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|  | **Characteristics of VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses in NI: Facts and Figures from the IDBR** | **BIS Business Population estimates** | **ONS UK Business Activity, Size and Location** | **ONS Business Demography** |
| Measure | *VAT and PAYE tables*  - Population at the end of the financial year (end March).  *Business Demography tables*  - Business births, deaths and population ‘active’ at any point within the year.  *Foreign ownership tables*  - Population at the end of the financial year (end March). | Population at the start of the calendar year (1 January) together with their associated employment and turnover | Population at the end of the financial year (end March) | Business births, deaths and population ‘active’ at any point within the year. |
| Coverage | VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. | VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses plus estimate of unregistered population | VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses and local units | VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses |
| Data Source | Inter-Departmental Business Register | Inter-Departmental Business Register, ONS Labour Force Survey and the HMRC self-assessment tax data | Inter-Departmental Business Register | Inter-Departmental Business Register |
| Definition of a business | *VAT and PAYE tables*  1.1 to 1.8 are Enterprise based;  1.9 to 1.22 are Enterprise Operating in Northern Ireland based  *Business Demography tables*  – all tables are Enterprise based  *Foreign ownership tables*  – all tables are Enterprise Operating in Northern Ireland based  (Enterprise based tables only include businesses operating in Northern Ireland if their main or registered UK address is in Northern Ireland)  Note: The definitions above are used from the February 2014 publication onwards. | Enterprise based | Enterprise based | Enterprise based |
| Timeliness | Released 10-13 months after reference point (e.g. data for March 2012 and calendar year 2011 published in January 2013). These dates are dependent on ONS release dates. | Released about 10 months after reference point (data for January published October) | Released about 6 months after reference point (data for March published September/October | Released about 11 months after reference period (data for 2011 published Dec 2012) |
| Geography | Data available at Northern Ireland level with district council breakdowns. Also includes country and regional data for the rest of the UK. | Data available at UK level with country and regional breakdowns | UK, down to county/district, parliamentary constituency. | UK, down to county district |
| Legal Status | Company, public sector, non profit, partnership, sole proprietors. | With exception of whole economy table, focus is on private sector – companies, public corporations, sole proprietorships and partnerships. | Company, public sector, non profit, partnership, sole proprietors | Company, public corporations, non profit, partnership, sole proprietors |
| Industry | Data available at the SIC 2007 4 digit level | Data available at the SIC 2007 3 digit level | Data available at the SIC 2007 4 digit level | Data available at SIC 2007 4 digit level |
| Other Disaggregation’s | Turnover and employment size band, public/private sector, legal status, survival of businesses and country of ownership. | Employee size band | Age of business, turnover and employment size band | Survival of businesses |
| Exclusions | *VAT and PAYE tables*  Composite Management Service Companies  *Business Demography tables*  - Agriculture, public administration, Composite Management Service Companies.  *Foreign ownership tables*  – Composite Management Services | a) Public administration, private household, extra-territorial businesses  b) Composite Management Service Companies and businesses registered at an Official receivers address | a) Composite Management Service Companies | a) Agriculture, public administration  b) Composite Management Service Companies. |

For further information on UK business population and demography please visit the website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-business-statistics>