



NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: January – March 2014

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This report provides a detailed analysis of the most recent (January – March 2014) quarterly information from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey. To allow detailed analysis most of the information used in the report is not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated for regional comparison purposes. The figures show:

- **Seasonally adjusted data for Northern Ireland estimated 789,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment. This figure has increased by 2.0% during the last year.**
- **The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (7.2%) decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the quarter and decreased by 0.9 over the year. The latest NI rate is above the UK (6.8%) and below European (10.6%) average rates.**
- **The NI seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rate for all persons aged 16 – 64 (26.8%) is 4.1 percentage points lower than the rate five years ago (30.9% in 2009). However, it remains the highest of all the UK regions (the UK average rate is 21.9%).**
- **A higher proportion of economically inactive persons, aged 16-64, in NI identify being long term sick/disabled (29.6%) as their main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (20.7%).**
- **An estimated 97,000 scheduled working days were lost per week due to absence in January - March 2014, representing 3.3% of the total scheduled to work.**



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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.

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Executive Summary

1

Introduction

The following estimates are based on the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) January - March 2014 results. The LFS is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals in private households about their personal circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in Northern Ireland (NI) and provides a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.

Employment (seasonally adjusted)

There are an estimated 810,000 persons in employment in NI. This figure has increased by 2.1% (16,000 persons) during the last year. However, NI's employment rate (67.8%) remained 4.9 percentage points below the UK average (72.7%) and was the lowest rate among the twelve UK regions. The highest rate was recorded by the East at 76.3%.

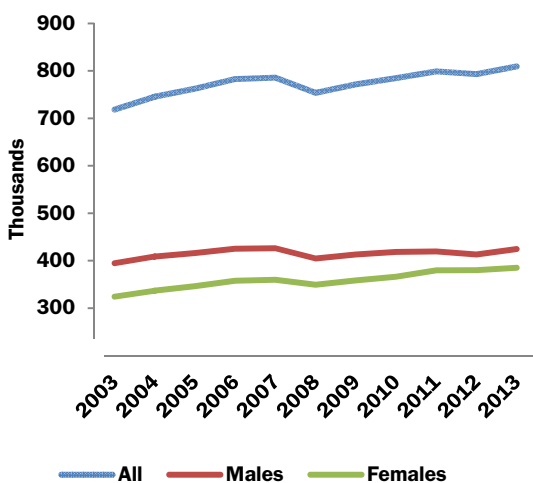
Despite the recent economic downturn, employment levels for females have increased while the rate for males has decreased. This has meant that the gap between male and female levels has narrowed over the period. The difference between the employment rate of males and females, aged 16-64, is currently estimated at 7.4 percentage points, compared to a 13.3 percentage point difference 10 years ago.

Unadjusted figures show that 39.2% of female employees work part-time compared to 11.1% of males (the figures were 8.0% for males and 37.0% for females ten years ago). Only 8.2% of females in employment are self-employed compared with 21.9% of males (5.4% and 23.5% respectively ten years previously).

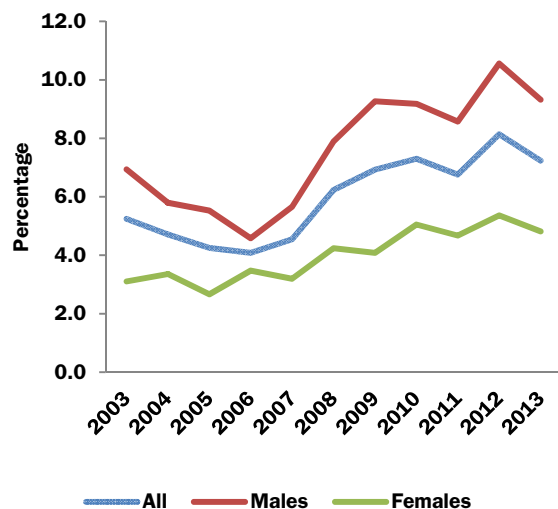
Unemployment (seasonally adjusted)

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NI (7.2%) is down 0.1 percentage points from the previous quarter and down 0.9 percentage points from the previous year. The latest NI rate is above the UK (6.8%) and below the European Union (10.6%) average rates.

Employment (16+) Quarter 1 2004-2014



Unemployment Rate (16+) Quarter 1 2004-2014

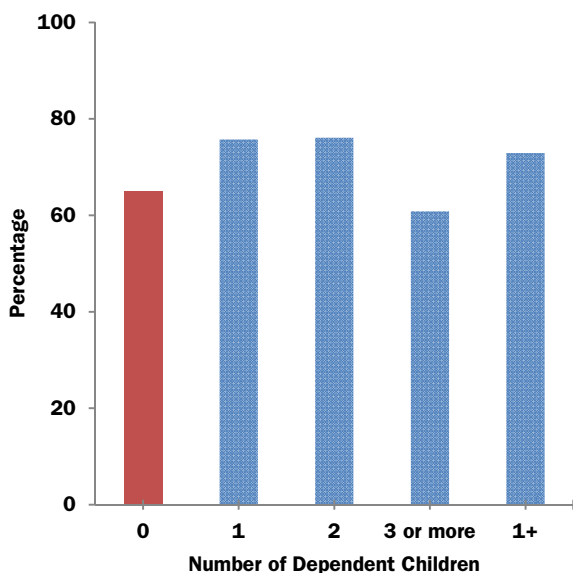


The male unemployment rate (9.3%) has risen by 2.4 percentage points during the last ten years, whilst the female rate (4.8%) increased by 1.7 percentage points during the same period. The male unemployment rate is currently 4.5 percentage points above the female unemployment rate, compared to a 3.8 percentage point difference in the unemployment rates ten years ago. Unadjusted data shows that just over a half of unemployed men (54.1%) are long-term unemployed, which is higher than the proportion ten years ago (48.1%).

Economic Activity (seasonally adjusted)

There are an estimated 852,000 persons, aged 16-64, economically active in NI at January – March 2014, up 105,000 from ten years ago. The seasonally adjusted 16-64 economic activity rate (73.2%) for NI is the lowest of the twelve UK regions and is 4.9 percentage points below the UK rate of 78.1%. At 79.1% the 16-64 economic activity rate for males is an estimated 11.7 percentage points higher than that for females (67.4%). The current 11.7 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females has decreased from a 16.9 percentage point gap ten years ago.

Female (16-64) Economic Activity Rates by Number of Dependent Children¹



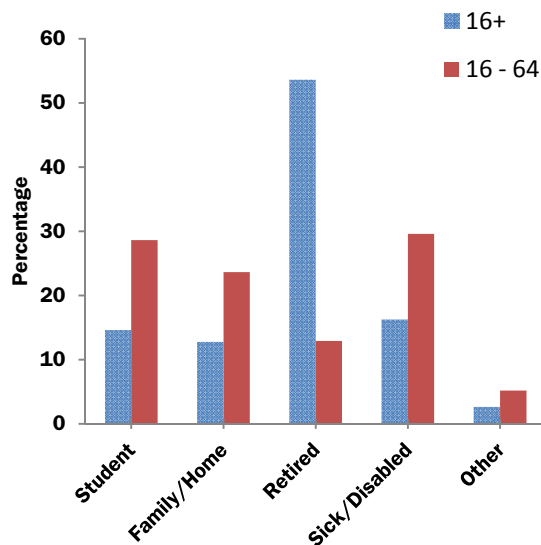
¹ The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of males/females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. It does not include family members who are aged 16-64 but who do not have parental responsibilities such as an elder sibling.

Unadjusted figures for the period October - December 2013 show that an estimated 72.9% of females of working age with dependent children under 19 were economically active, which is higher than the rate for those without dependent children (65.0%). This is the same rate as those females in NI who have three or more dependent children (60.8%).

Economic Inactivity

Seasonally adjusted data report that at January – March 2014 there were 560,000 persons aged 16 and over who were economically inactive in NI, with a resulting economic inactivity rate of 39.1% for this age group. Unadjusted data showed that around 10% of these economically inactive persons (54,000) wanted a job, but did not satisfy the criteria of being available for work and actively seeking work to be classified as unemployed.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity



The largest category of the economically inactive 16+ population that do not want a job was retired persons (53.7%). However, for those aged 16-64 the largest economically inactive category was due to sickness or disability (29.6%). NI has a higher percentage of economically inactive because of sickness and disability (29.6%), aged 16-64, that do not want a job compared to the UK (20.7%).

Education and Training

In January - March 2014, 33.2% of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications, compared to 11.7% of the economically active population. Only 7.2% of the economically inactive had a degree level qualification compared to 25.2% of the economically active. Of those employees aged 16-64, 9.5% had undergone job-related education or training in the last 4 weeks.

Disabled Persons in the Labour Market

One in five persons (21.1%), aged 16-64, in NI described themselves as having a current long-term disability, which is higher than the figure of 18.7% for the UK as a whole. The proportion of persons, aged 16-64, with a disability and who were economically inactive stood at 55.0% and this compared with a rate of 18.7% for those without disabilities. Furthermore, just over a third (38.0%) of disabled persons are in employment compared to 76.4% of non-disabled persons.

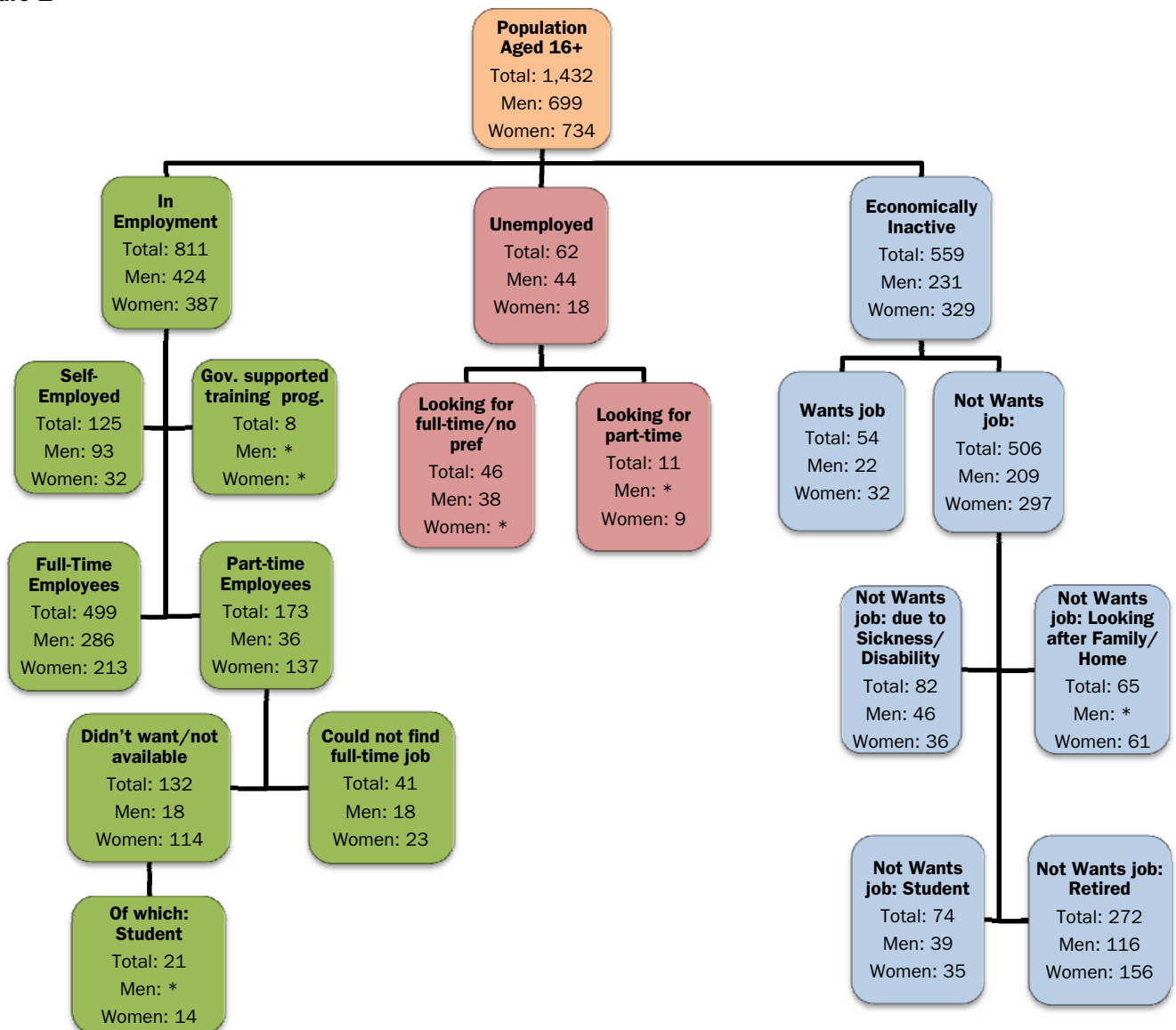
Special Feature: Health and Work

For January – March 2014, an estimated 97,000 scheduled working days were lost per week due to sick absence. This represented 3.3% of the total scheduled working days in NI and compared to an equivalent absence rate for the UK of 1.8%.

Overall Labour Market Structure

2

Overall Labour Market Structure (16+ Population, thousands), January – March 2014
Figure 1



Notes:

This chart illustrates the structure of the private household population in relation to the key ILO defined categories of in employment, unemployed and economically inactive (see Technical Notes for definitions).

* Too small for a reliable estimate (this explains why a gender split for some categories is omitted). Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- **A higher proportion of men than women are economically active.**

Table 1 and Figure 2 summarise the economic status of the population in Northern Ireland (NI). It shows that 61% of LFS respondents aged 16 and over, were economically active (either in employment or seeking work). However, results for males and females differ significantly with 67% of males compared to 55% of females falling into this category.

- **A higher proportion of men than women are unemployed.**

Overall, four per cent of the population aged 16 and over are unemployed, however, again this differs for men and women – six per cent of males are unemployed compared to two per cent of females. In addition, 61% of the male population are in employment compared to 53% of the female population.

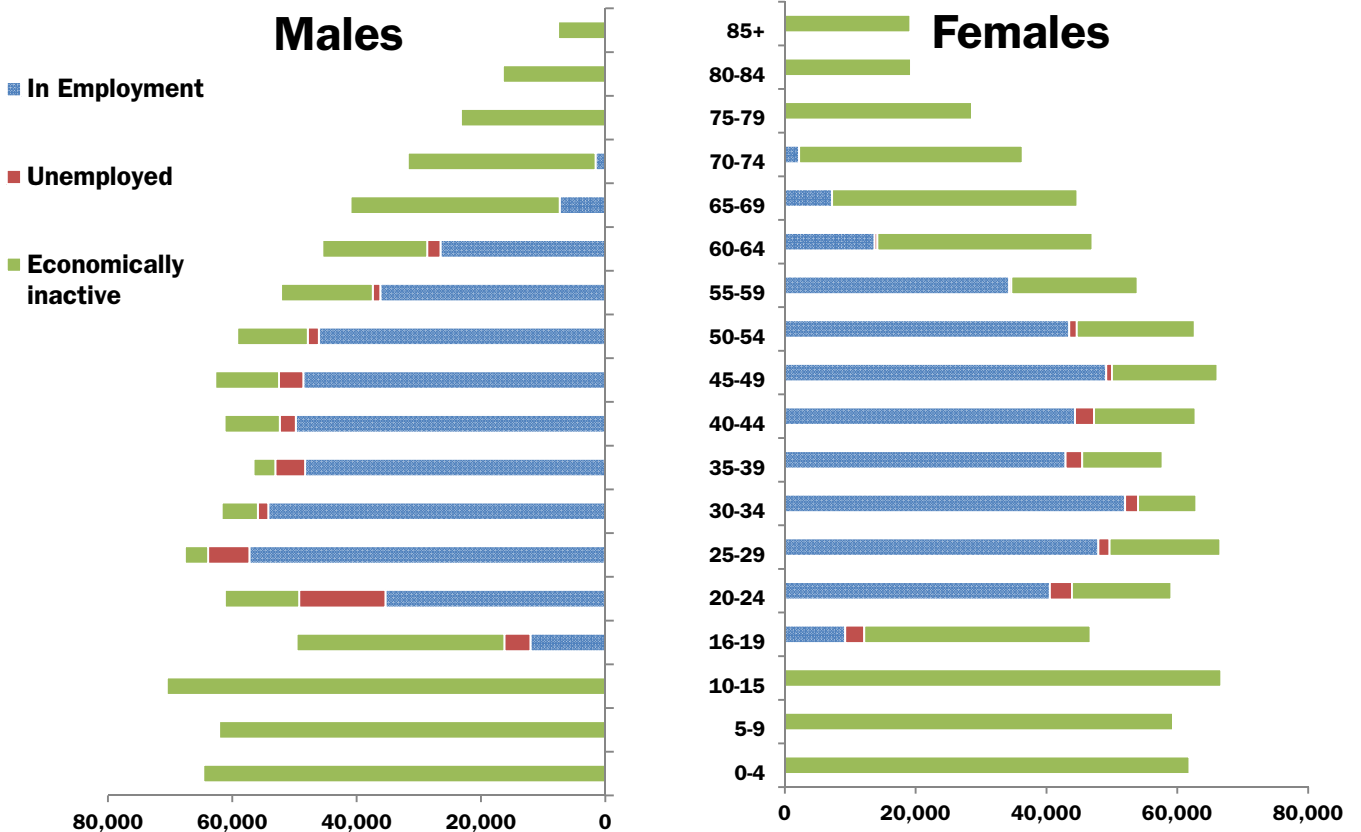
Private Household Population (16+) by Economic Status, January - March 2014

Table 1

	Percentage/Number		
	Male	Female	All persons
Economically active	66.9	55.2	60.9
In employment	60.7	52.7	56.6
Unemployed	6.3	2.5	4.3
Economically inactive	33.1	44.8	39.1
Total household population	699,000	734,000	1,432,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

NI population structure by age, sex and economic activity
Figure 2



Economically Active

3

People aged 16 and over who are in employment or unemployed are classified as economically active. In January – March 2014 there were 873,000 economically active people in NI.

January - March 2014
Economically active-male: 468,000 (67%)
Economically active-female: 405,000 (55%)
Economically active-all persons: 873,000 (61%)
16+ population

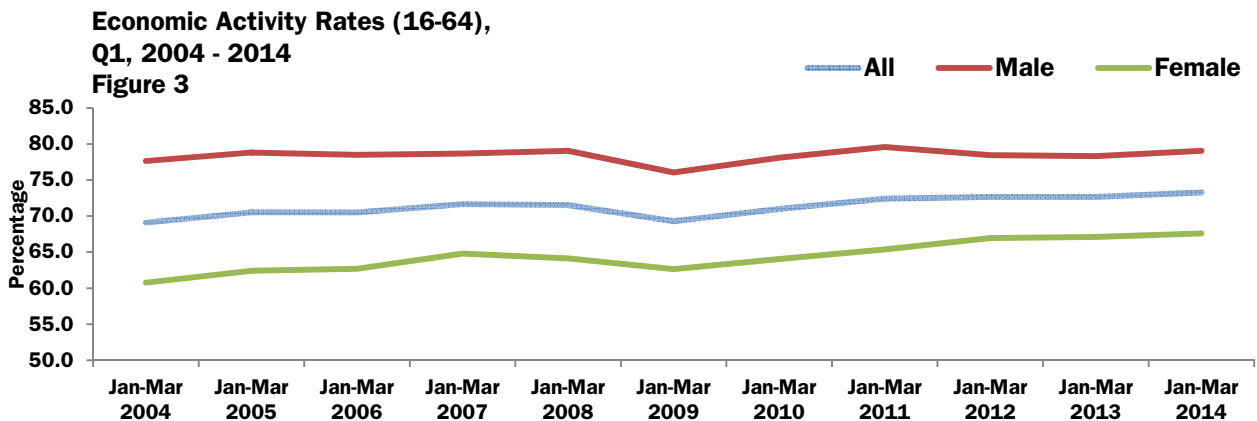
- **The 16-64 economic activity rate for males is 11 percentage points higher than that for females.**

The economic activity rate is the proportion of persons in any specified age group who are economically active. The economic activity rate for persons aged 16-64 was higher for males (79.0%) than females (67.6%) at January - March 2014. Figure 3 shows the economic activity rates for males and females of working-age from January – March 2004 to January - March 2014. The current 11.4 percentage point differential between the activity rates of males and females is lower than the 16.9 percentage point gap 10 years ago.

Economic Activity Rates (16-64), 2009 – 2014
Table 2 Percentage

	Economic Activity Rates (%)		
	Male	Female	All
Jan-Mar 2009	76.1	62.7	69.3
Jan-Mar 2010	78.1	64.0	71.0
Jan-Mar 2011	79.6	65.4	72.4
Jan-Mar 2012	78.5	67.0	72.7
Jan-Mar 2013	78.3	67.1	72.7
Apr-Jun 2013	78.7	64.9	71.8
Jul-Sep 2013	79.4	66.5	72.9
Oct-Dec 2013	79.1	67.0	73.0
Jan-Mar 2014	79.0	67.6	73.3

The economic activity rate gap between males and females has been historically larger for NI than for the UK (in January - March 2004 the gap in NI was 16.9 percentage points, compared to 13.7 percentage points in the UK). However, for January - March 2014 the NI differential had narrowed to 11.4 percentage points, 0.4 percentage points higher than the equivalent UK figure (11.1 percentage points).

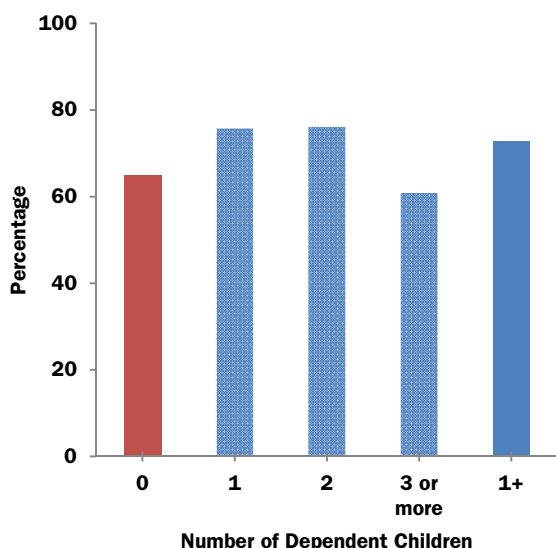


The household dataset affords the opportunity to analyse the economic activity of people by their family or household type. The dataset can be used to analyse people with dependent children, lone parents and other family types. The household dataset is only available for quarters 2 and 4 of each year. The most recent data relates to October – December 2013.

- **Women with 3 or more dependent children have greater economic activity rate than those without dependent children.**

Economic activity rates are affected by the presence of dependent children aged under 19. This impact has different consequences for the male and female heads of family units¹. Males with dependent children had a considerably higher economic activity rate (92.4%) than those without (76.5%). For females, 72.9% with dependent children were economically active compared to 65.0% of those without dependent children. This compares to a UK activity rate of 73.7% for women with dependent children and 73.2% for those without. Having three or more dependent children resulted in a lower economic activity rate (60.8%) for females in NI as shown in Figure 4.

Economic Activity Rates (16-64) for Females by Number of Dependent Children, October - December 2013
Figure 4¹

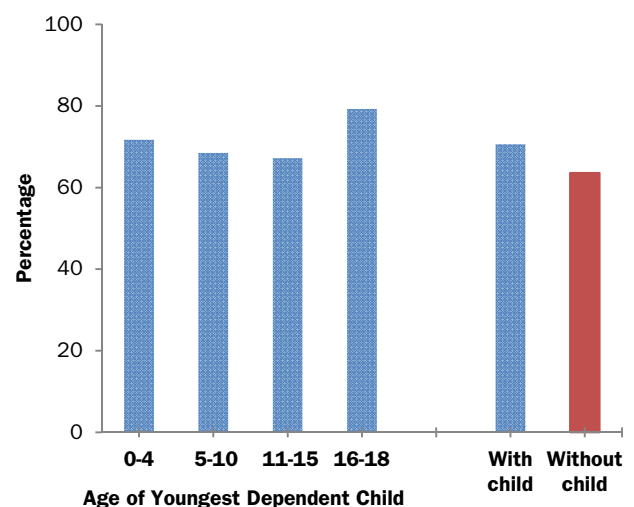


¹ The analysis on the effect of dependent children (under 19) on the economic activity rates of males/females is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. It does not include family members who are aged 16-64 but who do not have parental responsibilities such as an elder sibling.

- **Economic activity rates of the female head of family were affected by the age of the youngest dependent child.**

Economic activity rates for female heads of family were found to be influenced by the age of the youngest dependent child. When the youngest dependent child was aged 0-4 the activity rate (67.5%) was 11.3 percentage points lower than the rate for the 16-18 (78.8%) age group.

Economic Activity Rates for Females by Age of Youngest Dependent Child
October - December 2013
Figure 5



At October - December 2013 there were an estimated 64,000 female lone parents of working age; the equivalent number for males was too small to provide a reliable quotation. Over three-fifths (61.9%) were economically active while the remainder (38.1%) were classified as economically inactive.

In Employment

4

People in employment are defined as those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job which they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example); those participating in government employment or training programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

January – March 2014

In employment-male:

424,000 (61%)

In employment-female:

387,000 (53%)

In employment-all persons:

811,000 (57%)

16+ population

- There were 790,000 persons, aged 16 – 64, in employment in NI in Q1 2014, an increase of approximately 52,000 in the last five years.

Table 3 shows estimates of employment rates over a five-year period from January - March 2009 to January - March 2014 and provides a comparison of rates over the last four quarters. At January – March 2014 there were 790,000 persons, aged 16-64, in employment, with the 16-64 employment rate estimated at 67.9%. The number of working age persons in employment has increased by an estimated 16,000 during the last year and the total is 52,000 higher than the total five years ago.

Employment Rates and Numbers (16-64), 2009 – 2014

Table 3

Percentage/Number

	Employment rate	Total in employment
Jan-Mar 2009	64.8	739,000
Jan-Mar 2010	66.0	756,000
Jan-Mar 2011	67.1	773,000
Jan-Mar 2012	67.7	783,000
Jan-Mar 2013	66.7	775,000
Apr-Jun 2013	66.3	771,000
Jul-Sep 2013	67.3	783,000
Oct-Dec 2013	67.5	786,000
Jan-Mar 2014	67.9	790,000

- Fewer females than males work beyond the age of 60.

Table 4 shows that the age distribution of employed males is very similar to that for employed females. The only apparent difference relates to the older age categories where less females work beyond the age of 60, reflecting the historic difference in the pension age for males and females.

Age Distribution of Those in Employment (16+), January – March 2014

Table 4 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-19	2.6	2.4	2.5
20-24	7.9	10.5	9.1
25-29	13.1	12.4	12.8
30-34	12.9	13.4	13.2
35-39	11.9	11.1	11.5
40-44	12.0	11.5	11.7
45-49	11.4	12.7	12.0
50-54	10.7	11.2	11.0
55-59	8.7	8.9	8.8
60-64	6.2	3.5	4.9
65+	2.6	2.4	2.5
All 16+ (100%)	424,000	387,000	811,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate
Percentages may not sum due to rounding

Table 5 provides an analysis of the private household population aged 16 and over who were in employment. The breakdown of employees into full-time and part-time employment is based on the respondent's own description of their main employment rather than on the number of hours actually or usually worked.

- **Only 8 per cent of females in employment are self-employed, compared to 22% of males.**

It is noticeable that, while 21.9% of males in employment are self-employed, just 8.2% of females are in this category. The LFS also gathers information on persons with a second job in addition to their main activity and 3.4% of all employees stated that they had a second job.

Employment Status of Those in Employment (16+), January – March 2014

Table 5 Percentage/Number

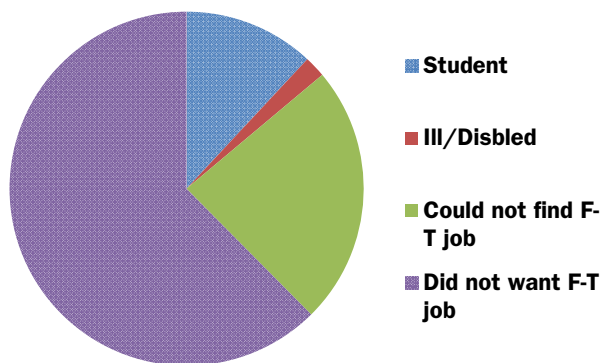
	Male	Female	All persons
All employees	76.0	90.3	82.8
FT	88.9	60.8	74.3
PT	11.1	39.2	25.7
Self employed	21.9	8.2	15.4
Govt. schemes	*	*	1.0
Total	424,000	387,000	811,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate
Percentages may not sum due to rounding
Total includes a small number of unpaid family workers.

- **Almost two-fifths (39%) of female employees are part-time compared to 11% of males.**

One of the main features of the NI labour market is the contribution which part-time jobs make to female employment. Of all female employees, 39.2% are part-time compared with just 11.1% of males. In January – March 2004, the equivalent figures were 37.0% and 8.0% respectively. Figure 6 shows the reasons given by female employees for working part-time. The main reasons given by females for working part-time were that they did not want a full-time job (71.2%) and that they could not find a full-time job (16.8%).

Reasons For Females Working Part-time, January - March 2014
Figure 6



Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) is used in classifying business establishments and other statistical units by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. It has been revised several times. Revision is necessary because, over a period of time, new products and new industries to produce them, emerge and shifts of emphasis occur in existing industries.

At 1st January 2008, the most recent revision brought about SIC (2007) from the existing SIC (2003). As such, Table 6 and related text are presented using the new SIC (2007) format.

Please note, that due to this revision, data are not directly comparable to those presented in earlier publications.

Employment by Industry (SIC 2007)

- **The largest industrial sections are Public administration, education & health (35%) and Distribution, hotels & restaurants (18%).**

Table 6 provides an analysis of persons in employment by industry (SIC 2007). The major industries in terms of employment were Public administration, education & health (34.8%) and Distribution, hotels & restaurants (18.5%). Just over one per cent were employed in the Energy and water industry.

- **Just over half of employed females work in the Public administration, education and health industries.**

There are differences between males and females in terms of the industries in which they are employed. Approximately a third of males are employed in the combined Manufacturing (15.0%) and Construction (14.8%) industries, while relatively few females work in these sectors. In contrast, half of females (50.1%) work in Public administration, education and health industries, compared to just over one-fifth of males (20.8%).

Persons in Employment by Industry Section, January - March 2014 (SIC 2007)

Table 6

Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
A - Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6.0	*	3.6
B,D,E - Energy and water	2.3	*	1.5
C - Manufacturing	15.0	5.5	10.5
F - Construction	14.8	2.2	8.8
G,I - Distribution, hotels and restaurants	17.2	19.8	18.5
H,J - Transport and communication	9.0	2.7	6.0
K,L,M,N - Banking and finance	11.0	11.7	11.3
O,P,Q - Public admin, education and health	20.8	50.1	34.8
R,S,T,U - Other services	3.8	6.4	5.0
Total	418,000	383,000	800,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those on college based government training and employment programmes and those who did not state industry.

Banking and finance industry employed similar proportions of males (11.0%) and females (11.7%), which is proportionately the third largest industry overall.

Employment by Occupation

Table 7 provides an analysis of persons in employment by occupation using SOC2010 (Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since January – March 2011. These estimates are based on a different classification from those used previously and as a result, are not directly comparable.

- **Professional occupations accounted for the largest proportion of persons in employment (19%).**

Professional occupations were the largest group with 19.5% of persons in employment, followed by Skilled Trade (15.2%) and Administrative and Secretarial (12.5%)

- **A large proportion of males (27%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, whereas the largest groups for females were Professional Occupations (22%) and Administrative and Secretarial (20%).**

There are obvious differences between males and females in terms of the occupations in which they are employed. A large proportion of males (27.0%) work in Skilled Trade occupations, whereas the proportion of females in this occupation was just 2.3%. Conversely, a fifth (19.5%) of females are employed in Administrative and Secretarial occupations compared to just 6.1% of males.

A higher proportion of males in employment are Managers and/or Senior Officials compared to females (7.5% for males as opposed to 5.7% for females).

Persons in Employment by Occupation, January – March 2014

Table 7

	Percentage/Number		
	Male	Female	All persons
Managers, Directors And Senior Official occupations	7.5	5.7	6.6
Professional occupations	17.2	22.0	19.5
Associate Professional And Technical occupations	10.1	8.0	9.1
Administrative And Secretarial occupations	6.1	19.5	12.5
Skilled Trades occupations	27.0	2.3	15.2
Caring, Leisure And Other Service occupations	2.6	19.0	10.4
Sales And Customer Service occupations	4.7	10.7	7.6
Process, Plant And Machine Operatives occupations	11.7	*	7.0
Elementary occupations	13.1	11.0	12.1
All occupations ¹	419,000	386,000	805,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate

Percentages may not sum due to rounding

¹Total excludes those who did not state their occupation.

Unemployment

5

The unemployed are defined as those without a job in the reference week who were available to start work within the next fortnight and who had either looked for work at some time in the last four weeks or were waiting to start a job already obtained.

January - March 2014
Unemployed-male:
44,000 (6%)
Unemployed-female:
18,000 (2%)
Unemployed-all persons:
62,000 (4%)
16+ population

Overall, 4% of respondents aged 16 and over were unemployed and 6% of men were unemployed compared to 2% of women.

- **The unemployment rate for males is 9.4% compared with 4.5% for females.**

Unemployment rates can be obtained from the survey by expressing the number unemployed as a percentage of all those economically active (see Table 8). Unadjusted results show a 0.8 percentage point increase in the overall unemployment rate over the last five years.

Unemployment Rates, 2009 – 2014 (Unadjusted for seasonality)

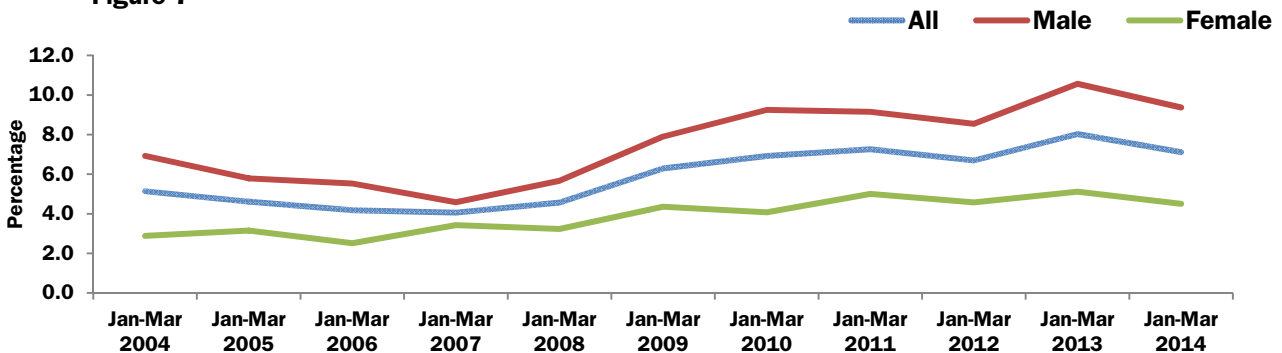
Table 8

	Percentage		
	Male	Female	All persons
Jan-Mar 2009	7.9	4.4	6.3
Jan-Mar 2010	9.3	4.1	7.3
Jan-Mar 2011	9.2	5.0	7.3
Jan-Mar 2012	8.5	4.6	6.7
Jan-Mar 2013	10.6	5.1	8.0
Apr-Jun 2013	9.8	4.5	7.4
Jul-Sep 2013	9.0	5.6	7.5
Oct-Dec 2013	9.2	5.3	7.4
Jan-Mar 2014	9.4	4.5	7.1

Fluctuations in the unemployment rates from each quarter will be partly due to seasonal factors – please refer to the seasonally adjusted figures in Section 9.

The unemployment rate for January - March 2014 (7.1%) represented a decrease of 0.9 percentage points from the same period one year ago.

Unemployment Rates, 2004-2014
Figure 7



- **Over half (51%) of unemployed persons are aged 16 - 29.**

Table 9 shows that over a half of unemployed persons are aged 16 - 29 (50.6%) with those aged 30 or over comprising the remaining 49.4%.

Age Distribution of the Unemployed, January - March 2014

Table 9 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-29	53.3	44.0	50.6
30+	46.7	56.0	49.4
All 16+	44,000	18,000	62,000

Duration of Unemployment

- **Forty-seven per cent of unemployed persons are long-term unemployed.**

In January - March 2014, an estimated 47.4% of unemployed persons had been out of work and seeking employment for more than one year. A higher proportion of males (54.1%) were long term unemployed, while the estimate for females was too small to quote – see Table 10.

Duration of Unemployment in Northern Ireland January - March 2014

Table 10 Percentage/Number

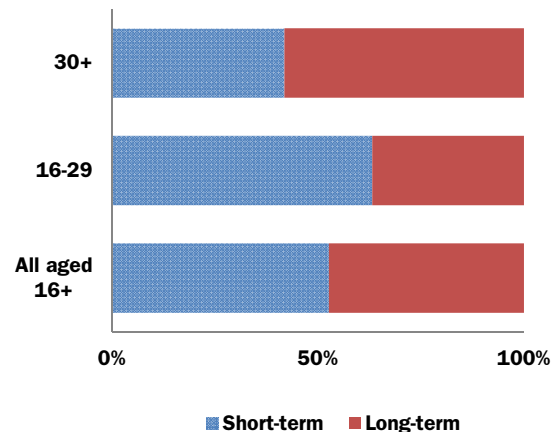
	Male	Female	All persons
Short-term unemployed	45.9	68.7	52.6
Long-term unemployed	54.1	*	47.4
All unemployed ¹	44,000	18,000	62,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

¹Excludes those that did not answer the questions on duration of unemployment.

The proportion of unemployed persons who were unemployed for one year or more is shown separately for younger and older age groups in Figure 8. Long-term unemployed accounted for 47.4% of the total unemployed and short-term unemployed for 52.6%. Of those aged 16-29, 36.8% were long-term unemployed, while for those in the 30+ category, 58.1% were long-term unemployed.

Long-term and Short-term Unemployed by Age Group, January - March 2014 Figure 8



Methods Used By the Unemployed to Seek Work

- **The two main methods of looking for work are answering advertisements/ studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals and visiting JobCentre Offices.**

For unemployed persons, the two most common methods of looking for work were answering advertisements/studying 'situations vacant' columns in newspapers and journals (56.3%) and visiting JobCentre Offices (30.5%) as can be seen in Table 11.

Main Method of Seeking Work for Unemployed Persons (16+), January - March 2014

Table 11

Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
Advertisements/Situations vacant	50.3	71.1	56.3
JobCentre Offices	35.9	*	30.5
Other methods	*	*	13.2
All Methods 100%	44,000	18,000	62,000

*Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.

Total includes those who were not seeking work in the previous four weeks because they were awaiting results of a job application, but excludes those who did not answer the question.

Occupation of Unemployed Persons in Last Job

The survey also asks unemployed persons their occupation in their most recent job, if applicable. Approximately 41,000 persons gave a previous occupational group. Of those unemployed, 30.2% previously had occupations described as 'Skilled Trades' and 26.1% as 'Elementary Occupations'.

Economically Inactive

6

People aged 16 and over who are not in employment and are not unemployed are classified as economically inactive.

January - March 2014
Economically inactive-male: 231,000 (33%)
Economically inactive -female: 329,000 (45%)
Economically inactive -all persons: 559,000 (39%)
16+ population

In January - March 2014 there were 559,000 economically inactive people in NI – this represented 39% of the 16+ population.

- **Economic inactivity is highest for those aged 65 and over.**

For both males and females, economic inactivity is relatively high during the ages associated with full-time education (16-24); it drops during the “prime” working years and picks up towards retirement. For women this trend is affected by the impact of family commitments during the “prime” working years – see Table 12.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive NI, January - March 2014

Table 12 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	21.5	15.2	17.8
25-34	4.0	7.9	6.3
35-44	4.4	8.5	6.8
45-54	9.2	10.4	9.9
55-64	13.3	15.9	14.8
65+	47.6	42.2	44.5
All 16+	231,000	329,000	559,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

- **Over half of the economically inactive in the UK are aged 65 or over.**

Table 13 shows the comparable age distribution of the economically inactive for the UK. It highlights that a higher proportion of the inactive in the UK are concentrated in the older age groups, with 52.0% being aged 65 and over, compared to 44.5% in NI. In contrast, the UK has a much lower proportion of their economically inactive population in the youngest age group (14.8% of the UK economically inactive population are aged 16-24, compared to 17.8% for NI). These differences are partly explained by NI’s younger population structure.

Age Distribution of the Economically Inactive UK, January - March 2014

Table 13 Percentage/Number

	Male	Female	All persons
16-24	17.6	12.8	14.8
25-34	3.9	8.5	6.6
35-44	3.7	7.5	6.0
45-54	5.6	7.4	6.7
55-64	13.3	14.5	14.0
65+	55.9	49.3	52.0
All 16+	7,618,000	11,057,000	18,674,000

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Reasons for Economic Inactivity

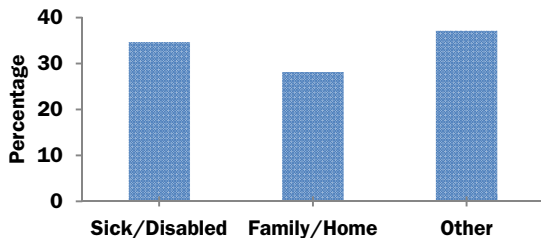
- **Around 10% of the economically inactive want a job.**

The economically inactive population is comprised of two main groups; those who do not want a job (90.4% in January - March 2014) and those who do want a job (9.6%). Equivalent figures for the UK show that 13.1% of the economically inactive want a job, whereas the remaining 86.9% do not. The main reasons given by those who want work in NI, but are not seeking work or available to start work are shown in Figure 9.

- **Sickness or disability is the main reason for not looking for a job.**

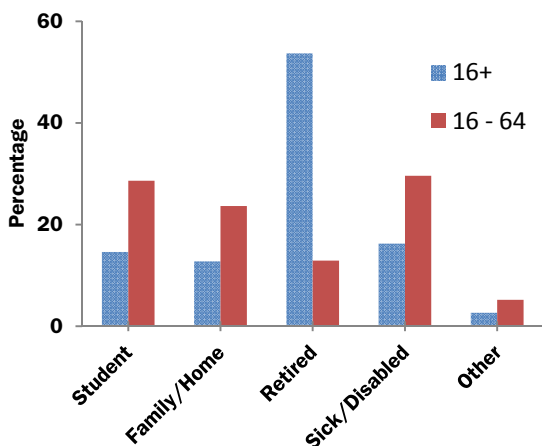
Of the economically inactive who want a job 34.7% were not looking for work due to sickness or disability and 28.1% were not looking because of family/home commitments. "Other" includes students and discouraged workers (those not in a job who would like work and whose reason for not seeking work in the past four weeks is that they believe there are no jobs available).

Inactive - Wants Job (16+)
January - March 2014
Figure 9



As mentioned previously, 90.4% of the economically inactive do not want a job and this group can be divided into the categories shown in Figure 10.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (16+ and 16-64)
January - March 2014
Figure 10



- **Of the 16+ population who do not want a job 54% are retired.**

Overall for the total population, the main reason for the inactive not wanting work was retirement (53.7%).

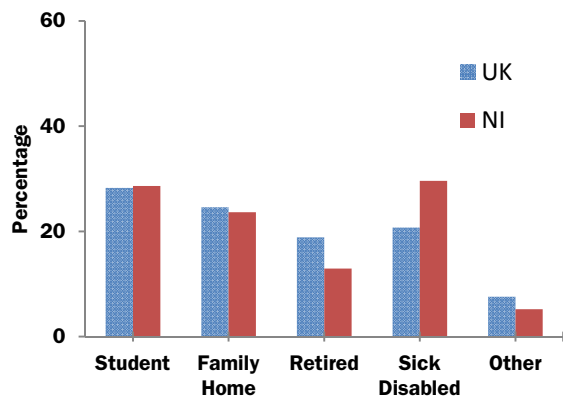
- **Almost one third (29.6%) of the population aged 16-64 who do not want a job were Sick or disabled.**

For the 16-64 population the main reasons for not wanting work were those who were sick/disabled (29.6%) followed by those who were students (28.6%), and those looking after family/home (23.7%). Men were more likely to cite being sick/disabled as their main reason (42.0%) for inactivity and women family commitments (36.1%).

- **In comparison to the UK, NI has a lower percentage of the economically inactive, who are retired.**

Figure 11 compares the 16-64 inactive population of NI with the UK. NI had a higher proportion that did not want work because of sickness or disability, compared to the UK (29.6% compared to 20.7%). NI also has a lower proportion of retired (12.9%) as the main reason for not wanting work, compared to the UK (18.9%). This could be partly explained by NI's younger population structure.

Inactive - Does Not Want Job - Reason for Inactivity (UK and NI, 16 - 64)
January - March 2014
Figure 11



NEETs

(Not in Employment, Education or Training)

7

A person is defined as NEET if they are aged 16 to 24 and not in employment, education or training (full-time or part-time).

Within the estimate, a person is considered to be in education or training (part-time or full-time) if they:

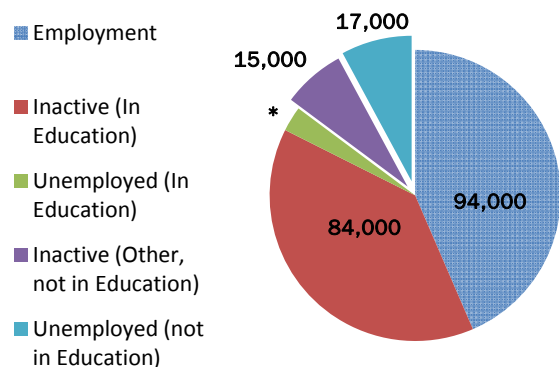
- are completing an apprenticeship;
- are engaged on a Government employment or training programme;
- are working or studying towards a qualification;
- have had job-related training or education in the last four weeks; or
- are enrolled on an education course and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start.

Therefore, anybody aged 16 to 24 who is not in the above forms of education or training (part-time or full-time) and who is not in employment, is considered to be NEET. The definition of “in employment”, as recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is anyone (aged 16 or over) who has done at least one hour’s paid work in the week prior to interview, or has a job they are temporarily away from (e.g. on holiday). (See technical notes for further details.)

This definition is that used by the Office for National Statistics, which is outlined in detail in the following methodology paper: [UK Estimate of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training](#). Previous NEETs figures produced in relation to NI included those aged 16 to 24 who were in part-time education. However, ONS first published quarterly NEETs figures for the UK in May 2013, based on the above definition.

In January - March 2014, there were 32,000 young people (aged from 16 to 24) in Northern Ireland who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This figure is up 3,000 since the last quarter (October - December 2013) and down 2,000 on the previous year.

**Economic Overview 16-24
January - March 2014
Figure 12**



The percentage of all young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were NEET was 14.6%, up 1.4 percentage points since October-December 2013 and down 0.5 percentage points on the previous year.

There was an estimated 13,000 females (12.3% of all females aged 16-24) who met the NEETs definition in Northern Ireland in January - March 2014. This was unchanged over the quarter and down 2,000 over the year. This total was less than male NEETs (19,000 or 16.9%), which was up 3,000 over the quarter and unchanged over the year.

**NEETs Totals/Rates, 2012 – 2014
(Unadjusted)**

Table 14

Total/Percentage

	Male		Female		All persons	
	Total (000's)	Rate (%)	Total (000's)	Rate (%)	Total (000's)	Rate (%)
Apr-Jun 2012	22,000	19	20,000	18.7	42,000	18.9
Jul-Sep 2012	18,000	16.3	18,000	17.1	37,000	16.7
Oct-Dec 2012	20,000	17.4	16,000	15	36,000	16.2
Jan-Mar 2013	19,000	16.6	15,000	13.7	33,000	15.1
Apr-Jun 2013	17,000	15.4	16,000	15.4	34,000	15.4
Jul-Sep 2013	14,000	13	20,000	19	35,000	15.9
Oct-Dec 2013	16,000	14.5	13,000	11.9	29,000	13.2
Jan-Mar 2014	19,000	16.9	13,000	12.3	32,000	14.6

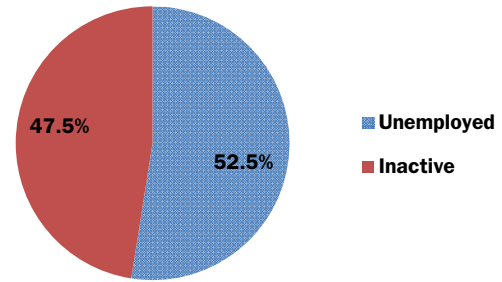
Unemployed Young People who were NEET

The ILO definition of unemployment refers to those persons who did not engage in at least one hour of paid or unpaid employment and who have been actively seeking work within the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks. For January - March 2014, there were 17,000 NEETs who were unemployed young people (aged from 16 to 24), down 3,000 from October - December 2013 and down 3,000 from a year earlier. It should be noted there is also a number of unemployed persons who are in education who are not included in the NEETs definition.

Economically Inactive Young People who were NEET

Economic inactivity refers to persons not in employment (as defined above by the ILO) who have not been seeking work within the last four weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next two weeks. For January-March 2014, there were 15,000 NEETs who were economically inactive young people (aged from 16 to 24), up 6,000 from October-December 2013 and up 1,000 from a year earlier.

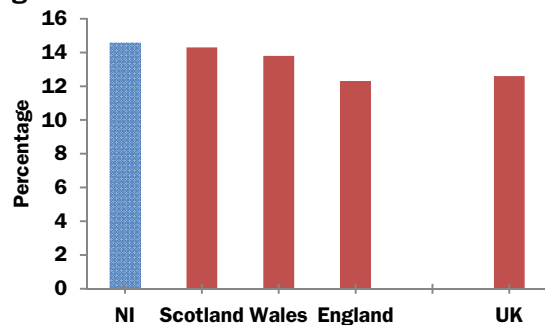
**Inactivity & Unemployed NEETs
January - March 2014
Figure 13**



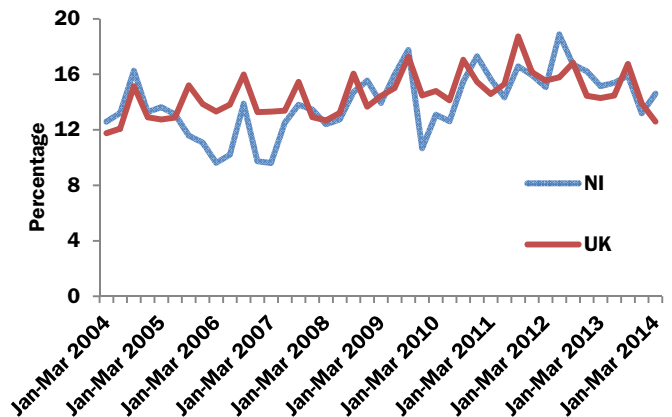
NEETs United Kingdom Comparison

For the period January - March 2014, the NI NEETs rate for those aged 16-24 stood at 14.6%, compared to a UK average of 12.6%. Of the countries within the UK, Northern Ireland had the highest 16-24 NEETs rate. Scotland (14.3%) had the second highest rate followed by Wales (13.8%), with England having the lowest (12.3%).

**NEETs Rates (16-24) by UK Country
January - March 2014
Figure 14**



**NEETs, NI v UK over 10 years
Figure 15**



Education and Training

8

Qualifications of the Employed and the Unemployed

- **One third (33%) of economically inactive persons had no formal qualifications at January - March 2014.**

Table 15 shows that the qualification levels of those aged 16-64 in employment or economically active are consistently higher than those who are economically inactive. Of those in employment 36.7% had higher qualifications, compared to 12.0% of the economically inactive. Conversely, 33.2% of economically inactive people had no formal qualifications, compared with 11.3% of those in employment. The economically active comprise the employed and the unemployed. The qualification levels of this group are higher than the economically inactive. Of the economically inactive, only 7.2% had degree level qualifications, while 33.2% had no qualifications at all. This compares to figures of 25.2% and 11.7% for the economically active population, respectively.

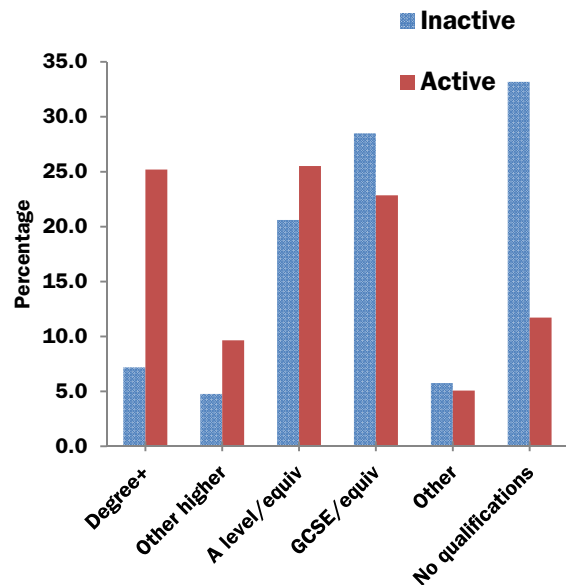
Qualifications by Economic Activity (16 - 64), January - March 2014

Table 15 Percentage/Number

	In employment	Econ. active	Econ. inactive	All
Degree or higher	26.3	25.2	7.2	20.4
Other higher below degree	10.4	9.6	4.8	8.4
A level or equivalent	24.9	25.5	20.6	24.2
GCSE A-C or equivalent	22.2	22.9	28.5	24.3
Other qualifications	4.9	5.1	5.8	5.3
No Qualifications	11.3	11.7	33.2	17.4
All (000s)	779,000	840,000	302,000	1,142,000

* Cell size too small for a reliable estimate.
 Figures may not sum due to rounding. Total excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification. Please refer to Technical Notes for full definition of educational attainment categories. Only men and women aged 16 - 69, and those of any age with a job were asked the question on qualifications.

Qualifications By Economic Activity, January - March 2014
Figure 16



Job-related Training

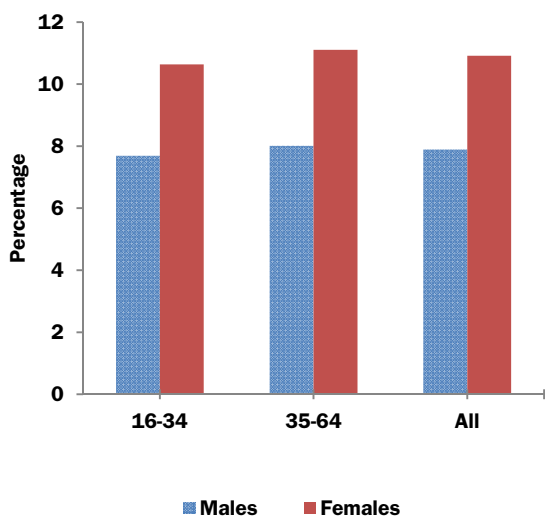
- **A higher proportion of older employees receive job-related training.**

The LFS can be used to identify those employees who receive education or training connected with their job. Table 16 and Figure 17 overleaf show how the proportion of employees receiving job-related education or training varies with age and gender. In January - March 2014, 9.5% of employees of working-age had undergone some job-related training within the previous four weeks. In the age group 35-64, 8.0% of males and 11.1% of females had received such training.

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age Group (16 - 64), January - March 2014
Table 16

	Male	Female	Percentage All persons
16-34	7.7	10.6	9.2
35-64	8.0	11.1	9.6
All	7.9	10.9	9.5

Employees Receiving Job-related Training By Age, January - March 2014
Figure 17



Regional and International Summary

9

Table 17 and Figure 18 provide some labour market comparisons on a seasonally adjusted basis between NI and other UK regions.

- **The unemployment rate in NI is higher than the UK average rate and is the sixth highest rate among the twelve UK regions.**

The seasonally adjusted NI unemployment rate is up 0.1 over the quarter. The NI rate (7.2%) is higher than the UK average rate (6.8%) and was the sixth highest of all the UK regions (see Table 17 and Figure 18 for details).

- **The NI unemployment rate is 3.4 percentage points lower than the average rate for the EU 28.**

Figure 19 overleaf shows how the harmonised employment rate in NI compares to other employment rates in the European Union (based on those aged 15-64). The NI rate (66.0% - see Note 2 overleaf) is higher than the EU average (64.5%). It is also 4.6 percentage points above the current rate in the Republic of Ireland (61.4%).

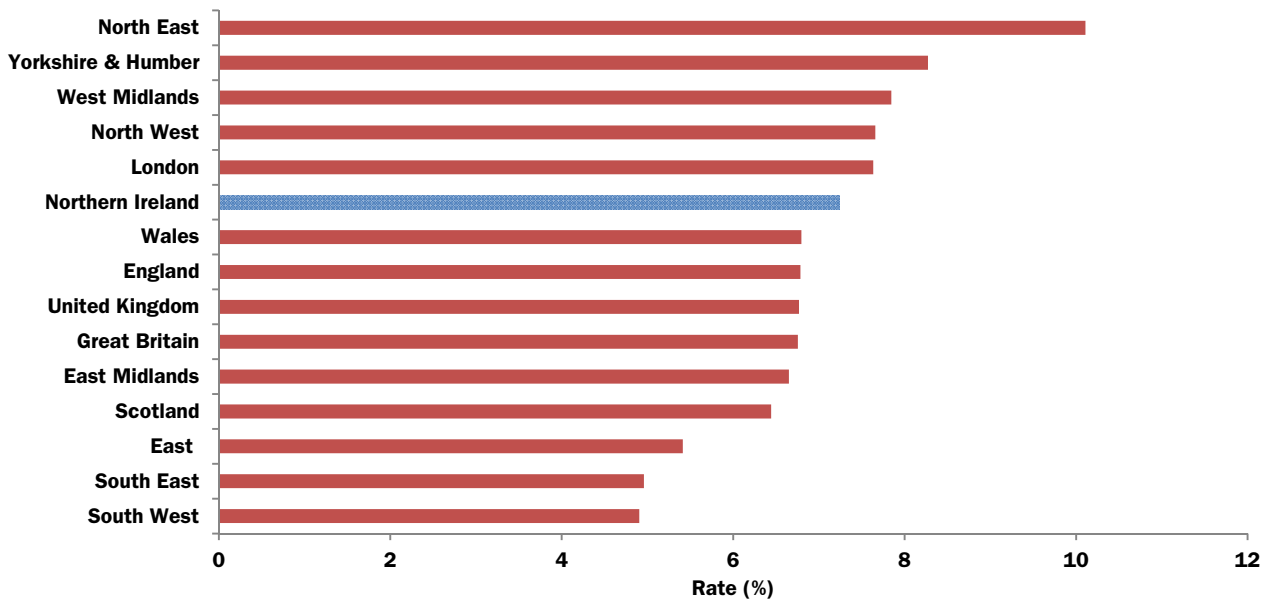
The NI unemployment rate (7.2%) is 4.7 percentage points lower than the rate for the Republic of Ireland (11.9%) and 3.4 percentage points lower than the average rate for the EU 28 (10.6%).

Regional Seasonally Adjusted Economic Activity Rates, January - March 2014

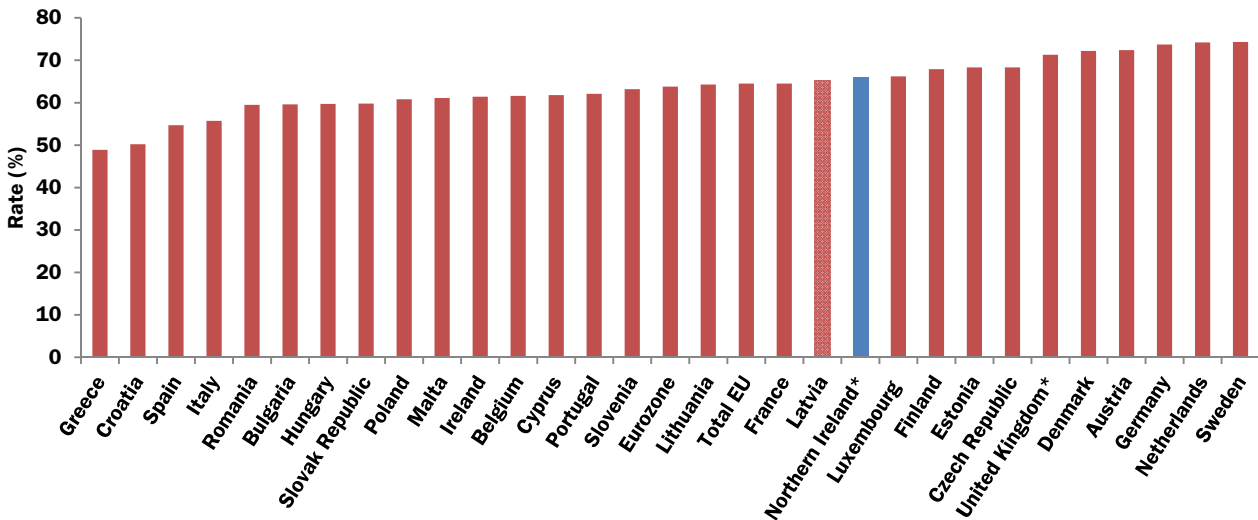
Table 17

	Percentage		
	Employment rate (16-64)	Unemployment rate	Economic Inactivity rate (16-64)
North East	69.2	10.1	22.9
North West	69.8	7.7	24.3
Yorkshire & Humber	71.5	8.3	22.0
East Midlands	73.0	6.6	21.6
West Midlands	70.1	7.8	23.8
East	76.3	5.4	19.2
London	71.8	7.6	22.2
South East	76.2	5.0	19.6
South West	76.0	4.9	20.0
England	72.9	6.8	21.6
Wales	70.0	6.8	24.8
Scotland	73.5	6.4	21.4
Great Britain	72.8	6.8	21.8
Northern Ireland	67.8	7.2	26.8
United Kingdom	72.7	6.8	21.9

Regional Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, January - March 2014
Figure 18



International Comparisons of ILO Employment
ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted¹
Figure 19



Source: Eurostat and StatBLS

¹ Employment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

The employment rates published by EUROSTAT are based on the population aged 15-64.

* A NI employment rate comparable to the EUROSTAT figures has been produced from the Calendar Quarter 4 LFS dataset. It is based on the population aged 15-64 and differs from the working age rates (16-64 for men and for women) published elsewhere in this publication, which take account of both the school-leaving and state pension age.

The employment rate for the UK as published by EUROSTAT will differ from the working age rate (16-64) published by ONS for the same reason.

Eurostat compiles 'harmonised' unemployment rates for most countries (but not NI and UK) by extrapolating from the most recent LFS data using monthly registered unemployment data. For further information see the Monthly Eurostat news release.

The "Total EU" series consists of all 28 EU countries. The Eurozone series consists of the following EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain.

Disability and the Labour Market

10

This section focuses on the characteristics and labour market experiences of people with disabilities. Disability as a concept is complex and can be defined in a number of ways and here it relates to current long-term disabilities among the working-age population that are covered by the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act and/or work-limiting disabilities – please refer to the Technical Notes section for a full definition.

Estimates of Numbers Disabled

- **One in five persons (21%) of working-age, in NI, has a disability.**

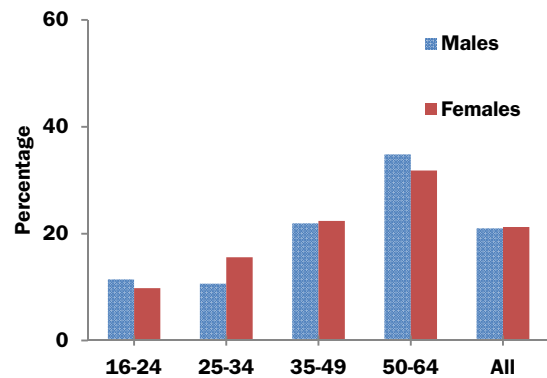
The January - March 2014 LFS estimates that one in five (21.1%) persons (244,000), aged 16-64 in NI, had a current long-term disability. This proportion was higher for females (21.3%) than for males (21.0%), equating to 124,000 disabled women and 121,000 disabled men.

- **The likelihood of having a disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females.**

Figure 20 shows that the proportion of persons who have a long-term disability or health problem increases with age for both males and females. The proportion of males with disabilities increased from 11.5% for the 16-24 age group to 34.9% for the 50-64 age group.

For females the proportion with disabilities increased from 9.8% for ages 16-24 to 31.8% for ages 50-64.

Disability Rates by Age Group
January - March 2014
Figure 20

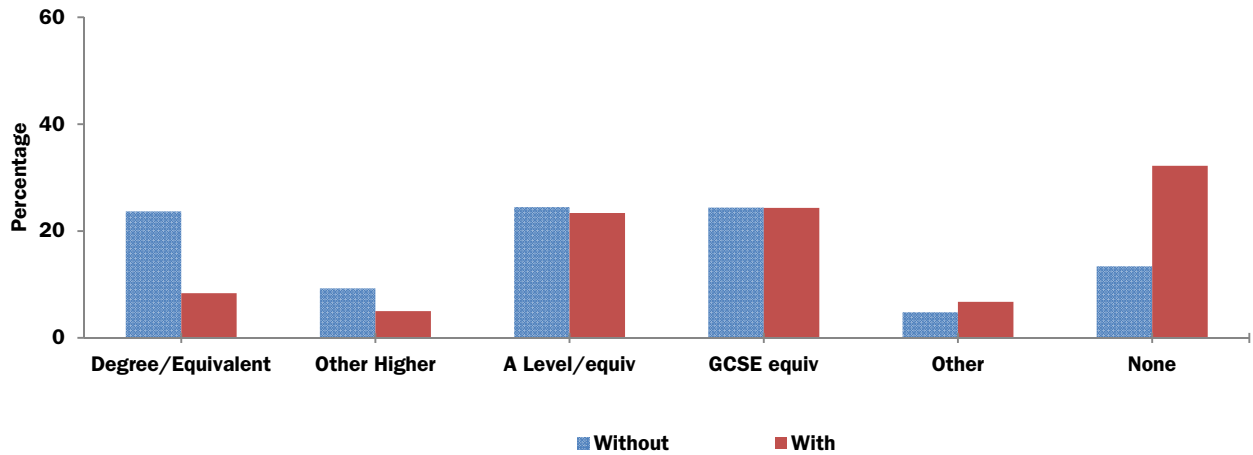


Qualifications of Persons With and Without Disabilities

- **Over twice the proportion of disabled persons have no qualification compared to non-disabled persons at January - March 2014.**

Figure 21 shows the qualification levels held by disabled and non-disabled persons at January - March 2014. Overall, persons with a disability are less qualified than those without. In particular, only 8.4% of those with a disability held a degree or equivalent qualification, compared with 23.7% of non-disabled persons. Thirty two percent of those with a disability had no qualifications, over twice the proportion of those without a disability (13.4%).

**Qualifications of Persons With or Without a Disability
January - March 2014
Figure 21**



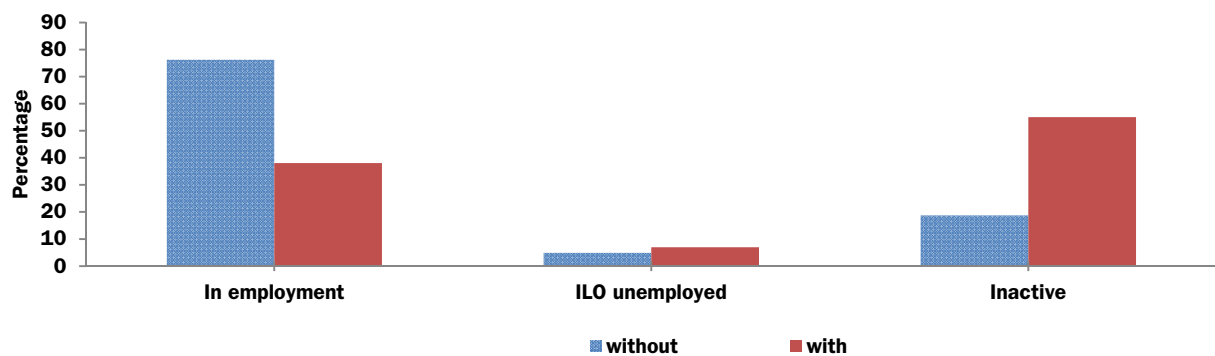
Economic Activity for the Disabled and Non-Disabled

- **The employment rate for those without disabilities (76%) is twice that of people with disabilities (38%).**

Please refer to Technical Notes for full definition of qualifications. Excludes those who did not state their highest level of qualification. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 22 shows the relative importance of the three main economic categories for those aged 16-64, with and without a disability, at January - March 2014. A much smaller proportion of those with a disability (38.0%) are in employment compared to those without (76.4%). Conversely, the majority of those with a disability (55.0%) are economically inactive, compared with 18.7% of those without a disability.

**Economic Activity of Thoes With or Without a Disability
January - March 2014
Figure 22**



Special Feature: Health and Work

11

Each Winter since 1994/95, the LFS questionnaire has contained a number of questions concerning the incidence of work-related accidents and illness. Due to the transition of the LFS from seasonal quarters to calendar quarters such questions are now asked in Quarter 1 (January – March) where they were previously asked in the Winter quarter (December – February) of each year.

Accidents at work

The number of people who suffered an injury from accidents at work in the twelve months to January – March 2014 was too small to provide a reliable estimate.

Sickness Absence from Work

The LFS collects information on total sickness absence from the workplace. New questions introduced in Spring 2000 enable us to calculate “days lost through sickness absence as a proportion of the number of days on which an employee was scheduled to work”, known as “sickness absence rate” and to identify on which day(s) of the week the respondent was absent.

At January - March 2014 there were 670,000 employees for whom data was available. Out of these, 14,000 were not scheduled to work at all during the week in question (e.g. persons on annual or maternity leave) and 10,000 whose scheduled working days were not relevant (those who had no regular schedule of work or could not answer the question).

- **An estimated 97,000 scheduled working days were lost per week due to absence in January - March 2014, representing 3.3% of the total scheduled to work.**

Table 18 shows that for the remaining 646,000 employees scheduled to work, 97,000 scheduled working days out of 2,997,000 scheduled working days were lost to sickness or injury per week during January - March 2014. This estimate represented 3.3% of the total scheduled working days (compared to 1.8% in the UK). Estimates of absence percentages for Saturday and Sunday were too small to be reliably quoted.

Daily Sickness Absence rates of employees, January - March 2014

Table 18

	Number/Percentage		
	Number Scheduled to Work	Number Absent from Work	% Absent on Day
Monday - Friday	2,924,000	92,000	3.3%
Saturday - Sunday	217,000	*	*
All Work Days	2,997,000	97,000	3.3%

Of the total scheduled working days lost, 68,000 were due to absenteeism among females (representing 4.5% of their scheduled working day) and 30,000 (1.9%) were due to absenteeism among males.

The “occurrence of sickness absence” looks at the total number of employees who were absent for at least one day during the week as a proportion of the total number of employees who were scheduled to work.

In order to look at the number of absentees who were absent at least one day during the week in more detail, data from the January – March 2014 quarter has been amalgamated with the previous three quarters. For this combined data the minimum quotation level reduces from 8,000 to 6,000 cases. An advantage of averaging data over a year is that it smoothes out variation between individual quarters. The estimated average number who had at least one day off sick during the survey reference week for these four quarters was 17,000 (2.5% of all employees). Of these 60% (10,000 or 3.0% of female employees) were female and 40% (7,000 or 2.1% of male employees) were male.

The absence rate for employees working in the private sector (2.1%) was lower than that the rate recorded for the public sector (3.4%).

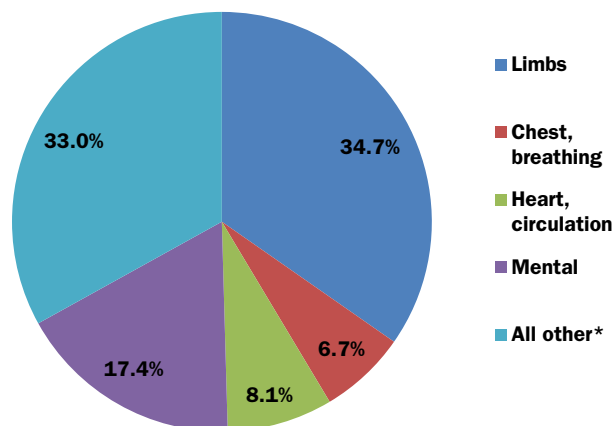
Given the relatively small estimate provided for the total average sick absence. It is not feasible to provide further breakdowns by age and disability.

HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECTING WORK

- **Eighteen per cent of those persons of working age (214,000) had a long-term health problem which affected the amount or kind of work they could do.**

For January - March 2014 there were an estimated 1,163,000 persons of working age in Northern Ireland. Looking at health problems that were expected to last more than twelve months, for 207,000 persons the health problem affected the amount of paid work they could do, and for 197,000 persons they affected the kind of paid work they could do. Combining these there were 214,000 persons (107,000 males and 107,000 females) who had a long-term health problem which affected either the amount or kind of paid work they could do. This represented 18.4% of all persons of working age. Figure 23 shows the main health problem that affected these people. For 34.7% (74,000 persons) the health problem was that associated with mobility of the limbs (including arthritis or rheumatism) affecting arms, hands, legs, feet, back or neck. The other main health problems were mental illnesses including depression (17.4%), heart and circulation problems (8.1%) and chest and breathing problems (6.7%).

**Main Health Problem affecting Amount or Kind of Work, January - March 2014
Figure 23**



Technical Notes

12

Background

Following the UK's accession to the European Community, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was carried out for the first time in 1973, under the terms of an EC Regulation. The Statistical Office of the European Communities co-ordinates information from all the Labour Force Surveys carried out by member states in order to assist in such matters as the allocation of Social Fund resources.

From 1973 to 1983, the LFS was carried out biennially in both Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain. Following a change in the requirements of the EC Regulation, from 1984 an annual survey was conducted and results referred to the spring months of each year. In March 1992 the GB portion of the survey moved onto a quarterly cycle and in December 1994 a quarterly survey was introduced in (NI).

As part of an EU requirement, where all member states must have an LFS based on calendar quarters, the NI Labour Force Survey moved to a calendar quarter basis from May 2006 onwards.

The LFS was previously based on seasonal quarters where, for example, the March – May months covered the Spring quarter, June - August was Summer and so forth. This has changed to calendar quarters where microdata will be available for January – March (Q1) , April – June (Q2), July – September (Q3) and October - December (Q4).

The LFS is a sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. It is the biggest regular household survey in NI and provides a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions. This statistics notice presents supplementary results from the January – March 2014 Quarterly LFS in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment commissions the LFS in Northern Ireland. However, it is the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who actually carry out the survey and publish the results. In particular, the day-to-day management of

the fieldwork, including data collection and database creation, rests with NISRA's Central Survey Unit (CSU). CSU are also responsible for the creation of a Computer Assisted Interviewing questionnaire (designed to mirror that used in GB), the sampling of addresses and the carrying out of fieldwork using a team of specialist interviewers.

Response Rates

The sample for the January – March 2014 LFS consisted of 2,280 addresses, (814 chosen at random from the Valuation & Lands Agency list of domestic properties, 1,466 carried forward from the previous quarter). A random start, fixed interval sampling technique of the addresses, which are ordered by District Council and Ward, is used. This ensures a proportional representation across the District Council areas in NI.

Only private household addresses were eligible since the LFS is a survey of the private household population. Every selected address is interviewed on five successive occasions, such that in any one quarter, a fifth of the sample will be receiving their first interview, one fifth their second and so on, with one fifth receiving their fifth and final interview. This results in an 80% sample overlap between quarters.

Response Rates, January – March 2014

	Number/Percentage
Total addresses sampled	2,280*
Fully and partially responding	1,466
Eligible sample	1,973
Response rate (%)	74.3

*Of the addresses sampled, a small number contained more than one household and some contained households which moved during the quarter. Residents in NHS hospital accommodation (formerly called nurses' homes) and students living in halls of residence or boarding schools are included to improve the coverage of young people.

Breakdown of Non-response and Ineligible Addresses, January – March 2014

Non-response/non-contact:	Number
- Outright refusal	205
- Circumstantial refusal	77
- Non-contact	225
Ineligible addresses:	
- Vacant/derelict/under construction	210
- Holiday accommodation	25
- Non-residential	6
- Second residence	33
- Other ineligible	27
- Household moves	6
Total	814

Sampling

Because the LFS is a sample survey, results are subject to sampling error, i.e. the actual proportion of the population in private households with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion of the LFS sample with that characteristic. Accordingly, although percentages in most tables are quoted to one decimal place, they should not be regarded as having this degree of accuracy, and indeed some apparent trends over time may be misleading due to sampling error. In general, the larger the group, the more precise (proportionately) is the LFS estimate.

The following table shows the proportions obtained from the January - March 2014 survey for some key LFS variables and indicates their sampling accuracy. The confidence intervals represent the ranges either side of the LFS proportions which are 95% certain to include the true values of the quantities estimated.

LFS Proportions Of Total Private Household Population (16+), Including 95% Confidence Intervals, January – March 2014

	LFS Estimate	Confidence Interval (%)
Economically active	61	+/- 1.7
In Employment	57	+/- 1.8
Employees*	83	+/- 1.3
Self-employed*	15	+/- 1.3
Unemployed	4	+/- 0.7
Economically inactive (16+)	39	+/- 1.7
Unemployment rate	7.1	+/- 1.2

* As a percentage of all in employment.

Confidence intervals for other proportions produced in this publication may be obtained on request from addresses given at the end of this note.

Publication Threshold

It is the nature of sampling variability that the smaller the group whose size is being estimated, the (proportionately) less precise that estimate is. LFS estimates of under 8,000 are not published in this supplement as they are likely to be unreliable. This revised publication threshold came into effect from 1 September 1999 and estimates below this threshold contained in earlier publications should, therefore, be treated with caution.

Grossing To Population Totals

Most of the results presented in this report are expressed in terms of percentages, following the grossing of sample numbers to population levels. Each individual participating in the survey is given a weight or "grossing factor" which is related to that person's age and sex. In this way the final grossed results give the population total for NI and reflect the distributions by sex and age shown by the population figures.

Re-weighting of LFS data to updated population estimates

LFS data from the period June to August 2009 onwards have recently been revised to incorporate the latest population estimates. The magnitude of the revisions are relatively small, with the revisions to the unemployment rate falling within +/- 0.1 percentage points and the working age employment rate within +/- 0.2 percentage points. The procedures being applied to the NI LFS results are consistent with those applied by the Office for National Statistics to other UK regions

More information on the revision policy concerning labour market statistics can be found through the link below:

[Labour market statistics revisions policy](#)

Seasonal Adjustment

In conjunction with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and consistent with all other UK regions, seasonally adjusted LFS estimates for the UK regions (including NI) have been reintroduced from Winter 2002/3. The seasonally adjusted estimates are quoted in Section 1 and Section 9 of this publication. Estimates in all other sections of this publication are not seasonally adjusted.

New definition of 'working age'

The 'working age' definition, used in the calculation of employment and economic inactivity rates, was changed in August 2010 to include those aged from 16 to 64 for both men and women. Previously these

rates were based on upper age limits of 59 for women and 64 for men, reflecting the state pension ages in the UK. However, between 2010 and 2020, the state pension age for women is increasing (by one month every two months) from 60 to 65, thereby making a change to the definition necessary.

The change in definition followed a UK wide public consultation on the issue and the approach being applied to Northern Ireland labour market statistics mirrors the approach that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are applying to other UK regions.

Please see link for further details:

[Change in female state pension age](#)

For a limited period, employment and economic inactivity rates based on the old working age definition (i.e. 16-59/64) will be available on the DETI website at:

[Comparison of working age rates.](#)

Please note that there are no implications for the headline unemployment rate, which will continue to be based on the economically active population aged 16 and over.

Government Targets

Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) are used in the measurement of targets set in the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PSA targets). See [Programme for Government](#) for further details. The LFS and QES data feed into productivity estimates for NI and are therefore indirectly used to measure progress towards PSA 1: Productivity growth. In addition, LFS data is used to measure the proportion of the working age population qualified to Skill levels 2 and 3. This data therefore feeds into the measurement of PSA 2: Skills for prosperity.

Details of progress towards these targets can be found at:

[Programme for Government Delivery Report](#)

Notes to Tables

Within tables, where a number is in italics this denotes percentage, otherwise the data refers to the number (rounded to the nearest thousand).

Definitions

Working age

As of August 2010, this refers to ages 16 to 64 for both men and women.

In Employment

The LFS defines employment as those aged 16 and over who did at least one hour's paid work in the reference week (either as an employee or self-employed); those who had a job which they were temporarily away from (on holiday for example); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

Employment Rate

The percentage of people aged 16 and over who are in employment.

Employees/Self-employed

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

Unpaid Family Workers

The separate identification of this group in the LFS is in accordance with international recommendations. It comprises persons doing unpaid work for a business they own or a business that a relative owns.

Full-time/Part-time

The classification of employees, self-employed, those on government work-related training programmes and unpaid workers in their main job as full-time or part-time is on the basis of self-assessment.

Full-time Education

In the LFS this includes those people over the age of 16 who state that they are still at school or in some other form of full-time education, including sandwich courses.

Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, further clarified at the 14th ICLS, and promulgated by the ILO in 1987.

Unemployment Rate

The percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

Duration of Unemployment

Duration of unemployment is defined as the shorter of the following two periods:

- (a) duration of active search for work; and
- (b) length of time since employment.

The short-term unemployed are those people who have been unemployed for less than 1 year, while the long-term unemployed are defined as those who have been unemployed for 1 year or more.

Educational Attainment Categories

Degree or higher = degree or degree equivalent and above incl. First degree, Postgraduate Diplomas and Professional qualifications.

Other higher below degree = other Higher Education below degree level incl. HND/HNC/ BTEC (Higher), teaching and nursing qualifications.

A level or equivalent = incl. Trade Apprenticeships, vocational level 3

GCSE A-C or equivalent = incl. vocational level 2.

Other qualifications = incl. vocational level 1 and below.

Disabilities

Since Spring 1997, LFS working-age respondents have been asked questions to identify whether they have a current disability covered by the 1995 Disability Discrimination or a work-limiting disability (which affects either the kind or amount of paid work they can do) or both. This broad description covering any of these three definitions (defined as a current long-term disability) is used in this publication. This definition covers a wide range of impairments which themselves can differ greatly in severity.

Industry

The classification of respondents' industry of employment is based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2007: SIC(07)

Occupation

The classification of respondents' occupations are based on the SOC2010

(Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since January – March 2011. which replaces SOC 2000.

Further Information:

Further information about the survey can be obtained by writing to:

Department of Finance and Personnel
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

Telephone: (028) 9052 9668

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304

Tax: (028) 9052 9658

E-mailing: andrew.mawhinney@dfpni.gov.uk

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