

16th January 2020

Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index

Theme: Economic Statistics

Frequency: Quarterly

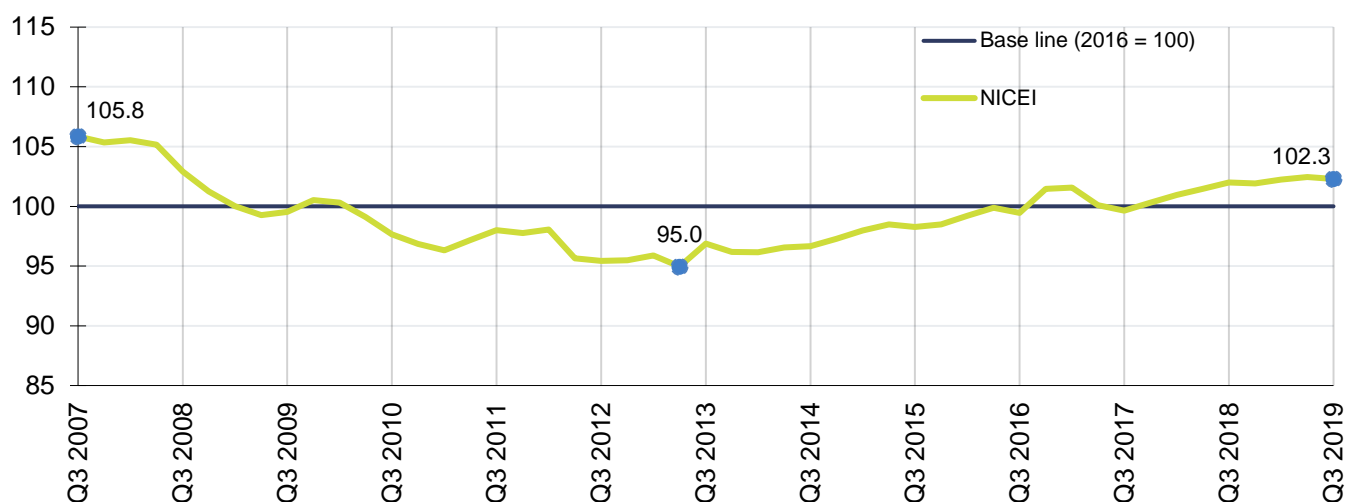
Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Quarter 3 (July-September) 2019

Key points

- Northern Ireland's economic output decreased in real terms over the quarter (0.1%) but increased over the year (0.3%) to Quarter 3 2019.
- UK GDP¹ grew at a faster rate than NI Economic activity, increasing over the quarter (0.4%) and the year (1.1%).
- There was an increase in Northern Ireland's annualised rate² of growth to Q3 2019 (1.0%). This compares to 1.4% estimated for the UK over the same period.
- There was an increase in public sector growth over the quarter (0.4%) and the year (1.4%) to Q3 2019. Over the same period, the private sector contracted by 0.3% over the quarter and remained flat over the year (0.0%).

Figure 1: NI Composite Economic Index Quarter 3 2019



¹ [ONS Quarterly National Accounts](#), Quarter 3 (July – September) 2019 (The measure of GDP referred to is the chained volume index of GDP at market prices)

² The most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters

Contents

1. Context	3
2. NI Composite Economic Index Quarter 3 (July-September) 2019	4
3. Contribution to change	5
4. Comparisons with measures of GDP	8
5. Economic commentary	10
6. Draft Programme for Government	12
7. Further information	13
8. Annex 1: Index Tables	18

Note that the data in this release can be downloaded in excel by clicking the button under the respective tables/charts. In addition, the summary tables and comparisons with the UK, Ireland and Scottish GDP can be downloaded in Open Data Format from the [NICEI](#) and [NINIS](#) websites.

The next NICEI publication (for Quarter 4 2019) will be released on the 9th April 2020.

1 Context

The results for the NICEI for Quarter 3 2019 show that economic output in Northern Ireland (NI) decreased by 0.1% over the quarter (short-term) but increased by 0.3% over the year to Quarter 3 2019 (medium term). Over the last two years annual output (averaged over the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the previous four quarters) increased by 1.0%.

The most recent [Quarterly Employment Survey](#) (published December 2019) shows that the number of employee jobs increased over the quarter by 0.5% (4,210 jobs) and over the year to September 2019 by 2.0% (15,540 jobs) to a series high of 782,670.

The [NI House Price Index](#) showed that between Q2 2019 and Q3 2019 property prices in NI increased by 2.3%. The index increased over the year by 4.0%. The NI Courts and Tribunals Service reported there were 490 mortgage cases received³ for the July to September quarter, the largest volume of cases received during the July to September quarter since 2014⁴.

The NICEI is broadly equivalent to the output measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). However, the ONS quarterly measure of GDP is a balanced measure which incorporates the output, income and expenditure approaches. This is based on a much more extensive range of data sources than the NICEI.

NISRA is currently working to develop a quarterly measure of GDP for NI which builds upon the NICEI and seeks to address identified areas for improvement in the NICEI. The quarterly GDP measure will be an output based measure which will include a more robust measure of the output of the Public Sector. NISRA has been working with various Departments to source the data to calculate activity based output measures for key public sector areas such as education, justice, health, etc. These measures will replace the employee jobs index currently used to calculate public sector output. It is envisaged that once the quarterly GDP measure is fully developed it will replace the NICEI as the official estimate of economic output in NI. Users will be engaged during this process to ensure that the GDP estimates meet their needs, user feedback will be incorporated in to the development of the GDP measure.

³ i.e. writs and originating summonses issued, which commence the legal process for an order of possession for property.

⁴ [NI Courts and Tribunals Service – Mortgages: Actions for Possession bulletin July to September 2019](#)

2 NI Composite Economic Index

Quarter 3 (July-September) 2019

The NICEI is a quarterly measure of the performance of the NI economy based on available official statistics. Existing published quarterly indices (i.e. Index of Services (IOS), Index of Production (IOP), Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE), and public sector employee jobs data from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), plus unpublished agricultural output data from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)) are weighted using ONS Regional Accounts Gross Value Added (GVA) data to provide a proxy measure of total economic output in the NI economy on a quarterly basis.

Key results (by private and public sector indices)

NI economic activity is estimated to have

- Decreased by 0.1% in real terms from Quarter 2 2019 to Quarter 3 2019; and
- Increased by 0.3% over the year.

Private sector output

- Decreased by 0.3% in real terms over the quarter; and
- Remained flat (0.0%) compared to the same quarter one year ago.

The Public sector jobs index










- Increased by 0.4% compared to Quarter 3 2019; and
- Increased by 1.4% over the year.

On a slightly longer timeframe, the NICEI results show that annual output, averaged over the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the previous four quarters, increased by 1.0%. For the same period:

- the Private sector index increased by 1.0%; and
- the Public sector jobs index also increased by 1.0%.

Table 1 provides a summary of changes over the quarter, year and rolling four quarters for the NICEI and its private and public sector jobs sub-indices.

Table 1: Overview of performance of Northern Ireland Economy, Quarter 3 2019

	Change on quarter	Change on year	Rolling annual average change ⁵
NICEI	 -0.1%	 0.3%	 1.0%
NI Private Sector	 -0.3%	 0.0%	 1.0%
NI Public Sector jobs	 0.4%	 1.4%	 1.0%

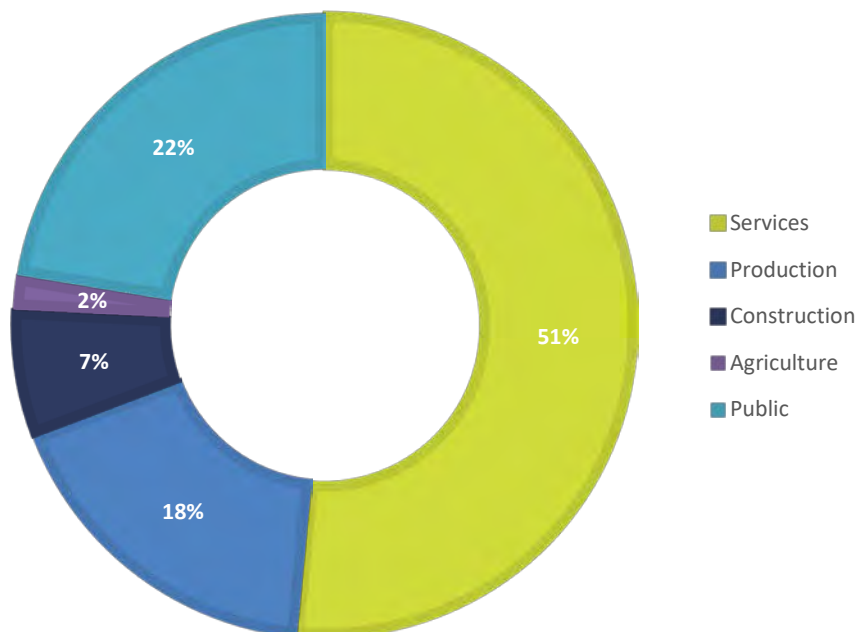
⁵ Most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters

3 Contribution to change

Those industries that represent a larger proportion of the economy and/or which have large quarterly changes will have the most impact on the overall NICEI results. This is particularly the case when dealing with short term change over the quarter as results in the individual inputs (services, production and construction) can be volatile. The contribution different industries make to the overall change in the NICEI is calculated by multiplying their quarterly change by the proportion of the economy they represent.

The industry shares published by ONS, Regional Accounts in December 2019 relate to 2018 GVA and are the most up to date figures available. The NICEI is weighted using Regional Accounts GVA, Figure 2 below provides a sectoral breakdown of the NI Economy based on GVA. It is evident from Figure 2 that Services account for the largest proportion of NI GVA at 51%, followed by the Public Sector (22%)⁶, Production (18%), Construction (7%) and Agriculture (2%).

Figure 2: Share of NI Regional Accounts Total GVA 2018



The share of GVA is used in the calculation of the contribution of each industry to changes in the NICEI as highlighted in the following sub-sections.

Change over the quarter (short-term)

The -0.1% change in the NICEI over the latest quarter was driven by a decrease in:

- the Production sector (a negative contribution of 0.4 pps).

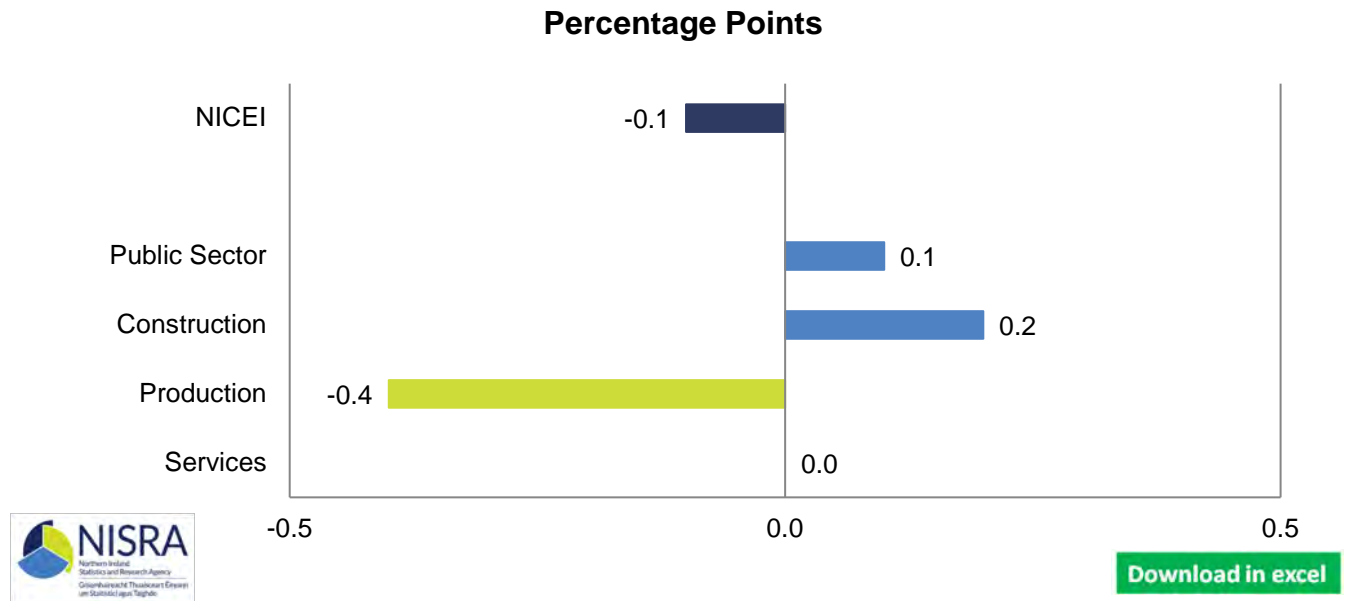
This was offset by increases in:

- the Construction sector (a contribution of 0.2 percentage points (pps); and
- the Public sector (a contribution of 0.1 pps).

The changes in each of these individual series can be found in Table 3 at the end of this document.

⁶ Note that we have calculated the public sector share based on an analysis of employment figures sourced from the Labour Force Survey, Quarterly Employment Survey, HM Forces and Government Supported Trainees.
NI Composite Economic Index Statistical Bulletin published 16th January 2020

Figure 3: Contributions of component indices to quarterly change in the NICEI Q3 2019



Change over the year (medium-term)

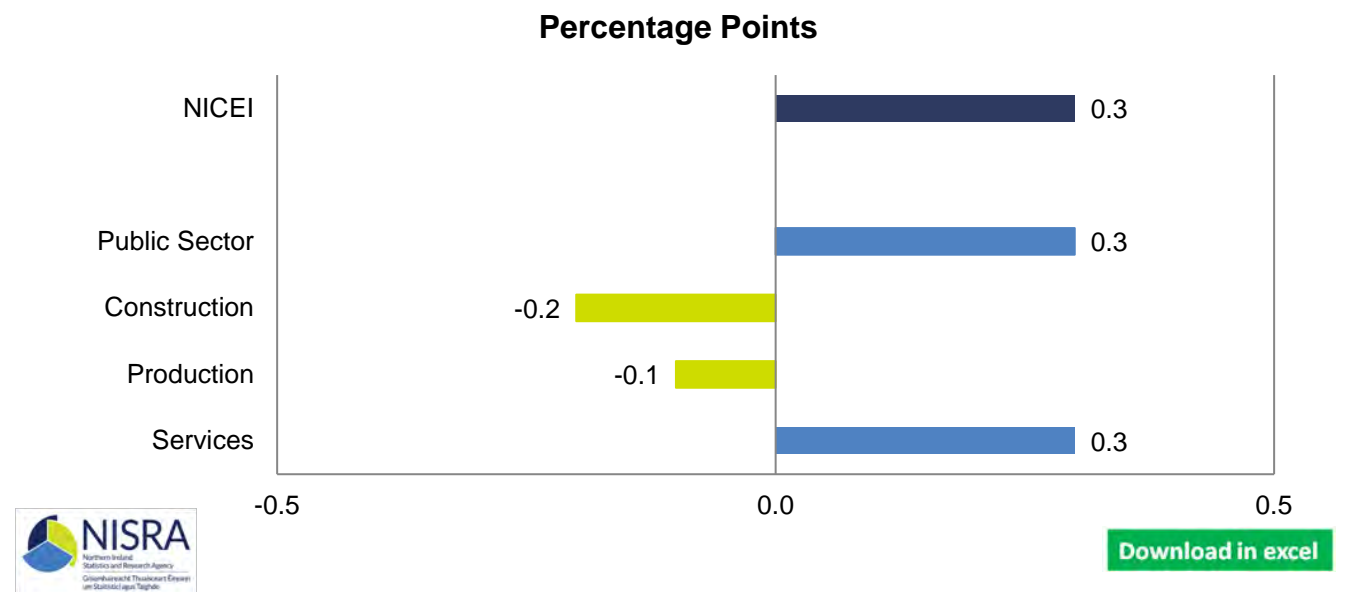
The 0.3% increase in the NICEI over the year was driven by increases in:

- the Services sector (a contribution of 0.3 pps); and
- the Public sector (a contribution of 0.3 pps).

These were partially offset by decreases in:

- the Construction sector (a negative contribution of 0.2 pps); and
- the Production sector (a negative contribution of 0.1 pps).

Figure 4: Contributions of component indices to annual change in the NICEI Q3 2019

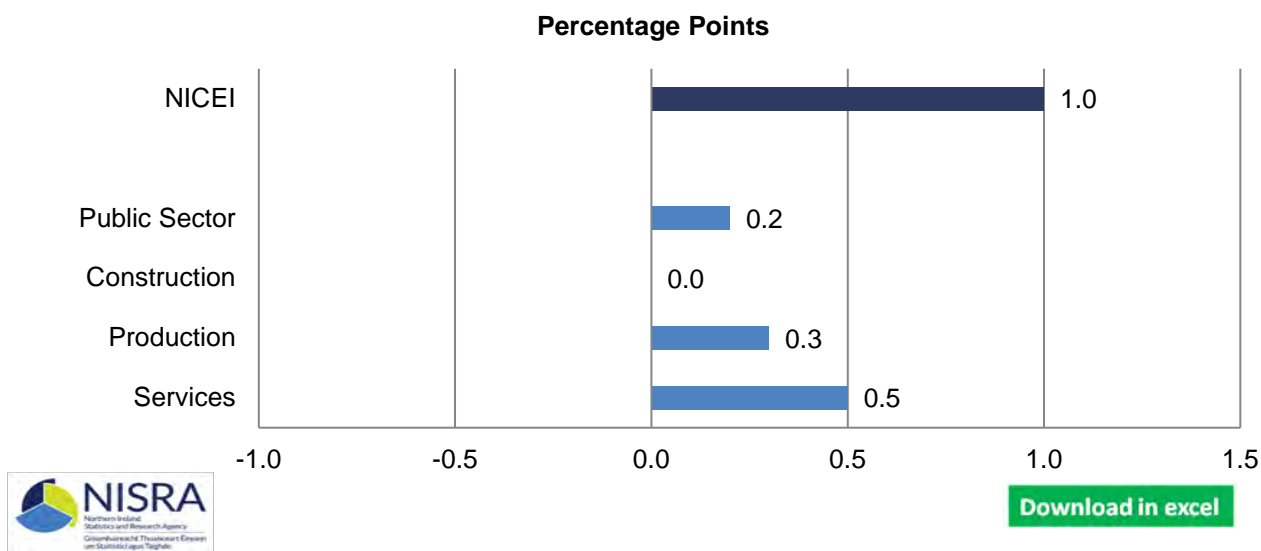


Rolling annual average change

The 1.0% increase in the NICEI over the rolling annual average (i.e. the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the average of the previous four quarters) was driven by a combination of increases in:

- the Services sector (a contribution of 0.5 pps);
- the Production sector (a contribution of 0.3 pps); and
- the Public sector (a contribution of 0.2 pps).

Figure 5: Contributions of component indices to rolling annual average change in the NICEI, Q3 2019



4 Comparison with measures of GDP

The NICEI is not equivalent to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) quarterly measure of change in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the whole UK economy. This is because the ONS measure is based on a broader range of sources including output, income and expenditure estimates of economic activity, whereas the NICEI is based on output and employee jobs data. However, when applied to the equivalent UK data sources, the NICEI methodology has been shown to provide a close short term approximation to the UK GDP series (see [NICEI Methodology Paper](#)).

Although the measures are not produced on a fully equivalent basis, comparisons with the UK show that NI output decreased by 0.1% over the quarter, whilst UK GDP increased by 0.4% over the quarter. The UK economy grew by 1.1% over the year to Quarter 3 2019, meanwhile NI output increased at a slower rate (0.3%) over the same period.

When the extent of change is considered over the last two years, that is average growth for the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the previous four quarters, the NI growth rate increased by 1.0% whilst the UK growth rate was 1.4% over the same period.

The UK has reported GDP growth in 26 of the last 27 quarters, whereas the NICEI has reported growth in 18 of the last 27 quarters. The NICEI is currently 3.6% below the maximum value recorded in Quarter 2 2007. Meanwhile in Quarter 3 2019, UK GDP is estimated to be 13.2% higher than its pre-economic downturn peak of Quarter 1 2008. This suggests that the UK has had a shorter downturn with a faster recovery.

The most recent results for Scotland show that GDP⁷ increased by 0.3% over the most recent quarter and increased by 0.7% over the year to Quarter 3 2019. The average growth for the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the previous four quarters was 1.0%.

Looking at Ireland's (IE) Quarterly National Accounts⁸, GDP increased by 1.7% over the quarter to Quarter 3 2019. Over the year to Quarter 3 2019 GDP increased by 5.0%, with average annual growth in GDP also increasing by 5.4% (latest four quarters compared to the previous four quarters).

Regional GDP Performance to Q1 2019

In October, ONS released for the second time experimental estimates of quarterly economic activity⁹ in England, Wales and the nine English regions (North East, North West, Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East and South West). **The publication covers the period Q2 2017 – Q1 2019**, ONS plan to publish a consistent quarterly regional GDP time series back to 2012 in their February publication, following the release of Blue Book 2019 consistent regional accounts estimates in December.

For completeness 'GDP, UK regions and countries' includes both Scottish GDP (as published by the Scottish Government) and the NICEI for Northern Ireland.

Table 2 provides the quarterly and annual growth rates of quarterly economic activity across UK Countries and Regions to Q1 2019. Northern Ireland experienced 0.3% growth on the quarter to Q1 2019, England


























⁷ [Scottish Government Quarterly National Accounts, Quarter 3 2019](#)

⁸ [CSO Quarterly National Accounts, Quarter 3 2019](#) (The measure of GDP referred to is the chained volume index at constant market prices, seasonally adjusted)

⁹ [GDP, UK regions and countries: January to March 2019](#)

and Scotland experienced higher growth rates (0.6% and 0.5%, respectively). Meanwhile, Wales experienced a 0.5% contraction in GDP.

Table 2: Quarterly economic activity of UK Countries and Regions to Q1 2019¹⁰

	Change on quarter	Change on year
Northern Ireland	 0.3%	 1.3%
Scotland	 0.5%	 1.4%
Wales	 -0.5%	 2.6%
England	 0.6%	 2.3%
- North East	 0.4%	 1.5%
- North West	 1.0%	 1.8%
- Yorkshire and The Humber	 -0.2%	 -0.3%
- East Midlands	 -0.2%	 2.0%
- West Midlands	 0.5%	 2.3%
- East of England	 0.3%	 0.1%
- London	 1.2%	 4.2%
- South East	 0.5%	 2.7%
- South West	 0.7%	 1.0%

In terms of annual change over the year (i.e. Q1 2019 compared to Q1 2018), Northern Ireland's growth rate (1.3%) and was broadly in line with Scotland (1.4%). England and Wales experienced higher annual growth over the period (2.3% and 2.6% respectively). The range of growth in the English regions, varied between 4.2% (London) and -0.3% (Yorkshire and The Humber).

Please note that a table showing a comparison of the NI Composite Economic Index and GDP for the UK, Scotland and Ireland can be found in the downloadable tables on the [NISRA](#) website.

New ONS Annual Regional GDP release

On the 19th December 2019 ONS released balanced estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA (B)) and GDP from 1998 to 2018¹¹ for the countries and regions of the United Kingdom, including NI. This is the first annual estimate of GDP published by ONS at this level of disaggregation; GDP is available to NUTS 3 level i.e. Local Government District in NI.

Users should be aware that NISRA acknowledge that the trends presented by the NICEI and other NISRA sources such as the NI Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) do not align with the new experimental Regional GDP figures for NI published by the ONS in December 2019. This is due to methodological differences. At a high level the NISRA statistics are produced on a bottom up basis whereas the ONS figures are produced on a top down basis whereby UK level GVA and GDP figures are apportioned to regions using various apportionment methods. NISRA are engaging with ONS to better understand the differences and the drivers behind their figures.

¹⁰ [GDP, UK regions and countries: January to March 2019](#)

¹¹ [Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, UK: 1998 to 2018](#)

5 Economic commentary

The results for the NICEI for Quarter 3 2019 show that economic output in Northern Ireland (NI) has decreased over the quarter (short-term) by 0.1%; however it increased by 0.3% over the year to Quarter 3 2019 (medium term). The main positive contributor to the NICEI over the quarter to Quarter 3 2019 was the Construction sector. Over the year to Quarter 3 2019, the Public sector and the Services sector were the joint positive contributors to the NICEI.

Longer term trends can be analysed by comparing the change in the average for the most recent four quarters (to Quarter 3 2019) with the average of the previous four quarters (to Quarter 3 2018). The result is less affected by short-term fluctuations, although this is a less sensitive measure of short term change.

When looking at this annualised trend over the last three years there is evidence that the rate of growth has picked up. Annualised average growth over the last four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 compared to the previous four quarters increased by 1.0%. This compares with annual growth over the previous two year period (to Quarter 3 2018) of 0.5%.

Considering the extent of change over the last two years, average annualised GDP growth for the four quarters to Quarter 3 2019 for the UK was 1.4% compared to the previous four quarters. As stated above, the NI growth rate in the NICEI was 1.0% over the same period.

Although the sources are not fully comparable, recent results show that on an annual basis (comparing Q3 2019 with Q3 2018) the NI economy was growing at a slower pace than the UK. Annual growth was 0.3% in NI compared with 1.1% in the UK (medium-term). This is also the case over the quarter (comparing Q3 2019 with Q2 2019) growth in NI output was -0.1% compared to 0.4% growth in UK GDP.

The most recent [Labour Force Survey](#) results reported that the NI seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the period August-October 2019 was 2.3%, a record low. This equates to a decrease of 0.6 percentage points (pps) over the quarter and 1.3pps over the year¹².

In addition, the employment rate (72.4%) increased over the quarter by 0.4pps and over the year by 2.9pps¹³ to the highest rate on record. Meanwhile the economic inactivity rate (25.9%) increased over the quarter by 0.1pps and decreased 2.0pps over the year¹⁴.

The [Quarterly Employment Survey](#), shows that employee jobs increased over both the quarter and the year to a record high of 782,670 in September 2019 in the seasonally adjusted series¹⁵.

An overview of the NICEI time series alongside an economic timeline of key world, European, UK and NI events to help place the performance of the NICEI into context is provided overleaf.

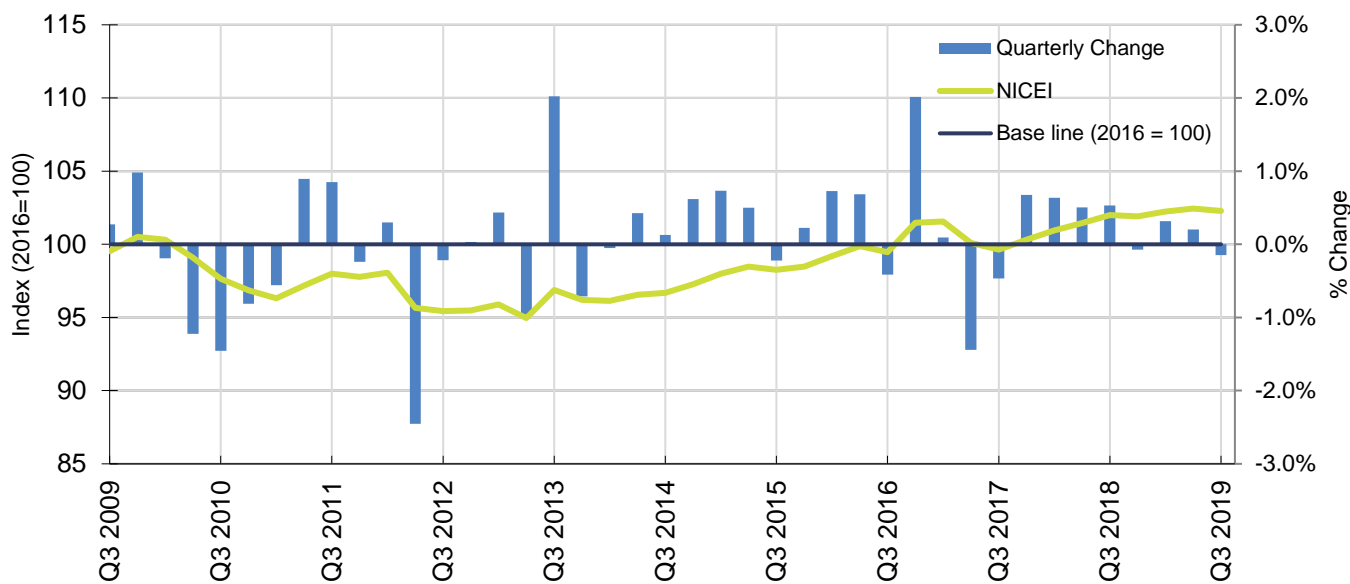
¹² The LFS report stated the quarterly change was not statistically significant, although the annual change was considered statistically significant i.e. the recorded annual changes exceeded the variability expected from a sample survey of this size and was, therefore, likely to reflect a real change.

¹³ The annual change was statistically significant, the quarterly change was not.

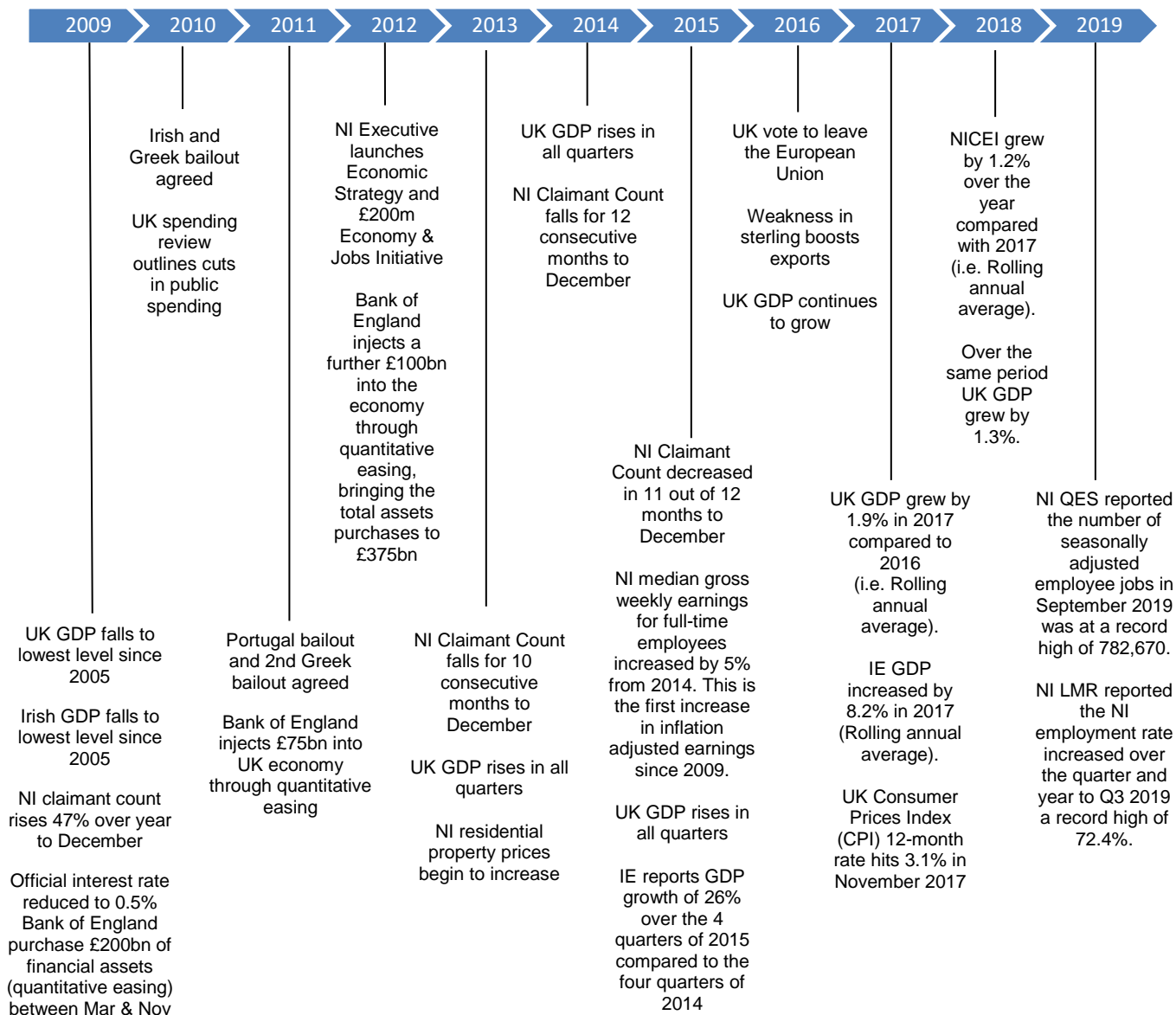
¹⁴ Neither the annual nor quarterly changes identified were statistically significant.

¹⁵ The QES report stated the annual change in employee jobs was significant, i.e the recorded change exceeded the variability expected from a survey of this size and was likely to reflect real change.

Figure 6: Overview of the performance of the NICEI alongside a timeline of key economic events, 2009-19



[Download in excel](#)



Further information on the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in context with the UK and Ireland can be found in the latest Department for the Economy (DfE) [Economic Commentary](#).

6 Draft Programme for Government

The annual Private Sector NI Composite Economic Index has been selected as an indicator in the draft Programme for Government (PfG) Framework and NICS Outcome Delivery Plan 2018/19. It is used alongside a number of other indicators to inform progress against Outcome 1, prospering through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy.

Figure 7 (below) shows the performance of the NI annual private sector, against the PfG baseline year (2015). The index increased by 1.4% in 2018, continuing the upward trend in annual private sector growth since 2014 (1.6% in 2014, 2.6% in 2015, 2.8% in 2016 and 0.5% in 2017).

Figure 7: Annual Private Sector NI Composite Economic Index

[Download in excel](#)

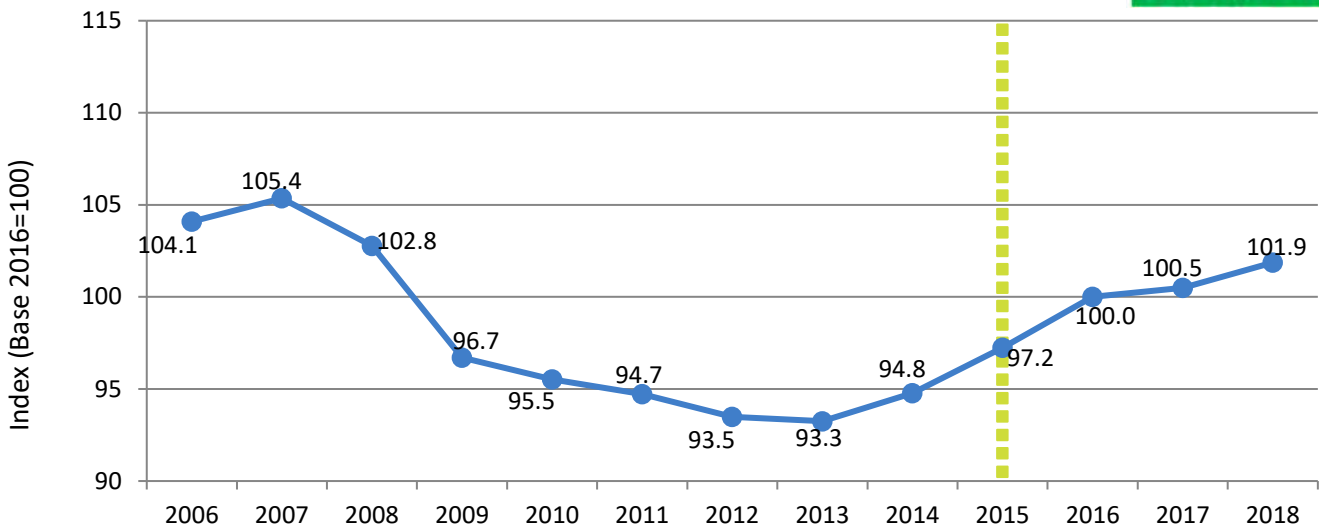
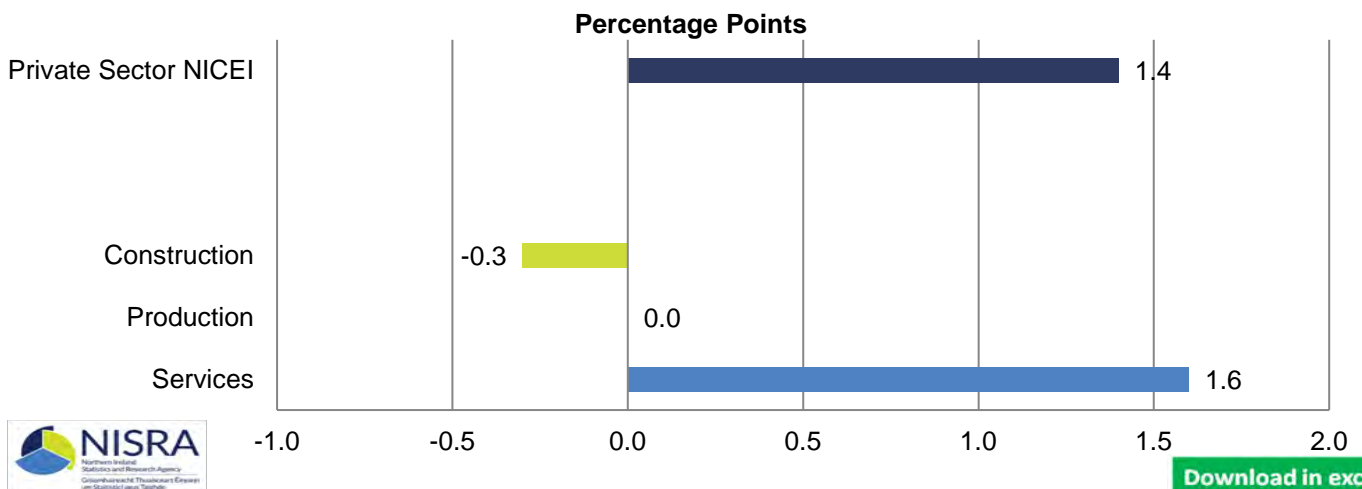


Figure 8 (below) shows the contributions of component indices to the annual change in Private Sector NICEI to the year 2018. The 1.4% growth in the Private Sector NICEI over 2018 was driven by an increase in the Services sector (a contribution of 1.6 percentage points (pps)). This was partially offset by a decrease in the Construction sector (a downward contribution of 0.3pps).

Figure 8: Contributions of component indices to annual change in Private Sector NICEI between 2017 and 2018¹⁶



[Download in excel](#)

The next annual update will be available following the NICEI publication (for Quarter 4 2019) which will be released in April 2020. More information on the draft Programme for Government framework and the NICS Outcome Delivery Plan is available on the [NISRA website](#).

¹⁶ Please note may not sum due to rounding.

7 Further Information

Coverage

Together the existing IOS, IOP and QCE indices cover their respective elements of the private sector economy. Output data currently provided by Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is unpublished and as such we are not able to disclose this data. No appropriate output data for the Public sector is collected in Northern Ireland and as a best available proxy public sector employment from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is used, as recommended by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Further information on the main input data is presented below.

IOP: The quarterly NI Index of Production (IOP) is currently based on a sample of around 1,100 businesses out of a population of c. 5,000. This covers approximately 93% of the turnover of the population at the time of selection and a response rate of around 85%. This includes a census of all companies employing 40 or more employees as well as those employing 0 to 39 employees and having a turnover of £10 million or more. The new sample has been designed to have a minimum precision of 10% for each of the production subsectors.

IOS: The quarterly NI Index of Services (IOS) is currently based on a sample of around 3,400 businesses out of a population of c. 39,000. The sample consists of a census of dominant companies and a Neyman stratified random sample of the remaining companies and covers approximately 70% of turnover. The census element consists of all companies employing 100 or more employees as well as those employing 0 to 99 employees and having a turnover of £10 million or more.

QCE: From a sampling universe of approximately 10,000 firms, a disproportionate sample of 700 construction firms is randomly selected to take part in the NI Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE). The sample is disproportionately stratified (into six strata) using Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) turnover as the stratification variable. This includes a census of all companies with a turnover of £5.25m or greater. Further information on the QCE sample coverage and methodology can be found [here](#).

QES: The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland. It has a sample size of approximately 6,000 and covers all private sector firms with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms.

The QES excludes the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and training for success trainees without a contract of employment (non-employed status). 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.

Weighting and Combining the Data

The output series were produced as weighted aggregates of the above input series, where the weights were based on the new “Balanced estimate¹⁷” of Gross Value Added (GVA)¹⁸ by industry obtained for Northern Ireland from Regional Accounts produced by ONS.

¹⁷ [ONS Regional Gross Value Added \(Balanced\), UK: 1998 to 2018](#)

¹⁸ Please note that a glossary of national accounts terms and definitions can be found [here](#).

Please note that the latest available GVA by industry published in December 2019 includes provisional figures for 2018. The NICEI calculations are based on GVA balanced figures up to and including the 2018 year.

Annual Chain-Linking

Annual chain-linking was used to combine the private Services, Production, Construction and Agriculture sectors to produce an index for the Private sector, which was then combined with the index for the Public sector to give an overall index for the economy. Use of annual chain-linking is standard National Accounts practice.

Seasonal Adjustment of the Indices

The indirect method of seasonal adjustment was employed. Seasonally adjusted figures were input (where possible) and when the combined output series were tested for seasonality there was no residual seasonality found, therefore no seasonal adjustment was required.

Base and reference year

As part of the Blue Book process (UK National Accounts), and in line with Eurostat guidance, the base year and reference year for chained volume estimates are moved forward by one year so that the estimates better reflect the industrial structures and prices currently seen within the economy. Re-referencing on its own does not cause revisions to real growth rates, but the rebasing process, taking on as it does new Gross Value Added and product weights from the Supply-Use balancing process, will cause revisions to the growth rates of chained volume components.

Public Sector Employees

The public sector employee jobs figures used in our analysis are sourced from the Office for National Statistics who compile the figures to produce their [Public Sector Employment publications](#). The public sector comprises central government, local government and public corporations as defined for the UK National Accounts.

Experimental statistics

These statistics are experimental statistics which are still undergoing evaluation and are subject to revision. The statistics will remain classified as experimental statistics until user feedback indicates that they are useful and credible.

Whilst these are experimental statistics, they are considered to be robust as they are based on quality input data (national statistics) and prepared in line with best practice, having been developed in conjunction with methodological experts from the ONS. These are the best estimates with the data available.

Office for Statistics Regulation guidance

In August 2019 the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) released [regulatory guidance](#) to inform the development of experimental statistics – official statistics in development.

The [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) encourages innovation and improvement and highlights the need for National Statistics and other official statistics to remain relevant for use, to provide a dynamic public service. Practices that are considered particularly relevant to producing experimental statistics are highlighted under the below themes.

- Sound methods;
- Relevance to users; and
- Innovation and improvement

We have highlighted below how the development of the NICEI is aligned to these principles.

Sound methods

The statistics, data and metadata are compiled using recognised standards, classifications and definitions.

They are harmonised to be consistent and coherent with related statistics and data where possible. For example we have used the GVA published by the ONS Regional Accounts to calculate weights as part of the chain linking process used to combine the component indices to calculate the overall NI index.

Where available, the component parts of the NICEI are sourced from National and Official Statistics where available including:

- NI Index of Production;
- NI Index of Services;
- NISRA Quarterly Construction Enquiry;
- NI Quarterly Employment Survey;
- NI Labour Force Survey statistics; and
- ONS Regional Accounts.

Using these NI specific sources allows us to supplement the existing high quality top level information (i.e. GVA) with robust, NI specific data at a lower level.

The guidance notes that users should be provided with reasons for deviations from existing figures or methods and the publication is clear that the NICEI is broadly equivalent to the output measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). However, the ONS

quarterly measure of GDP is a balanced measure which incorporates the output, income and expenditure approaches. This is based on a much more extensive range of data sources than the NICEI.

That said, as part of the development of the NICEI a UK Index was compiled using the same sources and methods as used for the NICEI. This UK composite index was then compared with published quarterly GDP for the UK. Both were found to have a similar trend, which points to the methodology used being sound.

Throughout the production of the statistics we have collaborated with topic and methods experts and producers of related statistics and data. These include economists in the Department for the Economy and statisticians in the ONS.

Relevance to users

Statistics producers should maintain and refresh their understanding of the use and potential use of the statistics and data. They should consider the ways in which the statistics might be used and the nature of the decisions that are or could be informed by them.

Stakeholders

NISRA is making these experimental statistics available so that users and stakeholders can be involved in their development

Feedback from users has been incorporated where appropriate to do so, for example the content of the bulletin has evolved to include more contextual information and commentary and we have made more tables available in response to user feedback over recent years.

In addition, publications such as this one, which is published on the NISRA website and announced on Twitter, intends to help users become aware of the work undertaken by NISRA in the development of the NICEI.

NISRA is keen to engage and receive informed feedback from users which will improve the quality and value of the statistics. If you wish to join our NICEI mailing list to keep informed of developments or provide any feedback on these statistics please email economicstats@nisra.gov.uk.

Innovation and improvement

NISRA is currently working to develop a quarterly measure of GDP for NI which builds upon the NICEI and seeks to address identified areas for improvement in the NICEI such as a more robust measure of public sector output. The quarterly GDP measure will be an output based measure which will include a more robust measure of the output of the Public Sector. NISRA has been working with various Departments to source the data to calculate activity based output measures for key public sector areas such as education, justice, health, etc. These measures will replace the employee jobs index currently used to calculate public sector output. We have also been engaging with relevant teams within ONS to ensure our statistics will be comparable with ONS estimates of quarterly GDP.

It is envisaged that once the quarterly GDP measure is fully developed it will replace the NICEI as the official estimate of economic output in NI. Users will be engaged prior to this.

Issued by:
Economic and Labour Market Statistics,
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Colby House
Stranmillis Court
Belfast
BT9 5RR

✉ Email: economicstats@nisra.gov.uk

🐦 Twitter: [@NISRA](https://twitter.com/NISRA)

🌐 <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics>

Next publication:
9th April 2020

Statistics Contact:

User's comments and feedback are welcomed and can be provided to:

David Leonard

✉ Email: David.Leonard@nisra.gov.uk

☎ Tel: 028 9052 9385

Media Contact:

Enquiries by the media should be directed to:

DfE Press Office


☎ Tel: 028 9052 9604

✉ Email: pressoffice@economy-ni.gov.uk

Outside office hours, please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07623 974 383 and your call will be returned.

Annex 1: Index Tables

The tables below provides an overview of the index tables for the Composite Economic Index and its constituent indices. The arrows in the cells indicate whether the index has increased/decreased/remained constant from the previous period.

Key:  Maximum value reached
 Minimum value reached

[Download in excel](#)

Table 3: Overview of NICEI and component indices by Quarter

	Quarter	Composite Economic Index	Private sector	Public sector	Services	Production	Construction
2009	1	↓ 100.0	↓ 97.1	↑ 109.9	↓ 98.2	↓ 89.2	↓ 120.8
	2	↓ 99.3	↓ 96.0	↑ 110.2	↓ 97.6	↓ 87.6	↓ 118.9
	3	↑ 99.5	↑ 96.2	↑ 110.6	↑ 98.4	↓ 87.0	↓ 118.1
	4	↑ 100.5	↑ 97.6	↓ 110.3	↑ 100.4	↑ 87.6	↓ 115.9
2010	1	↓ 100.3	→ 97.6	↓ 109.6	↑ 100.6	↑ 88.6	↓ 110.3
	2	↓ 99.1	↓ 96.2	↓ 108.7	↓ 99.0	↑ 88.8	↓ 105.6
	3	↓ 97.6	↓ 94.6	↓ 107.8	↓ 96.2	↑ 89.4	↑ 106.0
	4	↓ 96.9	↓ 93.6	↓ 107.5	↓ 94.0	↑ 92.3	↓ 99.4
2011	1	↓ 96.3	↓ 93.1	↓ 107.0	↓ 93.3	↑ 92.8	↓ 95.6
	2	↑ 97.2	↑ 94.4	↓ 106.4	↑ 95.4	↑ 95.2	↓ 88.3
	3	↑ 98.0	↑ 95.7	↓ 105.7	↑ 96.2	↑ 98.1	↑ 90.2
	4	↓ 97.8	↓ 95.6	↓ 105.0	↓ 96.1	↓ 97.5	↑ 91.0
2012	1	↑ 98.1	↑ 96.0	↑ 105.2	↓ 95.5	↑ 97.6	↑ 97.3
	2	↓ 95.7	↓ 92.9	↓ 104.9	↓ 93.2	↓ 95.7	↓ 85.8
	3	↓ 95.4	↓ 92.6	→ 104.9	↑ 94.0	↓ 93.4	↓ 83.6
	4	↑ 95.5	↓ 92.5	↑ 105.2	↓ 93.8	→ 93.4	↓ 83.2
2013	1	↑ 95.9	↑ 93.0	↑ 105.4	↑ 94.5	↓ 93.3	↓ 82.6
	2	↓ 95.0	↓ 91.7	↑ 105.6	↓ 93.1	↑ 94.1	↓ 76.6
	3	↑ 96.9	↑ 94.2	↑ 105.9	↑ 95.4	↑ 97.6	↑ 79.3
	4	↓ 96.2	↓ 94.1	↓ 103.4	↑ 95.6	↓ 97.5	↓ 74.6
2014	1	↓ 96.1	↑ 94.2	↓ 102.6	→ 95.6	↓ 96.1	↑ 78.7
	2	↑ 96.6	↑ 94.6	↑ 103.0	→ 95.6	↑ 98.0	↑ 79.0
	3	↑ 96.7	↑ 94.7	↑ 103.3	↓ 95.4	↑ 98.8	↑ 80.5
	4	↑ 97.3	↑ 95.5	↓ 103.1	↑ 96.0	↓ 98.4	↑ 85.0
2015	1	↑ 98.0	↑ 96.6	↓ 102.7	↓ 95.7	↑ 99.3	↑ 94.4
	2	↑ 98.5	↑ 97.4	↓ 102.3	↑ 96.7	↑ 99.9	↑ 95.1
	3	↓ 98.3	↓ 97.2	↓ 101.7	↑ 97.3	↓ 99.5	↓ 91.2
	4	↑ 98.5	↑ 97.8	↓ 100.9	↑ 97.5	↓ 99.4	↑ 94.3
2016	1	↑ 99.2	↑ 98.8	↓ 100.7	↑ 98.7	→ 99.4	↑ 95.9
	2	↑ 99.9	↑ 99.8	↓ 100.0	↑ 100.1	↓ 99.3	↑ 100.2
	3	↓ 99.5	↓ 99.5	↓ 99.5	↓ 99.7	↑ 99.7	↓ 98.4
	4	↑ 101.5	↑ 101.9	↑ 99.8	↑ 101.5	↑ 101.6	↑ 105.5
2017	1	↑ 101.6	↑ 102.0	↑ 100.1	↓ 101.4	↑ 102.1	↓ 104.7
	2	↓ 100.1	↓ 100.1	↓ 100.0	↓ 100.5	↓ 96.4	↑ 107.6
	3	↓ 99.6	↓ 99.5	→ 100.0	↑ 101.4	↓ 92.2	↓ 106.1
	4	↑ 100.3	↑ 100.3	↑ 100.2	↑ 101.5	↑ 94.9	↓ 105.6
2018	1	↑ 100.9	↑ 101.2	→ 100.2	↑ 103.3	↑ 95.8	↓ 97.4
	2	↑ 101.5	↑ 101.7	↑ 100.7	↑ 103.7	↑ 96.0	↑ 102.4
	3	↑ 102.0	↑ 102.4	→ 100.7	↓ 103.5	↑ 97.8	↑ 108.1
	4	↓ 101.9	↓ 102.2	↑ 100.8	↑ 104.2	↓ 96.5	↓ 102.9
2019	1	↑ 102.2	↑ 102.5	↑ 101.2	↓ 103.4	↑ 98.5	↑ 105.0
	2	↑ 102.4	↑ 102.7	↑ 101.7	↑ 104.1	↑ 99.3	↓ 101.3
	3	↓ 102.3	↓ 102.3	↑ 102.1	→ 104.1	↓ 97.1	↑ 105.1

Growth Rates	NICEI	Private Sector	Public Sector	Services	Production	Construction
Change on quarter	↓ -0.1%	↓ -0.3%	↑ 0.4%	↓ -0.1%	↓ -2.2%	↑ 3.7%
Change on year	↑ 0.3%	← 0.0%	↑ 1.4%	↑ 0.6%	↓ -0.8%	↓ -2.8%
Rolling annual average change ¹⁹	↑ 1.0%	↑ 1.0%	↑ 1.0%	↑ 1.0%	↑ 1.7%	↑ 0.2%

¹⁹ Most recent four quarters compared to previous four quarters

Table 4: Overview of NICEI and component indices by Year

[Download in excel](#)

Year	Composite Economic Index	Private sector	Public sector	Services	Production	Construction
2006	104.8	104.1	108.1	104.4	94.6	143.5
2007	↑ 105.7	↑ 105.4	↓ 107.8	↑ 105.0	↑ 98.3	↓ 141.8
2008	↓ 103.7	↓ 102.8	↓ 107.6	↓ 102.7	↓ 98.2	↓ 129.1
2009	↓ 99.8	↓ 96.7	↑ 110.3	↓ 98.6	↓ 87.8	↓ 118.5
2010	↓ 98.5	↓ 95.5	↓ 108.4	↓ 97.4	↑ 89.8	↓ 105.3
2011	↓ 97.3	↓ 94.7	↓ 106.0	↓ 95.3	↑ 95.9	↓ 91.2
2012	↓ 96.2	↓ 93.5	↓ 105.1	↓ 94.1	↓ 95.0	↓ 87.5
2013	↓ 96.0	↓ 93.3	→ 105.1	↑ 94.7	↑ 95.6	↓ 78.3
2014	↑ 96.7	↑ 94.8	↓ 103.0	↑ 95.6	↑ 97.8	↑ 80.8
2015	↑ 98.3	↑ 97.2	↓ 101.9	↑ 96.8	↑ 99.5	↑ 93.7
2016	↑ 100.0	↑ 100.0	↓ 100.0	↑ 100.0	↑ 100.0	↑ 100.0
2017	↑ 100.4	↑ 100.5	↑ 100.1	↑ 101.2	↓ 96.4	↑ 106.0
2018	↑ 101.6	↑ 101.9	↑ 100.6	↑ 103.6	↑ 96.5	↓ 102.7