



Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey 2019

Key Points

-  The total number of employee jobs in Northern Ireland in September 2019 was 785,870, an increase of 14,491 (1.9%) since September 2018.
-  The increase in employee jobs was mainly driven by growth in the service industry (13,187 jobs) which was responsible for 91% of the total increase.
-  The manufacturing sector increased by 830 jobs (1.0%) over the year to September 2019. However, growth slowed as the equivalent increase for the previous year was 3.8%.
-  Construction jobs continued to grow with an increase of 0.8% (276 jobs) over the year to September 2019. However, growth was seen to slow on the previous year (2.6%).
-  All District Council areas in Northern Ireland saw an increase in employee jobs except for Ards and North Down, where a small decrease (104) was observed over the year to September 2019. Belfast experienced the largest increase, with 4,559 additional jobs, whereas Derry City and Strabane and Antrim and Newtownabbey saw the largest percentage increase (3.9%).

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Annual

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Date: 30 June 2020

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Employment Survey](#)

These data were collected on 2nd September 2019. This pre-dates the introduction of any COVID-19 restrictions, and the impact on the labour market.

The tables accompanying this report can be found [here](#).

Note that the data and analysis presented in this report includes agriculture figures while the data in the accompanying tables excludes agriculture figures.

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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.

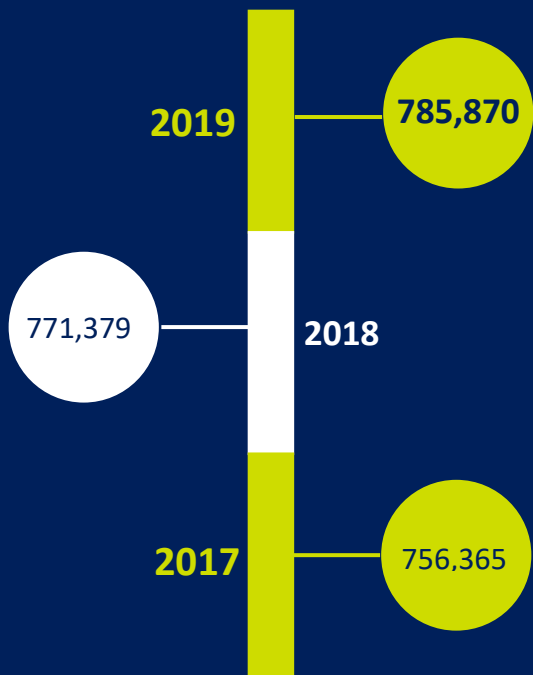
These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

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:

- Reduced the burden on those providing their information, and on those collecting, recording and supplying data by reducing the sample size and sharing data wherever feasible.
- Enhanced quality by improving timeliness of the release and providing information to users on [quality assurance and methodology](#).
- Redesigned the Business Register and Employment Survey report, improving explanatory material including charts, maps and data visualisations.

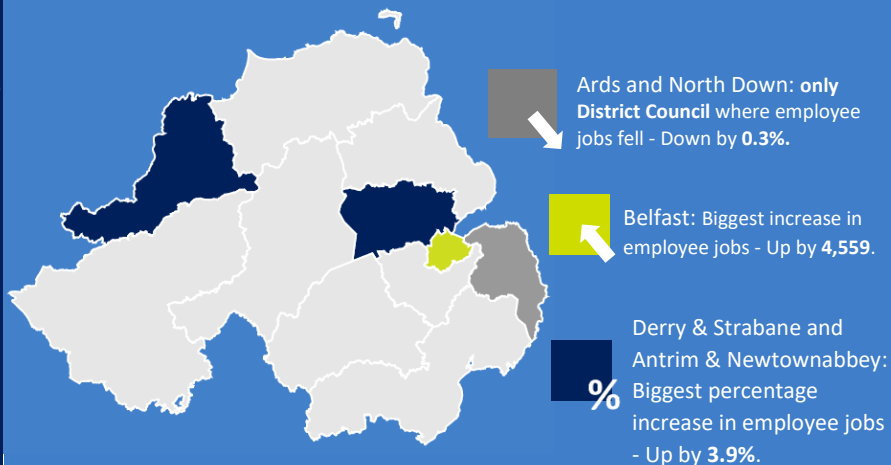
September 2019

Employee Jobs Northern Ireland



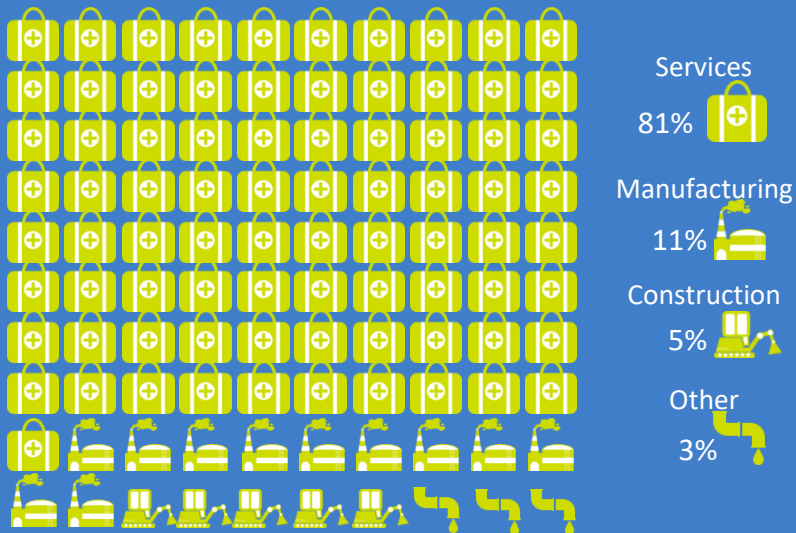
Location

Employee jobs by District Council

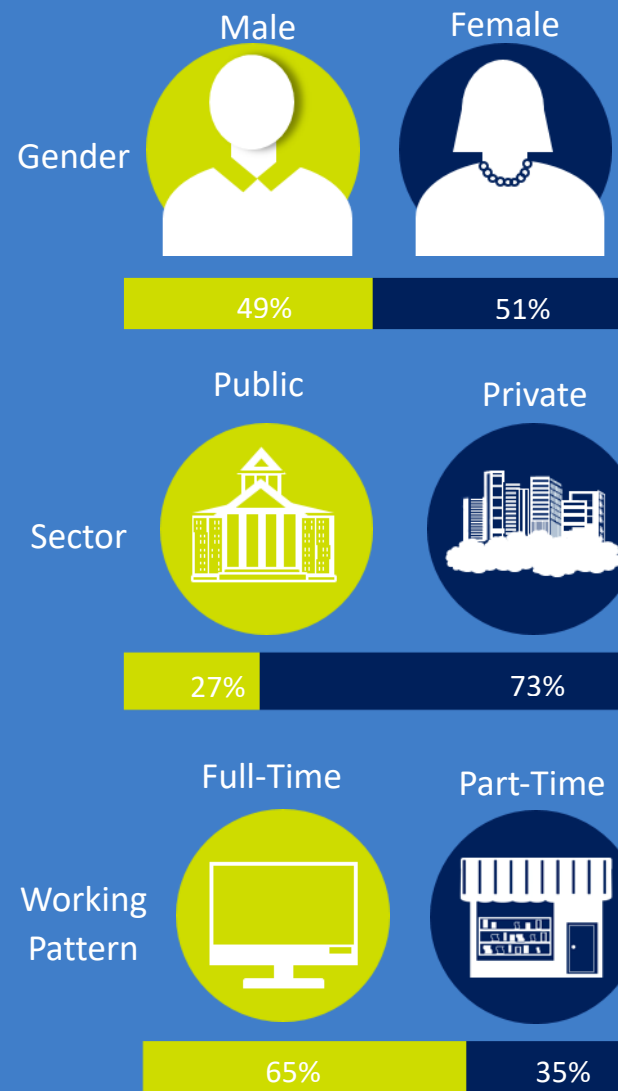


Industry

Employee jobs by headline industry



Composition of Employee Jobs

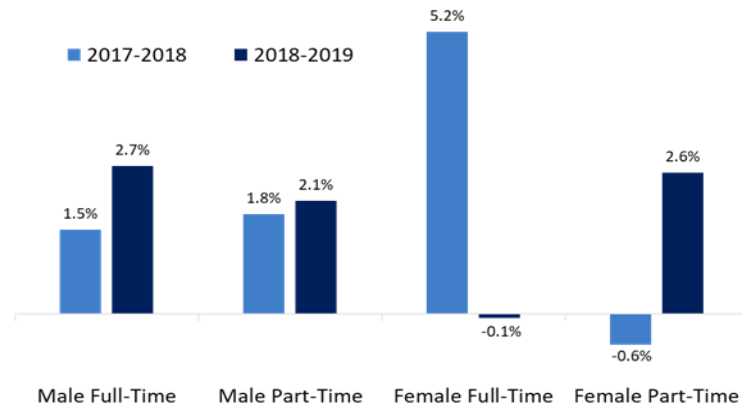


Gender & Working Pattern



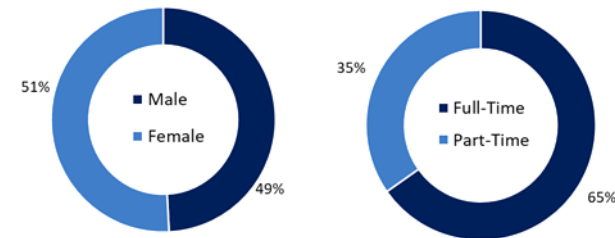
The number of employee jobs in Northern Ireland was 785,870 at September 2019. This was an increase of 1.9% on the 2018 figure (771,379).

Figure 1: Percentage Change in Employee Jobs by Gender and Working Pattern, 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019



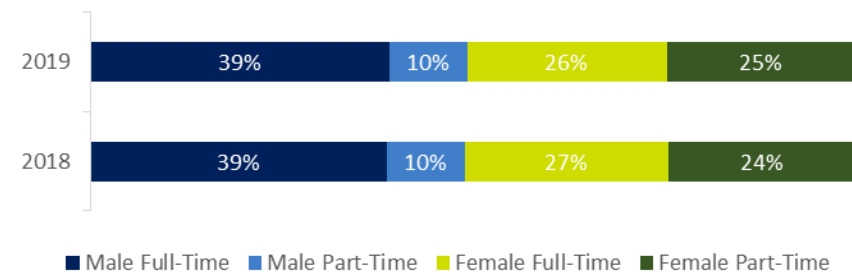
The majority of the growth over the year (56%) was in male full-time jobs which increased by 8,138. This represented a 2.7% rise over the year. Female part-time jobs saw an increase of 2.6% (4,894) while female full-time jobs declined slightly by 0.1% (161) following a 5.2% growth over the previous year.

Figure 2: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Gender and Working Pattern, 2019



Employee jobs were evenly split by gender, with just over half of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland occupied by females (51%). Nearly two thirds (65%) of employee jobs were full-time. The composition of jobs by gender and working pattern showed that 79% of male jobs were full-time, whereas female jobs were more evenly split by working pattern, with 52% full-time, and 48% part-time.

Figure 3: Composition of Employee Jobs by Gender and Working Pattern, 2018 and 2019



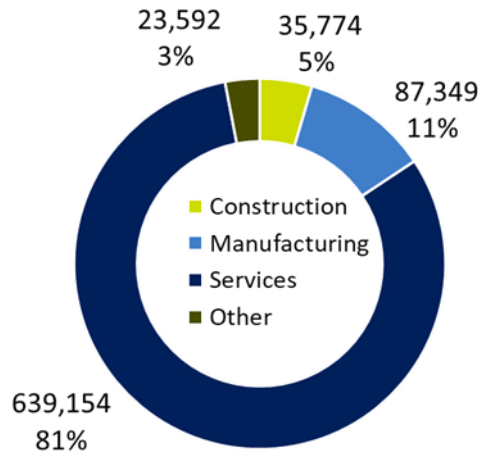
The profile of jobs by gender and working pattern remained largely unchanged since 2018.

Industry - Headline Level



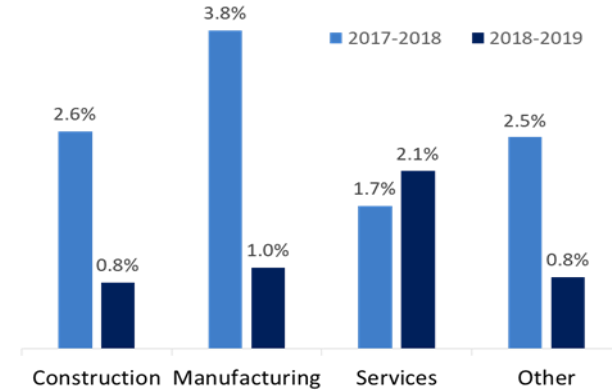
The services industry dominated employee jobs in Northern Ireland, as it made up 81% (639,154) of the overall figure. The second largest industry was manufacturing with 87,349 jobs (11%), and together they comprised over 90% of all Northern Ireland jobs. The headline industry profile of jobs remained unchanged from 2018.

Figure 4: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Headline Industry, 2019



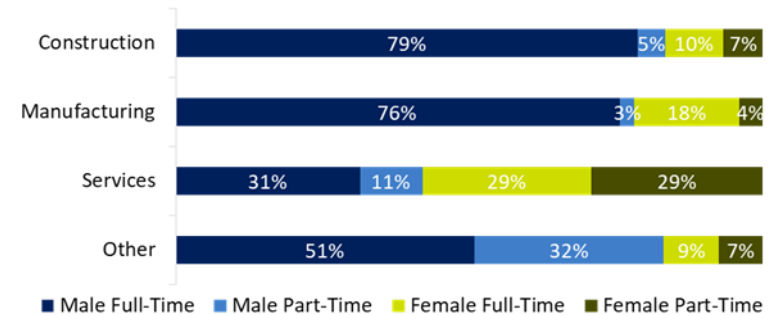
Employee jobs increased in all four headline industries over the year. The vast majority of growth (91%) was due to an increase in jobs in the services sector.

Figure 5: Percentage Change in Employee Jobs by Headline Industry, 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019



Manufacturing, construction and other increased at a slower rate than the previous year, whereas services increased at a higher rate.

Figure 6: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Gender and Working Pattern by Headline Industry, 2019



The majority of jobs in manufacturing and construction were male jobs while 58% of jobs in the services industry were female.

Industry - Section Level

The BRES 2019 sample was sufficiently large to allow disaggregation of the data to industry section level. Further disaggregation of the BRES 2019 data to lower industry levels (excluding agriculture figures) is available [here](#).

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles was the largest industry at section level with 131,080 (17%) employee jobs. This was closely followed by human health and social work activities with 128,568 (16%) employee jobs.

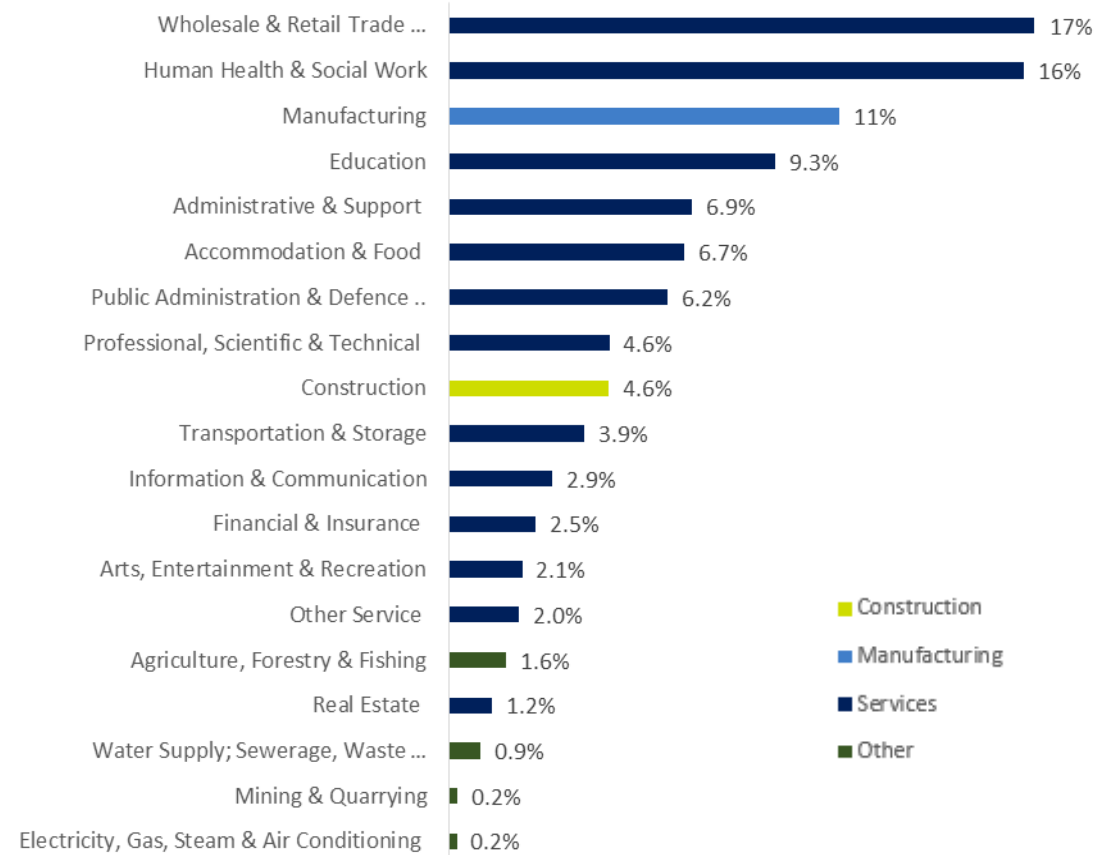
The four largest industries accounted for over half (53%) of all the employee jobs in Northern Ireland in September 2019.

The other headline industry consists of 4 of the 5 smallest industries, making up only 3% of Northern Ireland employee jobs and they are as follows:

- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (1,779 jobs)
- Mining and quarrying (1,942 jobs)
- Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (6,999 jobs)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing (12,872 jobs)

Agriculture employee job figures are taken from the [Agriculture Census in Northern Ireland 2019](#), published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Figure 7: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Section, 2019



District Council Area

Largest increase: Belfast	Largest % increase: Antrim & Newtownabbey, Derry City & Strabane	Only decrease: Ards & North Down
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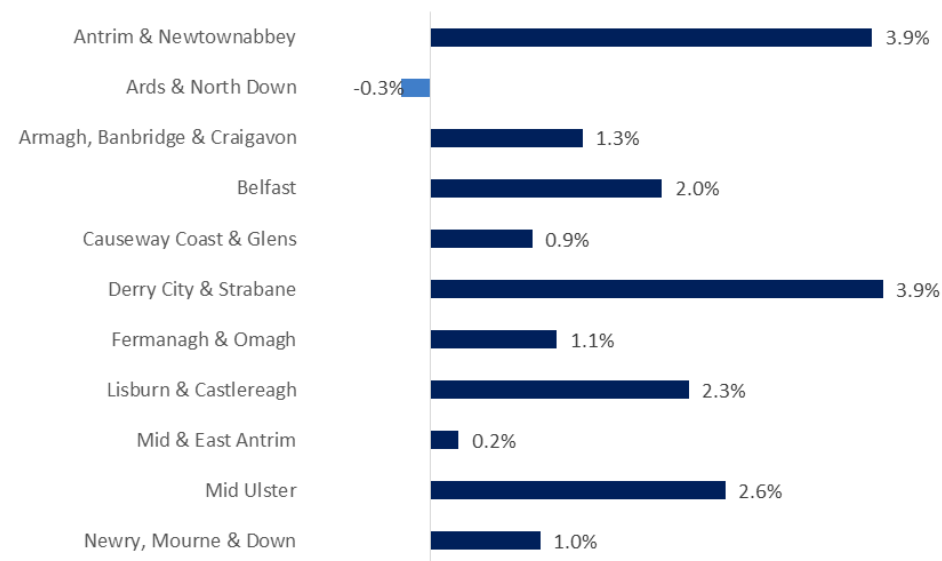
Table 1: Employee Jobs by District Council Area, 2019

District Council Area	2019	Percentage of Total	Cumulative Percentage Total
Belfast	230,668	29.4%	29%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	80,108	10.2%	40%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	61,929	7.9%	47%
Derry City & Strabane	61,396	7.8%	55%
Mid Ulster	60,170	7.7%	63%
Newry, Mourne & Down	59,749	7.6%	70%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	59,689	7.6%	78%
Mid & East Antrim	44,908	5.7%	84%
Fermanagh & Omagh	44,095	5.6%	89%
Causeway Coast & Glens	43,372	5.5%	95%
Ards & North Down	39,785	5.1%	100%

Nearly half (47%) of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland are in three District Council areas: Belfast; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; and Antrim and Newtownabbey. The proportion of employee jobs by District Council area has remained relatively unchanged since 2018, however

Derry City and Strabane and Mid Ulster each moved up rank positions in terms of total employee jobs within Northern Ireland.

Figure 8: Percentage Change in Employee Jobs by District Council Area, 2018 to 2019



There was an increase in each District Council area, with the exception of Ards and North Down as it saw a small decrease of 104 (0.3%) over the year to September 2019.

The largest increase was in Belfast, where an additional 4,559 jobs (2.0%) was observed over the year to September 2019. These jobs accounted for 31% of the overall growth.

Derry City and Strabane saw the second largest increase in employee jobs with an additional 2,332 jobs (3.9%) increase over the year.

District Council Area by Headline Industry

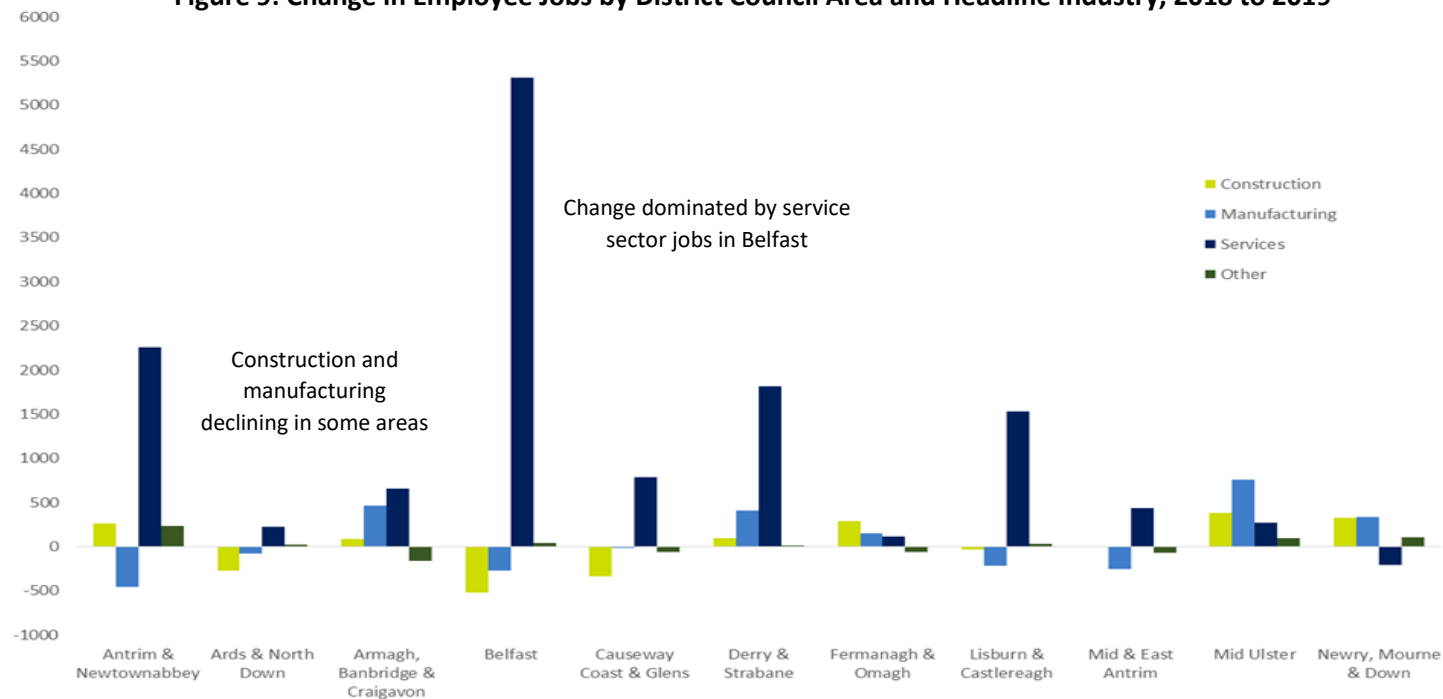
The services sector accounts for at least three quarters of all jobs in each District Council area with the exception of Mid Ulster, where services accounted for 57% of jobs, with a further 29% in manufacturing.

The majority of change observed within District Council areas was driven by the services sector. This was particularly true of Belfast (5,312 jobs) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (1,530 jobs). Newry, Mourne and Down was the only council area that did not have an increase in service sector employee jobs, with a decrease of 210 jobs over the year.

The change in Mid Ulster was driven by 757 more manufacturing jobs and in Fermanagh and Omagh by 286 more construction jobs.

Ards and North Down, Belfast, Causeway Coast and Glens, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Mid and East Antrim, all experienced a decline in construction jobs. In addition, these council areas, as well as Antrim and Newtownabbey also observed a decrease in manufacturing jobs.

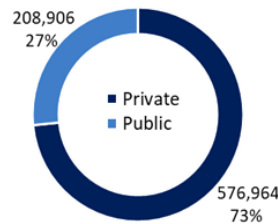
Figure 9: Change in Employee Jobs by District Council Area and Headline Industry, 2018 to 2019



Public/Private Sector

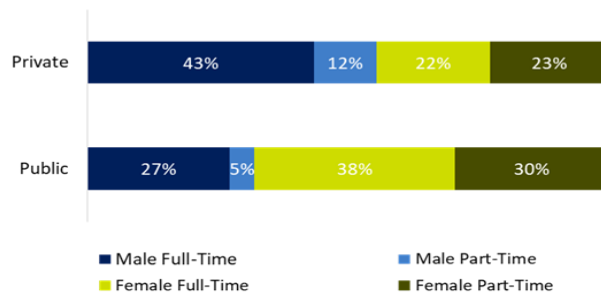


Figure 10: Percentage of Employee Jobs in Public/Private Sector, 2019



The public/private sector jobs profile in Northern Ireland remains unchanged from 2018 with almost three quarters (73%) of jobs in the private sector.

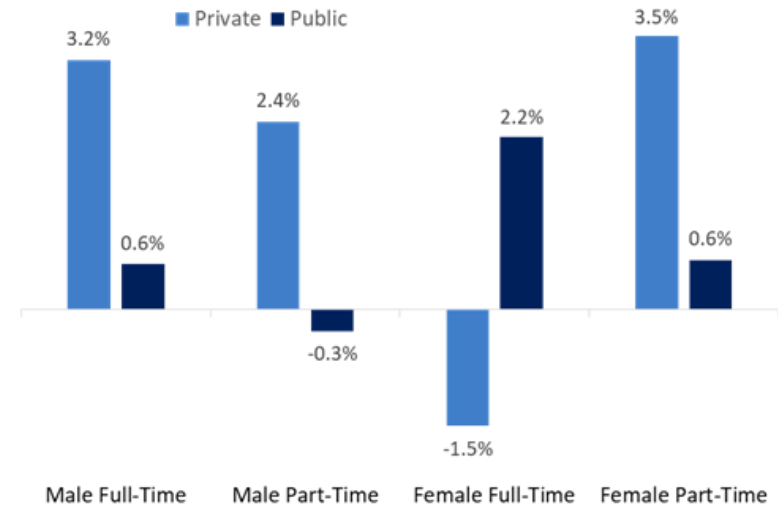
Figure 11: Composition of Employee Jobs by Gender and Working Pattern in Public/Private Sector, 2019



The majority of public sector jobs in 2019 were female (68%) while the majority of private sector jobs were male (55%).

Almost two-thirds of private sector jobs were full-time (65%). A similar split in terms of working pattern was also seen for the public sector.

Figure 12: Percentage Change in Employee Jobs by Public/Private Sector, 2018 to 2019



The public sector saw an increase of 2,445 jobs or 1.2% over the year to September 2019. The growth in the public sector was driven by an increase of 1,747 female full-time jobs.

The private sector grew by 2.1% over the year to September 2019. The growth in the private sector was driven by an increase in male full-time jobs (7,807), and female part-time jobs (4,499).

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The data used to produce the tables and figures in this report can be obtained in EXCEL by clicking the links below. The data are also available in Open Document Spreadsheet format [here](#).

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Background Notes

This bulletin summarises findings from the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2019. A set of associated tables have been provided and are available [here](#).

Note that the data and analysis presented in this report include agriculture employee job figures taken from the [Agriculture Census in Northern Ireland 2019](#), published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. The agriculture job counts included in this report are Farm Labour: Other Workers. These data are included in industry Section A: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

The data presented in the accompanying tables exclude agriculture figures.

The BRES report includes the agriculture employee job counts in line with the NI Quarterly Employment Survey output. However, the agriculture data is not available to all geographical and industry levels to which BRES data can be disaggregated, when the sample is sufficiently large. Therefore, for consistency, BRES tables have historically excluded the agriculture counts.

The Northern Ireland BRES sample for 2019 was sufficiently large to provide disaggregation of employee job figures to 5-digit SIC 2007¹, District Council area level, Parliamentary Constituency area and Ward.

The effective response rate for BRES 2019 was 71%.

Further details on the quality and methodology of the Northern Ireland BRES can be found in the [BRES QMI report](#).

We are always looking at ways of improving the content and quality of our publications and would like to hear your feedback. Are there additional or alternative tables or charts you wish to see included? If so, please contact: BRES@finance-ni.gov.uk

¹ [ONS UK SIC 2007](#)