

NORTHERN IRELAND INDEX OF SERVICES - QUARTER 3 2014

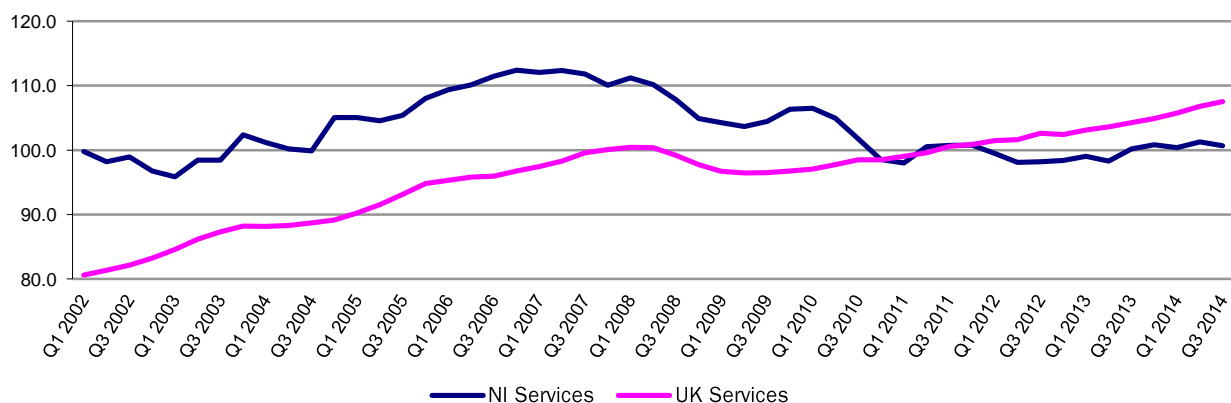
Published 19/5/15

Results for the third quarter (Q3) 2014 were originally scheduled to be released in December 2014 but were delayed in order to allow increases in the sample size to be incorporated into the series. Index of Services (IOS) results up to Q1 2015 will be published in July 2015, bringing the series back to its usual timetable.

The Index of Services is a quarterly survey of companies designed to provide a general measure of changes in the output of the Northern Ireland private service sector industries in real terms. This publication contains seasonally adjusted data on a 2011 = 100 basis. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

- Provisional results from the Index of Services for the third quarter of 2014 showed that output in NI decreased by 0.6% in real terms over the quarter, compared with an increase of 0.7% reported in the UK as a whole.
- The index rose by 0.5% in Q3 2014 compared to the same period one year earlier.
- When the most recent four quarters are compared to the previous four quarters the rate of growth is 1.8%, in real terms.
- The index has recovered 2.8% since the recent minimum value recorded in Q1 2011.
- The most notable change this quarter was a decrease of 2.0% (as based on order of importance of contribution to the overall index) in the Other Services sector.

Index of Services in NI and UK
(2011 =100)



Contents

Section 1: Context	page 3
Section 2: Summary and commentary	page 5
Section 3: Services by broad industry groups	page 7
Section 4: Quarterly / Annual / Rolling annual average changes	page 11
Section 5: Background notes	page 15

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.

1: Context

Introduction

This bulletin provides provisional data from the Index of Services (IOS) for Northern Ireland (NI). The IOS is an important short-term measure of change in the output of the private services sector of the economy. The contents of this report will be of interest to government policy makers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the business community, economic commentators, academics and member of the general public with an interest in the state of the NI economy. A summary of recent uses is available on the website at http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/economic_output_statistics/index-of-services/stats_ios_background_information.htm

The latest Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) Economic Commentary (December 2014) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. This can be found at http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4/economic_commentary.htm

The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market, including those published on the same day as the Northern Ireland Index of Services and Index of Production, 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>

The separate Northern Ireland Index of Production (IOP) provides a general measure of changes in the output of the production industries. It is based on up-to-date information about the output and sales of the production industry. Provisional figures for Q3 2014 showed that output in Northern Ireland decreased by 1.4% over the quarter and increased 1.6% over the year. There had been six consecutive quarterly increases in output. The full bulletin can be accessed at http://www.detini.gov.uk/q3_2014_stat_bulletin.pdf?rev=0

The Index of Services is published on a Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC07) basis. IOS data prior to Q2 2011 were collected on a SIC03 basis and have been converted to approximate the SIC07 coverage.

The background notes (section 5) provide detailed information on the methodology used to produce the statistics as well as information on the quality and accuracy of the data. This bulletin contains results for the service sector as a whole, for Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, accommodation and food service activities, for Transport, storage, information and communication, for Business services and finance and for Other services sub sectors on a 2011=100 basis, giving data up to the most recent available quarter (Q3 2014).

The private service sector is dominated by the Business services and finance and the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, accommodation and food service activities sub-sectors. Together these account for approximately 70% of the sector's total private services Gross Value Added (GVA) at 2011.

Comparative UK data (produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)) are presented where these are available. The latest ONS IOS results are available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21577>

This publication provides three measures of growth for the Index. The quarter-on-quarter change provides the most recent measure of how the sector is changing. It is appropriate to compare consecutive quarters as the indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of changes in output as a result of the time of the year. We also provide comparisons with the same quarter one year ago and a comparison of the most recent twelve months with the twelve months before. The quarterly comparison over the year provides an additional control on the seasonal effects. The comparison of the rolling annual average is useful for identifying changes in output over a longer time period than the other two approaches.

Northern Ireland Services

Revisions

The new Index shows that the decline from 2007 to 2011 (of 12.8%) in the IOS series was less marked than previously reported (previous figures reported a drop of 18.7%).

Given the delay of the publication of the IOS results relating to Q3 2014, a document outlining the nature and extent of the revisions to the series and its sub components is available at http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/economic_output_statistics/index-of-services.htm.

Results are provisional and subject to revision as more up-to-date data become available (e.g. through late returns). Figures can also change as a result of the seasonal adjustment process, methodological changes or changes to classifications.

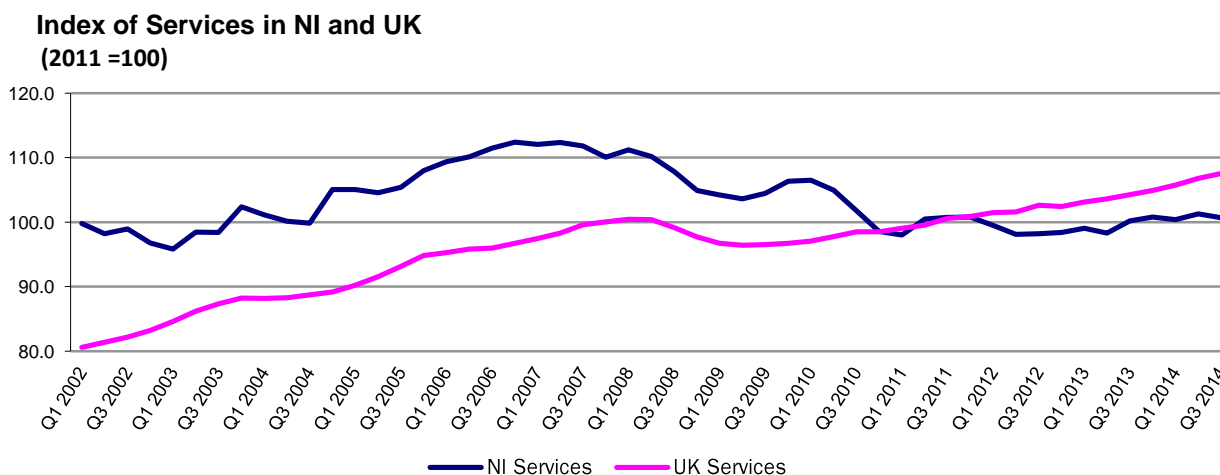
Date of Next publication

The next Northern Ireland Index of Services publication is planned for July 2015.

2: Summary and Commentary

Provisional results for Q3 2014

Provisional results from the Index of Services for the third quarter of 2014 show that output in NI decreased by 0.6% over the quarter, compared with an increase of 0.7% reported in the UK as a whole. This is the third period of decline reported by the Northern Ireland Index in the past eight quarters, whilst the UK have experienced seven periods of growth in the same time period. The Index of Production <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-index-of-production.htm> reported a decrease of 1.4% over the same quarter (Q2 2014 to Q3 2014).



	NI	UK
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	-0.6%	0.7%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	0.5%	3.1%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	1.8%	2.8%

NI private service sector output has declined by 10.4% from the peak recorded in the fourth quarter of 2006, whilst the UK reported an increase of 11.2% over the same period.

Overall findings by Broad Industry Group

	IOS	G&I	H&J	KLMN	PQRS
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	-0.6%	-0.9%	1.7%	1.3%	-2.0%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	0.5%	0.1%	1.7%	5.4%	-5.0%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	1.8%	1.1%	5.1%	3.0%	1.5%

Over the year, the index increased by 0.5%, whilst on a rolling annual average basis, the index showed a rise of 1.8%.

Services Subsections

The sub-sectors in Northern Ireland make different contributions to the changes in the overall index.

Over the quarter, the decrease in the index (-0.6%) was driven by decreases in the 'other' services sector (-2.0%) and the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; accommodation and food service activities sector (-0.9%) whilst increases occurred in the Business services and finance sector (1.3%) and Transport, storage, information & communication sector (1.7%).

Over the year, the increase in the index (0.5%) was driven by increases in the Business services and finance sector (5.4%); the Transport, storage, information & communication sector (1.7%) and the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; accommodation and food service activities sector (0.1%). The 'other' services sector showed a decrease over the year of 5.0%.

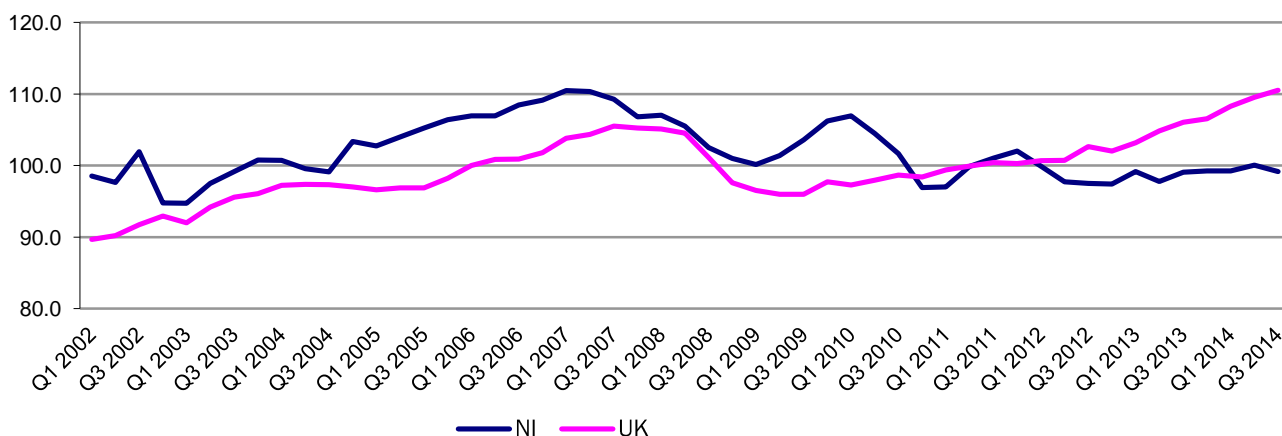
Over the latest four quarters all of the services subsections showed an increase; the main driver was the Business services and finance sector (3.0%) followed by the Transport, storage, information & communication sector (5.1%); the Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; accommodation and food service activities sector (1.1%) and the 'other' services sector (1.5%).

3: Services by Broad Industry Groups

This section focuses on performance of the overall service sector and the main industry categories of which it is comprised. The private service sector is dominated by the (i) Business services and finance and (ii) Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and accommodation and food service activities sub-sectors. Together these account for approximately 70% of the sector's total private services Gross Value Added at 2011. The sub-sectors are listed in order of importance of the contribution made to the quarterly change in the overall Index of Services.

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Accommodation and food service activities – SIC07 Sections G&I (Weight = 37%) (Seasonally adjusted series)

**Figure 4: Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
Accommodation and food service activities
(2011 =100)**

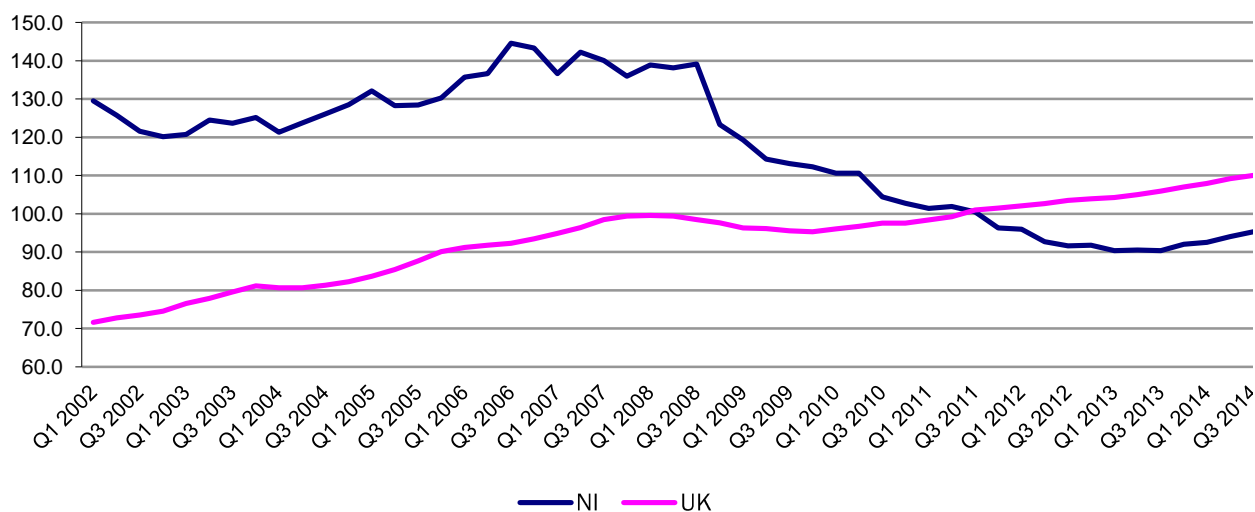


	NI	UK
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	-0.9%	0.9%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	0.1%	4.2%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	1.1%	4.5%

The latest quarterly decrease in this sector (-0.9%) compares to an increase of 0.9% for the UK as a whole. Output has risen by 0.1% over the year compared to a 4.2% increase in the UK. Some quarterly growth in the retail trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles) was offset by a decline in output relating to wholesale trade and trade and repair of motor vehicles and accommodation and food service activities.

Business services and finance – SIC07 Sections K-N (Weight = 34%)
(Seasonally adjusted series)

Figure 5: Business services and finance
(2011 =100)



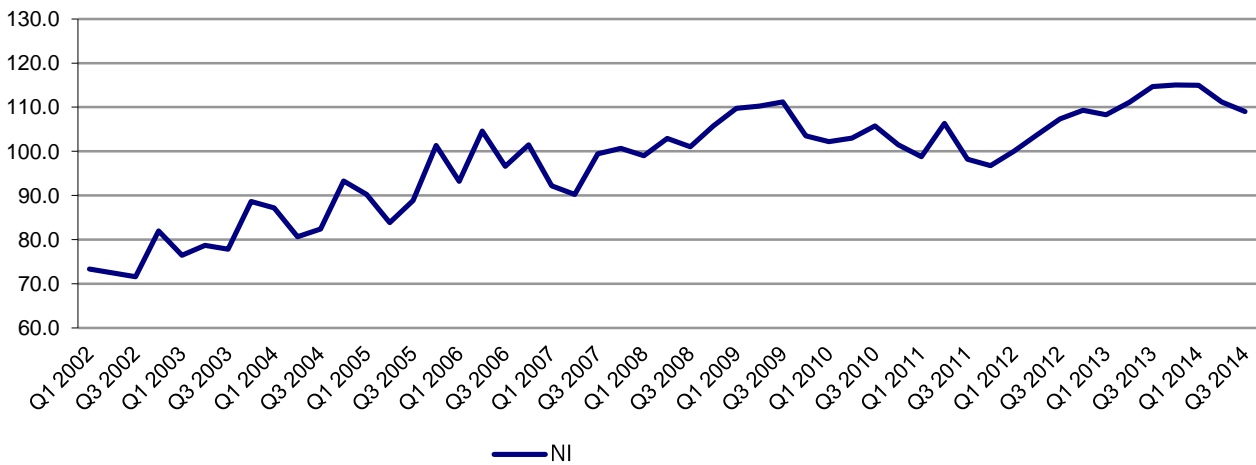
	NI	UK
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	1.3%	0.8%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	5.4%	3.9%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	3.0%	3.6%

The seasonally adjusted index for business services and finance, which includes financial services and real estate activities shows that output increased over the quarter (1.3%) and over the year (5.4%). This compares with a 0.8% quarterly rise and a 3.9% annual rise for the UK. This sector has now shown four consecutive rises over the quarter and over the year.

On a rolling annual average basis, following 26 consecutive falls in the NI index between the end of 2007 and the first quarter of 2014, the latest 2 quarters have shown some growth.

Other services – SIC07 Sections P-S (Weight = 18%) (Seasonally Adjusted series)

Figure 3: Other services
(2011 =100)

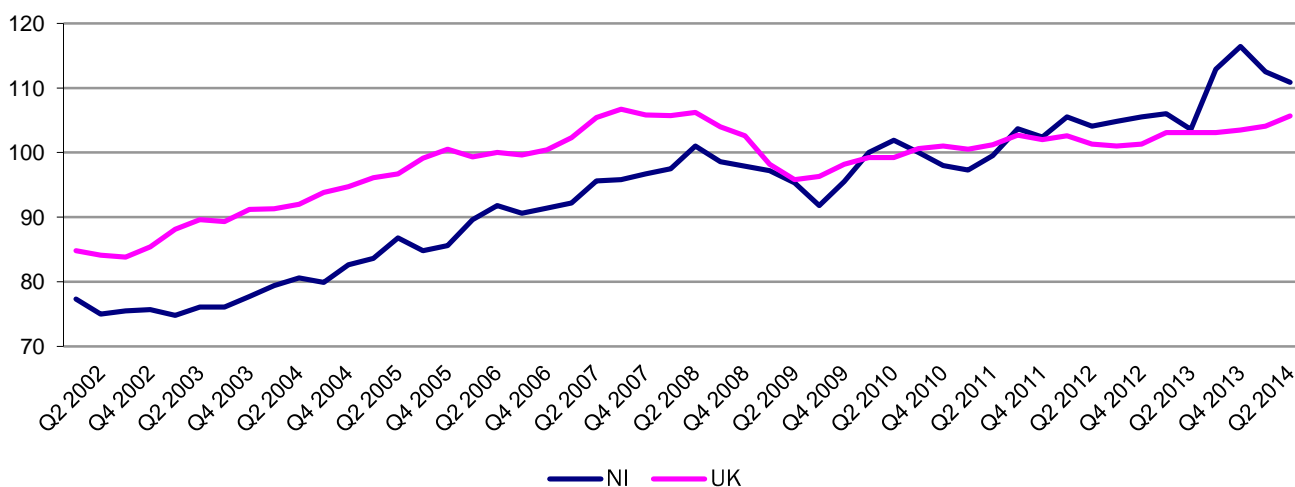


	NI
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	-2.0%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	-5.0%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	1.5%

The seasonally adjusted 'other' services index has reported a decrease over the quarter (-2.0%) and over the year (-5.0%). However, on a rolling annual average basis, this sector continues to show consecutive growth since Q3 2012.

Transport, storage, information & communication – SIC07 Sections H & J
(Weight = 12%) (Unadjusted series)

Figure 6: Transport, storage, information & communication
(2011 =100)



	NI	UK
Percentage change compared to previous quarter	1.7%	1.3%
Percentage change compared to same quarter one year ago	1.7%	3.6%
Percentage change for most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters	5.1%	1.8%

The unadjusted index for this sector reported an increase over the quarter of 1.7% compared with an increase of 1.3% for the UK. The index rose by 1.7% over the year whereas the UK rose by 3.6% over the same time period. On a rolling annual average basis the index for this sector in Northern Ireland increased by 5.1% over the last four quarters when compared with the previous four quarters; the UK increased by 1.8% as a whole.

4: Quarterly/ Annual/ Rolling Annual Average Changes

Table 1 – Northern Ireland Index of Services – Quarterly, Annual and Rolling Annual average^{*1} changes by sector
Seasonally Adjusted (2011 = 100)

2011 = 100	All Services				Wholesale, retail, repair, Accommodation & food service				Transport, storage, information and communication ^{*3}				Business services & finance				Other services			
	G - S				G&I				H&J				K-N				P-S			
	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ^{*1} Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ^{*1} Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ^{*1} Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ^{*1} Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ^{*1} Change (%)
Weights ^{*2}	1000				365				118				340				176			
2002 Q1	99.8	-	-	-	98.6	-	-	-	76.1	-	-	-	129.6	-	-	-	73.3	-	-	-
Q2	98.2	-1.6	-	-	97.6	-0.9	-	-	74.2	-2.5	-	-	125.8	-2.9	-	-	72.4	-1.2	-	-
Q3	99.0	0.8	-	-	101.9	4.4	-	-	74.6	0.6	-	-	121.5	-3.3	-	-	71.6	-1.1	-	-
Q4	96.8	-2.2	-	-	94.8	-7.0	-	-	74.7	0.1	-	-	120.1	-1.2	-	-	81.9	14.4	-	-
2003 Q1	95.8	-0.9	-4.0	-	94.7	-0.1	-3.9	-	73.8	-1.1	-3.0	-	120.7	0.5	-6.8	-	76.5	-6.7	4.3	-
Q2	98.4	2.7	0.3	-	97.5	2.9	-0.1	-	74.9	1.5	1.0	-	124.5	3.2	-1.0	-	78.7	2.9	8.7	-
Q3	98.4	0.0	-0.5	-	99.1	1.7	-2.7	-	75.6	0.9	1.3	-	123.6	-0.7	1.7	-	77.8	-1.2	8.7	-
Q4	102.4	4.0	5.8	0.4	100.8	1.7	6.3	-3.9	78.0	3.2	4.5	0.9	125.2	1.2	4.2	-0.6	88.7	13.9	8.2	7.5
2004 Q1	101.2	-1.2	5.5	2.7	100.7	-0.1	6.3	-0.1	77.9	-0.1	5.5	3.1	121.3	-3.1	0.5	1.3	87.2	-1.7	14.0	9.9
Q2	100.2	-1.0	1.7	3.1	99.6	-1.1	2.1	-2.7	79.6	2.2	6.3	4.4	123.7	2.0	-0.6	1.4	80.6	-7.5	2.4	8.3
Q3	99.9	-0.3	1.5	3.6	99.1	-0.5	0.0	6.3	78.9	-0.9	4.4	5.2	126.1	1.9	2.0	1.5	82.4	2.2	5.9	7.6
Q4	105.0	5.2	2.6	2.8	103.4	4.3	2.5	6.3	81.2	2.9	4.0	5.1	128.5	1.9	2.6	1.1	93.3	13.1	5.2	6.8

*1 The change in the rolling annual average measures the change in the average of the latest four quarters against the same four quarters one year previous.

*2 The regional GVA weights relate to 2011.

*3 The Transport, storage, information and communication sector is not seasonally adjusted

Table 1 continued – Northern Ireland Index of Services – Quarterly, Annual and Rolling Annual average^{*1} changes by sector
Seasonally Adjusted (2011 = 100)

2011 = 100	All Services				Wholesale, retail, repair, Accommodation & food service				Transport, storage, information and communication ³				Business services & finance				Other services			
	G - S				G&I				H&J				K-N				P-S			
	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)
Weights ^{*2}	1000				365				118				340				176			
2005 Q1	105.1	0.0	3.9	2.4	102.7	-0.6	2.0	1.7	81.9	0.8	5.1	4.9	132.1	2.8	8.9	3.2	90.2	-3.3	3.5	4.3
Q2	104.5	-0.5	4.4	3.1	104.0	1.2	4.4	2.2	85.2	4.0	7.0	5.1	128.3	-2.9	3.7	4.3	83.8	-7.1	4.0	4.6
Q3	105.4	0.8	5.5	4.1	105.3	1.2	6.2	3.8	83.5	-1.9	5.9	5.5	128.4	0.1	1.8	4.2	88.9	6.0	7.8	5.1
Q4	108.0	2.5	2.8	4.1	106.4	1.1	3.0	3.9	83.9	0.4	3.3	5.3	130.3	1.5	1.4	3.9	101.3	14.1	8.7	6.0
2006 Q1	109.4	1.3	4.1	4.2	106.9	0.5	4.1	4.4	87.7	4.5	7.1	5.8	135.7	4.1	2.7	2.4	93.2	-8.0	3.3	6.0
Q2	110.1	0.7	5.3	4.4	106.9	0.0	2.8	4.0	90.0	2.6	5.6	5.5	136.6	0.7	6.5	3.1	104.6	12.2	24.7	10.9
Q3	111.5	1.2	5.8	4.5	108.4	1.4	3.0	3.2	89.3	-0.8	6.9	5.7	144.6	5.8	12.6	5.8	96.6	-7.6	8.8	11.1
Q4	112.4	0.8	4.1	4.8	109.1	0.6	2.5	3.1	89.6	0.3	6.8	6.6	143.3	-0.9	10.0	7.9	101.4	5.0	0.1	8.7
2007 Q1	112.1	-0.3	2.5	4.4	110.5	1.2	3.3	2.9	90.1	0.6	2.8	5.5	136.7	-4.7	0.7	7.4	92.2	-9.2	-1.2	7.5
Q2	112.4	0.3	2.0	3.5	110.3	-0.1	3.2	3.0	93.9	4.1	4.3	5.2	142.3	4.1	4.1	6.7	90.3	-2.1	-13.7	-1.9
Q3	111.8	-0.5	0.3	2.2	109.3	-1.0	0.8	2.4	93.8	-0.1	5.1	4.7	140.0	-1.6	-3.2	2.8	99.4	10.2	2.9	-3.2
Q4	110.1	-1.5	-2.1	0.7	106.8	-2.3	-2.1	1.3	94.6	0.9	5.6	4.5	136.0	-2.9	-5.1	-1.0	100.7	1.2	-0.8	-3.4
2008 Q1	111.2	1.0	-0.8	-0.1	107.0	0.2	-3.1	-0.4	95.1	0.5	5.5	5.1	138.9	2.1	1.6	-0.7	99.0	-1.6	7.5	-1.4
Q2	110.1	-1.0	-2.0	-1.1	105.5	-1.4	-4.4	-2.2	99.6	4.7	6.1	5.6	138.2	-0.5	-2.9	-2.4	102.9	3.9	14.0	5.7
Q3	107.8	-2.1	-3.5	-2.1	102.5	-2.9	-6.2	-4.0	98.0	-1.5	4.5	5.4	139.1	0.7	-0.6	-1.8	101.0	-1.8	1.6	5.3
Q4	104.9	-2.7	-4.7	-2.7	101.0	-1.5	-5.4	-4.8	96.5	-1.6	2.0	4.5	123.3	-11.4	-9.3	-2.8	105.8	4.7	5.1	6.8

*1 The change in the rolling annual average measures the change in the average of the latest four quarters against the same four quarters one year previous.

*2 The regional GVA weights relate to 2011.

*2 The Transport, storage, information and communication sector is not seasonally adjusted

Table 1 continued – Northern Ireland Index of Services – Quarterly, Annual and Rolling Annual average^{*1} changes by sector
Seasonally Adjusted (2011 = 100)

2011 = 100	All Services				Wholesale, retail, repair, Accommodation & food service				Transport, storage, information and communication ³				Business services & finance				Other services			
	G - S				G&I				H&J				K-N				P-S			
	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)
Weights ^{*2}	1000				365				118				340				176			
2009 Q1	104.2	-0.6	-6.3	-4.1	100.2	-0.8	-6.4	-5.6	96.0	-0.6	0.9	3.3	119.3	-3.3	-14.1	-6.7	109.7	3.7	10.8	7.7
Q2	103.6	-0.6	-5.9	-5.1	101.4	1.2	-3.9	-5.5	95.2	-0.7	-4.3	0.7	114.3	-4.2	-17.3	-10.3	110.2	0.5	7.2	6.2
Q3	104.5	0.8	-3.1	-5.0	103.6	2.2	1.0	-3.7	92.5	-2.9	-5.7	-1.8	113.1	-1.0	-18.7	-14.9	111.2	0.9	10.1	8.3
Q4	106.3	1.8	1.4	-3.6	106.2	2.6	5.2	-1.1	95.7	3.4	-0.9	-2.5	112.3	-0.8	-8.9	-14.9	103.5	-6.9	-2.1	6.4
2010 Q1	106.5	0.2	2.2	-1.5	107.0	0.7	6.8	2.2	97.5	1.9	1.6	-2.4	110.6	-1.5	-7.3	-13.4	102.2	-1.3	-6.9	1.8
Q2	105.0	-1.5	1.3	0.4	104.5	-2.3	3.0	4.0	101.2	3.8	6.2	0.3	110.6	0.0	-3.3	-10.0	103.0	0.8	-6.6	-1.6
Q3	101.8	-3.0	-2.6	0.6	101.7	-2.7	-1.9	3.2	99.3	-1.9	7.3	3.5	104.4	-5.6	-7.7	-6.9	105.8	2.7	-4.9	-5.2
Q4	98.5	-3.2	-7.3	-1.6	96.9	-4.6	-8.7	-0.3	97.4	-1.9	1.8	4.2	102.7	-1.6	-8.5	-6.7	101.5	-4.0	-1.9	-5.1
2011 Q1	98.0	-0.6	-8.0	-4.2	97.0	0.1	-9.3	-4.3	95.7	-1.8	-1.9	3.3	101.4	-1.3	-8.3	-6.9	98.8	-2.7	-3.3	-4.3
Q2	100.5	2.6	-4.2	-5.5	99.9	2.9	-4.4	-6.1	98.7	3.2	-2.5	1.1	101.9	0.5	-7.8	-8.1	106.3	7.6	3.2	-1.8
Q3	100.7	0.2	-1.0	-5.2	101.1	1.2	-0.6	-5.8	103.1	4.5	3.9	0.3	100.5	-1.4	-3.7	-7.2	98.2	-7.6	-7.1	-2.3
Q4	100.8	0.1	2.3	-2.9	102.0	1.0	5.3	-2.4	102.5	-0.6	5.2	1.2	96.3	-4.2	-6.3	-6.6	96.7	-1.5	-4.7	-3.0
2012 Q1	99.5	-1.3	1.5	-0.4	99.9	-2.1	3.0	0.7	104.9	2.3	9.6	4.0	95.9	-0.4	-5.4	-5.8	100.0	3.4	1.2	-1.9
Q2	98.1	-1.4	-2.4	0.1	97.7	-2.2	-2.1	1.3	106.8	1.9	8.2	6.7	92.7	-3.4	-9.0	-6.1	103.7	3.7	-2.4	-3.3
Q3	98.2	0.1	-2.5	-0.3	97.5	-0.2	-3.5	0.6	107.9	1.1	4.7	6.9	91.6	-1.2	-8.8	-7.4	107.3	3.5	9.3	0.7
Q4	98.4	0.2	-2.4	-1.4	97.4	-0.1	-4.6	-1.9	108.1	0.1	5.4	6.9	91.7	0.1	-4.7	-7.0	109.3	1.9	13.0	5.1

*1 The change in the rolling annual average measures the change in the average of the latest four quarters against the same four quarters one year previous.

*2 The regional GVA weights relate to 2011.

*3 The Transport, storage, information and communication sector is not seasonally adjusted

Table 1 continued – Northern Ireland Index of Services – Quarterly, Annual and Rolling Annual average^{*1} changes by sector
Seasonally Adjusted (2011 = 100)

2011 = 100	All Services				Wholesale, retail, repair, Accommodation & food service				Transport, storage, information and communication ^{*3}				Business services & finance				Other services			
	G - S				G&I				H&J				K-N				P-S			
	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)	Index	Quarter Change (%)	Annual Change (%)	Rolling Annual ¹ Change (%)
Weights ^{*2}	1000				365				118				340				176			
2013 Q1	99.0	0.7	-0.5	-1.9	99.2	1.8	-0.8	-2.8	107.2	-0.8	2.2	5.1	90.3	-1.6	-5.9	-7.2	108.3	-1.0	8.3	6.8
Q2	98.3	-0.7	0.2	-1.3	97.8	-1.4	0.0	-2.2	104.9	-2.1	-1.7	2.6	90.5	0.2	-2.3	-5.5	111.1	2.6	7.1	9.4
Q3	100.2	1.9	2.0	-0.2	99.1	1.3	1.6	-1.0	113.4	8.1	5.1	2.7	90.3	-0.2	-1.4	-3.6	114.7	3.2	6.9	8.7
Q4	100.8	0.6	2.5	1.1	99.3	0.2	1.9	0.7	115.9	2.2	7.3	3.2	92.0	1.9	0.3	-2.4	115.1	0.3	5.2	6.8
2014 Q1	100.4	-0.4	1.3	1.5	99.2	0.0	0.1	0.9	111.0	-4.2	3.5	3.5	92.6	0.6	2.5	-0.2	114.9	-0.1	6.2	6.3
Q2	101.3	0.9	3.0	2.2	100.1	0.8	2.4	1.5	113.3	2.1	8.0	6.0	94.1	1.6	3.9	1.3	111.2	-3.3	0.1	4.6
Q3	100.7	-0.6	0.5	1.8	99.1	-0.9	0.1	1.1	115.3	1.7	1.7	5.1	95.2	1.3	5.4	3.0	109.0	-2.0	-5.0	1.5

*1 The change in the rolling annual average measures the change in the average of the latest four quarters against the same four quarters one year previous.

*2 The regional GVA weights relate to 2011.

*3 The Transport, storage, information and communication sector is not seasonally adjusted

5: Background Notes

Background

The experimental Index of Services (IOS) was first published in Northern Ireland on 18 May 2005. Following assessment by the UK Statistics Authority the Index of Services was designated as a National Statistic on 5 August 2011. It is published quarterly and is designed to provide a general measure of changes in the output of the private sector service industries in Northern Ireland (this is defined as Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC07) sections G to S). In 2011 these private sector service industries accounted for 69% of all service sector Regional Gross Value Added (GVA). See link to Regional GVA information

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/regional-accounts/regional-gross-value-added--income-approach-/december-2013/stb-regional-gva-2012.html>

Index numbers

An index number is a convenient form of expressing a series in a way that makes it easier to see changes in that series. The numbers in the series are expressed relatively, with one number in that series chosen to be the 'base' (usually expressed as 100) and other numbers being measured relative to that base. Index numbers have the advantage that they allow different types of data to be combined on a consistent basis, e.g. deflated current price data with volume data. The aim of the Index of Services is to provide a reliable indicator of short-term changes in the output of the service sector. Index numbers are a very good way of communicating this message. For example, the Index of Services Q3 2014 value of 100.7 means that the level of output then was 0.7% higher than in 2011 which had a base year value of 100. The NI IOS is a Laspeyres volume index. The UK economic accounts are based on the European System of Accounts (ESA), which in turn is based on the UN System of Accounts (SNA). The ESA-preferred type of output indicator is one that measures deflated gross output (or turnover) for an industry. These use an approximate price change estimator to remove the effects of inflation. For this reason we, and the ONS, use a Laspeyres volume index (as opposed to Paasche, Lowe or Fisher indices). The ONS paper, link following, on the Methodology of the Monthly Index of Services (Annex A: Mathematical Formulation of the Index of Services) gives a good explanation of Index numbers theory.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/index-of-services-methodology/index-construction/index.html>

Index sample

The IOS sample was refreshed for Q1 2014 and was drawn on a SIC07 basis. The sample was boosted from around 1,600 businesses and it is now approximately 3,300 companies. As a statutory survey the response rate is around 80%. The sample of service industries is selected directly from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR), by stratifying companies by industry and company size. The sample consists of a census of dominant companies and a Neyman stratified random sample of the remaining companies. The census element consists of all companies employing 100 or more employees and those employing 0 to 99 employees and having a turnover of £10 million or more. It is desirable to include these low employment high turnover companies in the sample in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the overall economy. This sample has been

designed to give sufficiently accurate results, yet keep the total costs to businesses to a minimum.

Questionnaires were issued to both the new and existing businesses on each sample, for three quarters, as a means to calculate a link factor between the old sample (up to and including Q4 2013) and the new sample (from Q1 2014 onwards). With advice from Office for National Statistics Methodologists, as the result of a successful Quality Improvement Fund, a methodology has been developed in order to integrate the new samples without making significant changes to the back series data, thus giving a meaningful index.

Data collection, validation and Index calculation

The survey forms are issued quarterly, immediately after the period to which they relate. For example, forms are issued in October asking for information relating to July to September. Companies are asked to provide their turnover for the previous quarter. Data validation is carried out ensuring that data fall within the expected limits, contacting the company where appropriate for clarification.

The overall Index of Services is calculated by weighting together industry level indices that describe the activity of an industry sector using the Standard Industrial Classification. This is done using relative shares of regional GVA on an annual basis. The annual weights from regional GVA are more up to date and their use is in line with recommendations from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The Northern Ireland Index of Services is annually chain-linked (Chain-linking involves the linking of growth estimates between different time periods in order to produce a continuous time series) using private sector GVA estimates derived from regional accounts using the fourth quarter of the preceding year as the link period. Inaccuracies caused by the assumption of a stable relationship between GVA and turnover are reduced using this methodology. When annual weights are used the assumption only has to be maintained from one year to the next year. A paper on annual chain-linking from ONS is available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/economic-trends--discontinued-/no--630--may-2006/methodological-note--annual-chain-linking.pdf>

The standard method for linking two series (for example one based on a SIC03 sample and one based on SIC07 sample) is to calculate the index under the old and new circumstances over some link period, and then apply the growth of the subsequent new series to the old series. As the relationship of both samples to the IDBR was known, the IDBR was used to provide the link period. Thus, the ratio of the IDBR turnover for Q1 2011 and Q2 2011 is known. We have the Q2 2011 value (SIC07) and the Q1 2011 value (converted from SIC03 to SIC07). We can therefore create the following link factor:

$$\text{link factor} = \frac{(\text{Q2 2011 sample estimate} * \text{IDBR Q1 2011 value})}{(\text{Q1 2011 sample estimate} * \text{IDBR Q2 2011 value})}$$

This can then be applied to the converted back series, thus retaining the previous growth rates.

For Q1 2014 and Q2 2014, questionnaires were issued to companies on both the existing sample and the new sample, thus allowing a link factor to be calculated based on the average percentage change between the two. This link factor was then applied to each of the quarterly turnover back series (grossed & deflated), in order to give a series of the same magnitude as the new sample series (from Q1 2014 onwards).

Deflation

All series, unless otherwise quoted, are measured at constant market price (2011 = 100). Deflators adjust the value series to take out the effect of price change to give the volume series. Details on the changes to the ONS deflators methodology can be found at the following link <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/economy/national-accounts/articles/deflation-improvements-in-the-uk-national-accounts.pdf>

Seasonal adjustment

The index numbers in this statistical bulletin are seasonally adjusted, where appropriate. This aids interpretation by removing annually recurring fluctuations, for example due to holidays or other regular seasonal patterns. All IOS time series are checked using X-13 ARIMA SEATS for evidence of seasonality, and those series where seasonality is detected are adjusted using X-13 ARIMA SEATS in order to obtain a clear picture of the general trend. Unadjusted data are also available.

The figures presented in this publication are calculated using the X-13 ARIMA SEATS method of seasonal adjustment. The following is a link to an ONS Guide to seasonal adjustment with X-12 ARIMA (an updated guide for X-13 ARIMA SEATS is currently being finalised by ONS):

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/general-methodology/time-series-analysis/guide-to-seasonal-adjustment.pdf>

Quality reporting

One indicator of the reliability of the figures in this bulletin can be obtained by monitoring the size of revisions. Previous revisions triangles are based on SIC03 data. With the move to SIC07 it is not possible to update the current revisions triangles with the data published on a SIC07 basis. Further information on the construction of SIC07 revisions triangles will be announced in due course.

Summary quality report

A summary quality report for this publication can be found on the IOS Quality and Revisions page of the website at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/economic_output_statistics/stats-ios/stats_ios_quality_and_revisions.htm

Publication of results on a SIC07 basis

A Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) was first introduced into the UK in 1948 for use in classifying business establishments by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. The UK is required by European legislation to revise the SIC in parallel with NACE (the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Communities) so that both systems are identical down to and including the four digit class level. More information on SIC07 can be found at the following links:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/standard-industrial-classification/index.html>

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa2/second-estimate-of-gdp/q2-2011/art---bb11-improvements-to-gdp--ios--iop.html>

Status of figures in current bulletin

Figures in this publication of IOS reflect the move to using 2011 GVA which became available on 11 December 2013.

Results are published on a SIC07 basis.

All figures are published to one decimal place. Figures for annual averages and percentage changes over the previous quarter and year are based on unrounded figures and may not agree with the published constituent parts.

Results, particularly for the latest quarter, are provisional and are subject to revision as more up to date information becomes available.

Significant revisions to previous quarters' figures are highlighted in the main text of the bulletin.

Comparisons between the Index of Services and the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) may not necessarily match because of definitional and coverage differences.

On 6 September 2010 the IOS became a statutory survey. As a result, the survey forms issued for the period July to September 2010 were the first collected under statute and the change increased overall response rates from around 63% to over 80%. The January 2011 bulletin was the first to publish such data.

Planned future revisions

The IOS revisions policy can be found at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/economic_output_statistics/stats-ios/stats_ios_quality_and_revisions.htm

In line with ONS the base year of the Northern Ireland Index of Services (IOS) is 2011=100.

The SIC 47 code of retail is scheduled to be constructed as a separate series and it is planned to publish this series in the near future.

Publications policy

All Economic and Labour Market statistics publications are available to download free of charge from the website

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index.htm>

The IOS bulletin and tables from the current publication, which includes all the data from the start of the series in 2002, are available in Excel format to download free of charge from the IOS website at http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/economic_output_statistics/index-of-services.htm

Future IOS publications are due to be published on the same day as the Index of Production and the Quarterly Employment Survey in March, June, September and December of each year.

The Economic and Labour Market statistics publication schedule is available at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/stats_publications_2014_onwards/publication_schedule.htm

The list of people given pre-release access to this publication is available at

http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/statistical_protocols_and_compliance.htm

SIC 2007 Definitions

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Accommodation and food service activities – SIC07 Sections G&I (Weight = 37%)

This sector includes wholesale and retail sale and the supply of services incidental to the sale of merchandise as well as the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. This sector also includes the provision of short-stay accommodation for visitors and the provision of complete meals and drinks fit for immediate consumption.

Transport, storage, information & communication – SIC07 Sections H & J (Weight = 12%)

This sector includes the provision of passenger or freight transport and associated activities, postal and courier activities, the production and distribution of information and cultural products, as well as data or communications, information technology activities and the processing of data and other information service activities.

Business services and finance – SIC07 Sections K-N (Weight = 34%)

This sector includes financial service activities, real estate activities, specialised professional, scientific and technical activities and a variety of activities that support general business operations.

Other services – SIC07 Sections P-S (Weight = 18%)

This sector includes other activities not covered elsewhere - education, health & social work, arts, entertainment and recreation and other services. There are no comparable UK figures for other services.

Next publication

The next bulletin will be published in July 2015.

For further information

Statistics contact:

Judith Baker

Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch, Room 120,
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP

Email: statistics@dfpni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 9052 9426

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304

Media contact:

Press Office, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP

Email: pressoffice@detini.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 9052 9604

Textphone: (028) 9052 9304