

Summary of usage of the Northern Ireland Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is a UK wide survey that provides a wide range of information on hourly, weekly and annual earnings by gender, work pattern, industry and occupation, including public and private sector pay comparisons. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out ASHE in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland it is carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an agency within the Department of Finance (DoF).

ASHE data are widely used by anyone who has an interest in NI economic and labour market policy. The figures are widely used to chart changes in NI earnings levels as well as the number of hours spent at work, and to measure the state of the labour market, including earnings across industries and occupations as well as for the public and private sector.

The Department for the Economy (DfE) receives annual ASHE results, monthly Labour Market statistics, and a range of other Business and Economic Output statistics, all advising on the position of the Northern Ireland economy. The DfE Press Office also requires ASHE data for dissemination to the media. Please see below links to articles about the 2018 NI ASHE results.

[BBC News Northern Ireland published 25 October 2018](#)

[Belfast Telegraph published 25 October 2018](#)

[Irish News published 26 October 2018](#)

The ASHE data feed into the DfE Economic Commentary, which provides an overview of the condition of the NI economy. ASHE figures are used by DfE economists on policy formulation and in response to external information requests. ASHE results are also included in a number of other Government publications – for example, see below link to the 2017 Women in Northern Ireland publication.

[Women in Northern Ireland 2017 published 7 December 2017](#)

Significant non Northern Ireland governmental users of ASHE data include employers' associations, universities and academics, academic researchers both at home and abroad, the media and the general public.