



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**
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Business Activity

Statistics Bulletin

Results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry 2011

12 April 2013



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National Statistics

The publication 'Results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry' is a National Statistic which is currently undergoing assessment by the UK Statistics Authority.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

From 1st April 2011, responsibility for the production of official statistics on the economy and labour market became the responsibility of Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). Those powers previously exercised by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 are now exercised by DFP from this date, as a result of the Departments (Transfer of Functions) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011. While DFP exercise the powers of the 1988 Order, in practice the operational responsibility for statistics production will reside with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an Agency of DFP.

1: Context

This release contains 2011 provisional reporting unit results and 2010 revised results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI). The NIABI is a key resource for measuring the size, performance and structure of the Northern Ireland business economy. It is an annual survey of businesses covering the production, construction, distribution and service industries. This covers roughly two thirds of the total NI economy. Further information on survey coverage is contained in the background notes section.

The published estimates include the total value of sales and work completed by businesses (turnover), the value of the purchase of goods, materials and services, approximate Gross Value Added at basic prices and employment. These estimates are further disaggregated at industry level, providing users with an insight into both the size and evolution of the overall business economy from 2010 to 2011 as well as a measure of the contribution made by different industry sectors. The financial estimates are collected and presented as monetary values.

The NIABI originally existed as a subcomponent of the UK Annual Business Survey and while the central structure and periodicity of the NIABI is still driven by the legal requirement to provide data for the UK ABS, the NIABI has operated as a stand-alone Northern Ireland survey conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) since 2002.

Improvements to both methodology and output have been implemented to enhance the quality of the 2011 NIABI statistical output. For more information on this please consult the background notes in section 5 of this publication.

The business economy is constantly changing, as businesses merge, are taken over, or change the main focus of their activity. These changes can result in the industry classification of a business changing over time. In industries where movements are common, or where large businesses are involved, these changes can themselves cause large changes in the NIABI estimates. This should be taken into consideration when changes over time are being considered.

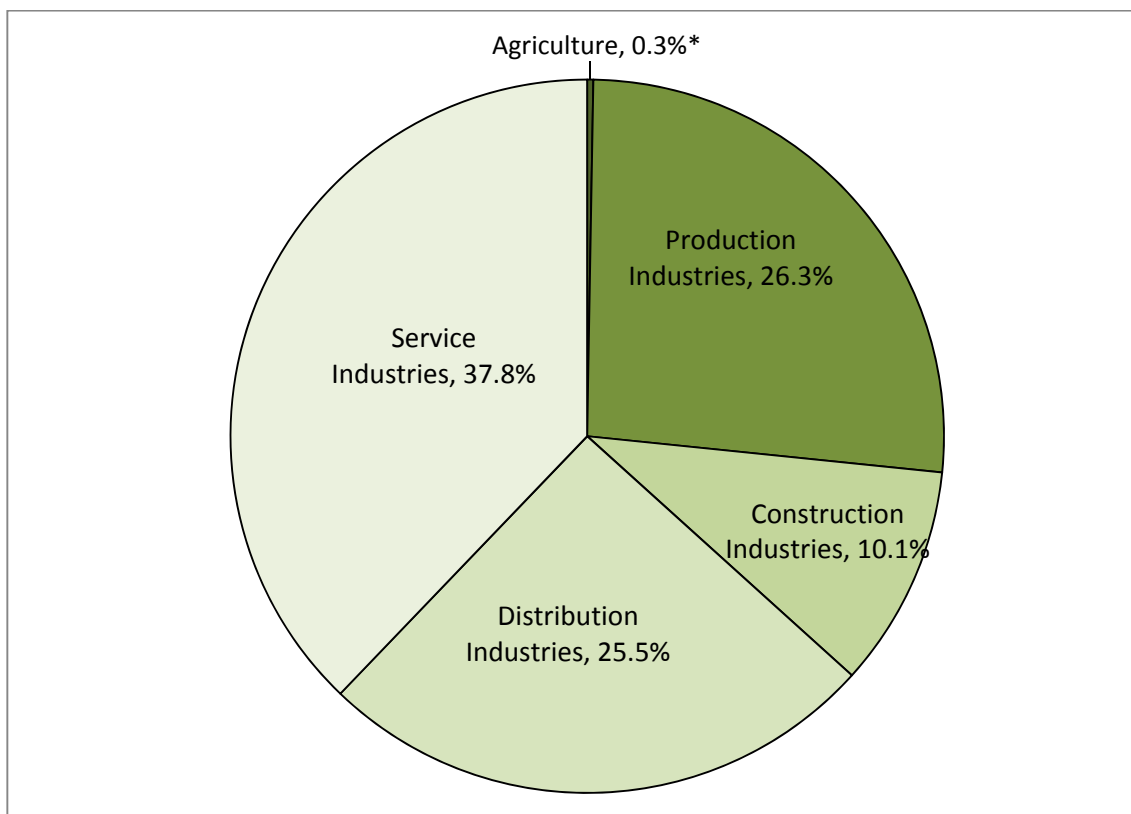
When interpreting NIABI results, users are advised to refer to the quality indicators provided alongside the estimates in the tables. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of statistical error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results. Users should also be aware that methodological improvements governing the treatment of business closures have been introduced for the 2011 report. These improvements have been implemented for both the 2011 and the revised 2010 data. Consequently, although 2008 and 2009 figures are included in this report, users should exercise caution when making comparisons.

Following user feedback and consultation with the Statistics Advisory Committee and the DFP official statistics user group, the NIABI sample size was boosted from approximately 5,000 in the 2010 survey reference year to 9,000 in 2011. This has resulted in improvements to the precision of the estimates, as indicated by the accompanying quality indicators for 2011. This improvement should also be borne in mind when interpreting the annual change.

2: Main Messages

- The Northern Ireland business economy, as measured by the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry, recorded a fall of 2.1% in approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA), dropping by £379 million from £18,158 million in 2010 to £17,779 million in 2011.
- Turnover increased by 1.0% over the year, to £58,986 million.
- Turnover now stands only 0.3% below the level recorded in 2008 (£59,190 million), at the start of the economic downturn.
- Higher spending was a primary factor behind the fall in aGVA, with Purchases of Goods and Services increasing by 1.9% to £38,164 million between 2010 and 2011.
- At the Industry level the results were more varied, with drops in both construction (-13.3%) and manufacturing (-7.8%) accounting for the decline in the total NI aGVA.
- Figure 1 shows the percentage contribution of each industry to Northern Ireland's aGVA:

Figure 1: NI Business Economy - aGVA by Industry



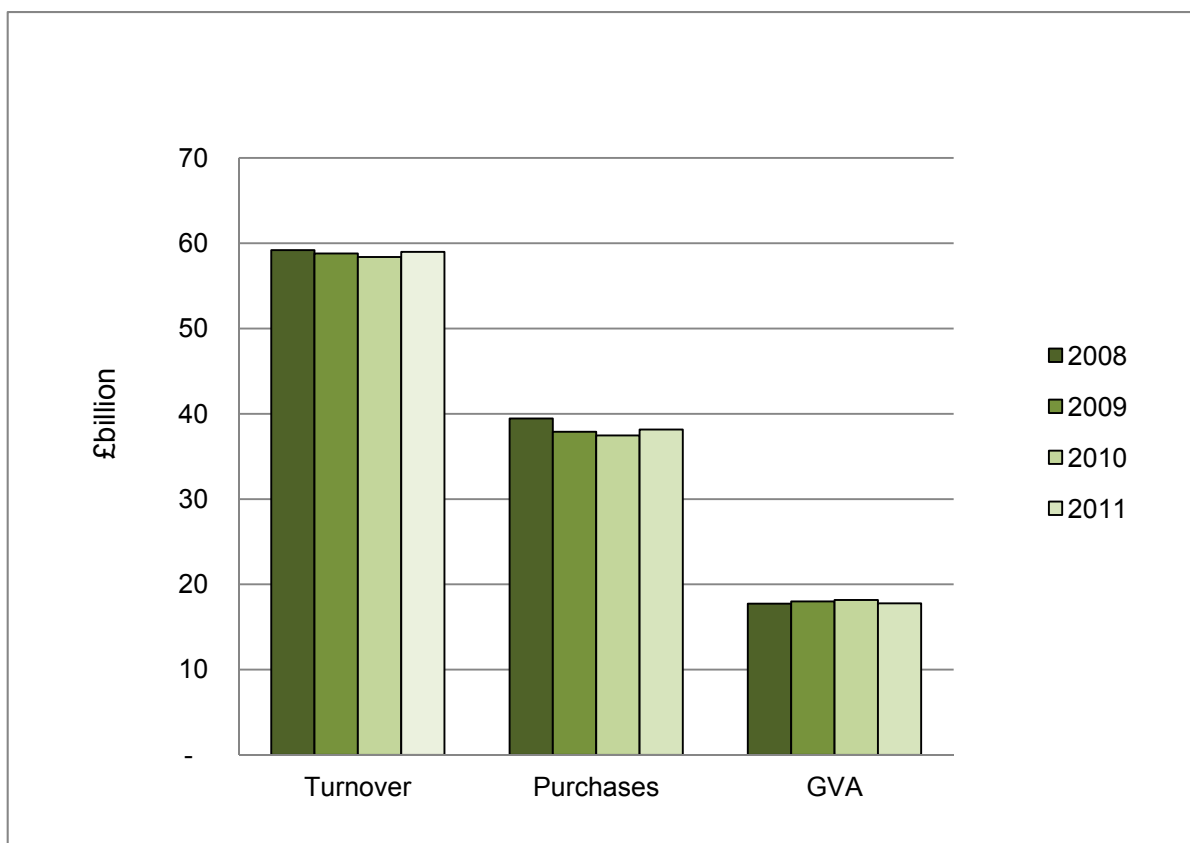
* Excludes Farming

3: Summary and Commentary

Overall Results

Approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) for the Northern Ireland Business Economy as measured by the NIABI was estimated to be worth £17,779 million in 2011, a 2.1% decline on 2010. While results show a slight increase in the total value of NI private sector sales (1.0%) this has not translated in to increased income in terms of aGVA mainly due to increased costs.

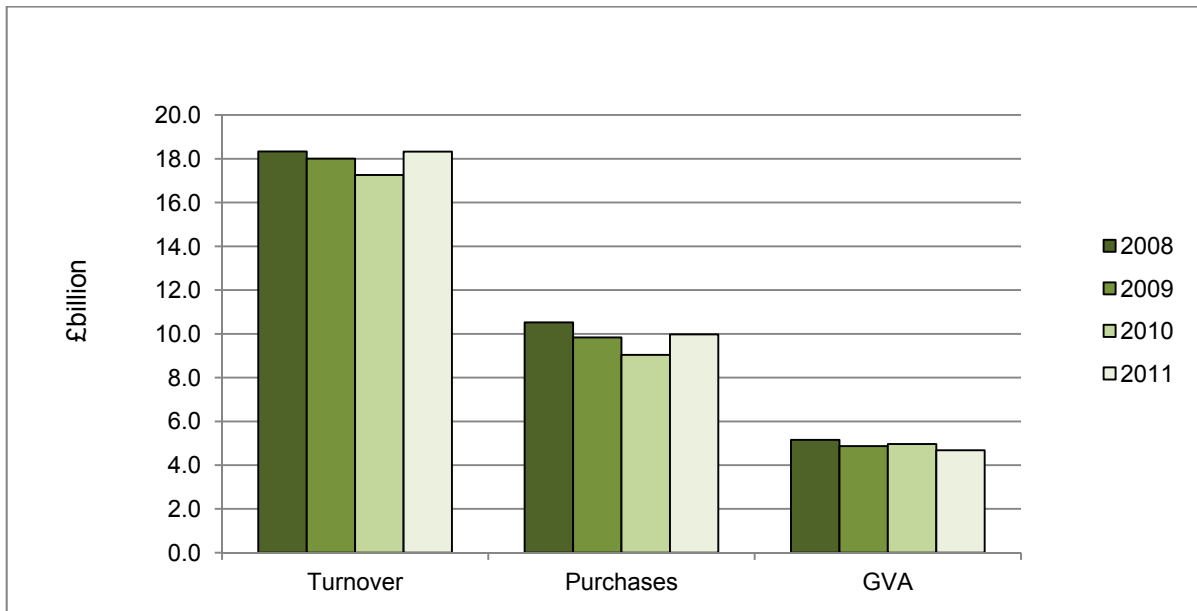
Figure 2: NI Business Economy - Overview



Production Industries (Sections B-E)

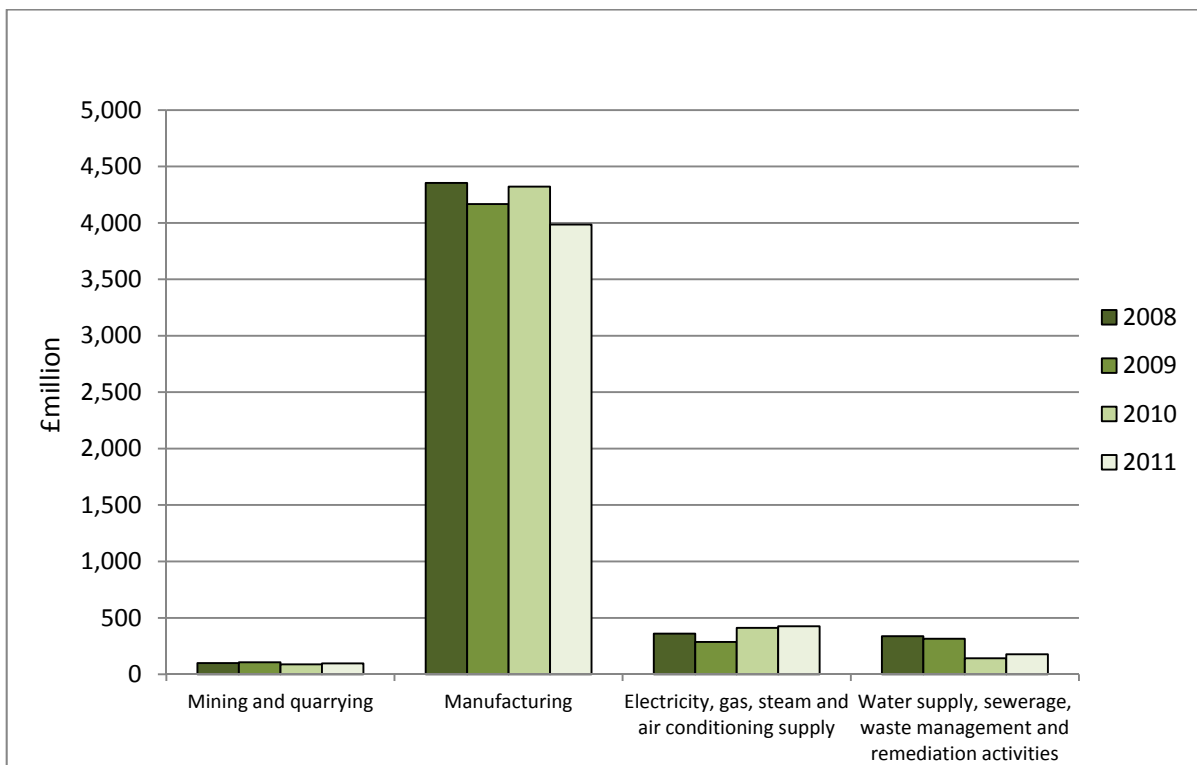
Approximate Gross Value Added for the Production Industries was estimated to be £4,683 million for the calendar year 2011, a 5.6% decline on 2010. Turnover increased by 6.2% (to £18,332 million), while purchases increased by 10.4% (to £9,976 million). In line with the overall business economy, the falling aGVA within the Production Sector was largely driven by an increase in purchases.

Figure 3: Income and Expenditure – Production Industries 2008 - 2011



As the largest single contributor to the NI Production Industry, variations in manufacturing performance have a large impact on the overall industry figures. Manufacturing purchases increased more than turnover (12.8% compared to 7.0%) contributing to a decrease in GVA (by 7.8%). Rising costs of raw materials and the price of oil are reported to have particularly impacted businesses in this section. In contrast, Mining and quarrying; Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities all showed a GVA increases during 2010-11.

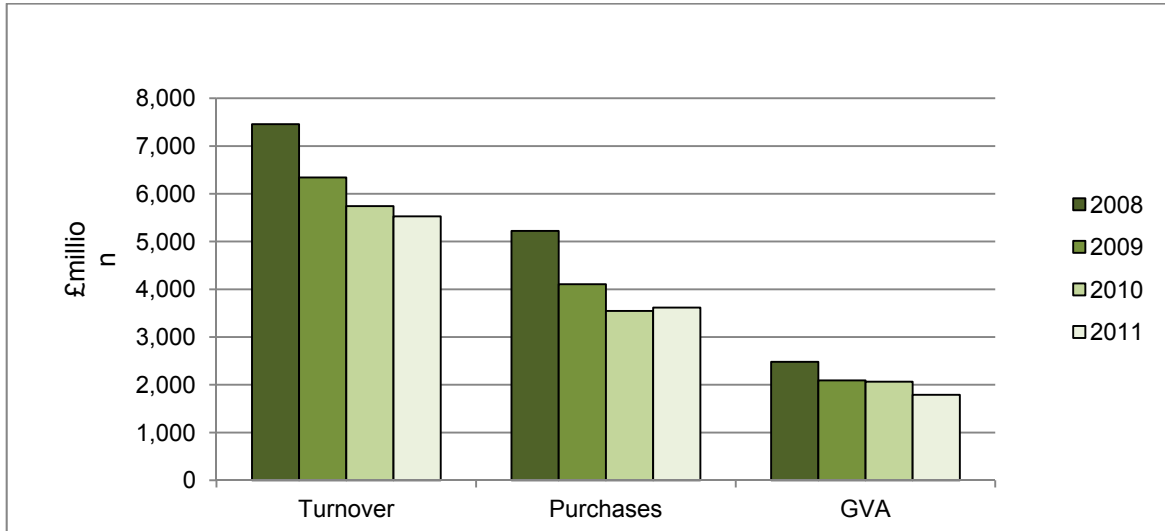
Figure 4: Production Industry – GVA by Sector



Construction Industries (Section F)

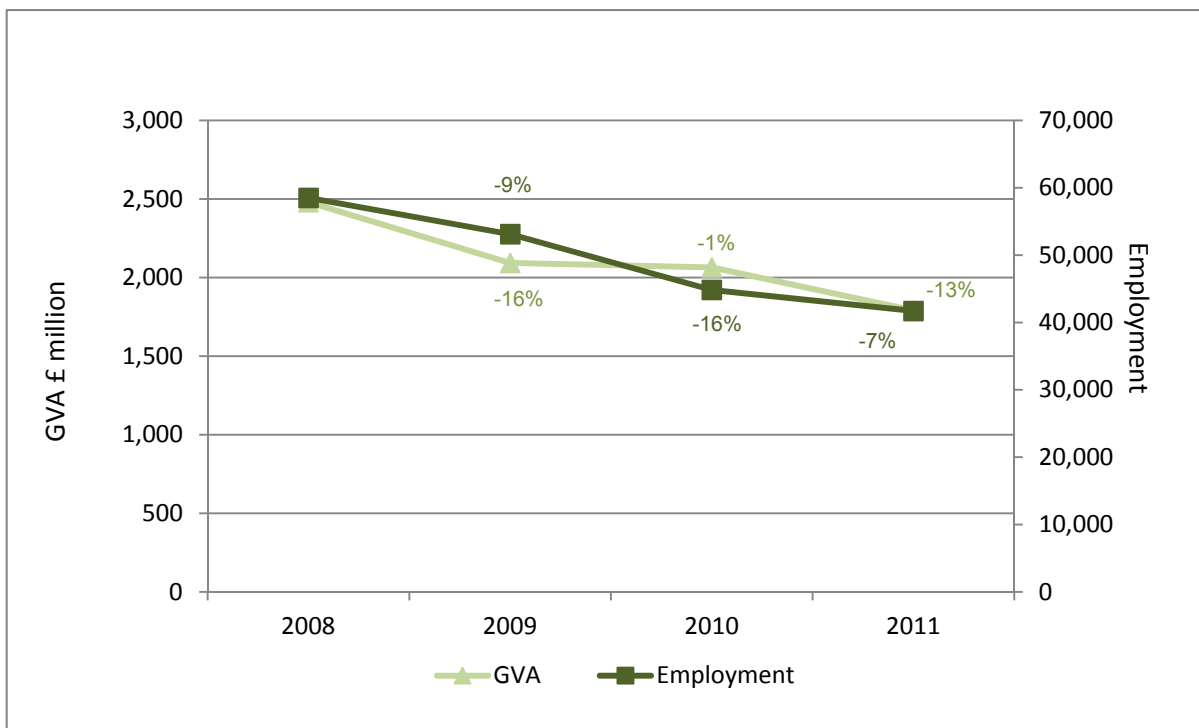
With falling revenue and aGVA, the Northern Ireland construction sector has suffered an acute drop in output in recent years. During 2010-11 the cost of purchases increased by 2.0% while turnover decreased by 3.8%, contributing to a decline of 13.3% in aGVA. Construction aGVA declined by 28% during the economic downturn period of 2008-2011.

Figure 5: Income and Expenditure - Construction Industries 2008-2011



This downturn has contributed to a sharp decline in the number of people employed within the construction sector. During 2011 employment was estimated to be 41,701, a 7% fall on 2010 and 29% lower than in 2008. (However, see background notes for alternative sources of information on employee jobs.)

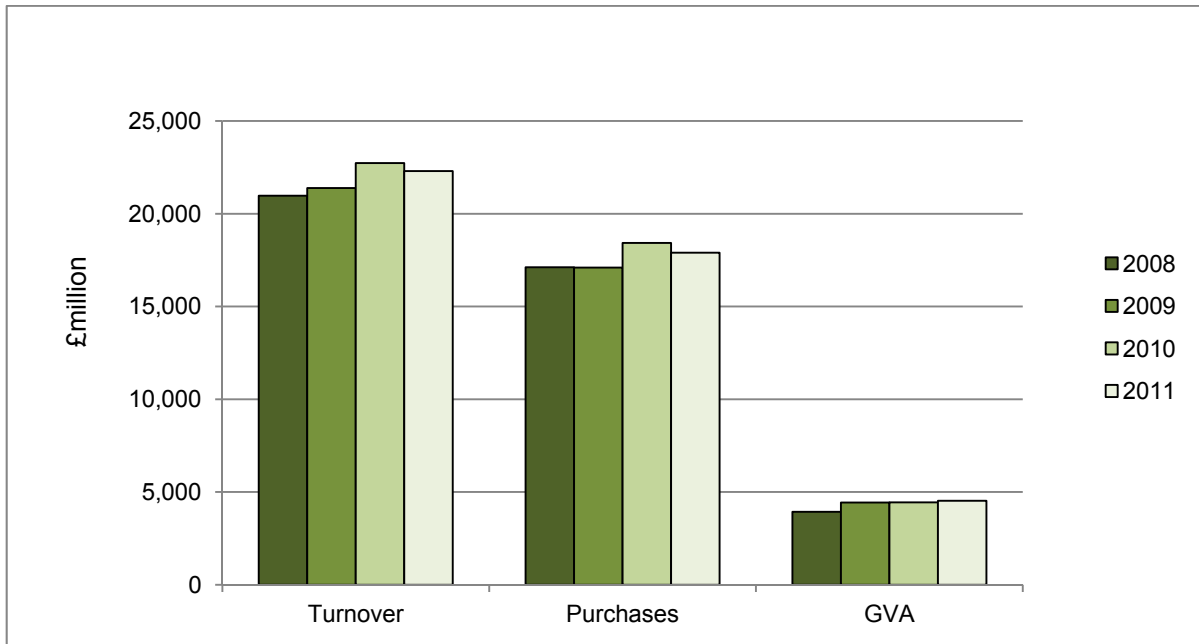
Figure 6: GVA and Employment within the Construction Sector 2008 - 2011



Distribution Industries (Section G)

Approximate Gross Value Added for the Distribution Industries (wholesale and retail trade) grew by 2.0% to £4,529 million between 2010 and 2011. Turnover for the sector fell by 1.9% to £22,300 million; this was offset by larger falls in spending, with Purchases declining by 2.9% to £17,895 million. In addition to reduced spending on purchases, employment within the Distribution Industries fell by 1.9% to an estimated 138,551.

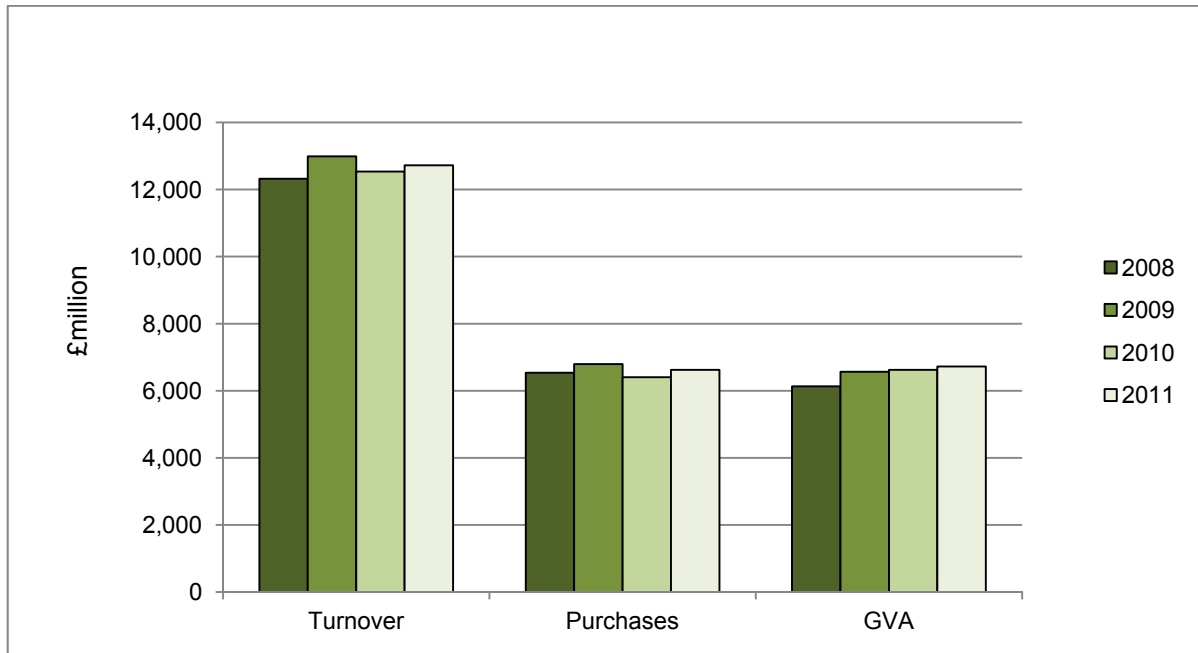
Figure 7: Income and Expenditure - Distribution Industries 2008-2011



Service Industries (Section H –S)

The Service Industries recorded a steady performance during 2011 with slight increases in aGVA, Turnover, Purchases and Employment. aGVA and turnover both reported a slight increase of 1.5% over the year, with aGVA increasing to £6,726 million and turnover to £12,724 million. Purchases increased by 3.4% to £6,623 million, while employment grew by 2.0% to an estimated 251,160.

Figure 8: Income and Expenditure - Service Industries 2008-2011



The Services Industry is composed of Transport and storage; Accommodation and food service activities; Information and communication; Real estate activities; Professional scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support service activities; and Others (n.b. Others are sections that are grouped to avoid disclosure of returns). Performance within the sector varied, with strong aGVA growth in Transport and storage (+6.2%) and Accommodation and food services (+7.5%). Both sections experienced over 7% growth in turnover, and increases in purchases over the year. However, aGVA declines were reported in Real estate (-7.2%) and Administrative and support services (-4.4%) over the year.

4: Results by Industry

	CV ≤ 5%
	5% < CV ≤ 10%
	10% < CV ≤ 20%
	CV > 20%

Table 1: NIABI results by industry, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	A – S	Agriculture, fishing, production, construction, distribution and services	58,379	18,158	37,458	516,811
2011			58,986	17,779	38,164	516,008
%change			1.0%	-2.1%	1.9%	-0.2%
2010	A (part)	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	111	65	45	1,180
2011			103	49	54	1,164
%change			-7.0%	-24.4%	19.0%	-1.4%
2010	B – E	Production Industries	17,261	4,963	9,038	83,354
2011			18,332	4,683	9,976	83,432
%change			6.2%	-5.6%	10.4%	0.1%
2010	B	Mining and quarrying	377	88	285	2,352
2011			354	96	254	1,984
%change			-6.1%	9.3%	-11.1%	-15.6%
2010	C	Manufacturing	15,306	4,322	7,686	76,195
2011			16,375	3,986	8,669	76,670
%change			7.0%	-7.8%	12.8%	0.6%
2010	D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1,119	412	709	1,550
2011			1,159	425	733	1,474
%change			3.6%	3.2%	3.3%	-5.0%
2010	E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	460	142	357	3,257
2011			444	177	320	3,305
%change			-3.4%	24.8%	-10.4%	1.5%
2010	F	Construction	5,743	2,065	3,545	44,837
2011			5,527	1,791	3,617	41,701
%change			-3.8%	-13.3%	2.0%	-7.0%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	G – S	Distribution and service industries	35,265	11,065	24,830	387,440
2011			35,024	11,255	24,518	389,710
%change			-0.7%	1.7%	-1.3%	0.6%
2010	G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	22,727	4,439	18,424	141,255
2011			22,300	4,529	17,895	138,551
%change			-1.9%	2.0%	-2.9%	-1.9%
2010	H - S	Other service Industries	12,538	6,626	6,406	246,186
2011			12,724	6,726	6,623	251,160
%change			1.5%	1.5%	3.4%	2.0%
2010	H	Transport and storage	2,486	1,190	1,417	26,497
2011			2,680	1,264	1,562	27,397
%change			7.8%	6.2%	10.3%	3.4%
2010	I	Accommodation and food service activities	1,156	569	594	41,504
2011			1,238	612	626	40,849
%change			7.1%	7.5%	5.4%	-1.6%
2010	J	Information and communication	1,364	821	526	15,986
2011			1,405	843	583	17,392
%change			3.0%	2.7%	10.8%	8.8%
2010	L	Real estate activities	854	507	360	9,373
2011			823	470	364	9,418
%change			-3.7%	-7.2%	1.3%	0.5%
2010	M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,739	1,086	711	26,388
2011			1,737	1,093	722	26,634
%change			-0.1%	0.6%	1.5%	0.9%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2010 and 2011

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Gross Value Added (GVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2010	N	Administrative and support service activities	1,778	1,006	850	40,919
2011			1,759	962	832	44,164
%change			-1.0%	-4.4%	-2.1%	7.9%
2010	K (part), P - S	Others	3,161	1,447	1,949	85,519
2011			3,082	1,482	1,934	85,305
%change			-2.5%	2.4%	-0.7%	-0.2%

Coefficient of Variation

The coefficient of variation (cv) measures the variability of the values in the table above by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the parameter estimate:

$$\text{Coefficient of Variation} = \frac{\text{Standard Error}}{|\text{Parameter Estimate}|}$$

Unlike confidence intervals, which measure variability by providing the range of values between which the mean value for a predetermined percentage of all possible samples would fall, the coefficient of variation expresses variability as an easily comparable percentage. As the coefficient of variation is not measured in any specific unit, it facilitates comparison between surveys measuring different underlying variables. A larger coefficient of variation implies a larger variability.

5: Background Notes

(i) About the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry

The Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI) collects both financial and employment information from businesses and other establishments and covers about two thirds of the economy. This includes the Production, Construction, Distribution and Service industries in Northern Ireland but excludes public sector activity for the most part. The Coverage of the survey is detailed at section (iv) below.

The 2011 NIABI sampled approximately 9,000 businesses in Northern Ireland from a population of approximately 52,000 businesses in the sample frame: the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR consists of companies, partnerships, sole proprietors, public authorities, central government departments, local authorities and non-profit making bodies in the UK. The NIABI is reliant on the IDBR receiving accurate and timely updates and providing a true reflection of the Northern Ireland business population. Businesses not registered for either Pay As You Earn or VAT are excluded from the frame. Additional information about the IDBR and the characteristics of the businesses covered by the IDBR is available at the link:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/edition_15_-_facts_and_figures_from_the_idbr-2.pdf

(ii) Survey reference period

For survey reference period 2011, businesses were asked to make returns for the calendar year 2011. Where this was not possible, returns for business years ending between 6 April 2011 and 5 April 2012 were accepted. Similar procedures operated in previous years. Returns covering fewer than twelve months were accepted for businesses which had started or ceased trading during the year. Estimates were made for those firms providing returns for more than six months while firms providing less than six months were treated as closures in the results process.

(iii) NIABI sample

Following user feedback and consultation with the Statistics Advisory Committee and the DFP official statistics user group, the NIABI sample size was boosted from approximately 5,000 in the 2010 survey reference year to 9,000 in 2011.

To maximise survey precision, the Neyman allocation approach to sampling was utilised. Neyman allocation is a sample allocation method that may be used with stratified samples. The purpose of the method is to maximize survey precision, given a fixed sample size. The survey universe was stratified by 2 digit SIC code and employee size band, and all businesses with 50+ employees, or 20+ employees and more than one local unit, were fully enumerated. The current NIABI sample design includes all Manufacturing businesses with 6 or more employees. Businesses falling below the threshold of complete enumeration are selected on a stratified random basis. In addition, certain companies of special interest to policymakers and government agencies (for example, certain Invest NI clients) are added to the sample.

(iv) Standard Industrial Classification and the coverage of the NIABI

NIABI results are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC) system. The UK is required by European legislation to have a system of classification consistent with the European Union's Industrial classification system. A review of the system was completed in 2007 and implemented in 2008. UK SIC 2007 is divided into 21 sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. Below this, further levels of detail are provided at division (denoted by 2 digits), groups (three digits), classes (four digits) and subclasses (five digits).

The SIC 2007 sections covered by the NIABI are as follows:

- A. Agriculture (support activities), forestry and fishing
- B. Mining and quarrying
- C. Manufacturing
- D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- E. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- F. Construction
- G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles
(Distribution industries)
- H. Transport and storage
- I. Accommodation and food service activities
- J. Information and communication
- K. Financial and Insurance Activities
- L. Real estate activities
- M. Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N. Administrative and support service activities
- P. Education (excludes local authority and central government bodies)
- Q. Human health and social work activities (excludes local authority and central government, and medical and dental practice activities (group 86.2))
- R. Arts, entertainment and recreation
- S. Other service activities

Production Industries are comprised of sections B – E

Service Industries are comprised of sections H, I, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R and S

In line with improvements made to the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Annual Business Survey, data for groups 65.1 (Insurance) and 65.2 (Reinsurance) within Financial and Insurance Activities (section K) are included since survey reference year 2010 though the rest of this sector continues to be excluded. The other main areas that are *excluded* are Public Administration and Defence (section O) while Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (section A) excludes farming (groups 01.1, 01.2, 01.3, 01.4 and 01.5). Local authority and central Government bodies in Education (section P) and Human Health and Social Work Activities (section Q) have also been excluded from this publication, as has 86.2 (Medical and Dental Practice Activities) within section Q.

(v) Data collection, validation and calculation of NIABI results

Just over 9,000 forms were issued from Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch, DFP, in April 2012 and the returned forms were subjected to a range of validation and congruency checks. The 2011 response rate was 74.9%.

Data validation was carried out on the returned forms ensuring internal consistency within the form, checking data fell within expected limits or by contacting the company for clarification where appropriate. For non-returns above a selected employment threshold, data were imputed using a methodology which takes account of previous returned data and the performance of other similar businesses. This information is then grossed up to the reporting unit population, to ensure that results are representative of the sampled population.

Please note that the information presented throughout this bulletin is based on reporting unit information, and is therefore not directly comparable with earlier NIABI bulletins which are based on local unit information. Reporting and local unit definitions can be found at: http://www.detini.gov.uk/stats_bus_register_3.doc

Also, to better meet user needs, and in consultation with ONS Methodology Consultancy Service, DFP produced these results using Statistics Canada's Generalized Estimation System. This allows DFP to produce estimates, with an associated measure of their quality. For more detail of the estimation methodology please consult: http://www.detini.gov.uk/review_of_the_abi_-_quality_improvement_fund_project.pdf

The series has been developed to National Statistics standards but the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 statistics should be considered as experimental in nature. As such, the statistics are subject to ongoing development and hence some caution should be used when interpreting results. In particular, users are advised to take into account the quality indicators associated with the estimates when considering the significance of annual changes. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of STATISTICAL error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results.

Ongoing development of the methodology will be informed by user feedback, both in terms of the usefulness and reliability of the estimates and their comparability with other sources. Any comments should be sent to Brian.Spence@dfpni.gov.uk

(vi) Definitions

Approximate Gross Value Added at Basic prices represents the income generated by businesses, out of which is paid wages and salaries, the cost of capital investment and financial charges before arriving at a figure for profit. It includes taxes on production (e.g. business rates), net of subsidies but excludes subsidies and taxes on products (e.g. VAT and excise duty). This is an output-based measure of GVA. All published GVA is given at basic prices. Please find below calculation applied to derive GVA.

The calculations used in the NIABI are:

- GVA AT BASIC PRICES: GVA at factor cost + business rates + vehicle excise duty
- GVA AT MARKET PRICES: Total turnover + insurance claims + change in stocks + own account capital expenditure – total purchases
- GVA AT FACTOR COST: GVA at market prices + subsidies – total taxes + customs & excise drawback

(Please note that GVA at basic prices is the only published GVA from the NIABI.)

Turnover is defined as total sales and work done. This is calculated by adding to the value of sales of goods produced, goods purchased and resold without further processing, work done and industrial and non-industrial services rendered.

Purchases represent the value of all goods, materials and services purchased during the year.

(vii) NIABI “Approximate Gross Value Added” and “Regional Gross Value Added”

The financial information from the Regional NIABI provides a measure of approximate GVA, which is ultimately used to contribute to the picture of the whole economy to be built up for National Accounts purposes at the United Kingdom level. When regional economic accounts are subsequently derived, the resulting measure of Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is a much broader based measure relating to the whole economy in a region, taking into account information from a series of economic and labour market surveys. The results of the NIABI only comprise one element of the regional economic account figures, and a number of adjustments are made in line with National Accounts methodologies before estimates of Regional GVA are produced. The most recent Regional GVA estimates for Northern Ireland at industry level by ONS relating to 2011 were released on 12th December 2012. The NIABI provides more detailed industry information than is possible in Regional Accounts measures.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/regional-accounts/regional-gross-value-added--income-approach/december-2012/stb-regional-gva-2011.html>

(viii) Comparability with statistics from other sources

The NIABI is conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency and while the survey process is similar to that for Great Britain, it is not identical. ONS receive data from NISRA in September and February of each survey year. These data are processed with the Great Britain data to produce UK-wide estimates as well as producing regional estimates. NISRA separately process the Northern Ireland data to produce their own regional estimates. These differ from the ONS estimates for a number of reasons:

- Calculation of the weights used to estimate figures for the total population:
 - Calculation of the design or a-weights: The ONS National System computes the design weights for all UK data using the sample design of the GB sample. The NI sample design is quite different from that used by the ONS. The design weights calculated by the ONS system for NI units can therefore differ from those calculated by the NI system.
 - Calculation of the g-weights: The ONS National System computes two sets of g-weights: one based on IDBR turnover and another based on IDBR employment. The latter is used for employment costs, whereas the former is used for all the other variables. The Regional System computes g-weights based on local unit employment. In the new NI methodology there is no distinction between national and regional weights: estimates at all levels are based on the same weights, with the g-weights computed with respect to local unit register employment but using a different calibration method to that used in the ONS regional system.
- Regional apportionment: ONS collects all ABS data at reporting unit (RU) level; the regional system apportions RU returns between local units using factors obtained from models. The NIABI collects turnover data at local unit level data; data of other variables are collected at RU level and then apportioned between the local units.

When NI data are processed in the ONS system, new apportioned local unit values, based on the ONS methodology, are obtained and used to produce estimates.

- The NIABI does not collect data for all the variables in the GB questionnaire; in the ONS system, values are derived for the missing variables using a model, and these values contribute towards the estimation of some derived variables.

(ix) Comparability with other NISRA ELMSB publications

The NIABI provides estimates of employment to enable per head calculations to be made. Preferred estimates of the changes in employment and employee jobs are provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Quarterly Employment Survey (QES). As dedicated employment surveys, the LFS and QES provide more frequent and accurate measures of the change in employment. By utilising internationally recognised definitions the LFS provides employment figures consistent with international standards. The LFS and QES can be found on the DETI website at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys.htm> and <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-qes.htm> respectively.

Within the relevant sectors the turnover figures provided by the NIABI are the most up to date available from ELMSB statistical publications, and ultimately contribute to updating the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). However for a more comprehensive measure of turnover within the NI economy users are recommended to refer to the IDBR. The IDBR contains information on all businesses in the UK which are VAT registered or operate a PAYE scheme; consequently the IDBR provides a more complete picture of the Northern Ireland business population. The IDBR can be accessed through the DETI website at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-inter-dept-bus-register.htm>

(x) Other sources of information

ONS has responsibility for the production of the recently published UK national estimates for 2011, as well as regional 2011 estimates (scheduled for release in July 2013). The latest UK national estimates for 2011 can be found at http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_286414.pdf while ONS' regional estimates for 2010 are available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/abs/annual-business-survey/2010-provisional-regional-results/abs-2010---provisional-regional-results-statistical-bulletin-july-2012-.html>

The latest Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) Economic Commentary (March 2013) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in a global context. This can be found at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4.htm>

The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the Economic Overview page of the DETI website at

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-2.htm>

Information relating to financial activity in the Northern Ireland Manufacturing industry is available from the Manufacturing Sales and Exports Survey (MSES), which provides estimates of the sales and exports generated by all businesses within the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland. These statistics can be accessed at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-manufacturing-sales-exports.htm>

The link below provides information relating to the integration of the MSES and NIABI in survey reference period 2011. It should be noted however that the latest MSES publication was produced on the same methodology as previous years, which differs to the methodology used by the NIABI. Table 1 of the link below provides some detail about the size of the difference yielded. Work is ongoing to provide more consistent measures of common variables.

http://www.detini.gov.uk/notice_to_users_-_integration_of_the_annual_business_inquiry_and_the_manufacturing_sales_and_exports_survey.pdf

Further information on the output of Manufacturing, along with Electricity, Gas, Water and Mining & Quarrying industries is available from the Northern Ireland Index of Production (<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-index-of-production.htm>) while the Northern Ireland Index of Services (<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-ios.htm>) provides a general measure of changes in the output of the private sector service industries in Northern Ireland.

The Construction Output Statistics published in the Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin are intended to provide a general measure of quarterly changes in the volume and value of construction output in Northern Ireland. These statistics can be accessed at <http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.asp11.htm>

The Composite Economic Index provides a weighted measure of output by broad industry sector and employee jobs in the public sector to provide an overall measure of change in the Northern Ireland economic activity
http://www.detini.gov.uk/ni_composite_economic_index_statistical_bulletin_q3_2012-3.pdf

(xi) Uses of the NIABI

- The central structure and periodicity of the NIABI is driven by the legal requirements to provide data for the UK Annual Business Survey, UK National Accounts and European Structural Business Statistics (SBS)
- Additionally the NIABI is used by the Government as a means of monitoring the progress of economic policy and to help set and measure economic targets.
- Outside government the data is used by a variety of different private sector and academic analysts to assist with industrial and investment decisions.

For a more comprehensive explanation of customers' use of the NIABI please follow the link below:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/summary_of_usage_of_the_northern_ireland_annual_business_inquiry.pdf

(xii) User feedback

Development of the NIABI is designed to meet the needs of data users as identified during statistical user group meetings. Recent enhancements to the survey including an increase in the sample size for the 2011 reporting period have been driven by feedback received through these consultations. Minutes of the meetings are available using the link below:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-national-statistics/user-consultation-and-information.htm>

(xiii) Quality reporting

A summary quality report for the NIABI can be found at http://www.detini.gov.uk/niabi_quality_report_december_2011.pdf

This report describes in detail the quality of the statistics presented in this publication (in terms of relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability, trade-offs between output quality components, assessment of user needs and perceptions, performance, cost and respondent burden and confidentiality, transparency and security).

(xiv) Status of figures in current bulletin

It is normal practice to revise the data from the previous year based on ongoing data validation and clarification of responses from individual businesses. This bulletin contains detailed provisional results for the Northern Ireland ABI industries (2011). These 2011 provisional figures will be subject to revision to take account of additional information. The NIABI revisions policy can be accessed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/niabi_revisions_policy.pdf

In line with this and with the NIABI revisions policy, provisional NIABI estimates for 2010 have been revised throughout this publication. Following improvements to the methods used for managing responses from business closures a number of the 2010 figures have been revised downwards. The table below provides details of revisions to 2010 data.

Size of revisions to previously published 2010 data

	Provisional 2010 (£)	Revised 2010 (£)	% change
Turnover	60,461	58,379	-3.4%
Purchases	38,756	37,458	-3.3%
aGVA	18,664	18,158	-2.7%
Employment	537,166	516,811	-3.8%

Turnover, Purchases and GVA values are reported in £ million unless otherwise specified.

NIABI reporting unit results are published in December, while local unit results are published in the following Spring of each year. The Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch statistics publication schedule is available at http://www.detini.gov.uk/publication_schedule_13-14.pdf

The list of people given pre-release access to this publication is available at http://www.detini.gov.uk/publication_pre-release_access_list_250712.pdf

(xv) Disclosure

The NIABI is conducted under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and great care is taken to avoid disclosing information about individual enterprises (in line with the stipulations in Article 7 of the Order). Figures which would be likely to disclose particulars relating to an enterprise are not published (i.e. they are suppressed) unless prior written consent for their publication has been obtained directly from the business. The Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency Economic & Labour Market Statistics confidentiality statement can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/data_confidentiality_statement_principle_5_of_the_code_of_practice_for_official_statistics_-2.pdf

(xvi) Next publication

The next reporting unit publication will be published in early December 2013. The local unit publication for 2010 will be published in early Summer 2013, followed shortly thereafter by the 2011 local unit publication.

For further information

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