

Demand for IT workers in Northern Ireland

Analytical Services Division, Department for the Economy and NISRA - June 2022

This paper provides analysis on the demand for IT workers in Northern Ireland and how this compares with other parts of the UK. It also considers the supply of Computing qualifiers from universities by region of provider across the UK. The report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1: Demand for IT workers**

This section uses results from Burning Glass, an innovative web scraping tool of online job advertisements, to analyse the demand for IT workers in Northern Ireland and this compares with other UK regions.

- **Section 2: Earnings for IT workers**

This section uses statistics from NISRA's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings to examine the full-time earnings of IT and Telecommunication professionals in Northern Ireland and how this compares with other parts of the UK.

- **Section 3: University Qualifiers in Computing**

This section considers the proportion of students qualifying in a Computing discipline by region of provider across the UK, using statistics produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

1. Demand for IT workers

Headline Results

Results for IT workers¹ from Burning Glass, an innovative web-scraping tool of online job advertisements, show that over a five-year period to April 2022:

- There were 69,000 online job advertisements for IT workers in NI, 1.5% of UK market.
- 82% of online job postings wanted degree or above qualifications (where specified) – similar to UK average (80%).
- 44% of demand was for those with 0 to 2 years' experience with 56% requiring 3+ years (where specified). This compares with 38% and 62% respectively for the UK as a whole.
- The median salary of £40,000 was reported where this was specified; compared with £45,000 for UK as a whole.
- The overall trend over the five year period has been upwards but recent growth has been relatively flat (despite some spikes).

Fig 1: NI Job Adverts for IT workers

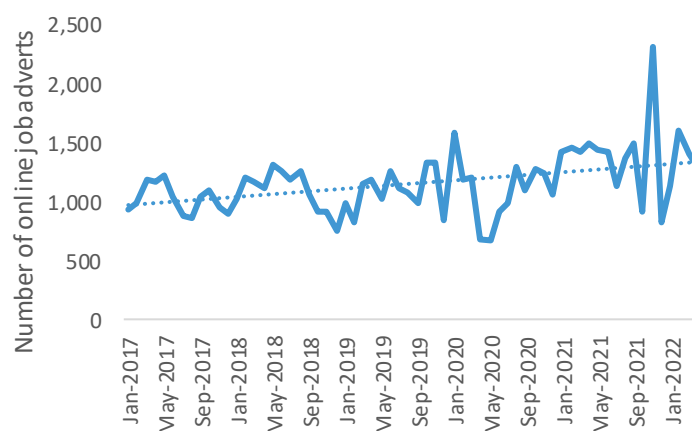
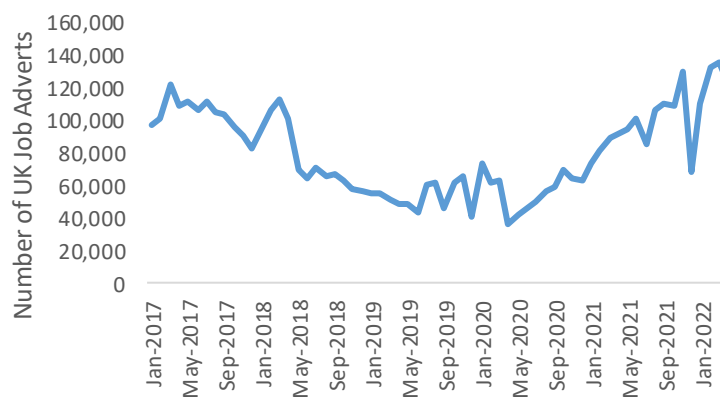


Fig 2: UK Job Adverts for IT workers



Source: Burning Glass

¹ SOC codes 213, 313, 5245 and 1136

Comparisons with UK

Belfast is one of the top hiring regions (9th of Travel to Work areas) across the UK.

Fig 3: Demand Map



Source: Burning Glass

In 2021 alone, there were approximately 17,000 online job advertisements for IT workers in Northern Ireland, accounting for approximately one in every ten job advertisements. About 1.5% of UK IT worker job postings occur in Northern Ireland.

Table 1: IT worker Job Adverts as share of UK market, 2021

	IT worker Job Postings	All Job Advertisements
Northern Ireland	17,000	150,000
UK	1,133,000	9,938,000

Source: Burning Glass

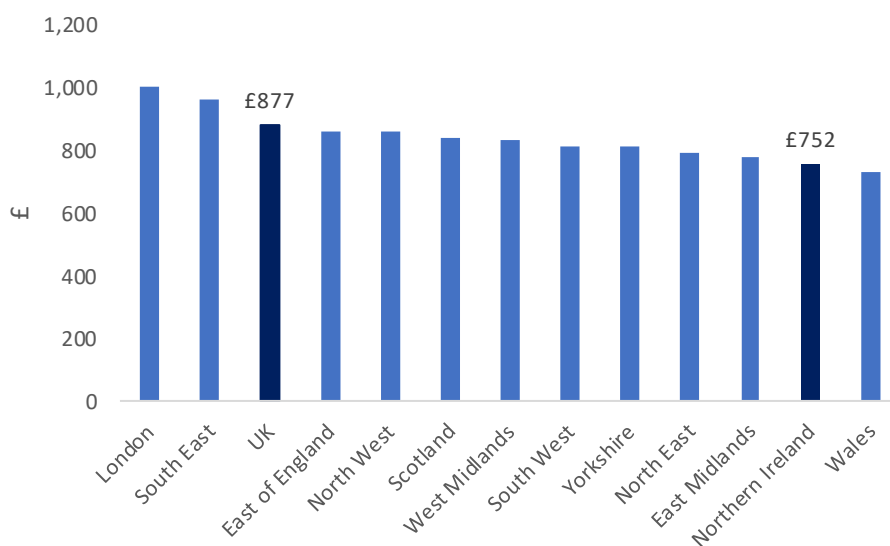
Note: Rounded to nearest 1,000.

2. Earnings (ASHE)

According to NISRA's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings the full-time median gross weekly earnings for Northern Ireland IT and Telecommunication professionals² in 2021 was £752, 14% lower than the UK equivalent (£877).

In 2021, full-time median gross weekly earnings for IT and Telecommunication professionals was the second lowest of the 12 UK regions (behind Wales only).

Fig 4: Full-time median gross weekly pay by UK Region, 2021 – IT and Telecommunication Professionals



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, NISRA

² Based on SOC 213

3. Supply Side – University Qualifiers in Computing in 2020/21

Data from the Higher Education and Statistics Agency indicates that there were 1,495 students that qualified from a Northern Ireland Higher Education Institution with Computing across all levels in 2020/21, accounting for 7% of all qualifiers – the highest of all UK regions.

Table 2: Higher Education Qualifiers in Computing across UK Regions, 2020/21

Region of HE provider	Number	% of all qualifiers in Computing
East Midlands	2,815	4%
East of England	2,245	5%
London	7,120	4%
North East	2,345	6%
North West	3,345	4%
Northern Ireland	1,495	7%
Scotland	4,335	5%
South East	5,010	4%
South West	2,455	4%
Wales	2,140	5%
West Midlands	3,605	5%
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,780	4%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Prepared by:

Analytical Services Division, Department for the Economy

Contact: analyticalservices@economy-ni.gov.uk