

# Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Quarterly

Geographical area: Northern Ireland

Reference period: Quarter 3 (September) 2022

Employee jobs estimates are calculated from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) aspect of the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QES has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a representative sample of smaller firms.

The survey date for Quarter 3 was 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. All figures are adjusted for seasonality, unless stated otherwise.

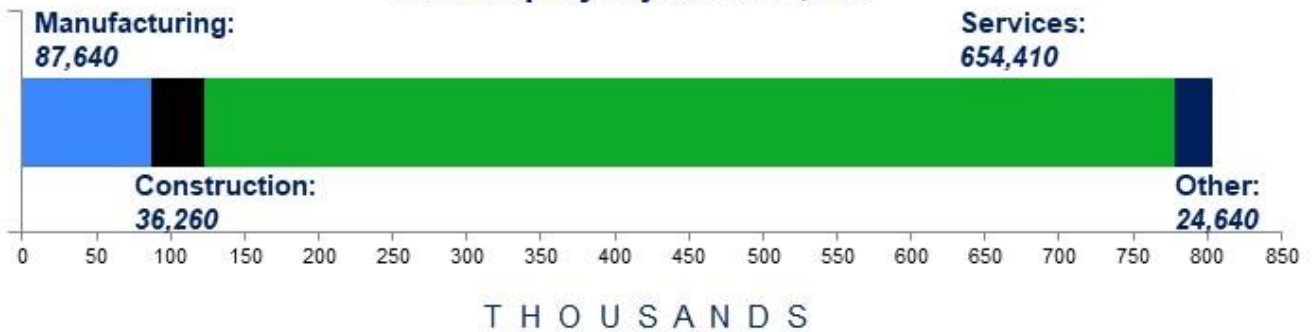
## Key Points

- Latest estimates show the number of employee jobs reached a series high in September 2022 of 802,960. This was an increase of 3,700 jobs (+0.5%) over the quarter and 24,400 jobs (+3.1%) over the year compared to September 2021.
- September 2022 marked the sixth consecutive quarterly increase in employee jobs, following five previous quarters of decline.
- In the last five years, employee jobs have increased by 6.8% (+51,330 jobs). There has been an increase of 16.2% (+111,870 jobs) from the low in March 2012.
- In September 2022 the services sector reached a new series high of 654,410 jobs.
- Quarterly increases in employee jobs were seen within the services (+4,330 jobs), construction (+140 jobs) & all other industry (+210 jobs) sectors to September 2022. The manufacturing sector (-980 jobs) reported a decrease over the quarter.
- The services (+21,190 jobs), construction (+2,390 jobs), manufacturing (+560 jobs) & the other industries (+260) sectors increased over the year to September 2022.
- Private sector jobs reached a new series high in September 2022. Private sector jobs increased over both the quarter (+0.5% or +2,760 jobs) and the year (+3.4% or +18,890 jobs) to 581,320 jobs in September 2022. Public sector jobs also increased over both the quarter (+0.4% or +860 jobs) and the year (+2.5% or +5,380 jobs) to 221,590 jobs in September 2022.

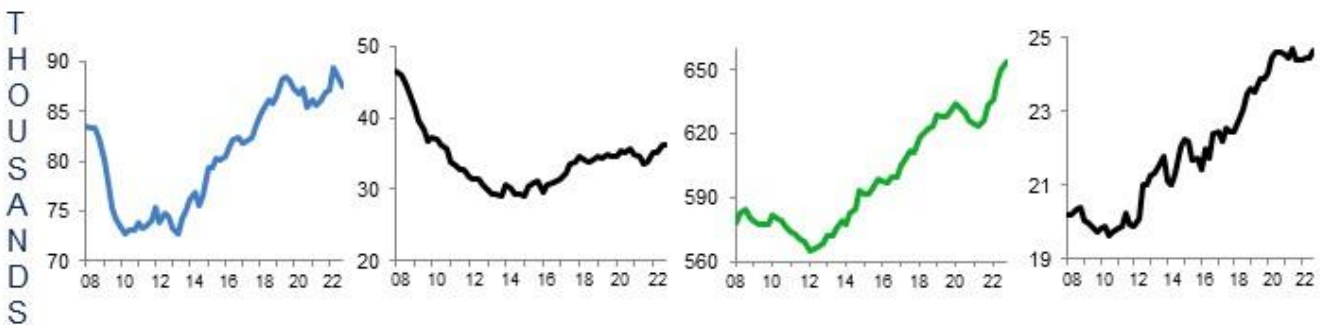
# NISRA Labour Market Statistics

## Quarterly Employment Survey – September 2022

Total employee jobs: 802,960



### Change on quarter



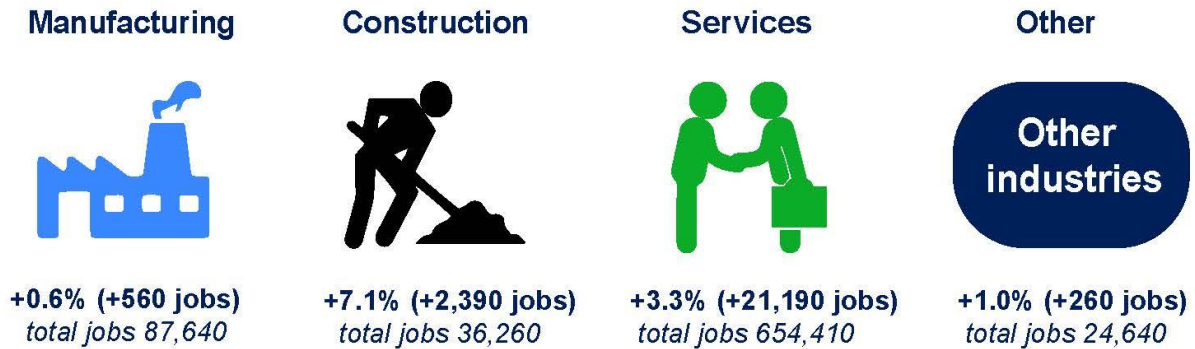
### Change on year



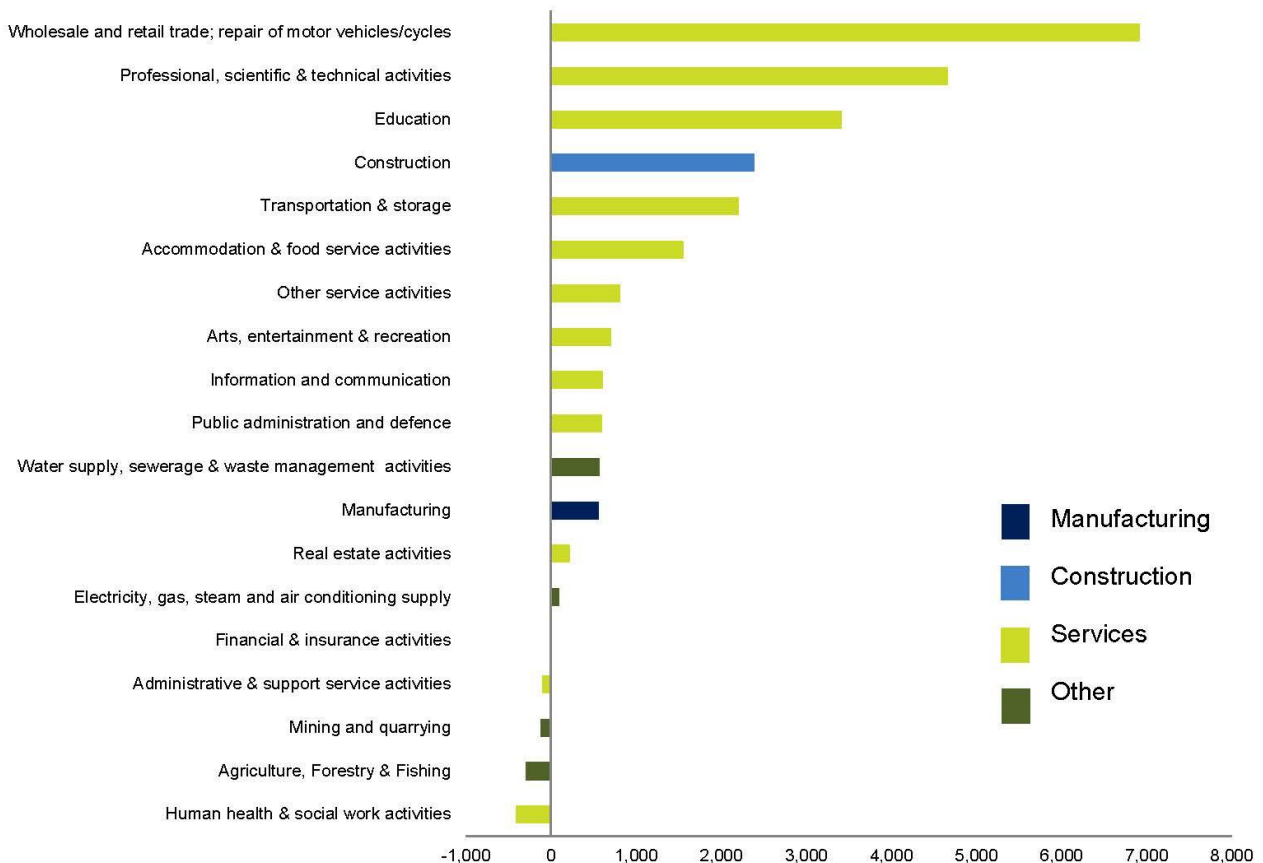
All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.  
Data published on 13th December 2022 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA).

# Northern Ireland Employee Jobs Annual Change by Industry Q3 2021 - Q3 2022

## Change by Broad Industry Sector (Seasonally Adjusted)



## Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



# Contents

<b>1 Summary of Employee Jobs</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Commentary.....	7
Context.....	8
<b>2 NI Employee Jobs</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Manufacturing sector.....	10
Construction sector.....	12
Services sector.....	14
Other industries sector.....	16
<b>3 Public/Private Sector Employee Jobs</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>4 Composition of Employee Jobs</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>5 UK Comparisons</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>6 Further Information</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>7 Index of Web Tables</b> .....	<b>26</b>

## NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

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



These statistics were designated as National Statistics in August 2010 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

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

- Quantified the level of uncertainty around estimates by providing confidence intervals for headline estimates;
- Removed pre-release access to enhance trustworthiness and also brought the publication date forward as a result;
- [Consulted users](#) at Labour Market User Groups and streamlined outputs in line with the UK series;
- Reduced [business burden](#) by offering the option of online data returns.
- Improved accessibility of Labour Market Statistics by [changing publication practices](#) so that reports are [no longer released on public holidays](#) and amended the format and structure of reports in line with accessibility regulations.
- Changed [timing of release](#) in line with change in ONS release practices in response to COVID-19.

# 1 Summary of Employee Jobs

The survey date for Quarter 3 was 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for Northern Ireland (NI).

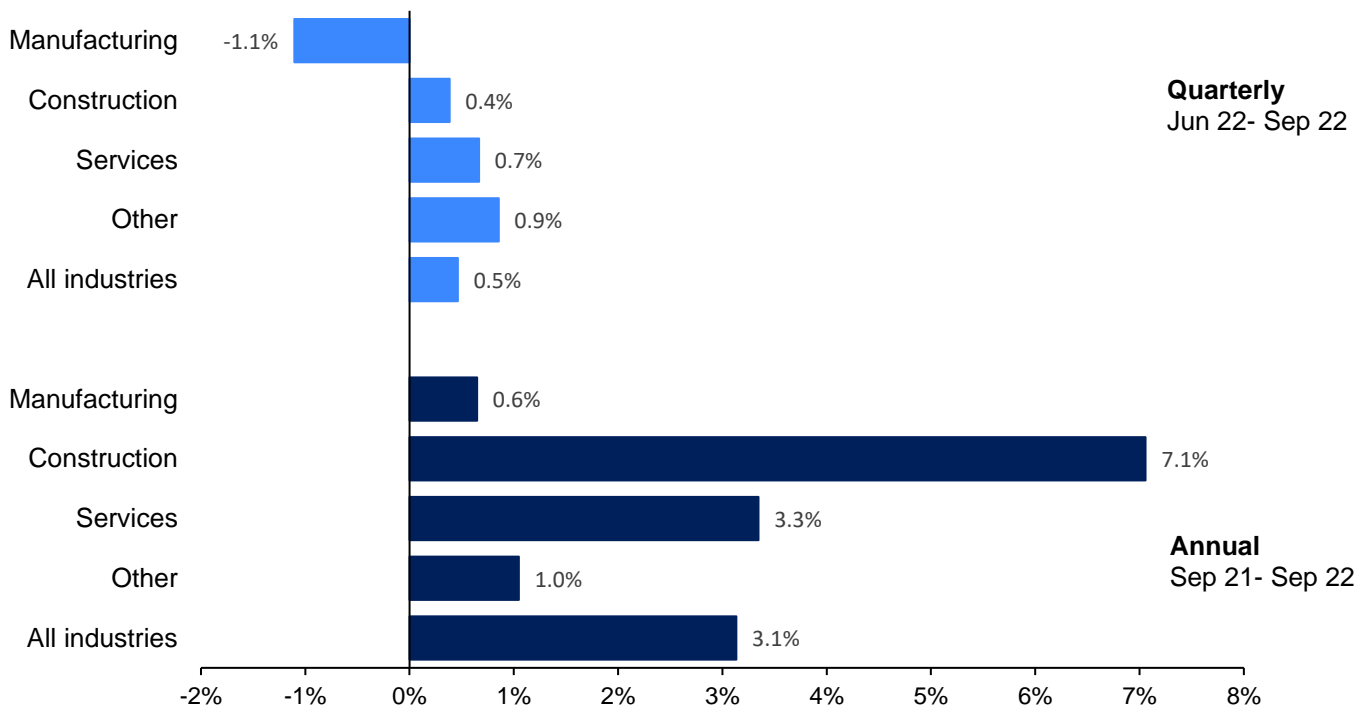
## Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for NI at September 2022 was 802,960 (+/- 5,510<sup>1</sup>).

This was:

- an increase of 0.5% (+3,700 jobs) over the quarter from the revised June 2022 estimate of 799,250.
- an increase of 3.1% (+24,400 jobs) over the year from the revised September 2021 estimate of 778,560.
- While the quarterly change in employee jobs was not found to be statistically significant, the change over the year from September 2021 was found to be statistically significant.

**Figure 1.1: Annual and Quarterly Changes in Employee Jobs at Section Level**



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

## Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2022 employee jobs to the revised June 2022 estimates showed:

- a decrease in the manufacturing sector of -1.1% (-980 jobs) to 87,640 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 0.4% (+140 jobs) to 36,260 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 0.7% (+4,330 jobs) to 654,410 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 0.9% (+210 jobs) to 24,640 jobs.

<sup>1</sup> Represents 95% confidence interval around estimate. More information is available in the [QES Confidence Intervals User Guidance PDF \(665KB\)](#).

### **Change over the year**

Comparing seasonally adjusted September 2022 employee jobs to the revised September 2021 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 0.6% (+560 jobs) to 87,640 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector of 7.1% (+2,390 jobs) to 36,260 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector of 3.3% (+21,190 jobs) to 654,410 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector of 1.0% (+260 jobs) to 24,640 jobs.

### **Annualised change**

Comparing the seasonally adjusted employee jobs data for Quarter 4 2020 – Quarter 3 2021 to Quarter 4 2021 – Quarter 3 2022 showed:

- an increase in the services sector of 3.1%.
- an increase in the manufacturing sector of 2.3%.
- an increase in the construction sector of 4.1%.
- a decrease in the other industries sector of 0.2%.

### **Public / private sector changes**

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sectors at September 2022 showed:

- an increase of 0.4% (+860 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.5% (+5,380 jobs) over the year to 221,590 jobs.
- an increase of 0.5% (+2,760 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 3.4% (+18,890 jobs) over the year to 581,320 jobs. Private sector jobs have now reached a series high in September 2022.

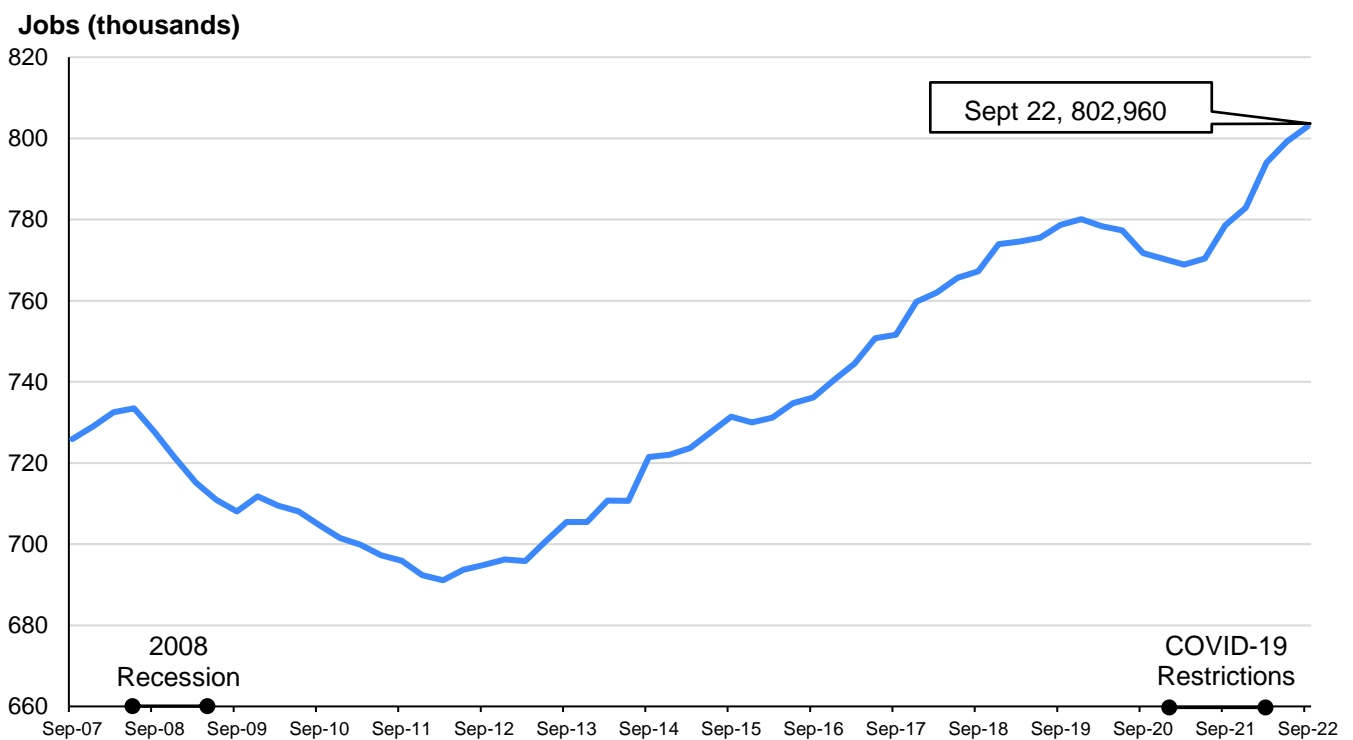
# Commentary

Estimates for September 2022 showed that employee jobs have reached a series high for the fourth consecutive quarter. September 2022 marked the sixth consecutive quarterly increase in employee jobs, following the low point for employee job estimates throughout the pandemic in March 2021. September 2022 estimates showed that employee jobs are now above the pre-pandemic December 2019 level (+2.9% or +22,850 jobs).

Preliminary estimates from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) showed that NI (seasonally adjusted) employee jobs increased over the quarter (+0.5% or +3,700 jobs) to 802,960 jobs in September 2022. The quarterly increase in employee jobs in September 2022 was largely driven by the services industry sector (+4,330 jobs). The services sector reached a new series high in September 2022 (654,410). The construction (+140 jobs) & other industries (+210) sector also reported a quarterly increase in employee jobs. The manufacturing industry (-980 jobs) reported a decrease over the quarter to September 2022.

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased over the year to September 2022 (+3.1% or +24,400 jobs). September 2022 marked the fifth quarter of annual increase after four consecutive quarters of annual decline. The annual increase in September 2022 was mainly driven by the services industry sector (+21,190 jobs).

**Figure 1.2: Seasonally Adjusted Jobs in NI, September 2007 – September 2022**



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Public sector jobs increased over both the quarter (+0.4% or +860 jobs) and the year (+2.5% or +5,380 jobs). Public sector jobs have been on a gradually increasing trend since September 2016, although they are still 2.9% (-6,580 jobs) lower than the series peak in September 2009. Private sector jobs also increased over the quarter (+0.5% or +2,760 jobs) and the year (+3.4% or +18,890 jobs) reaching a series high 581,320 jobs.

The UK also reported increases in employee jobs over the quarter (+0.4%) and the year (+2.7%) to 31.9 million jobs in September 2022.

## Context

This bulletin presents data from the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which is conducted by the Economic & Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) Branch of the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA).

The survey date for Quarter 3 was 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for NI.

The QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for NI and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a representative sample of smaller firms. As it is a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability.

The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and Skills for Life and Work and Traineeship programme trainees without a contract of employment (non-employed status). The survey collects information on the number of males/females in full-time and part-time employment by business activity and the results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC07). The number of jobs are counted rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

All figures included in the QES are adjusted for seasonality, unless stated otherwise, where the seasonally adjusted series started in 2005. It should be noted that from Quarter 2 2020 to Quarter 3 2021 the QES estimates included those who were furloughed under the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#).

Figures from the QES are included in the [Labour Market Report](#) alongside figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Claimant Count, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data.

QES employee jobs are also a component of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) quarterly [workforce jobs estimates](#) for the UK.

QES employee jobs are included in the [DfE Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the NI economy, setting it in context with the UK and Republic of Ireland. The most up-to-date official statistics on the economy and labour market are available on the [Economic Overview section](#) of the website.

Results are provisional and subject to revisions as more up-to-date data becomes available (e.g. through late returns). Figures can also change as a result of the seasonal adjustment process, methodological changes or changes to classifications. Further information is available from the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#).



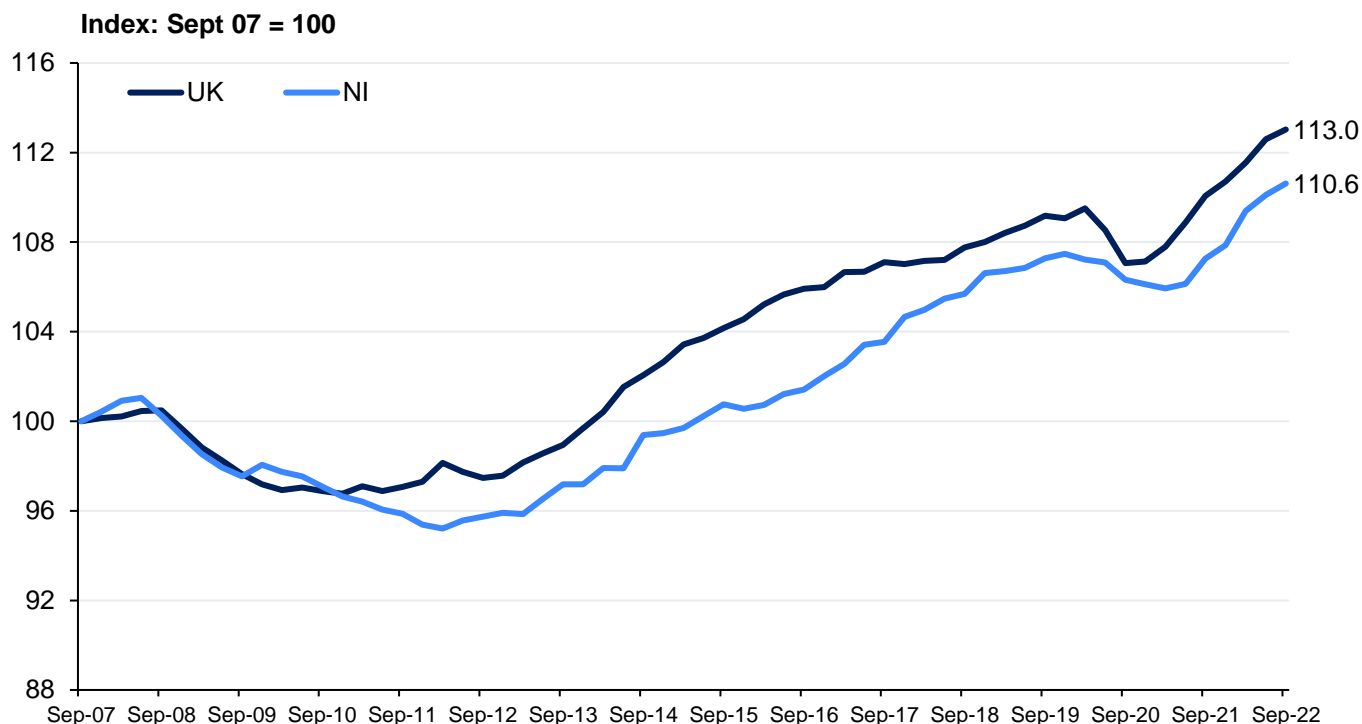
## 2 NI Employee Jobs

**Employee:** anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland. The QES counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs.

### Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased both over the quarter (+0.5% or +3,700 jobs) and the year (+3.1% or +24,400 jobs) to 802,960 in September 2022, reaching a series high.
- In September 2022, the services sector reached a series high (654,410).

Figure 2.1: Index of Employee Jobs, September 2007 – September 2022



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Figure 2.1 shows estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. NI employee jobs increased over both the quarter (0.5%) and the year (3.1%). The UK also reported an increase in employee jobs over the quarter (0.4%) and over the year (2.7%) to reach a series high in September 2022. Following the 2008 downturn, the UK reached its lowest point in December 2010, more than a year before the NI low in March 2012. NI jobs are now 16.2% above the low point in March 2012 while UK jobs are 16.8% above their December 2010 level.

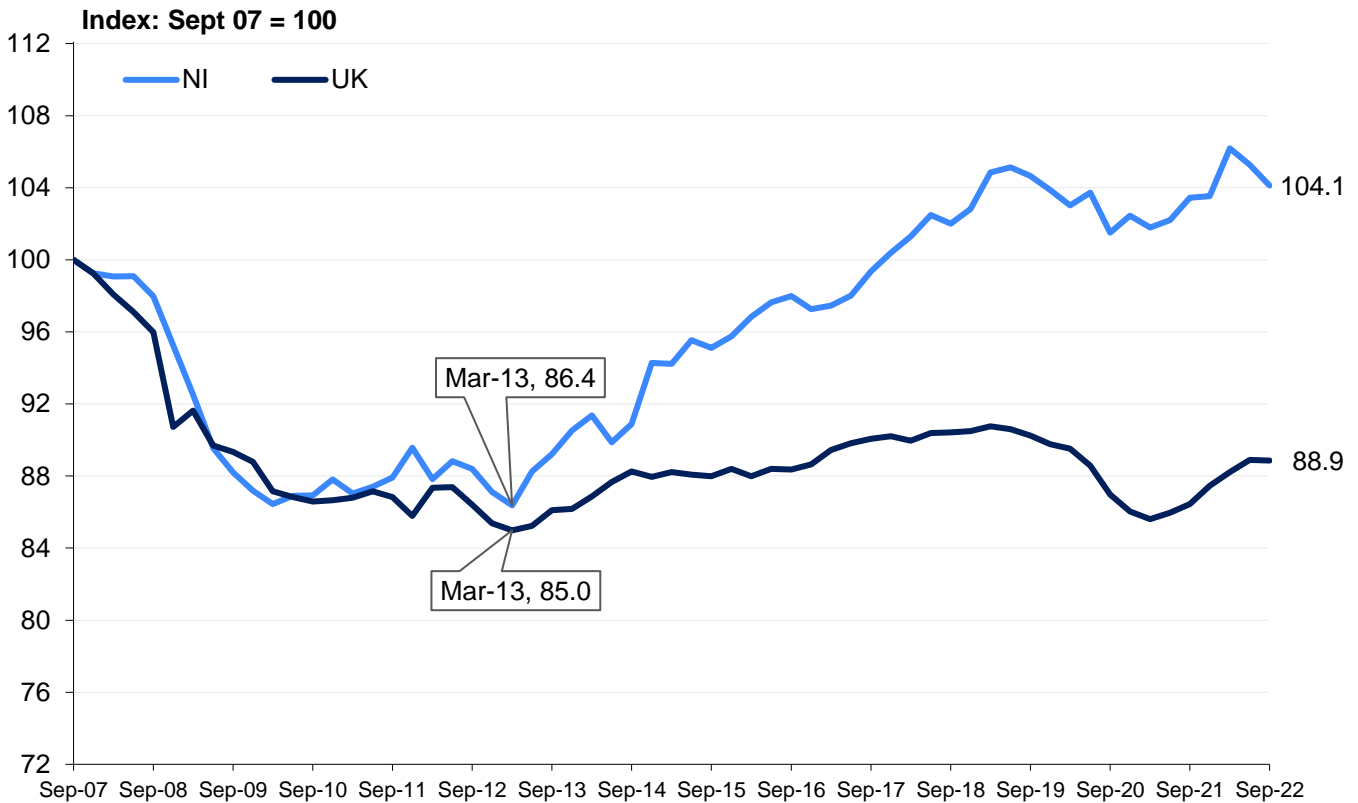
# Manufacturing sector

**Manufacturing sector:** contains businesses which produce merchandise for use or sale. It also contains businesses with activity of printing and reproduction of recorded media and businesses that repair and install machinery and equipment. Manufacturing is part of the broader production sector.

### Key Findings:

- The manufacturing sector accounted for 10.9% of all employee jobs in September 2022.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed a decrease of 1.1% over the quarter and an increase of 0.6% over the year to 87,640 manufacturing jobs in September 2022.

**Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, Sept 2007 – Sept 2022**



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Manufacturing jobs in NI experienced a decrease over the quarter to September 2022 (-1.1% or -980 jobs). Both NI and the UK reached a series low in March 2013. Manufacturing jobs in NI are currently 20.5% (+14,940 jobs) above the March 2013 low point. The UK manufacturing sector has experienced a small decrease over the quarter (-1,000 jobs) following on from five consecutive quarters of growth in employee jobs since June 2021.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector decreased by 1.1% (-980 jobs) over the quarter but increased by 0.6% (+560 jobs) over the year to 87,640 jobs in September 2022.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

## Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2022 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 0.6% (+550 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest increases were:

- an increase of 13.2% (+730 jobs) in manufacture of other transport equipment
- an increase of 12.3% (+360 jobs) in manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
- an increase of 3.5% (+260 jobs) in manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.

The increase over the year was partially offset by some decreases in manufacturing subsectors; the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 38.9% (-690 jobs) in repair and installation of machinery and equipment.
- a decrease of 10.5% (-320 jobs) in manufacture of chemicals and chemical products.
- a decrease of 13.1% (-310 jobs) in manufacture of textiles.

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the [NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

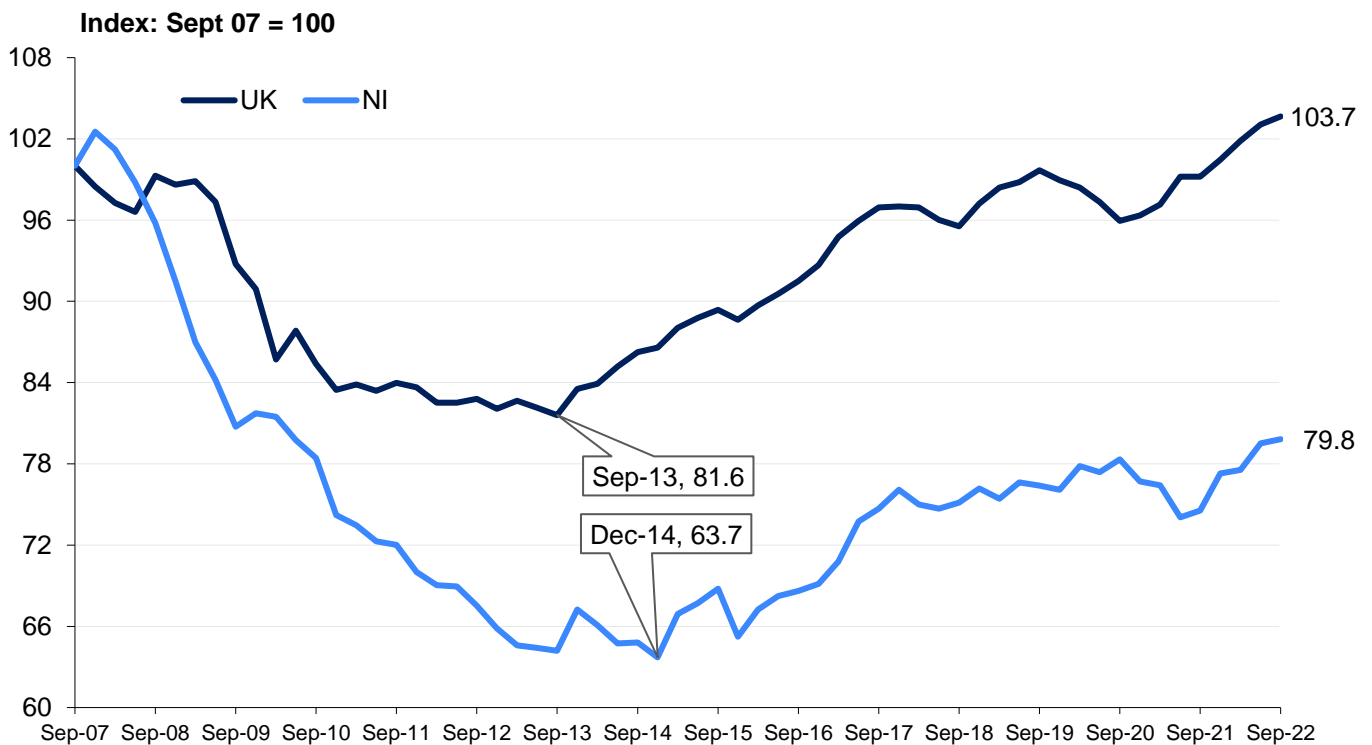
# Construction sector

**Construction sector:** construction is the process of creating and building infrastructure or a facility. It differs from manufacturing in that manufacturing typically involves mass production of similar items without a designated purchaser and construction is typically done on location for a known client. The construction sector consists of businesses with activity in the construction of buildings, civil engineering or specialised construction activities.

## Key Findings:

- The construction sector accounted for 4.5% of all employee jobs in September 2022.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.4% over the quarter and an increase of 7.1% over the year to 36,260 jobs in September 2022.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, September 2007 – September 2022



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Employee jobs showed an increase over the quarter to September 2022 (0.4% or +140 jobs) and showed an increase over the year (7.1% or +2,390 jobs). The most recent series low in the NI construction sector was in December 2014 (28,940 jobs). The latest estimates show a 25.3% improvement on this level; however, the number of employee jobs in the NI construction sector remains 22.2% lower than the series peak in December 2007. Most recent estimates show that the UK construction sector has reached a series high in September 2022 and is now 27.0% above the series low in September 2013.

## **Key Findings**

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 0.4% (+140 jobs) over the quarter and increased 7.1% (+2,390 jobs) over the year to 36,260 jobs in September 2022.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC construction data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

## **Changes over the year**

Over the year to September 2022 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 7.0% (+2,370 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 9.7% (+1,670 jobs) in specialised construction activities.
- an increase of 7.0% (+530 jobs) in construction of buildings.
- an increase of 1.9% (+170 jobs) in civil engineering.

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the [NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

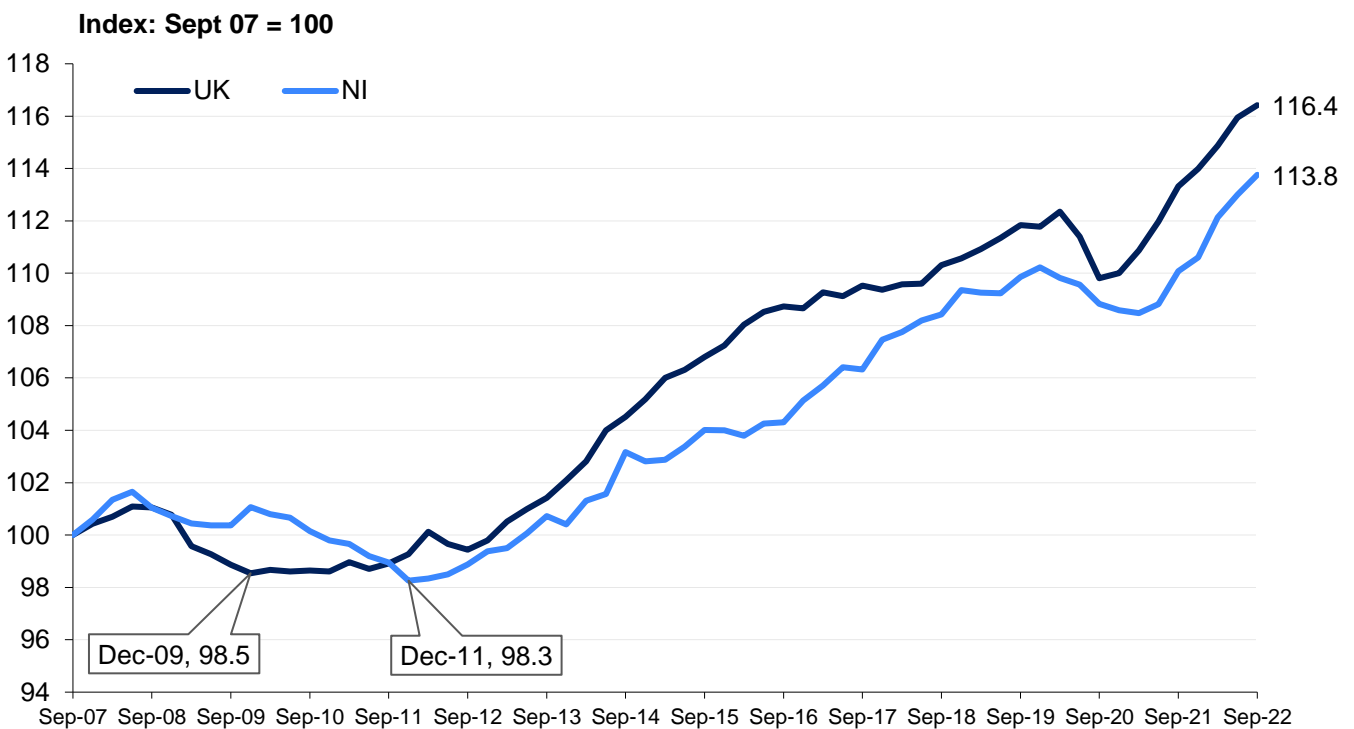
## Services sector

**Services sector:** the services sector contains businesses which sell services and skills; and includes education, public administration and health and social work activities. A full list of the industry sections G-S which are included in the services sector can be found in table 5.5 within the supplementary tables on the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).

### Key Findings:

- Seasonally adjusted figures showed increases of 0.7% over the quarter and 3.3% over the year to 654,410 service sector jobs in September 2022.
- Services sector jobs reached a fifth successive peak in September 2022.
- The services sector accounted for 81.5% of all employee jobs in NI in September 2022.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, September 2007 – September 2022



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Services jobs in NI experienced an increase over the quarter to September 2022 (+0.7% or +4,330 jobs) to reach a fifth successive series high. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector has increased by 42,800 over the last 5 years. There has been an increase of 15.8% in employee jobs in the services sector since the low in December 2011.

The UK also experienced increases in service sector jobs over the quarter (+0.4%) and over the year (+2.7%) to reach a series high in September 2022.

## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.7% (+4,330 jobs) over the quarter and by 3.3% (+21,190 jobs) over the year to 654,410 jobs in September 2022.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

## Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2022 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 3.4% (+21,110 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 5.2% (+4,350 jobs) retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- an increase of 4.5% (+3,340 jobs) in education.
- an increase of 30.5% (+2,090 jobs) in activities of head offices; management consultancy activities.

The overall increase was partially offset by some decreases in services subsectors, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 13.4% (-1,560 jobs) in office administrative, office support and other business support activities.
- a decrease of 2.3% (-820 jobs) in social work activities without accommodation.
- a decrease of 1.8% (-450 jobs) in residential care activities.

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA - [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

## Other industries sector

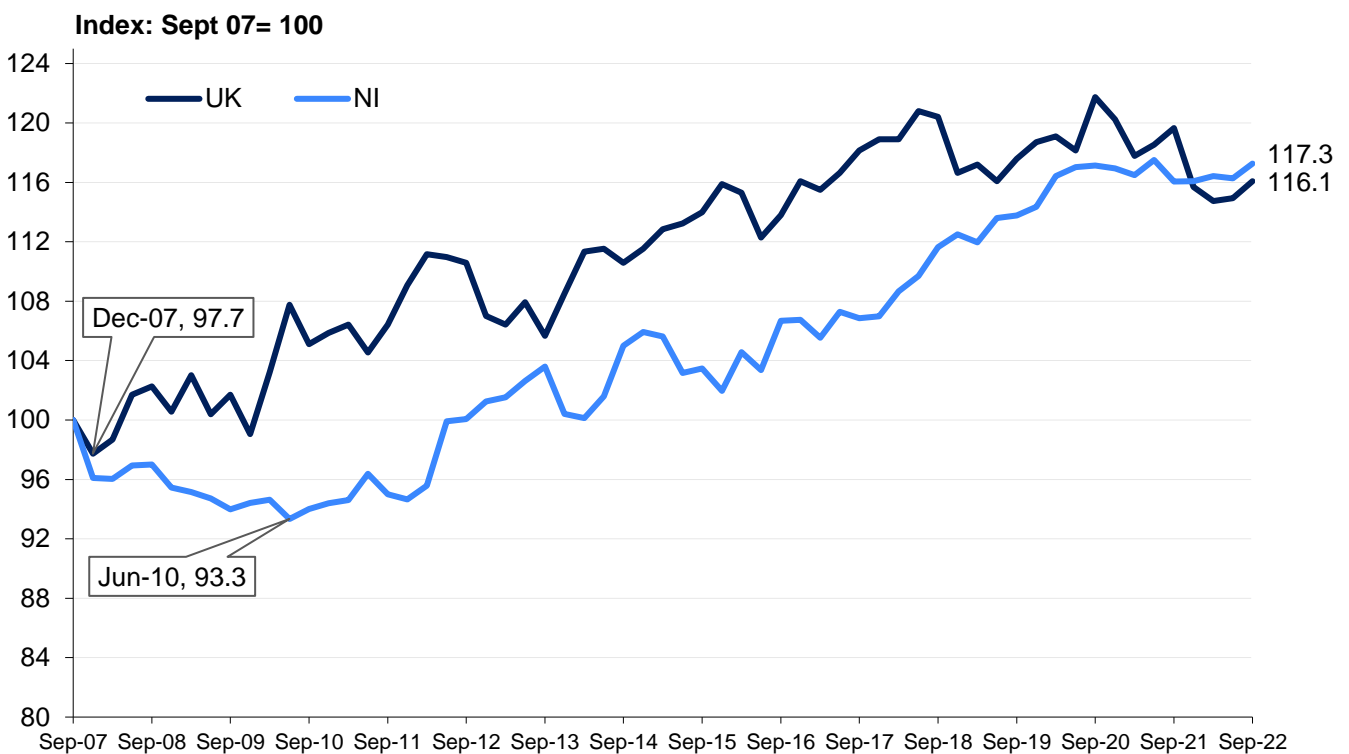
**Other industries sector:** this sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for approximately 90% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are published annually in January and relate to the previous September.

### Key Findings:

- **Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.9% over the quarter and of 1.0% over the year to 24,640 for other industries sector jobs in September 2022.**
- **The other industries sector made up 3.1% of all employee jobs in September 2022.**

**Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, September 2007 – September 2022**



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

Over the last 10 years the other industries sector in NI and the UK increased overall. The number of employee jobs in the NI other industries sector increased by 3,620 (+17.2%) over the 10-year period to September 2022. UK other industry jobs increased by 29,000 over the same period (5.0%).



## Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 0.9% (+210 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.0% (+260 jobs) over the year to 24,640 jobs.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC other industries data that have not been adjusted for seasonality. Please note that estimates at 2 digit SIC can fluctuate due to sampling variability and changes to industrial classification.

## Changes over the year

Over the year to September 2022 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 1.1% (+260 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 9.0% (+470 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery.
- an increase of 4.6% (+90 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply.
- an increase of 24.9% (+50 jobs) in remediation activities and other waste management services.

The overall increase was partially offset by some decreases in services subsectors, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 1.3% (-170 jobs) in crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities.
- a decrease of 6.9% (-140 jobs) in other mining and quarrying
- a decrease of 31.9% (-100 jobs) in fishing and aquaculture.

**For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 within historical data on the NISRA - [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#).**

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 6 – Further Info.

# 3 Public/Private Sector Employee Jobs

**Public sector:** the NI public sector can be broken down into five areas:

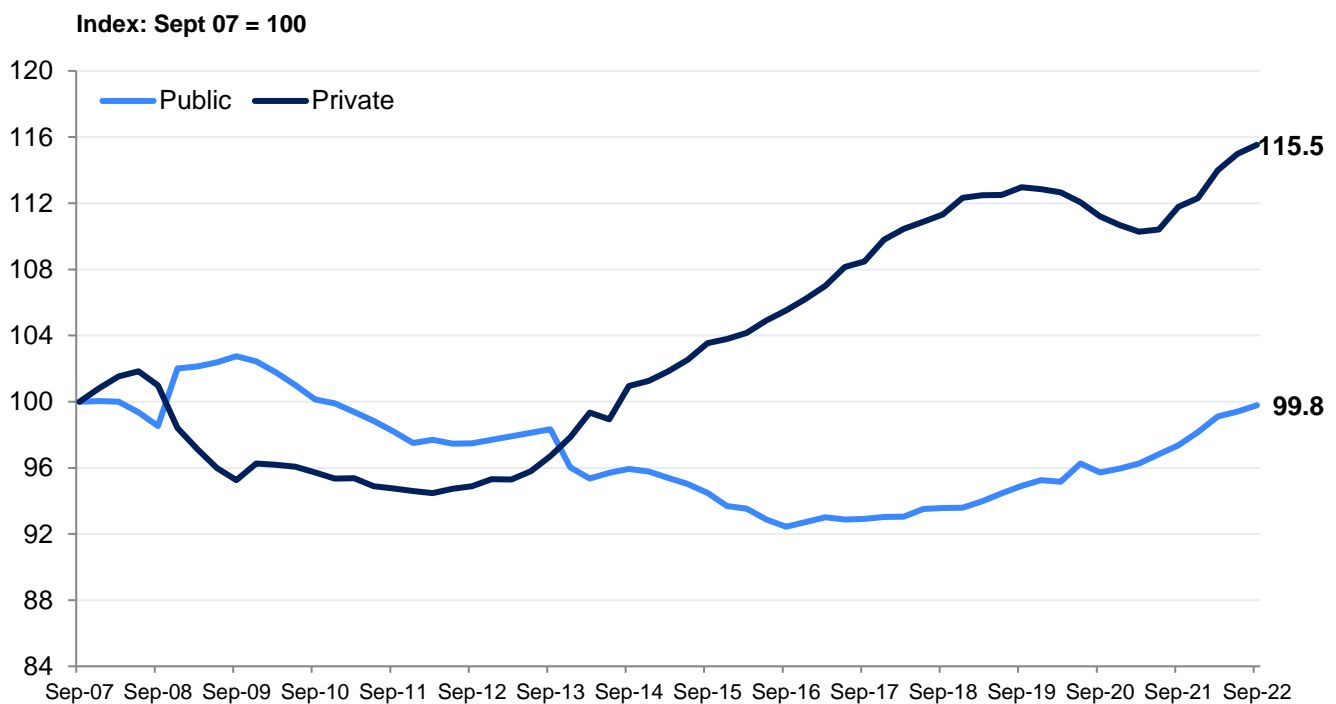
1. NI central government
2. Bodies under aegis of NI central government
3. UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
4. Local government
5. Public corporations

**Private sector:** the private sector encompasses all for-profit businesses (not owned or operated by the government) and the voluntary sector; which includes charities and other non-profit organisations.

## Key Findings:

- The NI public sector made up 27.6% and the private sector made up 72.4% of all employee jobs in September 2022. NI public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population<sup>1</sup> was 12%. This compares to 9% in the UK.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over both the quarter and the year to 581,320 jobs. Private sector jobs reached a new series high in September 2022.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector increased over both the quarter and the year to 221,590 jobs.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI Public and Private Sector Jobs, September 2007 – September 2022



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

<sup>1</sup> Latest population estimate available – [June 2021](#).

### **Changes over the quarter**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.5% (+2,760 jobs) in the private sector.
- an increase of 0.4% (+860 jobs) in the public sector.

### **Changes over the year**

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 3.4% (+18,890 jobs) in the private sector.
- an increase of 2.5% (+5,380 jobs) in the public sector.

September 2022 marked the fifth consecutive quarterly annual increase in private sector jobs, following five consecutive quarters of annual decline. Private sector jobs have increased 6.5% (+35,530 jobs) in the last five years reaching a new series high in September 2022.

Following a period of annual decline in public sector employee jobs between June 2015 and June 2017, there has been continuous growth in public sector jobs from September 2017 to September 2022. However, there are 6,580 fewer public sector jobs (-2.9%) than the series peak in September 2009.

# 4 Composition of Employee Jobs

Please note: data in this section have not been adjusted for seasonality.

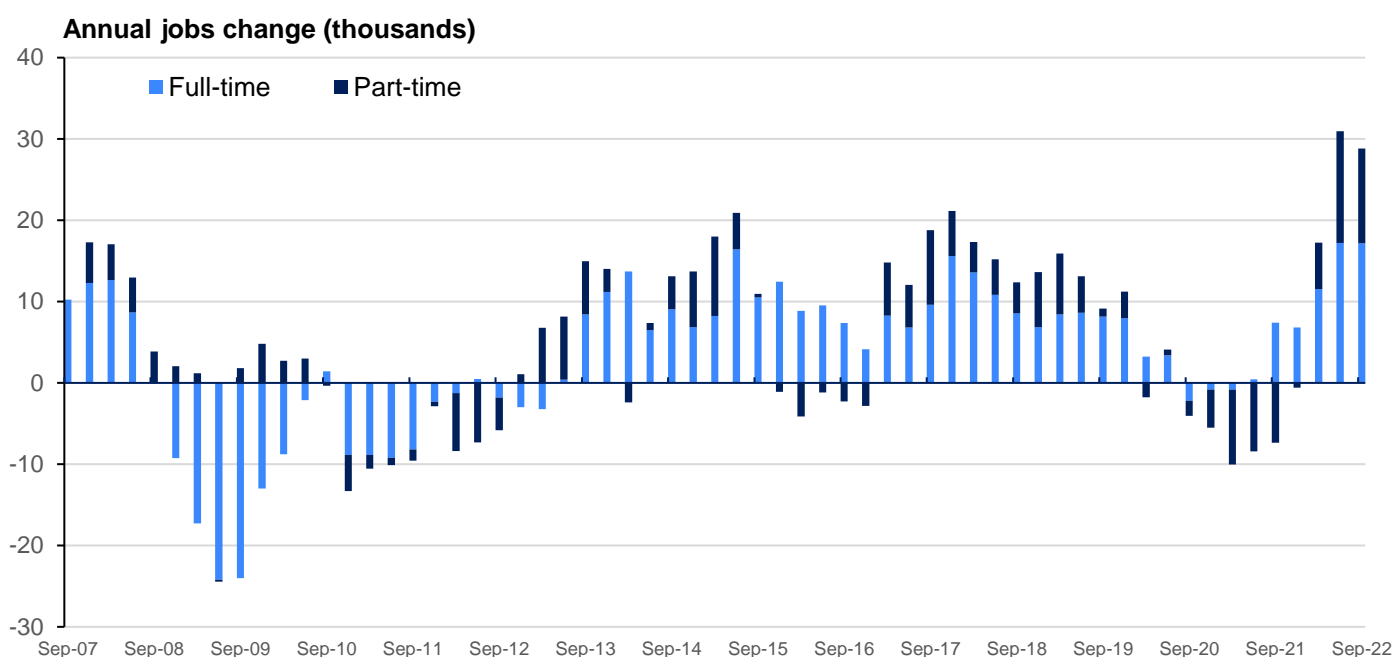
**Part-time:** part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

**Full-time:** full-time means those who normally work more than 30 hours a week.

## Key Findings

- The number of full-time jobs increased (+0.2% or +900 jobs) over the quarter to September 2022 while the number of part-time jobs also increased (+100 jobs).
- Over the year to September 2022, both full-time (+3.3% or +17,160 jobs) and part-time jobs (+2.7% or +7,140 jobs) increased.
- Full-time jobs reached a new series high in September 2022.
- Part-time jobs accounted for 34% of all employee jobs in September 2022.

Figure 4.1: Full-time and part-time jobs annual change, September 2007 – September 2022



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

The latest estimates showed that:

- Part-time jobs increased by 11.6% (+27,980 jobs) since the most recent low point in March 2012.
- The low point for full-time jobs was a year later (March 2013) than for part-time jobs. The number of full-time jobs has increased by 19.0% (+84,730 jobs) since this point.

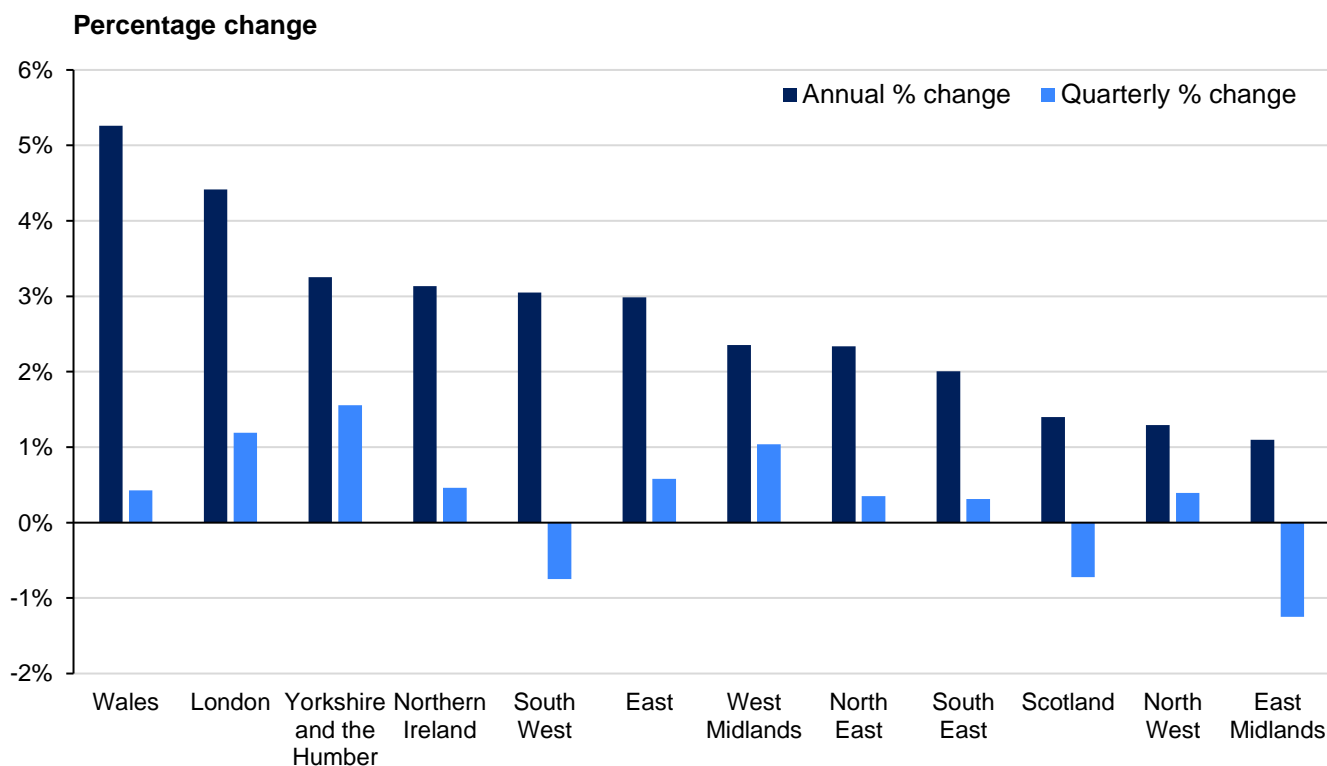
# 5 UK Comparisons

Employee jobs figures for GB regions are provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). ONS produces a publication on [Workforce Jobs by region](#). Unlike QES, Workforce Jobs include employee jobs, self-employed, government supported trainees and Her Majesty's Forces.

## Key Findings

- The UK reported increases in employee jobs over the quarter (+0.4%) and over the year (+2.7%) to 31.91 million jobs in September 2022.
- Out of all twelve UK regions, nine regions showed an increase over the quarter. NI employee jobs increased by 0.5% over the quarter.
- All UK regions showed an increase over the year where Wales recorded the largest estimated annual increase (+5.3%). NI employee jobs increased by 3.1% over the year.

**Figure 5.1: Annual and Quarterly percentage change in Employee Jobs by UK Region, September 2021 – September 2022 and June 2022 – September 2022**



[Download Q3-22 Data](#)

# 6 Further Information

## Background

Estimates of the number of employee jobs are obtained from the Quarterly Business Survey (QBS). The QBS is a statutory survey issued under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and is designed to collect information on employees and turnover. The main outputs are published in four quarterly publications – the [Quarterly Employment Survey](#) (QES), [Index of Services](#) (IOS), [Index of Production](#) (IOP) and [Quarterly Construction Enquiry](#) (QCE).

## Impact of COVID-19 on data collection and estimates

Due to restrictions in place for businesses, COVID-19 impacted on the data collection and validation of employee jobs data, which are collected on the Quarterly Business Survey. The following table provides an overview of median coverage response rates for 2019, 2020, and 2021, compared to Quarter 3 2022:

Response rate type	Q3 2022	2021 (median*)	2020 (median*)	2019 (median*)
<b>Coverage response rate (<i>returned employees</i>)</b>	69.3%	66%	64%	77%

\*median value achieved at QES database closure of quarter 1, quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4.

As a result, employee jobs estimates may be subject to higher revisions than normal over the coming quarters. These can be tracked through the revisions triangle on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#). Comparisons of provisional employee jobs estimates at lower industry levels in particular (e.g. 2 digit Standard Industrial Classification level), should be treated with caution.

It should be noted that from Quarter 2 2020 to Quarter 3 2021 the QES estimates included those who were furloughed under the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#).

An [analysis of the furlough data](#) collected on QES and a comparison to the official estimates produced by HMRC was published on 14 June 2022.

## Sample

The QES, IOS, IOP and QCE are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP/QCE of approximately 2,250 businesses. The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees, all businesses with more than one industry activity and a sample of the remainder. QES covers all industrial sections apart from agriculture. Employee estimates for the agricultural sector are provided, on an annual basis (figures for June are provided in the January of the following year), from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm Census. Agriculture employees include all workers on agricultural businesses other than (a) part-time farmers and partners and (b) farmers' spouses. They include full-time, part-time and casual workers, both paid and unpaid.

The QES sample is drawn from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), as follows:

Employment Size/Sector	Percentage of businesses selected
0-9 employees	Sample (4%)
10-24 employees	Sample (9%)
Multiple Industry Activities	Full Count (100%)
25+ employees	Full Count (100%)
Public Sector	Full Count (100%)

As the QES is a sample survey, estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability i.e. if we drew many similar samples each would give a different result. [Confidence intervals PDF \(665KB\)](#) provide a measure of the size of the sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval for the September 2022

employee jobs estimate is 802,960 +/- 5,510. This means that in 100 similar samples we would expect 95 (95%) of the confidence intervals to contain the true population value of the number of employee jobs.

The survey collects information on numbers of persons in full-time and part-time employment. It should be noted that the survey counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs. For example, a person holding both a full-time job and a part-time job, or someone with two part-time jobs, will be counted twice.

Employment results are collated into industry classes using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). As a result, no individual business can be identified.

### Updates to the sample frame

The annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) results are used to update employee and SIC code variables on the Inter Departmental Business Register annually in quarter 1. The impact of this update is greatest at 2 digit SIC level. Users should be aware that changes at this level may be due to a reallocation of jobs/businesses to SIC codes following the sample frame update.

### Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data

The introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 contributed to the volatility of the series. To counteract these effects from March 2016 the number of businesses selected in SIC and size bands experiencing the greatest impact of rotation increased.

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). This new information helps to improve the industry estimates of employee jobs each quarter but also adds volatility to quarterly and annual changes, particularly at 2 digit SIC level. SICs 74 (Other professional, scientific and technical activities) and 82 (Office administrative, office support and other business support activities) are most affected by updates to industry codes. More information can be found in Section 3 of the [Analysis of the Impact of Quarterly Employment Survey Data Revisions PDF \(555KB\)](#) document. It is therefore recommended that changes in employee jobs estimates at 2 digit SIC level are considered in the context of a longer time series.

### Revisions Policy

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided by employers. The June 2022 seasonally adjusted estimate published in September 2022 has been revised up (0.2%). Estimates for the latest quarter as well as the previous four quarters are provisional and subject to revision in light of (a) late responses to surveys and administrative sources and (b) where cross survey congruence checks provide more accurate data. As a result of seasonal adjustment factors which are re-estimated every quarter, there may be amendments to the seasonally adjusted series outside of the revisable period (previous four quarters) and applicable back to March 2005. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur. The revisions triangle can be accessed on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#).

### Public Sector Reclassifications

Public sector jobs comprise Central Government (including Bodies under the aegis of Central Government), Local Government and Public Corporations. The following table summarises the changes announced by the Public Sector Classification Committee and the date the changes took place.

Date of change	Summary	Revision applied from
Dec 2006	NI Housing Executive reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70	Mar 2004
Jan 2012	Water service became a Government owned company, as a result employees transferred from "NI Central Government" to "Bodies under the Aegis of NI Central Government"	Apr 2007
Mar 2014	Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries reclassified to private sector	Dec 2013
Sep 2017	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to public sector	Sep 1992

<b>Date of change</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Revision applied from</b>
Sep 2018	Registered housing associations in NI moved from section N to L in sections level data	Mar 2005
Aug 2020	Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to private sector*	Sep 2020

\*See note on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#) page for further information.

### Seasonal Adjustment

A seasonally adjusted series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Time series data for seasonally adjusted employee jobs from 2005 to date for industry section (A-S) and main industrial sector are available on the [Quarterly Employment Survey webpage](#).

The following series are seasonally adjusted:

- Male employee jobs in Mining and quarrying (Section B); Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (Section E); Construction (Section F); Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (Section G); Transportation and Storage (Section H); Accommodation and Food Service Activities (Section I); Information and communication (Section J); Real estate activities (Section L); Professional, scientific and technical activities (Section M); Administrative and Support Service Activities (Section N); Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (Section O); Education (Section P) Human Health and Social Work Activities (Section Q); Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (Section R) and Other service activities (Section S).
- Female employee jobs in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (Section A); Manufacturing (Section C); Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (Section D); Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (Section E); Construction (Section F); Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (Section G); Transportation and Storage (Section H); Accommodation and Food Service Activities (Section I); Real estate activities (Section L); Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (Section M); Administrative and Support Service Activities (Section N); Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (Section O); Education (Section P); Human Health and Social Work Activities (Section Q); Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (Section R) and Other service activities (Section S).

Seasonal adjustment models are periodically reviewed as seasonal trends can change over time. The latest review was carried out in April 2022 and more information can be found in the QES Seasonal Adjustment Review Report on the [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions page](#). The next seasonal adjustment review is scheduled to take place in 2023.

### Alternative measures of employment

QES is only one of the measures of employment for NI. Other measures are summarised below.

**[Business Register and Employment Survey \(BRES\)](#)** - a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as BRES. Information on employee jobs at a sub NI level (e.g. District Council Area) and at the 5-digit SIC07 level are available from BRES. The QES sample size is designed so that estimates of total employee jobs are within +/- 1% of the BRES total.

**[Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)** - a household survey carried out by interviewing individuals about their personal circumstances and work. The LFS defines employment as the number of people in work. This differs from the concept of jobs measured by business surveys as a person can have more than one job, and some jobs may be shared by more than one person. LFS employment figures are based on a rolling three month period whereas QES measures the number of jobs on a particular day. LFS employment



figures include those who are employed, self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government supported training programmes.

[Agricultural Census](#) - the numbers of employees in agriculture are available separately from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Agricultural Census. The Census is conducted in June of each year, with the results published in the January of the following year. The QES includes farm census figures in the total number of employee jobs.

[Northern Ireland Civil Service \(NICS\) Employee Bulletin](#) – provides further information on NICS employee jobs. The survey dates for the NICS Employee Bulletin differ from the QES survey dates. As such the figures for the NICS employee jobs may differ. NICS employee jobs figures are included in the QES employee jobs figures and breakdowns can be found in Table 5.12 on the [Economic and Labour Market Statistics website](#) (in the historical data section).

### **Annualised or Rolling 4 Quarters**

Annualised change or rolling 4 quarters figures are calculated by taking the difference between the average over the most recent 4 quarters and the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year, as a proportion of the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year. For example annualised growth of +3.0% in September 2022 reported in this publication is the average number of jobs from Q4 2021 to Q3 2022 minus the average number of jobs from Q4 2020 to Q3 2021, divided by the average number of jobs from Q4 2020 to Q3 2021. This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

### **Date of next publication**

Forthcoming release dates are published in the [Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch Publication Schedule](#). The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **Labour Market Statistics user engagement**

The Labour Market Statistics user group meeting 2022 took place online on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Please follow this link for a copy of the presentation: [Labour Market Statistics user group meeting 2022](#).

### **Further information**

If you require further information about the figures contained in this publication or the accompanying tables, please contact the Quarterly Employment Survey section using the details below:

Ciaran Kerr  
Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency  
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch  
Colby House, Stranmillis Court  
Belfast, BT9 5RR  
Telephone: 028 9052 9218  
Email: [economicstats@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:economicstats@nisra.gov.uk)  
Website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)  
Twitter: [@NISRA](#)

# 7 Index of Web Tables

<b>Table No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
<a href="#"><u>5.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs by Gender – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section March 2005 – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Unadjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section – March 2005 – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.4</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Employee Jobs (Unadjusted) by Industry Section – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.5</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Unadjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section – Sept 2021, June 2022 and Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.5b</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section – Sept 2021, June 2022 and Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.6</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Unadjusted Employee Jobs by Industry Section – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.7</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Unadjusted Public Sector Jobs – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.8</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Public and Private Sector Employee Jobs March 2005 – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.9</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Unadjusted Public and Private Sector Employee Jobs March 2005 – Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Employee Jobs by SIC code Sept 1971 to Sept 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.11</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Employee Jobs by broad industry sector September 1978 to September 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.12</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Employee Jobs for public sector December 2007 to September 2022</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5.13</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Ireland Seasonally Adjusted Employee Jobs by Section Level March 2005 – September 2022</u></a>