



NORTHERN IRELAND
**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY:
April - June 2011**

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This report provides a detailed analysis of the most recent (April - June 2011) 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:

- **Seasonally adjusted data for Northern Ireland estimated 784,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment. This figure has increased by 2.9% (22,000 persons) during the last year and is now higher than the pre-recession employment level (777,000 persons) recorded three years ago.**
- **The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI was estimated at 7.3%. This has increased by 0.1 percentage points over the quarter and is up 0.6 percentage points over the year. The latest NI rate is below the UK (7.9%) and European Union (9.3%) average rates.**
- **The NI seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rate for all persons aged 16 – 64 (26.6%) is 2.3 percentage points lower than the rate five years ago (28.8% in 2006). However, it remains the highest of all the UK regions (the UK average rate is 23.2%).**
- **A higher proportion of economically inactive persons, aged 16-64, in NI identify sickness or disability (30.3%) as their main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (21.9%).**
- **The numbers of self-employed in the period 2001 to 2011 increased by a larger proportion than those classified as employees. Northern Ireland (14.9%) ranked 4th highest across UK regions in terms of self-employment rates in April – June 2011. The UK average was 13.6%.**



From the 1st April 2011, the responsibility for the collection of data and production of official labour market and economic statistics transferred from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (DFP). This transfer mirrored the position in Great Britain where most business surveys and labour market data collection and statistical production have been transferred from the departments with policy responsibilities to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). However, it is important to note that there are no planned changes to the production of economic and labour market statistical publications and outputs as a result of the transfer.

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

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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Executive Summary

1

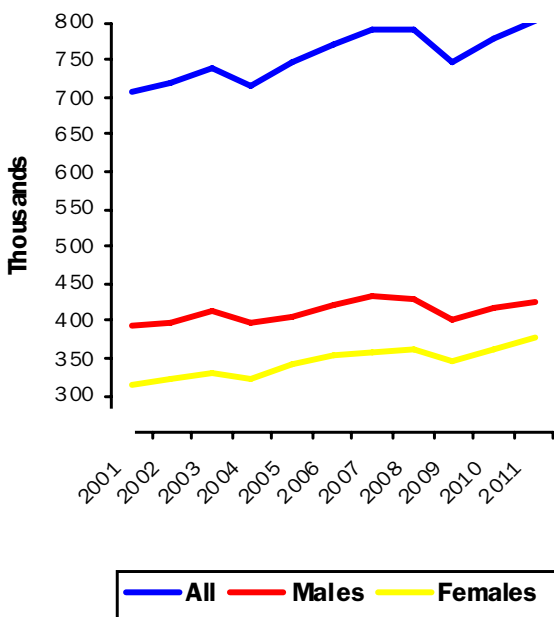
Introduction

The following estimates are based on the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) April - June 2011 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 (seasonally adjusted)

There are an estimated 803,000 persons in employment in NI. This figure has increased by 3.3% (26,000 persons) during the last year. However, NI's employment rate (67.9%) remained 2.7 percentage points below the UK average (70.7 %) and was the second lowest rate among the twelve UK regions. The highest rate was recorded by the South East of England at 75.0%

Employment (16+) Quarter 2 2001-2011



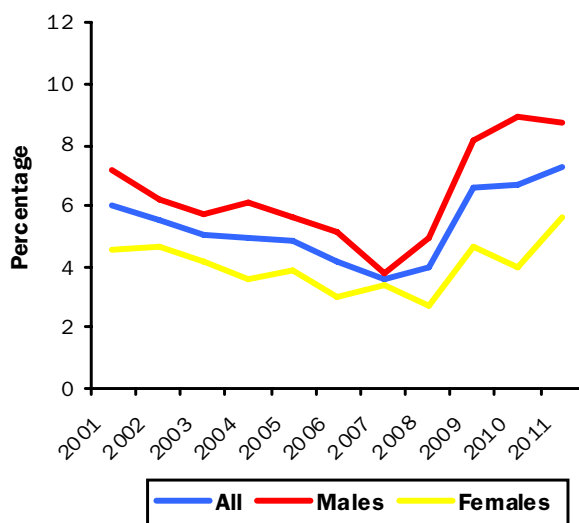
Up until the recent economic downturn, employment levels had generally been increasing during the last ten years. However, female employment increased at a slightly faster rate and the gap between male and female levels has narrowed over the period. The difference between the employment rate of males and females, aged 16-64, is currently estimated at 9.0 percentage points, compared to a 16.7 percentage point difference 10 years ago.

Unadjusted figures show that 39.9% of female employees work part-time compared to 7.3% of males (the figures were 6.3% for males and 37.3% for females ten years ago). Only 7.8% of females in employment are self-employed compared with 21.3% of males (5.7% and 21.2% respectively ten years previously).

Unemployment (seasonally adjusted)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (7.3%) was up 0.1 percentage points from the previous quarter and up 0.6 percentage points over the year. The latest NI rate is below the UK (7.9%) and European (9.3%) average rates.

Unemployment Rate (16+) Quarter 2 2001-2011

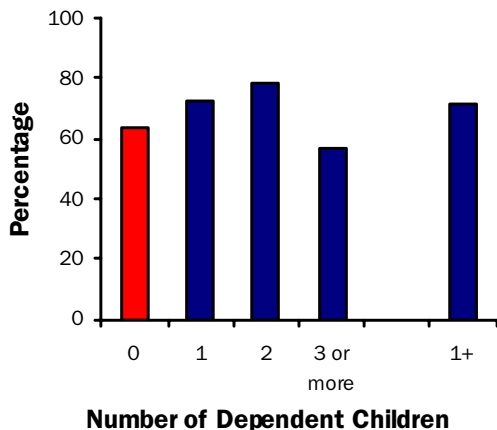


The male unemployment rate (8.8%) is 1.6 percentage points higher than it was ten years ago, whilst the female rate (5.6%) is 1.0 percentage points higher. The male unemployment rate is currently 3.2 percentage points above the female unemployment rate, compared to a 2.6 percentage point difference in the unemployment rates ten years ago. Unadjusted data shows that almost three-fifths of unemployed men (56.5%) are long-term unemployed, which is higher than the proportion ten years ago (53.1%).

Economic Activity (seasonally adjusted)

There are an estimated 847,000 persons, aged 16-64, economically active in NI at April - June 2011, up 105,000 from ten years ago. However, the seasonally adjusted 16-64 economic activity rate (73.4%) for NI remains the lowest of the twelve UK regions and is 3.4 percentage points below the UK rate of 76.8%. At 79.6% the 16-64 economic activity rate for males is an estimated 12.2 percentage points higher than that for females (67.4%). The current 12.2 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females has decreased from a 19.7 percentage point gap ten years ago.

Female (16-64) Economic Activity Rates by Number of Dependent Children¹



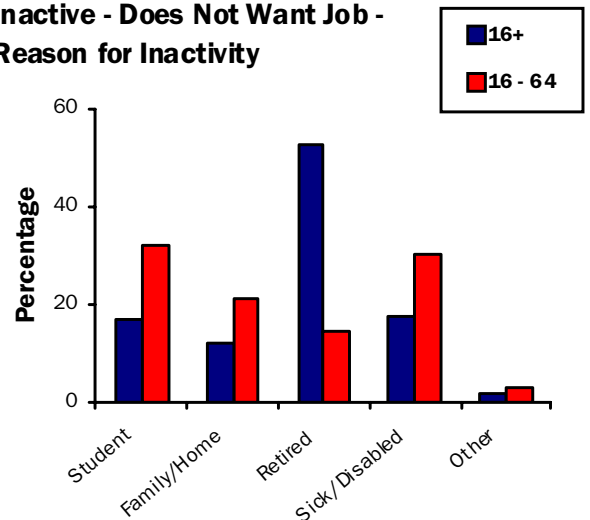
¹ The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only.

Unadjusted figures for the period October – December 2010 show that an estimated 72.1% of females of working age with dependent children under 19 were economically active, which is higher than the rate for those without dependent children (64.1%). However, having three or more dependent children resulted in a much lower economic activity rate (56.6%) for females in NI.

Economic Inactivity

Seasonally adjusted data report that at April - June 2011 there were 538,000 persons aged 16 and over who were economically inactive in NI, with a resulting economic inactivity rate of 38.3% for this age group. Unadjusted data showed that around 9% of these economically inactive persons (51,000) wanted a job, but did not satisfy the criteria of being available for work and actively seeking work to be classified as unemployed.

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 (52.3%). However, for those aged 16-64 the largest economically inactive category were students (31.7%). NI has a higher percentage of economically inactive, aged 16-64, that do not want a job because of sickness or disability (30.3%), compared to the UK (21.9%).

Education and Training

In April - June 2011, 40.5% of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications, compared to 14.7% of the economically active population. Only 6.7% of the economically inactive had a degree level qualification compared to 23.4% of the economically active. Of those employees aged 16-64, 5.2% had undergone job-related education or training in the last 4 weeks.

Disabled Persons in the Labour Market

One in five persons (18.6%), aged 16-64, in NI described themselves as having a current long-term disability, which is similar to the figure of 20.8% for the UK as a whole. The proportion of persons, aged 16-64, with a disability and who were economically inactive stood at 61.6% and this compared with a rate of 18.8% for those without disabilities. Furthermore, just a third (32.1%) of disabled persons are in employment compared to 75.9% of non-disabled persons.

Special Feature: Self-Employment

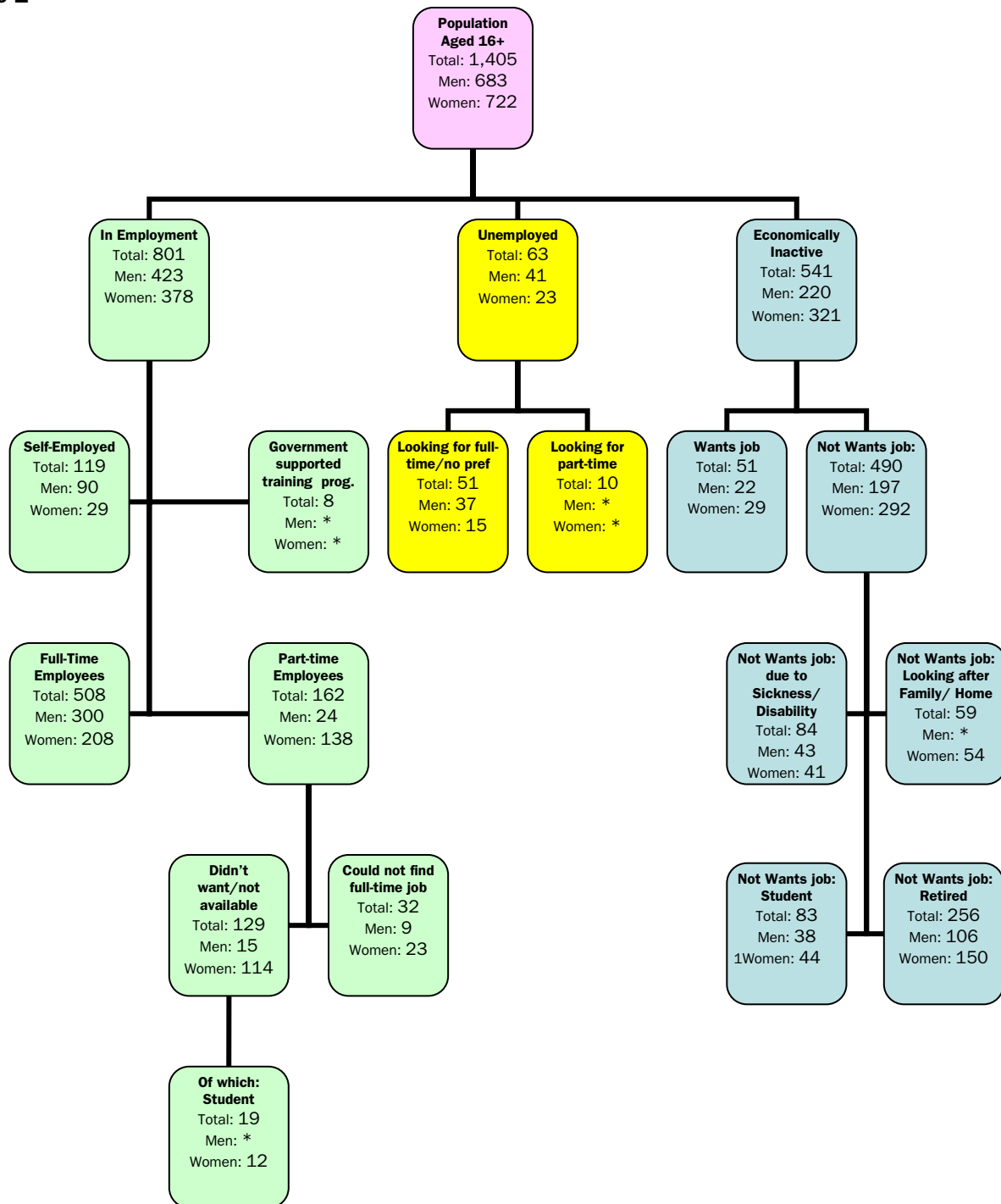
The numbers of self-employed in the period 2001 to 2011 increased by a larger proportion than those classified as employees. Self-employed numbers increased by 19,000 (19%) from 101,000 in 2001 to 119,000 in 2011 compared with an 85,000 (15%) increase in employee numbers over the same period. While the overall numbers increased between 2001 and 2011, this increase has not been regular, with decreases in numbers being recorded for some yearly intervals, including decreases in 2006-2007 and then in 2008-2009 during the economic downturn.

Northern Ireland (14.9%) ranked 4th highest across UK regions in terms of self-employment rates in April – June 2011. The UK average was 13.6%

Overall Labour Market Structure

2

Overall Labour Market Structure (16+ Population, thousands), April - June 2011
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).

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- **A higher proportion of men than women are economically active.**

Table 1 and Figure 2 summarise the economic activity of the population in Northern Ireland (NI). It shows that 62% 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 56% of females falling into this category.

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

Overall, 4% of the population aged 16 and over are unemployed, however, again this differs for men and women – 6% of males are unemployed compared to 3% of females. In addition, 62% of the male population are in employment compared to 52% of the female population.

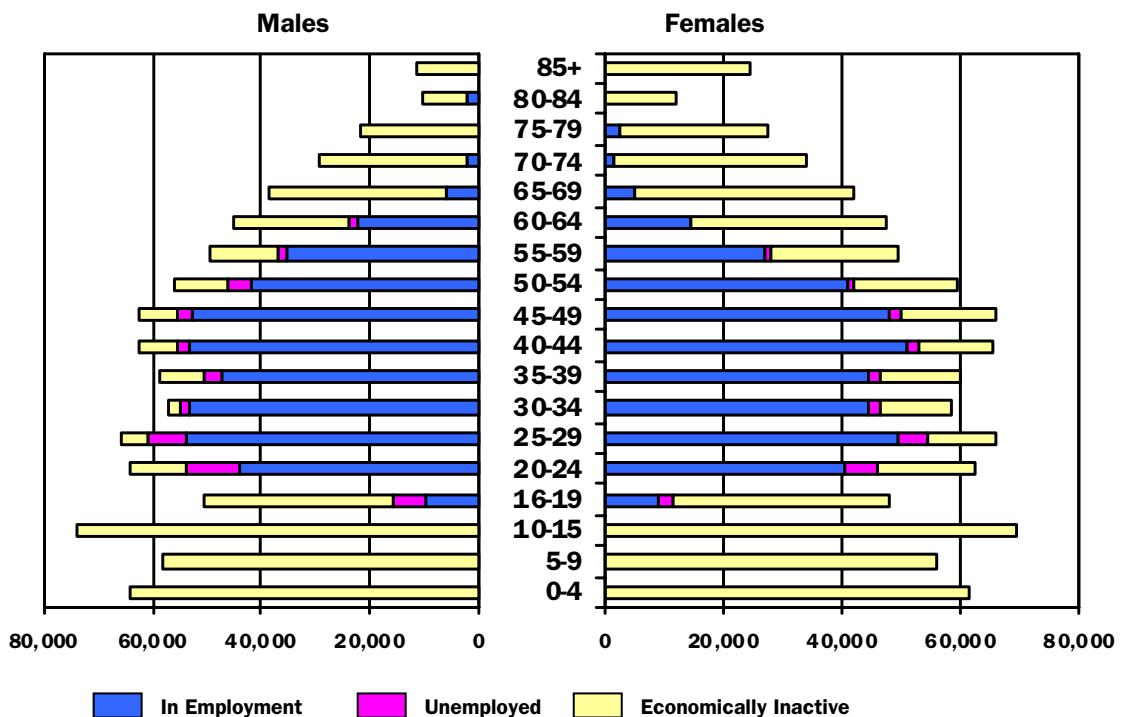
Private Household Population (16+) by Economic Status, April - June 2011

	Percentage/Number		
	Male	Female	All persons
Economically active	67.8	55.5	61.5
In employment	61.9	52.4	57.0
Unemployed	5.9	3.1	4.5
Economically inactive	32.2	44.5	38.5
Total household population	683,000	722,000	1,405,000

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 April – June 2011 there were 864,000 economically active people in NI.

April - June 2011

Economically active-male:
463,000 (68%)

Economically active-female:
401,000 (56%)

Economically active-all persons:
864,000 (62%)

16+ population

- **The 16-64 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 aged 16-64 was higher for males (79.3%) than females (67.2%) at April - June 2011. Figure 3 shows the economic activity rates for males and females, aged 16-64, from April - June 2001 to April - June 2011. The current 12.1 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females is lower than the 19.6 percentage point gap 10 years ago.

Economic Activity Rates (16-64), 2006 – 2011

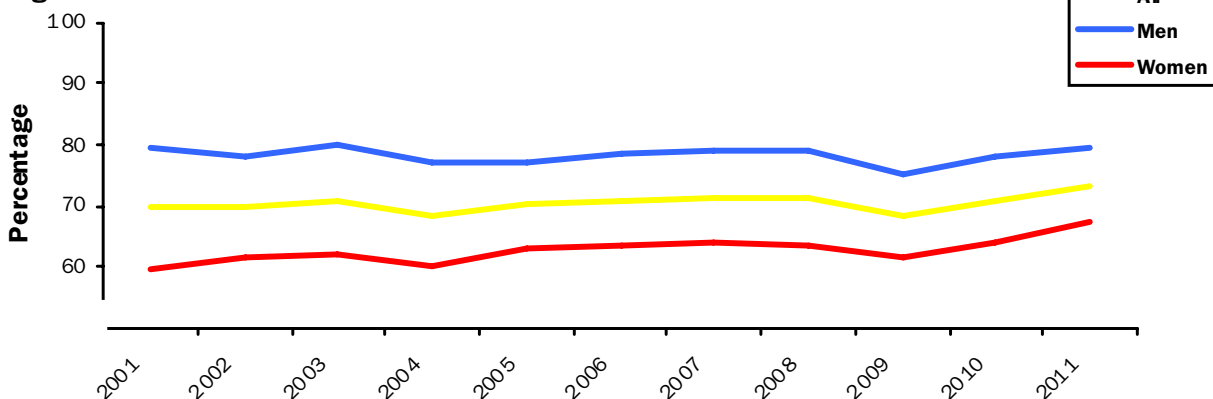
Table 2 Percentage

	Economic Activity Rates (%)		
	Male	Female	All
April - June 2006	78.6	63.5	71.0
April - June 2007	78.8	63.9	71.3
April - June 2008	79.1	63.6	71.3
April - June 2009	75.2	61.6	68.3
April - June 2010	78.2	63.8	70.9
July - September 2010	78.5	64.5	71.5
October - December 2010	78.6	64.7	71.6
January - March 2011	79.6	65.4	72.4
April - June 2011	79.3	67.2	73.2

The economic activity rate gap between males and females has been historically larger for NI than for the UK (in April - June 2001 the gap in NI was 19.6 percentage points, compared to 14.5 percentage points in the UK). However, for April - June 2011 the NI differential had narrowed to 12.1 percentage points, which was marginally lower than the equivalent UK figure (12.3 percentage points).

Economic Activity Rates (16-64), Q1, 2001 - 2011

Figure 3



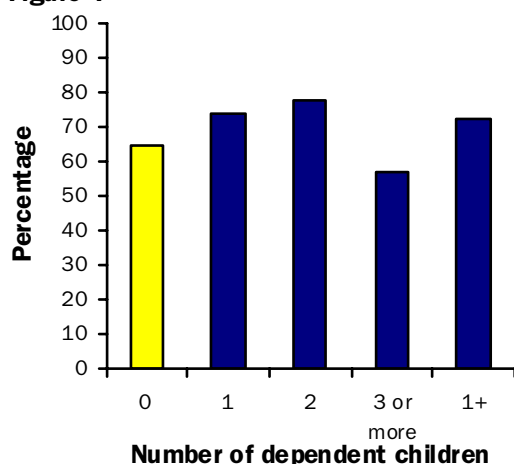
The household dataset affords the opportunity to analyse the economic activity of people by their family or household type. The dataset can be used to analyse people with dependent children, lone parents and other family types. The household dataset is only available for quarters 2 and 4 of each year. The most recent data relates to October – December 2010.

- **Women with 3 or more dependent children have an 8 percentage point lower economic activity rate than those without dependent children.**

Economic activity rates are affected by the presence of dependent children aged under 19. This impact has different consequences for the male and female heads of family units¹. Males with dependent children had a considerably higher economic activity rate (91.0%) than those without (77.2%). For females, 72.1% with dependent children were economically active compared to 64.1% of those without dependent children. This compares to a UK activity rate of 72.7% for women with dependent children and 71.1% for those without. Having three or more dependent children resulted in a lower economic activity rate (56.6%) for females in NI as shown in Figure 4.

Economic Activity Rates (16-64) for Females by Number of Dependent Children, October - December 2010

Figure 4



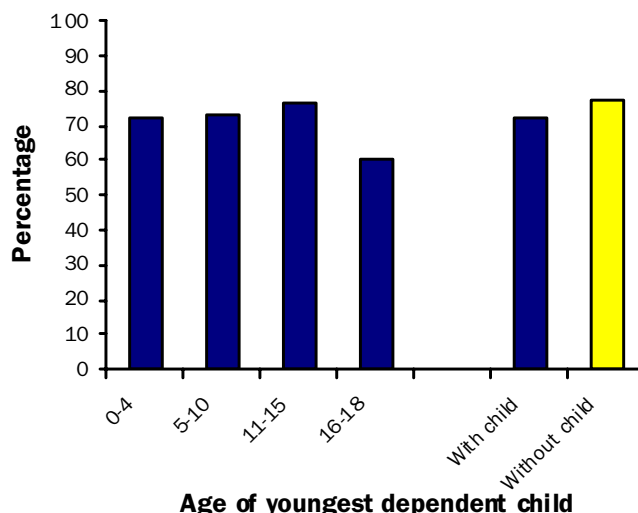
¹ The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of males/females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. It does not include family members who are aged 16-64 but who do not have parental responsibilities such as an elder sibling.

- **Economic activity rates of the female head of family were 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 (72.0%) was 4.2 percentage points lower than the rate for the 11-15 (76.2%) age group.

Economic Activity Rates for Females by Age of Youngest Dependent Child, October - December 2010

Figure 5



At October - December 2010 there were an estimated 67,000 female lone parents of working age; the equivalent number for males was too small to provide a reliable quotation. Three fifths (57.2%) were economically active while the remainder (42.8%) were classified as economically inactive.

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.

April - June 2011

In employment-male:

423,000 (62%)

In employment-female:

378,000 (52%)

In employment-all persons:

801,000 (57%)

16+ population

- There were **782,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment in NI in Q2 2011, which is 22,000 higher than the level recorded a year ago.**

Table 3 shows estimates of employment rates over a five-year period from April - June 2006 to April - June 2011 and provides a comparison of rates over the last four quarters. At April - June 2011 there were 782,000 persons, aged 16-64, in employment, with the 16-64 employment rate estimated at 67.8%. The number of persons, aged 16-64, in employment has risen by an estimated 22,000 during the last year. However, the latest figure is just 5,000 higher than the estimate for three years ago.

Employment Rates and Numbers (16-64), 2006 – 2011

Table 3

	Percentage/Number	
	Employment rate	Total in employment
April - June 2006	68.1	756,000
April - June 2007	68.7	772,000
April - June 2008	68.5	776,000
April - June 2009	63.8	728,000
April - June 2010	66.2	759,000
July - September 2010	66.3	762,000
October - December 2010	65.7	757,000
January - March 2011	67.1	773,000
April - June 2011	67.8	782,000

- 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 less females are found. This no doubt reflects the historic difference in the pension age for males and females.

Age Distribution of Those in Employment (16+), April - June 2011

Table 4 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-19	2.3	2.4	2.3
20-24	10.4	10.7	10.5
25-29	12.8	13.1	12.9
30-34	12.6	11.7	12.2
35-39	11.2	11.7	11.4
40-44	12.6	13.4	13.0
45-49	12.4	12.6	12.5
50-54	9.9	10.8	10.3
55-59	8.4	7.2	7.8
60+	7.6	6.3	7.0
All 16+ (100%)	423,000	378,000	801,000

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 8% of females in employment are self-employed, compared to 21% of males.**

It is noticeable that, while 21.3% of males in employment are self-employed, just 7.8% 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+), April - June 2011

Table 5 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
All employees	76.6	91.4	83.6
FT	92.7	60.1	75.9
PT	7.3	39.9	24.1
Self employed	21.3	7.8	14.9
Govt. schemes	*	*	1.0
Total in employment (100%)	423,000	378,000	801,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

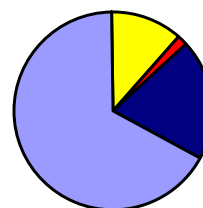
Total includes a small number of unpaid family workers.

- **Two-fifths (40%) 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, 39.9% are part-time compared with just 7.3% of males. In April - June 2001, the equivalent figures were 37.3% and 6.3% respectively. 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 (73.4%) and that they could not find a full-time job (16.5%).

Reasons For Females Working Part-time, April-June 2011

Figure 6



Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) is used in classifying business establishments and other statistical units by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. It has been revised several times. Revision is necessary because, over a period of time, new products and new industries to produce them, emerge and shifts of emphasis occur in existing industries.

At 1st January 2008, the most recent revision brought about SIC (2007) from the existing SIC (2003). As such, Table 6 and related text are presented using the new SIC (2007) format.

Please note, that due to this revision, data are not directly comparable to those presented in earlier publications.

Employment by Industry (SIC 2007)

- **The largest industrial sections are Public administration, education & health (33%) and Distribution, hotels & restaurants (21%).**

Table 6 provides an analysis of persons in employment by industry (SIC 2007). The major industries in terms of employment were Public administration, education & health (33.4%) and Distribution, hotels & restaurants (20.6%). Just one per cent were employed in the Energy and water industry.

- **Half of employed females work in the Public administration, education and health industries.**

There are differences between males and females in terms of the industries in which they are employed. Approximately a third of males are employed in the combined Manufacturing (17.8%) and Construction (14.2%) industries, while relatively few females work in these sectors. In contrast, half of females (50.2%) work in Public administration, education and health industries, compared to less than one-fifth of males (18.2%).

Persons in Employment by Industry Section, April - June 2011 (SIC 2007)

Table 6

	Percentage/Number		
	Male	Female	All persons
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.9	*	3.0
Energy and water	2.6	*	1.5
Manufacturing	17.8	5.1	11.8
Construction	14.2	*	8.1
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	18.5	23.0	20.6
Transport and communication	9.2	*	5.8
Banking and finance	10.7	12.2	11.4
Public admin, education and health	18.2	50.2	33.4
Other services	4.1	4.7	4.4
Total ¹	416,000	376,000	793,000

*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.

A lower proportion of males (18.5%) than females (23.0%) are employed in the Distribution, hotels and restaurants industry, which is proportionately the second largest industry overall.

Employment by Occupation

Table 7 provides an analysis of persons in employment by occupation using SOC 2010 (Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since January 2011. These estimates are based on a different classification from those used previously and as a result, are not directly comparable.

- **Professional occupations accounted for the largest proportion of persons in employment (17%).**

Professional occupations were the largest group with 17.4% of persons in employment, followed by Skilled Trade occupations (15.5%) and Administrative and Secretarial occupations (12.4%).

- **A large proportion of males (27%) 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. A large proportion of males (26.9%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, whereas the proportion of females in this occupation was just 2.8%. Conversely, a fifth (20.8%) of females are employed in Administrative and Secretarial occupations compared to just 4.7% of males.

A higher proportion of males in employment are Managers and/or Senior Officials compared to females (11.9% for males as opposed to 6.0% for females).

Persons in Employment by Occupation, April - June 2011

Table 7

Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Managers, Directors And Senior Official occupations	11.9	6.0	9.1
Professional occupations	15.4	19.6	17.4
Associate Professional And Technical occupations	10.1	8.4	9.3
Administrative And Secretarial occupations	4.7	20.8	12.4
Skilled Trades occupations	26.9	2.8	15.5
Caring, Leisure And Other Service occupations	3.0	17.1	9.7
Sales And Customer Service occupations	5.8	13.3	9.4
Process, Plant And Machine Operatives occupations	12.1	*	7.3
Elementary occupations	10.0	10.1	10.0
All occupations ¹	418,000	377,000	796,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those who did not state their 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.

<p>April – June 2011</p> <p>Unemployed-male: 41,000 (6%)</p> <p>Unemployed-female: 23,000 (3%)</p> <p>Unemployed-all persons: 63,000 (4%)</p> <p>16+ population</p>

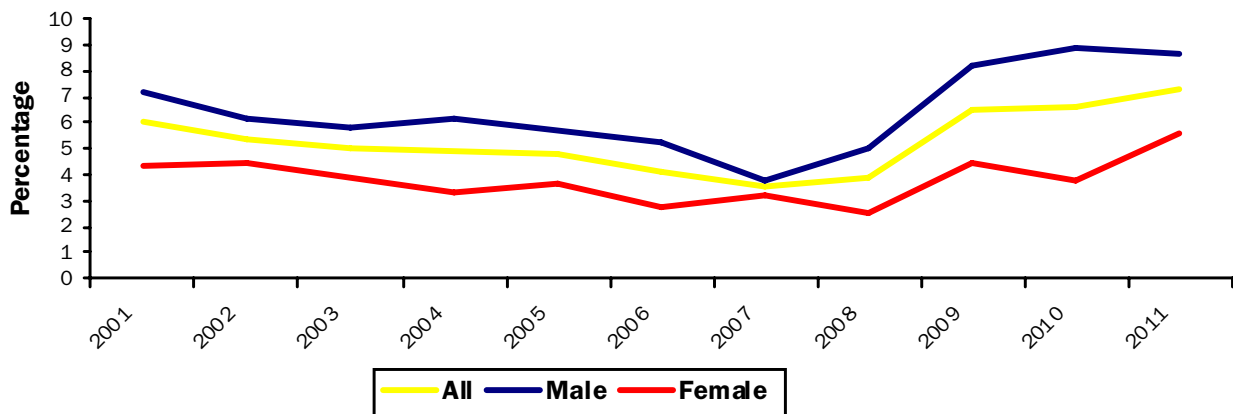
Overall, 4.5% of respondents aged 16 and over were unemployed and 5.9% of men were unemployed compared to 3.1% of women.

- **The unemployment rate for males is 9% compared with 6% 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 3.2 percentage point increase in the overall unemployment rate over the last five years.

Unemployment Rates, 2001-2011

Figure 7



Unemployment Rates, 2006 – 2011 (Unadjusted for seasonality)

Table 8

	Percentage		
	Male	Female	All persons
April - June 2006	5.2	2.8	4.1
April - June 2007	3.8	3.2	3.5
April - June 2008	5.0	2.5	3.9
April - June 2009	8.2	4.4	6.5
April - June 2010	8.9	3.8	6.6
July - September 2010	9.1	4.7	7.1
October - December 2010	10.5	5.5	8.0
January - March 2011	9.2	5.0	7.3
April - June 2011	8.7	5.6	7.3

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 April - June 2011 (7.3%) represented an increase of 0.7 percentage points from the same period one year ago.

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

Table 9 shows that over a half of unemployed persons are aged 16-29 (55.8%) with those aged 30 or over comprising the remaining 44.2%.

Age Distribution of the Unemployed, April - June 2011

Table 9 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-29	55.9	55.8	55.8
30+	44.1	44.2	44.2
All 16+ (100%)	41,000	23,000	63,000

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Duration of Unemployment

- **Forty-eight per cent of unemployed persons are long-term unemployed.**

In April – June 2011, an estimated 48.1% of unemployed persons had been out of work and seeking employment for more than one year. This pattern was different for males and females; 56.5% of males were long term unemployed, while the estimate for females was too small to quote – see Table 10.

Duration of Unemployment in Northern Ireland, April - June 2011

Table 10 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Short-term unemployed	43.5	67.1	51.9
Long-term unemployed	56.5	*	48.1
All unemployed (100%) ¹	41,000	23,000	63,000

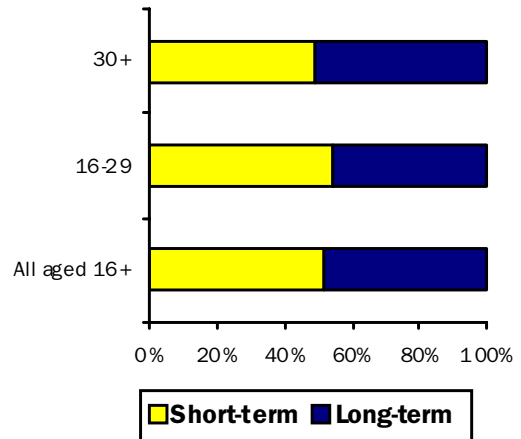
*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

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 48.1% of the total unemployed and short-term unemployed for 51.9%. Of those aged 16-29, 45.6% were long-term unemployed, while for those in the 30+ category, 51.2% were long-term unemployed.

Long-term and Short-term Unemployed by Age Group, April - June 2011
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 are answering advertisements/studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals (45.3%) and visiting JobCentre Offices (40.6%) as can be seen in Table 11.

Main Method of Seeking Work for Unemployed Persons (16+), April - June 2011

Table 11 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Advertisements/ Situations vacant	44.4	46.9	45.3
JobCentre Offices	42.0	38.2	40.6
Other methods	*	*	14.1
All methods (100%)	40,000	23,000	62,000

*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. Occupation information was available for 65% of those currently unemployed. However, estimates for a breakdown by occupational grouping were mostly too small to be reliably quoted. The results did show that an estimated 9,000 unemployed persons had previously been classified as working in 'elementary' occupations.

Economically Inactive

6

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

April - June 2011
Economically inactive-male: 220,000 (32%)
Economically inactive -female: 321,000 (44%)
Economically inactive -all persons: 541,000 (38%)
16+ population

In April - June 2011 there were 541,000 economically inactive people in NI – this represented 38.5% 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 family commitments during the “prime” working years – see Table 12.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive NI, April - June 2011

Table 12 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	20.4	16.5	18.1
25-34	*	7.4	5.7
35-44	7.0	8.1	7.7
45-54	7.6	10.3	9.2
55-64	15.4	17.1	16.4
65+	46.2	40.6	42.9
All 16+ (100%)	220,000	321,000	541,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

- **Nearly 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 49.1% being aged 65 and over, compared to 42.9% in NI. In contrast, the UK has a lower proportion of their economically inactive population in the youngest age group (14.8% of the UK economically inactive population are aged 16-24, compared to 18.1% for NI). These differences are partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive UK, April - June 2011

Table 13 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	17.3	13.0	14.8
25-34	4.2	8.2	6.6
35-44	4.3	8.4	6.8
45-54	5.7	7.7	6.9
55-64	15.1	16.4	15.9
65+	53.3	46.3	49.1
All 16+ (100%)	7,418,000	11,107,000	18,525,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Reasons for Economic Inactivity

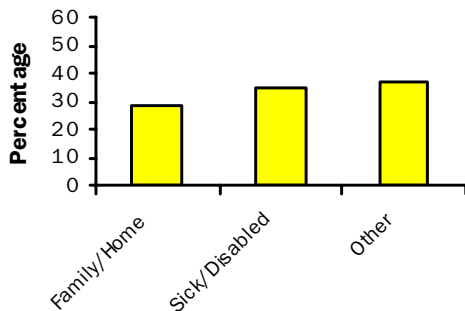
- **A lower proportion of the economically inactive in NI want a job, compared to the UK average.**

The economically inactive population is comprised of two main groups; those who do not want a job (90.6% in April - June 2011) and those who do want a job (9.4%). Equivalent figures for the UK show that 13.2% of the economically inactive want a job, whereas the remaining 86.8% 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 the main reason for not looking for a job.**

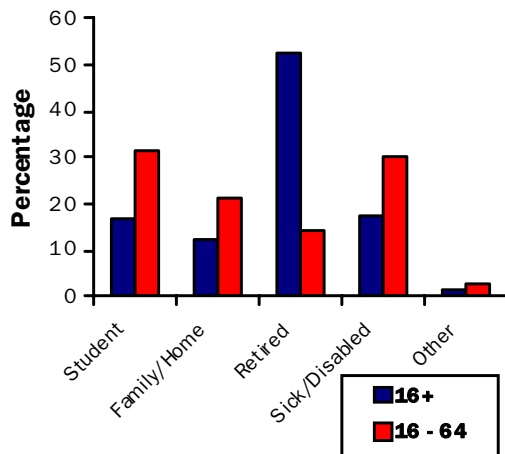
Of the economically inactive who want a job, 28.6% were not looking for work due to family/home commitments and 34.9% were not looking because of sickness or disability. "Other" includes students and discouraged workers (those not in a job who would like work and whose reason for not seeking work in the past four weeks is that they believe there are no jobs available).

Inactive - Wants Job (16+) April - June 2011
Figure 9



As mentioned previously, 90.6% 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 16-64) April - June 2011
Figure 10



- **Of the 16+ population who do not want a job 52% are retired.**

Overall for the total population, the main reason for the inactive not wanting work was retirement (52.3%).

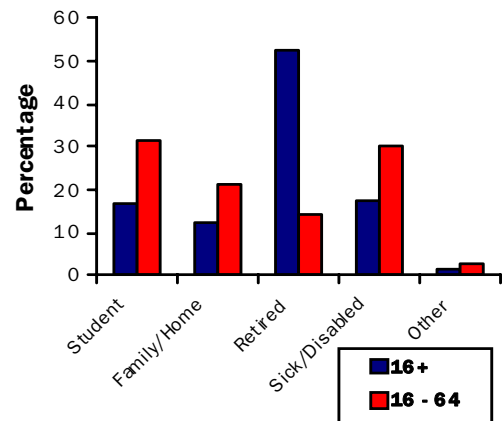
- **Nearly one third (32%) of the population aged 16-64 who do not want a job are students.**

For the 16-64 population the main reasons for not wanting work were students (31.7%), followed by those who were sick/disabled (30.3%) and those looking after family/home (21.0%). Men were more likely to cite 'sick/disabled' as their main reason (40.1%) for inactivity and women family commitments (30.1%).

- **In comparison to the UK, NI has a higher percentage of the economically inactive, who are sick or disabled.**

Figure 11 compares the 16-64 inactive population of NI with the UK. NI had a higher proportion that did not want work because of sickness or disability, compared to the UK (30.3% compared to 21.9%). NI also has a higher proportion of students (31.7%) as the main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (24.9%). This could be partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (16+ and 16-64) April - June 2011
Figure 10



Education and Training

7

Qualifications of the Employed and the Unemployed

- Two-fifths (41%) of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications at April – June 2011.

Table 14 shows that the qualification levels of those aged 16-64 in employment or economically active are consistently higher than those who are economically inactive. Of those in employment 32.8% had higher qualifications, compared to 9.5% of the economically inactive. Conversely, 40.5% of economically inactive people had no formal qualifications, compared with 13.7% 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 6.7% had degree level qualifications, while 40.5% had no qualifications at all. This compares to figures of 23.4% and 14.7% for the economically active population.

Qualifications by Economic Activity (16 - 64), April – June 2011

Table 14

	Percentage/Number			
	In employment	Econ. active	Econ. inactive	All Persons
Degree or higher	24.7	23.4	6.7	19.0
Other higher below degree	8.2	7.6	2.8	6.3
A level or equivalent	23.0	23.0	16.8	21.4
GCSE A-C or equivalent	21.7	22.4	26.1	23.4
Other qualifications	8.7	8.8	7.0	8.4
No Qualifications	13.7	14.7	40.5	21.6
All (100%)	755,000	816,000	299,000	1,114,000

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

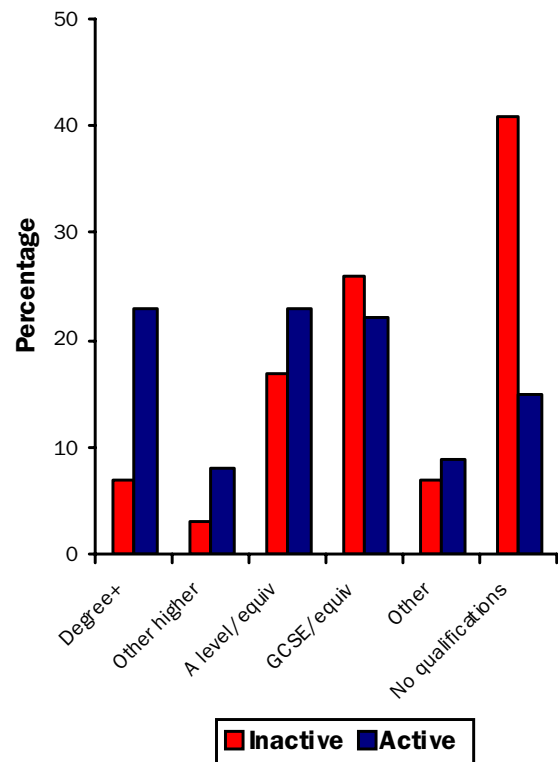
Total excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification.

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

Only men and women aged 16 - 69, and those of any age with a job were asked the question on qualifications.

Qualifications By Economic Activity, April - June 2011

Figure 12



Job-related Training

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

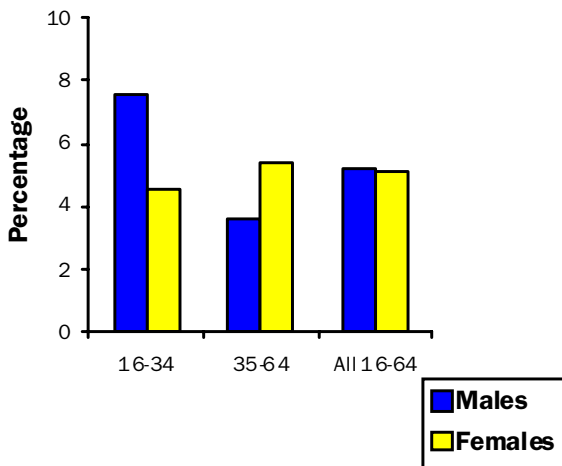
The LFS can be used to identify those employees who receive education or training connected with their job. Table 15 and Figure 13 overleaf show how the proportion of employees receiving job-related education or training varies with age and gender. In April - June 2011, 5.2% of employees of working-age had undergone some job-related training within the previous four weeks. In April – June 2011, males in the younger age group were more likely to be recipients than those in the older age group, whereas a higher proportion of females in the older age group had undergone some job-related training.

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age Group (16 - 64), April - June 2011

Table 15

	Percentage		
	Male	Female	All persons
16-34	7.6	*	6.1
35-64	*	5.4	4.6
All 16-64	5.2	5.1	5.2

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age, April - June 2011
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 below the UK average rate and is the fourth lowest rate among the twelve UK regions.**

The seasonally adjusted NI unemployment rate showed a quarterly increase of 0.1 percentage points. However, the NI rate (7.3%) remained below the UK average rate (7.9%) and was the fourth lowest of all the UK regions (see Table 16 and Figure 14 for details).

- **The NI unemployment rate is 2.0 percentage points lower 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 European Union (based on those aged 15-64). The NI rate (64.2% - see Note 2 overleaf) is the same as the EU average (64.2%). It is, however, 5.3 percentage points above the current rate in the Republic of Ireland (58.9%).

The NI unemployment rate (7.3%) is 6.7 percentage points lower than the rate for the Republic of Ireland (14.0%) and 2.0 percentage points lower than the average rate for the EU 27 (9.3%).

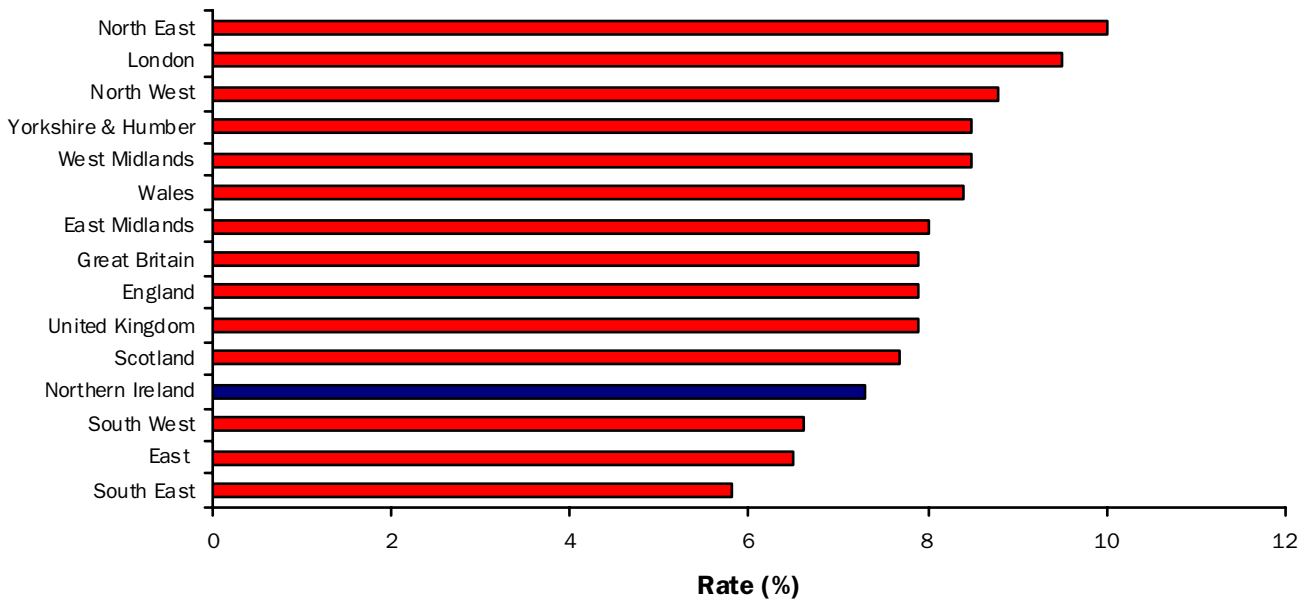
Regional Seasonally Adjusted Economic Activity Rates, April – June 2011

Table 16

	Employment rate (16-64)	Unemployment rate	Percentage Economic Inactivity rate (16-64)
North East	66.4	10.0	26.1
North West	68.5	8.8	24.7
Yorkshire & Humber	68.1	8.5	25.4
East Midlands	72.2	8.0	21.4
West Midlands	68.0	8.5	25.5
East	75.0	6.5	19.7
London	68.4	9.5	24.3
South East	75.0	5.8	20.2
South West	73.0	6.6	21.7
England	70.8	7.9	23.0
Wales	68.2	8.4	25.3
Scotland	71.9	7.7	22.0
Great Britain	70.8	7.9	23.1
Northern Ireland	67.9	7.3	26.6
United Kingdom	70.7	7.9	23.2

Regional Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, April - June 2011

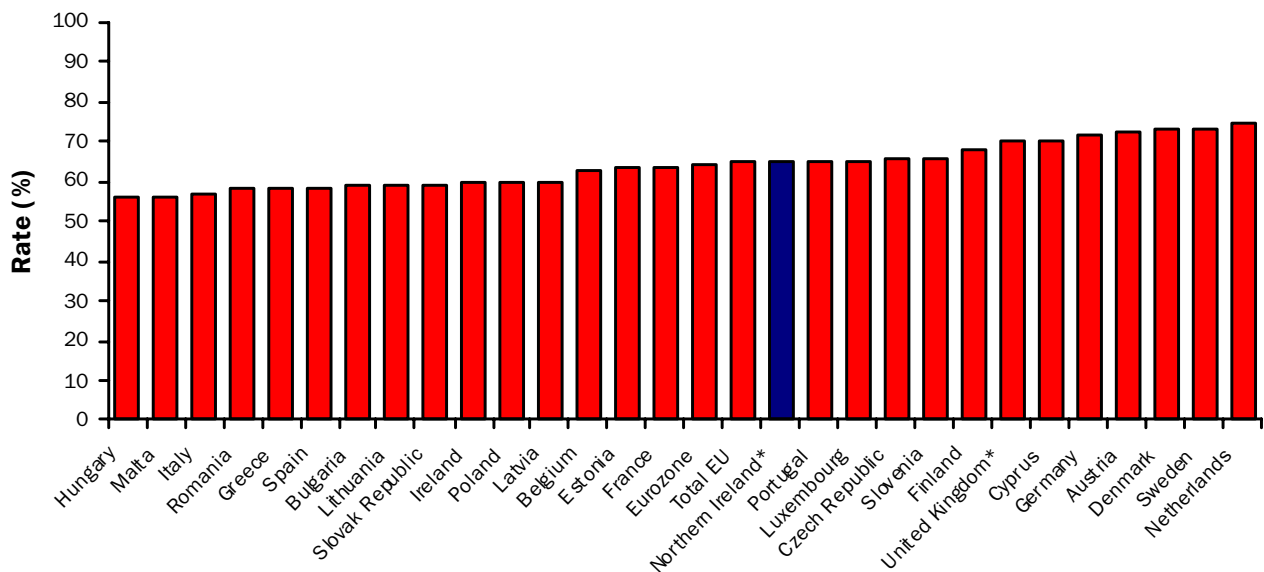
Figure 14



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 4 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates (16-64 for men and 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 (16-64) 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, Slovak Republic, 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

- **One in five persons (19%) of working-age, in NI, has a disability.**

The April - June 2011 LFS estimates that one in five (18.6%) persons (214,000), aged 16-64 in NI, had a current long-term disability. This proportion was lower for males (17.1%) than for females (20.0%), equating to 98,000 disabled men and 117,000 disabled women.

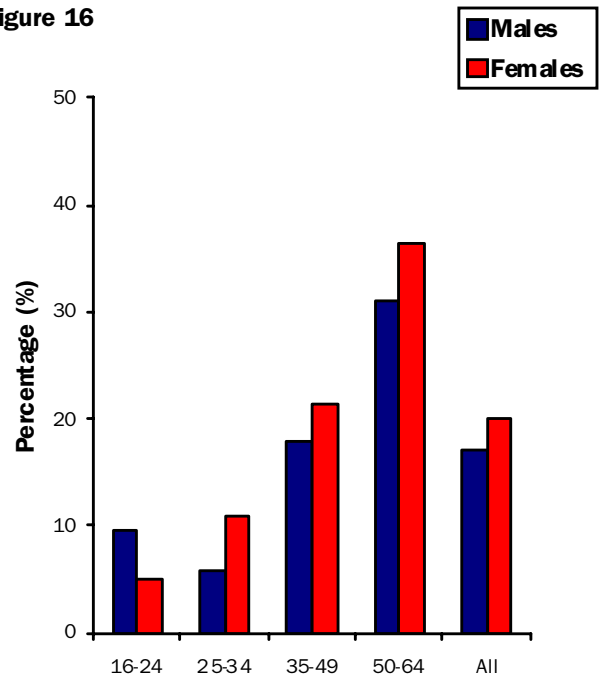
- **The likelihood of having a disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females.**

Figure 16 shows that the proportion of persons who have a long-term disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females. The proportion of males with disabilities increased from 9.6% for the 16-24 age group to 30.9% for the 50-64 age group.

Whilst the proportion of females, aged 16-24, with a disability, is too low to quote, the proportion of females with disabilities also generally increases with age with 36.3% of females, aged 50-64, having a disability.

Disability Rates By Age Group, April - June 2011

Figure 16



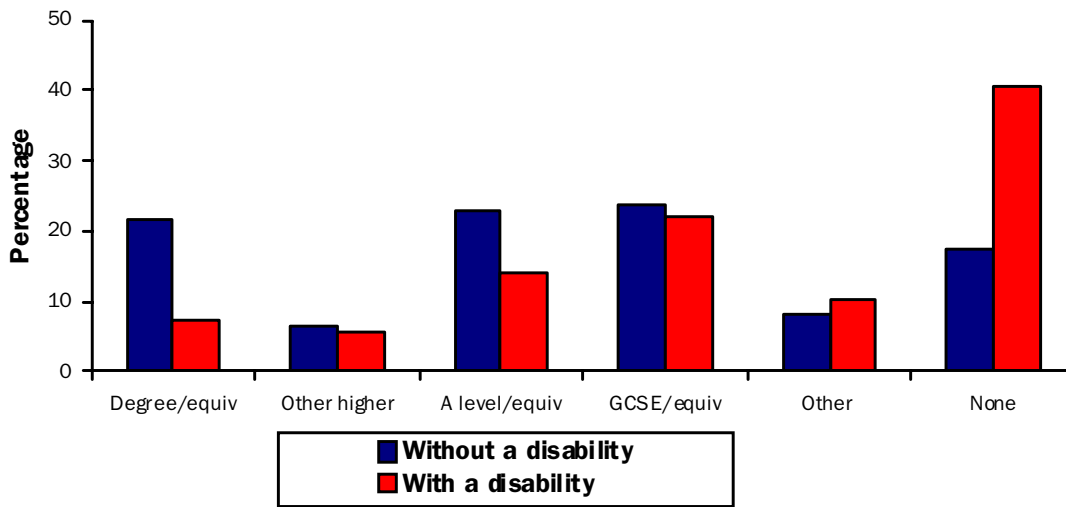
Qualifications of Persons With and Without Disabilities

- **Over twice the proportion of disabled persons have no qualification compared to non-disabled persons at April - June 2011.**

Figure 17 shows the qualification levels held by disabled and non-disabled persons at April - June 2011. Overall, persons with a disability are less qualified than those without. In particular, only 7.4% of those with a disability held a degree or equivalent qualification, compared with 21.6% of non-disabled persons. Forty one per cent (40.6%) of those with a disability had no qualifications, over twice the proportion of those without a disability (17.3%).

Qualifications of Persons With or Without a Disability, April - June 2011

Figure 17



Economic Activity of the Disabled and Non-Disabled

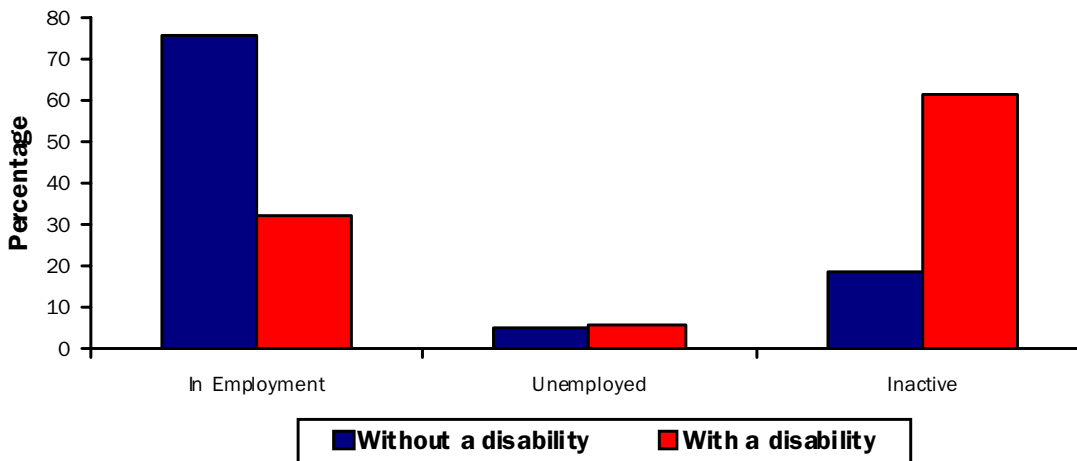
- **The employment rate for those without disabilities (76%) is over twice that of people with disabilities (32%).**

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 those aged 16-64, with and without a disability, at April - June 2011. A much smaller proportion of those with a disability (32.1%) are in employment compared to those without (75.9%). Conversely, the majority of those with a disability (61.6%) are economically inactive, compared with 18.8% of those without a disability.

Economic Activity of Those With and Without a Disability, April - June 2011

Figure 18



Special Feature: Self-Employment

10

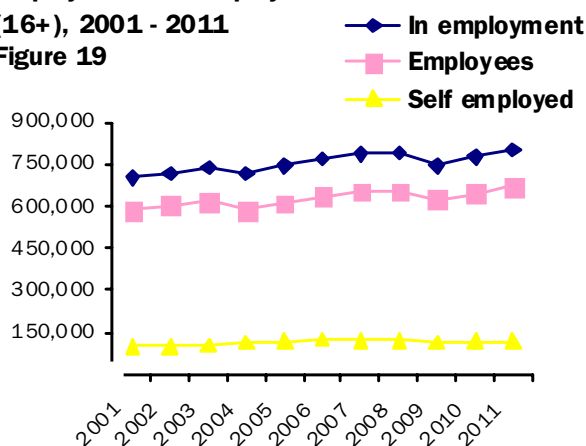
This feature looks at the number of self-employed in Northern Ireland during the last 10 years and examines in more detail the characteristics of this grouping at April – June 2011.

Self-employed people are defined as those who, in their main employment, work on their own account, whether or not they have employees. The division between employees and the self-employed for the LFS is based on survey respondents' own assessment of their employment status.

- **Numbers of self-employed people increased by 19% in the period 2001 to 2011, compared to a 15% increase in employee numbers.**

The numbers of self-employed in the period 2001 to 2011 increased by a larger proportion than those classified as employees. Self-employed numbers increased by 19,000 (19%) from 101,000 in 2001 to 119,000 in 2011 compared with an 85,000 (15%) increase in employee numbers over the same period. While the overall numbers increased between 2001 and 2011, this increase has not been regular, with decreases in numbers being recorded for some yearly intervals, including decreases in 2006–2007 and then again in 2008-2009 during the economic downturn. The number of self-employed persons has varied between 101,000 and a peak of 124,000 in April – June 2006 during the period.

Employee & Self-Employment Numbers (16+), 2001 - 2011
Figure 19



Factors affecting Employee/Self-employed status

The numbers of self-employed tend to grow or decrease in line with an expanding or contracting economy respectively. These changes reflect the changes in demand for all goods and services in particular non-essentials, and the extra or fewer opportunities to become self-employed.

Independent of the state of the economy there are also employees who are attracted to self-employment status, either because they find their present state unduly restrictive or they are attracted by the rewards of self-employment.

Self-employment by Gender

- **The number of self-employed males increased by 8% in the period 2001 to 2011, whilst the numbers of self-employed females has increased by 67% from the level reported in 2001.**

The number of self-employed males in NI increased by 7,000 (8%) between 2001 and 2011. The number of self-employed females in 2011 (29,000) has increased by 12,000 (67%) from the number recorded in 2001.

Self-employment Numbers (16+), 2001 - 2011

Table 18

	Numbers in Self-Employment		
	Male	Female	All
April – June 2001	83,000	18,000	101,000
April – June 2006	101,000	23,000	124,000
April – June 2007	98,000	22,000	121,000
April – June 2008	97,000	25,000	123,000
April – June 2009	95,000	18,000	114,000
April – June 2010	92,000	26,000	118,000
April – June 2011	90,000	29,000	119,000

Self-employment by full and part-time status

- A higher proportion of the self-employed are full-time compared to employees.

The employee and self-employed populations differ in terms of the proportions of each category who work full-time and part-time. At April – June 2011 76% of employees were full-time and 24% part-time compared with 83% full-time and 17% part-time for the self-employed.

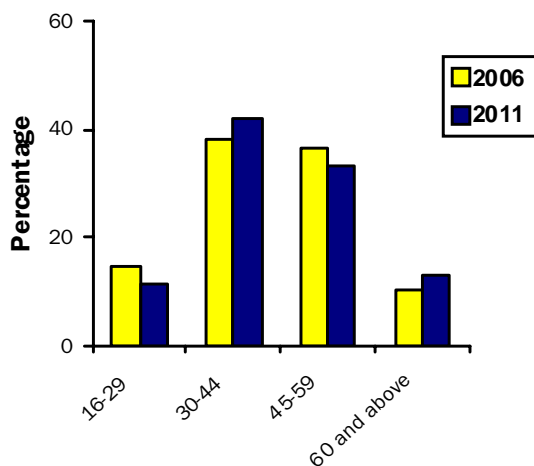
Age analysis of the self-employed

Figure 18 shows how the self-employed population aged 16 and over breaks down into each of the specified age groups for 2006 and 2011. The proportion of the self-employed in each age group has remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2011. The fact that the majority of the self-employed are found in the 30-44 and 45-59 age groups indicate the need for those who are self-employed to attain a level of training and/or expertise to facilitate their role.

Estimates for 2011 show that only 15% of self-employed persons are aged under 30. This is in stark contrast to the employee group, where 27% are aged under 30.

Self-employed by age group (16+), 2006 and 2011

Figure 18



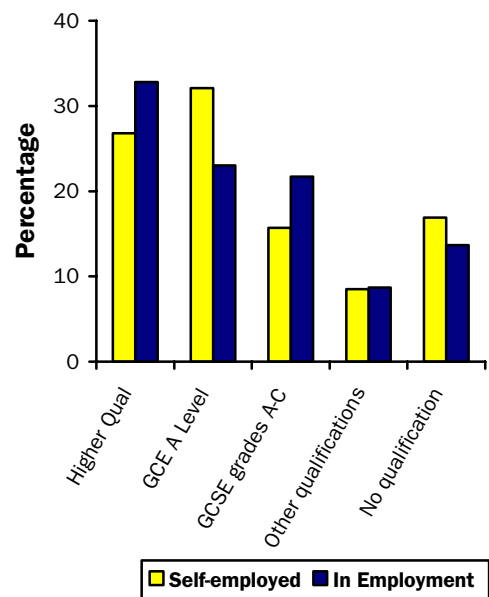
Qualifications of the Self-employed

- Those with a GCE A-level or equivalent qualification, a category which includes trade apprenticeships, are more likely to be self-employed than those with other types of qualifications.

Figure 19 shows the distribution of the highest qualifications held by self-employed persons, aged 16-64. It shows that the self-employed are more likely to have no qualifications than all those in employment. It also highlights the fact that the self-employed are less likely to have a degree or higher education. The single qualification level where the self-employed proportion exceeded that of the employed was at GCE A-Level or equivalent. This can be easily explained in that this category includes trade apprenticeships which are a common requirement for entry into the skilled trade occupations.

Highest qualification of self-employed and those in employment (16-64), April – June 2011

Figure 19



*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Industry analysis

- **One fifth (20%) of those classified as self-employed were employed in the Construction industry at April – June 2011.**

Table 19 shows how the self-employed are distributed across the various industry sections. One fifth (20%) of those classified as self-employed were employed in the Construction industry at April – June 2011. Other major sectors of employment for the self-employed were Distribution, hotels and restaurants (18%) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (13%). A total of 13%, of those classified as self-employed, worked in public administration, education and health, compared to 33% for all employed persons.

Persons in Self-Employment by Industry Section, April – June 2011

Table 19

	% of Self-Employed
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	13%
Energy and water	*
Manufacturing	*
Construction	20%
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	18%
Transport and communication	8%
Banking and finance	12%
Public admin, education and health	13%
Other services	10%
All industries ¹ (100%)	119,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those who did not state their industry.

Occupation analysis

- **Nearly two-fifths (37%) of those classified as self-employed were employed in Skilled Trade occupations.**

Table 20 shows that there were five occupational groups with sufficient numbers of persons aged 16 and over working as self-employed to allow quotation of reliable estimates. Nearly two-fifths (37%) of those classified as self-employed were employed in Skilled Trade occupations. Skilled Trade occupations comprise metal, vehicle, electrical, construction, building, textile, printing and food preparation trades. Eighteen per cent were found to work as Managers and/or Senior officials whilst a further 15% worked in Professional occupations.

Persons in Self-Employment by Occupation Section, April – June 2011

Table 20

	% of Self-Employed
Managers and/or Senior Officials	18%
Professional Occupations	15%
Assoc. Professional and Technical	8%
Administrative and Secretarial	*
Skilled Trade	37%
Personal Service	10%
Sales and Customer Service	*
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	*
Elementary	*
All occupations ¹ (100%)	119,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

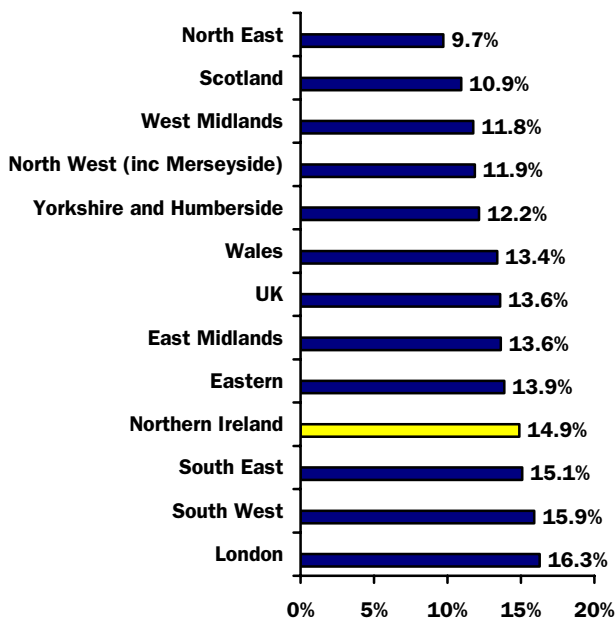
¹Total excludes those who did not state their occupation.

Regional comparison of self-employment

- **Northern Ireland (14.9%) ranked 4th highest across UK regions in terms of self-employment rates for April – June 2011.**

The self-employment rate is equal to the proportion of all those in employment that are self-employed. In April - June 2011, the self-employment rate for persons aged 16 and over varied widely throughout the UK, with the NI rate of 14.9% above the UK rate of 13.6%. The lowest rate was in the North East (9.7%). The variation in self employment rates by region depends partly on the industry mix in the region. Southern England has a concentration of construction and those service industries in which workers are more likely to be self-employed, than in manufacturing industries, on which the North East is more reliant. The relatively high percentage of self-employed in Northern Ireland may be partly due to the greater importance of agriculture (which has a high self-employment rate).

Self-employment rates (16+) for UK regions, April – June 2011
Figure 20



Technical Notes

11

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).

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 April - June 2011 Quarterly LFS in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment commissions the LFS in Northern Ireland. However, it is the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who actually carry out

the survey and publish the results. In particular, the day-to-day management of the fieldwork, including data collection and database creation, rests with NISRA's Central Survey Unit (CSU). CSU are also responsible for 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 April - June 2011 LFS consisted of 2,511 addresses, (650 chosen at random from the Valuation & Lands Agency list of domestic properties, 1,861 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, April - June 2011

	Number/Percentage
Total addresses sampled	2,511*
Fully and partially responding	1,558
Eligible sample	2,145
Response rate (%)	72.6

*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, April - June 2011

	Number
Non-response/non-contact:	
- Outright refusal	176
- Circumstantial refusal	68
- Non-contact	343
Ineligible addresses:	
- Vacant/derelict/under construction	257
- Holiday accommodation	30
- Non-residential	12
- Second residence	26
- Other ineligible	37
- Household moves	4
Total	953

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 one decimal place, 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 April - June 2011 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, April - June 2011

	LFS Estimate	Confidence Interval
Economically active	62	+/- 1.7
In Employment	57	+/- 1.7
Employees*	84	+/- 1.7
Self-employed*	15	+/- 1.6
Unemployed	4	+/- 0.7
Economically inactive (16+)	38	+/- 1.7
Unemployment rate	7.3	+/- 1.1

* 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 from the period June to August 2001 onwards have recently been revised to incorporate the latest population estimates. The magnitude of the revisions are relatively small, with the revisions to the unemployment rate falling within +/- 0.1 percentage points and the working age employment rate within +/- 0.2 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

More information on the revision policy concerning labour market statistics can be found through the link below:

[Labour market statistics revisions policy](#)

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.

New definition of 'working age'

The 'working age' definition, used in the calculation of employment and economic inactivity rates, was changed in August 2010 to include those aged from 16 to 64 for both men and women. Previously these rates were based on upper age limits of 59 for women and 64 for men, reflecting the state pension ages in the UK. However, between 2010 and 2020, the state pension age for women is increasing (by one month every two months) from 60 to 65, thereby making a change to the definition necessary.

The change in definition followed a UK wide public consultation on the issue and the approach being applied to Northern Ireland labour market statistics mirrors the approach that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are applying to other UK regions.

Please see link for further details:

[Change in female state pension age](#)

For a limited period, employment and economic inactivity rates based on the old working age definition (i.e. 16-59/64) will be available on the DETI website at:

[Comparison of working age rates.](#)

Please note that there are no implications for the headline unemployment rate, which will continue to be based on the economically active population aged 16 and over.

Government Targets

Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) are used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PSA targets) See [Programme for Government](#) for further details. The LFS and QES data feed into productivity estimates for NI and are therefore indirectly used to measure progress towards PSA 1: Productivity growth. In addition, LFS data is used to measure the proportion of the working age population qualified to Skill levels 2 and 3. This data therefore feeds into the measurement of PSA 2: Skills for prosperity.

Details of progress towards these targets can be found at:

[Programme for Government Delivery Report](#)

Notes to Tables

Within tables, where a number is in italics this denotes percentage, otherwise the data refers to the number (rounded to the nearest thousand).

Definitions

Working age

As of August 2010, this refers to ages 16 to 64 for both men and women.

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. Trade Apprenticeships, vocational level 3

GCSE A-C or equivalent = incl. 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 2007: SIC(07)

Occupation

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

Further Information

Further information about the survey can be obtained by:

writing to:

Department of Finance and Personnel,
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch,
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue,
Belfast BT4 2JP

telephoning: (028) 9052 9439

textphone: (028) 9052 9304

fax: (028) 9052 9459

e-mailing: hugh.mcnicke@dfpni.gov.uk

Publication now available on visiting web site:

www.statistics.detini.gov.uk