



NORTHERN IRELAND
**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY:
JANUARY - MARCH 2008**

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This report provides a detailed analysis of the most recent (January - March 2008) quarterly information from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey. To allow detailed analysis most of the information used in the report is not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated for regional comparison purposes. The figures show:

- In Northern Ireland there are an estimated 758,000 persons of working age in employment. This figure has increased by 4.5% (33,000 persons) during the last five years.
- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (4.6%) is up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter and up 0.5 percentage points from January - March 2007 (4.1%). However, it remains below the UK average of 5.2% and is the fourth lowest rate of all the UK regions.
- The seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rate for all working age persons (26.9%) has increased in NI over the past five years (25.7% in 2003). It remains the highest of all the UK regions (the UK average rate is 20.9%).
- NI has a higher proportion of working age economically inactive persons who identify sickness or disability (32%) as their reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (25%). NI also has a higher percentage of economically inactive persons of working age who cite being a student (31%) as their main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (29%). This is partly a reflection of the younger population in NI.
- An estimated 29,000 scheduled working days in NI were lost per week due to sick absence in January – March 2008. This represented 1.1% of the total scheduled working days and compared to an absence rate of 1.3% for the UK.



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Executive Summary

1

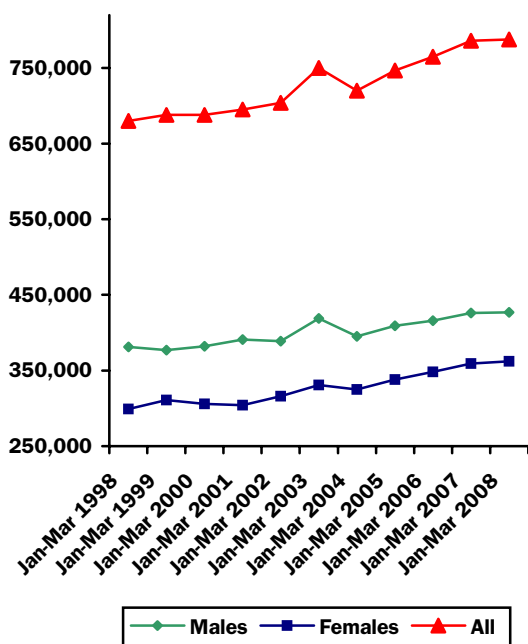
Introduction

The following estimates are based on the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) January – March 2008 results. The LFS is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals in private households about their personal circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in Northern Ireland (NI) and provides a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.

Employment

There are an estimated 788,000 persons in employment in NI, with this figure increasing by 0.4% (3,000 persons) during the last year. The seasonally adjusted working-age employment rate (69.6%) for NI is the lowest of all the UK regions and is 5.2 percentage points below the UK rate of 74.9% (South East region at 79.5% has the highest rate).

Employment (16+) 1998-2008



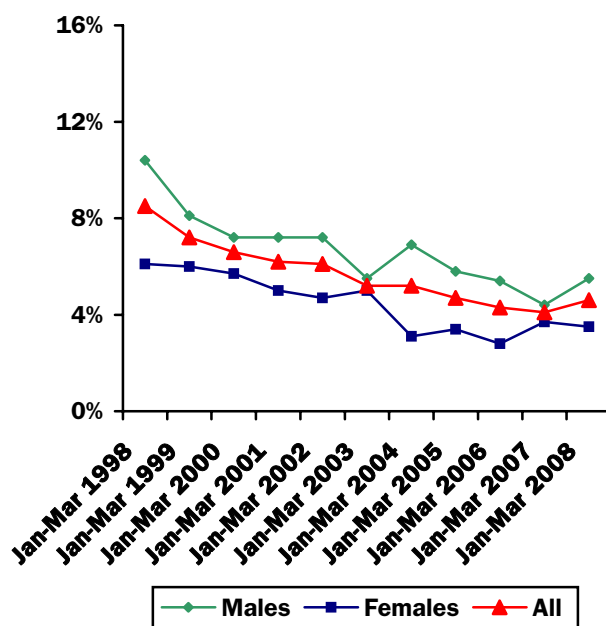
Both male and female employment levels have been increasing during the last ten years and the gap between male and female levels narrowed over the period. The difference between the working age employment rate of males and females is currently estimated at 9.6 percentage points, compared to a 13.3 percentage point difference 10 years ago.

Two-fifths (39%) of female employees work part-time compared to 7% of males. (This is similar to the figures of 42% for females and 8% for males five years ago.) Only 6% of females in employment are self-employed compared with 22% of males (6% and 20% respectively five years previously).

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (4.6%) is up 0.4 percentage points from the previous quarter and up 0.5 percentage points from January - March 2007 (4.1%). However, it remains below the rate for the UK (5.2%) and is the fourth lowest rate of all the UK regions.

Unemployment Rate (16+) 1998-2008

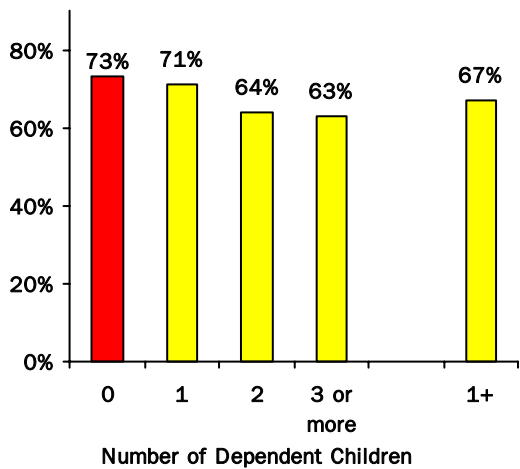


The unadjusted male unemployment rate (5.7%) has risen by 0.2 percentage points during the last five years whilst the female rate (3.2%) has fallen by 1.5 percentage points during the same period. The unadjusted male unemployment rate of 5.7% is 2.5 percentage points above the female unemployment rate, compared to a 0.7 percentage point difference in the unemployment rates five years ago. Almost two-thirds of unemployed men (63%) are short-term unemployed, which is more than the proportion five years ago (51%).

Economic Activity

There are an estimated 796,000 persons of working age economically active in NI at January - March 2008, up 33,000 from five years ago. The seasonally adjusted working age economic activity rate (73.1%) for NI is the lowest across the UK regions and is 6.0 percentage points below the UK rate of 79.1%. At 78.9% the working age economic activity rate for males is approximately 12 percentage points higher than that for females (67.0%). The current 12 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females has narrowed from a 15 percentage point gap 5 years ago.

Female Economic Activity Rates by Number of Dependent Children

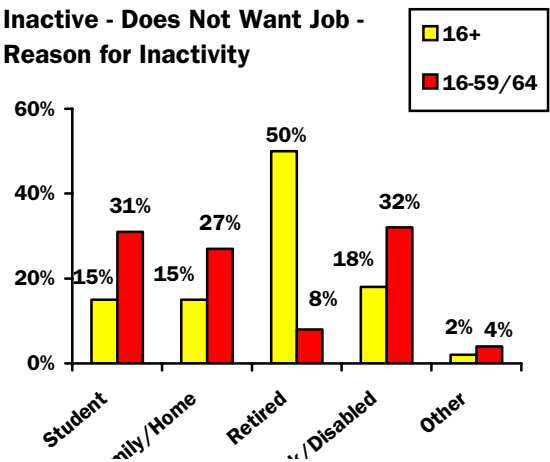


An estimated 67% of females of working age with dependent children under 16 were economically active. In comparison, the equivalent figure for the UK was 69%. Women with dependent children have a 6 percentage point lower working age economic activity rate than those without dependent children.

Economic Inactivity

At January - March 2008 there were 540,000 persons aged 16 and over who were economically inactive in NI, with a resulting economic inactivity rate of 40% for this age group. Around 10% of these economically inactive persons (53,000) wanted a job, but did not satisfy the criteria of being available for work and actively seeking work to be classified as unemployed. The importance of this grouping is emphasised when we consider that there are more economically inactive persons who want a job than there are classified as unemployed (38,000).

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity



The largest category of the economically inactive 16+ population that do not want a job were retired persons (50%). However, for those of working age the largest economically inactive category was those who were sick or disabled (32%). NI has a higher percentage of economically inactive of working age that do not want a job because of sickness or disability (32%), compared to the UK (25%). NI also has a higher proportion of economically inactive students (31%) compared to the UK (29%) and this is partly a reflection of the younger population in NI.

Education and Training

In January - March 2008 almost two-fifths (39%) of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications. Only 6% of the economically inactive had a degree level qualification compared to 24% of the economically active. Of employees of working age, 10% had undergone job-related education or training in the last 4 weeks.

Disabled Persons in the Labour Market

Almost one in five persons (19%) of working age in NI described themselves as having a current long-term disability, which is comparable to the figure of 19% for the UK as a whole.

Approximately 60% of working age persons with a disability are economically inactive compared to 19% of those without disabilities. Furthermore only one third (36%) of disabled persons are in employment compared to 78% of non-disabled persons.

Special Feature: Health and Work

For January – March 2008, an estimated 9,000 persons had a work-related accident in the previous year. Notably, NI had the lowest overall accident rate of any UK region (1.2% compared with 3.0% for the UK as a whole).

Information was also collected on total sickness absence from the workplace and an estimated 29,000 scheduled working days in NI were lost per week due to absence in January – March 2008. This represented 1.1% of the total scheduled working days and compared to an equivalent absence rate for the UK of 1.3%.

Special Feature: Work Patterns

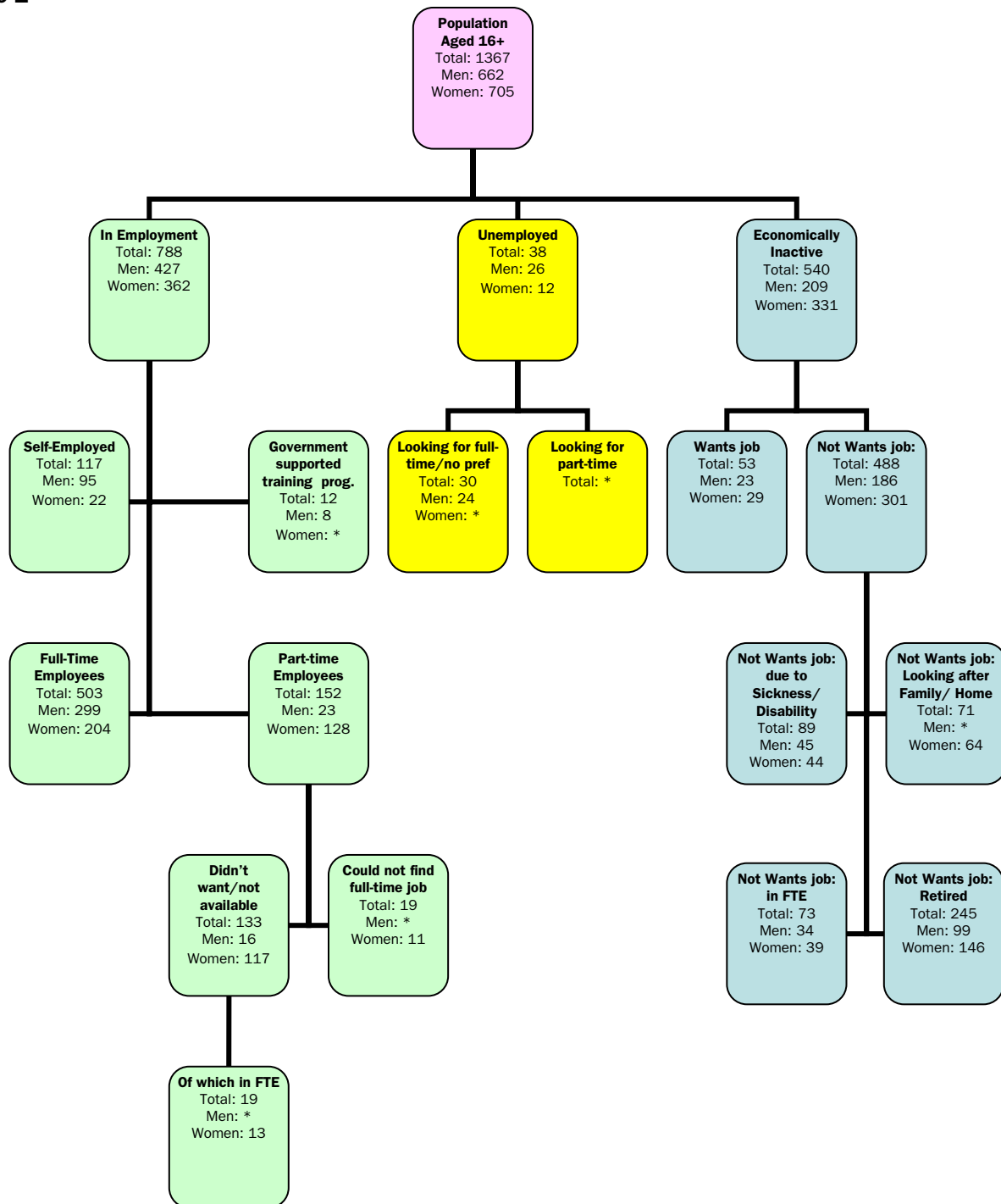
In April-June 2007, more than one in ten employees work shift patterns in their job. (12% worked shift patterns most of the time). The most popular shift patterns were two shift and working sometimes nights and sometimes days.

One in ten employees in NI are able to work flexitime as part of their normal working arrangements.

Overall Labour Market Structure

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Overall Labour Market Structure (16+ Population), January – March 2008
Figure 1



Notes:

This chart illustrates the structure of the private household population in relation to the key ILO defined categories of in employment, unemployed and economically inactive (see Technical Notes for definitions).

* Too small for a reliable estimate (this explains why a gender split for some categories is omitted).

FTE = Full-time education

- **A higher proportion of men than women are in employment**

Table 1 and Figure 2 summarise the economic activity of the population in Northern Ireland (NI). It shows that 60% of LFS respondents aged 16 and over, were economically active (either in employment or seeking work). However, results for males and females differ significantly with 68% of males compared to 53% of females falling into this category.

- **A higher proportion of men than women are unemployed.**

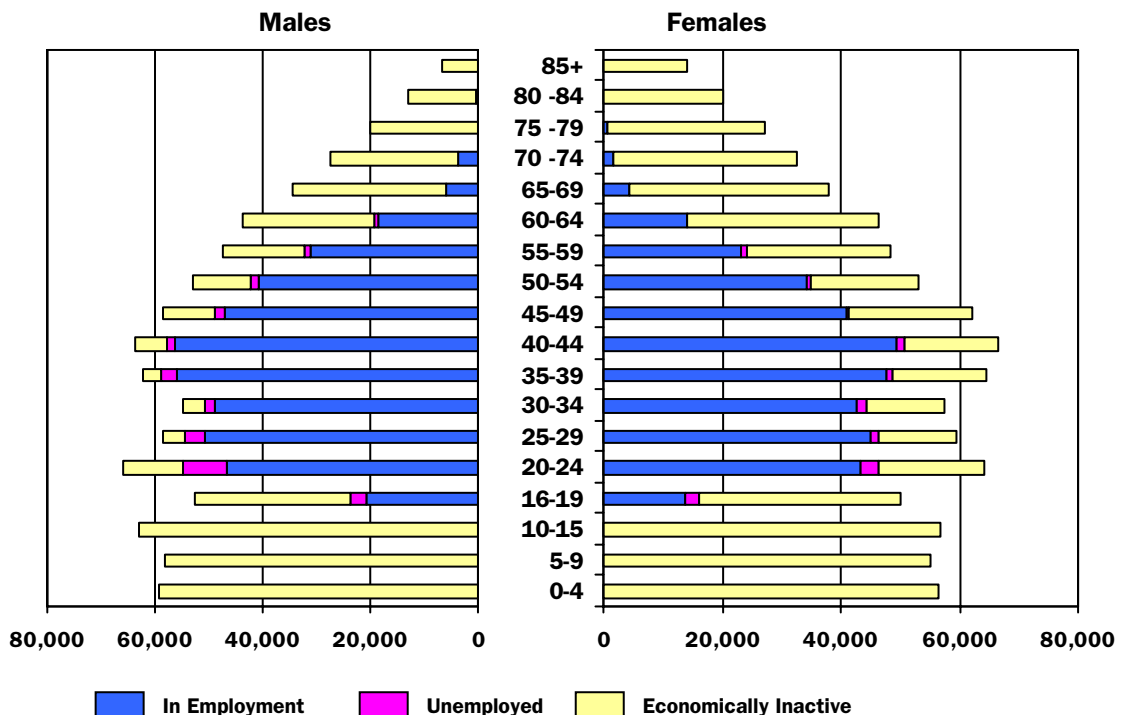
Overall, 3% of the population aged 16 and over are unemployed, however, again this differs for men and women – 4% of males are unemployed compared to 2% of females. In addition, 64% of the male population are in employment compared to 51% of the female population.

Private Household Population (16+) by Economic Status, January – March 2008
Table 1

	Male	Female	All persons
Economically active	68%	53%	60%
In employment	64%	51%	58%
Unemployed	4%	2%	3%
Economically inactive	32%	47%	40%
Total household population	100% (662,000)	100% (705,000)	100% (1,367,000)

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

NI population structure by age, sex and economic activity
Figure 2



Economically Active

3

People aged 16 and over who are in employment or unemployed are classified as economically active. In January – March 2008 there were 826,000 economically active people in NI.

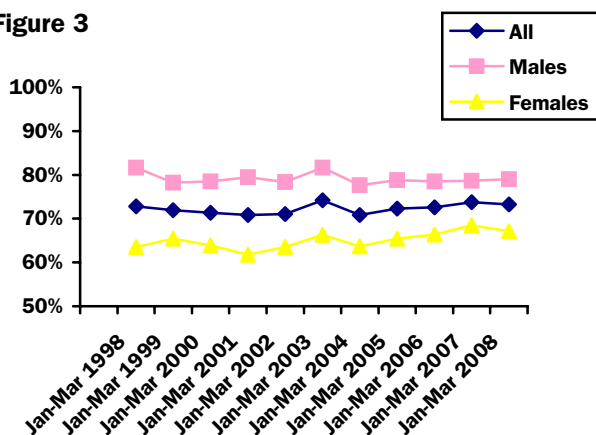
January – March 2008
Economically active-male: 453,000 (68%)
Economically active-female: 374,000 (53%)
Economically active-all persons: 826,000 (60%)
16+ population

- **The working-age economic activity rate for males is 12 percentage points higher than that for females.**

The economic activity rate is the proportion of persons in any specified age group who are economically active. The economic activity rate for persons of working-age was higher for males (79%) than females (67%) at January – March 2008. Figure 3 shows the economic activity rates for males and females of working-age from January – March 1998 to January – March 2008. The current 12 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females has narrowed from an 18 percentage point gap 10 years ago.

Economic Activity Rates (Working-age), 1998 - 2008

Figure 3



Economic Activity Rates (Working-age), 2003 – 2008

Table 2

	Economic Activity Rates		
	Male	Female	All
January – March 2003	81.7%	66.3%	74.2%
January – March 2004	77.6%	63.7%	70.8%
January – March 2005	78.8%	65.5%	72.3%
January – March 2006	78.5%	66.3%	72.6%
January – March 2007	78.7%	68.5%	73.7%
April – June 2007	78.8%	67.5%	73.3%
July - September 2007	78.1%	67.9%	73.2%
October – December 2007	78.3%	66.8%	72.7%
January – March 2008	79.0%	67.1%	73.2%

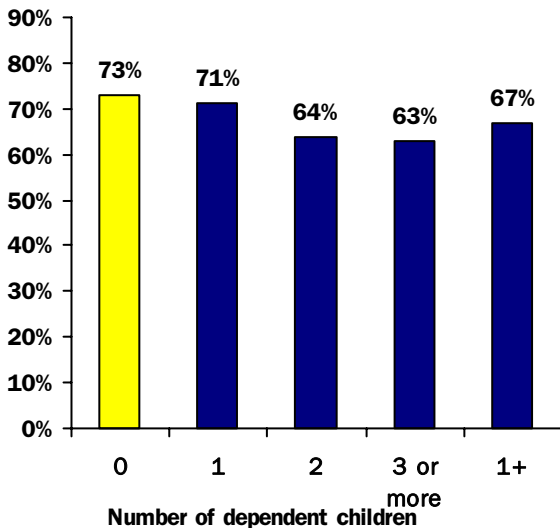
The economic activity rate gap between males and females has been historically larger for NI than for the UK (in January – March 2003 the gap in NI was 15.4 percentage points, compared to 10.7 percentage points in the UK). However, for January - March 2008 the NI differential had narrowed to 11.9 percentage points, only marginally higher than the equivalent UK figure (9.5 percentage points).

- **Women with dependent children have a 6 percentage points lower economic activity rate than those without dependent children.**

Economic activity rates are affected by the presence of dependent children aged under 16. This impact has different consequences for the male and female heads of family units¹. Males with dependent children had a higher economic activity rate (92%) than those without (76%), whereas the opposite is true for females as those with dependent children have a lower economic activity rate (67%) than those without (73%). This compares to a UK activity rate of 69% for women with dependent children and 80% for those without. Having two or more dependent children also meant considerably lower economic activity rates for females as shown in Figure 4.

Economic Activity Rates (Working age) for Females by Number of Dependent Children, January - March 2008

Figure 4



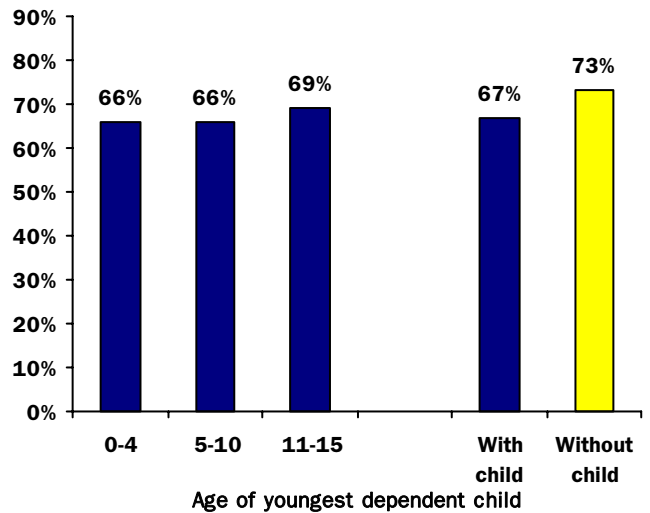
¹ The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 16) on the economic activity rates of males/females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. It does not include family members who are of working age but who do not have parental responsibilities such as an elder sibling.

- **Economic activity rates of the female head of family were also affected by the age of the youngest dependent child.**

Economic activity rates for female heads of family were found to be influenced by the age of the youngest dependent child. When the youngest dependent child was aged 0-4 the activity rate (66%) was 4 percentage points lower than the rate for the 11-15 (69%) age group.

Economic Activity Rates for Females by Age of Youngest Dependent Child, January - March 2008

Figure 5



In Employment

4

People in employment are defined as those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job which they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example); those participating in government employment or training programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

January – March 2008

In employment-male:

427,000 (64%)

In employment-female:

362,000 (51%)

In employment-all persons:

788,000 (58%)

16+ population

- **There were 758,000 persons of working-age in employment in NI, an increase of approximately 33,000 in the last five years.**

Table 3 shows estimates of employment rates over a five-year period from January - March 2003 to January - March 2008 and provides a comparison of rates over the last four quarters. At January - March 2008 there were 758,000 persons of working-age in employment, with the working-age employment rate estimated at 69.8%. This compares with 725,000 persons of working age in employment five years ago and equates to a decrease of 0.5 percentage points in the employment rate.

Employment Rates and Numbers (Working age), 2003 – 2008

Table 4

	Employment rate	Total in employment
January – March 2003	70.3%	725,000
January – March 2004	67.1%	697,000
January – March 2005	68.9%	723,000
January – March 2006	69.5%	739,000
January – March 2007	70.7%	761,000
April – June 2007	70.7%	764,000
July - September 2007	70.1%	759,000
October – December 2007	69.6%	755,000
January – March 2008	69.8%	758,000

- **Fewer females than males work beyond the age of 60.**

Table 4 shows that the age distribution of employed males is very similar to that for employed females. The only apparent difference relates to the older age categories where slightly less females work beyond the age of 55, reflecting the current difference in the pension age for males and females.

Age Distribution of Those in Employment (16+), January – March 2008

Table 4

	Male	Female	All persons
16-19	5%	4%	4%
20-24	11%	12%	11%
25-29	12%	12%	12%
30-34	11%	12%	12%
35-39	13%	13%	13%
40-44	13%	14%	13%
45-49	11%	11%	11%
50-54	10%	9%	10%
55-59	7%	6%	7%
60+	7%	6%	6%
All 16+	100% (427,000)	100% (362,000)	100% (788,000)

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Table 5 provides an analysis of the private household population aged 16 and over who were in employment. The breakdown of employees into full-time and part-time employment is based on the respondent's own description of their main employment rather than on the number of hours actually or usually worked.

- **Only 6% of females in employment are self-employed, compared to 22% of males.**

It is noticeable that, while 22% of males in employment are self-employed, just 6% of females are in this category. The LFS also gathers information on persons with a second job in addition to their main activity and 3% of all employees stated that they had a second job.

Employment Status of Those In Employment (16+), January – March 2008

Table 5

	Male	Female	All persons
All employees:	76%	92%	83%
- Full-time employees	93%	61%	77%
- Part-time employees	7%	39%	23%
Self-employed	22%	6%	15%
Govt. schemes	2%	*	2%
Total in employment	100% (427,000)	100% (362,000)	100% (788,000)

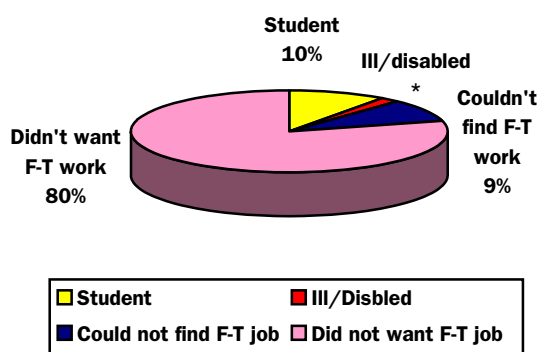
*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate
Percentages may not sum due to rounding
Total includes a small number of unpaid family workers.

- **Two-fifths (39%) of female employees are part-time compared to 7% of males.**

One of the main features of the NI labour market is the contribution which part-time jobs make to female employment. Of all female employees, 39% are part-time compared with just 7% of males. Figure 6 shows the reasons given by female employees for working part-time. The main reasons given by females for working part-time were that they did not want a full-time job (80%) and that they were students working part-time (10%).

Reasons For Females Working Part-time, January - March 2008

Figure 6



Employment by Industry

- **The largest industrial sections are Wholesale and Retail Trade (15%), Health and Social Work (14%) and Public administration and defence (13%).**

Table 6 provides an analysis of persons in employment by industry (SIC03). The major industries in terms of employment were Wholesale and Retail Trade (15%), Health and Social Work (14%), Public Administration and Defence (13%) and Manufacturing (12%). Industries employing relatively few persons included Electricity, Gas and Water Supply and Mining and Quarrying.

- **Construction (18%) and Manufacturing (17%) are the largest employment sectors for males, while Health and Social Work (26%) is the largest sector for females.**

There are obvious differences between males and females in terms of the industries in which they are employed. Almost one-sixth (18%) of males work in Construction, whereas the comparison for females is too small to provide a reliable estimate. In contrast, an estimated one quarter (26%) of females work in Health and Social Work compared to 4% of males.

Persons in Employment by Industry Section, January – March 2008

Table 6

	Male	Female	All persons
Agriculture, hunting & forestry	5%	*	3%
Fishing	*	*	*
Mining and quarrying	*	*	*
Manufacturing	17%	7%	12%
Electricity, gas & water supply	*	*	*
Construction	18%	*	10%
Wholesale and retail trade	15%	15%	15%
Hotels and restaurants	2%	4%	3%
Transport, storage & communication	5%	2%	4%
Financial intermediation	2%	3%	3%
Real estate, renting & business	8%	8%	8%
Public administration and defence	13%	12%	13%
Education	4%	14%	9%
Health and social work	4%	26%	14%
Community, social & personal services	5%	6%	5%
All industries ¹	100% (423,000)	100% (357,000)	100% (780,000)

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those on college based government training and employment programmes and those who did not state industry.

Employment by Occupation

Table 7 provides an analysis of persons in employment by occupation using SOC2000 (Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since Spring 2001. These estimates are based on a different classification from those used previously and as a result, are not directly comparable.

- **Approximately one-sixth (16%) of persons work in Skilled Trade occupations.**

Skilled Trade occupations were the largest group with 16% of persons in employment, followed by Associate Professional and Technical occupations (13%) and Administrative and Secretarial occupations (13%).

- **A large proportion of males (28%) work in Skilled Trade occupations whereas the largest group for females was Administrative and Secretarial (21%).**

There are obvious differences between males and females in terms of the occupations in which they are employed. Over one quarter of males (28%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, in comparison to just 2% of females. Conversely, 21% of females work in Administrative and Secretarial occupations compared to 6% of males.

A higher proportion of males in employment are Managers and/or Senior Officials compared to females (13% for males as opposed to 9% for females).

Persons in Employment by Occupation, January – March 2008
Table 7

	Male	Female	All persons
Managers and/or Senior Officials	13%	9%	11%
Professional Occupations	12%	13%	12%
Assoc. Professional and Technical	11%	16%	13%
Administrative and Secretarial	6%	21%	13%
Skilled Trade	28%	2%	16%
Personal Service	*	14%	7%
Sales and Customer Service	5%	9%	7%
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	13%	3%	8%
Elementary	11%	12%	11%
All occupations ¹	100% (423,000)	100% (357,000)	100% (780,000)

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those on college based government training and employment programmes and those who did not state occupation.

Unemployment

5

The unemployed are defined as those without a job in the reference week who were available to start work within the next fortnight and who had either looked for work at some time in the last four weeks or were waiting to start a job already obtained.

January - March 2008
Unemployed-male: 26,000 (4%)
Unemployed-female: 12,000 (2%)
Unemployed-all persons: 38,000 (3%)
16+ population

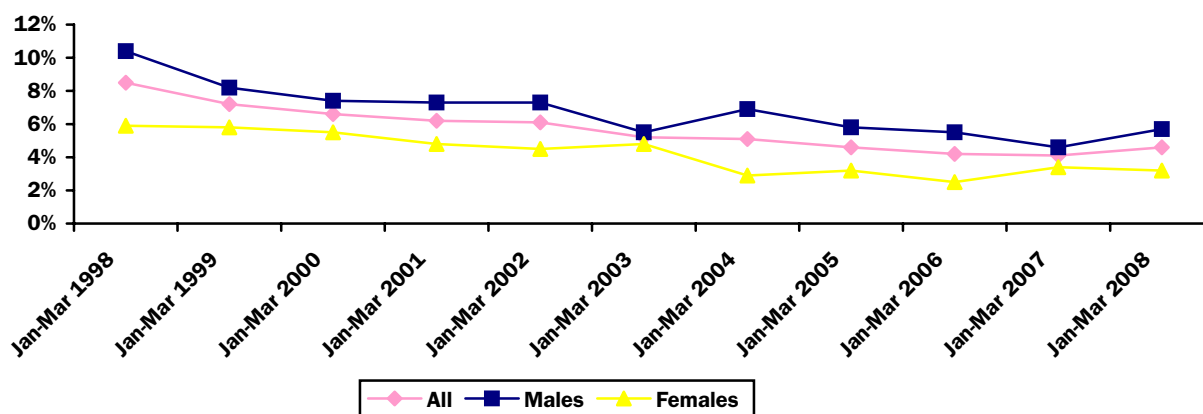
Overall, 3% of respondents aged 16 and over were unemployed and 4% of men were unemployed compared to 2% of women.

- **The unemployment rate for males is 5.7% compared to 3.2% for females.**

Unemployment rates can be obtained from the survey by expressing the number unemployed as a percentage of all those economically active (see Table 8). Unadjusted results show a 0.4 percentage point decrease in the overall unemployment rate between October - December 2007 and January - March 2008.

Unemployment Rates, 1998-2008

Figure 7



Unemployment Rates, 2003 – 2008

Table 8 (Unadjusted for Seasonality)

	Male	Female	All persons
January – March 2003	5.5%	4.8%	5.2%
January – March 2004	6.9%	2.9%	5.1%
January – March 2005	5.8%	3.2%	4.6%
January – March 2006	5.5%	2.5%	4.2%
January – March 2007	4.6%	3.4%	4.1%
April – June 2007	3.8%	3.2%	3.5%
July - September 2007	4.3%	3.9%	4.1%
October – December 2007	4.9%	3.4%	4.2%
January – March 2008	5.7%	3.2%	4.6%

Fluctuations in the unemployment rates from each quarter will be partly due to seasonal factors – please refer to the seasonally adjusted figures in Section 8.

The unemployment rate for January - March 2008 (4.6%) represented an increase of 0.5 percentage points from the same period one year ago.

- Over half (56%) of unemployed persons are aged 16-29.

Table 9 shows that over half of unemployed persons are aged 16-29 (56%) with those aged 30 or over comprising the remaining 44%.

Age Distribution of the Unemployed, January - March 2008

Table 9

	Male	Female	All persons
16-29	57%	*	56%
30+	43%	*	44%
All 16+	100% (26,000)	100% (12,000)	100% (38,000)

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Duration of Unemployment

- Two thirds (66%) of unemployed persons are short-term unemployed.

In January - March 2008, two thirds (66%) of unemployed persons had been out of work and seeking employment for less than one year. Less than two-thirds (63%) of unemployed males were classified as short-term unemployed, compared to 73% of females (i.e. less than one year) – see Table 11.

Duration of Unemployment in Northern Ireland, January - March 2008

Table 11

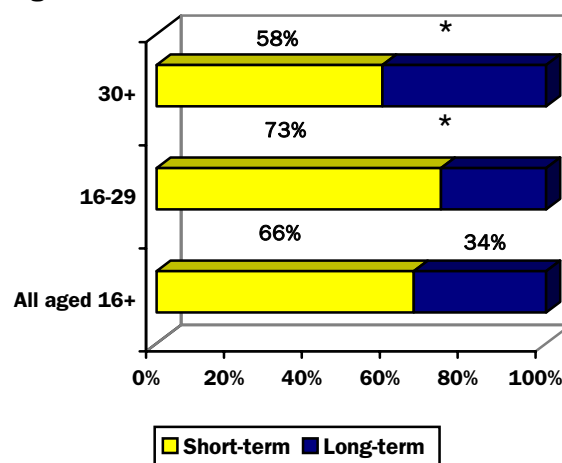
	Male	Female	All persons
Short-term unemployed	63%	73%	66%
Long-term unemployed	37%	*	34%
All unemployed ¹	100% (26,000)	100% (12,000)	100% (38,000)

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

¹Excludes those that did not answer the questions on duration of unemployment.

The proportion of unemployed persons who were unemployed for one year or more is shown separately for younger and older age groups in Figure 8. Long-term unemployed accounted for 34% of the total unemployed and short-term unemployed for 66%. Of those aged 16-29, 73% were short-term unemployed, however the split was more even for the 30+ category (where 58% were short-term unemployed).

Long-term and Short-term Unemployed by Age Group, Figure 8



Methods Used By The Unemployed To Seek Work

- The two main methods of looking for work are answering advertisements/studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals and visiting JobCentre Offices.

For unemployed persons, the two most common methods of looking for work were answering advertisements/studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals (57%) and visiting JobCentre Offices (22%) as can be seen in Table 11. A small number of persons approached firms/employers directly and used personal contacts (such as asking friends, relatives and colleagues) to find out about the availability of work.

Main Method Of Seeking Work for Unemployed Persons (16+), January – March 2008

Table 11

	Male	Female	All persons
Advertisements/ Situations vacant	56%	*	57%
JobCentre Offices	*	*	22%
Other methods	*	*	*
All methods	100% (26,000)	100% (12,000)	100% (38,000)

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Total includes those who were not seeking work in the previous four weeks because they were awaiting results of a job application, but excludes those who did not answer the question.

Occupation of Unemployed Persons in Last Job

The survey also asks unemployed persons their occupation in their most recent job, if applicable. Approximately 26,000 persons gave a previous occupational group. Estimates for a breakdown by occupational grouping were mostly too small to be reliably quoted. (9,000 had been in elementary occupations, accounting for 33% of unemployed persons.)

Economically Inactive

6

People aged 16 and over who are not in employment and are not unemployed are classified as economically inactive.

January - March 2008

Economically inactive-male:
209,000 (32%)
Economically inactive -female:
331,000 (47%)
Economically inactive -all persons:
540,000 (40%)

16+ population

In January - March 2008 there were 540,000 economically inactive people in NI – this represented 40% of the 16+ population.

- **Economic inactivity is highest for those aged 65 and over.**

For both males and females, economic inactivity is relatively high during the ages associated with full-time education (16-24), it drops during the “prime” working years and picks up towards retirement. For women this trend is affected by the impact of domestic commitments during the “prime” working years – see Table 12.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive NI, January - March 2008

Table 12

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	19%	16%	17%
25-34	4%	8%	6%
35-44	5%	10%	8%
45-54	10%	12%	11%
55-64	19%	17%	18%
65+	44%	38%	40%
All 16+	100% (209,000)	100% (331,000)	100% (540,000)

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

- **Almost one-half (49%) of the economically inactive in the UK are aged 65 or over.**

Table 13 shows the comparable age distribution of the economically inactive for the UK. It highlights that a higher proportion of the inactive in the UK are concentrated in the older age groups, with 49% being aged 65 and over, compared to 40% in NI. In contrast, the UK has a much lower proportion of their economically inactive population in the youngest age group (14% of the UK economically inactive population are aged 16-24, compared to 17% for NI). These differences are partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive UK, January - March 2008

Table 13

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	17%	12%	14%
25-34	4%	9%	7%
35-44	5%	9%	7%
45-54	6%	8%	7%
55-64	15%	17%	16%
65+	53%	46%	49%
All 16+	100% (6,988,000)	100% (10,912,000)	100% (17,900,000)

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Reasons for Economic Inactivity

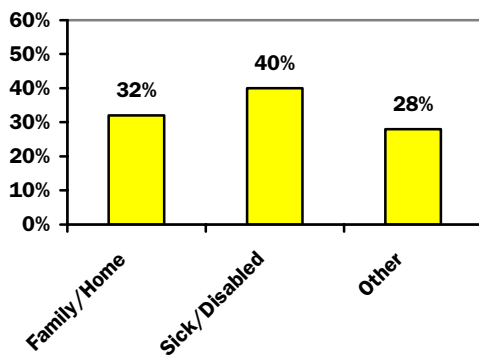
- **Around 10% of the economically inactive want a job.**

The economically inactive population is comprised of two main groups; those who do not want a job (90% in January - March 2008) and those who do want a job (10%). Equivalent figures for the UK show that 13% of the economically inactive want a job, whereas the remaining 87% do not. The main reasons given by those who want work in NI, but are not seeking work or available to start work are shown in Figure 9.

- **Sickness or disability is one of the main reasons for not looking for a job.**

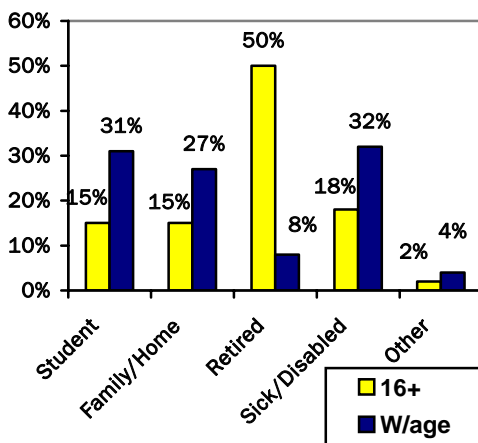
Of the economically inactive who want a job, 32% were not looking for work due to family/home commitments and 40% were not looking because of sickness or disability. "Other" includes students and discouraged workers (those not in a job who would like work and whose reason for not seeking work in the past four weeks is that they believe there are no jobs available).

Inactive - Wants Job (16+)
Figure 9



As mentioned previously, 90% of the economically inactive do not want a job and this group can be divided into the categories shown in Figure 10.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (16+ and Working-age)
Figure 10



- **Of the 16+ population who do not want a job one half are retired.**

Overall for the total population, the main reason for the inactive not wanting work was retirement (50%).

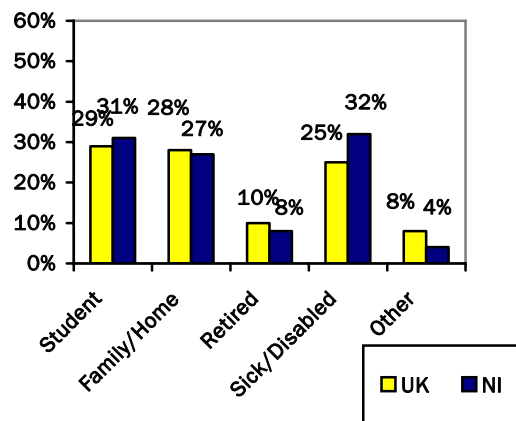
- **Approximately one-third (32%) of the working-age population who do not want a job are sick or disabled.**

For the working-age population the main reasons for not wanting work were sickness/disability (32%), followed by students (31%) and those with family and home responsibilities (27%). Men were more likely to cite sickness/disability as their main reason (43%) for inactivity and women family commitments (40%).

- **In comparison to the UK, NI has a higher percentage of the economically inactive, who do not want a job, because they are sick or disabled or students.**

Figure 11 compares the working-age inactive population of NI with the UK. NI has a higher proportion of those who identify sickness or disability (32%) as the main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (25%). NI also has a higher percentage of economically inactive people who do not want a job because they are students (31%) compared to the UK (29%) and this is partly a reflection of the younger population in NI.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (UK and NI by Working age)
Figure 11



Education and Training

7

Qualifications of the Employed and the Unemployed

- **Almost two-fifths (39%) of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications at January – March 2008.**

Table 14 shows that the qualification levels of those of working-age in employment are consistently higher than those for the unemployed and economically inactive. Of those in employment 33% had higher qualifications, while the number of unemployed persons in this category was too small to quote a reliable estimate. Conversely, 39% of economically inactive people had no formal qualifications, compared with 15% of those in employment. The economically active comprise the employed and the unemployed. The qualification levels of this group are higher than the economically inactive. Of the economically inactive, only 11% had degree and other higher qualifications, while 39% had no qualifications at all. This compares to figures of 33% and 15% for the economically active population.

Qualifications By Economic Activity (Working-age), January – March 2008

Table 14

	In employment	Unemployed	Econ. active	Econ. inactive
Degree or higher	24%	*	24%	6%
Other higher below degree	9%	*	9%	5%
A level or equivalent	25%	27%	25%	21%
GCSE A-C or equivalent	21%	23%	21%	24%
Other qualifications	6%	*	6%	5%
No Qualifications	15%	26%	15%	39%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
All	(749,000)	(38,000)	(787,000)	(287,000)

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

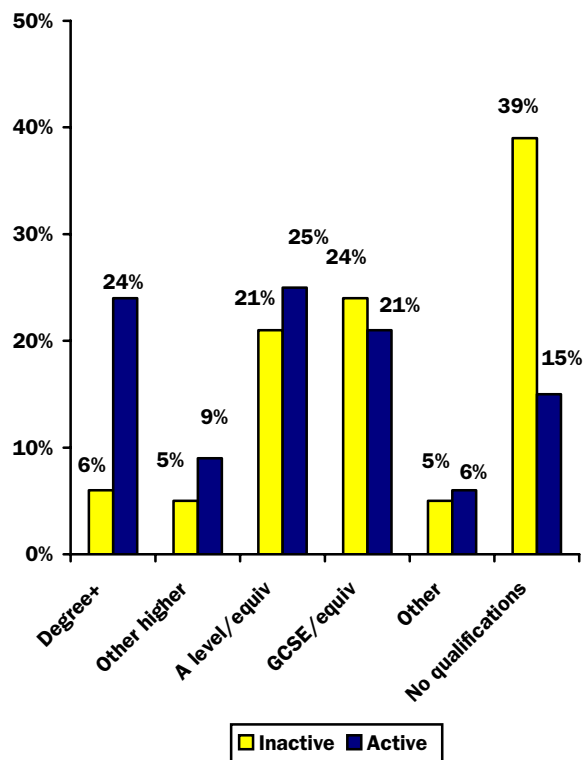
Total excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification.

Please refer to Technical Notes for full definition of educational attainment categories.

Only men and women of working-age, and those of any age with a job were asked the question on qualifications.

Qualifications By Economic Activity, January - March 2008

Figure 12



Job-related Training

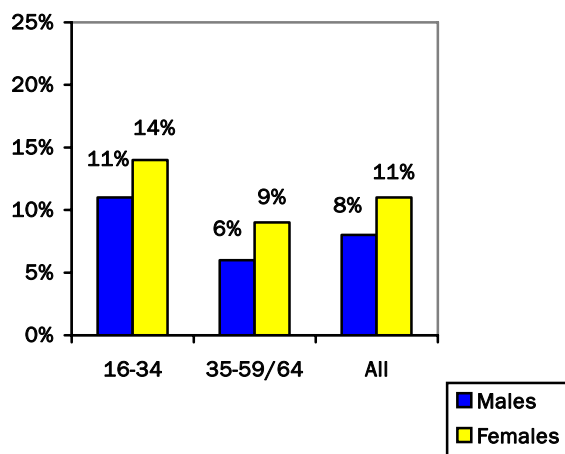
- **A higher proportion of younger employees receive job-related training.**

The LFS can be used to identify those employees who receive education or training connected with their job. Table 15 and Figure 13 overleaf show how the proportion of employees receiving job-related education or training varies with age and gender. In January - March 2008, 10% of employees of working-age had undergone some job-related training within the previous four weeks. For both males and females, those in the younger age group are more likely to be recipients than those in the older age group, with 11% of males and 14% of females in the 16-34 age groups having received such training.

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age Group (Working-age), January - March 2008
Table 15

	Male	Female	All persons
16-34	11%	14%	12%
35-59/64	6%	9%	8%
All	8%	11%	10%

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Working Age, January - March 2008
Figure 13



Regional and International Summary

8

Table 16 and Figure 14 provide some labour market comparisons on a seasonally adjusted basis between NI and other UK regions.

- **The unemployment rate in NI is lower than the UK average and is the fourth lowest of the UK regions.**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI at January - March 2008 (4.6%) was lower than the UK average (5.2%) and fourth lowest of the UK regions. The NI employment rate for those of working-age (69.6%) was the lowest of all the UK regions. In contrast the region with the highest employment rate was the South East (79.5%).

- **The NI employment rate is 0.2 percentage points higher than the average rate for the EU 27.**

Figure 15 overleaf shows how the harmonised employment rate in NI compares to other employment rates in the EU (based on those aged 15-64). The NI rate (66.2% - see Note 2 overleaf) is 0.2 percentage points higher than the EU average (66.0%). In contrast, it is 3.7 percentage points below the current rate in the Republic of Ireland (69.9%).

The NI unemployment rate (4.6%) is 0.3 percentage points lower than the rate for the Republic of Ireland and 2.1 percentage points lower than the average rate for the EU 27.

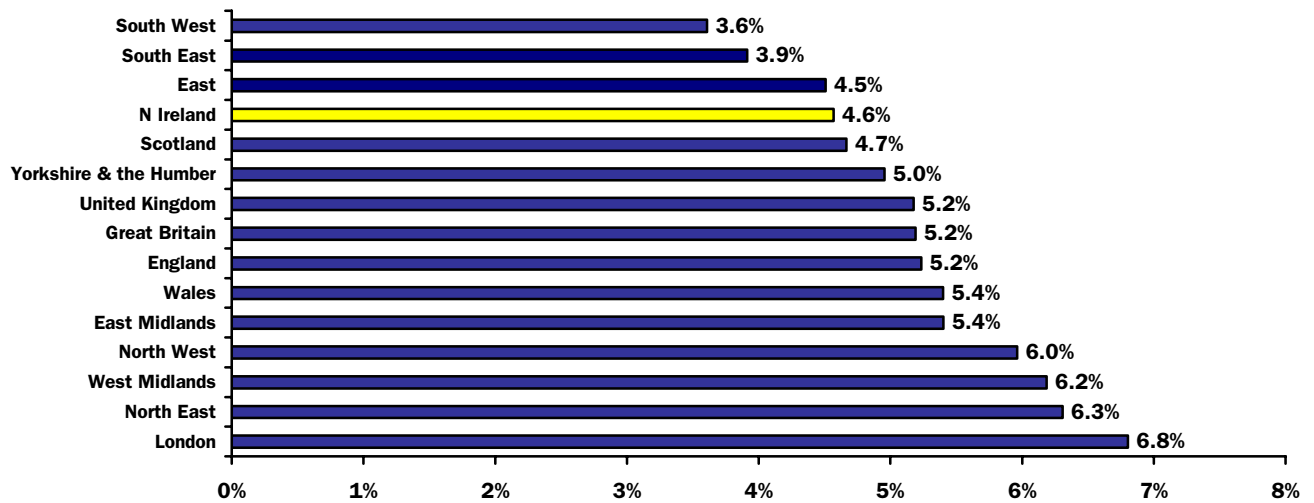
Regional Seasonally Adjusted Economic Activity Rates, January – March 2008

Table 16

	Econ. activity rate (working-age) %	Employment rate (working-age) %	Unemployment rate %
North East	75.2	70.4	6.3
North West & Mersey	77.2	72.5	6.0
Yorkshire & Humber	77.9	74.0	5.0
East Midlands	80.9	76.4	5.4
West Midlands	78.4	73.4	6.2
East	81.6	77.8	4.5
London	76.5	71.1	6.8
South East	82.8	79.5	3.9
South West	82.1	79.1	3.6
England	79.4	75.1	5.2
Wales	76.0	71.8	5.4
Scotland	80.3	76.5	4.7
Great Britain	79.3	75.0	5.2
Northern Ireland	73.1	69.6	4.6
United Kingdom	79.1	74.9	5.2

Regional Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, January - March 2008

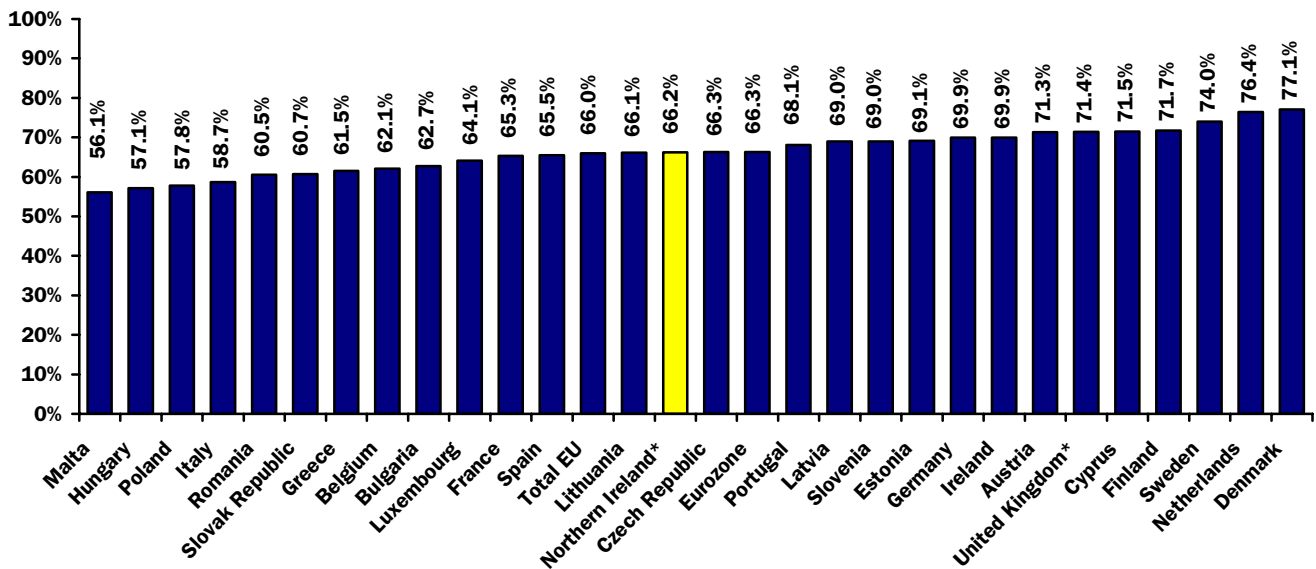
Figure 14



International Comparisons of ILO Employment

ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted¹

Figure 15



Source: Eurostat and StatBLS

¹ Employment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

The employment rates published by EUROSTAT are based on the population aged 15-64.

* A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 3 2007 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 will differ from the working age rate (16-59/64) published by ONS for the same reason.

Eurostat compiles 'harmonised' unemployment rates for most countries (but not NI and UK) by extrapolating from the most recent LFS data using monthly registered unemployment data. For further information see the Monthly Eurostat news release.

The "Total EU" series consists of all 27 EU countries. The Eurozone series consists of the following EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Disability and the Labour Market

9

This section focuses on the characteristics and labour market experiences of people with disabilities. Disability as a concept is complex and can be defined in a number of ways and here it relates to current long-term disabilities among the working-age population that are covered by the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act and/or work-limiting disabilities – please refer to the Technical Notes section for a full definition.

Estimates of Numbers Disabled

- **Almost one in five persons (19%) of working-age are disabled in NI.**

The January - March 2008 LFS estimates that almost one in five (19%) persons (209,000) of working-age in NI had a current long-term disability. This proportion was the similar for both males (20%) and females (19%), equating to 111,000 disabled men and 98,000 disabled women.

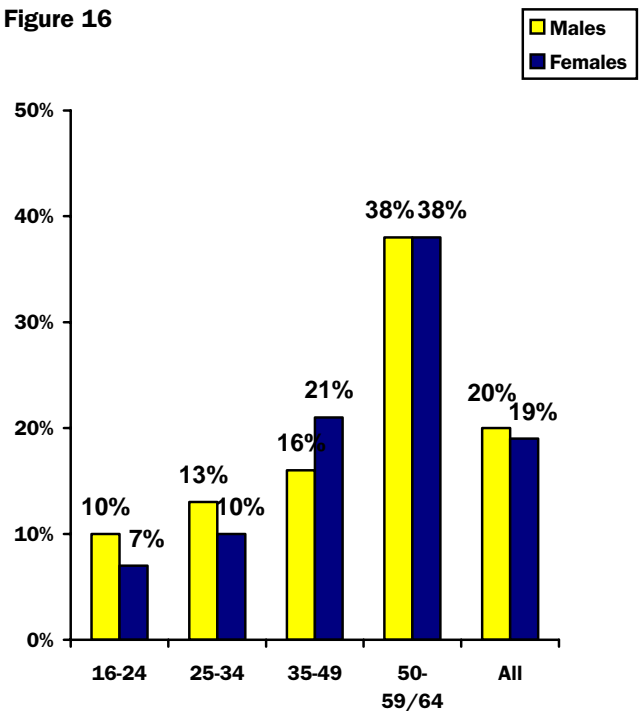
- **The likelihood of having a disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females.**

Figure 16 shows how numbers having a long-term disability or health problem increase with age for both males and females. The proportion of males with disabilities increased from 10% for the 16-24 age group to 38% for the 50-64 age group.

For females the proportion with disabilities increased from 10% for ages 25-34 to 38% for ages 50-59. The number of females with disabilities for ages 16-24 was too small for a reliable estimate. For each age grouping females and males had relatively similar proportions of persons with disabilities.

Disability Rates By Age Group, January - March 2008

Figure 16



* too small for a reliable estimate

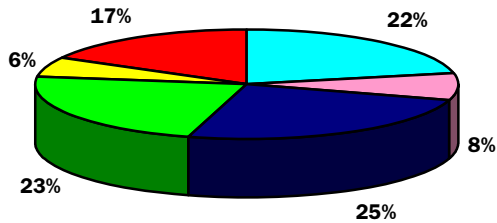
Qualifications of Persons With and Without Disabilities

- **Over twice the proportion of disabled persons have no qualification compared to non-disabled persons at January - March 2008.**

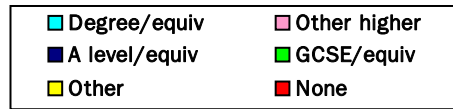
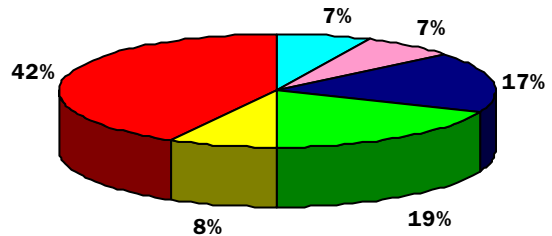
Figure 17 shows the qualification levels held by disabled and non-disabled persons at January - March 2008. Overall, persons with a disability are less qualified than those without. In particular, 14% of disabled persons held higher qualifications compared with 30% of non-disabled persons. Two-fifths (42%) of disabled persons had no qualifications, over twice the proportion of non-disabled persons (17%).

Qualifications Of Persons With Or Without Disabilities, January - March 2008
Figure 17

Non-Disabled



Disabled



Economic Activity of the Disabled and Non-Disabled

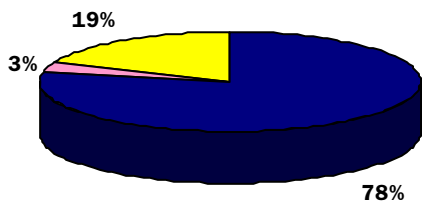
- **The employment rate for those without disabilities (78%) is over twice that of people with disabilities (36%).**

Please refer to Technical Notes for full definition of qualifications.
 Excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification.
 Figures may not sum due to rounding.

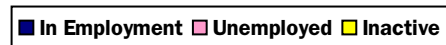
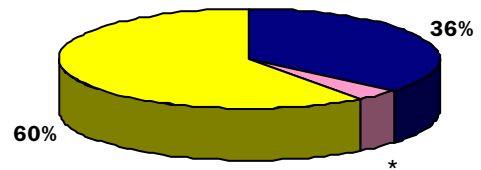
Figure 18 shows the relative importance of the three main economic categories for disabled and non-disabled persons of working age at January - March 2008. A much smaller proportion of the disabled (36%) are in employment compared with the non-disabled (78%). Conversely, the majority of the disabled (60%) are economically inactive, compared with 19% of the non-disabled.

Economic Activity Of Those With and Without Disabilities, January - March 2008
Figure 18

Non-Disabled



Disabled



Special Feature: Health and Work

10

Each Winter since 1994/95, the LFS questionnaire has contained a number of questions concerning the incidence of work-related accidents. Due to the transition of the LFS from seasonal quarters to calendar quarters such questions are now asked in Quarter 1 (January – March) where they were previously asked in the Winter quarter (December – February) of each year.

Work-related Accidents

- **An estimated 9,000 persons had a work-related accident in the year prior to January – March 2008.**

For January – March 2008, an estimated 9,000 persons had a work-related accident in the previous year. (This is similar to the estimate for the year previous to January-March 2007; 10,000). The estimates of work-related accidents broken down by gender were below the minimum quotation level of 8,000 cases.

The number of persons who had a major accident, where the injured person returned to work on the fourth day or later after the accident or never worked again, was below the minimum quotation level.

The accident rate is the number of persons in employment who had an accident divided by the total number of persons in employment. In January – March 2008 the accident rate was 1.2% which is similar to the previous year (1.3%).

- **NI had the lowest accident rate of any UK region in January – March 2008.**

In January – March 2008 NI had the lowest overall accident rate of any UK region (1.2% compared with 3.0% for the UK as a whole).

Sickness Absence From Work

The Labour Force Survey collects information on total sickness absence from the workplace. New questions introduced in Spring 2000 enable us to calculate “days lost through sickness absence as a proportion of the number of days on which an employee was scheduled to work”, known as “sickness absence rate” and to identify on which day(s) of the week the respondent was absent.

At January - March 2008 there were 655,000 employees for whom data was available. Out of these, 49,000 were not scheduled to work at all during the week in question (eg persons on annual or maternity leave) and 17,000 whose scheduled working days were not relevant (those who had no regular schedule of work or could not answer the question).

- **An estimated 29,000 scheduled working days were lost per week due to absence in January - March 2008, representing 1.1% of the total scheduled to work.**

Table 17 shows that for the remaining 589,000 employees scheduled to work, 29,000 scheduled working days out of 2,692,000 scheduled working days were lost to sickness or injury per week during January - March 2008. This estimate represented 1.1% of the total scheduled working days (compared to 1.3% in the UK). Estimates of absence percentages for Saturday and Sunday were too small to be reliably quoted.

Daily Sickness Absence rates of employees, January - March 2008

Table 17

	Number Scheduled to Work	Number Absent from Work	% Absent on Day
Monday - Friday	2,526,000	28,000	1.1%
Saturday - Sunday	166,000	*	*
All Work Days	2,692,000	29,000	1.1%

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Of the total scheduled working days lost, 19,000 were due to absenteeism among females, representing 1.5% of their scheduled working days and 10,000 were due to males being absent, representing 0.7% of their scheduled working days.

The “occurrence of sickness absence” looks at the total number of employees who were absent for at least one day during the week as a proportion of the total number of employees who were scheduled to work.

In January - March 2008, an estimated 10,000 employees (1.5% of all employees) were absent at least one day during the week. In order to look at these absentees in more detail, data from the January – March 2008 quarter has been amalgamated with the previous three quarters. For this combined data the minimum quotation level reduces from 8,000 to 6,000 cases. An advantage of averaging data over a year is that it smoothes out variation between individual quarters. The estimated average number who had at least one day off sick during the survey reference week for these four quarters was 8,000 (1.2% of all employees).

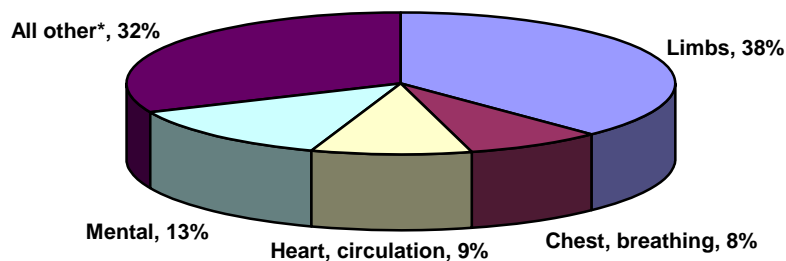
Given the relatively small estimate provided for the total average sick absence it is not feasible to provide further breakdowns by gender, or industry sector.

HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECTING WORK

- **One in six persons of working age (188,000) had a long-term health problem which affected the amount or kind of work they could do.**

For January - March 2008 there were an estimated 1,087,000 persons of working age in Northern Ireland. Looking at health problems that were expected to last more than twelve months, for 170,000 persons the health problem affected the amount of paid work they could do, and for 184,000 persons they affected the kind of paid work they could do. Combining these there were 188,000 persons (101,000 males and 86,000 females) who had a long-term health problem which affected either the amount or kind of paid work they could do. This represented 17% of all persons of working age. Figure 19 shows the main health problem that affected these people, for 71,000 (38%) persons the health problem was that associated with mobility of the limbs (including arthritis or rheumatism) affecting arms, hands, legs, feet, back or neck. The other main health problems were mental illnesses including depression (13%), heart and circulation problems (9%) and chest and breathing problems (8%).

Main Health Problem affecting Amount or Kind of Work, January - March 2008
Figure 23



* All other illnesses include sensory illnesses, skin conditions, diabetes, epilepsy, learning difficulties and progressive illnesses not elsewhere included.

Special Feature: Work Patterns

11

This special feature looks at the patterns of work for employees and the self-employed in their main job at April-June 2007.

Patterns of Work in Main Job

- **Two fifths of females (39%) worked part-time in April-June 2007**

Table 18 and 19 show the proportions of employees and self employed, broken down by gender, work pattern and permanent/non-permanent nature of their main job. A much higher proportion of females work on a part-time basis (39% or 138,000) compares to males (7% or 28,000). Of the females working part-time, 78% did not want a full-time job. Overall, a smaller proportion of self-employed persons (14%) work part-time, than employees (23%).

Employees and Self-Employed in main job, April-June 2007

Table 18

	Males	Females	Total
Full-time	93%	61%	79%
Part-time	7%	39%	21%
Total	100% (425,000)	100% (352,000)	100% (777,000)

- **37,000 employees were in non-permanent positions in April-June 2007**

Despite the significant number of persons working part-time, the vast majority of both male and female employees are in permanent jobs, with only 4% of male and 7% of female employees in non-permanent positions.

Employees in main job, April-June 2007

Table 19

	Males	Females	Total
Permanent	96%	93%	94%
Non-Permanent	4%	7%	6%
Total¹	100% (326,000)	100% (330,000)	100% (656,000)

¹ Includes a small number where permanent/non-permanent nature of job is not known.

Shift-work

- **Approximately one in seven (15%) employees work shift-work in their main job**

In April-June 2007, 14% of all employees in Northern Ireland were involved in shift work. The proportion doing shift work most of the time varied between males (14%) and females (11%). The majority (85%) of employees said they never did any shift work.

Employees doing shift work in main job, April-June 2007

Table 20

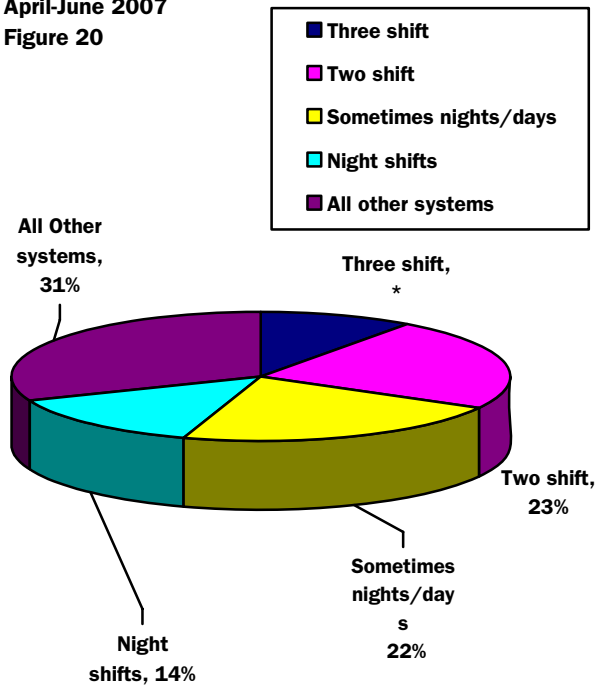
	Males	Females	Total
Most of the time	14%	11%	12%
Occasionally	3%	*	2%
Never	83%	87%	85%
Total¹	100% (310,000)	100% (313,000)	100% (623,000)

¹ Excludes those who did not answer the question.

* Cell size too small to provide a reliable estimate

Figure 20 shows the shift patterns of the 77,000 employees who carried out shift work most of the time in April-June 2007.

Type of Shift pattern for employees, April-June 2007
Figure 20



Other systems of shift work comprise continental shifts, split shifts, morning shifts, evening or twilight shifts and weekend shifts. More details of all shift patterns are given in the Technical Notes.

- **Two shift and Sometimes nights/days patterns account for over two fifths (45%) of those employees working shift patterns.**

The most common varieties of shifts are the; two shift system with 23% (17,000 employees) working earlies and lates or double day shifts and those working sometimes night and sometimes days (22% or 17,000 employees). The most common shift pattern for males was the two shift system accounting for 29% of all male employees. The equivalent estimate for females was below the publication threshold.

Type of Agreed Work Arrangement

- **One in ten employees work flexi-time.**

In April-June 2007, 10% of all employees worked flexi-time. A smaller proportion of females (80%) than males (86%) work to an agreed 'normal arrangement'. In addition, 5% of females work only during term time, while the number of males who do so is too small to be reliably quoted.

Employees working arrangements in main job, April-June 2007
Table 21

	Males	Females	Total
Normal	86%	80%	83%
Flexitime	9%	10%	10%
Annualised Hours	*	*	2%
Term time	*	5%	3%
Other Types	*	*	2%
All employees	100% (310,000)	100% (313,000)	100% (622,000)

* Cell size too small to provide a reliable estimate

Working at Weekends

- **A higher proportion of employees and self employed worked at the weekend in April-June 2007 compared to five years ago.**

In April-June 2007, 18% of all employees and self-employed in Northern Ireland worked on Saturdays, compared to 13% in the same period five years ago. Those working on Sundays also increased from 5% to 7% during this time.

A higher proportion of self-employed persons usually work Saturdays than employees (24% compared to 17%).

Technical Notes

12

Background

Following the UK's accession to the European Community, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was carried out for the first time in 1973, under the terms of an EC Regulation. The Statistical Office of the European Communities co-ordinates information from all the Labour Force Surveys carried out by member states in order to assist in such matters as the allocation of Social Fund resources.

From 1973 to 1983, the LFS was carried out biennially in both Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain. Following a change in the requirements of the EC Regulation, from 1984 an annual survey was conducted and results referred to the spring months of each year. In March 1992 the GB portion of the survey moved onto a quarterly cycle and in December 1994 a quarterly survey was introduced in (NI).

As part of an EU requirement, where all member states must have an LFS based on calendar quarters, the NI Labour Force Survey moved to a calendar quarter basis from May 2006 onwards.

The LFS was previously based on seasonal quarters where, for example, the March – May months covered the Spring quarter, June - August was Summer and so forth. This has changed to calendar quarters where microdata will be available for January – March (Q1) , April – June (Q2), July – September (Q3) and October - December (Q4). Initially, a back series of calendar quarter micro datasets will be available for the years 1997, 1999, 2001 – 2004, for Q2 and Q4, then for all quarters from 2005 onwards.

The LFS is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in NI and provides a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions. This statistics notice presents supplementary results from the January – March 2008 Quarterly LFS in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is responsible for ensuring that the survey is conducted in NI and for the analysis and interpretation of the results. However, the day-to-day management of the fieldwork, including data collection and database creation, rests with the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of the NI Statistics and Research Agency. CSU are also in charge of the creation of a Computer Assisted Interviewing questionnaire (designed to mirror that used in GB), the sampling of addresses and the carrying out of fieldwork using a team of specialist interviewers.

Response Rates

The sample for the January -March 2008 LFS consisted of 2,619 addresses, (650 chosen at random from the Valuation & Lands Agency list of domestic properties, 1,969 carried forward from the previous quarter). A random start, fixed interval sampling technique of the addresses, which are ordered by District Council and Ward, is used. This ensures a proportional representation across the District Council areas in NI.

Only private household addresses were eligible since the LFS is a survey of the private household population. Every selected address is interviewed on five successive occasions, such that in any one quarter, a fifth of the sample will be receiving their first interview, one fifth their second and so on, with one fifth receiving their fifth and final interview. This results in an 80% sample overlap between quarters.

Response Rates, January – March 2008

Total addresses sampled	2619*
Fully and partially responding	1825
Eligible sample	2334
Response rate	78.2%

*Of the addresses sampled, a small number contained more than one household and some contained households which moved during the quarter. Residents in NHS hospital accommodation (formerly called nurses' homes) and students living in halls of residence or boarding schools are included to improve the coverage of young people.

Breakdown of Non-response and Ineligible Addresses, January-March 2008

Non-response/non-contact:	
- Outright refusal	183
- Circumstantial refusal	82
- Non-contact	244
Ineligible addresses:	
- Vacant/derelict/under construction	213
- Holiday accommodation	20
- Non-residential	2
- Second residence	32
- Other ineligible	6
- Household moves	9
- No trace of address	3
Total	794

Sampling

Because the LFS is a sample survey, results are subject to sampling error, i.e. the actual proportion of the population in private households with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion of the LFS sample with that characteristic. Accordingly, although percentages in most tables are quoted to the nearest whole number, they should not be regarded as having this degree of accuracy, and indeed some apparent trends over time may be misleading due to sampling error. In general, the larger the group, the more precise (proportionately) is the LFS estimate.

The following table shows the proportions obtained from the January – March 2008 survey for some key LFS variables and indicates their sampling accuracy. The confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the LFS proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values of the quantities estimated.

LFS Proportions Of Total Private Household Population (16+), Including 95% Confidence Intervals, January - March 2008

	LFS Estimate	Confidence Interval
Economically active	60%	+/- 1.6%
In Employment	58%	+/- 1.6%
Employees*	83%	+/- 1.6%
Self-employed*	15%	+/- 1.5%
Unemployed	3%	+/- 0.6%
Economically inactive (16+)	40%	+/- 1.6%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	+/- 0.9%

* As a percentage of all in employment.

Confidence intervals for other proportions produced in this publication may be obtained on request from addresses given at the end of this note.

Publication Threshold

It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is. LFS estimates of under 8,000 are not published in this supplement as they are likely to be unreliable. This revised publication threshold came into effect from 1 September 1999 and estimates below this threshold contained in earlier publications should, therefore, be treated with caution.

Grossing To Population Totals

Most of the results presented in this report are expressed in terms of percentages, following the grossing of sample numbers to population levels. Each individual participating in the survey is given a weight or “grossing factor” which is related to that person’s age and sex. In this way the final grossed results give the population total for NI and reflect the distributions by sex and age shown by the population figures.

Re-weighting of LFS data to updated population estimates

LFS data back to 1992 has been revised this month in order to incorporate the latest population estimates. The magnitude of the revisions are relatively small, with the revisions to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate and the working age employment rate falling within +/- 0.02 percentage points. The procedures being applied to the NI LFS results are consistent with those applied by the Office for National Statistics to other UK regions. Details of the 're-weighting' methodology used to adjust key LFS estimates was published in the May 2008 edition of Labour Market Trends and can be accessed via the link below:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1992>

Seasonal Adjustment

In conjunction with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and consistent with all other UK regions, seasonally adjusted LFS estimates for the UK regions (including NI) have been reintroduced from Winter 2002/3. The seasonally adjusted estimates are quoted in Section 1 and Section 8 of this publication. Estimates in all other sections of this publication are not seasonally adjusted.

Definitions

Working age

This refers to ages 16 to 59 for women and 16 to 64 for men.

In Employment

The LFS defines employment as those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job which they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

Employment Rate

The percentage of people aged 16 and over who are in employment.

Employees/Self-employed

The division between employees and self-employed is based on survey respondents' own assessment of their employment status.

Unpaid Family Workers

The separate identification of this group in the LFS is in accordance with international recommendations. It comprises persons doing unpaid work for a business they own or a business that a relative owns.

Full-time/Part-time

The classification of employees, self-employed, those on government work-related training programmes and unpaid workers in their main job as full-time or part-time is on the basis of self-assessment.

Full-time Education

In the LFS this includes those people over the age of 16 who state that they are still at school or in some other form of full-time education, including sandwich courses.

Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment refers to people without a job who were available 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. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, further clarified at the 14th ICLS, and promulgated by the ILO in 1987.

Unemployment Rate

The percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

Duration of Unemployment

Duration of unemployment is defined as the shorter of the following two periods:
(a) duration of active search for work; and
(b) length of time since employment.
The short-term unemployed are those people who have been unemployed for less than 1 year, while the long-term unemployed are defined as those who have been unemployed for 1 year or more.

Educational Attainment Categories

Degree or higher = degree or degree equivalent and above incl. First degree, Postgraduate Diplomas and Professional qualifications.

Other higher below degree = other Higher Education below degree level incl. HND/HNC/BTEC (Higher), teaching and nursing qualifications.

A level or equivalent = incl. vocational level 3

GCSE A-C or equivalent = incl. Trade Apprenticeships, vocational level 2.

Other qualifications = incl. vocational level 1 and below.

Disabilities

Since Spring 1997, LFS working-age respondents have been asked questions to identify whether they have a current disability covered by the 1995 Disability Discrimination or a work-limiting disability (which affects either the kind or amount of paid work they can do) or both. This broad description covering any of these three definitions (defined as a current long-term disability) is used in this publication. This definition covers a wide range of impairments which themselves can differ greatly in severity.

Industry

The classification of respondents' industry of employment is based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2003: SIC(03)

Occupation

The classification of respondents' occupations are based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), introduced in June 2000 which replaces SOC 90.

Type of shift pattern

The shift work categories are defined below:

Three-shift working – the day is divided into three working periods – morning, afternoon and night.

This kind of shiftwork usually, but not always, involves one or more weeks or mornings, followed by one or more weeks of afternoons, followed by one or more weeks of nights.

Continental shifts – this is a continuous three-shift system that rotates rapidly e.g. three mornings, then two afternoons, then two nights. Usually there is a break between shift changes.

Two-shift system with earlies and lates or double day shifts – normally two shifts of eight hours each, e.g. 06.00-14.00 and 14.00-22.00 Shifts are usually alternated weekly or over longer intervals.

Split shifts – these are full shifts divided into two distinct parts with a gap of several hours in between. Used in industries where peak demands are met at different times of the day, e.g. catering, passenger transport and service industries.

Morning shift – if this is full-time, most commonly 0600-1400. This code is used if the morning shift is the only shift worked or worked part time during the morning.

Evening shift – if this is full-time, most commonly 1500-2400. Also used for a part-time shift 1700-2100 or 1800-2200. Part-time evening shifts are usually called twilight shifts.

Night shift – if this is full-time, most commonly 1800-0600, and usually continuing after midnight. This code is used only for permanent night work.

Weekend shift-this code is used for work during Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays (0600-1800), when there is no other work.

Further Information

Further information about the survey can be obtained by:

writing to:

Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Investment,
Statistics Research Branch,
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue,
Belfast BT4 2JP

telephoning: (028) 9052 9585

textphone: (028) 9052 9304

fax: (028) 9052 9459

e-mailing: joanne.henderson@detini.gov.uk

Publication now available on visiting web site:

www.statistics.detini.gov.uk