

Women in Northern Ireland

September 2014

Northern Ireland
Statistics & Research
Agency

Women in Northern Ireland

September 2014

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Contents

1

Executive Summary.
Pages 1-3

2

Women in the Labour
Force.
Pages 4-5

3

Women in
Employment.
Pages 6-11

4

Women in
Unemployment.
Pages 12-14

5

Economic Inactivity.
Pages 15-16

6

Childcare provision
and Income support.
Pages 17-18

7

Educational
Standards.
Pages 19-21

8

Politics and Public
life.
Page 22

9

Women into
Business
Pages 23

10

Technical Notes
Pages 24-25

Executive Summary

1

All data in this publication is taken from the Labour Force Survey unless otherwise sourced.

Employment

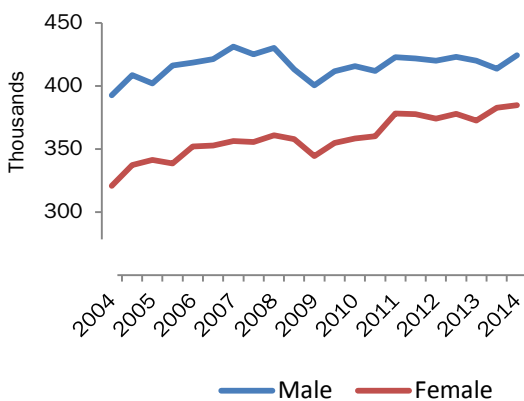
Until the recent economic downturn, women in Northern Ireland (NI) had been experiencing historically high levels of employment – latest figures show that there were an estimated 385,000 women employed in the period April - June 2014. Despite the recent economic downturn, the number of women in employment (16+) has increased by an estimated 37% when compared with the figure for 1995.

However, the NI employment rate for those females aged 16-64, (63.9%) is 4.1 percentage points lower than the rate in Great Britain (GB) (68.0%).

The increase in the female 16-64 employment rate during the last year (1.9 percentage points) is similar to the corresponding increase in the male rate (2.1 percentage points to 72.8%). In contrast, the female employment rate in GB showed a lower level of increase over the year (1.3 percentage points), while their male counterparts increased by slightly more (1.7 percentage points unchanged).

Women in NI comprise 47.0% of those aged 16-64 currently in employment, similar to the rate of 46.6% in GB.

**Number in Employment (16+)
2004-2014 (Quarter 2)
Figure 1**



There are notable gender differences in employment rates and in the nature of employment between the sexes in NI. 72.8% of working age males are in employment compared with 63.9% of females. This represents a narrowing of the gap between female employment rates and those of males compared to five years ago (58.9% for females and 68.9% for males).

Earnings (source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

The median gross weekly wage for full-time females at April 2013 in NI was £441.5 while for full-time males the figure was £477.4. The ratio between male and female full-time median hourly earnings excluding overtime has increased to 100.7% (from 100.0% in 2012). Female full-time hourly earnings as a percentage of male hourly earnings continue to be higher in NI (100.7%), compared to the UK as a whole (90.0%).

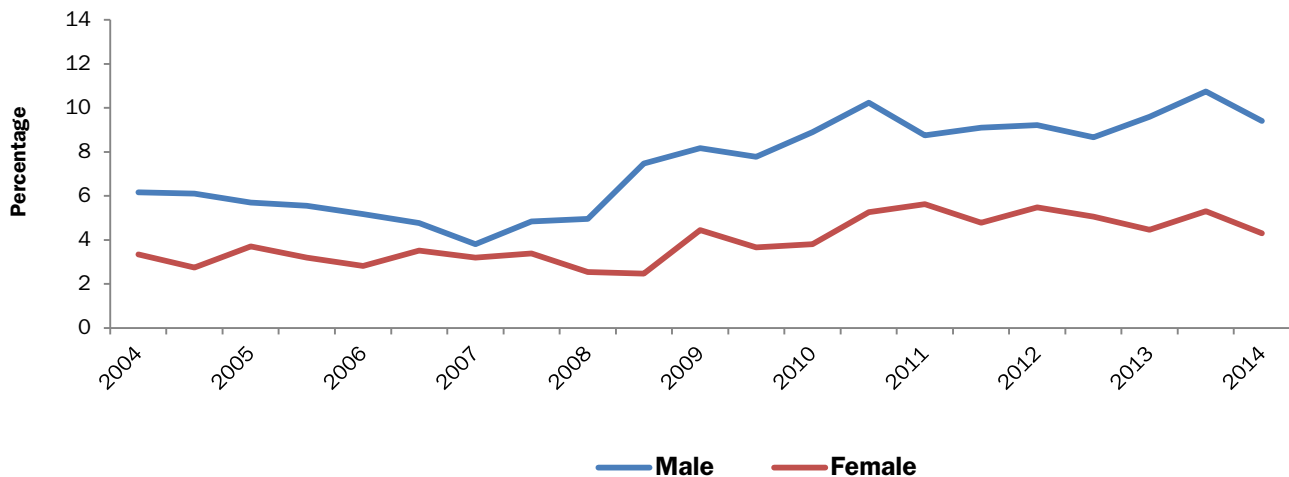
Unemployment

An estimated 17,000 women were unemployed in NI at April - June 2014 with an associated unemployment rate of 4.3%. The male unemployment rate is 8.4% and is 4.1 percentage points above the female unemployment rate. The gap between male and female unemployment rates has increased from the same period five years ago when there was a 3.7 percentage point difference.

In July 2014, 15,800 females in Northern Ireland were claiming unemployment related benefits - this represents a decrease of 2,600 during the last year. However, the number of female claimants continues to be considerably smaller than the number of male claimants (36,900). [Source: Claimant Count]

NI Unemployment rates (16+) 2004-2014 (Quarter 2)

Figure 2



Economic Activity

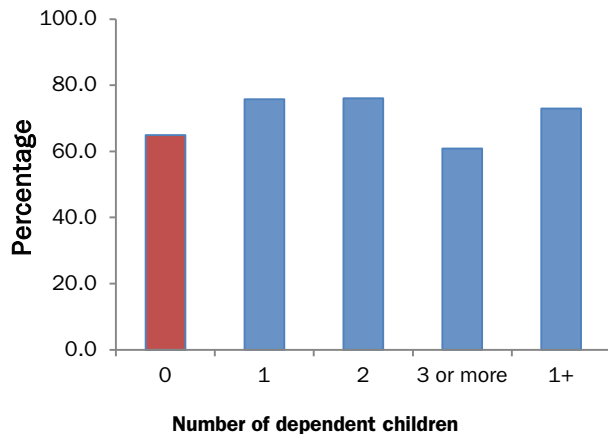
In Northern Ireland, a total of 402,000 women were economically active in April - June 2014 – an increase of 12,000 during the last year. The female working age economic activity rate here of 66.8% was 5.6 percentage points lower than that in GB (72.4%). At 66.8% the working age economic activity rate for females was 12.9 percentage points lower than that for NI males (79.8%). The difference in economic activity rate between males and females is less than that of five years ago when the difference was 13.5 percentage points.

Economic Inactivity

At April - June 2014 there were 194,000 women, aged 16-64, who were economically inactive in Northern Ireland, with a resulting inactivity rate of 33.2% (27.6% in GB). Fifteen percent of these economically inactive women (30,000) wanted a job (24% in GB), but did not satisfy the criteria of availability for work and actively seeking work to be classified as unemployed.

NI Economic activity Rate (Working age) by No. of Dependent Children, April - June 2014

Figure 3

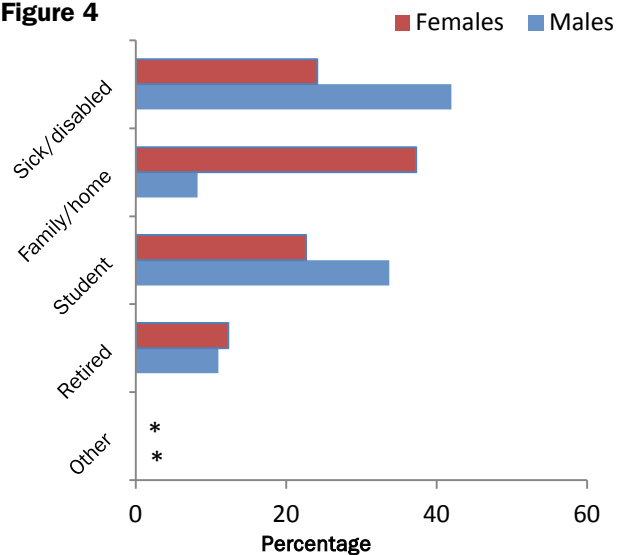


The economic activity rate for women¹, aged 16 – 64, with dependent children is 72.9%, compared with 65.0% for those without children.

¹ Analysis is based on the head or partner of the head of family unit only. See Section 2 for details.

Reasons for Economic Inactivity, NI (16-64), April - June 2014

Figure 4



* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate

Childcare provision (source: Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety)

In 2013 there were 55,508 day-care places for children aged under twelve in Northern Ireland. This was 13% higher than the level recorded in 2003.

Educational Standards (source: Department of Education)

In 2012/13 girls left school with higher levels of academic qualifications than boys. 83% of girls left school with at least 5 GCSE grades A*-C compared with 75% of boys. Similarly, 63% of girls left school with two or more A-levels compared to 47% of boys.

Politics and Public Life (source: Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister)

Women tend to be under represented in politics and public life. Approximately one in five MLA's in Northern Ireland are women and only 25% of councillors in local government districts are women. Northern Ireland has 4 elected female MPs, and 2 female MEPs.

Women in Business (source: Invest NI)

In 2013 the female level of entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland was 2.2% compared to 8.2% for males.

Women in the Labour Force

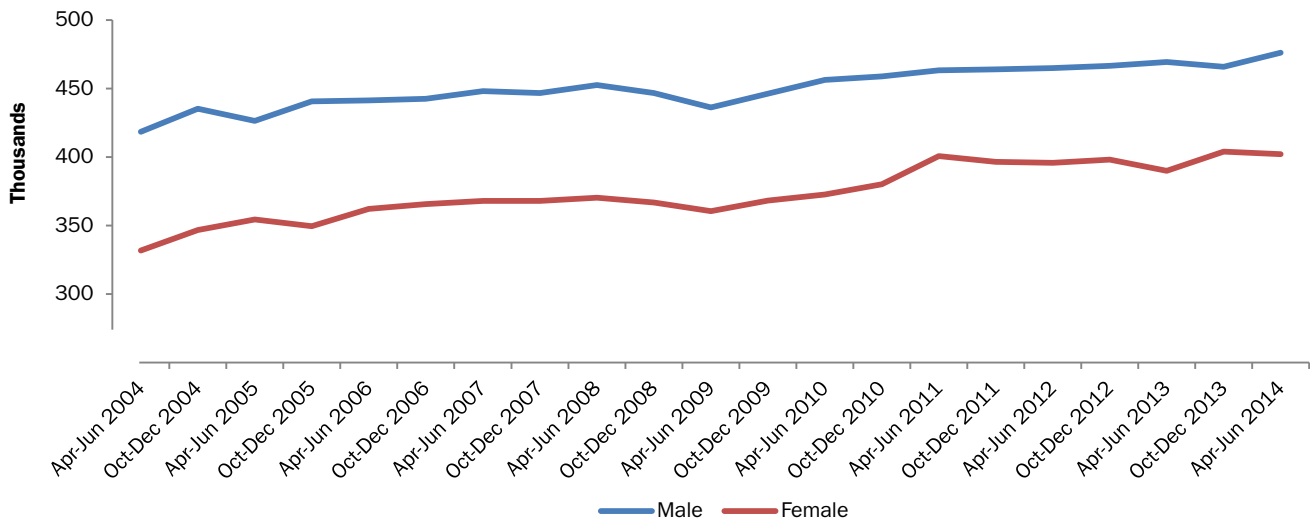
2

Women in the labour force (source: Labour Force Survey)

Those in employment or unemployed are termed economically active and together make up the labour force. (See Section 10 for full definitions). At April-June 2014;

- An estimated 402,000 women (16+) are economically active. This compares with 476,000 men. [14.7m women and 17.0m men in GB.]
- For women the number of economically active has increased by 34.5% from 1995 compared with a 17.5% increase for males. [This compares to an increase in GB of 20.4% for females and an increase of 11.6% for males.]
- Married women make up 27% of the labour force, down 0.9 percentage points since 1995. [In GB, 23% in 2014 compared with 27% in 1995].

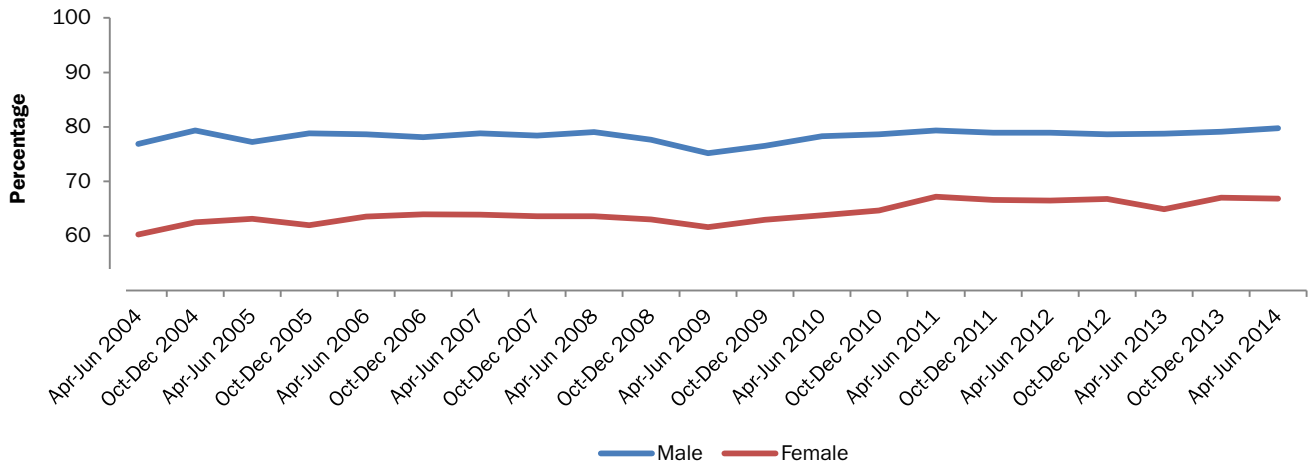
Economic Activity (16+) 2004-2014 Figure 5



- For women aged 16-64, the activity rate is 67% compared to 80% for men aged 16-64. [72% compared to 83% in GB.]
- The economic activity rate for those women aged 16 – 64, has increased by 5.2 percentage points over the last 5 years in NI and increased by 1.9 percentage points over the last year.
- The economic activity rate for men has increased by 4.6 percentage points over the last 5 years and increased by 1.0 percentage points over the last year.

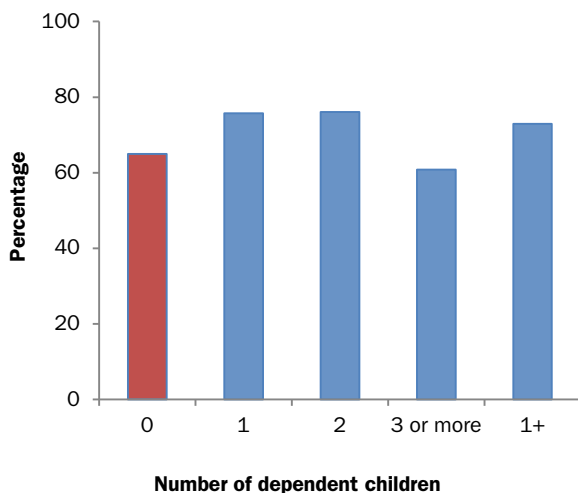
Economic Activity Rates (working Age) 2004-2014

Figure 6

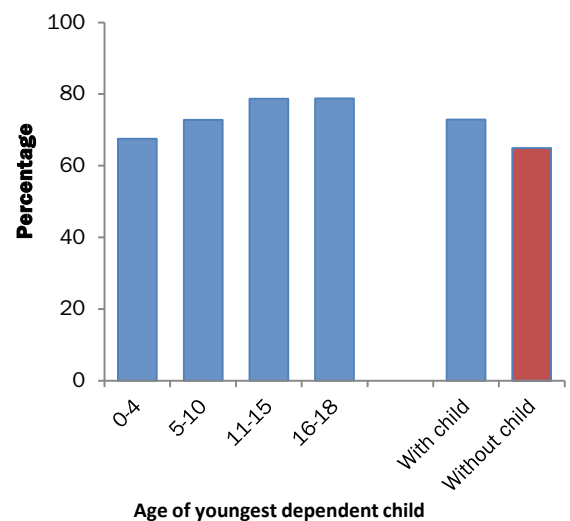


- The economic activity rate for women, aged 16 – 64, with dependent children is 72.9%, compared with 65.0% for those without children. [73.7% and 73.4% in GB.]
- The economic activity rate is lower for women with three or more dependent children (60.8%) than those with one or two dependent children, which are 75.7% and 76.1% respectively.
- Economic activity rates for female heads of family were found to be influenced by the age of the youngest dependent child. When the youngest dependent child was aged 0-4 the activity rate (67.5%) was 11.3 percentage points lower than the rate for the 16-18 (78.8%) age group. [In GB the rates are 64.4% and 84.0% respectively.]

Economic Activity rate¹ (16-64) by No. of dependent children, October - December 2013
Figure 7



Economic Activity rates (16-64) by age of youngest dependent child, October - December 2013
Figure 8



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

Women in Employment

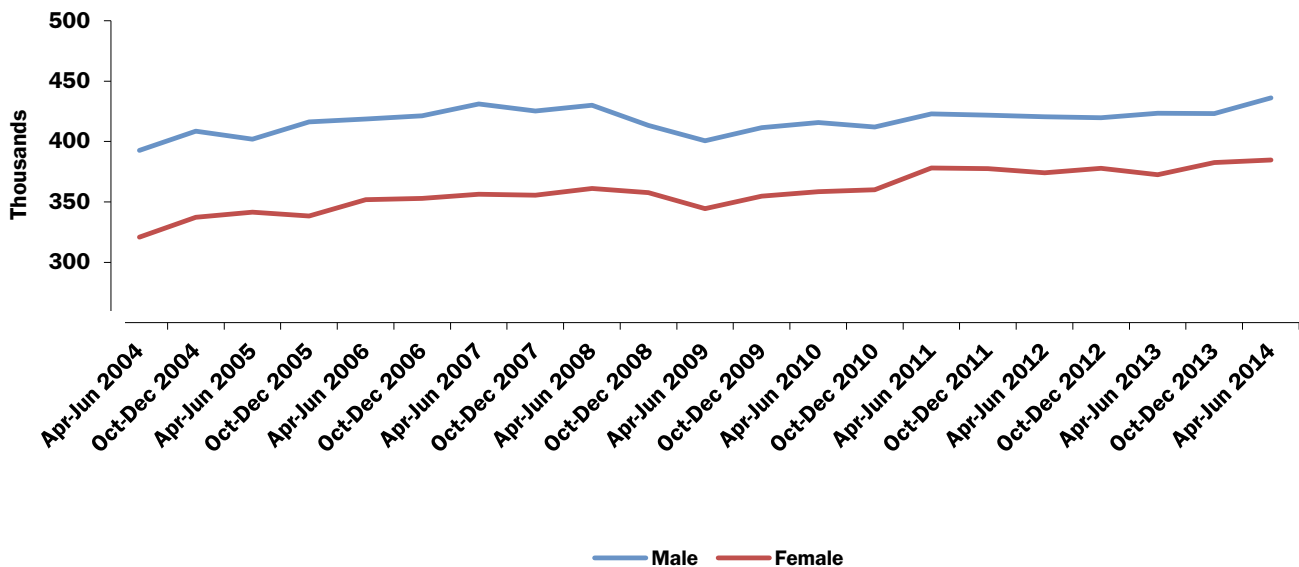
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Women in Employment (sources: Labour Force Survey, Quarterly Employment Survey and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

- Despite the recent fall in employment during the economic downturn, the number of women in employment (16+) has increased by an estimated 37% from 280,000 in 1995 to 385,000 in April - June 2014. This compares with an increase of 25% for men. [In GB the increase was 21% for women and 16% for men.]

- 47% of those currently in employment are women, compared to 45% in 1995. [46% and 45% respectively in GB.]
- The 385,000 women in employment consist of 354,000 employees (92%), 26,000 self-employed (7%) and a small number on government training and employment schemes or unpaid family workers. In GB 89% of women in employment are employees, 10% are self-employed with less than 1% on government training and employment schemes or unpaid family workers.

Number in Employment (16+) 2004-2014
Figure 9

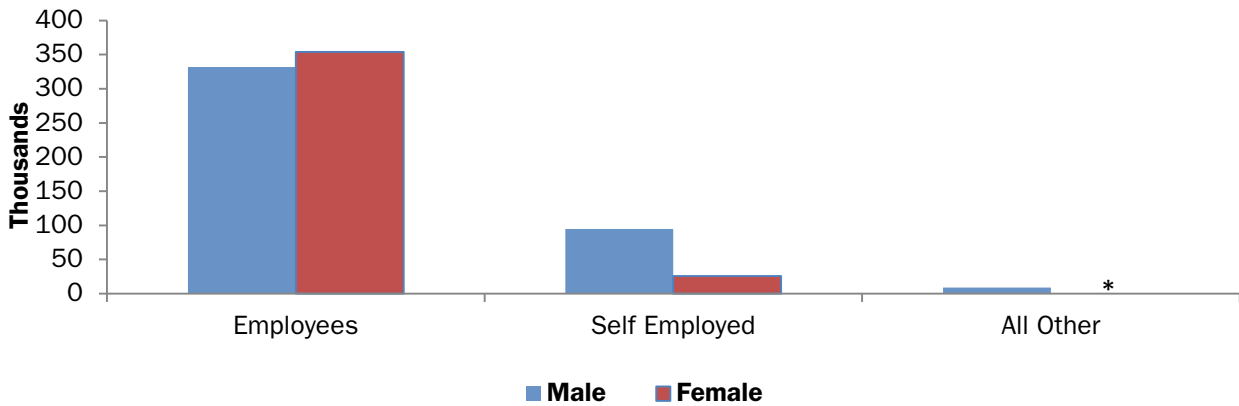


- The employment rate for women aged 16 to 64 has increased by 5.0 percentage points over the last 5 years and increased by 1.9 percentage points over the last year to 63.9%. The corresponding male rate (72.8%) increased by 3.9 percentage points over the last 5 years, and by 2.1 percentage points over the last year.

- The working age employment rate for women in GB has increased by 2.2 percentage points over the last 5 years and increased by 1.3 over the last year to 68.0%. The corresponding male rate (78.0%) increased by 2.1 percentage points over the last 5 years and by 1.7 percentage points over the year to April – June 2014.

Types of Employment, April - June 2014

Figure 10

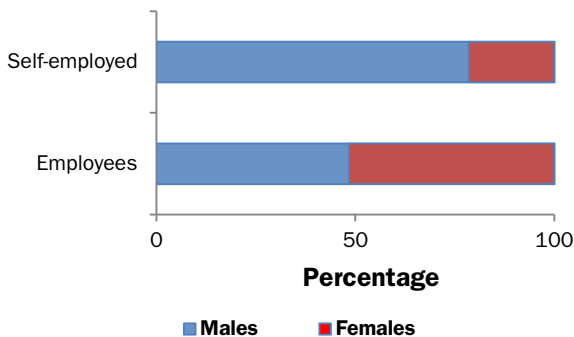


* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate

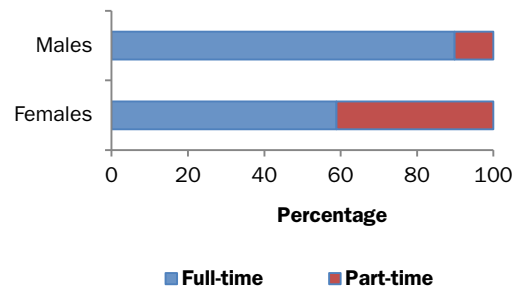
- Women account for 52% of all employees, but only 22% of the total self-employed. [In GB the figures are 49% and 32% respectively.]
- Employer based surveys estimate that 51.9% of all employee jobs are filled by women. (Source June 2014 Quarterly Employment Survey).

[In GB increases have been 13% for part-time and 25% for full-time female employees.]

Types of Employment by gender, April - June 2014
Figure 11

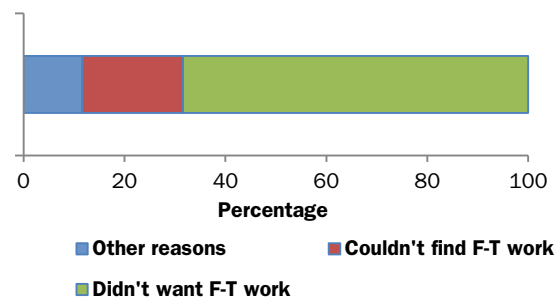


Full-time/Part-time split of Employees, April - June 2014
Figure 12



- 74% of female employees who work part-time say they do not want a full-time job. [74% of females in GB.]

Reason for Female Employees working part-time, April - June 2014
Figure 13

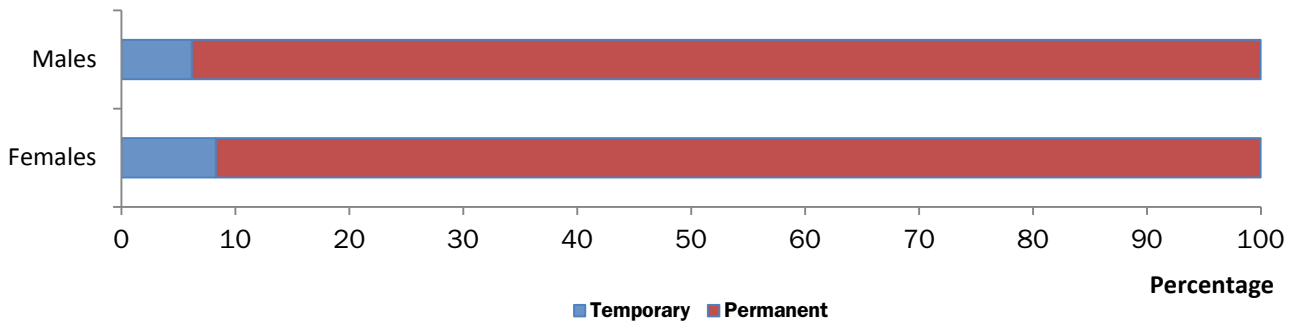


"Other reasons" comprise being a student, illness or disability.

Working Patterns of Women

- 5% of women in employment work at or from home. [11% in GB.]
- 41% of female employees work part-time compared to 10% of male employees. [41% compared to 12% in GB.]
- 81% of part-time employees are women. [77% in GB.]
- The number of female part-time employees is up 46% since 1995, and the number of female full-time employees rose by 38%.

Permanent/Temporary Employees, April - June 2014
Figure 14

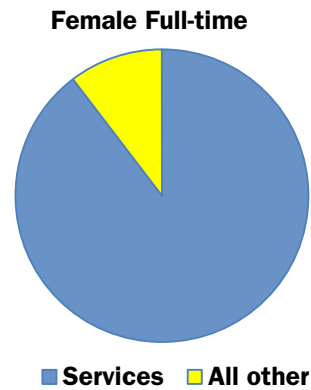


- 8.3% of female and 6.2% of male employees are temporary. [In GB 6.9% of females and 5.8% of males are temporary.]
- 44% of female employees and 15% of male employees are not in full-time permanent jobs. [44% and 15% in GB.]

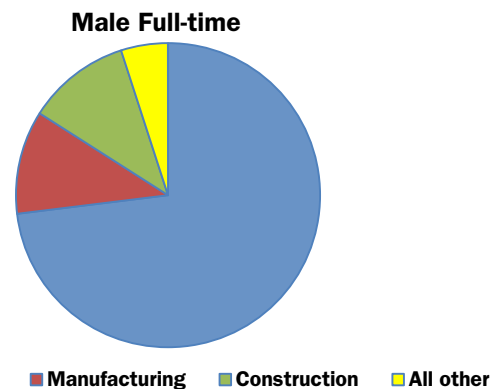
Industrial and Occupational Distribution of Women in Employment

- 93% of female employees (97% for part-time and 90% for full-time) work in the service sector. This compares with 68% for male employees. [In GB 91% of female employees (95% for part-time and 89% for full-time) work in the service sector.]
- Of all female full-time employees, 57% are employed in the public administration, education and health service sectors. This compares with 25% of males. [In GB 49% for females and 19% for males.]
- The other main work areas for female full-time employees in the Service sector are distribution, hotel & restaurants (13%) and banking & finance services (13%). For males the figures are 15% and 13% respectively. [In GB, 17% for females and 18% for males in banking & finance services. For distribution, hotel & restaurants, the figures were 15% for females and 16% for males].
- 8% of female full-time employees work in manufacturing compared to 19% of men. [In GB 7% for females and 18% for males.]

Employees by Industry Sector, April - June 2014
Figure 15



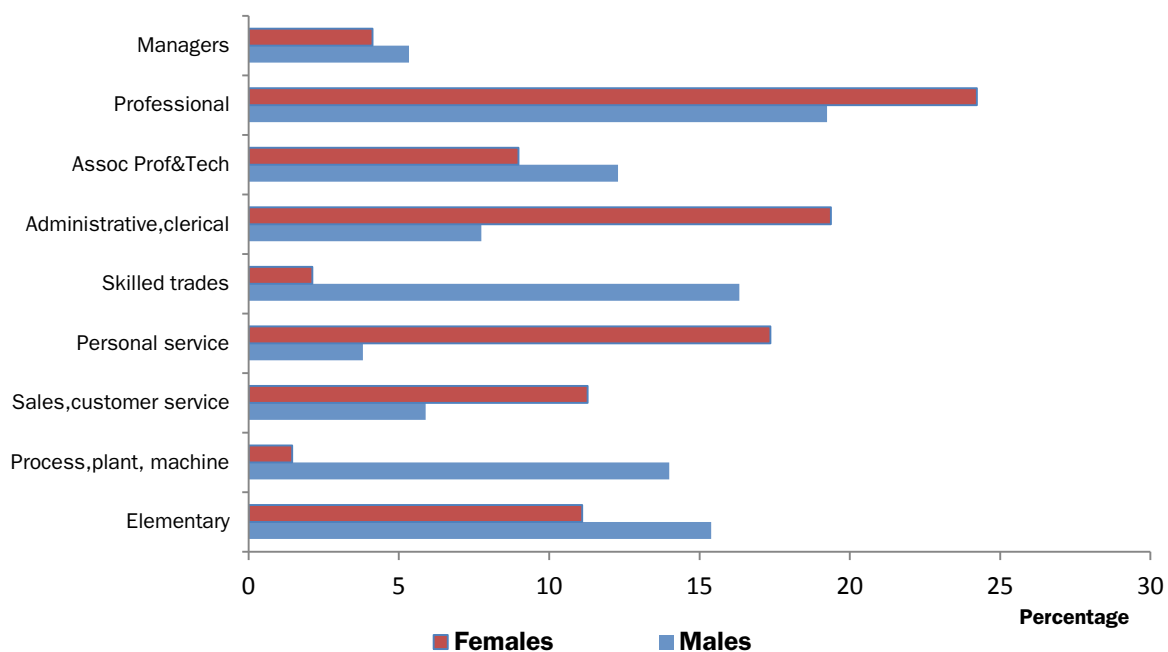
“All other” comprises Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Energy and water, Construction and Manufacturing.



“All other” comprises Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Energy and water.

Occupation of male and female employees, April - June 2014

Figure 16



- 45% of all managers and/or senior officials are women. [34% in GB.]
- 73% of all those employed in administrative and secretarial occupations are women. [76% in GB.]
- 4% of female employees are managers and/or senior officials, compared with 5% of men. [In GB 6% of women and 12% of men.]
- 19% of female employees are in administrative and secretarial occupations, compared with 8% of men. [In GB 18% of women and 6% of men.]

Earnings (source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – ASHE)

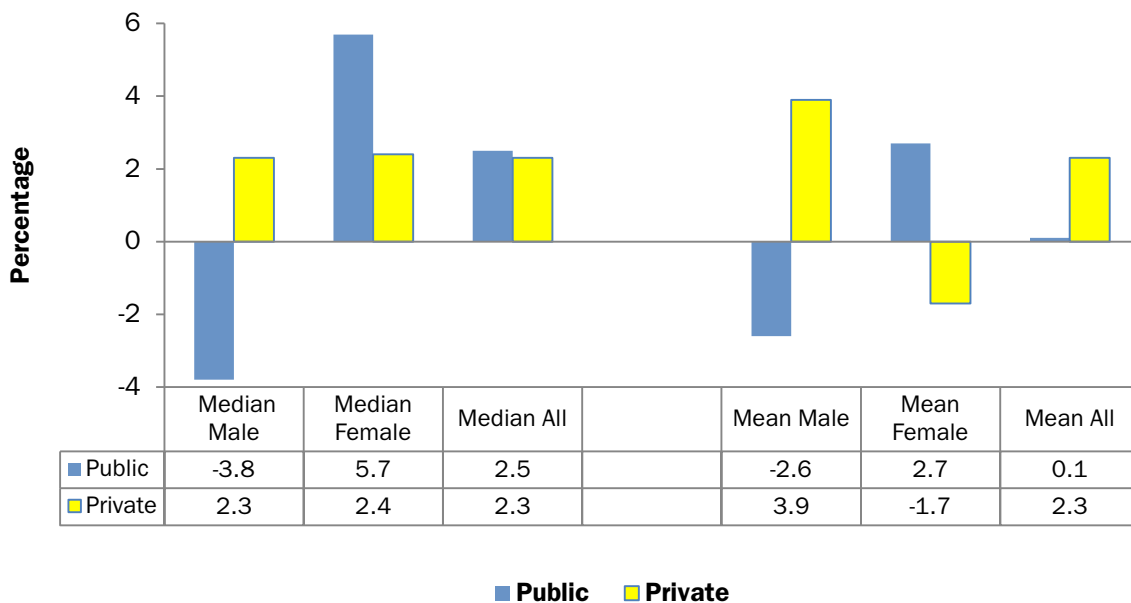
Comparison of Male/Female Earnings

- The median gross weekly wage for full-time females at April 2013 in NI was £441.5 while for full-time males the figure was £477.4.
- The ratio of female to male full-time median hourly earnings excluding overtime has increased slightly to 100.7% (from 100.0% in 2012), which represents a marginal widening of the full-time gender pay gap.
- Female full-time hourly earnings as a percentage of male hourly earnings continue to be higher in NI (100.7%) than in the UK as a whole (90.0%).

Comparison of Public/Private Sector Earnings

- In NI, median gross weekly earnings for women working full-time were higher in the public sector (£590.6) than in the private sector (£331.1).
- Earnings of full-time female employees in the public sector increased over the year (5.7%) while earnings in the private sector saw a smaller increase over the year (2.4%).
- When the mean is used instead of the median as a measure of the average, the change is an increase of 2.7% in the public sector compared to a 1.7% decrease in the private sector.

Percentage Increases/Decreases in Median and Mean Gross Weekly Earnings for Full-time Employees between April 2012 and 2013
Figure 17



Median Gross Weekly Pay by Occupation

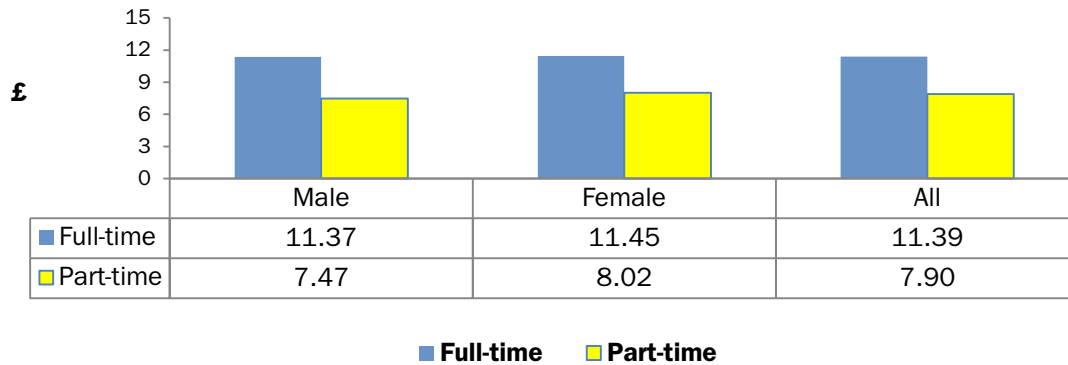
Average Full Time Gross weekly Earnings by Occupational group in NI, April 2013
Figure 18



Full-time/Part-time Comparisons of hourly rate excluding overtime

- Median female hourly earnings excluding overtime of part-time workers were 70.0% of full-time workers.

Median Gross Hourly Earnings excluding overtime by full/part-time and gender in NI, April 2013
Figure 19



Women in Unemployment

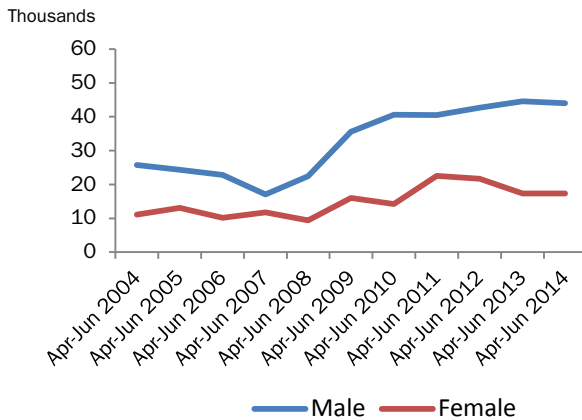
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WOMEN IN UNEMPLOYMENT (sources: Labour Force Survey and Claimant Count)

The Labour Force Survey defines unemployed persons as persons without a job, who are available to start work within two weeks and have either looked for work in the previous four weeks, or, are waiting to start a job they have already obtained.

- 17,000 women (16+) are currently unemployed compared with 40,000 men. [876,000 women and 1,087,000 men in GB.]
- Since 1995 the numbers unemployed have decreased by 8% for women and by 30% for men. [In GB a increase of 6% for women and decreased by 28% for men.]

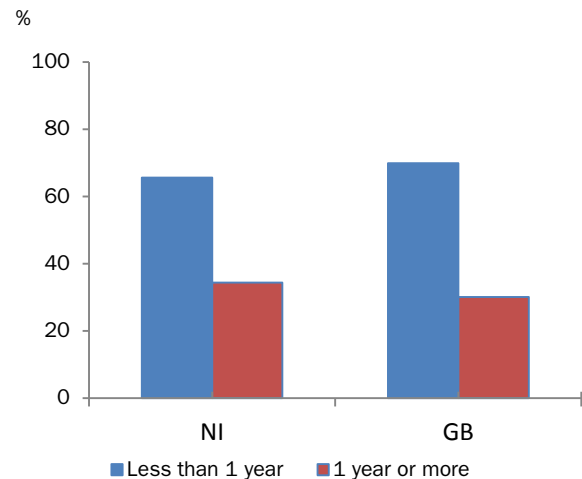
Unemployed (16+) 2004-2014 Figure 20



- The unemployment rate (16+) (unemployed as a percentage of the economically active) is 4.3% for women compared with 8.4% for men. [In GB 6.0% for women and 6.4% for men.]

- The unemployment rate for women of working age is 4.4%. [6.1% in GB.]
- Overall, 2.4% of females aged 16+ are unemployed compared to 5.7% of males. [3.4% and 4.4% in GB.]
- 30,000 people or 52% of the unemployed were long-term unemployed (one year or more) at April – June 2014. 66% of females unemployed were short-term unemployed compared with 41% of men.

Unemployment by Duration, April - June 2014 Figure 21



Claimant Count (source: Claimant Count)

Claimant Count figures are derived from records of claimants at Job and Benefit Offices (JBOs). The term claimant is used to include those who claim Jobseekers Allowance and national insurance credits. The figures include the severely disabled claimants, but exclude students seeking vacation work and the temporarily stopped. Figures used were published August 2014 and are subject to future revisions.

- Using this measure, 15,800 or 3.9% of women in the workforce claimed unemployment related benefits compared with 36,900 or 7.7% of men in July 2014. [In GB 344,600 or 2.3% for women and 610,200 or 3.5% for men.]

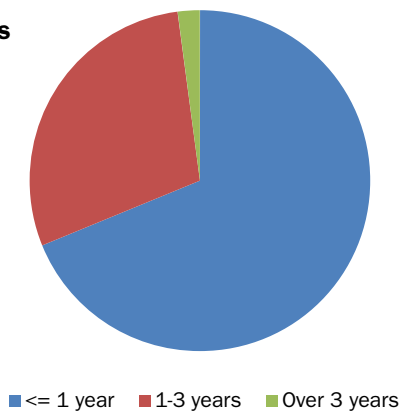
- The July 2014 women's rate of 3.9% was the lower than the previous month's rate (4.0%) and lower than the rate one year ago (4.5%). [In GB the July 2014 rate of 2.3% was lower than the previous month's rate (2.4%) and lower than the rate one year ago (3.2%).]
- In July 2014, 68.8% of women out of work and claiming unemployment related benefits had been unemployed for up to one year, 29.1% for over one year but less than three years and 2.1% for three years or more. In contrast the figures for men are 64.9%, 32.5% and 2.6% respectively. [In GB, 71.2%, 21.0% and 7.8% for women, compared with 68.8%, 19.9% and 11.3% for men.]

Table 1 Claimant Count (seasonally adjusted) July 2014

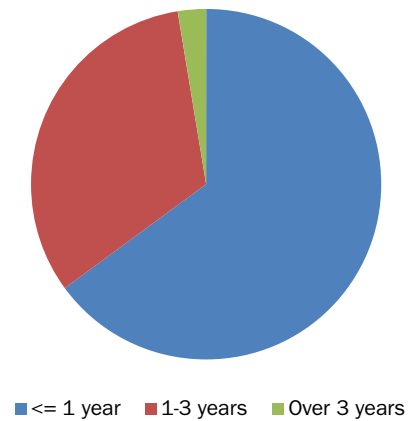
Number of Persons Claiming this month	Change since Last Month	Change since Last Year	% of Workforce			
			This Month	Last Month	Last Year	
Total	52,700	-1,400	-9,700	5.9	6.1	7.0
Males	36,900	-800	-7,100	7.7	7.9	9.2
Females	15,800	-600	-2,600	3.9	4.0	4.5

Claimant Count by Duration, July 2014 Figure 22

Females



Male

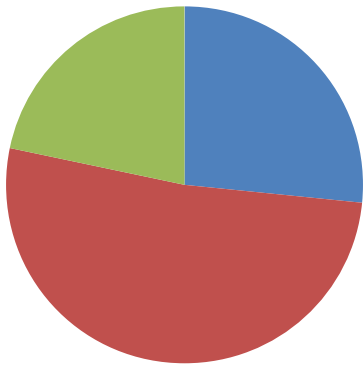


- 26.6% of women claimants are aged under 25, 51.7% are aged 25 to 49 and 21.7% are aged 50 and over. Of male claimants, 24.9% are aged under 25, 56.4% are aged 25 to 49 and 18.7% are aged 50 or over. [In GB 24.1%, 57.2% and 18.8% for women, compared with 24.2%, 56.3% and 19.5% for men.]

Claimant Count by Age group July 2014

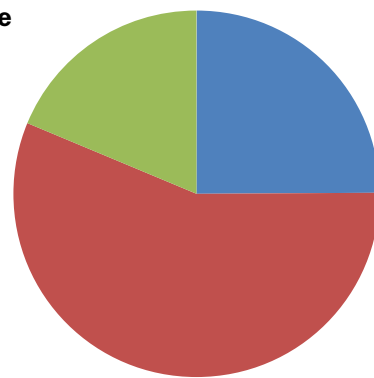
Figure 23

Female



■ < 25 ■ 25-49 ■ 50 and over

Male



■ < 25 ■ 25-49 ■ 50 and over

Note that as from July 1999, claimant count data by age and duration for all UK regions and sub-regions (down to ward level) **cover computerised claims only**. A small percentage of claims (currently around 1%) are processed clerically in Jobs and Benefits Offices and, whereas previously they had been included in age and duration tables, they are now **excluded** from the figures given. Therefore, age and duration data from July 1999 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier data.

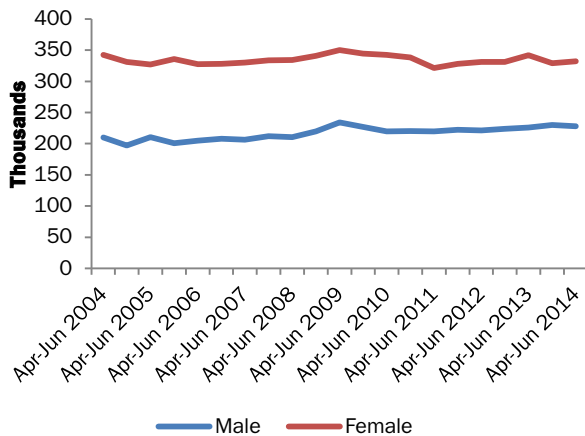
Economic Inactivity

5

Source: Labour Force Survey

The Economically Inactive are those neither in employment nor unemployed. In the period April-June 2014; 332,000 women and 223,000 men aged 16 or over are economically inactive. This compares with 330,000 women and 173,000 men in 1995 – an increase of 0.6% for women and 29.2% for men. During the same period, in GB the number of economically inactive women increased by 1% from 10.66m to 10.74m while the number of economically inactive men increased by 26% from 5.9m to 7.5m.

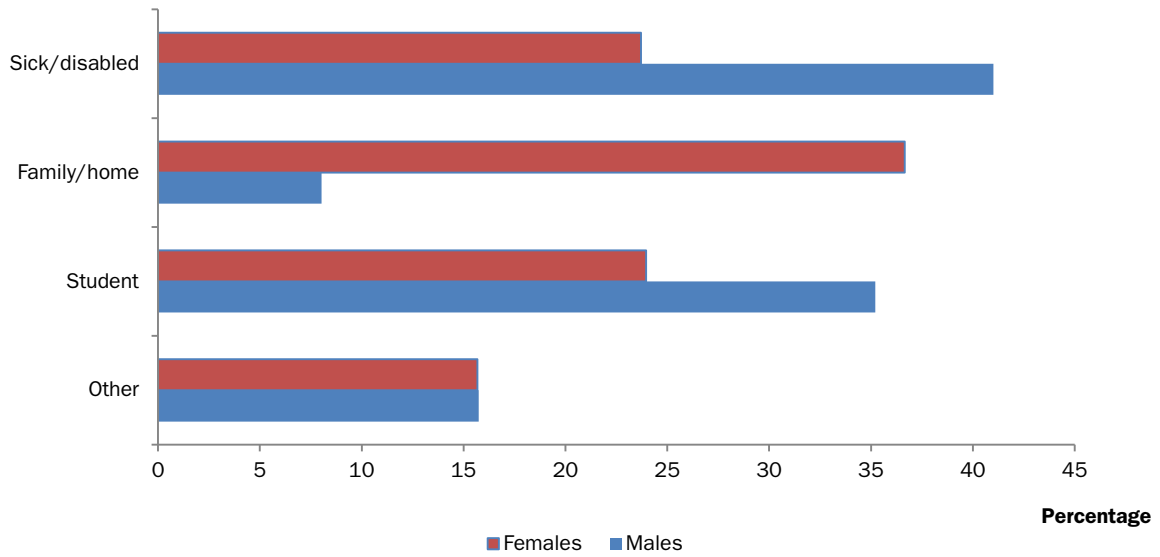
Economically Inactive (16+) 2004 - 2014
Figure 24



- The 16-64 inactivity rate for women has decreased by 5.2 percentage points over the last 5 years and decreased by 1.9 percentage points over the last year to 33.2%. The corresponding male rate (20.2%) has decreased by 4.6 percentage points over the last 5 years, and decreased by 1.0 percentage points during the last year.

- The 16-64 inactivity rate for women in GB has decreased by 2.0 percentage points over the last 5 years and over the last year by 0.5% to 27.6%. The corresponding male rate (16.6%) has decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the last 5 years and decreased by 0.2 percentage points over the year to April – June 2014.
- Of the 194,000 women, aged 16-64, who were economically inactive in NI, 15% (30,000) wanted a job, but were not seeking work in the past four weeks or were unable to start work. The remaining 85% stated that they did not want work. For economically inactive men of working age (16-64), 15% wanted a job and 85% did not want work. [In GB 76% of economically inactive women did not want work, while 24% did want work but were not seeking work in the past four weeks or were unable to start work.]
- 37% of working age inactive women were unavailable for work due to family/home commitments. The main reason given by men for inactivity was those who were students at 35%, compared to 24% for women.
- The other main reason for inactivity was those who were sick or disabled 24% of working age inactive women cited this as their reason for inactivity, compared to 41% of men.

Reason for Economic Inactivity (16-64), April - June 2014
Figure 25



“Other” includes the ‘retired’ and ‘discouraged workers’ (those not in a job who would like work and whose reason for not seeking work in the past four weeks is that they believe there are no jobs available).

Childcare Provision and Income Support

6

CHILDCARE PROVISION AND INCOME SUPPORT

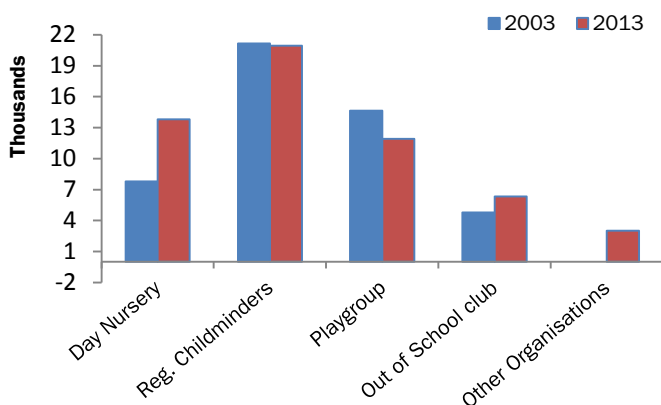
Day Care places (source: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety)

In Northern Ireland people who look after children aged under twelve years have been required to register since November 1996. The latest available figures in relation to these people are shown below together with corresponding figures for seven years earlier for comparison.

- In 2013, the overall number of day care places in NI was 55,508 – up 13% from the level recorded in 2003 (48,383).
- There were 13,827 day nursery places in 2013 – an increase of 44% from the 2003 figure of 7,798.
- There were 20,956 places with registered childminders in 2013 – down 1% from the level in 2003 (21,164).
- There were 11,911 playgroup places in NI in 2013 – down 23% from 2003 figure (14,648).
- There were 6,327 places available in ‘out of school clubs’ in 2013 – up 25% from 2003 (4,773).
- There were 2,487 places available in ‘other organisations¹’ in 2013.

Day Care places in Northern Ireland by type in 2003 and 2013

Figure 26



Childcare Charges (source: HM Revenue and Customs)

- From October 1984 help with childcare charges has been available to families receiving Family Credit, Disability Working Allowance and Housing Benefit. From October 1999 Family Credit and Disability working Allowance were replaced by Working Families’ Tax Credit (WFTC) and Disabled Person’s Tax credit (DPTC), which are administered by the Inland Revenue. From April 2003 WFTC and DPTC were incorporated within the new tax credits, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit provides support to families for children (up to 31 August after their 16th birthday) and qualifying young people (those in full-time non advanced education until their 20th birthday) for which they are responsible. Working Tax Credit tops up the earnings of families on low or moderate incomes and includes an element for childcare costs.
- In Northern Ireland at 2 September 2014, 14,500 families were receiving higher Child and Working Tax Credits awards as a result of help with childcare charges. [The corresponding figure for UK was 410,900.]
- The average weekly amount of childcare charges (capped at £175 per week for one child and £300 per week for two or more children) paid in Northern Ireland was £112 and the average weekly increase in Child and Working Tax Credits awards was £75 for families benefiting from the childcare element. [£93 and £61 in the UK respectively.]

¹Other Organisations includes crèches, summer schemes and two year old programmes

Income Support (source: Department for Social Development)

From 6 October 2003, State Pension Credit replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 and over). Where appropriate references to Income Support have been changed to Income Support/State Pension Credit to reflect this. State Pension Credit is a household benefit, and in the case of a couple, only one partner can claim State Pension Credit, and this is often the man.

From 27 October 2008, Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support on the grounds of disability for new claims.

The number of Lone Parents claiming Income Support has been affected by the Lone Parent Obligations policy changes which came into effect from 2 December 2008. Lone Parents with older children may no longer be entitled to Income Support solely on the grounds of being a Lone Parent, subject to certain exemptions and conditions.

- At May 2014, there were 84,310 women claiming Income Support/State Pension Credit, this accounted for 63.4 % of all cases. The overall number of women claiming Income Support/State Pension Credit has decreased by 8.3% since May 2013, compared with a 15.3% decrease in the number of male claimants over the same period.
- A total of 22,380 (50.8%) Income Support claimants were classified as Lone Parents, the majority of these were women (97.4%). The overall number of lone parents has increased by 0.8% or 180 lone parent claimants since May 2013.
- A higher proportion of men (70.6%) than women (66.6%) had been claiming Income Support for two years or more. The difference was particularly marked in the 25-59 years age group with 73.9% of men claiming for two years or more compared with 71.3% of women.

Please note figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Educational Standards

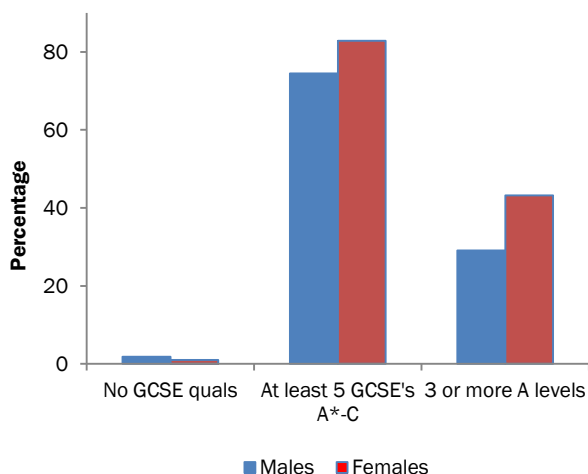
7

Educational Standards of Women (source: Department of Education)

The figures shown below are from the School Leavers survey.

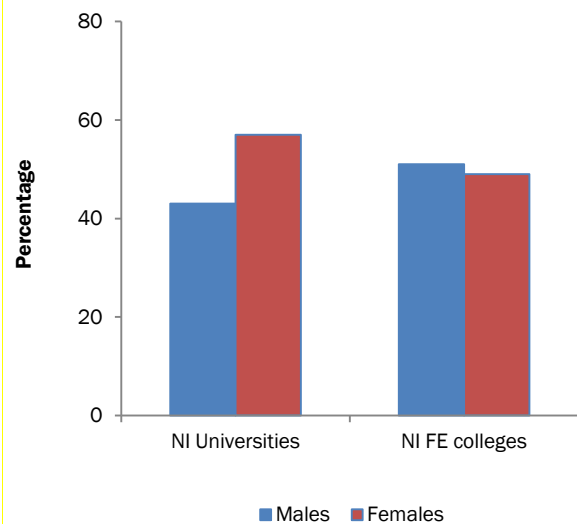
- Girls continue to outperform boys in terms of qualifications achieved. In 2012/13 43.2% of girls achieved at least three A levels A*-C or equivalent on leaving school compared with 29.1% of boys, and 63.3% of girls achieved two or more A levels A*-E or equivalent in 2012/13 compared with 47.3% of boys.
- Two thirds (67.0%) of girls achieve at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths compared with 57.5% of boys, a difference of 9.5 percentage points (2012/13).
- As in previous years, the proportion of girls leaving school with at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* - C remains higher than the proportion of boys; 82.8% of girls leaving school in 2012/13 achieved this standard compared with 74.5% of boys (2012/13).
- After leaving school 81.8% of girls progressed to further or higher education compared with 72.5% of boys (2012/13).

Qualifications on leaving school, 2012/13 Figure 27



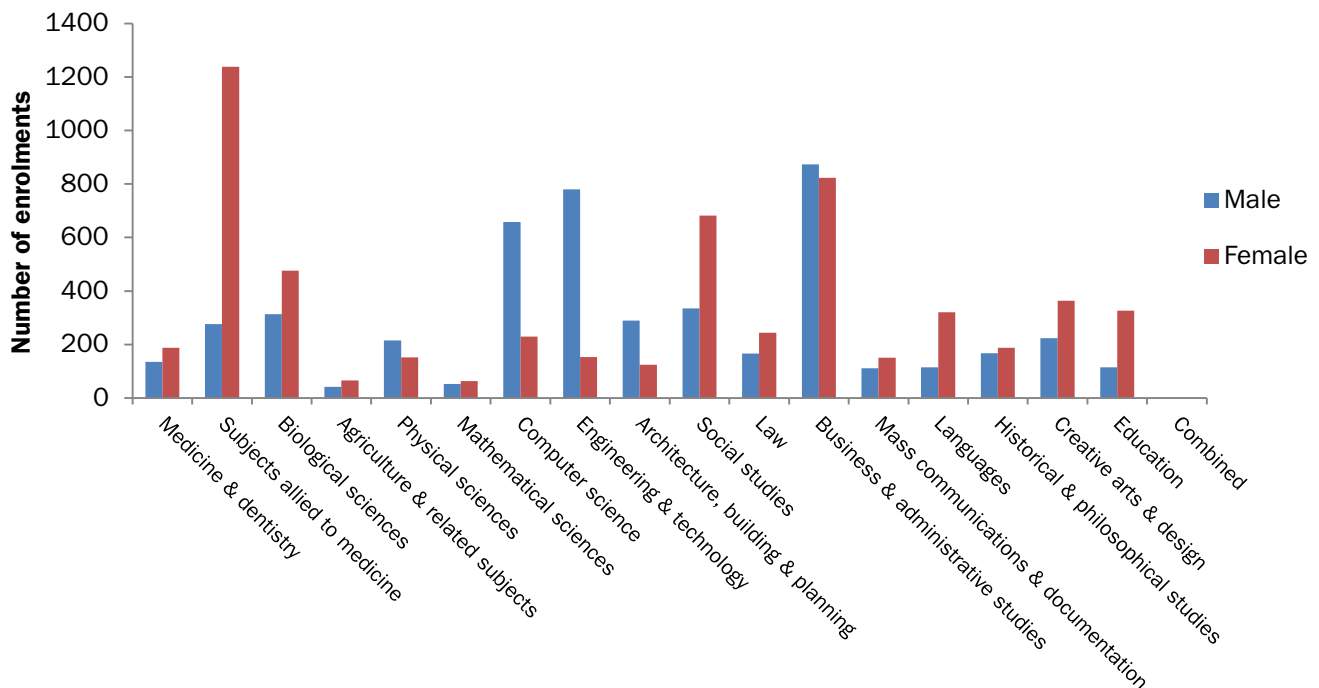
- 57% of all students enrolled at the NI universities are women (2012/13). Of all enrolments at NI Further Education Colleges, 49% are female (2012/13).
- 43% of all academic staff in NI universities and 49% in NI Further Education Colleges are women.

Participation in NI Universities¹ and in NI FE Colleges, 2012/13 Figure 28



Subject choice in Higher Education (source: Department for Employment and Learning)

Full-time new entrant undergraduate enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI Universities² by subject area 2012/13 (Figure 29)



For full-time, first year undergraduate enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions, the subject areas with the highest proportions of females are;

- Subjects allied to medicine (82%), Education (74%) and Languages (74%)

And the subject areas with the lowest proportions of females are;

- Architecture, building & planning (30%)
Computer Science (26%) and Engineering & Technology (16%).

NI Universities

Analysis of gender in first year undergraduate enrolments at NI Universities:

- In the first year medicine & dentistry and subjects allied to medicine, 78% of fulltime undergraduates at the NI universities are female (2012/13)
- Of those full-time undergraduates enrolled in the first year of other science courses³ at the universities 35% of students are female (2012/13)
- In the first year of the non-science subjects⁴ 60% of fulltime undergraduates at the NI universities are women (2012/13).
- Women in NI universities accounted for 18% of first degree graduates in engineering and technology, 28% in computing science, 43% in physical science and 47% in mathematical science in 2012/13.

¹ Source: Higher Education Statistics Authority

² NI Universities includes Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College.

³ Other Science courses include biological sciences, veterinary science, agriculture & related subjects, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science and engineering & technology and architecture, building & planning.

⁴ Non science subjects include social studies, law, business & administrative studies, mass communications & documentation, languages, humanities, historical & philosophical studies, creative arts & design, education and combined studies.

Note: HE relates to full-year statistics for the 2012/13 academic year.

NI Further Education Colleges

For enrolments at Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges, the subject areas with the highest proportion of females are;

- Allied to medicine (83%), Creative Arts & Design (79%) and Social Studies (79%)

And the subject areas with the lowest proportions of females are;

- Mass communication and documentation (36%), Engineering & Technology (7%) and Architecture, Building & Planning (3%)

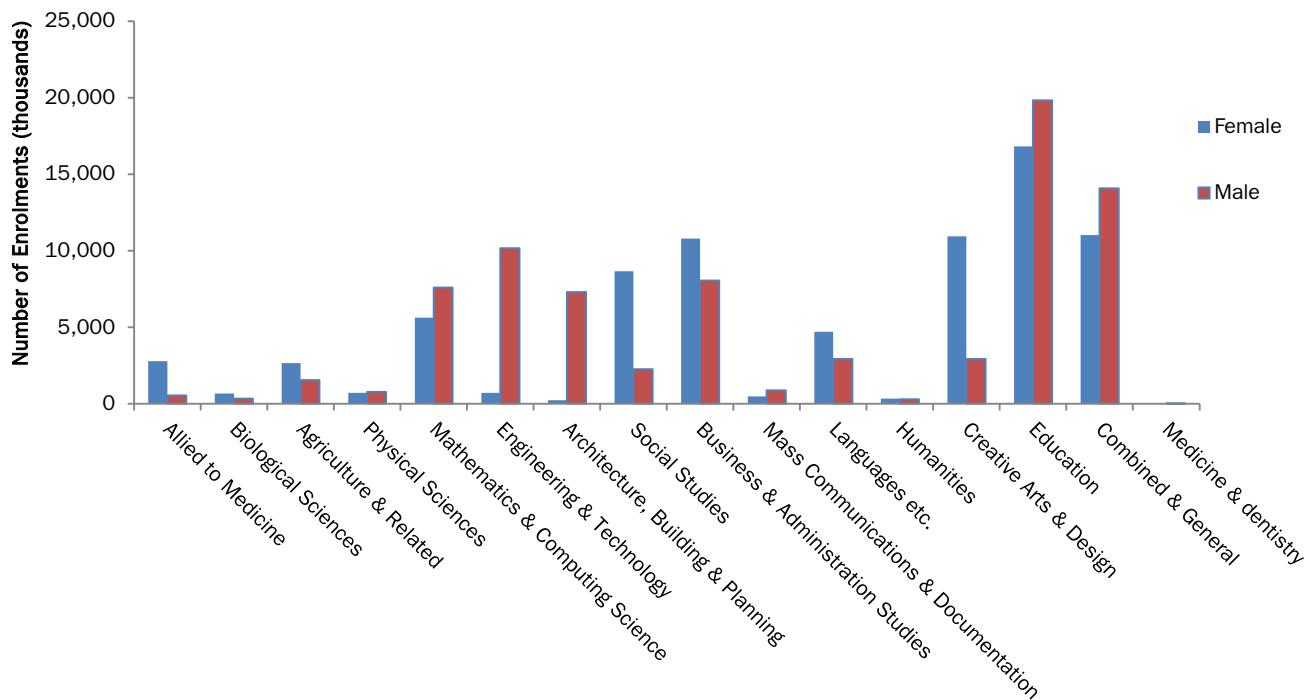
Analysis of enrolments at Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges reveals that:

- In non science subjects⁷, 55% of all enrolments at further Education Colleges are women (2012/13)
- In mathematical and computing sciences, 43% of total enrolments at NI Further education Colleges are female (2012/13)
- Of the total enrolments on the other science courses⁶ at the NI Further Education Colleges, 28% are female (2012/13)

Subject choice Tertiary Education: Further Education Colleges (source: Department for Employment and Learning)

Accredited Enrolments by subject area at NI Further Education Colleges 2012-13

Figure 30



⁵ Source: Further Educational Statistical Record

⁶ Other Science courses include biological sciences, agriculture & related subjects, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science and engineering & technology and architecture, building & planning.

⁷ Non science subjects include social studies, business & administrative studies, mass communications & documentation, languages, humanities, creative arts & design, education and combined studies.

Note: FE enrolments relates to full-year Accredited enrolments for the 2012/13 academic year. Accredited courses have been identified by excluding Key Skills (1-5) and Non- Accredited courses.

Politics and Public Life

8

Women in Politics and Public life

- The 2014 local elections to the 11 new councils took place on 22 May. Of the 462 candidates elected 116 are women (25%).
- Results from the local elections to the 11 new councils show that Belfast City Council has the highest female representation with 19 out of 60 (32%) of councillors female.
- Of the 11 new councils 4 have a female chief executive.
- Northern Ireland has four elected women MPs (representing 22% of all NI MPs). In addition, two of the three Northern Ireland MEPs are female. [In GB 22% of MPs and 41% of MEPs are women.]
- 37% of public appointments in Northern Ireland at 31 Aug 2014 are held by women. This compares with 32% in 2000, 32% in 2005 and 33% in 2010.
- On the 127 publicly appointed bodies in Northern Ireland, 21 Chair and 5 Deputy Chair posts are held by women.
- Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly took place on the 5 May - of the 108 elected members, 22 (20%) are women.
- As of September 2012, 3 of the 13 Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive are female.

Sources:

*Local Government Branch,
Department of the Environment
Local Government Association,
London
House of Commons Information
Office
European Parliament Library
Central Appointments Unit, Office
of First Minister and Deputy First
Minister*

Women into Business

9

Women into Business (source: Invest NI, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2013 UK report)

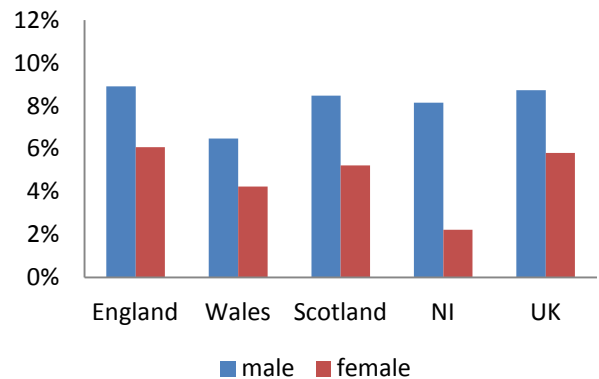
Levels of female Entrepreneurship

- Women remain the largest under-represented group when it comes to enterprise in Northern Ireland and represent a huge pool of untapped potential.
- The female TEA rate in Northern Ireland stood at 2.2 per cent in 2013 (UK 5.8 per cent) and the female to male ratio of TEA was 27 per cent, which is still the lowest in the UK (UK 66 per cent, up from 57 per cent).
- In England, NI and the UK, males have significantly higher TEA rates than females. Male TEA rates do not differ significantly across the home nations, however female TEA rates in Northern Ireland are significantly lower than those in England, Scotland and the UK average.
- The ratio of female to male early-stage entrepreneurial activity varies markedly across the four home nations. The ratio in Northern Ireland at 27 per cent is the lowest of all the home nations in 2013 (Figure 30). While annual ratios are likely to vary from year to year, the long run average ratios over the 2002 to 2013 period suggest that Wales has a similar ratio, at 54 per cent, to England (49 per cent) and Scotland (51 per cent) but higher than Northern Ireland (35 per cent).

- The female TEA rate in Northern Ireland stood at 2.2 per cent in 2013, down from a record high of 3.9 per cent in 2011. We can see from Figure 31 that female TEA rates in Northern Ireland generally match the UK trend, albeit at very different levels, with both experiencing a significant decline in the most recent period.

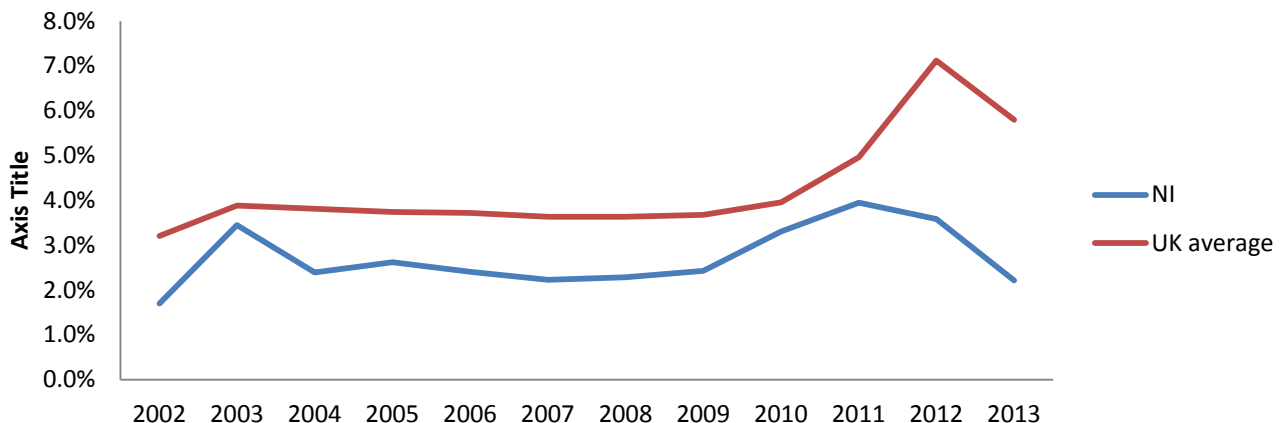
Figure 31: Total Early- Stage Entrepreneurial Activity in the UK Countries in 2013

Source: GEM APS 2013



Alongside the above, the challenge of Economic Inactivity and the number of females currently inactive, calibrates the value in sponsorship of these female focused activities.

Figure 30: Total Early-Stage Female Entrepreneurial Activity in Northern Ireland and the UK, 2002-2013. (Source: GEM APS)



Invest Northern Ireland Support

Invest Northern Ireland currently supports female entrepreneurship through a variety of targeted marketing initiatives, eg sponsorship of business networks and business awards in organisations such as Women in Business NI Ltd (WIB) and Women on the Move. This sponsorship reflects the delivery of networking events and activities targeting business women throughout NI. Outcomes include:

- More women will set up and run their own business successfully.

- Promote opportunities for business growth in export markets

WIB's Women into Business Programme aims at promoting, supporting and empowering economically inactive women in NI to start their own business or aid them into sustained employment. Invest NI sponsored the programme in the amount of £24,000 in the 13/14 period.

In the 2013/14 period the number of females who had business plans approved by Invest NI was 1,338, which represents 38% of the total of over 3,560 plans approved.

Technical Notes

10

Technical Note

Definitions

In Employment

Those aged 16 and over who did some 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.

Employees

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

Unpaid Family Workers

Persons doing unpaid work for a business they own or a business that a relative owns.

Full-time/Part-time

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

Economically Active

People aged 16 or over who are either in employment or ILO unemployed.

Economic Activity Rate

The percentage of people in a specified age group who are economically active.

Economically Inactive

People who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired.

Employment Rate

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

Unemployment

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

start a job they had already obtained. This definition of unemployment is in accordance with that adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and promulgated by the ILO in 1987.

Unemployment Rate

The percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

Duration of Unemployment

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

duration of active search for work; and
length of time since employment.

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

Working Age

The 'working age' definition, used in the calculation of employment and economic inactivity rates, was changed in August 2010 to include those aged from 16 to 64 for both men and women. Previously these rates were based on upper age limits of 59 for women and 64 for men, reflecting the state pension ages in the UK. However, between 2010 and 2020, the state pension age for women is increasing (by one month every two months) from 60 to 65, thereby making a change to the definition necessary.

The change in definition follows a UK wide public consultation on the issue and the approach being applied to Northern Ireland labour market statistics mirrors the approach that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are applying to other UK regions. A consistent time series for the new headline rates has been produced and all future reference to working age rates will be based on the 16 to 64 definition.

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

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

Industry

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

Occupation

The classification of respondents' occupations are based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), adopted since January 2011.

Grossing To Population Totals

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

Sampling Error

Because the LFS is a sample survey, results are subject to sampling error, i.e. the actual proportion of the population in private households with a particular characteristic may differ from the proportion of the LFS sample with that characteristic. Accordingly, although percentages in most tables are quoted to the nearest whole number, they should not be regarded as having this degree of accuracy, and indeed some apparent trends over time may be misleading due to sampling error.

Publication Threshold

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

National Statistics

While all the data presented in this publication are derived from official sources, not all of the sources are classified as National Statistics. The following data sources adhere to the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) and have been designated as National Statistics:

Labour Force Survey; Claimant Count; Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings; Quarterly Employment Survey; Income Support; School Leaver's Survey.

Further Information:

Further information on Northern Ireland economic statistics can be obtained by writing to:

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

telephoning: (028) 9052 9668
textphone: (028) 9052 9304
fax: (028) 9052 9459
e-mailing: andrew.mawhinney@dfpni.gov.uk

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