

# Changes to the Labour Market Report explained

Date: 17 June 2015

## Background

In 2014, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) held an expert user group meeting and issued a feedback questionnaire in order to obtain feedback and views in relation to the range of labour market statistics produced by Economic and Labour Market Statistics (ELMS).

The feedback from users was generally positive in terms of usage, quality and accessibility of the labour market statistics produced. The key use of the data was to provide economic context in reports for both government and non-government users. The majority of respondents rated labour market statistics in general as 'very useful'.

The consultation found that the most extensively and frequently used labour market statistics were from LFS and claimant count, which were accessed primarily through the Labour Market Report (LMR) and press release. While the majority of users rated the LMR as 'very useful' or 'useful', some improvements were suggested for example, provision of data tables, more historical data and the inclusion of more interpretative commentary in reports.

As a result, the LMR has been reviewed to reflect user feedback, alongside best practice and National Statistics guidance. The revised version of the LMR was published on 17 June 2015 and can be found on the NISRA ELMS website at the following link: [Labour Market Report June 2015](#)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How has the LMR changed?

The main changes to the LMR are outlined below:

- **Statistical bulletin rather than report style**

The report is more succinct, using a consistent format of key points, tables / charts, direct link to data and commentary.

Text is ordered such that key messages are provided at the top of the page with further detail shown at the bottom of the page or overleaf.

Chapters are organised according to labour market theme not labour market source.

Newly published data is highlighted each month.

- **Statistical Press Release**

The Statistical Press Release has been summarised to provide headline statistics rather than the same level of detail as the Labour Market Report.

- **More interpretative commentary**

The report reconsiders the important messages from the statistics each month as opposed to providing a straight update of the figures.

Recent changes are set in context of longer time trends and other official labour market statistics.

- **Background information**

The revised Labour Market Report includes links to documents which further explain the sources and supplementary information is provided in the background notes.

- **Interactive data formats**

Each table and chart is followed by a link directing the user to the underlying figures in usable format such as Excel.

A summary spreadsheet containing headline statistics from each section accompanies the Labour Market Report, in addition to the more detailed tables per section.

Excel tables are provided in a consistent format without unnecessary columns and rows so that users can easily import data into their preferred programs.

Monthly claimant count data at District Council and Parliamentary Constituency level is added to NINIS interactive maps, with links available from the report.

- **Historical data**

Longer time series data is included in tables and charts where possible.

Historical data is available on the website, providing LFS statistics back to 1984.

## LMR changes outlined in detail

The LMR now contains 7 sections as follows:

1. Summary of Labour Market Statistics
2. Unemployment
3. Employment
4. Economic inactivity
5. Earnings
6. Further information
7. Index of tables

The revised Labour Market Report will be accompanied by an Excel booklet providing the Headline Tables from the LMR, as well as a press release providing a brief summary of the key points.

The table below shows how the original report corresponds to the revised LMR.

ORIGINAL LMR	REVISED LMR
Chapter 1 Labour Market	Chapter 1 Summary of Labour Market Statistics
Chapter 2 Labour Force Survey	Chapter 2 Unemployment Chapter 3 Employment Chapter 4 Economic inactivity
Chapter 3 Claimant Count	Chapter 2 Unemployment
Chapter 4 Redundancies	Chapter 2 Unemployment
Chapter 5 Quarterly Employment Survey	Chapter 3 Employment
Chapter 6 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	Chapter 5 Earnings
Chapter 7 Vacancy Statistics and Employment and Training measures	Chapter 3 Employment (vacancies only)
Chapter 8 International – Regional Analysis	LMR headline tables (Excel booklet) Table 7
Chapter 9 Further Information	Chapter 6 Further information

## Where can I find information from the original LMR?

The LMR has been restructured therefore some information may now appear in a different section. Some of the less frequently used text and tables have been removed from the main LMR however all of the information is still available. It can be found either in the new LMR, in existing tables on the website which will continue to be published for all sources, or in other statistical bulletins. The table below shows where tables / charts from the original LMR can be found from June 2015 onwards:

**Table 1 Where to find information from the original LMR**

ORIGINAL LMR – TABLE / CHART NUMBER	NEW LOCATION OF DATA
<b>Chapter 1 – Labour Market</b>	
Table 1 Northern Ireland Labour Market Summary (seasonally adjusted)	Table 1 in the LMR
Figure 1 Seasonally Adjusted Labour Market Summary for Northern Ireland (16+)	NI economic activity and inactivity levels can be found in LFS web Table 2.1a
Figure 2 Seasonally adjusted claimant count monthly rates	Figure 3 in the LMR
Figure 3 Unadjusted claimant count rates by Council Area	Figure 4 in the LMR Claimant count web Table 3.8b
Figure 4 Annual and quarterly changes in employee jobs (seasonally adjusted)	QES statistical bulletin Table 1.1
Figure 5 Confirmed and proposed redundancies April 2012 – April 2015	Figure 6 in the LMR provides annual totals for confirmed and proposed redundancies
Figure 6 Index of average actual weekly hours worked, NI	LFS web Table 2.7
<b>Chapter 2 – Labour Force Survey</b>	
Figure 7 Labour market structure – change over the year	Figure 1 in the LMR
Figure 8 Economically inactive of working age, reason for not wanting work	LFS web table 2.4b
Table 2 Labour market structure – seasonally adjusted	LFS web Table 2.1a
<b>Chapter 3 – Claimant count</b>	
Figure 9 Flows in and out from JSA	Claimant count web Tables 3.12, 3.13, 3.14
Table 5 Claimant count by District Council Area – April 2015	Claimant count web Table 3.8b
Figure 10 Claimant spells ended by destination	Claimant count web Table 3.12 provides the most recent figures and one year previous
Table 6 Claimant count (unadjusted) by usual occupation April 2015 (computerised claims only)	Claimant count web Table 3.11
<b>Chapter 4 - Redundancies</b>	
Table 8 Confirmed redundancies by District Council in year to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	LMR headline tables (Excel booklet) Table 3
<b>Chapter 5 – Quarterly Employment Survey</b>	
Figure 11 Manufacturing jobs for NI and GB indexed (December of each year)	QES statistical bulletin Figure 1.8
Table 10 Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs December 2014	QES statistical bulletin Table 1.1
Table 11 Northern Ireland Employee Jobs – Seasonally adjusted series	QES web Tables 5.2 and 5.10

<b>Chapter 6 – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings</b>	
Figure 12 Median gross weekly earnings by full / part time and gender, April 2014	ASHE web Tables 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7
Table 14 Median and mean gross weekly earnings 2010-2014	ASHE web Tables 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7
Table 15 Average full-time earnings by occupation, April 2014 (SOC 2010)	ASHE web Table 2.2
Table 16 Average full-time earnings by industry, April 2014 (SIC 2007)	ASHE web Table 2.1
<b>Chapter 7 – Vacancy Statistics and Employment &amp; Training</b>	
Table 18 Participation in the Department for Employment and Learning Schemes to March 2015	<a href="#">DEL website</a>
Table 19 Vacancies notified: April 2014 to March 2015	Table 3 in the LMR
<b>Chapter 8 – International – Regional Analysis</b>	
Figure 13 ILO Employment Rates (%) - Unadjusted	LFS web Table 2.11
Figure 14 Unemployment rates (%) – Seasonally adjusted	LFS web Table 2.11
Table 20 Seasonally Adjusted Regional Summary, January – March 2015	LMR headline tables (Excel booklet) Table 7

### **Where can I find the Labour Market Press Release?**

The Labour Market Press Release has been replaced by a Statistical Press Release which provides headline figures only in bullet point format. All information contained in the original Labour Market Press Release is still available and can be found in the Labour Market Report and associated web tables.

### **What else is new?**

The revised Labour Market Report will be accompanied by an Excel booklet providing the Headline Tables from the LMR. This comprises 7 tables in total containing headline figures from the LFS, claimant count, redundancies, QES, ASHE, vacancies and regional summary.

NISRA have recently started producing maps showing claimant count data by Parliamentary Constituency and District Council Area and these are available on NINIS or via the following link on the NISRA ELMS website: [Interactive maps](#)

A monthly profile is updated each month for each District Council Area and can be found in the Northern Ireland Council Briefing on the NISRA ELMS website as follows: [Northern Ireland Council Briefing](#)

### **Who can I contact about the Labour Market Report?**

Feedback is welcomed and can be provided to Economic and Labour Market Statistics as follows:

Andrew Mawhinney

Economic and Labour Market Statistics

Room 110, Netherleigh

Massey Avenue

Belfast BT4 2JP

Tel: (028) 9052 9668

Fax: (028) 9052 9658

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304

Email: [statistics@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@dfpni.gov.uk)

Twitter: @ELMSNISRA