

(Annual Business Inquiry)

NI Non-Financial Business Economy 2016 Provisional Reporting Unit Results

Date: 29 November 2017

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

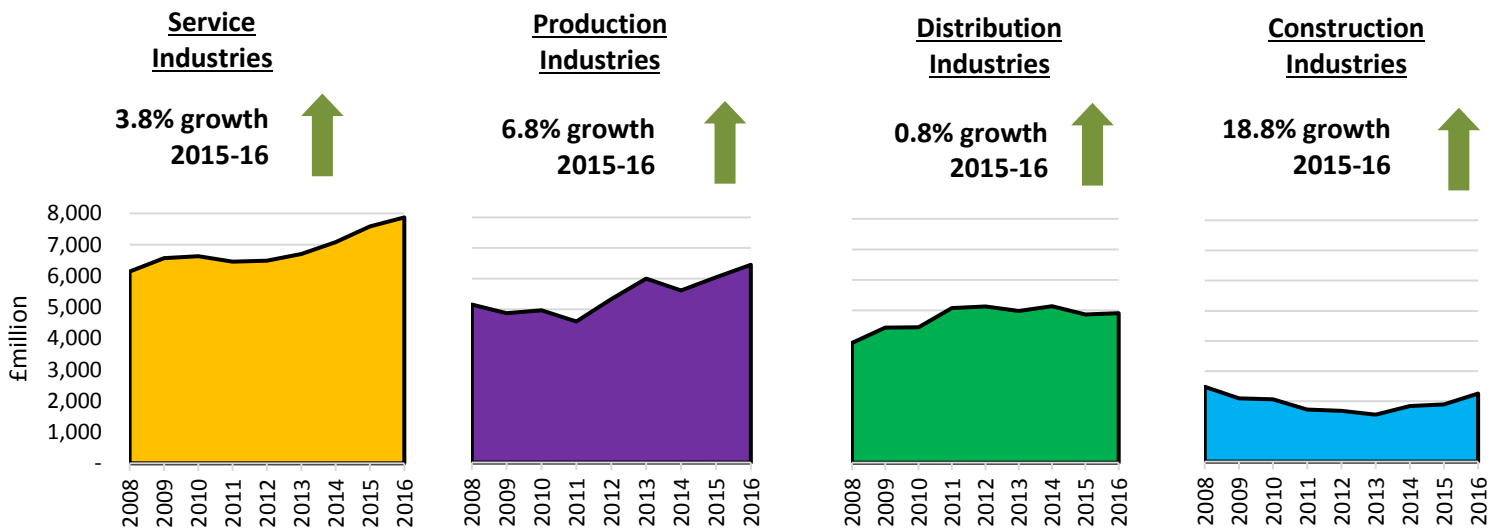
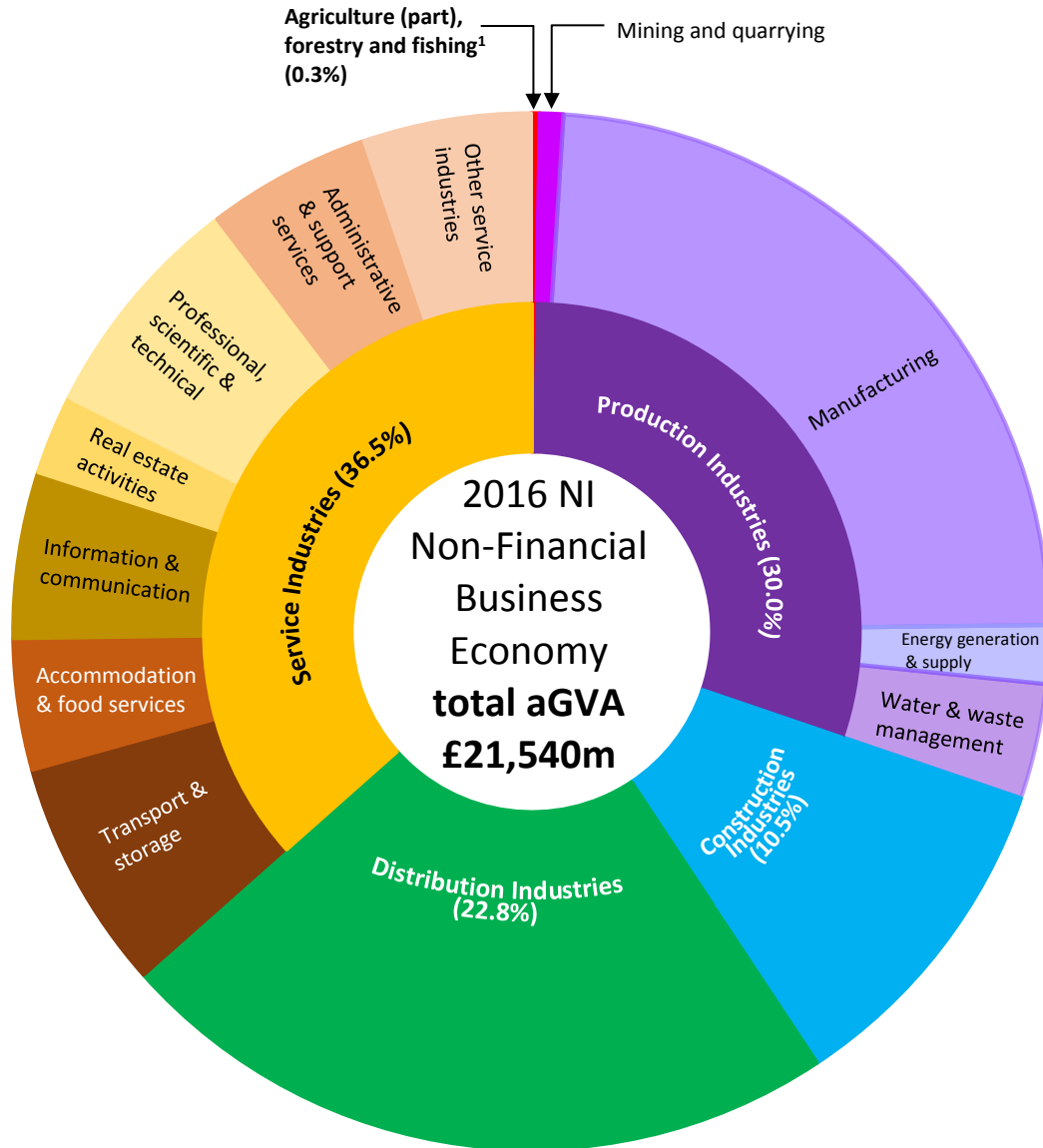
Theme: Business and energy

Frequency: Annual

Key Points

- In 2016, the income generated by businesses in Northern Ireland (NI), less the cost of goods and services used to create this income, was estimated to be £21.5 billion. This amount represents the approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) at basic prices of the NI non-financial business economy, excluding farming and financial services.
- The NI non-financial business economy, as measured by the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI), recorded an increase of 5.4% in aGVA from 2015 to 2016.
- The key contributor to aGVA growth was the production sector which increased by 6.8% (£413 million) between 2015 and 2016. The majority of aGVA growth in the production sector is attributable to the manufacturing section and energy generation and supply section.
- The Construction sector also recorded significant aGVA growth, increasing by 18.8% (£356 million), from £1.90 billion to £2.25 billion. The construction sector has seen strong growth across all recorded variables between 2015 and 2016 with turnover and purchases increasing by 11.7% and 11.3% respectively.
- The NI non-financial services sector recorded aGVA growth of 3.8% (£289 million) while retail and wholesale trade (distribution sector) grew by 0.8% (£40 million).
- Turnover in the NI non-financial business economy as a whole increased by 2.7% (£1.8 billion) over the year and purchases of goods, materials, energy, water and services increased by 1.9% (£833 million). Employment increased by an estimated 1.3% between 2015 and 2016.

Figure 1: NI Non-financial business economy: aGVA 2016 and trends by broad industry 2008-2016



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¹ Agriculture (part) covers only hunting, forestry, fishing and the support activities to agriculture and excludes crop and animal production.

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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1 Introduction and context

This release contains 2016 provisional and 2015 revised reporting unit² results from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI). The NIABI is a key resource for measuring the size, performance and structure of the Northern Ireland non-financial business economy. It is a survey of businesses covering the Production, Construction, Distribution and Service industries and covers roughly two thirds of the total NI economy. Further information on survey coverage is contained in the background notes.

Key variables

The published estimates include the total value of sales and work completed by businesses (turnover); the value of the purchase of goods, materials and services; approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) at basic prices and employment. These estimates are further disaggregated at industry level, providing users with an insight into the size and evolution of the overall Non-financial business economy from 2008 to 2016 as well as a measure of the contribution made by different industry sectors. The financial estimates are collected and presented as monetary values. All financial data are reported at current prices (effect of price changes included).

Interpretation

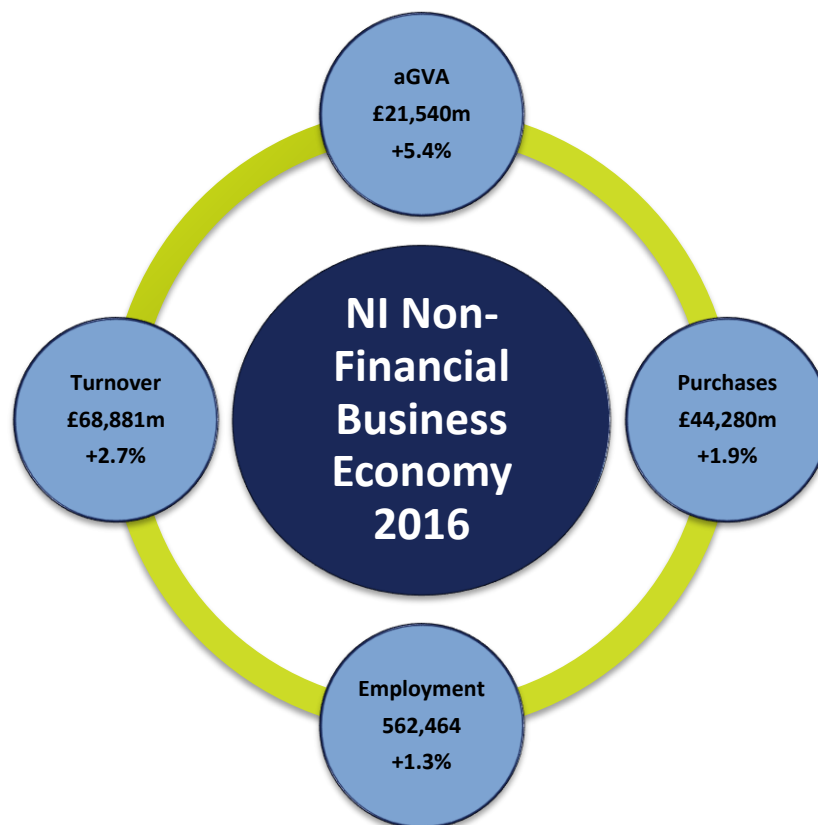
The Non-financial business economy is constantly changing, as businesses merge, are taken over, or change the main focus of their activity. These changes can result in the industry classification of a business changing over time. In industries where movements are common, or where large businesses are involved, these changes can themselves cause large changes in the NIABI estimates. This should be taken into consideration when changes over time are being considered.

Quality indicators

When interpreting NIABI results, users are advised to refer to the quality indicators provided with the estimates in the tables. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of statistical error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results. Users should also be aware that methodological improvements governing the treatment of business closures were introduced for the 2011 report. These improvements have been implemented for 2010 to 2016 data. Consequently, although 2008 and 2009 figures are included in this report, users should exercise caution when making comparisons.

² See part (vi) of background notes for definitions and further information.

2 Summary and commentary



Turnover, purchases and aGVA

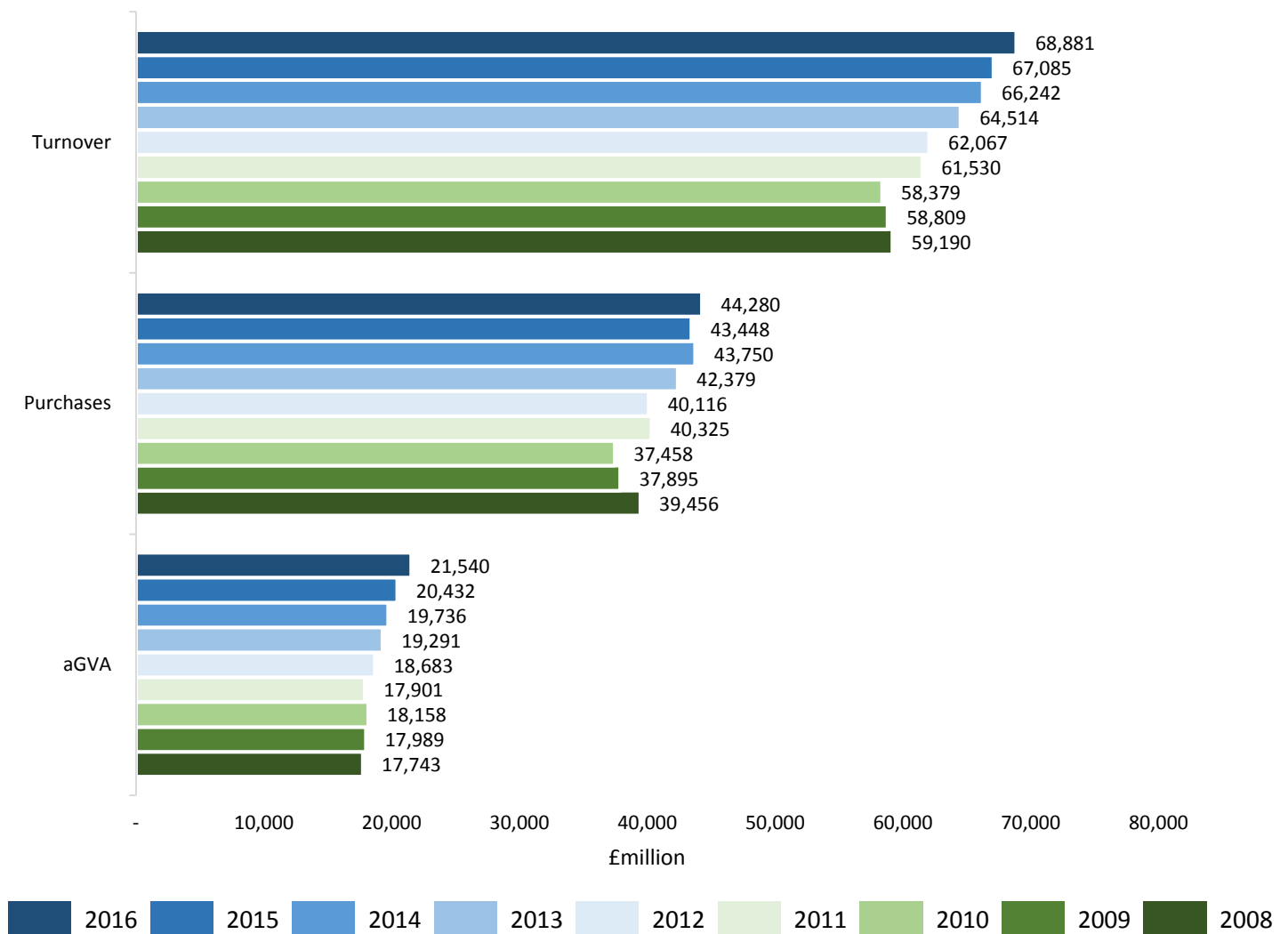
The provisional results of the 2016 NIABI and revised results from the 2015 NIABI show that the turnover generated by businesses in Northern Ireland (NI), less the cost of goods and services used to create this income, was estimated to be £21,540 million in 2016. This is an increase of 5.4% over 2015 and represents the aGVA of the NI non-financial business economy (see section (iv) for full details of industry coverage).

Turnover in the NI non-financial business economy increased for the sixth consecutive year, growing by 2.7% to £68,881 million. The value of purchases of goods, materials, energy, water and services grew by 1.9% year-on-year, from £43,448 million in 2015 to £44,280 million in 2016.

Results for the NI non-financial business economy show a faster pace of growth for aGVA than the UK overall. UK aGVA recorded an increase of 3.9% compared to 5.4% in NI between 2015 and 2016. Comparing turnover, the UK grew by 2.3% compared to a 2.7% increase for NI. The value of purchases in NI increased by 1.9% year-on-year compared to a smaller increase of 1.5% for the UK.

The composition of the NI non-financial business economy differs in certain key ways from the UK. In the UK as a whole, services account for 56.0% of the economy while in NI they account for 36.5%. The production sector, which consists of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity generation and supply and water and waste management, accounts for 30.0% of the NI non-financial business economy while in the UK they account for 18.9%.

Figure 2: Trends in NI Non-Financial Business Economy: Income and Expenditure 2008 – 2016



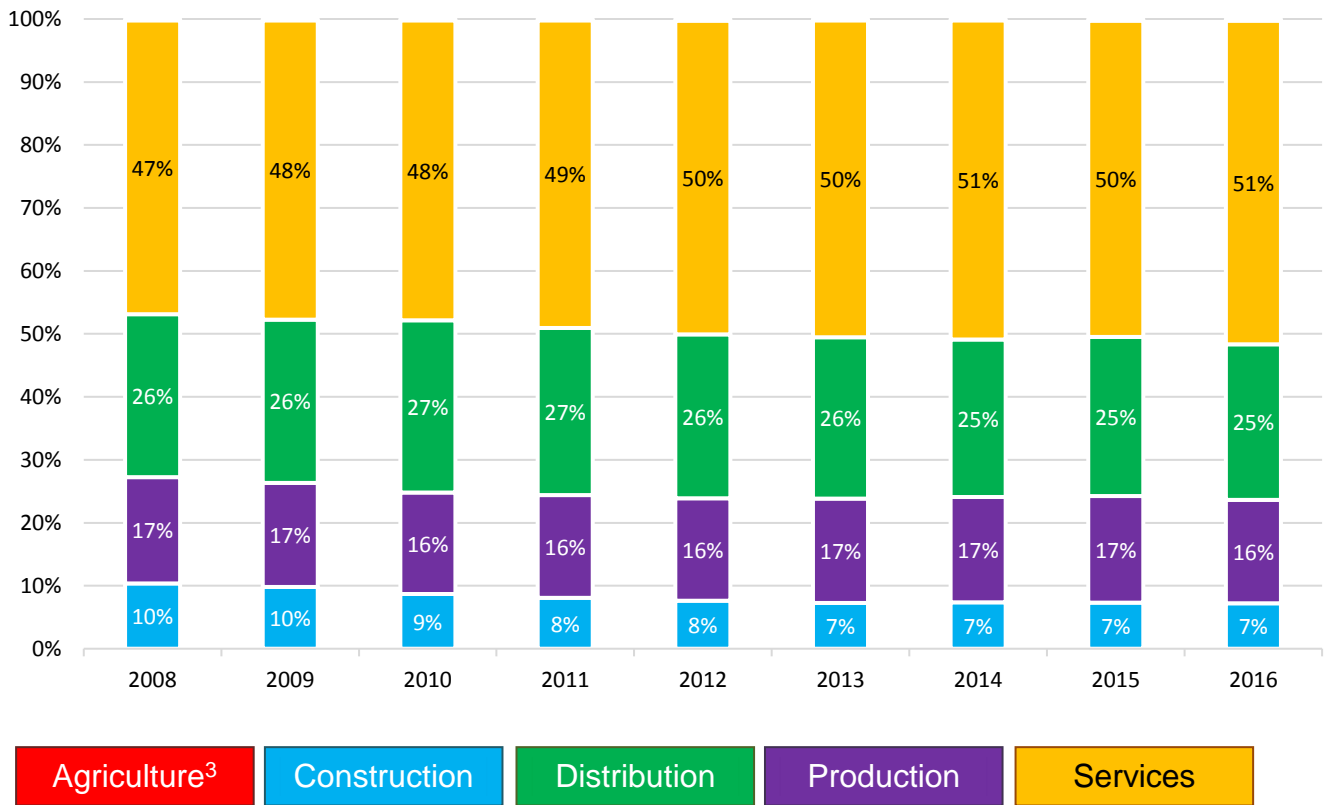
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Employment

Employment in the NI non-financial business economy increased for the fifth consecutive year, growing by 1.3% in 2016. Total employment in 2016 was estimated to be very similar to that recorded in 2008, at the start of the financial downturn.

The non-financial services sector accounts for approximately 50% of employment in the NI non-financial business economy, an increase of roughly 4 percentage points since 2008. Employment in the construction sector, although exhibiting growth between 2013 and 2016, has declined since 2008 as a proportion of total employment, falling from 10% in 2008 to 7% in 2016.

Figure 3: Trends in NI Non-Financial Business Economy: Employment by industrial sector 2008 – 2016



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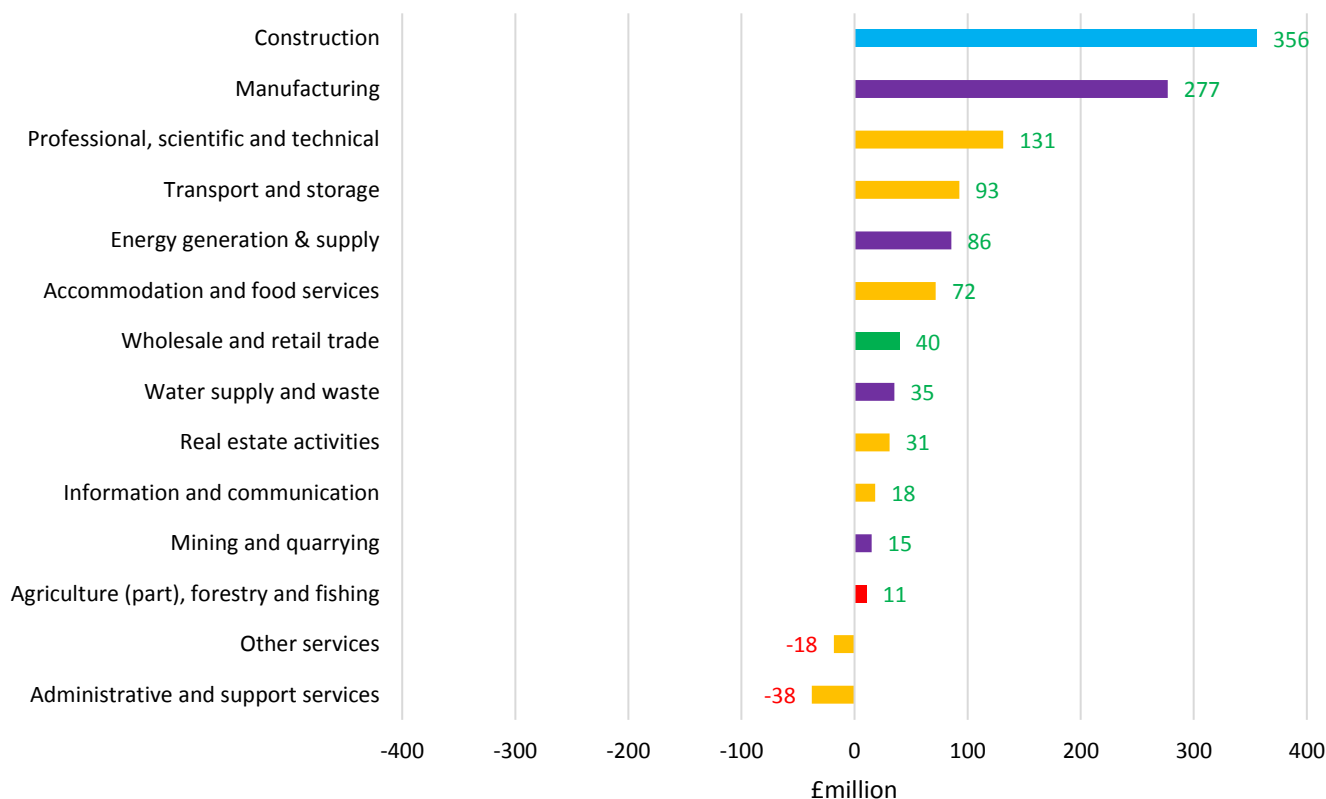
³ Agriculture is not displayed as it represents <1% of total employment

aGVA by industrial section

Looking by industrial section rather than broad industrial sector, construction was the largest individual contributor to overall aGVA growth in the NI non-financial business economy; increasing by £356 million or 18.8% between 2015 and 2016. The manufacturing section also exhibited strong aGVA growth between 2015 and 2016, increasing by £277 million or 5.7%.

With the exception of administrative and support services and other services activities⁴, all sections in the NI non-financial business economy recorded growth in aGVA between 2015 and 2016.

Figure 4: Trends in NI Non-Financial Business Economy: aGVA change by industrial section 2015 – 2016

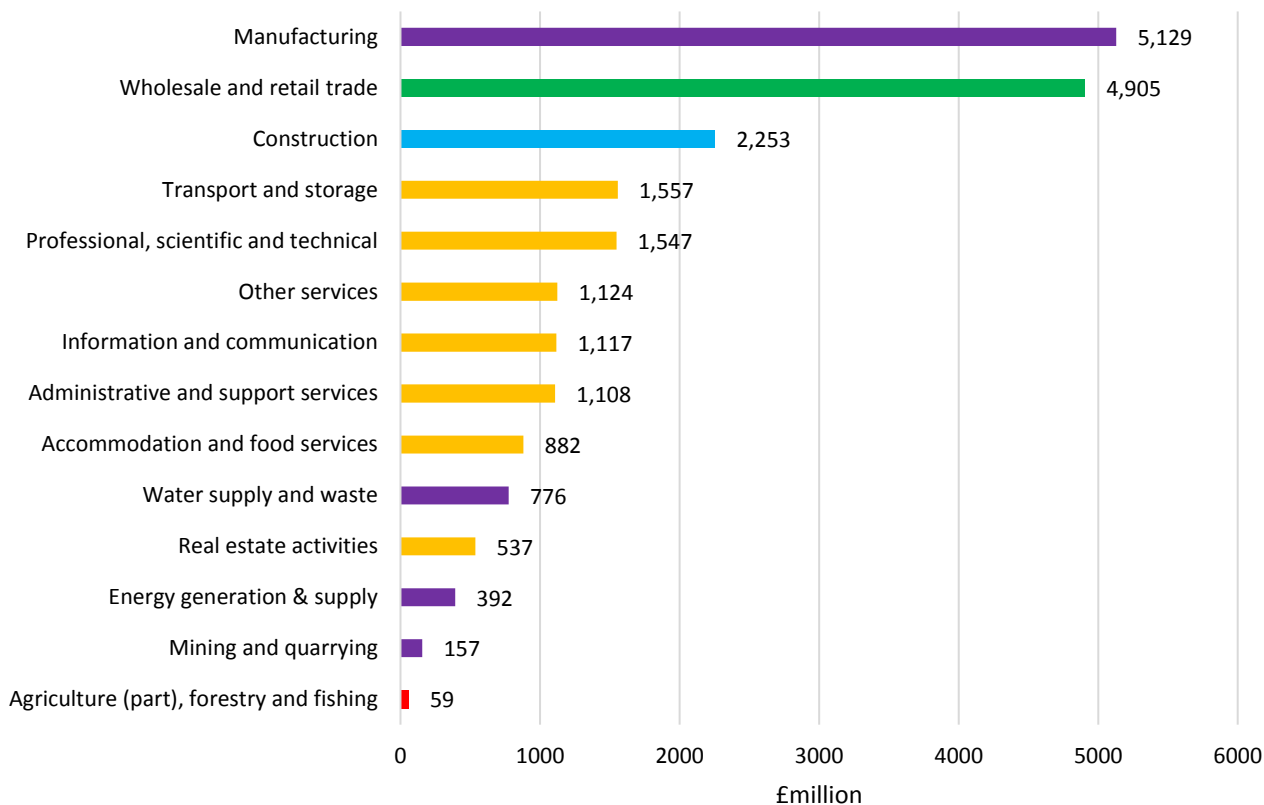


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⁴ Other services includes: education (excluding public education); Human health and social work activities (excluding public health and social work); Arts, entertainment and recreation and Other service activities.

Together, the manufacturing section and wholesale and retail trade section account for almost half of total aGVA in the NI non-financial business economy. Manufacturing is the largest industrial section by aGVA, accounting for £5,129 million (23.8%) of total aGVA in the NI non-financial business economy. This is followed by wholesale and retail trade, which accounts for £4,905 million (22.8%) of aGVA.

Figure 5: NI Non-Financial Business Economy: aGVA by industrial section 2016



Agriculture
Construction
Distribution
Production
Services

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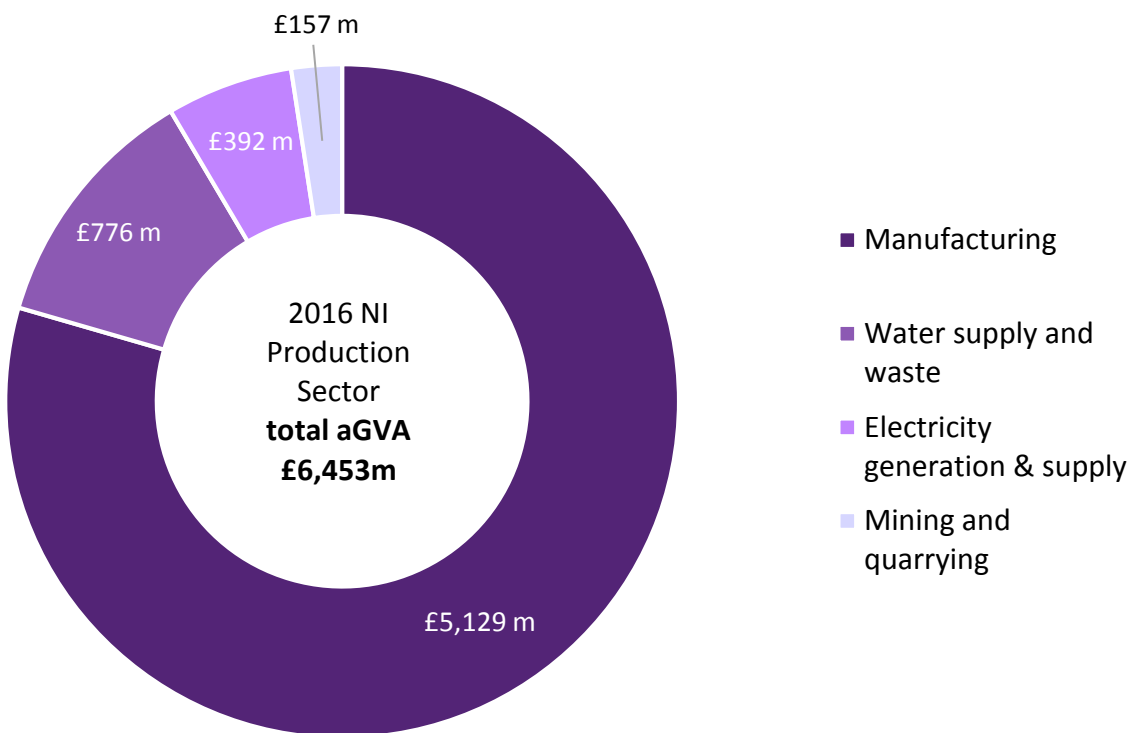
Production Industries (Sections B-E)

Turnover, Purchases and aGVA

Sections B through E have been grouped to reflect the structure of the Northern Ireland production industries, these include: mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.

The production sector, which accounts for 30.0% of aGVA in the NI non-financial business economy, recorded an increase of 6.8% (£413m) in aGVA between 2015 and 2016. Turnover in the sector showed no significant change year-on-year. Purchases decreased by 1.4%, from £11,799 million in 2015 to £11,639 million in 2016.

Figure 6: NI Production Sector: aGVA by industrial section 2016



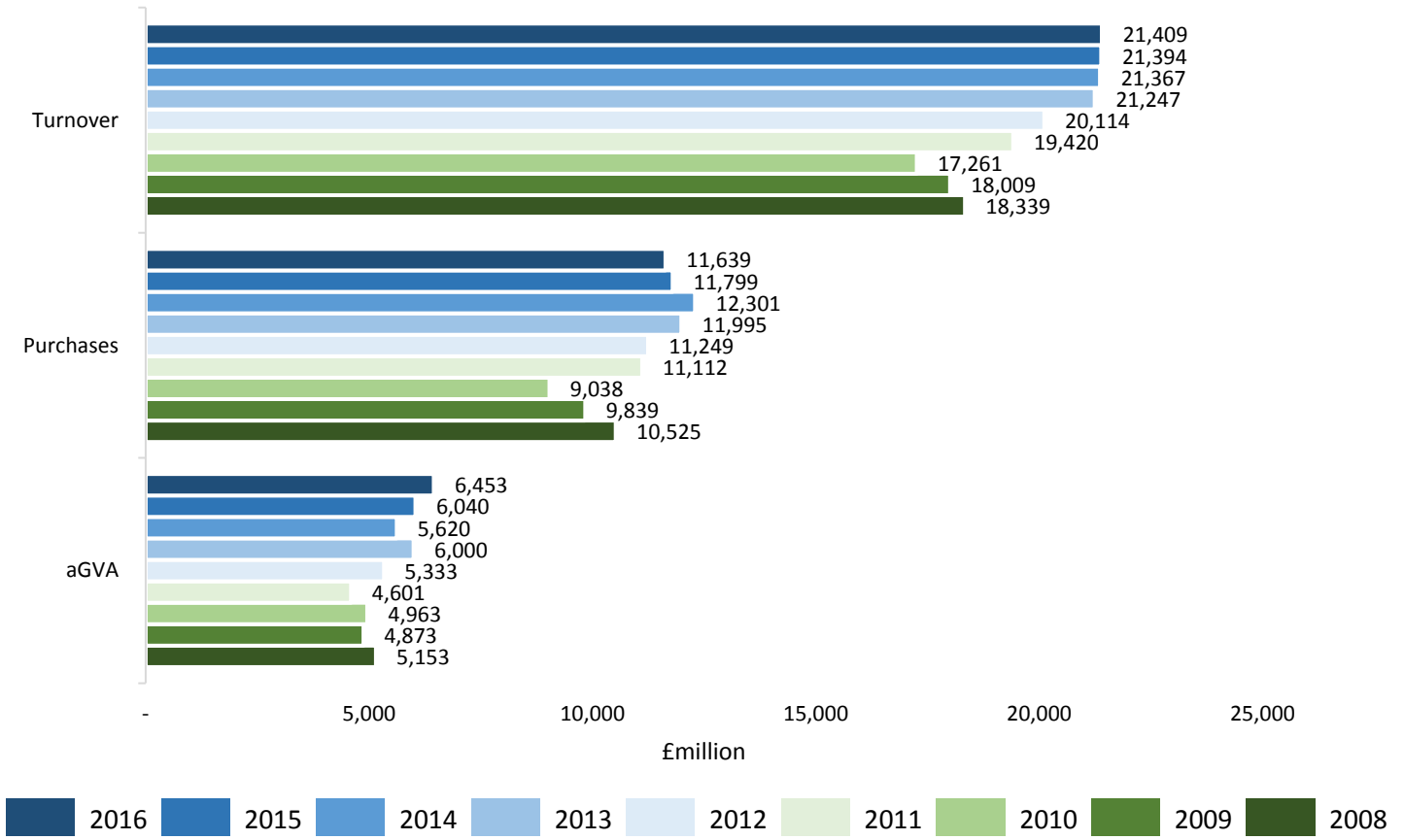
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The manufacturing section accounts for approximately 80% of total production sector aGVA and as a consequence changes in production tend to reflect movements in manufacturing. aGVA in the manufacturing section grew by £277 million year on year and accounted for approximately two thirds of the growth in the production sector overall.

Energy generation and supply also recorded strong aGVA growth, increasing by £86 million (28.0%) between 2015 and 2016. This was primarily driven by the combination of a 5.0% fall in the value of purchases of goods, materials, energy and services and a flat year on year change in turnover (-0.1%).

The mining and quarrying section recorded a drop of 2.4% in turnover between 2015 and 2016; this was primarily due to the reclassification of businesses from mining and quarrying to construction. The underlying performance within the section indicates year on year growth.

Figure 7: Trends in the Production Sector: Income and Expenditure 2008 – 2016

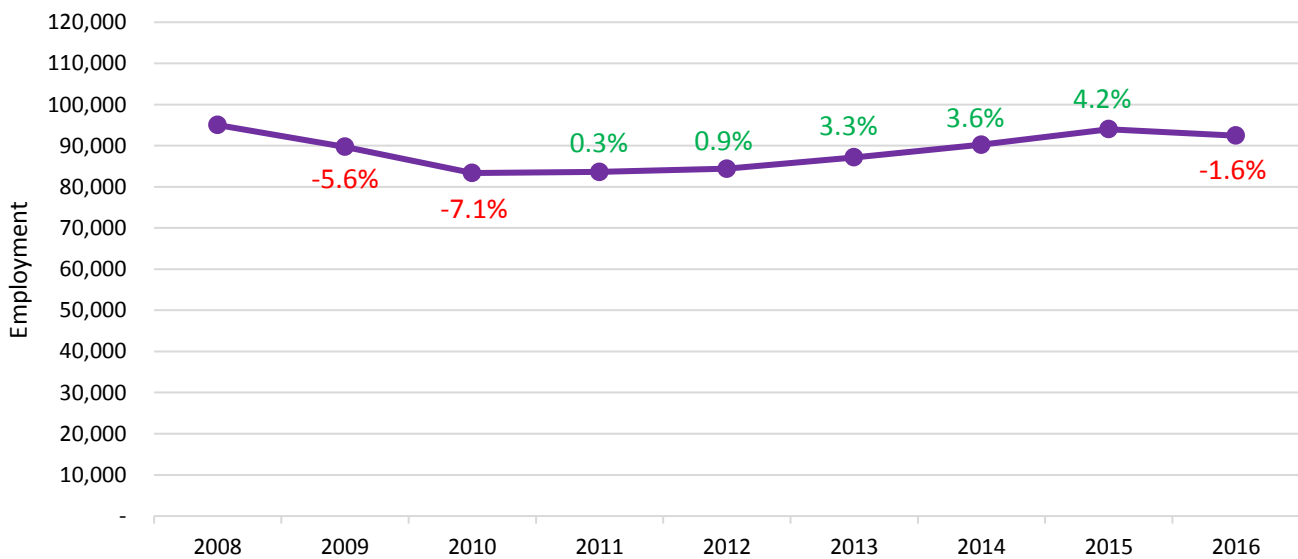


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Employment

Employment in the NI production industries fell by an estimated 1.6% between 2015 and 2016. This is the first decline in production sector employment recorded on the Annual Business Inquiry since 2010 and is driven primarily by a drop of 1.8% in employment in the manufacturing section. Employment in the production sector remains 2.7% below the level recorded in 2008, at the start of the financial downturn.

Figure 8: Trends in the Production Sector: Employment 2008 – 2016

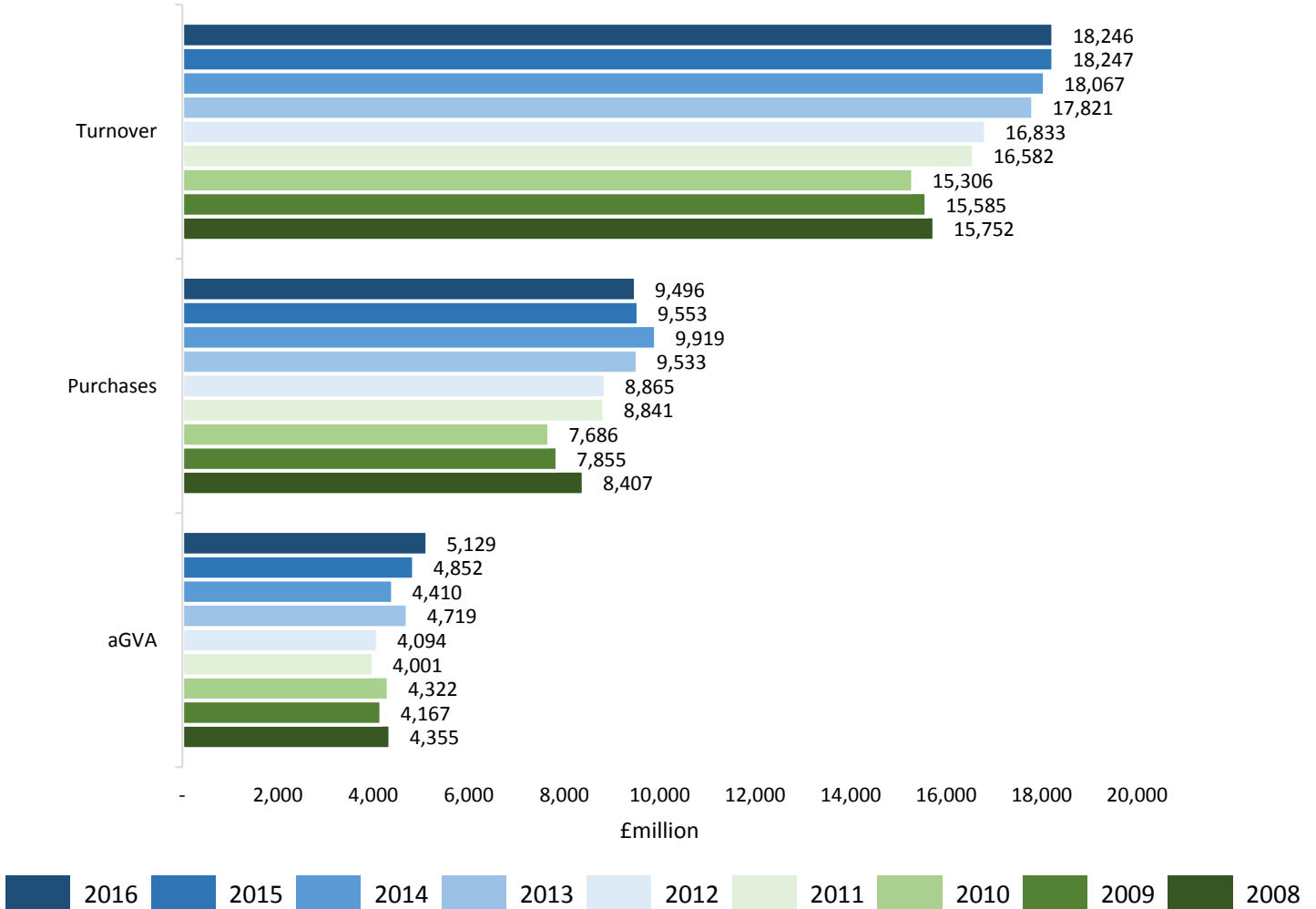


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Manufacturing

Manufacturing is the largest component industry in the production sector, accounting for approximately 80% of aGVA and 85% of turnover in the sector. In addition, manufacturing accounts for 23.8% of total aGVA in the non-financial business economy and is the largest industrial section by aGVA. aGVA in the manufacturing section showed growth of 5.7% between 2015 and 2016.

Figure 9: Trends in the Manufacturing Sector: Income and Expenditure 2008 – 2016



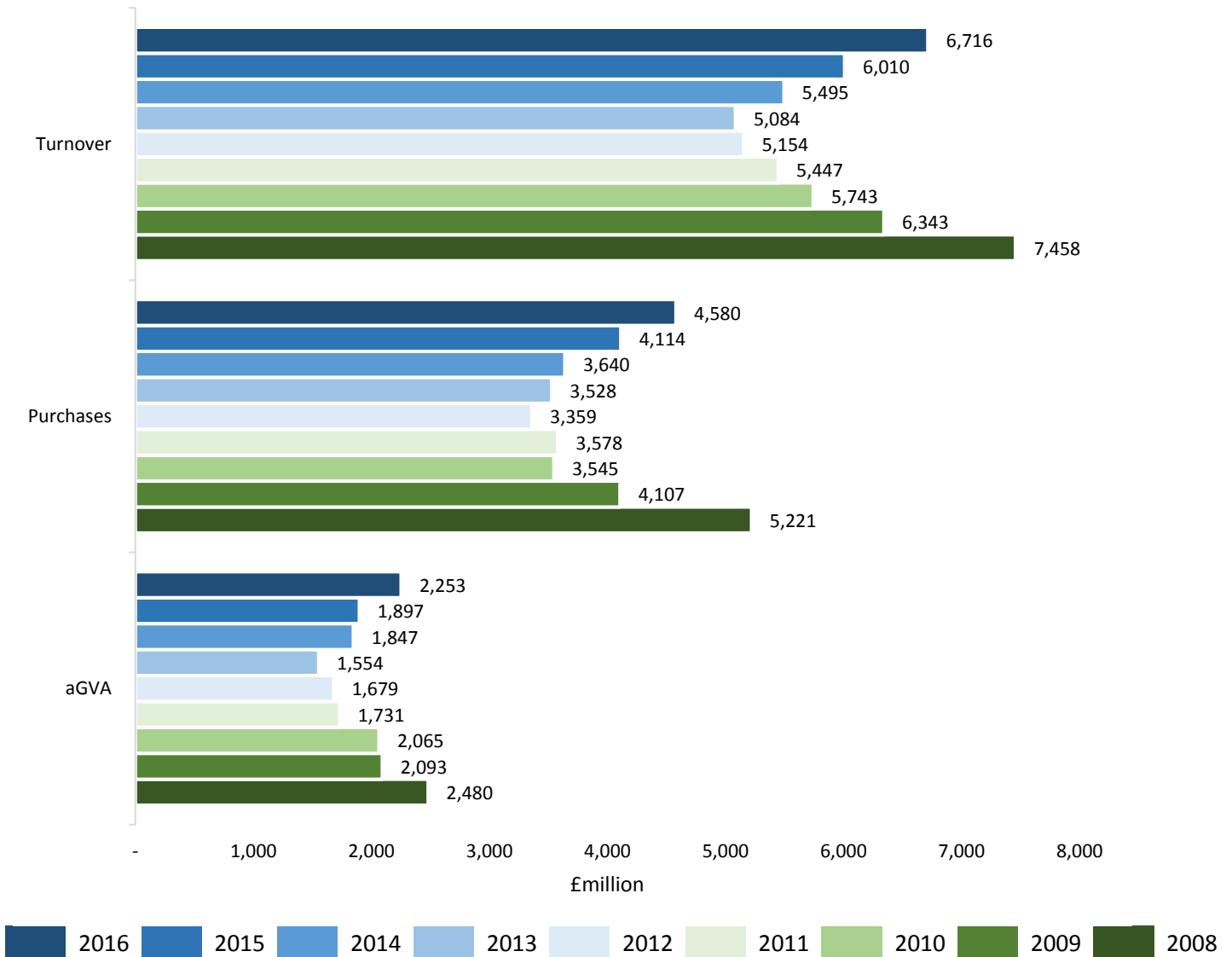
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Construction Industries (Section F)

The construction industries cover the entire Northern Ireland construction sector and include: construction of buildings, civil engineering and specialised construction activities (e.g. demolition and site preparation, electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities, etc).

The construction sector has grown for the last three consecutive years; this follows five years of declining values in the aftermath of the financial downturn in 2008. Between 2015 and 2016 turnover recorded an 11.7% increase, growing from £6,010 million to £6,716 million. Purchases increased by 11.3% over the year, while aGVA increased by 18.8%, from £1,897 million in 2015 to £2,253 million in 2016.

Figure 10: Trends in the Construction Sector: Income and Expenditure 2008 – 2016



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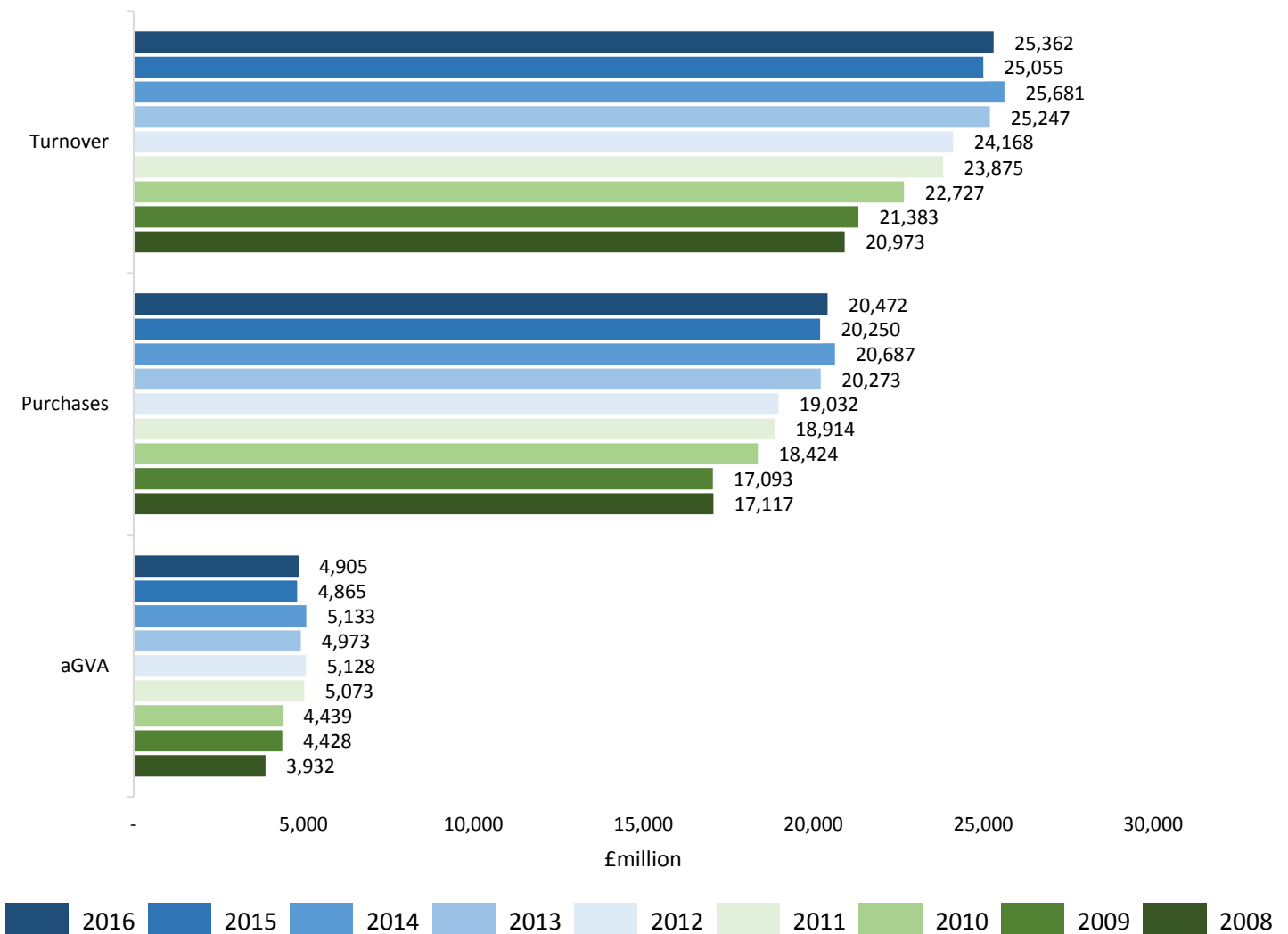
Distribution Industries (Section G)

The distribution industries consist of companies engaged in wholesale and retail trade and cover the entire Northern Ireland wholesale and retail sector.

Wholesale and retail trade showed no significant change in aGVA with a marginal positive change of 0.8% year on year. Both turnover and purchases recorded small growth rates, increasing by 1.2% and 1.1% respectively.

Wholesale and retail trade accounts for approximately 25% of total employment in the NI non-financial business economy.

Figure 11: Trends in the Distribution Sector: Income and Expenditure 2008 – 2016



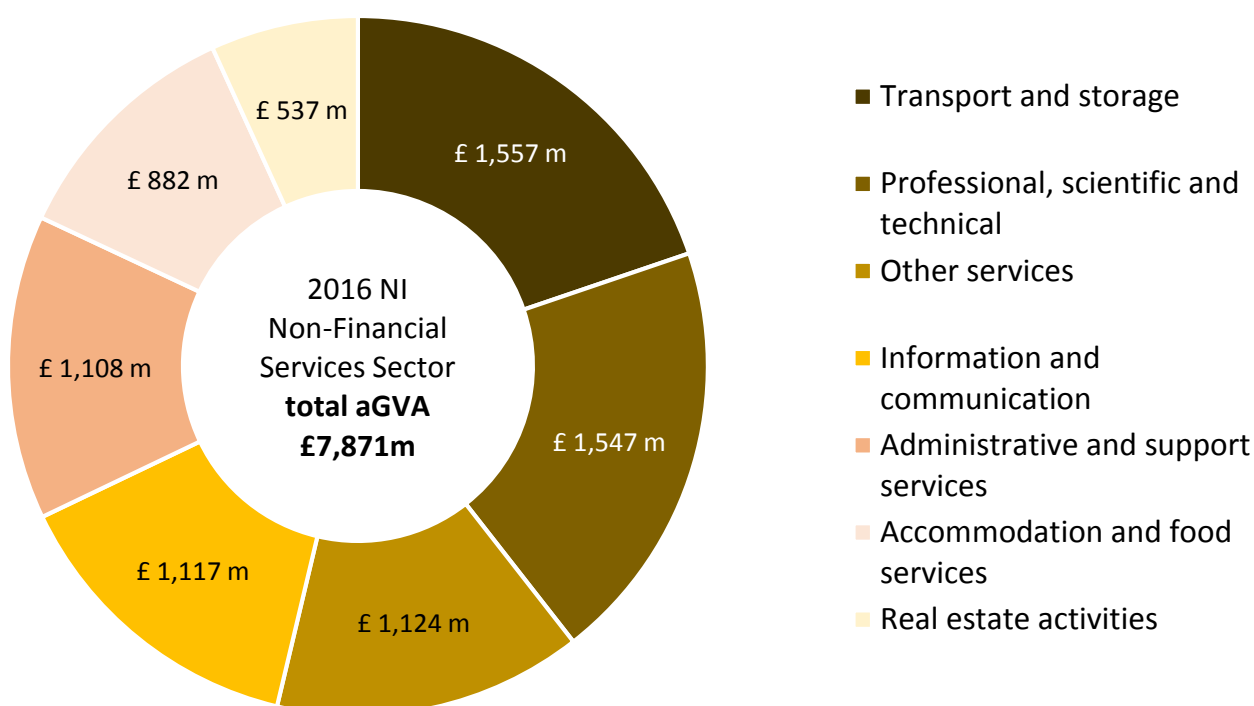
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Non-Financial Services Industries (Section H–S)

The non-financial services sector is composed of transport and storage; accommodation and food service activities; information and communication; real estate activities; professional scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities; and other service activities (n.b. other services are sections that are grouped to avoid disclosure of returns).

Representing more than a third (36.5%) of aGVA in the NI non-financial business economy, even small movements in the services sector can have a pronounced effect on overall trends. Between 2015 and 2016 aGVA increased by 3.8% to £7,871 million. Turnover grew by 5.3% (£764 million) to £15,285 million. Purchases of goods and services recorded an increase of 4.3% (£308 million), to £7,536 million.

Figure 12: NI Non-financial services Industries: aGVA 2016

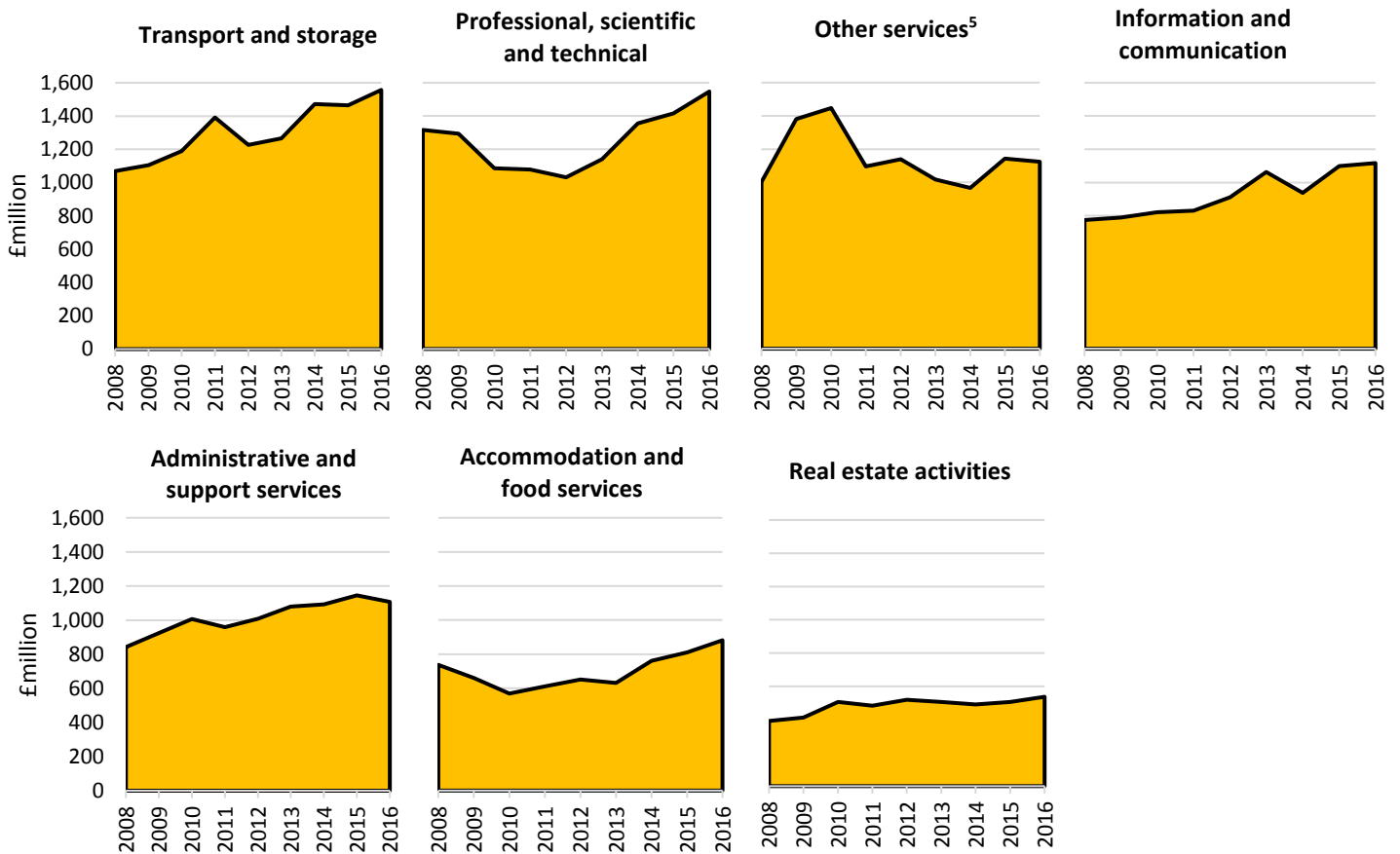


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The transportation and storage section and professional, scientific and technical section are the largest component industries in the NI non-financial services sector, each accounting for approximately 20% of total aGVA in the sector.

The largest contributor to the increase in the services industries' aGVA was the professional, scientific and technical section, which grew by 9.3% (£131 million), from £1,416 million to £1,547 million. Other major contributors to growth include the transportation and storage section (+£93 million) and accommodation and food services activities (+£72 million). aGVA in administrative and support services recorded a decline between 2015 and 2016, falling by 3.3% or £38 million.

Figure 13: Trends in the Service Industries: aGVA by sector 2008-2016



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⁵ Other services includes: education (excluding public education); Human health and social work activities (excluding public health and social work); Arts, entertainment and recreation and Other service activities. The Insurance & re-insurance industries were included for the 2009 and 2010 results; following a decision by the ONS these have been excluded from the 2011 results onwards.

3 Results by Industry

	CV ≤ 5%
	5% < CV ≤ 10%
	10% < CV ≤ 20%
	CV > 20%

Table 1: NIABI results by industry, 2015 and 2016

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2015	A – S	Agriculture, fishing, production, construction, distribution and services	67,085	20,432	43,448	555,381
2016			68,881	21,540	44,280	562,464
%change			2.7%	5.4%	1.9%	1.3%
2015	A (part)	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	105	48	57	1,418
2016			110	59	54	1,400
%change			4.0%	21.9%	-5.7%	-1.2%
2015	B – E	Production Industries	21,394	6,040	11,799	93,999
2016			21,409	6,453	11,639	92,450
%change			0.1%	6.8%	-1.4%	-1.6%
2015	B	Mining and quarrying	407	142	261	2,507
2016			398	157	240	2,286
%change			-2.4%	10.7%	-8.3%	-8.8%
2015	C	Manufacturing	18,247	4,852	9,553	85,802
2016			18,246	5,129	9,496	84,230
%change			0.0%	5.7%	-0.6%	-1.8%
2015	D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1,917	306	1,609	1,877
2016			1,915	392	1,529	2,052
%change			-0.1%	28.0%	-5.0%	9.3%
2015	E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	822	741	375	3,813
2016			849	776	374	3,883
%change			3.3%	4.7%	-0.3%	1.8%
2015	F	Construction	6,010	1,897	4,114	40,610
2016			6,716	2,253	4,580	40,487
%change			11.7%	18.8%	11.3%	-0.3%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2015 and 2016

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2015	G – S	Distribution and service industries	39,576	12,447	27,478	419,355
2016			40,647	12,776	28,008	428,127
%change			2.7%	2.6%	1.9%	2.1%
2015	G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	25,055	4,865	20,250	140,262
2016			25,362	4,905	20,472	139,099
%change			1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	-0.8%
2015	H - S	Other service Industries	14,521	7,582	7,228	279,094
2016			15,285	7,871	7,536	289,029
%change			5.3%	3.8%	4.3%	3.6%
2015	H	Transport and storage	3,194	1,465	1,861	27,335
2016			3,353	1,557	1,849	28,356
%change			5.0%	6.3%	-0.6%	3.7%
2015	I	Accommodation and food service activities	1,614	810	824	51,548
2016			1,735	882	853	51,771
%change			7.5%	8.9%	3.5%	0.4%
2015	J	Information and communication	2,044	1,098	988	21,676
2016			2,118	1,117	1,005	23,603
%change			3.6%	1.7%	1.7%	8.9%
2015	L	Real estate activities	843	506	347	9,411
2016			867	537	331	8,942
%change			2.9%	6.1%	-4.3%	-5.0%
2015	M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	2,246	1,416	876	29,306
2016			2,556	1,547	1,050	32,666
%change			13.8%	9.3%	19.8%	11.5%

Table 1 (continued): NIABI results by industry, 2015 and 2016

	Standard Industrial Classification	Description	Turnover (£million)	Approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA) (£million)	Purchases (£million)	Employment
2015	N	Administrative and support service activities	1,945	1,145	812	50,409
2016			1,937	1,108	835	53,521
%change			-0.4%	-3.3%	2.8%	6.2%
2015	P - S	Others	2,636	1,142	1,520	89,409
2016			2,719	1,124	1,613	90,169
%change			3.2%	-1.6%	6.1%	0.9%

Coefficient of Variation

The coefficient of variation (cv) measures the variability of the values in the table above by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimated value. Unlike confidence intervals, which measure variability by providing the range of values between which the mean value for a predetermined percentage of all possible samples would fall, the coefficient of variation expresses variability as an easily comparable percentage. As the coefficient of variation is not measured in any specific unit, it facilitates comparison between surveys measuring different underlying variables. A larger coefficient of variation implies a larger variability.

$$Coefficient\ of\ Variation = \frac{Standard\ Error}{|Parameter\ Estimate|}$$

Standard Error: In statistics, sample estimates such as means and medians deviate from the actual population mean and median; and this deviation is the standard error. Standard error is a statistical term that measures the accuracy with which a sample represents a population and is essentially an indicator of the reliability of the estimate.

Parameter Estimate: The parameter estimate refers to the individual value for each of the variables in the table above. For example the 2015 parameter estimate for turnover in Section A is £105 million.

4 Background notes

(i) About the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry

The Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI) collects both financial and employment information from businesses and other establishments and covers about two thirds of the economy. This includes the production, construction, distribution and service industries in Northern Ireland but excludes public sector activity for the most part. The coverage of the survey is detailed at section (iv) below.

The 2016 NIABI sampled approximately 9,000 businesses in Northern Ireland from a population of approximately 50,000 businesses in the sample frame: the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR consists of companies, partnerships, sole proprietors, public authorities, central government departments, local authorities and non-profit making bodies in the UK. The NIABI is reliant on the IDBR receiving accurate and timely updates and providing a true reflection of the Northern Ireland business population. Businesses not registered for either Pay As You Earn or VAT are excluded from the frame. Additional information about the IDBR and the characteristics of the businesses covered by the IDBR is available at the link:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/business-statistics/inter-departmental-business-register>

(ii) Survey reference period

For survey reference period 2016, businesses were asked to make returns for the calendar year 2016. Where this was not possible, returns for business years ending between 6 April 2016 and 5 April 2017 were accepted. Similar procedures operated in previous years. Returns covering fewer than twelve months were accepted for businesses which had started or ceased trading during the year. Estimates were made for those firms providing returns for more than six months while firms providing less than six months were treated as closures in the results process.

(iii) NIABI sample

Following user feedback and consultation with the Statistics Advisory Committee and the NISRA official statistics user group, the NIABI sample size was boosted from approximately 5,000 in the 2010 survey reference year to approximately 9,000 in 2011. This has resulted in improvements to the precision of the estimates, as indicated by the quality indicators for 2016. This improvement should also be borne in mind when interpreting annual trends.

To maximise survey precision, the Neyman allocation approach to sampling was utilised. Neyman allocation is a sample allocation method that may be used with stratified samples. The purpose of the method is to maximize survey precision, given a fixed sample size. The survey universe was stratified by 2 digit SIC code and employee size band, and all businesses with 50+ employees, or 20+ employees and more than one local unit, were fully enumerated. The current NIABI sample design includes all Manufacturing businesses with 6 or more employees and those with a turnover of £10 million or larger. Businesses falling below the threshold of complete enumeration are selected on a stratified random basis. In addition, certain companies of special interest to policymakers and government agencies (for example, certain Invest NI clients) are added to the sample.

(iv) Standard Industrial Classification and the coverage of the NIABI

NIABI results are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC) system. The UK is required by European legislation to have a system of classification consistent with the European Union's Industrial classification system. A review of the system was completed in 2007 and implemented in 2008. UK SIC 2007 is divided into 21

sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. Below this, further levels of detail are provided at division (denoted by 2 digits), groups (three digits), classes (four digits) and subclasses (five digits).

The SIC 2007 sections covered by the NIABI are as follows:

- A. Agriculture (support activities), forestry and fishing
- B. Mining and quarrying
- C. Manufacturing
- D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- E. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- F. Construction
- G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles
(Distribution industries)
- H. Transport and storage
- I. Accommodation and food service activities
- J. Information and communication
- L. Real estate activities
- M. Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N. Administrative and support service activities
- P. Education (excludes local authority and central government bodies)
- Q. Human health and social work activities (excludes local authority and central government, and medical and dental practice activities (group 86.2))
- R. Arts, entertainment and recreation
- S. Other service activities

Production Industries are comprised of sections B – E

Service Industries are comprised of sections H, I, J, L, M, N, P, Q, R and S

Following a decision by the Office for National Statistics to discontinue the publication of figures covering Insurance & Re-insurance industries due to ongoing volatility of the estimates, this NIABI publication also excludes estimates for this series. The other main areas that are *excluded* are Public Administration and Defence (section O) while Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (section A) excludes farming (groups 01.1, 01.2, 01.3, 01.4 and 01.5). Local authority and central Government bodies in Education (section P) and Human Health and Social Work Activities (section Q) have also been excluded from this publication, as has 86.2 (Medical and Dental Practice Activities) within section Q.

(v) Data collection, validation and calculation of NIABI results

Slightly fewer than 9,000 forms were issued from the NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch in March 2017 and the returned forms were subjected to a range of validation and congruency checks. The 2016 response rate was 70%.

Data validation was carried out on the returned forms ensuring internal consistency within the form, checking data fell within expected limits or by contacting the company for clarification where appropriate. For non-returns above a selected employment threshold, data were imputed using a methodology which takes account of previous returned data and the performance of other similar businesses. This information was then grossed up to the reporting unit population, to ensure that results are representative of the sampled population.

Please note that the information presented throughout this bulletin is based on reporting unit information, and is therefore not directly comparable with earlier NIABI bulletins which are based on local unit information. Reporting and local unit definitions can be found in part vi below.

Also, to better meet user needs, and in consultation with ONS Methodology Consultancy Service, NISRA produced these results using Statistics Canada's Generalized Estimation System. This allows the production of estimates with an associated measure of their quality. For more detail of the estimation methodology please consult:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/abi-quality-improvement-fund-project>

Users are advised to take into account the quality indicators associated with the estimates when considering the significance of annual changes. These indicate that some results have quite large margins of statistical error associated with them. Users should exercise caution when interpreting the annual changes associated with such results.

Ongoing development of the methodology will be informed by user feedback, both in terms of the usefulness and reliability of the estimates and their comparability with other sources. Any comments should be sent to abihelpline@finance-ni.gov.uk

(vi) Definitions

Reporting and Local Units

An enterprise *reporting unit* reports for all the *local units* within the enterprise (for example, the reporting unit for a large supermarket chain will respond with aggregate figures incorporating all its Northern Ireland shops). A *local unit* is an individual site (factory, shop, office, etc.) at which an enterprise conducts its business. For example, a supermarket chain may have shops in Newtownards, Bangor, Limavady, etc, these are local units.

Approximate Gross Value Added at Basic prices represents the income generated by businesses, out of which is paid wages and salaries, the cost of capital investment and financial charges before arriving at a figure for profit. It includes taxes on production (e.g. business rates), net of subsidies but excludes subsidies and taxes on products (e.g. VAT and excise duty). This is an output-based measure of aGVA. All published aGVA is given at basic prices. The calculations applied to derive aGVA are noted below.

The calculations used in the NIABI are:

- aGVA AT MARKET PRICES: Total turnover + insurance claims + change in stocks + own account capital expenditure + Computer software programs and databases : developed by own staff for business use – total purchases
- aGVA AT FACTOR COST: aGVA at market prices + subsidies – total taxes + customs & excise drawback
- aGVA AT BASIC PRICES: aGVA at factor cost + business rates + vehicle excise duty

(Please note that aGVA at basic prices is the only published aGVA from the NIABI.)

Turnover is defined as total sales and work done. This is calculated by adding to the value of sales of goods produced, goods purchased and resold without further processing, work done and industrial and non-industrial services rendered.

Purchases represent the value of all goods, materials and services purchased during the year.

(vii) NIABI “Approximate Gross Value Added” and “Regional Gross Value Added”

The financial information from the NIABI provides a measure of approximate GVA, which is ultimately used to contribute to the picture of the whole economy to be built up for National Accounts purposes at the United Kingdom level. When regional economic accounts are subsequently derived, the resulting measure of Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is a much broader based measure relating to the whole economy in a region, taking into account information from a series of economic and labour market surveys. The results of the NIABI only comprise one element of the regional economic account figures, and a number of adjustments are made in line with National Accounts methodologies before estimates of Regional GVA are produced. ONS’ most recent Regional GVA estimates for Northern Ireland at industry level relate to 2016 and are scheduled for release in December 2017.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomapproach>

(viii) Comparability with statistics from other sources

The NIABI is conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency and while the survey process is similar to that for Great Britain, it is not identical. ONS receive data from NISRA in August and February of each survey year. These data are processed with the Great Britain data to produce UK-wide and regional estimates. NISRA separately process the Northern Ireland data to produce their own regional estimates. These differ from the ONS estimates for a number of reasons:

- Calculation of the weights used to estimate figures for the total population:
 - Calculation of the design or a-weights: The ONS National System computes the design weights for all UK data using the sample design of the GB sample. The NI sample design is quite different from that used by the ONS. The design weights calculated by the ONS system for NI units can therefore differ from those calculated by the NI system. The ONS adopted the use of NI design weights during 2017.
 - Calculation of the g-weights: The ONS National System computes two sets of g-weights: one based on IDBR turnover and another based on IDBR employment. The latter is used for employment costs, whereas the former is used for all the other variables. The Regional System computes g-weights based on local unit employment. In the NI methodology there is no distinction between national and regional weights: estimates at all levels are based on the same weights, with the g-weights computed with respect to local unit register employment but using a different calibration method to that used in the ONS regional system.
- Regional apportionment: ONS collects all ABS data at reporting unit (RU) level; the regional system apportions RU returns between local units using factors obtained from models. The NIABI no longer collects employment data at local unit level but uses local unit employment data from the Business Register Employment Survey; data of other variables are collected at RU level and then apportioned between the local units. When NI data are processed in the ONS system, new apportioned local unit values, based on the ONS methodology, are obtained and used to produce estimates.
- The NIABI does not collect data for all the variables in the GB questionnaire; in the ONS system, values are derived for the missing variables using a model, and these values contribute towards the estimation of some derived variables.

(ix) Comparability with other NISRA ELMSB publications

The NIABI provides estimates of employment to enable per head calculations to be made. Preferred estimates of the changes in employment and employee jobs are provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Quarterly Employment Survey (QES). As dedicated employment surveys, the LFS and QES provide more frequent and accurate measures of the change in employment. By utilising internationally recognised definitions the LFS provides employment

figures consistent with international standards. The LFS and QES can be found on the Department for the Economy (DfE) website at:

Labour Force Survey

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-force-survey>

Quarterly Employment Survey

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/quarterly-employment-survey>

Within the relevant sectors the turnover figures provided by the NIABI are the most up to date available from ELMSB statistical publications, and ultimately contribute to updating the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). However for a more comprehensive measure of turnover within the NI economy users are recommended to refer to the IDBR. The IDBR contains information on all businesses in the UK which are VAT registered or operate a PAYE scheme; consequently the IDBR provides a more complete picture of the Northern Ireland business population. The IDBR can be accessed through the NISRA website at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/inter-departmental-business-register/idbr-background-information>

(x) Other sources of information

The latest UK national estimates from the Annual Business Survey 2016 can be found at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/businessservices/bulletins/uknonfinancialbusinesseconomy/2016provisionalresults> while ONS' regional estimates from the Annual Business Survey 2015 are available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/businessservices/datasets/uknonfinancialbusinesseconomyannualbusinesssurveyregionalresultssectionsas>

The latest DfE Economic Commentary (Summer 2017) provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland economy, setting it in a global context. This can be found at

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/df-e-economic-commentary>

Information relating to NI sales and exports is available from the Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics. This is an experimental annual measure of local businesses' sales to markets outside NI. These statistics can be accessed at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/business-statistics/broad-economy-sales-and-exports-statistics>

Further information on the output of Manufacturing, along with Electricity, Gas, Water and Mining & Quarrying industries is available from the Northern Ireland Index of Production (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/index-production>) while the Northern Ireland Index of Services (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/index-services>) provides a general measure of changes in the output of the private sector service industries in Northern Ireland.

The Construction Output Statistics published in the Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin are intended to provide a general measure of quarterly changes in the volume and value of construction output in Northern Ireland. These statistics can be accessed at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/construction-output-statistics>

The Composite Economic Index provides a weighted measure of output by broad industry sector and employee jobs in the public sector to provide an overall measure of change in the Northern Ireland economic activity <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/ni-composite-economic-index>

(xi) Uses of the NIABI

- The central structure and periodicity of the NIABI is driven by the legal requirements to provide data for the UK Annual Business Survey, UK National Accounts and European Structural Business Statistics (SBS)
- Additionally the NIABI is used by the Government as a means of monitoring the progress of economic policy and to help set and measure economic targets.
- Outside government the data is used by a variety of different private sector and academic analysts to assist with industrial and investment decisions.

For a more comprehensive explanation of customers' use of the NIABI please follow the link below:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/summary-of-usage-of-the-niabi.pdf>

(xii) User feedback

Development of the NIABI is designed to meet the needs of data users as identified during statistical user group meetings. Enhancements to the survey including an increase in sample size have been driven by feedback received through these consultations. Minutes of the meetings are available using the link below:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/nisra-economic-and-labour-market-statistics-elms/statistical-protocols-and-compliance>

(xiii) Quality reporting

A summary quality report for the NIABI can be found at

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/usage-methods-and-quality-and-revisions-policy-abi>

This report describes in detail the quality of the statistics presented in this publication (in terms of relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability, trade-offs between output quality components, assessment of user needs and perceptions, performance, cost and respondent burden and confidentiality, transparency and security).

(xiv) Status of figures in current bulletin

It is normal practice to revise the data from the previous year based on ongoing data validation and clarification of responses from individual businesses. This bulletin contains detailed provisional reporting unit results for the Northern Ireland ABI industries (2016). These 2016 provisional figures will be subject to revision to take account of additional information. The NIABI revisions policy can be accessed at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/niabi-revisions-policy.pdf>

In line with this and with the NIABI revisions policy, provisional NIABI estimates for 2015 have been revised throughout this publication. The table below provides details of revisions to 2015 data.

Table 2: Size of revisions to previously published 2015 data

	Provisional 2015 (£)	Revised 2015 (£)	% change
Turnover	66,999	67,085	0.1%
Purchases	43,415	43,448	0.1%
aGVA	20,085	20,432	1.7%
Employment	551,932	555,381	0.6%

Turnover, purchases and aGVA values are reported in £million unless otherwise specified. NIABI reporting unit results are published in December, while local unit results are published the following summer. The Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch statistics publication schedule is available at <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/nisra-economic-and-labour-market-statistics-elms/about-nisra-elms> The list of people given pre-release access to this publication is available at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/nisra-economic-and-labour-market-statistics-elms/statistical-protocols-and-compliance>

(xv) Disclosure

The NIABI is conducted under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and great care is taken to avoid disclosing information about individual enterprises (in line with the stipulations in Article 7 of the Order). Figures which would be likely to disclose particulars relating to an enterprise are not published (i.e. they are suppressed) unless prior written consent for their publication has been obtained directly from the business. The Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency Economic & Labour Market Statistics confidentiality statement can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/dof-confidentiality-statement>

(xvi) Next publication

The 2016 local unit publication will be published in Summer 2018.

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