







# Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey 2017

## Key Points

-  The total number of employee jobs in Northern Ireland in September 2017 was 756,365, an increase of 16,750 jobs (2.3%) since September 2016.
-  The increase in employee jobs was driven mainly by growth in the service industry (11,477 jobs) which was responsible for 69% of the total increase.
-  The manufacturing sector increased by almost 3,000 jobs or 3.6% over the year to September 2017. The equivalent growth for the previous year was 0.5%.
-  Construction jobs continued to grow with an increase of 4.7% (1,557 jobs) over the year to September 2017.
-  Public sector employee jobs increased by 1.3% over the period, the first such increase measured through BRES since 2013. The growth in the public sector was driven by an increase in female part-time jobs of 2,909 (4.9%). Female full-time jobs fell over the period (down 889 or 1.2%).
-  All District Council areas in Northern Ireland saw an increase in employee jobs except for Antrim & Newtownabbey, where a small decrease (0.7%) was observed over the year to September 2017. It should be noted that a proportion of the District Council area changes in employee jobs over the year can be attributed to the relocation of jobs within Northern Ireland.

**Theme:** Labour Market

**Frequency:** Annual

**Geographical Area:** Northern Ireland

**Date:** 27 September 2018

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# Employee Jobs 2017

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All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

September 2017

# Employee Jobs Northern Ireland

**+ 16,750**

jobs since September 2016



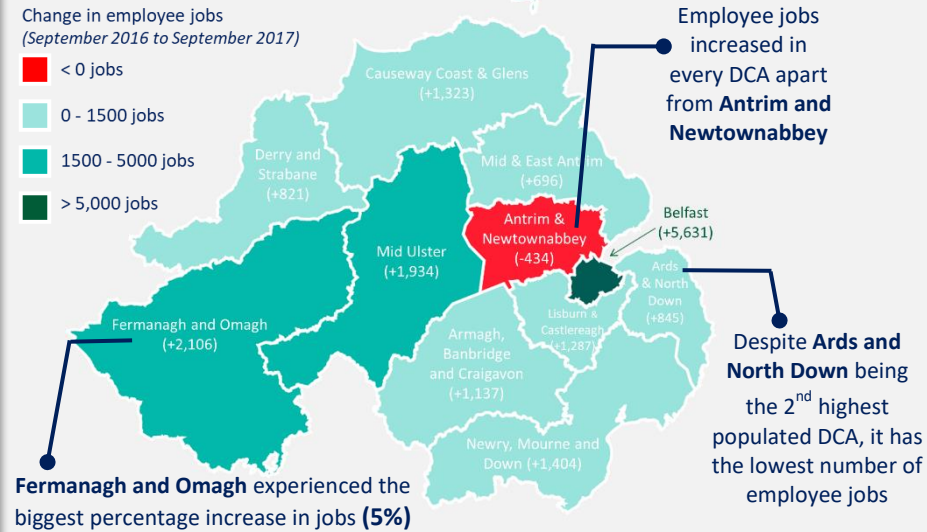
756,365



739,615

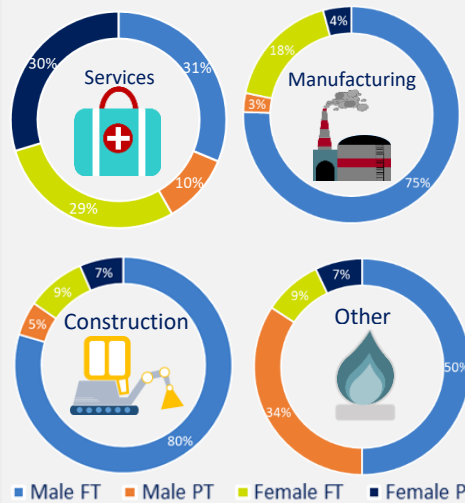
## Location

Change in employee jobs (September 2016 to September 2017)

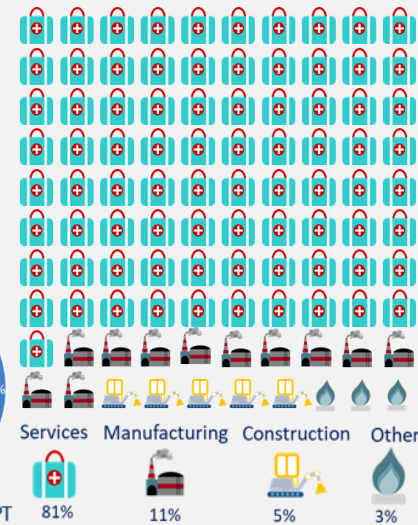


## Industry

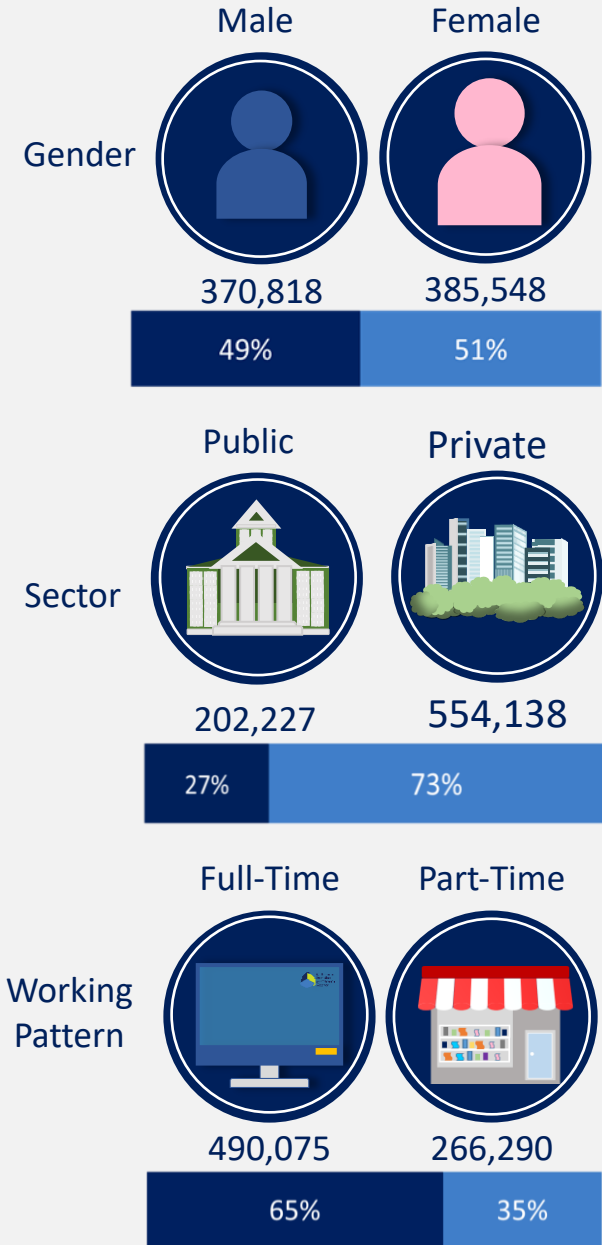
Composition of employee jobs by headline industry



Employee Jobs by Headline Industry



## Composition of Employee Jobs



# Context

This bulletin summarises findings from the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017. A set of associated tables have been provided and are available [here](#).

BRES provides employee job estimates for Northern Ireland, split by gender and working pattern. BRES counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with a job. As a result, a person holding both a full-time job and a part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice. BRES does not include the self-employed in its employee job estimates.

The data are available at a number of industry levels and Northern Ireland geographies. In 2017, the employee job figures have been presented at all UK Standard Industrial Classification levels and at District Council Area, Parliamentary Constituency and Ward level.

Further details of the level of disaggregation by industry and geography for the BRES series is available [here](#).

The employee job figures presented in this bulletin include agriculture jobs provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and taken from the [Agriculture Census](#). The agriculture job counts included in this report are Farm Labour: Other Workers. These data are included in industry Section A: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

**Employee job figures by District Council Area presented in this report include agriculture figures. Previous reports in this series did not include agriculture job figures at District Council Area level.**

**All data presented in the tables and figures within this report are available to [Download](#) using the links provided on Page 16: Index of Tables and Figures**

## **UK BRES**

The Northern Ireland BRES figures are included in the UK BRES figures. The UK BRES report is produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be found [here](#).

## **Alternative measures of employment**

Alternative measures of employment are available for Northern Ireland. Other measures include the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The QES provides short-term employee job estimates for Northern Ireland in order to identify job trends from quarter to quarter and year to year. The QES collects employee data split by gender and working pattern and 2-digit SIC (Standard Industrial Classification 2007). District Council Area breakdowns are not available. The QES sample size is such that estimates of total employee jobs should be accurate within +/- 1% of the BRES total. Employee job figures produced from BRES and QES Quarter 3 are comparable. Further information on QES can be found [here](#).

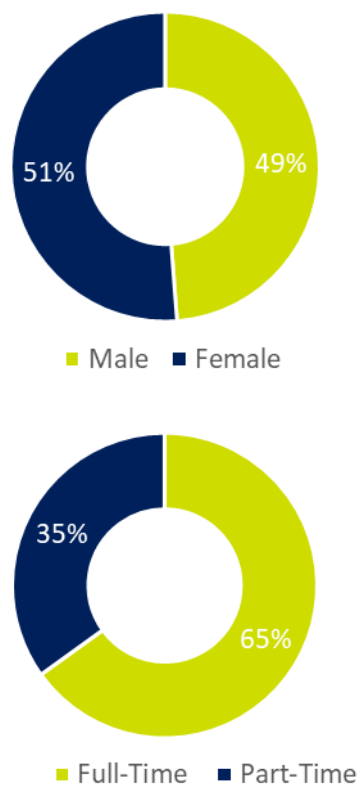
The LFS is a household sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. In contrast to BRES and QES, LFS counts the number of persons with jobs rather than the number of employee jobs. There are differences in the estimates of employee jobs between BRES and LFS. These differences arise due to a variety of factors, primarily due to employment being measured in different ways. First, as noted above BRES surveys businesses, whereas LFS is a household based survey. Second, LFS includes those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on Government supported training programmes. BRES excludes the self-employed. Further information on LFS can be found [here](#).

## Composition

In 2017, just over half of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland were occupied by females (51%).

Almost two thirds of jobs (65%) were full-time in September 2017.

**Figure 1: Proportion of employee jobs by gender and working pattern, 2017**

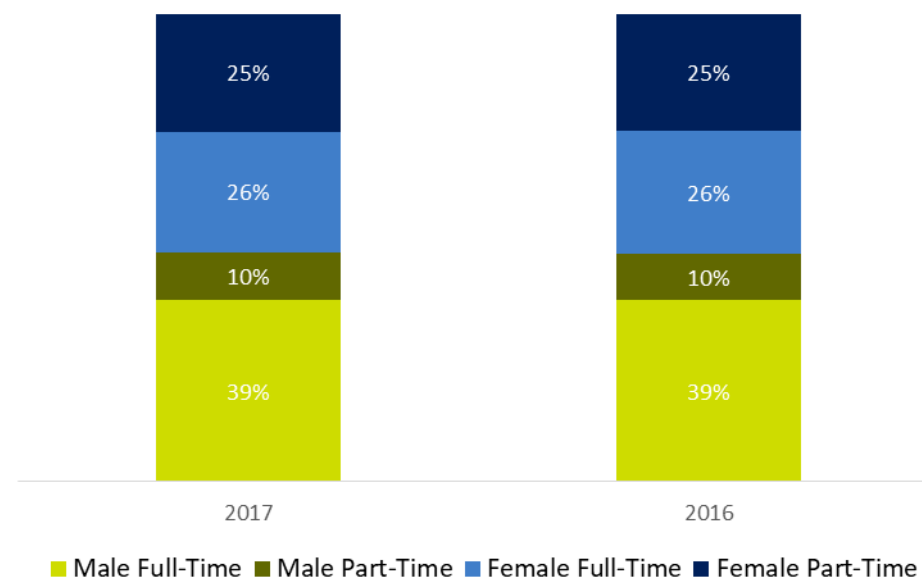


The gender and working pattern profile of employee jobs in Northern Ireland remained unchanged since 2016.

In 2017, male full-time jobs accounted for almost two-fifths (39%) of all employee jobs.

The majority of male jobs were full-time (79%) while the working pattern of female jobs was almost evenly split between full-time and part-time with just over half (51%) of female jobs being full-time.

**Figure 2: Composition of employee jobs, Sept 2016 and Sept 2017**

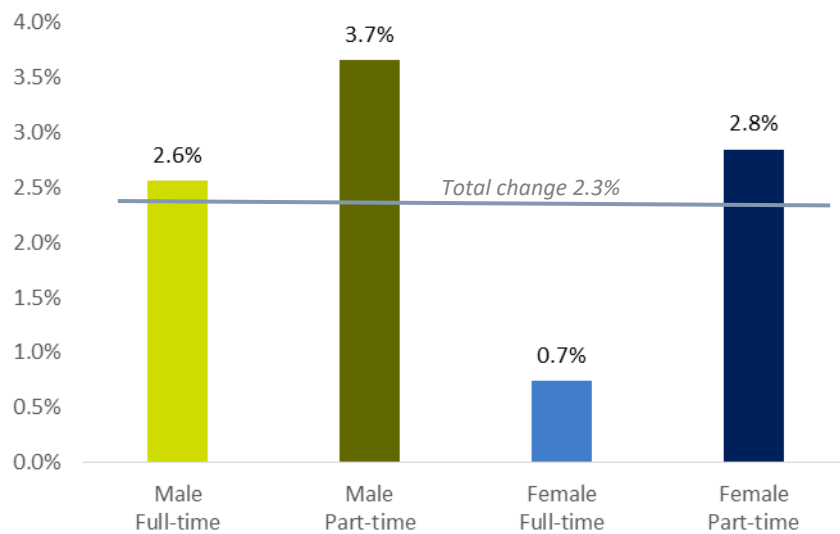


The number of employee jobs grew by 16,750 (2.3%) over the year to September 2017.

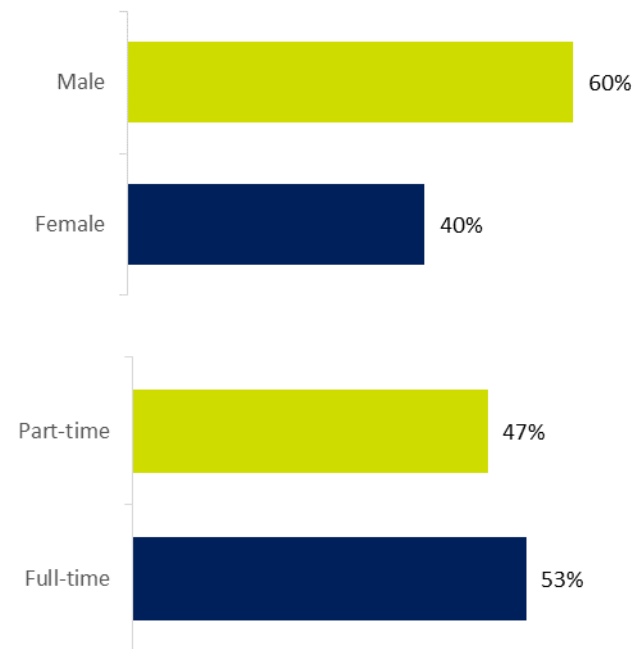
Male part-time jobs saw the largest growth (3.7%) over the period while female full-time jobs saw the smallest growth (0.7%).

Just over half (53%) of the growth in employee jobs was due to an increase of 8,804 full-time jobs.

**Figure 3: Percentage change in employee jobs, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



**Figure 4: Percentage of growth by gender and working pattern, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



Male employee jobs increased by just over 10,000 over the year to September 2017. This accounted for three fifths (60%) of the overall growth in jobs.

Part-time jobs increased by 7,947 or 3.1% over the year to September 2017. For comparison, full-time jobs increased by 1.8% over the year to September 2016.

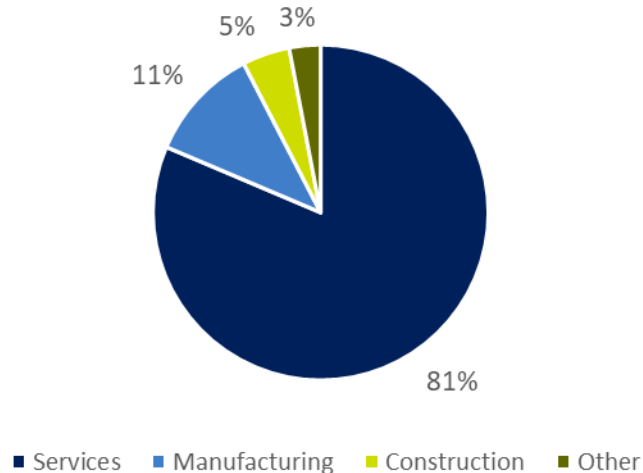
# Industry

The BRES 2017 results have shown that the industry profile of jobs in Northern Ireland remained dominated by the services sector.

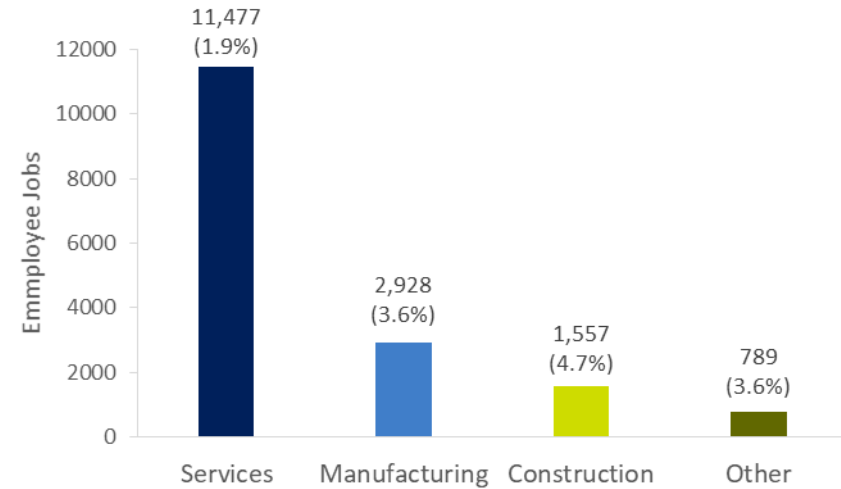
Employee jobs increased in all four headline industries. All the changes exceeded the variability expected from a sample survey of this size and are likely to reflect real change.

The growth in employee jobs was driven by an increase of 11,477 jobs in the services industry which accounted for 69% of the overall increase.

**Figure 5: Percentage of employee jobs by Headline Industry, Sept 2017**



**Figure 6: Change in employee jobs by Headline Industry, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



The manufacturing industry saw an increase of 2,928 (3.6%) jobs over the year to September 2017. By comparison, manufacturing jobs increased by 0.5% over the year to September 2016.

The number of jobs in the construction sector increased by 4.7% over the year to September 2017. Construction jobs grew over the previous year to September 2017 at a slightly higher rate of 5.2%.

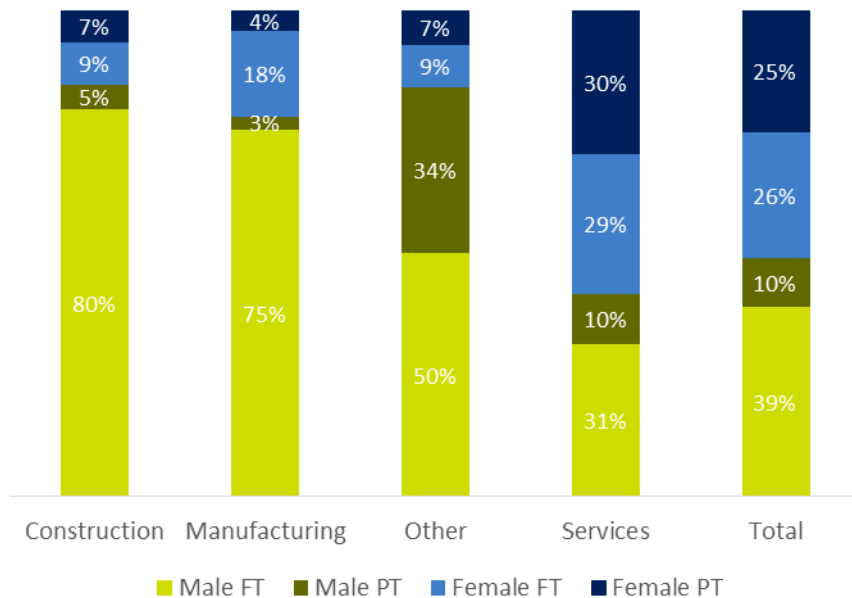


The vast majority of employee jobs in construction and manufacturing were male full-time jobs, 80% and 75% respectively.

The services sector, which accounted for 81% of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland had a majority of female jobs (58%).

Manufacturing had the highest proportion of full-time jobs (93%) of the four headline industries.

**Figure 7: Composition of employee jobs by Headline Industry, Sept 2017**



**Table 1: Employee jobs by gender, working pattern and Headline Industry, Sept 2017**

Employee Jobs	Male		Female		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Services	192,503	64,581	176,104	182,374	615,563
Manufacturing	62,854	2,362	14,625	3,533	83,374
Construction	27,537	1,765	3,047	2,257	34,607
Other	11,414	7,801	1,992	1,614	22,822
<b>Total</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>76,510</b>	<b>195,769</b>	<b>189,779</b>	<b>756,365</b>

The smallest sector in Northern Ireland was the 'other' sector which had almost 23,000 employee jobs. This sector consists of agriculture, mining and quarrying as well as electricity and water supply jobs.

Following the construction industry, the 'other' industry had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of male employees (84%), and the highest proportion of male part-time employee jobs (34%) of all the four headline industries in September 2017.

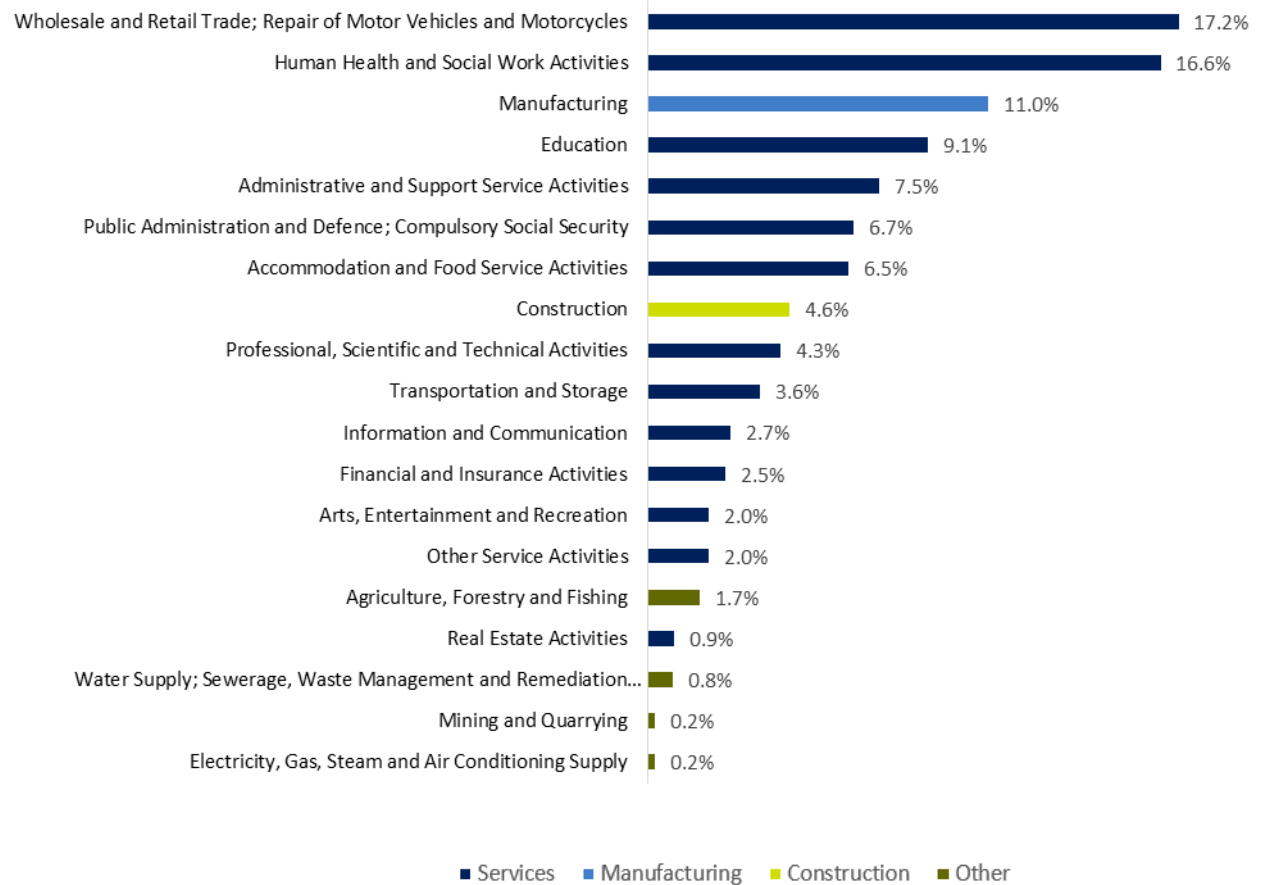
## Employee Jobs by Section Level

The BRES 2017 sample was sufficiently large to allow disaggregation of the data to industry section level. The section level data presented in this publication includes agriculture figures.

Further disaggregation of the BRES 2017 data to 5-digit SIC 2007<sup>1</sup> (excluding agriculture figures) is available [here](#).

The four largest industries accounted for over half (54%) of all the employee jobs in Northern Ireland in September 2017.

**Figure 8: Percentage of employee jobs by Industry Section, Sept 2017**



<sup>1</sup> [ONS UK SIC 2007](#)

## District Council Area

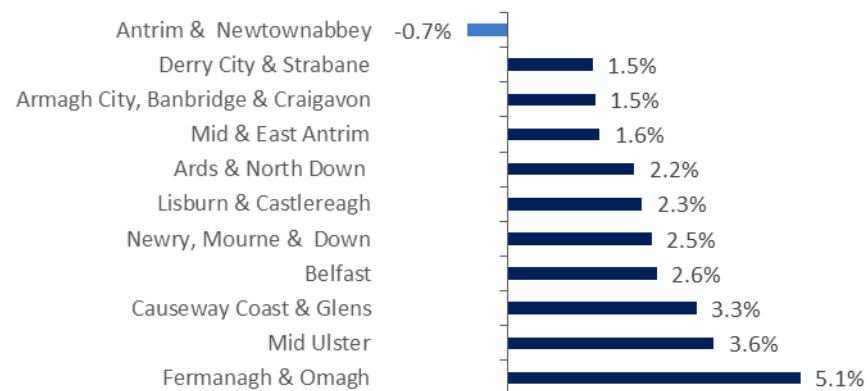
Employee job figures by District Council area include agriculture job estimates provided by the Agriculture Census. Previous reports in this series did not include agriculture figures at District Council area level.

**Table 2: Employee jobs by District Council Area, Sept 2017**

District Council Area	Employee Jobs	
	2017	%
Belfast	224,149	29.6%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	76,247	10.1%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	60,233	8.0%
Newry, Mourne & Down	57,582	7.6%
Derry City & Strabane	56,694	7.5%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	56,511	7.5%
Mid Ulster	55,984	7.4%
Mid & East Antrim	44,323	5.9%
Fermanagh & Omagh	43,540	5.8%
Causeway Coast & Glens	41,797	5.5%
Ards & North Down	39,306	5.2%
Total	756,365	100%

Nearly half (48%) of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland are in three District Council areas, namely Belfast; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Antrim & Newtownabbey.

**Figure 9: Percentage change in employee jobs by District Council Area, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



The proportion of employee jobs by District Council area has remained relatively unchanged since 2016.

Ten of the eleven District Council areas saw an increase in the number of employee jobs over the year to September 2017. Antrim & Newtownabbey saw a small decrease of 434 jobs (0.7%) over the period.

The largest increase in employee jobs was in Belfast where an additional 5,631 jobs or 2.6% growth was observed over the year to September 2017.

Fermanagh and Omagh experienced the greatest percentage growth, with 5.1% more employee jobs since September 2016. This was largely due to an increase in over 1,300 jobs in the services sector, with particular growth in the human health and social work activities industry.

## District Council Area by Headline Industry

The vast majority (92%) of employee jobs in Belfast District Council area were in the services sector in September 2017.

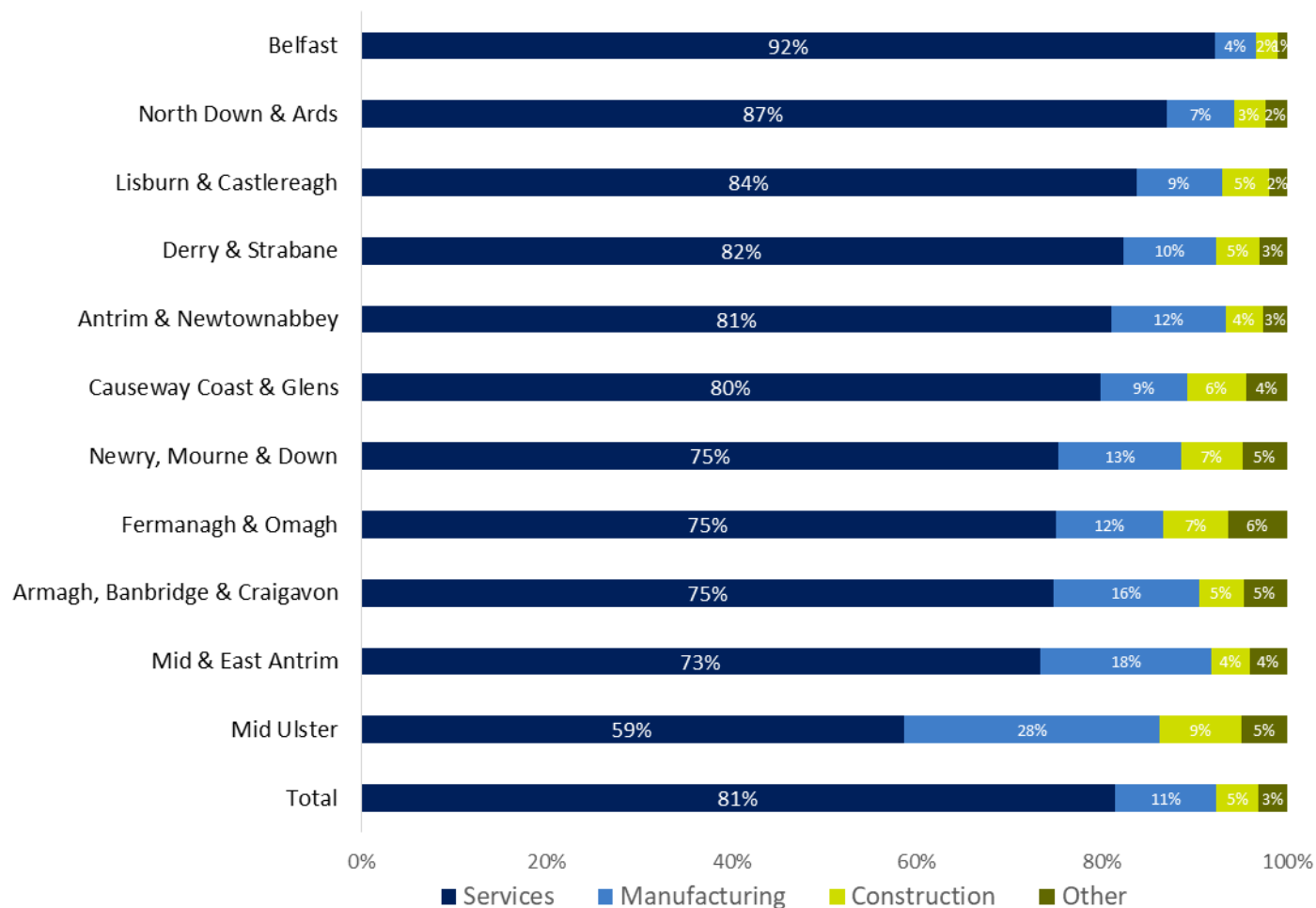
Mid Ulster had the lowest proportion of employees working in the services sector (59%) but the highest proportion of employees in the manufacturing sector (28%) and the Construction sector (9%).

Services sector employee jobs in Fermanagh & Omagh increased by 1,365 or 4.4%. This was the highest percentage increase in service sector jobs observed across the eleven District Council areas in Northern Ireland.

Overall the number of employee jobs in construction increased by 1,557 (4.7%) over the year to September 2017. However, four District Council Areas saw a decrease in the construction sector, namely: Antrim & Newtownabbey; Derry City & Strabane; Mid & East Antrim and Newry, Mourne & Down. Antrim & Newtownabbey saw a decrease of 319 construction jobs over the year to September 2017, the largest decrease of all the District Council areas.

Causeway Coast & Glens saw the largest percentage increase in construction jobs over the year to September 2017. Construction in this District Council area increased by 25% or 541 jobs.

Figure 10: Employee jobs by District Council Area and Headline Industry, Sept 2017



# Public/Private Sector

Just over a quarter (27%) of all jobs in Northern Ireland were in the public sector in 2017.

**Table 3: Employee jobs by public/private sector, Sept 2017**

	Employee Jobs	%
Public Sector	202,227	27%
Private Sector	554,138	73%
Total	756,365	100%

## Composition

The majority of public sector jobs in 2017 were female (68%) while the majority of private sector jobs were male (55%).

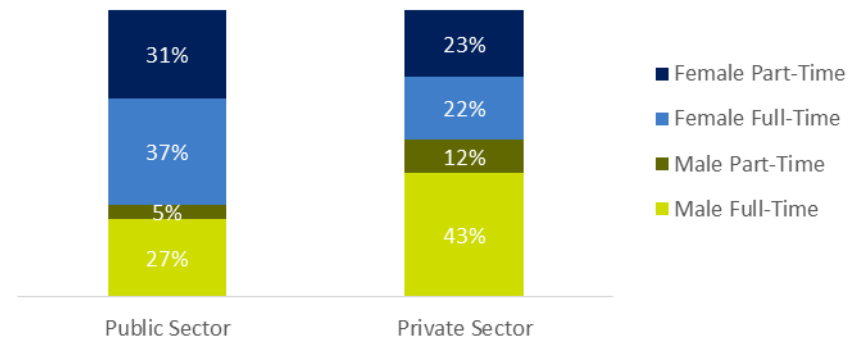
Almost two-thirds of private sector jobs were full-time (65%). A similar split in terms of working pattern was also seen for the public sector.

The composition of public sector jobs versus private sector jobs in terms of gender and working pattern has remained relatively unchanged since 2016

**Table 4: Employee jobs in the public and private sector by gender and working pattern, Sept 2017**

		Employee Jobs	%
Public	Male	65,354	32%
	Female	136,873	68%
	Full-time	130,284	64%
	Part-time	71,942	36%
Private	Male	305,464	55%
	Female	248,675	45%
	Full-time	359,791	65%
	Part-time	194,347	35%

**Figure 11: Composition of public and private sector employee jobs, Sept 2017**



## Public Sector

Public sector jobs increased by 1.3% over the year to September 2017. This is the first time public sector employee jobs have increased since 2013.

The proportion of employee jobs in the public sector was 27% and remained unchanged since 2016.

The number of full-time jobs in the public sector fell by 546 (0.4%) while the number of part-time jobs increased by 3,214 (4.7%).

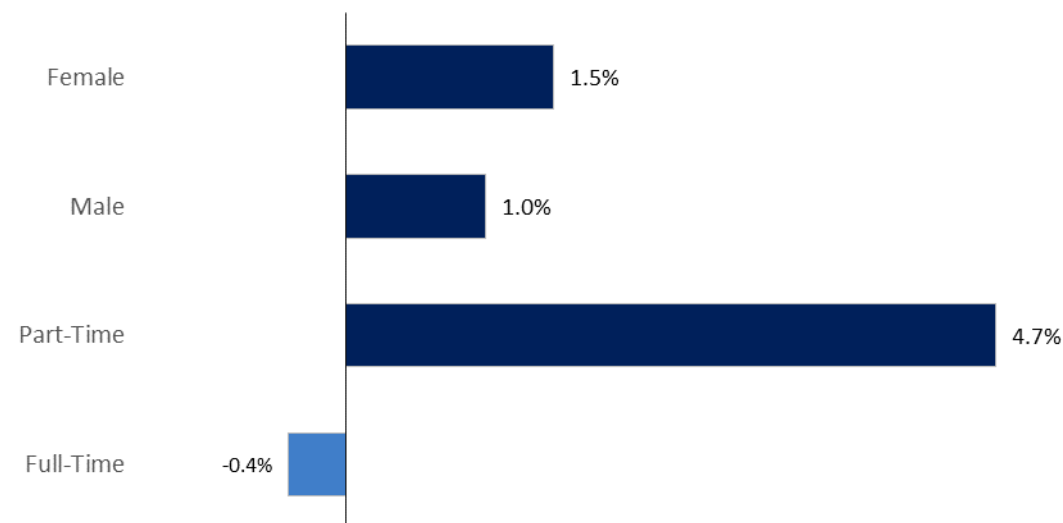
The number of public sector jobs occupied by females increased by 1.5% over the period.

The increase in public sector jobs was driven by an increase in female part-time jobs of 2,909 (4.9%). Female full-time jobs decreased over the period by 889 (1.2%).

**Table 5: Public sector jobs by gender and working pattern, Sept 2016 and Sept 2017**

Public Sector	2016	2017	Change	%
Male Full-Time	54,922	55,266	344	0.6%
Male Part-Time	9,783	10,088	305	3.1%
Female Full-Time	75,908	75,019	-889	-1.2%
Female Part-Time	58,945	61,854	2,909	4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,558</b>	<b>202,227</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

**Figure 12: Percentage change in public sector jobs by gender and working pattern, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



## Private Sector

The number of private sector jobs in Northern Ireland was just over 554,000 in September 2017. This was an increase of 2.6% over the year.

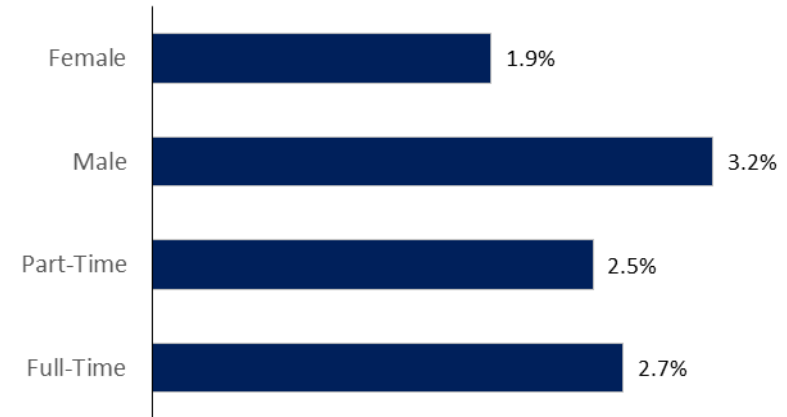
Just over two-thirds of the growth in the private sector (67%) was due to an increase in male jobs.

Two-thirds of the growth in the private sector (66%) was due to an increase of 9,349 full-time jobs.

**Table 6: Private sector jobs by gender and working pattern, Sept 2016 and Sept 2017**

Private Sector	2016	2017	Change	%
Male Full-Time	232,030	239,042	7,012	3.0%
Male Part-Time	64,031	66,422	2,392	3.7%
Female Full-Time	118,412	120,750	2,337	2.0%
Female Part-Time	125,584	127,925	2,341	1.9%
Total	540,056	554,138	14,082	2.6%

**Figure 13: Percentage change in private sector jobs by gender and working pattern, Sept 2016 to Sept 2017**



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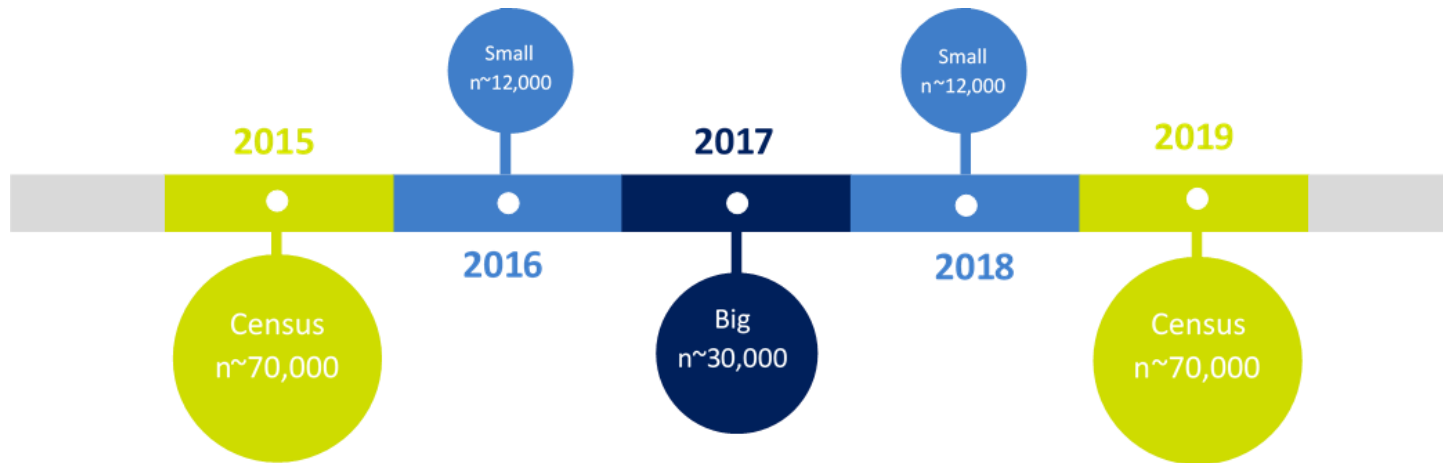
# Background Notes

Employee job figures presented in this publication are as at 4 September 2017 and are estimates produced as a result of a sample survey of businesses across Northern Ireland.

## Sample

BRES is conducted by means of a postal and electronic form enquiry sent to businesses. The businesses are selected from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which is a register held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), combining information from the VAT based business register and the HM Revenue and Custom's computerised PAYE system. Businesses considered to be live at September 2017 were sampled.

The 2017 BRES consisted of a census element, whereby all businesses with specified characteristics were surveyed and a sample element of the remaining live businesses. The census element included all public sector businesses, those businesses with more than 5 employee jobs and those operating from more than one location. The census element also included the Northern Ireland units of businesses based elsewhere in the UK. Approximately 30,000 businesses were surveyed in 2017.



The Northern Ireland BRES survey currently operates on a 4-year cycle. A full census of businesses in Northern Ireland is conducted every four years. In the intervening years a 'small' sample of approximately 12,000 businesses are surveyed followed by a 'big' sample of approximately 30,000 businesses.

Statistical methods are used to ensure that the estimates derived from a BRES sample are as representative of the population as possible. The estimates presented in this bulletin have been derived from a sample survey and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Sampling errors are determined both by the sample design and by the sample size. Generally speaking, the larger the sample supporting a particular estimate, the smaller the associated sampling error. When all businesses are surveyed, as in the BRES census years, there is no sampling error.

The effective response rate for BRES 2017 was 82%.

### **Confidence Intervals**

The sampling error indicates the limitations of our sample in reflecting the whole population. This error is presented in the tables accompanying this publication as a 95% confidence interval. This means that if we used the same sampling method to select different samples for the surveys over and over again and computed the estimated number of employee jobs, we would expect the true number of jobs to fall within the interval estimates 95% of the time.

### **Disclosure**

Estimates presented in this publication and associated datasets have been subjected to disclosure control. Further details on the confidentiality rules adhered to in NISRA can be found [here](#).

## **Usage**

Information collected via BRES is used to update the Northern Ireland element of the IDBR. Business level data is used to maintain the register with among other things, contact information, business structure and business type. The BRES survey also produces employee job counts for Northern Ireland, disaggregated to various geographical and industry levels. This information is used for statistical purposes to obtain a picture of the economic and labour market in Northern Ireland. More specifically, the employee job figures are used widely across central and local government for statistical analysis and planning purposes.

### **Agriculture employee jobs**

Employee job counts for Farm Labour: Other Workers are included in the BRES 2017 employee job figures and are taken from the 2017 Agriculture Census conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The figures include all workers in agriculture businesses other than farmers and partners and farmers' spouses. It includes casual workers, both paid and unpaid. The agriculture figures included in this bulletin are available at District Council level [here](#).