Statistical Bulletin

Employment Vacancies Notified to the Department for Communities – 2018/19 Financial Year

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 2018/19 financial year there were 58,563 vacancies notified to JCs/J&BOs, an increase of 3% when compared against the 2017/18 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 (LGD2014), Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC 2000), Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007), and Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2017) quintiles.

Employment Vacancies: 2018/19 Financial Year

58,563 Employment Vacancies Notified to the Department for Communities.

23%
Are for Elementary Positions

Standard Occupational Classification (2000)

31%
Are in the most Deprived Areas

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation (2017)

24%
Are for Administrative /Support Positions
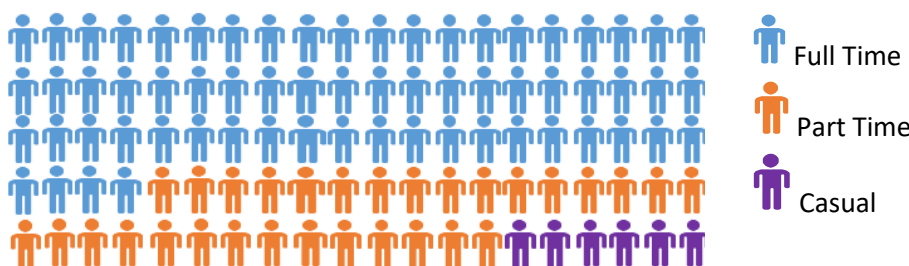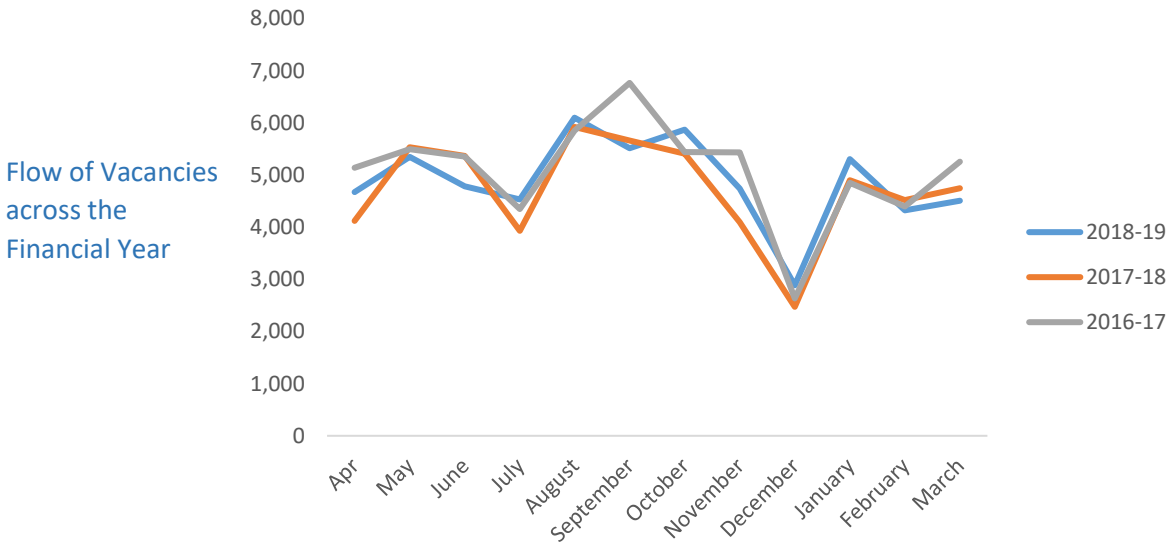
Standard Industrial Classification (2007)

28%
Were located in the Belfast LGD

Local Government District (2000)

Flow of Vacancies across the Financial Year

2018-19
2017-18
2016-17

Full Time
Part Time
Casual

88% of Vacancies Placed Online

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

64% of Vacancies are for Full Time Positions

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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 fifth 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. Over the past 12 months, Department for Communities (DfC) statisticians engaged with staff in the Department of Finance (DoF) using guidance from Office for National Statistics (ONS) in agreeing the addition of a specific question about the number of vacancies available to the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This survey data is currently being collated with preliminary results expected going forward. This information will be a valuable supplement to the stock of knowledge about the frequency, location and nature of vacancies in the local sector. This will then 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 other areas of the UK 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 2016 suggested that the vacancy component notified to DfC accounted for 55% 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 (NIMDM 2017) quintiles.

Monthly statistics are also presented to highlight the trends in Full-time, Part-time, and Casual Notified Vacancies from April 2018 to March 2019.

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 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

Work and Inclusion Group 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 2018/19 financial year a total of 58,563 vacancies were notified to DfC.

- In 2018/19 the JCs/J&BOs with the largest numbers of notified vacancies were; Shaftesbury Square with 7,663 (13%), Armagh with 5,658 (10%), Holywood Road with 4,032 (7%), Belfast North with 3,916 (7%), Foyle/Lisnagelvin with 2,902 (5%), Lisburn with 2,702 (5%), and Antrim with 2,641 (5%).

- There were 37,650 notified vacancies for full-time positions (64%), 17,527 notified vacancies for part-time positions (30%) and 3,386 notified vacancies for casual positions (6%).

- Belfast was the largest LGD listing notified vacancies in terms of actual vacancies, of which there were 16,192, equating to 47.6 vacancies per 1,000 head of population.

- The most frequently notified occupation types (SOC 2000) for vacancies during the 2018/19 financial year were 'Elementary' with 13,387 (23%) and 'Personal Service' with 9,746 (17%).

- In the financial year 2018/19, the SIC (2007) with the largest number of notified vacancies was 'Administrative and Support Services' accounting for 14,202 vacancies (24%), followed by Other Services with 12,869 (22%).

- In the 2018/19 financial year the data shows that the greatest proportion of vacancies occurred in the more deprived areas of Northern Ireland, 31% (18,297) 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 JC/J&BO. 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
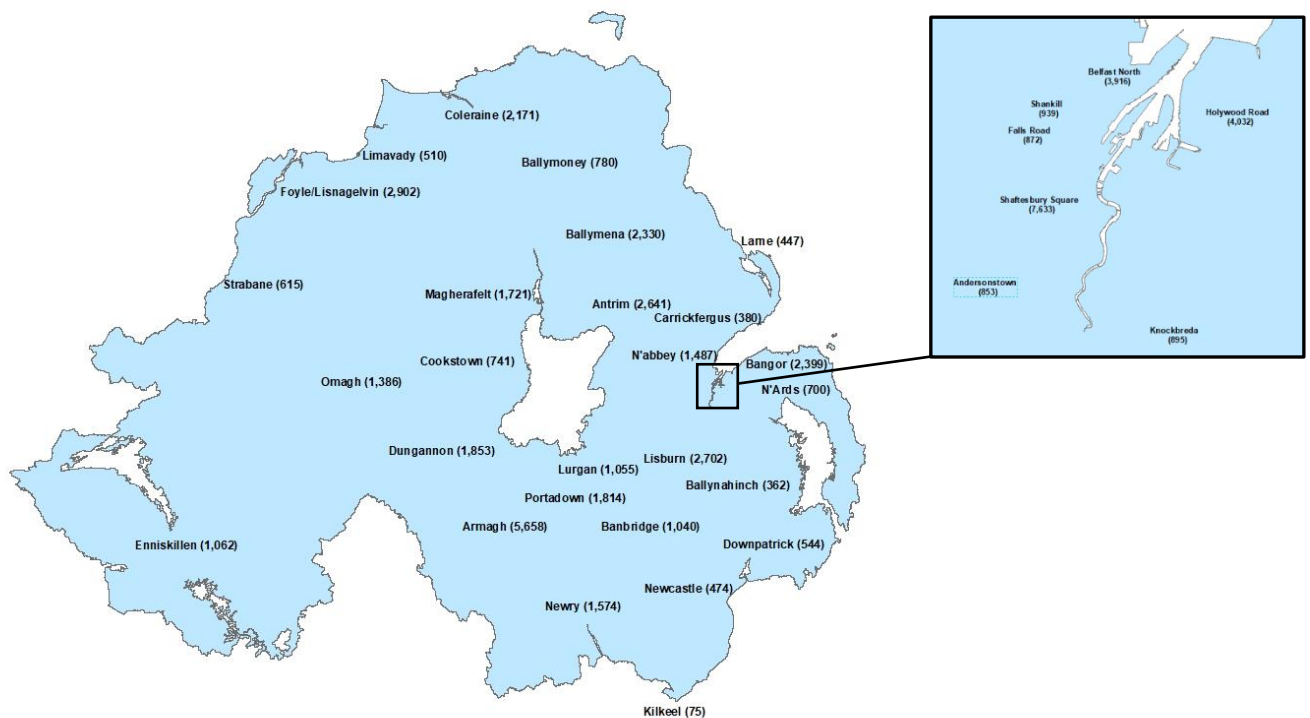
In 2018/19 the JCs/J&BOs with the largest numbers of notified vacancies were; Shaftesbury Square with 7,663 (13%), Armagh[1] with 5,658 (10%), Holywood Road with 4,032 (7%), Belfast North with 3,916 (7%), Foyle/Lisnagelvin with 2,902 (5%), Lisburn with 2,702 (5%) and Antrim with 2,641 (5%).

In 2018/19, fifteen of the thirty five[2] JCs/J&BOs reported an increase in the number of notified vacancies from 2017/18.

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[1] This significant increase is largely attributed to the recent registration of an organisation which advertises vacancies throughout NI, however stats are tracked at point of registration not location of vacancies
[2] Vacancies notified to Lisnagelvin J&BO are coded under Foyle JC/J&BO on CMS; they are therefore grouped together in this publication

Northern Ireland JobCentre/Jobs & Benefit Office (Continued)

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 1, the online method of placing vacancies is by far the most popular with employers, 88% (51,730) of notified vacancies are placed in this manner, an increase of 47% from 2017/18. This has been a specific aim within the department so it is worth noting this substantial increase. Notified vacancies placed by E-mail accounted for 6% (3,788) of the total, down from 23% in 2017/18. Those placed by Phone Calls to and from JCs/J&BOs accounted for 4% (2,424), down from 10% in 2017/18. Less than 1% of all notified vacancies were placed by the Fax and Letter methods combined.

Table 1: Notified Vacancies by Placement method

Vacancy Placement Method	Notified Vacancies 2017/18 No	%	Notified Vacancies 2018/19 No	%
Online	35,120	62%	51,730	88%
E-mail	12,835	23%	3,788	6%
Phone In	5,533	10%	2,375	4%
Visit From ER	1,101	2%	352	1%
Visit to ER	1,481	3%	214	0%
Phone Out	5	0%	49	0%
Letter In	187	0%	38	0%
Fax	68	0%	15	0%
Letter Out	316	1%	1	0%
Not Known	1	0%	1	0%
Total	56,647	100%	58,563	100%

Local Government District (2014)

Table 2 presents notified vacancies for the financial year 2017/18 and 2018/19 by Local Government District (LGD).

Table 2: Notified Vacancies by LGD

| Local Government District (2014) | Notified Vacancies by Financial Year (2) | | | | |
| | 2017/18 | | 2018/19 | | |
	No	Per 1,000 resident population (3)	No	Per 1,000 resident population (3)	% Change
Belfast	16,517	48.5	16,192	47.6	-2%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	7,372	34.8	9,418	44.4	28%
Lisburn and Castlereagh City	5,156	36.1	4,413	30.9	-14%
Mid Ulster	4,173	28.5	4,396	30.0	5%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	3,948	27.9	4,149	29.3	5%
Causeway Coast and Glens	2,962	20.6	3,558	24.7	20%
Derry City and Strabane	3,328	22.1	3,551	23.6	7%
Ards and North Down	3,565	22.3	3,368	21.0	-6%
Mid and East Antrim	3,137	22.7	3,160	22.9	1%
Newry, Mourne and Down	3,157	17.6	3,130	17.5	-1%
Fermanagh and Omagh	2,451	21.1	2,288	19.7	-7%
Not Known	881	_	940	_	_
Total	56,647	30.3	58,563	31.3	3%

The data shows Belfast as the largest LGD listing notified vacancies (16,192). This equates to 47.6 notified vacancies per 1,000 head of population. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon reported 9,418 notified vacancies equating to 44.4 per 1,000 head of population.

The LGD of Fermanagh and Omagh reported the lowest number of notified vacancies with, 2,288 which equated to 19.7 per 1,000 head of population. However, Newry, Mourne and Down had the lowest number of Vacancies per 1,000 head of population reporting 17.5.

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.

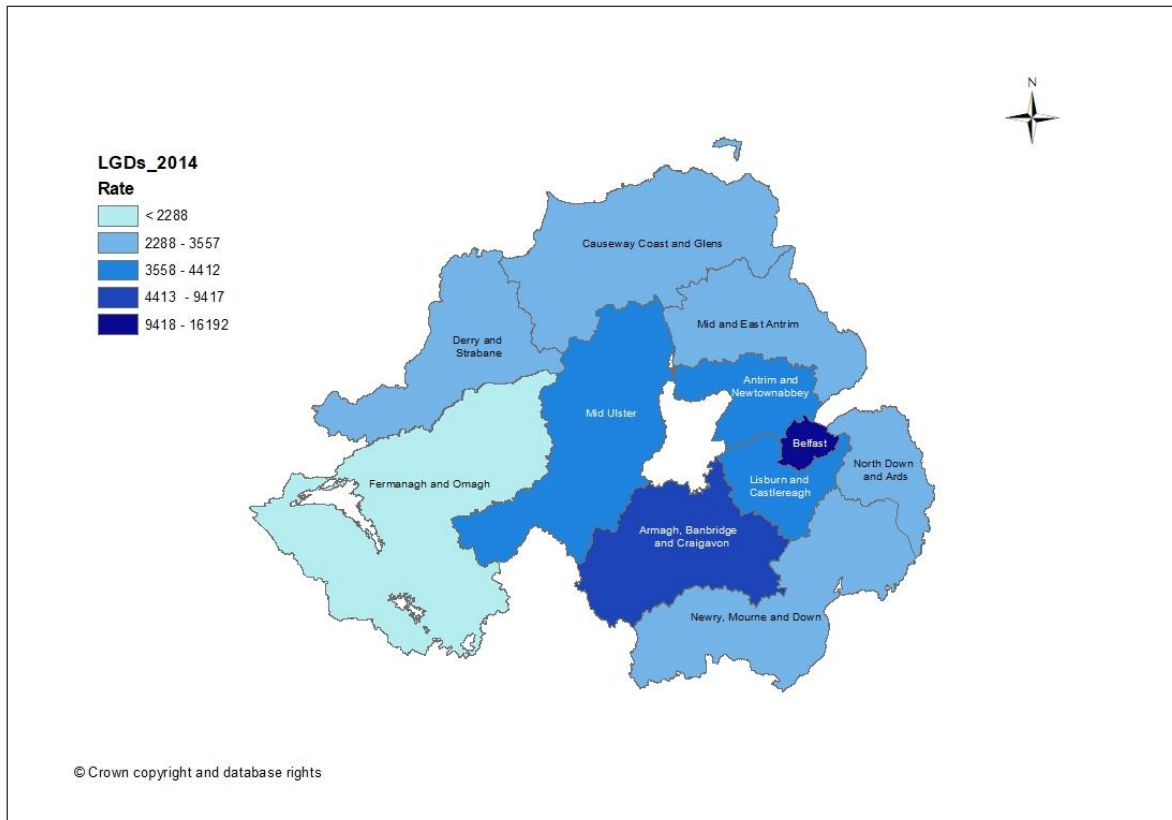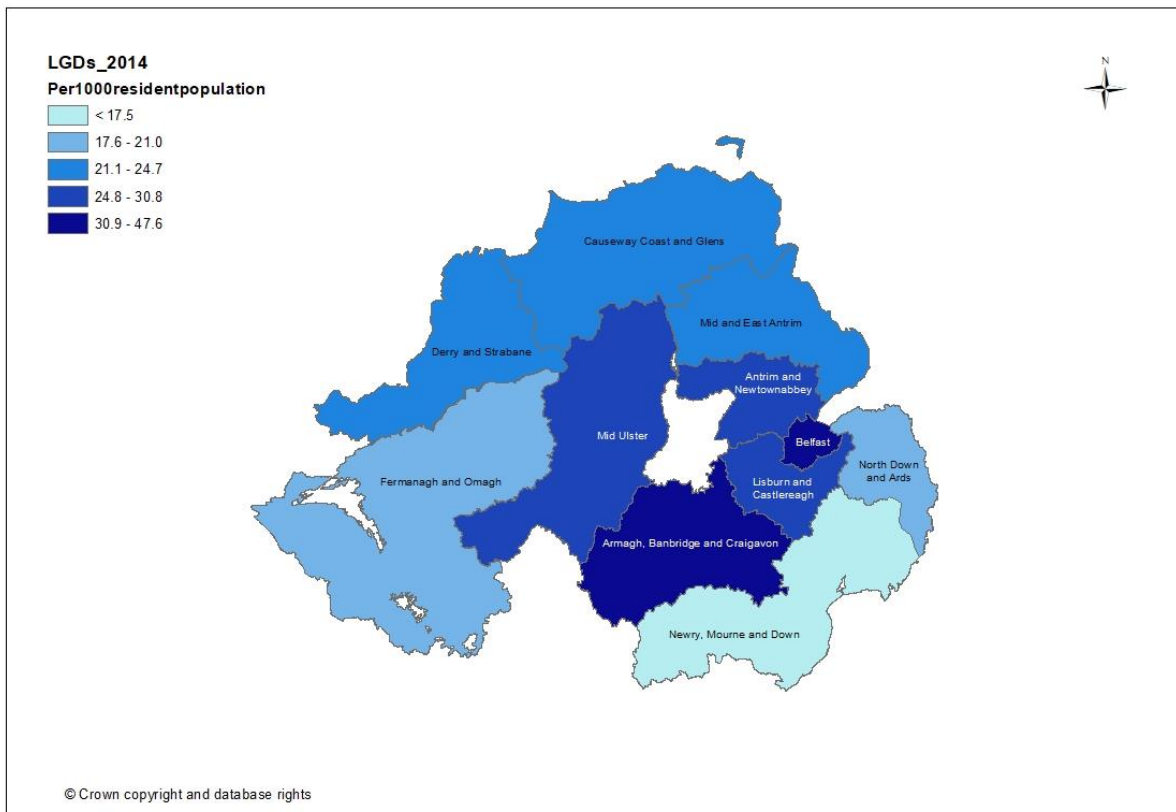Figure 2: Notified Vacancies by Local Government District 2018/19

Figure 3: Notified Vacancies per 1,000 resident population by Local Government District 2018/19

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 3: Notified Vacancies by SOC (2000)

| SOC 2000 Major Group | Notified Vacancies by Financial Year (2) | | | | |
| | 2017/18 | | 2018/19 | | |
	No	%	No	%	% Change
Elementary	13,129	22%	13,387	23%	2%
Personal Service	8,861	15%	9,746	17%	10%
Associate Professional & Technical	5,899	10%	7,373	13%	25%
Skilled Trades	6,334	11%	6,265	11%	-1%
Sales and Customer Service	7,002	12%	6,053	10%	-14%
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	5,455	9%	5,610	10%	3%
Professional	3,657	6%	4,128	7%	13%
Administrative & Secretarial	3,961	7%	3,814	7%	-4%
Managers & Senior Officials	2,349	4%	2,187	4%	-7%
Total	56,647	97%	58,563	100%	3%

The most frequently notified occupation type for vacancies during the 2018/19 financial year was Elementary with 13,387 (23%), up from 13,129 in 2017/18. The second most popular occupation type was Personal Service with 9,746 (17%), up from 8,861 in 2017/18. Associate Professional and Technical was the third most popular occupation type with 7,373 (13%), up from 5,899 in 2017/18. This was the Group that had the largest year on year rise in type of occupation (a percentage change of 25%).

The least frequently notified occupation types for vacancies were in Managers and Senior Officials with 2,187 (4%), the figure for 2017/18 was also 4% (2,349). Administrative and Secretarial had 3,814 (7%) notified vacancies, this percentage is in line with the previous period (7%, 3,961 in 2017/18). The largest percentage fall on the figures from the preceding financial year was in Sales and Customer Service with a decline of 14% in the number of notified vacancies.

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 4: Notified Vacancies by SIC (2007) Sections

SIC 2007 Section (3)	Notified Vacancies by Financial Year (2)				% Change
	2017/18		2018/19		
	No	%	No	%	
Administrative & Support Service	11,548	20%	14,202	24%	23%
Other Services	13,388	23%	12,869	22%	-4%
Accommodation & Food Services	7,491	13%	7,534	13%	1%
Human Health & Social Work	6,233	11%	6,865	12%	10%
Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles	6,814	12%	6,342	11%	-7%
Manufacturing	2,933	5%	3,089	5%	5%
Education	2,382	4%	1,736	3%	-27%
Construction	1,757	3%	1,671	3%	-5%
Transportation & Storage	714	1%	702	1%	-2%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	633	1%	550	1%	-13%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	332	1%	498	1%	50%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	573	1%	470	1%	-18%
Public Administration & Defence; Compulsory Social Security	414	1%	469	1%	13%
Information & Communication	358	1%	466	1%	30%
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management & Remediation	191	0%	243	0%	27%
Mining & Quarrying	138	0%	227	0%	64%
Financial & Insurance	259	0%	211	0%	-19%
Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations & Bodies	118	0%	148	0%	25%
Activities of Households; Goods- & Services-Production for Own Use	123	0%	100	0%	-19%
Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	168	0%	87	0%	-48%
Real Estate	78	0%	81	0%	4%
Not known	2	0%	3	0%	50%
Total	56,647	97%	58,563	100%	3%

In the financial year 2018/19, the SIC (2007) group with the largest number of notified vacancies was Administrative and Support Services which accounted for 14,202 (24%) notified vacancies. Administrative and Support Service activities are those which support general business operations, such as office administration and support, cleaning and security.

The five industrial groups reporting the largest number of vacancies in 2018/19 ('Administrative & Support Services', 'Other Services', 'Human Health & Social Work', 'Accommodation & Food Services' and Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles) were also the top five in 2017/18.

# Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2017)

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017) comprises seven domains of deprivation, each measuring a distinct type; income, employment, health & disability, education skills & training, access to services, living environment and crime & disorder. 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.

Table 5: Notified Vacancies by NIMDM (2017) quintiles

| Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 quintiles | Notified Vacancies by Financial Year (2) | | | |
| | 2017/18 | | 2018/19 | |
	No	%	No	%
Ranks 1-178 (most deprived)	16,901	30%	18,297	31%
Ranks 179-356	13,010	23%	9,910	17%
Ranks 357-534	9,868	17%	11,842	20%
Ranks 535-712	9,022	16%	10,027	17%
Ranks 713-890 (least deprived)	6,972	12%	7,547	13%
Not known	874	2%	940	2%
Total	56,647	100%	58,563	100%

The data in Table 5 shows that in the 2018/19 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 13% vacancies for the least deprived 20% of areas. As we can see from Figure 4, there has been little change from the previous year.

Figure 4: Percentage share of Notified Vacancies by NIMDM (2017) quintiles
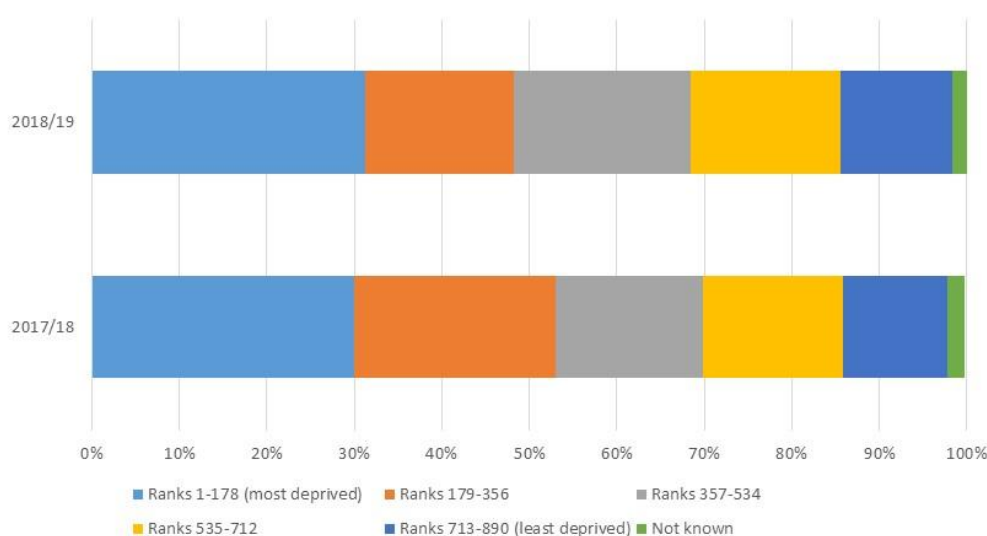
Monthly Notified Vacancies Full-time, Part-time Casual

Figure 5 presents monthly vacancy statistics for the financial year 2018/19. 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 2018/19 financial year full-time vacancies peaked in August when 3,897 were notified, with the smallest number recorded in December (1,946).

The highest number of part-time notified vacancies was recorded in August (1,845), while the lowest number recorded in 2018/19 was in December with 794 notified vacancies.

The data shows that October (359) and December (144) recorded the highest and lowest number of vacancies respectively for casual vacancies in 2018/19.

Figure 5: Monthly Notified Vacancies

Month/Year
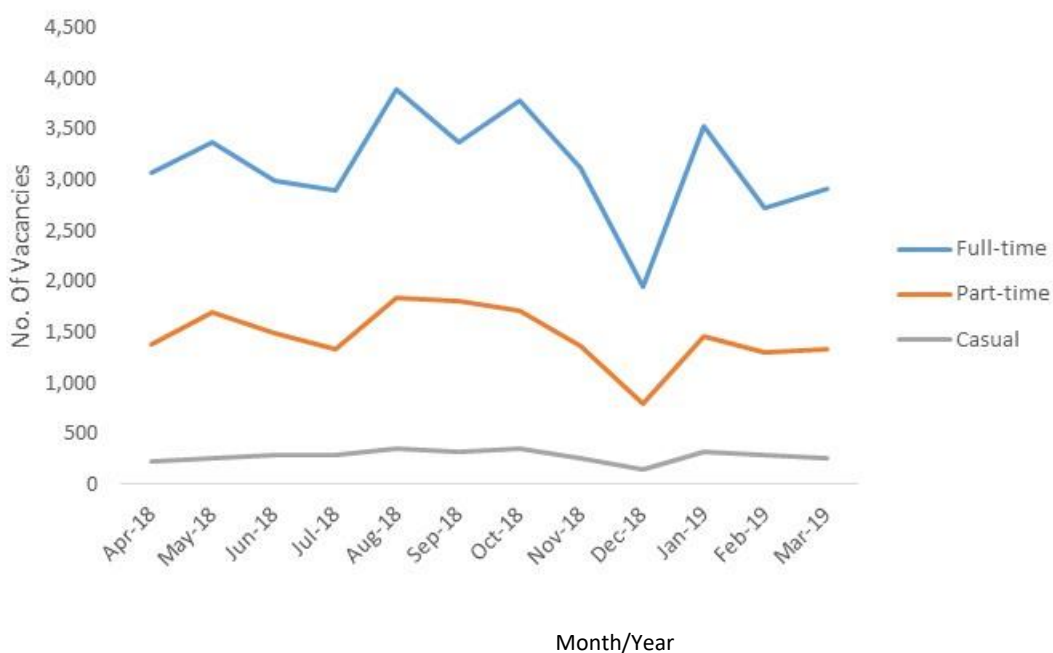
When all vacancy types are combined the August peak (see chart on cover page) in notified vacancies reflects the future demand for labour in the Christmas period, as vacancies are normally advertised months in advance of an employment start date.

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 5th April 2019.

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.

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

<u>Count date:</u> The first Friday after the first Thursday of every month.

<u>UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007):</u> Employers are assigned the SIC 2007 code which best reflects their dominant activity by staff in JCs/J&BOs. 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 <u>UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007): Structure and Explanatory Notes</u> 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): JCs/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 2017 (NIMDM 2017) Quintiles: The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM 2017) is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. The model of multiple deprivation which underpins the NIMDM 2017 is based on the idea of distinct domains of deprivation which can be recognised and measured separately. These are experienced by individuals living in an area. People may be counted as deprived in one or more of the domains, depending on the number of types of deprivation that they experience. The overall MDM is conceptualised as a weighted area level aggregation of these specific domains of deprivation. Further information on Deprivation is available on the NISRA website. 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 another part of the UK 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 another part of UK 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 JCs/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 Communities 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.