

**Labour Market Statistics User Group**

**Question and Answers**

November 2020

The annual Labour Market Statistics User Group took place on Wednesday 21st October 2020.

The presentations are available on the [Labour Market Statistics User Engagement](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-market-statistics-user-engagement) section of the [NISRA website](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/).

Participants were asked during the online registration process to include questions on labour market statistics, and two Question and Answer sessions took place during the user group.

Question and answers are presented below.

If you have any further questions please contact us at lfs@finance-ni.gov.uk

Questions and Answers during the event:

**Any plans to look at flows of claimant count in the future? I have seen data available for GB but know it doesn't currently exist in NI.**

Since October 2019, ONS have been publishing Alternative Claimant Count data on monthly flows onto and from the count. These statistics are available by month (February 2013 to August 2020), by local area, by benefit type, and by age or gender. Results for Northern Ireland were published for the first time in January 2020, thus the headline statistics now relate to UK rather than GB coverage. The latest data can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/alternative-claimant-count-statistics#latest-release>

[Stat-Xplore](https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml) includes newly published standardised statistics on:

On-flows: the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in one month, who were not claiming in the previous month.

Off-flows: the number of people no longer claiming unemployment related benefits in one month, who were claiming in the previous month.

These statistics are available by month (February 2013 to August 2020), by local area, benefit type and by age/gender. They offer some insights to users on monthly changes in a local area - for example the proportion of the Count which represents new claims in the previous month, and the off-flow rate - a measure of how the local labour market is performing.

**Anyway of linking what new claimants that were previously working what industry/occupation they worked in?**

Information on industry/occupation is not collected for Universal Credit Claimants so it is not possible to currently provide this information.

**What about sample bias re profile of those responding to LFS with change in method due to COVID- any impacts on profile re age gender disability socioeconomic status**

The profile of respondents with respect to age, gender, LGD and economic status are monitored. The weighting process has recently been expanded to include an additional factor on household tenure to mitigate potential biases in terms of the drop in participation of rental households.

**Do you have any sectoral info from the HMRC PAYE RTI data?**

Industry breakdowns are not available for the NI or UK RTI data. The most recent NI data are available on the NISRA website at the following link <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-market-overview>

The most recent data for the whole of the UK is available on the ONS website at the following link <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/november2020>

**Regarding the lower response rates. Do we have an idea of what sectors had the poorest response rates in the Quarterly Employment Survey? The poor response rate may be a sign of stress and therefore sectors such as the hospitality sector may have low response rates.**

The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) has seen a fall in coverage rates (returned employees rather than returned forms) in Q1 and Q2 2020. The table below shows QES coverage by SIC section for Q1 and Q2 2020, compared to the 2019 median coverage rate.

The industry sectors with the lowest coverage rates for Q2 2020 of the QES were J - Information and communication (44%) and N - Administrative and support service activities (44%), whilst the highest coverage rates were in sectors P - Education (92%), and Q - Human health and social work activities (90%).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Total** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** | **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** | **Q** | **R** |
| **Q1 2020** | 63% | 59% | 54% | 78% | 62% | 59% | 47% | 64% | 42% | 48% | 77% | 78% | 60% | 44% | 85% | 90% | 84% | 53% |
| **Q2 2020** | 63% | 62% | 61% | 80% | 72% | 51% | 50% | 67% | 49% | 44% | 84% | 69% | 66% | 44% | 49% | 92% | 90% | 55% |
| **2019 Median** | 85% | 90% | 82% | 88% | 73% | 71% | 82% | 84% | 77% | 74% | 88% | 91% | 85% | 78% | 91% | 98% | 94% | 82% |
| *note: sections A and S have removed for disclosure purposes* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table of QES Coverage rates by SIC Section

Questions or topics of interest and Answers from the registration process

**Interested in any specific analysis relating to the impact of lockdown on the labour market.**

The following page on the NISRA website collates links to analysis on the impacts of COVID-19 on the NI labour market. This includes publications or data published in response to user requests, or the NI elements of analysis published as part of a wider ONS or HMRC publication.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/covid-19-related-analysis>

**Faster indicators from administrative data**

Since April the following administrative data has been added to the monthly labour market report and we continue to follow developments in administrative data usage in the rest of the UK.

* additional analysis from Redundancy collective redundancy notifications
* experimental Claimant Count
* Employee estimates from HMRC Pay As You Earn system
* Employee earnings estimates from HMRC Pay As You Earn system

The monthly Labour Market Report is available at the following link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-market-overview>

**Potential for interactive data - As per DwP tabulation tool**

We currently have no plans to add this functionality to the NISRA website. However the NINIS website contains a range of Labour Market data disaggregated by geography and has increased functionality.

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/InteractiveMapTheme.aspx?themeNumber=18&themeName=Labour%20Market>

Similarly NOMIS provides increased functionality and the creation of bespoke tables

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

**Do we have a sense of how much of the rise in the experimental claimant count is unemployment rather than a low income top-up? Given that claimant count is now Universal Credit rather than solely JSA.**

We are unable to determine whether people are wholly unemployed or working on low income.

**Data gaps and disaggregation of labour market statistics across equality grounds**

Data in the 2019 LFS annual report is presented by section 75 category as far as is available. Section 75 data are available within the ‘sub-population’ tables available at the following link:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-tables-2019>

**Sectoral and age profile analysis of employment/unemployment during 2020**

Data on employment/unemployment by age is available in our monthly tables that are released alongside the LMR. Appendix 7 in the LMR contains links to a range of tables – tables 2.10 and 2.11 contain employment by age and unemployment by age respectively.

Sectoral breakdowns are available from the LFS Quarterly tables. Specifically, table 2.17 in the Labour Market Status block of tables contains data on employed by Industry.

**Redundancies (and predicted redundancies) which have been a direct result of Covid 19 broken down by Sector if possible.**

A standalone topic paper on redundancies in the six months since March 2020 is available on the NISRA website at the following link. It includes a more detailed look at industries and geographical spread of redundancies.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/redundancies-ni-special-focus-march-august-2020>

**Sectors which have experienced growth since March 2020.**

Answer: The QES showed that over the quarter from March 2020 to June 2020, the biggest industry increases were seen in Human health and social work (+2,200 jobs), Wholesale and retail trade (+780 jobs) and Financial and insurance (+710 jobs). Time series data by industry sector can be found in [Table 5.13 of the QES Historical Tables](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/20202_table_5.13.ods) (link opens in a new window).

**Changes in the labour market since March 2020 compared to this time last year.**

The monthly Labour Market Report provides the most up-to-date information on unemployment, employment, employee jobs, earnings and economic inactivity and is available at the following link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-market-overview>

**Green tech**

The BRES provides employee jobs to 5-digit SIC. <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/BRES2019-Publication-Tables.xlsx> The BRES team are happy to facilitate amalgamation of industry sectors. Please contact arlene.connolly@nisra.gov.uk

**What information can be broken down to a LGD level - this is increasingly important for community planning purposes.**

In relation to the Labour Force Survey, the Annual Report contains a range of information at LGD level including labour market status/working patterns, qualifications, occupation and industry and PfG indicators.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-tables-2019>

BRES 2019 data including geography and industry breakdowns are available here:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/BRES2019-Publication-Tables.xlsx>

**Inclusive growth**

Programme for Government Indicators from the Labour Force Survey have been updated to include time trends in some cases back to 2006 as well breakdowns by Section 75 characteristics where possible.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-tables-2019>

**What analysis is there therefore on the proportion of the population who earn a) the national living wage (under/over 25) and b) the real living wage?**

Results from the Annual Survey of Hours and earnings provide data on those employees with low earnings, including those earning below the National Living Wage and Real Living Wage. See Low and High Pay Analysis at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ni-ashe-2020-publication>, the [Earnings Distribution GIF](https://youtu.be/TtgiQGJk0fY) and [Real Living Wage table](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/low-pay-analysis).

**Labour Force Survey data collection and Covid-19 effects on response rates**

See slides 8-15 in the User Group presentation for some information on how covid has impacted the LFS

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-market-statistics-user-group-2020>

**Any explanation between Claimant Count and LFS Unemployment in Q2 2020?**

Slides 23-25 provide information on the difference between the experimental claimant count and LFS unemployment Labour Market Statistics User Group 2020 Slide Pack.

**I would be interested in hearing about any developments in the experimental claimant count measure, thanks.**

In April 2020, the experimental Claimant Count was reintroduced into the Labour Market Report to provide a timely economic indicator which would monitor the effects of COVID-19. Results can be found on the [NISRA website](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/claimant-count#toc-2), as well as a [comparison between the experimental claimant count measure and LFS unemployment](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/differences-between-ilo-unemployment-and-claimant-count).

Work is currently ongoing to establish whether data on flows can be produced for the experimental Claimant Count. An update on this may be available in early 2021.

Within the last 12 months there have been a few developments to the Alternative Claimant Count Statistics. Firstly, data on monthly flows onto and from the Count were published for the first time in October 2019. These statistics are available by month (February 2013 to August 2020), by local area, by benefit type, and by age or gender.

Also, results for Northern Ireland were published for the first time in January 2020, thus the headline statistics now relate to UK rather than GB coverage. The latest data can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/alternative-claimant-count-statistics#latest-release>

**This may already be covered but a quick overview of the major labour market statistics sources and their strengths/weaknesses in comparison to each other. How do they feed into other sources e.g. Eurostat/UK workforce jobs etc?**

As presented in slide 48 of the [Labour Market Statistics User Group 2020 Slide Pack](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-market-statistics-user-group-2020), Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) estimates are used in the calculation of:

* [ONS UK Workforce Jobs](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/workforcejobsbyregionandindustryjobs05)
* [ONS UK Public Sector Employment estimates](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/datasets/publicsectoremploymentreferencetable)
* [NICEI calculations](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/ni-composite-economic-index)

Further information on uses and users of the QES can be found in the Quarterly Employment Survey Background and Methodology Report

In terms of its strengths and weaknesses, QES provides timely employee jobs estimates which are disaggregated by gender, working pattern (full/part-time), public/private sector, and industrial activity at the two-digit SIC level. Seasonally adjusted figures are available at section level, sector level (i.e. manufacturing, construction, services and other industries) and for the public and private sector series. The QES confidence interval is relatively small (+/- 0.4%), meaning the estimate is relatively precise. Users have raised a desire for QES estimates disaggregated by geography, however the sample size and design do not allow for robust estimates at this level of disaggregation. Users are instead advised to use the annual [Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/annual-employee-jobs-surveys/business-register-and-employment-survey) for lower level geography estimates.

**Any forecasts for unemployment in future years?**

NISRA doesn’t produce unemployment forecasts. The most up to date data on the Labour Force Survey unemployment rate is available in the monthly Labour Market Report at the following link. Labour Force Survey data is published 6 weeks after the reference period.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-market-overview>