

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey December 2015



Date: 16th March 2016
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland
Theme: Labour Market
Frequency: Quarterly

Key Points

The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is a business survey that has been carried out in Northern Ireland (NI) since 1978. The QES has a sample size of approximately 5,700 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms.

- The December 2015 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total was 730,410, an increase of 0.5% (or 3,310 jobs) from the September 2015 estimate and an increase of 1.6% (11,590 jobs) from the revised December 2014 estimate.
- Employee jobs have continued to increase over the year in Northern Ireland (NI) with the annual change increasing from 7,550 (1.0%) in September 2015 to 11,590 (1.6%) in December 2015. The United Kingdom (UK) has continued to grow at a faster rate than NI (1.7% increase over the year to September 2015 – latest available) but has seen a steady decrease in the rate of annual growth since September 2014.
- The increase in NI employee jobs occurred across all sectors over the quarter and over the year. It should be noted that the reference period for the survey (7th December 2015) preceded some recent well publicised job losses that are anticipated to occur in the manufacturing sector.
- Over the quarter, seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased across all sectors; in the manufacturing sector by 0.6% (450 jobs), in the construction sector by 1.0% (280 jobs), in the services sector by 0.4% (2,530 jobs) and in the other industries sector by 0.2% (50 jobs).
- At December 2015 there were 205,110 seasonally adjusted public sector employee jobs in NI. This represents a decrease of 0.5% (-1,000 jobs) since September 2015 and a decrease over the year of 2.5% (-5,150 jobs).
- The December 2015 seasonally adjusted private sector employee jobs total was 525,780. This represents an increase of 0.9% (4,660 jobs) since September 2015 and an increase of 3.3% (16,940 jobs) over the year.
- Since December 2012 employee jobs have increased by 5.0% (34,730 jobs) with 80% of the increase occurring in the services sector.

The Quarterly Employment Survey Bulletin contains the following chapters:

1. Summary

- Employee jobs summary
- Infographic summary
- Context

2. NI Employee Jobs

- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs by sector

3. Unadjusted and seasonally adjusted series public/ private

- NI public and private sector jobs

4. Composition of employee jobs

- Gender splits
- Full-time/part-time employees

5. Notes to editors

6. Index of Tables

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

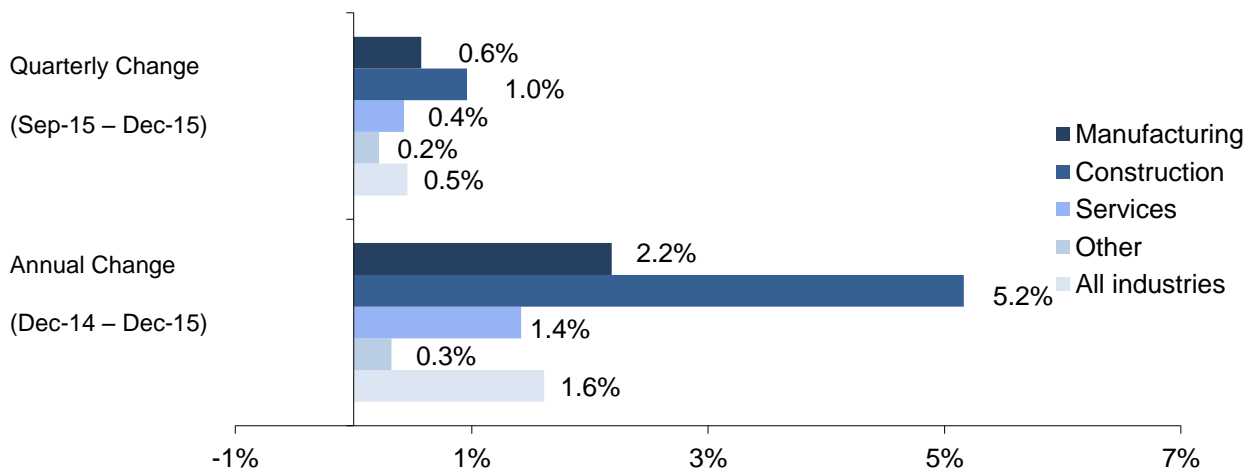
Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at December 2015 was 730,410, this was:

- an increase of 0.5% (3,310 jobs) over the quarter from the September 2015 estimate of 727,100.
- an increase of 1.6% (11,590 jobs) over the year from the revised December 2014 estimate of 718,830.

Fig 1.1: Annual and quarterly changes in employee jobs at section level



[Download in excel](#)

Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted December 2015 employee jobs to the September 2015 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 0.6% (450 jobs) to 79,780 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 1.0% (280 jobs) to 29,600 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.4% (2,530 jobs) to 599,000 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 0.2% (50 jobs) to 22,030 jobs.

Change over the year

Over the year, December 2014 to December 2015, the seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures showed increases across all sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 2.2% (1,710 jobs) to 79,780 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 5.2% (1,450 jobs) to 29,600 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 1.4% (8,360 jobs) to 599,000 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 0.3% (70 jobs) to 22,030 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (ii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles and (iii) social work activities without accommodation saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 46% of all increases in employee jobs (all three sections are in the services sector).
- (i) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, (ii) human health activities and (iii) education saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 49% of all decreases (all three sections are in the services sector).
- The increases in employee jobs over the year outweighed the decreases.

Change over the past three years

The first sign of recovery after the decline in employee jobs was in 2012. Over the period December 2012 to December 2015, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 5.0% (34,730 jobs). The increases were seen across three of the four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 9.2% (6,750 jobs).
- a decrease in the construction sector by 1.5% (-450 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 4.8% (27,670 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 3.6% (760 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data over this three year period, estimates show

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) employment activities, (iii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, (iv) food and beverage service activities, (v) office administrative, office support and other business support activities and (vi) retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles accounted for 54% of all increases over the three year period.
- (i) Human health activities, (ii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security, and (iii) financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding accounted for 78% of decreases over the three year period. All these drivers are in the services sector.
- The increases in employee jobs over the period outweighed the decreases.

Public / private sector changes

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at December 2015 showed:

- a decrease of 0.5% (-1,000 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and a decrease of 2.5% (-5,150 jobs) over the year to 205,110 jobs.
- an increase of 0.9% (4,660 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 3.3% (16,940 jobs) over the year to 525,780 jobs.

Commentary

Over the quarter to December 2015, jobs growth was largest in the services sector, which accounts for 82% of all employee jobs, showing an increase of 2,530 jobs (0.4%). In relative terms the largest quarterly increase was experienced in the construction sector, where employee jobs increased by 1.0% (280 jobs).

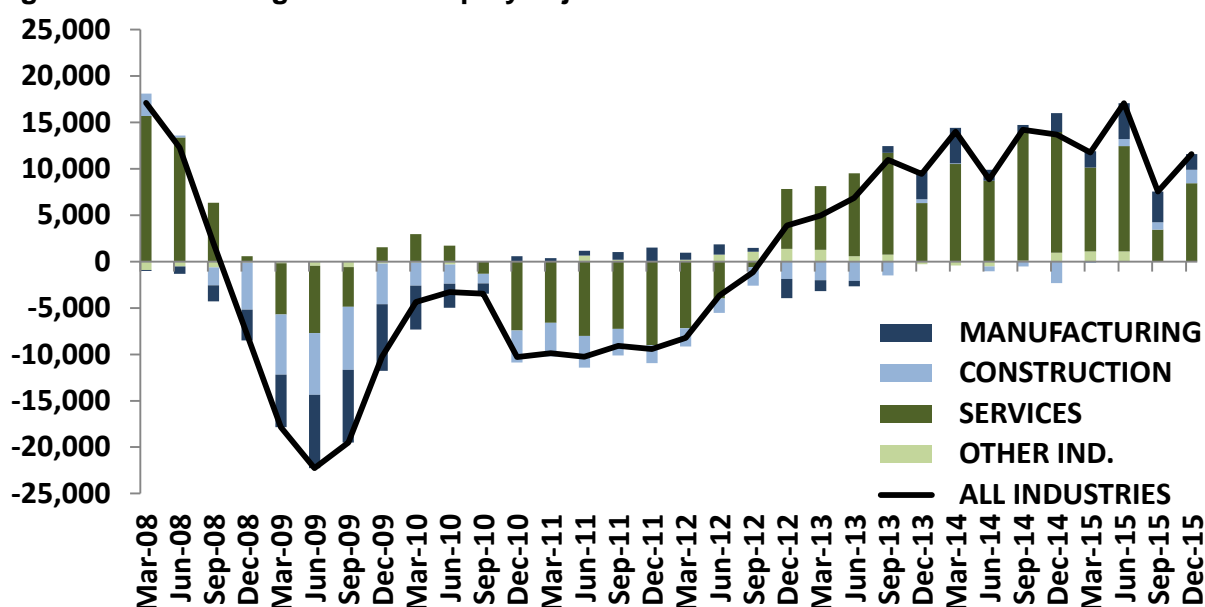
Over the year jobs growth was driven by the services sector which experienced the largest growth in real terms, increasing by 1.4% (8,360 jobs). Increases of 1,710 jobs, 1,450 jobs and 70 jobs were experienced in the manufacturing, construction and other industries sectors respectively.

Employee jobs have continued to increase in NI over the year to December 2015 (1.6% increase), with the annual change increasing from 7,550 (1.0%) in September 2015 to 11,590 (1.6%) in December 2015. The UK has continued to grow at a faster rate than Northern Ireland (1.7% increase over the year to September 2015 – latest available) but has seen a slowdown in the rate of growth with the annual growth decreasing steadily since September 2014.

Fig 1.2 shows that NI employee jobs have increased year on year since 2012, with the services sector driving the increases. Although NI employee jobs have increased the overall job total is 0.3% lower than the 2008 peak. This however is not consistent across sectors, with the services and other industries jobs totals now above the 2008 peak (by 15,000 and 2,000 jobs respectively) and the manufacturing and construction sectors remaining below (by 4,000 and 15,000 jobs respectively).

Employee jobs in the UK are now 2.9% above their series peak. Similarly to NI, the services and other industries have recovered to 2008 levels, while manufacturing and construction remain below the levels experienced at their peak.

Fig 1.2 Annual change in total employee jobs March 2008 - December 2015



Please note: it is likely that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 has also contributed to the volatility of the series.

Date of next publication

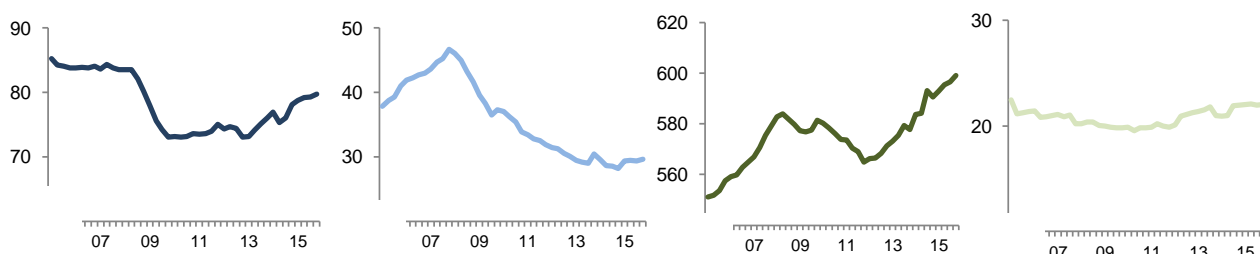
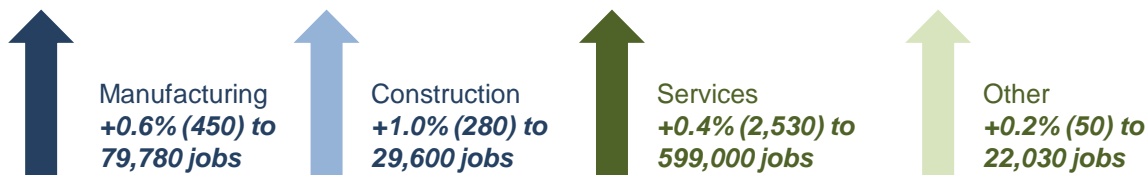
The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey is planned for 15th June 2016

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

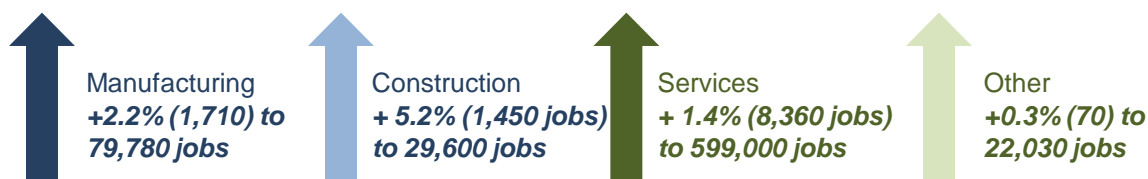
NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – December 2015

Change on quarter



Change on year



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Data published on 16th March 2016 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics branch (NISRA).



Context

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

The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland and covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The QES excludes the self employed, HM armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and jobskills 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.

Figures from the QES are included in the Labour Market Report (LMR) alongside figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Claimant Count and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data. The current version and the archived versions of the LMR can be found on the ELMS website [LMR](#)

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

QES is used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's [Programme for Government](#) (PSA targets). QES data feed into productivity estimates for NI and therefore indirectly used to measure progress towards PSA 1: Productivity growth.

QES employee jobs are included in the [DETI Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland 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.

Revisions

Results are provisional and subject to revision 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 on the revisions can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#)

Further information on using QES employee jobs statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Alternative measures of employment

QES is only one of the measures of employment for Northern Ireland. Other measures include the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In addition the Farm Census and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Employee Bulletin provide information on specific sub-groups of employees.

Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

The BRES is a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES, and is conducted every two years, alternating with the biennial Census of Employment. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as BRES. Breakdowns of employee jobs by geographical location and industry are available from the BRES.

The BRES and QES cover employee jobs only, excluding the self employed, HM armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and jobskills trainees without a contract of employment.

Further information can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The LFS is 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 includes those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on Government supported training programmes.

Further information on using LFS statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [LFS employment](#)

Farm Census

Figures for the number of employees in Agriculture are available separately from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) Farm Census. The QES includes farm census figures in the total number of employee jobs.

Further information on using Farm Census statistics can be found on the NISRA DARD website: [Farm Census](#)

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Employee Bulletin

NICS employee jobs figures are included in the QES employee jobs figures and breakdowns can be found in the [public sector table](#) of the website.

Further information on NICS employee jobs can be found in the NICS Employee Bulletin. This bulletin provides details on NICS staff numbers on a quarterly basis and provides comparisons with the previous quarter, the wider public sector, as well as a comparison with the previous year. 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.

Further information on employment within the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) is available from the NICS Employment bulletin [NICS Employment bulletin](#).

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NI Employee Jobs

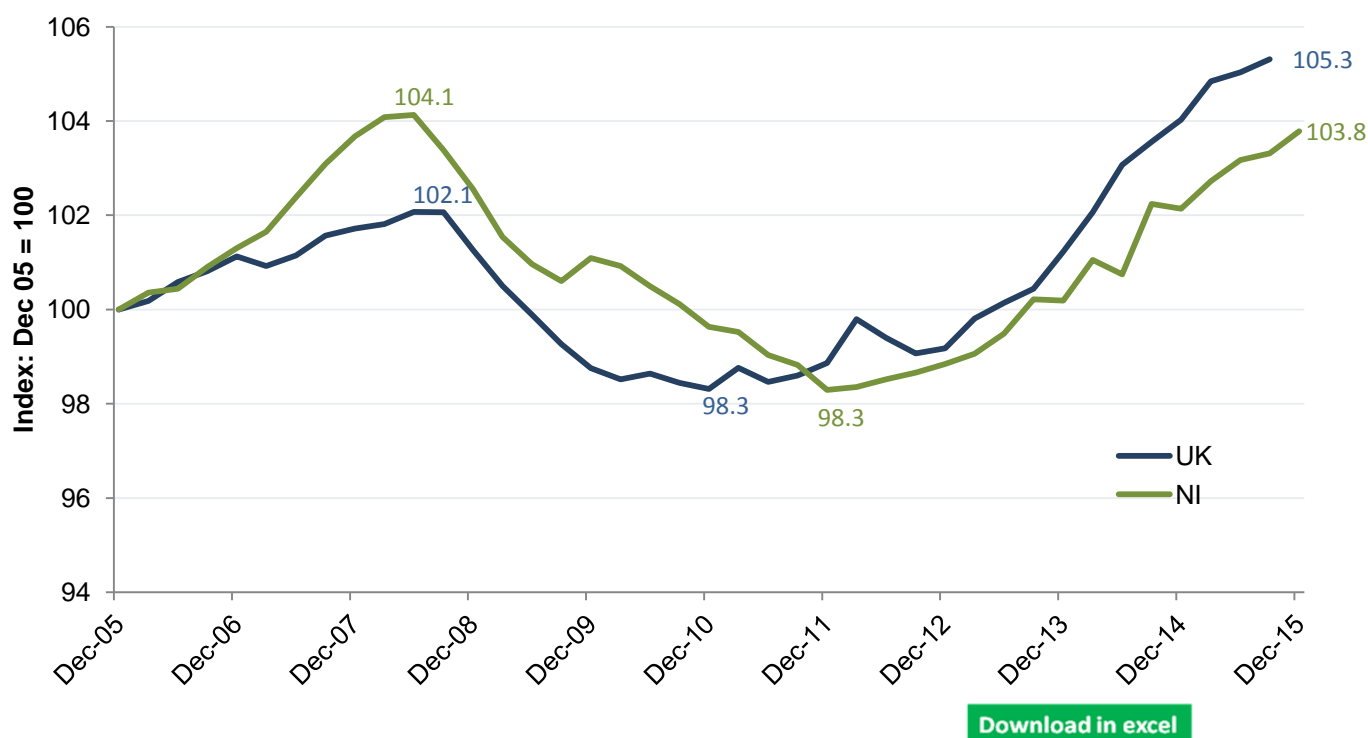
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business’s payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

Employee jobs counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs.

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter and year to 730,410.

Figure 2.1: Index of employee jobs, December 2005 – December 2015



Figures are indexed to December 2005
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2015

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. Both series peaked in June 2008 with the UK reaching its lowest point in December 2010 – one year before the NI low in December 2011. The UK is now above its pre-downturn peak whereas NI remains 0.3% below the pre-downturn peak.

Employee Jobs

The December 2015 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 730,410, which was:

- an increase of 0.5% (3,310 jobs) from the September 2015 estimate of 727,100
- an increase of 1.6% (11,590 jobs) over the year.

Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- an increase of 0.6% in the manufacturing sector (450 jobs) to 79,780 jobs.
- an increase of 1.0% in the construction sector (280 jobs) to 29,600 jobs.
- an increase of 0.4% in the services sector (2,530 jobs) to 599,000 jobs.
- an increase of 0.2% in the other industries sector (50 jobs) to 22,030 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 2.2% in the manufacturing sector (1,710 jobs)
- an increase of 5.2% in the construction sector (1,450 jobs)
- an increase of 1.4% in the services sector (8,360 jobs)
- an increase of 0.3% in the other industries sector (70 jobs).

Northern Ireland annual change by industry Q4 2014 - Q4 2015

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+2.2% (1,710 jobs)
total jobs 79,780

Construction



+5.2% (1,450 jobs)
total jobs 29,600

Services



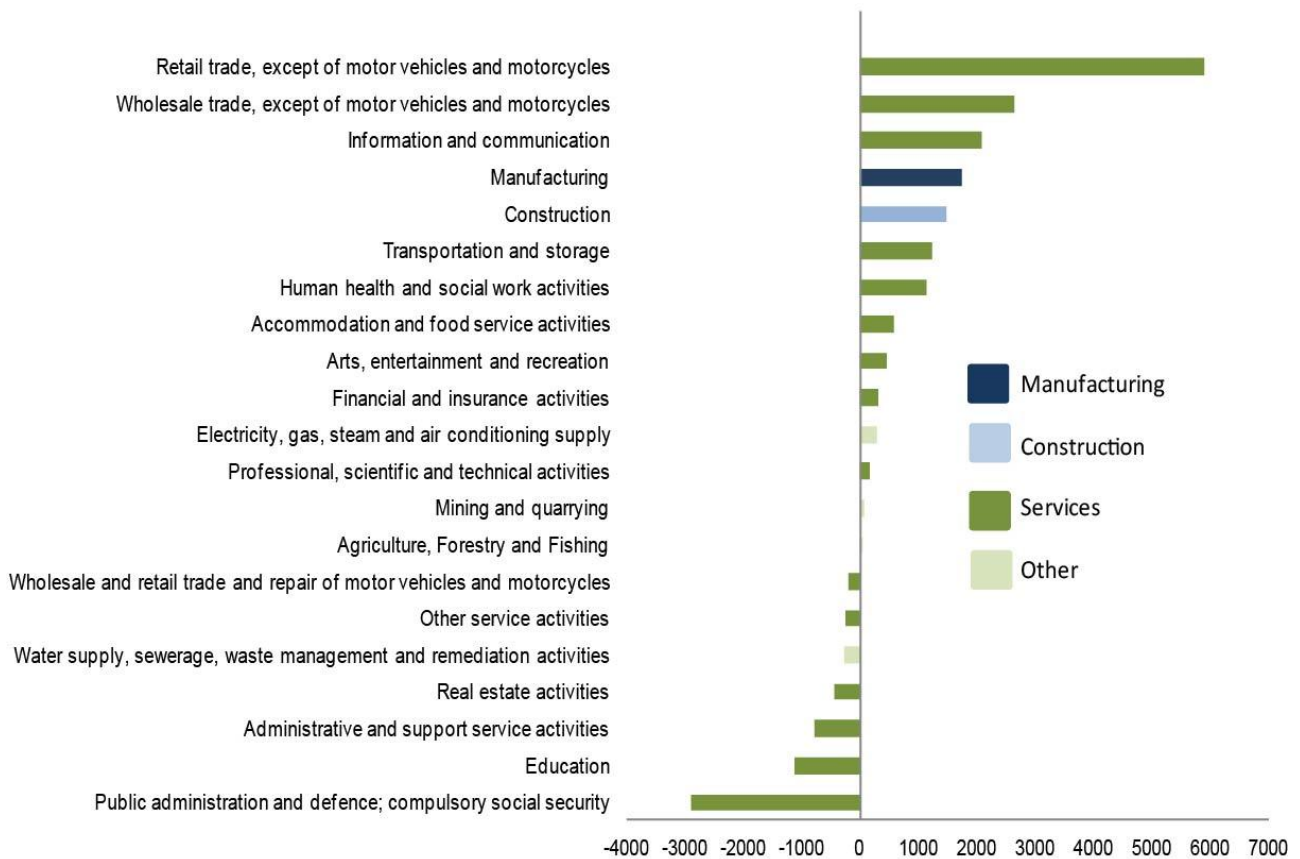
+1.4% (8,360 jobs)
total jobs 599,000

Other



+0.3% (70 jobs)
total jobs 22,030

Change by industry section (A-S) (data not adjusted for seasonality)



Data published on 16th March 2016 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics branch (NISRA)



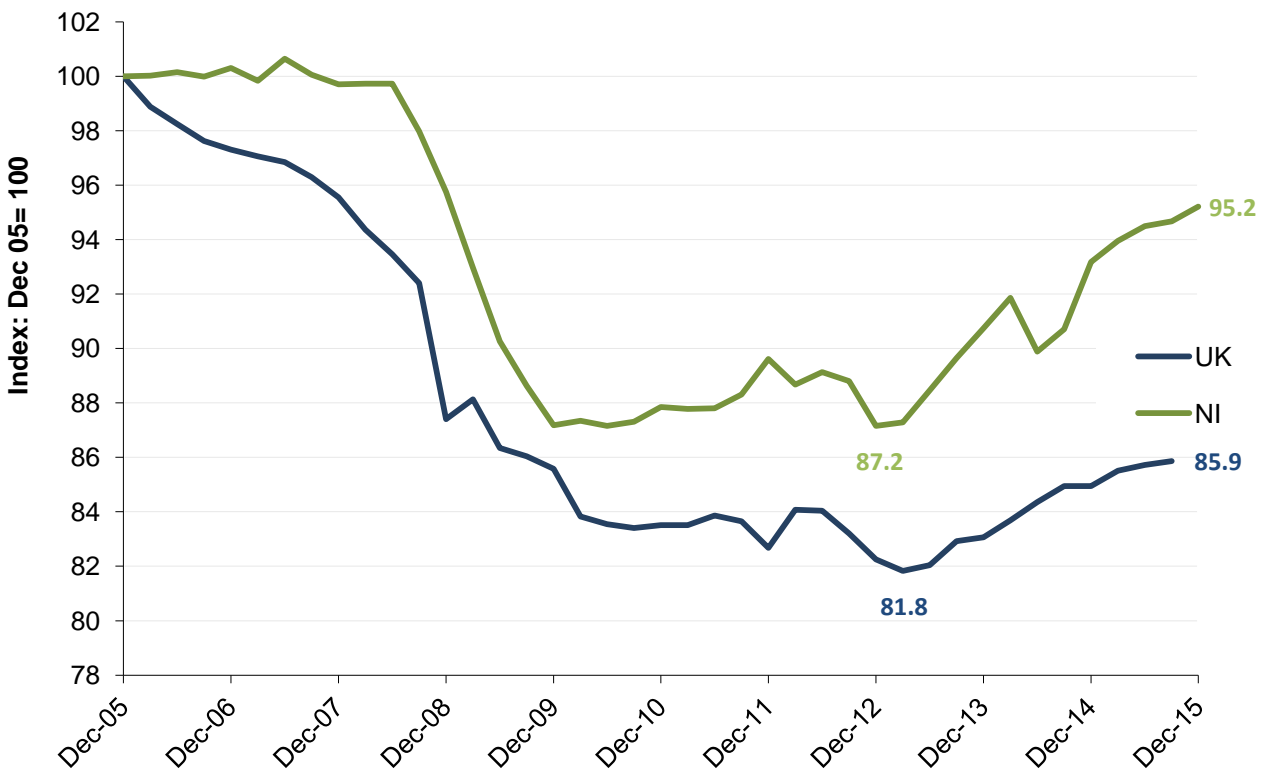
Manufacturing sector

Manufacturing sector: the 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.

Key Findings:

- The manufacturing sector accounted for 10.9% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 0.6% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to December 2015 and an increase of 2.2% over the year to 79,780 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, December 2005 – December 2015



Figures are indexed to December 2005
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2015

[Download in excel](#)

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 before reaching a series low in December 2012. The UK showed decreases in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector from December 2005, with a series low occurring in March 2013. In December 2012 the NI manufacturing sector stood at 87.2% of the December 2005 figure and in March 2013 the UK figure stood at 81.8% of the December 2005 level.

Whilst the manufacturing sector in both NI and the UK have increased since their series low, NI remained 4.8% below the 2005 level in December 2015 while in September 2015 the UK remained 14.3% lower than in 2005.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector increased by 0.6% (450 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.2% (1,710 jobs) over the year to 79,780 in December 2015.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have not been adjusted for seasonality.

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2015 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.2% (1,730 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 12.4% (660 jobs) in the manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.
- an increase of 3.0% (560 jobs) in the manufacture of food products.
- an increase of 8.2% (470 jobs) in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products.

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the sector. The 3 largest decreases in the manufacturing sector over the year were:

- a decrease of 32.5% (-1,020 jobs) in the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials.
- a decrease of 11.1% (-340 jobs) in the manufacture of electrical equipment.
- a decrease of 2.3% (-100 jobs) in the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products.

For figures broken down by 2-digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

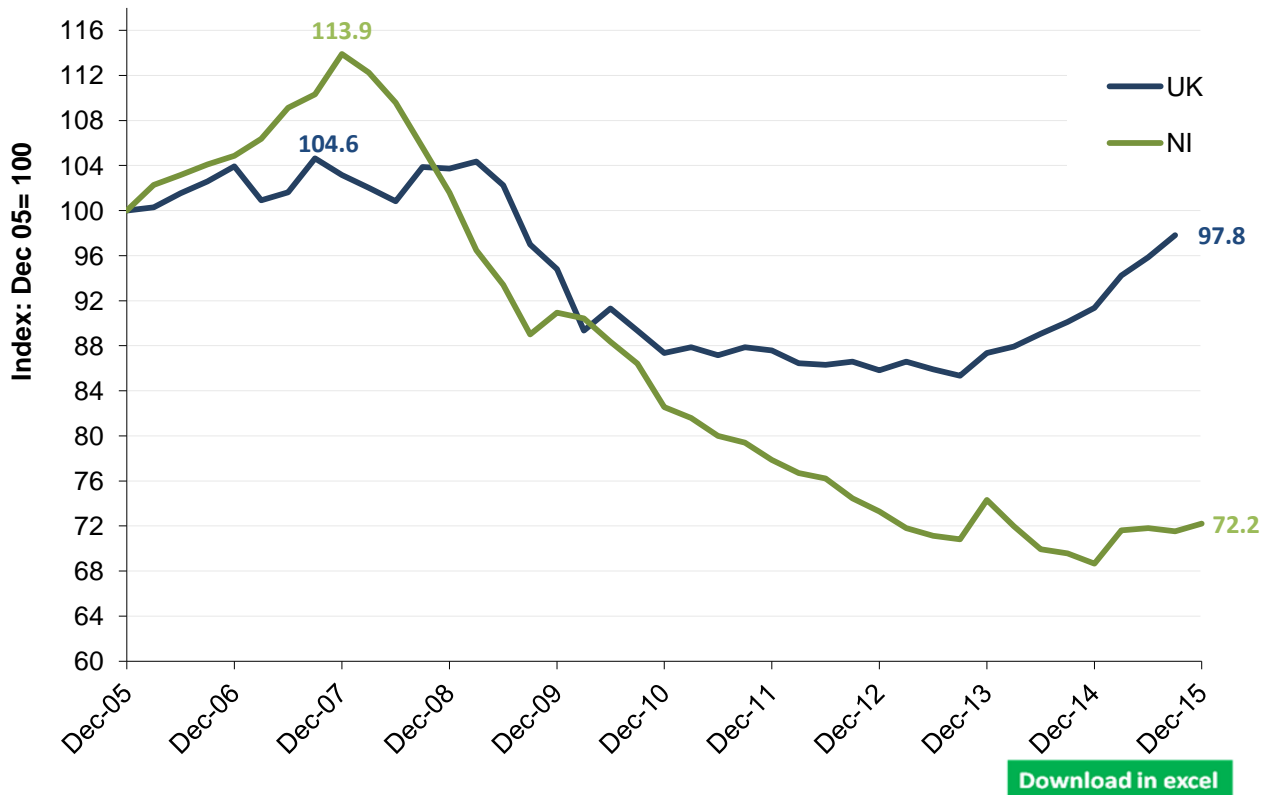
Construction sector

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:

- The construction sector made up 4.1% of the total employee jobs figure.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed a decrease of 1.0% over the quarter to December 2015 and an increase of 5.2% over the year to 29,600 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, December 2005 – December 2015



Figures are indexed to December 2005
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2015

Over the past 10 years there has been an overall decrease in the construction sector in NI and the UK. Between 2005 and 2007 NI experienced an increase reaching the series peak in December 2007 of 13.9% higher than the December 2005 level. The UK also increased from December 2005 but reached its peak in September 2007 reaching a figure 4.6% higher than the December 2005 level.

Although the construction sector in both NI and the UK experienced an overall decrease since their series peaks both have shown increases in the past year. NI stood at 72.2% of the December 2005

figure in December 2015 and in September 2015 the UK stood at 97.8% of the December 2005 figure.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 1.0% (280 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 5.2% (1,450 jobs) over the year to 29,600.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC construction data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 6.7% (930 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 11.5% (680 jobs) in construction of buildings
- a decrease of 2.2% (-170 jobs) in civil engineering.

For figures broken down by 2-digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

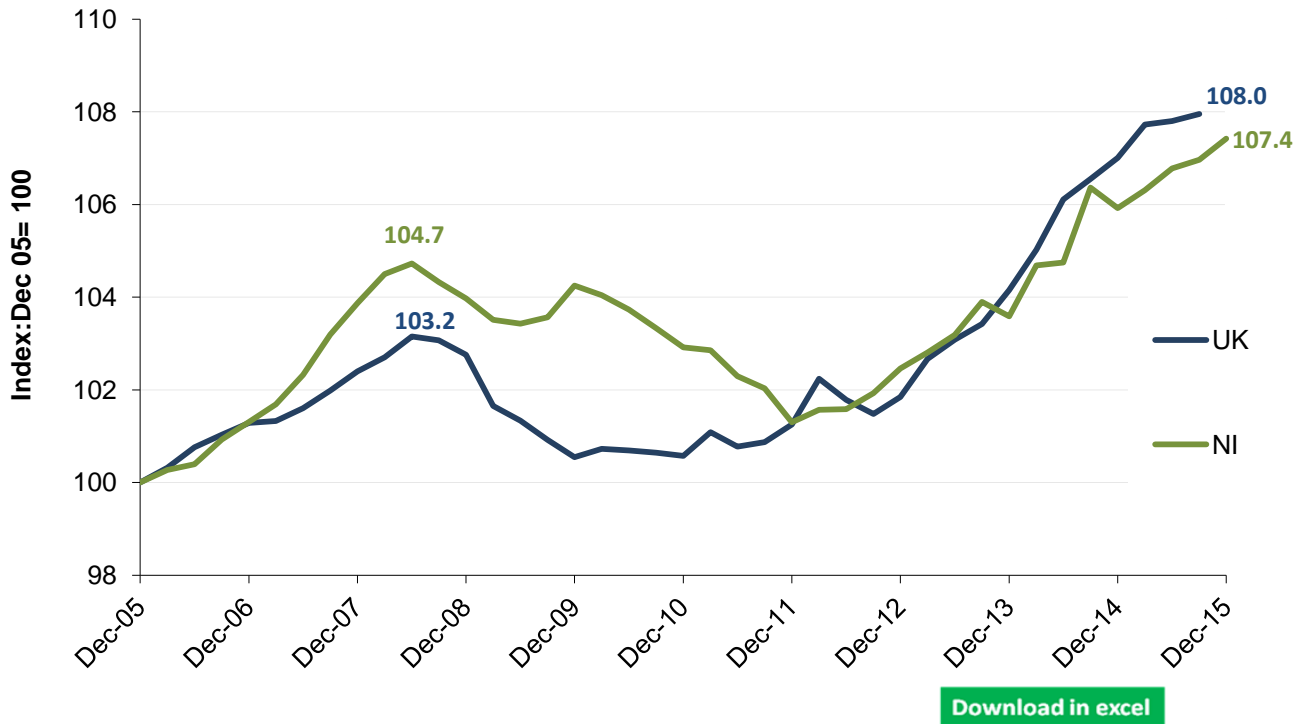
Services sector

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 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Key Findings:

- The services sector accounted for 82% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 2,530 jobs in the services sector over the quarter to December 2015 and an increase of 1.4% (8,360 jobs) over the year to 599,000 jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, December 2005 – December 2015



Figures are indexed to December 2005
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2015

Over the last 10 years the services sector in NI and the UK both increased overall, with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 41,370 over the 10 year period.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.4% (2,530 jobs) over the quarter and 1.4% (8,360 jobs) over the year to 599,000 in December 2015.

Changes over the quarter

Over the quarter to December 2015 seasonally adjusted section levels figures showed that the largest increases over the quarter were:

- an increase of 0.7% (870 jobs) in wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 0.6% (800 jobs) in human health and social work activities
- an increase of 3.7 % (660 jobs) in financial and insurance activities

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the sector. The 3 largest decreases in the section levels over the quarter were:

- a decrease of 3.0% (-1,600 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- a decrease of 1.7% (-110 jobs) in real estate activities
- a decrease of 0.1% (-40 jobs) in education

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2015 the unadjusted figures show a 1.5% (8,630 jobs) increase in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 6.6% (5,860 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 11.2% (2,630 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 7.0% (2,020 jobs) in social work activities without accommodation.

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the sector. The 3 largest decreases in the sector over the quarter were:

- a decrease of 5.3% (-2,890 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- a decrease of 2.2% (-1,520 jobs) in human health activities
- a decrease of 1.5% (-1,110 jobs) in education

For figures broken down by 2-digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Other industries sector

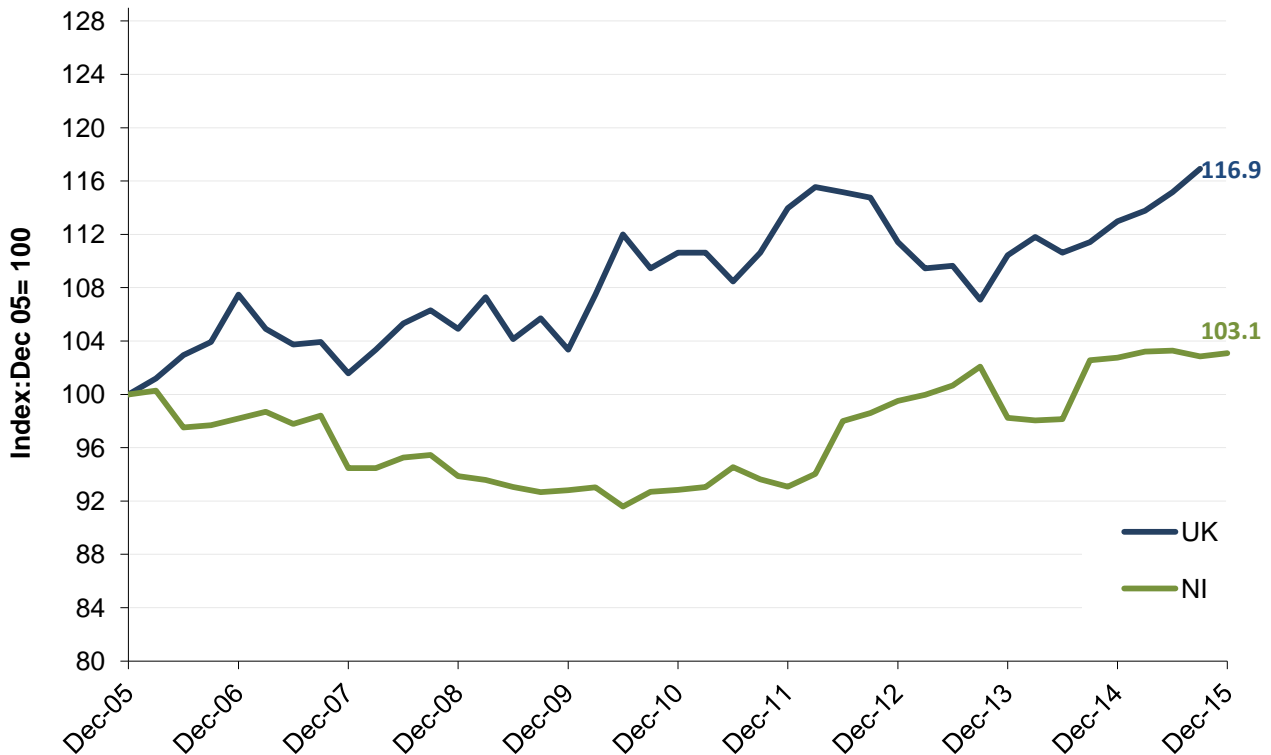
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for 95% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are updated annually.

Key Findings:

- The other industries sector made up 3.0% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 50 jobs in the other industries sector over the quarter to December 2015 and an increase of 0.3% (70 jobs) over the year to 22,030 jobs.

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, December 2005 - December 2015



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to December 2005
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2015

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall, with both series reaching their peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 660 over the 10 year period.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 0.2% (50 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 0.3% (70 jobs) over the year to 22,030.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2015 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 0.4% (80 jobs) in the other industries sector. The largest contributor was:

- an increase of 16.0% (260 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

This increase was partially offset by:

- a decrease of 8.3% (-320 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery

For figures broken down by 2-digit SIC please see table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

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Public / private sector employee jobs

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

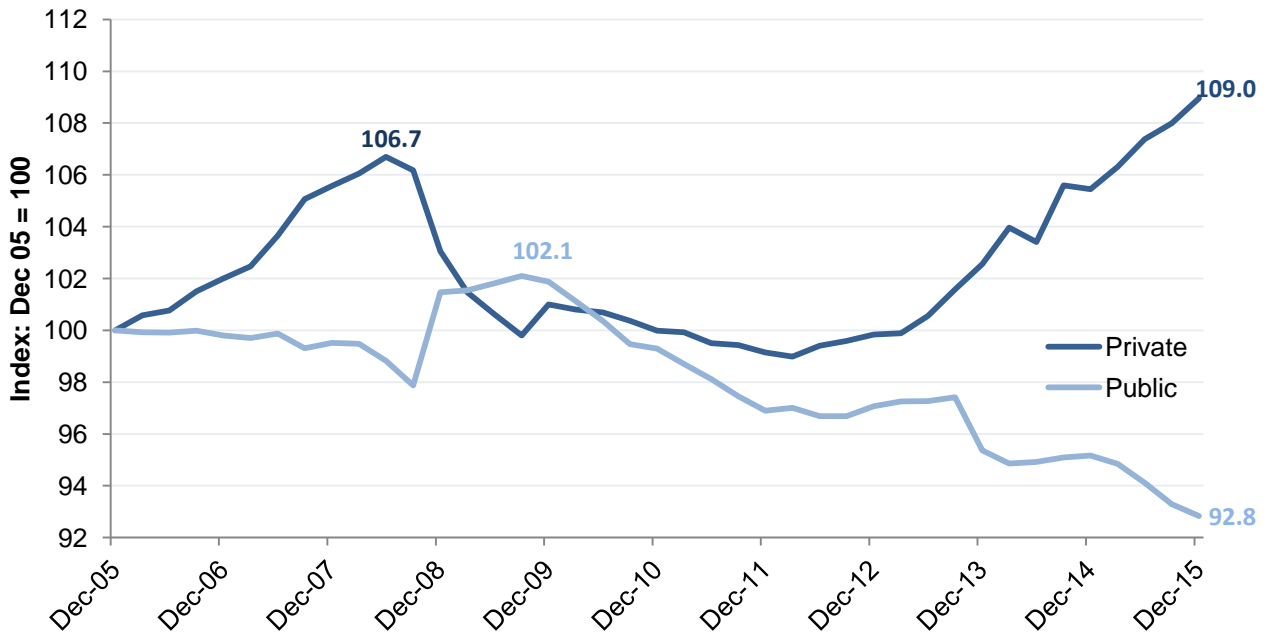
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

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

Key findings:

- The public sector made up 28% and the private sector made up 72% of all employee jobs.
- Employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 525,780 jobs.
- Employee jobs in the public sector decreased over the quarter and year to 205,110 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI private and public sector jobs, December 2005 – December 2015



Figures are indexed to December 2005

[Download in excel](#)

Note:

Royal Mail plc is included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods. Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries are included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.

Over the period December 2005 to December 2015 the number of employee jobs in the private sector increased by 9.0% (43,250 jobs) and the number of employee jobs in the public sector

decreased by 7.2% (-15,830 jobs). The most recent private sector figure stands at 2.1% higher than the series peak which occurred in June 2008. The current public sector figure stands at 7.8% lower than the series peak which occurred in September 2009.

The latest seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures estimate that there are:

- 205,110 employees in the NI public sector
- 525,780 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

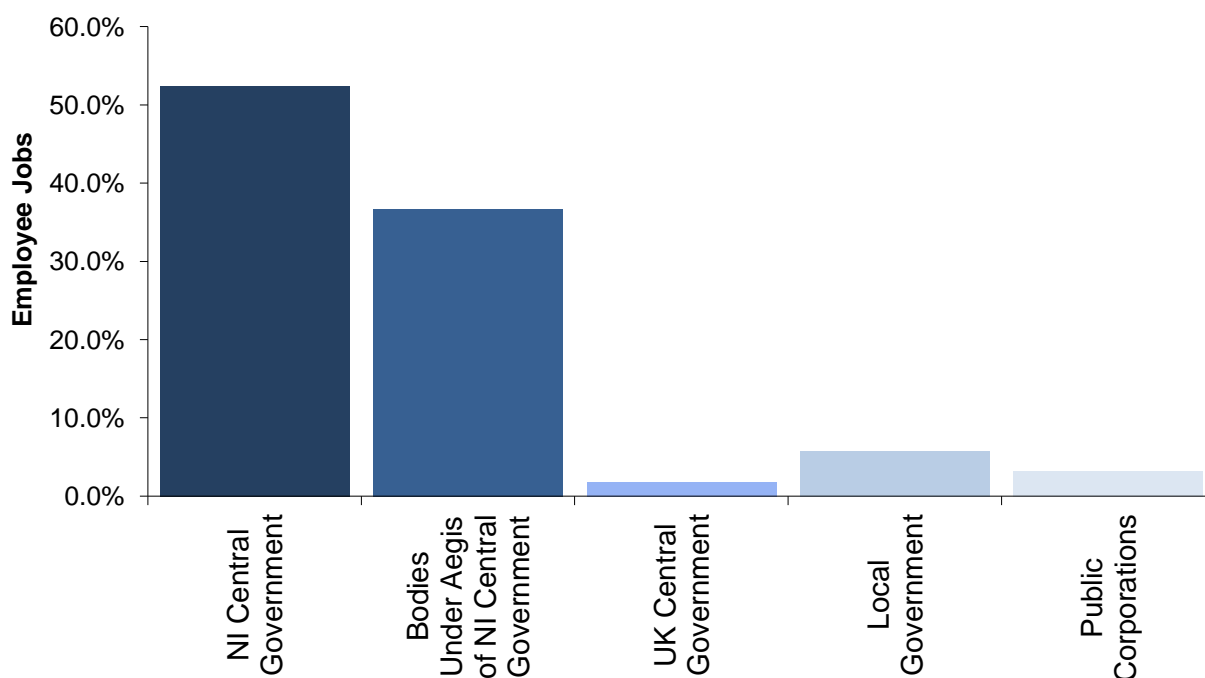
- a decrease of 0.5% (-1,000 jobs) in the public sector
- an increase of 0.9% (4,660 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- a decrease of 2.5% (-5,150 jobs) in the public sector
- an increase of 3.3% (16,940 jobs) in the private sector.

Figure 3.2 – Public sector employee jobs



[Download in excel](#)

The following breakdowns are based on public sector data that have not been adjusted for seasonality.

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for December 2015 was 205,303. This comprised:

- 107,696 jobs in NI central government (or 52% of all public sector employee jobs). Of this 24% comes from government departments (25,410 employee jobs).
- 75,370 jobs (or 37%) in NI public sector are bodies under the aegis of NI central government.
- 11,717 jobs in Local Government (or 6% of public sector employee jobs).
- 6,744 jobs in Public Corporations (or 3% of public sector employee jobs).
- 3,776 jobs in UK central Government (or 2% of public sector employee jobs).

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for December 2015 showed:

- an increase of 0.4% (840 jobs) over the quarter.
- a decrease of 2.5% (-5,170 jobs) over the year from December 2014.
- the largest decrease over the year (2,410 jobs) occurred in the NI Central Government section of the public sector with the majority of the decrease coming from NI Civil Service (-2,460 jobs).

4

Composition of employee jobs

Data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

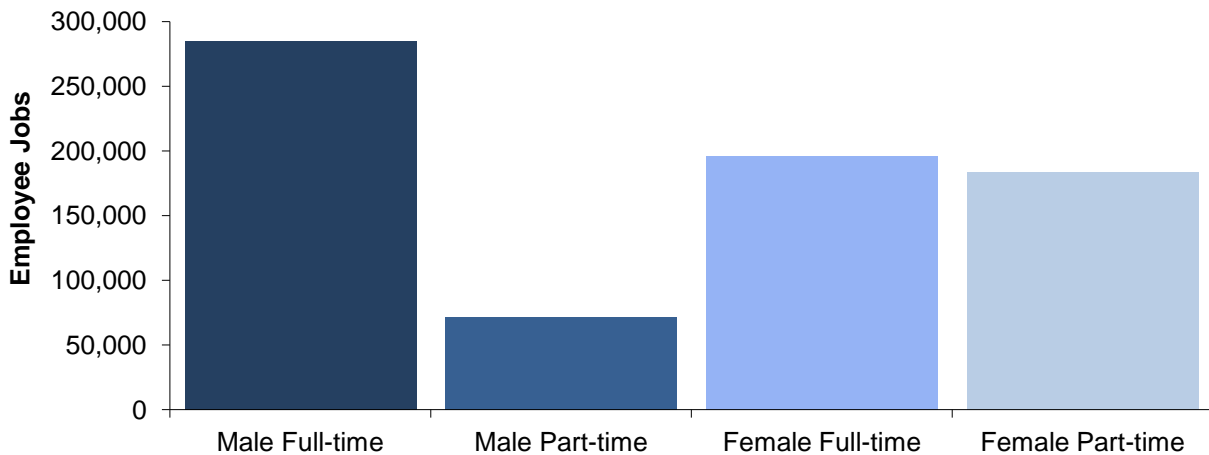
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

Key Findings

- Over half of employees in NI were female.
- A higher proportion of female employees worked part-time than male employees.

Fig 4.1: Composition of Employee Jobs, December 2015

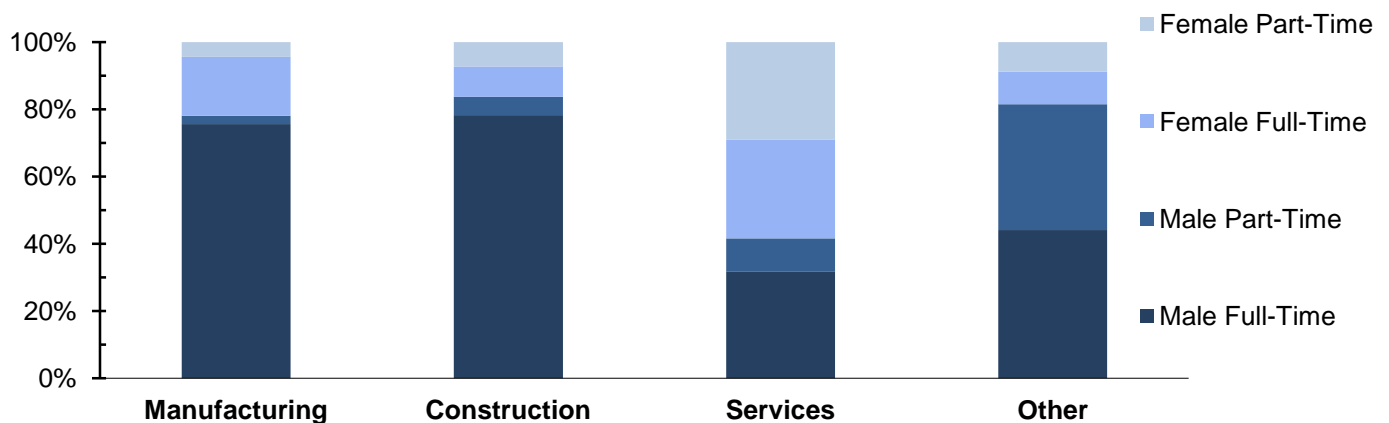


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Estimates show there were 735,230 employee jobs in NI at December 2015. Of these:

- 51.5% of employee jobs were occupied by a female and 48.5% were occupied by a male
- Just under half (48.3%) of female employee jobs were part-time
- 80.0% of male employees worked on a full-time basis.

Fig 4.2: Employee Jobs Composition in Broad Industry Sectors, December 2015



The latest estimates showed that:

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- A large proportion of employee jobs in the manufacturing (75.6%) and construction (78.2%) sectors were occupied by male full-time employees
- Females occupied 58.4% of the 603,720 employee jobs within the services sector.
- The composition of female jobs in the services sector divided evenly between full-time and part-time workers.

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 15,610 full-time jobs and a decrease of 3,720 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs in the manufacturing sector increased by 3,010 jobs whilst part-time jobs in the sector decreased by 1,280 jobs.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 84.6% of the increase of 1,450 jobs in the construction sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs in the services sector increased by 11,190 jobs whilst part-time jobs in the sector decreased by 2,560 jobs.
- full-time employee jobs in the other industries sector increased by 180 jobs whilst part-time jobs in the sector decreased by 100 jobs.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

5 Further Information

Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the QES. The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The QES collects data split by gender and working pattern. The sample size is such that estimates of total employee jobs should be accurate to within +/- 1% of the [Census of Employment](#) total. 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.

The QES is a voluntary survey of employers in Northern Ireland and results from it are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). As a result, there is no breach of confidentiality.

Revisions Policy

It is normal practice for QES estimates to be revised. All quarters back to the latest published Census of Employment (currently Q4 2013 onwards) are provisional and subject to revision in light of (a) late responses to surveys and administrative sources, (b) where cross survey congruence checks provide more accurate data and (c) there are revisions to seasonal adjustment factors which are re-estimated every quarter. A common pitfall in interpreting series is that expectations of accuracy and reliability in early estimates are often too high. Revisions are an inevitable consequence of the trade off between timeliness and accuracy. Early estimates are based on incomplete data.

Very few statistical revisions arise as a result of 'errors' in the popular sense of the word. All estimates, by definition, are subject to statistical 'error' but in this context the word refers to the uncertainty inherent in any process or calculation that uses sampling, estimation or modelling. Most revisions reflect either the adoption of new statistical techniques, or the incorporation of new information, which allows the statistical error of previous statements to be reduced. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur.

A QES Revisions policy and tables including summary information on the size and direction of revisions for the QES are available from the NISRA ELMS website: [Revisions](#)

Coverage

The quarterly survey covers all Industrial Sections apart from Agriculture. Overall employment (i.e. employees and the self-employed) estimates for the agricultural sector are provided, on an annual basis, from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) Farm Census. Self-employed agriculture workers are defined as including full-time farmers and partners on all agricultural businesses. 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. Only the numbers of employees from the Farm Census are included in the QES estimates.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Public Sector

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations. An announcement in April 1993 transferred National Health Service Trusts from 'Bodies under the aegis of Central Government' to 'Public Corporations'. A subsequent announcement by the Public Sector Classification Committee (PSCC) in July 2003 stated that all NHS Trusts should retrospectively be reclassified to Central Government. In addition, following advice from PSCC, Northern Ireland Housing Executive employees were reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70 in December 2006. This change applies to each quarter from Quarter 1 2004 onwards. From 1st April 2007, The Water Service became a Government owned company known as "Northern Ireland Water". As a result its employees have been transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government". In October 2013 the PSCC announced that Royal Mail plc had been reclassified to the private sector. It is therefore included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods. In December 2013 a further announcement by the PSCC reclassified Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries to the private sector. They are therefore included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.

Seasonal Adjustment

A seasonally adjusted employment series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Figures by section are shown in the tables on the website ([Quarterly Employment Survey](#)) and a time series of main industrial sector from 2010 onwards are also shown in the tables on the website. Section and main industrial sector are seasonally adjusted where seasonality exists. At the latest review of our seasonal adjustment process, it was found that there was no seasonality in sections A,B,D,J,K,L,N,O,Q or S and in the Other Industries sector.

Census of Employment

Information on employee jobs at a sub Northern Ireland level (e.g. District Council Area (DCA), Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA), Ward Level) and at the 5-digit SIC07 level are available from the Northern Ireland Census of Employment. Details of the Census of Employment results are available from NISRA ELMS Tel: (028) 9052 9474 or on the ELMS website [Census of Employment](#)

Discontinuity

Users of QES data should be aware that the sample coverage used to derive employee jobs estimates in NI was extended in 2009. This change was introduced to provide more comprehensive estimates of employee jobs and also to ensure a consistency of methodology between the 3 main sources of this information namely the NI QES, the NI Census of Employment and the new NI BRES. The extension in sample coverage has resulted in a discontinuity in the employee jobs series from the reference period Q3 2009 onwards. A more detailed note on these changes and their impact are available at the following link: [Discontinuity](#)

Further Information

For further information on the methodology of the QES, please see link below to the background notes and methodology guide.

[Background Information](#)

Further breakdowns of employee jobs by geography and industry are available from the BRES:

[Annual Employee Jobs Surveys](#)

AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH ASSOCIATED HYPERLINKS IS AVAILABLE

ON THE [NISRA – ECONOMIC AND LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS WEBSITE](#)

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Quarterly Employment Survey

- 5.1 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted December 2015
- 5.2 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1993 – 2015
- 5.3 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1993 – 2015
- 5.4 NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – December 2015
- 5.5 NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) December 2014, September 2015 and December 2015
- 5.6 Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)
- 5.7 Workforce Jobs 1983 - 2015
- 5.8 NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – December 2015
- 5.9 NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – December 2015
- 5.10 NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.11 NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 - 2015
- 5.12 NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – December 2015 - by SIC code
- 5.13 NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – December 2015 - by broad industry sector
- 5.14 NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector – June 1974 – December 2015