

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey December 2016



Date: 15th March 2017
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland
Theme: Labour Market
Frequency: Quarterly

Key Points

Employee jobs estimates are collected from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) aspect of the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). 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 2016 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total was 731,980, a level similar to the pre-downturn peak in June 2008. Employee Jobs increased by 0.2% (1,630 jobs) from the September 2016 estimate and increased by 0.3% (2,490 jobs) from the revised December 2015 estimate.
- Since the first sign of recovery in December 2012, jobs growth increased to a peak in June 2015 (when jobs increased by 16,390 over the year). Since the peak there has been a continual slowdown in employee jobs growth with revised September 2016 figures showing a marginal decrease over the quarter and year. The most recent quarter records a return to growth over both the quarter and year, though this is not particularly marked.
- Over the quarter, seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased across the construction sector by 1.2% (350 jobs), the services sector by 0.3% (1,620 jobs) and in the other industries sector by 0.4% (80 jobs). There were decreases in the manufacturing sector of 0.5% (-420 jobs).
- Public sector employee jobs remain 10.3% (23,180 jobs) below the series peak, which occurred in September 2009. However this quarter now recorded the first quarterly increase (0.5% or 1,090 jobs) in public sector jobs since December 2014. Private sector employee jobs remain 2.9% (14,750 jobs) above the series peak which occurred in June 2008. Private sector jobs increased by 0.4% (2,170 jobs) over the quarter and by 0.8% (4,230 jobs) over the year.
- Since December 2012 employee jobs have increased by 5.3% (36,730 jobs) with 73.7% of the increase occurring in the services sector.
- This is the second quarter of Northern Ireland (NI) employee job statistics following the EU referendum on 23rd June 2016. The post-referendum picture is still emerging and will continue to do so over the coming quarters and years. It is not possible to separate out the specific impact of the referendum from pre-existing trends.

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.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

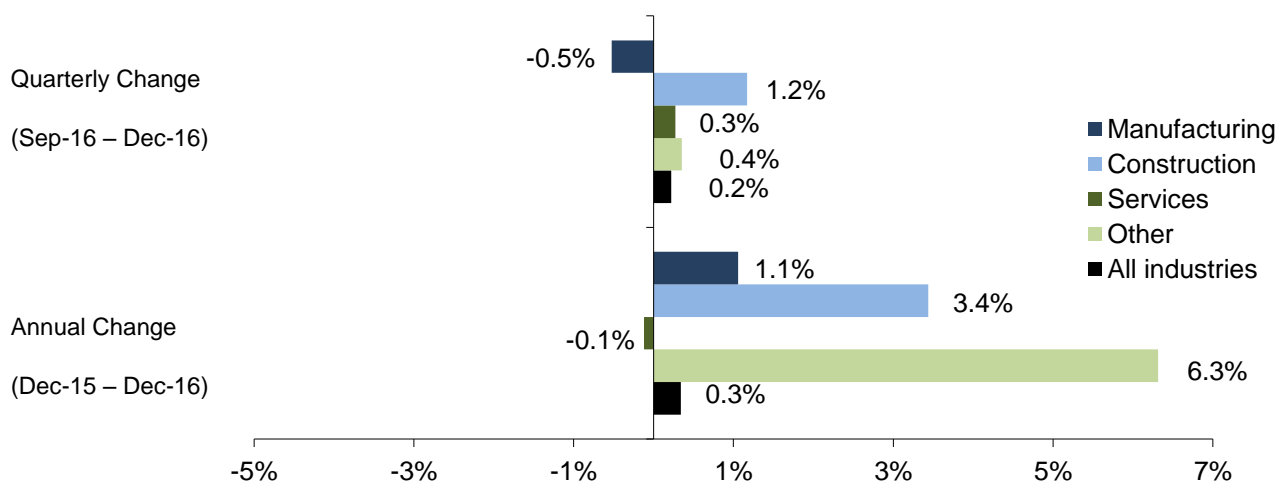
It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at December 2016 was 731,980, this was:

- an increase of 0.2% (1,630 jobs) over the quarter from the September 2016 estimate of 730,350.
- an increase of 0.3% (2,490 jobs) over the year from the revised December 2015 estimate of 729,490.

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



[Download in excel](#)

Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted December 2016 employee jobs to the September 2016 estimates showed:

- a decrease in the manufacturing sector by 0.5% (-420 jobs) to 80,670 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 1.2% (350 jobs) to 30,230 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.3% (1,620 jobs) to 598,380 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 0.4% (80 jobs) to 22,700 jobs.

Change over the year

Comparing seasonally adjusted December 2016 employee jobs to the revised December 2015 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 1.1% (850 jobs) to 80,670 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 3.4% (1,000 jobs) to 30,230 jobs.
- a decrease in the services sector by 0.1% (-710 jobs) to 598,380 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 6.3% (1,350 jobs) to 22,700 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- The increases in employee jobs over the year outweighed the decreases.
- (i) Social work activities without accommodation; (ii) employment activities and (iii) human health activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 23.5% of all increases in employee jobs (all three sections are in the services sector).
- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (ii) wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles and (iii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 51.7% of all decreases (all three of these sections are in the services sector).

Change over the past four years

The first sign of recovery after the decline in employee jobs was in 2012. Over the period December 2012 to December 2016, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 5.3% (36,730 jobs). The increases were seen across all four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 10.5% (7,650 jobs).
- an increase in the construction sector by 1.8% (540 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 4.7% (27,070 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 6.9% (1,470 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data over this four year period, estimates show

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) employment activities, (iii) social work activities without accommodation, (iv) office administrative, office support and other business support activities, (v) food and beverage service activities and (vi) legal and accounting activities accounted for 52.8% of all increases over the four 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 78.9% of decreases over the four year period.
- 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 2016 show:

- an increase of 0.5% (1,090 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and a decrease of 1.2% (-2,410 jobs) over the year to 202,400 jobs.
- an increase of 0.4% (2,170 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 0.8% (4,230 jobs) over the year to 529,920 jobs.

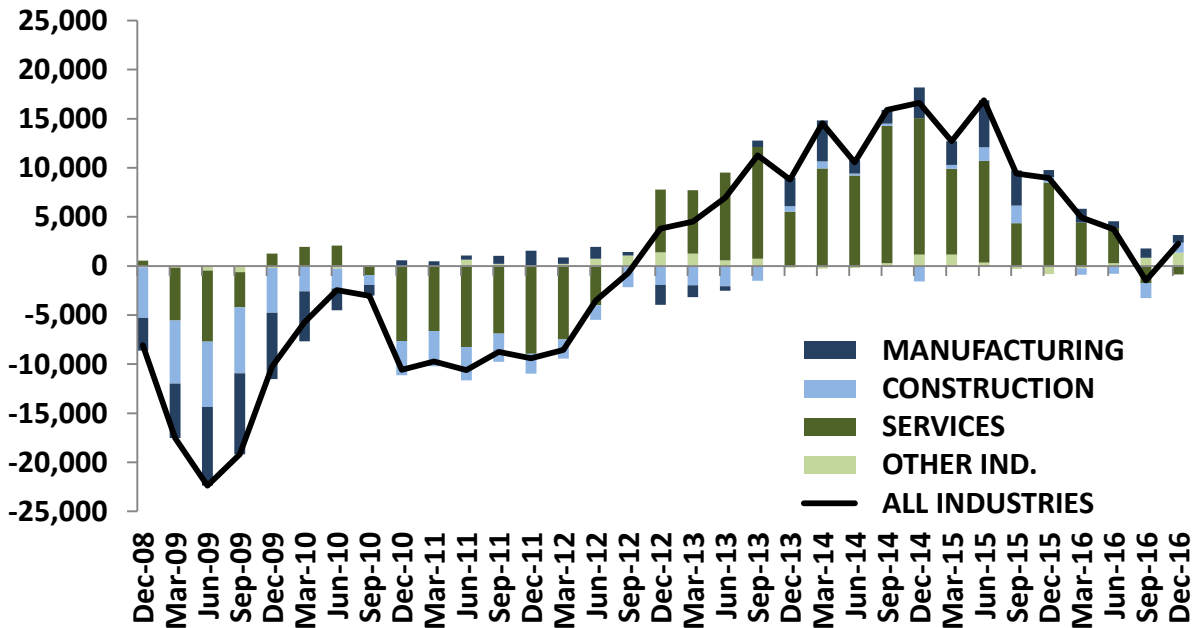
Commentary

Employee jobs increased over the quarter to December 2016 by 0.2% (1,630 jobs) and increased over the year by 0.3% (2,490 jobs). Since the first sign of recovery in December 2012, jobs growth increased to a peak in June 2015 (when jobs increased by 16,390 over the year). Since the peak there has been a continual slowdown in employee jobs growth with revised September 2016 figures showing a marginal decrease over the quarter and year. The most recent quarter records a return to growth over both the quarter and year, though this is not particularly marked. Jobs levels (731,980 jobs) are now close to the pre downturn peak recorded in June 2008 (732,980).¹

Over the year the growth in the United Kingdom (UK) job series was more marked (1.7% increase to September 2016 – the latest UK figures available) than in Northern Ireland (0.3% growth to December 2016). The UK rate of annual growth has also been declining since September 2014.

Overall there is little evidence of a significant impact on the local labour market that could be specifically attributed to the EU referendum in the six months immediately following the vote, as it is not possible to separate out such effects. However, the increase in employee jobs over the year represents a slowdown in annual growth compared to recent years.

Fig 1.2 Annual change in total employee jobs December 2008 – December 2016



User note:

Please note it is likely that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 and the impact of SIC code changes have added some volatility to the series. For further information please see background notes.

Date of next publication

The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey is planned for 14th June 2017

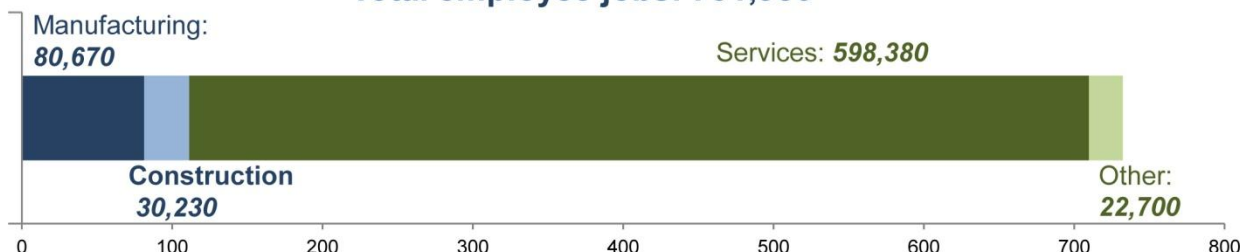
Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

¹ Whilst the September 2016 publication showed that the June 2016 figure was 570 employees above the peak, the impact of revisions and seasonal adjustment means this is no longer the case.

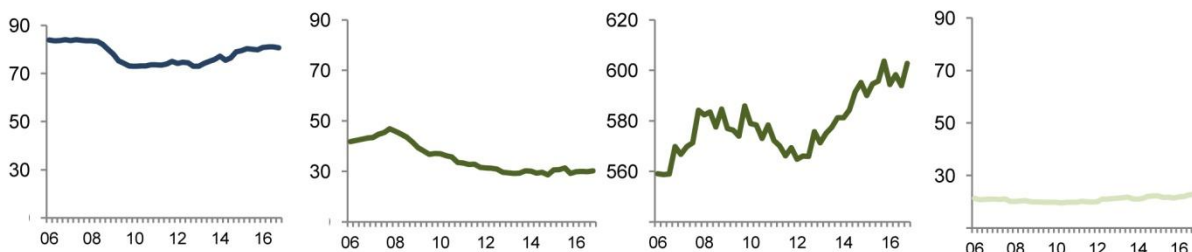
NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – December 2016

Total employee jobs: 731,980



Change on quarter



Change on year



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Data published on 15th March 2017 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 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 employee jobs are included in the [DfE 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 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 alternates between sample and census coverage biennially. 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 Table 5.14a on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

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](#).

2

NI Employee Jobs

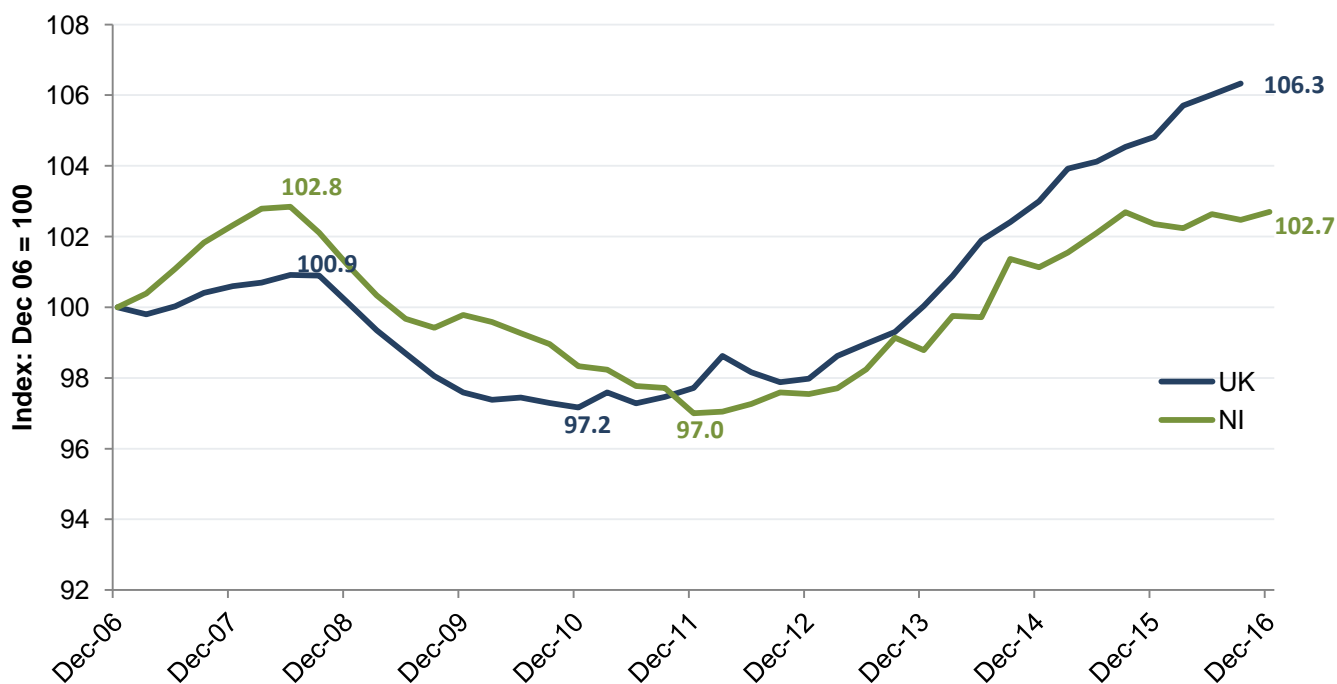
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

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

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter by 0.2% (1,630 jobs) and increased over the year by 0.3% (2,490 jobs) to 731,980.

Figure 2.1: Index of employee jobs, December 2006 – December 2016



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to December 2006
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2016

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.

Employee Jobs

The December 2016 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 731,980, which was:

- an increase of 0.2% (1,630 jobs) from the September 2016 estimate of 730,350
- an increase of 0.3% (2,490 jobs) over the year.

Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- a decrease of 0.5% in the manufacturing sector (-420 jobs) to 80,670 jobs
- an increase of 1.2% in the construction sector (350 jobs) to 30,230 jobs
- an increase of 0.3% in the services sector (1,620 jobs) to 598,380 jobs
- an increase of 0.4% in the other industries sector (80 jobs) to 22,700 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 1.1% in the manufacturing sector (850 jobs)
- an increase of 3.4% in the construction sector (1,000 jobs)
- a decrease of 0.1% in the services sector (-710 jobs)
- an increase of 6.3% in the other industries sector (1,350 jobs).

Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q4 2015 - Q4 2016

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+1.1% (850 jobs)
total jobs 80,670

Construction



+3.4% (1,000 jobs)
total jobs 30,230

Services



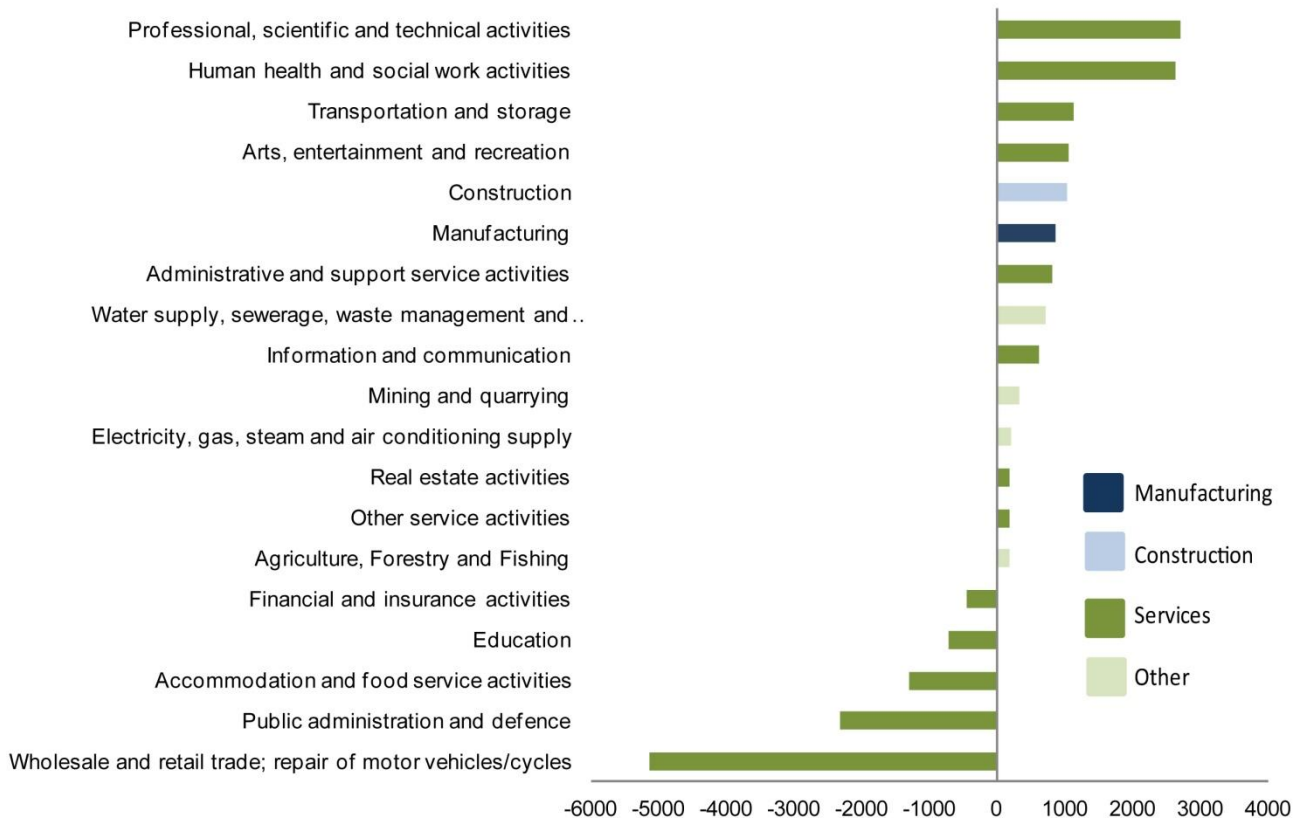
-0.1% (-710 jobs)
total jobs 598,380

Other



+6.3% (1,350 jobs)
total jobs 22,700

Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



Data published on 15h March 2017 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA)



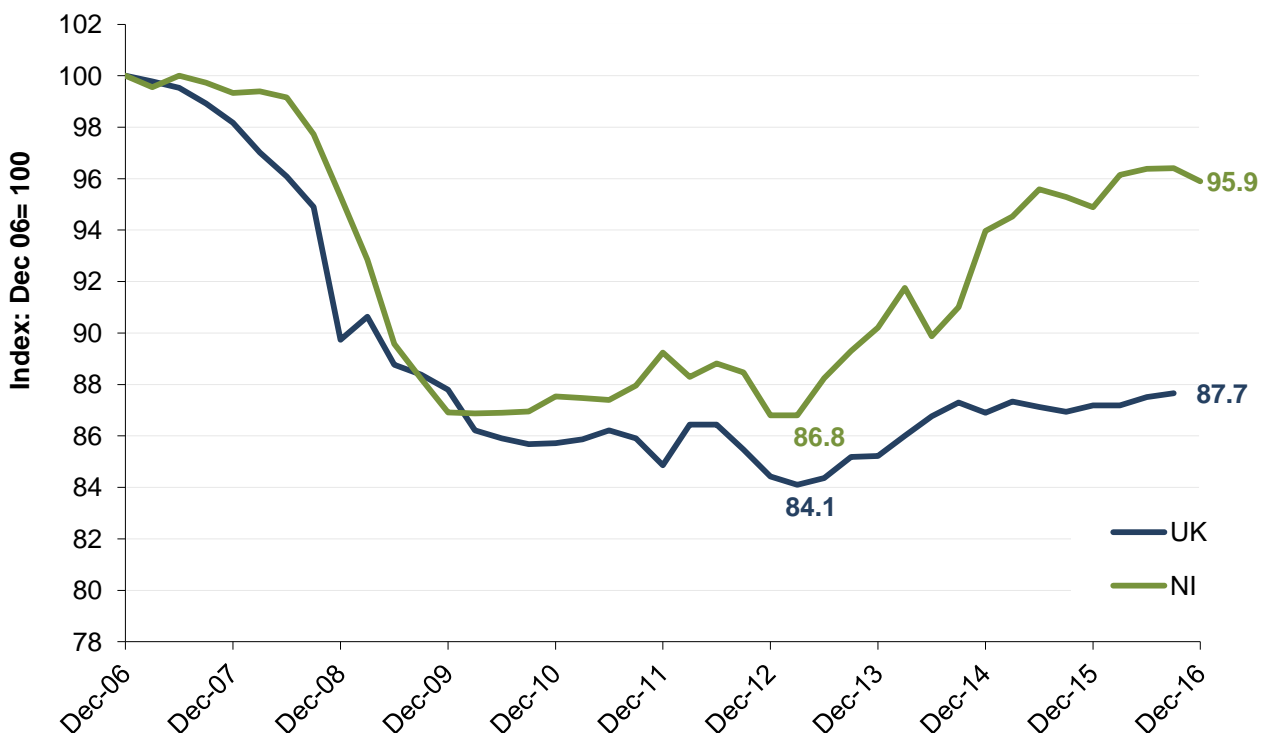
Manufacturing sector

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 11.0% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show a decrease of 0.5% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to December 2016 and an increase of 1.1% over the year to 80,670 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, December 2006 – December 2016



Figures are indexed to December 2006

The latest available UK figures relate to September 2016

[Download in excel](#)

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 whilst the UK showed decreases in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector from December 2006, with both the UK and NI reaching a series low in March 2013. In March 2013 the NI manufacturing sector stood at 86.8% of the December 2006 figure and the UK figure stood at 84.1% of the September 2006 level.

Whilst the manufacturing sector in both NI and the UK have increased since their series low, NI remained 4.1% below the 2006 level in December 2016 while in September 2016 the UK remained 12.3% lower than in 2006.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector decreased by 0.5% (-420 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 1.1% (850 jobs) over the year to 80,670 in December 2016.

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 2016 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 1.0% (790 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 29.3% (620 jobs) in the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials.
- an increase of 7.7% (530 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment.
- an increase of 21.4% (520 jobs) in the manufacture of furniture.

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

- a decrease of 31.8% (-670 jobs) in the manufacture of textiles.
- a decrease of 41.1% (-670 jobs) in the manufacture of beverages and tobacco products.
- a decrease of 37.0% (-360 jobs) in the repair and installation of machinery and equipment.

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](#)

Please refer to user note on Page 5.

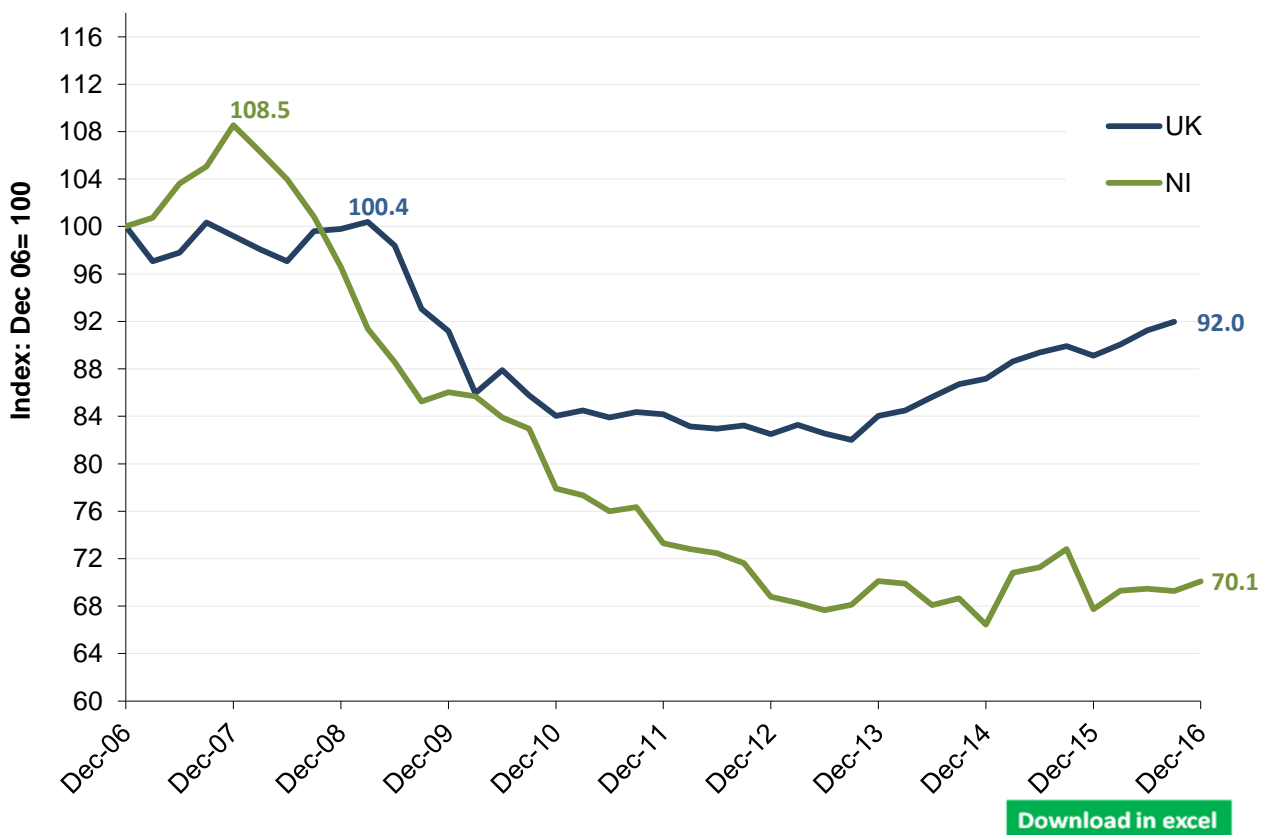
Construction sector

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 an increase of 1.2% over the quarter to December 2016 and an increase of 3.4% over the year to 30,230 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, December 2006 – December 2016



Figures are indexed to December 2006
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2016

Over the past 10 years there has been an overall decrease in the construction sector in NI and the UK. Between 2006 and 2007 NI experienced an increase reaching the series peak in December 2007 of 8.5% higher than the December 2006 level. The UK also increased from December 2006 but reached its peak in March 2009 reaching a figure 0.4% higher than the December 2006 level.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 1.2% (350 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 3.4% (1,000 jobs) over the year to 30,230.

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 7.4% (490 jobs) in construction of buildings
- an increase of 1.7% (130 jobs) in civil engineering
- an increase of 2.5% (380 jobs) in specialised construction activities.

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](#)

Please consider earlier user note on page 13 whilst looking at figures in table 5.12.

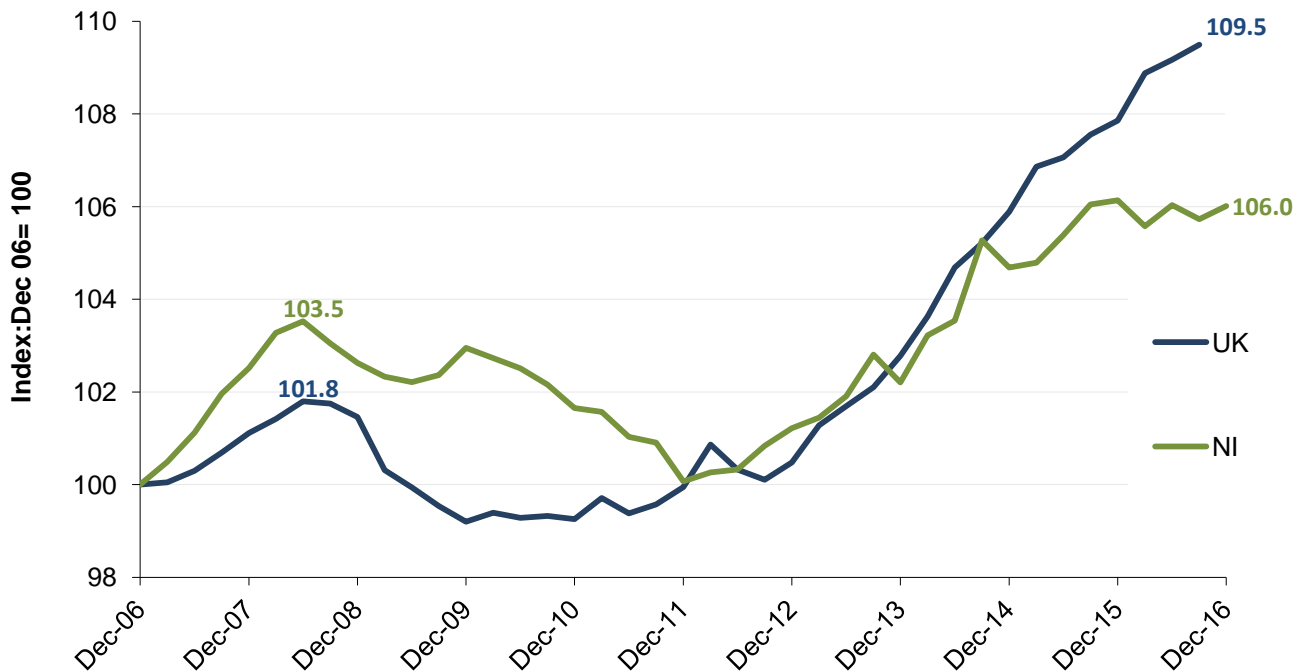
Services sector

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 81.7% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 1,620 jobs in the services sector over the quarter to December 2016 and a decrease (-710 jobs) over the year to 598,380 jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, December 2006 – December 2016



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to December 2006
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2016

Over the last 10 years the services sector in NI and the UK both increased overall, with NI reaching its peak in December 2015 and the UK reaching their peak in September 2016. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 33,940 over the 10 year period.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.3% (1,620 jobs) over the quarter and decreased (-710 jobs) over the year to 598,380 in December 2016.

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 2016 the unadjusted figures reported a decrease (-860 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 6.8% (2,050 jobs) in social work activities without accommodation.
- an increase of 6.5% (1,260 jobs) in employment activities.
- an increase of 1.4% (910 jobs) in human health activities.

These increases were balanced by decreases in the services sector, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 3.5% (-3,320 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- a decrease of 9.3% (-2,430 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- a decrease of 4.5% (-2,320 jobs) in public administration and defence; compulsory social security.

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](#)

Please refer to user note on Page 5.

Other industries sector

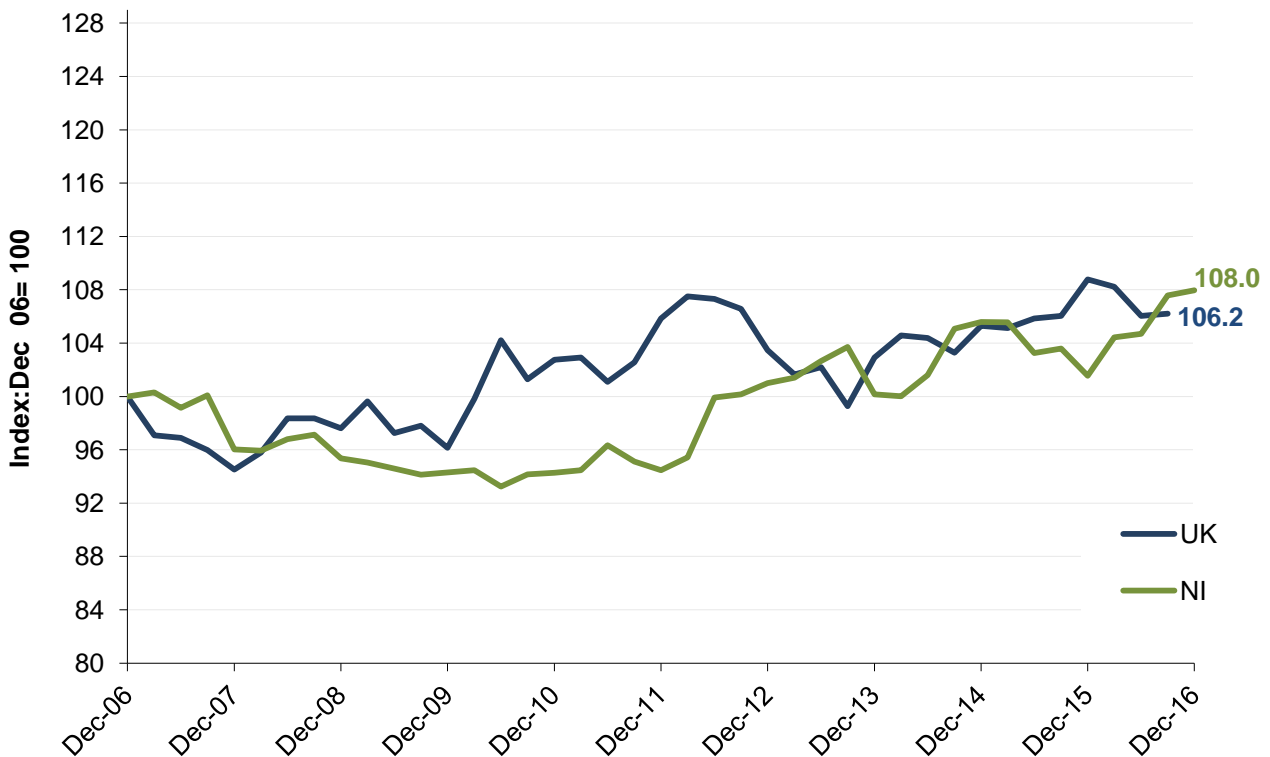
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

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 3.1% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 80 jobs in the other industries sector over the quarter to December 2016 and an increase of 6.3% (1,350 jobs) over the year to 22,700 jobs.

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, December 2006 - December 2016



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to December 2006
The latest available UK figures relate to September 2016

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall, with the UK series reaching its peak in December 2015 and NI reaching its peak in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 1,680 over the 10 year period to December 2016.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 0.4% (80 jobs) over the quarter and increased by 6.3% (1,350 jobs) over the year to 22,700 jobs.

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

Changes over the year

Over the year to December 2016 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 6.3% (1,350 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 14.9% (550 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery.
- an increase of 18.6% (290 jobs) in other mining and quarrying.
- an increase of 1.8% (230 jobs) in crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities.

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the other industries sector; the 2 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 18.4% (-50 jobs) in forestry and logging.
- a decrease of 3.2% (-10 jobs) in fishing and aquaculture.

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](#)

Please refer to user note on Page 5.

3

Public / private sector employee jobs

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

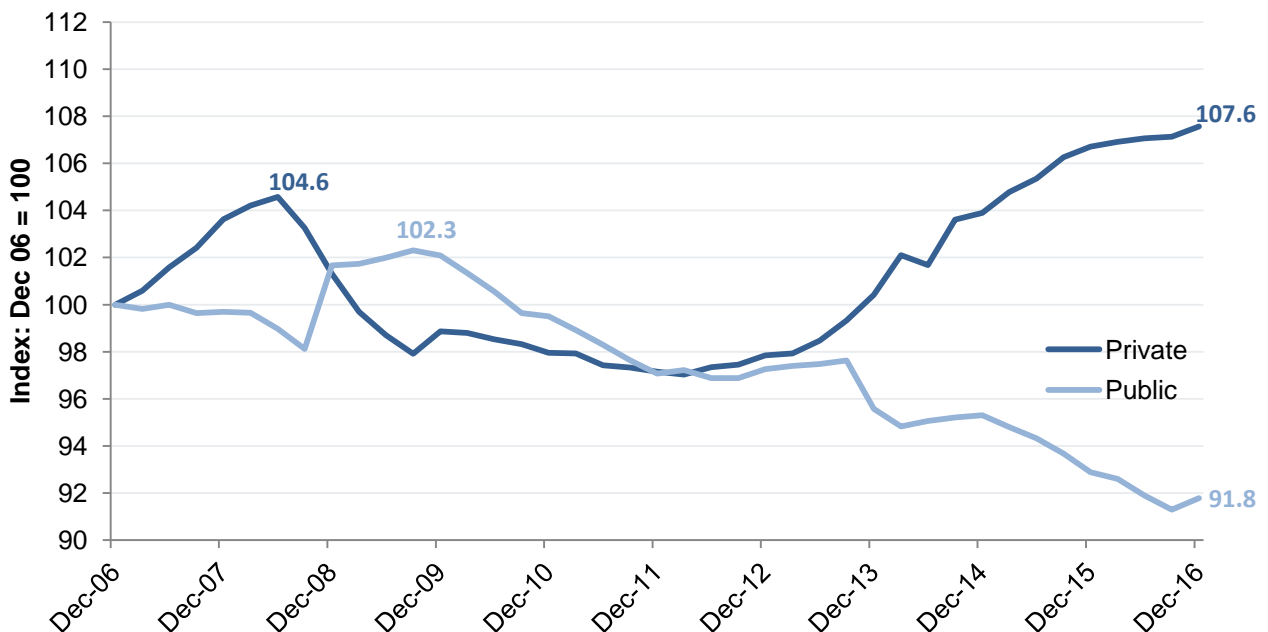
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

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 NI public sector made up 27.5% and the private sector made up 72.5% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and increased over the year to 529,920 jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector increased over the quarter and decreased over the year to 202,400 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI private and public sector jobs, December 2006 – December 2016



Figures are indexed to December 2006

[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 2006 to December 2016 the number of employee jobs in the private sector increased by 7.6% (37,300 jobs) and the number of employee jobs in the public sector decreased by 8.2% (-18,100 jobs). Public sector employee jobs remain 10.3% (23,180 jobs) below the series peak which occurred in Q3 2009 but experienced an increase of 0.5% (1,090 jobs) over the quarter to December 2016; the first quarterly increase since Q4 2014. Private sector employee jobs remain 2.9% (14,750 jobs) above the series peak which occurred in Q2 2008.

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

- 202,400 employees in the NI public sector.
- 529,920 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

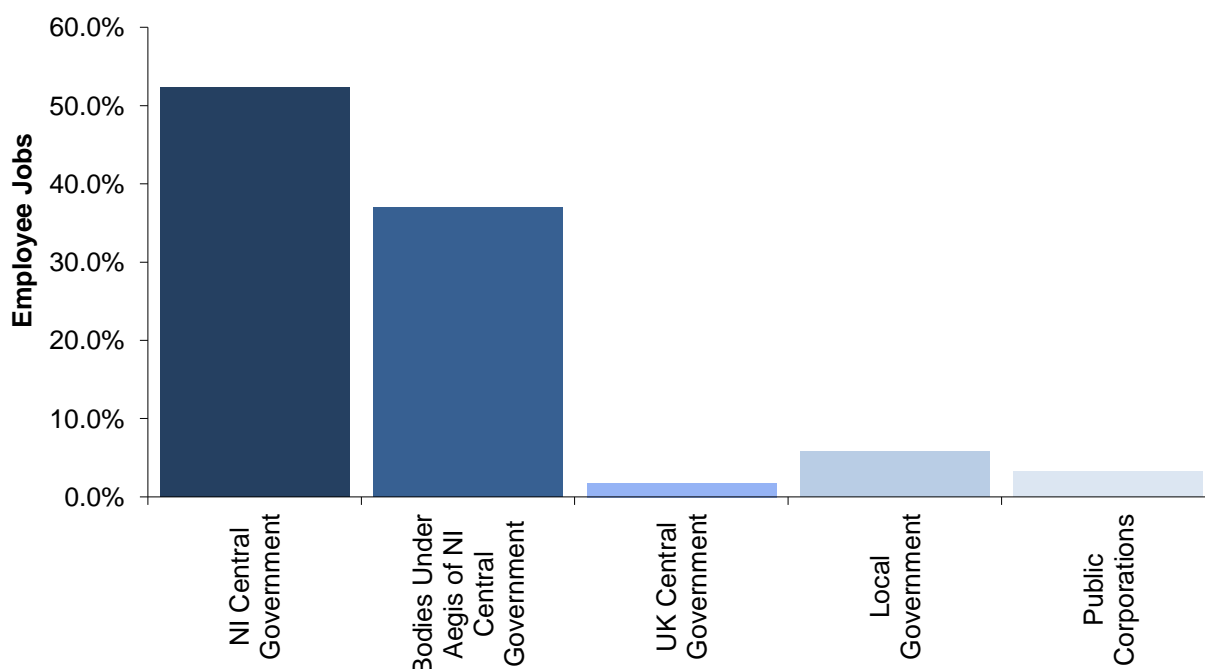
- an increase of 0.5% (1,090 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.4% (2,170 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- a decrease of 1.2% (-2,410 jobs) in the public sector which was mostly driven by a public sector voluntary exit scheme.
- an increase of 0.8% (4,230 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 2016 was 202,499. This comprised:

- 105,879 jobs in NI central government (or 52.3% of all public sector employee jobs). Of this 11.6% comes from government departments (23,495 employee jobs).
- 74,866 jobs (or 37.0%) in NI public sector are bodies under the aegis of NI central government.
- 11,636 jobs in Local Government (or 5.7% of public sector employee jobs).
- 6,497 jobs in Public Corporations (or 3.2% of public sector employee jobs).
- 3,621 jobs in UK central Government (or 1.8% of public sector employee jobs).

The NI public sector unadjusted employee jobs estimate for December 2016 showed:

- an increase of 1.5% (2,900 jobs) over the quarter.
- a decrease of 1.2% (-2,450 jobs) over the year from December 2015.
- the largest decrease over the year (-1,613 jobs) occurred in the NI Central Government section of the public sector with the majority of the decrease coming from NI Civil Service (-1,711 jobs).

4

Composition of employee jobs

Data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

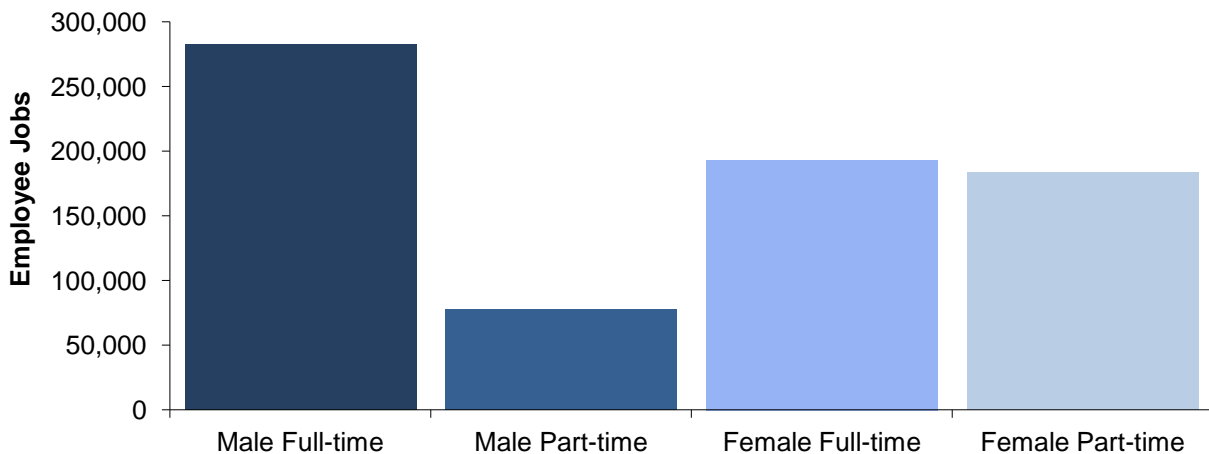
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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 2016

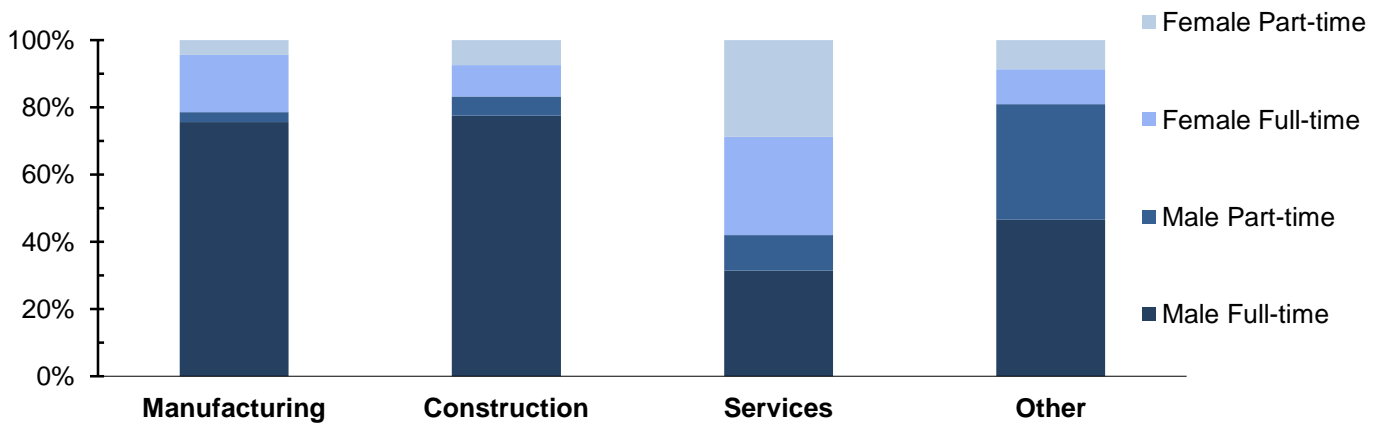


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Estimates show there were 736,790 employee jobs in NI at December 2016. Of these:

- 51.1% of employee jobs were occupied by a female and 48.9% were occupied by a male.
- Just under half (48.7%) of female employee jobs were part-time.
- 78.4% of male employees worked on a full-time basis.

Fig 4.2: Employee jobs composition in broad industry sectors, December 2016



The latest estimates showed that:

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- A large proportion of employee jobs in the manufacturing (75.2%) and construction (77.8%) sectors were occupied by male full-time employees.
- Females occupied 58.0% of the 602,800 employee jobs within the services sector.
- The composition of female jobs in the services sector is almost divided evenly between full-time (49.6%) and part-time (50.4%) workers.

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- a decrease of 1,670 full-time jobs and an increase of 3,960 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 840 jobs in the manufacturing sector whilst the part-time jobs decreased by 50 jobs over the year.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 77.6% of the increase of 1,000 jobs in the construction sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs decreased by 4,550 jobs in the services sector whilst the part-time jobs increased by 3,690 jobs over the year.
- full-time employee jobs accounted for 92.9% of the increase of 1,350 jobs in the other industries sector over the year.

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 Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). Until March 2016, employee job data was collected in the voluntary QES. From March 2016 onwards the QES, Index of Services (IOS) and Index of Production (IOP) amalgamated into the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey collected under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. The QES, IOS and IOP are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP of approximately 2,000 businesses. The change in the collection method has not impacted on the employee jobs methodology.

The QES element of the QBS covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The QBS collects employee 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 [Business Register and Employment Survey](#) 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.

Employment results 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. Benchmarking to BRES was carried out in December 2016 and so all quarters prior to and including Q3 2015 are now fixed. Subsequent quarters (Q4 2015 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, F, J, K, L, R, S, T or U and in the Other Industries sector.

Business Register and Employment Survey

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 Business Register and Employment Survey. Details of the Business Register and Employment Survey results are available from NISRA ELMS Tel: (028) 9052 9474 or on the ELMS website [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

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](#)

Using 2 Digit Sic Level Data

Please note it is likely that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 has contributed to the volatility of the series. To counteract these effects from March 2016 the number of businesses in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and size bands experiencing the greatest impact of rotation has increased.

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and HMRC. This new information helps to improve the industry estimates of employee jobs each quarter but also adds volatility to quarterly and annual changes, particularly at 2 digit SIC level. It is therefore recommended that changes in employee jobs estimates at 2 digit SIC level are considered in the context of a longer time series.

In the most recent results the manufacturing sector employee jobs figures have experienced the biggest impact of annual SIC code changes. However the SIC code changes are not driving the increase in manufacturing sector employee jobs over the year.

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](#)

You can also contact Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch by writing to:

Caroline Anderson
NISRA,
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch,
Room 110, Netherleigh,
Massey Avenue,
Belfast
BT4 2JP.

Tel: (028) 9052 9484

Fax: (028) 9052 9658

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304

Email: statistics@finance-ni.gov.uk

Twitter: [@ELMSNISRA](#)

Quarterly Employment Survey

- 5.1** NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted December 2016
- 5.2** NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted 1993 – 2016
- 5.3** NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted 1993 – 2016
- 5.4** NI Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – December 2016
- 5.5** NI Employee Jobs by Industry Section (Unadjusted) December 2015, September 2016 and December 2016
- 5.6** Self Employment Jobs in NI by Broad Industry Group (June of Each Year)
- 5.7** Workforce Jobs 1983 – 2016
- 5.8** NI Employee Jobs by 2-digit SIC07 Class – December 2016
- 5.9** NI Public Sector Jobs (Unadjusted) – December 2016
- 5.10** NI Employee Jobs - Seasonally Adjusted (Public / Private) 1993 – 2016
- 5.11** NI Employee Jobs - Unadjusted (Public / Private) 1993 – 2016
- 5.12** NI Employee Jobs June 1971 – December 2016 - by SIC code
- 5.13** NI Employee Jobs June 1978 – December 2016 - by broad industry sector
- 5.14** NI Employee Jobs - Public Sector – June 1974 – December 2016