

Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey

Date: 11th September 2018

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland

Theme: Labour Market

Frequency: Quarterly

Key Points

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 5,700 and covers all employers with 25 or more employees, all public sector employers and a representative sample of smaller firms.

- The total number of seasonally adjusted employee jobs increased over the quarter (2,550 jobs) and over the year (15,550 jobs) to 765,100 in June 2018. Increases were experienced in all sectors over the year, with the services sector accounting for the majority (67.2%) of the growth.
- The number of employee jobs in the services sector (621,020 jobs) reached a series high in June 2018.
- Private sector jobs increased slightly over the quarter (0.2% or 980 jobs) and year (2.6% or 14,150 jobs) to their highest level (556,250) in the seasonally adjusted series.
- Public sector jobs increased over the quarter (0.5% or 1,010 jobs) and over the year (0.7% or 1,360 jobs). There are now 20,510 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009 (-9.0%).
- In the last five years, employee jobs have increased by 9.3% (64,850 jobs) with the majority (70.6%) of the increase occurring in the services sector.
- The annualised growth rate of 2.2% between 2016/17 and 2017/18 is higher than growth rates between 2015/16 and 2016/17, but at a similar level to the growth in employee jobs between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The Quarterly Employment Survey Bulletin contains the following chapters:

1. Summary

- Employee jobs summary
- Infographic summary
- Context

2. NI Employee Jobs

- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs by sector

3. Unadjusted and seasonally adjusted series public / private

- NI public and private sector jobs

4. Composition of employee jobs

- Full-time/part-time employees

5. Notes to editors

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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.

1 Summary of Employee Jobs

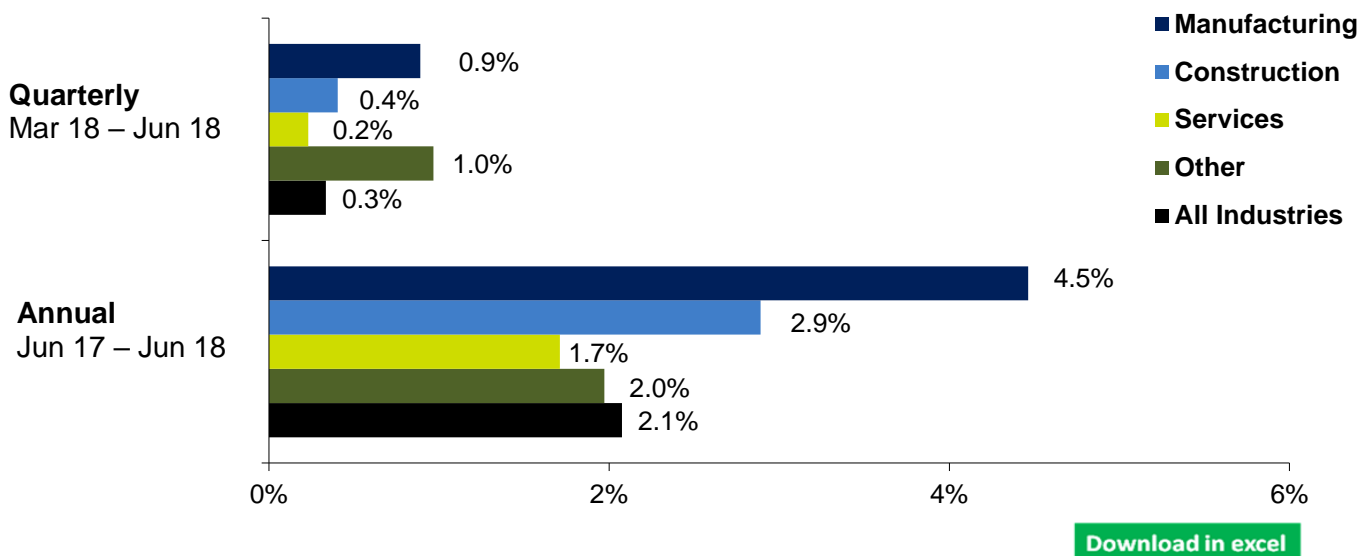
Updated September 2018

Change in employee jobs

The seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimate for Northern Ireland (NI) at June 2018 was 765,100 (+/- 5,600¹). This was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,550 jobs) over the quarter from the March 2018 estimate of 762,550.
- an increase of 2.1% (15,550 jobs) over the year from the revised June 2017 estimate of 749,550.

Fig 1.1 Annual and Quarterly Changes in Employee Jobs at Section Level



Change over the quarter

Comparing seasonally adjusted June 2018 employee jobs to the March 2018 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 0.9% (760 jobs) to 86,510 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 0.4% (140 jobs) to 34,530 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 0.2% (1,430 jobs) to 621,020 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 1.0% (220 jobs) to 23,040 jobs.

Change over the year

Comparing seasonally adjusted June 2018 employee jobs to the revised June 2017 estimates showed:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 4.5% (3,690 jobs) to 86,510 jobs.
- an increase in the construction sector by 2.9% (970 jobs) to 34,530 jobs.
- an increase in the services sector by 1.7% (10,450 jobs) to 621,020 jobs.
- an increase in the other industries sector by 2.0% (440 jobs) to 23,040 jobs.

Comparing unadjusted data over the year, estimates show:

- (i) Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; (ii) manufacture of food products and (iii) employment activities saw the greatest increases over the year accounting for 25.3% of all increases in employee jobs.

¹ Represents 95% Confidence interval

- (i) Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; (ii) land transport and transport via pipelines and (iii) financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding saw the greatest decreases over the year accounting for 60.4% of all decreases.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase of 15,600 in employee jobs.

Change over the past five years

Over the period June 2013 to June 2018, the seasonally adjusted employee job figures increased by 9.3% (64,850 jobs). The increases were seen across all four industry sectors:

- an increase in the manufacturing sector by 16.5% (12,280 jobs).
- an increase in the construction sector by 18.3% (5,340 jobs).
- an increase in the services sector by 8.0% (45,770 jobs).
- an increase in the other industries sector by 6.8% (1,460 jobs).

Comparing unadjusted data over this five year period, estimates show:

- (i) Residential care activities, (ii) employment activities, (iii) food and beverage service activities accounted for 36.1% of all increases over the five year period.
- (i) Human health activities, (ii) public administration and defence; compulsory social security, and (iii) manufacture of tobacco products accounted for 84.4% of all the decreases over the five year period.
- Despite the decreases in these sections, there was a net increase of 65,380 in employee jobs.

Public / private sector changes

Seasonally adjusted employee jobs estimates for the public and private sector at June 2018 show:

- an increase of 0.5% (1,010 jobs) in the public sector over the quarter and an increase of 0.7% (1,360 jobs) over the year to 207,610 jobs.
- an increase of 0.2% (980 jobs) in the private sector over the quarter and an increase of 2.6% (14,150 jobs) over the year to 556,250 jobs.

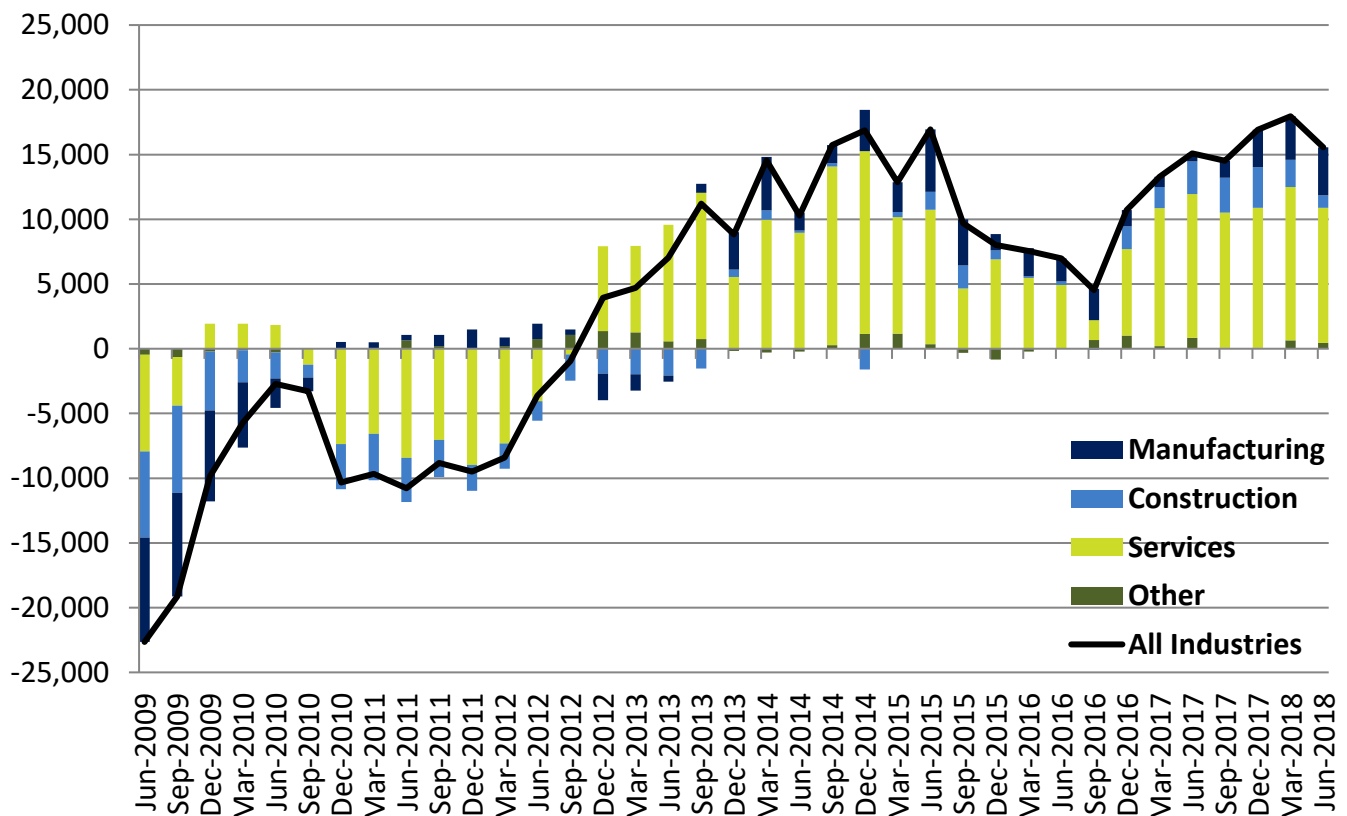
Commentary

Northern Ireland (NI) employee jobs increased over the quarter and the year to a high of 765,100 in June 2018. The number of jobs in NI surpassed the pre-downturn peak in June 2016, and has shown quarter on quarter growth since December 2015 in the seasonally adjusted series.

Increases were seen in all broad industry sectors over the quarter and the year (Fig 1.2). The services sector accounted for the majority of the annual growth (67.2%) which is consistent with trends since recovery began in 2012. Within the services sector the greatest increases over the year were within retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, employment activities and human health activities.

The number of both full and part time jobs increased over the year; full time jobs accounted for 70% of the annual increase.

Fig 1.2 Annual Change in Employee Jobs in NI, June 2009 – June 2018



[Download in excel](#)

Private sector jobs continued to grow over the quarter and year and are now 8.6% above the pre-downturn peak. Public sector jobs showed an increase over the year to June 2018 and there are now approximately 20,510 fewer public sector jobs than the series peak in September 2009.

The number of employee jobs in the United Kingdom (UK) as a whole increased over the quarter and over the year to a record high.

Date of next publication

The next Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey publication is planned for 11th December 2018.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

NISRA Labour Market Statistics

Quarterly Employment Survey – June 2018

Total employee jobs: 765,100



Change on quarter



Change on year



All data seasonally adjusted and subject to future revisions.
Data published on 11th September 2018 by Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (NISRA).

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 QES provides short-term employee jobs estimates for Northern Ireland and covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. As it is a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval bounds for the headline employee jobs estimate is +/- 0.4%.

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 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.

Figures from the QES are included in the Labour Market Report (LMR) alongside figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the Claimant Count, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and redundancies data. The current version of the LMR can be found on the ELMS website [LMR](#).

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

QES employee jobs are included in the [DfE Economic Commentary](#) which provides an overview of the state of the Northern Ireland 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.

Revisions

Results are provisional and subject to revision 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 on the revisions can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey Revisions](#)

Further information on using QES employee jobs statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Alternative measures of employment

QES is only one of the measures of employment for Northern Ireland. Other measures include the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In addition the Farm Census and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Employee Bulletin provide information on specific sub-groups of employees.

Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

The BRES is a statutory business survey based on a larger sample than QES and alternates between sample and census coverage biennially. Quarter 3 of the QES is taken at the same survey date as

BRES. Breakdowns of employee jobs by geographical location and industry are available from the BRES.

The BRES and QES cover employee jobs only, excluding the self-employed, HM Armed Forces, private domestic servants, homeworkers and training for success trainees without a contract of employment.

Further information can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The LFS is 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.

Further information on using LFS statistics can be found on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [LFS employment](#)

Farm Census

Figures for the number of employees in agriculture are available separately from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Farm 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.

Further information on using Farm Census statistics can be found on the NISRA DAERA website: [Farm Census](#)

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Employee Bulletin

NICS employee jobs figures are included in the QES employee jobs figures and breakdowns can be found in Table 5.12 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website (in the historical data section): [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Further information on NICS employee jobs can be found in the NICS Employee Bulletin. This bulletin provides details on NICS staff numbers on a quarterly basis and provides comparisons with the previous quarter, the wider public sector, as well as a comparison with the previous year. 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.

Further information on employment within the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) is available from the NICS Employment bulletin [NICS Employment bulletin](#).

2 NI Employee Jobs

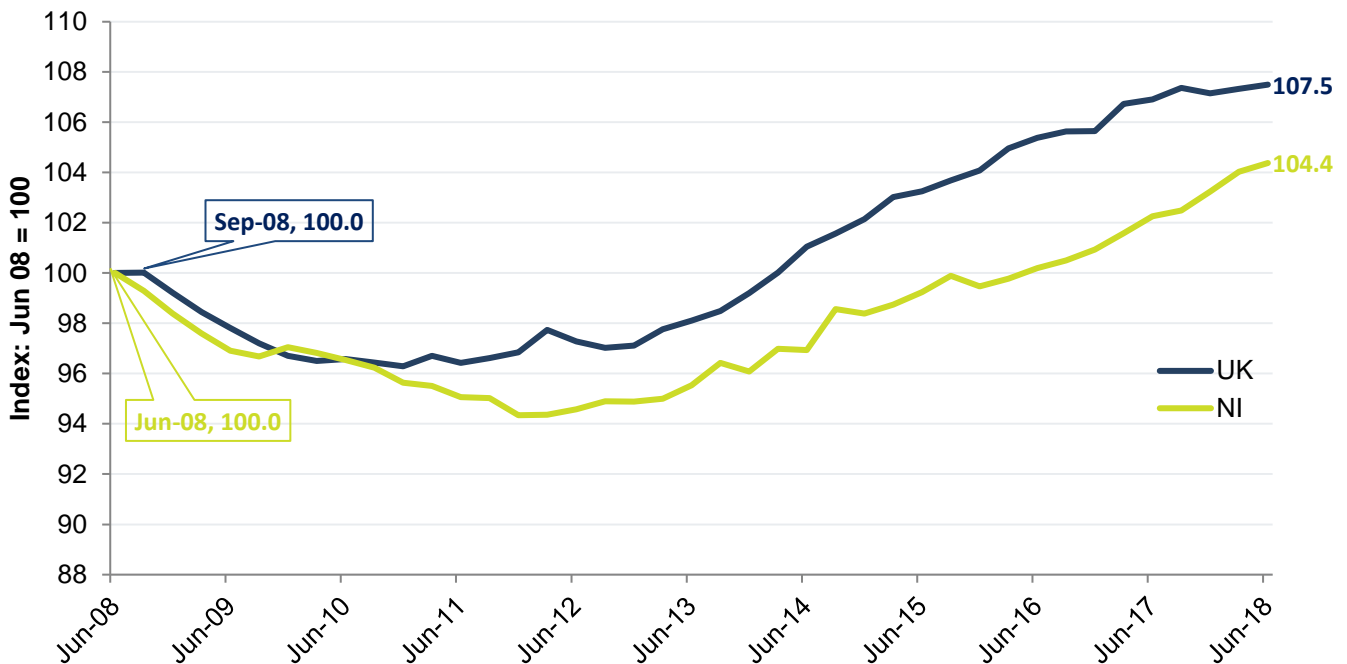
Employee: An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 years or over that is directly paid from a business's payroll for carrying out a full-time or part time job or being on a training scheme in Northern Ireland.

Employee jobs counts the number of jobs rather than the number of persons with jobs.

Key Findings:

- Employee jobs increased over the quarter by 0.3% (2,550 jobs) and over the year by 2.1% (15,550 jobs) to a series high of 765,100.

Figure 2.1: Index of Employee Jobs, June 2008 – June 2018



Figures are indexed to June 2008

[Download in excel](#)

Figure 2.1 shows the estimated seasonally adjusted employee jobs, indexed to allow comparison between NI and the UK. For NI the pre-downturn peak was in June 2008 and the UK in September 2008. The UK reached its lowest point in December 2010, one year before the NI low in December 2011. Both NI and the UK have surpassed their pre-downturn peaks; NI jobs are now 4% above their June 2008 level while UK jobs are 8% above.

Employee Jobs

The June 2018 seasonally adjusted employee jobs total in NI stands at 765,100, which was:

- an increase of 0.3% (2,550 jobs) from the March 2018 estimate of 762,550.
- an increase of 2.1% (15,550 jobs) over the year from the June 2017 estimate of 749,550.

Employee jobs by broad industry sector

The seasonally adjusted quarterly change consisted of:

- an increase of 0.9% in the manufacturing sector (760 jobs) to 86,510 jobs
- an increase of 0.4% in the construction sector (140 jobs) to 34,530 jobs
- an increase of 0.2% in the services sector (1,430 jobs) to 621,020 jobs
- an increase of 1.0% in the other industries sector (220 jobs) to 23,040 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted annual change consisted of:

- an increase of 4.5% in the manufacturing sector (3,690 jobs) to 86,510 jobs
- an increase of 2.9% in the construction sector (970 jobs) to 34,530 jobs
- an increase of 1.7% in the services sector (10,450 jobs) to 621,020 jobs
- an increase of 2.0% in the other industries sector (440 jobs) to 23,040 jobs.

The number of employee jobs has been increasing since December 2015 in the seasonally adjusted series, with the services sector accounting for almost two thirds of the growth in employee jobs since this point.

Northern Ireland employee jobs annual change by industry Q2 2017 - Q2 2018

Change by broad industry sector (seasonally adjusted)

Manufacturing



+4.5% (3,690 jobs)
total jobs 86,510

Construction



+2.9% (970 jobs)
total jobs 34,530

Services



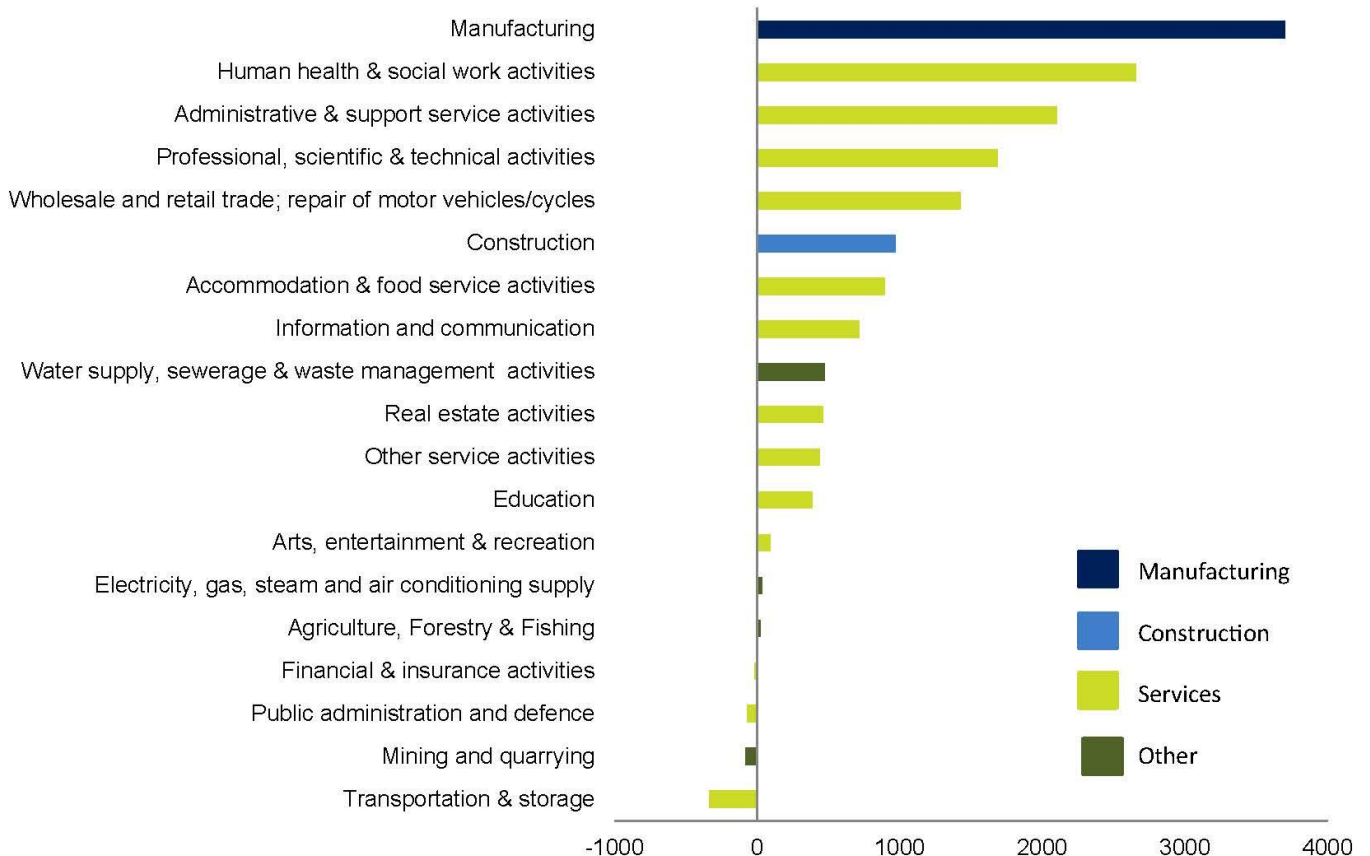
+1.7% (10,450 jobs)
total jobs 621,020

Other



+2.0% (440 jobs)
total jobs 23,040

Change by industry section (seasonally adjusted)



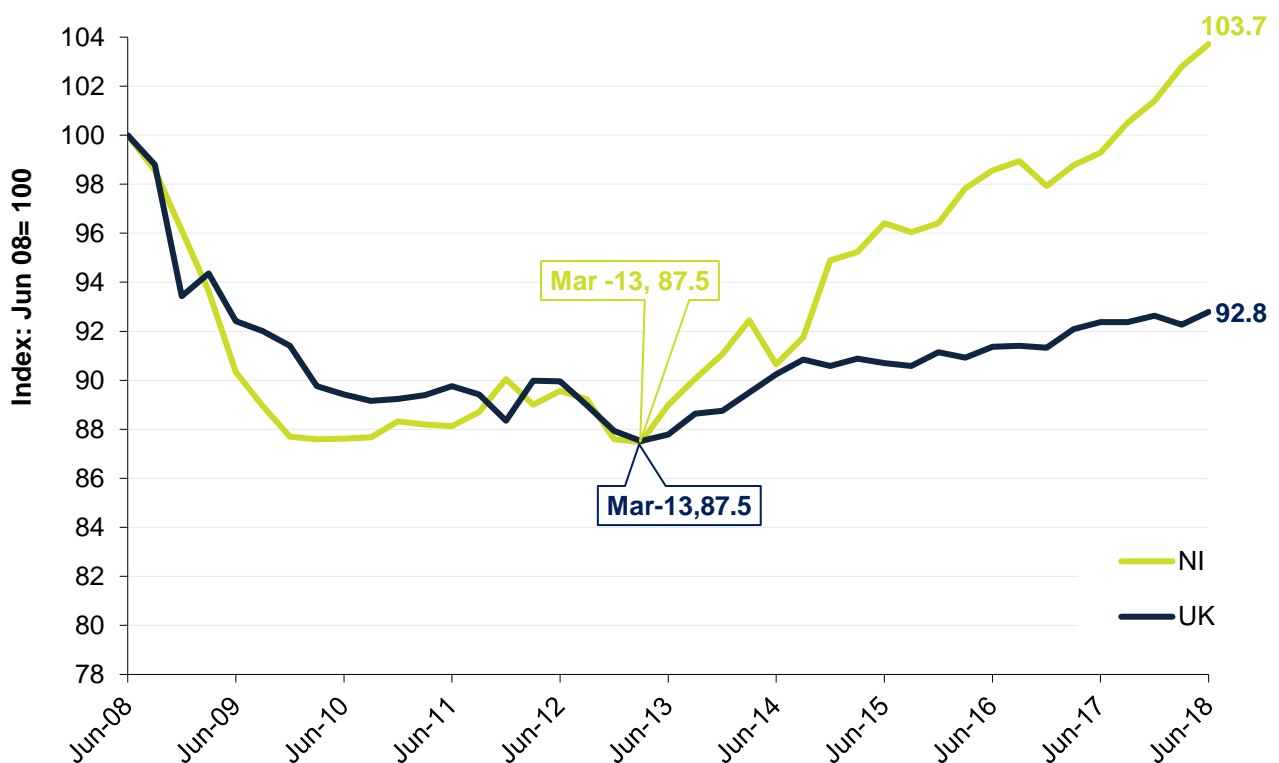
Manufacturing sector

Manufacturing sector: the 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.

Key Findings:

- The number of employee jobs in manufacturing sector is at a series high in June 2018 of 86,510 jobs in the seasonally adjusted series.
- The manufacturing sector accounted for 11.3% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures show an increase of 0.9% in the manufacturing sector over the quarter to June 2018 and an increase of 4.5% over the year to 86,510 jobs.

Figure 2.2: Index of manufacturing employee jobs, June 2008 – June 2018



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to June 2008

The manufacturing sector in NI experienced a period of sharp decline between June 2008 and December 2009 whilst the UK showed a sharp decrease in the number of employee jobs in the manufacturing sector between September and December 2008. Both NI and the UK reached a series low in March 2013, and NI jobs are now 19% above this level.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the manufacturing sector increased by 0.9% (760 jobs) over the quarter and by 4.5% (3,690 jobs) over the year to a series high of 86,510 in June 2018.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC manufacturing data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 4.5% (3,690 jobs) in the manufacturing sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase were:

- an increase of 7.1% (1380 jobs) in the manufacture of food products
- an increase of 10.1% (850 jobs) in the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- an increase of 51.8% (800 jobs) in the manufacture of textiles

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the manufacturing sector; the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 16.7% (-480 jobs) in the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials
- a decrease of 8.2% (-250 jobs) in the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations
- a decrease of 5.0% (-230 jobs) in the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – 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 made up 4.5% of the total employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.4% over the quarter to June 2018 and an increase of 2.9% over the year to 34,530 jobs.

Figure 2.3: Index of construction employee jobs, June 2008 – June 2018



Figures are indexed to June 2008

The most recent low in the construction sector was in December 2014 (28,660 jobs). Most recent estimates show a 20.5% improvement on this level; however the number of employee jobs in the construction sector is currently 26.2% lower than the series peak in December 2007 (not on chart range).

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the construction sector increased by 0.4% (140 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.9% (970 jobs) over the year to 34,530.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC construction data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.9% (970 jobs) in the construction sector.

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 3.6% (630 jobs) in specialised construction activities
- an increase of 4.6% (340 jobs) in construction of buildings

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

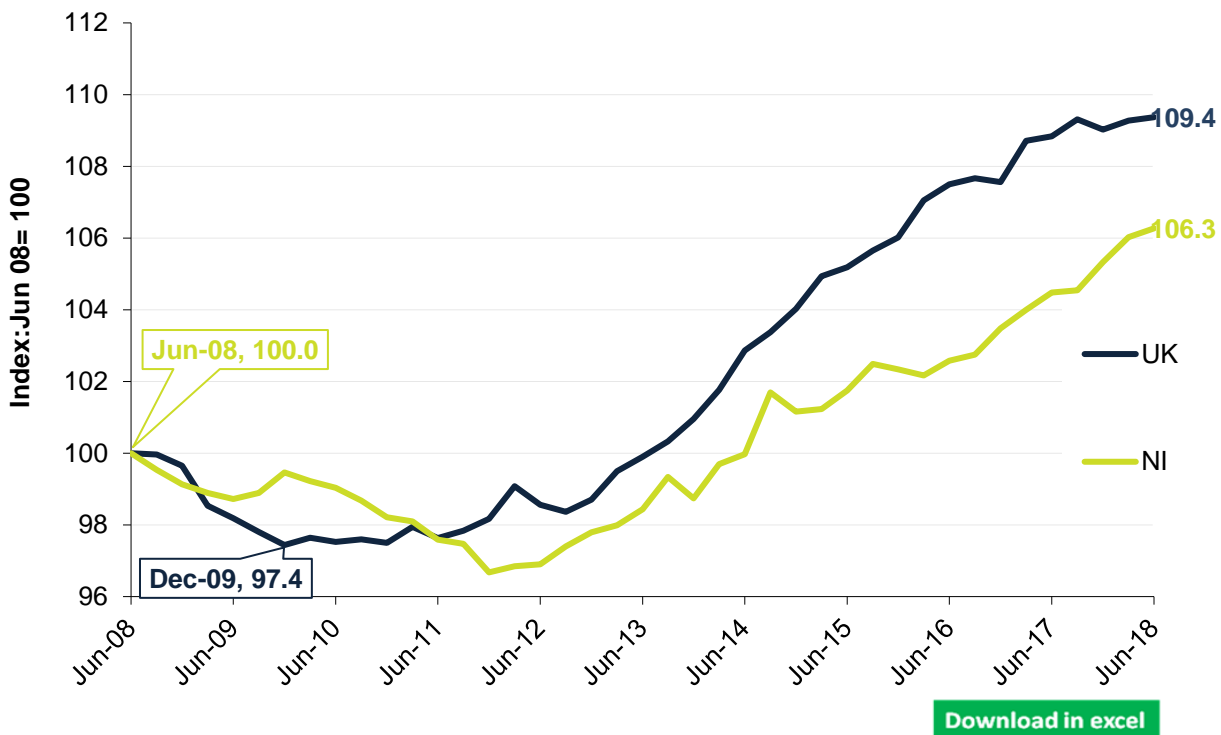
Services sector

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 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

Key Findings:

- The services sector is recording a peak number of employee jobs during June 2018.
- Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 0.2% over the quarter to June 2018 and an increase of 1.7% over the year to 621,020 service sector jobs.
- The services sector accounted for the majority (67.2%) of growth over the year and has been driving the recovery since the series low in employee jobs in December 2011.
- The services sector accounted for 81.2% of all employee jobs.

Figure 2.4: Index of services employee jobs, June 2008 - June 2018



Figures are indexed to June 2008

Over the last 5 years the services sector in both NI and the UK increased overall, with NI and UK both recording a peak level in employee jobs in the most recent quarter. The number of employee jobs in the NI services sector increased by 45,770 over the last 5 years.

When considering the pre-downturn period, employee jobs in the services sector reached a peak in June 2008; declining to a series low in December 2011. The decline of 3.3% during this period is notably smaller than the declines experienced in the manufacturing or construction sectors during the downturn.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the services sector increased by 0.2% (1,430 jobs) over the quarter and by 1.7% (10,450 jobs) over the year to 621,020 in June 2018.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC services data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2018 the unadjusted figures reported an increase of 1.7% (10,450 jobs) in the services sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 3.0% (2,670 jobs) in retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- an increase of 5.7% (1,270 jobs) in employment activities
- an increase of 1.6% (1,130 jobs) in human health activities

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the services sector, the 3 largest decreases over the year being:

- a decrease of 7.6% (-2060 jobs) in wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- a decrease of 3.9% (-620 jobs) in land transport and transport via pipelines
- a decrease of 4.3% (-550 jobs) in financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

Other industries sector

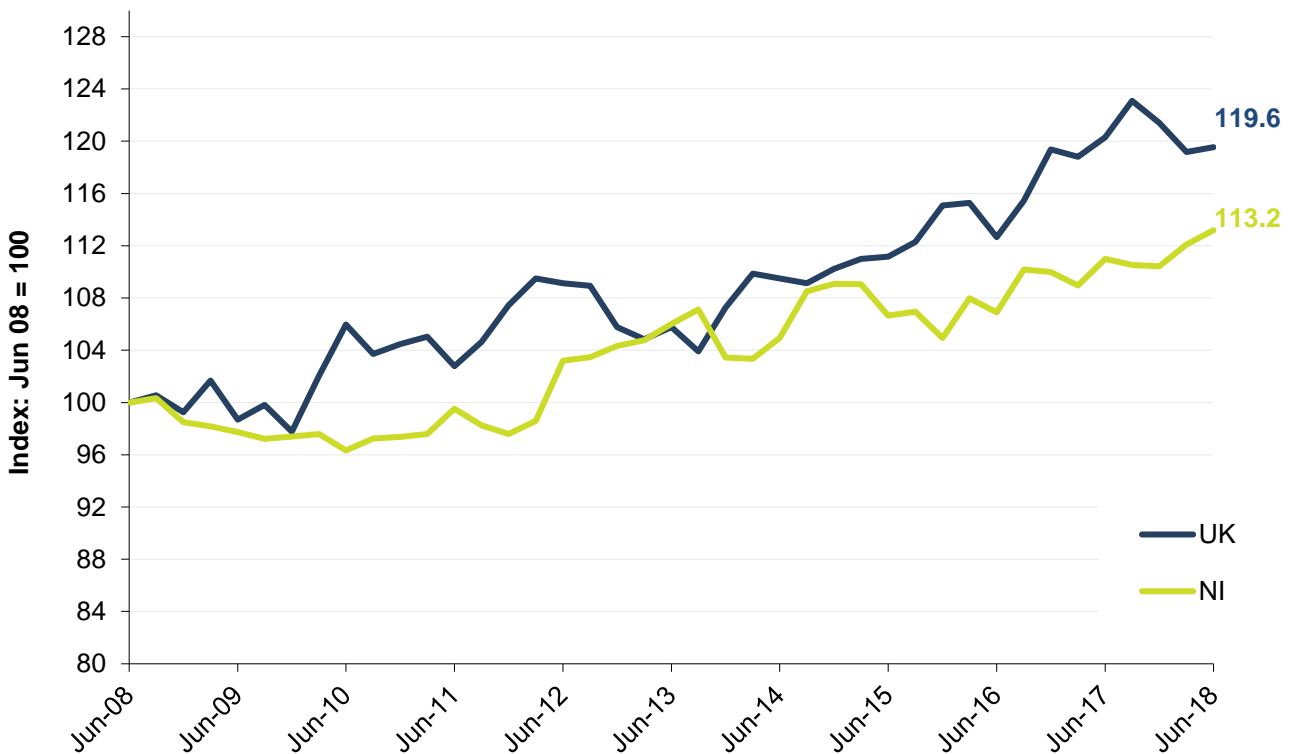
Other industries sector: the other industries sector contains businesses with activity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (industry sections A,B,D and E).

Estimates from the annual Farm Census are included in industry section A (accounting for 91% of the employee jobs in the section). The Farm Census figures are updated annually.

Key Findings:

- **Seasonally adjusted figures showed an increase of 1.0% in the other industries sector over the quarter to June 2018 and an increase of 2.0% over the year to 23,040 jobs.**
- **The other industries sector made up 3.0% of all employee jobs.**

Figure 2.5: Index of other industries sector jobs, June 2008 - June 2018



Figures are indexed to June 2008

[Download in excel](#)

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 2,680 over the 10 year period to June 2018.

Key Findings

Seasonally adjusted data showed that the other industries sector increased by 1.0% (220 jobs) over the quarter and by 2.0% (440 jobs) over the year to 23,040 jobs.

The following breakdowns are based on 2 digit SIC other industries data that have not been adjusted for seasonality:

Changes over the year

Over the year to June 2018 the unadjusted figures showed an increase of 2.0% (450 jobs) in the other industries sector. The 3 largest contributors to this increase over the year were:

- an increase of 11.1% (460 jobs) in waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery
- an increase of 40.0% (90 jobs) in forestry and logging
- an increase of 2.0% (40 jobs) in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

These increases were partially offset by decreases in the following other industries sectors:

- a decrease of 4.7% (-80 jobs) in other mining and quarrying
- a decrease of 0.4% (-50 jobs) in crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
- a decrease of 10.3% (-20 jobs) in fishing and aquaculture
- a decrease of 4.0% (-10 jobs) in sewerage

For figures broken down by 2 digit SIC please see table 5.10 on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website: [Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

When using table 5.10 please consider the notes on 'Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data' in section 5 – Further Info.

3 Public / private sector employee jobs

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

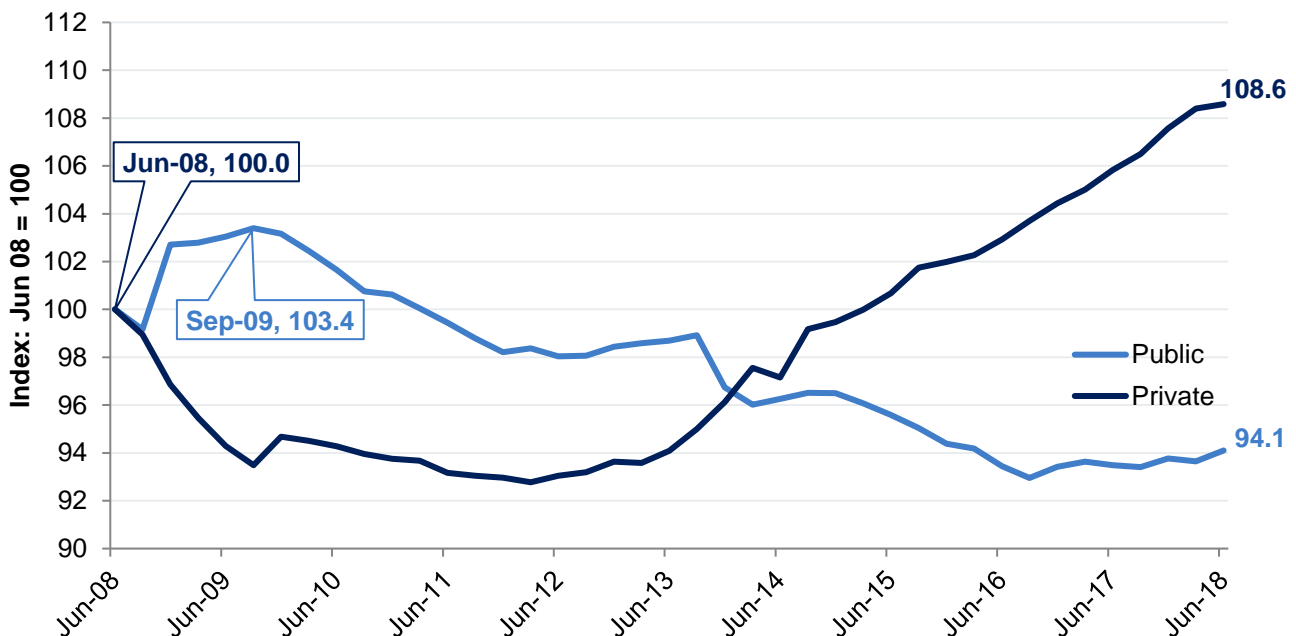
- NI central government
- Bodies under aegis of NI central government
- UK central government employees based in Northern Ireland
- Local government
- Public corporations

Private sector: The private sector encompasses all for-profit businesses (that are 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 27.2% and the private sector made up 72.8% of all employee jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the public sector increased over the quarter and year to 207,610 jobs.
- Seasonally adjusted employee jobs in the private sector increased over the quarter and year to 556,250 jobs.
- NI Public sector jobs as a proportion of the NI population was 11%. This compares to 8% in the UK.

Figure 3.1: Index of NI Private and Public Sector Jobs, June 2008 – June 2018



[Download in excel](#)

Figures are indexed to June 2008

Note:

¹ Royal Mail plc is included in the public sector for September 2013 and earlier periods, but not for subsequent periods.
² Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries are included in public sector estimates from December 2008 to December 2013 but not in earlier or subsequent periods.
³ All registered housing associations in Northern Ireland have been reclassified to public sector from Q3 1992 onwards, more detail on the decision to reclassify can be found on the [ONS website](#).
⁴ Latest population estimates available – June 2017.

The latest seasonally adjusted employee jobs figures estimate that there are:

- 207,610 employees in the NI public sector.
- 556,250 employees in the NI private sector.

Changes over the quarter

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.5% (1,010 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 0.2% (980 jobs) in the private sector.

Changes over the year

The latest seasonally adjusted figures represented:

- an increase of 0.7% (1,360 jobs) in the public sector.
- an increase of 2.6% (14,150 jobs) in the private sector.

4 Composition of employee jobs

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

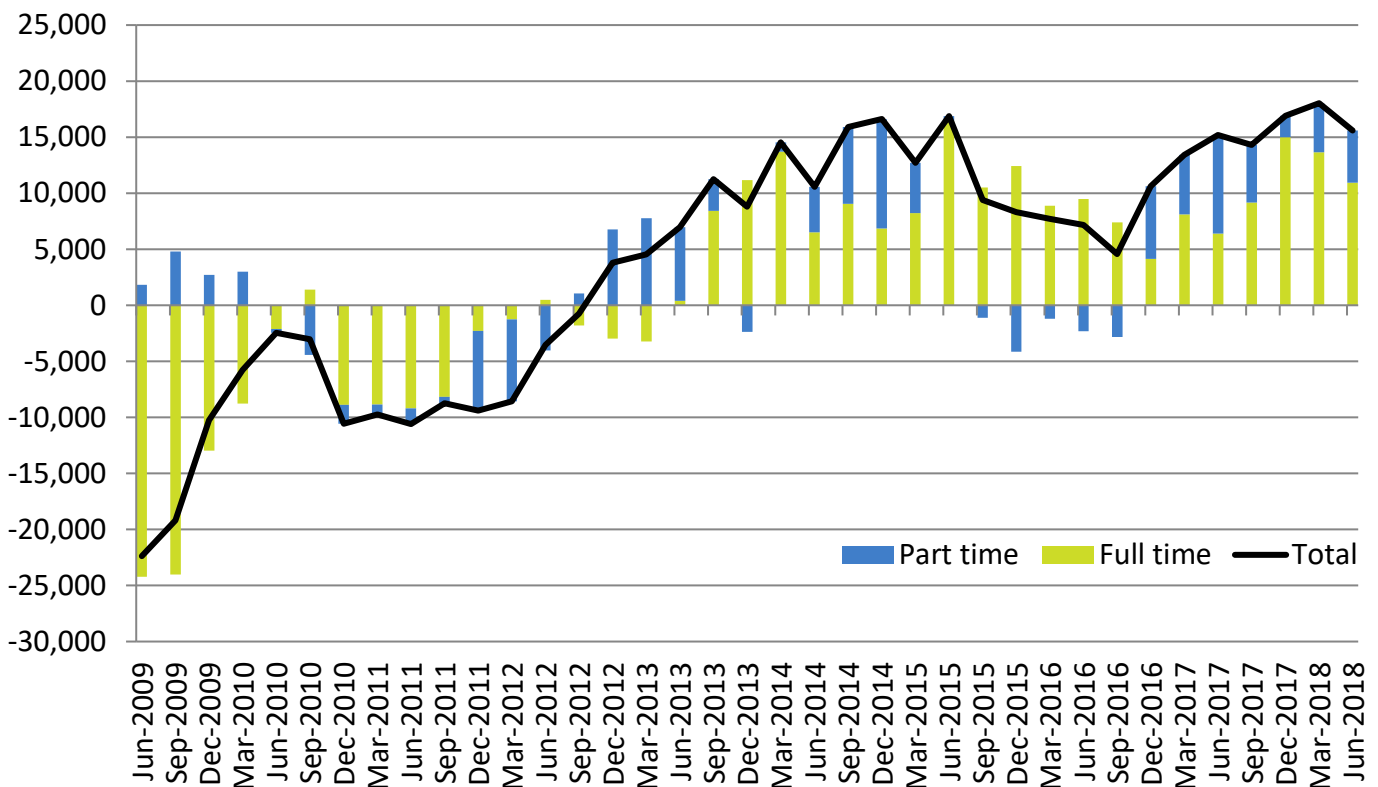
Part-time: Part-time means those who normally work 30 hours a week or less.

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

Key Findings

- Full-time jobs accounted for 70% of the growth in all employee jobs over the year
- Increase in full-time (2.2% or 10,950 jobs) and part-time jobs (1.8% or 4,650 jobs) over the year
- Full-time jobs accounted for 65% of all employee jobs, with part-time accounting for 35% in June 2018

Fig 4.1: Full-Time and Part-Time jobs annual change, June 2009 – June 2018



[Download in excel](#)

The latest estimates showed that:

- Part-time jobs increased by 10.3% (24,780 jobs) since the recent low point in March 2012.
- The recent 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 12.1% (53,830 jobs) since this point.

Changes over the year

The following changes occurred over the year:

- an increase of 10,950 full-time jobs and an increase of 4,650 part-time jobs.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 3,700 jobs in the manufacturing sector over the year.
- full-time employee jobs increased by 1,700 jobs in the construction sector whilst part-time jobs decreased by 730 jobs over the year.

- full-time employee jobs increased by 5,180 jobs (49% of the increase) in the services sector over the year; whilst part-time employee jobs increased by 5,310 jobs (51% of the increase).
- full-time employee jobs in the other industries sector increased by 380 jobs (84% of the increase) and part-time jobs increased by 70 jobs (16% of the increase) over the year.

Further information is available on the NISRA - Economic and Labour Market Statistics website:
[Quarterly Employment Survey](#)

5 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 three quarterly publications – The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), Index of Services (IOS) and Index of Production (IOP).

Sample

The QES, IOS and IOP are sampled independently and there is an overlap between QES and IOS/IOP of approximately 2,000 businesses.

The QES covers all public sector bodies, all private sector firms with 25 or more employees and a sample of the remainder. The quarterly survey 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 | Coverage |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 provide a measure of the size of the sampling variability. The 95% confidence interval for the June 2018 employee jobs estimate is 765,510 +/- 5,600. 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 (SIC07). As a result, no individual business can be identified.

Using 2 Digit SIC Level Data

Please note it is likely that the introduction of sample rotation from March 2014 has contributed to the volatility of the series. To counteract these effects from March 2016 the number of businesses selected in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and size bands experiencing the greatest impact of rotation has increased.

Volatility also arises when businesses inform NISRA of SIC code changes via business surveys, ONS and 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. 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.

Discontinuity

The sample coverage used to derive employee jobs estimates in NI was extended in 2009. This change was introduced to provide more comprehensive estimates of employee jobs and also to ensure a consistency of methodology between the QES and BRES. The extension in sample coverage has resulted in a discontinuity in the employee jobs series from the reference period Q3 2009 onwards. A more detailed note on these changes and their impact are available at the following link: [Discontinuity](#)

Revisions Policy

QES estimates are revised quarterly to reflect the latest information provided by employers. The March 2018 seasonally adjusted estimate published in June 2018 has been revised down (-0.1%).

Benchmarking to BRES was carried out in December 2016 and so all quarters prior to and including Q3 2015 are now fixed. Subsequent quarters (Q4 2015 onwards) are provisional and subject to revision in light of (a) late responses to surveys and administrative sources, (b) where cross survey congruence checks provide more accurate data and (c) there are revisions to seasonal adjustment factors which are re-estimated every quarter. Only rarely are there avoidable 'errors' such as human or system failures, and such mistakes are made quite clear when they do occur. For further details of QES revisions please see link below: [QES Revisions](#)

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 |
|----------------|--|--|
| December 2006 | NI Housing Executive reclassified from SIC 75 to SIC 70 | March 2004 |
| January 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" | April 2007 |
| December 2013 | Royal Mail plc reclassified to private sector | October 2013 |
| March 2014 | Lloyds Banking Group and its subsidiaries reclassified to private sector | December 2013 |
| September 2017 | Registered housing associations in NI reclassified to public sector | September 1992 |
| September 2018 | Registered housing associations in NI moved from section N to L in sections level data | March 2005 (in line with seasonally adjusted series) |

Seasonal Adjustment

A seasonally adjusted employment series provides a better indication of underlying trends in employment. Figures by section are shown in the tables on the website ([Quarterly Employment Survey](#)) and a time series of main industrial sector from 2005 onwards are also shown in the tables on the website. Section and main industrial sector are seasonally adjusted where seasonality exists. At the latest review of our seasonal adjustment process, it was found that there was no seasonality in sections A, F, J, K, L, S, T or U.

Business Register and Employment Survey

Information on employee jobs at a sub Northern Ireland level (e.g. District Council Area (DCA), Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA), Ward Level) and at the 5-digit SIC07 level are available from the Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey. Details of the Business Register and Employment Survey results are available from NISRA ELMS Tel: (028) 9052 9474 or on the ELMS website [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)

The QES sample size is designed so that estimates of total employee jobs are within +/- 1% of the [Business Register and Employment Survey](#) total.

Annualised or Rolling 4 Quarters

Annualised growth or rolling 4 quarters figures are calculated by taking the average over the most recent 4 quarters and subtracting the average over the same 4 quarters of the previous year. For example annualised growth of 2.2% reported in this publication is the average of jobs figures from Q3 2017 to Q2 2018 minus the average of jobs figures from Q3 2016 to Q2 2017 divided by the average of jobs figures from Q3 2016 to Q2 2017. (This has been referred to as growth rate between *2016/17 and 2017/18*). This measure allows for comparison in growth to previous years and is useful in determining trends in the data.

Further Information

For further information on the methodology of the QES, please see link below to the background notes and methodology guide.

[Background Information](#)

AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH ASSOCIATED HYPERLINKS IS AVAILABLE ON THE [NISRA – ECONOMIC AND LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS WEBSITE](#)

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