

Northern Ireland Labour Market Report

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Monthly

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Key Points

- The number of people on the NI claimant count (experimental) decreased over the month to 51,200 in June 2021. The experimental Claimant Count includes Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants and those claimants of Universal Credit who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed.
- During June 2021, 490 redundancies were proposed and 850 were proposed in July to date. Over the year from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021, 7,180 redundancies were proposed, similar to the previous 12 months (6,940). The department was notified of 300 confirmed redundancies in June, taking the annual total to 6,180, the highest since 2001.
- The number of employees receiving pay through HMRC PAYE in NI in June 2021 was 757,200, an increase of 1.4% over the month and 2.6% over the year. Employee numbers are now above the total recorded in March 2020.
- Earnings from the HMRC PAYE indicated that NI employees had a median monthly pay of £1,822 in June 2021, an increase of £8 (0.4%) over the month and an increase of £97 (5.6%) over the year. The median monthly pay in June 2021 was 4.4% above the value in March 2020.
- The latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates relate to March-May 2021 and indicate that, over the quarter, the employment rate increased, the economic inactivity rate decreased and the unemployment rate was unchanged.
- The NI unemployment rate (16+) was unchanged over the quarter and increased over the year (1.1pps) to 3.6% in March-May 2021. The NI unemployment rate was below the UK rate (4.8%). The annual change was statistically significant and is likely to reflect real change.
- The proportion of people aged 16 to 64 in work (the employment rate) increased over the quarter (0.4pps) and decreased over the year (0.7pps) to 70.3%. The latest employment rate recorded for the whole of the UK was 74.8%. Neither the quarterly nor annual changes were statistically significant.
- The NI economic inactivity rate (the proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 who were not working and not seeking or available to work) decreased over the quarter (0.4pps) and over the year (0.1pps) to 27.1%. The NI economic inactivity rate remained above the UK rate (21.3%). Neither the quarterly nor annual changes were statistically significant.
- The total number of weekly hours worked (26.6 million) increased by 5% over the quarter and 13% over the year, but remains 7% below the pre-pandemic value (December-February 2020).

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NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality, and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment of Labour Market Statistics for Northern Ireland](#) against the [Code of Practice for statistics](#). A compliance check in March 2020 recommended the continued designation of the report as a National Statistic. These statistics were considered as part of a wider [assessment of the UK employment and jobs statistics](#).

Since the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Redesigned the Labour Market Report, providing more context to results by setting recent changes within context of longer term trends;
- Removed pre-release access to enhance trustworthiness, and brought forward the publication date as a result;
- Improved timeliness of [quarterly labour force survey tables](#) (ranging from 1 week to 3 months) by incorporating quarterly tables in the main Labour Market Report Publication
- Improved quality of the LFS data by boosting the sample size and improving precision around headline estimates (Please note since the COVID-19 pandemic sample sizes have decreased due to difficulty of collecting survey information from households)
- Reviewed and updated [quality protocols for release](#) for LFS data
- Improved accessibility of labour market statistics by [changing the release dates of statistics to avoid public holidays](#) and amended the format and structure of reports in line with accessibility regulations.
- Temporarily changed the timing of release in line with a similar change in ONS release practices in [response to COVID-19](#).
- Included additional administrative sources of labour market data to provide a fuller picture of the labour market

1. Summary of Labour Market Statistics

Updated July 2021

Change over quarter

Seasonally adjusted LFS estimates for Northern Ireland for the period March-May 2021 showed that, over the quarter:

- the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6% Not statistically significant
- the employment rate increased by 0.4pps to 70.3% Not statistically significant
- the economic inactivity rate decreased by 0.4pps to 27.1% Not statistically significant

The seasonally adjusted experimental claimant count (Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants and those claimants of Universal Credit who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed) showed that in June 2021, there was:

- a decrease of 3.8% (2,000) over the month to 51,200.

Experimental statistics from HMRC PAYE indicated that in June 2021:

- 757,200 people were payrolled employees, an increase of 1.4% from the previous month; and
- median monthly pay for employees in NI was £1,822, an increase of 0.4% (£8) over the month.

During June 2021 there were:

- 300 confirmed redundancies notified to the Department, an increase from the previous month (280), and 490 redundancies proposed, also an increase from the previous month (150). A further 850 have been proposed in July to date.

Table 1: Labour Market Summary	Time Period	Estimate (95% Confidence interval)	Change over quarter (95% Confidence interval)	Change over year (95% Confidence interval)
Unemployment ¹	Mar-May 2021	31,000 (+/-7,000)	1,000 (+/-7,000)	9,000 (+/-9,000)
Employment ²	Mar-May 2021	845,000 (+/-22,000)	3,000 (+/-21,000)	-13,000 (+/-30,000)
Economically inactive ²	Mar-May 2021	598,000 (+/-21,000)	-3,000 (+/-21,000)	4,000 (+/-29,000)
Unemployment rate ¹	Mar-May 2021	3.6% (+/-1.0pps)	0.0pps (+/-0.8pps)	1.1pps (+/-1.0pps)
Employment rate ²	Mar-May 2021	70.3% (+/-1.8pps)	0.4pps (+/-1.7pps)	-0.7pps (+/-2.5pps)
Economic inactivity rate ²	Mar-May 2021	27.1% (+/-1.8pps)	-0.4pps (+/-1.7pps)	-0.1pps (+/-2.4pps)
		Estimate	Change over month	Change over year
Experimental Claimant Count ⁴	June 2021	51,200	-2,000	-10,500
Redundancies ⁵ - Confirmed	June 2021	300	20	260
Redundancies ⁵ - Proposed	June 2021	490	340	-1,980
Payrolled Employees ⁶	June 2021	757,200	10,200	18,800
Median Monthly pay ⁷	June 2021	£1,822	£8	£97

[Download Table 1 data](#)

LFS data are seasonally adjusted. More information on confidence intervals is available on the [background information page](#) in the Estimating and reporting uncertainty paper.

¹People aged 16 and over. Unemployment rate = total unemployed as a proportion of the economically active.

²Levels for all persons aged 16 and over, rates for working age (16-64).

³The number of claimants on 8th June, seasonally adjusted, and rounded to nearest 100.

⁴Redundancies in the calendar month, not seasonally adjusted, and rounded to 10.

⁵HMRC Pay-As-You-Earn Real Time Information, rounded to 100 and seasonally adjusted.

⁶HMRC Pay-As-You-Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted.

* Redundancy estimates with less than three business returns are suppressed.

NI Labour Market Structure: Change over year

Seasonally adjusted LFS estimates for Northern Ireland for the period March-May 2021 showed that over the year:

- the unemployment rate increased by 1.1pps to 3.6% Statistically significant
- the employment rate decreased by 0.7pps to 70.3% Not statistically significant
- the economic inactivity rate decreased by 0.1pps to 27.1% Not statistically significant

The seasonally adjusted experimental claimant count showed that in June 2021, there was:

- a decrease of 17.0% (10,500) over the year to 51,200.

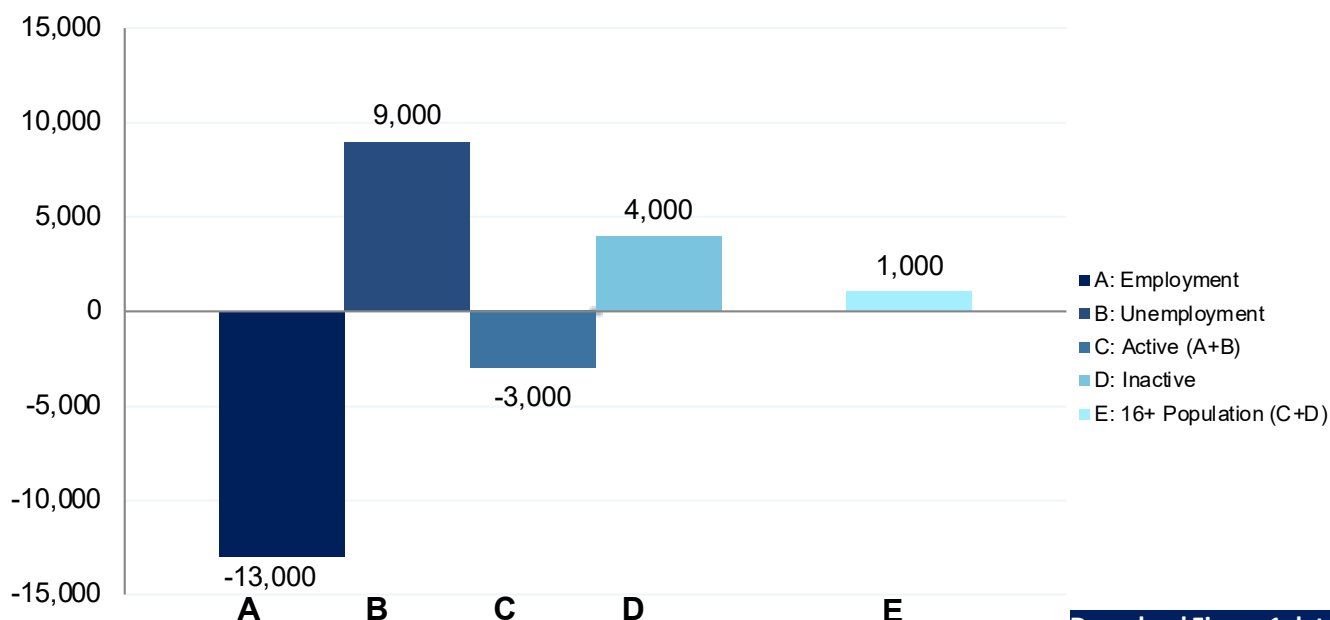
Experimental statistics from HMRC PAYE indicated that, in June 2021:

- 757,200 people were payrolled employees, an increase of 2.6% from June 2020; and
- median monthly pay for employees in NI was £1,822, an increase of 5.6% (£97) from the same period one year earlier.

Over the latest twelve-month period there were:

- 6,180 confirmed redundancies, which was an increase of 137% from the previous year (2,610)
- 7,180 redundancies were proposed, an increase of 3% from the previous year (6,940).

Figure 1: NI labour market structure (16+): change over year



Note: figures rounded so may not sum

[Download Figure 1 data](#)

UK summary

Seasonally adjusted LFS estimates for the UK for the period March-May 2021 showed:

- the unemployment rate (4.8%) decreased by 0.2pps over the quarter and increased by 0.7pps over the year;
- the employment rate (74.8%) increased by 0.1pps over the quarter and decreased by 1.0pps over the year; and
- the economic inactivity rate (21.3%) increased by 0.1pps over the quarter and increased 0.5pps over the year.

Commentary

The latest labour market data mostly show improvements over the quarter. Two indicators stand out. HMRC payroll data show the number of employees has surpassed pre-COVID levels for the first time while the number of proposed redundancies has continued to increase through May, June and the first half of July.

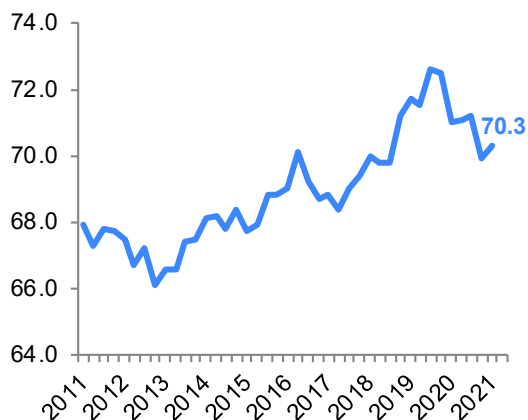
The HMRC payroll data is the most timely and best single, overall indicator of the labour market. Data for June show that, the number of employees is above pre-COVID levels for the first time (0.7% above the peak in February 2020) and the highest on record. Provisional HMRC data show the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme supported 59,000 jobs at the end of May (equivalent to a take-up rate of 8%). This was a decrease from 93,000 supported jobs at the end of April and equivalent to approximately half the number of jobs supported in January.

Households reported, via the Labour Force Survey, some improvements in the labour market over the quarter to March-May 2021 with an increase in the employment rate, no change in the unemployment rate, and a decrease in the economic inactivity rate. Compared to the pre-pandemic rates (December – February 2020) the employment rate is 2.2 percentage points (pps) below, while the unemployment rate and economic inactivity rates are 1.1pps and 1.4pps higher respectively.

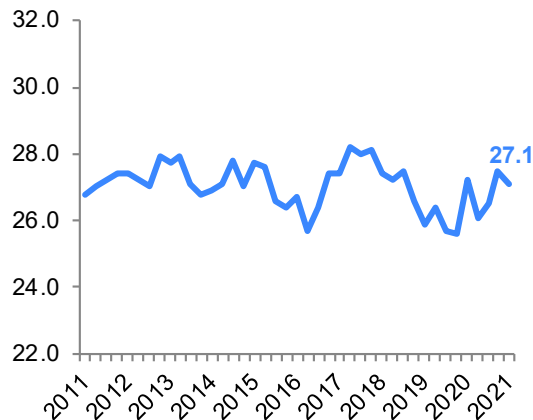
The recent increase in redundancy proposals in May and June has continued into July with 150 redundancies proposed in May, 490 proposed in June, and a further 850 in the first two weeks of July. These levels of proposed redundancies remain below the peak months one year ago (June: 2,470 and July: 1,940).

Labour Market Statistics

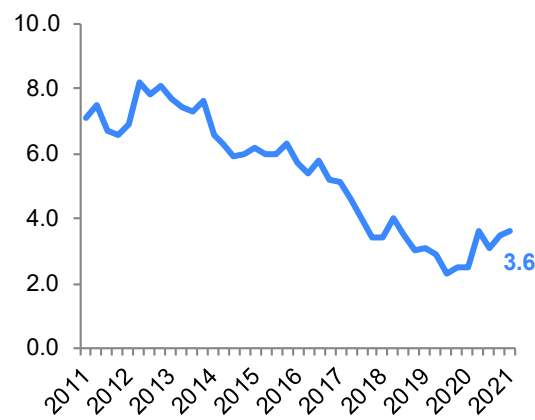
Employment – 70.3%



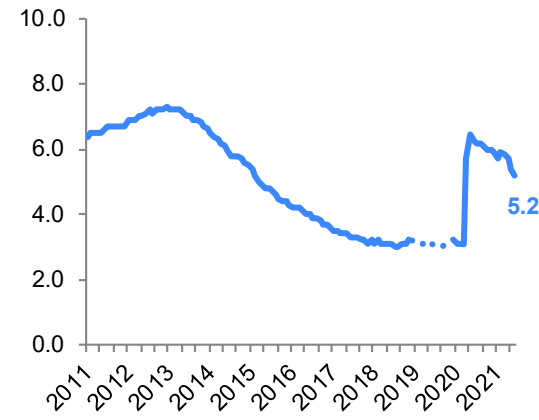
Economic Inactivity – 27.1%



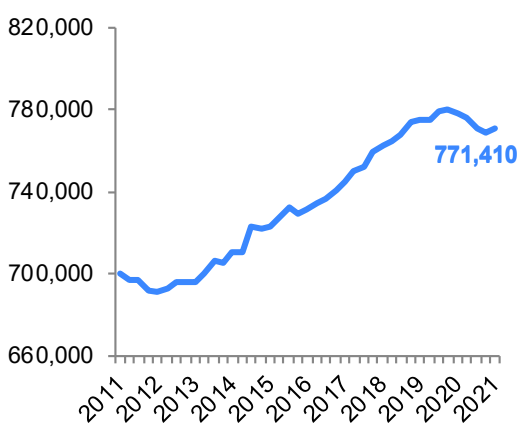
Unemployment – 3.6%



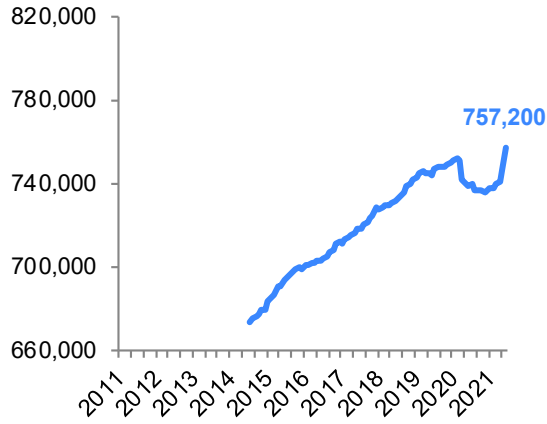
Claimant Count – 5.2%



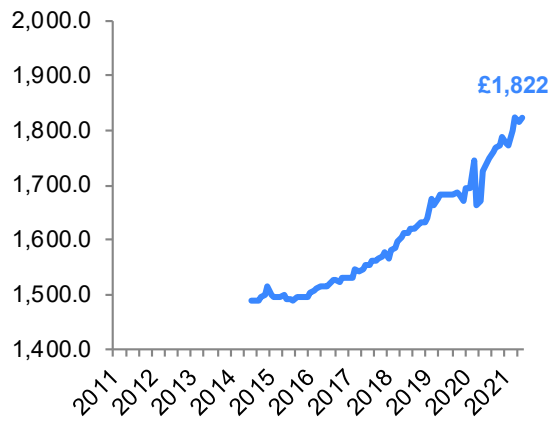
Employee Jobs – 771,410



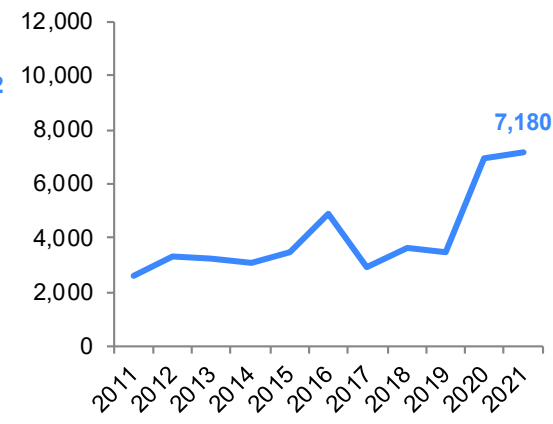
RTI Employment – 757,200



RTI Earnings – £1,822



Proposed Redundancies – 7,180



Labour Force Survey, March-May 2021, seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
 Quarterly Employment Survey, March 2021, seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
 Redundancies, Claimant Count and PAYE Real Time Information, June 2021

Data published – 15th July 2021

Economic Overview Dashboard - <https://data.is.nisra.gov.uk/economy-and-labour-market/economic-overview.html>

Things users need to know

July's Labour Market Report is an abridged version consisting of Section 1 with the full suite of labour market tables available online as usual. August's report will return to the full version, similar to previous monthly reports.

Today's publication contains the first release of reweighted Labour Force Survey data based on ONS's [new weighting methodology](#) developed in response to population changes during the pandemic. Data have been reweighted from January–March 2020 to February–April 2021. When compared with previously published estimates the reweighting has generally increased the employment rate and decreased the unemployment and economic inactivity rates. The February–April 2021 data showed the largest revisions to the employment rate (+1.2pps) and the economic inactivity rate (-1.1pps). The unemployment rates in each quarter from October–December 2020 to February–April 2021 were revised down by 0.2pps, the largest revisions in the series. More detail on the scale of the revisions is provided in the accompanying document on [Impact of Reweighting – July 2021](#).

NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in the middle of March 2020 due to COVID-19 and from April 2020 all LFS interviews have been conducted by telephone. This has reduced the achieved sample size and the response rate for January–March 21 was 21%. The achieved sample size (16+) for January–March 2021 was 23% lower than the same time last year. This has affected the precision of the estimates. For example the employment rate 95% confidence interval increased by +/- 0.3pps from January–March 2020.

[ONS recommend](#) HMRC payroll data as the best single indicator of the labour market. Experimental statistics from HMRC Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) system are included and show the number of employees paid through PAYE and a measure of employee earnings. Flash estimates for June are included which are based on 85% of data and subject to revision in next month's release. The July Labour Market Report contains the first release of Local Government District data. Estimates are provided from July 2014 to June 2021.

Today's release contains labour market indicators from a range of sources. Although the broad concepts are similar across sources, differences in reference periods, definitions and methodology exist which impact the interpretation of the statistics. Of particular note is the 'location' of the furloughed in the estimates. Those furloughed under the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#) or receiving a grant through the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) are likely* to be included in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of employment and not within the LFS unemployment estimates. (*As labour market status is self-defined by respondents in the survey). Similarly, employees on the CJRS are included in the HMRC count of employees paid through payroll, and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) estimate of employee jobs. In contrast, a proportion of those receiving grants through CJRS and SEISS may be accessing Universal Credit unemployment benefits as a 'top-up' payment, and are included in the experimental Claimant Count. More information is available in the [comparison of labour market data sources](#) article by ONS.

Base effects

Users should note that many of the annual changes in the report are based on a comparison of current data against data relating to the first month or quarter of the pandemic. Where possible within the commentary a comparison with one year ago as well as a comparison against the pre-pandemic value is provided for context. An ONS blog provides examples of this across economic statistics. [Beware Base Effects | National Statistical \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Context

The LMR is a monthly overview of key labour market statistics for NI. It includes figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Quarterly Employment Survey, claimant count, redundancies counts, and HMRC PAYE statistics. More information about the data sources can be found in Section 2. Where available, equivalent UK data (produced by the ONS) have been included as a comparison.

A Labour Market Outputs consultation in summer 2019 ([Labour Market Statistics User Engagement page](#)) showed labour market statistics are used for policy monitoring and research, academic and private sector research, service planning and delivery.

Government Departments are key users of labour market statistics. The Labour Force Survey is used to calculate 7 of the 49 draft 2016 – 2021 Programme for Government Indicators, helping to measure progress towards three high level outcomes – We prosper through a strong competitive regionally balanced economy; We have a more equal society; We have more people working in better jobs. The Labour Force Survey is also used to provide baselines for DfE’s draft Industrial Strategy, OECD Skills Strategy for NI, and DfC’s Enabling Success Strategy. Other Government departments such as the Executive Office, the Department of Finance (DoF) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), as well as bodies such as Invest NI and Belfast City Council, regularly require specific [user requested](#) labour market analysis in order to monitor policies for example, equality and employment. Significant non-governmental users of labour market statistics (including the media, banks, academics, private consultants, and the general public) use the data primarily for reporting or researching the performance of the economy. Labour market statistics attract widespread media coverage, with a number of broadcasters publishing articles on the labour market on a monthly basis, generally on the day of publication of the LMR.

[DfE Economic Commentary page](#) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy including the labour market, in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland and the most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview page](#) of the NISRA website.

Further information on using labour market statistics can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website:

- [Employment and labour market page](#)
- [Guide to Labour Market Statistics page](#)
- [Glossary page](#)

Labour Market Statistics User Group

The next Labour Market Statistics User Group will take place on 30th September 2021. In response to feedback from last year’s event, a [Labour Market Statistics Newsletter](#) was published in June providing a summary of recent developments and upcoming plans.

The presentation from the Labour Market Statistics User Group 2020 is available from the [Labour Market Statistics user engagement page](#) on the NISRA website.

2 Further Information

Updated July 2021

LFS unemployment

The definition of unemployment used in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is in accordance with that of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO unemployed includes those without a job who were able to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. The definition of unemployment rate is the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed.

LFS employment

The definition of ILO employed applies to anyone (aged 16 or over) who has carried out at least one hour's paid work in the week prior to interview, or has a job they are temporarily away from (e.g. on holiday). Also included are people who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported employment training schemes. The definition of employment rate is the percentage of all working age (16-64) people who are employed.

LFS economic inactivity

Economic inactivity is defined as those individuals who are neither in employment nor unemployed as determined by the ILO measure.

Reporting Change and Sampling variability

Reported change is calculated using unrounded data and is presented to 1 decimal place. When a change is less than 0.05pps, it is rounded to 0.0pps and the data is reported as unchanged. 'Over the quarter' refer to comparisons between the latest quarterly estimates for the period March-May 2021 and the quarter previous to that (i.e. December-February 2021). 'Over the year' refer to comparisons between the latest quarterly estimates for the period March-May 2021 and those of the corresponding quarter one year previously (i.e. March-May 2020).

The LFS is a sample survey and, as such, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability. If we drew many samples, each would give a different result. Table 2 shows the sampling variability of the estimates, and quarterly and annual changes using 95% confidence intervals. We would expect that in 95% of samples the range would contain the true value. The final column contains the confidence interval that can be used when assessing change between two independent samples. Due to the LFS five wave structure, this means it can be used to assess changes over six quarters or more. The confidence intervals have been calculated using data that are not seasonally adjusted, with the relevant sampling errors produced then applied to the seasonally adjusted data.

If none of the reported changes over the year or the quarter were statistically significant, then the recorded changes did not exceed the variability expected from a sample survey of this size.

Table 2: Sampling variability of labour market estimates

March-May 2021	Estimate	Confidence interval around estimate	Change over quarter	Confidence interval around quarterly change	Change over year	Confidence interval around annual change	Confidence interval around change
Unemployment¹	31,000	+/-7,000	1,000	+/-7,000	9,000	+/-9,000	+/-9,000
Employment²	845,000	+/-22,000	3,000	+/-21,000	-13,000	+/-30,000	+/-30,000
Economically inactive²	598,000	+/-21,000	-3,000	+/-21,000	4,000	+/-29,000	+/-30,000
Unemployment rate¹	3.6%	+/-0.8pps	0.0pps	+/-0.8pps	1.1pps	+/-1.0pps	+/-1.0pps
Employment rate²	70.3%	+/-1.8pps	0.4pps	+/-1.7pps	-0.7pps	+/-2.4pps	+/-2.5pps
Economic inactivity rate²	27.1%	+/-1.8pps	-0.4pps	+/-1.7pps	-0.1pps	+/-2.4pps	+/-2.4pps

[Download Table 2 data](#)

¹ People aged 16 and over. Unemployment rate = total unemployed as a proportion of the economically active.

² Levels for all persons aged 16 and over, rates for working age (16-64).

Response Rates – Updated quarterly (last updated 18/05/2021)

The total eligible sample for the January-March 2021 LFS consisted of 9,551 addresses (2,573 chosen at random from the Land and Property Services (LPS) list of domestic properties and 6,978 carried forward from the previous quarter). A random start, fixed interval sampling technique of the addresses, which are ordered by Council Area and Ward, is used. This ensures a proportional representation across the Council Areas in Northern Ireland.

Only private household addresses were eligible, since the LFS is a survey of the private household population. Every selected address is interviewed on five successive occasions, such that in any one quarter, a fifth of the sample will be receiving their first interview, one fifth their second and so on, with one fifth receiving their fifth and final interview. This results in an 80% sample overlap between quarters.

Table 3: Response rates, January-March 2021

Fully and partially responding	2,011
Eligible sample	9,551
Response rate (%)	21.1%

*Of the addresses sampled, a small number contained more than one household and some contained households which moved during the quarter. Residents in NHS hospital accommodation (formerly called nurses' homes) and students living in halls of residence or boarding schools are included to improve the coverage of young people.

LFS Comparisons

Estimates of employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity are derived from the LFS. The most robust estimates of short-term movements in these estimates are obtained by comparing the estimates over separate three-month periods. For example, estimates relating to March-May 2021 should be compared with the estimates for December-February 2021. This provides a more robust estimate than comparing with the estimates for February-April 2021, as the March and April data are included within both estimates. Effectively, observed differences are those between the individual months of February 2021 and May 2021. The LFS is sampled such that it is representative of the NI population over a three-month period, not for a single month period.

Seasonal adjustment

All estimates discussed in this Statistical Bulletin are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated. Like many economic indicators, the labour market is affected by factors that tend to occur at around the same time every year, for example, school leavers entering the labour market in July and whether Easter falls in March or April. To compare over months or quarters, the data are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of seasonal factors and the arrangement of the calendar.

Suppression and Shading

Estimates based on fewer than 3 events are suppressed to prevent disclosure. Shading is used to draw attention to lower statistical quality/precision of estimates that are based on a smaller sample size. Shaded estimates still provide the best estimate of the size of a group but comparison across time or between groups with similar values should be avoided.

Unshaded estimates are based on a larger sample size. This is likely to result in estimates of higher precision, although they will still be subject to some sampling variability.

Please note that estimates for youth unemployment and long-term unemployment are based on a smaller sample size and are therefore shaded in the accompanying tables. As such, associated confidence intervals for these estimates are wide and comparisons over time and with other regions are not encouraged as differences are not likely to be statistically significant.

LFS revisions

LFS microdata are routinely revised to incorporate the latest population estimates.

In February 2019 revisions were published affecting LFS data from the period June-August 2011 to October - December 2018. Revisions arose from reweighting the data, including a boost to the sample size in January 2018 and a seasonal adjustment review. More information on the increased sample size is available in 'Impact of LFS revisions 2019' on the [background information page](#) of the NISRA website.

In October 2020 the LFS estimates from January-March 2020 to May-July 2020 were revised to include additional factors in the weighting process. Please see LFS revision note – October 2020 on the [background information page](#) of the NISRA website detailing the impact of the revisions.

In July 2021 the LFS estimates were reweighted from January-March 2020 to February-April 2021 to include new population weights using PAYE Real-Time Information data. An overview of [the impact of reweighting](#) on estimates of unemployment, employment and economic inactivity is available on the background information page of the NISRA website.

Impact of COVID-19 on Labour Force Survey – field operations, imputation, population estimates

NISRA suspended all face to face household interviews in the middle of March due to COVID-19 and from April all LFS interviews were conducted by telephone. This change in mode for first interviews has changed the non-response bias of the survey, affecting interviews from March 2020 onwards. In particular, the proportion of households where people own their homes in the sample has increased and rented accommodation households has decreased. As such, in October 2020 ONS revised the weighting methodology to include tenure type and provided a consistent reweighted time series back to January-March 2020. The impact on the NI results has generally been to increase the unemployment rate and economic inactivity rate and decrease the employment rate. More information can be found in the [Coronavirus and its impact on the labour force survey page](#) or in the LFS Revision note on the background information page of the NISRA website.

Imputation used for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was not designed to deal with the changes experienced in the labour market in recent months. Experimental work by ONS with adjusted methodology suggests the use of the existing methodology has little impact on the employment rate (less than 0.2 percentage points). Further information can be found on the ONS website [ONS – Measuring the data](#)

Labour Force Survey (LFS) responses are typically weighted to official population projections. As the current projections are 2018-based they are based on demographic trends that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. ONS reweighted the LFS data from January-March 2020 to February-April 2021. '[Labour Force Survey weighting methodology](#)' details the reweighting methodology.

Temporary change in release time

Due to a change in ONS release and briefing practices in light of COVID-19, from April 2020 NISRA market sensitive statistics are released at 7am and not the standard release of 9.30am. NISRA requested the temporary change in time from the Office for Statistics Regulation. Correspondence between NISRA and OSR is available on the [OSR website](#), and more detail on the change in ONS practices is available on the [Changes to publication times for market-sensitive statistics page](#).

The OSR are carrying out a [review of the release time of official statistics](#). Comments are welcome and can be directed to the OSR.

Experimental Claimant Count (Jobseekers Allowance claimants plus some out-of-work Universal Credit claimants)

In March 2018, the NI JSA-only claimant count was replaced by an experimental measure based on JSA claimants plus out-of-work UC claimants who were claiming principally for the reason of being unemployed. The measure is categorised as experimental as the statistics are in the testing phase and not yet fully developed. ONS have produced a useful [‘Guide to Experimental Statistics’ page](#) and an FAQ document explaining the difference between the two measures is available on the [changes to the claimant count page](#) on the NISRA website. Additional data tables are published on the [Claimant Count page](#) and counts are available from the [NOMIS](#) website.

Claimant count correction note

A number of claims across the UK to the UC element of the Claimant Count were coded to incorrect locations for data relating to December 2018 to November 2019. This has been corrected for December 2019 onwards, but previous periods remain affected. The impact of the revision on NI for December 2019 was an increase of fewer than 1,000 cases.

Claimant count revisions

Seasonally adjusted estimates are revised on a regular basis. Each month the previous estimate is revised in line with the current seasonal adjustment model, giving the best estimate of change for the latest period. During the Covid-19 outbreak the seasonal adjustment parameters for the Claimant Count will be under constant review and may result in revisions to the seasonally adjusted Claimant Count. The most recent longer-term revisions were published in April 2021 and related to figures from January 2017 to January 2021. Further details and previous seasonal adjustment revisions are available from the [changes to the claimant count page](#).

Redundancy Legal Requirements

Under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (amended 8 October 2006), companies are only legally required to notify the Department of impending redundancies of 20 or more employees. Companies who propose less than 20 redundancies are not required to notify the Department so there is likely to be an undercount.

To prevent the potential identification of individual businesses, redundancy totals relating to fewer than 3 businesses are not disclosed. The [Statistical Disclosure Control Policy](#) is available on the NISRA website.

HMRC PAYE

Experimental Statistics on earnings and number of payrolled employees from HM Revenue and Customs’ (HMRC’s) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) system are included in Section 3. HMRC PAYE RTI is the system employers use to take Income Tax and National Insurance contributions before they pay wages to employees. Data relate to employees paid by employers only, and do not include self-employment income or income from pensions, property rental or investments. Data are based on where employees live and not the location of their place of work within the UK. Data are seasonally adjusted but not adjusted for inflation. The HMRC PAYE covers the whole population rather than a sample of employees or companies. The data are classed as Experimental Statistics as the methodologies used to produce the statistics are still in their development phase. As a result, the series are subject to [revisions](#). Background information including the methodology used to compile the statistics, strengths and limitation and a comparison with other labour market sources is available on the [Earnings and employment from PAYE page](#) on the ONS website. Detail is also available [on the guide to experimental statistics page](#).

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

All QES data contained in the LMR are adjusted for seasonality. The seasonally adjusted series started in 2005. Public sector and private sector series are seasonally adjusted separately to the industry breakdowns. As such, the two series may differ at the NI level.

QES Revisions

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided to the Department by employers. The December 2020 seasonally adjusted estimate first published in March 2021 has subsequently been revised down 0.2%. For further details please see the [Quarterly Employment Survey revisions page](#).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency wishes to thank the participating households and businesses for their co-operation in agreeing to take part in the surveys and for facilitating the collection of the relevant data.

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