a 4 or 5 week period.

(5) Standardised levels convert volumes to a standard 4 1/3 week month. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

For a full back series of this table or for further details of Vacancy Statistics and Employment and Training Measures visit the DEL website at the following link: <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statistics-and-research/labour-market.htm> or alternatively contact the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) by telephoning (028) 9025 7743.

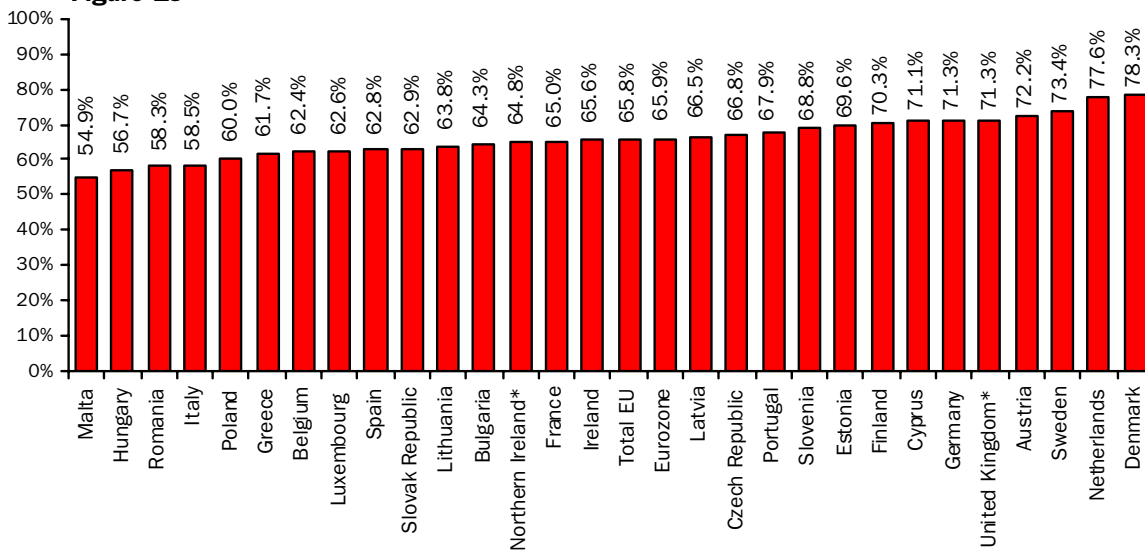
International - Regional Analysis



International Comparisons of ILO Employment and Unemployment

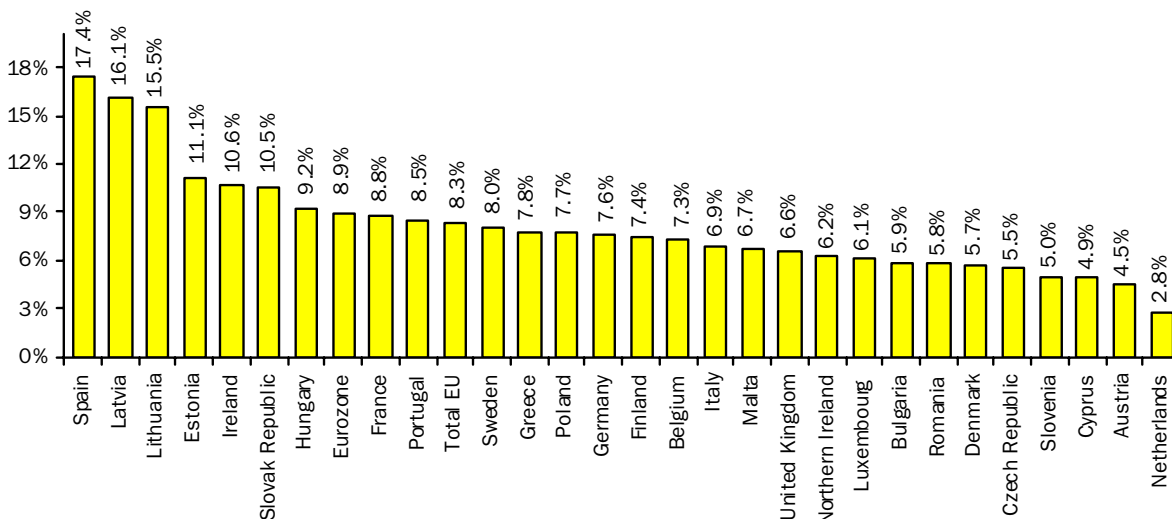
ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted

Figure 15



Unemployment Rates (%) - Seasonally Adjusted

Figure 16



Source: Eurostat

* A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 4 2008 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates (16-64 for men and 16-59 for women) published elsewhere in this publication, which take account of both the school-leaving and state pension age. The employment rate for the UK as published by EUROSTAT differs from the working age rate (16-59/64) published by ONS for the same reason. See link for further notes [International Comparisons of Employment](#)

Seasonally Adjusted Regional Summary, February - April 2009

Table 20

	Total aged 16 and over	Total Economic Active	Total in employment	Unemployed	Economically Inactive	Activity rate (%) 16-59/64	Unemployment rate (%)	Employee Jobs ¹	Claimant count rate (%) ²	Jobs Density Indicator ³
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
North East	2,084	1,246	1,143	103	837	75.8%	8.3%	1,023	7.0%	0.78
North West	5,512	3,429	3,148	281	2,083	78.1%	8.2%	2,962	5.5%	0.85
Yorkshire & the Humber	4,203	2,626	2,415	211	1,577	78.1%	8.0%	2,165	5.8%	0.86
East Midlands	3,590	2,328	2,155	173	1,262	81.5%	7.4%	1,837	4.9%	0.81
West Midlands	4,309	2,678	2,429	249	1,631	78.3%	9.3%	2,271	6.4%	0.87
East	4,588	2,972	2,793	180	1,616	81.9%	6.0%	2,346	4.1%	0.84
London	6,125	4,037	3,709	329	2,087	76.3%	8.1%	4,025	4.3%	1.02
South East	6,695	4,423	4,179	244	2,272	82.7%	5.5%	3,668	3.4%	0.89
South West	4,247	2,712	2,556	156	1,534	82.2%	5.8%	2,204	3.5%	0.90
England	41,352	26,453	24,527	1,926	14,900	79.6%	7.3%	22,500	4.7%	0.88
Wales	2,413	1,433	1,324	109	980	75.8%	7.6%	1,125	5.6%	0.86
Scotland	4,202	2,686	2,510	176	1,516	80.0%	6.6%	2,363	4.5%	0.91
Great Britain	47,968	30,572	28,361	2,211	17,396	79.4%	7.2%	25,988	4.7%	0.88
N Ireland	1,379	800	751	49	578	71.0%	6.2%	715	5.5%	0.79
United Kingdom	49,347	31,369	29,108	2,261	17,978	79.2%	7.2%	26,703	4.8%	0.88

¹ As at Mar 2009

² As at May 2009: percentage of the workforce

³ Not seasonally adjusted – data relates to 2006. Jobs Density – total number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in that area.

Further Information

9

DEFINITIONS

ILO Definition

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

The definition of ILO employed applies to anyone (aged 16 or over) who has done at least one hour's paid work in the week prior to interview, or has a job they are temporarily away from (e.g. on holiday). Also included are people who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported employment training schemes.

The ILO measures are particularly useful for examining short term and long term trends over time and key LFS time series data are available both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted. The key time series data also incorporates the latest mid year population estimates, however the more disaggregated 'microdata' has yet to be re-weighted to these totals (see link below for further details).

Sampling variability

The LFS is a sample survey, and as such, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability. If we drew many samples each would give a different result. The ranges shown for the LFS data in table 1 represent 95% confidence intervals i.e. we would expect that in 95% of samples the range would contain the true value. These confidence intervals have been calculated using data that is unadjusted for seasonality, with the relevant sampling errors produced applied to the seasonally adjusted data.

If the 'annual change' for an estimate has increased or decreased by more than the 'sampling variability of the change', this change would be statistically significant. The annual changes in the main LFS categories of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity were all statistically significant at the 95% level in February – April 2009.

Please see attached link for further LFS notes and definitions.

[Labour Force Survey Notes and Definitions](#)

Claimant Count Definition

Claimant Count figures are derived from records of claimants held at Social Security Offices. The term 'claimants' in the claimant count is used to include those who claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits. The figures include severely disabled claimants, but exclude students seeking vacation work and the temporarily stopped. The Claimant Count is a very up-to-date measure of those eligible to claim a specific unemployment related benefit and data are available for a range of geographical sub-regions (e.g. District Council Areas, Parliamentary Constituency Areas, Travel-to-Work Areas and Wards). It also provides seasonally adjusted and unadjusted data and as a result is a useful measure for examining both short-term and long-term trends.

[Background Notes to the Quarterly Employment Survey \(QES\)](#)

[Definitions for the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings ASHE](#)

For Further Information:

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

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