

# NORTHERN IRELAND MIGRATION, LABOUR AND SKILLS

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## SUMMARY

This short paper summarises and signposts a range of evidence relating to migration, the labour force and skills. While by no means exhaustive, it is intended to provide a flavour of the evidence underpinning discussion and thinking around migration in Northern Ireland and what that evidence indicates in broad terms.

Whilst Northern Ireland had historically been a region characterised by out-migration, Northern Ireland has over recent times, and as with other regions of the UK, seen inward migration of people from the European Union and farther afield, particularly following EU enlargement post 2004. In the 16 years between 2001 and 2016, Northern Ireland experienced net inward migration in 12 of the 16 years. In the main, inward migration to Northern Ireland is economically-based with the majority of inflowing people aged 16 to 39. The most common reasons for international immigrants moving to Northern Ireland was for work (40.5 per cent), followed by family (25.6 per cent) and education (14.5 per cent)<sup>1</sup>.

Uniquely within the UK, Northern Ireland residents born in the Republic of Ireland represent a significant component of inward migration and account for around 2% of the region's population (compared to 0.6% for the UK as a whole). In addition, considering those 'frontier workers' who reside in the Republic of Ireland but work in Northern Ireland accounts for a further 1% of employee jobs in Northern Ireland. By necessity, any consideration of migration to Northern Ireland and the associated economic contribution must separately describe the scale and contribution of Republic of Ireland born migrants and workers in addition to that of migration from the rest of the UK, the EU (26) and the rest of the world.

Like other parts of the UK, the Northern Ireland population is, and is projected to be, an increasingly aged one. Whilst population projections consider the Northern Ireland population increase to be driven largely by natural change (births minus deaths), the future contribution of in and out-migration cannot be projected with precision. Current estimates from analysis of National Insurance Number (NINO) registrations from people whose country of origin was outside the UK show that the top 10 countries of migrant registration accounted for 72% of all registration and were, apart from India, all European. Of these 156,000 people who registered for a National Insurance Number, some 69,000 (44.2%) were from European Union 2004 accession countries. The Republic of Ireland accounted for a further 31,000 registrations. Whilst, for a range of reasons NINO registration data cannot be taken as a full and accurate count of all migrants in Northern Ireland, it does helpfully provide an indication of the pattern and quantum of the movement of people.

Additional analysis of more recent October – December 2016 Labour Force Survey data for Northern Ireland estimated that around 117,000 residents in Northern Ireland had an EU (27) country of birth (6.3% of the population). This was the second highest rate among the UK countries and regions after London (11.0%). Excluding those born in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland had the fourth highest rate of those born in the EU (26) of all the UK countries and regions. By contrast, Northern Ireland had the second lowest proportion of its population who were born outside the EU (2.5%) compared with other parts of the UK with only Wales having a lower rate at 2.4%. In broad terms,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Mig1516-Bulletin.pdf>

international inward migration for Northern Ireland is very much a euro centric experience with a relatively limited pull on international migration from outside the EU.

Within that overall picture of population and migration, the economic contribution of inward migration to Northern Ireland has, particularly in recent times, been significant. Between 2008 and 2016, employment recovery and growth in Northern Ireland was driven, particularly since 2014, by migrants born in the EU.

Uniquely within the UK and in comparison to England, Scotland and Wales, Northern Ireland has been almost entirely reliant on employment from EU (26) migrants for the growth in employment levels particularly from 2013 to 2017.

In terms of skill levels, and compared to Northern Ireland born residents, Census 2011 results indicate that Republic of Ireland and rest of the world born workers had much higher rates of level 4 and above qualifications. Compared to Northern Ireland born residents, EU (26) born workers had much higher rates of 'other' qualifications which included work or vocational qualifications or qualifications gained outside the UK. This qualification level distinction to Northern Ireland born workers was reflected in the concentration of these workers at different occupational levels. Republic of Ireland and rest of the world born workers had higher rates of employment in professional occupations whilst EU (26) born workers had higher rates of employment in elementary occupations, process plant and machine operation occupations and also in skilled trades.

From a Northern Ireland economy perspective, and based on Census 2011, Northern Ireland relied on EU (26) employment particularly amongst businesses in the manufacturing of food products, waste collection, other manufacturing, accommodation and services to buildings and landscape activities. Whilst sectoral dependence on Republic of Ireland born workers was much more evenly spread, businesses in the membership organisations sector, architectural and engineering, computer programming, accommodation, human health activities, and insurance activities had higher dependence levels. Businesses particularly dependent on employment of workers born in the rest of the world included residential care activities, food and beverage service activities, computer programming, human health activities and accommodation. Looking at all non-Northern Ireland born workers in the 2011 Census, businesses in the manufacture of food products represented the single most dependent sector for non-Northern Ireland born workers. Other sectors with a sizeable dependency on non-Northern Ireland born employment included accommodation, other manufacturing, food and beverage service activities, residential care activities, and computer programming. Both the quantum and sectoral characteristics of the different migrant employment groupings from the 2011 Census differed, with rest of the UK born migrants accounting for the greatest number of migrant employment.

Whilst necessarily a broad and generalised summary, the Northern Ireland economy has relied on migrants from the EU (26), particularly the 2004 accession countries, to fill lower skilled and lower waged employment opportunities. That employment however has largely driven the recovery in employment levels post 2008 and the growth in employment seen in particular from 2014 to 2017. The scale of migration from the rest of the UK, the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the world has remained broadly similar over recent time although these people are more concentrated in higher skilled and higher waged employment opportunities.

## NORTHERN IRELAND CONTEXT

**Population estimates:** Northern Ireland is situated on the north eastern part of the island of Ireland, sharing a land border with the Republic of Ireland to the south and west and is dependent on air and sea routes for travel and connectivity within the UK and further afield. Road and rail comprise the main means of travel between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. At an area of 13,588 km<sup>2</sup>, Northern Ireland comprises around 16% of the area of the island of Ireland and around 5% of that of the UK.

The Northern Ireland population at June 2016 was estimated to be 1.862 million, an increase of 10,500 people (0.6 per cent) since mid-2015. Population growth in the same period for the rest of the UK was estimated at 0.8 per cent. The Northern Ireland increase was mainly attributed to natural growth of 9,000 people (24,400 births minus 15,300 deaths) and net inward migration of 1,500 people (23,800 moving here to live and 22,300 people leaving to live elsewhere).

In the year ending mid-2016, the number of children (aged 0 to 15 years) increased by 0.7 per cent, from 385,200 to 388,000 with the increase of 2,800 children a result of both natural population change and a net gain of 1,800 children due to migration. In the year ending mid-2016, the working age population (people aged 16 to 64 years) increased by 0.2 per cent (from 1,174,600 to 1,176,400). The younger working age population (people aged 16 to 39 years) is estimated to have had a modest loss of 1,000 people (0.2 per cent) from 583,100 in mid-2015 to 582,200 in mid-2016. The older working age population (people aged 40 to 64 years) grew in the year ending mid-2016 to 594,200 people (a 0.5 per cent increase). In the year mid-2015 to mid-2016, the older population (people aged 65 and over) increased by 2.0 per cent, from 291,800 to 297,800<sup>2</sup>.

**Population projections**<sup>3</sup>: The Northern Ireland population is projected to grow in the first 10 years to mid-2026 by 4.2 per cent to reach 1.940 million, rising again to 1.966 million by mid-2031 (an increase of 5.6 per cent from mid-2016). The 1.9 million milestone is projected to be reached by mid-2021, with the 2.0 million milestone being reached by mid-2040.

The population projections show a projected rise of 141,300 people to reach 2.003 million over the next 25 years to mid-2041. Natural growth is projected to be the main driver of this 141,300 population increase, with 127,300 more births projected than deaths. This equates to a 7.6 per cent increase in population, which is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 0.3 per cent. By way of contrast, over the past 25 years (mid-1991 to mid-2016) the population grew by 254,800 people (15.9 per cent) which is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 0.6 per cent.

Projections (2012-based) for the number of households in Northern Ireland indicate growth from 708,600 households in 2012 to 743,500 in 2020, 768,300 in 2025, 790,000 in 2030 and 807,000 in 2035<sup>4</sup>.

**Location of people:** Of Northern Ireland's 1.862 million people, over six in ten (63%) live in a small/medium/large town or city with one in ten living in an intermediate settlement or village and just over one quarter (28%) living in open countryside or in a settlement of less than 1,000 people<sup>5</sup>. At mid-2016, the number of people per square kilometre was 137 for Northern Ireland, 424 for England, 150 for Wales and 69 for Scotland<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-mid-year-population-estimates-northern-ireland>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-northern-ireland>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/household-projections>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/geography/review-of-the-statistical-classification-and-delineation-of-settlements-march-2015.pdf>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

The two main urban centres in Northern Ireland are Belfast City to the East and Derry City to the North and West. The main concentration of population lies within the NUTSIII areas of Belfast and the immediate feeder area of Outer Belfast which together account for some 37% of the Northern Ireland population. In April 2015, the number of Local Government Districts (LGDs) was reduced from 26 to 11. A number of functions which were previously delivered by the Northern Ireland Executive are now carried out by LGDs including local planning and economic development functions. Of the 11 LGDs, 5 border the Republic of Ireland (Derry and Strabane; Fermanagh and Omagh; Mid Ulster; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon; and Newry, Mourne and Down).

**Labour Force:** As a small open economy, Northern Ireland was severely impacted by the global recession and banking crisis, with economic output falling significantly across the private sector. The slowdown in the private sector had a large impact on the local labour market where the number of employee jobs fell between 2008 and 2012. Since the start of the recovery in 2012, employee jobs have increased by around 7% (48,000 jobs) to 2016<sup>7</sup>.

In the August to October 2017 quarter<sup>8</sup>, the Labour Force Survey indicated that Northern Ireland's employment rate was 68.1% (824,000), well below the UK rate of 75.1%. The rate of economic inactivity in Northern Ireland stood at 29% (607,000 aged 16 and over), significantly higher than the UK rate of 21.5% and the highest of the twelve UK regions. The Northern Ireland unemployment rate of 3.9% (34,000) was below the overall UK average rate (4.3%) and below the rates for the Republic of Ireland (6.1%) and the EU (7.5%). In comparison with the UK as a whole, the higher rates of economic inactivity and lower employment rates in Northern Ireland have been historic features and reflect a persistent comparative weakness in the economy over time.

Northern Ireland's long-term unemployment rate (percentage of the unemployed who have been unemployed for 1 year or more) was 48% (around 16,000 people) and was markedly higher than the UK average rate (25.1%).

Northern Ireland's youth unemployment rate (percentage of economically active 18 - 24 year olds who are unemployed) was 8.4% and lower than the UK average rate (11.4%).

**Economy:** In 2016 the number of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) or VAT registered businesses headquartered in Northern Ireland numbered 69,095<sup>9</sup> representing a 3% share of all registered UK businesses (2.554 million in 2016). Just under half of the registered businesses in Northern Ireland were within the agriculture (25%), construction (13%) and retail (9%) sectors. By comparison the agriculture sector accounted for 6% of all UK registered business, with 12% in construction and 8% in retail.

Of the 70,055 businesses (headquartered and non-headquartered) operating in Northern Ireland in 2016, 2.3% were non-Northern Ireland owned. However, these businesses accounted for almost one quarter (24.4%) of Northern Ireland employees.

Total sales of goods and services by Northern Ireland businesses in 2016 amounted to some £68.9bn of which £44.7bn were made within Northern Ireland; £14bn to Great Britain; £3.4bn to the Republic of Ireland; £2.3bn to the rest of Europe; and £4.4bn to the rest of the world<sup>10</sup>.

Results from the Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index<sup>11</sup> indicate that output in Northern Ireland increased by 0.5% over the year to the second quarter of 2017 compared to a comparable increase of 1.5% in UK GDP over the

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/annual-employee-jobs-surveys>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-market-report-december-2017>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/business-statistics/inter-departmental-business-register>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/business-statistics/broad-economy-sales-and-exports-statistics>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/nicei-publication-and-tables-q2-2017>

same timeframe. Average annual growth in Northern Ireland output has increased by 1.7%, the same level of growth recorded by UK GDP figures but substantially lower than the comparable figure for the Republic of Ireland, which stood at 5.9%.

Northern Ireland's productivity has been consistently behind that of the UK. Latest 2017 experimental estimates from the Office for National Statistics of regional balanced Gross Value Added (GVA)<sup>12</sup>, indicated that at £19,997, Northern Ireland's average balanced GVA per person was some 76% of the value of that for the UK as a whole (£26,339).

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/gross-value-added>

## POPULATION, MIGRATION AND CHANGE

**Scale of Migration:** At Census 2011 there were 1,810,863 people living in Northern Ireland. Around nine in ten (89%) of these individuals were born in Northern Ireland. There were just over 202,000 migrants who were born and had lived outside Northern Ireland but were usual residents of Northern Ireland. There were 82,800 migrants (41%) from the rest of the UK, with 45,300 (22%) from the EU (26), 37,900 (19%) from the Republic of Ireland and 36,000 migrants (18%) who were born in the rest of the world.

At Census 2011, of the usual residents born outside the UK and the Republic of Ireland, almost a quarter (19,700) originated from Poland. Other countries of significant representation included Lithuania (7,300); India (4,800); USA (4,300); Germany (3,900); the Philippines (2,900); Slovakia (2,700); Canada (2,300); Latvia (2,300); China (2,200) and Portugal (2,000).

Excluding those who were born in the rest of the UK, the migrant population in Northern Ireland in 2011 comprised almost 120,000 people representing just over 6.5% of the population<sup>13</sup>.

The 2011 census indicated that the age profile of those whose country of birth was an EU member country prior to EU expansion in 2004 at 40% was skewed towards the 16 to 34 age group. In particular, those whose country of birth was an EU 2004 onwards accession country had much higher rates (57%) of those aged 16 to 34 compared to 25% of those born in Northern Ireland<sup>14</sup>.

**Table 1: Registration for a NINO by Region of Origin (at July 2016)**

Region of Origin	Number of Migrants Resident in Northern Ireland	Percentage of Total Migrants
European Union Accession <sup>1</sup>	69,010	44.2%
European Union (Excluding Accession) <sup>2</sup>	52,280	33.5%
Asia and Middle East	15,250	9.8%
The Americas	5,360	3.4%
Africa	3,930	2.5%
Australasia and Oceania	3,310	2.1%
Other European (Europe non EU) <sup>3</sup>	2,040	1.3%
Others and Unknown	4,910	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,080</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Department for Communities

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

<sup>1</sup> European Union Accession refers to countries acceding to the EU from May 2004 and includes Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Republic of Slovenia.

<sup>2</sup> European Union (Excluding Accession) includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain and Sweden.

<sup>3</sup> Other European includes all other European countries that are not members of the EU at 1st April 2014.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2011-census-additional-quick-statistics-northern-ireland>

The Northern Ireland Department for Communities (DfC) published research into migration based on National Insurance Number (NINO) registration in January 2017 based on October 2016 data<sup>15</sup>. Whilst for a variety of reasons NINO registration data cannot be taken as a full and completely accurate count of all migrants in Northern Ireland and notwithstanding the well-rehearsed issues around NINO registration as a measure of in-migration and outflow, of the 156,080 registered migrants in Northern Ireland at October 2016, registration from EU 2004 onwards Accession Countries comprise 44% of the total with EU pre 2004 countries comprising a further 34% (Table 1). The next largest region as a source of NINO registration was Asia and the Middle East accounting for around 10% of registrations.

The euro-centric concentration of registration for a NINO in Northern Ireland from a relatively narrow group of countries is highlighted by the finding that, whilst the top 20 countries of registration by number accounted for 86% of all registrations, the top 10 countries accounted for 72% of all registration and were, apart from India, all European (Table 2). The Republic of Ireland alone accounted for around 20% of NINO registrations.

**Table 2: Top 20 Countries of Origin for registrations with a NINO (at October 2016)**

Country of Origin	Number	Percentage of all registrations
Poland	32,630	20.9%
Rep of Ireland	31,090	19.9%
Rep of Lithuania	13,170	8.4%
Portugal	7,690	4.9%
Romania	6,070	3.9%
Slovak Rep	5,730	3.7%
India	4,820	3.1%
Rep of Latvia	3,840	2.5%
France	3,460	2.2%
Spain	3,270	2.1%
China Peoples Rep	3,120	2.0%
Hungary	3,120	2.0%
USA	2,630	1.7%
Bulgaria	2,620	1.7%
Philippines	2,530	1.6%
Australia	2,290	1.5%
Germany	2,220	1.4%
Italy	1,790	1.1%
Canada	1,560	1.0%
Czech Rep	1,450	0.9%

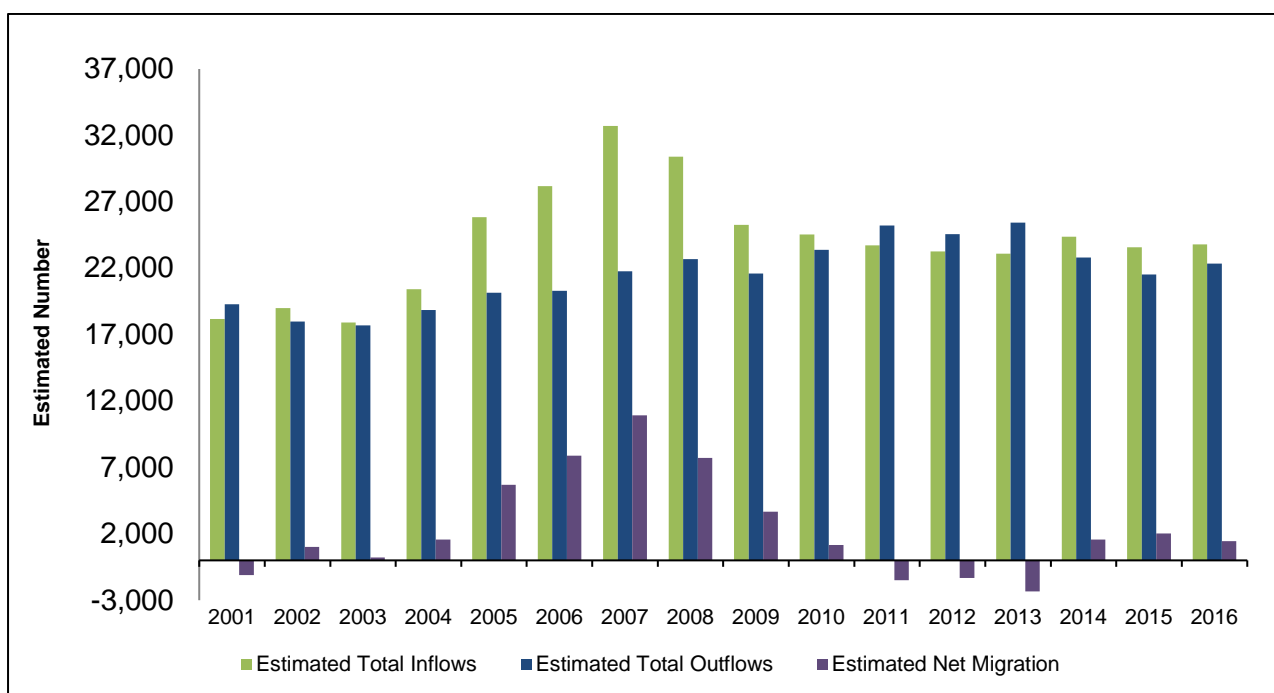
Source: Department for Communities

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; percentages are based on unrounded figures. Due to rounding figures may not sum to totals.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/insight-non-uk-nationals-access-benefits-northern-ireland>

**Population and migration projections:** Published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)<sup>16</sup>, long-term international migration estimates for Northern Ireland show that in 2016, the number of people who moved to live in Northern Ireland exceeded the number who left (23,800 and 22,300 respectively). The result of these flows was a net inward migration of 1,500 people (Figure 1). Given the position of net zero within-UK migration (10,800 inflows and 10,800 outflows) in Northern Ireland, this population increase of 1,500 people was attributed to net inward international migration (13,000 inflows and 11,500 outflows)<sup>17</sup>. The migration estimates for 2016 represented the third successive year that there had been a net inward migration of people to Northern Ireland, a region which historically had been characterised by outward migration.

**Figure 1: Northern Ireland Estimated Total Inflows, Total Outflows and Net Migration (year ending mid-2001 to year ending mid- 2016)**



Source: NISRA, Long Term International Migration Estimates (2016) August 2017

The number of people who came to live in Northern Ireland from outside the UK fell by 0.7 per cent (100 people) between mid-2015 and mid-2016. In the same period, the number of people arriving to live in Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK increased by 300 people (3.2 per cent).

The vast majority of inflows were aged 16 to 39 (61.4 per cent of inflows from the rest of the UK; 64.3 per cent of international inflows; and 63.0 per cent of total inflows).

In the year to June 2016, the top three most common countries of previous residence for international inflows to Northern Ireland were Poland, the Republic of Ireland and Romania. The most common reasons for international immigrants moving here were work (40.5 per cent), followed by family (25.6 per cent) and education (14.5 per cent).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/long-term-international-migration-statistics-northern-ireland-2016>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/registrar-general-annual-report-2016-population-and-migration>

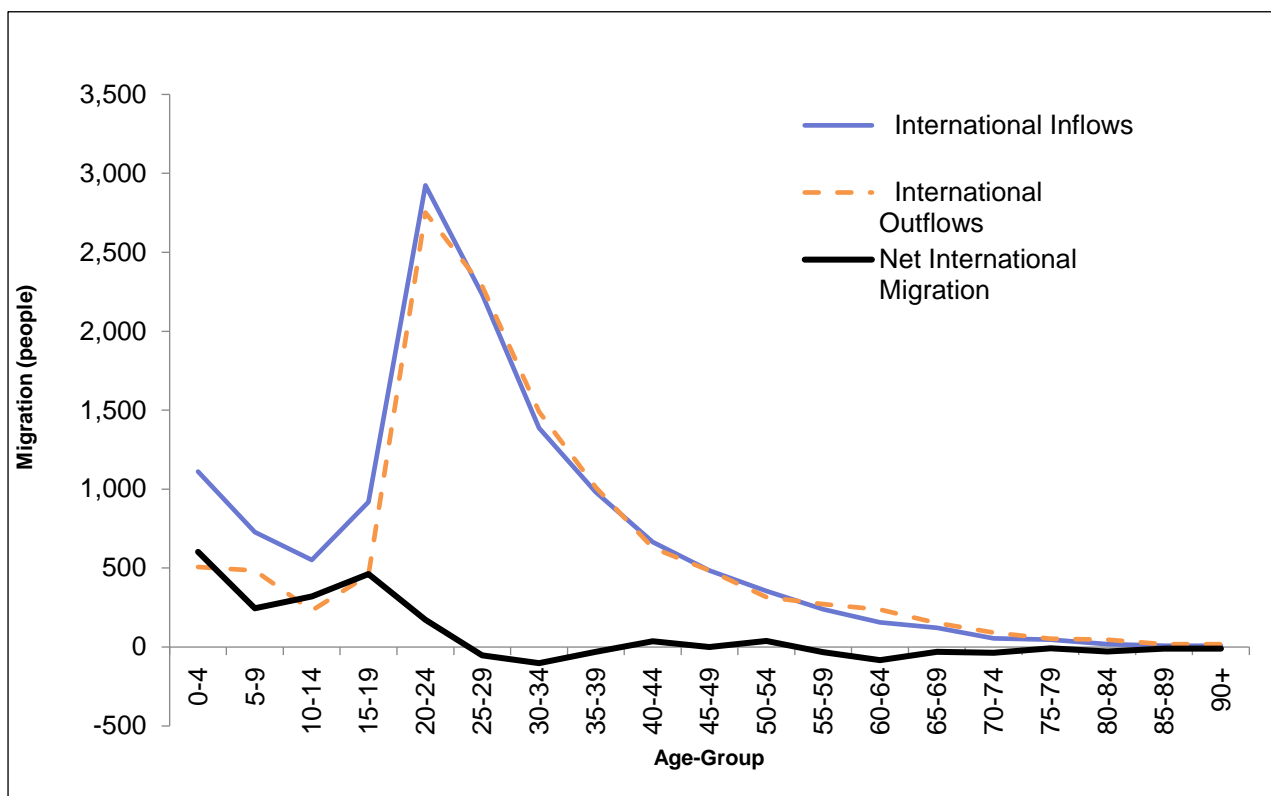


In 2016, international inflows exceeded international outflows for all age groups under 25. The total population increase resulting from net international inward migration almost exclusively occurred in the 24 and under age group (1,800 people) with only two other age groups (40 to 49 and 50 to 54 years) who experienced marginal net inward international migration (less than 50 people in both).

The age distribution of international migrants into and out of Northern Ireland in the year ending mid-2016 are consistent with the standard age profile of migration. That is, a clear childhood curve reflecting falling levels of migration as children get older and a labour force curve peaking at young working age which may also include a student peak of those in their late teens and early twenties.

In 2016, the age profile of international in and outflows were similar, indicating that the estimated age profile of the 'churn' of international migrants approximates a like-for-like replacement (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Estimated international migration by age (year ending mid-2016)**



Source: NISRA, Long Term International Migration Estimates (2016) August 2017

The Northern Ireland population is projected to increase to 2.003 million in the 25 year period from mid-2016 to mid-2041, an average annual rate of growth of 0.3 per cent. Natural growth is projected to be the main driver of this 141,300 population increase, with 127,300 more births projected than deaths<sup>18</sup>.

Projected migration figures comprise of two components, (i) migration between Northern Ireland and countries outside the UK ('international migration') and (ii) migration between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK ('within UK migration'). The projections assume, based on past trends, that Northern Ireland will experience a net inflow of

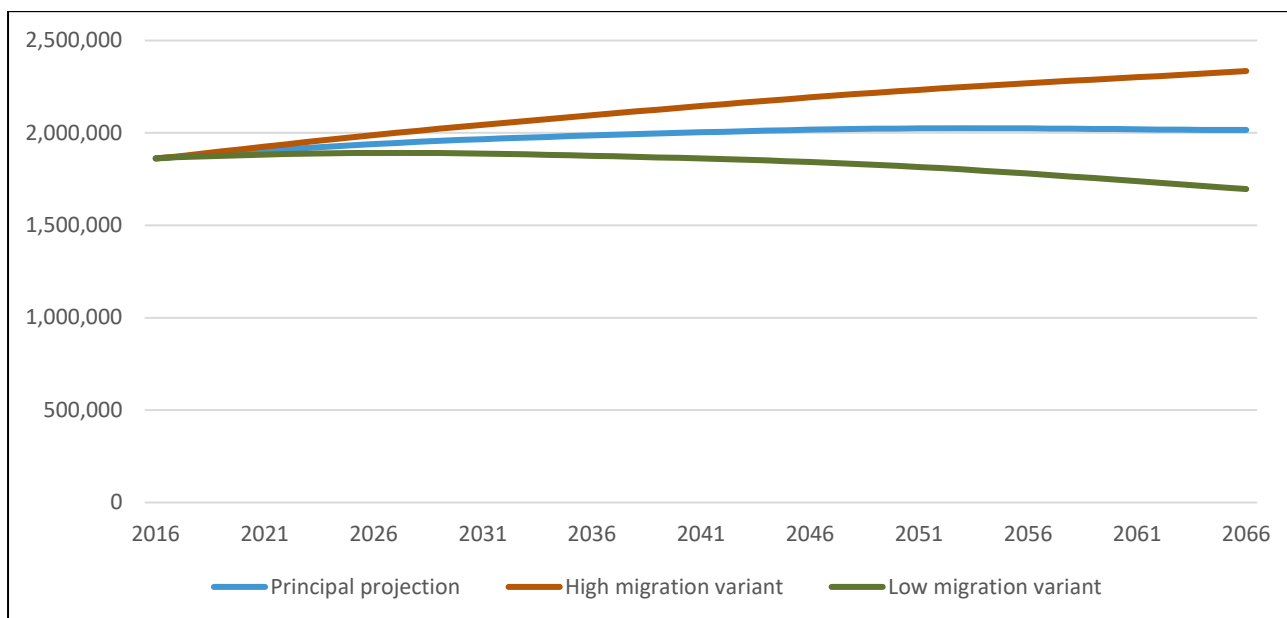
<sup>18</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-northern-ireland>

1,500 international migrants each year. The within the UK migration component however varies throughout the projection and results in a net outflow to the rest of the UK throughout the projection period. The combination of these two components results in more people entering Northern Ireland over the projection period than are leaving on a year by year basis, giving rise to an overall position of net inward migration

Northern Ireland’s level of net inward migration is therefore projected to increase from 500 people in the year ending mid-2017 to 700 people in the year ending mid-2023, before falling to 400 in the year ending mid-2032. From mid-2032 onwards the positive net inflow will rise to 600 people by the year ending mid-2041. Against this background, it should be noted that both the levels of in-migration and out-migration are projected to decrease over the projection period by 11.6 per cent and 12.4 per cent respectively.

Given the difficulties and uncertainties in estimating future changes to long term net international migration, the Office for National Statistics also produced a range of variants to Northern Ireland projections including a high long term net international migration to Northern Ireland variant of 3,000 per year and a low long term net international migration to Northern Ireland variant of negative 1,500 per year<sup>19</sup> (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: 2016-based Population Projections by the Office for National Statistics (published by NISRA)**



Source: NISRA, 2016-based Population Projections for Northern Ireland (October 2017)

Notes

1. These projections are based on the mid-2016 population estimates and assumptions relating to future fertility, mortality and migration.
2. Northern Ireland projections are developed by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of NISRA.
3. These projections are **not** forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors might have on demographic behaviour.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2016-based-population-projections-northern-ireland-variant-projections>

## MIGRATION AND THE LABOUR FORCE

### Labour Force Survey

A range of analyses were conducted with the Labour Force Survey by the Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch of NISRA focused mainly on the October - December 2016 quarterly Labour Force Survey<sup>20</sup>. Whilst representing a more contemporary picture to that of the 2011 Census below, the Labour Force Survey as a household sample survey is restricted in the level of disaggregation possible given the finite limits imposed by sample size.

**Estimates of the migrant population:** In the October - December 2016 quarter it was estimated that there were 117,000 persons<sup>21</sup> resident in Northern Ireland with an EU (27) country of birth which excludes those born in the UK although includes those born in the Republic of Ireland (Table 3). This represented 6.3 % of the Northern Ireland population and was the second highest population rate among the UK countries and regions, after London (11.0%).

Among the 117,000 EU (27) born population in Northern Ireland, around 38,000<sup>22</sup> (33%) were born in the Republic of Ireland representing 2.1% of the Northern Ireland population. Excluding those born in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland had the fourth highest rate of those born in the EU (26) of all the UK countries and regions.

**Table 3: Northern Ireland total population by country of birth (October - December 2016)**

Country of birth	Numbers in population	% of total NI population
Republic of Ireland	38,000	2.1%
Poland	25,000	1.4%
Lithuania	25,000	1.4%
Other EU	28,000	1.5%
<i>Subtotal of EU (26) Countries of birth</i>	79,000	4.3%
<i>Subtotal of EU (27) Countries of birth</i>	117,000	6.3%
Non-EU	45,000	2.5%
Northern Ireland/Great Britain	1,678,000	91.2%
Total NI population	1,840,000	100.0%

Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Provisional estimates

Figures may not sum due to rounding

Estimates subject to sampling error

<sup>20</sup> Provisional estimates, publication forthcoming

<sup>21</sup> The LFS is a sample survey and the statistical margin of error for this figure is +/-14,000 (0.6pps). The true number of EU migrants resident in NI therefore lies in the range 103,000 to 131,000.

<sup>22</sup> The statistical margin of error is +/-8,000 (0.4%). The true figure therefore lies in the range 30,000 to 47,000.

The next most frequent countries of birth for EU migrants were Poland (25,000) and Lithuania (25,000). It is not possible to reliably estimate the individual EU countries of birth for the remaining 28,000 EU migrants from the Labour Force Survey. Northern Ireland had the second lowest proportion of its population who were born outside the EU (2.5%) compared with other parts of the UK with Wales having the lowest at 2.4%.

**Table 4: Population by country of birth by UK regions and countries**

	United Kingdom		All EU		EU 26		Republic of Ireland		Non-EU		Non-UK Ireland %	Total (000's)
	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%		
North East	2,464	94.2%	49	1.9%	46	1.8%	3	0.1%	102	3.9%	5.7%	2,615
North West	5,180	90.1%	213	3.7%	183	3.2%	30	0.5%	355	6.2%	9.4%	5,748
Merseyside	1,289	92.9%	34	2.5%	23	1.7%	11	0.8%	65	4.7%	6.3%	1,388
Yorkshire & Humberside	4,846	90.3%	208	3.9%	186	3.5%	22	0.4%	312	5.8%	9.3%	5,366
East Midlands	4,099	87.9%	262	5.6%	230	4.9%	32	0.7%	303	6.5%	11.4%	4,663
West Midlands	5,010	87.3%	262	4.6%	226	3.9%	36	0.6%	469	8.2%	12.1%	5,741
Eastern	5,281	86.9%	364	6.0%	323	5.3%	41	0.7%	434	7.1%	12.5%	6,079
London	5,379	61.7%	956	11.0%	872	10.0%	84	1.0%	2,385	27.4%	37.4%	8,721
South East	7,737	86.8%	493	5.5%	445	5.0%	48	0.5%	680	7.6%	12.6%	8,910
South West	4,908	90.2%	251	4.6%	226	4.2%	25	0.5%	281	5.2%	9.3%	5,440
Wales	2,918	94.8%	87	2.8%	71	2.3%	16	0.5%	74	2.4%	4.7%	3,079
Scotland	4,837	91.3%	218	4.1%	192	3.6%	26	0.5%	244	4.6%	8.2%	5,299
Northern Ireland	1,678	91.2%	117	6.3%	78	4.3%	38	2.1%	45	2.5%	6.7%	1,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,627</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>3,513</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>3,101</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>5,748</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>64,889</b>

Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey.

Provisional estimates

Figures may not sum due to rounding

'All EU' includes the Republic of Ireland

When the Labour Force Survey was looked at over time from 2007 to 2016, the share of the Northern Ireland population accounted for by those born in the Republic of Ireland, whilst showing slight year-on-year variability, has broadly remained stable over time as has the population share accounted for by those whose country of birth is outside the EU. Nevertheless, from 2007 to 2016, the share of the Northern Ireland population accounted for by people born outside the UK and Republic of Ireland has risen from 3.7% to 6.7% with a rise over this period from 1.7% to 4.3% of those born in the EU (26) (Table 5).

**Table 5: Total Northern Ireland resident population by country of birth, 2007-2016**

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%
	United Kingdom	1,651	94.4	1,673	94.8	1,676	94.3	1,677	93.8	1,690
All EU (27)	62	3.5	53	3.0	63	3.5	72	4.0	68	3.8
of which, Ireland	32	1.8	32	1.8	27	1.5	24	1.3	25	1.4
EU (26)	29	1.7	21	1.2	36	2.0	48	2.7	42	2.4
Non-EU	35	2.0	39	2.2	38	2.2	39	2.2	40	2.2
Total non-UK/Ireland	65	3.7	60	3.4	74	4.2	87	4.9	82	4.6
Total	1,748	100	1,764	100	1,778	100	1,789	100	1,798	100

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%	Total (000's)	%
	United Kingdom	1,669	92.4	1,696	93.8	1,691	93.0	1,705	93.0	1,678
All EU (27)	95	5.3	75	4.1	87	4.8	90	4.9	117	6.3
of which, Ireland	43	2.4	27	1.5	40	2.2	33	1.8	38	2.1
EU (26)	52	2.9	48	2.6	47	2.5	56	3.1	79	4.3
Non-EU	37	2.0	39	2.2	41	2.3	39	2.1	46	2.5
Total non-UK/Ireland	89	4.9	87	4.8	88	4.8	95	5.2	124	6.7
Total	1,806	100	1,814	100	1,824	100	1,835	100	1,846	100

Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey. Figures may not sum due to rounding

Provisional estimates

Figures may not sum due to rounding

Estimates subject to sampling error

**Labour force participation and growth:** The October to December 2016 Labour Force Survey estimated that there were 1,455,000 people aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland with 58% in employment, 39% economically inactive and 3% unemployed. By comparison, the employment rate of those born in the Republic of Ireland was 57% with employment rates of 80% for those born in the EU (26) and 56% for those born outside the EU (Table 6).

**Table 6: Labour market status by country of birth, 16+ (Oct - Dec 2016)**

	Republic of Ireland (%)	EU (26) (%)	Non-EU (%)	UK (%)	Total (%)
Employed	21,000 (57)	57,000 (80)	24,000 (56)	739,000 (57)	841,000 (58)
Unemployed	*	*	*	42,000 (3)	49,000 (3)
Inactive	16,000 (43)	11,000 (15)	11,000 (35)	527,000 (40)	565,000 (39)
Total	37,000 (100)	71,000 (100)	40,000 (100)	1,307,000 (100)	1,455,000 (100)

Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey. Figures may not sum due to rounding

Provisional estimates

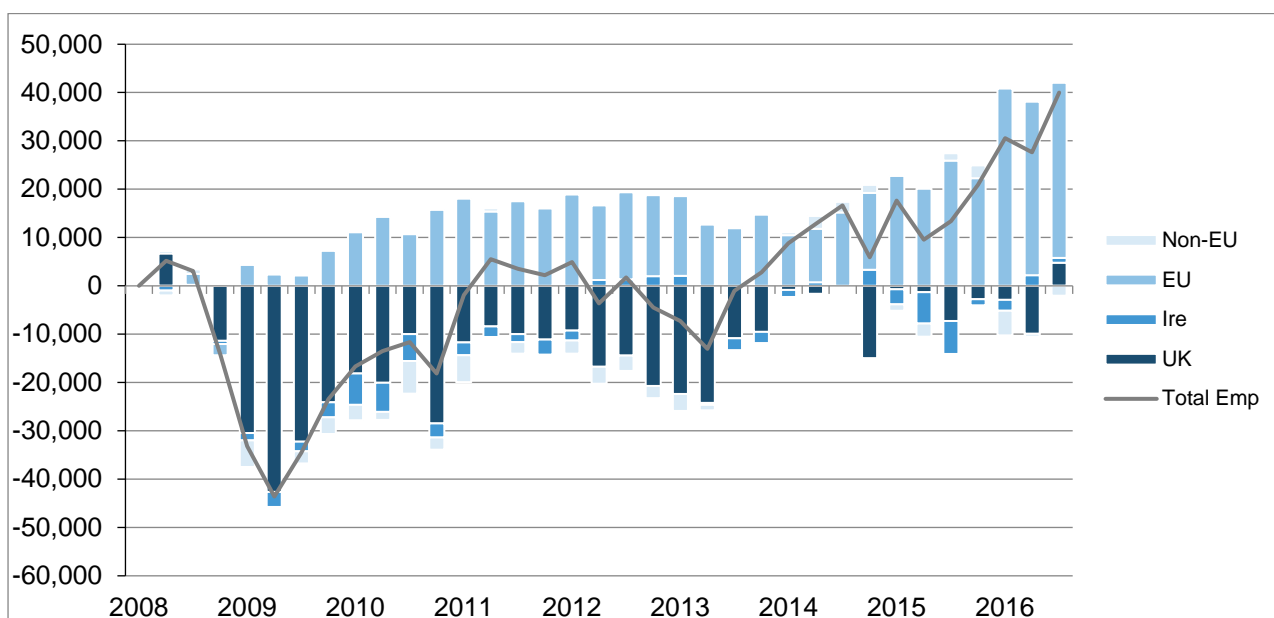
Figures may not sum due to rounding

Estimates subject to sampling error

\*Sample size too small for a reliable estimate

The quarterly LFS estimates for employment were subsequently analysed using four quarter rolling averages between quarter 3 of 2008 and quarter 2 of 2016 to examine the components of change to employment and the contribution of those with different country of birth groupings (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Components of change in employment (thousands, smoothed using four quarter rolling average) Labour Force Survey Q3 2008 – Q2 2016**



Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey

Provisional estimates

Compared to the estimate of 724,000 in employment in January to March 2008, total employment had fallen by just over 40,000 during 2009 representing the maximal loss of employment post financial crisis. It would take until 2011 for employment to return to pre financial crisis levels and even then it would not be until mid-2014 that employment

levels were sustainably held above pre financial crisis levels. By January to March 2016, total employment, compared to pre financial crisis levels had risen by around 40,000 representing a difference of around 80,000 in employment from maximal loss during 2009 to the position in 2016.

It is clear that between 2008 and 2016, employment recovery and growth in Northern Ireland was driven, particularly since 2014, by migrants born in the EU (excluding the Republic of Ireland and the UK).

The changes to the stock of employment between 2008 and 2016 are illustrated in Table 7. The level of employment of those born in the UK fell slightly between 2008 and 2016 by around 10,000. The level of employment of those born in the Republic of Ireland remains broadly unchanged as does those born outside the EU. The growth in employment between 2008 and 2016 is accounted almost entirely by migrants from the EU (26) with an increase of around 40,000 in employment.

**Table 7: Labour Force Survey estimates for employment by country of birth groups**

	UK born	Republic of Ireland born	EU26 born	Non-EU born	All in employment
Jan-Mar 2008	724,000	16,000	17,000	22,000	779,000
Oct-Dec 2016	714,000	20,000	57,000	24,000	815,000
Difference	-10,000	4,000	40,000	2,000	36,000

Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey. Figures may not sum due to rounding

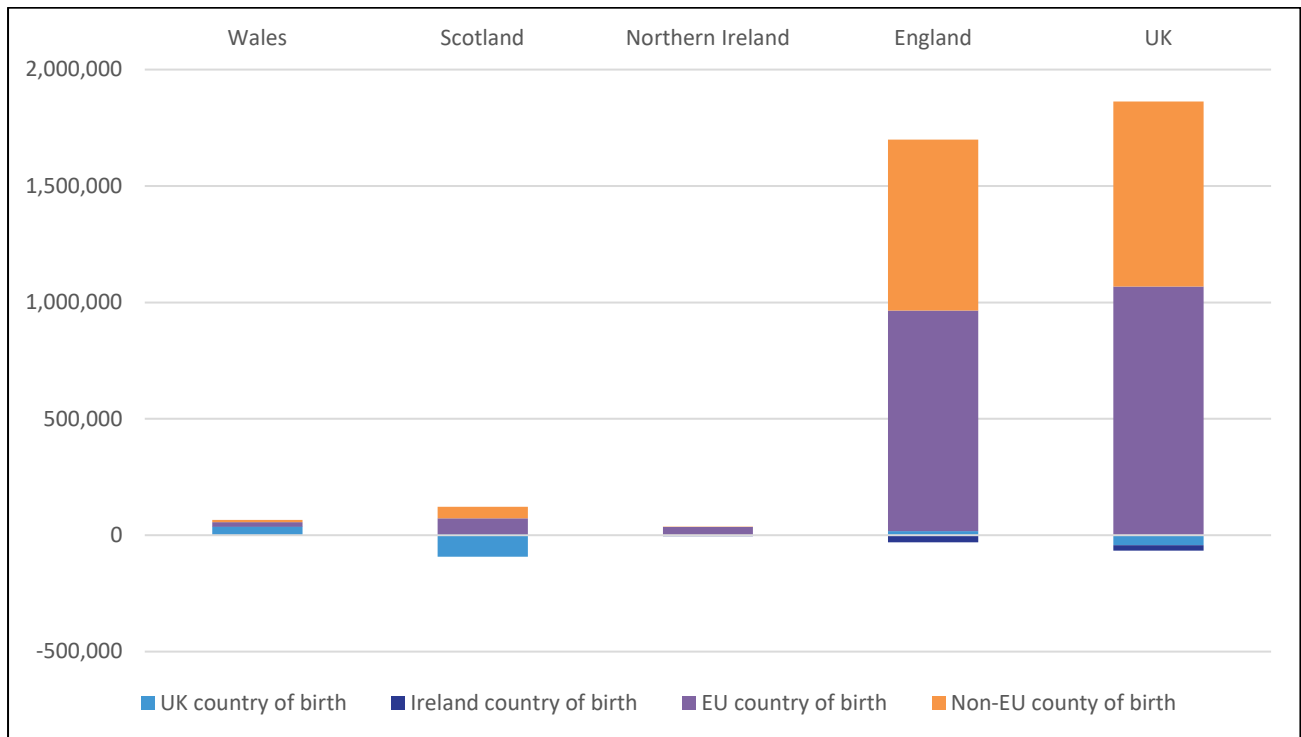
Provisional estimates

Figures may not sum due to rounding

Estimates subject to sampling error

The components of employment change for the UK as a whole and the constituent regions separately were examined based on changes from the Labour Force Survey January to March 2008 quarter to the average of the four quarters of July to September 2016 to April to June 2017 (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Components of employment (16-64) change between 2008 and 2017 Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and the UK**



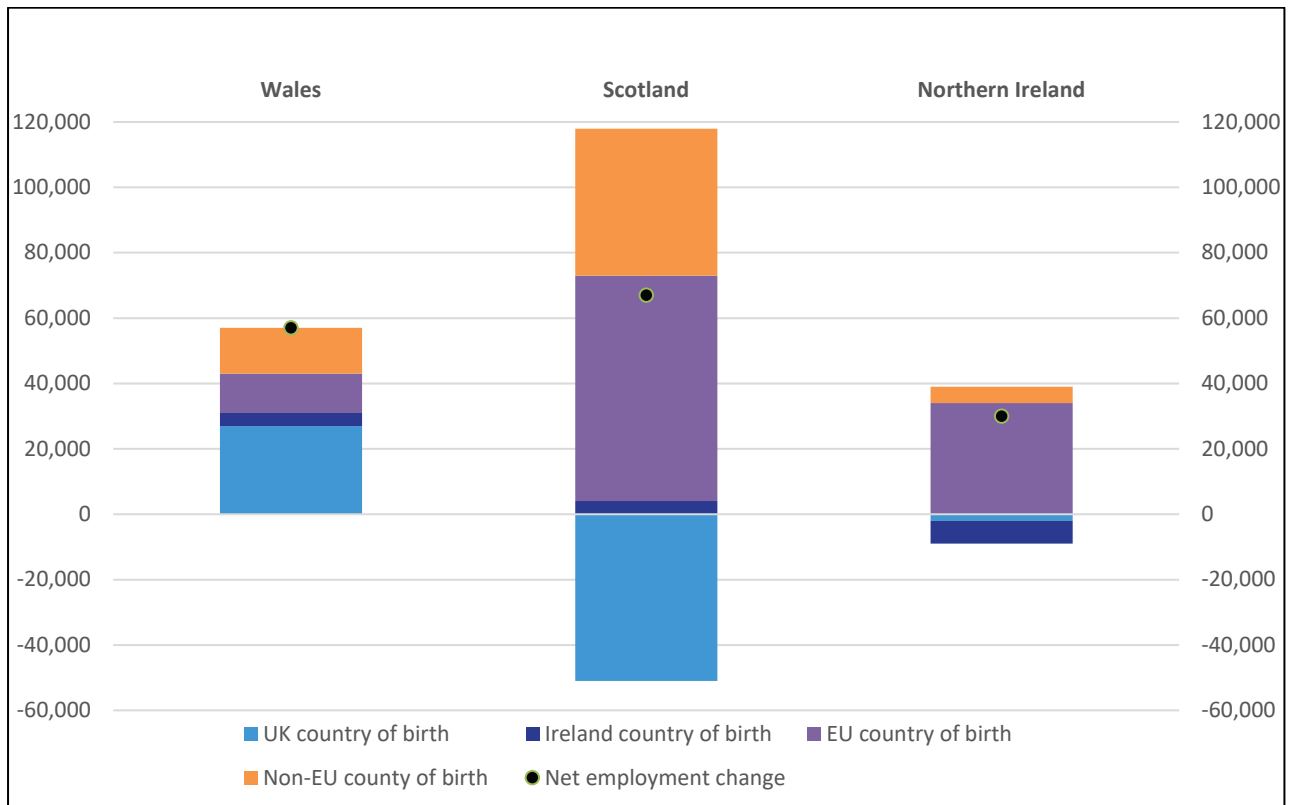
Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey  
Provisional estimates

For the UK as a whole over the period, employment growth was driven by a combination of those whose country of birth was the EU at around an additional 1.1m and by those whose country of birth was outside the EU with growth of around 800,000.

Looking specifically at Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland over the period indicates that around half of employment growth in Wales was accounted for by those with a UK country of birth, with the remaining half accounted for largely evenly by those whose country of birth was the EU and those born outside the EU (Figure 6). Scotland experienced a decline of around 50,000 in employment of those with a UK country of birth, mitigated by an increase of around 70,000 in employment whose country of birth was the EU and around 45,000 whose country of birth was outside the EU.



**Figure 6: Components of employment (16-64) change between 2008 and 2017 Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**

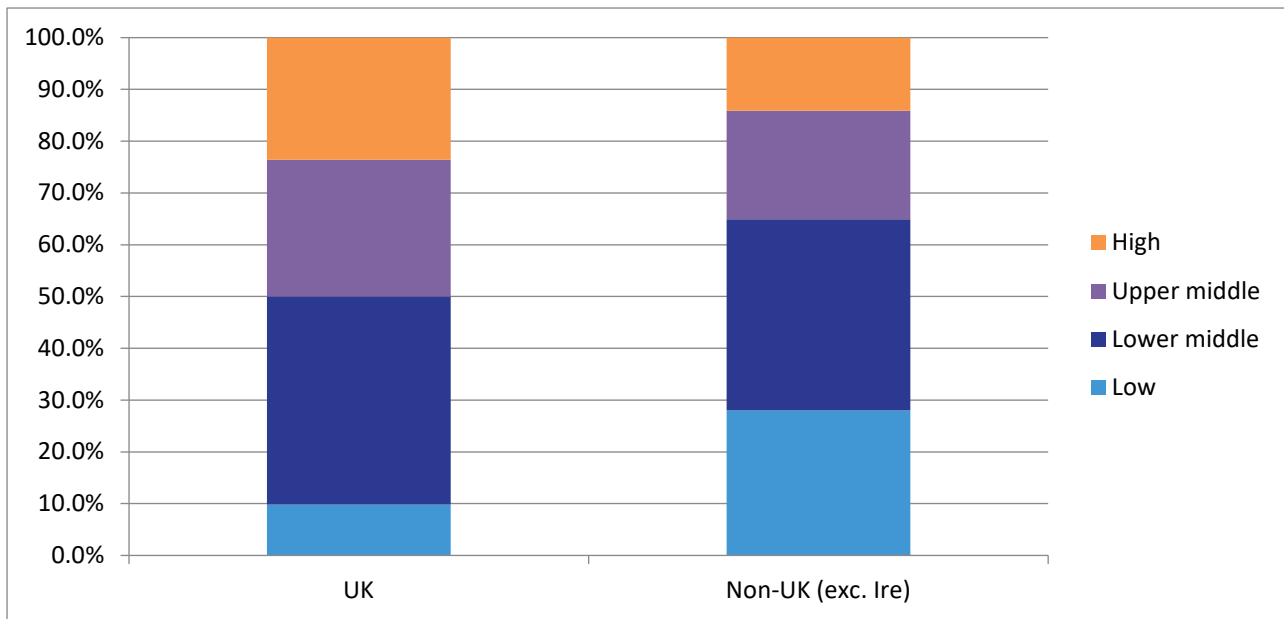


Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey  
Provisional estimates

Over the period, Northern Ireland experienced a small decline in employment of people whose country of birth was either the Republic of Ireland or the UK, with an increase of around 34,000 in employment of those whose country of birth was the EU. Northern Ireland, uniquely amongst the regions of the UK, was dependent for employment growth almost entirely on increase in employment of those whose country of birth was the EU.

**Occupation and skills:** The skill level profile of those in employment differs between those employed with a UK country of birth and those whose country of birth was outside the UK (excluding the Republic of Ireland) with a comparatively higher concentration of those born outside the UK in lower skilled occupations and a lower overall concentration in occupations with a high skill level (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Proportions of Employed Working Age (16-64) Population, by the Skill Level of their Occupation, LFS, 2015/16**



Source: Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA) Labour Force Survey  
Provisional estimates

## Census 2011

The 2011 Census can provide more depth to analysis than household-based survey sources such as the Labour Force Survey. Given Northern Ireland's unique political and social circumstances, and given the composition and characteristics of in-migration which has met a range of needs, by necessity, the focus below has been, where possible, on migration from the Republic of Ireland, the rest of the EU, the rest of the world and the rest of the UK and is derived from additional analysis of the 2011 Census published by the Department for the Economy<sup>23</sup>.

At Census 2011, some 653,000 of those in employment were born in Northern Ireland whilst around 40,000 were born in the rest of the UK, 16,000 in the Republic of Ireland, 28,000 in the rest of the EU and 19,000 in the rest of the world (Table 8).

**Table 8: Number economically active and employed by origin of birth**

	Northern Ireland	Rest of UK	of ROI	EU (26)	Rest of World
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	1,147,446	68,549	29,747	37,977	29,701
Economically Active	751,988	46,127	18,030	31,623	21,999
Employed	652,947	40,213	16,126	28,186	19,137
Of whom:					
Employee	548,643	34,883	13,395	26,435	16,587
Self-employed	104,304	5,330	2,731	1,751	2,550

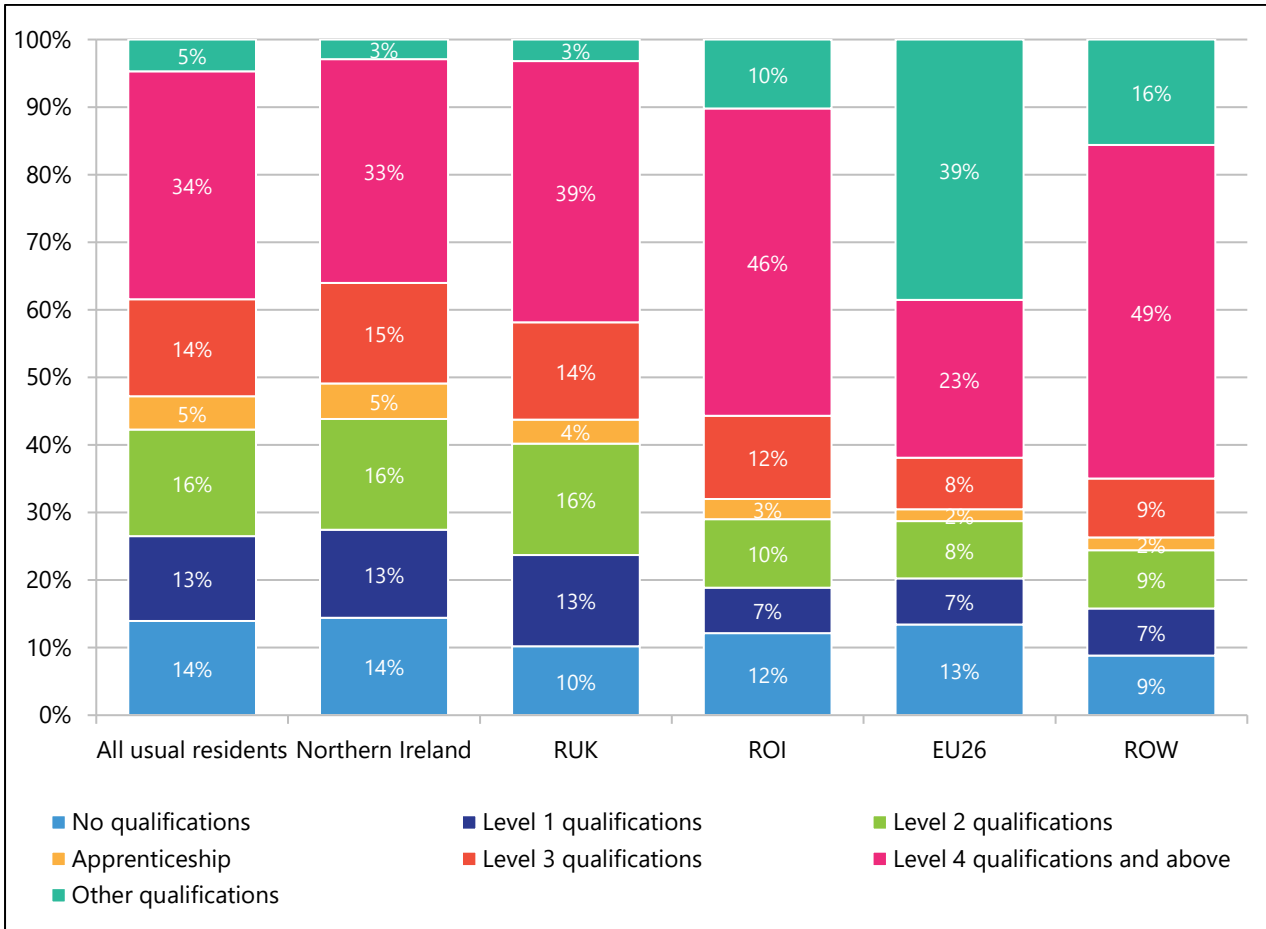
Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

**Migration and economic activity:** At Census 2011, some 66 per cent of usual residents aged 16-74 born in Northern Ireland were economically active. Economic activity rates were lower for those whose country of birth was the Republic of Ireland (61%), although higher for those whose country of birth was the EU (26) (83%) or the rest of the world (74%).

**Migration and qualifications:** The working resident population born in Northern Ireland had the highest incidence of no qualifications held. With the exception of those in employment whose country of birth was the EU (26) (23%), Northern Ireland born workers had the lowest level of level 4 and above qualifications (33%) with workers whose country of birth was the rest of the world having the highest incidence of level 4 and above qualifications (49%). Those workers whose country of birth was the EU (26), had the highest level of 'other' qualifications (39%), which could include vocational or work-related qualifications or qualifications gained outside the UK whose level is unknown (Figure 8).

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/eu-exit-analysis>

**Figure 8: Highest level of qualification by country of birth**



Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

The qualifications of migrant workers was examined in terms of location of employment within either the private or public sectors. In the private sector, 49% of workers had a degree level qualification with higher rates amongst workers born outside the EU (65%), 58% of Republic of Ireland born workers, 54% of rest of the UK born and 46% of EU26 born workers.

Whilst just over one in twenty (6%) of all workers in the private sector had no qualifications 5% of rest of the UK born, 4% of Republic of Ireland born workers, 6% of EU26 born workers and 2% of rest of the world born workers had no qualifications.

Broadly in line with the differing levels of degree level qualifications, in the private sector 35% of all workers were in high skilled occupations, with 51% of rest of the world born workers, 46% of Republic of Ireland born workers and 39% of rest of the UK born workers in high skilled occupations.

EU (26) born workers were underrepresented in high skilled occupations and overrepresented (28%) in low skilled occupations.

In the public sector, 48% of workers had a degree level qualification with 65% of rest of the world born, 59% of Republic of Ireland born workers, 48% of rest of the UK born and 38% of EU (26) born workers in the public sector having a degree level qualification.

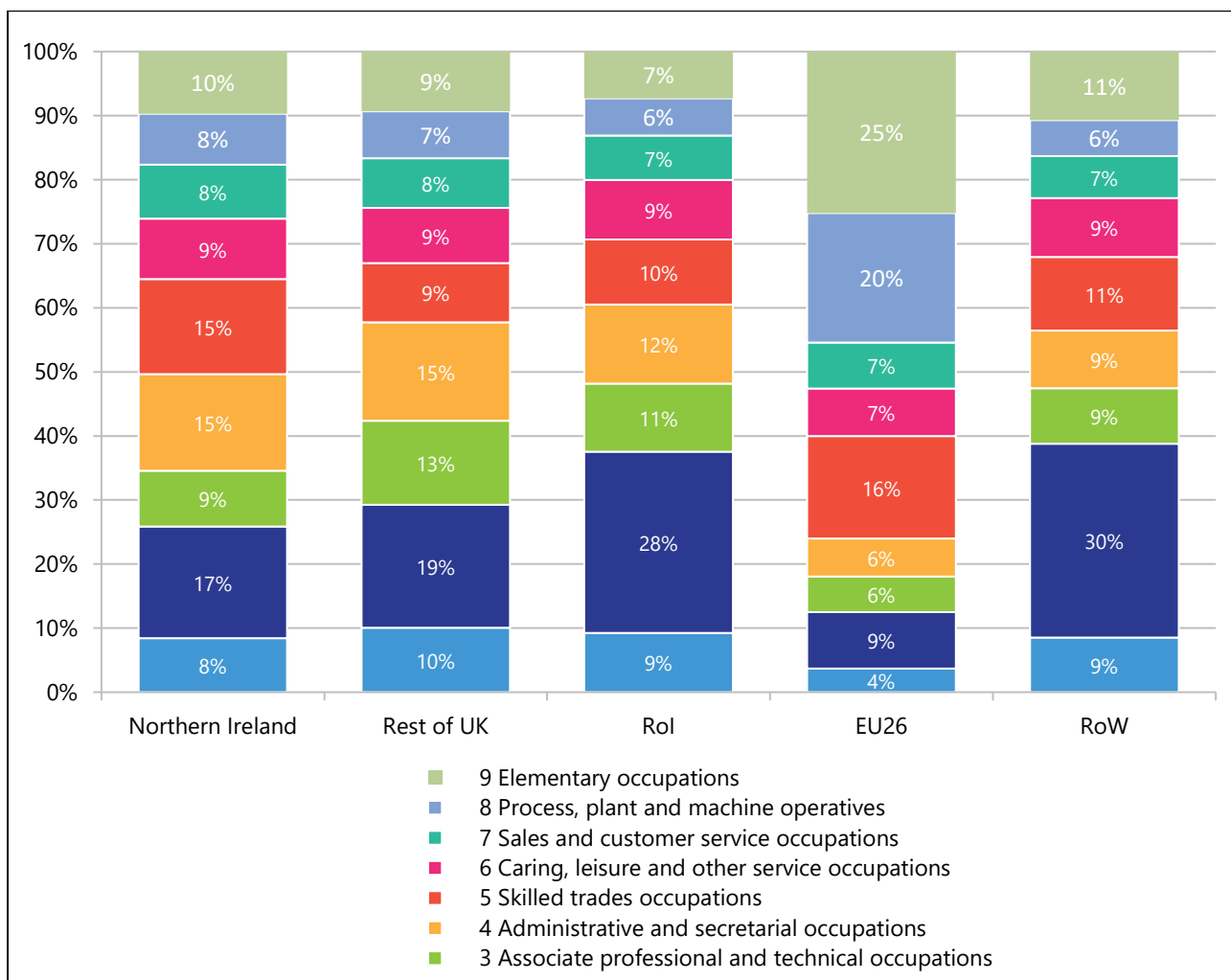
Whilst just under one in ten (9%) of all workers in the public sector had no qualifications, 7% of rest of the UK born workers, 8% of Republic of Ireland born workers, 10% of EU (26) born workers and 3% of rest of the world born workers in the public sector had no qualifications.

Over one third (35%) of all workers in the public sector were in high skilled occupations with 52% of rest of the world born workers, 48% of Republic of Ireland born workers, 34% of rest of the UK born workers and 23% of EU26 workers in the public sector in high skilled occupations.

Just over one in ten (11%) of all employment in the public sector was in the low skilled category with nearly one third (31%) of EU (26) born workers employed in the public sector in the low skilled occupations.

**Migration and occupation:** Compared with the occupational structure of those born in Northern Ireland, employment of migrants born in both the Republic of Ireland and, particularly those born in the rest of the world, were concentrated to a much greater extent in professional occupations. Employment amongst workers from the EU (26), was much more concentrated in elementary occupations, process, plant and machine occupations, and in skilled trades (Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Workers by occupation by country of birth**



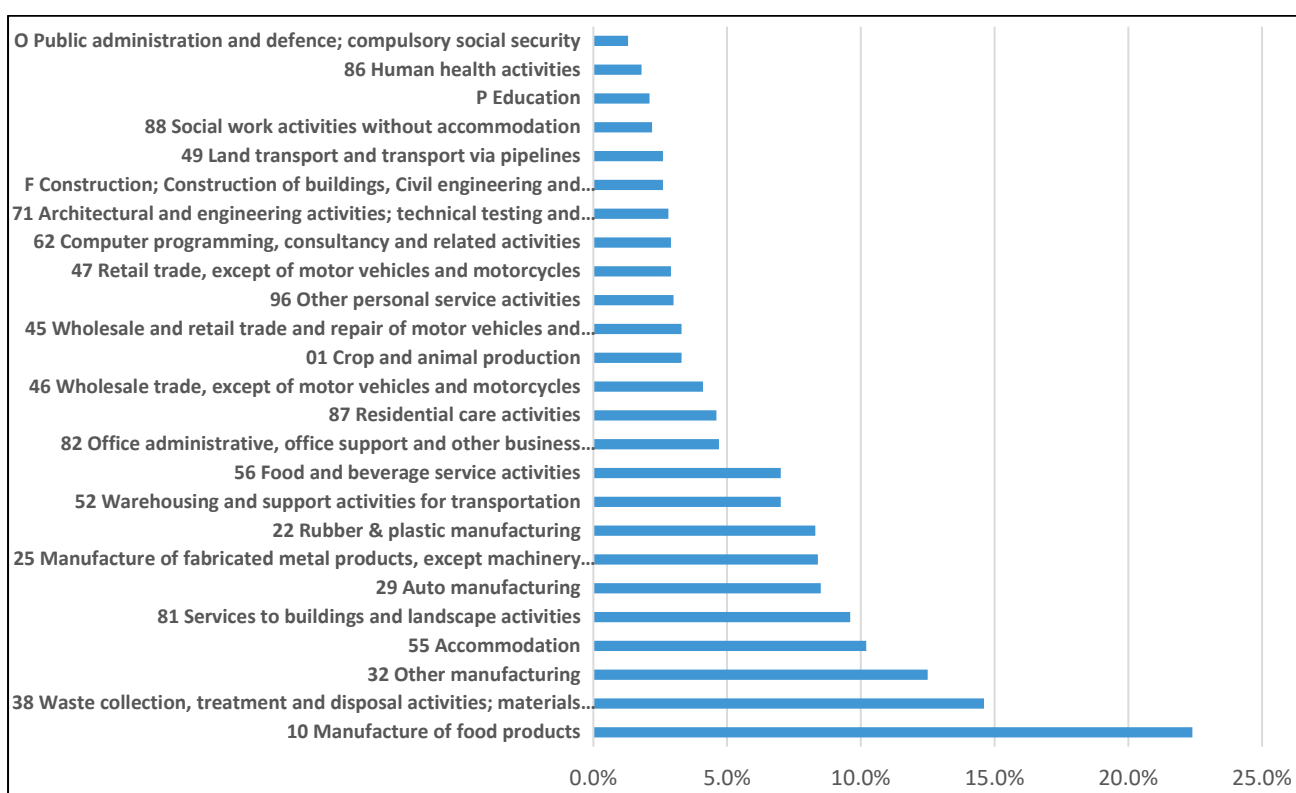
Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

**EU (26) born sectoral employment:** Census 2011 indicates that there were 23,900 EU (26) workers employed in the top 25 industrial sectors/subsectors comprising 82% of all EU (26) workers.

Employment within businesses in the manufacture of food products, at just over 22% of employment in that sector, is by far the most heavily reliant on migrant employment from EU (26) countries. Waste collection (14.6%), other manufacturing (12.5%), accommodation (10.2%), and services to buildings and landscape activities (9.6%) are similarly reliant on relatively high levels of EU (26) migrant employment reflecting the relative concentration of EU (26) migrant employment (Figure 10).

Other sectors of note with a relatively high reliance on EU (26) employment include auto manufacturing (8.5%), manufacture of fabricated metal products (8.4%), rubber and plastic manufacturing (8.3%), warehousing and support activities for transportation (7.0%), and food and beverage service activities (7.0%).

**Figure 10: Sectoral dependence of employment of EU (26) migrant employees**



Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

By contrast, businesses in public administration and defence; human health activities; education; social work; land transport; and construction sectors were less dependent on EU (26) workers.

That concentration of EU (26) migrant employment is also evident through the shares of all EU (26) employment. Around 3,200 (10.9%) of EU (26) workers worked in the manufacture of food products sector with a similar number and proportion (3,000 and 10.2%) working within the retail trade sector. Other sectors accounting for relatively higher numbers and proportions of EU (26) total employment include: food and beverage service activities (2,500 and 8.5%), construction (1,700 and 5.9%), and education (1,000 and 3.7%).

So, for example, compared to all those employed in the top 25 sectors for EU (26) employment, EU (26) employees are disproportionately concentrated in the manufacture of food products, food and beverage service activities, and

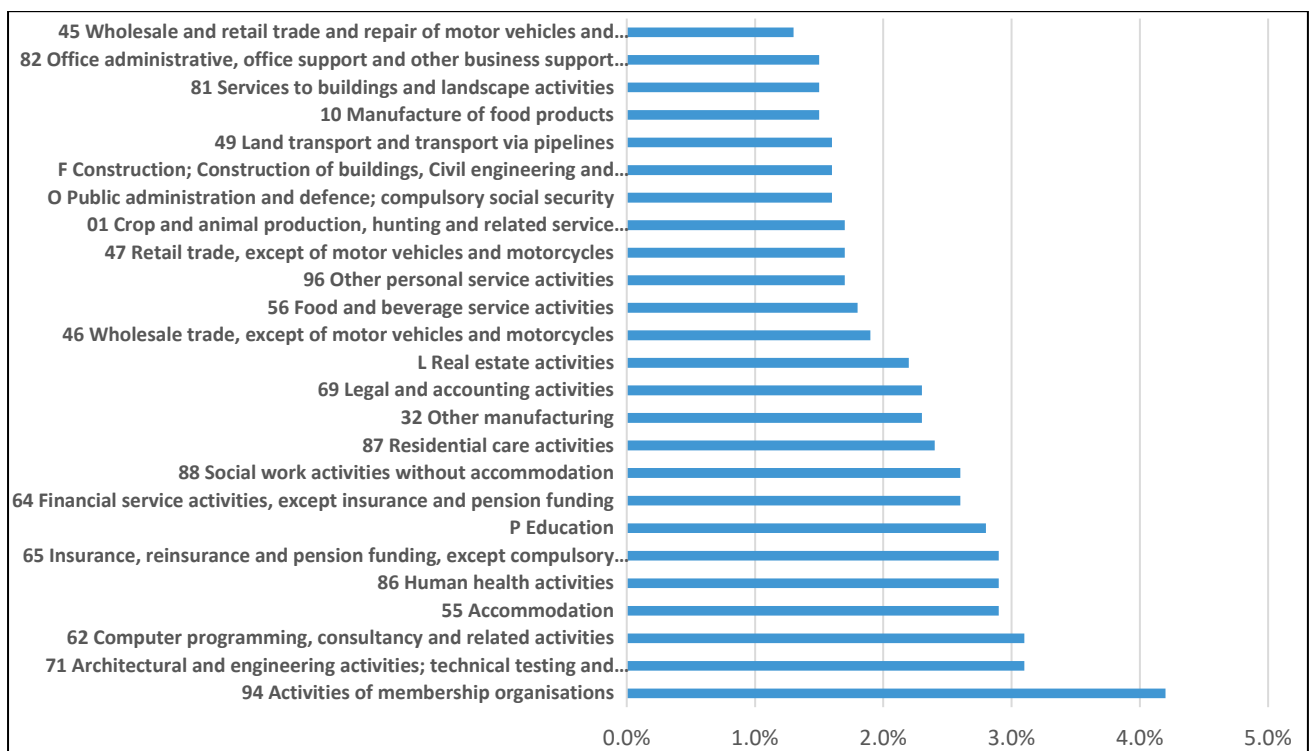
services to buildings and landscape activities sectors. In contrast, EU (26) employees are disproportionately less concentrated in public administration and defence, education, human health activities and the retail trade sectors.

**Republic of Ireland born sectoral employment:** In 2011 there were 16,700 Republic of Ireland born resident workers in Northern Ireland, accounting for 2% of total employment for all usual residents aged 16 to 74.

In contrast to workers from the EU (26), Republic of Ireland born workers did not make up a large share of employment in any particular sector/subsector. Compared to workers from EU (26) countries, Republic of Ireland born workers were generally more evenly spread across the top 25 sectors identified for Republic of Ireland born employment.

Republic of Ireland born employment within businesses in the activities of membership organisations sector at 4.2% was the single most dependent sector on Republic of Ireland born workers. Architectural and engineering activities (3.1%), computer programming (3.1%), accommodation (2.9%), human health activities (2.9%), and insurance activities (2.9%) had the next highest, but similarly lower levels of dependence, on Republic of Ireland born employment (Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Sectoral dependence of employment of Republic of Ireland migrant employees**



Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

By contrast, businesses in the manufacture of food products, services to buildings, office administration and wholesale and retail trade were much less dependent on Republic of Ireland born employment.

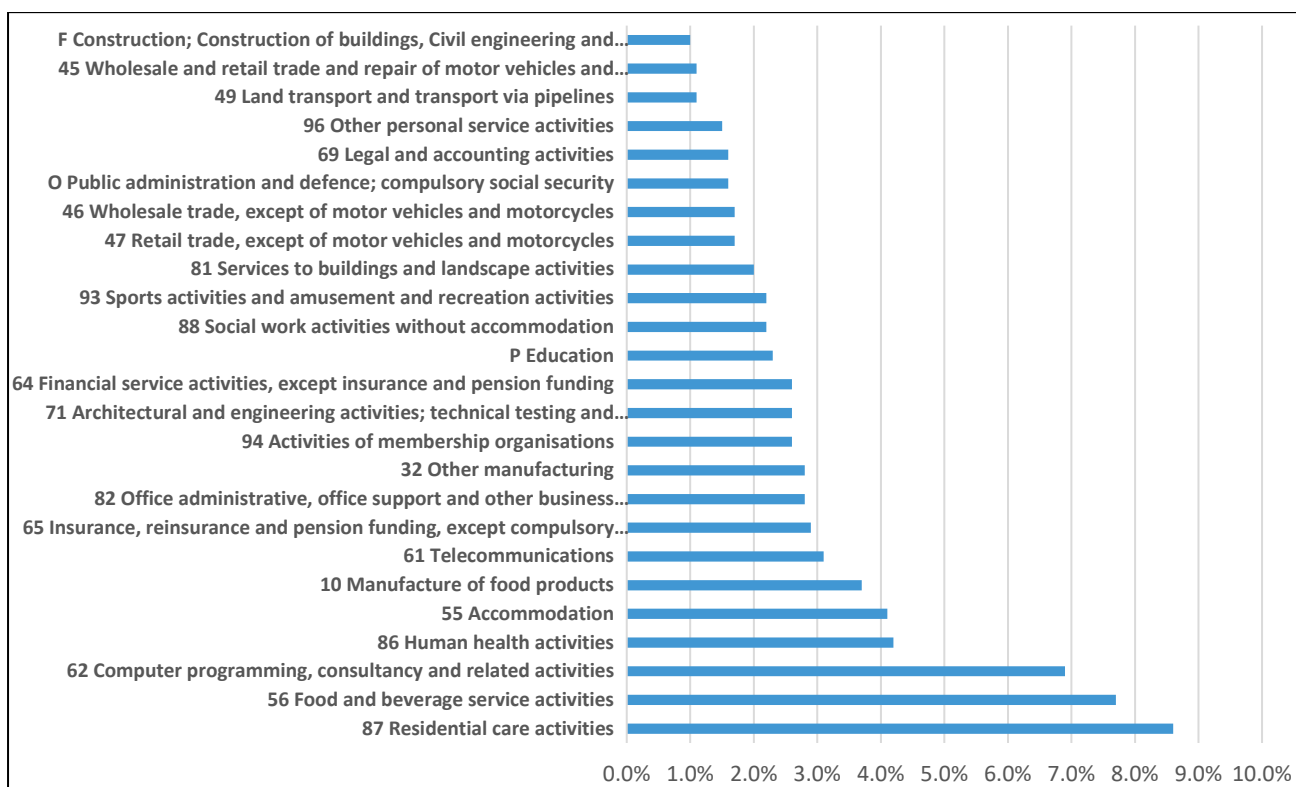
In terms of the share of Republic of Ireland born employment across sectors/subsectors, the highest shares were located in the education (2,100 or 12.7%), human health activities (1,800 or 10.5%), and retail trade (1,700 or 10.4%) sectors.

Other sectors accounting for notable shares of Republic of Ireland born employment included construction (1,000 or 6.4%), public administration and defence (1,000 or 6.3%), social work activities without accommodation (900 or 5.6%), and food and beverage service activities (600 or 3.7%).

**Rest of the world born sectoral employment:** There were just over 20,100 workers born in the rest of the world at Census 2011 Census accounting for 2.5% of employment for usual residents aged 16-74.

The residential care activities sector (8.6%) was the single most dependent sector on rest of the world born workers. Food and beverage service activities (7.7%), computer programming (6.9%), human health activities (4.2%) and accommodation (4.1%) were the next most dependent sectors on workers born in the rest of the world (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Sectoral dependence of employment of Rest of the World migrant employees**



Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

Less dependent sectors on workers born in the rest of the world included construction, wholesale and retail trade, land transport (each at 1%) and other personal service activities (1.5%).

Looking specifically at the distribution of rest of the world born employment, the food and beverage service activities sector accounted for 2,700 or 13.4% of all rest of the world employment. Other sectors accounting for sizeable rest of the world employment included retail trade (1,700 or 8.7%), education (1,700 or 8.5%), residential care activities (1,400 or 6.8%), and public administration and defence (1,000 or 5.2%).

Compared to all those employed in the top 25 sectors for rest of the world born employment, rest of the world born employees are more concentrated in the food and beverage service activities, human health activities, residential care activities, and computer programming sectors. By contrast, rest of the world born employees are less concentrated in the construction, retail trade, public administration, land transport and education sectors.

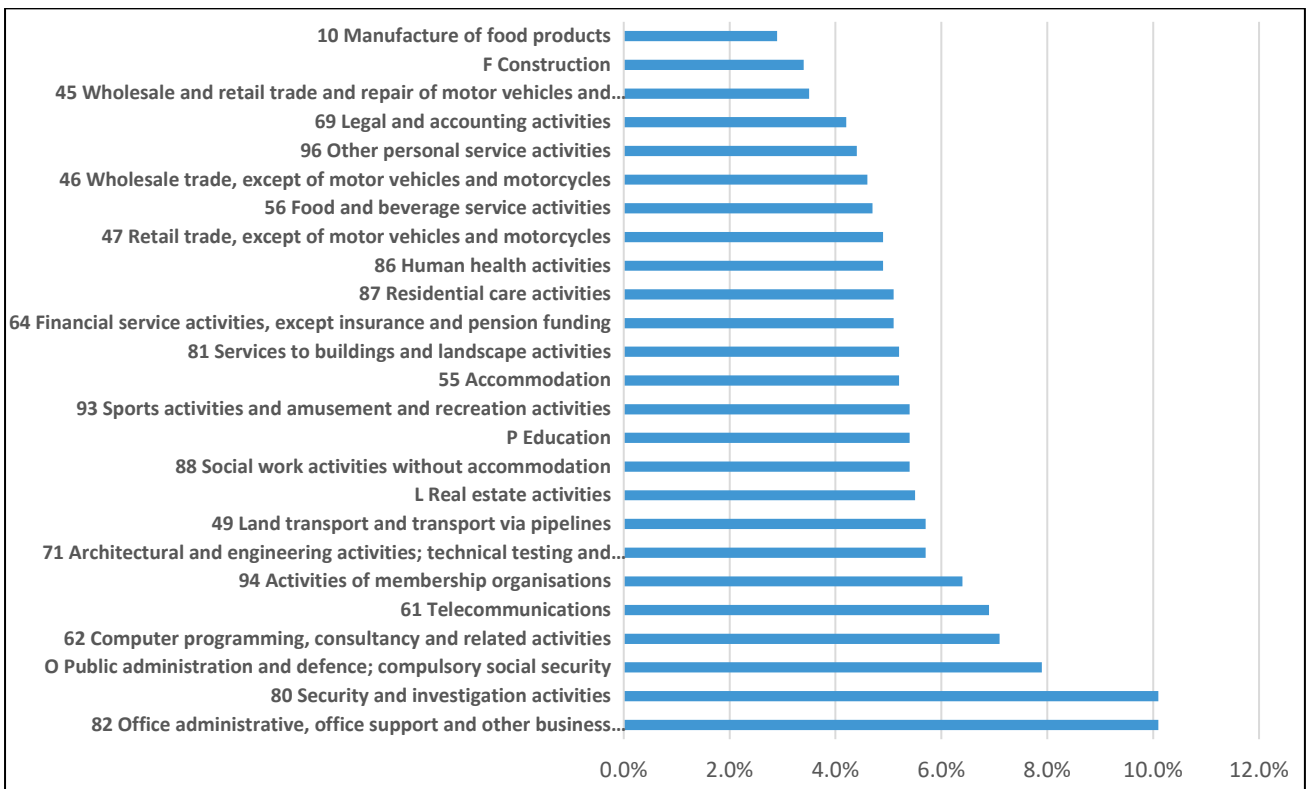


**Rest of UK born sectoral employment:** There were just over 41,700 workers born in the rest of the UK at Census 2011 accounting for 5% of employment for usual residents aged 16-74.

Reflecting the scale and characteristics of employment of people born in the rest of the UK in Northern Ireland, and compared to other migrant groupings, a larger number of sectors are dependent to a greater extent on employees born in the rest of the UK. Just over one in ten of those employed in both the office administrative and security and investigation activities sectors were born in the rest of the UK. Relatively high rates of dependency on rest of the UK born migrant employees include the public administration and defence (7.9%), computer programming (7.1%), telecommunications (6.9%), membership organisations (6.4%), architectural and engineering activities (5.7%), and land transport and transport via pipelines sector (5.7%) (Figure 13).

By contrast, and of the top 25 sectors for rest of the UK born employment, relatively less sectoral dependency was found in the wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (3.5%), construction (3.4%), and manufacture of food products (2.9%).

**Figure 13: Sectoral dependence of employment of Rest of the UK migrant employees**



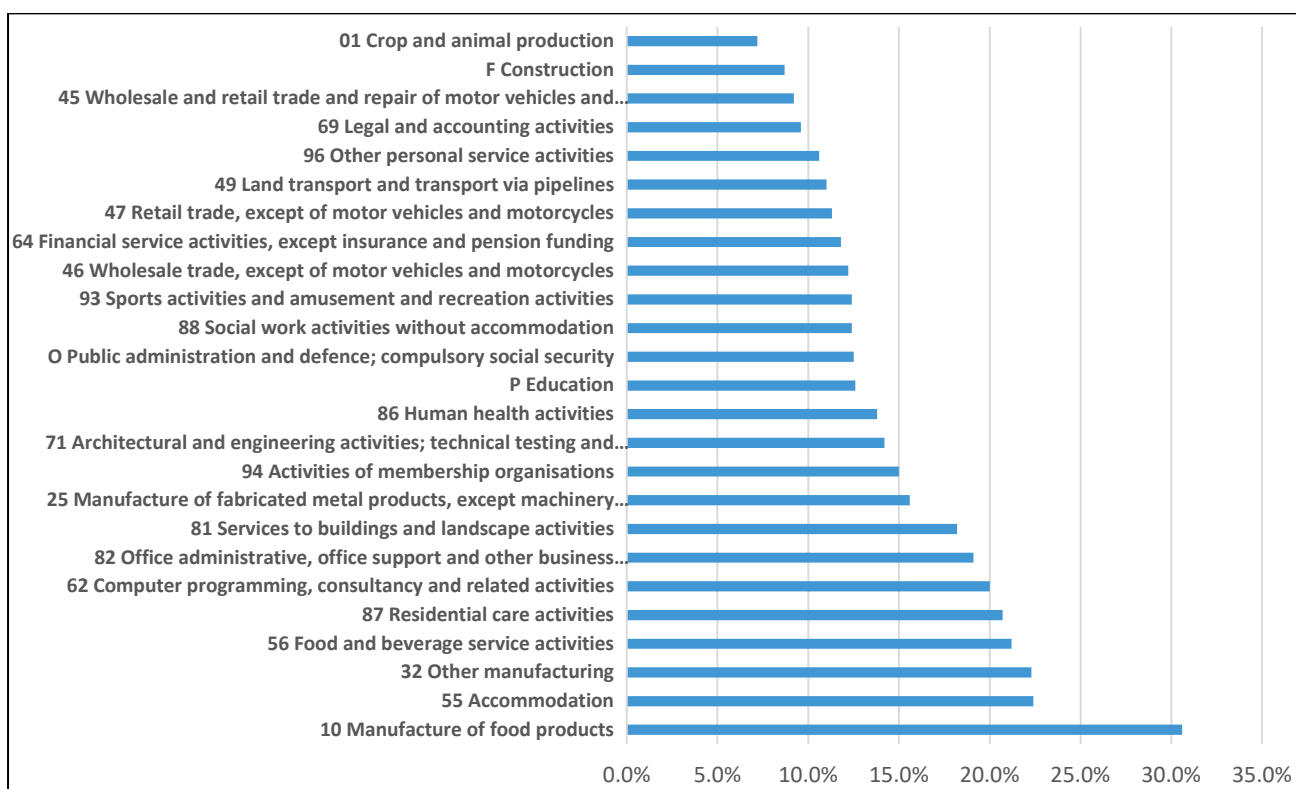
Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

In terms of the distribution of the 41,700 rest of the UK born migrant employees, the greatest shares were accounted for by the public administration and defence or compulsory social security sector (4,980) and the retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (4,966). Other sectors with sizeable shares of rest of the UK born employment included: the education sector (4,047); human health activities sector (3,017); and construction (2,222).

**All non-Northern Ireland born sectoral employment:** The 2011 census recorded just under 108,000 resident workers who were not born in Northern Ireland representing 13.5% of employment for all usual residents aged 16-74.

Businesses in the manufacture of food products (30.6%) represented the single most dependent sector for non-Northern Ireland born workers (Figure 14). Other sectors with a sizeable dependency on non-Northern Ireland born employment included accommodation (22.4%), other manufacturing (22.3%), food and beverage service activities (21.2%), residential care activities (20.7%), and computer programming (19.1%) sectors.

**Figure 14: Sectoral dependence of employment of non-Northern Ireland born migrant employees**



Source: NISRA, Census (2011)

By contrast, businesses in the crop and animal production (7.2%), construction (8.7%), wholesale and retail trade (9.2%), and legal and accounting activities (7.2%) were less dependent on workers born outside Northern Ireland.

The greatest share of non-Northern Ireland born employment was located in the retail trade at 11,000 or 10.6% of all non-Northern Ireland born employment. Other sectors of note accounting for the share of non-NI born employment included the education (9,000 or 8.8%), human health activities (8,000 or 7.8%), public administration and defence (8,000 or 7.3%), and food and beverage service activities (7,000 or 6.9%) sectors.

Compared to all those employed in the top 25 sectors for non-Northern Ireland born employment, non-Northern Ireland born employees are more concentrated in the food and beverage service activities, manufacture of food products, residential care activities, accommodation and computer programming sectors. By contrast, non-Northern Ireland born employees are less concentrated in the construction, retail trade (exc. motor vehicles), crop and animal production, and wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles sectors.

**Location of migrants:** There are differences in the geographic distribution of different groups of migrants within Northern Ireland which may, in large part, reflect the location of employment. Whilst Belfast represents the single area of highest concentration, there are notable distributional differences.

Those migrants born in the rest of the UK are strongly concentrated to the east of Northern Ireland though with localised concentrations around other main urban areas in the north west, south and west.

Those migrants born in the EU (26) were more concentrated in Belfast and the mid Ulster region reflecting the distribution of agri-food processing businesses.

Republic of Ireland born migrants were, with the exception of Belfast, strongly concentrated in areas which border the Republic of Ireland with the five District Councils that border the Republic of Ireland accounting for some 61% of Republic of Ireland born residents in Northern Ireland.

Those Northern Ireland residents born in the rest of the world were most strongly concentrated in the East of Northern Ireland, particularly Belfast, which alone accounted for 29% of rest of the world born migrants.

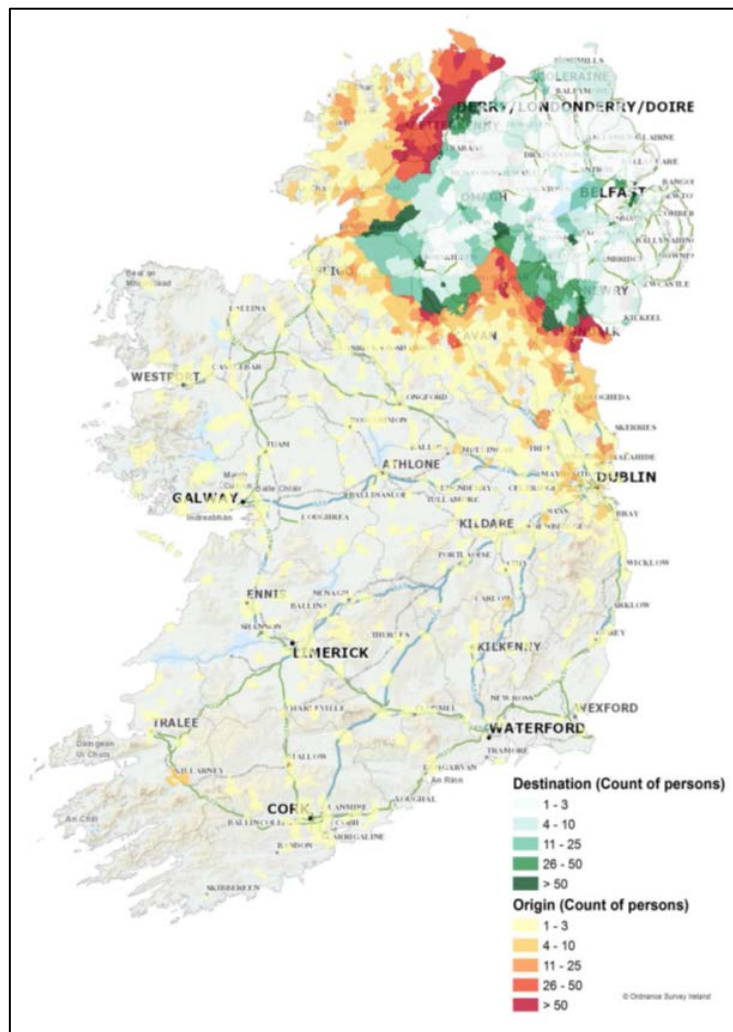
**Frontier working:** Hidden from Northern Ireland-based household surveys or Censuses are the contribution of Republic of Ireland resident workers to the Northern Ireland economy. Frontier workers are those who are resident in one jurisdiction but travel across a border to work (or study) in a different jurisdiction. Figures produced by the Central Statistics Office of Ireland<sup>24</sup>, indicate that in the Irish 2016 Census, 7,037 people travelled to Northern Ireland to work whilst a further 2,299 crossed the border to Northern Ireland to study at primary, secondary and tertiary levels (Figure 15).

The greatest share of the cross-border commuters to Northern Ireland for work or study came from County Donegal in the North West of Ireland (60%) followed by County Monaghan (12%) and County Louth (10%). Within Northern Ireland, the County with the greatest share of these cross-border commuters was County Derry (47%), followed by County Armagh (12%) and County Antrim (10%).

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<sup>24</sup> [http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/documents/census2016profile6-commutinginireland/Cross\\_Border\\_Commuters\\_2016\\_v2.pdf](http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/documents/census2016profile6-commutinginireland/Cross_Border_Commuters_2016_v2.pdf)

**Figure 15: Persons commuting from Ireland to Northern Ireland to work or study by electoral division/ward 2016**



Source: Central Statistics Office, Ireland Census 2016 (2017)

Just less than half of these South to North commuters were born in Ireland (49%) whilst 37% of these commuters were born in Northern Ireland and a further 10% born in the rest of the UK.

The 7,037 Republic of Ireland residents travelling to work in Northern Ireland comprise around 1% of all employee jobs in Northern Ireland however, their characteristics indicate that they are disproportionately focused occupationally and industrially. Of the 7,037 cross-border commuters to Northern Ireland for work, 28% were working in professional occupations whilst a further 13% worked in associate professional and technical occupations, 11% in administrative and secretarial work, and a further 10% in skilled trades. In terms of the industrial sectors of these frontier workers, 19% worked in the health and social worker sector, 14% in manufacturing, 14% in wholesale and retail, and 12% in education.