

Quality and Methodology

Northern Ireland business; activity, size and location

Business Demography, Northern Ireland

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We are always looking at ways of improving the content and quality of our publications and would like to hear your feedback. Are there additional or alternative tables or charts you wish to see included? If so, please contact:

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General Information

<p>Theme: Business and Energy Frequency: Annual Geographical Area: Northern Ireland Variables: Number of businesses by Standard Industrial Classification (2007), Geographical Areas, Legal Status, Public and Private Sector, Employee Size Band, Turnover Size Band, Country of Ownership</p> <p>Contact: IDBR@finance-ni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Northern Ireland business; activity, size and location report provides an overview of the Northern Ireland business population as at March each year. The number of businesses is provided by industry, location, legal status, employee and turnover size band and country of ownership.</p> <p>The Business Demography, Northern Ireland report provides the business births, deaths and survival rate of businesses in Northern Ireland by industry and location.</p> <p>These statistical reports are produced by the Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (ELMSB) within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an agency of the Department of Finance (DoF) in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The business activity, size and location data and the demography data were previously published together as: Facts and Figures from the IDBR. The demography data, produced by the ONS, is not available to ELMSB until December each year. The business activity, size and location data can be processed much earlier in the year, by ELMSB staff, and so is now output separately in order to improve timeliness.</p> <p>All data in the series are available from the NISRA website.</p>
<p>Data Source</p>	<p>The data are extracted from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR is a comprehensive database of UK businesses registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) schemes and is used to support statistical work across government.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland element of the IDBR (NI IDBR) is maintained by NISRA's ELMSB.</p> <p>The two main administrative sources of input for the IDBR are VAT and PAYE records from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Additional information on incorporated businesses is sourced from Companies House and the commercial data provider, Dun and Bradstreet, provides Enterprise Group information. The Northern Ireland element of the IDBR is supplemented with data obtained via business surveys, including the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI).</p> <p>The IDBR covers most of the economy including the Agriculture, Production, Construction and Service sectors in Northern Ireland. It does not, however, include very small businesses which fall below the VAT and PAYE thresholds. This means that</p>

	<p>many self-employed workers will not be included on the IDBR. The register holds information on the characteristics, structure and location of Northern Ireland businesses. This information includes, among other things, legal registration status, country of ownership, turnover, employment, employees and industrial classification (SIC 07).</p> <p>The IDBR enables Government to conduct efficient and cost effective surveys/inquiries whilst minimising the burden on businesses. It is used for national accounts and labour market statistics, as well as providing basic information on the structure of the economy.</p> <p>All data on the IDBR are treated as OFFICIAL SENSITIVE and are protected by the Code of Practice for Statistics.</p>
<p>Users</p>	<p>Business data from the IDBR are used across central and local government as well as by national and international academic researchers.</p> <p>Northern Ireland key users include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Finance, ELMSB - Department of Finance, Tourism Statistics Branch - Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland) - Invest Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics (ONS) – inclusion of data in UK level figures - District Councils in Northern Ireland - Ulster University - Queen’s University Belfast - Oxford Economics - Ulster Bank <p>Data from the NI IDBR are published online. Data and statistical advice on the data can also be obtained directly by contacting NISRA/ELMSB using the contact details provided: IDBR@finance-ni.gov.uk</p> <p>NISRA seeks to ‘meet users need’ by continually improving the quality of its statistical output. Staff within ELMSB engage with users on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Cost and Response Burden</p>	<p>The maintenance of the IDBR incurs a direct burden on businesses through the process of validating new VAT and/or PAYE registrations in Northern Ireland via the Business Register Inquiry. This process is called IDBR proving.</p>

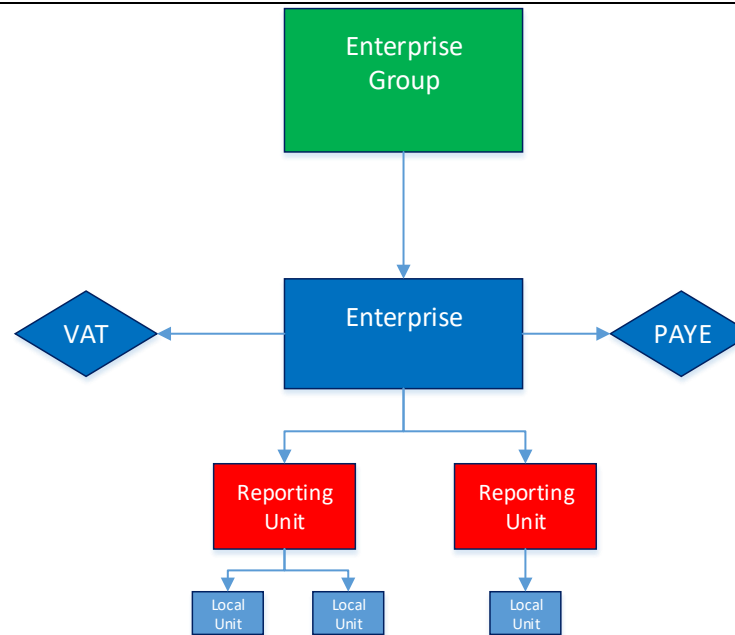
	<p>The burden incurred on business by responding to the proving process is reported on an annual basis to NISRA Corporate Services and included in the annual NISRA report: NI Statistical Surveys – Assessment of burden on businesses, households and individuals</p> <p>Reducing the burden on business is a core focus of our methodological considerations. Methods of reducing burden include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing data share with the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), and - Opting businesses in for electronic data collection.
Confidentiality, Transparency and Security	<p>NISRA adheres to the National Statistician’s Privacy and data confidentiality methods in the collection and dissemination of Economic and Labour Market statistics.</p> <p>The IDBR and data collected via proving are stored on a secure network, which is only accessible to a minimum number of staff working in ELMSB.</p> <p>All staff are trained on protocols for protecting and maintaining the confidentiality of the data.</p>
Disclosure Control	<p>Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to IDBR data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual or business is not identifiable in any published outputs.</p>
Revisions Policy	<p>The Northern Ireland Business; activity, size and location data are not revised.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland demography data are revised. The business death data are not finalised until the third year to allow for re-activations during the preceding two years.</p>

Methodology

Sources	<p>The information used to create and maintain the IDBR is obtained from the following sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HMRC Value Added Tax (VAT) - traders registered for VAT purposes with HMRC (Customs); 2. HMRC Pay As You Earn (PAYE) - employers operating a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) scheme, registered with HMRC (Revenue); 3. Companies House - incorporated businesses registered at Companies House; 4. Department of Finance, Northern Ireland – business survey data including initial proving, and
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	<p>5. Dun and Bradstreet – this commercial data provider holds information on Enterprise Groups and is the primary source of the business ownership data.</p> <p>New businesses are identified through VAT and PAYE registrations within HMRC, as well as Companies House registrations. ELMSB verifies the existence of the business, its characteristics and the location and characteristics of local sites via the Business Register Inquiry (proving). The business information on the register is constantly updated by HMRC and with new information obtained from surveys to businesses in Northern Ireland. The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) provide data to the NI IDBR. The BRES provides employee figures, industry classification and local unit information as well as information on closures, mergers and takeovers. The ABI provides updates on turnover information.</p> <p>Further details on the IDBR can be found on the NISRA webpage.</p> <p>The data for the Northern Ireland Business; activity, size and location publication are taken from a snapshot of the IDBR in March each year. Since the publication is an extract from an administrative source, there is no estimation or imputation. However, it is important to note that the maintenance of the IDBR is bound by rigid processing rules and that the time taken to conduct the proving exercise will impact on the timeliness of the industry classification for a business. The BRES and ABI data used to update the IDBR are validated as part of the survey process. Further checks are carried out by IDBR maintenance staff within ELMSB, supported by IDBR staff in the ONS, before any changes to the register are made.</p> <p>The IDBR is the primary source for the Northern Ireland demography figures. The ONS produces the demography data for the UK and publishes it here. ELMSB uses the ONS demography data to provide a NI specific report. The demography statistics are taken as changes in registrations over the calendar year. ELMSB receives the demography data in December each year and aims to publish within 6-8 weeks of receipt.</p>
<p>Coverage</p>	<p>The IDBR covers most of the economy including the Agriculture, Production, Construction and Service sectors in Northern Ireland. It does not, however, include very small businesses which are not VAT registered (the threshold for VAT in 2022/23 was £85,000) unless they operate a PAYE scheme. This means that many self-employed workers will not be included on the IDBR. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), estimates that the number of unregistered private sector businesses in NI at the start of 2022 was 53,680.</p> <p>Any businesses which are solely VAT based or, solely PAYE based where the employment is estimated to be 20 or more, have been excluded from this analysis as these businesses are thought to be duplicates of existing businesses (pending a return from the Business Survey Inquiry or other information).</p> <p>The IDBR figures will inevitably also include some enterprises that were no longer VAT and/or PAYE registered or had actually ceased trading at the time the results were extracted. Similarly, some new business start-ups will be excluded because of the delays in notification.</p> <p>Legal Obligation to Register: Mandatory registration for VAT is required if a business' turnover exceeds the stated limit, which was £85,000 for 2022/2023. The thresholds for earlier years can be found on the HM Revenue & Customs website</p>

	<p>Also, in situations where this amount has been exceeded in the prior twelve month period, registering for VAT becomes a legal obligation. In addition, where a business anticipates that its taxable sales will breach the £85,000 limit in any 30 day period, it must also then apply for registration.</p> <p>The IDBR demography data exclude public sector organisations and the agriculture sector. Composite and Managed Services companies are excluded as the address did not represent the location of the activities of the business. All other businesses, which are VAT registered and/or operating a PAYE scheme, are included.</p>
<p>Statistical Units</p>	<p>Enterprise Group: is a group of legal units under common ownership.</p> <p>Enterprise: is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. The geographical location of an Enterprise is based on its registered (or main) UK address.</p> <p>Reporting Unit: includes all or part of an Enterprise. There will be at least one Northern Ireland Reporting Unit for any business operating in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Local Unit: is an individual site (for example a factory or shop). Usually all sites in Northern Ireland are included in a single Reporting Unit. A Northern Ireland Reporting Unit will not include any sites outside Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The ONS defines a business as an enterprise and assigns each business to a geographical location based on its registered or main address, within the UK. This is the standard EU definition but has the disadvantage that the Northern Ireland figures will not include any businesses operating in Northern Ireland, which have their main or registered address elsewhere in the UK. An alternative approach is to define each Northern Ireland Reporting Unit as a business. This ensures that all businesses operating in Northern Ireland are included but has the drawback that any Enterprise with more than one Reporting Unit in Northern Ireland will be counted as multiple businesses.</p>



To address these issues an **Enterprise operating within Northern Ireland** definition has been introduced. Under this definition each Enterprise operating in Northern Ireland is included in the Northern Ireland figures but only once and the industrial classification, employment/employees and turnover information only relate to the part of the business located in Northern Ireland. Where the Enterprise has more than one Northern Ireland Reporting Unit the data for the individual Reporting Units are aggregated to form a composite unit. The industrial classification for the composite unit is determined based on the industrial classifications of the local units contained within the unit, using the same method as is used for a standard Reporting Unit. The location of the composite unit is determined based on the address of the site with overall responsibility for Northern Ireland activity or the primary operating site within Northern Ireland.

<p>Definitions</p>	<p><u>Employee & Employment</u></p> <p>An employee is anyone aged 16 or over working for the business and paid via a PAYE scheme in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. The employee jobs data held on the IDBR are obtained from PAYE records, the Business Register Inquiry or from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). Employee counts may also be imputed from VAT turnover.</p> <p>A working owner includes sole traders and proprietors, partners and directors who receive drawings or a share of profits but are not paid via PAYE. Limited companies, charities, churches, voluntary or public bodies will not have working owners.</p> <p>Employment is a sum of employee jobs and working owners.</p> <p>The employee job data presented in the Northern Ireland reports are based on the Enterprise Operating in Northern Ireland definition of a business. As such, the employee figures will only be for the part of the business operating in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Counts of business are given by employee size band. Businesses in the 0-9 employee band are micro businesses, 10-49 employee band are small, 50-249 employee band are medium and those with 250+ employees are large.</p> <p>The IDBR is not the preferred source for employment/employee estimates. For employee estimates, the BRES should be used.</p> <p><u>Turnover</u></p> <p>Turnover on the IDBR is obtained from VAT returns or from the NI ABI or as an estimate for newly registered businesses.</p> <p>For the majority of businesses on the IDBR turnover is obtained from VAT relating to the previous 12 month financial year. Therefore, for IDBR data published as at March 2023, the turnover data will have been obtained for 2021/2022. For other records, in particular members of VAT group registrations; turnover may relate to an earlier period or survey data from the NI ABI which relates to the calendar rather than the financial year.</p> <p>The turnover figures on the register generally exclude VAT but include other taxes, such as the revenue duties on alcoholic drinks and tobacco.</p> <p>The turnover data presented in the Northern Ireland reports are based on the Enterprise Operating in Northern Ireland definition of a business. As such, the turnover will only be for the part of the business located in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Counts of businesses are presented by turnover size band.</p> <p>The IDBR is not the preferred source for turnover estimates. For turnover estimates, the NI ABI should be used.</p>
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The information on **foreign ownership** on the IDBR is supplied annually to the ONS by the market information company, Dun and Bradstreet. The figures in this publication are based on ultimate owner or top enterprise in the 'chain of ownership'. At each point in the chain, the parent company (including the ultimate owner) must hold more than a 50 per cent shareholding in the subsidiary company.

There is likely to be an undercount of the number of foreign (non-UK) owned businesses in Northern Ireland for the following reasons:

- The estimates only include businesses in Northern Ireland identified as being foreign-owned by Dun and Bradstreet. This may not be an exhaustive list of foreign owned businesses in Northern Ireland.
- Any business controlled by a collective of foreign investors, each with a minority stake will be excluded from the figures. For a business to be classified as foreign-owned, a single outside foreign investor must hold a greater than 50 per cent total shareholding.
- The estimates are limited to businesses which are part of an enterprise group. Under this definition of foreign-ownership, a business which does not have a parent company, cannot be foreign owned. This parent company does not need to be in the UK.

Country of ownership tables are disaggregated by Northern Ireland, Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales), Republic of Ireland, European Union (not including ROI) and Other.

Country of ownership by NI and GB is only available from 2013.

European Union (not including ROI) includes the other 26 member states of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Other includes all other countries not included in the categories listed above.

Geography

The Northern Ireland business activity tables are published at district council, parliamentary constituency and district electoral areas. Further geographical breakdowns are available on request.

The Northern Ireland [business demography tables](#) are published at district council area. Further geographical breakdowns of this data are not possible.

The [NISRA Geography](#) website provides details on Northern Ireland statistical geographies.

A business is assigned to Northern Ireland if it operates in Northern Ireland, i.e. if its main (or registered) UK address is in Northern Ireland or if it has at least one site in Northern Ireland. All businesses operating in Northern Ireland are included in the district council, parliamentary constituency and district electoral area tables. A business is assigned to a geographical location within Northern Ireland based on the address of the site from which reports Northern Ireland activity, i.e. the Northern Ireland Reporting Unit. This is usually the main operating site or 'head office' within Northern Ireland. Where there is more than one Northern Ireland Reporting Unit, the address of the composite unit is used. In a small number of cases the site which reports Northern Ireland activity is outside Northern Ireland (for example in the Republic of Ireland) but the Enterprise address, i.e. the registered UK address, is in Northern Ireland; in this case the Enterprise address is used to assign the business to a geographical location within Northern Ireland. This has only been possible since 2012 as the Enterprise address was not included on earlier extracts. If both the Reporting Unit address and the Enterprise address are outside Northern Ireland (for example in England, Scotland or Wales) then the Local Unit with the highest number of employees is used.

Industrial Classification

The Northern Ireland business activity data are published at UK Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (UK SIC 07) levels: broad industry group and 4-digit SIC. Further industry breakdowns are available on request.

The Northern Ireland business demography tables are published at broad industry group only. Further industry breakdowns of these data are not available

The broad industry groupings are detailed below in terms of SIC headline, section and 2-digit codes.

Broad Industry Group	Headline	Section	2-Digit SIC
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Agriculture	A	01 - 03
Production	Production	B	05 - 39
Construction	Construction	C	41 - 43
Motor trades	Services	D	45
Wholesale	Services	E	46
Retail	Services	F	47
Transport & storage (inc. postal)	Services	H	49 - 53
Accommodation & food services	Services	I	55 - 56
Information & communication	Services	J	58 - 63
Finance & insurance	Services	K	64 - 66
Property	Services	L	68
Professional, scientific & technical	Services	M	69 - 75
Business administration and support services	Services	N	77 - 82
Public administration and defence	Services	O	84
Education	Services	P	85
Health	Services	Q	86 - 88
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	Services	R	90 - 99

NOTE: Manufacturing includes the 2-digit SIC codes: 10 – 33.

Further details of UK Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 07) can be found at the [ONS website](#).

Business Demography

Business

The enterprise definition of a business is used: an enterprise is defined as the smallest number of legal units (based on VAT and PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy in decision making. Each enterprise is assigned to a geographical location within the UK based on its registered (or main) address. This means that the Northern Ireland figures will not include businesses operating in Northern Ireland which have their registered (or main) UK address elsewhere in the UK.

Active

The starting point for demography is the concept of a population of active businesses in a reference year (t). These are defined as businesses that were registered on the IDBR by having a VAT and/or PAYE at any time during the reference year. Births and deaths are then identified by comparing active populations for different years. Birth and death rates are calculated by dividing the births and deaths by the active population for the same year.

Births & Deaths

A **birth** is identified as a business that was on the IDBR in year t, but was not on the IDBR in year t-1 or t-2. Births are identified by making comparison of annual active population files and identifying those present in the latest file, but not the two previous ones.

A **death** is defined as a business that was on the active file in year t, but was no longer present in the active file in t+1 and t+2. In order to provide an early estimate of deaths, an adjustment has been made to the latest two years deaths to allow for reactivations. The figures for these years are provisional and subject to revision.

Births & Deaths Rate

A birth or death rate is the number of births or deaths divided by the active population.

$$\text{Birth Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Births}}{\text{Active Population}}$$

$$\text{Death Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Deaths}}{\text{Active Population}}$$

Survival

A business is deemed to have survived if, having been a birth in year t or having survived to year t; it is active in terms of employment and/or turnover in any part of t+1.

High Growth

High growth (for the purposes of the Business Demography publication) measures businesses, who had at least 10 employees in t, which had an average growth in employment of greater than 20% per year between t and t+3. The high growth rates are calculated by showing these businesses as a share of the t+3 active businesses with 10 or more employees. Businesses born in year t and agriculture businesses are not included.

Employers Demography

Employer business demography is an alternative measure of business demography based on businesses with at least one employee. Employer business births include new businesses with one or more employees, as well as existing businesses that have recently started to employ at least one person. Similarly, employer deaths include the number of employer businesses that have de-registered, as well as those that remain on the register, but no longer employ any staff.

Reactivations

Reactivations occur due to lags in the administrative sources, which mean it is possible that a business that is continuing to trade can appear to cease on the IDBR. If an old VAT scheme is de-registered and there is a delay in the creation and/or matching of the new VAT scheme it can leave the enterprise without a live administrative source resulting in it being automatically flagged as a death. Additionally, VAT based units, where turnover drops to zero, are automatically made dead on the IDBR, but will rebirth if turnover is then reported in a later period. These units will appear to move

	<p>from the active stock into the death counts then come live again as births. In order to prevent distortion in these figures, those businesses that 'reactivate' on the register within two years of death are treated as if they have continued to trade throughout the period.</p> <p>Death figures are therefore provisional and subject to revision.</p>
<p>Quality Assurance</p>	<p>The NI IDBR data is maintained and quality assured by staff working in NISRA's ELMSB. NISRA staff work closely with colleagues in the ONS IDBR section and apply the strict rules and processes as detailed by the ONS in order to maintain the most accurate and up-to-date consistent business records. Quality assurance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new registrations on the NI IDBR, as notified by HMRC, are checked and 'proved' through the Business Register Inquiry. Each newly registered business receives a survey form requesting information on the number of active sites or local units, details of the industry and the number of employees and working owners. This information is used to update the business record. • Data from BRES and ABI are used to update business records. The survey data within ELMSB are rigorously checked in order to produce statistical outputs but also to support the maintenance of the register. Survey team staff and IDBR staff work collaboratively across the branch to check structural changes to businesses, industrial classifications, postcode details, closures and mergers. • The ONS provides updates to the data on an on-going basis and once the BRES and ABI data are loaded a series of further checks are conducted. • The statistician responsible for the IDBR within ELMSB also conducts a series of quality checks with the March snapshot before producing any tables for publication.
<p>Dissemination</p>	<p>IDBR data are published on the NISRA website in Excel and ODS format. The NI Business; Activity, Size, Location and Ownership, and Business Demography NI bulletins are also published in HTML.</p> <p>IDBR counts of business by industry and district council area are also available on the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information service (NINIS) website.</p> <p>NI IDBR publications are pre-announced on gov.uk, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.</p> <p>Users are notified, by e-mail, when the most recent IDBR data have been published.</p>

Quality

The National Statistician has provided [guidelines on measuring the quality of statistical output](#). The guidelines require a consideration of a number of dimensions in relation to quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness, Punctuality, Coherence and Comparability.

<p>Relevance</p> <p>The degree to which the statistical outputs meet users' needs.</p>	<p>The IDBR activity and demography data are used by those interested in the Northern Ireland economy, both within and outside Government by: the Department of the Economy, Invest Northern Ireland, local councils, academia, research organisations/consultants, the media and the general public. The business activity data are routinely published at industry and geographical levels that frequent users request most often. Users can also request the activity data disaggregated in a way not routinely published. ELMSB statistical staff are conscious of changing data needs and have responded to the interest in business activity relating to the UK and other European countries by re-categorising the foreign ownership data to best inform users.</p> <p>The demography tables published by NISRA are disaggregated to district council area and broad industry group. Further disaggregation of the births and deaths data is not possible.</p>
<p>Accuracy</p> <p>The degree of closeness between an estimate and the true value.</p>	<p>The data presented in the business activity and demography tables are taken from the IDBR. The information on the IDBR comes from HMRC records and is updated on an on-going basis by VAT and PAYE records and from data collected via business surveys.</p> <p>VAT updates are loaded onto the IDBR daily and PAYE updates are made on a quarterly basis. BRES employee jobs and ABI turnover figures are updated annually. However, an individual business may not be surveyed by BRES or ABI in any given year due to sampling. Employee jobs and turnover are banded for the business activity and demography counts.</p> <p>Stringent quality assurance measures are in place in order to ensure the IDBR records are as up-to-date as possible acknowledging the time-lags inherent in the system required for processing.</p> <p>The ONS uses administrative data from VAT and PAYE records, therefore, the possibility exists for a single business to have more than one record created for it on the register. Such duplication is more probable for sole proprietors and, to a lesser extent, partnerships where the business may register its name in one form for VAT and another for PAYE. The ONS uses data matching to identify duplicates.</p>

	<p>An improvement has been made to the data shown for some of the years covered in this release (2016 to 2021). Businesses that have neither VAT nor PAYE, but do have a live company number, have been removed from the figures for those years because they can misrepresent business birth and death figures.</p>
<p>Timeliness/Punctuality</p> <p>Timeliness refers to the lapse of time between publication and the period to which the data refer. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</p>	<p>The business activity report is published as soon as the data are ready following its extraction in March. The date of release of the activity data was brought forward in 2019 to improve the timeliness for users. The NI business demography data report is published as soon the data are ready. The ONS provides NISRA, ELMSB with the extract in December, the data checked and tabulated, and a report prepared. Publication usually occurs in late January.</p> <p>The publication dates of the activity and demography report are pre-announced on gov.uk and, to date, both reports have been published on time.</p>
<p>Accessibility and Clarity</p> <p>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the data release details, illustrations and accompanying advice.</p>	<p>The business activity and demography reports are available from the NISRA website in PDF and/or HTML. The charts and tables within the report are available in EXCEL or ODS format. The tables that accompany the business reports are available in EXCEL or ODS. In the Tim Berners-Lee scale of online output the Northern Ireland business activity and demography reports are 3 stars.</p> <p>IDBR business activity data are also available on NINIS, where they can be viewed in tabular format and exported to CSV, EXCEL or PDF. The data are also presented interactively on charts and maps on the NINIS website.</p> <p>This quality and methodology report provides detail on the quality of the IDBR data. Key points and infographics are tweeted with the aim of supporting user understanding and to reach a wider audience. The business activity and demography publication dates are pre-announced on gov.uk and on the ELMSB publication schedule here.</p>
<p>Coherence and Comparability</p> <p>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar.</p> <p>Comparability is the degree to which data can be</p>	<p>The Northern Ireland business activity and demography data are comparable over the time series and with the UK data produced by the ONS. Where changes to methodology have improved the quality of the output, these changes are made known to the user.</p>

<p>compared over time and domain for example, geographic level.</p>	<p>There are three National Statistics publications that provide information on the UK business population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Business Population Estimates publication which provides the only estimate of the total UK business population (this publication includes an estimate of the “unregistered” population);• the Office for National Statistics (ONS) UK business; activity, size and location publication which provides more detail on the registered section of the business population; and• the ONS Business Demography publication which includes levels of business births and deaths and provides an alternative measure of the registered business population. <p>In addition to these publications, similar related National Statistics are released by the three devolved administrations for their countries, the Insolvency Service publishes National Statistics for corporate and individual insolvency, and Companies House publishes statistics based on activity taken from their business register.</p>
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