

Statistical Bulletin

Employment Vacancies Notified to the Department for Communities – 2016/17 Financial Year

Date of Publication:
26th April 2017

Frequency of Publication:
Annual

Issued By:
Analytical Services Unit
Department for Communities
Lighthouse Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast
BT7 2JB

Public Enquires:
Analytical Services
(028) 90 829351

Statistician:
Eugene Curran

Email:
asu@communities-ni.gov.uk

Internet:
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/dfc-statistics-and-research>

Links:
[Statistical Tables](#)

This Statistical Bulletin, which is published once a year (along with three statistical factsheets), presents key information on job vacancies which have been notified to the Department for Communities (DfC) JobCentres / Jobs & Benefits Offices (JCs/J&BOs). The statistics presented here do not relate to the total unsatisfied demand for staff by employers, but to only those vacant positions that have been notified by employers to DfC.

In the 2016/17 financial year there were 60,898 vacancies notified to JCs/J&BOs, an increase of 17% when compared against the 2015/16 financial year.

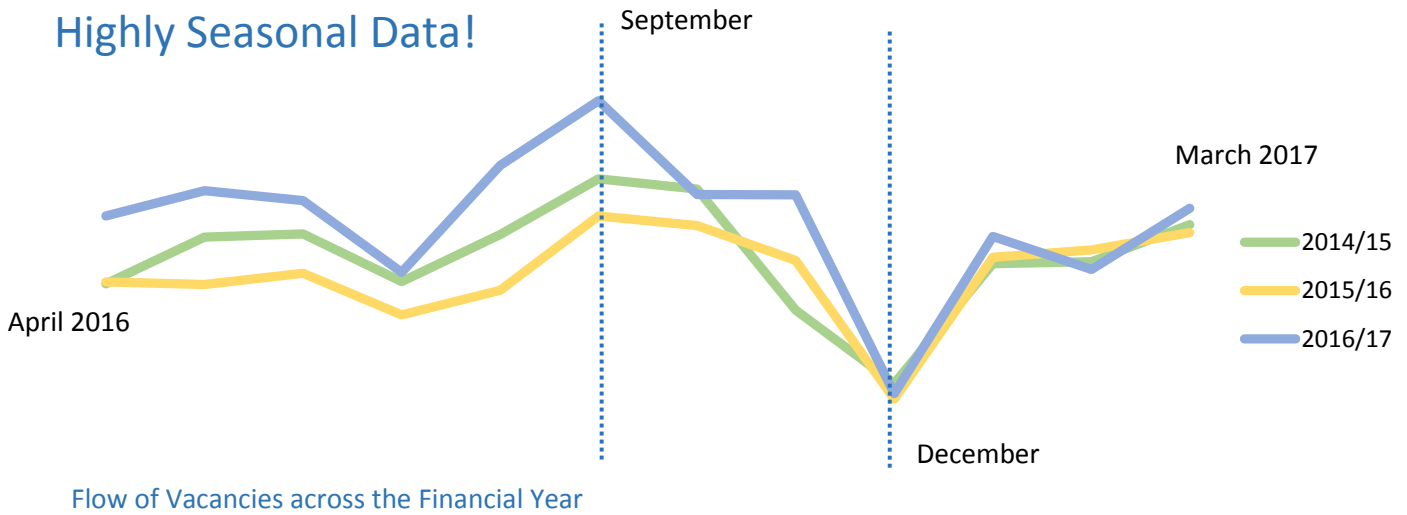
This bulletin presents the number of notified vacancies during the last financial year by Northern Ireland JCs/J&BOs, Local Government District 2014 (LGD 2014), Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC 2000), Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007), and Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2010) quintiles.

Monthly statistics are also presented to highlight the trends in Full-time, Part-time, and Casual Notified Vacancies from April 2016 to March 2017.



Employment Vacancies: 2016/17 Financial Year

60,898 Employment Vacancies Notified to the Department for Communities.



63% of Vacancies Placed Online

Department for **Communities**
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Key Statistics	3
Annual Statistics (2016/17)	4
Northern Ireland Jobs & Benefits Office.....	4
<i>Notified Vacancies</i>	4
<i>Vacancy Placement Method</i>	6
Local Government District (2014)	7
Standard Occupational Classification (2000).....	9
Standard Industrial Classification (2007).....	10
Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2010)	12
Monthly Statistics (April 2016 - March 2017)	13
Notes to Readers	14

Introduction

Employment Vacancies Statistical Bulletin

In December 2013 improvements were made to the methodology for recording and validating data on vacancies placed through what was formally known as the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). These changes led to a break in the time series for vacancy statistics.

In addition to improving data quality processes the Department also took the opportunity to reconsider how vacancy statistics are published, and in turn, how those statistics are used by customers. Through an internal user consultation and in line with recommendations, the Department has revised the statistical bulletin, with the aim of producing more user friendly publications which provide more timely data.

This publication is the third annual Statistical Bulletin containing vacancy data from the new time series. As such, data within this publication should not be directly compared with those from statistical bulletins released before the break in the time series.

Coverage

Vacancy statistics are viewed throughout the United Kingdom (UK) as valuable indicators in evaluating economic performance. Detailed regional analysis at Northern Ireland (NI) level is not currently available but Department for Communities (DfC) statisticians are currently engaged with staff in the Department of Finance (DoF) and Office for National Statistics (ONS) staff in evaluating the feasibility of conducting a quarterly vacancy survey for NI. This would allow comprehensive analysis for the whole economy and correlation against other economic indicators.

For the present, this Statistical Bulletin presents key information on job vacancies which have been notified to the JobCentre/Jobs & Benefit Offices (JCs/J&BOs) of DfC. A small proportion of vacancies notified are based in the UK mainland or in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). The statistics presented here do not relate to the total unsatisfied demand for staff by employers, but to only those vacant positions that have been notified by employers to DfC. Research published in November 2014 – UK Commission’s Employer Perspectives Survey 2014 suggested that the vacancy component notified to DfC accounted for 41% of market share vacancies for NI.

This bulletin presents the number of notified vacancies during the last financial year by Northern Ireland JCs/J&BOs, Local Government District 2014 (LGD 2014), Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC 2000), Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007), and Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2010) quintiles.

Monthly statistics are also presented to highlight the trends in Full-time, Part-time, and Casual Notified Vacancies from April 2016 to March 2017.

Further information on the methodology and definitions used in the production of this bulletin are provided in the section entitled ‘Notes to Readers’.

Who will be interested in this bulletin?

Statistics presented within this bulletin and those derived from it are currently used by a wide variety of people. For example, by DfC policy officials to monitor performance and to inform future policy decisions; by the NI Assembly and the Communities committee to monitor provision; by other government departments such as the Department of Finance (DoF) as an input into the Northern Ireland Monthly Labour Market Report; and by researchers and academics to help understand the underlying trends in the labour market.

Limitations of data

Working Age Services (WAS) within DfC offers a free of charge vacancy placement service to employers. This service is offered through the digital platform of the Employers Online (EROL) service or via a manual office based vacancy taking service in the JCs/J&BOs across Northern Ireland.

Vacancy details are recorded on the Client Management System (CMS) which is installed in the JCs/J&BOs throughout Northern Ireland. This is an IT system which is used to facilitate the interface with the Department's customers. The relevant data are extracted from CMS each month to form a Vacancies database maintained by the Department's Analytical Services Unit. The data presented in this Statistical Bulletin are derived from the Vacancies database.

Over time, as more information becomes available, estimates can be revised to improve quality and accuracy, this will provide a better picture of that being measured. As the vacancy database is built and updated from a live administrative system there is potential for some revision of statistics in the future. Any necessary revision will therefore be incorporated into future vacancy statistical bulletins. Revisions are expected to be minimal and may be due to database changes applied or to amendments to vacancies which are live on the recent count date.

Key Statistics

- In the 2016/17 financial year a total of 60,898 vacancies were notified to DfC.
- In 2016/17 the JCs/J&BOs with the largest numbers of notified vacancies were; Shaftesbury Square with 9,282 (15%), Bangor with 3,961 (7%), Hollywood Road with 3,760 (6%), Belfast North with 3,264 (5%), Antrim with 3,076 (5%) and Lisburn with 3,054 (5%).
- There were 34,248 notified vacancies for full-time positions (56%), 21,602 notified vacancies for part-time positions (35%) and 5,047 notified vacancies for casual positions (8%).
- Belfast was the largest LGD listing notified vacancies in terms of actual vacancies, of which there were 16,910, equating to 49.9 vacancies per 1,000 head of population.
- The most frequently notified occupation types (SOC 2000) for vacancies during the 2016/17 financial year were Elementary with 13,708 (23%), Personal Service with 12,231 (20%).
- In the financial year 2016/17, the SIC (2007) with the largest number of notified vacancies was Other Services accounting for 14,894 vacancies (24%), followed by Administrative and Support Services with 10,481 (17%) and Human Health and Social Work with 8,926 (15%).
- In the 2016/17 financial year the data shows that the greatest proportion of vacancies occurred in the more deprived areas of Northern Ireland, 31% (18,662) of vacancies were listed in the most deprived 20% of areas.

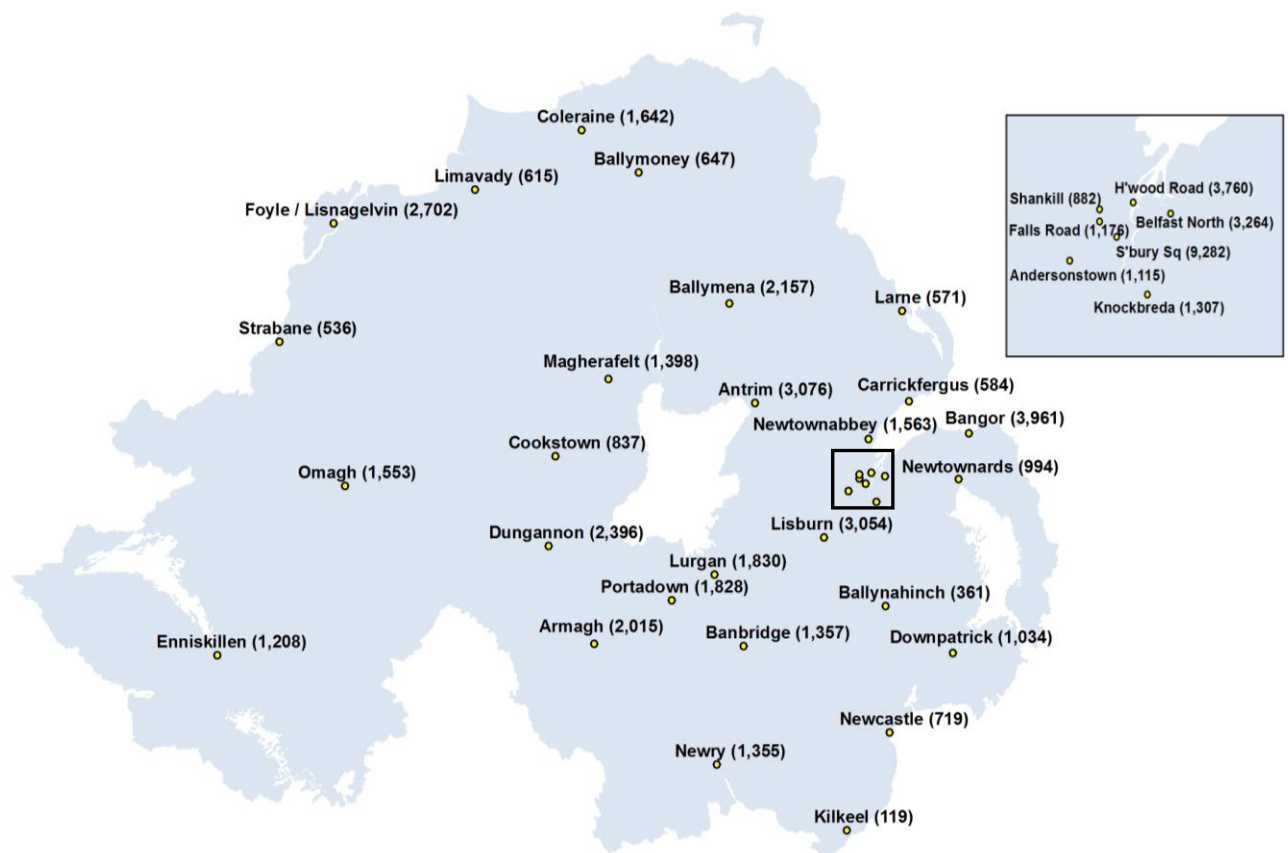
Annual Statistics

Northern Ireland JobCentre / Jobs & Benefit Office

Notified Vacancies

The map below presents vacancies by Northern Ireland JobCentre / Jobs & Benefits Office. The purpose is not to rank JCs/J&BOs by the number of notified vacancies, but rather to gain an understanding of the spread of notified vacancies at a local level.

Figure 1: Notified Vacancies by JobCentre / Jobs & Benefits office



In 2016/17 the JCs/J&BOs with the largest numbers of vacancies posted were; Shaftesbury Square with 9,282 (15%), Bangor with 3,961 (7%), Holywood Road with 3,760 (6%), Belfast North with 3,264 (5%), Antrim with 3,076 (5%) and Lisburn with 3,054 (5%).

In 2016/17 twenty seven of the thirty five* JCs/J&BOs reported an increase in the number of notified vacancies from 2015/16.

* Vacancies notified to Lisnagelvin J&BO are coded under Folye J&BO on CMS; they are therefore grouped together in this publication

Table 1: Notified Vacancies by Northern Ireland JCs /J&BOs

Northern Ireland Jobs and Benefits Office	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year				% Change
	2015/16		2016/17		
	No	%	No	%	
Shaftesbury Square	7,886	15%	9,282	15%	18%
Bangor	3,110	6%	3,961	7%	27%
Hollywood Road	2,882	6%	3,760	6%	30%
Belfast North	2,604	5%	3,264	5%	25%
Antrim	3,138	6%	3,076	5%	-2%
Lisburn	3,178	6%	3,054	5%	-4%
Foyle/Lisnagelvin	2,205	4%	2,702	4%	23%
Dungannon	1,580	3%	2,396	4%	52%
Ballymena	1,580	3%	2,157	4%	37%
Armagh	1,887	4%	2,015	3%	7%
Lurgan	1,322	3%	1,830	3%	38%
Portadown	1,346	3%	1,828	3%	36%
Coleraine	1,742	3%	1,642	3%	-6%
Newtownabbey	1,393	3%	1,563	3%	12%
Omagh	897	2%	1,553	3%	73%
Magherafelt	1,259	2%	1,398	2%	11%
Banbridge	986	2%	1,357	2%	38%
Newry	1,367	3%	1,355	2%	-1%
Knockbreda	1,300	3%	1,307	2%	1%
Enniskillen	954	2%	1,208	2%	27%
Falls Road	1,520	3%	1,176	2%	-23%
Andersonstown	1,043	2%	1,115	2%	7%
Downpatrick	542	1%	1,034	2%	91%
Newtownards	881	2%	994	2%	13%
Shankill	853	2%	882	1%	3%
Cookstown	714	1%	837	1%	17%
Newcastle	436	1%	719	1%	65%
Ballymoney	592	1%	647	1%	9%
Limavady	649	1%	615	1%	-5%
Carrickfergus	614	1%	584	1%	-5%
Larne	521	1%	571	1%	10%
Strabane	471	1%	536	1%	14%
Ballynahinch	291	1%	361	1%	24%
Kilkeel	104	0%	119	0%	14%
Total	51,847	100%	60,898	100%	17%

Northern Ireland JobCentre / Jobs & Benefit Office (Continued)

Vacancy Placement Method

It is important to understand how the Department interacts with the employers who place their vacancies through Working Age Services. A key indicator of that interaction is the method by which employers place their vacancies. Analysis of these data will allow the Department to prioritise the more effective means of communication to deliver the most efficient placement method for employers.

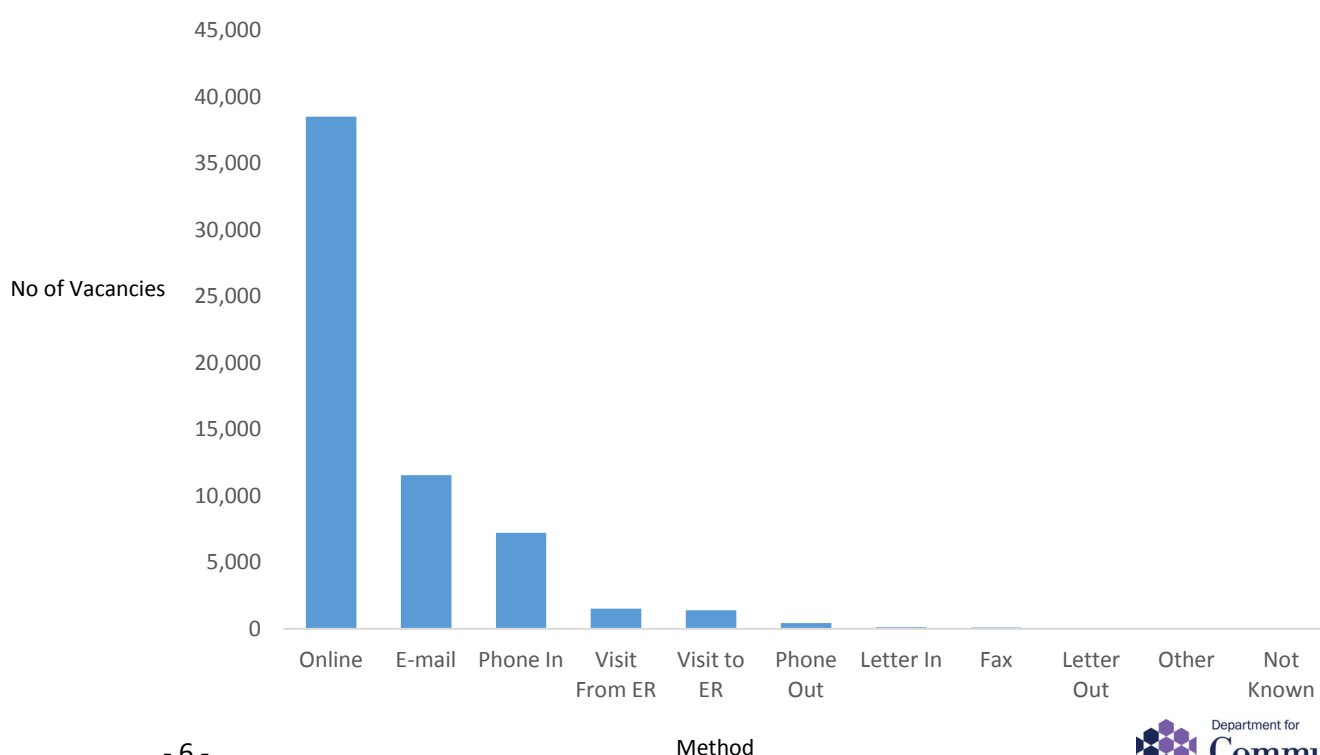
As shown in Table 2 the Online method* of placing vacancies is by far the most popular with employers, 63% (38,504) of notified vacancies are placed in this manner, up from 59% in 2015/16. Notified vacancies placed by mail accounted for 19% (11,564) of the total, down from 20% in 2015/16 and those placed by Phone Calls to and from JCs/J&BOs accounted for 13% (7,678), down from 16% in 2015/16. Unsurprisingly, less than 1% of all notified vacancies were placed by the Fax and Letter methods combined. Other and Not Known also account for less than 1% combined.

*Online vacancies are those that were placed on the 'Employers Online' webpage (EROL).

Table 2: Notified Vacancies by Placement method

Vacancy Placement Method	Notified Vacancies 2016/17	
	No	%
Online	38,504	63%
E-mail	11,564	19%
Phone In	7,230	12%
Visit From ER	1,517	2%
Visit to ER	1,395	2%
Phone Out	448	1%
Letter In	119	0%
Fax	110	0%
Letter Out	7	0%
Other	3	0%
Not Known	1	0%
Total	60,898	100%

Figure 2: Vacancy Placement Method



Local Government District (2014)

Table 3 presents notified vacancies for the financial year 2015/16 and 2016/17 by Local Government District (LGD). Reform of local government reduced the number of local councils from 26 to 11. The new councils assumed control on the 1st April 2015.

Table 3: Notified Vacancies by LGD (2014)

Local Government District (2014)	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year				% Change
	2015/16		2016/17		
	No	Per 1,000 resident population	No	Per 1,000 resident population	
Belfast	14,573	43.0	16,910	49.9	16%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	5,858	28.2	7,251	34.9	24%
Lisburn and Castlereagh City	5,163	36.8	5,369	38.3	4%
Ards and North Down	4,088	25.7	5,058	31.9	24%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4,658	33.2	4,751	33.8	2%
Mid Ulster	3,602	25.0	4,742	32.9	32%
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,587	14.7	3,490	19.8	35%
Mid and East Antrim	2,762	20.1	3,331	24.3	21%
Derry City and Strabane	2,649	17.7	3,162	21.2	19%
Causeway Coast and Glens	3,125	21.8	3,043	21.3	-3%
Fermanagh and Omagh	1,795	15.6	2,624	22.8	46%
Not Known	987	-	1,167	-	-
Total	51,847	28.0	60,898	32.9	17%

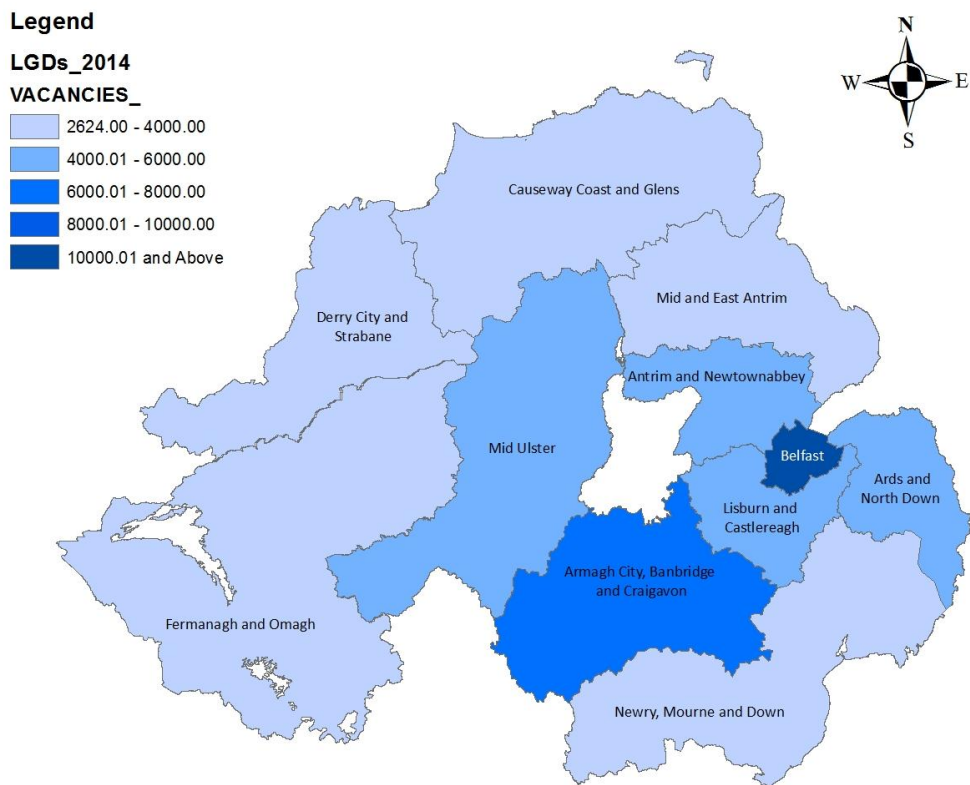
The data shows Belfast as the largest LGD listing notified vacancies, 16,910 (28%). This equates to 49.9 per 1,000 head of population. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon reported 7,251 notified vacancies (12%) equating to 34.9 per 1,000 head of population.

Causeway Coast and Glens was the only LGD to report a drop in the number of vacancies when compared with the previous financial year, 3,043 in 2016/17 down 3% from 3,125 in 2015/16.

The LGD of Fermanagh and Omagh reported the lowest number of notified vacancies with 2,624, which equates to 22.8 per 1,000 head of population. However, Newry, Mourne and Down had the lowest number of Vacancies per 1,000 head of population reporting 19.8.

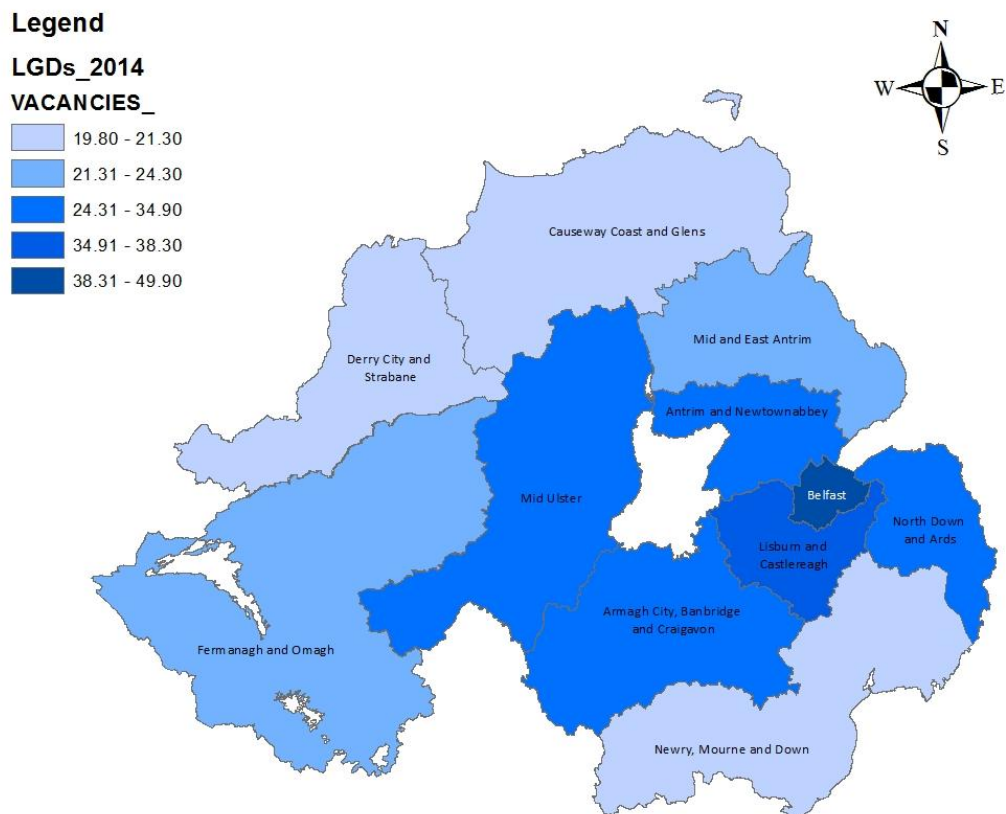
Caution must be shown when interpreting local level trends as in some cases, these trends may be distorted by the activity of a single employer.

Figure 3: Notified Vacancies by Local Government District 2016/17



© Crown copyright and database rights

Figure 4: Notified Vacancies per 1,000 resident population by Local Government District 2016/17



© Crown copyright and database rights

Standard Occupational Classification (2000)

In this section Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000) is used to classify vacancies into 'job' categories. Jobs are classified into groups according to skill level and skill specialisation. Occupational information serves a variety of purposes. It informs the job matching activities undertaken by employment agencies; it provides a framework for the provision of career information; and yields guidance for the development of labour market policies, especially those which relate to the promotion of work based training.

Table 4: Notified Vacancies by SOC (2000)

SOC 2000 Major Group	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year				% Change
	2015/16		2016/17		
	No	%	No	%	
Elementary	11,279	22%	13,708	23%	22%
Personal Service	10,412	20%	12,231	20%	17%
Sales and Customer Service	7,294	14%	7,851	13%	8%
Skilled Trades	5,693	11%	6,501	11%	14%
Associate Professional & Technical	5,820	11%	5,764	9%	-1%
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	4,042	8%	5,111	8%	26%
Professional	2,430	5%	4,144	7%	71%
Administrative & Secretarial	3,085	6%	3,642	6%	18%
Managers & Senior Officials	1,792	3%	1,946	3%	9%
Total	51,847	100%	60,898	100%	17%

The most frequently notified occupation type for vacancies during the 2015/16 financial year was Elementary with 13,708 (23%), up from 11,279 in 2015/16. The second most popular occupation type was Personal Service with 12,231 (20%), up from 10,412 in 2015/16. Sales and Customer Service was the third most popular occupation type with 7,851 (13%), up from 7,294 in 2015/16.

The least frequently notified occupation types for vacancies were in Managers and Senior Officials with 1,946 (3%), up from 1,792 in 2015/16 and Administrative and Secretarial with 3,642 (6%), up from 3,085 in 2015/16.

The only occupation type to record a decrease when compared with the previous financial year was Associate Professional and Technical with 5,764 in 2016/17, down 1% from 5,820 in 2015/16.

Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

The Standard Industrial Classification was introduced for use in classifying business establishments by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. The classification provides a framework for the collection, presentation and analysis of data; promoting uniformity. It can also be used for administrative purposes as a convenient way of classifying industrial activity into a common structure.

Table 5: Notified Vacancies by SIC (2007) Sections

SIC 2007 Section	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year				% Change
	2015/16		2016/17		
	No	%	No	%	
Other Services	11,449	22%	14,894	24%	30%
Administrative & Support Service	8,684	17%	10,481	17%	21%
Human Health & Social Work	8,107	16%	8,926	15%	10%
Accommodation & Food Services	6,603	13%	7,603	12%	15%
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	6,904	13%	7,559	12%	9%
Manufacturing	2,021	4%	2,624	4%	30%
Education	2,049	4%	2,544	4%	24%
Construction	1,817	4%	2,085	3%	15%
Transportation & Storage	594	1%	784	1%	32%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	609	1%	749	1%	23%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	913	2%	567	1%	-38%
Information & Communication	431	1%	347	1%	-19%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	275	1%	330	1%	20%
Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	369	1%	328	1%	-11%
Financial & Insurance	241	0%	273	0%	13%
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation	163	0%	167	0%	2%
Activities of Households; Goods- & Services-Production for Own Use	237	0%	166	0%	-30%
Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations & Bodies	99	0%	165	0%	67%
Mining & Quarrying	140	0%	151	0%	8%
Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	66	0%	98	0%	48%
Real Estate	71	0%	52	0%	-27%
Not known	5	0%	5	0%	-
Total	51,847	100%	60,898	100%	17%

In the financial year 2016/17, the SIC (2007) group with the largest number of notified vacancies was Other Services which accounted for 14,894 (24%) notified vacancies, a 30% increase on 2015/16. Other Services is a residual category which includes activities such as the repair of computers and household goods; activities of membership organisations (e.g. trade unions and professional membership organisations) and other personal service activities (e.g. washing and dry cleaning).

Administrative and Support Services accounted for 10,481 notified vacancies in 2016/17, an increase of 21% against the number recorded in 2015/16. Human Health and Social Work accounted for 8,926 (15%), up 10% on 2015/16. Accommodation and Food Services accounted for 7,603

notified vacancies, up 15% on 2015/16 and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles accounted for 7,559 (12%) notified vacancies, up 9% on 2015/16.

The five industrial groups reporting the largest number of vacancies in 2016/17 were also the top five in 2015/16.

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2010)

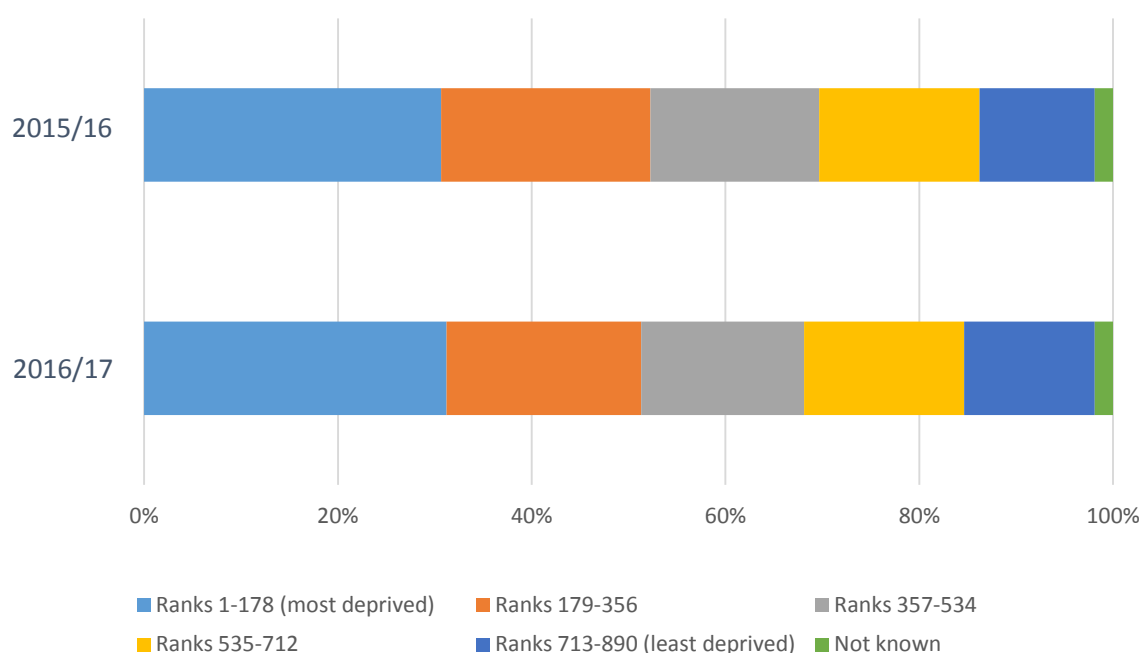
The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010) comprises seven domains of deprivation, each measuring a distinct type; income, employment, health, education, proximity to services, living environment and crime. Northern Ireland's 890 Super Output Areas (SOA)* are ranked in terms of deprivation level, which in turn, are grouped into five equal bands known as quintiles. Measures of deprivation have been used to inform policy and target areas of need in Northern Ireland since the 1970s. Current uses of deprivation measures include 'The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy' and the 'Acute Hospitals Resource Allocation Formula'.

Table 6: Notified Vacancies by NIMDM (2010) quintiles

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 quintiles	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year			
	2015/16		2016/17	
	No	%	No	%
Ranks 1-178 (most deprived)	16,179	31%	18,662	31%
Ranks 179-356	10,413	20%	13,166	22%
Ranks 357-534	8,721	17%	10,597	17%
Ranks 535-712	8,558	17%	10,077	17%
Ranks 713-890 (least deprived)	7,006	14%	7,249	12%
Not known	970	2%	1,147	2%
Total	51,847	100%	60,898	100%

The data in Table 6 shows that in the 2016/17 financial year the greatest proportion of vacancies occurred in the more deprived areas of Northern Ireland, 31% of vacancies were listed in the most deprived 20% of areas compared to 12% vacancies for the least deprived 20% of areas. As we can see from figure 6, there has been little change from the previous year.

Figure 6: Percentage share of Notified Vacancies by NIMDM (2010) quintiles



Monthly Notified Vacancies Full-time, Part-time Casual

Figure 7 presents monthly vacancy statistics for the financial year 2016/17. In order to provide a more detailed analysis, statistics have been broken down to 'Full-time', 'Part-time' and 'Casual' vacancies. Presenting vacancies in this manner allows for analysis of the in-year vacancy trends, which is useful information for the labour market. In-year trends for each vacancy type are explained below.

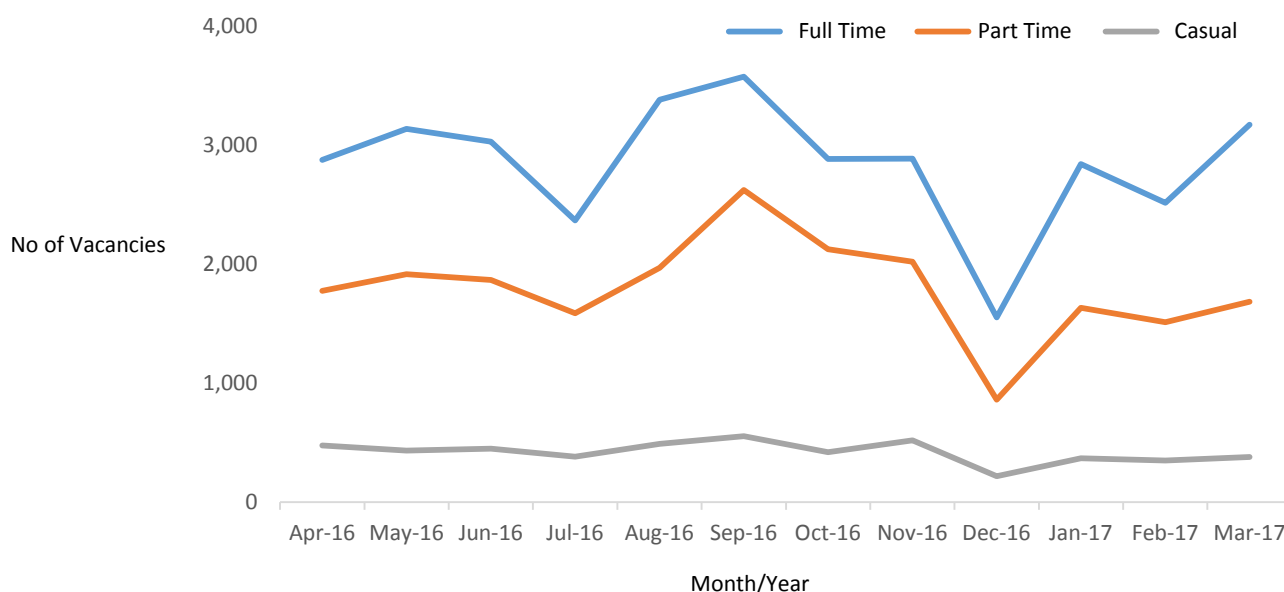
The number of vacancies notified to the Department fluctuates during a financial year as the demand for labour increases at seasonal peaks and decreases during off seasons.

In the 2016/17 financial year full-time vacancies peaked in September when 3,578 were notified, with the smallest number recorded in December (1,553).

The highest number of part-time notified vacancies was recorded in September (2,626), while the lowest number recorded in 2015/16 was in December with 861 notified vacancies.

The data shows that September (554) and December (220) recorded the highest and lowest number of vacancies respectively for casual vacancies in 2016/17.

Figure 7: Monthly Notified Vacancies



When all vacancy types are combined the September peak (see chart on cover page) in notified vacancies reflects the future demand for labour in the Christmas period, as vacancies are normally advertised months in advance of an employment start date. December, which is the trough for all vacancy types, is off season for notified vacancies, as the demand for labour is at its weakest in the period after Christmas.

Notes to Readers

1. Methodology and Definitions

Vacancy details are recorded on the Client Management System (CMS) which is installed in the JobCentre/Jobs & Benefit Offices (JCs/J&BOs) throughout Northern Ireland. This is an IT system which is used to facilitate the interface with the Department's customers.

The relevant data are extracted from CMS each month to form a Vacancies database maintained by the Department's Analytical Services Unit. The data presented in this Statistical Bulletin are derived from the Vacancies database.

All the statistics presented in this bulletin are derived from data extracted from CMS on 7th April 2017.

Vacancies advertised by other means (e.g. newspapers) are not included in the figures presented in this bulletin. The statistics therefore do not provide comprehensive measures relating to all vacancies available to jobseekers in Northern Ireland. The proportion of vacancies which are notified by employers varies over time, according to the occupation and industry of the vacancies and also by geographical area.

The following notes explain the definitions underlying the data presented in this statistical bulletin.

Notified Vacancies (Inflow): All vacancy positions notified and added to JCs/J&BOs of DfC.

Count date: The first Friday after the first Thursday of every month.

UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007): Employers are assigned the SIC 2007 code which best reflects their dominant activity by staff at JobCentres / J&BOs of DfC. All vacancies are assigned the SIC 2007 code of the employer that notified them. Vacancies are broken down by SIC 2007 section level. Brief descriptions of the SIC 2007 sections are provided below. More information about SIC 2007 is available in the [UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 \(SIC 2007\): Structure and Explanatory Notes](#) manual.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: Activities involving vegetable and animal natural resources (e.g. growing crops and breeding animals).

Mining and Quarrying: This section includes the extraction of minerals via methods such as mining and well operation, and the preparation of crude materials for marketing.

Manufacturing: Transformation of materials, substances or components into new products via chemical or physical means (e.g. milk pasteurising; processing and preserving of fish; manufacture of bread).

Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply: Includes provision, through a permanent infrastructure of electric power, natural gas, steam and hot water.

Water supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities: Covers activities related to the management of various forms of waste (e.g. waste collection) and activities of water supply.

Construction: General and specialised construction activities for buildings and engineering works (e.g. demolition and site preparation).

Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles: Sale, without transformation of any type of goods; the supply of services that are incidental to the sale of merchandise; and the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

Transportation and Storage: Provision of freight or passenger transport by rail, pipeline, road, water or air and associated activities (e.g. parking; cargo handling).

Accommodation and Food Service Activities: Covers the provision of short stay accommodation and complete meals and drinks which are fit for immediate consumption.

Information and Communication: Includes activities such as motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing; programming and broadcasting; telecommunications.

Financial and Insurance Activities: Activities include insurance; reinsurance and pension funding activities; and activities to support financial services.

Real Estate Activities: Acting as agents and/or brokers in areas such as selling or buying real estate.

Professional Scientific and Technical Activities: These activities require a substantial amount of training, and make specialised skills and knowledge available to users (e.g. legal activities; accounting; veterinary activities).

Administrative and Support Service Activities: Activities that support general business operations (e.g. renting and leasing; employment agency activities).

Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security: Included in this section are activities that are governmental in nature (e.g. regulation of activities which provide health care, education and cultural services).

Education: Covers education at all levels (e.g. pre-primary, primary, secondary and further) and for all professions.

Human Health and Social Work Activities: Example activities include hospital; residential nursing care; and social work without accommodation.

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation: Creative, arts and entertainment activities; libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities; gambling and betting; and sports activities, amusement and recreation activities are included in this section.

Other Service Activities: This residual category covers the activities of membership organisations; repair of computers and personal household goods; and other personal service activities such as hairdressing.

Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods- and Services-Producing Activities of Households for Own Use: Includes employment of domestic personnel such as maids and cooks; production of goods or services by private households for the purpose of subsistence.

Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies: Activities of organisations such as the United Nations.

Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC 2000): JobCentres / J&BOs of DfC assign to each vacancy the SOC 2000 code which most reflects the main duties of the post. Vacancies are broken down by SOC 2000 Major Group level. The nine Major Group levels are outlined, with examples, at a general level below in terms of qualifications, training and experience required. Further examples and information can be found in the [Standard Occupational Classification 2000: Volume 1 Structure and descriptions of unit groups](#).

Managers and Senior Officials: Considerable knowledge and experience of the production processes associated with the efficient functioning of organisations and businesses (e.g. customer care managers; managers in construction; pharmacy managers).

Professional occupations: Degree level qualification usually needed and some occupations require a postgraduate level qualification and/or experience related training (e.g. chemists; software professionals; dental practitioners).

Associate Professional and Technical Occupations: Typically a higher level vocational qualification is required, which will usually involve a substantial period of training/further study. Task related training is usually provided during the induction period (e.g. nurses; graphic designers; sports players).

Administrative and Secretarial Occupations: For most jobs, general education of a good standard is essential and further training to a well-defined standard may be required (e.g. civil service executive officers; library assistants; school secretaries).

Skilled Trades Occupations: Often a substantial period of training is provided via a work based training programme (e.g. farmers; pipe fitters; motor mechanics).

Personal Service Occupations: General education of a good standard is expected, and further vocational training provided by means of a work based training programme may be required (e.g. nursery nurses; travel agents; dental nurses).

Sales and Customer Service Occupations: General education and sales related work based training are normally required. Some posts that require special knowledge are included in this category because the primary job duty is selling (e.g. sales and retail assistant; call centre agents/operators).

Process, Plant and Machine Operatives: Jobs in this category tend to need knowledge and experience of how to operate mobile machinery such as vehicles, to operate and supervise industrial plant and equipment, assembly products in accordance with regulations. Most occupations require that a minimum level of competence should be reached and that a formal

period of experience related training should be completed (e.g. coal mine operatives; van drivers).

Elementary Occupations: Usually require education to be completed to compulsory level. Some occupations may require short periods of work related training in areas such as health and safety (e.g. farm workers; bar staff; cleaners).

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 (NIMDM 2010) Quintiles: The NIMDM 2010 replaces the NIMDM 2005 as the official measure of deprivation in Northern Ireland, and provides a relative measure of deprivation in small areas. NIMDM 2010 gives an overall measure of seven types of deprivation: Income, Employment, Health, Education, Proximity to Services, Living Environment, and Crime and Disorder. Further information is available at [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010](#). Vacancy statistics are presented by Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure quintile bands: ranks 1-178 (most deprived), ranks 179-356, ranks 357-534, ranks 535-712, ranks 713-890 (least deprived). Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure ranks are based on the Super Output Area (SOA) classification of the vacancy. SOA classifications are assigned to vacancies using the Central Postcode Directory November 2015 based on the postcode of the employer's account. When a valid employer's account postcode is not available, the postcode of the vacancy is used. Although an employer's account is within a particular SOA the job may be based elsewhere in Northern Ireland, in the UK mainland or in the Republic of Ireland.

Local Government District: Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland were assigned using the Central Postcode Directory November 2015 to each vacancy. Employer postcode was used when available and valid; otherwise the postcode of the vacancy was used. Although an employer's account is within a particular district council the job may be based elsewhere in Northern Ireland, in the UK mainland or in the Republic of Ireland.

2. Revisions Policy

Over time, as more information becomes available, estimates can be revised to improve quality and accuracy, which will provide a better picture of that being measured. As the vacancy database is built and updated from a live administrative system there is potential for some revision of statistics in the future. Any necessary revision will therefore be incorporated into future vacancy statistical bulletins. Revisions are expected to be minimal but may be due to database changes applied or to amendments to vacancies which are live on the recent count date.

3. Quality Measures

Relevance: This Statistical Bulletin includes vacancies statistics as one aspect of labour market information in Northern Ireland. There are a wide variety of users of labour market data, including businesses, national and local government, academia, and the general public.

Accuracy: The statistics included are representative of the administrative database at the time of data extraction. The administrative system has built-in validation checks to minimise user error and can be interrogated to assess data quality and cross check statistics. Validation checks are also carried out on the vacancies database and when erroneous data are found they are corrected. In some cases the same vacancies may be notified to JobCentres / J&BOs by an employer and a recruitment agency. While every effort is made to validate vacancy data it should be noted that there is potential for duplicates.

Timeliness and Punctuality: Vacancy statistics are published up to the count date one month prior to the month of publication.

Accessibility and Clarity: The Statistical Bulletin is due to be published annually on the Department for Employment and Learning website and is free of charge. The bulletin includes tables and text highlighting the key facts. The bulletin is available in other formats upon request.

Comparability: This bulletin provides detailed vacancy statistics for the last financial year. Vacancy data is also published each month in the DoF Labour Market Report and will in future include comparisons over time in notified vacancies. It can be accessed on the Statistics and Economics Research Page from the following link: www.economy-ni.gov.uk. Notified and unfilled vacancies in GB can be accessed via [NOMIS](#).

When methodological changes or other effects such as administrative system changes are made, every effort is made to ensure that all previous data are amended to make them directly comparable. If statistics are not directly comparable, this will be highlighted in the bulletin.

Further Information:

Eugene Curran
Analytical Services Unit
Department for Communities
Lighthouse Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast
BT7 2JB

Public Enquires:

Analytical Services
(028) 90 829351

Email:

asu@communities-ni.gov.uk

Internet: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/dfc-statistics-and-research>



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk