

NORTHERN IRELAND  
**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY:  
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2010**

Published 28/02/11

This report provides a detailed analysis of the most recent (October - December 2010) 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 756,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment. This figure has increased by 0.9% (7,000 persons) during the last year, but it is still 1.4% (11,000 persons) lower than the total three years ago.**
- **The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI was estimated at 8.0%. This has increased by 1.1 percentage points from the estimate for the previous quarter and by 2.0 percentage points over the year. The NI rate showed the largest annual increase among the twelve UK regions and is now above the UK average rate (7.9%) for the first time in five years.**
- **The NI seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rate for all persons aged 16 – 64 (28.4%) is 1.4 percentage points lower than the rate five years ago (29.8% in 2005). However, it remains the highest of all the UK regions (the UK average rate is 23.4%).**
- **A higher proportion of economically inactive persons, aged 16-64, in NI identify sickness or disability (28.9%) as their main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (22.8%).**
- **The number of graduates in NI has increased by 69,000 (43%) from 162,000 in 2005 to 231,000 in 2010. The 16-64 employment rate of graduates in NI (85.7%) was considerably higher than that for non-graduates (60.9%).**

## A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION

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

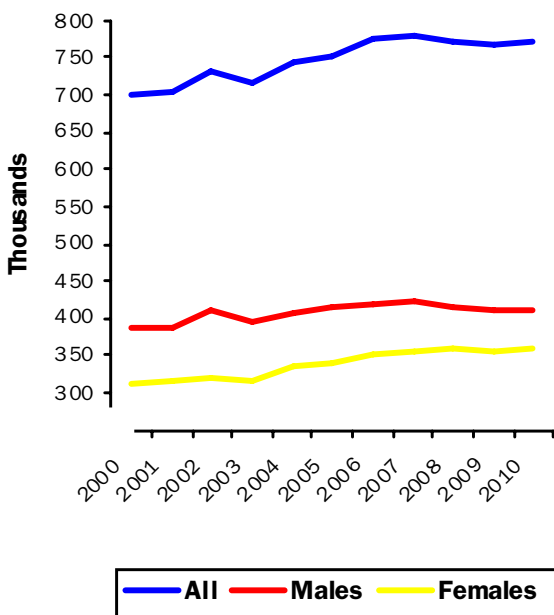
## Introduction

The following estimates are based on the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) October - December 2010 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 773,000 persons in employment in NI. This figure has increased by 0.7% (6,000 persons) during the last year. However, NI's employment rate (65.7%) remained 4.7 percentage points below the UK average (70.5%) 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 4 2000-2010



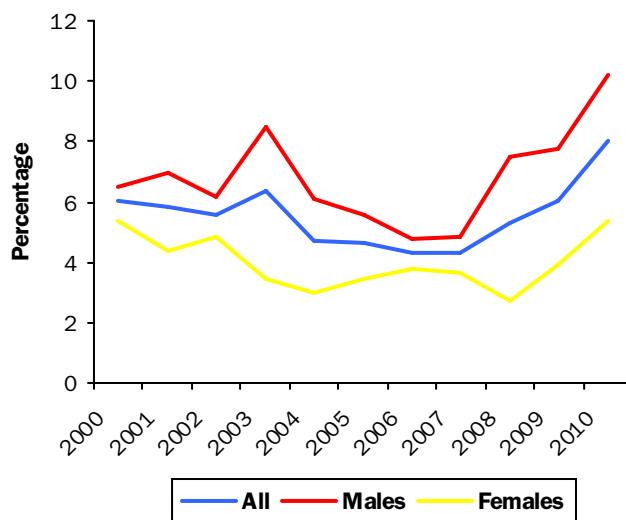
Up until the recent economic downturn, employment levels had generally been increasing during the last ten years. However, female employment increased at a slightly faster rate and the gap between male and female levels has narrowed over the period. The difference between the employment rate of males and females, aged 16-64, is currently estimated at 9.1 percentage points, compared to a 15.6 percentage point difference 10 years ago.

Unadjusted figures show that 37.3% of female employees work part-time compared to 8.3% of males. The proportion of males working part time is at its highest on record (the figures were 4.9% for males and 40.3% for females ten years ago). Only 7.8% of females in employment are self-employed compared with 23.9% of males (5.4% and 20.6% respectively ten years previously).

## Unemployment (seasonally adjusted)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (8.0%) is up 1.1 percentage points from the previous quarter and up 2.0 percentage points from the previous year. The NI rate showed the largest annual increase among the twelve UK regions and the latest estimate is now above the UK average rate (7.9%) for the first time in five years.

## Unemployment Rate (16+) Quarter 4 2000-2010

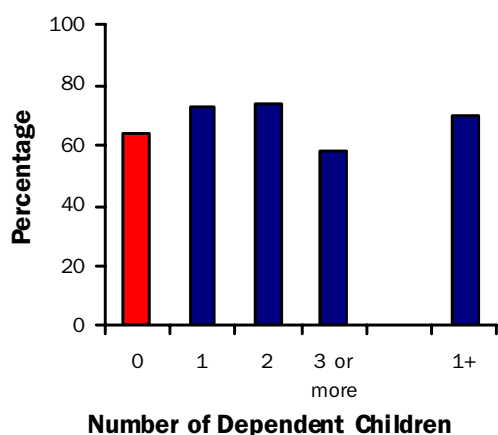


The male unemployment rate (10.2%) has risen by 3.7 percentage points during the last ten years, whilst the female rate (5.4%) increased by 0.1 percentage points during the same period. The male unemployment rate is currently 4.8 percentage points above the female unemployment rate, compared to a 1.2 percentage point difference in the unemployment rates ten years ago. Unadjusted data shows that almost three fifths of unemployed men (57.2%) are long-term unemployed, which is higher than the proportion ten years ago (50.9%).

### Economic Activity (seasonally adjusted)

There are an estimated 824,000 persons, aged 16-64, economically active in NI at October - December 2010, up 90,000 from ten years ago. The seasonally adjusted 16-64 economic activity rate (71.6%) for NI is the lowest of the twelve UK regions and is 5.0 percentage points below the UK rate of 76.6%. At 78.6% the 16-64 economic activity rate for males is an estimated 13.8 percentage points higher than that for females (64.8%). The current 13.8 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females has decreased from a 17.5 percentage point gap ten years ago.

**Female (16-64) Economic Activity Rates by Number of Dependent Children<sup>1</sup>**



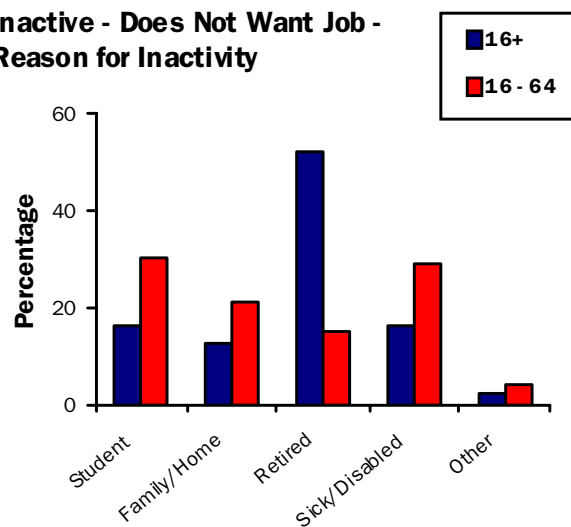
<sup>1</sup> The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only.

Unadjusted figures show that an estimated 70.0% of females of working age with dependent children under 19 were economically active, which is higher than the rate for those without dependent children (64.0%). However, having three or more dependent children resulted in a much lower economic activity rate (58.5%) for females in NI.

### Economic Inactivity

Seasonally adjusted data report that at October - December 2010 there were 558,000 persons aged 16 and over who were economically inactive in NI, with a resulting economic inactivity rate of 39.9% for this age group. Unadjusted data showed that around 10% of these economically inactive persons (55,000) 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 (52.0%). However, for those aged 16-64 the largest economically inactive category were students (30.2%). NI has a higher percentage of economically inactive, aged 16-64, that do not want a job because of sickness or disability (28.9%), compared to the UK (22.8%).

### **Education and Training**

In October - December 2010, 36.2% of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications, compared to 13.3% of the economically active population. Only 8.5% of the economically inactive had a degree level qualification compared to 25.3% of the economically active. Of those employees aged 16-64, 8.8% had undergone job-related education or training in the last 4 weeks.

### **Disabled Persons in the Labour Market**

One in five persons (20.0%), aged 16-64, in NI described themselves as having a current long-term disability, which is similar to the figure of 21.5% for the UK as a whole. The proportion of persons, aged 16-64, with a disability and who were economically inactive stood at 60.6% and this compared with a rate of 20.4% for those without disabilities. Furthermore, just a third (33.9%) of disabled persons are in employment compared to 73.7% of non-disabled persons.

### **Special Feature: Graduates**

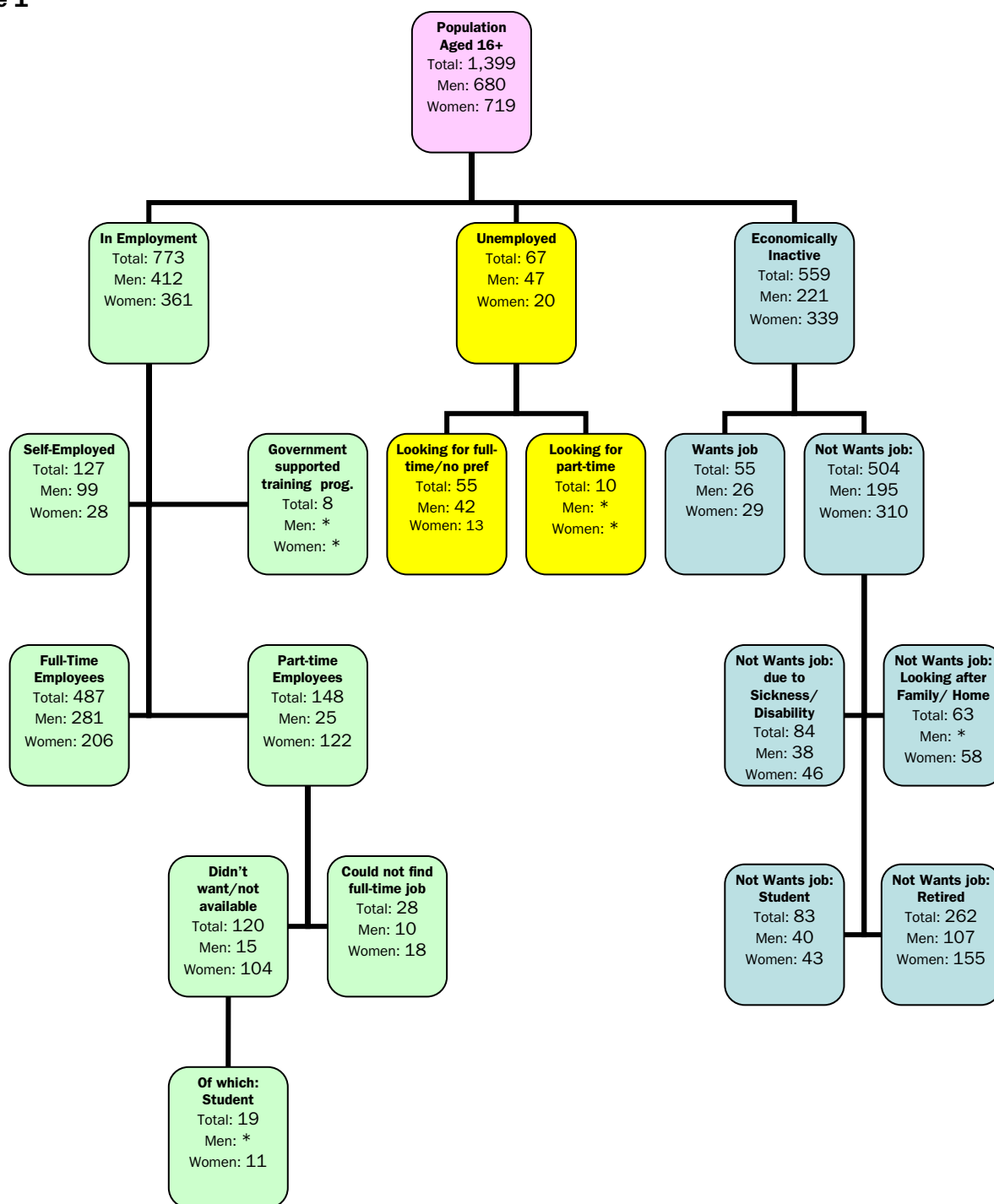
In Northern Ireland (NI) the number of graduates, aged 16-64, has increased by 69,000 (43%) from 162,000 in October-December 2005 to 231,000 in October-December 2010. In contrast, the total 16-64 population only increased by 4% during this time. As a result, the proportion of the working-age population who are graduates has increased from 15% in October-December 2005 to 20% in October-December 2010.

At October – December 2010 the 16-64 employment rate of graduates in NI (85.7%) was considerably higher than that for non-graduates (60.9%). Comparing with the UK, the employment rate for NI graduates is similar to the UK average (85.7% for NI and 85.3% for UK). However, NI had the second lowest employment rate for non-graduates across the regions at 60.9% (the UK average was 66.5%).

# Overall Labour Market Structure

## 2

Overall Labour Market Structure (16+ Population, thousands), October - December 2010  
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 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.**

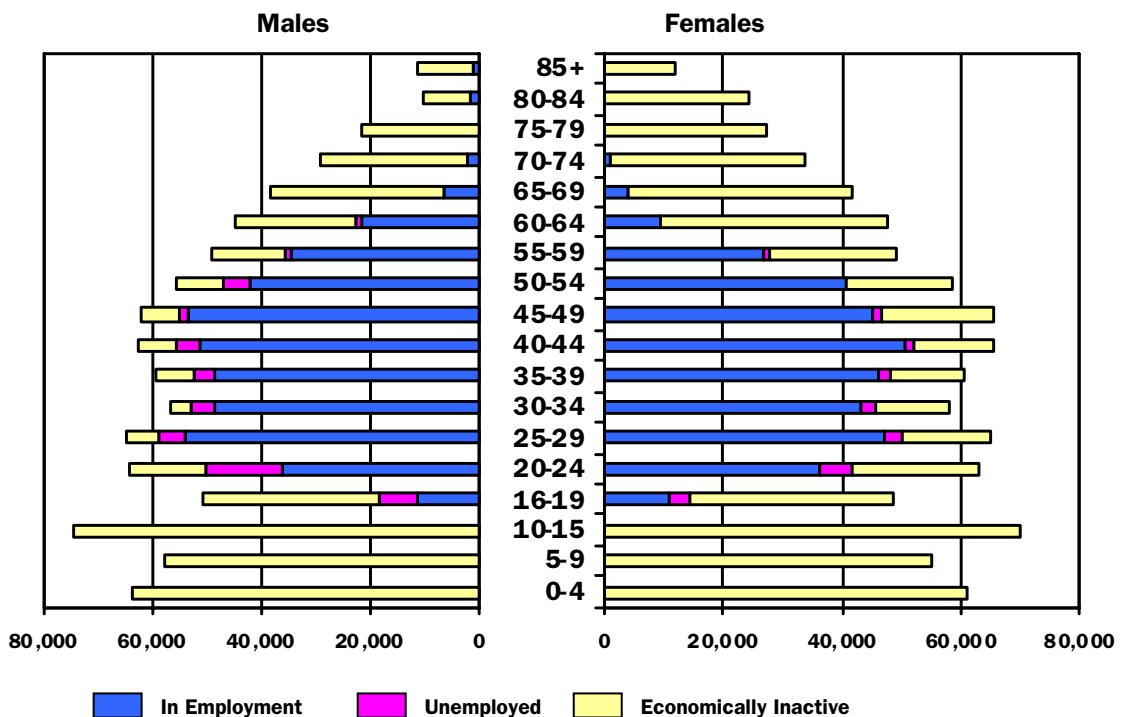
Overall, 5% of the population aged 16 and over are unemployed, however, again this differs for men and women – 7% of males are unemployed compared to 3% of females. In addition, 61% of the male population are in employment compared to 50% of the female population.

**Private Household Population (16+) by Economic Status, October - December 2010**  
**Table 1** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Economically active	67.5	52.9	60.0
In employment	60.6	50.1	55.2
Unemployed	6.9	2.8	4.8
Economically inactive	32.5	47.1	40.0
Total household population	680,000	719,000	1,399,000

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 October – December 2010 there were 840,000 economically active people in NI.

**October - December 2010**

**Economically active-male:**  
**459,000 (68%)**

**Economically active-female:**  
**381,000 (53%)**

**Economically active-all persons:**  
**840,000 (60%)**

**16+ population**

- **The working-age economic activity rate for males is 14 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 (78.6%) than females (64.7%) at October - December 2010. Figure 3 shows the economic activity rates for males and females of working-age from October - December 2000 to October - December 2010. The current 13.9 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females is lower than the 17.5 percentage point gap 10 years ago.

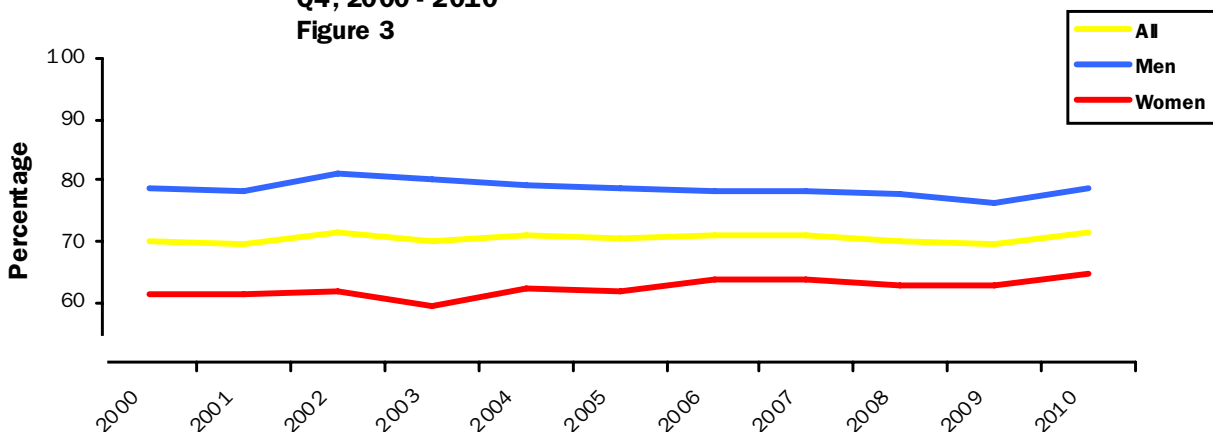
## Economic Activity Rates (16-64), 2005 – 2010

**Table 2** Percentage

	Economic Activity Rates (%)		
	Male	Female	All
October – December 2005	78.8	62.0	70.3
October – December 2006	78.1	63.9	71.0
October – December 2007	78.4	63.6	70.9
October – December 2008	77.6	63.0	70.2
October – December 2009	76.5	63.0	69.7
January - March 2010	78.1	64.0	71.0
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

The economic activity rate gap between males and females has been historically larger for NI than for the UK (in October - December 2000 the gap in NI was 17.5 percentage points, compared to 15.0 percentage points in the UK). However, for October - December 2010 the NI differential had narrowed to 13.9 percentage points, 1.3 percentage points higher than the equivalent UK figure (12.6 percentage points).

**Economic Activity Rates (16-64), Q4, 2000 - 2010**  
**Figure 3**



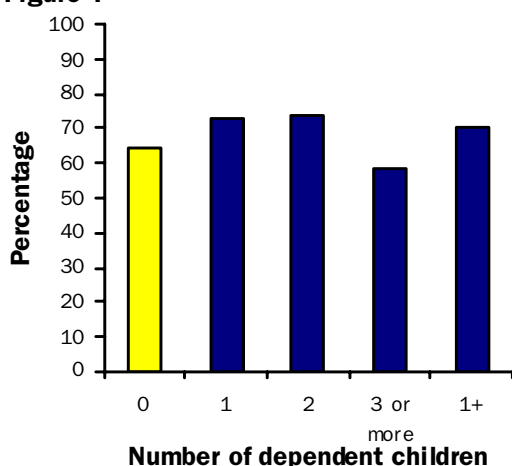
The household dataset affords the opportunity to analyse the economic activity of people by their family or household type. The dataset can be used to analyse people with dependent children, lone parents and other family types. The household dataset is only available for quarters 2 and 4 of each year.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

- **Women with 3 or more dependent children have a 6 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 units<sup>1</sup>. Males with dependent children had a considerably higher economic activity rate (92.5%) than those without (75.9%). For females, 70.0% with dependent children were economically active compared to 64.0% of those without dependent children. This compares to a UK activity rate of 72.4% for women with dependent children and 71.2% for those without. Having three or more dependent children resulted in a lower economic activity rate (58.5%) for females in NI as shown in Figure 4.

**Economic Activity Rates (16-64) for Females by Number of Dependent Children, April - June 2010**

**Figure 4**



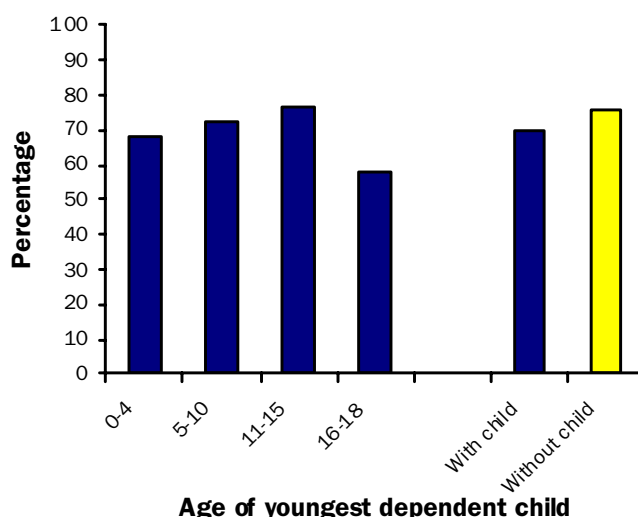
<sup>1</sup> The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of males/females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. It does not include family members who are aged 16-64 but who do not have parental responsibilities such as an elder 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 (68.1%) was 8.6 percentage points lower than the rate for the 11-15 (76.7%) age group.

**Economic Activity Rates for Females by Age of Youngest Dependent Child, April - June 2010**

**Figure 5**



At April – June 2010 there were an estimated 56,000 female lone parents of working age; the equivalent number for males was too small to provide a reliable quotation. Three fifths (57.4%) were economically active while the remainder (42.6%) were classified as economically inactive. In all, 57.3% of lone parents were economically active.

# 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.

### October - December 2010

#### In employment-male:

**412,000 (61%)**

#### In employment-female:

**361,000 (50%)**

#### In employment-all persons:

**773,000 (55%)**

**16+ population**

- **There were 757,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment in NI in Q4 2010, an increase of approximately 17,000 in the last five years.**

Table 3 shows estimates of employment rates over a five-year period from October - December 2005 to October - December 2010 and provides a comparison of rates over the last four quarters. At October - December 2010 there were 757,000 persons of working-age in employment, with the working-age employment rate estimated at 65.7%. The number of working age persons in employment has risen by an estimated 7,000 during the last year and the total is 17,000 higher than the total five years ago. However, the latest estimate is some 10,000 lower than the level recorded in October - December 2007.

### Employment Rates and Numbers (16-64), 2005 – 2010

**Table 3**

	Percentage/Number	
	Employment rate	Total in employment
October – December 2005	67.1	740,000
October – December 2006	67.9	759,000
October – December 2007	67.9	767,000
October – December 2008	66.5	757,000
October – December 2009	65.5	749,000
January - March 2010	66.0	756,000
April - June 2010	66.2	759,000
July - September 2010	66.3	762,000
October – December 2010	65.7	757,000

- **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 work beyond the age of 60, reflecting the historic difference in the pension age for males and females.

### Age Distribution of Those in Employment (16+), October - December 2010

**Table 4** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-19	2.7	3.1	2.9
20-24	8.8	10.1	9.4
25-29	13.1	13.0	13.1
30-34	11.8	11.9	11.9
35-39	11.7	12.8	12.2
40-44	12.4	14.0	13.2
45-49	13.0	12.6	12.8
50-54	10.3	11.2	10.7
55-59	8.3	7.4	7.9
60+	7.9	4.0	6.0
All 16+ (100%)	412,000	361,000	773,000

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 24% of males.**

It is noticeable that, while 23.9% 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+), October - December 2010

**Table 5** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
All employees	74.6	91.0	82.3
FT	91.7	62.7	76.7
PT	8.3	37.3	23.3
Self employed	23.9	7.8	16.4
Govt. schemes	*	*	1.1
Total in employment (100%)	412,000	361,000	773,000

\*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

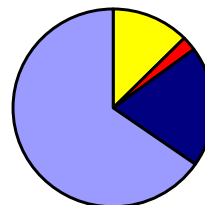
Total includes a small number of unpaid family workers.

- **Almost two-fifths (37%) of female employees are part-time compared to 8% 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, 37.3% are part-time compared with just 8.3% of males. In October - December 2000, the equivalent figures were 40.3% and 4.9% 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 (74%) and that they could not find a full-time job (15%).

### Reasons For Females Working Part-time, October - December 2010

**Figure 6**



■ Student	■ Ill/Disabled
■ Could not find FT job	■ Did not want FT job

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (19%).**

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 (33.0%) and Distribution, hotels & restaurants (19.4%). Just two 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 (19.1%) and Construction (14.3%) industries, while relatively few females work in these sectors. In contrast, half of females (50.6%) work in Public administration, education and health industries, compared to less than one-fifth of males (17.6%).

## Persons in Employment by Industry Section, October - December 2010 (SIC 2007)

**Table 6**

Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6.0	*	3.6
Energy and water	3.4	*	2.0
Manufacturing	19.1	6.6	13.3
Construction	14.3	*	8.1
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	18.2	20.7	19.4
Transport and communication	9.3	2.6	6.1
Banking and finance	9.9	11.8	10.8
Public admin, education and health	17.6	50.6	33.0
Other services	2.3	5.2	3.7
All industries <sup>1</sup>	404,000	355,000	759,000

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

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

A similar proportion of males (18.2%) and females (20.7%) 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 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.

- **Skilled Trade occupations accounted for the largest proportion of persons in employment (16%).**

Skilled Trade occupations were the largest group with 15.8% of persons in employment, followed by Administrative and Secretarial occupations (13.3%) and Professional occupations (12.8%).

- **A large proportion of males (27%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, whereas the largest group for females was Administrative and Secretarial (22%).**

There are obvious differences between males and females in terms of the occupations in which they are employed. A large proportion of males (27.4%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, whereas the proportion of females in this occupation was just 2.7%. Conversely, almost a quarter (22.2%) of females are employed in Administrative and Secretarial occupations compared to just 5.5% of males.

A higher proportion of males in employment are Managers and/or Senior Officials compared to females (14.6% for males as opposed to 8.9% for females).

## Persons in Employment by Occupation, October - December 2010

**Table 7** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Managers and/or Senior Officials	14.6	8.9	11.9
Professional Occupations	11.5	14.3	12.8
Assoc. Professional and Technical	8.2	13.1	10.5
Administrative and Secretarial	5.5	22.2	13.3
Skilled Trade	27.4	2.7	15.8
Personal Service	*	15.7	8.1
Sales and Customer Service	5.5	10.8	8.0
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	14.4	*	8.4
Elementary	11.4	10.6	11.0
All occupations <sup>1</sup>	406,000	358,000	764,000

\*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

<sup>1</sup>Total 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><b>October - December 2010</b></p> <p><b>Unemployed-male:</b>  <b>47,000 (7%)</b></p> <p><b>Unemployed-female:</b>  <b>20,000 (3%)</b></p> <p><b>Unemployed-all persons:</b>  <b>67,000 (5%)</b></p> <p><b>16+ population</b></p>
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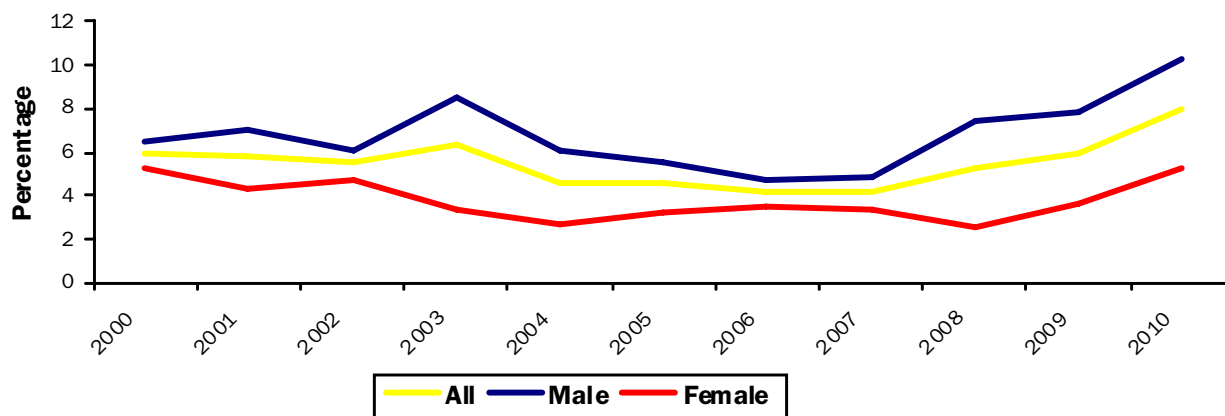
Overall, 5% of respondents aged 16 and over were unemployed and 7% of men were unemployed compared to 3% of women.

- **The unemployment rate for males is 10.3% compared with 5.3% 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 3.5 percentage point increase in the overall unemployment rate over the last five years.

## Unemployment Rates, 2000-2010

Figure 7



## Unemployment Rates, 2005 – 2010 (Unadjusted for seasonality)

Table 8

	Percentage		
	Male	Female	All persons
October - December 2005	5.5	3.2	4.5
October - December 2006	4.5	3.5	4.2
October - December 2007	4.5	3.4	4.2
October - December 2008	7.5	2.5	5.2
October - December 2009	7.8	3.6	5.9
January - March 2010	9.5	4.1	6.9
April - June 2010	8.5	3.8	6.6
July - September 2010	9.1	4.7	7.1
October - December 2010	10.3	5.3	8.0

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 October – December 2010 (8.0%) represented an increase of 2.1 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 (55.5%) with those aged 30 or over comprising the remaining 44.5%.

### Age Distribution of the Unemployed, October - December 2010

**Table 9** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-29	54.6	57.8	55.5
30+	45.4	42.2	44.5
All 16+ (100%)	47,000	20,000	67,000

\* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

### Duration of Unemployment

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

In October - December 2010, an estimated 47% of unemployed persons had been out of work and seeking employment for more than one year. This pattern was different for males and females; 57% 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, October – December 2010

**Table 10** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Short-term unemployed	42.8	78.4	53.4
Long-term unemployed	57.2	*	46.6
All unemployed (100%) <sup>1</sup>	47,000	20,000	67,000

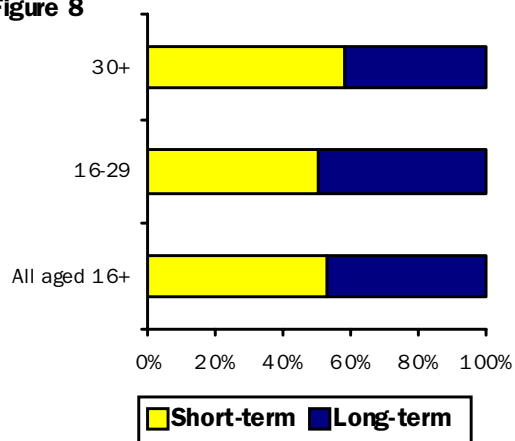
\*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes 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 47% of the total unemployed and short-term unemployed for 53%. Of those aged 16-29, 50% were long-term unemployed, while for those in the 30+ category, 42% were long-term unemployed.

### Long-term and Short-term Unemployed by Age Group, October - December 2010

**Figure 8**



### Methods Used By the Unemployed to Seek Work

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

For unemployed persons, the two most common methods of looking for work were visiting JobCentre Offices (43.6%) and answering advertisements/studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals (41.3%) as can be seen in Table 11.

## Main Method of Seeking Work for Unemployed Persons (16+), October - December 2010

**Table 11** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Advertisements/ Situations vacant	36.5	52.4	41.3
JobCentre Offices	51.4	*	43.6
Other methods	*	*	15.2
All methods (100%)	46,000	20,000	66,000

\*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 45,000 persons gave a previous occupational group. Estimates for a breakdown by occupational grouping were mostly too small to be reliably quoted. However, results did show that 8,000 had been in skilled trade occupations, whilst 13,000 had been 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.

### October - December 2010

**Economically inactive-male:**  
221,000 (32%)  
**Economically inactive -female:**  
339,000 (47%)  
**Economically inactive -all persons:**  
559,000 (40%)

**16+ population**

In October – December 2010 there were 559,000 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 family commitments during the “prime” working years – see Table 12.

### Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive NI, October - December 2010

**Table 12** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	21.1	16.4	18.3
25-34	4.6	8.0	6.7
35-44	6.3	7.7	7.2
45-54	7.2	10.8	9.4
55-64	16.1	17.6	17.0
65+	44.7	39.4	41.5
All 16+ (100%)	221,000	339,000	559,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

- **Nearly 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 49.1% being aged 65 and over, compared to 41.5% in NI. In contrast, the UK has a much lower proportion of their economically inactive population in the youngest age group (14.2% of the UK economically inactive population are aged 16-24, compared to 18.3% for NI). These differences are partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

### Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive UK, October - December 2010

**Table 13** Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	16.5	12.6	14.2
25-34	4.0	8.4	6.6
35-44	4.6	8.6	7.0
45-54	5.9	7.7	7.0
55-64	15.4	16.5	16.1
65+	53.5	46.2	49.1
All 16+ (100%)	7,293,000	11,069,000	18,361,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

### Reasons for Economic Inactivity

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

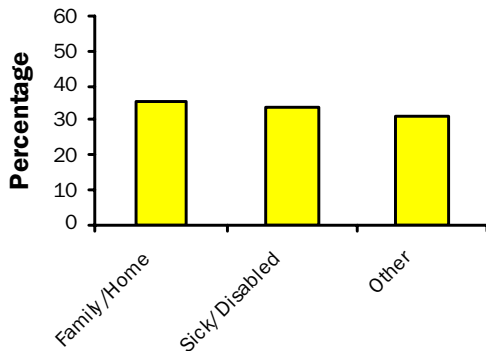
The economically inactive population is comprised of two main groups; those who do not want a job (90.2% in October - December 2010) and those who do want a job (9.8%). Equivalent figures for the UK show that 13.5% of the economically inactive want a job, whereas the remaining 86.5% do not. The main reasons given by those who want work in NI, but are not seeking work or available to start work are shown in Figure 9.

- Family/home commitments is the main reason for not looking for a job.

Of the economically inactive who want a job, 35.4% are not looking for work due to family/home commitments and 33.4% 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+) October - December 2010**

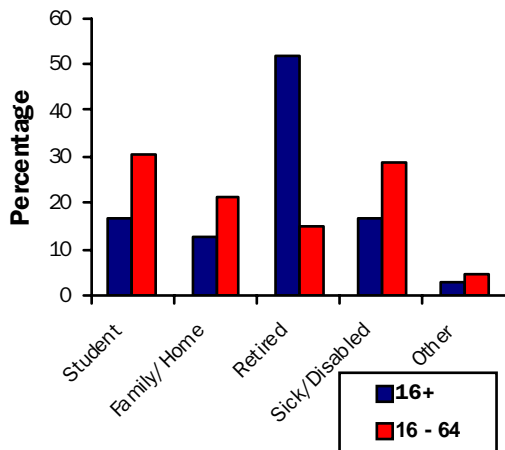
**Figure 9**



As mentioned previously, 90.2% 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) October - December 2010**

**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 (52.0%).

- Nearly one third (30%) of the population aged 16-64 who do not want a job are students.

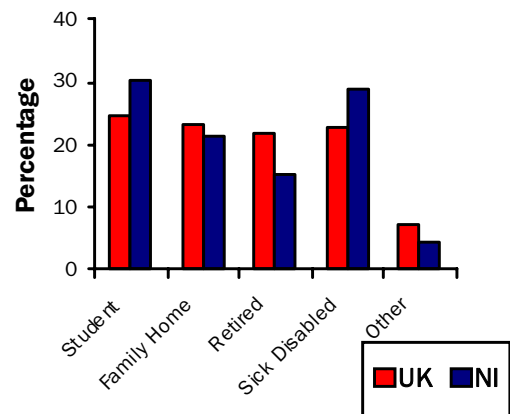
For the 16-64 population the main reasons for not wanting work were students (30.2%), followed by those who were sick/disabled (28.9%) and those looking after family/home (21.3%). Men were more likely to cite education as their main reason (41.4%) for inactivity and women family commitments (30.2%).

- 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 (28.9% compared to 22.8%). NI also has a higher proportion of students (30.2%) as the main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (24.8%). This could be partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

**Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (UK and NI, 16 - 64) October - December 2010**

**Figure 11**



# Education and Training

## 7

### Qualifications of the Employed and the Unemployed

- Over a third (36%) of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications at October - December 2010.

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 36.6% had higher qualifications, compared to 13.3% of the economically inactive. Conversely, 36.2% of economically inactive people had no formal qualifications, compared with 12.1% 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 8.5% had degree level qualifications, while 36.2% had no qualifications at all. This compares to figures of 25.3% and 13.3% for the economically active population.

### Qualifications by Economic Activity (16 - 64), October - December 2010

Table 14

	Percentage/Number			
	In employment	Econ. active	Econ. inactive	All Persons
Degree or higher	26.7	25.3	8.5	20.5
Other higher below degree	9.9	9.5	4.8	8.2
A level or equivalent	25.4	25.5	19.8	23.9
GCSE A-C or equivalent	19.1	19.7	23.5	20.8
Other qualifications	6.8	6.8	7.2	6.9
No Qualifications	12.1	13.3	36.2	19.7
All (100%)	750,000	816,000	321,000	1,138,000

\* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

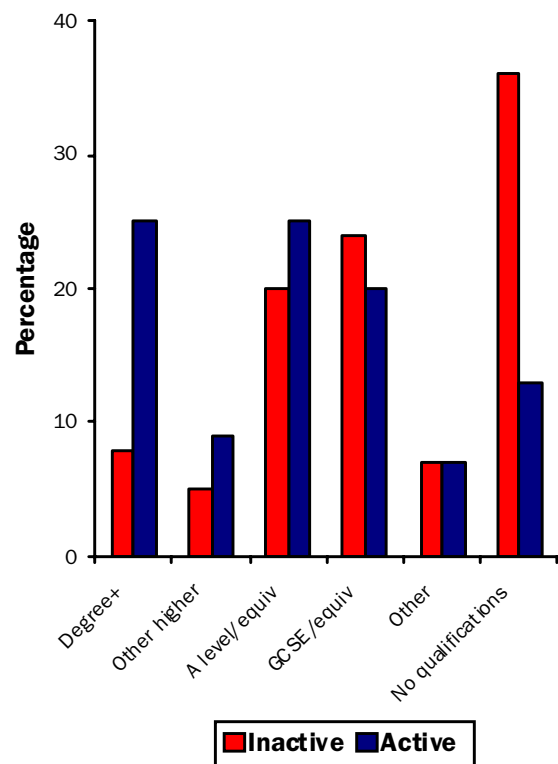
Total excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification.

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, October - December 2010

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 October - December 2010, 8.8% 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 9.7% of males and 11.2% of females in the 16-34 age groups having received such training.

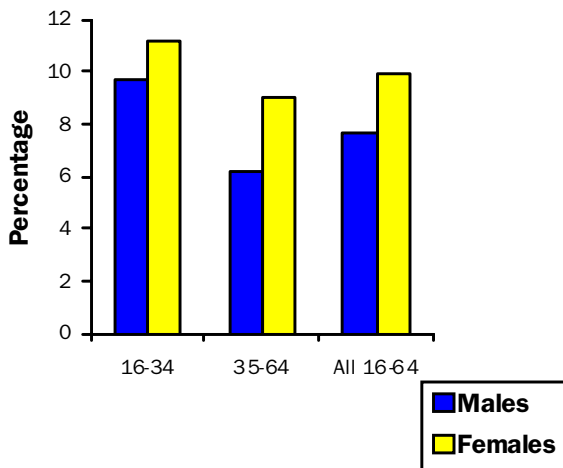
**Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age Group (16 - 64), October - December 2010**

**Table 15**

	Percentage		
	Male	Female	All persons
16-34	9.7	11.2	10.5
35-64	6.2	9.0	7.7
All 16-64	7.6	9.9	8.8

**Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age, October - December 2010**

**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 now above the UK average rate for the first time in five years.**

The seasonally adjusted NI unemployment rate showed the largest annual increase (+ 2.0 percentage points) among the twelve UK regions. The NI rate (8.0%) is now above the UK average rate (7.9%) for the first time in five years. However, the NI rate remained below the rates for five of the UK regions (see Table 16 and Figure 14 for details).

- **The NI unemployment rate is 1.6 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 (65.0% - see Note 2 overleaf) is higher than the EU average (64.3%). It is also 4.7 percentage points above the current rate in the Republic of Ireland (60.3%).

The NI unemployment rate (8.0%) is 5.9 percentage points lower than the rate for the Republic of Ireland (13.9%) and 1.6 percentage points lower than the average rate for the EU 27 (9.6%).

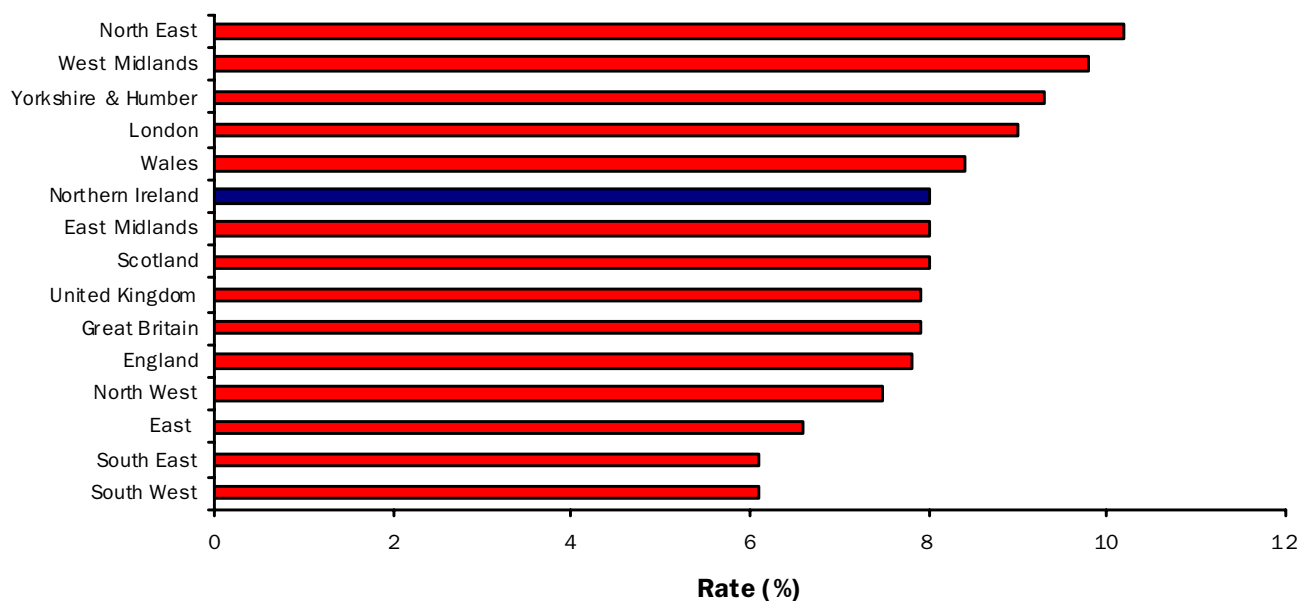
### Regional Seasonally Adjusted Economic Activity Rates, October - December 2010

**Table 16**

	Employment rate (16-64)	Unemployment rate	Percentage Economic Inactivity rate (16-64)
North East	65.6	10.2	26.9
North West	69.5	7.5	24.9
Yorkshire & Humber	68.2	9.5	24.7
East Midlands	70.7	8.0	23.1
West Midlands	67.9	9.8	24.5
East	73.9	6.6	20.7
London	68.5	9.0	24.7
South East	75.0	6.1	20.0
South West	74.1	6.1	20.9
England	70.7	7.8	23.1
Wales	67.6	8.4	26.0
Scotland	71.1	8.0	22.6
Great Britain	70.6	7.9	23.2
Northern Ireland	65.7	8.0	28.4
United Kingdom	70.5	7.9	23.4

## Regional Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, October - December 2010

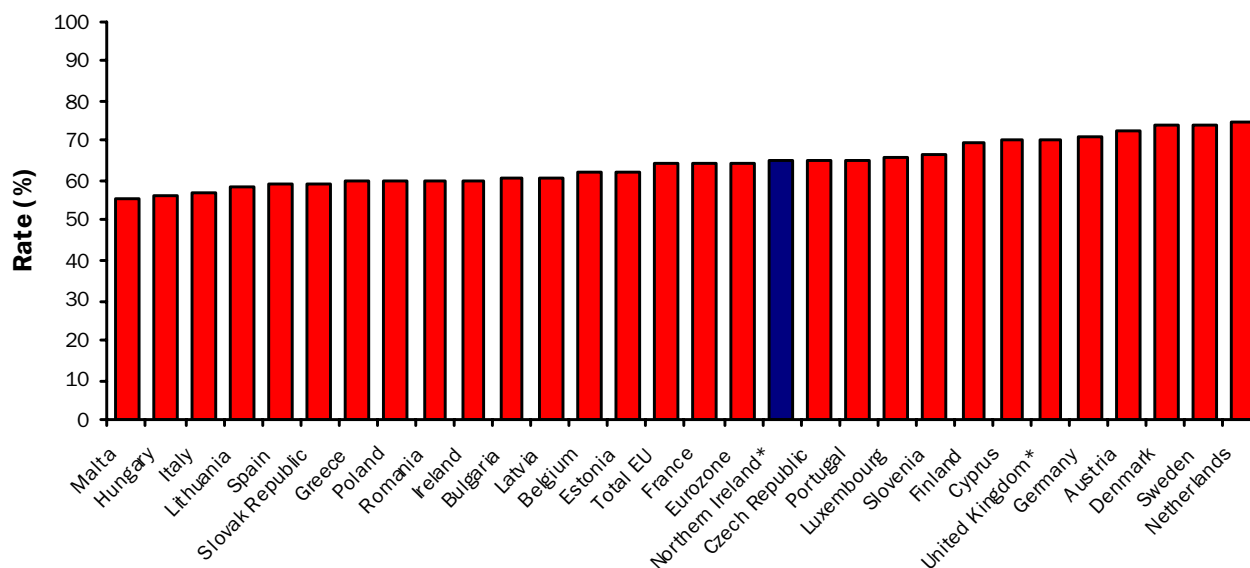
Figure 14



## International Comparisons of ILO Employment

### ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted<sup>1</sup>

Figure 15



Source: Eurostat and StatBLS

<sup>1</sup> 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 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 (20%) of working-age, in NI, has a disability.**

The October - December 2010 LFS estimates that one in five (20.0%) persons (231,000), aged 16-64 in NI, had a current long-term disability. This proportion was lower for males (18.7%) than for females (21.4%), equating to 106,000 disabled men and 124,000 disabled women.

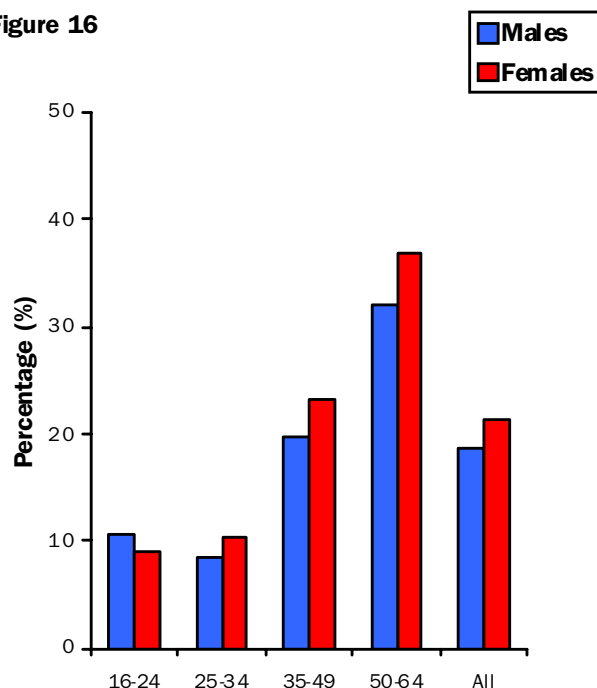
- **The likelihood of having a disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females.**

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 10.5% for the 16-24 age group to 31.9% for the 50-64 age group.

For females the proportion with disabilities increased from 9.0% for ages 16-24 to 36.7% for ages 50-64.

**Disability Rates By Age Group, October - December 2010**

**Figure 16**



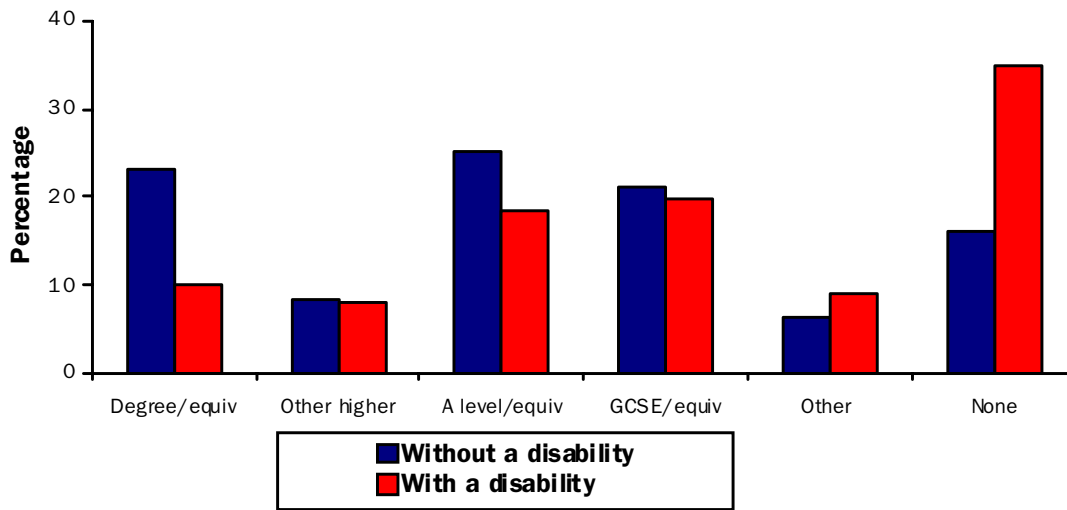
### Qualifications of Persons With and Without Disabilities

- **Over twice the proportion of disabled persons have no qualification compared to non-disabled persons at October - December 2010.**

Figure 17 shows the qualification levels held by disabled and non-disabled persons at October - December 2010. Overall, persons with a disability are less qualified than those without. In particular, only 10.0% of those with a disability held a degree or equivalent qualification, compared with 23.1% of non-disabled persons. Thirty-five per cent of those with a disability had no qualifications, over twice the proportion of those without a disability (16.0%).

**Qualifications of Persons With or Without a Disability, October - December 2010**

**Figure 17**



**Economic Activity of the Disabled and Non-Disabled**

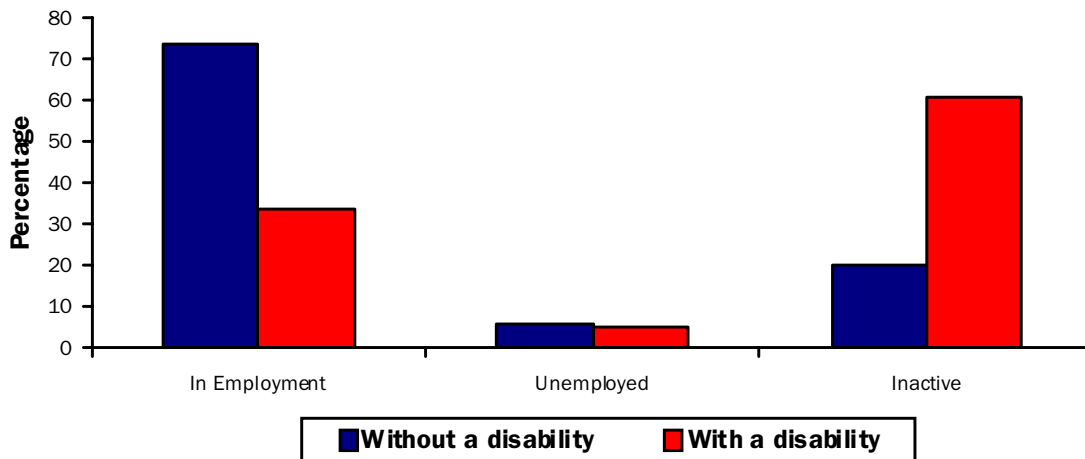
- **The employment rate for those without disabilities (74%) is over twice that of people with disabilities (34%).**

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 October - December 2010. A much smaller proportion of those with a disability (33.9%) are in employment compared to those without (73.7%). Conversely, the majority of those with a disability (60.6%) are economically inactive, compared with 20.4% of those without a disability.

**Economic Activity of Those With and Without a Disability, October – December 2010**

**Figure 18**



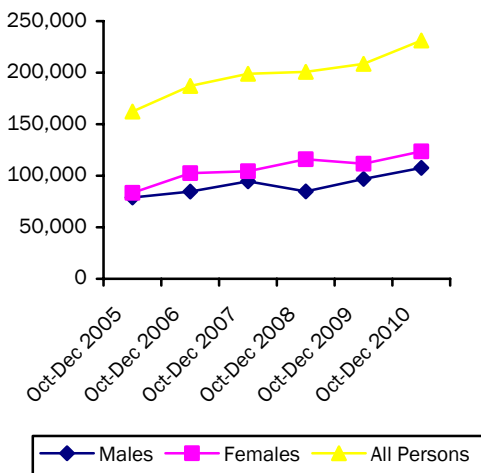
# Special Feature: Graduates

# 10

Number of NI graduates has increased by over forty per cent in the last five years.

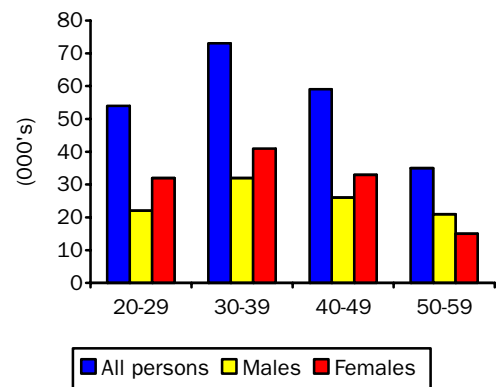
In Northern Ireland (NI) the number of graduates, aged 16-64, has increased by 69,000 (43%) from 162,000 in October-December 2005 to 231,000 in October-December 2010. In contrast, the total 16-64 population only increased by 4% during this time. As a result, the proportion of the working-age population who are graduates has increased from 15% in October-December 2005 to 20% in October-December 2010. Whilst females accounted for 51% of graduates in 2005, this proportion had risen to 53% by 2010.

**Number of NI graduates aged 16 - 64 2005 – 2010**  
Figure 19



In NI at October–December 2010, the estimated 231,000 graduates represented 20% of the 16-64 population. This was lower than the equivalent proportion of graduates in the UK 16-64 population (22%). The proportion in NI was fifth highest of the twelve UK regions. It was smaller than that in Scotland (21%) and was considerably lower than London, which had the highest proportion of graduates (36%).

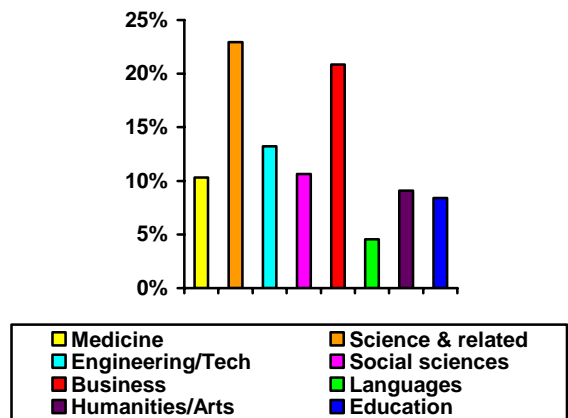
**Number of graduates of by age group October - December 2010**  
Figure 20



The 30-39 age group in NI had the largest proportion of graduates with 73,000 (32%) in October-December 2010. It is noticeable that there were more female graduates than male in the 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49 age groups, yet there were more males than females after the age of 50.

The main subject areas for degree holders were science and related degrees (21% or 49,000), followed by business degrees (21% or 48,000).

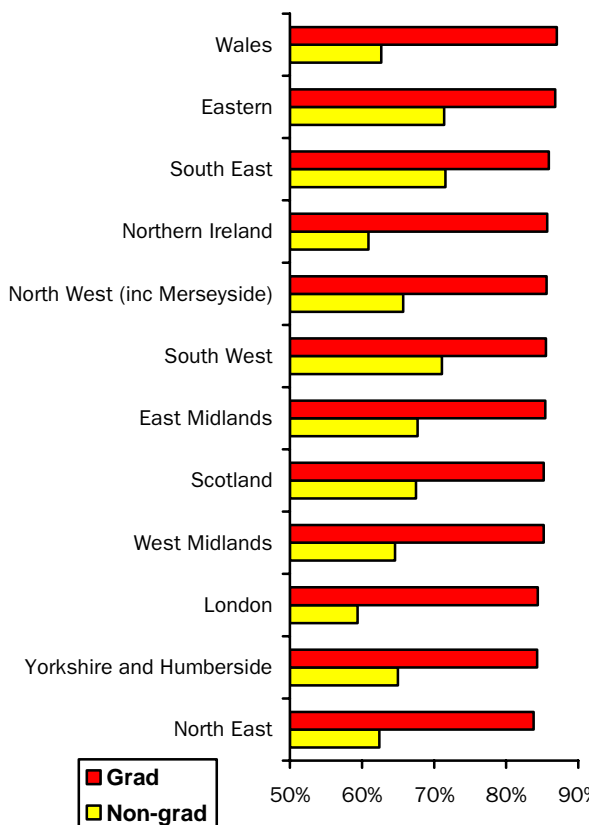
**Subject Areas of Degrees (combined and single), October – December 2010**  
Figure 21



- The working age employment rate for graduates (85.7%) is considerably higher than that for non-graduates (60.9%).

At October – December 2010 the 16-64 employment rate of graduates in NI (85.7%) was considerably higher than that for non-graduates (60.9%). For graduates, there were similar numbers of working age females in employment (84.1%) to males (87.6%). In contrast, the proportion of male non-graduates in employment (66.6%) was considerably higher than the figure for female non-graduates (55.2%). The employment rate for NI graduates (85.7%) is similar to the UK average (85.3%). However, NI had the second lowest employment rate for non-graduates across the regions at 60.9%. This is nearly six percentage points lower than the UK average (66.5%).

**Graduate & Non-graduate working age employment rates for UK regions, October - December 2010**  
Figure 22

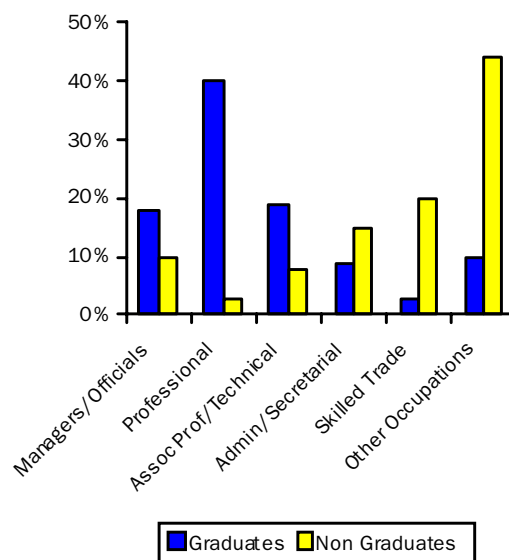


- Three-quarters (74%) of female graduates work full-time compared to just 58% of female non-graduates.

Overall, of those in employment the majority of both graduates and non-graduates were employees (87.7% and 81.0% respectively). However, non-graduates were more likely to be self-employed than graduates (17.5% and 12.1% respectively). Proportionately more graduates worked full-time than non-graduates (83.0% compared to 75.9%) and there was a notable difference for females with almost three-quarters (74.1%) of female graduates working full-time compared to just 58.2% of female non-graduates.

A higher proportion of employed graduates (44.2%) worked in the public sector, compared to non-graduates (22.3%). An estimated 77.5% of employed graduates work in the top three occupational groups, compared to 20.7% of non-graduates. Eighteen per cent of graduates are employed as Managers and Senior Officials compared to 10% of non-graduates. The major difference occurs in Professional occupations, where 40.2% of graduates are employed, compared to only 3.2% of non-graduates.

**Occupational groups for graduates and non-graduates, October – December 2010**  
Figure 23



Other occupations include: Personal Service occupations, Sales and Customer Services, Process, Plant and Machine operatives and Elementary Occupations

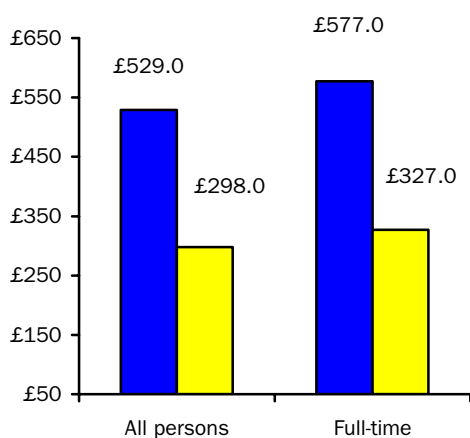
A higher proportion of graduates (84.7%) than non-graduates (68.8%) are employed in the Service Sector, with the Public Administration, Education and Health sectors accounting for just under one half of employed graduates (48.1%). The proportion of non-graduates employed in these sectors is much lower (27.8%).

- **The median average gross weekly earnings of graduate employees is nearly 80% higher than those of non-graduate employees**

On average graduates earn approximately £12,000 per year more than non-graduates. Median average gross weekly earnings of graduates were 77.5% higher than those of non-graduates (£529 compared to £298 per week respectively) and the hourly rate for graduates (£14.8) was 85.4% higher than those of non-graduates (£8.0).

When comparing gross weekly earnings, it is beneficial to separate full-time and part-time employees, as the number of hours worked per week may differ significantly. When this split is examined, full-time graduates earn £577, which is 76.5% higher than the estimate for full-time non-graduates (£327).

**Median gross weekly pay of graduate and non-graduate employees.**  
**October – December 2010**  
**Figure 24**



Note: Weekly and Hourly Earnings are based on median figures

# 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). 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 Office for National Statistics (ONS) are responsible for producing these back series and currently aim to have all periods revised and available as soon as possible.

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 October - December 2010 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 October - December 2010 LFS consisted of 2,366 addresses, (650 chosen at random from the Valuation & Lands Agency list of domestic properties, 1,716 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, October - December 2010

Number/Percentage

	Number/Percentage
Total addresses sampled	2,366*
Fully and partially responding	1,502
Eligible sample	2,078
Response rate (%)	72.3

\*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, October - December 2010

	Number
<b>Non-response/non-contact:</b>	
- Outright refusal	155
- Circumstantial refusal	67
- Non-contact	354
<b>Ineligible addresses:</b>	
- Vacant/derelict/under construction	206
- Holiday accommodation	21
- Non-residential	4
- Second residence	25
- Other ineligible	27
- Household moves	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>

### 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 October - December 2010 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, October - December 2010

	LFS Estimate	Confidence Interval
Economically active	60	+/- 1.7
In Employment	55	+/- 1.7
Employees*	82	+/- 1.8
Self-employed*	16	+/- 1.7
Unemployed	5	+/- 0.8
Economically inactive (16+)	40	+/- 1.7
Unemployment rate	8.0	+/- 1.2

\* 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 is revised periodically to incorporate the latest population estimates. The latest revisions were made in February 2010 to incorporate the latest population estimates. The revisions effect LFS data from the period June to August 2006 onwards.

The magnitude of the revisions are relatively small, with the revisions to the unemployment rate falling within +/-0.05 percentage points and the working age employment rate within +/- 0.1 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.

The seasonally adjusted data have been 'weighted' to the latest population figures and therefore provide a better indication of the current labour market status.

### **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.

A consistent time series for the new headline rates has been produced and all future reference to working age rates will be based on the 16 to 64 definition. Please see link for further details [http://www.detini.gov.uk/introduction\\_of\\_new\\_working\\_age\\_definition.pdf](http://www.detini.gov.uk/introduction_of_new_working_age_definition.pdf).

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 <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys.htm>.

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) is used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PSA targets) See [www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/finalpfg.pdf](http://www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/finalpfg.pdf) for further details. The LFS data feeds 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:  
[www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/pfg\\_delivery\\_report\\_q4\\_08\\_09-final\\_-\\_pdf\\_version-5.pdf](http://www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/pfg_delivery_report_q4_08_09-final_-_pdf_version-5.pdf)

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Enterprise,  
Trade and Investment,  
Statistics Research Branch,  
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue,  
Belfast BT4 2JP

telephoning: (028) 9052 9439

textphone: (028) 9052 9304

fax: (028) 9052 9459

e-mailing: [hugh.mcnickle@detini.gov.uk](mailto:hugh.mcnickle@detini.gov.uk)

Publication now available on visiting web site:  
[www.statistics.detini.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.detini.gov.uk)