

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Quarterly

Geographical area: Northern Ireland

Reference period: Quarter 2 (June) 2023

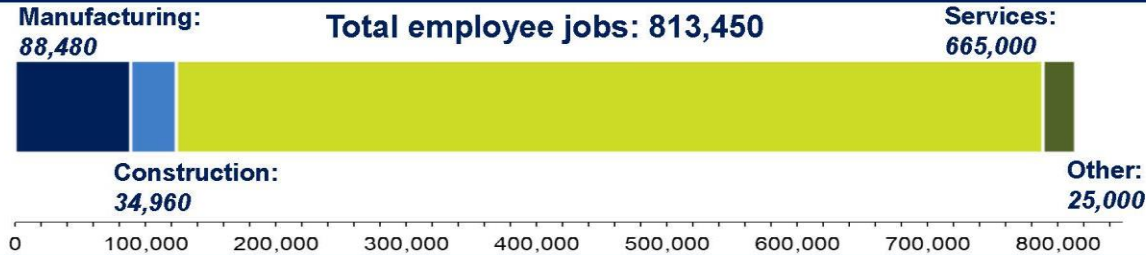
Employee jobs estimates are calculated from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) aspect of the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QES has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a representative sample of smaller firms.

The survey date for Quarter 2 was 5 June 2023. All figures are adjusted for seasonality, unless stated otherwise.

Key Points

- Latest estimates show the number of employee jobs reached 813,450 in June 2023. This was a decrease of 1,370 jobs (-0.2%) over the quarter but an increase of 13,740 jobs (+1.7%) over the year from June 2022.
- June 2023 marked the first quarterly decrease in employee jobs following eight consecutive quarterly increases.
- In the last five years, employee jobs have increased by 6.3% (+47,990 jobs) to 813,450.
- Quarterly increases in employee jobs were seen within the manufacturing (+180 jobs), construction (+670 jobs) and other industries (+170 jobs) sectors to June 2023. Employee jobs within the services sector decreased over the quarter (-2,390 jobs) to June 2023, following the series high seen in March 2023.
- There were increases in employee jobs over the year within the manufacturing (+300 jobs), services (+13,560 jobs) and other industries (+610 jobs) sectors to June 2023. The other industries sector reached a series high in June 2023 with 25,000 jobs. Employee jobs within the construction sector decreased (-730 jobs) over the year to June 2023.
- Public sector jobs increased over both the quarter (+0.2% or +540 jobs) and the year (+1.3% or +2,950 jobs) to 223,750 jobs in June 2023.
- Private sector jobs increased over the quarter (+0.0% or +160 jobs) and the year (+1.9% or +10,960 jobs) to a new series high of 590,950 jobs in June 2023.

NISRA Labour Market Statistics - Quarterly Employment Survey, June 2023



Change by Broad Industry Sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



Q: +0.2% (+180 jobs)
A: +0.3% (+300 jobs)

Construction



Q: +2.0% (+670 jobs)
A: -2.0% (-730 jobs)

Services



Q: -0.4% (-2,390 jobs)
A: +2.1% (+13,560 jobs)

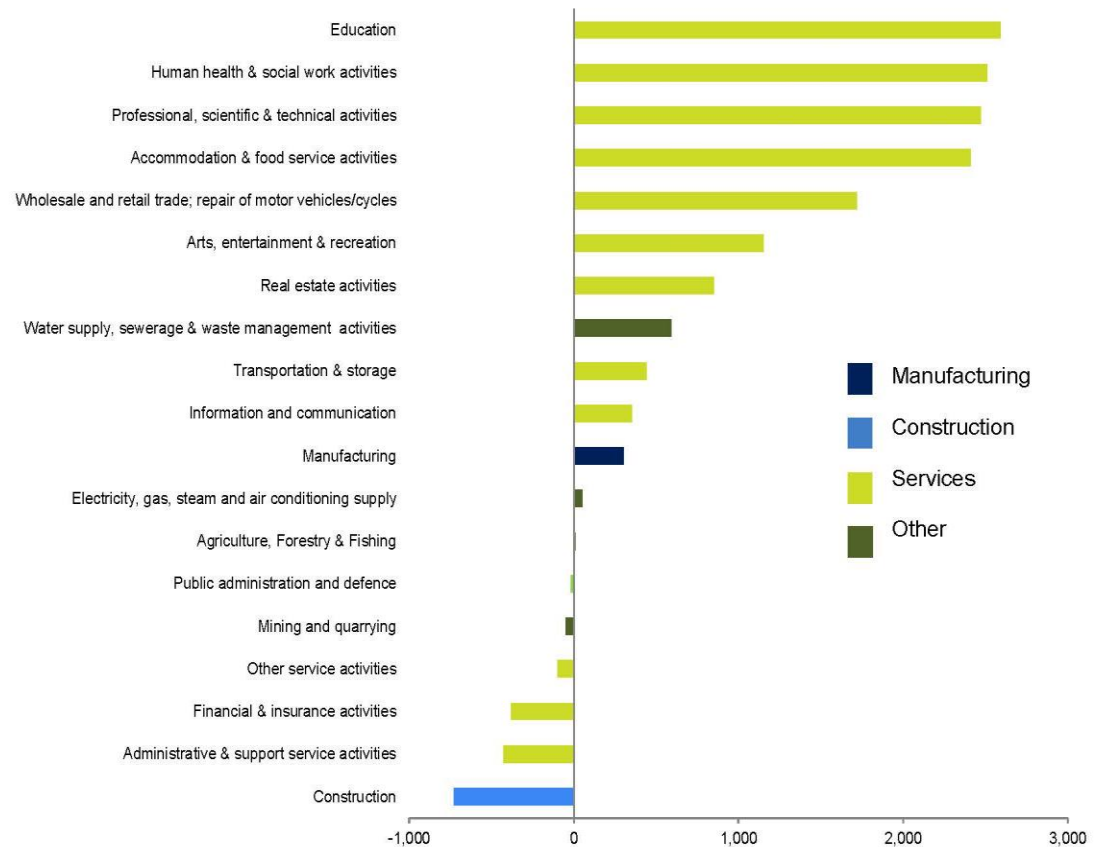
Other



Q: +0.7% (+170 jobs)
A: +2.5% (+610 jobs)

Q = quarterly change / A = annual change

Annual change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



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NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS



National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Quantified the level of uncertainty around estimates by providing confidence intervals for headline estimates;
- Removed pre-release access to enhance trustworthiness and also brought the publication date forward as a result;
- [Consulted users](#) at Labour Market User Groups and streamlined outputs in line with the UK series;
- Reduced [business burden](#) by offering the option of online data returns.
- Improved accessibility of Labour Market Statistics by [changing publication practices](#) so that reports are [no longer released on public holidays](#) and amended the format and structure of reports in line with accessibility regulations.
- Changed [timing of release](#) in line with change in ONS release practices in response to COVID-19.

NISRA Outputs Consultation

NISRA has launched a consultation on proposed changes to a range of statistical outputs and this output is one of those affected.

We are proposing: The Quarterly Employment Survey statistical bulletin will be reduced to headline results only; some further analysis will be removed (for example Composition of Employee Jobs (Full-time/Part-time) and UK Comparisons). The bulletin will be reduced from 25 pages to approximately 5 pages. Data will continue to be provided in the existing supplementary tables, with the number of supplementary tables remaining the same (approximately 15 tables).

Date proposed change will come into effect: 12 December 2023

Further information on the consultation and how to respond can be found on the [consultation page](#).

1 Summary of Employee Jobs

The survey date for Quarter 2 was 5 June 2023 for Northern Ireland (NI).

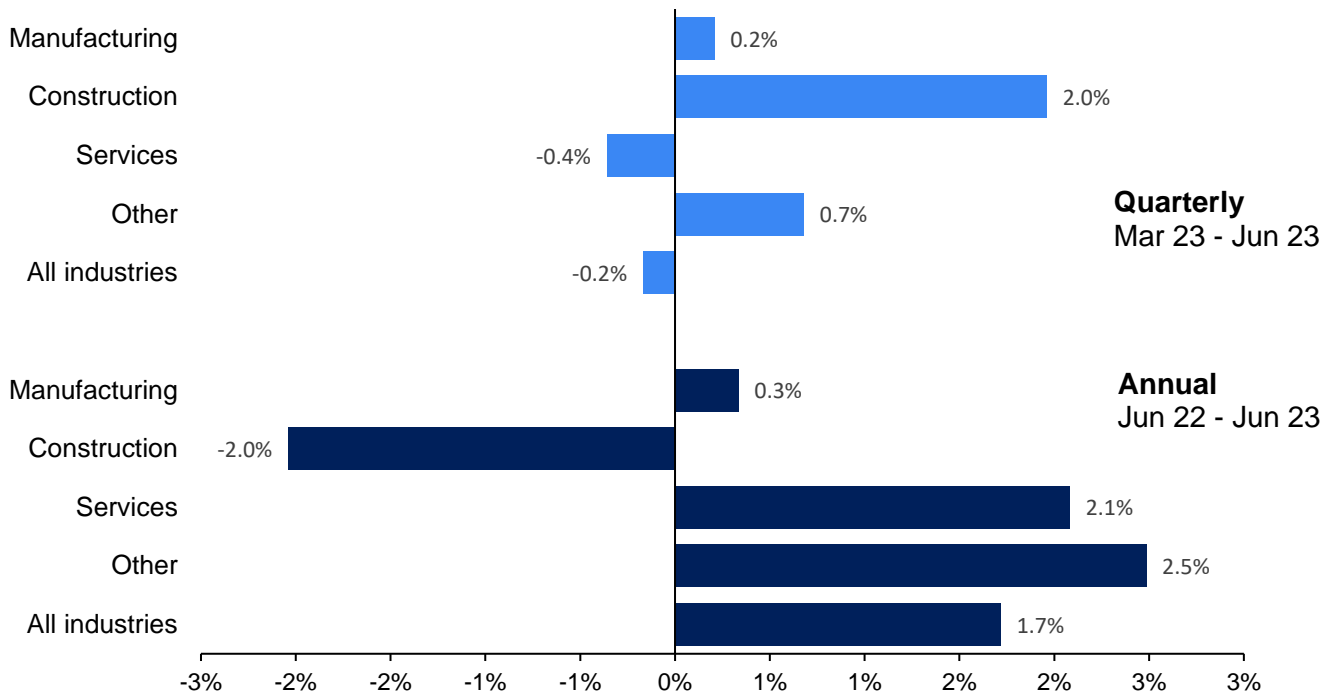
Change in employee jobs

The latest employee jobs estimate for NI at June 2023 was 813,450 (+/- 5,100¹).

This was:

- a decrease of 0.2% (-1,370 jobs) over the quarter from the revised March 2023 estimate of 814,810.
- an increase of 1.7% (+13,740 jobs) over the year from the revised June 2022 estimate of 799,710.
- The quarterly change in employee jobs was not found to be statistically significant, however, the change over the year from June 2022 was found to be statistically significant.

Figure 1.1: Annual and Quarterly Changes in Employee Jobs at Section Level



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

Change over the quarter

Comparing June 2023 employee jobs to the revised March 2023 estimates show:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 0.2% (+180 jobs) to 88,480 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 2.0% (+670 jobs) to 34,960 jobs.
- a decrease in the services sector of 0.4% (-2,390 jobs) to 665,000 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 0.7% (+170 jobs) to 25,000 jobs.

¹ Represents 95% confidence interval around estimate. More information is available in the [QES Confidence Intervals User Guidance PDF \(665KB\)](#).

Change over the year

Comparing June 2023 employee jobs to the revised June 2022 estimates show:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 0.3% (+300 jobs) to 88,480 jobs.
- a decrease in the construction sector of 2.0% (-730 jobs) to 34,960 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 2.1% (+13,560 jobs) to 665,000 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 2.5% (+610 jobs) to 25,000 jobs.

Annualised change

Comparing the employee jobs data for Quarter 3 2021 – Quarter 2 2022 to Quarter 3 2022 – Quarter 2 2023 showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 0.5%.
- an increase in the construction sector of 1.2%.
- an increase in the services sector of 3.2%.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 1.5%.

Public / private sector changes

Employee jobs estimates for the public and private sectors in June 2023 show:

- an increase of 0.2% (+540 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 1.3% (+2,950 jobs) over the year to 223,750 jobs.
- an increase of 0.0% (+160 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 1.9% (+10,960 jobs) over the year to 590,950 jobs. Private sector jobs have reached a series high in June 2023.

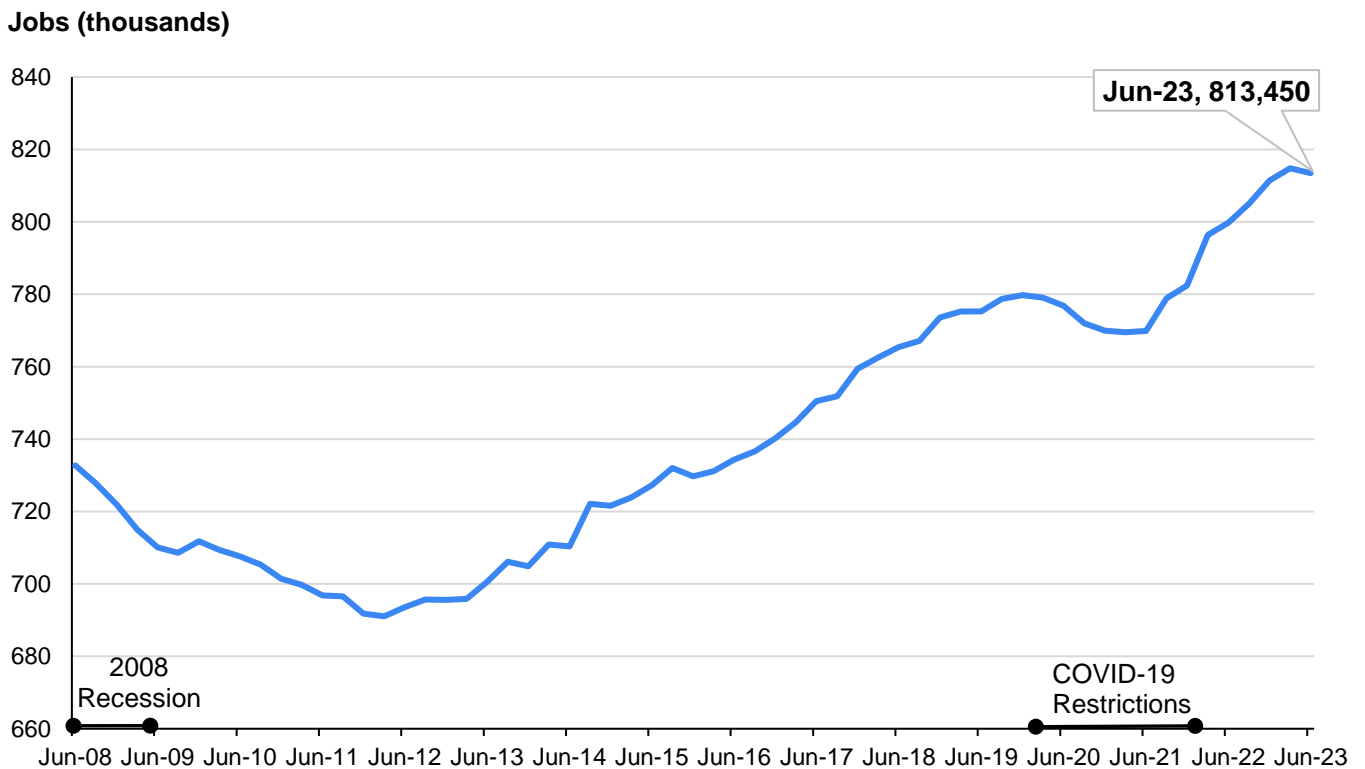
Commentary

Preliminary estimates from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) showed that NI employee jobs decreased over the quarter (-0.2% or -1,370 jobs) to 813,450 jobs in June 2023.

This marks the first decrease in employee jobs since Quarter 1 2021. The quarterly decrease in employee jobs was driven by a reduction in the services sector (-2,390 jobs). The manufacturing (+180 jobs), construction (+670 jobs) and other services (+170 jobs) industries increased over the quarter. The other industries sector reached a series high in June 2023 (25,000 jobs).

Employee jobs increased over the year to June 2023 (+1.7% or +13,740 jobs), and increases were seen in the manufacturing (+300 jobs), services (+13,560) and other industries (+610 jobs) sectors. The construction sector reported a decrease in employee jobs over the year (-730 jobs).

Figure 1.2: Seasonally Adjusted Jobs in NI, June 2008 – June 2023



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Public sector jobs increased over both the quarter (+0.2% or +540 jobs) and the year (+1.3% or +2,950 jobs) reaching 223,750 jobs. Public sector jobs have been on a gradually increasing trend since September 2016, although they are still 1.9% (-4,420 jobs) lower than the series peak in September 2009.

Private sector jobs also increased over the quarter (+0.0% or +160 jobs) and the year (+1.9% or +10,960 jobs) reaching a series high 590,950 jobs.

The UK reported increases in employee jobs over the quarter (+0.2%) and the year (+2.0%) to 32.43 million jobs in June 2023.

Context

This bulletin presents data from the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which is conducted by the Economic & Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) Branch of the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

The survey date for Quarter 2 was 5 June 2023 for NI.

The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for NI and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a representative sample of smaller firms. As it is a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability.

The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and Skills for Life and Work and Traineeship programme trainees without a contract of employment (non-employed status). The survey collects information on the number of males/females in full-time and part-time employment by business activity and the results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). The number of jobs are counted rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

All figures included in the QES are adjusted for seasonality, unless stated otherwise, where the seasonally adjusted series started in 2005. It should be noted that from Quarter 2 2020 to Quarter 3 2021 the QES estimates included those who were furloughed under the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#).

Figures from the QES are included in the [Labour Market Report](#) alongside figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Claimant Count, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data.

QES employee jobs are also a component of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) quarterly [workforce jobs estimates](#) for the UK.

QES employee jobs are included in the [DfE Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the NI economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview section](#) of the website.

Results are provisional and subject to revisions as more up-to-date data becomes available (e.g. through late returns). Figures can also change as a result of the seasonal adjustment process, methodological changes or changes to classifications. Further information is available from the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#).

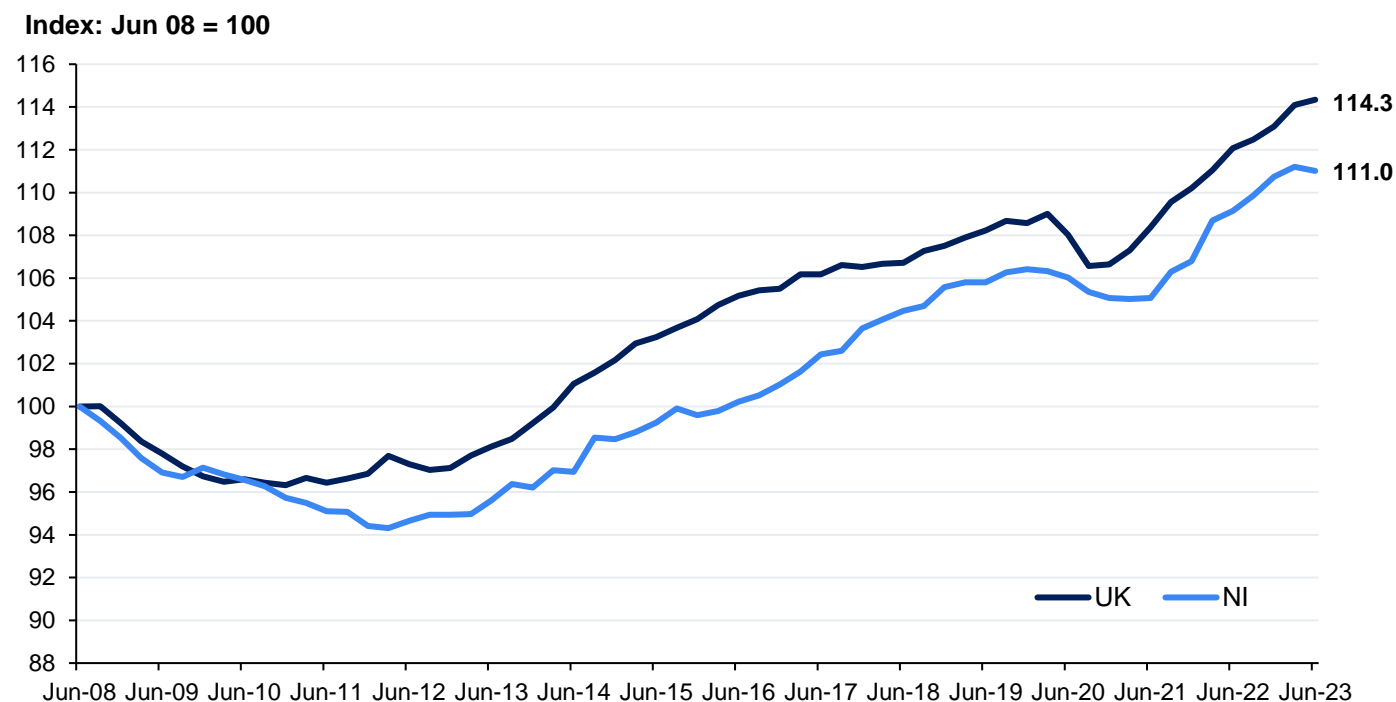
2 NI Employee Jobs

Employee: anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland. The QES counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs.

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs decreased over the quarter (-0.2% or -1,370 jobs) and increased over the year (+1.7% or +13,740 jobs) to 813,450 in June 2023.
- The decrease over the quarter was driven by the services sector (-2,390 jobs).
- The other industries sector reached a new series high in June 2023 (25,000 jobs).

Figure 2.1: Index of Employee Jobs, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

Figure 2.1 shows estimated employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. NI employee jobs decreased over the quarter (-0.2%) but increased over the year (1.7%). The UK reported an increase in employee jobs over both the quarter (0.2%) and the year (2.0%) to reach a series high in June 2023. Following the 2008 downturn, the UK reached its lowest point in December 2010, more than a year before the NI low in March 2012. NI jobs are now 17.7% above the low point in March 2012 while UK jobs are also 18.7% above their December 2010 level.

During the Covid-19 pandemic (beginning in March 2020), total NI jobs reduced quarter-on-quarter until March 2021 before showing signs of recovery. By comparison, the UK only showed a reduction in total employee jobs between June 2020 and September 2020, with quarter-on-quarter increases seen since then until June 2023. The decrease seen in the NI series in Quarter 2 2023 is the first quarterly decrease following eight consecutive quarters of growth.

Manufacturing sector

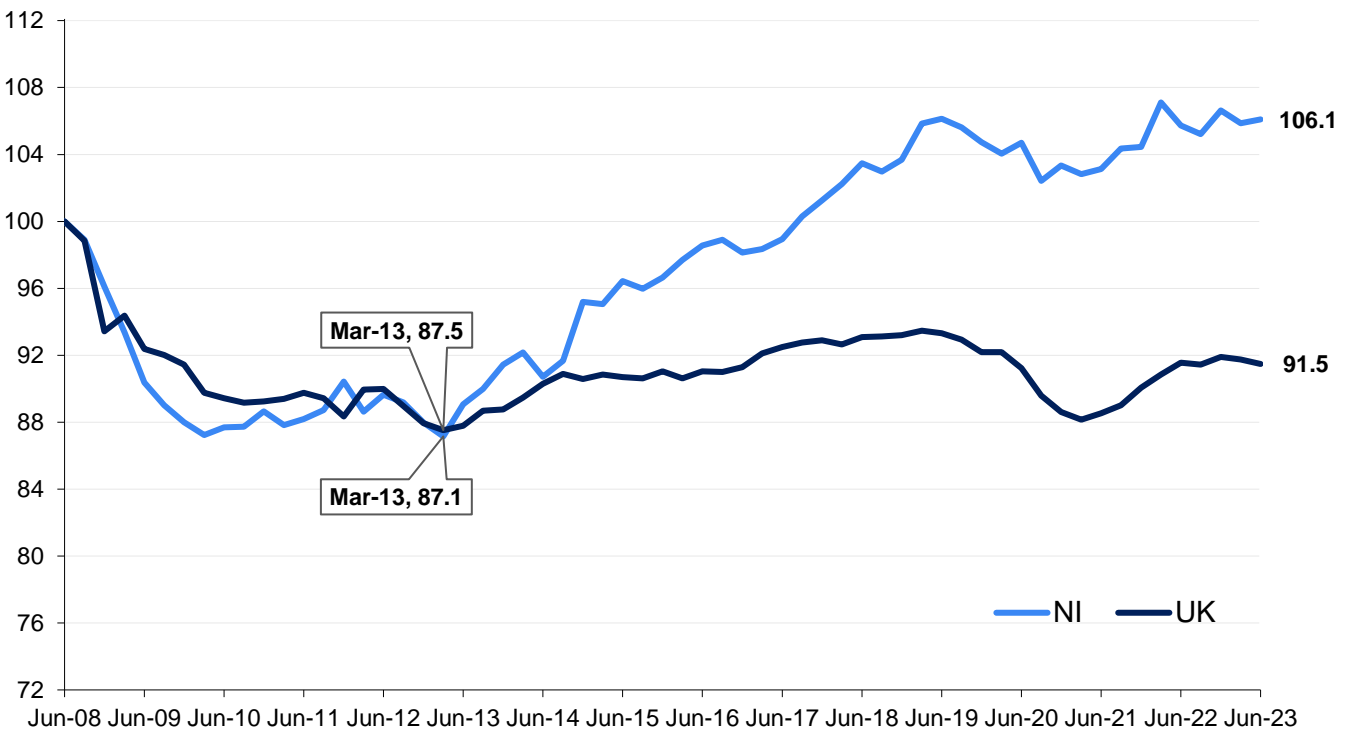
Manufacturing sector: contains businesses which produce merchandise for use or sale. It also contains businesses with activity of printing and reproduction of recorded media and businesses that repair and install machinery and equipment. Manufacturing is part of the broader production sector.

Key Findings:

- **Manufacturing sector jobs showed an increase of 0.2% (+180 jobs) over the quarter and an increase of 0.3% (+300 jobs) over the year to 88,480 jobs in June 2023.**
- **The manufacturing sector accounted for 10.9% of all employee jobs in June 2023.**

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, June 2008 – June 2023

Index: Jun 08 = 100



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

The Northern Ireland manufacturing sector experienced an increase in employee jobs over the quarter to June 2023, whilst the UK manufacturing sector experienced a decrease over the same period. NI jobs increased by 0.2% (+180 jobs), whilst the UK manufacturing sector decreased by 0.3% (-7,000 jobs) over the same period.

Both NI and the UK followed a similar trend and reached a series low in March 2013. However, from then the two series begin to diverge, with NI showing stronger growth in the manufacturing sector compared to the UK. Manufacturing jobs in NI are currently 21.7% (+15,800 jobs) above the March 2013 low point.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), the number of manufacturing jobs in NI have increased by 2.0% (+1,700 jobs), in comparison to the UK which have decreased by 0.8% (-19,000 jobs).

Key Findings

The manufacturing sector increased by 0.2% (+180 jobs) over the quarter and by 0.3% (+300 jobs) over the year to 88,480 jobs in June 2023.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have **not been adjusted for seasonality**. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2023 the **unadjusted figures** showed an increase of 0.3% (+290 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest increases were:

- an increase of 8.9% (+700 jobs) in manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c
- an increase of 9.3% (+550 jobs) in manufacture of other transport equipment
- an increase of 22.4% (+320 jobs) in other manufacturing

The increases over the year were partially offset by some decreases in manufacturing subsectors; the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 8.0% (-700 jobs) in manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- a decrease of 16.1% (-540 jobs) in manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
- a decrease of 19.1% (-530 jobs) in manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA website – [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

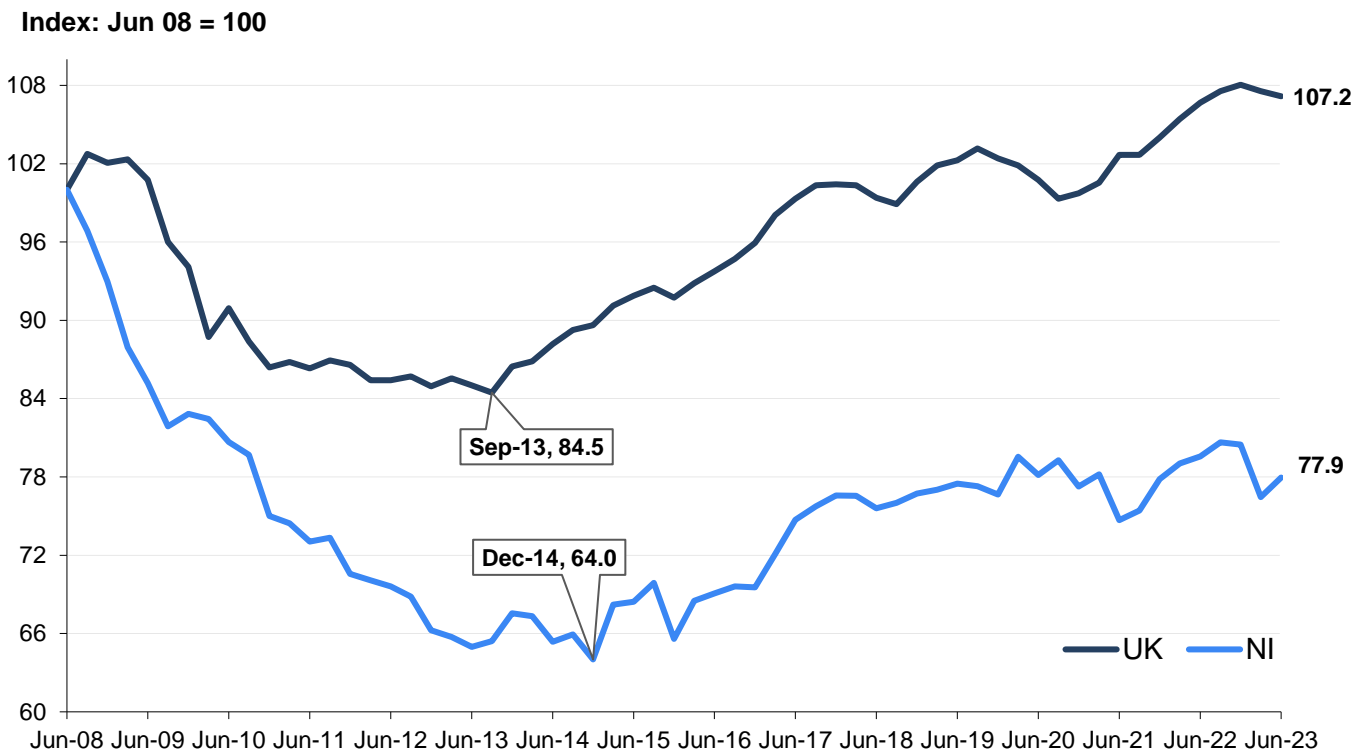
Construction sector

Construction sector: construction is the process of creating and building infrastructure or a facility. It differs from manufacturing in that manufacturing typically involves mass production of similar items without a designated purchaser and construction is typically done on location for a known client. The construction sector consists of businesses with activity in the construction of buildings, civil engineering or specialised construction activities.

Key Findings:

- Construction sector jobs showed an increase of 2.0% (+670 jobs) over the quarter and a decrease of 2.0% (-730 jobs) over the year to 34,960 jobs in June 2023.
- The construction sector accounted for 4.3% of all employee jobs in June 2023.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

Construction sector jobs showed an increase over the quarter to June 2023 (+2.0% or +670 jobs) and a decrease over the year (-2.0% or -730 jobs). The most recent series low in the NI construction sector was in December 2014 (28,720 jobs). The latest estimates show a 21.8% (+6,250 jobs) improvement on this level; however, the number of employee jobs in the NI construction sector remains 25.4% (-11,880 jobs) lower than the series peak in December 2007.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), the number of construction jobs in NI have decreased by 2.0% (-720 jobs). In comparison, construction jobs in the UK have increased by 5.2% (+77,000 jobs).

Key Findings

The construction sector increased by 2.0% (+670 jobs) over the quarter and decreased by 2.0% (-730 jobs) over the year to 34,960 jobs in June 2023.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC construction data that have **not been adjusted for seasonality**. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2023 the **unadjusted figures** showed a decrease of 2.0% (-730 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 0.8% (+70 jobs) in construction of buildings.
- a decrease of 4.2% (-390 jobs) in civil engineering.
- a decrease of 2.2% (-400 jobs) in specialised construction activities.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA website - [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

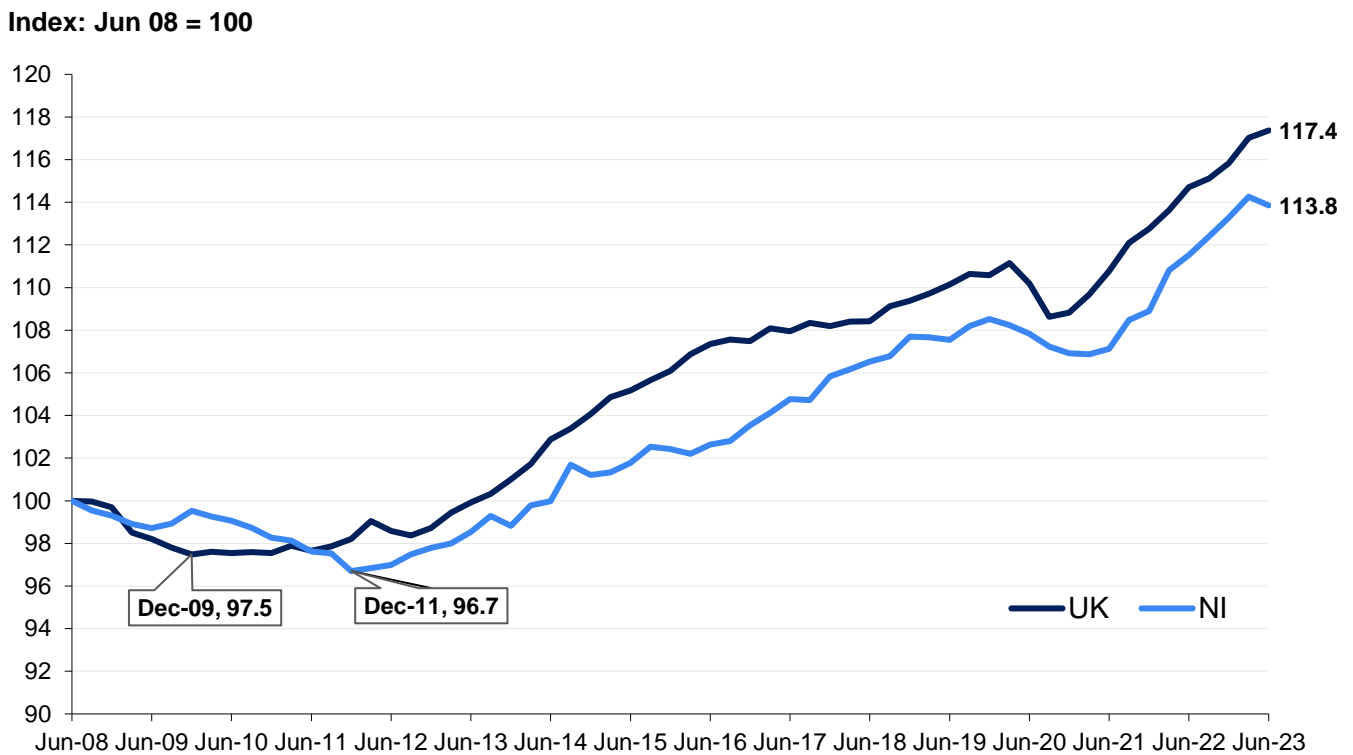
Services sector

Services sector: the services sector contains businesses which sell services and skills; and includes education, public administration and health and social work activities. A full list of the industry sections G-S which are included in the services sector can be found in table 5.5 within the supplementary tables on the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

Key Findings:

- Services sector jobs showed a decrease of 0.4% (-2,390 jobs) over the quarter and an increase of 2.1% (+13,560 jobs) over the year to 665,000 jobs in June 2023.
- June 2023 marked the first quarterly decrease in the services sector since Quarter 1 2021.
- The services sector accounted for 81.8% of all employee jobs in NI in June 2023

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

Services sector jobs in NI experienced a decrease over the quarter to June 2023 (-0.4% or -2,390 jobs) following the series high 667,390 jobs in March 2023. This is the first decrease seen in the services sector since Quarter 1 2021. However, over the year, the number of employee jobs in the services sector has increased by 2.1% (+13,560 jobs). Since the low point in June 2005, there has been an increase of 20.7% (+113,840 jobs) in employee jobs in the services sector. The UK experienced an increase in service sector jobs over the quarter (+0.3% or +83,000 jobs) and over the year (+2.3% or 632,000 jobs) to reach a series high in June 2023.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic services jobs in NI experienced a more prolonged decline compared to the rest of the UK. NI services jobs declined each quarter from March 2020 through to March 2021, before beginning to recover in June 2021. In contrast, UK services jobs began to recover much sooner, after only two quarters of decline from June 2020 through to September 2020.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), the number of service jobs in NI have increased by 5.2% (+32,810 jobs). Similarly, UK service sector jobs have increased by 5.6% (+1,475,000 jobs).

Key Findings

The services sector decreased by 0.4% (-2,390 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 2.1% (+13,560 jobs) over the year to 665,000 jobs in June 2023.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have **not been adjusted for seasonality**. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2023 the **unadjusted figures** showed an increase of 2.1% (13,550 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 3.2% (+2,580 jobs) in education.
- an increase of 5.2% (+2,160 jobs) in food and beverage service activities.
- an increase of 2.6% (+1,940 jobs) in human health activities.

The overall increase was partially offset by some decreases in services subsectors, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 17.8% (-2,100 jobs) in office administrative, office support and other business support activities.
- a decrease of 8.2% (-540 jobs) in activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities.
- a decrease of 3.1% (-450 jobs) in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA website - [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

Other industries sector

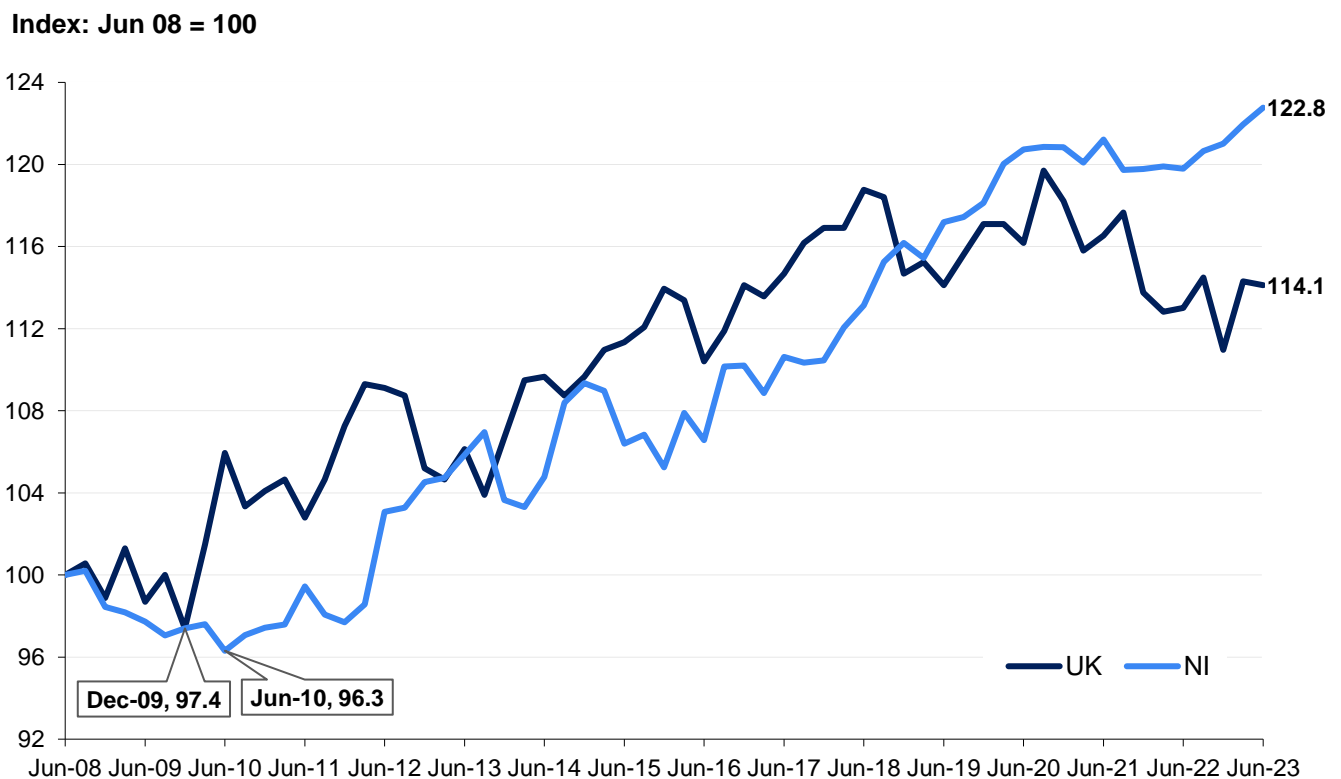
Other industries sector: this sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for approximately 90% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are published annually in January and relate to the previous September.

Key Findings:

- The other industries sector showed an increase of 0.7% (+170 jobs) over the quarter and of 2.5% (+610 jobs) over the year to June 2023.
- The other industries sector reached a new series high, 25,000 jobs.
- The other industries sector made up 3.1% of all employee jobs in June 2023.

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 16.0% (+3,440 jobs) over the 10-year period to June 2023. UK other industry jobs increased by 7.5% (+43,000 jobs) over the same period.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), the number of jobs in other industries for NI have increased by 2.3% (+560 jobs), whilst UK jobs have decreased by 2.5% (-16,000 jobs).

Key Findings

The other industries sector increased by 0.7% (+170 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.5% (+610 jobs) over the year to 25,000 jobs.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC other industries data that have **not been adjusted for seasonality**. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2023 the **unadjusted figures** showed an increase of 2.5% (+610 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 7.1% (+380 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery.
- an increase of 11.2% (+150 jobs) in water collection, treatment and supply.
- an increase of 2.3% (+50 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply.

The overall increase was partially offset by some decreases in services subsectors; the 2 decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 3.0% (-60 jobs) in other mining and quarrying.
- a decrease of 16.9% (-50 jobs) in forestry and logging.

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA website - [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

3 Public/Private Sector Employee Jobs

Public sector: the NI public sector can be broken down into five areas:

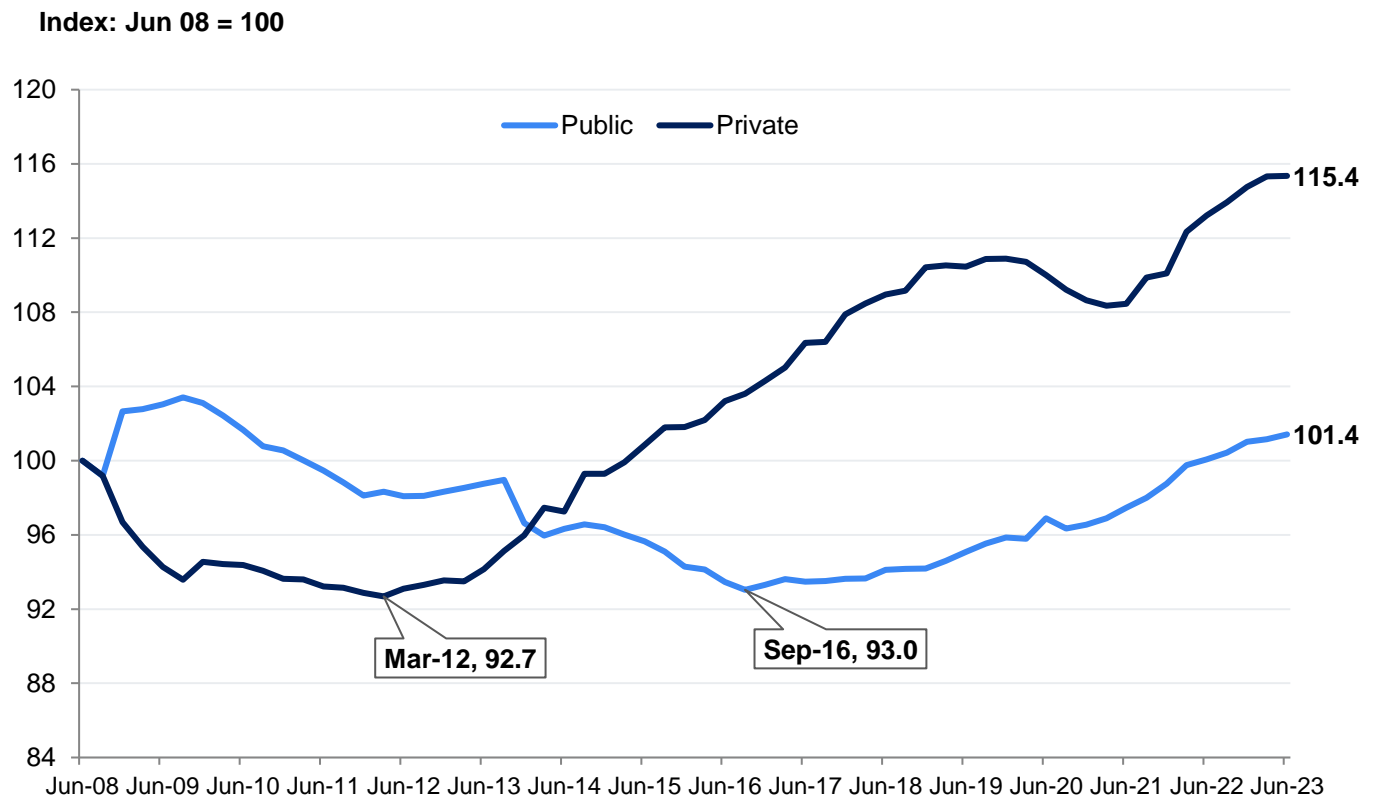
1. NI central government
2. Bodies under aegis of NI central government
3. UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
4. Local government
5. Public corporations

Private sector: the private sector encompasses all for-profit businesses (not owned or operated by the government) and the voluntary sector, which includes charities and other non-profit organisations.

Key Findings:

- **Public sector jobs increased over both the quarter and the year to 223,750 jobs.**
- **Private sector jobs increased over both the quarter and the year to 590,950 jobs. Private sector jobs reached a new series high in June 2023.**
- **The NI public sector made up 27.5%, and the private sector 72.6%, of all employee jobs in June 2023².**
- **NI public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population was 12%³. This compares to 9% in the UK.**

Figure 3.1: Index of NI Public and Private Sector Jobs, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

² The Public and Private sector jobs series are individually seasonally adjusted and as a result the sum of both series may not equal the Northern Ireland total employee jobs estimate and percentage breakdowns may not equal 100.

³ Latest population estimate available – [August 2022](#).

Changes over the quarter

The latest figures represented:

- an increase of 0.2% (+540 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.0% (+160 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest figures represented:

- an increase of 1.3% (+2,950 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 1.9% (+10,960 jobs) in the private sector.

June 2023 marked the eighth quarterly annual increase in private sector jobs, following five consecutive quarters of annual decline. Private sector jobs have increased 5.9% (+32,740 jobs) in the last five years reaching a new series high in June 2023.

Following a period of annual decline in public sector employee jobs between December 2013 and March 2017, there has been annual increases in public sector jobs between June 2017 and June 2023.

However, there are 4,420 fewer public sector jobs (-1.9%) than at the series peak in September 2009.

4 Composition of Employee Jobs

Please note: data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

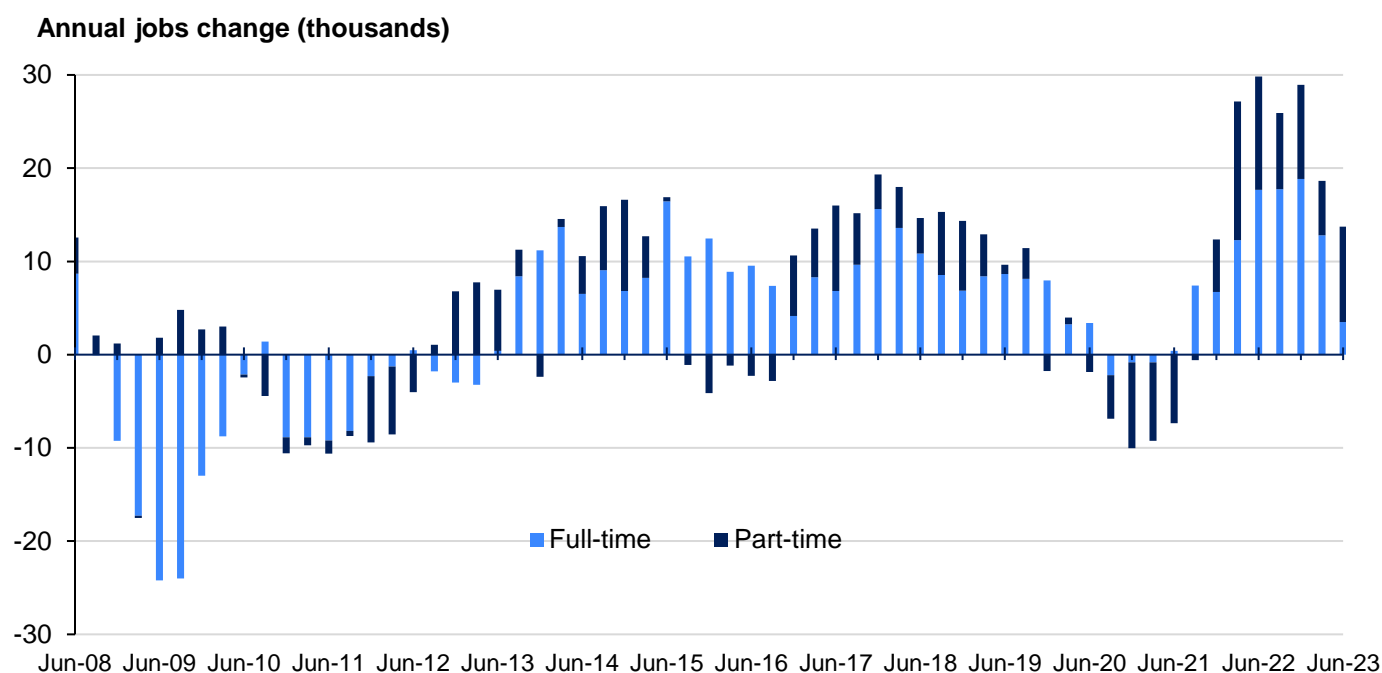
Part-time: part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

Full-time: full-time means those who normally work more than 30 hours a week.

Key Findings

- The number of full-time jobs decreased (-0.2% or -850 jobs) and the number of part-time jobs also decreased (-0.1% or -330 jobs) over the quarter to June 2023.
- Part-time jobs have decreased this quarter following the series high achieved in March 2023 and accounted for 34% of all employee jobs in June 2023.
- Over the year to June 2023, both full-time (+0.7% or +3,480 jobs) and part-time jobs (+3.8% or +10,245 jobs) have increased.

Figure 4.1: Full-time and part-time jobs annual change, June 2008 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

The latest estimates showed that:

- The low point for full-time jobs was in March 2013 with the number of full-time jobs increasing by 19.7% (+87,770 jobs) since this point.
- Part-time jobs have increased by 18.5% (+43,670 jobs) since the series low point in September 2005.
- Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020) until June 2023, full-time jobs have increased by 4.6% (+23,420 jobs), with part-time jobs also increasing by 4.4% (+11,920 jobs).

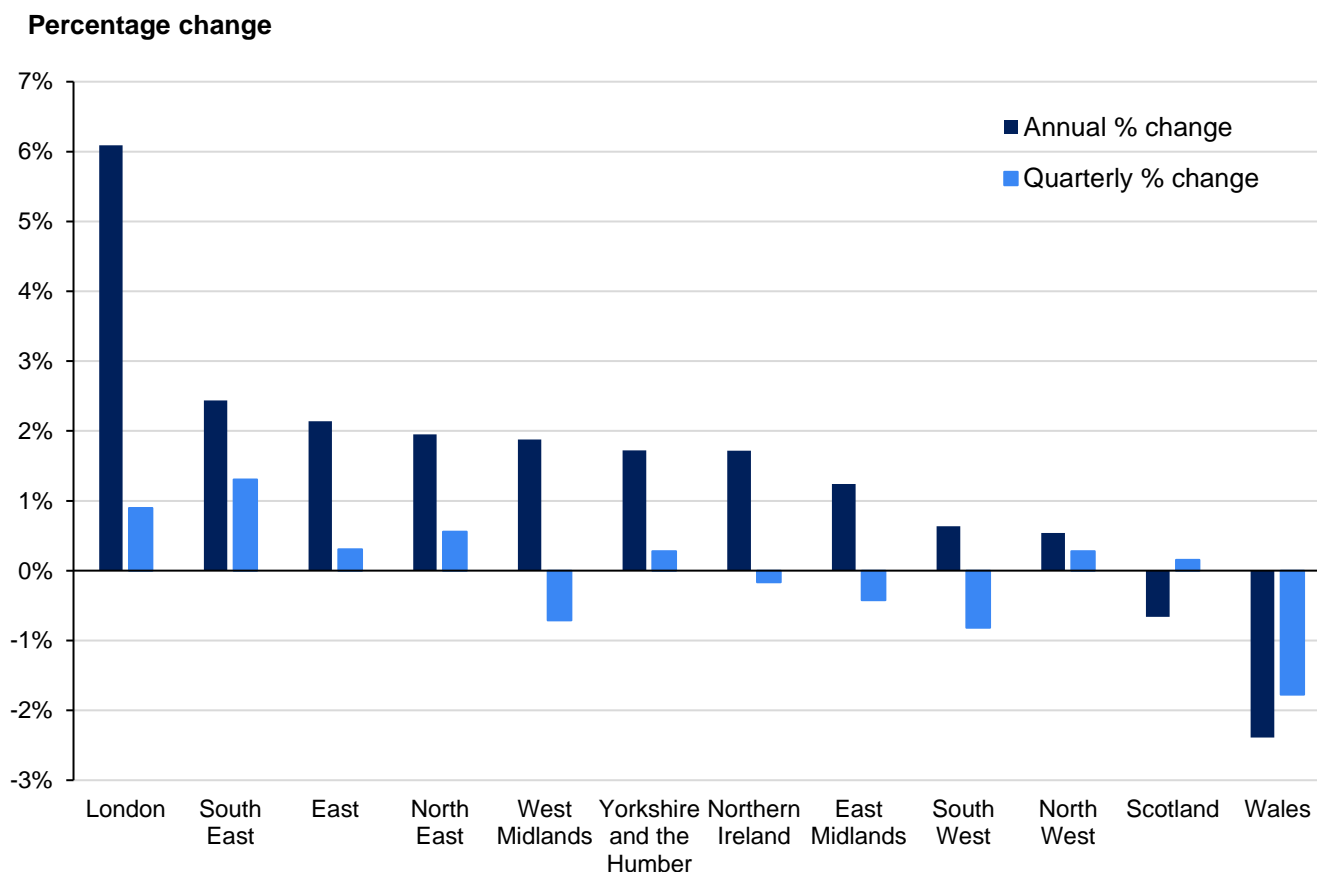
5 UK Comparisons

Employee jobs figures for GB regions are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). ONS produces a publication on [Workforce Jobs by region](#). Unlike QES, Workforce Jobs include employee jobs, self-employed, government supported trainees and Her Majesty's Forces.

Key Findings

- The UK reported increases in employee jobs over the quarter (+0.2%) and over the year (+2.0%) to 32.43 million jobs in June 2023.
- Out of all twelve UK regions, seven regions showed an increase over the quarter. NI employee jobs decreased by 0.2% over the quarter.
- Out of all twelve UK regions, ten regions showed an increase over the year, in which London recorded the largest estimated annual increase (+6.1%).
- Northern Ireland employee jobs increased by 1.7% over the year.

Figure 5.1: Annual and Quarterly percentage change in Employee Jobs by UK Region, June 2022 – June 2023 and March 2023 – June 2023



[Download Q2-23 Data](#)

6 Further Information

Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey issued under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and is designed to collect information on employees and turnover. The main outputs are published in four quarterly publications – the [Quarterly Employment Survey](#) (QES), [Index of Services](#) (IOS), [Index of Production](#) (IOP) and [Quarterly Construction Enquiry](#) (QCE).

Impact of COVID-19 on data collection and estimates

Due to restrictions in place for businesses, COVID-19 impacted on the data collection and validation of employee jobs data, which are collected on the Quarterly Business Survey. The following table provides an overview of median coverage response rates for 2020, 2021, and 2022, compared to Quarter 2 2023:

Response rate type	Q2 2023	2022 (median*)	2021 (median*)	2020 (median*)
Coverage response rate (returned employees)	74.9%	68.5%	66%	64%

*median value achieved at QES database closure of quarter 1, quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4.

Revisions to employee job estimates can be tracked via the revisions triangle on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#). Comparisons of provisional employee jobs estimates at lower industry levels in particular (e.g. 2 digit Standard Industrial Classification level), should be treated with caution.

It should be noted that from Quarter 2 2020 to Quarter 3 2021 the QES estimates included those who were furloughed under the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#).

An [analysis of the furlough data](#) collected on QES and a comparison to the official estimates produced by HMRC was published on 14 June 2022.

Sample

The QES, IOS, IOP and QCE are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP/QCE of approximately 2,250 businesses. The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a sample of the remainder. QES covers all industrial sections apart from agriculture. Employee estimates for the agricultural sector are provided, on an annual basis (figures for June are provided in the January of the following year), from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm Census. Agriculture employees include all workers on agricultural businesses other than (a) part-time farmers and partners and (b) farmers' spouses. They include full-time, part-time and casual workers, both paid and unpaid.

The QES sample is drawn from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), as follows:

Employment Size/Sector	Percentage of businesses selected
0-9 employees	Sample (4%)
10-24 employees	Sample (9%)
Multiple Industry Activities	Full Count (100%)
25+ employees	Full Count (100%)
Public Sector	Full Count (100%)

As the QES is a sample survey, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability i.e. if we drew many similar samples each would give a different result. [Confidence intervals PDF \(665KB\)](#) provide a measure of the size of the sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval for the June 2023

employee jobs estimate is 813,450 +/- 5,100. This means that in 100 similar samples we would expect 95 (95%) of the confidence intervals to contain the true population value of the number of employee jobs.

The survey collects information on numbers of persons in full-time and part-time employment. It should be noted that the survey counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and a part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

Employment results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). As a result, no individual business can be identified.

Updates to the sample frame

The annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) results are used to update employee and SIC code variables on the Inter Departmental Business Register annually in quarter 1. The impact of this update is greatest at 2 digit SIC level. Users should be aware that changes at this level may be due to a reallocation of jobs/businesses to SIC codes following the sample frame update.

Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data

The introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 contributed to the volatility of the series. To counteract these effects from March 2016 the number of businesses selected in SIC and size bands experiencing the greatest impact of rotation increased.

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). This new information helps to improve the industry estimates of employee jobs each quarter but also adds volatility to quarterly and annual changes, particularly at 2 digit SIC level. SICs 74 (Other professional, scientific and technical activities) and 82 (Office administrative, office support and other business support activities) are most affected by updates to industry codes. More information can be found in Section 3 of the [Analysis of the Impact of Quarterly Employment Survey Data Revisions PDF \(555KB\)](#) document. It is therefore recommended that changes in employee jobs estimates at 2 digit SIC level are considered in the context of a longer time series.

Revisions Policy

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided by employers. The March 2023 seasonally adjusted estimate published in June 2023 has been revised down (0.5%). Estimates for the latest quarter as well as the previous four quarters are provisional and subject to revision in light of (a) late responses to surveys and administrative sources and (b) where cross survey congruence checks provide more accurate data. As a result of seasonal adjustment factors which are re-estimated every quarter, there may be amendments to the seasonally adjusted series outside of the revisable period (previous four quarters) and applicable back to March 2005. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur. The revisions triangle can be accessed on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#).

Public Sector Reclassifications

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations. The following table summarises the changes announced by the Public Sector Classification Committee and the date the changes took place.

Date of change	Summary	Revision applied from
Dec 2006	NI Housing Executive reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70	Mar 2004
Jan 2012	Water service became a Government owned company, as a result employees transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government"	Apr 2007
Mar 2014	Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries reclassified to private sector	Dec 2013
Sep 2017	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to public sector	Sep 1992

Date of change	Summary	Revision applied from
Sep 2018	Registered housing associations in NI moved from section N to L in sections level data	Mar 2005
Aug 2020	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to private sector*	Sep 2020

*See note on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#) page for further information.

Seasonal Adjustment

A seasonally adjusted series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Time series data for seasonally adjusted employee jobs from 2005 to date for industry section (A-S) and main industrial sector are available on the [Quarterly Employment Survey webpage](#).

Seasonal adjustment models are periodically reviewed as seasonal trends can change over time. The latest review was carried out in July 2023 and more information can be found in the QES Seasonal Adjustment Review Report on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#).

Alternative measures of employment

QES is only one of the measures of employment for NI. Other measures are summarised below.

[Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#) - a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as BRES. Information on employee jobs at a sub NI level (e.g. District Council Area) and at the 5-digit SIC07 level are available from BRES. The QES sample size is designed so that estimates of total employee jobs are within +/- 1% of the BRES total.

[Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#) - a household survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. The LFS defines employment as the number of people in work. This differs from the concept of jobs measured by business surveys as a person can have more than one job, and some jobs may be shared by more than one person. LFS employment figures are based on a rolling three month period whereas QES measures the number of jobs on a particular day. LFS employment figures include those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government supported training programmes.

[Agricultural Census](#) - the numbers of employees in agriculture are available separately from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Agricultural Census. The Census is conducted in June of each year, with the results published in the January of the following year. The QES includes farm census figures in the total number of employee jobs.

[Northern Ireland Civil Service \(NICS\) Employee Bulletin](#) – provides further information on NICS employee jobs. The survey dates for the NICS Employee Bulletin differ from the QES survey dates. As such the figures for the NICS employee jobs may differ. NICS employee jobs figures are included in the QES employee jobs figures and breakdowns can be found in Table 5.12 on the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#) (in the historical data section).

Annualised or Rolling 4 Quarters

Annualised change or rolling 4 quarters figures are calculated by taking the difference between the average over the most recent 4 quarters and the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year, as a proportion of the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year. For example, annualised growth of +2.8% in June 2023 reported in this publication is the average number of jobs from Q3 2022 to Q2 2023 minus the average number of jobs from Q3 2021 to Q2 2022, divided by the average number of jobs from Q3 2021 to Q2 2022. This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

Date of next publication

Forthcoming release dates are published in the [Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch Publication Schedule](#). The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 12 December 2023.

Further information

If you require further information about the figures contained in this publication or the accompanying tables, please contact the Quarterly Employment Survey section using the details below:

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