



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
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Labour Market

Statistics Bulletin

Women in Northern Ireland

September 2010



Northern Ireland
**Statistics &
Research**
Agency

A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION

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Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Investment

Women in Northern Ireland

September 2010

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Executive Summary

1

All data in this publication is taken from the Labour Force Survey unless otherwise sourced.

Employment

Until the recent economic downturn, women in Northern Ireland (NI) had been experiencing historically high levels of employment – latest figures show that there were an estimated 359,000 women employed in the period April - June 2010. Despite the recent fall in employment during the economic downturn, the number of women in employment (16+) has increased by an estimated 58% when compared with the figure for 1984.

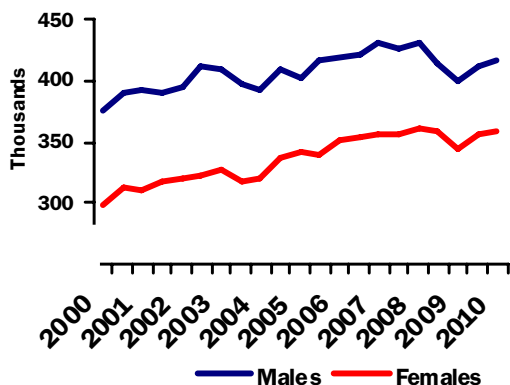
However, the NI employment rate for those females aged 16-64, (61.4%) is 4.1 percentage points lower than the rate in Great Britain (GB) (65.5%).

The increase in the female 16-64 employment rate during the last year (2.5 percentage points) is similar to the corresponding rise in the male rate (2.2 percentage points to 71.0%). In contrast, the female employment rate in GB showed a slight fall over the year (-0.3 percentage points), similar to their male counterparts (-0.5 percentage points).

Women in NI comprise 46.8% of those aged 16-64 currently in employment, similar to the rate of 46.7% in GB.

Number in Employment (16+) 2000-2010 (Quarter 2)

Figure 1



There are notable gender differences in employment rates and in the nature of employment between the sexes in NI. 71.0% of working age males are in employment compared with 61.4% of females. This represents a narrowing of the gap between female employment rates and those of males compared to five years ago (60.7% for females and 72.7% for males).

Earnings (source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

The ratio between male and female full-time median hourly earnings excluding overtime has decreased to 96.5% (from 97.4% in 2008), which represents a slight widening of the full-time gender pay gap. However, hourly earnings as a percentage of male hourly earnings continue to be higher in NI (96.5%) than in UK (87.8%).

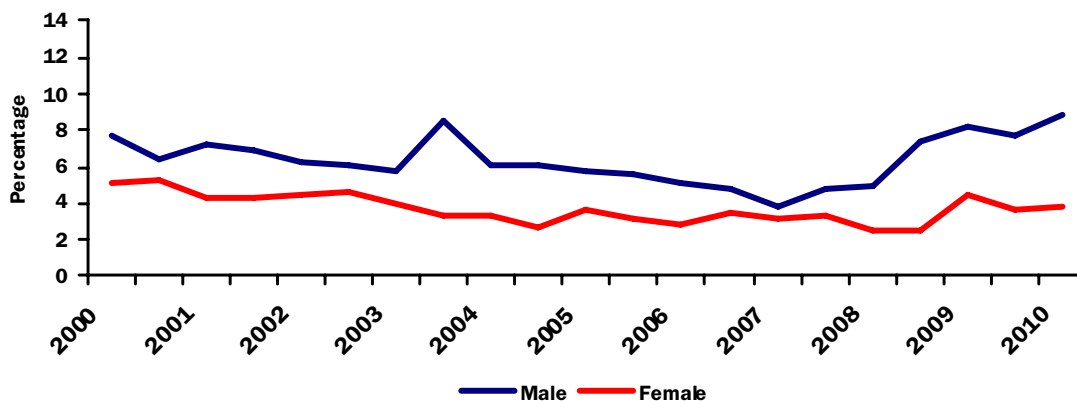
Unemployment

An estimated 14,000 women were unemployed in Northern Ireland at April - June 2010 with an associated unemployment rate of 3.8%. The male unemployment rate is 8.9% and is 5.1 percentage points above the female unemployment rate. The gap between male and female unemployment rates has increased from the same period five years ago when there was a 2.0 percentage point difference.

In July 2010, 13,900 females in Northern Ireland were claiming unemployment related benefits - this represents an increase of 3,000 during the last year. However, the number of female claimants continues to be smaller than the number of male claimants (42,900). [Source: Claimant Count]

NI Unemployment rates (16+) 2000-2010 (Quarter 2)

Figure 2



Economic Activity

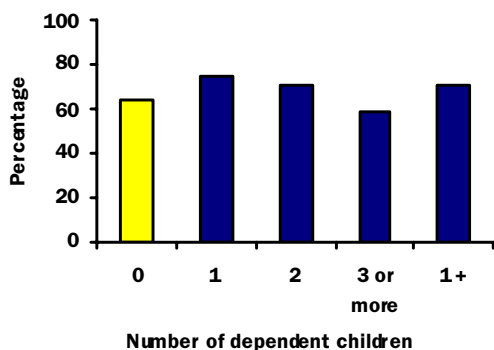
In Northern Ireland, a total of 374,000 women were economically active in April - June 2010. The female working age economic activity rate here of 63.8% is 6.5 percentage points lower than that in GB (70.4%). At 63.8% the working age economic activity rate for females is also 14.4 percentage points lower than that for males (78.2%). The difference in economic activity rate between males and females is similar to that of five years ago when the difference was 14.1 percentage points.

Economic Inactivity

At April – June 2010 there were 210,000 women, aged 16-64, who were economically inactive in Northern Ireland, with a resulting inactivity rate of 36.2% (29.6% in GB). Eleven percent of these economically inactive women (24,000) wanted a job (23% in GB), but did not satisfy the criteria of availability for work and actively seeking work to be classified as unemployed.

NI Economic activity Rate (Working age) by No. of Dependent Children, April-June 2010

Figure 3

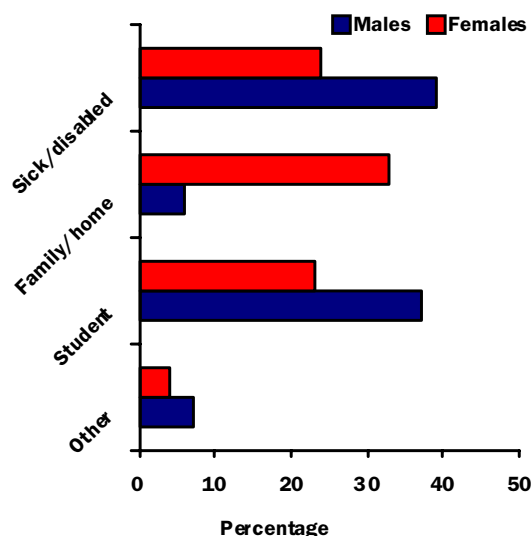


Women¹, aged 16-64, with dependent children have a 6.0 percentage point higher economic activity rate than those without dependent children, compared to a 4.2 percentage point difference five years ago. The economic activity rate for women with no dependent children has increased by 0.9 percentage points during the last five years, while the rate for those with dependent children has increased by 2.6 percentage points.

¹ Analysis is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. See Section 2 for details.

Reasons for Economic Inactivity, NI (16-64), April - June 2010

Figure 4



Childcare provision (source: Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety)

In 2009 there were 44,256 day-care places for children aged under twelve in Northern Ireland, a fall of 6% since 2002.

Educational Standards (source: Department of Learning)

In 2008/09 girls left school with higher levels of academic qualifications than boys. 76% of girls left school with at least 5 GCSE grades A*-C compared with 64% of boys. Similarly, 58% of girls left school with two or more A-levels compared to 43% of boys.

Politics and Public Life (source: Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister)

Women tend to be under represented in politics and public life. Thirteen per cent of MLA's in Northern Ireland women and 20% of councillors in local government districts are women. Northern Ireland has 4 elected female MPs, and 2 female MEPs.

Women in Business (source: Invest NI)

In 2009 the female level of entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland was 2.4% compared to 8% for males. This is equal to a potential shortfall of 28,000 female owned businesses if the rates for women and men were equal.

Women in the Labour Force

2

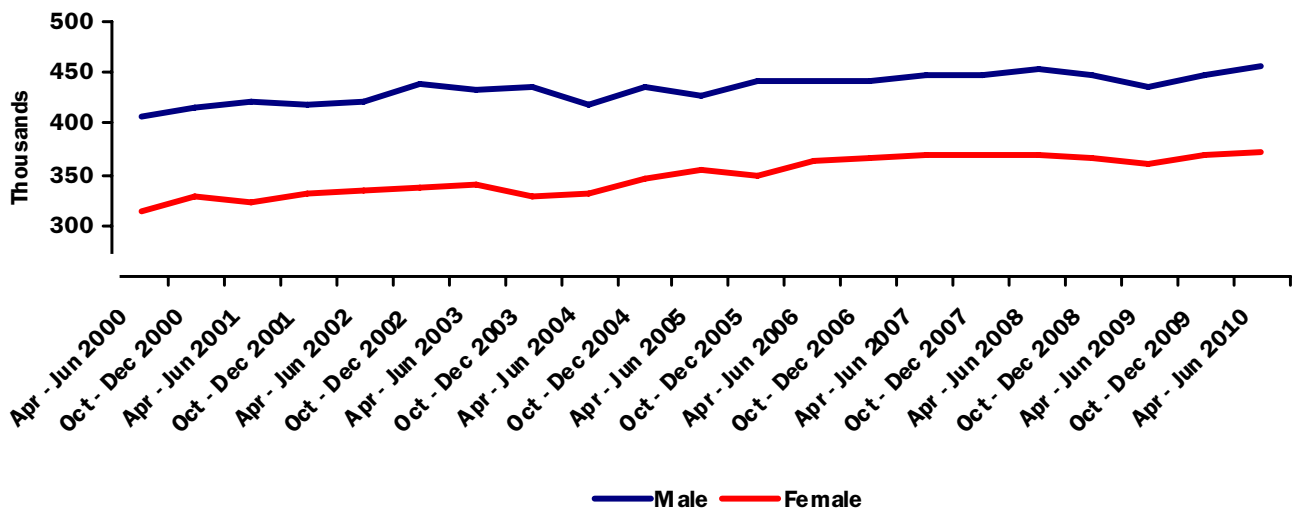
Women in the labour force (source: Labour Force Survey)

Those in employment or unemployed are termed economically active and together make up the labour force. (See Section 10 for full definitions). At April-June 2010;

- An estimated 374,000 women (16+) are economically active. This compares with 456,000 men. [14.1m women and 16.5m men in GB.]

- For women the number of economically active has increased by 42% from 1984 compared with a 14% increase for males. [This compares to an increase in GB of 28% for females and an increase of 6% for males.]
- Married women make up 28% of the labour force, up 5 percentage points since 1984. [In GB, 28% in 2010 compared with 26% in 1984].

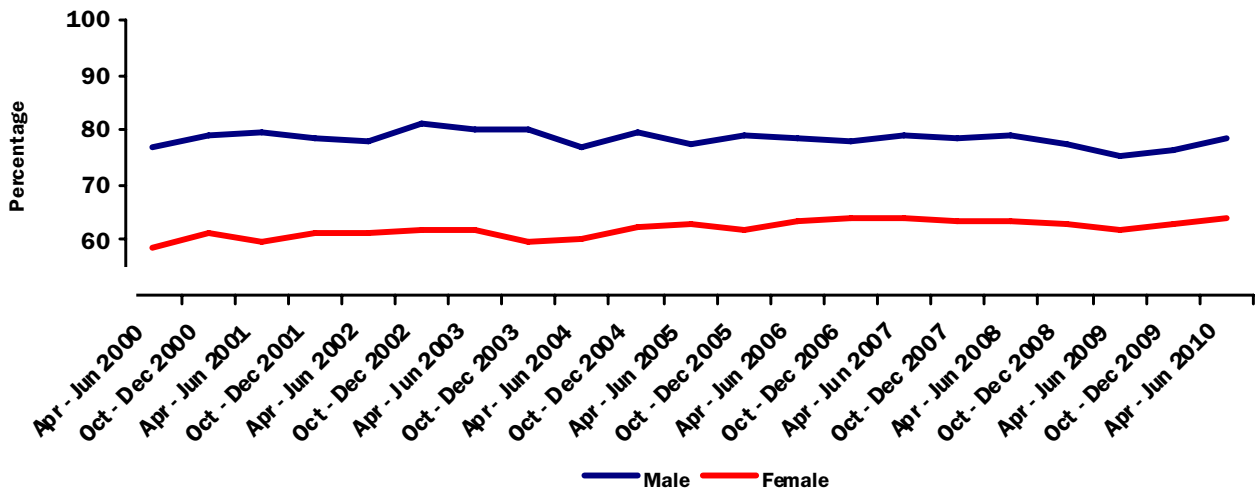
Economic Activity (16+) 2000-2010
Figure 5



- For women aged 16-64, the activity rate is 64% compared to 78% for men aged 16-64. [70% compared to 83% in GB.]
- The economic activity rate for those women aged 16 – 64, has increased by 0.7 percentage points over the last 5 years in NI and increased by 2.2 percentage points over the last year.
- The economic activity rate for men has increased by 1.0 percentage points over the last 5 years and increased by 3.0 percentage points over the last year.

Economic Activity rates (working age) 2000-2010

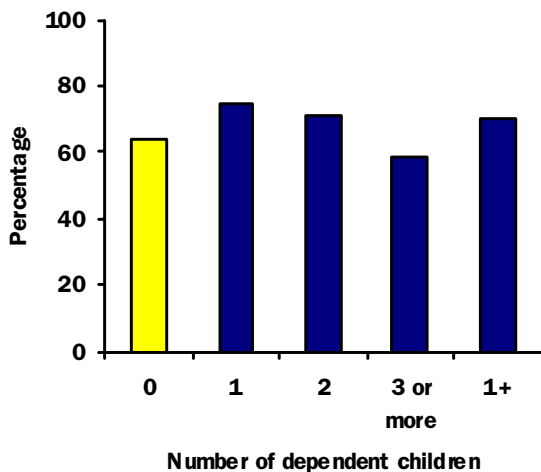
Figure 6



- The economic activity rate for women, aged 16 – 64, with dependent children is 70%, compared with 64% for those without children. [72% and 71% in GB.]
- The economic activity rate is lower for women with three or more dependent children (58%) than those with one or two dependent children, which are 72% and 73% respectively.
- 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%) was 9 percentage points lower than the rate for the 11-15 (77%) age group. [In GB the rates are 62% and 82% respectively.]

Economic Activity rate¹ (working age) by No. of dependent children April-June 2010

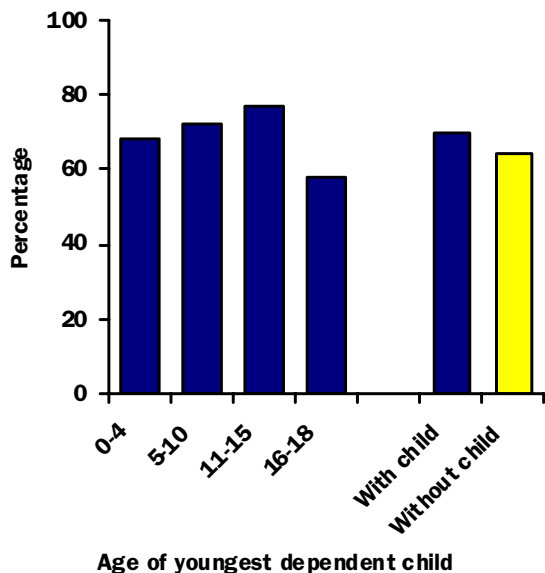
Figure 7



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

Economic Activity rates (working age) by age of youngest dependent child April-June 2010

Figure 8



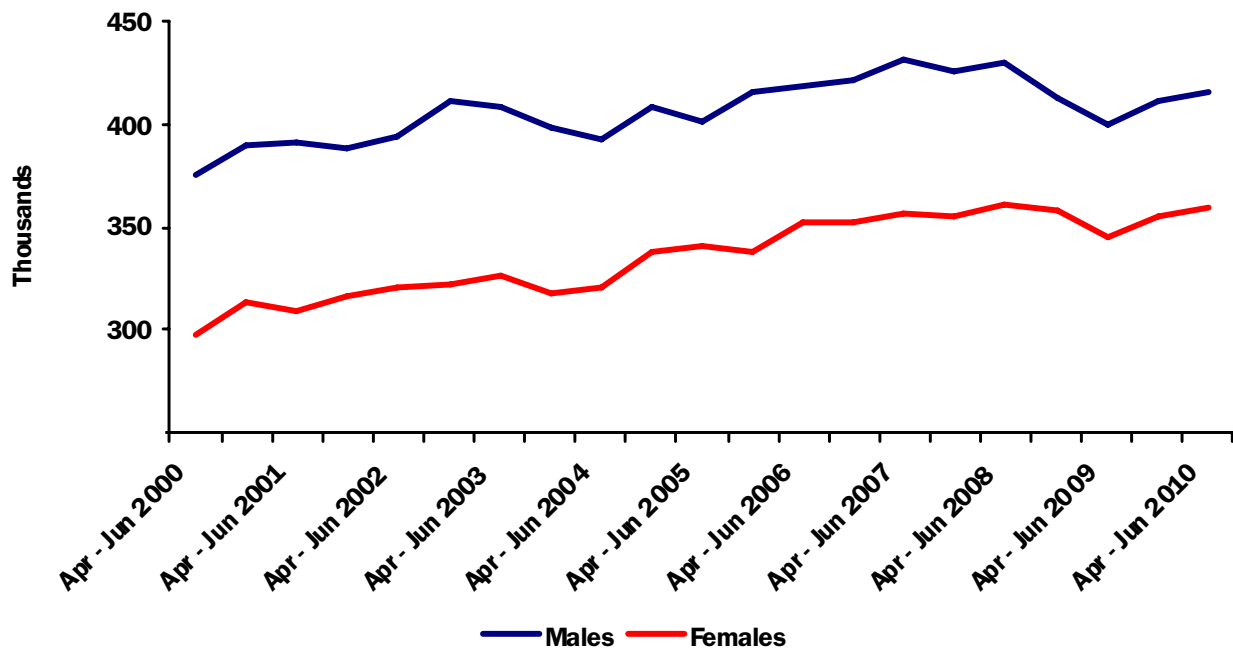
Women in Employment

3

Women in Employment (sources: Labour Force Survey, Quarterly Employment Survey and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

- Despite the recent fall in employment during the economic downturn, the number of women in employment (16+) has increased by an estimated 58% from 228,000 in 1984 to 359,000 in April - June 2010. This compares with an increase of 28% for men. [In GB the increase was 35% for women and 9% for men.]
- 46% of those currently in employment are women, compared to 41% in 1984. [47% and 41% respectively in GB.]
- The 359,000 women in employment consist of 330,000 employees (92%), 26,000 self-employed (7%) and a small number on government training and employment schemes or unpaid family workers. In GB 91% of women in employment are employees, 9% are self-employed with less than 1% on government training and employment schemes or unpaid family workers.

Numbers in Employment (16+) 2000-2010
Figure 9



- The employment rate for women aged 16 to 64 has increased by 0.6 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 2.5 percentage points over the last year to 61.4%. The corresponding male rate (71.0%) fell by 1.7 percentage points over the last 5 years, but rose by 2.2 percentage points over the last year.
- The working age employment rate for women in GB has decreased by 1.4 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 0.3 over the last year to 65.5%. The corresponding male rate (75.4%) fell by 3.6 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 0.5 percentage points over the year to April - June 2010.

Types of Employment, April - June 2010
Figure 10



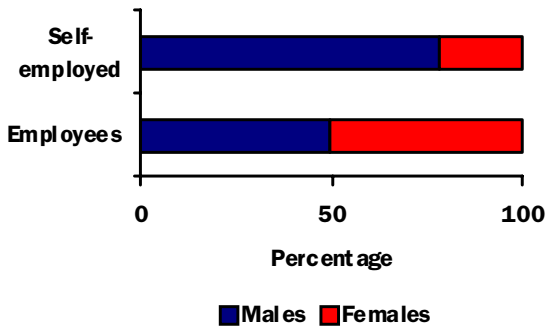
* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate

- Women account for 51% of all employees, but only 22% of the total self-employed. [In GB the figures are 49% and 30% respectively.]
- Employer based surveys estimate that 52.3% of all employee jobs are filled by women. (source June 2010 Quarterly Employment Survey).

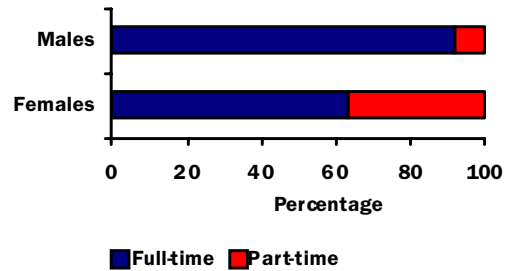
- The number of female part-time employees is up 66% since 1984, while the number of female full-time employees has risen by 47%.

[In GB increases have been 29% for part-time and 36% for full-time female employees.]

Types of Employment by gender, April - June 2010
Figure 11



Full-time/Part-time split of Employees, April - June 2010
Figure 12

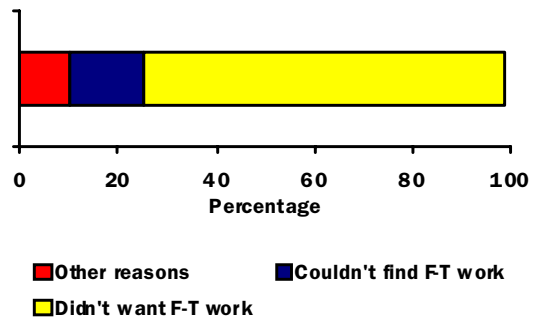


- 74% of female employees who work part-time say they do not want a full-time job. [75% of females in GB.]

Working Patterns of Women

- 5% of women in employment work at or from home. [9% in GB.]
- 37% of female employees work part-time compared to 8% of male employees. [43% compared to 12% in GB.]
- 82% of part-time employees are women. [77% in GB.]

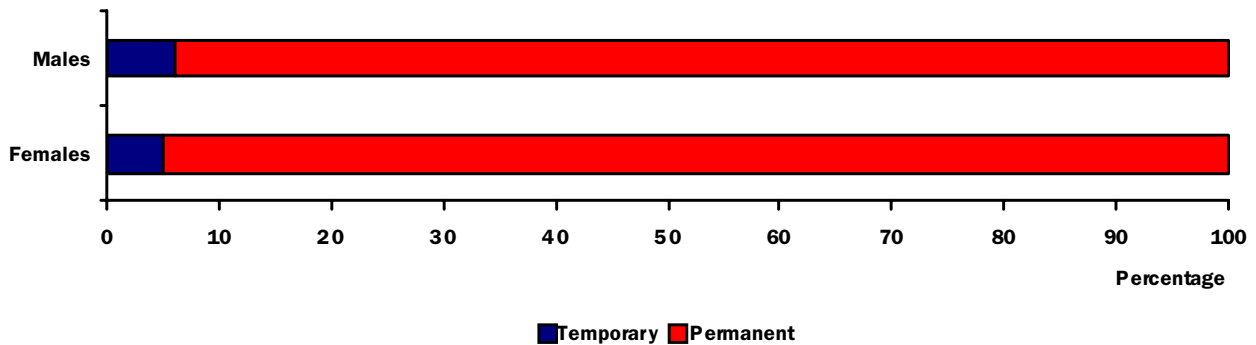
Reason for Female Employees working part-time, April - June 2010
Figure 13



“Other reasons” comprise being a student, illness or disability.

Permanent/Temporary Employees, April - June 2010

Figure 14



- 5% of female and 6% of male employees are temporary. [In GB 7% of females and 6% of males are temporary.]
- 39% of female employees and 12% of male employees are not in full-time permanent jobs. [45% and 15% in GB.]

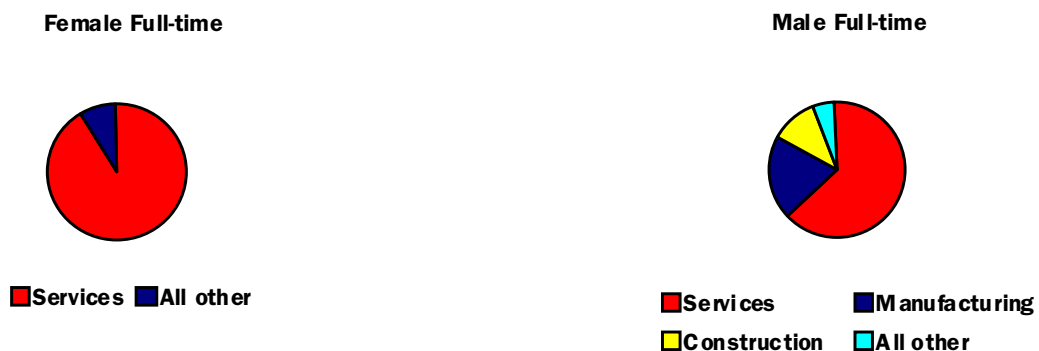
Industrial and Occupational Distribution of Women in Employment

- 92% of female employees (95% for part-time and 91% for full-time) work in the service sector. This compares with 65% for male employees. [In GB 92% of female employees (95% for part-time and 90% for full-time) work in the service sector.]

- Of all female full-time employees, 59% are employed in the public administration, education and health service sectors. This compares with 23% of males. [In GB 49% for females and 19% for males.]
- The other main work areas for female full-time employees in the Service sector are banking & finance services (13%) and distribution, hotel & restaurants (12%). For males the figures are 10% and 16% respectively. [In GB, 17% for females and 16% for males in banking & finance services. For distribution, hotel & restaurants, the figures were 14% for females and 16% for males].
- 8% of female full-time employees work in manufacturing compared to 21% of men. [In GB 7% for females and 18% for males.]

Employees by Industry Sector, April - June 2010

Figure 15

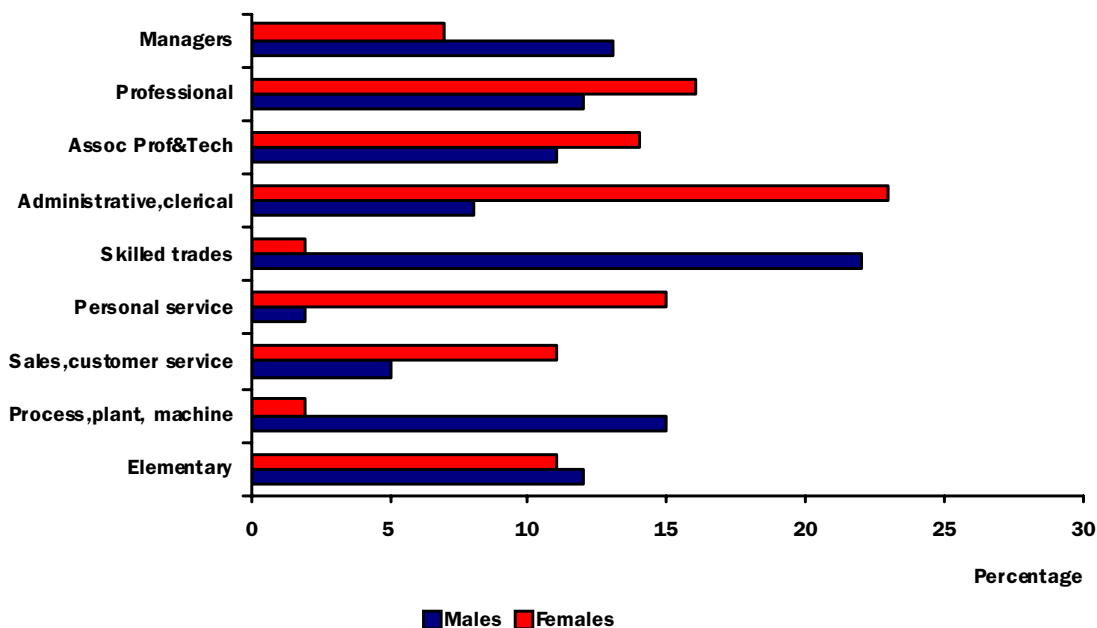


“All other” comprises Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Energy and water, Construction and Manufacturing.

- 37% of all managers and/or senior officials are women. [36% in GB.]
- 75% of all those employed in administrative and secretarial occupations are women. [78% in GB.]

Occupation of male and female employees, April - June 2010

Figure 16



- 7% of female employees are managers and/or senior officials, compared with 13% of men. [In GB 11% of women and 19% of men.]
- 23% of female employees are in administrative and secretarial occupations, compared with 8% of men. [In GB 19% of women and 5% of men.]

Job-related training

- 28,000 female employees of working age (8%) had received some job-related training in the past four weeks compared to 7% for men. [In GB 1.9m women (16%) compared to 13% for men.]

Earnings (source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – ASHE)

Comparison of Male/Female Earnings

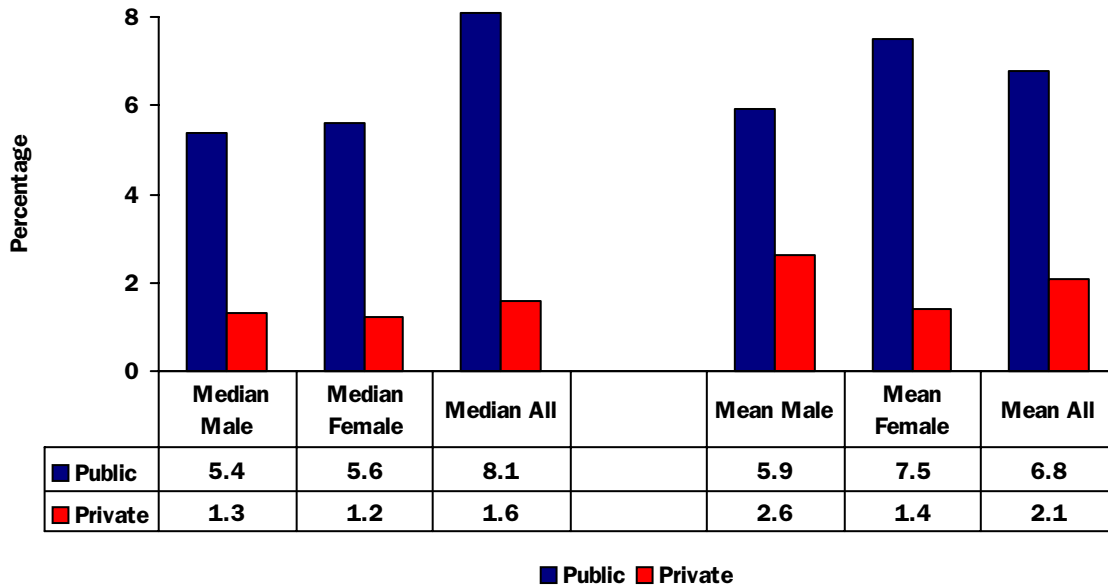
- The median gross weekly wage for full-time females at April 2009 in NI was £406.5 while for full-time males the figure was £460.9.
- The ratio between male and female full-time median hourly earnings excluding overtime has decreased to 96.5% (from 97.4% in 2008), which represents a slight widening of the full-time gender pay gap.
- However, female hourly earnings as a percentage of male hourly earnings continue to be higher in NI (96.5%) than in UK (87.8%).

Comparison of Public/Private Sector Earnings

- In NI, median earnings for women working full-time were higher in the public sector (£498.6) than in the private sector (£317.2).
- Earnings of full-time female employees in both the public sector (5.6%) and the private sector (1.2%) increased over the year.
- When the mean is used instead of the median as a measure for the average, the change is an increase of 7.5% in the public sector compared to a 1.4% increase in the private sector.

Percentage Increases/Decreases in Median and Mean Gross Weekly Earnings for Full-time Employees between April 2008 and 2009

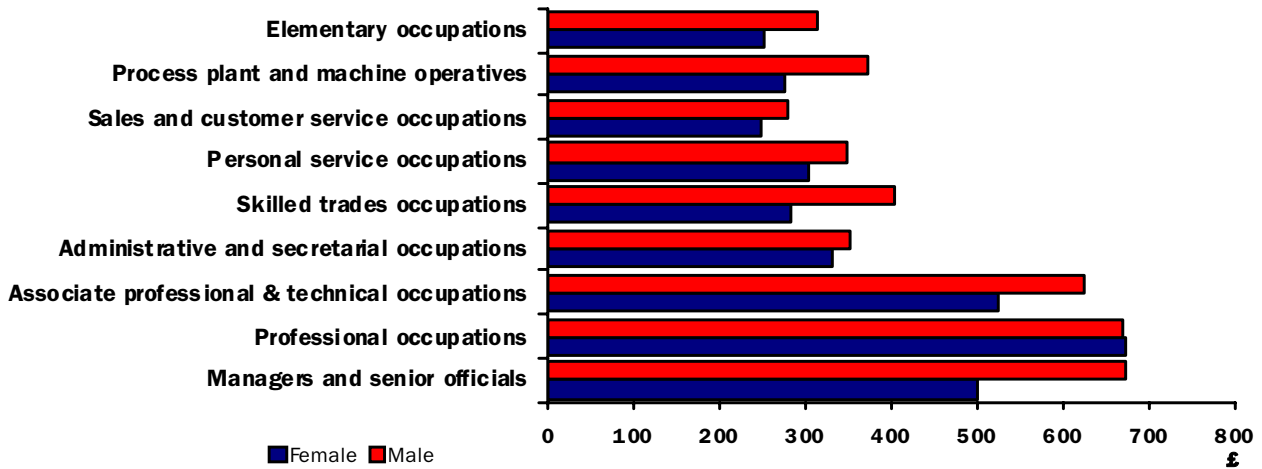
Figure 17



Please note: ASHE includes breakdowns by public and private sector according to the legal status of the employers. Between 2008 and 2009 Lloyds Banking Group, the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, HBOS PLC and Northern Rock PLC were reclassified from the private sector to the public sector. Interpretation of public/private sector movements for NI and the UK are therefore more difficult between 2008 and 2009.

Median Gross Weekly Pay by Occupation

Average Full Time Gross weekly Earnings by Occupational group in NI, April 2009
Figure 18

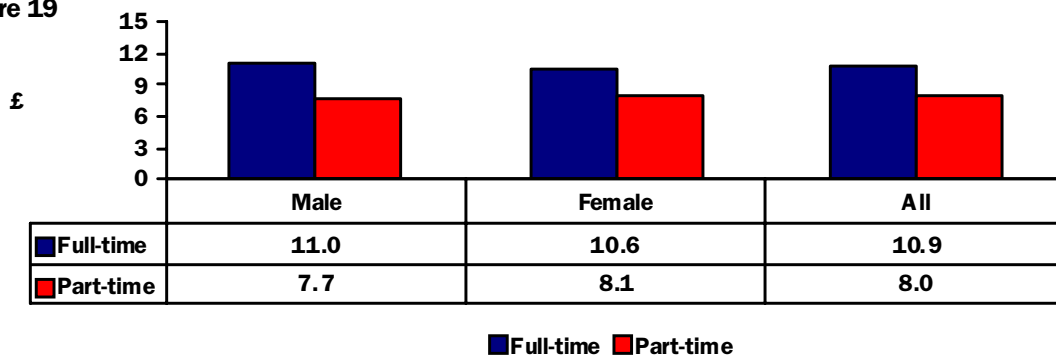


Full-time/Part-time Comparisons of hourly rate excluding overtime

- Median female hourly earnings excluding overtime of part-time workers were 76.0% of full-time workers.

Median Gross Hourly Earnings excluding overtime by full/part-time and gender in NI, April 2009

Figure 19



Women in Unemployment

4

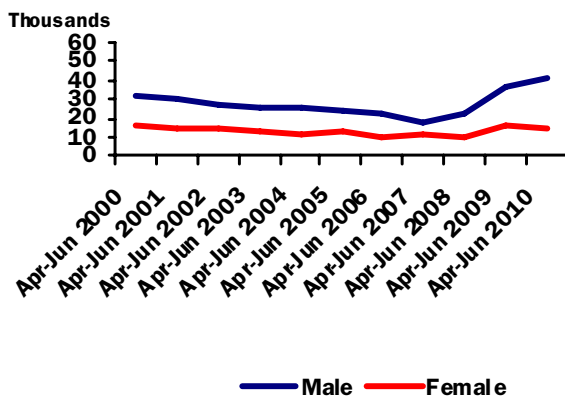
WOMEN IN UNEMPLOYMENT (sources: Labour Force Survey and Claimant Count)

The Labour Force Survey defines unemployed persons as persons without a job, who are available to start work within two weeks and have either looked for work in the previous four weeks, or, are waiting to start a job they have already obtained.

- 14,000 women (16+) are currently unemployed compared with 41,000 men. [958,000 women and 1,420,000 men in GB.]
- Since 1984 the numbers unemployed have decreased by 58% for women and 48% for men. [In GB a decrease of 24% for women and 23% for men.]

Unemployed (16+) 2000-2010

Figure 20



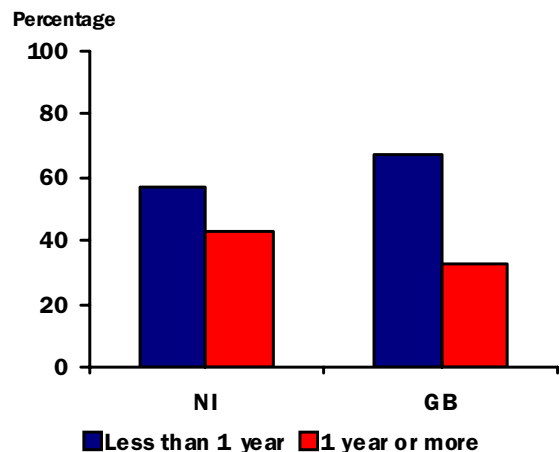
- The unemployment rate (16+) (unemployed as a percentage of the economically active) is 3.8% for women compared with 8.9% for men. [In GB 6.8% for women and 8.6% for men.]

- The unemployment rate for women of working age is 3.8%. [7.0% in GB.]
- Overall, 2.0% of females aged 16+ are unemployed compared to 6.0% of males. [3.9% and 6.0% in GB.]
- In Northern Ireland, 83% of females unemployed were short-term unemployed compared with 48% of men.
- 24,000 people or 43% of all those unemployed were long-term unemployed (one year or more) at April – June 2010.

Unemployment by Duration (all)

April - June 2010

Figure 21



Claimant Count (source: Claimant Count)

Claimant Count figures are derived from records of claimants at Job Benefit Offices (JBOs). The term claimant is used to include those who claim Jobseekers Allowance and national insurance credits. The figures include the severely disabled claimants, but exclude students seeking vacation work and the temporarily stopped.

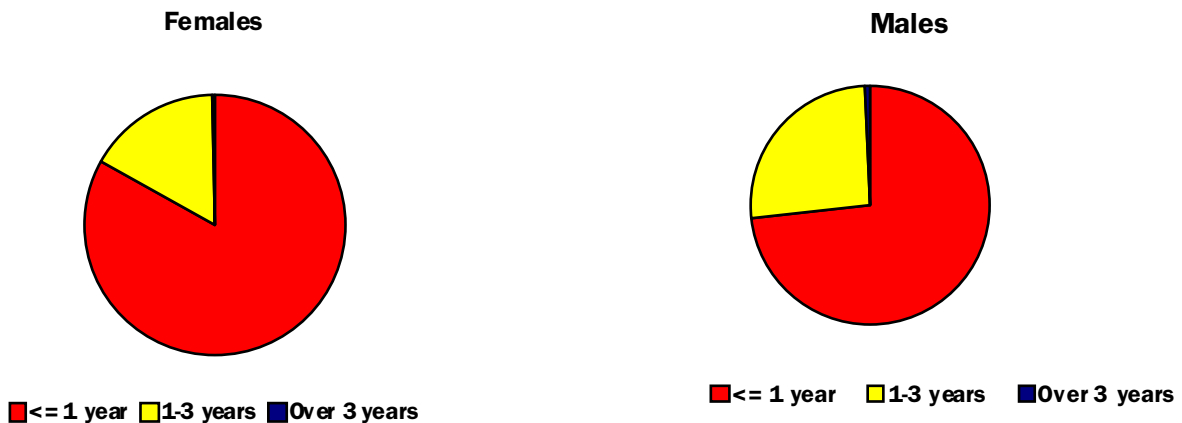
- Using this measure, 13,900 or 3.4% of women in the workforce claimed unemployment related benefits compared with 42,900 or 8.8% of men in July 2010. [In GB 406,400 or 2.8% for women and 998,000 or 5.9% for men.]

- The July 2010 rate of 3.4% was higher than the previous month's rate of 3.3% and compares to 2.7% one year ago. [In GB the July 2010 rate of 2.8% was the same as the previous month and the same as the previous year.]
- In July 2010, 83.1% of women out of work and claiming unemployment related benefits had been unemployed for up to one year, 16.5% for over one year but less than three years and 0.4% for three years or more. In contrast the figures for men are 73.0%, 26.4% and 0.6% respectively. [In GB, 86.6%, 12.7% and 0.7% for women, compared with 80.0%, 19.0% and 1.0% for men.]

Table 1 Claimant Count (seasonally adjusted) July 2010

Number of Persons Claiming this month	Change since Last Month	Change since Last Year	% of Workforce			
			This Month	Last Month	Last Year	
Total	56,800	800	6,000	6.4	6.3	5.7
Males	42,900	400	3,000	8.8	8.8	8.2
Females	13,900	400	3,000	3.4	3.3	2.7

Claimant Count by Duration, July 2010
Figure 23

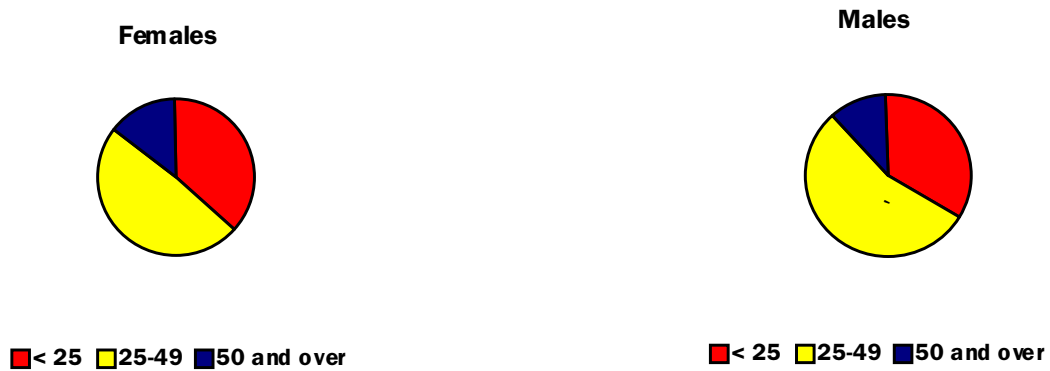


- 36.7% of women claimants are aged under 25, 48.6% are aged 25 to 49 and 14.7% are aged 50 and over. Of male claimants, 31.3% are aged under 25, 56.2% are aged 25 to 49 and

12.5% are aged 50 or over. [In GB 31.8%, 52.5% and 15.7% for women, compared with 27.2%, 57.6% and 15.2% for men.]

Claimant Count by Age group July 2010

Figure 24



Note that as from July 1999, claimant count data by age and duration for all UK regions and sub-regions (down to ward level) **cover computerised claims only**. A small percentage of claims (currently around 1%) are processed clerically in Social Security Offices and, whereas previously they had been included in age and duration tables, they are now **excluded** from the figures given. Therefore, age and duration data from July 1999 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier data.

Economic Inactivity

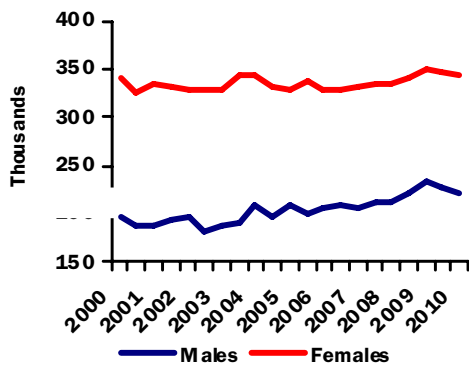
5

Source: Labour Force Survey

The Economically Inactive are those neither in employment nor unemployed. In the period April-June 2010; 343,000 women and 220,000 men aged 16 or over are economically inactive. This compares with 323,000 women and 136,000 men in 1984 – an increase of 6% for women and 62% for men. During the same period, in GB the number of economically inactive women decreased by 4% from 11.2m to 10.7m while the number of economically inactive men increased by 46% from 4.9m to 7.1m.

Economically Inactive (16+) 2000 - 2010

Figure 24

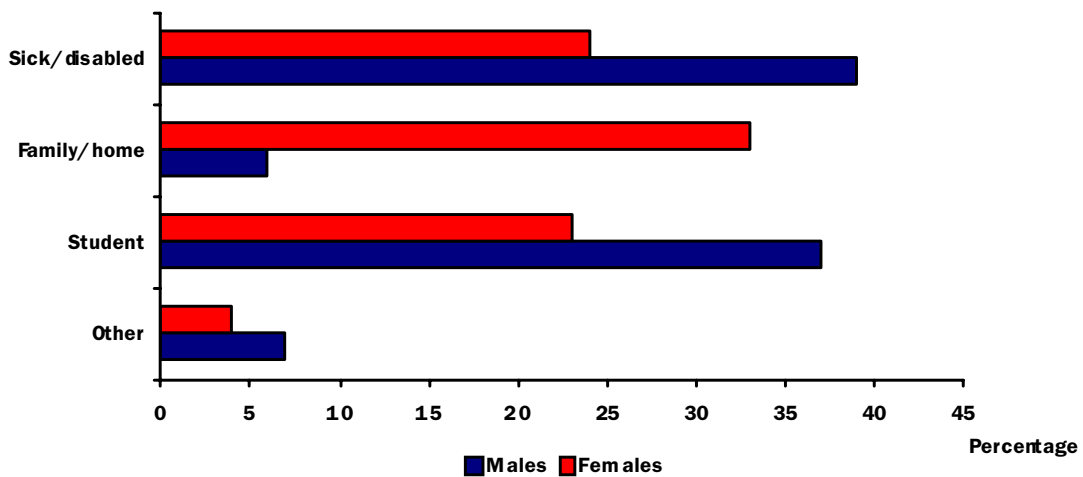


- The working age inactivity rate for women has decreased by 0.7 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 2.2 percentage points over the last year to 36.2%. The corresponding male rate (21.8%) has fallen by 1.0 percentage points over the last 5 years, and decreased by 3.0 percentage points during the last year.

- The working age inactivity rate for women in GB has decreased by 0.5 percentage points over the last 5 years and increased over the last year by 0.1% to 29.6%. The corresponding male rate (17.3%) has risen by 0.5 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 0.7 percentage points over the year to April – June 2010.
- Of the 210,000 women, aged 16-64, who were economically inactive in NI, 11% (24,000) wanted a job, but were not seeking work in the past four weeks or were unable to start work. The remaining 89% stated that they did not want work. For economically inactive men of working age (16-64), 15% wanted a job and 85% did not want work. [In GB 77% of economically inactive women did not want work, while 23% did want work but were not seeking work in the past four weeks or were unable to start work.]
- 33% of working age inactive women were unavailable for work due to family/home commitments. The main reason given by men for inactivity was sickness or disability at 39%, compared to 24% for women.
- The other main reason for inactivity was those who were students. 23% of working age inactive women cited this as their reason for inactivity, compared to 37% of men.

Reason for Economic Inactivity (16-64), April - June 2010

Figure 25



“Other” includes the ‘retired’ 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).

Childcare Provision and Income Support

6

CHILDCARE PROVISION AND INCOME SUPPORT

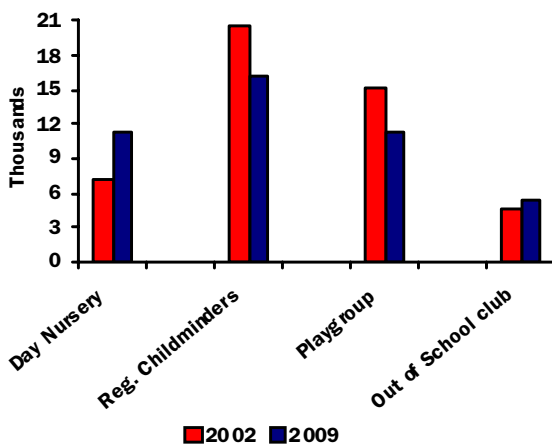
Day Care places (source: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety)

In Northern Ireland people who look after children aged under twelve years have been required to register since November 1996. The latest available figures in relation to these people are shown below together with corresponding figures for seven years earlier for comparison.

- Between 2002 and 2009 the overall number of day care places in Northern Ireland fell by 6% from 47,170 in 2002 to 44,256 in 2009.
- There are 11,215 day nursery places, up from 7,156 in 2002, an increase of 57%.
- There are 16,300 places with registered childminders, down 20% from 2002.
- There are 11,400 playgroup places in Northern Ireland, down 24% from 2002.
- There are 5,341 places available in 'out of school clubs', up 18% from 2002 but down 15% from 2007.

Day Care places in Northern Ireland by type in 2002 and 2009

Figure 26



Childcare Charges (source: HM Revenue and Customs)

- From October 1984 help with childcare charges has been available to families receiving Family Credit, Disability Working Allowance and Housing Benefit. From October 1999 Family Credit and Disability working Allowance were replaced by Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) and Disabled Person's Tax credit (DPTC), which are administered by the Inland Revenue. From April 2003 WFTC and DPTC were incorporated within the new tax credits, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit provides support to families for children (up to 31 August after their 16th birthday) and qualifying young people (those in full-time non advanced education until their 20th birthday) for which they are responsible. Working Tax Credit tops up the earnings of families on low or moderate incomes and includes an element for childcare costs.
- In Northern Ireland at 01 September 2010, 15,400 families were receiving higher Child and Working Tax Credits awards as a result of help with childcare charges. [The corresponding figure for UK was 469,000.]
- The average weekly amount of childcare charges (capped at £175 per week for one child and £300 per week for two or more children) paid in Northern Ireland was £115 and the average weekly increase in Child and Working Tax Credits awards was £86 for families benefiting from the childcare element. [£98 and £72 in the UK respectively.]

Income Support (source: Department for Social Development)

From 6 October 2003, State Pension Credit replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 and over). Where appropriate references to Income Support have been changed to Income Support/State Pension Credit to reflect this.

From 27 October 2008, Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support on the grounds of disability for new claims.

The number of Lone Parents claiming Income Support has been affected by the Lone Parent Obligations policy changes which came into effect from 2 December 2008. Lone Parents with older children may no longer be entitled to Income Support solely on the grounds of being a Lone Parent, subject to certain exemptions and conditions.

- At August 2010, there were 108,584 women on Income Support/State Pension Credit, this accounted for 58.9 % of all cases. The overall number of women claiming Income Support/State Pension Credit has decreased by 1.7% since August 2009, compared with a 1.2% decrease in the number of male claimants over the same period.
- A total of 23,503 (27.1%) Income Support claimants were classified as Lone Parents, the majority of these were women (97.3%). The overall number of lone parents has decreased by 5.4% or 1,347 lone parent claimants since August 2009.
- A higher proportion of men (83.8%) than women (76.6%) had been claiming Income Support for two years or more. The difference was particularly marked in the 18-24 years age group with 57.1% of men claiming for two years or more compared with 49.2% of women.

Educational Standards

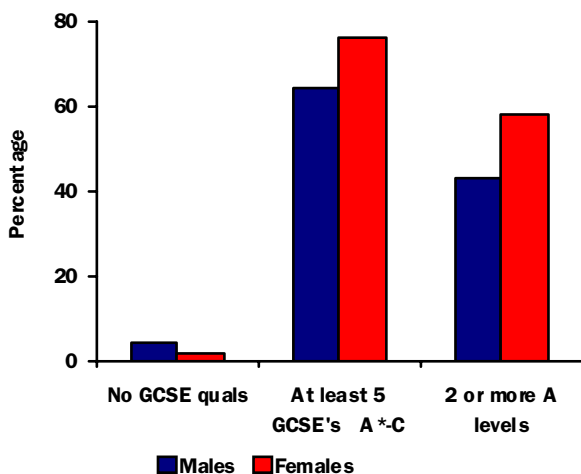
7

Educational Standards of Women (source: Department of Learning)

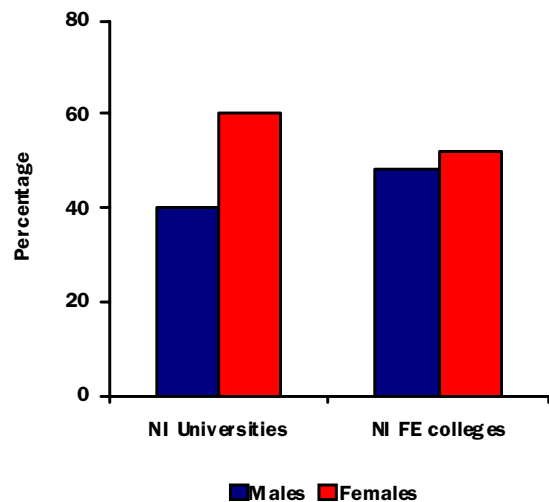
The figures shown below are from the School Leavers survey.

- Females leaving school tend to be better qualified than males and are more likely to progress to higher education.
- In 2008/09, 60% of girls left school with at least one A-level and 58% with two or more A-levels, compared with 45% and 43% of boys.
- Only 2% of girls left school with no GCSE qualifications compared to 4% of boys.
- 76% of girls left school with at least 5 GCSE grades A*-C compared with 64% of boys.
- After leaving school 81% of girls progressed to further or higher education compared to 69% of boys (2008/09).
- In 2008/09, the participation rate of 16 and 17 year olds in full-time education/vocational training was 91% for females, 83% for males and 87% overall.
- 60% of all students enrolled at the NI universities are women (2008/09). Of all enrolments at NI Further Education Colleges, 51% are female (2008/09).
- 38% of full-time academic staff in NI universities (2008/09) and 49% in NI Further Education Colleges are women (2005/06).

Qualifications on leaving school, 2008/09
Figure 27



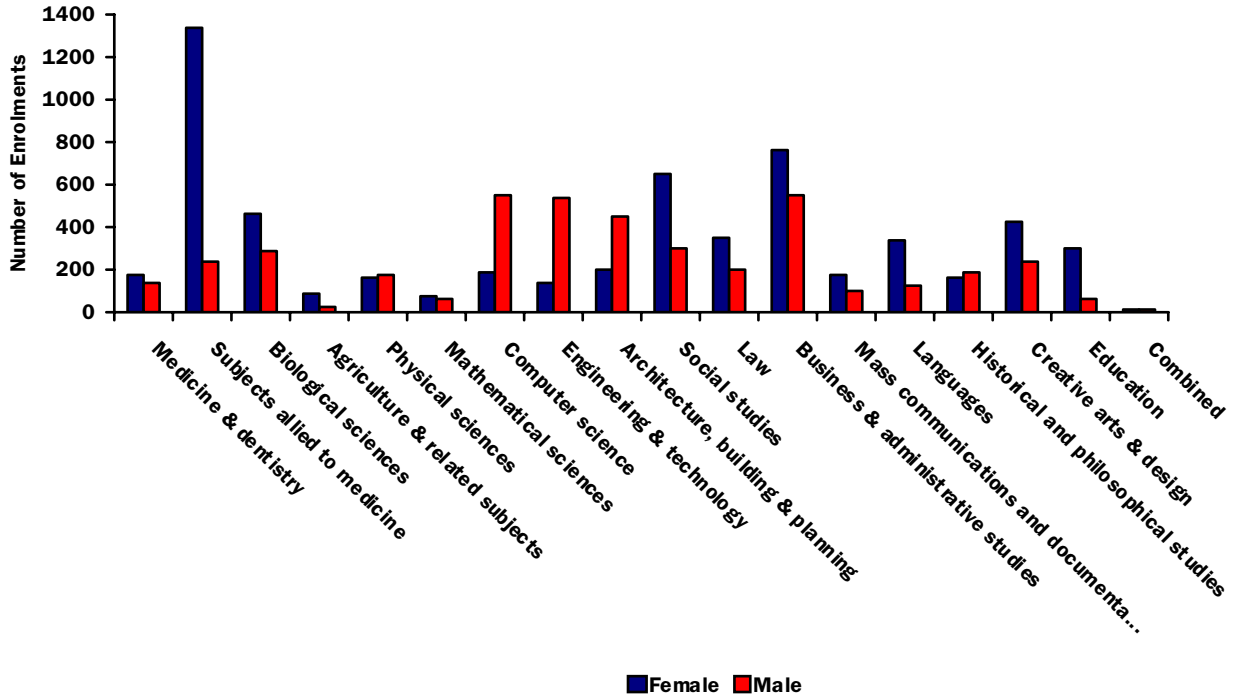
Participation in NI Universities¹ and in NI FE Colleges, 2008/09
Figure 28



Subject choice in Higher Education (source: Department for Employment and Learning)

Full-time new entrant undergraduate enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI Universities¹ by subject area 2008/09

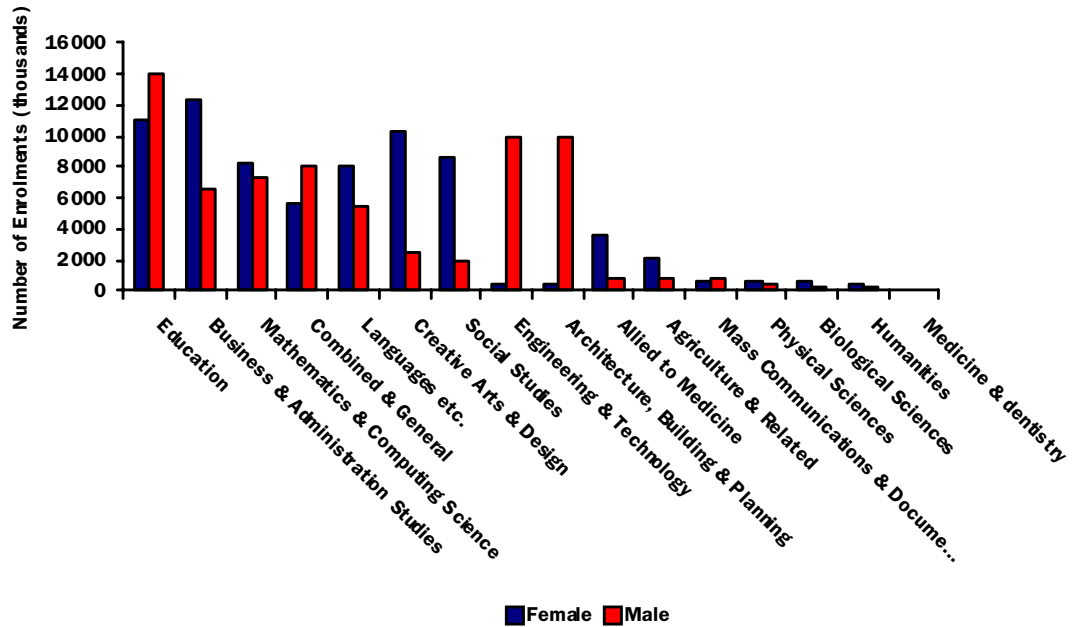
Figure 29



- Of those full-time undergraduates enrolled on the first year of science courses² at the NI universities 39% of students are female (2008/09).
- In the first year of non-science subjects³ 64% of full-time undergraduates at the NI universities are women (2008/09).
- In the first year of medicine & dentistry and subjects allied to medicine, 80% of full-time undergraduates at the NI universities are female (2008/09).
- Women at NI universities accounted for 21% of first degree graduates in engineering and technology, 33% in mathematics and computing science and 54% in physical science in 2008/09.
- In subjects allied to medicine, 83% of total enrolments at the NI Further Education Colleges are female (2008/09).
- In non science subjects³, 59% of all enrolments at NI Further Education Colleges are women (2008/09).
- In mathematical and computing sciences, 53% of total enrolments at NI Further Education Colleges are female (2008/09).
- Of the total enrolments on science courses² at the NI Further Education Colleges, 30% are female (2008/09).

Subject choice Tertiary Education: Further Education Colleges (source: Department for Employment and Learning)

Enrolments by subject area at NI Further Education Colleges 2008/09
Figure 30



¹ NI Universities includes Queen’s University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Stranmillis University College and St Mary’s University College.

² Science courses include biological sciences, veterinary science, agriculture & related subjects, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science and engineering & technology and architecture, building & planning.

³ Non science subjects include social studies, law, business & administrative studies, mass communications & documentation, languages, historical & philosophical studies, creative arts & design, education and combined studies.

Note: Both HE and FE data relates to full-year statistics for the 2008/09 academic year.

Politics and Public Life

8

Women in Politics and Public life

- 20% of Councillors in Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland are women. [31% in England according to Census of local authority councillors 2008.]
- Of the 26 Districts Councils in Northern Ireland, 6 have a female Mayor/Chair and a further 4 have a female Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chair as at September 2010.
- Northern Ireland has four elected women MPs (representing 22% of all NI MPs). In addition, two of the three Northern Ireland MEPs are female. [In GB 22% of MPs and 30% of MEPs are women.]
- 34% of public appointments in Northern Ireland are held by women. This compares with 15% in 1985, 23% in 1990 and 32% in 1995.
- On the 116 publicly appointed bodies in Northern Ireland, 21 Chair and 8 Deputy Chair posts are held by women.
- Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly took place on the 7 March 2007 - of the 108 elected members, 14 (13%) are women.

Sources: Local Government Branch,
Department of the
Environment
Local Government
Management Board,
London
House of Commons
Information Office
European Parliament
Library
Central Appointments Unit,
Office of First Minister and
Deputy First Minister

Women into Business

9

Women into Business (source: Invest NI)

How entrepreneurial are women in Northern Ireland?

- Women are the largest under-represented group when it comes to enterprise in Northern Ireland and represent an enormous pool of untapped potential. Invest Northern Ireland continues to promote and encourage female entrepreneurship through the Entrepreneurship Development Programme / Go For It Programme. Women are around one-third as likely to be entrepreneurs as males in Northern Ireland.
 - In 2009 the female level of entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland was 2.4% compared to 8% for males. This is equal to a potential shortfall of 28,000 female owned businesses if the rates for women were to equal the rates for men.
 - If the Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) for females in Northern Ireland in 2009 equalled the UK rate there would be 10,000 more businesses in the region.
 - Northern Ireland is ranked bottom of the 12 UK regions (2009) in terms of the rate of early stage entrepreneurial activity among women.
 - Entrepreneurial activity is particularly low among young women. It is also relatively low among the 45-54 age group, and in this age band the gap between women in Northern Ireland and those across the rest of the UK is widest.
 - Higher educational attainment is associated with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity. However, female graduates in Northern Ireland are about one third less likely to be entrepreneurs than male graduates and have one of the lowest levels of entrepreneurial activity of all the UK regions.
- Women in the lowest household income group in Northern Ireland record the lowest level of entrepreneurial activity compared to all other UK regions. This is another indicator of social and economic disadvantage in Northern Ireland.

What affects levels of female entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland?

Just like their male counterparts, females in Northern Ireland are affected by the following factors but to a greater extent:

- The likelihood of a woman setting up in business is strongly linked to knowing an entrepreneur, believing that there are good business opportunities and believing she has the right skills;
- The fear of failure has a negative impact on a woman's likelihood of starting a business;
- The proportion of Northern Ireland women who believe they have the necessary skills to start a business is particularly low compared to the other UK regions.

However, on a more encouraging note, women in Northern Ireland are as positive as men and, in fact, more positive than women generally across the UK, about entrepreneurship being a good career choice and having a high status.

Invest Northern Ireland Support

Invest NI promotes female entrepreneurship through 2 primary avenues:

1. the Go For It programme, which includes Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) seminars and has a specific target of achieving 50% female participation; and
2. the work of the five business women's networks

Making Progress - Results

Invest Northern Ireland measures progress in this area in two key ways:

1. The measurement of female TEA in Northern Ireland (as referenced above)
2. Through the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), which continues to indicate a deficit in the rate of female versus male entrepreneurial activity

Within the Entrepreneurship Development Programme, key measures are the number of females participating at each level, including pre-start, start up, growth and referrals of potential exporting businesses to Invest NI. Results to date are encouraging with an average of 38.5% female participation on the programme.

Prior to the launch of EDP in 2009, the previous Start a Business Programme had almost achieved parity in participation rates between male and female and this looks set to be continued.

For further information on Invest NI's female entrepreneurship activity please contact:

Karen Wilson: karen.wilson@investni.com

www.investni.com/femaleentrepreneurs

Technical Notes

10

Technical Note

Definitions

In Employment

Those aged 16 and over who did some 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.

Employees

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

Unpaid Family Workers

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.

Economically Active

People aged 16 or over who are either in employment or ILO unemployed.

Economic Activity Rate

The percentage of people in a specified age group who are economically active.

Economically Inactive

People who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired.

Employment Rate

The percentage of people in a specified age group who are in employment.

Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment used throughout this statistics notice 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 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians 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 under 1 year, while the long-term unemployed are defined as those who have been unemployed for 1 year or more.

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 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.

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.

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.

Sampling Error

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

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.

National Statistics

While all the data presented in this publication are derived from official sources, not all of the sources are classified as National Statistics. The following data sources adhere to the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) and have been designated as National Statistics:

Labour Force Survey; Claimant Count; Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; Quarterly Employment Survey; Income Support; School Leaver's Survey.

Further Information:

Further information on Northern Ireland economic statistics 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.mcnicke@detini.gov.uk

Publication now available on visiting web site:
www.statistics.detini.gov.uk