



STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE

16 February 2011

Coverage

Northern Ireland, unless otherwise stated

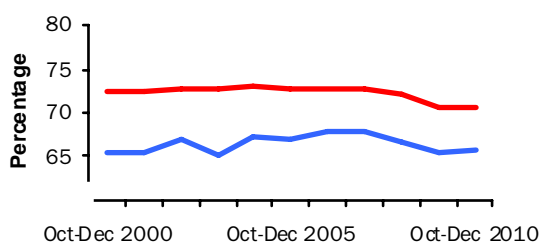
Theme

Labour Market

Seasonally Adjusted Working Age

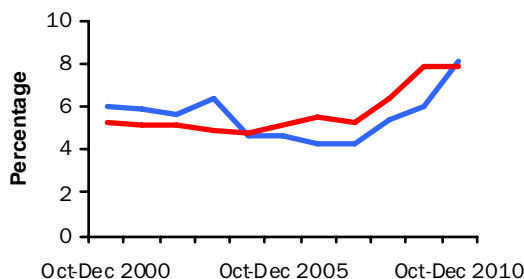
Employment Rate

— NI — UK



**Seasonally Adjusted
Unemployment Rate**

— NI — UK



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Labour Market Statistics – February 2011

Seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for Northern Ireland for the period October - December 2010 showed an increase over the quarter in the number of unemployed persons, while there was a fall in the number of employed and economically inactive persons. The January Claimant Count recorded an increase of 600 claimants from the previous month and now stands at 59,100.

In the latest reference period, the employment rate for those aged 16-64 was estimated at 65.7%, down 0.4 percentage points over the quarter, but up 0.2 percentage points over the year.

The unemployment rate for the period October - December 2010 was estimated at 8.0%, up 1.1 percentage points over the quarter and up 2.0 percentage points over the year. The last time the NI rate was at 8.0% was in June-August 1998. NI recorded the largest annual increase in its unemployment rate among the twelve UK regions and the latest NI rate is now above the UK average (7.9%). However, the NI rate remains below the European Union (9.6%) and Republic of Ireland (13.9%) rates.

The economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 in NI stands at 28.4%, down 0.4 percentage points over the quarter and down 1.8 percentage points over the year. NI had the largest annual fall in its economic inactivity rate among the UK regions. However, it remains above the UK average rate (23.4%) and is the highest of the twelve UK regions.

The LFS is a sample survey with an associated degree of sampling error (see table 1 overleaf for details).

The more recent seasonally adjusted claimant count stood at 59,100 (6.6%) at January 2011, up 600 from the previous month's figure. Over the year the NI claimant count increased by 6.5%, whereas the UK decreased by 9.7%. NI had the largest percentage increase in claimants among the UK regions over the year. It also has the joint highest Claimant Count rate of the twelve UK regions.

The Department was notified of 128 proposed redundancies in the period mid January to mid February and there were 80 confirmed redundancies in January 2011.

NI seasonally adjusted data

| | Reference period | Levels | Rates (%) | Levels | Rates (pps) |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | | | Change on quarter | |
| Employment ¹ | Oct-Dec 2010 | 773,000 | 65.7 | -5,000 | -0.4 |
| Unemployment ² | Oct-Dec 2010 | 68,000 | 8.0 | 9,000 | 1.1 |
| Economically Active ¹ | Oct-Dec 2010 | 841,000 | 71.6 | 5,000 | 0.4 |
| Economically Inactive ¹ | Oct-Dec 2010 | 558,000 | 28.4 | -2,000 | -0.4 |
| Employee Jobs ³ | September 2010 | 697,630 | | -940 | |
| | | | | Change on month | |
| Claimant Count ⁴ | January 2011 | 59,100 | 6.6 | +600 | 0.1 |
| Redundancies ⁵ | January 2011 | 80 | | - | - |

For footnotes, see 'Definitions' section (back page)

Labour Market

Statistical Press Release

Seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for Northern Ireland for the period October - December 2010 showed an increase over the quarter in the number of unemployed persons, while there was a fall in the number of employed and economically inactive persons. The seasonally adjusted claimant count in January 2011 increased by 600 over the month to 59,100. The Department was notified of 128 proposed redundancies in the latest reference period and 80 confirmed redundancies in January 2011.

Employment

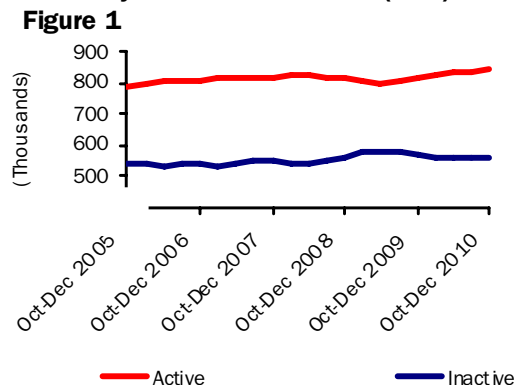
The number of persons in employment in the period October - December 2010 was estimated at 773,000. This estimate was down 5,000 over the quarter, but was up 6,000 compared to the previous year. The employment rate for those aged 16-64 was estimated at 65.7%, down 0.4 percentage points over the quarter, but up 0.2 percentage points over the year. NI's employment rate remained well below the UK average (70.5 %) and was the second lowest rate among the twelve UK regions.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the period October - December 2010 was estimated at 8.0%, up 1.1 percentage points over the quarter and up 2.0 percentage points over the year. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 68,000, up 9,000 over the quarter and 18,000 over the year. The last time the NI unemployment rate was at 8.0% was in June - August 1998.

Unadjusted figures show that 46.6% of the unemployed have been unemployed for 1 year or more – up 6.6 percentage points over the year. They also estimate the unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds at 22.5% – up 10.5 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 October - December 2010 was estimated at 558,000. This figure decreased by 2,000 over the quarter and by 12,000 over the year.

The NI economic inactivity rate for those aged 16-64 stands at 28.4%. This is significantly higher than the UK average rate (23.4%) and is the highest of the twelve UK regions. Unadjusted figures estimate that 28% of the economically inactive, aged 16-64, in NI are sick/disabled, 27% are students, 24% are looking after the family/home, 13% are retired and 9% are 'other' reason.

Unadjusted figures also show that while 90% of the inactive do not want work, the remaining 10% (55,000) 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 | Oct-Dec 2010 | 773,000 | +/- 24,000 | 6,000 | +/- 30,000 |
| Unemployment | Oct-Dec 2010 | 68,000 | +/- 12,000 | 18,000 | +/- 14,000 |
| Economically inactive | Oct-Dec 2010 | 558,000 | +/- 21,000 | -12,000 | +/- 27,000 |
| Unemployment rate | Oct-Dec 2010 | 8.0% | +/- 1.4pps | 2.0pps | +/- 1.8pps |
| Employment rate ¹ | Oct-Dec 2010 | 65.7% | +/- 1.8pps | 0.2pps | +/- 2.3pps |
| Economic inactivity rate ¹ | Oct-Dec 2010 | 28.4% | +/- 1.7pps | -1.8pps | +/- 2.2pps |
| Claimant Count | January 2011 | 59,100 | | 3,600 | |

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

Statistical Press Release

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

Unemployment Regional Comparison

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 European Union (9.6%) and Republic of Ireland (13.9%) rates for November 2010.

Claimant Count

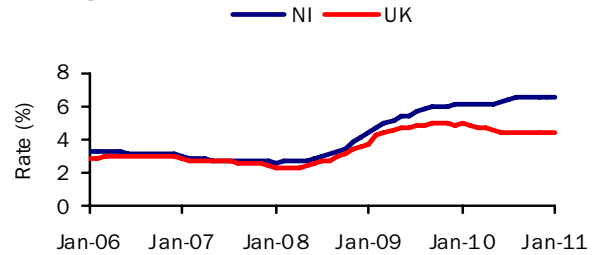
The more recent seasonally adjusted claimant count increased by 600 over the month to January 2011 to 59,100 (6.6% of the workforce). This compared to an increase of 300 in the previous monthly period. Over the last three months the Claimant Count in NI has increased by 700. Over the year it has increased 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 (6.6%) was higher than the UK average rate (4.5%) and was the joint highest rate among the twelve UK regions. Over the month to January 2011 the NI Claimant Count level increased by 1.0% (600 claimants), while the UK average increased by 0.2% (Figure 2). NI showed the joint highest percentage monthly increase of the UK regions. Over the year the NI Claimant Count level increased by 6.5%, compared to a fall of 9.7% 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 January 2011 were in Derry (7.6%), Strabane (7.3%) and Limavady (7.1%). Those that showed the highest percentage increase in levels over the year to January 2011 were Banbridge (15.8%), North Down (13.2%) and Newry & Mourne (11.3%). For further District Council data please see section 3 of the Labour Market Report.

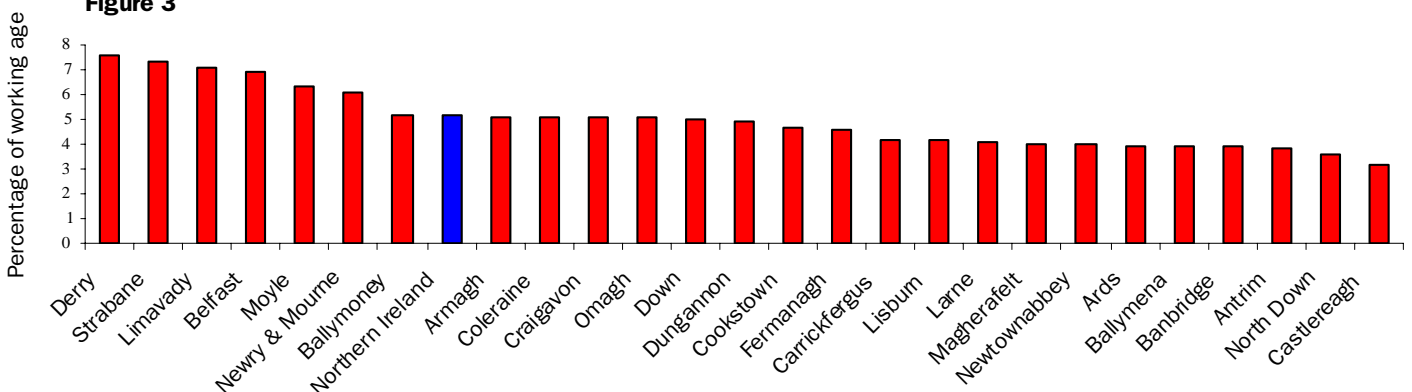
Employment and Training Measures

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 38.1% (3,579 persons) to 12,967 over the year to January 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



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Redundancies

The Department was notified of 128 proposed redundancies over the period mid January 2011 to mid February 2011. This compares to 91 proposed redundancies notified to the Department in the previous monthly period.

There were 80 confirmed redundancies in the month of January (Figure 5). Over the latest twelve monthly period there were a total of 2,015 confirmed redundancies, a decrease of 54% from the previous year (4,428). The highest number of confirmed redundancies took place in Belfast District Council area which had 30.8% (621) of all redundancies over the year.

Over the latest twelve month period there were a total of 2,705 proposed redundancies, a decrease of 48% from the previous year (5,165). Currently there are 1,227 outstanding redundancies (that is, proposed but not confirmed), which is 19% lower than this time last year (1,521).

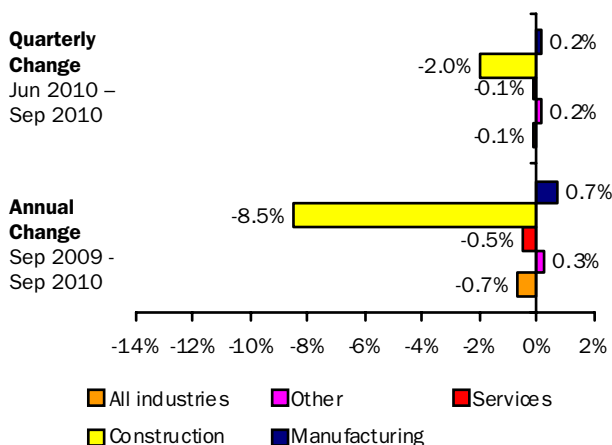
Note that since all proposed redundancies do not actually take place, the confirmed total provides a better indication of real job losses.

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 September 2010 was 697,630. This represents a decrease of 940 over the quarter and a decrease of 5,240 over the year.

Annual and Quarterly changes in employee jobs (seasonally adjusted)

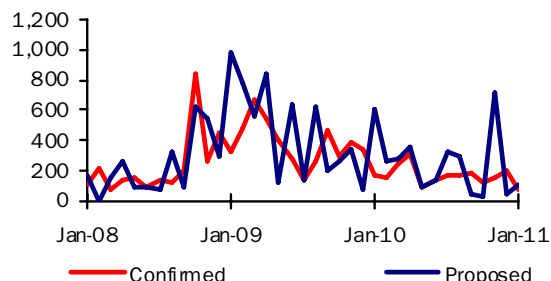
Figure 4



The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of decreases in the Service sector (-410) and in Construction (-690). There were increases in Manufacturing (110) and Other industries (40) over the quarter.

Confirmed and Proposed Redundancies January 08 - January 11

Figure 5

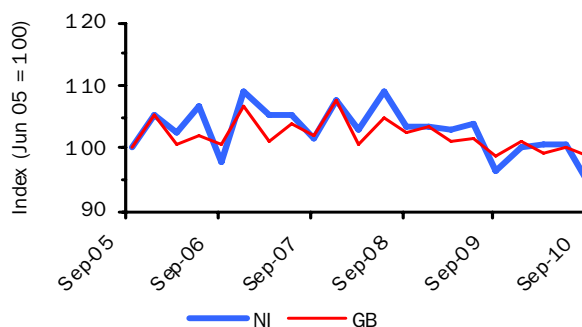


Hours Worked

The total workforce hours worked per week in Northern Ireland in September 2010 was estimated at 24.0 million hours, representing a decrease of 2.0% over the year (compared with no change in GB). Between September 2005 and September 2010, NI's total workforce hours worked per week decreased by 5.5%, compared to a 1.3% fall in GB (Figure 6). In the three months to November 2010, the average actual weekly hours worked in NI was 33.9 hours – higher than the UK average (32.6) 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.

Statistical Press Release

Labour Market Structure – Seasonally adjusted
Table 2

| | (Thousands/Percentage) | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| Oct-Dec 2007 | 1,360 | 1,129 | 816 | 781 | 35 | 544 | 4.3 | 71.0 | 67.9 |
| Oct-Dec 2008 | 1,374 | 1,137 | 815 | 772 | 43 | 559 | 5.3 | 70.4 | 66.6 |
| Oct-Dec 2009 | 1,387 | 1,144 | 817 | 768 | 49 | 570 | 6.0 | 69.8 | 65.5 |
| Jan-Mar 2010 | 1,390 | 1,146 | 829 | 773 | 57 | 561 | 6.8 | 70.9 | 65.9 |
| Apr-Jun 2010 | 1,393 | 1,148 | 833 | 777 | 55 | 560 | 6.6 | 71.2 | 66.4 |
| Jul-Sep 2010 | 1,396 | 1,149 | 836 | 778 | 58 | 560 | 7.0 | 71.2 | 66.1 |
| Oct-Dec 2010 | 1,399 | 1,151 | 841 | 773 | 68 | 558 | 8.0 | 71.6 | 65.7 |
| Change on Quarter | 3 | 1 | 5 | -5 | 9 | -2 | 1.1 | 0.4 | -0.4 |
| Change on Year | 12 | 6 | 24 | 6 | 18 | -12 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| MALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Oct-Dec 2007 | 659 | 558 | 447 | 425 | 22 | 212 | 4.8 | 78.4 | 74.6 |
| Oct-Dec 2008 | 666 | 563 | 447 | 414 | 33 | 220 | 7.5 | 77.7 | 71.8 |
| Oct-Dec 2009 | 673 | 567 | 447 | 412 | 35 | 227 | 7.8 | 76.6 | 70.5 |
| Jan-Mar 2010 | 675 | 568 | 455 | 413 | 42 | 219 | 9.3 | 78.0 | 70.6 |
| Apr-Jun 2010 | 676 | 568 | 457 | 416 | 41 | 219 | 9.0 | 78.4 | 71.2 |
| Jul-Sep 2010 | 678 | 569 | 457 | 416 | 42 | 221 | 9.1 | 78.3 | 71.1 |
| Oct-Dec 2010 | 680 | 570 | 459 | 412 | 47 | 220 | 10.2 | 78.6 | 70.3 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | | | |
| Oct-Dec 2007 | 702 | 571 | 369 | 356 | 13 | 332 | 3.6 | 63.8 | 61.4 |
| Oct-Dec 2008 | 708 | 574 | 368 | 358 | 10 | 339 | 2.7 | 63.2 | 61.5 |
| Oct-Dec 2009 | 714 | 578 | 370 | 356 | 14 | 344 | 3.9 | 63.2 | 60.7 |
| Jan-Mar 2010 | 715 | 579 | 374 | 359 | 14 | 341 | 3.9 | 63.9 | 61.3 |
| Apr-Jun 2010 | 717 | 579 | 375 | 361 | 14 | 341 | 3.8 | 64.2 | 61.7 |
| Jul-Sep 2010 | 718 | 580 | 379 | 362 | 17 | 339 | 4.4 | 64.2 | 61.3 |
| Oct-Dec 2010 | 719 | 581 | 382 | 361 | 21 | 338 | 5.4 | 64.8 | 61.2 |

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

Please see note on revisions policy in 'Definitions'.

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

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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Seasonally Adjusted Regional Summary, October – December 2010

Table 3

| | 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 | 65.6 | -1.4 | 10.2 | 1.0 | 26.9 | 0.8 | 1,015 | 6.6 | -8.4 | -0.1 | 0.69 |
| North West | 69.3 | 0.9 | 7.5 | -1.0 | 24.9 | -0.2 | 2,875 | 5.0 | -11.8 | 0.1 | 0.76 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 68.2 | -0.6 | 9.3 | 0.1 | 24.7 | 0.5 | 2,138 | 5.5 | -9.4 | 0.3 | 0.75 |
| East Midlands | 70.7 | -1.5 | 8.0 | 0.8 | 23.1 | 1.0 | 1,801 | 4.4 | -14.1 | 0.0 | 0.75 |
| West Midlands | 67.9 | -0.9 | 9.8 | 0.5 | 24.5 | 0.5 | 2,204 | 5.7 | -12.8 | 0.2 | 0.77 |
| East | 73.9 | 0.1 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 20.7 | -0.2 | 2,342 | 3.7 | -11.9 | -0.1 | 0.77 |
| London | 68.5 | 0.6 | 9.0 | -0.2 | 24.7 | -0.5 | 3,986 | 4.4 | -5.3 | 0.2 | 0.90 |
| South East | 75.0 | 0.0 | 6.1 | -0.1 | 20.0 | 0.1 | 3,552 | 2.9 | -17.8 | -0.8 | 0.82 |
| South West | 74.1 | 0.7 | 6.1 | -0.3 | 20.9 | -0.6 | 2,144 | 3.0 | -13.9 | 0.0 | 0.82 |
| England | 70.7 | -0.1 | 7.8 | 0.0 | 23.1 | 0.1 | 22,056 | 4.3 | -11.4 | 0.0 | 0.79 |
| Wales | 67.6 | 0.6 | 8.4 | -0.2 | 26.0 | -0.5 | 1,135 | 5.0 | -10.7 | 0.3 | 0.71 |
| Scotland | 71.1 | -0.4 | 8.0 | 0.3 | 22.6 | 0.1 | 2,237 | 5.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.80 |
| Great Britain | 70.6 | -0.1 | 7.9 | 0.0 | 23.2 | 0.0 | 25,428 | 4.4 | -10.3 | 0.1 | 0.79 |
| N Ireland | 65.7 | 0.2 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 28.4 | -1.8 | 698 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 1.0 | 0.76 |
| United Kingdom | 70.5 | -0.1 | 7.9 | 0.1 | 23.4 | 0.0 | 26,125 | 4.5 | -9.7 | 0.2 | 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 September 2010 (thousands).

⁴ As at January 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.

DEFINITIONS

Notes to Table on Front Page

pps=percentage points

¹ Levels for all persons aged 16 and over, rates for working age (16-64)

² People aged 16 and over. Unemployment rate=total unemployed as a proportion of the economically active

³ Quarterly Employment Survey

⁴ Seasonally adjusted. Rates are as a percentage of the total workforce.

⁵ Confirmed redundancies in the calendar month.

⁶ 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.

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.

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.

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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 October - December 2010 showed that the annual change in the estimate for unemployment was 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 microdata has recently been revised to incorporate the latest population estimates. The revision effect LFS data from the period June to August 2006 onwards and were first published in February 2010. The magnitude of the revisions were 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 were 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

http://www.detini.gov.uk/introduction_of_new_working_age_definition.pdf.

For a limited period, employment and inactivity rates based on the old working age economic 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.

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.

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

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

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 www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/finalpfg.pdf 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:

www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/pfg_delivery_report_q4_08_09-final-pdf_version-5.pdf

For further information:

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