



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**
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Labour Market

Statistics Bulletin

Monthly Labour Market Report

May 2011



A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION

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- 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.

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Northern Ireland Statistics &
Research Agency

Monthly Labour Market Report

May 2011

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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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Labour Market

1

Seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Northern Ireland for the period January - March 2011 showed a decrease over the quarter in the number of unemployed and economically inactive persons, while there was an increase in the number of employed persons. The seasonally adjusted claimant count in April 2011 increased by 200 over the month to 59,200. The Department was notified of 104 proposed redundancies in the latest reference period and 124 confirmed redundancies in April 2011.

Employment

The number of persons in employment in the period January - March 2011 was estimated at 785,000. This estimate was up 12,000 over the quarter and up 13,000 over the year. The employment rate for those aged 16-64 was estimated at 67.0%, up 1.2 percentage points over the quarter and up 1.1 percentage points over the year. However, NI's employment rate remained well below the UK average (70.7%) and was the second lowest rate among the twelve UK regions.

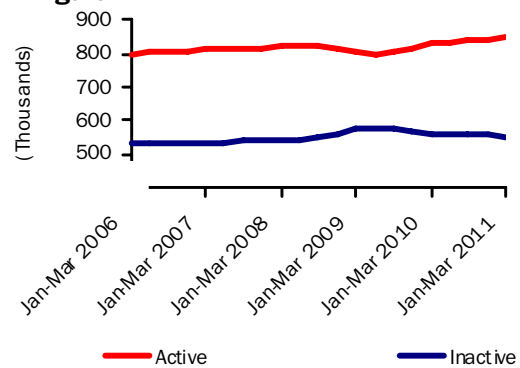
Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the period January - March 2011 was estimated at 7.2%, down 0.8 percentage points over the quarter, but up 0.3 percentage points over the year. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 61,000, down 6,000 over the quarter, but up 4,000 over the year.

Unadjusted figures show that 47.7% of the unemployed have been unemployed for 1 year or more – up 9.9 percentage points over the year. They also estimate the unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds at 17.8% – up 1.6 percentage

Seasonally Adjusted Labour Market Summary for Northern Ireland (16+)

Figure 1



points over the year.

Economically Inactive

The seasonally adjusted number of economically inactive persons in the period January - March 2011 was estimated at 555,000. This figure fell by 2,000 over the quarter and by 5,000 over the year.

The NI economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 stands at 27.8%. This is significantly higher than the UK average rate (23.2%) and is the highest of the twelve UK regions. Unadjusted figures estimate that 29% of the economically inactive, aged 16-64, in NI are sick/disabled, 28% are students, 25% are looking after the family/home, 12% are retired and 6% are 'other' reason.

Unadjusted figures also show that while 91% of the inactive do not want work, the remaining 9% (52,000) want employment but do not satisfy the full ILO job search criteria (by actively seeking work and being available to start a job).

Northern Ireland Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

Table 1

	Period	Estimate	Sampling Variability of estimate	Change over year	Sampling Variability of change
Employment	Jan-Mar 2011	785,000	+/-23,000	13,000	+/-30,000
Unemployment	Jan-Mar 2011	61,000	+/-11,000	4,000	+/-15,000
Economically inactive	Jan-Mar 2011	555,000	+/-21,000	-5,000	+/-27,000
Unemployment rate	Jan-Mar 2011	7.2%	+/-1.3pps	0.3pps	+/-1.8pps
Employment rate ¹	Jan-Mar 2011	67.0%	+/-1.8pps	1.1pps	+/-2.3pps
Economic inactivity rate ¹	Jan-Mar 2011	27.8%	+/-1.7pps	-1.4pps	+/-2.2pps
Claimant Count	April 2011	59,200		3,600	

Note: pps = percentage points, ¹Rates based on 16-64 population - see Section 9 for details.

Estimates from the LFS have an associated degree of statistical error as they are based on a sample of the population. The annual changes for the main LFS categories of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity were tested for statistical significance. The results showed that none of the annual changes in the estimates were statistically significant i.e. the recorded change did not exceed the variability expected from a sample survey of this size (see table 1 and Section 9 for details).

Unemployment Regional Comparison

The latest NI seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (7.2%) was lower than the overall UK average rate (7.7%) and was fourth lowest among the twelve UK regions. The NI rate was also below the European Union (9.5%) and Republic of Ireland (14.9%) rates for February 2011. Unadjusted figures for the three months to February 2011 estimate the NI unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds at 20.3%, compared to a UK average rate of 17.8%.

Claimant Count

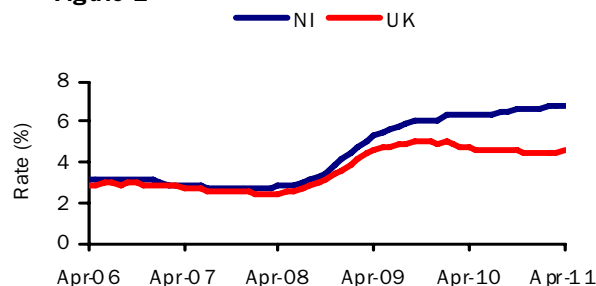
The more recent seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 200 from last month's total. It now stands at 59,200 (6.7% of the workforce) in April 2011. The latest monthly increase was higher than the increase of 100 for the previous monthly period. Over the year the Claimant Count in NI has increased by 3,600 (6.5%) and the workforce unemployment rate has increased by 0.4 percentage points.

Claimant Count Regional Comparison

The seasonally adjusted claimant count rate in NI (6.7%) was higher than the UK average rate (4.6%) and was the joint highest rate among the twelve UK regions. The April 2011 NI Claimant Count level increased by 0.3% (200 claimants) from last month's total, while the UK average increased by 0.9% (Figure 2). Over the year the NI Claimant Count level increased by 6.5%, compared to a fall of 3.0% in the UK. The annual change in NI was the highest percentage increase among the twelve UK regions.

Seasonally Adjusted Claimant Count Monthly Rates

Figure 2



Claimant count rates for District Council Areas

Figure 3 (unadjusted numbers as a percentage of the resident working age population) show that the highest rates at April 2011 were in Derry (7.6%), Strabane (7.0%), Belfast (6.9%) and Limavady (6.9%). Those that showed the highest percentage increase in levels over the year to April 2011 were Ards (13.6%), Castlereagh (10.7%), Armagh (10.6%) and Newry and Mourne (10.6%). For further District Council data please see section 3 of the Labour Market Report.

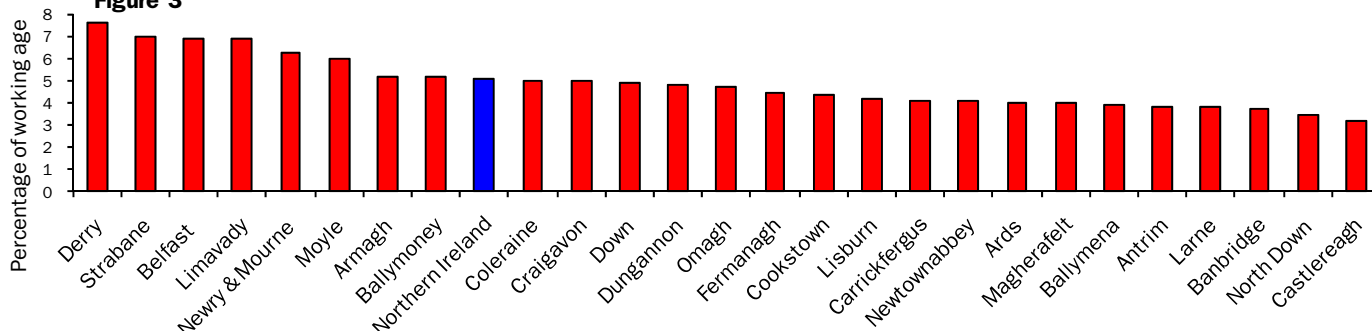
Employment and Training Measures

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) provides a number of services and programmes to help jobseekers find work. In September 2008 Steps to Work, the Department's new flexible approach to helping people to find work, was introduced in Northern Ireland and subsumes the main New Deal programmes. Overall, there has been an increase of 25.0% (2,699 persons) to 13,503 over the year to April 2011 in the number of those claimants who are eligible for mandatory participation on Steps to Work. However, anyone over 18 years old (or lone parents aged 16 years old or over) who is not working (or working less than 16 hours each week) is eligible. Steps to Work and New Deal statistics are currently accessible via the DEL web link below:

[Steps to Work / New Deal statistics](#)

Unadjusted Claimant Count Rates By District Council Area

Figure 3



Redundancies

The Department was notified of 104 proposed redundancies over the period mid April 2011 to mid May 2011. This compares to 299 proposed redundancies notified to the Department in the previous monthly period.

There were 124 confirmed redundancies in the month of April (Figure 5). Over the latest twelve monthly period there were a total of 1,770 confirmed redundancies, a decrease of 49% from the previous year (3,449). The highest number of confirmed redundancies took place in the Belfast District Council area which had 34.7% (614) of all redundancies over the year.

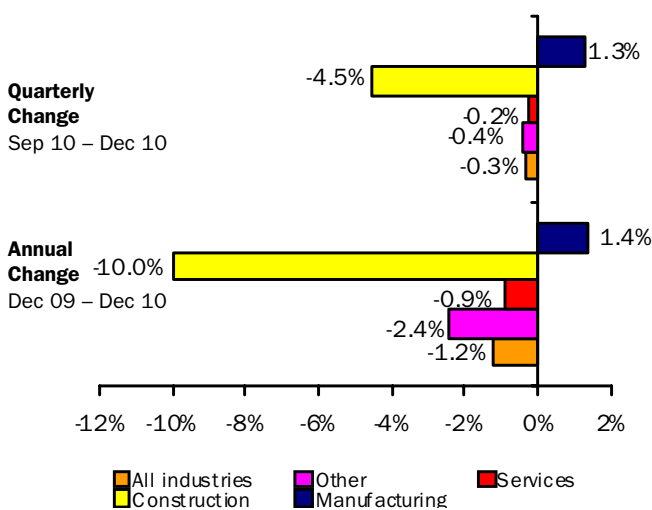
Over the latest twelve month period there were a total of 2,434 proposed redundancies, a decrease of 38% from the previous year (3,896). Currently there are 1,044 outstanding redundancies (that is, proposed but not confirmed), which is 2% lower than this time last year (1,069).

Note that since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses.

Quarterly Employment Survey

The QES provides an estimate of the number of jobs (rather than persons in employment) and is the preferred measure of change in employee jobs. The estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in Northern Ireland at December 2010 was 692,910. This represents a decrease of 1,880 from the revised figure for the previous quarter and a decrease of 8,200 over the year (see Section 9 for details of QES revisions).

Annual and Quarterly changes in employee jobs (seasonally adjusted)
Figure 4

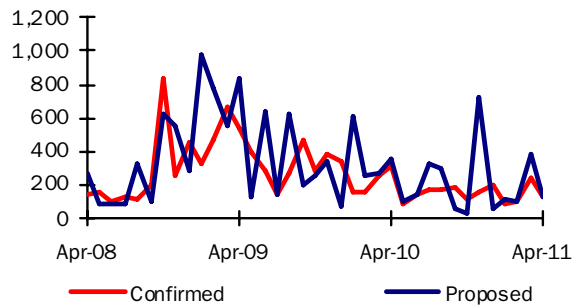


The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of decreases in the Service sector (-1,270), in Construction (-1,480) and Other industries (-70). There was an increase in Manufacturing (950) over the quarter.

Confirmed and Proposed Redundancies

April 08 - April 11

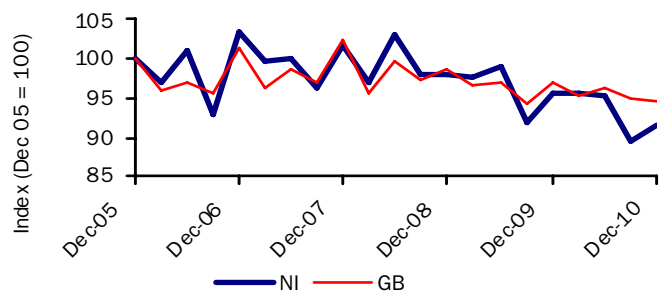
Figure 5



Hours Worked

The total workforce hours worked per week in Northern Ireland in December 2010 was estimated at 24.5 million hours, representing a decrease of 4.3% over the year (compared to a fall of 2.3% in GB). Between September 2005 and September 2010, NI's total workforce hours worked per week decreased by 8.6%, compared to a 5.3% fall in GB (Figure 6). In the three months to February 2011, the average actual weekly hours worked in NI was 32.2 hours – higher than the UK average (31.1) for the period.

Index of total workforce hours worked per week, NI & GB
Figure 6



Source: Employment, Earnings and Productivity Division, ONS

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

Earnings results for April 2010, which were released on 8th December 2010, show that yearly growth in median gross weekly earnings for all employees (i.e. both full- and part-time) in NI was 0.6% (to £356.6) compared to 1.8% in the UK (to £404.3). NI full-time employees' gross weekly earnings at April 2010 were £440.8, which was approximately 88% of the figure in the UK (£498.8). NI full-time earnings increased by 0.8% over the period, compared with an increase of 2.1% in the UK.

Full-time weekly private sector earnings increased by 0.6% to £383.4 and part-time earnings fell by 7.1% to £120.0 over the year in NI. This resulted in a further widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap to 81.0% of the UK figure.

Labour Force Survey

2

Background

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

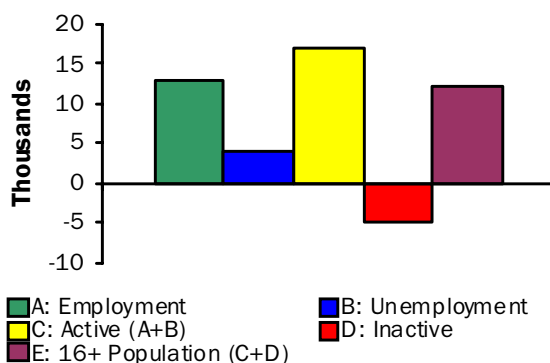
Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)

The latest seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey estimates for January - March 2011 (see Table 2) record the unemployment rate at 7.2% (61,000 persons), down 0.8 percentage points from the previous quarter. Employment was estimated to have increased by 12,000 (1.5%) over the quarter to 785,000.

Labour Market change over the year

In the year to January - March 2011 (see Figure 7), LFS figures show increases of 13,000 in total employment and 4,000 in unemployment, leading to a rise of 17,000 in the economically active population (figures may not sum due to rounding). The number economically inactive fell by 5,000 over the year.

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



Employment

Latest seasonally adjusted estimates show that there were 785,000 persons in employment, which represents a rise of 1.7% (13,000 persons) over the year. Of the total, 53% (418,000) were male and 47% (367,000) were female.

There was a rise of 1.3% in the estimate for male employment and an increase of 2.2% in female employment over the year.

Economic Inactivity

The number of economically inactive persons in the period January - March 2011 was estimated at 555,000. This figure includes those people that are past retirement age and are unlikely to re-engage with the labour market. Therefore it is the economically inactive of working age (i.e. those aged 16 - 64) that are of most interest to labour market analysts. At January - March 2011, there were an estimated 320,000 economically inactive people aged 16-64 in NI. Of the total, 37% (118,000) were male and 63% (202,000) were female.

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

Unadjusted figures show that 84% of the economically inactive of working age do not want a job, while the remaining 16% want work, but are not actively seeking or available to start work.

Economically Inactive, aged 16-64

Reason for not wanting work

Figure 8

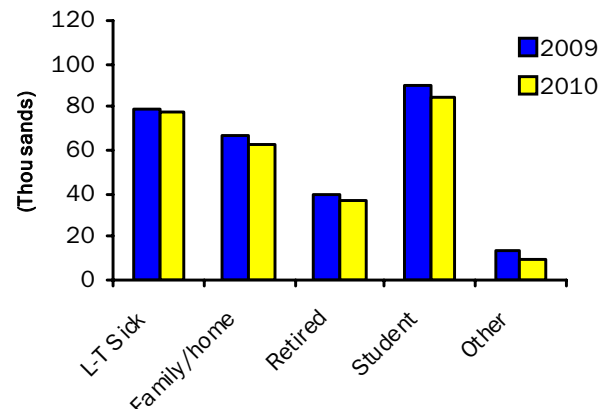


Figure 8 shows the reason given by these people for not wanting work. The largest categories were students (84,000), the long-term sick (77,000), and those looking after family/home (62,000). Among these categories, the largest change over the year occurred in those who were students (-6,000 or -7.2%).

Labour Market Structure – Seasonally adjusted
Table 2

	Total aged 16 and over	Total persons of working age 16-64	All aged 16+					All working age 16-64	
			Total economically active	Total in employment	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Unemployment rate (%)	Activity rate 16-64 (%)	Employment rate (%) 16-64
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ALL PERSONS									
Jan-Mar 2008	1,364	1,131	823	786	37	541	4.5	71.4	68.1
Jan-Mar 2009	1,377	1,139	804	754	50	574	6.2	69.1	64.7
Jan-Mar 2010	1,390	1,146	829	772	57	561	6.9	70.8	65.9
Apr-Jun 2010	1,393	1,148	833	777	56	560	6.7	71.2	66.4
Jul-Sep 2010	1,396	1,149	836	778	59	560	7.0	71.2	66.1
Oct-Dec 2010	1,399	1,151	841	774	67	558	8.0	71.7	65.8
Jan-Mar 2011	1,402	1,152	846	785	61	555	7.2	72.2	67.0
Change on Quarter	3	1	5	12	-6	-2	-0.8	0.6	1.2
Change on Year	12	6	17	13	4	-5	0.3	1.4	1.1
MALES									
Jan-Mar 2008	661	560	452	426	26	209	5.7	79.0	74.4
Jan-Mar 2009	668	564	439	405	35	229	7.9	75.9	69.8
Jan-Mar 2010	675	568	456	413	42	219	9.3	77.9	70.5
Apr-Jun 2010	676	568	457	416	41	219	9.0	78.4	71.2
Jul-Sep 2010	678	569	458	416	41	221	9.1	78.4	71.1
Oct-Dec 2010	680	570	459	412	47	220	10.2	78.6	70.4
Jan-Mar 2011	681	571	461	418	42	220	9.2	79.4	72.1
FEMALES									
Jan-Mar 2008	703	572	372	360	12	332	3.2	64.0	61.9
Jan-Mar 2009	709	575	365	349	15	344	4.2	62.5	59.8
Jan-Mar 2010	715	578	374	359	15	341	3.9	63.8	61.3
Apr-Jun 2010	717	579	376	361	15	341	4.0	64.2	61.6
Jul-Sep 2010	718	580	379	361	17	339	4.5	64.2	61.2
Oct-Dec 2010	719	581	382	361	21	337	5.4	64.8	61.3
Jan-Mar 2011	721	581	386	367	19	335	4.9	65.2	62.0

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

The estimates above have been revised to incorporate latest population figures - see note on revisions policy in Section 9.

Working age rates based on 16-64 population for both males and females - see Section 9 for details.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Labour Market Structure – Sample of data available on website

Table 3

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

Other Labour Force Survey Publications available on website

Table 4

Publication title	File Size
LFS Labour Market Statistics (January - March 2011)	98 KB
LFS Historical Data 1984-1991	76 KB
*** All data below this does not yet incorporate the latest Mid-Year Population revisions. A programme of work to update these bulletins using the latest population estimates is currently underway. ***	**
LFS Reweighted Back Series 2006-2009 (please enable macros)	898 KB
LFS Quarterly Supplement – October - December 2010	341 KB
Women in Northern Ireland – September 2010	200 KB
Labour Force Survey (LFS) Local Area Database 2009	659KB
LFS Reweighted Back Series 1992-2006 (please enable macros)	638 KB
LFS Historical Supplement 2008	418 KB
LFS Historical Data 1995-2008 (please enable macros)	312 KB
LFS Archive data	**

Claimant Count

3

Unadjusted Claimant Count

The claimant count in NI at April 2011 was 59,162 (6.7% of the workforce), a decrease of 1.3% (799) over the previous month. There was an increase of 5.9% (3,312) over the year and the rate increased by 0.4 percentage points. Five years ago the total was 28,204 (3.2%). (The seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 200 from the previous month.)

Youth Claimants

17,928 under 25's (30.3% of all claimants) were claiming benefits in April 2011, a decrease of 2.8% (510 claimants) over the month, but an increase of 3.7% (637) over the year. Youth claimants represent 2.0% of the workforce.

Long-term Claimants

At April 2011, 14,374 (24.3% of all claimants) were claiming benefit for a year or more, a decrease of 2.1% (303 claimants) over the month, but an increase of 11.5% (1,479) over the year. Long-term claimants represent 1.6% of the workforce.

Flows out from Job Seekers Allowance

The success rate of job seekers leaving the count to obtain employment in March 2011 increased by 0.6 percentage points since the same time last year. Of the 8,368 flows from the count in March 2011, 2,947 (35.2%) found employment compared to 2,829 (34.6%) of the 8,170 claimants who left the count in March 2010. This compares to 31.0% three months ago and 35.6% five years ago.

In the period from March 2010 to March 2011 the highest proportion (40.0%) of persons leaving JSA to find employment was in October 2010, while in July 2010 the proportion finding employment was at its lowest (29.4%). The highest proportion (18.2%) of persons leaving JSA to enter education or training occurred in September 2010. Those who left JSA to claim other benefits varied between 3.2% and 5.0% in the period. Those who left JSA because they failed to sign peaked at 34.9% in April 2010.

Flows in to Job Seekers Allowance

Of the 8,170 claimants who left the count in March 2010, 32.7% returned to the count within 3 months, 10.0% returned after 3-6 months and a further 11.2% returned after 6-12 months giving a total of 54.0% of those who left the count in March 2010 returned to claiming JSA within one year. This was higher than the 50.0% of leavers in March 2009 (1 year previously) and higher than 50.3% of leavers in March 2005 (5 years previously) returning within one year.

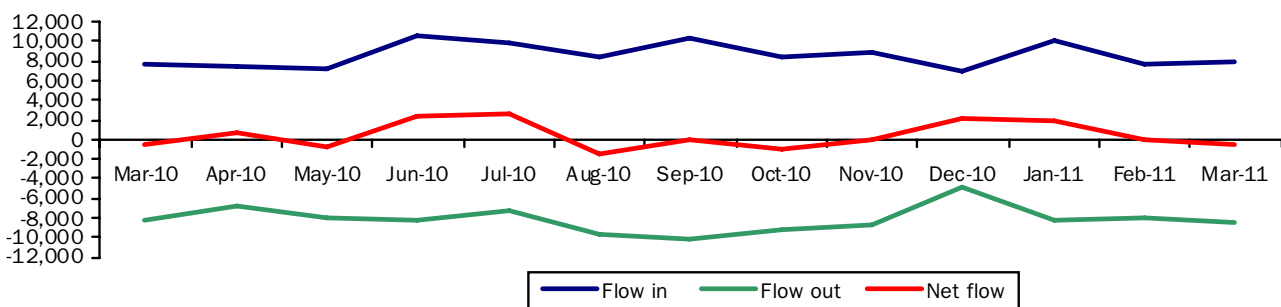
Net Flow

There was a net flow of persons out from Job Seekers for 8 months and a net flow onto Job Seekers for 5 months between March 2010 and March 2011. Net flows off Jobseekers peaked in August 2010 with a net off-flow of 1,371 persons, while net flows onto Jobseekers peaked in July 2010 with a net on-flow of 2,570.

Further information on flows data is available in section 9.

Flows in and out from JSA

Figure 9



Claimant Count by District Council Area – April 2011
Number, Rate and % change over month and year (including jobs density indicator at 2009*)
Table 5

District	Number of Claimants			% Of Working Age			Change over month		Change over Year		Jobs Density
	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Number	%	Number	%	Indicator*
Antrim	953	361	1,314	5.4	2.1	3.8	-3	-0.2	-62	-4.5	0.89
Ards	1,474	518	1,992	5.9	2.0	4.0	-11	-0.5	238	13.6	0.41
Armagh	1,384	524	1,908	7.5	2.8	5.2	-34	-1.8	183	10.6	0.66
Ballymena	1,117	444	1,561	5.6	2.2	3.9	-57	-3.5	2	0.1	0.89
Ballymoney	759	248	1,007	7.7	2.6	5.2	-26	-2.5	69	7.4	0.46
Banbridge	868	269	1,137	5.6	1.8	3.7	-45	-3.8	97	9.3	0.46
Belfast	9,070	3,138	12,208	10.6	3.5	6.9	-87	-0.7	1,047	9.4	1.29
Carrickfergus	761	312	1,073	5.9	2.4	4.1	-21	-1.9	-27	-2.5	0.38
Castlereagh	973	377	1,350	4.7	1.7	3.2	-2	-0.1	130	10.7	0.73
Coleraine	1,299	493	1,792	7.4	2.7	5.0	-21	-1.2	8	0.4	0.71
Cookstown	725	316	1,041	6.1	2.7	4.4	-10	-1.0	-28	-2.6	0.62
Craigavon	2,195	809	3,004	7.3	2.7	5.0	-57	-1.9	124	4.3	0.72
Derry	3,867	1,543	5,410	11.0	4.2	7.6	-84	-1.5	430	8.6	0.69
Down	1,671	532	2,203	7.3	2.4	4.9	-26	-1.2	126	6.1	0.51
Dungannon	1,249	528	1,777	6.6	3.0	4.8	-38	-2.1	93	5.5	0.69
Fermanagh	1,333	476	1,809	6.5	2.4	4.5	-107	-5.6	117	6.9	0.68
Larne	575	202	777	5.7	2.0	3.8	-60	-7.2	-86	-10.0	0.51
Limavady	1,130	398	1,528	10.0	3.7	6.9	-28	-1.8	9	0.6	0.45
Lisburn	2,273	877	3,150	6.2	2.3	4.2	-37	-1.2	143	4.8	0.64
Magherafelt	827	309	1,136	5.6	2.2	4.0	14	1.2	-21	-1.8	0.60
Moyle	471	168	639	8.7	3.2	6.0	-20	-3.0	14	2.2	0.44
Newry & Mourne	3,044	964	4,008	9.6	3.0	6.3	64	1.6	384	10.6	0.62
Newtownabbey	1,566	610	2,176	6.0	2.2	4.1	10	0.5	98	4.7	0.65
North Down	1,253	520	1,773	5.0	2.0	3.5	-41	-2.3	83	4.9	0.52
Omagh	1,163	453	1,616	6.8	2.7	4.7	-37	-2.2	6	0.4	0.67
Strabane	1,265	508	1,773	9.9	4.0	7.0	-35	-1.9	135	8.2	0.48
NI TOTAL	43,265	15,897	59,162	7.5	2.7	5.1	-799	-1.3	3,312	5.9	0.73

* Data relates to 2009. Jobs Density = total number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in the area

Claimant spells ended by destination

Figure 10



Occupation Data

At April 2011, 31.4% (18,465) of all claimants defined their usual (or previous) occupation as an Elementary Occupation. Elementary Occupations includes elementary agricultural, construction, process plant, goods storage, administrative, personal services, cleaning, security and sales occupations. A further 16.8% (9,890) gave their usual occupation as working in the Skilled Trades. These two groups account for approximately one half of all claimants in April 2011. The smallest occupation group, with 1.9% (1,140) of all claimants, was Managers and Senior Officials.

Overall the NI claimant count (computerised claims only) decreased by 1.3% over the month to April 2011. Seven of the nine occupational groups showed a decrease in levels with the largest decreases occurring in Skilled Trade Occupations, which decreased by 380 (3.7%), Elementary Occupations which decreased by 135 (0.7%) and Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, which decreased by 115 (1.4%). The group showing the largest increase in levels was Sales and Customer Service Occupations, which increased by 45 (0.5%).

Claimant Count (unadjusted) by Usual Occupation – April 2011 (Computerised claims only)

Table 6

Occupational Groups (Usual Occupation)	April 2011		Change over month	
	Number of Claimants	% of Claimants	Number of claimants	% change
Managers and Senior Officials	1,140	1.9	-50	-4.2
Professional Occupations	1,320	2.2	-85	-6.0
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	2,490	4.2	-25	-1.0
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	4,805	8.2	-50	-1.0
Skilled Trade Occupations	9,890	16.8	-380	-3.7
Personal Service Occupations	3,410	5.8	20	0.6
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8,895	15.1	45	0.5
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	8,275	14.1	-115	-1.4
Elementary Occupations	18,465	31.4	-135	-0.7
Not Known	60	0.1	5	9.1
NI Total	58,750	100.0	-765	-1.3

**Claimant Count -Sample of data available on website:
Table 7**

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

Redundancies

4

There were 1,770 confirmed redundancies over the year to 30th April 2011, a decrease of 49% compared to the same period in the previous year (3,449). Of these, 124 confirmed redundancies took place during the calendar month of April 2011 and 245 in the previous month of March 2011. This compares to 308 in April 2010 (one year ago).

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

The largest number of redundancies occurred in Belfast (614), Castlereagh (165) and Derry (151) District Council areas.

Confirmed redundancies by District Council in year to 30 April 2011

Table 8

District Council Area	Total
Antrim	41
Ards	36
Armagh	4
Ballymena	44
Ballymoney	47
Banbridge	5
Belfast	614
Carrickfergus	38
Castlereagh	165
Coleraine	60
Cookstown	33
Craigavon	66
Derry	151
Down	0
Dungannon	11
Fermanagh	10
Larne	37
Limavady	0
Lisburn	79
Magherafelt	57
Moyle	0
Newry & Mourne	77
Newtownabbey	60
North Down	84
Omagh	0
Strabane	51
N. Ireland	1,770

Of these 1,770 confirmed redundancies, 498 or 28% were in the Manufacturing sector, with 154 redundancies (9% of all redundancies) occurring in the Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment. A further 300 redundancies (17% of all redundancies) occurred in the Construction sector.

Altogether there are 1,044 outstanding redundancies that have been notified to the Department, but have yet to take place. This compares with 1,069 this time one year ago - a decrease of 2%.

Redundancies – Sample of Data Available on Website

Table 9

Regional Redundancy data	File size
District Council (Jan 2000 - date)	33.0KB
Parliamentary Constituency (Jan 2000 - date)	29.0KB
Travel-to-Work Area (Jan 2000 - date)	29.0KB

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

Redundancy Legal Requirements

Under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Amended 8 October 2006) employers are only legally required to notify the Department of impending redundancies of 20 or more employees. Employers who propose less than 20 redundancies are not included in the statistics.

Quarterly Employment Survey

5

Seasonally Adjusted

The December 2010 seasonally adjusted employee jobs figure stands at 692,910.

This represents a seasonally adjusted decrease of 0.3% (or 1,880 jobs) from the revised September 2010 estimate of 694,790.

Over the quarter seasonally adjusted employee jobs decreased in the Service Sector by 0.2% (1,270 jobs), and also in the Construction Sector by 4.5% (1,480 jobs). Other Industries also decreased over the quarter by 0.4% (70 jobs). Seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased in the Manufacturing sector by 1.3% (950 jobs).

Unadjusted

The December 2010 seasonally unadjusted figure stands at 697,520.

This represents an increase of 0.8% (5,490 jobs) since September 2010 and a decrease of 1.2% (8,350 jobs) in the past year.

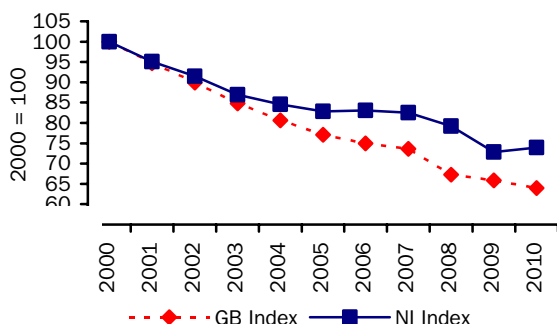
Over the year, December 2009 to December 2010, the unadjusted employee jobs figure for Construction decreased by 10.1% (3,540 jobs), while employee jobs in the Service Sector decreased by 0.9% (5,440 jobs). Manufacturing employee jobs increased by 1.5% (1,100 jobs) over the year.

Manufacturing Employee Jobs

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

Manufacturing jobs for NI & GB indexed (December of each year)

Figure 11



NI manufacturing jobs recorded a marked decline between 2000 and 2005, with the figure for 2005 falling to 83% of the 2000 figure. Manufacturing employee jobs in NI were fairly stable between 2005 and 2007, with the 2007 figure remaining at 83% of the 2000 level. However, manufacturing jobs continued their decline between 2007 and 2009, falling to 73% of the 2000 level. There has been a turnaround in the manufacturing employee jobs in 2010 with the figure rising to 74% of the 2000 level.

Manufacturing jobs in GB have been in sharp decline from 2000 and the 2010 estimate stands at only 64% of the 2000 level.

Changes in the Structure of Manufacturing Jobs (NI)

Over the period 2000-2010, Manufacturing jobs in NI decreased by 26,390, with 18 of the 23 manufacturing divisions recording a decrease. The largest decrease occurred in the Manufacture of wearing apparel, which recorded 7,160 fewer jobs. There were 6,200 fewer jobs in the Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, 5,320 fewer in the Manufacture of textiles, 1,760 fewer in the Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers and 1,550 fewer in the Manufacture of other transport equipment.

However, these decreases were partially offset by increases in the Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (630), in the Manufacture of food products (400) and in the Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (360).

The large decline in the Manufacture of Textiles and Wearing Apparel sectors has impacted on the structure of Northern Ireland Manufacturing jobs. In 2000 15.0% of Manufacturing jobs were located in the Textiles, Wearing Apparel and Leather Related Products sectors; by 2010 this had fallen to 3.2%.

Quarterly Employment Survey

Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs* December 2010

Table 10

				% change in total	
	Males	Females	All persons	since last quarter	since last year
Manufacturing	58,390	16,310	74,700	1.3	1.4
Construction ¹	27,840	3,820	31,660	-4.5	-10.0
Services	227,390	340,100	567,490	-0.2	-0.9
Other ²	16,400	2,660	19,060	-0.4	-2.4
Total	330,020	362,890	692,910	-0.3	-1.2

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

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

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

Northern Ireland Employee Jobs* - Seasonally Adjusted Series

Table 11

		Manufacturing	Construction ¹	Services	Other Industries ²	All Industries	Public ³	Private ³
2004	March	87,330	37,210	534,220	22,610	681,370	215,523	465,850
	June	86,310	37,220	535,600	22,290	681,430	213,826	467,530
	September	85,890	37,250	541,280	22,480	686,900	217,510	469,540
	December	85,510	37,420	544,690	22,770	690,390	217,997	472,300
2005	March	85,150	37,880	551,310	22,430	696,760	218,722	478,150
	June	84,300	38,770	551,730	21,130	695,930	219,797	476,010
	September	84,160	39,310	553,660	21,310	698,430	220,775	477,650
	December	83,800	41,010	557,490	21,390	703,690	221,032	482,650
2006	March	83,910	41,920	559,370	21,390	706,590	220,694	486,120
	June	83,750	42,310	560,090	20,830	706,970	220,698	486,130
	September	83,860	42,690	562,380	20,910	709,840	220,985	488,660
	December	84,030	43,010	564,860	20,990	712,890	220,390	492,560
2007	March	83,670	43,590	567,060	21,050	715,380	220,314	495,450
	June	84,220	44,710	571,260	20,890	721,080	220,736	500,190
	September	83,970	45,320	574,700	21,070	725,060	219,433	505,190
	December	83,490	46,690	579,240	20,170	729,600	219,640	510,090
2008	March	83,520	46,000	582,710	20,150	732,370	219,915	513,020
	June	83,500	44,850	584,800	20,370	733,520	218,447	514,910
	September	82,300	43,480	580,800	20,440	727,030	216,254	510,100
	December	80,140	41,570	579,910	20,040	721,650	223,876	498,120
2009	March	77,970	39,540	577,410	19,960	714,880	224,481	490,910
	June	75,450	38,210	577,460	19,910	711,020	225,068	485,700
	September	74,110	36,750	577,070	19,800	707,730	225,606	481,440
	December	73,640	35,190	572,760	19,520	701,110	226,439	475,190
2010	March	73,360	34,770	572,440	19,530	700,090	225,512	475,000
	June	73,640	34,020	569,720	19,200	696,580	224,826	471,480
	September	73,750	33,140	568,760	19,130	694,790	223,662	470,520
	December	74,700	31,660	567,490	19,060	692,910	222,897	470,480

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

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

³ Estimates of Public and Private sector jobs may not sum to the total Jobs, as each series is seasonally adjusted separately.

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

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

The Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey Table 12

Table Name	Description	File Size
5.1	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted December 2010	15.5 KB
5.2	NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1998 – 2010	15.5 KB
5.3	NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1998 – 2010	15.5 KB
5.4	NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – December 2010	15.5 KB
5.5	NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – December 2010	13.5 KB
5.6	NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) December 2009, September 2010 and December 2010	15.5 KB
5.7	Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)	15.0 KB
5.8	Workforce in Employment 1983 – 2010	15.0 KB
5.9	NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – December 2010	31.5 KB

Other Quarterly Employment Survey Publications available on website Table 13

Publication title	File Size
Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) Supplement - December 2010	493 KB

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

6

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

The median gross weekly earnings for all (i.e. both full- and part-time) employees in NI in 2010 was £356.6, some 12% lower than the UK (£404.3). This represented a growth in NI median earnings for all employees of 0.6% over the year to April 2010, compared to growth in the UK of 1.8%.

NI full-time employees' median gross weekly earnings at April 2010 were £440.8, which was approximately 88% of the figure in the UK (£498.8). NI full-time earnings increased by 0.8% over the period, compared to an increase of 2.1% in the UK. The median gross weekly part-time earnings in NI at April 2010 was £149.5, down 6.0% over the year compared with an increase of 0.7% in the UK (to £153.7).

Median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in the NI private sector increased at a slower rate (0.6% to £383.4) than in the UK, where growth was 2.0% over the year (to £473.1). This represented a widening of the NI/UK private sector pay gap, from 82.1% of the UK figure at April 2009 to 81.0% at April 2010.

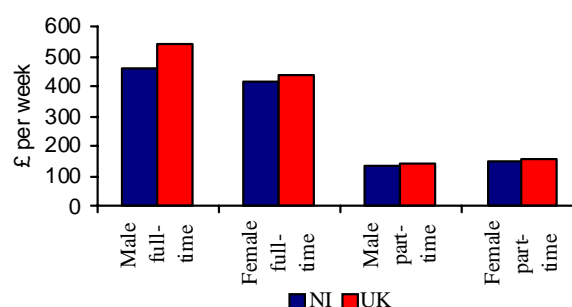
There has been a narrowing of the gender pay gap for all employees in NI over the period 2009-2010. Female median hourly earnings excluding overtime were 89.9% of male earnings at April 2010, compared to 87.6% a year earlier. The NI gender pay gap remains less marked than in the UK, where the equivalent female to male earnings ratio was 80.2% at April 2010. It should also be noted that gender pay differences continue to exist for various occupational and industry groupings in NI, as evidenced by weekly and annual earnings trends.

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

the extent of overtime, and differences in the composition of the workforce. As ASHE is a sample survey, results are also subject to an associated level of sampling variability. Further information is available in section 12 of the ASHE publication: [Background notes for ASHE](#)

Median gross weekly earnings by full-/part-time and gender, April 2010

Figure 12



Median and mean gross weekly earnings 2006-10

Table 14

£ per week	Median			Mean		
	Full-time	Part-time	All	Full-time	Part-time	All
April 2010						
Men	460.0	132.1	414.2	539.3	191.2	489.3
Women	412.2	152.6	298.0	471.8	180.3	348.6
All	440.8	149.5	356.6	511.6	183.0	417.9
April 2009						
Men	460.0	150.0	416.6	543.6	190.1	498.5
Women	402.6	161.4	297.2	460.6	187.7	350.4
All	437.1	159.1	354.6	509.1	188.3	422.9
% Change 09 - 10						
Men	0.0	-11.9	-0.6	-0.8	0.6	-1.8
Women	2.4	-5.5	0.3	2.4	-3.9	-0.5
All	0.8	-6.0	0.6	0.5	-2.8	-1.2
April 2008						
Men	439.8	139.9	404.3	520.7	214.3	479.2
Women	385.2	152.6	287.0	438.4	188.8	335.0
All	417.7	150.0	345.0	487.0	195.0	406.4
April 2007						
Men	421.7	126.9	394.2	501.4	178.6	463.7
Women	367.7	145.3	272.6	427.9	173.8	321.1
All	400.3	140.8	329.9	471.7	174.8	391.3
April 2006						
Men	421.6	122.3	390.7	500.9	169.7	456.9
Women	374.2	132.5	260.2	423.3	162.7	307.5
All	402.5	130.8	322.7	469.4	164.2	379.9

Average full-time earnings by occupation, April 2010

Table 15

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Managers and Senior Officials	72	598.7	674.5	38.0	38.8
Professional Occupations	86	686.6	735.1	37.0	36.7
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	82	564.6	584.7	37.6	39.7
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	65	348.5	373.8	37.5	38.4
Skilled Trades Occupations	58	409.3	434.3	40.0	41.5
Personal Service Occupations	30	316.0	331.2	37.5	39.2
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	19	260.9	288.5	38.3	39.2
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	54	370.0	396.3	40.2	43.5
Elementary Occupations	41	299.9	325.6	40.0	41.0

Average full-time earnings by industry, April 2010 (based on the 2007 UK Standard Industrial Classification)

Table 16

	Count (thousands)	Median gross weekly pay (£)	Mean gross weekly pay (£)	Median total weekly hours	Mean total weekly hours
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	x	307.0	350.5	41.6	43.7
Mining and quarrying	x	x	508.5	39.6	43.6
Manufacturing	77	409.8	466.5	40.0	41.6
Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	5	571.8	683.6	37.0	37.4
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	5	512.1	520.4	41.9	44.5
Construction	30	436.4	513.8	40.0	42.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	67	350.6	421.7	39.2	39.8
Transportation and storage	18	409.8	474.8	40.0	43.4
Accommodation and food services activities	16	260.0	310.9	38.2	39.9
Information and communication	15	502.1	549.9	37.6	38.2
Financial and insurance activities	11	537.2	612.7	35.0	35.8
Real estate activities	6	434.3	469.5	37.1	38.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	17	449.4	523.9	37.5	37.9
Administrative and support service activities	16	321.5	380.5	40.0	41.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	63	536.8	585.8	42.0	42.0
Education	60	674.1	637.3	33.5	34.6
Human health and social work activities	80	475.6	539.2	37.5	38.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	9	365.6	417.1	37.5	38.7
Other service activities	6	x	484.6	37.6	38.9
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use	x	339.9	359.8	37.4	42.0

x Coefficient of Variation too large to provide a reliable estimate

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

Sample of ASHE data available on website

Table 17

Table name	Description	File size
6.1	ASHE 2002 Headline Data for Key Variables	78 KB
6.2	ASHE 2003 Headline Data for Key Variables	163 KB
6.3	ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables excluding supplementary information	51 KB
6.4	ASHE 2004 Headline Data for Key Variables	52 KB
6.5	ASHE 2005 Headline Data for Key Variables	52 KB
6.6	ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables excluding methodological changes	168 KB
6.7	ASHE 2006 Headline Data for Key Variables	176 KB
6.8	ASHE 2007 Headline Data for Key Variables	165 KB
6.9	ASHE 2008 Headline Data for Key Variables	165 KB
6.10	ASHE 2009 Headline Data for Key Variables - revised	52 KB
6.11	ASHE 2010 Headline Data for Key Variables	52 KB

Vacancy Statistics and Employment & Training

7

Vacancy Statistics and Employment & Training Measures
Participation in the Department for Employment and Learning Schemes to March 2011
Table 18

	Steps to Work (2)	New Deal (2, 3)	Future Managers	Employment Support	Training for Success (4, 5)	Jobskills (4, 5)
<u>2009</u>						
Mar	5,300	1,100	150	750	12,100	3,250
<u>2010</u>						
Mar	8,700	900	250	700	15,600	1,050
Apr	9,000	950	200	700	15,550	800
May	9,100	1,200	250	700	15,400	700
June	9,300	1,200	200	700	15,250	600
July	9,550	1,200	250	700	15,200	550
Aug	10,300	1,300	200	700	14,350	300
Sept	11,450	1,300	200	700	17,800	250
Oct	11,700	1,300	200	700	18,200	200
Nov	12,250	1,300	250	700	18,400	150
Dec	12,500	1,300	200	700	18,400	150
<u>2011</u>						
Jan	13,200	1,250	200	700	18,100	150
Feb	14,100	1,400	200	700	17,950	100
Mar	-	1,450	200	700	18,400	100

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

(1) Figures are rounded to the nearest fifty.

(2) On 29th September 2008, Steps to Work was widely introduced in NI and subsumed the main New Deal programmes. However, New Deal continues to operate in the Foyle and Lisnagelvin office areas. Steps to Work figures relate to the last Friday of each month and are revised on a monthly basis. Steps to Work figures are only available until February 2011. Figures for March 2011 will be published in June 2011.

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

(4) Training for Success (TfS), was introduced in September 2007, and will ultimately replace Jobskills. In September 2008, TfS was re-structured into two separate provisions, TfS and ApprenticeshipsNI. The reported TfS figures include both provisions. In response to the economic downturn an intervention measure, Programme-Led Apprenticeships, was introduced on 7th September 2009, and the figures for this programme are now included under the TfS heading.

(5) March 2011 Jobskills and TfS figures are as at the 13th March 2011.

Vacancies data

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

Standardised Vacancies notified (Inflow)

There were 3,796 vacancies notified in the period ending 4th March 2011. This was 23% lower than the number of vacancies notified in March 2010 (4,900) and a decrease of 32% on the number of vacancies notified in March 2009 (5,566).

Standardised Vacancies filled and cancelled (Outflows)

The number of placed and cancelled vacancies in the period ending 4th March 2011 was 2,854. This was a decrease of 31% from March 2010 (4,161) and a decrease of 45% from the same period two years previously (5,187).

Unfilled Vacancies

A total of 5,126 vacancies remained unfilled on 4th March 2011, a decrease of 20% on the unfilled total in March 2010 (6,414) and a decrease of 25% on the amount unfilled in March 2009 (6,848). Of the 5,126 unfilled vacancies, 1,807 were available to jobseekers.

Vacancies Notified, Outflow and Vacancies Unfilled: March 2009 to March 2011⁽¹⁾

Table 19

Report Period Ending		Vacancies notified (Inflows) (2)			Vacancies Filled and Cancelled (Outflows) (3)			Unfilled Vacancies (4)		
		Level Unadjusted (5)	Level (standardised) (6)	Change on same month in previous year (7)	Level unadjusted (5)	Level (standardised) (6)	Change on same month in previous year (7)	Level Unadjusted	Change on same month in previous year	Of which Live
2009	06-Mar	5,138	5,566	-34%	4,788	5,187	-32%	6,848	-48%	-
2010	05-Mar	4,523	4,900	-12%	3,841	4,161	-20%	6,414	-6%	-
	02-Apr	4,222	4,574	6%	4,412	4,780	2%	6,224	-4%	-
	07-May	5,278	4,574	8%	5,417	4,695	4%	6,085	-2%	2,074
	04-Jun	4,762	5,159	19%	4,420	4,788	9%	6,427	5%	2,386
	02-Jul	3,607	3,908	1%	4,555	4,935	11%	5,479	-3%	1,660
	06-Aug	4,511	3,910	-4%	4,840	4,195	5%	5,150	-10%	1,925
	03-Sep	4,764	5,161	-3%	3,104	3,363	-15%	6,810	-3%	2,385
	08-Oct	5,489	4,757	-29%	5,519	4,783	-21%	6,780	-12%	2,079
	05-Nov	4,221	4,573	-11%	4,619	5,004	-13%	6,382	-9%	1,988
	03-Dec	3,257	3,528	-21%	4,557	4,937	-5%	5,082	-20%	1,506
2011	07-Jan	2,320	2,011	-30%	4,123	3,573	-22%	3,279	-24%	1,190
	04-Feb	3,502	3,794	-17%	2,525	2,735	-10%	4,256	-26%	1,712
	04-Mar	3,504	3,796	-23%	2,634	2,854	-31%	5,126	-20%	1,807

Figures in the above table are not National Statistics.

(1) From August 2010 publication onwards, vacancy statistics are subject to revision each month to take account of amendments to the live system.

(2) Vacancies notified (inflow) are all vacancy positions notified and added to JobCentres / JBOs of DEL.

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

(4) Vacancies unfilled are those vacancies notified to JobCentres / JBOs of DEL remaining unfilled on the count date (the first Friday after the first Thursday of every month). Unfilled vacancies can be split into live and pended. Live vacancies are those for which job seekers can apply. Vacancies are pended while DEL staff await feedback from employers. Live vacancies are only available from May 2010.

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

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

(7) Percentage change calculated using non-rounded standardised figures.

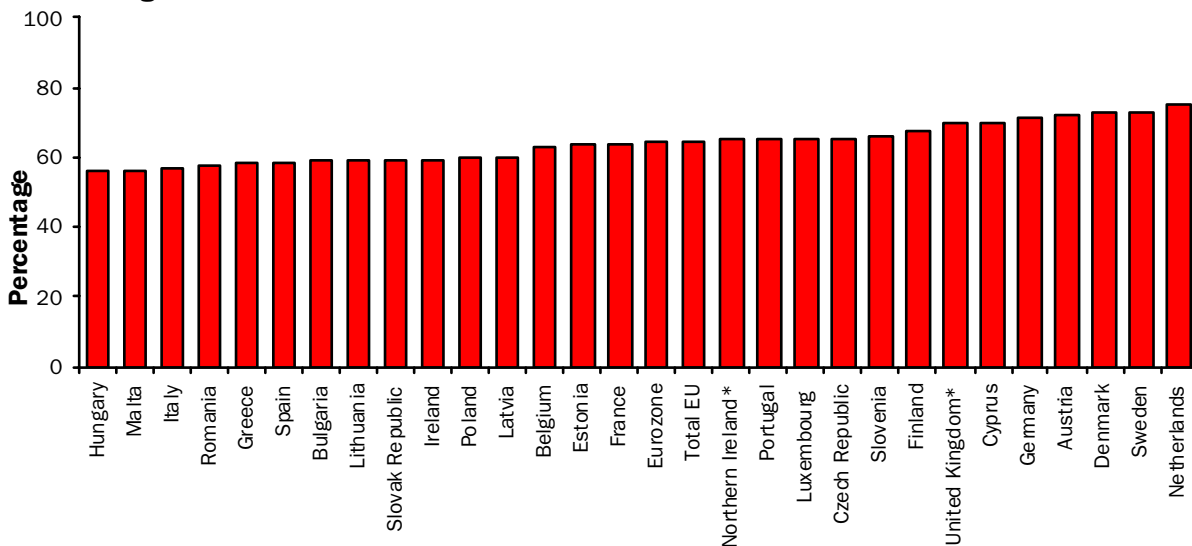
For further details of Vacancy Statistics and Employment and Training Measures visit the DEL website at the following link: <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statistics-and-research/labour-market.htm> or alternatively contact the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) by telephoning (028) 9025 7714.

International - Regional Analysis

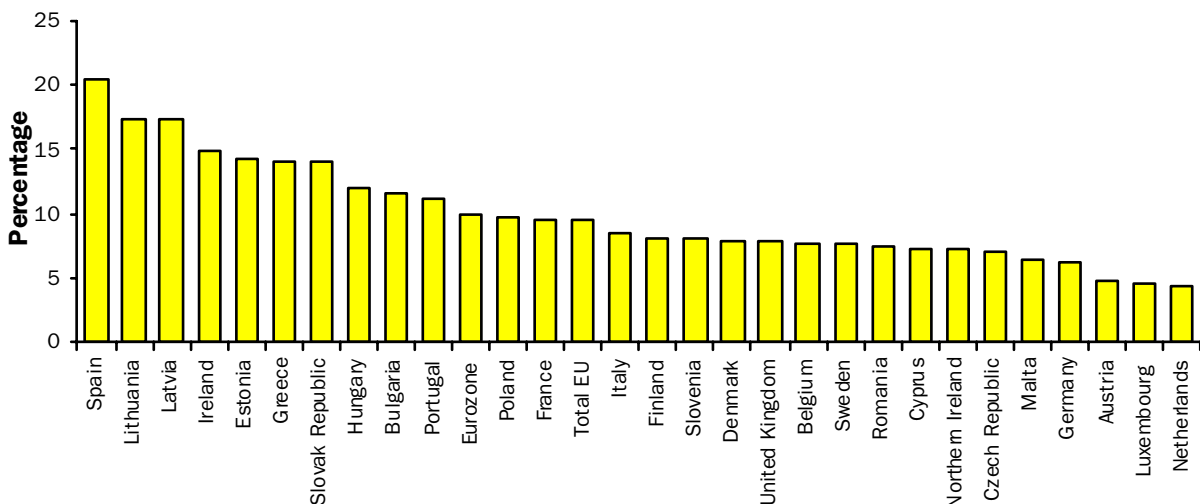


International Comparisons of ILO Employment and Unemployment

ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted
Figure 13



Unemployment Rates (%) - Seasonally Adjusted
Figure 14



Source: Eurostat

* A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 3 2010 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates published elsewhere in this publication, which take account of both the school-leaving and state pension age. The employment rate for the UK as published by EUROSTAT differs from the working age rate (16-64) published by ONS for the same reason. Figures behind the charts and further information can be found at; [International Comparisons of Employment](#)

Seasonally Adjusted Regional Summary, January - March 2011
Table 20

	Labour Force Survey (LFS) ¹						Employee Jobs ³	Claimant count rate (%) ⁴	Claimant count level Percentage Change over the year	Claimant count level Percentage Change over the month	Jobs Density Indicator ⁵
	Employment		Unemployment		Economically Inactive						
	Rate	Annual Change ²	Rate	Annual Change ²	Rate	Annual Change ²					
North East	65.5	-1.2	10.4	0.8	26.8	0.6	1,028	6.7	1.7	2.4	0.69
North West	68.9	0.0	7.8	-0.9	25.2	0.7	2,929	5.2	-2.6	1.1	0.76
Yorkshire & the Humber	68.8	0.0	9.2	-0.6	24.1	0.5	2,179	5.5	-4.1	0.3	0.75
East Midlands	71.8	0.9	7.7	0.3	22.1	-1.3	1,879	4.5	-5.3	1.3	0.75
West Midlands	67.9	-0.9	9.5	0.3	24.7	0.7	2,256	5.8	-5.6	1.0	0.77
East	74.5	1.2	6.2	-0.4	20.4	-1.0	2,388	3.6	-6.7	0.0	0.77
London	68.8	1.0	9.1	0.0	24.3	-1.1	4,138	4.5	1.7	2.4	0.90
South East	75.1	0.1	5.7	-0.6	20.2	0.3	3,672	2.9	-10.5	-0.2	0.82
South West	73.4	0.3	6.6	0.4	21.3	-0.7	2,161	3.0	-5.2	-0.2	0.82
England	70.9	0.3	7.8	-0.2	23.0	-0.2	23,630	4.4	-3.8	1.0	0.79
Wales	68.5	1.9	7.7	-1.6	25.6	-0.7	1,135	5.0	-5.3	0.1	0.71
Scotland	71.2	1.2	7.7	-0.5	22.7	-0.9	2,280	5.1	1.8	0.1	0.80
Great Britain	70.8	0.4	7.8	-0.3	23.1	-0.3	26,044	4.5	-3.4	0.9	0.79
N Ireland	67.0	1.1	7.2	0.3	27.8	-1.4	698	6.7	6.5	0.3	0.76
United Kingdom	70.7	0.4	7.7	-0.3	23.2	-0.3	26,742	4.6	-3.0	0.9	0.79

¹ Employment and economic inactivity rates are based on working age population (16-64); Unemployment rates are based on 16+ population.

² Data refer to percentage point change of respective rate.

³ As at December 2010 (thousands).

⁴ As at April 2011: percentage of the workforce.

⁵ Not seasonally adjusted – data relates to 2008. Jobs Density – total number of jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in that area.

Further Information

9

DEFINITIONS

Unemployment

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

Unemployment rate - the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed. Please note that it is possible for the number of unemployed to increase and the unemployment rate to fall during the same period, as the latter measure is a ratio e.g. if the number of economically active has increased at a faster rate than the number unemployed the unemployment rate will fall.

Employment

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

The ILO measures are particularly useful for examining short term and long term trends over time and key LFS time series data are available both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted.

Sampling variability

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

If the 'annual change' for an estimate has increased or decreased by more than the 'sampling variability of the change', this change would be statistically significant. The annual changes for the main LFS categories of employment,

unemployment and economic inactivity were tested for statistical significance. The results for January - March 2011 showed that none of the annual changes in these estimates were statistically significant at the 95% level.

Please see attached link for further LFS notes and definitions:

[Labour Force Survey Notes and Definitions](#)

LFS revisions

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](#)

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 follows 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:

[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.

Claimant Count definition

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

Seasonally Adjusted claimant count figures are provisional when published and subject to revision, mainly the following month and are only available at Northern Ireland level. Seasonally Adjusted totals are subject to an annual update (usually April) to take account of latest assessment trends.

The 'Flows' data that is published in section three relates to the date the claimant actually joined or left the claimant count. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) use a different methodology when collating flows. They count flows based on the month in which the flow was added to the system regardless of the actual period to which the flow related. Since the majority of flows are recorded on the system in the month they actually happen, there is not much difference between these two methodologies.

Notes on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Please note, changes in NI earnings over the year and relative to the UK can be influenced by a range of factors including the timing of pay settlements, the extent of overtime, and differences in the composition of the workforce. As ASHE is a sample survey, results are also subject to an associated level of sampling variability. Further

information is available at:

[ASHE statistical bulletin](#)

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

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) Revisions

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided to the Department by employers. Estimates can be revised back to the last Census of Employment reference period (September 2009). The September 2010 estimate first published in December 2010 has subsequently been revised down by (0.4%). For further details of QES revisions please see link below.

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

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](#)

For further information:

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

www.statistics.detini.gov.uk

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