

Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2014



Date: 21 October 2015
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland
Theme: Labour Market
Frequency: Annual



This report provides detailed geographical analysis of the main indicators from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) Local Area Database 2014. The LFS is the largest regular household survey in Northern Ireland, providing a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions. It is a quarterly sample survey and is therefore subject to sampling error, which decreases as the sample size increases. The Local Area Database (LADB) is an annual database which comprises responses from four consecutive quarters of the LFS and thus contains 60% more records than the quarterly databases, facilitating more extensive sub-regional analysis.

Under the Review of Public Administration, the number of Local Government Districts (LGDs) in Northern Ireland decreased from 26 to 11, effective from 1 April 2015. LGD statistics in this report refer to the 11 new council areas.

The key points from the report are as follows:

- in 2014, the highest employment rate (16-64) was recorded in Ards and North Down (73.8%) and was 17.2 percentage points above the lowest rate, which was recorded in Derry and Strabane (56.6%).
- the 2014 economic activity rate (16-64) was lowest in Derry and Strabane (66.5%) and highest in Ards and North Down (76.2%).
- the NUTS III region with the highest unemployment rate in 2014 was the North of NI (11.9%), almost eight percentage points higher than the lowest rate which was recorded in Outer Belfast (4.4%).
- while 77.4% of the economically inactive persons in West and South were neither wanting nor seeking work, the figure for Outer Belfast was higher at 88.9%.
- the LGD with the highest proportion of persons aged 16–64 who were qualified to NVQ level 4 or above was Lisburn and Castlereagh with 42.2%, while the lowest proportion was in Derry and Strabane (22.1%).
- the East of NI had the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds who were NEET (17.8%).

The Local Area Database report contains the following chapters:

- 1. Summary**
 - 2. Local Government District labour market structure**
 - 3. NUTS III analysis**
 - 4. Further information**
- Annex Index of tables**

National Statistics

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

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

Local Government Districts (LGDs)

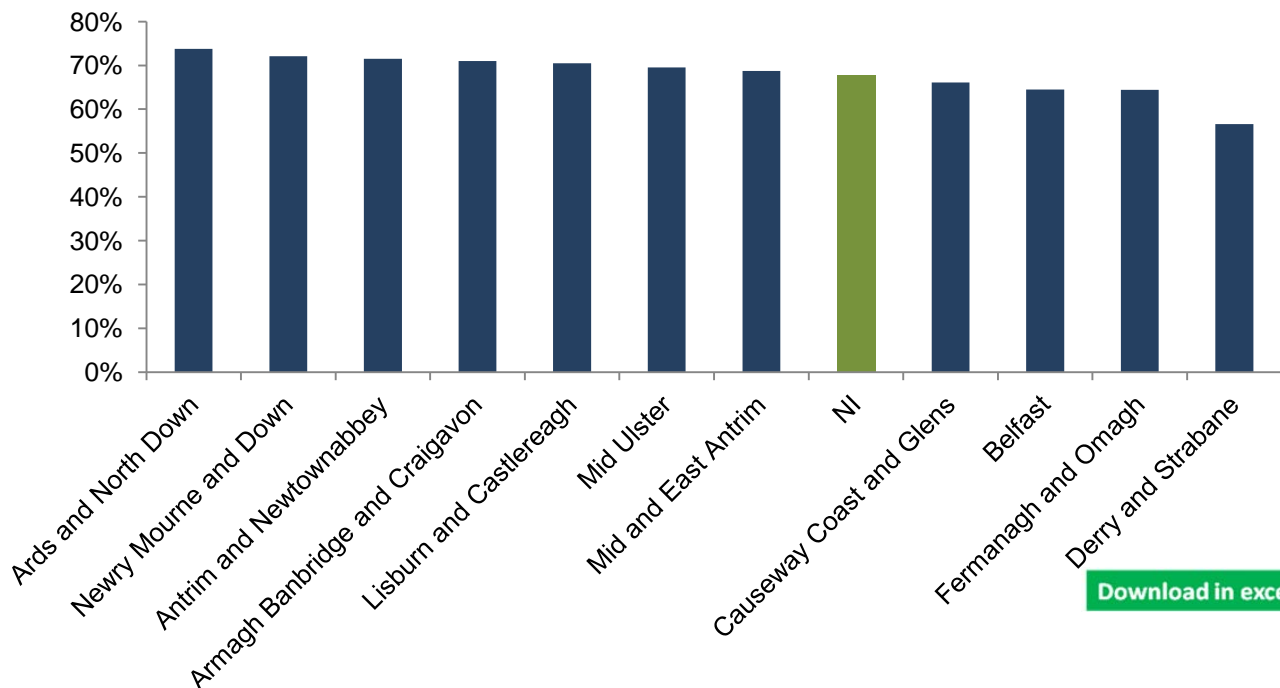
There is considerable variation in the population size of the LGDs, with the 16+ population in Belfast LGD (263,000) being nearly three times larger than the smallest LGD (Fermanagh and Omagh with 90,000).

Employment rates

In 2014, the 16-64 employment rate:

- was 67.7% in NI (up from 67.2% in 2013).
- varied among LGDs in Northern Ireland (see Figure 1).
- was highest in Ards and North Down at 73.8% - 17.2 percentage points higher than the lowest rate which was recorded in Derry and Strabane (56.6%).

Figure 1: LGD employment rate (16-64), 2014



Full-time employment

In 2014:

- an estimated 76.1% of the 16+ population in employment in NI were working full-time.
- full-time employment varied from a high of 81.1% in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon to a low of 71.8% in Ards and North Down.

Qualification levels

In terms of educational achievement,

- the LGD with the highest proportion of persons aged 16–64 who were qualified to NVQ level 4 or above was Lisburn and Castlereagh with 42.2%, while Derry and Strabane had the lowest proportion at 22.1%.
- Mid Ulster (22.2%) and Derry and Strabane (21.8%) had the highest proportion of persons with 'no qualifications' – the NI average was 17.4%.

NUTS III areas

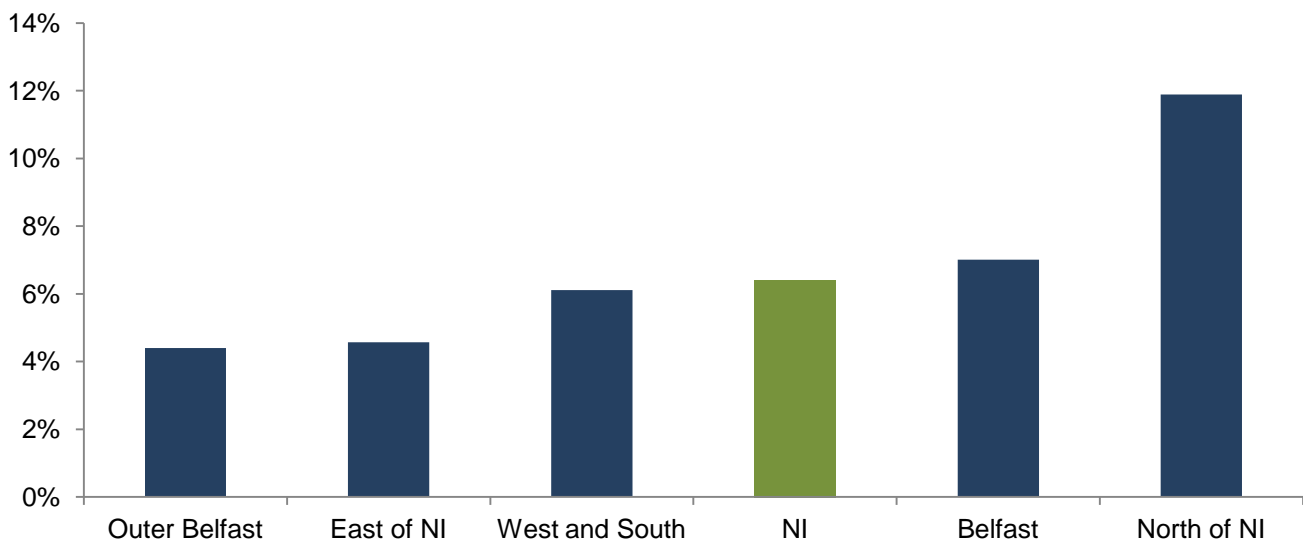
NUTS III (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) regions are the European Office for Statistics (Eurostat) classification of sub-national areas for statistical purposes in the European Union. They are amalgamations of district council areas and facilitate analyses by region due to the larger LFS sample sizes involved.

NUTS III unemployment

The NI unemployment rate for 2014 was estimated at 6.4%, which was:

- a decrease over the year from 2013 (from 7.4%).
- highest in the North of NI (11.9%) and lowest in Outer Belfast (4.4%).

Figure 2: Unemployment rate (16+) by NUTS III area, 2014



[Download in excel](#)

NUTS III economic activity

The overall NI working age activity rate for 2014 was 72.5%, however there was a considerable difference across the NUTS III regions in terms of labour market participation, with:

- Belfast recording the lowest working age activity rate at 69.4%, which was six percentage points lower than the highest rate that was recorded for the East of NI (75.5%).

NUTS III employment by industry

In terms of industry sector:

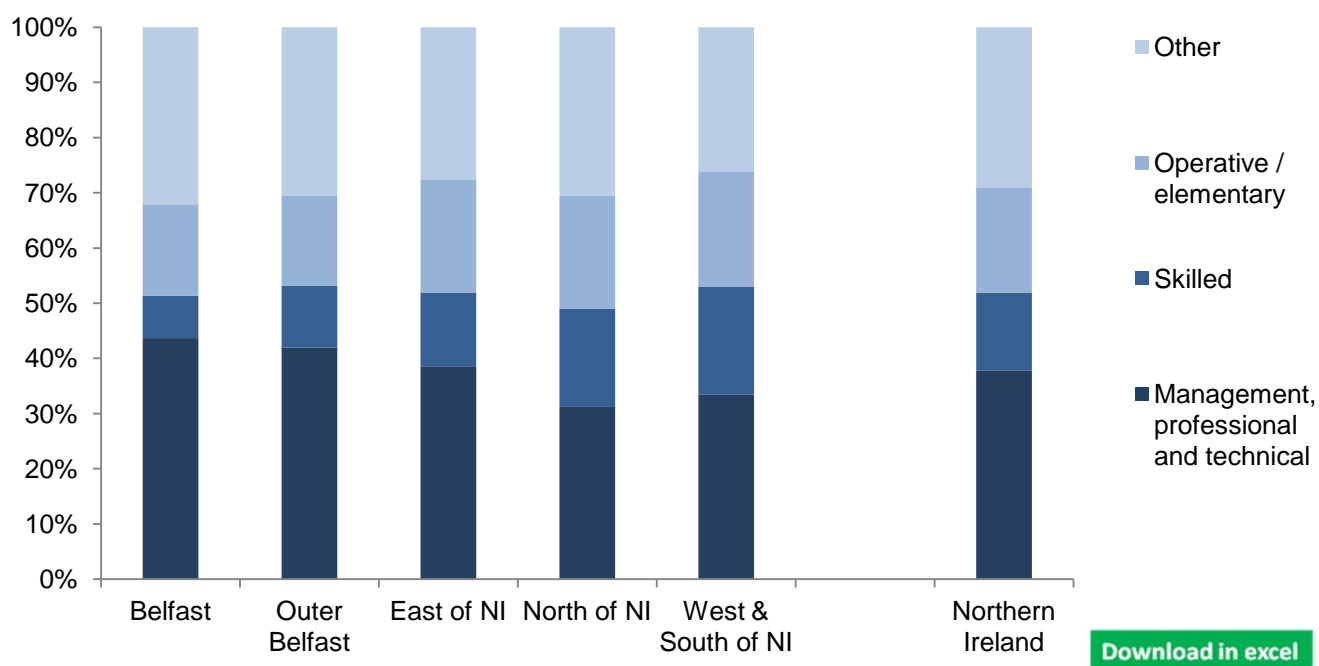
- public services represented the major employment industry for each of the NUTS III regions, with their impact varying from 38.2% of total employment in Outer Belfast to 30.0% in the West & South of NI.
- other major industries in terms of NI employment were distribution, hotels & restaurants (18.9%), banking & finance (11.2%) and manufacturing (10.9%).

NUTS III employment by occupation

Figure 3 shows that:

- professional occupations formed a higher proportion of the total workforce in Belfast (19.6%) and Outer Belfast (17.5%), compared to 10.8% of people in the North of NI and 13.1% in the East of NI working in these occupations.
- the skilled trade professionals have higher proportions in West and South of NI (19.5%) and North of NI (17.7%) compared to Belfast (7.7%) and Outer Belfast (11.3%).

Figure 3: Occupation in main job (16-64) by NUTS III area, 2014



[Download in excel](#)

Socio-economic classification

Among the 16-64 population in NI:

- the largest socio-economic classification was those that have never worked, were unemployed or unclassified. This group accounted for over one-quarter (25.3%) of the NI population as a whole and 30.6% of those from the North of NI.

NUTS III education and training

In terms of qualifications:

- the proportion of the 16-64 population in NI with no discernible qualifications was 17.4% in 2014.
- levels vary by region with 20.9% of those from the North of NI having no qualifications, compared to just 12.8% of those in Outer Belfast.

Commentary

Performance against the key economic indicators varied across the NUTS III regions. The North of NI reported the highest rates of unemployment and the highest proportion of 16-64 year olds who had never worked, were unemployed or unclassified. The proportion of the 16-64 population with no qualifications was also highest in the North of NI. This was accompanied by lower rates of employment and economic activity in the North of NI than in any other NUTS III region in 2014. In contrast, Outer Belfast had the lowest rates of unemployment, those who had never worked and those with no qualifications, alongside joint second highest rates of employment and economic activity.

At Local Government District level, Derry and Strabane had lower rates of employment and economic activity (16-64) than the other LGDs. In addition, Derry and Strabane had the lowest proportion of 16-64 year olds achieving NVQ level 4 and above and the second highest proportion of those with no qualifications. The highest rates of economic activity and employment were recorded in Ards and North Down, while Lisburn and Castlereagh fared best in terms of qualifications, with the highest proportion of those achieving NVQ level 4 and above coupled with the lowest proportion of those with no qualifications.

Public services accounted for the majority of employment across all NUTS III areas. Industries such as manufacturing and agriculture employed a larger proportion in the West and South which also had the highest proportion of skilled trade occupations. In contrast, Belfast had higher proportions employed in banking and finance as well as distribution, hotels and restaurants and the largest occupational group was professional occupations.

Context

The Local Area Database report is an annual publication analysing key labour market statistics by geographical area within Northern Ireland. It includes key labour market information such as employment, qualifications and unemployment at Local Government District, NUTS III and Northern Ireland level.

Key users of Northern Ireland labour market statistics include government departments, in particular the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), to design and monitor the impact of economic and labour market policy. Other Government departments such as the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), as well as bodies such as Invest NI and Belfast City Council, regularly require specific ad hoc labour market analysis in order to monitor policies for example, equality and employment. In addition, significant 'non-governmental' users of labour market statistics include the media, banks, academics, private consultants and the general public, primarily for reporting or researching the performance of the economy in general. Labour market statistics attract widespread media coverage, with a number of broadcasters publishing articles on the labour market on a monthly basis, generally on the day of publication of the Labour Market Report.

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

Labour market statistics feature in the [DETI Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview section](#) of the website.

Further information on using labour market statistics can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

- [Explaining the concepts of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity](#)
- [Interpreting Labour Market statistics](#)
- [Guide to Labour Market Statistics](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Local Government District (LGD) analysis

The 11 LGD areas were established across Northern Ireland in 2015 and their respective councils form the single tier of local government in NI.

Population structure

Table 1 below provides a summary of the labour market structure in NI's LGDs. There is considerable variation in the population size of these areas, with the 16+ population in Belfast (263,000) being nearly three times larger than the smallest LGD (Fermanagh and Omagh with 90,000). Due to this variation in population it is better to look at rates rather than levels when comparing LGDs.

Table 1: Labour market structure by Local Government District, 2014

LGD 2014	Total 16+ (000's)	16+					16-64	
		Economically active (000's)	In employment ¹ (000's)	In full-time employment (000's)	In part-time employment (000's)	Economically inactive (000's)	Economic activity rate (%)	Employment rate (%)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	107	64	62	47	15	43	74.0%	71.5%
Ards and North Down	123	70	68	48	19	54	76.2%	73.8%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	159	97	92	75	17	62	74.6%	71.0%
Belfast	263	158	148	110	38	106	69.0%	64.5%
Causeway Coast and Glens	116	67	61	46	15	49	72.9%	66.1%
Derry and Strabane	119	68	58	44	14	51	66.5%	56.6%
Fermanagh and Omagh	90	53	50	36	13	37	69.0%	64.4%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	112	69	65	51	14	43	75.2%	70.5%
Mid and East Antrim	109	63	59	43	16	46	73.5%	68.7%
Mid Ulster	110	74	68	54	14	37	75.2%	69.5%
Newry, Mourne and Down	128	83	79	61	18	46	75.2%	72.1%
Total	1438	866	811	614	193	572	72.5%	67.7%

¹ Includes those on government training and employment schemes and unpaid family workers, and some who did not state if working full or part-time.

[Download in excel](#)

Economic activity

Figures for NI economic activity (16-64) showed that in 2014:

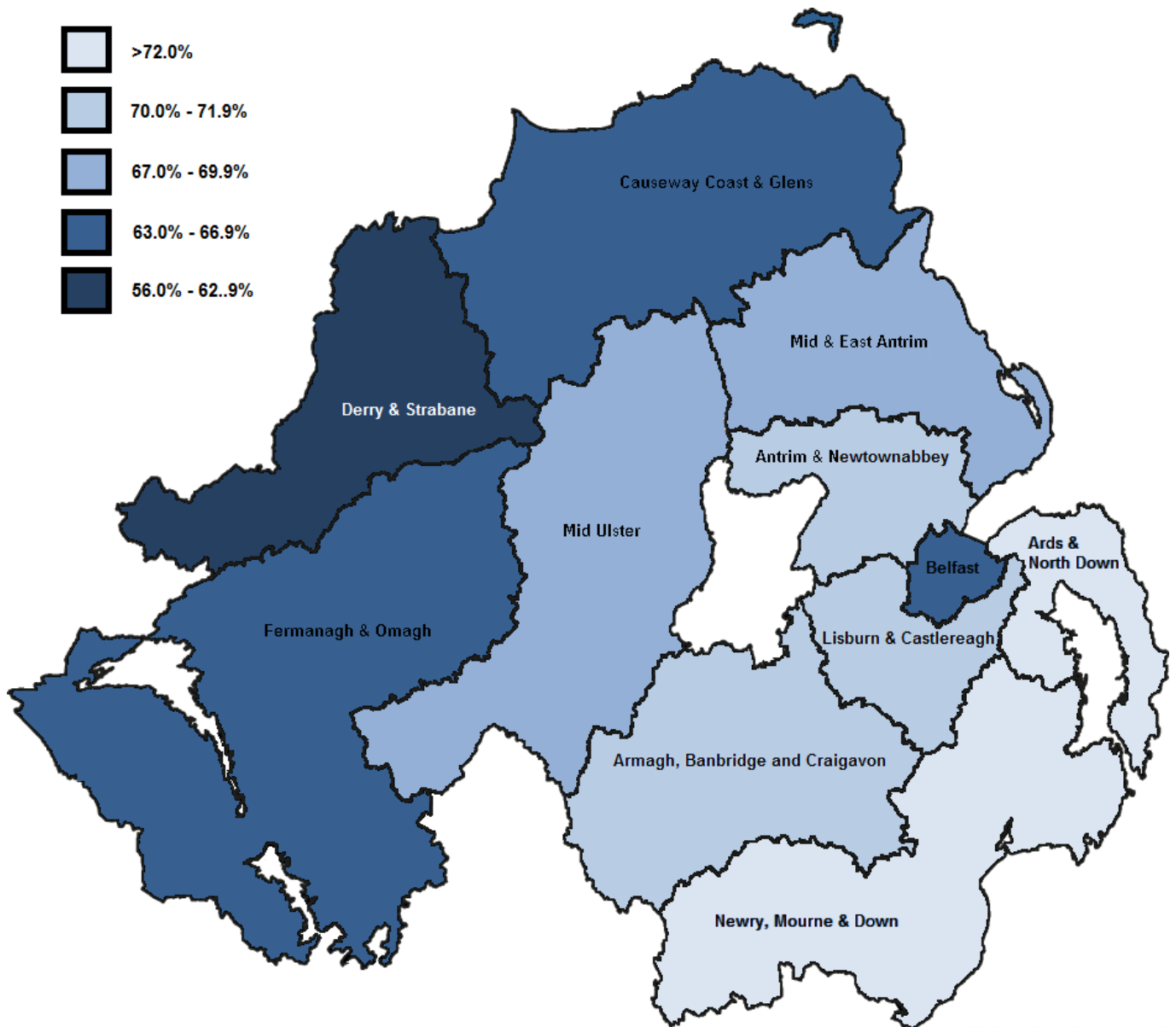
- there was a slight decrease from the 2013 rate of 72.7% - to 72.5%.
- the lowest economic activity rates were Derry and Strabane (66.5%), Belfast (69.0%) and Fermanagh and Omagh (69.0%)
- the LGD with the highest rate was Ards and North Down (76.2%).

Employment rate

In 2014, the 16-64 employment rate for NI was 67.7% and was:

- higher than the rate for 2013 (67.2%).
- highest in Ards and North Down (73.8%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (72.1%).
- lowest in Derry and Strabane (56.6%), Fermanagh and Omagh (64.4%) and Belfast (64.5%).

Figure 4: Employment rate (16-64) by Local Government District, 2014



© Crown Copyright and Database Rights NIMA MOU207.2

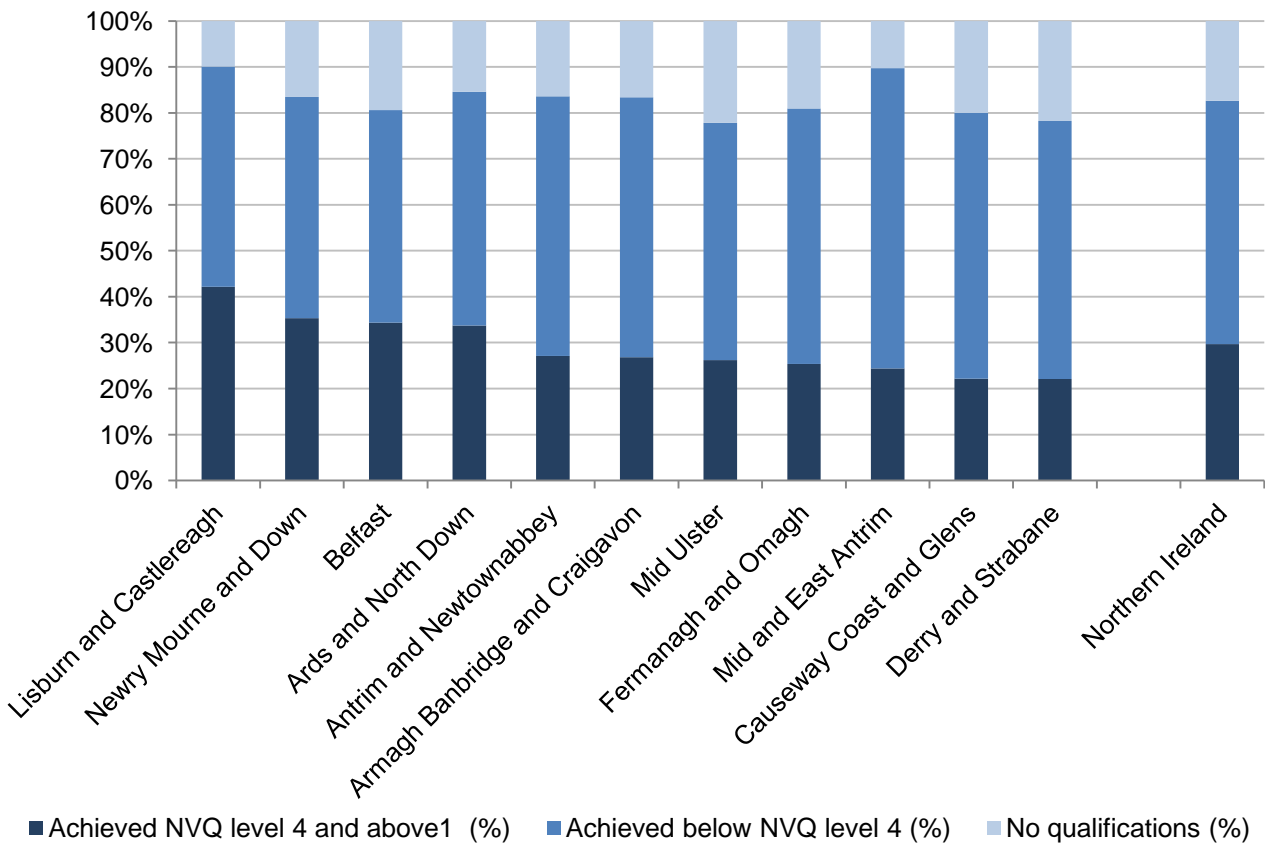
[Download in excel](#)

Qualification levels

In terms of qualifications achieved in 2014:

- the average for NI as a whole was 17.4% with no qualifications - this was unchanged from 2013.
- Mid Ulster (22.2%) and Derry and Strabane (21.8%) had the highest proportion of persons aged 16 – 64 with no qualifications.
- the NI average for those qualified to NVQ level 4 or above was 29.7% in 2014, an increase on the rate of 28.5% in 2013.
- the LGDs with the highest proportion of persons qualified to NVQ level 4 or above were Lisburn and Castlereagh (42.2%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (35.3%).

Figure 5: Highest level of qualification attained (16-64) by Local Government District, 2014



¹Includes degree level and above.

[Download in excel](#)

NUTS III labour market structure

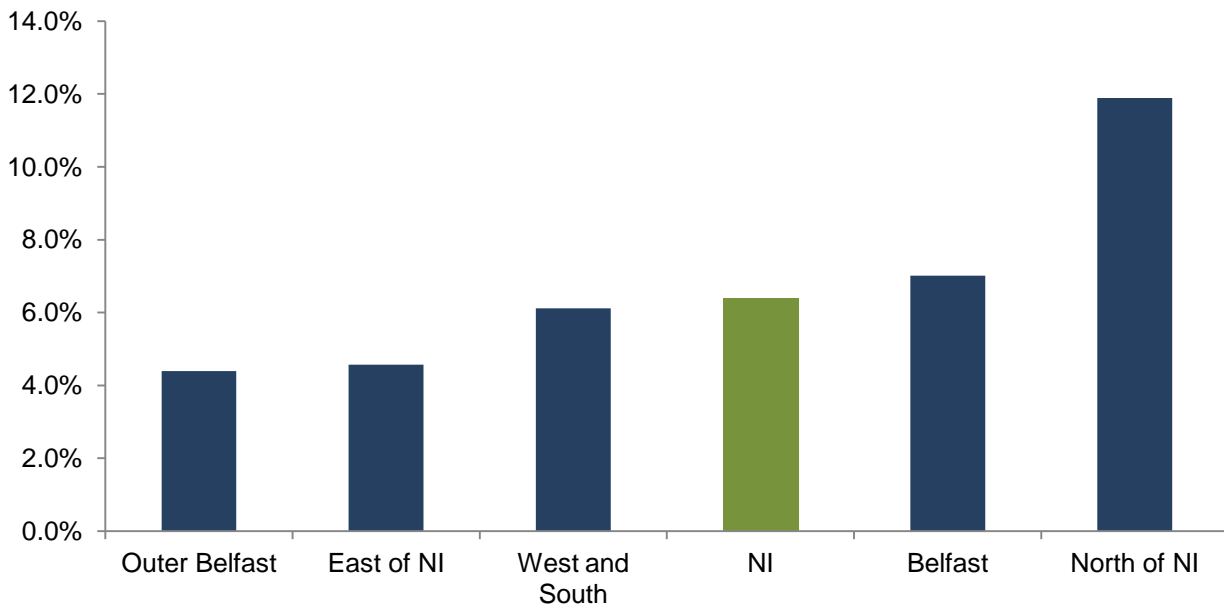
As many of the figures at council level fall below the 6,000 (grossed) suppression threshold, LGDs have been aggregated into NUTS III regions as shown on page 15. NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) are the European Office for Statistics (Eurostat) classification of sub-national areas for statistical purposes in the European Union, which facilitate socio-economic analyses of regions. Further detail on the NUTS III area can be accessed via the Index of tables section on Page 17.

Unemployment

In 2014, the unemployment rate (16+) was:

- 6.4% for Northern Ireland as a whole - this was down over the year from 7.4% in 2013.
- highest in the North of NI at 11.9% which was almost eight percentage points higher than the lowest rate for Outer Belfast (4.4%) – see figure 6.

Figure 6: Unemployment rate (16+) by NUTS III area, 2014



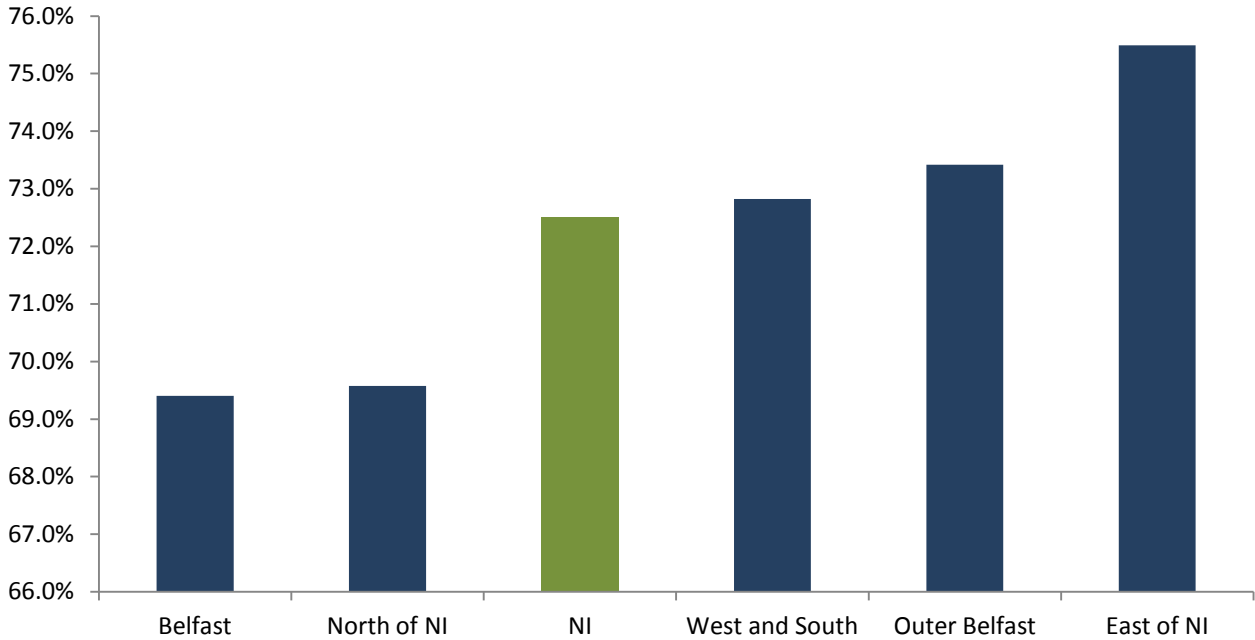
[Download in excel](#)

Economic activity

Figure 7 shows that:

- the overall NI working age activity rate for 2014 was 72.5%, however there was a difference across the NUTS III regions in terms of labour market participation.
- Belfast (69.4%) had the lowest working age activity rate, six percentage points lower than the highest rate, which was recorded in East of NI (75.5%).

Figure 7: Economic activity rate (16-64) by NUTS III area, 2014



[Download in excel](#)

Economic inactivity

There were also regional differences in the breakdown of the economically inactive population of working age in NI in 2014, with:

- 77.4% of the inactive persons in West and South neither wanting nor seeking work, compared to 88.9% in Outer Belfast.
- 83.6% of the working age economically inactive population in NI overall (268,000 persons) neither wanting nor seeking work.

Employment by industry

Table 2 below shows the industry breakdown of those aged 16-64 in employment and highlights:

- the importance of public services (which incorporates public administration, health and education) as a source of employment in NI, accounting for over one-third (34.5%) of all persons in employment in NI.
- that public services represent the major employment industry for each of the NUTS III regions with its impact varying from 38.2% of total employment in Outer Belfast to 30.0% in the West & South of NI.
- the other major industries in terms of NI employment were distribution, hotels & restaurants (18.9%), banking & finance (11.2%) and manufacturing (10.9%).
- that although the NI manufacturing sector has been in decline for some years, it is still a particularly important source of employment for certain areas, with 14.9% of those in employment from the West & South of NI working in the manufacturing sector.
- that while the agriculture sector is a relatively small employer for NI as a whole (3.0% of total employment) it accounts for 7.0% of the employed in the West & South of NI.
- that Belfast (14.9%) and Outer Belfast (14.4%) have the highest proportion of employment in the banking and finance sector compared to other regions (NI average = 11.2%).

Table 2: Percentage of total employed (16-64) by industry and NUTS III area, 2014

Industry Sector	Belfast (%)	Outer Belfast (%)	East of NI (%)	North of NI (%)	West & South of NI (%)	Northern Ireland (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	*	*	*	*	7.0	3.0
Energy and water	*	*	*	*	*	1.6
Manufacturing	6.2	7.8	13.9	8.6	14.9	10.9
Construction	*	5.9	10.4	9.4	13.0	8.8
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	21.7	21.2	16.9	20.5	15.9	18.9
Transport and communication	7.9	4.7	6.4	6.1	4.8	5.8
Banking and finance	14.9	14.4	9.8	10.7	7.8	11.2
Public admin, education and health	37.5	38.2	33.8	34.4	30.0	34.5
Other services	7.1	5.4	5.0	*	4.8	5.3
Total (000's)	118	172	196	114	181	782

* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate.
Total excludes those who did not state industry.

[Download in excel](#)

Employment by occupation

Table 3 below shows that:

- the largest occupational group for NI as a whole was the professional occupations group at 14.9% of the total in employment. Professional occupations comprise science, research, engineering & technology professionals, health professionals, teaching and educational professionals and business media and public service professionals.
- professional occupations formed a higher proportion of the total workforce in Belfast (19.6%) and Outer Belfast (17.5%), compared to 10.8% of people in the North of NI working in these occupations.
- the skilled trade occupations had a higher proportion in West and South of NI (19.5%) and North of NI (17.7%) compared to Outer Belfast (11.3%) and Belfast (7.7%).

Table 3: Percentage of total employed (16-64) by occupation and NUTS III area, 2014

Occupation	Belfast (%)	Outer Belfast (%)	East of NI (%)	North of NI (%)	West & South of NI (%)	Northern Ireland (%)
1 - Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	11.7	12.4	12.1	9.3	10.0	11.2
2 - Professional Occupations	19.6	17.5	13.1	10.8	14.0	14.9
3 - Associate professional and Technical Occupations	12.4	12.0	13.3	11.0	9.5	11.7
4 - Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	13.2	14.4	11.9	11.5	9.6	12.1
5 - Skilled Trades Occupations	7.7	11.3	13.3	17.7	19.5	14.1
6 - Caring Leisure and Other Service Occupations	10.3	7.7	9.9	11.4	10.4	9.8
7 - Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8.6	8.4	5.7	7.5	6.1	7.1
8 - Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	*	5.4	9.7	8.3	8.7	7.4
9 - Elementary Occupations	12.9	10.9	10.9	12.2	12.2	11.7
Total (000's)	119	171	196	114	181	783

* Sample size too small to provide a reliable estimate.

Figures are based on the respondent's main job and exclude those who did not state occupation.

[Download in excel](#)

Socio-economic classification

Among the working age population in NI:

- the largest socio-economic classification was those that have never worked, were unemployed or unclassified, with this group accounting for one-quarter (25.3%) of the NI population as a whole.
- North of NI (30.6%) recorded the largest proportion that have never worked, were unemployed or unclassified and Outer Belfast (22.1%) the lowest.
- 30.4% of the population in Outer Belfast were in the managerial and professional classifications, compared to just 21.4% in the North of NI.

Qualification levels

The proportion of the working age population with no discernible qualifications:

- was 17.4% for Northern Ireland in 2014.
- varied by region, with 20.9% of those from the North of NI having no qualifications, compared with 12.8% of those from Outer Belfast.

Young people (16-24) who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Table 4 below shows that:

- 16.1% of 16-24 year olds in Northern Ireland were NEET.
- the East of NI had the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds who were NEET (17.8%).

Table 4: Young people (16-24) who are NEET by NUTS III area, 2014

	16-24 NEET		Confidence interval (000's)	Lower Limit (000's)	Upper Limit (000's)
	Total (000's)	Rate (%)			
Belfast	7	17.0	3	4	9
Outer Belfast ¹	5	13.8	2	3	8
East NI	8	17.8	3	5	11
North NI	7	16.7	3	4	9
West & South NI	9	16.8	3	6	11
Northern Ireland	35	16.1	6	29	40

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Missing values are apportioned by single year of age for Northern Ireland and by age band for NUTS III area.

¹ Based on ≤15 respondents.

Background

The Labour Force Survey Annual Local Area Database is derived from four consecutive quarters of the regular LFS database. Each quarter's LFS sample of around 2,000 households in NI is made up of 5 waves each of just over 400 private households, with a total of around 5,000 individuals included. Individuals in each wave are interviewed in five successive quarters, such that in any quarter one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one receiving their fifth and final interview. The annual database is created by selecting the relevant cases from each quarter and combining them to create an annual dataset of unique cases. Over a period of four quarters, eight non-overlapping waves are interviewed. Selecting waves one and five allows the maximum number of respondents over a one-year period to be included. The resulting sample size is approximately 3,000 households, 7,500 individuals, for NI, where each household is interviewed only once.

The LFS collects information from a sample of the population living in households. To convert this information to give estimates for the entire population the data must be grossed.

This is achieved by creating grossing factors often referred to as weights, that can be applied to each sampled individual so that grossed results match published population data in terms of age distribution, sex and region of residence. Mid year population estimates and projections are used to ensure that the LFS is grossed to the most up to date population data available. The range of variables on the LADB is restricted in order to protect the confidentiality of respondents, and minimise the potential for identification of individual responders to the survey.

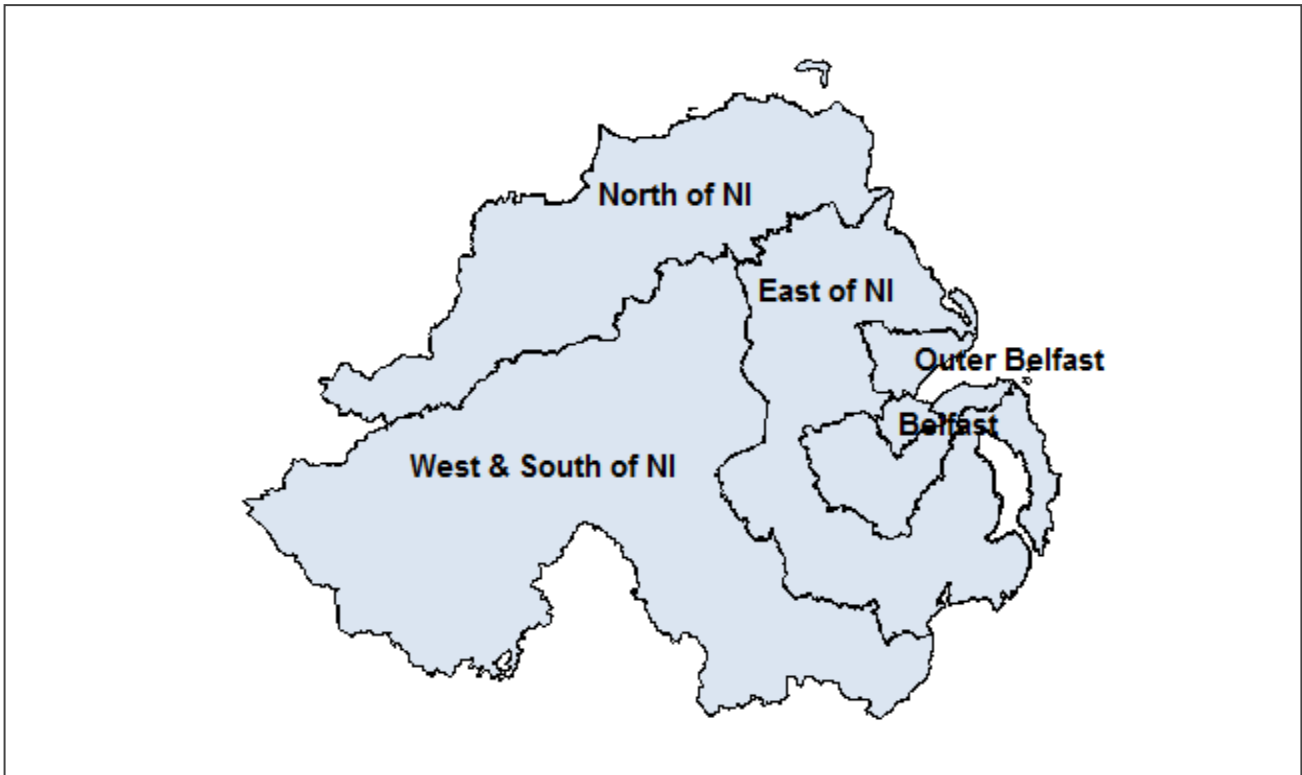
Precision of estimates

The LFS is a sample survey and therefore the estimates are subject to sampling variability. The Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA) does not publish estimates below 6,000 (grossed) from the LADB as it is not deemed sufficiently reliable for quotation. In general, the smaller the estimate, the greater the margin of error as a proportion of the estimate.

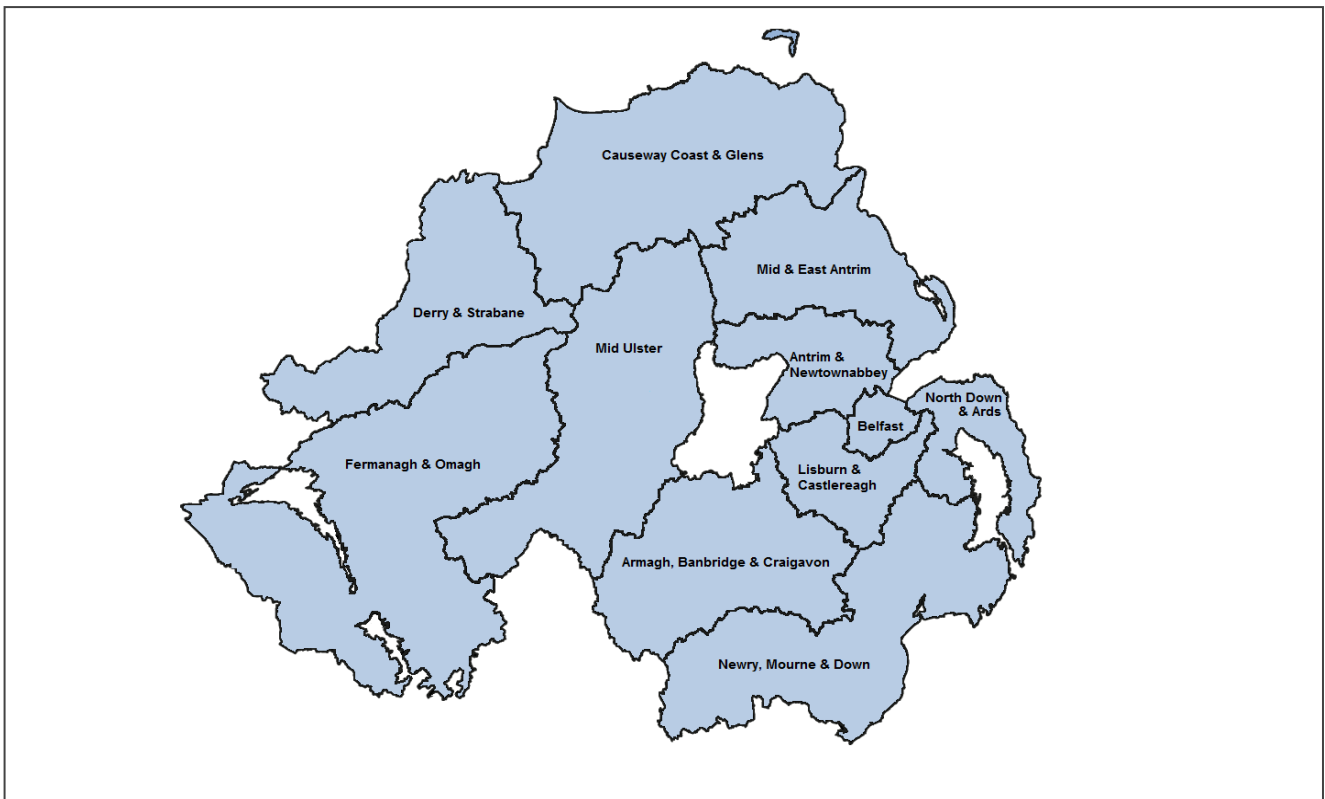
Local areas

The local areas currently available are the new local government districts (LGD2014), however as some of the figures at this level fall below the 6,000 (grossed) suppression threshold some data are presented by NUTS III regions as shown overleaf. NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) is the European Commission's classification of sub-national areas for statistical purposes, which facilitate socio-economic analyses of regions.

NUTS III regions



Northern Ireland Local Government District (LGD2014) areas



LFS definitions

In employment

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

Employment rate

The percentage of people of a specified age who are in employment.

Employees/self-employed

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

Full-time/part-time

The classification of employees, self-employed, those on government work-related training programmes and unpaid workers in their main job as full-time or part-time is on the basis of self-assessment. People on government-supported training and employment programmes who are at college in the survey reference week are classified as part-time.

Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.

Unemployment rate

The percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

Industry

The classification of respondents' industry of employment is based on the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC07).

Occupation

The classification of respondents' occupations is based on the SOC2010 (Standard Occupational Classification) codes adopted since January – March 2011.

Further Information

For further information contact:

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

Tel: (028) 9052 9668
Textphone: (028) 9052 9304
Fax: (028) 9052 9658
E-mail: andrew.mawhinney@dfpni.gov.uk

Publication now available on NISRA-ELMS web site:
www.statistics.detini.gov.uk

Annex Index of Tables

Table No.	Title
LADB 1.1	Labour market structure by Local Government District, 2014
LADB 1.2	Labour market structure by Local Government District - confidence intervals, 2014
LADB 1.3	Labour market structure (16+) by NUTS III area, 2014
LADB 1.4	Labour market structure (16+) by NUTS III area – confidence intervals, 2014
LADB 1.5	Labour market structure (16-64) by NUTS III area, 2014
LADB 1.6	Labour market structure (16-64) by NUTS III area – confidence intervals, 2014
LADB 1.7	Percentage of total employed (16-64) by industry and NUTS III area, 2014
LADB 1.8	Percentage of total employed (16-64) by occupation and NUTS III area, 2014
LADB 1.9	Young people (16-24) who are NEET by NUTSiii region, 2014
LADB 1.10	Percentage of 16-64 population by socio-economic classification and NUTS III area, 2014
LADB 1.11	Percentage of 16-64 population by highest level of education attained and NUTS III area, 2014